



**FEBRUARY 2016**

## **SPOTLIGHT ON PERSONNEL AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

**BETH STEFEK - DIRECTOR, PERSONNEL AND RISK MANAGEMENT**  
**EMPLOYEES: 9 FULL TIME, 2 PART TIME**  
**BUDGETS: GENERAL FUND - \$716,798.**  
**SELF INSURANCE BUDGETS - \$10,923,200**



**HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**

Ushering in 2016 is exciting and challenging for everyone! We all have more to do with less time than ever! Personnel and Risk Management, CIGNA, and the CareHere Wellness Center have been working on more ways to help you handle your busy life in a healthy and happy way!

Close and convenient, the CareHere Wellness Center offers much more than just urgent care! Get your annual physical at the Center; complete bloodwork, an exam, an EKG and plenty of face time with a physician once your results are back. Taking care of you in 2016 begins with knowing where your health stands!

The Center offers health coaching services: Weight, Behavioral, Exercise and Smoking Cessation. What's your preference? Email, Skype or face-to-face, you can communicate with one or all of these coaches however you like. Make sure you check out Wellness Corner, our wellness intranet site that offers great information - access it through City of Kissimmee CityNet.

We are planning some great programs for 2016. We have Lunch and Learns lined up that include topics like Reading Food Labels, Healthy Cooking, and Life Management. We are starting a new walking program February 1st, which will be fun for the spring!

Fresh fruit and vegetables are key to our health; supplying vitamins, giving us healthy snack alternatives, providing delicious dishes! We are partnering with CIGNA Wellness, Kissimmee Main Street and the Kissimmee Valley Farmer's Market to provide vouchers to our Wellness program participants for free fruits and vegetables! It's an economical way to provide healthy food for you and your family. Get active, start moving, turn in those wellness points, PARTICIPATE, and you can be enjoying a happier, healthier New Year!

Watch your emails and the News and Notables for information on all of these great Wellness programs!

## 2015 PENSION MEETING SCHEDULE

MONTH	DATE	TIME	BOARD
February (Financial)	2	9:00 a.m.	Police
	2	1:00 p.m.	Fire
	25	9:00 a.m.	General
March	8	9:00 a.m.	Fire
	8	1:00 p.m.	Police
May Financial	3	9:00 a.m.	Police
	3	1:00 p.m.	Fire
	19	9:00 a.m.	General
June	7	9:00 a.m.	Fire
	7	1:00 p.m.	Police
July	28	9:00 a.m.	General
August (Financial)	2	9:00 a.m.	Police
	2	1:00 p.m.	Fire
	25	9:00 a.m.	General
September	13	9:00 a.m.	Fire
	13	1:00 p.m.	Police
October	11	9:00 a.m.	Police
	11	1:00 p.m.	Fire
	27	9:00 a.m.	General
November (Financial)	1	9:00 a.m.	Fire
	1	1:00 p.m.	Police
	27	9:00 a.m.	General
December (Financial)	15	9:00 a.m.	General

Should you plan to attend one of these scheduled meetings, please call to confirm the meeting date and time prior to your arrival.

### EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Each month an "Employee of the Month" is selected by a committee of his/her peers. The winner is chosen from a group of employees nominated by his/her co-workers.

#### GLAD YOU ASKED

The "Glad You Asked" Program was developed by the City Manager to provide a means for employees to get answers to questions, express opinions or voice complaints about the City.

#### WHERE DO I GET A FORM?

The Glad You Asked form can be found at <U:\AllCity\Forms\Glad You Asked Form PDF.pdf>.

The Employee of the Month nomination form can be found at <U:\Common\AllCity\Forms\EOM Nomination Form PDF.pdf>.

Both forms can be picked up in the Personnel & Risk Management Department.

