

# NEWS in a NUTSHELL

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF MARYVILLE



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## MPD K-9 Officers and Their Handlers

*Partners in fighting crime day or night*

Imagine at the end of a long day at work that instead of parting ways with your co-workers they jumped in the back seat of your car and went home *with* you. Every day! What if every month you had to attend special training to learn how to help your co-worker do his job and review best practices when it comes to “handling” them? Maybe it would be fun to start each work day with cleaning up all the hair your co-worker had shed in your shared work space the day before. Most people would pass on all that in a big way, but Cpl. Steven Wickert, FTO Steven Dotson, or FTO Travis Brown (*A Field Training Officer - FTO, is certified to train new officers*) in the Maryville Police Department see it as the ideal work/life situation. In fact, if you ask them, they’ll tell you that they love their job and their partners, and they wouldn’t want it any other way!



FTO Steven Dotson & Joe-Joe

Joe, Thor, and Jak, their partners. They’re dogs. Belgian Malinois - K-9 Officers. Steven Dotson and Joe-Joe began working together in 2013. Travis Brown and Jak started their partnership in 2015, and Steven Wickert and Thor began watching each other’s backs in 2016. There is a bond between the men and their partners that you can easily see if you watch them working together. The K-9s are approachable and even playful when they aren’t working, but as soon as their “dad” puts his uniform on, everything changes, from the dog’s demeanor to the way he carries himself. They are pack animals, and as a pack animal they are very protective of the pack leader, as well as the others in their clan. All of the officers say that they feel completely comfortable with their children interacting with the dog at home, and they believe their partner would fiercely protect and defend their kids if need be.

Joe-Joe, Thor and Jak all come from Europe and cost between \$10-\$20,000 each. They were purchased with money from the Drug Fund (forfeited cash and proceeds from the sale of forfeited property, fines, donations, and appropriations). They are passive alert, dual purpose dogs, (they alert or let their handler know they’ve found narcotics or a fugitive by a small almost unnoticeable change in behavior, whereas active alert dogs scratch, dig or push to alert). Each dog has undergone several years of specialized training in obedience, agility, narcotics detection, tracking, criminal apprehension and handler protection. They began training for their jobs at 18 weeks of age and will continue to train each month until the day they retire. Most K-9s can be expected to work 7 - 11 years before they retire. A seemingly short time, because the job is so stressful on their bodies.

Each of the three dogs in the MPD K-9 Unit has a passport and a stab-proof/

bullet-proof vest and a “toy” that they covet. Through all of the training they’ve come to understand that their toy is a reward for their good work. “They’ll do anything for the toy, they’re obsessed with it,” says Steven Dotson. The K-9 Unit gets regular requests for demonstrations of their skills from schools and organizations in town. They also visit the high schools regularly to perform a sweep for drugs.

To become a K-9 Handler each of the men rode along with another K-9 Officer, on their own time, to get an idea of what it would be

like, and if they’d like to take on the special assignment. When the job was posted, each applied and then Chief Crisp made his decision. From there they all attended Handler’s School in Loudon County for two months, Monday through Friday. Now, they are required to complete 16



Cpl. Steven Wickert & Thor



FTO Travis Brown & Jak

**Continued** - see K-9 on page 3

### Inside the Nut

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# People are the Key

## Lieutenant Michael Braden - FBI National Academy Graduate

25 Year Maryville Police Veteran Completes Prestigious Training Program

**Maryville Police** Traffic Lieutenant Michael K. Braden graduated from the 276th session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA on June 7, 2019. Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy offers 10 weeks of advanced communication, leadership, and fitness training. Participants must meet high standards of professional excellence to attend and earn credits from the University of Virginia.

The 276th session was made up of 256 law enforcement leaders from 49 states and the District of Columbia representing all sizes of communities as well as members of law enforcement agencies from 35 countries, five military organizations, and seven federal civilian organizations. Less than



one percent of law enforcement members around the world have the opportunity to attend this training.

“There is no other situation where I could interact with law enforcement leaders and experts from all over the world in this way,” said Braden. “These specialists have spent their careers in law enforcement and passed that experience on to us. I learned so much and appreciate the opportunity.”

Chief Tony Crisp said, “Lt. Braden was chosen to participate in this prestigious training because of his professionalism and commitment to the mission of the Maryville Police Department. His leadership of the traffic division has resulted in many improvements including the city’s accident injury ratio, and this experience will only strengthen his contributions to the department and the community.”

