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Paul Faulks is the guy everyone wants to see in their neighborhood.

The five-year employee of the City of Burleson was awarded the City's Employee of the Year Award at the Nov. 7 Employee Awards Luncheon. Faulks, 53, is a utility crew leader with the City's public works department. He and his crew member are responsible for providing maintenance to the sanitary sewer system infrastructure. That is a whopping 190 miles of sanitary sewer.

"The maintenance is vital in keeping the wastewater from backing up, thus allowing customers to utilize their toilets and drains," according to the nomination from the award winner's supervisors.

According to the nomination, Faulks is "meticulous in his work. He always arrives early for his shift and is organized with his ongoing tasks. Paul provides a very valuable service to the citizens of Burleson and we are glad to have him on our team."

The City of Burleson isn't Faulk's first municipal job. He worked in the public works department at the City of North Richland Hills with David Smyth, Burleson's former assistant director of public works, and Kevin North, Burleson's current assistant director of public works over water/wastewater.

"I wanted to work closer to home. At the time we were living in south Fort Worth, so this was a good fit," Faulks said.

People in Burleson not only know Faulks from his work on the sanitary sewer system, but he is also a graduate of the Burleson Police Department's 10-week Citizens Police Academy. During the summer, he and his fellow crew member take the sewer truck to the Burleson Public Library's Summer Reading Club to show the children, and their parents, the tools of the trade.

Faulks grew up as the youngest of three children. He graduated from Trimble Tech High School in Fort Worth. Paul's father died when he was young. His mother, who has also passed away, worked for the school district. Paul and his wife, Wanda, have been married for seven years. Their blended family includes Paul's daughter Latasha and his stepdaughter Candyce. A German Shepherd and a Cockapoo are also part of the mix.

The Employee of the Year is involved with Central Pointe Church in Dallas where he doubles as a handyman and as part of the security staff. His hobbies include walking, bike riding, running and anything else that keeps him active and outdoors.

Also nominated for the City's top award was Lamar Byrd, an 11-year employee who is responsible for the maintenance at Hidden Creek Golf Course. According to his nomination, during the renovation of the golf course, March-September 2012, "Lamar exceeded all expectation by working more than 100 consecutive days during the grow-in phase of construction. He was congratulated for doing "an exceptional job under very trying circumstances during the reconstruction of the course."

The City's top award is given based on nominations and votes from the winner's peers.