

NEWS in a NUTSHELL

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF MARYVILLE



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January 2019

Jessica Cooper Chooses to be Grateful

Water Quality Control employee focuses on the positive.

Jessica Cooper has a video on her phone of her sweet little three year old running full speed ahead and face planting herself into the couch and then she giggles uncontrollably as she begs to see the clip starring herself. It's something we've all seen; a child playing and laughing like they don't have a care in the world, but when Jessica and her husband Greg watch their little girl play it's likely to bring tears to their eyes. That's because they know their daughter is no ordinary kid, she's a fighter. In fact, since January 10, 2015 the Coopers have been watching her battle a congenital heart defect. Savannah was born without the left side of her heart.

It all started on January 9 with an emergency C-section. Jessica woke up from the surgery to see her beautiful new baby girl in her husband's arms taking a bottle. The next day just before the new family of four were to be discharged from the hospital, a newborn screening revealed a lower than normal oxygen saturation in Savannah's blood. A chest x-ray was ordered and an enlarged heart discovered, prompting the need to be transferred to UT for further testing.

Later that day a cardiologist at UT

explained to Jessica and Greg that their newborn only had half a heart, Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS). In a normal heart, oxygen-poor blood is pumped to the lungs from the right ventricle. Oxygen-rich blood is pumped to the body from the left ventricle. With HLHS, oxygen-rich blood can't be pumped to the body in the normal way because the left ventricle is too small or absent. Savannah would need surgery if she were to survive. A few hours after their first consult with the cardiologist, a team from Vanderbilt Children's Hospital arrived to transport her to Nashville where Savannah's fight would begin.

When Savannah was just six days old, Jessica and Greg stood in Vanderbilt Children's Hospital and watched as their baby was wheeled into surgery. Their hearts were breaking. They knew she needed surgery to survive, but they felt overwhelmingly helpless as she disappeared behind the double doors and away from their watchful eye. The surgeon performed the Norwood Procedure on that day. This procedure, the first in a series of three, would rebuild the heart so that the right ventricle is used as the main pumping chamber. Blood can then be pumped from the right ventricle to the rest of the body to deliver oxygen. During this operation, the wall dividing the two upper chambers is removed, a new aorta is built, and a new pathway is created to send blood to the lungs. Jessica and Greg spent the next 75 days by her side. Sometimes it was just mom, sometimes it was dad. The Coopers felt that they needed to take turns being away from their jobs and their daughter, Carleigh. They finally took Savannah home from the hospital on April 1.

Seven weeks later on May 21 at 5 a.m., after a difficult night, Savannah was rushed to Children's Hospital in Knoxville in complete heart failure. Once at the hospital her cardiologist placed a picc line (an intravenous catheter inserted through the skin in the arm to protect the veins from multiple sticks) and sedated her in preparation for a life-flight back to

Vanderbilt for another surgery. This time it would be the Glenn Procedure that Savannah needed. This procedure sends oxygen-poor blood returning from the upper

body directly to the lungs. This helps decrease the workload of the single ventricle. It also allows oxygen-poor blood from the upper body to flow directly to the lungs, without passing through the heart to receive oxygen.

All this time, Savannah had been having difficulty eating so the surgeon placed a G-tube (or feeding tube) one month after her second open heart surgery. After lots of trial and error and adjusting the number of ounces she could take and keep down, they found an agreeable volume so she gained a small amount of much needed weight. The exhausted family headed back home again on August 19, 2015.

For the next 33 months Savannah grew and thrived like a typical toddler. Her sweet and sassy personality began to emerge and she was sometimes a challenge

for mom and dad. Savannah still struggled with feeding, but she was able to take all her feedings by mouth during the day and relied on the feeding pump at night in order to get enough calories to keep gaining weight.

In March of 2018, a checkup with a local cardiologist to talk about the next procedure; the Fontan, was on the docket. The Coopers were hesitant because she was doing so well, but they knew this

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Jessica, Savannah, Greg, and Carleigh Cooper



Savannah Cooper

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Many Thanks!