“Our class addressed the most pressing issues facing our communities and law enforcement as a whole,” Braden said. “We left with new tactics and approaches that I will bring back to our department to even better serve this community and our officers. This was a truly amazing experience.”

Michael is married to Susan Lynch Braden. He has two sons, Alex (21) and Kyler (24). The Maryville Police Department now has six active members



Lt. Michael Braden

who have graduated from the FBI National Academy – Chief Crisp, Deputy Chief Greg Cooke, Captain David Graves, Captain Mark Taylor and Captain Sharon Moore.

A total of 52,026 graduates have completed the FBI National Academy since it began in 1935. The National Academy is held at the FBI Training Academy in Quantico, the same facility where the FBI trains its new special agents and intelligence analysts.

## Business is Booming

*Spotlight on Economic & Community Development with Angie Luckie*

Maryville Appliance Outlet Center at 2730 Hwy. 441 South, across from Pancho’s Mexican Restaurant owned by Mr. Richard Skinner is a scratch and dent retail operation. The products in stock at the Appliance Outlet Center come directly from appliance manufacturers and are thoroughly checked for quality so customers only receive the best of the best.

At Maryville Appliance Outlet they believe in exceptional customer service and treat each customer like family hoping to make shopping a great experience.

Operating hours are Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. You may present your military or first responders I.D. for discounts on top of their already low prices.



## Shelter Needs Your Help

*Find a new companion kitty at the shelter and help make room for new residents*



The City of Maryville Animal Shelter needs your help finding a forever home for the many cats that are currently calling the shelter their home. If you’ve ever considered having a cat, or adding another cat to your collection, now would be a great time to finalize those plans. It’s true, not only do animals give you unconditional love, but they have been shown to be psychologically, emotionally and physically beneficial to their companions. Caring for a pet

can provide a sense of purpose and fulfillment and lessen feelings of loneliness. And, when you adopt, you’ll also feel good about helping an animal in need!

Go see Eddie, Marcus and Kenneth today! They’ll be glad to help!

## Crushin' Internet Fraud Attempts

*IT tips to help us avoid being a victim*

CRUSHIN'  
WITH  
CHRISTINE  
IT



IT Tips to Help  
You Crush Cyber Threats

The internet offers a wide world of benefits. It makes sending and receiving information easier than ever before. But like most things in life, it is not perfect. Thieves use the internet to try to steal your information. Often this involves scams called 'phishing' and 'spoofing'. Phishing (FISH-ing) is when an online scammer reproduces the appearance of a legitimate website in order to trick the victim into entering sensitive

data. Spoofing is when a fraudulent email sender hopes to have you respond to an email that is made to look as if it is from a legitimate company.

Combinations of spoofing and phishing may make a convincing lie that can easily make you a victim. Here are 6 scam-savvy tips for avoiding online traps:

### 6 tips to avoid internet fraud.

1. Check the Web Address (or URL) Communications from popular social websites, online payment processors, or IT administrators as they are commonly used to lure in the unsuspecting public. The web address for the phishing site may closely resemble the authentic website. It may even contain the address of the authentic website, but also includes code to reroute the traffic to a false website. If a website suffers from poor design or multiple pop-up windows, it might not be a legitimate retailer. To stay safe, stick with big-name retailers or, on smaller sites, familiar payment systems, such as PayPal.
2. Stay alert and skeptical of people unexpectedly contacting you by email or phone and asking about personal information. Only open emails, links, and attachments from trustworthy sources. A common scam involves sending emails that ask the recipient to click on a hyperlink or open an attachment and then enter personal information, such as bank account numbers. The Better Business Bureau recommends ignoring any emails that make these kinds of requests.
3. Know who your providers are for your hosting, email, and internet. Also know how these providers will be contacting you.
4. Protect your computer with spam filters, anti-virus software, and firewalls. For optimal protection, make sure to keep these programs up to date.
5. Stick with plastic. Credit cards usually come with extra fraud protection, which means consumers might be able to get their money back if they fall victim to fraud. Shoppers should contact their card company at the first sign of a scam.
6. Act immediately if you think you have been a victim of an online scam. If you have provided account numbers, PINS, or passwords to an unidentified source, notify the companies that you have accounts with right away.