#### BRAVO PROGRAM

The Bravo program is designed to recognize employees going above and beyond the normal call of duty in their effort to deliver excellent service. Supervisors have the privilege of writing a Bravo and may present it to any employee who was noticed performing the extraordinary service. Employees may 'redeem' their Bravo in Personnel for a token acknowledging their achievement. Some recent examples of great Bravos include: Went on your lunch hour to pick up supplies; Did a fantastic job handling an emergency situation very professionally; Cleaned and organized our supply room and cabinets. Keep up that great service to your customers and you could be the next Bravo recipient!

GEO NEWS is published monthly by the  
CITY OF KISSIMMEE GENERAL EMPLOYEES ORGANIZATION  
101 Church Street Kissimmee, FL 34741 407.518.2304  
Editor - Paula Liska

This month's contributors include:

Andrea Campbell, Jeremy Donovan, Zuleika Fernandez, Linda Gomez,  
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Joan Robinson, Christina Sewnarine, Beth Stefek,  
Arin Thrower and Stacy Zamfir.

**DEADLINE  
FOR THE  
MARCH  
ISSUE  
IS MONDAY  
FEBRUARY 8**

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



It is an honor for the City of Kissimmee to recognize **JON-ERIC SANTIAGO** as the Employee of the Month for January. He is an Emergency Vehicle Specialist in the Fleet Maintenance Division of Public Works and Engineering. Jon-Eric has been employed with the City of Kissimmee for more than seven years.

Jon-Eric has an awesome “can do” attitude everyday no matter what the atmosphere is. He is well liked by his co-workers and is easily approachable. Jon-Eric started his career with the City as a Utility Worker. He applied himself and quickly rose through the ranks and now holds the title of Emergency Vehicle Specialist Technician. The great thing about Jon is, he always finds a way to get the job done. Whether it’s repairing small equipment or the largest equipment owned by the City of Kissimmee or Toho Water Authority, he always finds a solution and meets deadlines. During a time when hiring an EVT mechanic seemed impossible, Jon rose to the challenge and willingly took the role and assured that he would acquire all of the necessary certifications. Since that time he has worked diligently to achieve 4 EVT certifications and only needs 2 more to have all F Series certifications.

As the front line mechanic for the Fire Department, Jon has also built a strong relationship between Fleet and the Kissimmee Fire Department. If Jon does not perform to the optimum level, the Fire department cannot perform at their best. In order to complete tasks, Jon has been known to stay late, work weekend and holidays to assure all essential emergency vehicles are in service.

Jon-Eric’s efforts speak for themselves - his hard work, professionalism and positive attitude makes him an asset to the City of Kissimmee. The City is proud to recognize Jon-Eric as the Employee of the Month for January 2016.

**THE FOOD TRUCK BAZAAR**  
A MOVING CULINARY EVENT

**1st Friday of Each Month**  
**6 p.m. - 9 p.m.**  
**Kissimmee Civic Center**  
**201 E. Dakin**

## MOTIVATIONAL MOMENT

“Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned.”  
- Buddha

## 2016 IMPORTANT DATES

Memorial Day\*  
Monday, May 30

Independence Day\*  
Monday, July 4

Labor Day\*  
Monday, September 5

Veterans Day\*  
Friday, November 11

Thanksgiving Day\*  
and Thanksgiving Day After\*  
Thursday, November 24  
Friday, November 25

Christmas Eve\*\*  
Christmas\*\*  
Friday, December 23  
Monday, December 26

Employee of the Month  
Committee  
Fourth Tuesday - 10 a.m.  
City Manager’s Conference Room  
City Hall - 5th Floor

Safety Committee  
2nd Thursday - 9:15 a.m.  
Personnel Conference Room  
City Hall - 2nd Floor

VARC Committee  
3rd Monday - 9:30 a.m.  
Personnel Conference Room  
City Hall - 2nd Floor

GEO Meeting  
3rd Wednesday - 10:00 a.m.  
International Conference Room  
City Hall - 5th Floor

\* OBSERVED HOLIDAYS  
CITY HALL  
WILL BE CLOSED

# CHILDREN DRAW PLAYGROUND OF THEIR DREAMS

Children from Central Avenue Elementary School and the City of Kissimmee put their imaginations to work to help design the playground of their dreams during the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons' (AAOS) 17th annual Safe and Accessible Playground Design Day. The afternoon event was packed with interactive exercises to share concepts regarding their ideal play space. In partnership with KaBOOM!—a national non-profit dedicated to bringing play to kids who need it most—the children's designs will shape the final design concept for a one-day playground build on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, kicking off the 2016 AAOS Annual Meeting in Orlando.



