



ROCK BEATS

MONTHLY EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



YOUR MONTHLY PULSE ON
WHAT'S HAPPENING
AT THE CITY OF ROUND ROCK

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ON THE COVER

On the road again! Public Works staff and officials celebrated the ribbon cutting on Sept. 21 for the Old Settlers Boulevard extension, a new roadway extending from Red Bud Lane to County Road 110. Learn more about Round Rock's road projects at roundrocktexas.gov/transportation.

***Pictured, left to right:** Transportation Asst. Dir. Brian Kuhn, Senior Engineer Dawn Scheel, Executive Director of Public Works Michael Thane, Transportation Asst. Dir. Gerald Pohlmeyer, Senior Construction Inspector Shelby Noles*

2027 Open Enrollment is Here

Open Enrollment for 2027 benefits is underway through Oct. 31! Now is the time to review your coverage, explore the benefits available to you and make any changes for the year ahead. Elections made during Open Enrollment take effect Jan. 1, 2027.

For another year, employees will not see an increase in their medical premiums, despite rising health insurance costs. The City is increasing its contribution from \$1,257 to \$1,383 per month for each enrolled employee to absorb the additional cost. That brings the City's contribution to \$16,596 per enrolled employee annually, an increase of \$1,512 from the current year.



Employees can continue to choose between the UnitedHealthcare Choice Plus and EPO plans, which offer different deductibles, out-of-pocket maximums and network options. The **2027 Employee Benefits Guide** provides plan comparisons and rates to help you determine which option works best for you and your family.

Your medical coverage isn't just your insurance card. Employees and covered dependents enrolled in a City medical plan have access to RockCare for primary care at no cost, along with Airrosti treatment, prescription benefits and other resources available through UnitedHealthcare. When RockCare isn't an option, 24/7 virtual visits are available for \$25 for many common non-emergency conditions, and Convenience Care Clinics have a \$0 copay.

Beyond medical health care plans, be sure to check out the guide for information on dental and two vision plan options, life and AD&D insurance, short- and long-term disability, accident and critical illness coverage, hospital indemnity coverage, legal and identity-theft benefits, flexible spending accounts and retirement resources.

Want to learn more? Human Resources scheduled a kickoff presentation Monday, Oct. 5, from 10-11 a.m. in Council Chambers and a Benefits Vendor Hall from 2-4 p.m. at the Round Rock Public Library to ask questions and complete your enrollment on-site. The presentation and more information will be available shortly after on [EmployeeNet](#).

Get started now! Elections can be made by visiting ESS (where you enter your time sheet). You may view your current elections already in place by clicking "Benefits," and then click the "Open enrollment" hyperlink at the top of the page to select your benefits for the coming year. You can go back in and change your new elections any time before the Oct. 31 deadline.

[View 2027 Benefits Guide](#)

THE HR HUB

► **Open Enrollment is Live!**

Did you skip the last page? Go back and read it! Open Enrollment for 2027 Benefits is underway through Oct. 31. And if your department could use a little extra help, [Sang Dhar](#) and [Tyler Jarl](#) will even come to you for an on-site enrollment session.

► **6-Week Group Fitness Series**

Join co-workers every Monday and Wednesday at the Wellness Center for a 6-week group fitness series led by a trainer. The sessions are designed for beginner to intermediate fitness levels. Interested? Reach out to Sang Dhar at sdhar@roundrocktexas.gov.

► **Nominate a Coworker for the 2026 Service Excellence Award**

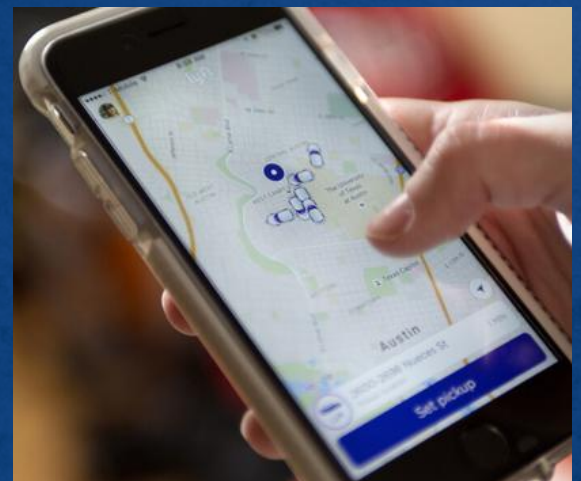
Do you know a City of Round Rock employee who goes above and beyond to provide exceptional service? [Nominate them](#) for the 2026 Service Excellence Award! Nominations can recognize exceptional service to residents, customers, coworkers or other departments. Employees may nominate an individual, a team or a department and may submit more than one nomination. Nominations due by Friday, Oct. 9. [Learn more](#)

Did you know your EAP can help pay for a safe ride home?