People Are the Key

Savannah Strong - continued from page 1

would be the third and final procedure in the series. The Fontan procedure is done to separate the circulation of blood in the heart. This is so oxygen-poor blood does not mix with oxygen-rich blood in the single ventricle. During this surgery the inferior vena cava, a large vein that carries oxygen-poor blood from the lower body into the heart, is disconnected from the heart and attached to the pulmonary artery. Additionally, a small hole (fenestration) is made between the right atrium and the vena cava, to allow the body to adjust to the new pressures on the Fontan anatomy. The fenestration will be closed within a year following the Fontan surgery. After this fenestration is closed, all of the oxygen-poor blood from the body goes to the lungs without passing through the heart. The surgery was scheduled for May 22, 2018 to give Savannah and Jessica time to recover from ear infections. During this surgery the doctor decided to place permanent pace maker wires as a precaution because the rhythm of Savannah's heart was not normal and had been slipping in and out of junctional rhythm during the surgery due to the trauma of the surgery.

As Savannah began to recover and the ventilator was removed, it was discovered that there was some damage to Savannah's epiglottis (a flap of cartilage at the root of the tongue, which covers the opening of the windpipe) caused by the ventilator so she was taking liquids into her lungs and therefore put on a solids only, by mouth diet. All meds and formula were administered through the G-tube. A few weeks later Savannah's heart slipped into an abnormal rhythm again and the cardiologist decided that the time was right to insert the pacemaker and since he had already placed the wires, this would not be an open heart surgery. The pace maker was placed just under Savannah's skin at the base of her sternum (between the ribs just above her stomach). Once again the Coopers headed home after 36 days in the hospital.

At home, the family relies on their faith, family and friends for support as Savannah is now on 13 medicines and 24 doses per day. All these meds are administered through her G-tube, a very slow process because she is unable to take in more than 2 ounces at a



Savannah after her first open heart surgery.

time. Add medicine dosings everyday at 7:00, 11:00, 3:00, 7:00, and 11:00, 4 water feedings, and 5 formula feedings, one of which is an 8 hour continuous feed using a feeding pump overnight. It's a difficult schedule, but the Coopers know it is temporary. Eventually their hope is that their daughter will be able to come off some of the medicines, and the G-tube may eventually become unnecessary.

Savannah will have to go back to Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in the Spring/Summer to undergo a heart catheterization. This is a procedure that involves puncturing an artery or vein, usually located in the groin, so that a small, long, flexible tube (catheter) can be guided into the heart and major vessels around the heart. The catheter is moved through the heart with the aid of an X-ray machine.* This is performed to help provide a diagnosis of any remaining heart problems and provide the doctors with information about the heart's function and pressure from inside.

Savannah continues to have feeding issues and attends feeding therapy weekly. She is also being evaluated by Vanderbilt

surgeons for a possible redo of a stomach procedure that seems to be failing currently.

In spite of all this, Jessica remains thankful. She knows that each day with Savannah is a gift from God. Life is not always fair, but she and Greg intend to play the card they were dealt. "We have two choices here, the 'woe is me approach,' or the 'we will do what we have to do for our daughter approach,'" she says. Savannah will always have this complex congenital heart defect. Blinking back tears, Jessica explained, "There is no cure, so we don't know what the future holds for her or for us as a family. We could have her for another week, or we could have her for the next 30 or 40 years. We just don't know, but to worry about it would be to waste the time we have been given. The Coopers choose hope. "We choose to be thankful for every minute we have with Savannah," she said.

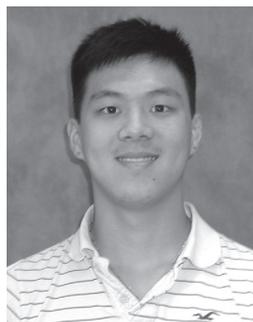
Applause Please...



