The City celebrated our milestone service anniversaries at our annual Service Awards Luncheon on February 27, 2018. Mayor Bruchey gave opening and closing remarks, and Councilmember Keller assisted with presenting awards to the attending employees.

Thank you to all who organized and attended to make this a special event!
Welcome New Hires!

- Shelley McIntire—Councilmember
- Megan Flick—Planning and Code
- Jennifer Peterson—Finance
- James Horning—Fire Dept.
- Austin Heffernan—Councilmember
- Jon Buffington—Light Dept.
- Christian Alden—IT & Support Services
- Skip Kent—Human Resources
- Chad Shindle—Fire Dept.
- Ricky Smith—Fire Dept.
- David Effinger—Fire Dept.
- Charles Stinchcomb—Fire Dept.

*New hires since December 1

Congratulations Retirees!

- Charles Henson, Water—37 years
- David Poffinberger, Fire—32 years
- Lola Hagerty, IT—29 years
- David Lowry, Public Works—26 years
- Jim Hurd, Police—25 years
- Jim Robison, Police—23 years
- Gary Lambert, PCAD—11 years
- George Clark, HR—10 years

*Retirees since November 1

Soup-er Bowl Highlights and Winners

The 2nd Annual Soup-er Bowl, held at City Hall on February 15th, was another successful event—raising $155 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 Human Resources’ own Tamara Owens with her Ok I’m Reloaded potato soup. Coming in second and third place respectively were Debbie Calhoun’s Nin-Com-Soup and Andrea Rueckerl’s Chicken Soup for the Public Servant’s Soul, Edible Edition.

Favorite soup name was awarded to Sgt. Eric Knode with the creatively named Just for the Halibut...So Don’t be Shellfish seafood soup. Second and third place for favorite names went to Can’t Buy This Stuff by Tim Young and Little Heiskell’s Revenge by Councilmember Austin Heffernan, respectively.

Thank you to everyone who competed and tasted to make this a successful event again!

Easy, Healthy Recipe Idea

Thanks to a suggestion from Parks & Rec’s Cathy Beach, we are premiering a new feature this quarter—healthy recipes that are easy to make with readily available ingredients! This quarter, we are piggy-backing off the Soup-er Bowl challenge and featuring a hearty, low-carb soup.

Cauliflower Chowder—Prep time: 15 min  Cook time: 30 min  Serves: 6*

4 slices bacon, diced
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 onion, diced
2 carrots, peeled and diced
2 stalks celery, diced
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
4 cups fat free chicken broth
1 cup 2% milk
1 head cauliflower, roughly chopped
1 bay leaf
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley leaves

Directions:
1. Heat a large stockpot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Add bacon and cook until brown and crispy, about 6-8 minutes. Transfer to a paper towel-lined plate; set aside.
2. Melt butter in a large stockpot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Add garlic, onion, carrots and celery. Cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, about 3-4 minutes. Stir in cauliflower and bay leaf. Cook, stirring occasionally, until barely crisp-tender, about 3-4 minutes.
3. Whisk in flour until lightly browned, about 1 minute. Gradually whisk in chicken broth and milk, and cook, whisking constantly, until slightly thickened, about 3-4 minutes.
4. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer until cauliflower are tender, about 12-15 minutes; season with salt and pepper, to taste. If the chowder is too thick, add more milk as needed until desired consistency is reached.
5. Serve immediately, garnished with crumbled bacon and parsley, if desired.

*4 Weight Watchers SmartPoints per serving
Hub City 100-Miler Update

The 2018 Hub City 100-Miler is drawing to a close. Join the Parks & Rec Department for the Final Mile Celebration on the Cultural Trail starting at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 22nd! The final mile will begin next to the Herald Mail and will include a group walk to City Park and back.

The 100-Miler grand prize winners will be announced at 2:00 p.m., so don't miss it!

