

# NEWS in a NUTSHELL

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF MARYVILLE



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## Years of Training Precedes MACTO's Inaugural Season

In 2015 the dream of a Maryville-Alcoa Central Traffic Operations (MACTO) Center got off the ground with a 2.65-million-dollar federal grant. Because it was federally funded, it was extremely difficult and a very slow process to get the Advanced Traffic Management System project through the environmental reviews. The approval took a full year after the design was complete. Even though it has taken so long, it was worth the effort according to Kevin Stoltenberg, City Engineer. "This project is the final piece in the traffic operations puzzle," Kevin said, "before we started, each of our traffic signal controllers had to be manually programmed in the field. We also had no real surveillance capabilities. Now that our traffic operations center is up and running, we can monitor real-time traffic conditions on several roadways at once. If we see anything that needs to be changed with the timing of the lights, we can implement the changes immediately and watch the results from the office."

Kevin added, "Jason Chai has done an excellent job taking care of the details of this project. He has worked hard to help make this successful and because of his perseverance and expertise, we have a powerful tool to make improvements to traffic conditions throughout Maryville and Alcoa".

### MACTO Team Eager to Get in the Game

In the lower level of the Municipal Center tucked away behind the double doors on the IT side, you'll find an office that looks just like any other office in the building. When you step inside, right away you'll know it couldn't possibly be more different.



Derik Hilbert troubleshooting a malfunctioning light

This office serves as Maryville and Alcoa's traffic control nerve center. First, you'll notice a large sign displaying the Traffic Operations Maxims, seven declarations that serve as a playbook which will lead the team to, "the winning edge". A huge screen covers almost one entire wall. The screen is broken up into

four different live feed views of the busiest intersections in Maryville and Alcoa. You may also see our Traffic Engineer, Jason Chai in this office. Jason earned a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and began his career at the City in December of 2018.

Since then, he's been helping to guide the Traffic Operations Center into existence while learning all he can in the field and building relationships with the Police Department, IT, Electric, and the Engineering Departments and the Sign Shops in both cities as well.

The new Traffic Operations Center offers, for the first time, the possibility of improving traffic flow as problems occur and reducing congestion in the long term too. Jason's signal management software notifies him with a pulsing red dot on the monitor and via an email, when any of the 27 currently active traffic lights throughout Maryville and Alcoa is malfunctioning. Eventually all 78 signals in the cities will be connected to the Central system. If an accident occurs in the intersection, Jason can see it in real-time and adjust the lights overhead to assist the officers directing traffic while the investigation is completed. The software facilitates better decision-making and more efficient response by counting vehicles and keeping track of the amount of time of each approach so timing issues can be detected and changed. It can analyze what the changes in one intersection will do to the next intersection, which leads to better management of all intersections. All that collected data is used for proactive maintenance and repair plans for the entire traffic network. It is also used to make changes for special events, or holidays. If a scheduled event like Summer on Broadway



MACTO. Left to right: Terry Welshan, Derik Hilbert, Jason Chai, and Kyle Newman

**Continued.** See MACTO on page 3

# People are the Key

## Congrats are in order



New Employee  
**Nicholas Crawford**  
EPW  
Grounds Maintenance  
Worker



New Employee  
**James Pearson**  
W&S  
Water Treatment Plant  
Technician



Promotion  
**Nick Galloway**  
W&S  
Water Treatment Plant  
Operator



Promotion  
**Stephen Jordan**  
EPW  
Street Construction Worker



Promotion  
**Jason Russell**  
W&S  
Senior Water Plant  
Operator



Promotion  
**Wyatt Snow**  
EPW  
Sanitation Collection Driver



Promotion  
**Logan Turbyfill**  
Electric  
Electric Lineworker Trainee

## Engineering Intern Honored

On May 13, 2021 UT Engineering Department Head Chris Cox and Senior Lecturer Jenny Retherford made a surprise visit to the City of Maryville Department of Engineering and Public Works to present the Shirley Garside award to Sharon Smith. Sharon is a Senior in Civil and Environmental Engineering and a co-op intern at the City of Maryville. This prestigious student award recognizes unusual perseverance in pursuit of a Civil Engineering degree and is only awarded in years in which a worthy recipient is identified. The award is named for Shirley Garside, who was diagnosed with cancer while enrolled as a cadet at the U.S. Naval Academy. After receiving an honorable discharge from the Academy and with a prognosis of having just six months to live, Ms. Garside enrolled in the Civil Engineering program at the University of Tennessee. While Ms. Garside excelled in the program, she succumbed to her illness shortly before graduation. The University awarded her degree posthumously following her death in 1983.



## Historic Signs to be Restored

Work has begun to restore the first of several historic signs throughout the city. Pictured below is the Champion Spark Plug sign from the 1950's. The sign was on the original T.C. Drakes Auto Parts Store on East Broadway.



## Reminder

All City offices will be closed on Monday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day. Have a safe and happy holiday!



# People are the Key

## MACTO continued from page 1

requires road closings, Jason can change the lights from his desk whereas, before this, the Traffic Techs would need to make changes in the cabinet on the roadside.

The goals of keeping traffic moving consistently and safely are shared by, as well as dependent on, our Traffic Signal Technicians. It's as if Jason is the quarterback, but without his offensive line, the team has very little chance of scoring. Terry Welshan, Derik Hilbert, and Kyle Newman install and repair the traffic control equipment. They maintain electrical systems and microprocessor-based controllers including relays, wiring, conflict monitors, signal suspension cables, poles, communication modules, underground conduits, related lighting, and vehicle detectors. They handle calibration, troubleshoot circuit boards, run diagnostic tests, and review inventory to ensure the tools and replacement parts needed are readily available. They work with and inspect the work of contractors. They maintain the flashing light beacons in school zones in Maryville and Alcoa and have provided guidance on necessary components to Fairview School for their beacon as well. When signals are not working properly, the Techs provide a summary to Jason of what was done to resolve the issue, so he has an in-depth and complete understanding of the entire system. Our Traffic Techs are required to maintain their International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA) certification with continuing education and testing every three years.

