

NEWS in a NUTSHELL

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF MARYVILLE



Volume 39, Number 4 | Honoring Public Service Edition

April 2019

National Lineman Appreciation Day

On April 18th we'll tip our hats to the City of Maryville linemen

There are those among us who shoulder the responsibility of providing our community with power. They dangle above the ground on all-important harnesses, or inside of buckets positioned at impossible looking angles 50-75' in the air. They work between the wires that, if improperly handled, could easily end their lives in a massive jolt of electricity. They are the linemen. They're often called out to do their jobs in the most dangerous of conditions while facing dreadful weather. When a lineman takes a job, his whole family must also make a commitment. No doubt they'll have to share their lineman on birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays. Knowing in advance that there will be ballgames, graduation ceremonies, and school plays missed won't make it easier. It's the nature of the job. Families also must accept the fact that utility line work is in the top 10 of the most dangerous jobs in America (www.tdworld.com). Lineman Appreciation Day celebrates the men and women who work tirelessly to keep our power on, and who

sacrifice so much.

The City employs 21 linemen, many of whom have over 30 years of experience. Hank Woods has been employed by the City for 32 years.



Hank Woods pauses for a photo

"When I was new to the job, the linemen on staff were our mentors. They taught us everything they knew about how to do the job and how to do it well," Hank explained. Back then, there was no lineman's school for formal training.

When Ed Lindsey joined the City 41 years ago, he too learned from his elders. He began his career driving one of the two bucket trucks the City had at the time. After six months of soaking up all the knowledge he could, he was added to the "on call" list.

Linemen are called in to report for duty 24/7. When an outage is reported, the goal is to have a truck on the scene within 30 minutes - day or night. Its not just bad weather that warrants a call in the middle of the night. Linemen also respond to car accidents that knock down poles or otherwise shut down power to sections of the city. A house fire, an animal on the line, an earthquake, and high power demand in extreme heat and cold can also result in a call for assistance in the wee hours. Rising from a deep sleep isn't the only struggle they face late at night. When they arrive on the scene, they perform their jobs in darkness except for the light from their headlamp and flashlights on the ground. High winds, lightning, hail, rain or snow and ice just make an already dicey job extremely dangerous.

Installing and repairing electrical lines sometimes requires working on wires crossing over highways or busy street corners. During the week of March 18, Mike "Spike" Large's crew, assisted by Rick Jackson's crew at times, were working to move the lines along Foothills Mall Dr. at the intersection of Hwy. 411 to prepare for the road to be widened. For part of the job, the linemen were able to reach out to MPD to assist in holding back traffic while they cut the old lines and let them fall to the ground. Later on they worked 50' above the ground while six lanes of traffic sped by directly below. Another hazard the linemen deal with is angry motorists who aren't shy about letting them know how they really



Dusty Finger and Ed Lindsey ready to go up in the bucket.

feel about being inconvenienced with lane closures and delays.

A lineman must have incredible physical and mental strength. It's back breaking work that requires long hours both day and night. Every day is different, from difficult job sites to extreme weather, and insulting words hurled from the very people who benefit from their hard labor. On top of all that, working with high-voltage lines leaves absolutely no room for error. So why do these men do it? Because its incredibly satisfying. The work itself creates a certain amount of pride as each lineman's personal sense of excellence and his desire to serve the public meet in the middle. A lineman makes a difference everyday. Though we may not often voice our appreciation for their efforts, the vast majority of the community sees them out there working, in all kinds of weather and are grateful for the comforts that their efforts bring to us. (*See thank you from a citizen on page 4*).

For Golman Myers a sense of pride and achievement and a desire to support his family drew him in. Dusty Finger's grandfather, Tom Abbott worked as a lineman for the City of Maryville for 32 years. Listening to his stories inspired Dusty to follow in his footsteps and pursue a career that promises something different everyday, intellectual and physical challenges, and a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment. A career as a lineman provides all these things with the added "bonus" of sometimes being 50-75' above the ground.

