Wes Wagner is the Employee of the Month for January

Wes Wagner has been employed by the City of Conroe since January 2018 as Recreation Specialist (previously an intern with the Parks and Recreation Department). His primary responsibilities include administering all aspects of youth and adult athletic programming for the C.K. Ray Recreation Center. During his time in Conroe, Wes has distinguished himself as a team player within the department. Moreover, he exceeds expectations by partnering with other organizations and welcoming opportunities for personal growth and development.

Wes’ programming responsibilities include Conroe United Youth Soccer League in the spring and fall, Conroe Youth Flag Football League in the spring and fall, Adult Softball Leagues, Men’s Basketball League, Youth Tennis Lessons, Youth Volleyball Lessons, Summer Track & Field, Basketball Summer Camp, and Pickleball.

In its inaugural season in the fall of 2018, Conroe United Youth Soccer attracted 342 participants on 32 teams (the goal for the first season was 168 participants). The third season in the fall of 2019 attracted 630 participants on 61 teams.

Wes is an exceptional candidate for the City’s Employee of the Month Award.
Circular Saw Safety

Circular saws are powerful hand tools that should be operated only by trained and qualified workers. Using circular saws without being trained can lead to serious or fatal injuries.

- Points of operation: Injuries occur if an operator’s hands slip while cutting or they’re too close to the blade during cutting. To help prevent these injuries, make sure hands are out of the line of the cut.
- Kickbacks: happens when the blade height is incorrect or if the blade has not been properly maintained. They are more likely to occur when ripping rather than crosscutting.

Help prevent kickbacks by:

- Using anti-kickback fingers to hold down the stock.
- Using the correct blade for the cutting action.
- Operating the saw at the manufacturer’s recommended speed.
- Keeping the blade sharp.

Human Resources

City of Conroe Annual Benefits Fair
Tuesday, April 21, 2020
Activity Center
1202 Candy Cane Lane
Conroe, TX 77301

Save the Date!
February is American Heart Month

Your heart needs a constant supply of blood delivered by its arteries. If an artery becomes blocked, heart muscle can begin to die within a few minutes—and, sad to say, so could you.

February is more than a month to celebrate loving hearts during St. Valentine’s Day; it’s also time for you to learn more about your cardiovascular health. Because what you don’t know could hurt you.

Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of American women.

My patients are sometimes surprised to learn that heart attacks are the leading cause of death for American men and women. Symptoms tend to show up differently in women than in men commonly associated with heart attacks. But for either sex, don’t expect symptoms to occur as portrayed on TV when actors dramatically clutch their chests and collapse.

Women’s heart-attack symptoms can be surprising subtle.

Women usually don’t experience the same chest pain as men. This misconception can often cause women not to recognize their heart attack symptoms and delay seeking treatment. Women’s symptoms usually include:

- Jaw pain.
- Lower-chest discomfort, which may be mistaken as indigestion.
- Heaviness between shoulder blades.

Men’s heart-attack symptoms:

Symptoms are more distinct and usually include:

- Chest pain, which can be extremely severe.
- Nausea or dizziness.
- Profuse, unexplained sweating.

To help lower your risks:

- Exercise regularly, but sensibly.
- Avoid nicotine use in any form.
- Commit to a nutritious heart-healthy diet.
- Have regular medical exams that include checking your blood pressure, cholesterol levels and, if a cardiologist feels there’s a need, perform additional tests to assess your condition.
The Conroe IT security team wants you to be aware – Tax season is among us and scammers are out to get your money. Are you wise enough to know if it is the IRS or a scammer?

Did you know that the IRS does not initiate contact by email, text, or social media?

Did you know the IRS does not call to demand immediate payment using specific payment methods like gift cards or wire transfers.

Did you know the IRS will never threaten to bring in local police, immigration officers, or other officers to have you arrested for not paying? They also cannot revoke your driver’s license, business licenses or immigration status.

The IRS will:

Call or come to your home to collect a debt. However, they will not demand immediate payment to any other source except the U.S. Treasury (irs.gov/payments) and should only be payable to the U.S. Treasury, not a collection agency.

May call to set up an appointment to discuss tax items, or audit, but will first notify by mail with an official notice.

IRS Criminal investigators may visit your home or business unannounced while conducting an investigation, but will not demand any sort of payment.

Being aware is the best security protection.

For more information:

Is it the IRS, see <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/how-to-know-its-really-the-irs-calling-or-knocking-on-your-door>

Identifying tax scams, see <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-scams-consumer-alerts>

On reporting tax scams, see <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/tax-scams-how-to-report-them>
Upcoming Events in Conroe

- **Project Hope Black History Parade and Celebration** will be held on February 8th in Downtown Conroe. The parade will begin at noon followed by the awards ceremony at Washington Jr. High. The talent show will begin at 5PM.

- **The 55th Annual Go Texan Parade** will be floating through Downtown Conroe on Saturday, February 22nd. The parade will begin at 1PM. This Event is RAIN OR SHINE. Presented by: Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Houston Metro Go Texan Committee representing Conroe/Willis/The Woodlands.