Because our little city is such a great place to live, we are experiencing a bit of a growth spurt. As expected, the number of vehicles on our streets has increased substantially as well. Our Traffic A-Team, Jason, Terry, Derik, and Kyle will be tasked with leading the charge for keeping congestion on our roads to a minimum while safety stays at the forefront. With that in mind, the opening of the new MACTO Center couldn't come at a better time. This team of dedicated professionals working behind the scenes to make sure traffic runs as smoothly as possible, is armed and ready for the challenge, and they absolutely have the winning edge.

This season... it's going to be a great one!

## TRAFFIC OPERATIONS MAXIMS

- 1) Ensure the **SAFE OPERATION** of all traffic signals within this jurisdiction.
- 2) Ensure the **EFFICIENT OPERATION** of all traffic signals within this jurisdiction.
- 3) Ensure the **PROPER DETECTION** of vehicles and pedestrians at all times.
- 4) Maintain the **COMMUNICATION PATHS** from operations center to field devices.
- 5) Regularly **COLLECT DATA** for traffic volume and signal performance measures.
- 6) Keep **ACCURATE RECORDS** of all data for signal timing and maintenance.
- 7) Be certain of the **SECURITY** of all data and field devices.

...for this is "THE WINNING EDGE."



## The Facebook Files

Proof that Facebook CAN be a good thing



Maryvilles Finest does it all!



Write a comment...



Pictured above: MPD Officer Steven Dotson helping make snow cones at Foothills Elementary.

## Kudos for a Job Well Done

Our junk and yard waste was picked up this morning, and I want to complement the driver for doing such an awesome job of getting everything picked up without harming our lawn. We're new in town, and this is only the second time we've set stuff out to be picked up. I don't know if it was the same driver last month, but he did an equally great job. Please pass along my thanks for doing such a skillful job.



1616 Cherry Drive • Maryville 37804

*Tim Lane is the EPW employee who represented the City and impressed the citizen above.*

## Resident Appreciates the Extra Help

Ms. Babs Finley on Portsmouth Circle called and left this voicemail message on the EPW phone, "I am calling to let you know that the man who picks up my garbage, two times now, has gotten out of the truck and rolled my can up to the garage for me. He actually stopped the truck and got out and rolled it up for me. I live in a retirement community and he has seen me out there. I just wanted to let you know that you have people employed at the city that are awesome! Keep up the good work, and thank you so much!"

*Eric Middleton is the EPW employee who helped this citizen with her garbage can after he emptied it.*

# Applause Please

## July Birthdays

- 1 Debbie Ryan, Finance
- 2 Nicholas Crawford, EPW
- 3 Charles Fipps, MFD  
Darryl Adams, Electric
- 4 Michael Braden, MPD
- 5 Chance Anderson, EPW
- 7 Greg McClain, Admin  
Scott Poland, Dev. Services  
Kevin Stoltenberg, Dev. Services  
Chad Wilson, EPW
- 8 Mike Caylor, MFD  
Marcus Walker, MPD  
Jordan Marshall, EPW
- 12 Rod Fernandez, MPD  
Travis Hill, MPD
- 13 D.J. Porter, MPD
- 15 Keith Anderson, W&S  
Eric Maynard, MPD
- 16 Derik Hilbert, EPW
- 18 Dusty Finger, Electric
- 20 Randy Thompson, MFD  
Logan Rogers, MFD
- 21 Cody Whitehead, W&S
- 22 Tyler Kirkland, W&S
- 24 Jeff Kirchburg, W&S
- 25 Austin Headrick, MFD
- 26 Terry McCoy, IT  
Dewayne Shoffner, Electric
- 28 Jerry Barnes, Finance  
Donnie Williams, Electric
- 31 Chance Hawkins, MFD



## July Anniversaries

- David Graves, MPD 37 years
- Bill Walt, Electric 34 years
- Stay Chissay, EPW 33 years
- Ralph Goodson, Finance 32 years
- Keith Wilson, W&S 32 years
- Doug Short, Electric 31 years
- Ricky Cummings, EPW 28 years
- Johnny Garner, EPW 28 years
- Charlie Martinez, MFD 26 years
- Tony Clark, MFD 26 years
- Jim Yearout, Electric 26 years
- Chad Simpson, MPD 25 years
- Teresa Rucker, Finance 25 years
- Amy Woody, Electric 25 years
- Richard Johnson, Electric, 23 years
- Tony Hatcher, W&S 18 years
- Ray Boswell, Admin 16 years
- Jonathan Ellenburg, Electric 14 years
- Mark Hasty, MFD 13 years
- Jason Barham, MPD 9 years
- Clayton Hall, MPD 6 years
- Jacob Curtis, MPD 5 years
- Matt Tipton, MPD 5 years
- Adam Cook, MPD 5 years
- Bryson Dykes, MFD 3 years
- Trever Nix, MPD 3 years
- Chance Anderson, EPW 2 years
- Jackson Morton, EPW 1 year
- Jason White, W&S 1 year

## Foothills Substation Work Continues

The Electric Department "pulling wire" on June 2, 2021.



Doug Short, Electric, pictured here pulling 795 primary wire from the reel to be used for building new distribution circuits coming from the new Foothills Substation.

## Glory Days 🕶️

Heirloom photos of City Employees from back in the day.



Ray Boswell, GIS Manager at work. Circa 2009.