

NEWS in a NUTSHELL

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF MARYVILLE



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August 2021

Perla Garrett Living her Dream

Perla Garrett, a Customer Service Representative in Finance, was born to a carpenter and a dressmaker in the Philippines in 1979. She and her siblings lived with their parents on a farm near the Pacific Ocean. The farm had been a part of their family for generations. Perla's father arranged a sharecropping agreement with a neighbor who would farm the land and in return would share a quarter of the harvest with Perla's family. The sharecroppers raised rice, mangoes, peanuts, and corn on the land while her father worked as a carpenter.

When Perla was 13 years old, Mount Pinatubo, a volcano near her home, erupted. Nearly 20 million tons of sulfur dioxide were discharged into the stratosphere and the resulting gas cloud was so big it caused global temperatures to drop temporarily (1991 through 1993) by about 1°F. The ash cloud rose 22 miles into the air. At lower altitudes, the ash was blown in all directions by high winds of a coincidentally occurring typhoon. A layer of volcanic ash made up of sand and silt-size grains of volcanic minerals and glass and larger pebbles blanketed the countryside. Fine ash fell as far away as the Indian Ocean. Perla recalls three days of complete darkness following the eruption as the ash blocked out the rays of the sun. (<https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/1997/fs113-97/>)

In 2000, Perla graduated from college. By this time, her sister had married an American who was living in Maryville. In 2003 their mother was battling breast cancer, so Perla and her mother decided to apply for a six-month visa to visit her sister in the U.S. and to receive treatment. After the initial six months, they applied for a six-month extension to continue her mother's

treatment. After that year, Perla's mother returned to the Philippines and Perla stayed waiting for her Immigration documents, a petition for U.S. permanent resident's visa.

Perla has worked several part-



Perla hiking the Wave on July 4, 2021 in Utah



In front of the Colosseum in Rome, Italy

time jobs in and around the Maryville area since she arrived here, but one job turned out to be life-changing. It was while she was working at Flowers and Such on Broadway when she met her husband, Gene Garrett. An Air Force Reserve Officer at the time, he only visited the shop once, but they ran into each other at a friend's wedding a few months later and the rest is history. They eventually married and got busy raising his two children and their daughter.

Perla's husband was a member of a Special Operations team in the Air Force National Guard (he is now retired and working at DENSO as an Advanced Senior Engineer). This meant that he would be deployed for six months to a year at a time leaving her behind with the children. If that wasn't hard enough, while he was deployed, he couldn't tell her anything about his mission. Where he was, or what he was doing was not to be discussed. Photos on social media were forbidden, any reference to him was a no-go. He regularly "vanished" from her life except for occasional calls that could never be traced. After his return, eventually, he would tell her that he was a part of the team that took Osama Bin Laden down.

The U.S. Immigration Office eventually granted Perla a 10-year Permanent Resident Visa. With this visa Perla could work

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Requirements of Title VI

It's the policy of the City of Maryville that all its services and activities be administered in conformance with the requirements of Title VI.

What is Title VI?

"No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

What is the purpose of Title VI?

The purpose of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is to prohibit programs and activities which receive federal funds from discriminating against participants or clients on the basis of race, color, or national origin. The intent of the law is to insure that all persons, regardless of their race, color, or national origin are allowed to participate in federally funded programs. To insure that the City of Maryville meets its compliance responsibility, comprehensive monitoring procedures have been established to provide for continual compliance with Title VI.

The Areas Covered by Title VI

Construction, transportation, parks and recreation, community block grants, location of facilities, law enforcement, environmental issues, contracting, distribution of benefits and services, hiring, equipment and building loans, and tax benefits enjoyed by private, fraternal and nonprofit organizations.

Title VI Actions

- Prohibits entities from denying an individual any service, financial aid, or other benefit.
- Prohibits entities from providing services or benefits to some individuals that are different or inferior to those provided to others.
- Prohibits segregation or separate treatment in any manner related to receiving program services or benefits.
- Prohibits entities from requiring different standards or conditions as prerequisites for serving individuals.
- Encourages the participation of minorities as members of planning or advisory bodies for programs and activities receiving federal funds.
- Prohibits discriminatory activity in a facility built in whole or part with Federal funds.
- Requires entities to notify the eligible population about applicable programs.
- Prohibits locating facilities in any way that would limit or impede access to a federally funded service or benefit.
- Requires assurance of nondiscrimination in purchasing of services.

