TOWN OF APEX
invites applications for the position of:

Powerline Arborist

SALARY: $21.36 - $33.50 Hourly
$44,428.80 - $69,680.00 Annually

OPENING DATE: 07/02/12

CLOSING DATE: 07/29/12 11:59 PM

DESCRIPTION:
Performs difficult and specialized skilled work leading a crew to perform tree pruning, removal, planting and right of way clearing in order to provide adequate clearance for the safe operation of the Town’s electric distribution system, while maintaining customers’ trees through proper arboriculture techniques.

Employees in this class lead a crew to operate specialized forestry/arboricultural vehicles and equipment to perform tree pruning, removal, planting and landscape maintenance functions to maintain right of way clearance around the town’s electrical lines. This position also maintains landscaping around substations and ground mounted switchgear and enclosures, and assists other departments with tree and limb removal and maintenance. Employees are expected to have considerable knowledge of trees and vegetation and considerable knowledge of standardized techniques and practices utilized in right of way maintenance. Judgment is utilized in determining the most appropriate work methods, and observing safety standards, and in applying arborist knowledge to work with customers on tree issues. The employee is subject to hazards associated with electric power in both inside and outside environments, and working in extreme heat and freezing weather. Exposure to various hazards such as working at heights, loud noises, vibrations, moving mechanical parts, electrical current, chemicals, fumes, odors, dust, mists, gases, confined spaces, poor ventilation, and oils. Work is performed under the supervision of the Electric Systems Services Supervisor and performance is reviewed in progress and judged upon completion for conformance to accepted work practice standards.

TYPICAL TASKS:
● Serves as crew leader with other employee or employees; makes work assignments; assures safe working practices; conducts performance evaluations and interviews prospective employees.

● Drives and operates an aerial lift truck and uses it to prune and remove large trees often in close quarters near buildings, vehicles and around high voltage wires.

● Makes an assessment of trees and vegetation in the Town and develops a maintenance schedule for tree trimming and maintenance; studies all hazardous trees that must be removed and ensures that they are removed in a way to preserve surrounding and maintain natural aesthetics in the affected area.

● Explains concerns and negotiates hazard tree removal with customers.

● Prunes trees to remove live and dead limbs providing clearance around electric system lines, using chain saws, pole saws, pruners, ropes and hand pruners; works to prune in such a way as encourage growth away from lines while maintaining health of the tree.

● Clears right of way routes for the installation of new electric line extensions

● Disposes of the brush and limbs cleared from the site and ensures site is clean at the end of the work assignment.

● Plants trees and shrubs and performs follow-up watering, mulch and treatment for insects and disease problems.

● Cooperates with other Town departments/divisions to remove trees and limbs impacting on other Town operations, and advising on tree health issues.

● Trains employees in proper arboriculture techniques, hazard assessment and safe removal techniques, proper maintenance of tools and equipment and operational safety with tools and equipment.

● Responds to after hours emergency tree maintenance needs; may serve on-call to assist in distribution system maintenance or other division needs.

Additional Job Duties:

● Performs other related duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

● Considerable knowledge of arboriculture, urban forestry, plants and landscaping materials.

● Considerable knowledge of tree growth, structure and defects, of species and growth rates, and of pesticides use and application.

● Considerable knowledge of traffic laws and regulations and work zone safety rules applicable to the work and equipment operations.

● Knowledge of the use and care of all tools, equipment, and supplies used right of way maintenance work.

● Basic working knowledge of the hazards and safety precautions involved in power line work.

● Ability to make work assignments and supervise the work of other employees.

● Ability to operate and maintain forestry/arboricultural/electric utility vehicles.

● Ability to operate chain saws, hand saws, pole saws, pole pruners and hand pruners.

● Ability to stay current with new technologies in arboricultural practice and safety standards.

● Ability to read and interpret work orders and organize work flow of each job.
● Ability to climb poles and trees safely and work efficiently.
● Ability to work in close proximity to high voltage lines and to take precautionary measures to avoid accidents.
● Ability to communicate effectively with co-workers, supervisors and the general public.

**MINIMUM AND PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:**
Education and experience equivalent to an associate’s degree in arboriculture, horticulture, or urban forestry and considerable experience with tree trimming around power lines; or an equivalent combination of experience and education. ISA (International Society of Arborists) certified Arborist and ISA certified utility specialist desired.

Possession of a valid North Carolina class “A” commercial driver’s license and pesticide license.
Powerline Arborist Supplemental Questionnaire

* 1. Have you taken any coursework in urban forestry, horticulture, or arboriculture?
   - Yes  - No

2. If you answered "yes" to question #1 please explain.

* 3. Do you have experience in urban forestry, horticulture or arboriculture?
   - Yes  - No

4. If you answered "yes" to question #3 please explain.

* 5. Do you have experience supervising employees? If yes, please explain. If no, write "N/A".

* 6. Please check beside the equipment that you have experience operating.
   - Chain saws
   - Hand saws
   - Pole saws
   - Pole pruner
   - Hand pruner
   - N/A-I do not have experience in these areas

* 7. This position requires climbing trees and working in close proximity to high voltage lines. Are you able to perform these duties?
   - Yes  - No

* 8. Do you have experience climbing trees?
   - Yes  - No

* 9. Do you have experience tree trimming around power lines?
   - Yes  - No

* 10. Are you certified as an ISA (International Society of Arborists) Utility Specialist or Arborist?
    - Yes  - No

11. Describe how your experience and skills match with the requirements for the Powerline Arborist Position.

* Required Question