

NEWS in a NUTSHELL

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF MARYVILLE



Volume 40, Number 12 | Let's Celebrate Edition

December 2020

Sanitation Santa Changes with the Times

COVID-19 has changed us. It's changed the way we socialize, the way we educate, the way we interact with strangers, and even the way we celebrate holidays. Sanitation Santa is no different. In order to continue to serve those in need this Christmas, the Engineering and Public Works department had to make changes to the program in an effort to keep both the volunteers and the public safe.

For many years, the process of participating in the Sanitation Santa program began with a parent or guardian checking in with the administration team in the Amphitheater. The admin team, made up of Angie Luckie and other volunteers checked to verify that the family wasn't being served by any other organization. The guests were then asked for details



about their child/children such as their age, gender, needs, and wishes. That information was then passed to the "elves" behind a curtain so they could prepare a bag of gifts for the family. While folks waited they were

offered hot dogs and sodas to snack on.

This year most of the process will be different. Rather than invite the public into the Amphitheater they will be asked to wait in their car. A volunteer will greet them in the parking lot and take their information. The volunteer will then check the family in with the administration team and then deliver the gifts to the family in the parking lot. The guests will be offered Little Debbie snacks and bottled waters to enjoy while they wait in their car. The EPW department hopes that these changes will give the families and the volunteers alike a sense of peace about the risk of exposure to the virus while participating.

This year's distribution dates are December 21, 22, and 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact Angie Luckie if you would like to volunteer to help.

While every year it is unknown how many families will come to Sanitation Santa for help, this year in particular could present an extraordinary number of families who are in need. Many of our neighbors have lost their jobs or are now under-employed because of the pandemic. EPW employees have placed donation boxes in most of the area Dollar General



A group of volunteers from 2019's distribution day

stores and in the different departments in the Municipal Building and the Operation Center. Any gift, no matter how small, would be deeply appreciated. If you would like to donate a gift, but don't know what to get, Tim Green provided a list of ideas for teens and for infants, two age groups that Sanitation Santa needs a little extra help with.

Gift Ideas for Teens

(In no particular order; some are gender specific)

Radios/clocks	Make-up	Jewelry
Teen board games	Fishing rod	Hoodies
Playing cards	Jewelry boxes	Wallets
Puzzles	Trendy purses	Books
Art kits	Watches	Journals
MHS apparel	UT apparel	UT ball caps
Photo albums	Picture frames	Skate boards
Body lotion	Perfume/cologne	Socks
Bulletin boards	Stuffed animals	Sunglasses
Lava lamps	Scarves	Gloves
PJ's	Slippers	Craft sets
Nail polish/nail art	Fleece blankets	Umbrellas
Diary	Note cards	Stationery
Colored pencils	Markers	Gel pens
Footballs	Basketballs	Soccer balls
Curling iron/flat iron		

Gift Ideas for Infants

Onesies	Pajamas	Teething rings
Rattle toys	Sound books	Blocks
Balls	Blankets	

Applause Please



Promotion
Keith Anderson
W&S
Utility Construction
Worker III



Promotion
Edmond Greene
EPW
Grounds Maintenance
Superintendent



Promotion
Brentley Riddle
EPW
Sanitation Collection Driver



Promotion
Adam Parton
W&S
Utility Plant Maintenance
Supervisor



New Employee
Chase Tilley
MFD
Reserve Firefighter



Promotion
Logan Turbyfill
EPW
Heavy Equipment
Operator



Promotion
Jonathan Wilson
EPW
Sanitation Collection Driver



New Baby
Beckett Nolan Steele
Born November 8
8lbs. 1oz. 19.5" long
Son of Lyndsey &
Alex Steele, MPD

Holiday Greetings from Greg

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As I say those words, they sound different and feel different to me this year. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected our lives in ways we never could have imagined. All of our daily routines, holidays, travel plans and special events have been impacted. We hope with great anticipation that a vaccine will be available in 2021 making it possible to return to some sense of normal.

There are some things that Covid can't affect unless we allow it. Attitude is one of those things that we have total control over. Even when life deals up uncertainties and hardships, we can still have an attitude of gratitude for the great things in our lives. This is the perfect time of the year to reflect on all the wonderful blessings we share. Life, health and family are a few things that the Lord has bestowed to all of us and we should rejoice in them.

Please know that I am very grateful for each of you. Our City Council and Maryville citizens often tell me how much they appreciate the hard work that you perform every day. Take time to tell those in your life how much you appreciate them as well.

As 2020 fades into our recent past, I hope you will join me in displaying an attitude of joy and thanksgiving and just maybe 2021 will be a better year for all of us.

Merry Christmas to each and every one of you! – Greg

Biscuit Breakfast is on Like Donkey Kong!

On Thursday, December 17, all employees are invited to the Annual City Manager's Biscuit Breakfast in the Fire Bay. In order to keep everyone as safe as possible, we will divide the departments up into five different time slots as shown below. Be sure to stop in and enjoy some hot coffee and a biscuit with your friends and co-workers.

- 7:00 – 7:45 EPW
- 7:30 – 8:15 Water/sewer
- 8:00 – 8:45 Electric
- 8:30 – 9:15 Public Safety
- 9:00 – 9:45 All other departments



Grateful Citizen Writes to City Manager

Greg, I would like to thank the folks at the operation center. I was one day late in placing our fall decorations at the curb for pickup. Since I had about 20 bags of rotting straw and pumpkins I did not look forward to the next 30 days while they sat in my front yard. When I called for help the lady at the Operation Center was very polite and passed a message forward. At 7 a.m. this morning I received a call that the City was on the way to alleviate my problem. Oh, my neighbors also appreciate your efforts!