While you're there, stop by the Inspire Health & Wellness Expo at the Herald Mail Press Room. Come anytime between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for health screenings, fitness demonstrations, and visits with local vendors.

Visit https://www.showclix.com/event/inspire-health-wellness to pre-register for the event and be entered into a drawing for a free Fitbit!

Employee Tour Information Coming Soon

Be on the lookout for our next employee tour—location and date to be determined! If you have suggestions for future employee tour destinations, please contact Heather Dennie at hdennie@hagerstownmd.org or ext. 828.

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, all one word)
Password: Benefits1 (capital B)

If you can't find what you are looking for on HR Connection, contact a member of Human Resources for assistance.

Test your knowledge

Though it has come to be known as the "Mural of Unusual Size", what is the true name of the colorful piece of contemporary art along the Cultural Trail?

A. Building Blocks
B. Rise
C. Pod
D. Fantastical Garden

Answer on Page 4
May Mindfulness Challenge

The May Mindfulness Challenge is an activity designed to provide tools and strategies to help gain more awareness, focus, and presence in your daily life. The challenge encourages the practice of daily activities to help reduce stress and anxiety, elevate mood, improve performance and productivity, and increase happiness. Practicing mindfulness will cultivate a greater sense of peace and overall wellbeing.

The month-long challenge begins May 1st with daily self-reporting activities. Participants receive daily mindfulness activities, weekly emails, mindfulness workshops throughout May, and entrance to weekly prize drawings and one Grand Prize valued at $500!

Make May your month to relax, breathe, and be present in your daily life.

One less thing to stress about—City employees can participate for free! Use the link https://apm.activecommunities.com/hagerstownparksandrec/activity_search/2070 to register.

Spring Wellness Programs

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

Our quarterly community wellness organization is Children In Need, Inc. A link to their wish list is available on HR Connection and each department will have a collection area for donated items. Let’s continue to 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.

*New this quarter—receive reimbursements for moving more! Eligible employees can receive reimbursement for qualifying programs including City and County recreation programs and classes, personal trainers, Weight Watchers, and gym memberships.

*Also new this quarter—exchange Wellness points for Valley Co-op fee reimbursement! Gain access to local farms and dairies and expand your nutritional horizon! Visit valleycoop.org to purchase a membership and get more information on how to buy online and pick up your items.

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...?

The City Farmers Market, officially established in 1791, is the oldest continually operating farmers market in the state. There are even receipts showing the market continued to operate during the Civil War.

Currently, the City Farmers Market is open every Saturday from 5:00 a.m.—noon, with vendors selling everything from local produce, to baked goods, to candles and more!

Visit valleycoop.org to purchase a membership and get more information on how to buy online and pick up your items.

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Stop by for a visit and try something new!
Benefits Fair and Open Enrollment

The Benefits Fair was another successful event this year for our benefits and wellness initiatives. Employees from every department across the City stopped by to learn more about what we offer, participate in mini-classes, and take a healthy bagged lunch.

Those who were able to attend will be notified of door prize drawing winners by Friday, April 6th.

See you next year!

April showers bring May flowers, and May flowers bring... Open enrollment!

Keep an eye out for annual open enrollment materials and a schedule of department visits to answer questions. Eligible employees can make changes to their benefits options, and those who participate in flexible spending must re-enroll to continue participating. Those employees who opt out of City insurance must re-certify their coverage with another provider in order to continue receiving the opt out benefit.

Please contact Susan Delauter at ext. 107 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:

* April 14th—7:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
  Community Yard Sale at Fairgrounds Park ($20 to rent a stall—call 301-739-8577, ext. 169)

* May 19th—10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; May 20th—Noon-5:00 p.m.
  Railroad Heritage Days at the City Park Train Hub and Hagerstown Roundhouse Museum
  $6/Adults; $1/Kids 4-15; Free/3 and under (Free shuttle between locations)

* June 16th—10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
  Main Street Hagerstown’s Chalk Art Festival on the Cultural Trail (Free)