Holiday parties and celebrations will be here before we know it, so here's a City benefit worth knowing before you need it. Through the City's **Employee Assistance Program (EAP)**, Take the High Road can help cover the cost of a taxi, Uber or Lyft when you're not in a condition to safely drive.

And that's just one part of your EAP. Employees and eligible family members have access to 24/7 confidential support, including six covered counseling sessions per issue, per year, for help with stress, family concerns, finances, substance use and more. You don't have to be on the City's medical plan to use it.

Keep **888-993-7650** in your phone and download the AllOne Health App now. Getting help, whether that means talking to someone or simply getting home safely, is easier than you might think.



EMPLOYEE EVENTS

Tuesday, October 6

Mobile Mammography with the Big Pink Bus – 9 a.m.-3:40 p.m. | Next to the Griffith Building, 216 E. Main Street | Check an important preventive screening off your list without making a separate trip to an imaging center. Employees and eligible spouses age 40 and older may qualify; only 18 appointments are available. Call **1-844-746-5287** or email bigpinkbus@lscctx.org to see if you can grab one of the last remaining spots.

Monday-Thursday, October 19-22

Customer Service Week – Celebrate customer service — and YOU — all week long!

Friday, October 23

Wear Pink Day – October is **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**, and we'd love for everyone to show their support! On Friday, October 23, wear pink and take a picture with your team or department. Let's come together to raise awareness and support the importance of breast health and early detection.



Monday, November 2

Jet Dental Clinic – 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | Round Rock Library Rooms A & B, 200 East Liberty Avenue | Human Resources is bringing back this highly popular event that brings preventive dental services on-site for employees and their families. Spots fill up fast!

Tuesday, November 10

Texas Watershed Steward Workshop – 1-5 p.m. | Utilities and Transportation Building, 3400 Sunrise Road | This event is open to the public, but could also serve as a great internal training opportunity! Get a closer look at the Brushy Creek watershed, what's being done to protect it and practical ways you can help. The free workshop includes discussions on watershed science, water pollution and local protection efforts, plus continuing education credits for several professional disciplines. For more information, contact Cam Chapman, Environmental Program Manager, at 737-349-2653 or cchapman@roundrocktexas.gov.



Learn about these events and more on the Employee Event Calendar:

employees.roundrocktexas.gov/events

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Tuesdays and Thursdays through Nov. 19

Hometown Lunchtime Parklet Shows – 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. | Downtown Round Rock | Take your lunch break outside with free live music at parklets throughout Downtown. Grab lunch or an iced coffee from a Downtown business, or bring your own, and enjoy a mid-day music break.



Wednesdays through Nov. 18

Music on Main – 7-9 p.m. | Prete Plaza, 221 E. Main St. | Music on Main is back for the fall! Bring a lawn chair or blanket, grab dinner Downtown and enjoy free live music every Wednesday night.



Saturdays, October 10-24

Trailside Market – 9 a.m.-noon | Memorial Park, 600 N. Lee St. | Spend your Saturday morning shopping outdoors along the Memorial Park Trail, where farmers, artisans and local vendors set up shop alongside Brushy Creek.

Saturday, October 24

Mainly Art – 10 a.m.-3 p.m. | Downtown Round Rock | Stroll Main Street and shop original work from local visual artists during this free outdoor celebration of creativity.



Wednesday, October 28

Fall Fun Festival – 9-11:30 a.m. | Old Settlers Park | Bring your little ghosts and goblins to this free Halloween celebration designed especially for toddlers and preschoolers, with plenty of fall fun for the whole family.

Friday, October 30

Hometown Halloween – 3-7 p.m. | Downtown Round Rock | Bring the kids in costume and celebrate Halloween in the heart of Downtown at this free, family-friendly hometown tradition.



