



Together we make Boerne better!

Recognizing the accomplishments of our city employees is one of my favorite duties as your mayor. We live in one of many terrific hill country towns that value our public servants, although most residents don't really have much knowledge of how critical these folks are to our quality of life in Boerne.

Last week we held our annual employee appreciation and service awards luncheon here in Boerne. I was able to thank about 180 of our city employees for their work and commitment to public service. These folks include electricians, librarians, police officers, planners, youth sports coordinators, landscapers, street maintenance crews, firefighters, customer service reps, and more. We also congratulated forty of these team members for reaching their 5, 10, 15, and 20 years of service milestones. Running a prosperous city takes a lot of teamwork; much of which is behind the scenes and taken for granted like getting a drink of clean water from the faucet. I am honored to work with these terrific folks. A career in government service can certainly have its ups and downs, but every one of these city employees is devoted to making Boerne the best it can be for today and for future generations.

A couple of weeks ago I had the honor of participating in a promotion ceremony for one of our Boerne Police Officers. Officer Eric Gomez has achieved the rank of Sergeant since joining the force seven years ago as a probationary police officer. As we all know people in law enforcement face some extreme challenges. These folks choose this profession to help others and to keep our communities safe. That requires a unique skill set and continuous training. Sergeant Gomez has earned this promotion, and I know his fellow officers are very supportive of him. If any of you out there know Officer Gomez, please let him know how much you appreciate his service.

Once again our City of Boerne Natural Gas utility has received a Safety Achievement Award. Each year the Texas Gas Association (TGA) recognizes member companies for outstanding safety practices. Award recipients must demonstrate they have a safety program that incorporates hazard identification and training as well as safety accountability and management support. Our natural gas utility, which has a little over 2,000 customers, is one of only two Texas municipal gas systems given the Safety Achievement Award this year. It is such an honor to work with a team that has an active and on-going focus on safety in the workplace and for customers as well. Congratulations to the City of Boerne Gas Department on this fantastic accomplishment!

You may have noticed that we now have some new technology at our signalized intersections in Boerne. Over the last several months the Boerne Fire Department has been working to implement what's called an Opticom traffic preemption system. This GPS (global positioning system) based technology tells intersection controllers to provide our emergency vehicles, now equipped with the Opticom technology, with a clear path through the intersection. Basically it turns the signals red on all sides to stop any other traffic from getting in the way. The Fire Department vehicles are now able to proceed swiftly and safely through these intersections to get where they need to go. I also want to remind drivers, especially our new youngest drivers, that Texas law requires a driver to pull over to the far right lane and stop to let active emergency vehicles pass by.

Boerne continues to prosper and has a very bright future. We at City Hall are committed to maintaining all of the things that make Boerne such a special place, and I believe if we continue working together we can make Boerne even better.

Mayor Mike