Accolades and Recognition for Hagerstown

The City of Hagerstown has recently been recognized by several media outlets for its history and charm.

National Geographic Travel named Hagerstown among the best small cities in the United States. The article states “Located along the C&O Canal National Historical Park trail, Hagerstown surprises bikers and hikers with its rich Civil War and African-American history. A newer pathway, the sculpture-dotted Hagerstown Cultural Trail, connects the city’s arts district to the Museum of Fine Arts at City Park. Also looking good: the locals, who patronize the city’s survey-topping number of barber shops and salons.” Read the full article at https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/features/best-small-cities-united-states/

Expedia placed Hagerstown on its list of most beautiful towns in America. Expedia’s article states “There’s beauty to be had in a place that embraces its past. That’s just what you’ll find in Hagerstown, a city celebrating its narrative with four designated historic districts and preserved landmarks in semi-rural Western Maryland.” Read the full article at https://viewfinder.expedia.com/features/most-beautiful-towns-in-america-part-2/

SecurityChoice.com named Hagerstown one of the top cities for paramedics and EMTs in the nation. Evaluated on several criteria including cost of living, availability of jobs, and projected growth, Hagerstown ranked 71st out of 645 U.S. cities. Read the report at https://www.securitychoice.com/top-cities-for-paramedics-and-emt

Hagerstown will only continue to grow, especially with the start of the Urban Improvement Project taking place to expand the Maryland Theatre and the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts. Construction is currently scheduled for completion by the end of 2019, so we will have many more accolades and recognitions to look forward to in the coming years.
**Welcome New Hires!**

Alexander Miscannon—Police Dept.
Timothy Cramer—Police Dept.
Jonathan Zupan—Police Dept.
Emma Lewis—Comm. & Econ. Dev.
Joshua Faircloth—Light Dept.
Aaron Miller—Public Works
Matthew Baer—Fire Dept.
Jeremy Carter—Light Dept.
Wesley Decker—IT & Support Services
Robert Mauk—Public Works

*New hires since April 1

**Congratulations Retirees!**

Charles "Ed" Shindel, Fire—34 years
Jeb Eckstine, Fire—29 years
Terry Hose, Police—25 years

*Retirees since April 1

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**HPD Nominated for ESGR Recognition**

The Hagerstown Police Department, and three employees specifically, were nominated for continued excellence in Military/Employer relations. Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve recognized Chief Kifer, Sergeant Wert, and Jeff Morgan for “contributing to national security and protecting liberty and freedom by supporting employee participation in America’s National Guard and Reserve Force.”

Nominated by recent HPD recruit Tim Cramer, HPD was recognized for going above and beyond expectations in facilitating Cramer’s call to deployment on relatively short notice. HPD accommodated the change by keeping Cramer on staff up to his deployment date and supporting his re-enrollment in the next available police academy upon his return.

Thank you to Chief Kifer, Sgt. Wert, Jeff Morgan, and all of HPD for making a difficult situation as easy as possible and supporting those who serve in our military.

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**Grilled Summer Salad**

A salad does not have to contain lettuce, or raw vegetables, or be bland and tasteless to be “healthy”. Here is a wonderfully refreshing grilled salad to make the most of summer’s bounty.

**Charred Zucchini and Sweet Corn Salad**—Prep time: 10 min    Cook time: 10 min    Serves: 6*

- 3 medium zucchini—ends cut off and halved lengthwise
- 1 sweet pepper—cored and cut in half
- 5 ears sweet corn—husks removed
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 small jalapeno pepper—ribs and seeds removed, diced
- 1/3 cup fresh cilantro—minced
- 1/4 cup lime juice
- 1 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1 Tbsp agave syrup or honey
- Salt and Pepper—to taste

**Directions:**
1. Rub zucchini, sweet pepper, and corn with olive oil
2. Heat a grill to medium-high heat and grill veggies directly on the grates until the zucchini and pepper are tender and corn is slightly charred
3. Remove from heat, dice zucchini and sweet pepper
4. Cut corn off the cob and toss zucchini, sweet pepper, corn, jalapeno pepper, and cilantro (reserving 2 Tbsp for dressing) in a large bowl—set aside
5. Dressing: In a small bowl whisk remaining olive oil, reserved cilantro, lime juice, mustard, agave or honey, and salt and pepper until smooth
6. Pour dressing over salad and toss to coat evenly, chill salad until ready to serve

*4 Weight Watchers SmartPoints per serving
Stay Connected!

