

# NEWS in a NUTSHELL

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF MARYVILLE



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## Broken Crayons Still Color

**Ed and Janet Lindsey** were broken on April 11, 2009. By the end of that chilly spring day everything they knew, loved, and hoped for would be forever changed. The Lindseys were searching for their son Gary, who had been missing for the last three days. Plans for an Easter Sunday service at the search headquarters on the lake had begun. A bone tired, worried, heartsick Ed asked his minister to pray that they would find Gary before that would become necessary. His body was found at 3:30 in the afternoon April 11, the day before Easter, just minutes after a group of friends and family had gathered in prayer asking that he would be found on Saturday.

Gary had gone out in his boat alone on Tellico Lake, scouting for an upcoming fishing tournament on April 8, and somehow fell into the rough water. It was a cold blustery day and Gary had worn extra clothes for warmth. The Lindseys will never know for sure, but they assume that even though he was an excellent swimmer, the extra weight of the wet clothes along with a strong current just became too much for him. A motorist spotted a boat that was circling in the water from the bridge above the lake. From the highway it appeared that there was no one in the boat, so he drove to a better vantage point to confirm. Sure enough the boat turned out to be Gary's and it was empty.

In the years since Gary died, Janet and

Ed have both struggled with their grief, each looking for the strength to go on without their son and make sense of the tragedy. Janet described their loss in her book, *Peering Through a Mist, A Mom's Journey in Loss and God's Grace*, "When our twenty-two-year-old son and only child died, our hopes and dreams for him and his future died. Our hopes of being grandparents vanished. We had devoted all these years in raising him and being a close family trio. When he was gone, the most important part of us died too, for he was our joy."

Gary Lindsey was an avid sportsman, with a special love in his heart for fishing. He and one of his many friends, Doug Pressley, the President and CEO of Heartland Anglers, had spent untold hours on the lake together over the years. Doug's business, Heartland Anglers, manages amateur fishing tournaments

throughout the United States. Soon after Gary's accident, Doug was struggling with a way to deal with his own grief, and he approached Ed and Janet and proposed a memorial fishing tournament in his friend's name. It made sense to the Lindseys so Doug took it from there and the Gary Lindsey Memorial Firecracker Fishing Tournament was born. As many as 201 boats have participated each year since 2009. It's been almost nine years since Gary's death and in that time the annual tournament has raised over \$200,000 with \$70,000 of that going back to the anglers as cash prizes. The remaining \$130,000 has been donated to various service organizations.

Ed and Janet have wrapped their arms around the tournament and are determined



Ed and Janet Lindsey

to bring about something good from the horrible tragedy of Gary's death. Two of their favorite organizations that benefit from the tournament are Smoky Mountain Service Dogs and Blount Special Operations Response Team (BSORT). "We used a cadaver dog in the search and rescue for our son," said Ed. "We do this in memory of him, it keeps his memory alive, and we help out the kinds of organizations that were there for him." Ed joined the BSORT team as a volunteer five years ago as another way to give back, and now he goes out on search and rescue efforts similar to the one that ultimately found his son.

The 10th Annual Gary Lindsey Memorial Firecracker Fishing Tournament will be held on June 29, 2018 from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. at the Ft. Loudoun/Tellico Canal Boat Ramp. The entry fee is \$50.00. A \$10 Lunker Fee is optional, but the prize for the Smallmouth Lunker (largest) will be as much as \$1,800 (depending on how many boats participate) and the Largemouth Lunker prize will be between \$700 and

\$800. For the 2017 tournament Mike Cole with Pure Poison Jigs donated an additional \$1,000 to be added to the smallmouth pot because he knew that Gary loved smallmouth fishing. Of course, there will be top prizes for first and second place as well.

*Continued, see Gary on page 3*

**Turn your face to the sun and the shadows fall behind you.**

-Unknown



This photo of Gary was taken the day before the accident.

### Inside the Nut

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The City Kitty  
Steve Russell The License Plate Man  
Business is Booming  
Fridays in the Truck  
Public Works Competes in Rodeo

# People are the Key

## December Birthdays

1	Charlie Martinez, MFD
4	Brandon Riggs, MFD Tim Green, E&PW
5	Donnie Carroll, MPD Wendy Phillips, Water & Sewer
7	Eric Bailey, E&PW
8	Richard Johnson, Electric
9	Michael Alexander, E&PW Mickey Gorman, Water & Sewer
12	Brian Watson, MFD
15	Mike Sing, MFD
16	Robert Smith, Water & Sewer Michael Wilson, Electric
18	Logan Lindsey, E&PW
19	Cristy West, Finance
21	Gene Ferguson, Water & Sewer
23	Charlie Clearman, Water & Sewer
25	Ray Barnhart, MPD
28	David Morton, Finance
31	Mike Seagle, Electric