Inside the Nut

Applause Please
EPW 2018 Award Winners
Sam Houston Cleans Up Nice
Half Marathoners Slay It
City 5K Coming Soon
Spring Cleaning Challenge
Business is Booming
Citizens Thank Codes & EPW

Engineering & Public Works Department 2018 Awards

Engineering, Stormwater, Central Traffic Operations, Grounds Maintenance, Solid Waste Management, and Street Maintenance Departments celebrate excellence.

Achievement/Initiative Award

This award is presented to someone who has gone “above and beyond” expectations in job performance or in recognition of significant accomplishments. This year’s Achievement/Initiative award goes to **Thomas Vananda**.

- Thomas is both a veteran crew leader in EPW and a veteran of the U.S. military. He’s accustomed to overcoming adversity. This year’s leaf collection season was filled with adversity, including bad weather, equipment problems, and managing the schedules of temporary employees. With hard work and some extra hours, the leaf season deadline was met by the efforts of everyone involved, along with Thomas’ determination to see the mission through.

Thumbs Up Award

This award recognizes an employee who’s job performance is outstanding or someone who has demonstrated significant effort to improve job performance. This year’s Thumbs Up Award goes to **Eric Bailey**.

- Eric is always ready, willing, and able to do whatever work is required. He’s the backup driver for the street sweeper, filling in for both day and night shifts. Although he is in Street Maintenance, he’s been known to help out the other groups in EPW when needed. Whether working at the recycle centers on the weekend, or helping pick up leaves in the rain, Eric keeps a great attitude and a constant smile.

Rookie of the Year Award

This award honors an employee who has been in EPW for a year or less and has performed well in their position. This year’s Rookie of the Year is **Cody Herron**.

- Cody joined EPW in April 2018 and recently made the move from Grounds to Streets. He’s eager to learn all that he can in public works, and has taken on job assignments with enthusiasm and a great attitude.

Safety Standout Award

This award recognizes a career of safety that surpasses the expectations of the job. This year’s Safety Standout Award goes to **Jeremy Snyder**.

- Jeremy has been in Sanitation and Solid Waste for almost five years, has been accident free and has had perfect attendance every year. He joined the Python Program two years ago and has earned several compliments from the residents on his route, including helping customers get their cans to the street, helping chase down runaway dogs, and providing exceptional service for the residents of Springfield Drive (*Tim Phillips’ neighborhood*).

William H. Bryant Mentor/Leadership Award

This award recognizes a leader within the department who has the heart of a teacher. The award honors Bill Bryant’s 40 years of service to the City from 1978 to 2018. This year’s recipient is **Terry Welshan**.

- Terry has worn several hats in his career. After hanging up his helmet as an Army Ranger, he wore a police officer’s uniform for many years before becoming a traffic signal technician first in the Electric Department and later with



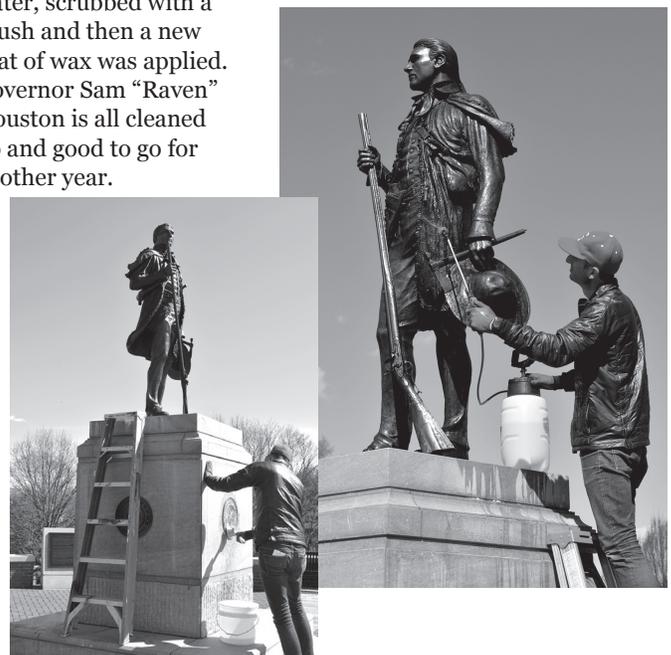
Left to right: Cody Herron, Eric Bailey, Thomas Vananda, Terry Welshan, and Jeremy Snyder.