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)

Amy Riley Completes Leadership Institute

Recreation Promotion and Services Coordinator Amy Riley attended the Ritch Stevenson Leadership Institute class of 2017-2018 offered by the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association. Only 20 Parks and Recreation professionals are chosen to participate each year.

Over the course of one year, Amy participated in the intensive program to improve her skills and expertise in parks and recreation management. Courses included budgeting, leadership, cost recovery, and presenting a “poster session” to a capacity audience at the 2018 MRPA Conference. Congratulations to Amy for her achievement!

Citywide Email Access

Thanks to the efforts of our IT Department, all City employees now have access to email! If you are unsure of your email address, please see the Human Resources Department for assistance. You may be able to access your email from your smartphone—see the IT Department if you wish to set up access. Be sure to check your email frequently to stay on top of city-wide communications!

Test your knowledge

How many parks are within City limits?
A. 15
B. 23
C. 21
D. 18
Answer on Page 4

Urban Improvement Project Begins

The multi-million dollar Urban Improvement Project to rebuild the Maryland Theater and expand the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts, as well as office space for the Washington County Board of Education has begun. To accommodate the necessary equipment, the right lane of South Potomac Street is closed in front of the space. The Maryland Theater is slated for completion in October 2019 and BISFA’s expansion should be complete by Spring 2020. The project will cause traffic tie-ups during peak pick-up and drop-off times for BISFA students, so please pack extra patience during the upcoming school years.
Community Wellness—Micah’s Backpack

This quarter, the City is partnering with HARC, Washington County Public Schools, the MD Food Bank, and 52 sponsoring churches and community organizations to raise donations for Micah’s Backpack.

Each Friday afternoon during the school year, identified elementary school students receive a bag or backpack of healthy food and snacks for the weekend. Program participation is kept as confidential as possible, with a school staff member serving as a liaison to coordinate distribution.

A recent survey to gauge the program’s effectiveness stated that 75% of parents report their child is doing better in school, and 66% of teachers report their students are more engaged in their learning.

Each sponsoring organization is in need of food and monetary donations, as well as volunteers to assist with stocking, packing and delivery of the bags on a weekly basis.

Use the link http://harccoalition.org/resources/food/micahs-backpack/ to learn more.

Summer Wellness Programs

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

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

*New this quarter—dependents can now join the Real Appeal wellness program! Enroll at getreal.realappeal.com and get a free success kit!

*Continuing 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.

*Also continuing this quarter—receive up to $50 reimbursement for one program related to improving or maintaining your health. Eligible programs include recreation programs/classes, personal trainers, Weight Watchers, and gym memberships.

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...?

Hagerstown has six designated historic districts: Downtown/City Center, Oak Hill, Potomac-Broadway, South Prospect Street, Hagerstown National Register Historic District, and City Park National Register Historic District.

These districts are served by the Historic District Commission, which guides the use and maintenance of properties in these areas. Buildings in these areas display a wide variety of turn-of-the-century architecture, from businesses and store fronts, to rowhouses, to large Victorian-era homes and mansions.

Take a tour around the City and marvel at these amazing testaments to our history!
**HIP Award Recipients**

Recently, the Human Resources Department had the pleasure of giving out two HIP Awards to deserving nominees.

First, Roy Webber was nominated by his immediate supervisor Scott Smoot. Roy’s nomination included examples of his leadership in the Parks Department, specifically his efforts to complete a challenging project constructing a new concession stand at Municipal Stadium. Roy was able to use his knowledge and expertise to complete the project from plans that lacked detail and produce a quality finished product.

Next, Amanda Whitmore was nominated by her department manager Jill Thompson. Amanda was nominated after taking on the challenging ARCUS Fellowship program. The program entailed completing 20 online courses over 12 months to further Amanda’s expertise in topics such as cultural heritage, historic preservation, volunteer management, fundraising, and strategic planning. Amanda took advantage of an opportunity to be in the inaugural class for the Fellowship, which allowed her to participate at no cost to the City.

Congratulations to Roy and Amanda!

**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:

* **August 26th—7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.**
  Music by the Lake at the City Park Band Shell (Free)

* **September 15th—10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**
  City Park Fall Fest (Free entry, some activities may have a fee)

* **September 29th—9:00 a.m.**
  Color Splash 5K at Fairgrounds Park ($30 early bird registration by Sept. 8th)

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