Promotion
Chad Wilson
EPW
Street Construction Crew
Leader



Promotion
Jacob Kagley
EPW
Heavy Equipment Operator
Leader



New Employee
Jason Chai
EPW
Traffic Engineer



New Employee
Kyle Newman
EPW
Traffic Signal Technician



New Baby
Atticus Liam Cope
Son of Clay Cope (EPW)
and his wife Katherine
Born November 30, 2018



New Baby
Clinton Compton
Son of Caleb Compton (EPW)
and his wife Emily
Born December 10, 2018

*according to www.cincinnatichildrens.org

People Are the Key

A New Year's Message from our City Manager, Greg McClain

Happy New Year!

Beginning a new year is certainly a cause for celebration. Most of us will spend time with friends and family and reflect on the past year. 2018 was a very busy and productive year for all City of Maryville employees. Our citizens are very thankful for all the services that we deliver to make their lives safe, clean and peaceful. The New Year is a time for looking forward to new beginnings as we embrace another year of endless possibilities. As we strive to continually improve our service delivery for our customers and citizens, I ask that each of you greet your daily challenges with enthusiasm and collaboration.



Please know that each of you are greatly appreciated for all the efforts made during the past year. Our City Council and Leadership Staff are very aware of your commitment to exceptional, high quality services every day. It is our desire to support you in every way possible to make your career rewarding and satisfying.

May this year bring you and your family new joys, wonderful surprises and over-flowing contentment. Most of all, I am wishing for each of you a year full of happiness.



Employees Prepared for Christmas

The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on December 3 at the Municipal Building this year. By all accounts it was a huge success with lots of happy little smiles and big Christmas wishes!

Santa's elves were hard at work at Sanitation Santa Headquarters from December 19 to 21st. And everyone enjoyed the City Manager's Biscuit Breakfast. on December 20th.

We were all officially in the Christmas spirit by the end of the day, December 21st! Bring it Santa!



Not everyone enjoyed meeting Santa at the Tree Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 3rd!



Glenda Brinley volunteered to help stuff Santa's bag with gifts for the children at Sanitation Santa Headquarters



James Bond, Mike Large, Baron Swafford, Gary Hensley and Rick Jackson catch up at the Biscuit Breakfast.

Many Thanks!

In December, the citizens of Maryville were especially thankful for our EPW teams. We are happy to pass along their kind words!

Dear City of Maryville,
Our leaf pick up has been fabulous as are all of our curb pick up services. We truly, truly appreciate our Maryville City Services. We have grown daughters living in other cities and no other city services can compare to ours, so many thanks! Please tell the folks on your Leaf Pickup and all of your city services how great they are!

Thank you! Pam Jarvis Miller
(Blue Zone)

Brenda Branham in Windsor Park called to thank the leaf crew. She said they are doing a really good job and she appreciates all they do. She wanted to let their supervisor know they are appreciated.

Our Leaf Pick up crews include: Thomas Vandana, Brian Gray, Shane Myers, Kevin Whitehead, Paten Sweeny, Tyler Kirkland, Caleb Compton, Brad Weeks, Corey Breeden, and Cody Herron.

★★★★

Dear City Manager,

I would like to compliment one of your truck drivers for being very courteous and extremely helpful. I live in Windridge Subdivision and on November 21st I was going out to pull one of my neighbor's trash cans to the curb as they were out of town. As I was walking over to do it, the garbage truck was coming down the street. The driver saw what I was about to do and signaled that he would wait. When I got to the trash can, it was too heavy for me (I am 76 years old) so I shouted to the driver to go on but instead he come and got the can for me. He was very pleasant and wished me a "Happy Thanksgiving." He certainly started my day off in a very nice way and represented the City of Maryville very well.

Very truly yours,
Pauline Doherty
Michael Alexander, was the EPW employee who helped Ms. Doherty get her can to the curb.

★★★★

Guy Woodbury called from Cowan Street, to let us know that the guy picking up junk at his house did an outstanding job. The truck number was SW0014.

Matthew Clark, EPW was the employee Mr. Woodbury was impressed with.

★★★★

Hello,

I am writing to give a shout out to the young man who was driving the truck for trash pickup on my street this morning. I did not get his name, but I live on Melvin Avenue. This gentleman helped rescue my neighbor's dog who had gotten away from her.

It was so refreshing to see this act of kindness and neighborliness at a time when we desperately need to recover such a spirit in our communities. Please pass along my thanks and let him know what an impression this small act of generosity made.