Engineering. He’s built Maryville’s traffic signal system into what it is today. As the City prepares to build a Traffic Operations Center that will coordinate and communicate with signals throughout both Maryville and Alcoa, Terry finds himself teaching, guiding, and instructing a group of young engineers and technicians on how to be ready for the future of Maryville-Alcoa Central Traffic Operations. Class is in session every day as the learning never stops. Terry is a proven mentor and leader.

Congratulations everyone!

Sam Houston Gets his Annual Shower

On March 18, the statue of Sam Houston on the front lawn got it’s annual cleaning. First he was sprayed down with distilled water, scrubbed with a brush and then a new coat of wax was applied. Governor Sam “Raven” Houston is all cleaned up and good to go for another year.



People Are the Key

Run 13.1 Miles? No Problem!

Angie Luckie, Amy Woody, and Kim Walker traveled to Hilton Head, South Carolina on February 9 to run in the 2019 Hilton Head Island Half Marathon. All three crossed the finish line in spite of injury, high winds, and just a touch of self doubt.

It all started with Kim's curiosity. She knew Angie had already competed in two half marathons, so she began by asking lots of questions. By the end of the conversation, Angie had offered to run with her if she ever decided to do it.



Left to right: Kim Walker - Finance, Angie Luckie - EPW, and Amy Woody - Electric.

Meanwhile, Amy Woody had been running three to five miles, at least three times a week for the last three years and she too had begun to wonder about a half marathon. When Kim and Angie asked her to join them in Hilton Head, it was an easy decision. A flat terrain and a girls trip to the beach sounded like the perfect opportunity to knock a 13.1 mile run off her bucket list.

About four months prior to February 8, 2019 all three women started training individually for the race. The training plan included several three to six mile runs during the week and a longer run on the weekends, adding one additional mile each week until they could finish 12 miles approximately two weeks before their big day.

For Amy, the fiercest battle she fought through on race day was a brutal wind they encountered on a bridge. She had no sunglasses on that day, and the wind kept blowing sand up into her eyes. Plus, the bridge was the only uphill/downhill part of the route.

The first mile is always a struggle for Angie. That's when she questions her motives and abilities all the while dealing with a crowded running space. After that first mile she feels less penned in and settles her mind with a focus on finishing. The high winds on the bridge were a challenge for Angie too.

Just three weeks before the race, Kim had been diagnosed with Pes Anserine Bursitis (inflammation of the bursa - a fluid filled sac which helps to reduce friction at the inside of the knee). Determined to finish, she ran until the pain became unbearable at about mile seven, and then she walked for a few minutes until she was able to run again. Her run/walk pace slowed her down, but it kept her injury from taking her out of the race.

Amy, Angie, and Kim felt all kinds of emotions when they crossed the finish line, including relief, pride, and joy. They all squashed their self doubts, and Amy and Kim proved to themselves that they could indeed complete a 13.1 mile run after all. In true runner's fashion, the three are already planning their next adventure. For the next race though, they're looking for someone from each department within the City of Maryville to join them.

City 5K Set for April 27

On Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 8 a.m. we will line up at the starting line for our Employee 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk. Your family



members are welcome to join you for the fun! Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. in the gazebo at the end of the pedestrian bridge next to the library. Runners, walkers, and volunteers are eligible to win one of four, 8 hour vacation days (woohoo!) just for participating and a cool commemorative tee shirt. On your marks...

Applause Please...



Abigail Rae Russell
Daughter of Ashlee and Jason
Russell, (Water & Sewer)
2/28/19 • 7lbs. 15oz.