Once complete, the Safe and Accessible Playground at Central Avenue Elementary School, which is managed jointly with the City of Kissimmee, will serve more than 700 students at the school and children living in the surrounding community each day.



Since 2000, the AAOS has sponsored a one-day volunteer build to kick-off its Annual Meeting, leaving behind a legacy of safe and accessible playgrounds to the Annual Meeting's host cities so that children with and without disabilities can play safely together. The 2016 Annual Meeting will be held at the Orange County Convention Center during March 1-5. This build will be the Academy's second Safe and Accessible Playground build in Orlando.

Orthopaedic surgeons are physicians who treat many people with physical disabilities. They see first-hand the fractures, dislocations and other results of playground injuries and falls. The Safe and Accessible Playground Build is a rewarding opportunity for orthopaedic surgeons to give back to their Annual Meeting's host city. This playground will offer children exercise opportunities for balance, flexibility and strength to build strong bones as well as a safe and accessible place to play.

## Heating Fire Safety

Follow these heating tips to help maintain a fire-safe home this winter.



### Space Heater

- Keep anything that can burn, such as bedding, clothing and curtains, at least 3 feet away from the heater.
- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Plug portable heaters directly into outlets and never into an extension cord or power strip.
- Only use portable heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.



### Fireplace

- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks jumping out.
- Do not burn paper in your fireplace.
- Put the fire out **before** you go to sleep or leave your home.
- Put ashes in a metal container with a lid, outside, at least 3 feet from your home.



### Wood Stove

- Make sure your wood stove is 3 feet from anything that can burn.
- Do not burn paper in your wood stove.
- Put the fire out **before** you go to sleep or leave your home.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional.



### Furnace

- Have your furnace inspected each year.
- Keep anything that can burn away from the furnace.



### Kerosene Heater

- Only use kerosene heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.
- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Refuel your cooled heater outside.

For more information and free resources, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach).

U.S. Fire Administration



## Winter Fire Safety

### Heating Your Home Safely

← 3 feet →

↑ 3 feet ↓

**Follow these heating tips to help prevent winter fires and to stay safe this winter season:**

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from all heat sources including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, space heaters or candles.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.

*Home fires occur more in the winter months than any other time of the year.*

For more information:  
[www.usfa.fema.gov/winter/](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/winter/)

## KPD PARTICIPATES IN 2016 DISNEY MARATHON WEEKEND



Members of the Kissimmee Police Department participated in the 2016 Disney Marathon Weekend. Thanks to Cigna's generosity, the employees were able to waive the registration fees for the races they participated in. Congratulations on your medals!

**January 7, 2016 - 5K (3.1 miles) -** Corporal Raquel Fernandez, Officer Takeya Close

**January 8, 2016 - 10K (6.2 miles, in the persistent rain) -** Lieutenant Brandon Layne, Sergeant Stacey Baseggio, Corporal Jesus Garcia, Corporal Chris Breuer, Officer Takeya Close, Officer Luiz Zunnio, Officer Bradely Wheeler, PIO Stacie Miller, CST Michelle Monroe, Supervisor Rose Montalvo  
Telecommunicator Jennifer Dippel, Call Taker Minerva Vazquez

**January 9, 2016 - ½ Marathon (13.1 miles) -** Sergeant Erika Castellucci, Sergeant Stacey Baseggio

**January 7 - 10, 2016 - Dopey Challenge (5K, 10K, ½ marathon and Full Marathon – 48.6 total miles) -** Corporal James Rabb