Many thanks, Mike Davis

Flexible Spending Accounts for 2021

Enrollment forms for 2021 deductions must be turned in to Patty Cox in HR by December 4th. Remember, your previous election will not carry over, a new FSA enrollment form is required.

People are the Key

Hats Off to our Christmas Heroes in EPW and Electric Tree Lighting News *by Jane Groff*



Zachary Hicks and Logan Thomas fluffing the branches.



Lucas McCall checking the lights.



Kyle Love & Stephen Jordan assisting with the garland on the balcony.



Kevin Roulette and Robert Anderson giving Sam Houston his hat and scarf.

More heroes not shown above: Wyatt Snow, and Darrel Pharris both in EPW. Also, Mike Large, Josh Daniels, Tommy Cooper, Hank Woods, Patrick Effler and Darryl Adams all Electric employees. Thank you all for your help! We couldn't do it without you!

Like Blount County and Alcoa, this year, due to the rise in cases of COVID-19 in our community, we have made the difficult decision to not hold our traditional tree lighting event. However, we will be participating in the Christmas Parade as a “static float” – with lots of decorated City vehicles, lights, and a guest appearance by Sam Houston in front of the City building. People will be encouraged to ensure appropriate distance and keep each other safe while enjoying a Christmas tradition in the community. The route will be a little different than normal – starting at the intersection of Norwood and East Broadway and traveling down to New Providence Presbyterian Church. Participation is encouraged so long as we can be distanced and safe. Thanks to the Police and the Fire Departments for supporting the traffic control effort and for transporting Santa.

Altar'd State has decorated their building, the plaza of the municipal parking garage, and the stage in the amphitheater with a snowy-themed display. Thanks to our Engineering and Public Works Grounds Team, our City trees are standing tall and shining bright. Thanks to our Electric Department, our street poles are wound festively with garlands and bows. Some of our offices have begun looking very festive! Head-elf Mary Bristol has done an amazing job coordinating the holiday magic.

Thanks to every one of our City family, we've collected food, money and toys to help our community in a time of need. Sanitation Santa is working hard to meet an unknown number of needs this year and a special shout-out to the United Way team fearlessly led by Patty and Mary. City of Maryville employees raised over \$26,000 for services and programs that help the most vulnerable in our community. Awesome!

While things are a little different this year, it's going to be just as beautiful as ever and the Christmas spirit is very much alive and well. We hope that you'll enjoy these opportunities to celebrate the season.



Mark Wheeler wrestles with the wires high above West Lamar Alexander. The Electric department spent time last week pulling wire from the Industrial Park (near Denso) to the new Substation area (next to Cook Out/TN Bank).



People are the Key

December Birthdays

- 1 Charlie Martinez, MFD
- 4 Tim Green, EPW
Brandon Riggs, MFD
- 5 Wendy Phillips, W&S
- 7 Eric Bailey, EPW
Jason White, W&S
- 8 Richard Johnson, Electric
- 9 Mickey Gorman, W&S
Michael Alexander, EPW
- 10 Robbie Fox, IT
- 12 Brian Watson, MFD
- 14 Jason Russell, W&S
- 16 Robert Smith, W&S
Michael Wilson, Electric
- 19 Cristy West, Finance
- 23 Charlie Clearman, W&S
- 28 David Morton, Finance
- 31 Mike Seagle, Electric



December Anniversaries

- Joe Bogart, Finance 40 years
- Bobby Queen, MFD 27 years
- Mike Davis, MFD 26 years
- John Cogburn, MFD 21 years
- Leland Blackwood, Admin. 19 years
- Greg McClain, Admin. 19 years
- Bill Bain, MFD 18 years
- Jesse McWhorter, W&S 16 years
- Charlie Fipps, MFD 15 years
- Ron Nugent, EPW 15 years
- Chuck Rowan, EPW 14 years
- Chris Pereda, MFD 8 years
- Ian Callaway, Electric 4 years
- Mary Bristol, Admin. 4 years
- Jonathan Wilson, W&S 4 years
- Chad Grissom, MPD 4 years
- Jason Chai, E&PW 2 years
- Kyle Newman, E&PW 2 years
- Heath Hampton, W&S 1 year

Glory Days

Heirloom photos of City Employees from back in the day.



Halloween 2002. Employees dressed up for the holiday. Left to right: Gary Hensley, City Manager, Laurie Head, Baron Swafford, Jeanette Murphy, Julie Anderson, Amy Woody, Phyllis Long, and Wendy Phillips kneeling. If you have a photo you'd like to see in the Nutshell please email it to mdbristol@maryville-tn.gov or call for pickup at 273-3407.

2020 United Way Report

Our United Way Employee Pledge Campaign raised \$25,438.04, Gas Day raised \$330, the Coin Jars brought in \$148 and Jeans Week an additional \$290. In the end the City of Maryville employees donated a total of \$26,206.04 to our neighbors in need this year. A very special thank you to everyone who gave and for helping to make our community a better place! You all are thebomb.com!



Special Thanks from a Citizen

Last month we published a letter that Greg received from a citizen thanking the City for our outstanding employees. The letter writer identified the fireman who assisted him with a broken gas line as Captain Puckett. However, Captain Puckett called to say that he was not on that call and that it was actually Captain Mike Davis and Lt. Randy Thompson who responded to the call for help that day. Additionally, Noah Pounds, Josh Richards, Brandon Riggs, and Logan Rogers were all there to lend a hand too.