Learn about these events and more on the City Event Calendar:

roundrocktexas.gov/events

EMPLOYEES ON THE MOVE

NEW HIRES



FINANCE

REAGAN KIRWAN

PARKS AND RECREATION

KIM MINA VERA

PUBLIC WORKS

HUNTER DEARMON

DAMIEN GARCIA

MATTHEW GARZA

HAYLEY HOLT

LAUREN PARSONS

PHILIP SALINAS

FIRE

TREVOR WILLAUER

POLICE

BROOKE BLACKWELL

JASON REED

THALIA SOLIS

PROMOTIONS



FIRE

SETH MONROE — PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT

PUBLIC WORKS

DANIEL GOMEZ — PROMOTED TO TRAFFIC SIGN TECH - SR

RETIREMENTS



HUMAN RESOURCES

KEVIN VAUGHN (15)

PARKS AND RECREATION

MICHAEL CROWELL (6)

OSCAR FLORES (20)



PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT UNLOCKED: PARKER HALL, AICP

Planner **Parker Hall** recently passed her AICP (American Institute of Certified Planners) exam! The AICP exam assesses professional planning knowledge, ethics and practical application, serving as the key step toward AICP certification.



ADMINISTRATION

CYNTHIA MOUSER (31)

ARTS AND CULTURE

FRED COOLEY (2)

SCOT WILKINSON (14)

COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

JESUS QUEZADA (1)

FINANCE

LILIANA JARRETT (3)

MELANA TAYLOR (5)

GABRIELLE WILLIAMS (5)

ALFRED WILSON (6)

LIDIA CANTU (7)

FIRE

ROSA GALCERAN (4)

COURTNEY SMALL (5)

KENDALL FAIR (6)

COLLIN SANDERSON (6)

JARED SATTERFIELD (6)

MICHAEL SHINE (6)

AUSTIN SIMPSON (6)

CHARLES STOGNER (6)

NATHANAEL GILSTRAP (6)

GARY MEARS (6)

TRENT CLASSEN (21)

STEVEN JEWELL (26)

DENNIS KINCHELOE (35)

KARL SITTRE (35)

GENERAL SERVICES

YANDY LOPEZ RIVERO (1)

DORIS LOPEZ HERNANDEZ (1)

JUSTIN MENDOZA (3)

TRISTEN ADAMS (3)

MA DOLORES GONZALEZ (4)

IRENE CANSECO (10)

HUMAN RESOURCES

SANGHAMITRA DHAR (2)

HOEUN AMARETH (5)

DARRON GRUSSENDORF (7)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

JILLIAN ARTHUR (14)

MEGAN TSCHOERNER (20)

LIBRARY

MARK OLIVARES (3)

ANTON MURRAY (4)

PATRICK MUSHENYE (4)

JASON DIKES (12)

JANE RASE (26)

PARKS AND RECREATION

TYRA LEA (1)

TERI EGAN (4)

MARIA VARGAS GUZMAN (4)

KATAYOON KAIMANESH (4)

CHRISTA YARBROUGH (4)

CODY BLASSINGAME (8)

RYAN YEMBAR (13)

DAVID BUZZELL (20)

JENENE UHRIG (25)

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

ALICE GUAJARDO (8)

CECILIA CHAPA (9)

JAMES SHINE (9)

PAUL MORAN (11)

BRYAN FAILS (12)

KERSTIN HARDING (27)

POLICE

DIEGO AYALA (1)

MCKENZIE BROUSSARD (1)

JADA CARETTE (1)

KAYLEE COTTEE (1)

MORIAH FRIAS (1)

NICHOLAS FRANKLIN (3)

SALEINA GILBERT (3)

NATASHA SAWYER (3)

TIFFANY HALL (4)

ANDREA ZAMORA (5)

OBINNA NWACHUKWU (6)

JUSTIN CROOK (6)

ALEXIS CHILDRESS (9)

DANIELLE KESSLER (9)

JENNIFER EVANS (11)

MARCIANO GARZA (14)

BRIAN NEVEU (15)

ADAM RANKIN (18)

MICHAEL SALINAS (18)

SAMPSON CONNELL VIII (21)

AARON MITCHELL (21)

DANIEL SITZ (22)

JAMES HUNTER (23)

ERIC MOUNT (29)

PUBLIC WORKS

LEESA NAPIER (1)

GRAYSON SEARCY (1)

DANIEL GOMEZ (3)

GRACE BLEIBTREU (3)

DANIELLE FINLEY (3)

TOM VILLANUEVA (3)

TYLER STROMSNESS (3)

LUIS VILLALOBOS (3)

CLINTON ABRAMSON (6)

JESSICA HARDEN (8)

SERGIO GONZALEZ (10)

DANIEL OCHOA (25)

SPORTS MANAGEMENT AND TOURISM

ALEXIS MENDOZA MEZA (4)

TRAVIS LANKFORD (5)

BRIAN STILLMAN (13)

CHAD MCKENZIE (14)



MEET YOUR COWORKER

★ Devin Taylor ★

Neighborhood Services Coordinator
Community and Neighborhood Services



With City of Round Rock for: 2 years and 9 months.