Title VI complaints involving recipients and beneficiaries may be filed with the City of Maryville Title VI Coordinator: Manager of Human Resources Leslie Crawford, Maryville Municipal Center.

Nighttime Pedestrian Bridge Installation a Success

Engineering and Public Works closed Montvale Road between Mountain View Ave. and Miller Ave. starting at 10 p.m. on Wednesday, June 30, 2021. This section of Montvale Road remained closed until approximately 2 a.m. while crews removed an aging bridge and installed a new Greenway Pedestrian bridge. The bridge replacement program on the Montgomery Lane to Montvale Road section of the Greenway is now complete.



The photo on the far left shows why the road had to be closed. Clay Cope supervises as the crane lifts the old bridge out of its previous home and places it on the trailer parked on Montvale Road, for removal. The second photo shows the beautiful new bridge after it was lowered into position on the trail. The night's work was expected to take at least 6 hours, but the crews were able to complete their work in just over 3 hours. Kevin Stoltenberg, who was in charge of the project, was both impressed with and thankful for everyone's hard work.

Congrats are in Order



Retiring August 2, 2021
Ricky Jackson
Electric
42 years of Service



Retiring August 20, 2021
Joe Head
W&S
30 years of Service



Promotion
Eric Bailey
EPW
Heavy Equipment
Operator



Promotion
Caleb Compton
EPW
Sanitation Collection
Driver



Promotion
Tommy Cooper
W&S
Utility Construction
Crew Leader



Promotion
Jerry Hall
W&S
Utility Construction
Crew Leader



Promotion
Jim Hurst
Electric
Electric Crew
Supervisor



Promotion
Lucas McCall
W&S
Utility Construction
Worker I



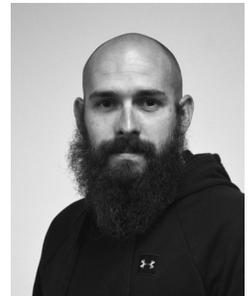
Promotion
Jackson Morton
EPW
Sanitation Collection
Driver



Promotion
Shawn Riddick
W&S
Utility Construction
Crew Leader



Promotion
John Spence
EPW
Heavy Equipment
Operator



Promotion
Cody Whitehead
W&S
Utility Construction
Crew Leader



Promotion
Danny Wilson
W&S
Certified Lab Technician



New Employee
Jordan Saylor
EPW
Grounds Maintenance
Worker



New Employee
Riley Huff
EPW
Grounds Maintenance
Worker



New Employee
Jesse Stott
W&S
Water Plant Technician

People are the Key

The Facebook Files

When a post calls out City employees for their good deeds.



Teresa Tipton
June 27 at 9:49 AM · 🌐

...

I just witnessed a really cool thing leaving the Maryville Wal-mart. An elderly lady was attempting to walk across the very busy Fairview Drive in the heat of the day. A Maryville City policeman (Car 155) stopped, got out of his car and escorted the lady to the other side. Thank you for your service...and for doing the right thing.

👍👍 795

27 Comments

👍 Like

💬 Comment

Cpl. Jason Ayers is the MPD Officer who was spotted helping an elderly lady to cross Fairview Dr.

Kudos for a Job Well Done



To: Maryville Police Department
Re: Compliment – Officer Nathaniel Robinson

Good Morning Chief,

I was pulled over by this police officer yesterday for an expired (May 2021) sticker. When he ran my tag number, nothing came back that the car was registered to me. He instructed me to go directly to the County Clerk's Office to try to determine if my tag had been stolen, and if so to report back to him.

I did as he instructed me to do, and the mystery was solved...

The purpose of this note is to commend this police officer for the way he dealt with me—completely courteous and totally professional.

How do you manage to hire young people of his caliber to serve in law enforcement in today's screwed-up often dangerous society?

I also commend the MPD overall for several helpful encounters over the past 15 years. I feel good about our country's future because of young people like Nathaniel Robinson and for first-rate government agencies like the Maryville Police Department. Perhaps you could share your hiring and training methods with other areas of the country that are not as fortunate as we are here in Blount County. Thank you from a grateful citizen.