Be sure to help your fellow internet users by reporting any suspected scams to the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center. (<https://www.ic3.gov/complaint/default.aspx>)

Sources *U.S. News & World Report and Global Reach*

### K-9 - Continued from page 1

hours of additional training each month as well as become re-certified annually. They have learned that as a K-9 spends time on the road day after day, their confidence begins to lessen. Through regular monthly training they are reminded of their skills and their confidence is once again restored and their relationship with their human partner grows stronger.

The MPD K-9 Unit is on call 24/7. It doesn't happen often, but they might get a call in the middle of the night and have to report for duty within minutes if their partners special skills are needed. The handlers are responsible for all of the visits to the veterinarian, any medicines needed, the shots, the food and drink required, and all of the other necessities that go along with owning an animal. The dogs are the most high maintenance tool the officers have at their disposal.



FTO Dotson decoys for K-9 Thor at National Night Out 2017 to demonstrate an apprehension.

Speaking of tools; in addition to their baton, pepper spray, revolver and stun gun, each Officer (human) carries a push button car door popper - in case he gets into trouble and needs immediate backup, as well as a dog sized dose of Narcan (naloxone). Narcan is an opioid antagonist used for the reversal of an opioid overdose. During a stop that involves drugs, both the dogs and the officers are in danger of overdosing if Fentanyl is present. Fentanyl is roughly 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin. It is a strong synthetic opioid that is very effective at relieving severe chronic pain, but the difference between a therapeutic dose and a deadly dose of fentanyl is very small. According to Wickert, Brown and Dotson, Fentanyl is the drug of choice these days. It is being added to all kinds of narcotics with the promise of a new level of high. Unfortunately, it brings to the table a very good chance of overdose and in some cases death as well. Unintended contact with a syringe or breathing in the fumes of fentanyl can be just as dangerous or deadly to the Police Officers and their K-9 partners as it is to the user. Because the dog uses his sense of smell to find the narcotics it puts him at particular risk of inhaling enough Fentanyl to overdose, so a lifesaving dose of Narcan for the dog is always within reach inside the chest pocket of his handler.

When asked about the worst part of this partnership, all of the officers agreed that the excessive shedding was the hardest thing to live with and it really isn't that big of a deal considering what the dogs can and will do for them. Besides, a leaf blower every morning before work is all that is needed to take care of that little problem, according to FTO Dotson. They also all agreed that the best part is knowing that if it is needed, their backup is three-seconds away in the backseat of their car just waiting for them to press the door popper. A backup of the human kind can take up to three minutes depending on where the other officers on duty are, which translates into a very long struggle with an offender. In the end, when the dogs detect narcotics, apprehend a criminal, or protect their partner, Wickert, Dotson, and Brown rightfully are extremely proud of their K-9 partners and all the extra work and time the officers have invested in this partnership suddenly becomes so very rewarding and worth every minute.

# People are the Key



Promotion  
**Robert Anderson**  
Electric  
*Line Worker Trainee*



Promotion  
**Eric Bailey**  
EPW  
*Sanitation Collection Driver*



Promotion  
**Ian Callaway**  
Electric  
*Line Worker Trainee*



Promotion  
**Darin Carver**  
MPD  
*Corporal*



Promotion  
**Caleb Compton**  
EPW  
*Street Construction Worker*



Promotion  
**Rod Fernandez**  
MPD  
*Sergeant*



Promotion  
**Jamie Hipps**  
EPW  
*Street Sign and Marking Technician*



Promotion  
**Maria Nelson**  
Dev. Services  
*Deputy Building Official*



Promotion  
**Paten Sweeney**  
EPW  
*Street Construction Worker*



Promotion  
**Logan Turbyfill**  
EPW  
*Sanitation Collection Driver*



Promotion  
**Matthew Watson**  
MPD  
*Corporal*



Promotion  
**Brad Weeks**  
EPW  
*Street Construction Worker*

# People are the Key



Transfer  
**Cody Burchfield**  
 EPW  
 Heavy Equipment Operator



Transfer  
**Logan Rogers**  
 MFD  
 Firefighter/EMT



New Employee  
**Chance Anderson**  
 EPW  
 Grounds Maintenance Worker



New Employee  
**Paige Craig**  
 MPD  
 Police Officer



New Full Time Employee  
**Jason Rogers**  
 EPW  
 Grounds Maintenance Worker



Newborn 5/13/19  
**Esther Ruth Anderson**  
 Daughter of Chelsea & Robert Anderson  
 (Electric)



Newborn  
**William Wade Potter**  
 Son of Tiffany and Jason Potter  
 (Water & Sewer)  
 7/09/19



## First Responders Golf Tournament

MFD vs. MPD

Shown here, David Graves and Chad Simpson, representing MPD, and Rom Everett, and Chris Pereda, MFD. All are participants in the first ever City of Maryville First Responders Golf Tournament.

