# Supervisor of the Year

**Jarrod Cheatham
Assistant Director of Communications and Community Engagement
Communications and Community Engagement Department**

Jarrod Cheatham has served as the Assistant Director of Communications and Community Engagement since April 2024, after having served as the Citizens Information Services and Marketing Manager since March 2021.

As a member of the Communications and Community Engagement Department, he works alongside staff to develop messaging and graphic material for distribution to residents and businesses. Key responsibilities include assisting staff in the development of the monthly *Richardson Today* municipal newsletter, e-mail newsletters including *Week in Review* and *Things to Do* and overall strategic messaging campaigns. In addition to day-to-day operations, Cheatham also assists with emergency communication messaging.

Cheatham has been with the City of Richardson for more than 13 years, having been hired as a Web Assistant, then Convergence Media Specialist and later as Convergence Media and Marketing Manager before being named Citizens Information Services and Marketing Manager.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in Strategic Communications/Advertising from the University of North Texas and graduated from Van Alstyne High School.

He currently lives in Richardson with his wife, Sasha Cheatham, a Hematology/Oncology nurse at Children’s Medical Center Dallas, his son Oliver and his daughter Charlie.

# Employee of the Year

**Wilfried Van Beesel**

**Senior Maintenance Helper**

**Parks and Recreation Department**

Although born in Germany, Wilfried moved to the United States in 1990 a year after the Berlin wall was taken down.  He drove 18 wheelers for a few years in Beaumont, Texas but got to Richardson as soon as possible.

Wilfried was a security guard for Richardson Square Mall prior to his work with City of Richardson.  He even kicked Austin Tormoehlen (2024 SOTY nominee) and Chris Rasbury (2023 SOTY award winner) out of the mall when they were young; who knew they would one day become his boss one day!

On July 17th, 2000 he started with the City of Richardson for the Traffic Department.  He moved to Parks and Recreation eighteen months later. Wilfried worked on the irrigation crew prior to becoming a Senior Maintenance Helper on the mowing/litter crew.  He has also been instrumental to the care of the Richardson Women’s Club, living onsite for many years with the best view in the City!  The ladies at the Club love Wilfried and he has helped take care of their needs since 2002.  He claims they keep him very busy.

Wilfried’s son, Jean Pierre also works for the city in the streets department.

In his spare time, Wilfried likes to be an amateur videographer and he loves the New Orleans Saints.  He will retire January 31st, 2025, and then will travel to Eastern Europe.  He is waiting on twin grandbabies (boy and girl) to be born in March.  Although he will be retired, he is always a part of the Parks and Recreation family, as well as the City of Richardson, as he has spent 24 years here.  We wish him all the best!