The City of Maryville is hosting a MEDIC Blood Drive on August 4, 2021 in the MEDIC Mobile Unit.

Operations Center from 7:30 – 11 a.m.
Municipal Building from 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.

If you would like to participate please call (865) 524-3074 or visit their website at www.tndonor.org to schedule an appointment. You may also donate without an appointment, just stop in and wait your turn.

Save the Date

Every year employees who have 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 years of service with the City of Maryville are honored with a special breakfast, a gift and a plaque to commemorate their tenure here at the City.

We will be celebrating this event on October 13th at 7:30 a.m. Those being honored will receive a personal invitation to this annual event in late September. **Save the Date!**

COVID Insurance Coverage Update

The last communication from the Federal Government regarding COVID-related insurance payments stated that the 100% testing coverage would expire July 19, 2021. This has been extended through October 17, 2021. This includes testing only, but will allow employees to be tested at no cost.

We need your help!

Hi all,

As you already know, many of our co-workers have taken, or will soon take the big step into retirement. We wish our fellow co-workers much deserved happiness and relaxation during retirement as we move forward taking care of City of Maryville business.

Eighty-three employees retired from the City of Maryville from 2005 to present. Out of the 83 retirees, 54% retired between 2016 and 2020. More amazing is that the retirees have an average of 28 years of service. That's huge!

The impact of the increasing number of retirees is that we must find new employees to fill all of the empty shoes. I know job vacancies create challenges not only for the department where the vacancy exists, but also for the departments that experience a lot of internal movement caused by promotions and transfers.

The number of individuals actively looking for work is far less than the number of area job openings. Please help me spread the word that the City of Maryville is hiring. If you know or meet someone looking for work, refer them to our website, www.maryvillegov.com/jobs. Are you on social media? Please consider following the Maryville City Government page and share the posts announcing our job opportunities.

-Leslie Crawford, HR Manager



PERLA continued from page 1



Machu Picchu, Peru, South America

anywhere in the U.S. including for the government, join the military, buy property, or go to school. However, while she would enjoy several rights as a Permanent Resident, she wouldn't be able to vote. Voting is important to her, so she began the process to become a Naturalized U.S. Citizen and accomplished her goal in 2015.

The Philippines is comprised of over 7,100 islands between the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean. The islands consist of mountainous terrains, dense forests, plains, and coastal areas. While living there, Perla grew to love the outdoors, especially the mountains. One of the reasons she chose to stay in East Tennessee is because of our proximity to the Smoky Mountains. She began backpacking and hiking in her 20's and continues her love affair with the mountains today. She hikes most weekends and has conquered almost all the trails in East Tennessee as well as several in North Carolina. (FYI: She has decided that the bears in TN are kinder than the bears in NC). Her hiking bucket list includes Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania and making it to the Mount Everest Base Camp in Asia.

Perla is passionate about travel. Although COVID has forced her to deny the call to see the world temporarily, she recently resumed her mission with a trip to Utah to hike the Wave. The Wave is in the north section of Coyote Buttes, between Paria Canyon and Vermillion Cliffs National Monument near Kanab, Utah.

The Wave's overwhelming popularity caused officials to limit hikers in the area to 20 people per day, so while the hike itself is a modest 2.6 miles each way, getting the required permit can be difficult. Ten of the daily permits are issued by lottery for dates four months in advance and the other 10 are given to walk-ins at the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument Visitor Center in Kanab for the following day — which is also by lottery if more than 10 people apply that day. Perla had told her travel companions that she is unusually lucky at winning drawings, so they pinned their hopes on her and made their way to the Wave Lottery. Some people try unsuccessfully to secure the permit to trek the Wave for years, but not Perla.

She waited about 20 minutes for hers. The next morning, she and her friends set out at 4 a.m. Ten hours later, after getting lost twice on the unmarked trail, exhausted and thirsty, they notified the Rangers that they had found their way out and survived. It was a very good day!

