

# NEWS in a NUTSHELL

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF MARYVILLE



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## Making a Connection with the W&S Utility Construction Team

*They've got this - 24/7*

**At the crack of dawn**, one by one, they file into an Op Center break room where the smell of fresh coffee fills the air. On a T.V. overhead, news anchors and meteorologists prepare listeners for the day. The Supervisors are putting the finishing touches on the plan for the day's work and communicating the details to their crews in low voices. Every now and then a roar of laughter breaks out as good friends and co-workers taunt each other before they get down to business. These seventeen men and three supervisors who gather here each morning work together to keep the City of Maryville water and sewer system working and available for use every hour of every day of the year. They are our Water and Sewer Utility Construction team. Being prepared to respond to unexpected calls for repairs at all hours is so ingrained into their routine that they wonder "why not" when the middle-of-the-night-call doesn't come. They work

together, sometimes with no need for words. Each man is fully aware of what is expected and needed to accomplish the work of the day. It's a brotherhood made up of a wide range of ages and experience, a group of men who have each other's backs. The youngest of the group learning their craft from the older generation who are happy to pass their vast knowledge down to those who will eventually follow in their footsteps.

The Utility Construction Workers are caretakers for almost 300 miles of waterline, and 265 miles of sewer lines in our area. Their work encompasses all the lines within the city limits and as far out as the Knox County line, all the way to Union Grove Road on Hwy. 321, from Clover Hill Road on Hwy. 411S, and well beyond the water plant on Sevierville Road.

While most people don't realize that Utility Construction can be a dangerous job or something that cries out for attention 24/7, it certainly is both of these things. Working in deep man-made ditches, some as deep as 24ft., on top of tall water towers, and along side heavy equipment presents the kinds of dangers workers have to be constantly aware of. And just like a lot of things in life, broken water mains and sewer back-ups have no sense of day or night. After a period of several months of on the job training, a new employee is added to the "on call" list and is expected to be ready and able to respond to a call for help, including everything from sewer backups to main breaks, no matter what time the call comes in.

### What Causes Sewer Backups and Water Main Breaks?

The most common cause of sewer backups is a clog in the line. Solid material builds up in the pipes connecting a house to the city sewer line. This prevents wastewater from flowing out, eventually causing a backup.



Dave Boring

Sewer pipes can become clogged due to an excess of fats and oils, food waste, coffee grounds, hair, toilet paper, baby wipes, or other materials flushed down the drain. Many blockages occur as a result of tree roots growing into sewer pipes. Roots collect grease and animal fat poured down drains. Over time, this collection of debris can cause a backup. Breaks in water mains usually happen due to temperature fluctuations, especially in the spring and fall seasons or during very cold periods.

### Leaders of Men

Paul Gilley, Dave Boring, and Scotty Martin, Utility Crew Supervisors, lead four crews who are responsible for water and sewer line construction, maintenance and repair and installation of connections



Scotty Martin



Paul Gilley

### Inside the Nut

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- Retirements and Just Starting Out!

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# Graduates 2019



Graduating from William Blount High

**Katelyn Brewer**  
**Daughter of Kristy & Keith Brewer (EPW)**

*Future Plans: Attending UTC majoring in Mechanical Engineering.*  
Graduated WBHS with Honors; member of National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS); Chick-Fil-A Leader Academy; Young Life. Received HOPE Scholarship, Provost Scholarship, WBHS Brandon Vick Memorial Scholarship



Graduating from Vanderbilt

**Janelle Brown**  
**Daughter of Jana Brown (W&S)**

*Bachelor of Science in Human & Organizational Development (Education Policy track and Cognitive Studies). She will Pursue a Master's in Public Policy.*  
Honors: Vanderbilt Peabody College Scholastic Achievement Scholarship and Outstanding Education Policy Graduate



Graduating from Milligan College

**Haley Cunningham**  
**Daughter of Jennifer Cunningham (MPD)**

*Bachelor of Science in Nursing.*  
Future Plans: Working at University of Tennessee Medical Center.



Graduating from Heritage High

**Tyler Hurst**

**Son of Amy and Brad Hurst (EPW)**

*Graduating with Honors.*

*Ty will be attending Thomas More University in Crestview Hills, KY on an Academic and Football Scholarship.*



Graduating from Tennessee Tech

**Scott Nelson**

**Son of Maria Nelson (Dev. Serv.)**  
Scott majored in Biology (B.S.) with a minor in Business and Environmental Science. He also earned an Associates Degree from Roane State (2016).



