

IN THE WORKS

Employee Newsletter -
Fairfield Public Works Department



Message from the Director

BY PAUL KAUSHAL

In retrospect, 2020 was quite a year. The COVID-19 pandemic has tested our resilience and adaptability as we continue to do our best to balance employee safety while providing essential services to the community. You have all risen to the challenge, through your dedication and hard work, and I'm humbled by your response. Thank you.

Although challenging, 2020, and now 2021 has given us a chance to think creatively and develop ways to do things more efficiently, even as we ease into less restrictive tiers and adjust to our "new normal."

Our Public Works leadership team is taking time to reflect on ways we can stay connected, considering we are such a big department, spread out in different facilities and working different shifts. It's also fitting that APWA's theme for 2021 National Public Works Week is "Stronger Together." With that in mind, we welcome you to our first PW focused employee newsletter.

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NEW HIRES

JARED ALLEN,
Water Distribution Operator I (2020)

JOSH ANNON,
Streets - Utility Worker I (2021)

STEVEN BALES,
Streets - Utility Worker I (2021)

DAVID CLOUTIER,
New Parts/Store - Specialist II (2021)

MARISA CUMPIAN,
Senior Management Analyst (2021)

PATRICK FORD,
Building Maintenance Worker I (2021)

GIOVANNI HERNANDEZ,
Streets - Utility Worker I (2021)

MICHAEL HETHER,
Senior Civil Engineer (2020)

AUSTIN JOHNSON,
Water Distribution Operator I (2021)

LYDIA PARK,
Administrative Assistant (2020)

AARON KING,
Streets - Utility Worker I (2021)

PAUL LOURIERO,
Equipment Mechanic (2020)

CHRIS LEWIS,
Management Analyst I - Engineering (2020)

JOSE MARTINEZ,
Water Distribution Operator I (2021)

DANIEL NELSON,
Senior Equipment Mechanic (2021)

CARLA REYES,
Public Works Assistant (2020)

JASON RILEY
Assistant City Engineer (2021)

KEN RISH,
Building Maintenance Manager (2020)

RIA SHERMAN,
Public Works Assistant (2020)

AMBER VILLARREAL,
Transit Operations Manager (2020)

IGNACIO VILLASENOR,
Streets - Utility Worker I (2020)

"I think there's no higher calling in terms of a career than public service, which is a chance to make a difference in people's lives and improve the world."

JACOB LEW

PROMOTIONS

COREY BEAVERS,
Management Analyst I - Utilities (2020)

Chris Dillion,
Mechanical/Electrical Technician II (2021)

ZACHARY CANADAY,
Traffic Control Maintenance Worker II (2021)

ROGER DUNHAM,
Construction Manager (2020)

DIANE FEINSTEIN,
Transportation Manager (2021)

MIKE GRAY,
Operations Superintendent (2020)

MICHAEL HETHER,
Assistant PW Director/Utilities (2020)

BRYAN LATHAM,
Management Analyst I -Water Distribution (2021)

JUSTIN PANETO,
Equipment Mechanic II (2021)

JALANI PARKER,
Streets - Utility Worker II (2020)

Deborah Podger,
Water Plant Operator IV (2020)

PACO RICO,
Homeless Engagement Worker I (2021)

RICHARD RYDER,
Senior Parts Specialist (2021)

NICHOLAS SMAYSTRLA,
Traffic Control/Signal Technician I (2020)

VALERIE STANDFILL,
Management Analyst I - Operations (2020)

PHILLIP STEWART,
Traffic Control Maintenance Worker II (2021)

January 2020 - April 2021

RETIREES



MICHAEL ALLEN
6.5 Years of Service



RICK BAKER
19.5 Years of Service



FRED BEINER
21 Years of Service



PATRICK FOLEY
30 Years of Service



DAVID GALVEZ
20 Years of Service



STEVEN HARRIS
30 Years of Service



STAN HINKLE
31 Years of Service



TOM MARTIAN
35.5 Years of Service



CRAIG RASMUSSEN
19 Years of Service



BOB SILVA
33 Years of Service



FELIX RIESENBERG
10 Years of Service



CINDY SUTTON
20 Years of Service



ANDY WALKER
34 Years of Service

January 2020 - April 2021

Employee Spotlight

Q: What is your role with Public Works and how long have you been with the City?

I have been with the City of Fairfield for 22 years. I'm currently a Utility Worker II maintaining city grounds at the City Hall Complex and the Corp Yard.