Photo right: (Front Row - left to right) – Officer Luiz Zunnio, Officer Bradley Wheeler, Telecommunicator Jennifer Dippel, Call Taker Minerva Vazquez, Sergeant Stacey Baseggio, Corporal Jesus Garcia  
(Back Row - left to right) – CST Michelle Monroe, Sergeant Erika Castellucci, PIO Stacie Miller

Not pictured: Lieutenant Brandon Layne, Corporal Chris Breuer, Corporal James Rabb and Supervisor Rose Montalvo



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

### AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN

Come together with friends and neighbors at the Kissimmee Civic Center as the City of Kissimmee and the Osceola Library System partner for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual African American Read-In. Celebrate history and literacy, and listen as moving, inspirational, and humorous selections from a wide range of African American literature are read aloud.

Enjoy musical entertainment and refreshments.

For more information contact Jamie Paul at [jpaul@kissimmee.org](mailto:jpaul@kissimmee.org).

Location: Kissimmee Civic Center

Age: All Ages

Dates: February 21

Day: Sunday

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Fee: Free

### TRAILBLAZERS BREAKFAST & PANEL DISCUSSION

Join the City of Kissimmee for a prayer breakfast paying tribute to community leaders for outstanding professional and civic accomplishments. This is a ticketed event, to reserve your ticket please contact Jamie Paul at [jpaul@kissimmee.org](mailto:jpaul@kissimmee.org).

Location: Kissimmee Civic Center

Age: All Ages

Dates: February 27

Day: Saturday

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Fee: Free

"OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN OF DESPAIR,  
A STONE OF HOPE"

## CONGRATULATIONS RETIREES



**JAIME ALBERTI**

Kissimmee Police Department  
16 Years - 10 Months

Thank you for your years of service  
and dedication to the City!



**TINA PHILLIPS**

Parks and Recreation  
18 Years - 7 Months

Thank you for your years of service  
and dedication to the City!

## WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES

**MARTIN ANGOMAS**

Utility Worker  
Public Works and Engineering

**KRYSTAL BARRETO**

Recreation Leader I  
Parks and Recreation

**TRACY BOLLIN**

Telecommunicator  
Kissimmee Police Department

**FRANKLIN GOMEZ**

School Crossing Guard  
Kissimmee Police Department

**DONTE JONES**

Event Monitor  
Parks and Recreation

**JENNIFER RAMOS**

Secretary  
Public Works and Engineering

**CHRISTOPHER RICHARDS**

Firefighter/EMT  
Kissimmee Fire Department

**GUSTAVO SEBASTIANI**

Facility Maintenance Superintendent  
Public Works and Engineering

**DAVID SHIRLEY**

Building Inspector  
Development Services

**BRIANNE STEFEK**

Executive Director  
Kissimmee Main Street

**CRAIG STONE**

Utility Worker  
Public Works and Engineering

**GILLIS WILKERSON**

Ball Field Technician  
Parks and Recreation

**HARVEY WITT**

School Crossing Guard  
Kissimmee Police Department

## GEO SWAP SHOP

**SOMETHING TO SELL?  
SOMETHING YOU NEED?  
ADS RUN FREE TO EMPLOYEES  
FOR 3 CONSECUTIVE MONTHS.  
GEO Editor 5th Floor City Hall  
or pliska@kissimmee.org**

### FOR SALE

#### HAND CRAFTED JEWELRY

- Using semi-precious stones for necklaces, earrings and bracelets. Will custom make items such as Shamballa healing stones bracelet(s). To see items available go to Facebook, "Nancy B's Handmade Jewelry". Send me a Facebook message for more information or call my home phone, 407.855.6645 and leave a call back number. Gift wrapping available upon request. NANCY BORDERS (2)

### SERVICES

**AVON REPRESENTATIVE** - If you need a book or to place an order, please feel free to contact me. Jane Hodgson 407.873.3753 (12)