At press time, the teams were tied, the final round pending, but predictions were with the Police Department!



## Thankful Citizens

Laurie Head, EPW, tells us that a citizen at 318 Amerine Road called to compliment City of Maryville employee Ron Nugent. She said she was struggling to fix her paper box and he stopped and helped her fix it and get it all straightened out. She said he was very nice and a good representative of the City.

This citizen also stated that the other City employees who work on her street are very considerate too ...the guys that do the mowing and junk and brush pick-up always do a particularly good job around her fence line with her bushes and flowers. She said all the employees are pleasant and friendly and she just wanted to call in and say thank you.

*A hand written note to Kelly Hembree, Jamie Hipps, and Clay Cope, EPW...*

Dear Kelly, Jamie and Clay,  
 I can't thank you enough for helping a damsel in distress. I so appreciate you all taking the time to change my tire. You saved me much headache and time! Thank you so much, and thank you for working for our city! I truly appreciate all you do!

Alicia Peery Luttrell

# People are the Key

## August Birthdays

2	Bryson Dykes, MFD
3	Patrick Effler, Electric
4	Tyran Harrison, MPD John Cogburn, MFD
6	Michael Doherty, MFD
7	Brian Boone, EPW Tony Hatcher, W&S
11	Ronnie Pryor, MPD
12	Joe Head, W&S
15	Golman Myers, Electric Jonathan Wilson W&S
16	Sandy Rinicker, MFD
17	James Bond, Electric Shawn Ridings, EPW
21	Ben Belitz, MPD
24	Danny Frye, Electric Ricky Jackson, Electric
26	James Hurst, Electric
28	Kelly Duggan, Dev. Serv. Darrel Pharris, EPW



## August Anniversaries

Kent Roberts, Electric	39
Paul Gilley, W&S	39
Roger Campbell, Admin.	36
Darrell Lewelling, W&S	36
Thomas Bible, W&S	36
Tony Bailey, Electric	33
Mark Taylor, MPD	33
Rickie Trentham, W&S	32
Darryl Adams, Electric	30
Terri Caylor, Admin,	27
William Murphy, Electric	27
RomEverett, MFD	27
Terry McCoy, IT	25
Keith Church, IT	22
Thomas Vananda, E&PW	21
Chad Wilson, E&PW	21
Michael Doherty, MFD	21
Edmond Greene, E&PW	20
Jason Cable, W&S	20
Mickey Gorman, W&S	20
Glenda Brinley, Finance	18
Sandy Rinicker, MFD	14
Andrew Puckett, MFD	14
James Middleton, E&PW	13
Cindy Karnoupakis, Finance	12
Travis Brown, MPD	11
James Long, MPD	11
Casey Ryding, Electric	7
Golman Myers, Electric	7
Steven Talbott, MFD	6
Jacob Kagley, E&PW	5
Michael Bell, W&S	5
Justin Brown, MPD	4
Robert Smith, W&S	4
Paul Shoffner, Electric	3
Matthew McKeel, MPD	3
William Kitts, W&S	2

## IT Server Room AC Recently Replaced

*Three day project complete*

The server room in the bottom level of the Municipal building is home to sensitive hardware that stores our important data, records and files. Servers must be fed a constant stream of cool air since they generate a substantial amount of heat that can damage their internal components, resulting in a loss of data and the equipment as well. That is why the IT Department recently replaced an aging air conditioner unit with a new, more efficient model. The old unit had been in service since 2005 when the building was opened.

The Electric Department helped with removing the old equipment and putting the new unit in its place on the roof. At right, Don Myers uses a bucket truck to make it look easy.



## Mark Your Calendar

A Medic Blood Drive will be held on August 13th. The Medic Blood Replacement program provides free blood replacement to each employee and their legal dependents for one year following any donation.

**August 13, 2019**

**Operation Center 7:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.  
Municipal Building 12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.**