Job Responsibilities: We are liaisons between the city and many of our property owners. We provide tools for residents and employees, drop off the Block Party Trailer for social gatherings, provide volunteer coordination for residents in need, serve as a contact between neighborhoods and the departments and support commercial businesses with their facades.

Favorite Food: Steak and carbonara.

Favorite TV Show: Ted Lasso.

Favorite Hobbies: Playing guitar, hanging out with my brothers, or reading.

Typical weekend activity: Swimming or hot tubbing.

Tell us something interesting about yourself: I worked in Utility Billing for 8 months, have two older brothers [who also work for the City of Round Rock!], and have been playing piano for 12 years.

Did you know Round Rock residents can borrow tools, reserve block party and movie night equipment, get help with a neighborhood cleanup or apply for funding to improve your neighborhood? Best of all, it's all free! Round Rock's Neighborhood Services offers these programs and more to help residents take an active role in their neighborhoods. Learn more at roundrocktexas.gov/neighborhoods or email neighborhoods@roundrocktexas.gov.

AWARD SPOTLIGHT: EVT OF THE YEAR

Lead Fleet Fire Technician **John Nieves** has earned the title of the 2026 Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) of the Year from Firehouse and Spartan Fire Chassis!

Nieves was recently honored at an annual awards event at the Fire Truck Training Conference in Lansing, MI.





PETS of the MONTH

Name: Arya

Owner: Bethany Cathey, Human Resources

Age: 10

Breed: Terrier mix

Meet Arya! She's a professional car-ride enthusiast, cuddle expert, and self-appointed kitchen and grill supervisor. She also loves belly rubs and snuggling up with her favorite people. Her dislikes? Vacuums, balloons, rain, and thunderstorms. Basically, anything loud, floating, or falling from the sky!



Name: Ruby

Owner: Brad Dushkin, Planning Director

Age: 1-ish

Breed: German Shepherd/Australian Cattle Dog mix

Ruby is a rescue from the floods that hit south Texas in July. In her short time with us she's proven herself to be a loyal companion who's sharp as a tack, playful as can be, and a wonderful family dog. She hasn't met another dog she didn't like and is obnoxiously vocal about her desire to say hi to everyone.



Want to submit your pet to be featured?



Email cthomas@roundrocktexas.gov
or use the QR code on the back page!

Customer Service Week

Oct 19-22, 2026

National Customer Service Week is an annual celebration recognizing the importance of customer service and the employees who provide it every day. At the City of Round Rock, the week is an opportunity to recognize service excellence across the organization, celebrate employees and have a little fun along the way. This year's theme is "The Extra Mile," with activities planned throughout the week culminating in the Employee Celebration and Luncheon at the Round Rock Sports Center.



Schedule

- **Monday, October 19: City Manager Message and Department Breakfast**
 - Kick off Customer Service Week with a special message from City Manager Brooks Bennett on EmployeeNet; departments are also encouraged to host a breakfast.
- **Tuesday, October 20: Service Excellence Award Ceremony**
 - **10:30-11:30 a.m. | Council Chambers, City Hall, 221 E Main St**
 - Celebrate City of Round Rock employees and teams nominated for the 2026 Service Excellence Award and recognize those who are Going the Extra Mile to provide exceptional service across the City.
- **Wednesday, October 21: Department Appreciation Day**
 - Take a moment to recognize someone in your department who is going the extra mile. Send a thank you email or handwritten note to a coworker whose efforts, support, and service made a difference.
- **Thursday, October 22: Employee Celebration and Luncheon**
 - **11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. | Round Rock Sports Center, 2400 Chisholm Trail Rd**
 - Wrap up Customer Service Week with a fun-filled Employee Celebration & Luncheon! Join us for a field day-themed afternoon featuring games and activities, lunch, karaoke, music, ice cream and plenty of time to relax and celebrate with coworkers. Want to join in the field day games? Athletic shoes are required. Work boots will not be permitted for game participation.



**RSVP
FOR CEREMONY**



**RSVP
FOR LUNCHEON**

► Want to submit info to be included in future issues?

Submit a story or shoutout by using this QR code or by emailing cthomas@roundrocktexas.gov.