Q: What part of your role here in Fairfield is most rewarding for you?

I love seeing the results of my hard work, receiving compliments on the City Hall Complex, and being able to chat with and welcome everyone to City Hall.

Q: What is one thing most people don't know about you?

I love to help people when they need help for nothing in return.

Q: What is one thing left on your bucket list?

I would love to surprise my wife with a Hawaiian vacation!

Q: What are you most proud of?

When I received the APWA* award for Staff of the Year for Facilities and Grounds in 2018!

Q: What energizes you at work?

Being able to support my family and provide a better life. And going on one fun vacation every year!

Q: Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

Still dedicated to my job with the City of Fairfield, and proud of what I do for the City.

Q: What is your favorite local activity?

Fishing, not in the City Pond! Fishing is a relaxing activity, where you can kick back and forget about work.

**The American Public Works Association (APWA) award for Staff of the Year for Facilities and Grounds recognized Juan Carlos for his dedication, unmatched customer service, positive attitude, and proactive approach in helping his fellow employees.*



Juan Carlos Sanchez



Chris Lewis

Q: What is your role with Public Works and how long have you been with the City?

I have been with the City since March 2020. I am a Management Analyst assigned to the Engineering Division. I support our team through a variety of activities and functions: budgeting, service contracts, assisting in the management of the City's two golf courses, special district management, and grants to name a few areas.

Q: What are some things most people don't know about you?

I love volleyball and played in a competitive youth league and several recreational adult leagues. I lived in South Korea for a few years. And, although I believe that good food is one life's many pleasures, I really hate to cook but I can make a pretty good pasta dish when I have to (look out for it at a future potluck!).

Q: What energizes you at work?

At the top of the list is being able to dig into the details to solve problems, propose solutions, and generally just feed my natural curiosity of all things. I love being driven by continuous change and new ideas, and looking for ways to create efficiencies or improvements to help the organization thrive.

Q: What are you most proud of?

One of the accomplishments that I am most proud of is overcoming some of the hardships of being a young mom while still progressing in my career and achieving my goal of earning my degree. Of course, I had amazing support from my family and friends.

Q: What part of your role here in Fairfield is most rewarding for you?

My career has evolved and I have come to realize that when you are working at the federal or county level it is less forward facing, and it sometimes takes longer to realize the impact of your contributions. I really find it rewarding when I can support or manage programs, projects, and activities from beginning to end stages, and I am able to see how my work immediately contributes to these efforts.

PW Down Time

To have your photo included in a future edition, please email pw@fairfield.ca.gov



Doug Gillman catching air on his mountain bike at Canon Station



Bill Trujillo and wife, Gina enjoying the sunshine and view at Chrissy Field in S.F.



Peter Peirce's son, Pax, making left turns in his new setup. Go 55!



When Roger Dunham is not managing capital projects, he is managing construction upgrades to his new business venture, ask him about it! (Photo Circa 1890)



Carla Reyes and husband hitting slopes on a chilly day at Squaw Valley Resort.



Alvin Lei's puppy, Tofu! You can follow this Corgi pup on Instagram @bananas4tofu



Keith Packer's 1936 Chrysler Airstream. Keith spent 18 yrs. restoring this beauty!



Marisa Cumpian's Covid puppy, Matilda keeps getting taller! Not the chihuahua the SPCA said she was. Time to bring science into the mix!



TEAM FAIRFIELD IN ACTION



Transit team getting comfy on a commuter bus.



Nikia Blue making sure water flows properly throughout our City.



PW Engineering winning the 2019 Halloween Contest!



Jarred Allen installing a new water meter.



PW Fleet (Union Ave. Shop) keeping our public safety vehicles safe.



Building Maintenance installing an awning at City Hall.



TEAM FAIRFIELD IN ACTION



Traffic team working on a damaged traffic light.



Water Distribution team installing a new fire hydrant.



Pete Brooks compacting asphalt.



Christina Gomes testing water quality, making sure our water is safe!



Streets team making a permanent street repair after water maintenance.



PW Fleet (Main Shop) maintain our equipment, keeping our City running.

National Public Works Week: May 16-22, 2021



National Public Works Week (NPWW) is an opportunity to inform the public and celebrate the importance of Public Works in community life. NPWW seeks to recognize the often unsung heroes, the Public Works professionals, who serve the public good every day with quiet dedication.

As the pandemic restrictions lift we look forward to future gatherings to celebrate our Public Works team.

Photo Circa 2016