## December Anniversaries

Joe Bogart, Finance	37
Bobby Queen, MFD	24
Jack Bryant, E&PW	24
Mike Davis, MFD	23
Jan Wingate, Finance	22
Teresa Best, HR	19
John Cogburn, MFD	18
Leland Blackwood, HR	16
Greg McClain, Admin	16
Bill Bain, MFD	15
Dallas Stephens, MFD	13
Jesse McWhorter, Water & Sewer	13
Daniel Fipps, MFD	12
Ron Nugent, E&PW	12
Chuck Rowan, E&PW	11
Chris Pereda, MFD	5
Jonathan Wilson, Water & Sewer	1
Mary Bristol, Admin	1
Ian Callaway, E&PW	1
Chad Grissom, MPD	1



## Accolades and Applause



New Hire  
**Paten Sweeney**  
Eng. & Public Works  
Grounds Maintenance Worker



Promotion  
**Dusty Finger**  
Apprentice Line  
Technician - Electric



Promotion  
**Matthew Gagnon**  
Firefighter/EMT



Promotion  
**Jill Ridings**  
Construction Account  
Specialist - Finance



Promotion  
**Charlie Tucker**  
Utility Construction Worker III  
Water and Sewer



**Teresa Brown**  
(Finance) and  
**Adrian Rucker**  
November 17, 2017.

## Couple Pens Poem About Leaf Pickup Teams

*Poem and photo by a grateful couple in Turnberry subdivision*

Thanks to the City of Maryville  
A truck of leaves to fill  
The big vacuum  
and the rake broom  
Gutter and lawn  
and some beyond  
Piles do disappear  
Workers & driver near  
Good work, well done  
to them our thanks do come!

*~Kenneth & Joan Gates*



## City Change Agents

### Operation Sanitation Santa Preps for 2017 Giving Season



Every year, the Engineering and Public Works department sponsors this charitable effort to assist families at Christmas time. They believe that every child in the community should have gifts for Christmas, so employees work year round collecting donations from local

businesses and private citizens to help families in need.

Sanitation Santa started back in 1982 when an employee started handing out candy to children along his daily routes to spread Christmas cheer. What started with one employee and a handful of families 35 years ago has grown to include as many as 800 families every year.

Sanitation Santa assists families with infants and children up to age 15. If you'd like to help, you can drop an unwrapped gift into a toy box placed in the lobby of the municipal building and the operations center during the Christmas season. Toys for small children, bikes, fishing poles, sports equipment, and especially items that are geared to middle school girls and boys ages 10-15 are always needed. Very clean, gently used toys and games in working order that can be loved again are also welcomed. Donations are accepted year round.

### The City Kitty

*An update on McKena Imogene Luckie*

Some long-time employees may remember a calico kitten named Imogene who was rescued from the loading dock at the Ops Center by some Grounds Maintenance workers back in 2010. Since she was only one week old when she was found she had to be bottle fed and coddled for weeks. Darrel Pharris and Thomas Vananda were her main care givers at the Ops Center, and they were assisted by several others while on their breaks as well. She also spent time at the Municipal Center in Angie's office, and followed Roger Campbell around too. She enjoyed visitors from Finance who came to see her every afternoon. She is living the dream at Angie's house full time now, along with two other rescued felines. Angie changed her name to McKena



Imogene after a beach in Hawaii. She says having all those foster parents made McKena the most extraverted, friendly cat she has ever known.

### Gary - Continued from Page 1

Participants will fish all night long, looking for five of the largest bass in the lake.

At 7 a.m. the weigh-in begins. There are door prizes, raffles, all kinds of food and drink, coffee, and lots of love, friendship, and support. The list of sponsors for the tournament

is long, but Ed works tirelessly all year long to include more and more folks who want to help.

Many of the sponsors have become dear friends of the Lindseys and return every year. Ed feels it has become his calling to find new and different ways to increase the proceeds and therefore support those who helped him and Janet in their hour of need. This year Ed and Janet dream of donating a Rescue One Connector Boat to BSORT. To make that dream come true they'll need to clear \$19,000 in proceeds. They are up for the challenge.

The best part of the event for Janet is when *Amazing Grace* is played on the bagpipe just before the boats blast off in the evening, "It's pretty powerful," she said with a smile filled with emotion. Every year on the weekend before Independence Day, the Lindseys are completely surrounded by many, many friends and family members all wanting to help with the tournament. Knowing that Gary is still loved and most of all not forgotten has been a comfort to them and has helped them heal. Although the pain of their loss will never completely go away, knowing that their son touched so many lives in such a short time eases their grief a bit. In addition to leaning on their friends and family, Janet and Ed have relied on their faith in God. In their struggle to carry on, they both have deepened their relationship with the Lord as He has faithfully provided the strength they've needed every day since the accident. "It is our response to afflictions where the good can work, and it is a choice. We can allow God to work in us, drawing us closer to Him, or we can blame Him, turning our backs in bitterness," Janet writes in her book.

Ed and Janet are like broken crayons, even though things look vastly different now, they still color and they have a lot of "art" left to create. Heres to their beautiful work!