### SERVICES

**MAKEUP** - "You have a nail lady, a hair lady, let me be your make-up lady!" Younique Beauty Products. Call DANIELLE ROJAS at 321.442.1684 for information on products, parties or how to become a presenter! Or contact me at: [www.youniqueproducts.com/daniellerojas](http://www.youniqueproducts.com/daniellerojas) (12)

**NEED CASH? GOT GOLD?** - Gold continues to rise in \$\$\$ so if you have gold that is broken, with missing parts, or no longer use we will pay you CASH \$\$\$ for it. Our payout is significantly more than those of the pawn shop. We will weigh with you present. Contact Sylvia Cruz - 407.832.9153 (As per ERIC CRUZ) (12)

#### NOTICE:

The GEO News newsletter is posted on the City of Kissimmee Web site.

While we cannot estimate how much exposure they will get, your ads and phone numbers, etc. will be included in this posting. It will be equivalent to an on-line classified ad. If you have an issue with this info being posted on-line, please contact [pliska@kissimmee.org](mailto:pliska@kissimmee.org) or 407.518.2304. Thank you.

#### DISCLAIMER:

"The G.E.O. News, its editors and staff, the City of Kissimmee, its employees and officials claim no responsibility for goods, or conditions arising from goods advertised in this newsletter.

# IT PAYS TO STAY ACTIVE.

Regular exercise may add years to your life.

Regular exercise can lower your risk of dying early. How? By staying active, you can lower your risk of heart disease and even some cancers.

## Why exercise is so important

- › How much exercise you do can have a big effect on your health. Active people who exercise about 7 hours a week have a **40% lower risk of dying early** than those who exercise less than 30 minutes a week.
- › You don't have to do a lot of exercise to lower your risk of dying early. At least 2 hours and 30 minutes (150 minutes) a week of moderate-intensity aerobic activity can help. For example, walking, riding a bike or doing water aerobics.

Don't wait!

There's never been a better time to get moving. Do it for yourself. Do it for your health. Do it for life.



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Physical Activity and Health." [www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/everyone/health/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/everyone/health/index.html) (accessed May 6, 2015)

**Help Support the  
American Heart  
Association  
RUN or WALK in the  
Kissimmee 5K  
on February 13th  
and Earn  
100 Wellness Points!**



# RUN OR WALK IN OUR

## ALL ABOUT THAT 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL KISSIMMEE 5K

The 8th annual Kissimmee 5K highlights Kissimmee's Historic Downtown District and the Beautiful Lakefront Park. Come out and race to support THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION . Prizes awarded in over 20 categories. Sign up to run as a team in our couples race for a chance to win additional prizes.

**SPONSORED BY:**



# SATURDAY FEB. 13, 2016 TOHO SQUARE RACE STARTS AT 7:30 AM

\$20 NOW - NOV. 30 | \$25 DEC. 1 - JAN. 31  
\$27 FEB. 1 - FEB. 12 | \$30 DAY OF RACE

**REGISTER AT [WWW.KISSIMMEE5K.COM](http://WWW.KISSIMMEE5K.COM)**

KISSIMMEE SUNSHINE REGIONAL  
20<sup>th</sup>  
ANNUAL

**CHILI COOK-OFF  
&  
BEER FESTIVAL**

**FREE  
ADMISSION  
& PARKING**

**12 - 5 PM**

**SATURDAY**

**FEBRUARY 20, 2016**

**KISSIMMEE LAKEFRONT PARK  
EVENT LAWN**

Sanctioned Chili Competition (Red, Verde and Salsa)  
Over 25 craft beer samples available!  
(Last pour at 4:30)  
Enjoy Live Entertainment, Local Vendors,  
Kids Zone and more!

**BEER TASTING TICKETS**

**\$20**  
**\$25**

online at  
[kissimmeemainstreet.com](http://kissimmeemainstreet.com)  
and get a FREE gift at event.

on the day of the event

For event information  
please call  
407-846-4643  
or visit  
[www.kissimmeemainstreet.com](http://www.kissimmeemainstreet.com)

**SPONSORED BY:**