Best wishes, Greta Smith

The employee who helped rescue the run away dog was Jeremy Snyder, EPW.

People are the Key

January Birthdays

2	Dallas Stephens, MFD
9	Gary Walker, Dev. Services Patrick McGinley, MFD
10	Trever Nix, MPD Michael Collins, MPD William Potter, Water & Sewer
12	Phillip Stewart, Water & Sewer
14	John Bivens, MPD
17	Eddie Davis, MPD Tim Phillips, EPW Shawn Riddick, Water & Sewer
19	Jesse McWhorter, Water & Sewer Eddie King, MPD
23	Robert Large, Dev. Services Ian Callaway, EPW
24	Jessica Cooper, Water & Sewer
25	Celia Quintana, Finance Ryan Rogers, MPD
26	James Middleton, EPW
27	Travis Brown, MPD
28	Kenneth Crowder, MPD
31	Jeremiah Morton, EPW



January Anniversaries

Ricky Jackson, Electric	40 years
Scotty Martin, Water & Sewer	32 years
David Morton, Finance	31 years
Julie Anderson, Electric	30 years
Danny Wilson, Water & Sewer	27 years
Patrick Effler, Electric	27 years
Danny Frye, Electric	27 years
David McCarter, Electric	25 years
Michael Hutsell, Water & Sewer	23 years
Tim Phillips, EPW	23 years
Brad Hurst, EPW	23 years
Jason Pesterfield, MPD	22 years
Tammy Hankinson, Finance	21 years
Sherri Phillips, Finance	21 years
Dan Cantwell, EPW	20 years
Angie Luckie, Admin.	20 years
Christine Tillman, IT	17 years
John Bivens, MPD	15 years
Jamie Dyer, Water & Sewer	14 years
Dale Jayne, Dev. Services	12 years
Michael Myers, Water & Sewer	11 years
Thomas Crow, MFD	7 years
Matthew Lafon, EPW	4 years
Andrew Payne, MPD	3 years
Curtis Tate, MPD	3 years
Jason Ayers, MPD	3 years
Jonathon Riggsbee, Admin.	2 years

Payroll Date Changes in 2019

Due to the 2019 Thanksgiving & Christmas holiday schedules, the final pay date for November 2019 will be Friday, November 29, 2019. The final pay date for December 2019 will be Friday, December 27, 2019. Please make note of and prepare for this change from Thursday to Friday.

~Financial Services Department

Interactive Health Evaluations

Schedule your appointment now!

Earn 300 points towards your Interactive Health goal for participating and an additional 50 points for having the results faxed to your doctor. Go to myinteractivehealth.com. or call Interactive Health at 1-800-840-6100, 8 am – 6 pm CT to make an appointment for your evaluation. Remember, you must earn 750 points every year in order to save \$50 per month on your premium! Evaluations were moved to an earlier date this year so that those who do not meet their goal will have more time to earn the necessary points.

Operation Center - Auditorium

January 28, 2019 - January 30, 2019
6 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Maryville Municipal Center – Gary Hensley Room

February 4, 2019 - February 6, 2019
7 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Business is Booming

Spotlight on Economic & Community Development with Angie Luckie

Harbor Freight Tools, opened for business about a month ago in the former Hastings building next to Hobby Lobby. If you haven't had a chance to stop in, you really should. It's a tool lover's paradise!

The following information was taken from their website...

How does Harbor Freight sell great quality tools at the lowest prices?

We have invested millions of dollars in our own state-of-the-art quality test labs and millions more in our factories. So our tools will go toe-to-toe with the top professional brands. And we can sell them for a fraction of the price because we cut out the middleman and pass the savings on to you. It's just that simple! Come visit one of our 1000+ stores Nationwide and see why now more than ever... if you buy your tools anywhere else, you're throwing your money away!

- We'll Beat Any Competitor's Price Within 1 Year of Purchase
- No Hassle Return Policy
- 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed

Harbor Freight Tools
501 Foothills Plaza - Maryville, TN 37801
865-724-0303 - www.harborfreight.com