Retired
Pam Moretz
MFD
21 Years of Service



Promotion
Randell Moore
MFD
Fire Lieutenant



New Employee
Thorn Cooper
Water & Sewer
Water Plant Technician



New Employee
Aaron Inman
EPW
Grounds Maintenance Worker



New Employee
Cody Teffeteller
Water & Sewer
Water Plant Technician

People are the Key

April Birthdays

- 1 Kay Berry, MPD
Eric Holder, Water & Sewer
Maria Nelson, Dev. Services
- 3 Greg Cooke, MPD
- 4 Michael Myers, Water & Sewer
- 9 Steve Martin, Electric
Mark Taylor, MPD
Eric Russell, MFD
- 10 Chris Pereda, MFD
- 11 Chad Simpson, MPD
- 14 Alan Holmes, MFD
- 16 Ralph Goodson, Finance
Josh Daniels, Electric
- 20 Cody Teffeteller, Water & Sewer
- 22 Paul Gilley, Water & Sewer
- 23 James Parrott, EPW
- 27 Randy Cupp, Finance



April Anniversaries

- Mike Large, Electric 40 years
- David Boring, Water & Sewer 40 years
- Sharon Moore, MPD 29 years
- Chris Tuck, MPD 26 years
- Darrel Pharris, EPW 21 years
- Randell Moore, MFD 19 years
- Jamie Hipps, EPW 17 years
- Clay Cope, EPW 16 years
- Jane Groff, Admin 13 years
- Shaina Kirkland, MPD 6 years
- Jeremy Snyder, EPW 6 years
- Caleb Compton, EPW 6 years
- Cody Burchfield, Water & Sewer 5 years
- Chris Hamrick, Water & Sewer 5 years
- Austin Green, MPD 3 years
- Jerry Barnes, Finance 3 years
- Mike Swift, Finance 2 years
- Cody Herron, EPW 1 year

City Council's Spring Cleaning Challenge 2019

Lately, we've seen a lot of trash accumulating around the community from recent flooding and people littering along our roads. We need your help to show our best side and clean up the trash detracting from the natural beauty of our community.



If you choose to accept the challenge, you'll take responsibility for cleaning up an area that you can safely reach (away from traffic or dangerous landscapes). Ideas include along the creek banks on the greenway, neighborhood entrances, schools, etc. Make it fun and creative!

We'd love to see you proudly showing off your haul of litter with a before and after photo(s) or video clips. Post your photos on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, and challenge three more people to participate. Tag your post with #TrashtagMaryville

- Find an area where you can safely clean up
- Encourage family and friends to join you
- Get creative!
- Take before and after photos
- Post both photos on social media with hashtag #TrashtagMaryville
- Challenge three more people (tag them too) to keep the challenge going

Challenge begins April 1 (no foolin'!) and ends April 30

Business is Booming

Spotlight on Economic & Community Development with Angie Luckie

This month's featured business is Petros Chili & Chips. Located at 1427 W. Lamar Alexander Pkwy., across from Buddy's Bar-B-Que. Petro's opened their doors for business on March 14 after more than a year of construction and preparations. The Petro[®] made its debut at the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee. Originally served in a sliced open Fritos[®] bag and piled high with chili and mounds of toppings, it was an instant hit with fair-goers. To tie in with the energy theme of the World's Fair, the Petro[®] was initially dubbed a "Petroleum Belly," then shortened to "Petro[®]" (www.petros.com).



Citizens' Thank You

Codes Enforcement and the Electric Department earn praise

Mr. Walker,

Thank you so much for all of your help with our recent permitting issue. We truly appreciate how quickly you responded and helped with our situation. Selling a house is very stressful, but you helped eliminate some of that stress.

Thank you again, Elizabeth and Ryan Long

Just wanted to say thank you to your employees that worked continuously in the pouring rain this morning to restore our power. We had a 30 year old tree fall on the line and the City was out at our home within 15 minutes of my reporting it out. That's excellent service! Thank you!

Sincerely, Bob & Amy Goin, Old Niles Ferry Rd