



# PARK TALK

Dear <<First Name>> ,

## Employees and Volunteers of the Month for February and March

It is with great respect and appreciation that we announce our first employees and volunteers of the month for February and March. These individuals were selected by their peers as employees who have shown extra dedication to their work for RivCoParks. This month, our inspiring employees are Thomas Ash (February) and Rebeca Peña (March), and volunteers are Ralph Petersen (February) and Herbert Spencer (March).

### **February**

**Thomas Ash** is a ranger at the Multi-Species Reserve. Those who nominated him describe him as an honest, punctual, knowledgeable, and hard-working team member. He has been instrumental in a number of elements related to the Reserve including patrol, invasive species recognition and eradication, public outreach, and assisting with endangered species surveys. Thomas' standard of performance is top-tier and his knack for patience and a pleasant attitude while working in a team setting is reminiscent of another outstanding member of our RivCoParks family, volunteer Ralph Petersen.

In much the same way that Thomas Ash is known to enhance the Reserve with his

dedication, volunteer **Ralph Petersen** enhances our customers' experiences purely through his patient kindness, sunny smile and pleasant nature. He works as an attendant at the Rancho Jurupa Gopher Hole, always bringing his easy-going personality with him to the store. It is just that focus on providing the customer with a pleasant, friendly experience that permeates the Park District.

### **March**

**Rebeca Peña** has been working in Reservations since fall of 2011. In her short time here, she has developed a reputation as a happy person who enjoys getting things done. Her co-workers recognize that her driving motivation is to provide outstanding customer service; she does not shy away from doing what it takes to provide everything the customer needs or wants. Thanks to her "work harder and smarter" approach, she has really boosted morale in the Reservations unit.

Similarly, **Herbert Spencer's** ability to connect with people while providing excellent service seems to almost be an extension of his welcoming hand. He is a volunteer at the Gilman Historic Ranch and Wagon Museum and San Timoteo Canyon Schoolhouse. In addition to his work as a volunteer, Mr. Spencer sits on the Historical Commission and is Chair for the Board of the Gilman Ranch Hands. He has supported decisions resulting in better programs and obtained a partner to pay half of the cost of restoring the Wagon Museum's centerpiece stagecoach. Determination and character like Herbert's is what makes Riverside County Parks an outstanding organization.

These employees and volunteers serve as stellar representations of the Park District's core values. We are fortunate to be able to learn from their examples and should aspire to meet the standards they set as representatives of the Parks District. The qualities these employees and volunteers possess can be found within all of us and there is no limit to what we can learn from each other. Employees and Volunteers of the Month will be selected each month as a new way to recognize stellar people within the District. Please keep up your awesome work. Maybe you will be one of the District's honored individuals next month.

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