When her traveler's heart starts to petition for a fix, it often results in a trip overseas to locations known for high style. Other times the historic wonders of the past call her name. Over the last 20-plus years, Perla has visited places like Rome, Italy, London, Paris, France, Greece, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Saudi Arabia. She insisted on climbing the stairs inside the Eiffel Tower rather than taking the elevator to the top because of the historical significance. She's visited a Mosque made of gold, roamed the Aztec and Inca ruins, had her photo taken in front of the Coliseum in Rome, walked the Bolivia Salt Flats, and was in the area when a bomb was detonated at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England in 2017. She's seen unimaginable poverty and unbelievable wealth and everything in between. She isn't finished yet either. With her and her husband's youngest child headed off to college next year, she's got big travel dreams to chase and with extra time to invest, why not? For as long as she can, she fully intends to continue her plan to see as much of the world as possible because she made a list of places she wants to go and things she wants to do in her lifetime, and she is determined to check off all the boxes!



Paris, France with the Eiffel Tower in the background.

SEND ME YOUR BABY!

It's time to show off your love (car, truck, boat, tractor, or horse trailer) again. If it brings you joy... we want to see it in the September Nutshell! Send to mdbristol@maryville-tn.gov by August 15. Please include your name and department, year, make and model too. Plus any additional info you want to share. Can't wait to see yours!



Applause Please

August Birthdays

- 1 Ben Keck, W&S
- 2 Bryson Dykes, MFD
- 3 Patrick Effler, Electric
- 4 John Cogburn, MFD
- 6 Michael Doherty, MFD
- 7 Brian Boone, EPW
Tony Hatcher, W&S
- 11 Brentley Riddle, EPW
Ronnie Pryor, MPD
- 12 Joe Head, W&S
- 15 Golman Myers, Electric
Blake Henegar, Dev. Services
- 16 Sandy Rinicker, MFD
- 17 James Bond, Electric
Clay Pearson, W&S
Shawn Ridings, EPW
- 21 Ben Belitz, MPD
- 24 Ricky Jackson, Electric
Danny Frye, Electric
- 26 Jim Hurst, Electric
- 28 Darrel Pharris, EPW
- 31 Laura Seery, Finance



August Anniversaries

- Paul Gilley, W&S 41 years
- Kent Roberts, Electric 41 years
- Darrell Lewelling, W&S 38 years
- Roger Campbell, Administration 38 years
- Tom Bible, W&S 38 years
- Tony Bailey, Electric 35 years
- Mark Taylor, MPD 35 years
- Darryl Adams, Electric 32 years
- William Murphy, Electric 29 years
- Terri Caylor, Admin 29 years
- Rom Everett, MFD 29 years
- Terry McCoy, IT 27 years
- Keith Church, IT 24 years
- Michael Doherty, MFD 23 years
- Chad Wilson, EPW 23 years
- Thomas Vananda, EPW 23 years
- Edmond Greene, EPW 22 years
- Jason Cable, W&S 22 years
- Mickey Gorman, W&S 22 years
- Glenda Brinley, Finance 20 years
- Doug Chapman, EPW 18 years
- Sandy Rinicker, MFD 16 years
- Andrew Puckett, MFD 16 years
- Eric Middleton, EPW 15 years
- Cindy Karnoupakis, Finance 14 years
- Travis Brown, MPD 13 years
- James Long, MPD 13 years
- Casey Ryding, Electric 9 years
- Golman Myers, Electric 9 years
- Steven Talbott, MFD 8 years
- Mike Bell, W&S 7 years
- Jacob Kagle, EPW 7 years
- Brian Smith, W&S 6 years
- Justin Brown, MPD 6 years
- Dwayne Shoffner, Electric 5 years
- Matthew McKeel, MPD 5 years
- Don Kitts, W&S 4 years
- Tyler Breazeale, EPW 2 years
- Brentley Riddle, EPW 2 years
- Patty Cox, Admin 2 years
- Ernie Herin, EPW 2 years
- Cody Whitehead, W&S 2 years
- Brandon Nichols, EPW 1 year
- Austin Headrick, MFD 1 year
- Cory Tipton, W&S 1 year

Glory Days

Heirloom photos of City Employees from back in the day.



Shawn Ridings, EPW and David England, W&S,
working on a culvert back in 2005.

Employee Golf Tourney Coming 10/11

Four Player Swat format - Make Your Own Teams!

The employee golf tournament will be held on October 11, 2021 at 1 p.m. If you are interested in playing let Todd Burchett (ext. 3347) know. This is a for-fun tourney and scores and ability are disregarded.