*Ed has been an employee of the City of Maryville for 41 years in the Electric Department. He is a Lead Lineman Technician. On the night Gary disappeared Ed was on call, he called a co-worker to ask if he could take his shift so he could go to the lake to search for him. Janet turned to writing as a means of dealing with her pain. She has written two beautiful books since Gary's death, Peering Through a Mist, A Mom's Journey in Loss and God's Grace and Therefore, Hope, A Mom's Journey in Loss and Hope. Both books are available on amazon.com or from Janet directly. Despite the large number of volunteers that return year after year, the Lindseys will always welcome any friend who would like to help with the tournament and join them in the celebration of Gary's memory.*



Left to right, Matt McKee owner of McKee Outdoors, 2017 Tournament Winners: Jason Potter (*Public Works*) and A.J. Potter and Doug Pressley.

### Business is Booming

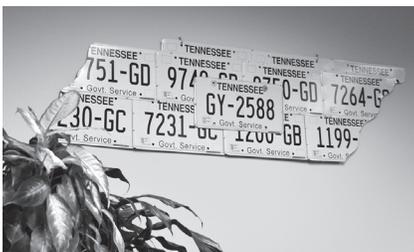
*Spotlight on Economic & Community Development with Angie Luckie*

**Broadway Bliss Boutique and Salon** recently opened at 534 E. Broadway Ave. in the Walnut Square shopping center. Lori Dawson is the owner of the Salon and Retail Clothing Store. Their tag line is: *Cute and Affordable, What More Could a Girl Ask For?*

# People Are the Key

## Steve Russell Honors Kenny Moats with Work of Art

Steve Russell, also known as The License Plate Man, creates art from used or expired license plates. The Maryville Police Department regularly donates their plates to Steve so he can “recycle” them into something useful and beautiful. His latest creation, pictured here, is made entirely from plates that he’s received from MPD. Featured prominently in the center of the State is Kenny Moats’ former plate, GY-2588. Pictured here, Steve and his wife Candy (Finance) present Steve’s art honoring Kenny’s memory to Chief Crisp and Captain Sharon Moore. The bottom photo is Steve’s gift displayed in the MPD Squad Room.



## Public Works Conference and Rodeo Competition

Several City of Maryville Public Works crew members competed with other PW departments from all over Tennessee in a Rodeo Competition on November 8 while attending the TCAPWA/SWANA Conference at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Knoxville. There were several skill testing stations set up for the competition including a commercial mower, a bobcat, backhoe, garbage truck, knuckleboom, Grade-All and front end loader. All events were timed and carefully monitored by judges



Matt Clark



Jake Kagley

from the City of Knoxville. Seconds were added to times as penalties for violations such as running over a cone, spilling mulch, or dropping a garbage can. It was a fun day for the guys and they enjoyed Dead End BBQ and got the opportunity to show off their skills. While they all did well, Jake Kagley came in 2nd on the backhoe event and Matt Clark came in 3rd on the knuckleboom. Brad Hurst even won a Yeti cooler in a door prize drawing too! Congrats guys!

## Fridays in the Truck ...with MFD

B Shift crew members: Lt. Rob Woods, Firefighter Bobby Queen, Firefighter Matt Williams and Firefighter Garrett Holloway have a combined total of a little more than fifty-five years of firefighting/ EMT service under their belts. These four gentlemen welcome visitors to the fire department and in between calls for service are eager to share their love of all things MFD!

Firefighters in the city, (and Alcoa) work 24 hour shifts beginning and ending at 7 a.m. with the next 48 hours off. While on duty when a call comes in from the 911 call center, they have 60 seconds to get 70 pounds of bunker gear on and get the truck on the road. Even if the call comes in the dead of night, they still have only 60 seconds as per the requirements of their accreditation. Alcoa and Maryville crews often work side by side through a Automatic Aid Request program that was implemented during the recession as a way to pool resources when budgets were stretched to the limit.



Bobby Queen, Garrett Holloway, and Lt. Rob Woods.

Twenty-seven years ago when Bobby Queen started working as a firefighter, they were called out an average of only 150 times a year with most of those calls being fires. These days thirteen calls a day would be an average day and the majority of those calls are for car accidents and requests for medical assistance. As of November 14, 2017 the City of Maryville Fire Department had been on 4,206 calls, and approximately thirty of those have been fires. In May MFD was called to the Maryville College Campus where a 56 year old man suffered a heart attack while attending his daughter’s graduation. Garrett Holloway, along with assistance from the rest of his team and LUCUS2, a machine that assists with compressions, saved his life by performing CPR. Forty to fifty times a year, they encounter the need for CPR, which explains why all firefighters must complete EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) training prior to becoming a firefighter. This summer they acquired new battery-operated Jaws of Life equipment and they are especially excited about the new truck that will arrive next summer with a 110’ ladder!



Matt Williams

## Interactive Health Online Workshops

*Complete a wellness workshop to earn 50 points!*

During the month of December the Wellness Committee will not be promoting any challenges, but you can still add activity points by completing an Online Workshop. Select from a number of health related topics based on your personal interests or health concerns. Work at your own pace, at a time that is convenient to you. The Interactive Health Website offers a wide range of workshop topics including anxiety, depression, Osteoporosis, allergies, Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, and Heartburn. [www.myinteractivehealth.com](http://www.myinteractivehealth.com).