- **Conroe Symphony Orchestra presents their Valentines Concert “Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue”** on February 8th at Conroe High School. The concert begins at 7:30PM. For more information visit [https://www.visitconroe.com/events/2020/conroe-symphony-orchestra](https://www.visitconroe.com/events/2020/conroe-symphony-orchestra)
Senior Center

Conroe Senior Center

The Program:
For active older adult fellowship and fun through a variety of activities. We are a welcoming place for ages 55 and up to join with friends, socialize and remain connected to the community. Registration is required. There is no fee to participate. Coffee and light snacks are provided. Participants bring a brown bag lunch with exception of special days.

Activities:
Bingo - Cards & Dominoes - Painting - Cooking Classes
Crafts - Health Screenings - Trivia - Holiday Celebrations
Bridge Club - Guest Speakers - Special Activities

*Monthly activity calendar available at the center.

Hours of Operation: Monday-Thursday 8:00am–1:00pm

1202 Candy Cane Lane
Conroe, Texas 77301
(936) 522-3950
Aquatic Center

Aquatic Center Employee Recognition

Stephen Davis was recognized by City Council on January 23, 2020 for 15 years of full time employment. What is not shared is that Stephen began swimming at The Conroe Aquatic Center in 1997, 16 years of age. Just two years later he became a Lifeguard for our city then quickly moved to a Head Lifeguard position. 2000 he became an American red Cross certified Water Safety Instructor rapidly moving onto his certification for American Red Cross Lifeguard Instruction. He wears many hats and does this all in stride. He now holds the title of Aquatic Coordinator-Maintenance which means he will do his best to ensure on his end that the new Water Park will be ready to go for Summer 2020. The city is proud of this employee not only for his years of service but for his QUALITY of service.

Lifeguard Recertification’s

Kaylie Branch is just one of 64 lifeguards that Kayla Daniels, Billy Pounds, Will Brown, Sean Motley and Kyle Bartlett recertified over the Holiday Break. This is an excellent time of year to refresh skills and review drills to stay rescue ready for any lifesaving situation.

Water Safety Instructor In-service

The Program department of the Aquatic Center held multiple in-services over the Holiday Break. Leonela Loredo, Francisco Livas, Kaylie Branch and Elaine Walker are 4 of 36 certified American Red Cross Water Safety Instructors. Topics included new procedure on the redcross.org, scheduling, and as always how to be safe in, on and around the water.
Recreation Center

Conroe ISD Employee Health Fair

Baldemar Esquivel and Chris Ratcliff, Recreation Center employees represented the Parks and Recreation Department on January 25 at the annual Conroe ISD Employee Health Fair at College Park High School. Local health and wellness vendors set up booths for school district employees to stop by and pick up literature and ask questions on the various services offered. Staff distributed over 150 playbooks along with Parks and Recreation promotional items that day.

Daddy Daughter Dance

Fathers and daughters will enjoy an enchanted evening of dinner, dancing, a photo keepsake, and prizes. Call Elizabeth West, Program Coordinator at 936-522-3911 for more information.

Ages 4 - up
Saturday, Feb 22, 6:00-9:00pm
Registration ends Feb 7 or until full
Fee - $65 per couple; $20 per additional child
Magnolia Events Center

Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest

C.K. Ray Recreation Center part time staff Josie Humphrey, Sara VanWassehnova, Roxy Guerra, Ruby Johnson, Austin Vanderwilt and Keira Tademy participated in an ugly Christmas sweater contest.

Congratulations to Ruby who was chosen as the Winner!!!
**New OJC Design Underway!**

After experiencing years of program growth, it was determined that the Oscar Johnson, Jr. Community Center was in need of more space by way of facility expansion. In 2013, during a “Lights on After School” program, Mayor Webb Melder provided a proclamation, and shortly after the event (and after some discussion about available properties around the current facility), City Council approved the purchase of approximately 1 acre across the street from the existing Center. In 2014, Council approved the first feasibility study to be completed in order to provide direction on the expansion of the Oscar Johnson, Jr. Community Center using the recently acquired property and other adjacent options. On March 20, 2015, the study was completed and supported the definite need for more capacity, but determined that the current location, even with the additional properties, was not the most viable option for future growth. The search for property ensued, and after a few possibilities came and went, in 2017, under the direction of Mayor Toby Powell, 25 acres was identified in the south east quadrant of the City and purchased for the purpose of a new center. With the commitment to the land, Council directed a new feasibility study be completed. The second study (viewable on the City website) was completed by Burditt Consultants in July 2018, and was significantly comprehensive. It too validated the need for expansion, and not only for the existing programs and services provided by the current center, but also other much needed amenities that will serve our citizens.

In December 2019, the Conroe CEDC Board unanimously approved the funding for the design phase of the project, and in January 2020, City Council unanimously approved the contract for Burditt Consultants to begin the design. The design step of the process is expected to take 9-12 months to complete and will readress aspects of the feasibility study to ensure the facility is designed in the best interest of our citizens. It will include the first of five phases outlined in the feasibility study, and will determine the costs of construction for the new OJC.

We are proud of this next step, thankful that our leadership sees the importance of the community center. We are grateful for the support of CEDC, City Council and everyone involved with the project. Stay tuned for updates as the design process progresses!

**OJJCC Feasibility Rendering**
OJJCC

New Assistant Recreation Coordinators Shine at OJJCC

All of our staff at OJJCC are top notch! It would be impossible to provide all that we do without committed and passionate people who care about others. We recently said goodbye to a couple of great people, who moved on to full time positions in other areas, and although they left big shoes to fill, we feel confident we have found the right fit.

Jessica McDaniel came to us all the way from Oklahoma. Her and her husband relocated here for his job, and she sought it out. Jessica brings lots of experience working with school aged children, and coordinating events. She currently assists with managing two After School Program sites, Fresh Friday and will take on the Totally Teen Program this summer. She also assists with special events.

Carly Hinds worked with us previously several years ago, but then her passion took her to Honduras where she taught English to school aged children. She worked there for a year and then came back. Not long after her return, the school contacted her and asked her to return. She served another few years there, where she met her husband, and now they are back in Conroe where she can share her passion with us! Carly also assists with managing two After School Program sites, the Before School Program and will take on the task of Summer School Camp this summer. She also assists with special events.

Welcome to these two fantastic, enthusiastic and committed new staff members!

Need somewhere for your children to go after school? The City of Conroe offers an After School Recreation Program at the following sites: Oscar Johnson, Jr. Community Center, Anderson Elementary, Armstrong Elementary, Austin Elementary, Bozman Intermediate, Cryar Intermediate, Patterson Elementary, Reaves Elementary, Runyan Elementary, Sam Houston Elementary and Wilkinson Elementary. The Oscar Johnson site will provide transportation from the following schools: BB Rice Elementary, Giesinger Elementary and Travis Intermediate. All other sites will serve students attending that school. The program will offer homework assistance and recreational activities under the direction of qualified staff from the time school releases until 6:30 p.m. each day that school is in session. A snack is provided each day, and special activities will be incorporated throughout the year. Fees for the Afterschool Recreation Program are $95 a month for residents and $118 for non-residents. Registration and enrollment for all sites has begun and takes place at the Oscar Johnson, Jr. Community Center and will continue until filled. Registration begins July 8th for residents of Conroe and July 15th for non-residents of Conroe. For more information call EXT 3960!

Fun Quest Holiday Camps, Relax parents, you’ll have peace of mind knowing that your child is safe and having a great time on Presidents Day. Children must bring a sack lunch. Registration must be completed the business week prior to camp. Presidents Day (1 day) February 17th Residents $20 per child and $25 for Non Residents per child. For more information call Ext. 3960.

Fresh Fridays at OJJCC, In Love with Fresh Friday, February 7. Check out Fresh Fridays at the Oscar Johnson, Jr. Community Center. Parents, you can enjoy a night out and we will take care of the rest. We will have themed games, contests, and opportunities to win prizes. Trained staff and a uniformed officer will be on duty to ensure a safe and fun environment for everyone. Concessions and novelty items sold during the event. $6 per child ages 6-13. For more information call Ext. 3960.
Birthdays of the Month

Abraham Rodriguez
Alex Ojeda
Andrea Alarcon
Ben Mitchell
Bradford King
Brandi Welch
Brandon Ferrell
Brent Stowe
Carly Hinds
Damien Tijerina
Deborah Repka
Denise De La Cerda
Dianna Spencer
Elias Ochoa
Elizabeth Martinez De Moreno
Elizabeth Purdy
Eugene Mathena
Eva Castillo
Gabriel Arcibar
Hobie Cowart
Isaiah Gilliam
Jacobo Taboada
Jaqueline Gutierrez
Jeffrey Landriault
Jennifer Barrera
Jeremy Whatley
John Turner
Josh Hamilton
Keithan Raglon
Kevin Glessner
Lolita Lopez-Cardenas
Marc Winberry
Meloney Taylor
Michael Barker
Michael Garner
Miguel Hernandez
Nathan Crenshaw
Nicholas Gilliam
Nick Davis
Nick Thompson
Nohemi De los Reyes
Ronnie Alfaro
Ryan Reed
Sam Masiel
Samuel Silvia
Stephan Cottar
Tristan Raley
Troy Stedman
Tyson Sutton
Yuliana Aguilar
Zackery Crafts
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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Super Swim and Turn Clinic February 8 - Breaststroke
- Lifeguard Classes begin March 8
- Water Safety Instructor Classes beginning March 28
- Swim Lesson Registration begins May 11

- Daddy Daughter Dance @ Magnolia Events Center 6-9pm

- Happy Valentine's Day