Graduating from Tusculum University with BS. in Management

**Derek Phillips**  
**Son of Mark and Sherri Phillips (Finance)**

*Currently working at Clayton in I.T.*



Graduating with Distinction from Maryville High (in the 100th Class)

**Sydney Phillips**  
**Granddaughter of Wendy (W&S) and Tim Phillips (EPW)**

*Future Plans: Attending the University of Tennessee Knoxville HOPE Scholarship*



Graduating from Alcoa High

**Makinley Perkins**

**Daughter of Gary & Stephanie Perkins (MPD)**

*Future plans: BSRN. Honors: Tri-Star Scholar, State Distinction, District Distinction, National Honors Society, Summa Cum Laude.*



Graduating from Maryville High

**Katie Thompson**

**Daughter of Paula and Randy Thompson (MFD)**

*Future plans: Attending Bryan College on Academic and Softball Scholarship. Katie plans to earn a degree in Elementary Education.*



Graduating from University of Tennessee College of Nursing

**Christa Wheeler**

**Daughter of Vickie and Mark Wheeler (Electric)**

*Future plans: Entering the Nurse Residency Program at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville.*

## Applause Please....

### Coffee with a Cop



Lt. Chad Simpson chats with a young man at the Coffee with a Cop event held at Bojangles on Tuesday, April 23, 2019. The Alcoa Police Department and Blount County Sheriff's Department were also in attendance.

### W&S - Continued from page 1

to city water and/or sewer service. They are also responsible for repairing, installing and replacing water meters, manholes, and fire hydrants, cut offs for customers who don't pay their bills, and then hook ups when they re-establish service. Paul, Dave and Scotty regularly rotate their crews within the department in order for each man to experience a diverse range of work for cross training purposes and constant learning. All three supervisors were quick to point out that their men are the movers of the mountains. Paul said it best when he said, "these guys make things happen, I just tell them where they are needed each day." Dave added, "I feel like the men in our department would do anything for me if I were in need, and I would do the same for them." All three worry that as employees get closer to retirement, although they are able to pass along their skills to the younger generation, they'll never be able to give those that follow the memories of details of the jobs they've completed over the years. For example, the week of May 6, Paul's crew was upgrading 10" pipe to 12" on Columbus Street. This change was necessary to accommodate the new subdivisions added to the area. Paul had first hand knowledge of what was underground because he was on the crew who installed the original 10" pipe so many years ago.

Paul, Dave and Scotty have all seen a lot of changes over the years, most of them for the better. Scotty has been a City of Maryville employee for 32 years. Paul has completed 39 years and Dave is working on 41 years. Both Paul and Dave have been here for so long they remember the name of the donkey that once provided "horse power" for the W&S crews. To be clear: neither ever worked with Rosin, but when they were new to their jobs almost 40 years ago the old timers often told colorful stories about her. The fact that Paul and Dave remember Rosin's name is always a source of lots of good natured banter from the younger men on their crews.

Advancements in technology and equipment over the years has made W&S jobs more efficient and safer, as well as much faster. They've come a long way since Rosin's days. One of the advancements made in recent years that has become very much appreciated are the computer tablets the W&S department uses that help locate buried lines and other utilities via GIS mapping. They have become a valuable tool and a time and money saver. A call in the middle of the night about a broken water main means the source of the water needs to be determined and eliminated as soon as possible before repairs can begin. The W&S crew on call can quickly and easily locate the shut off valve via the tablet whereas before finding it was much more difficult and time consuming.

The entire city of Maryville relies on these twenty men to keep our water and sewer system up and running at all times. Most of us probably take for granted that when we step into the shower there will be an ample supply of water, the next load of laundry will be just another non-event in our lives, and our toilets will do their job as expected too. Most of us probably don't even think about our sewer and water unless there is a problem, and that is just how the Utility Construction Team wants it to be. Our City of Maryville crews are professionals who are committed to accomplishing their work with as little disruption to the citizens as possible. They embrace their support role and prefer to carry out their mission with little or no recognition. They smile politely and offer apologetic words when an angry citizen complains about a road closure. They quietly do their part to keep our homes our sanctuaries where all our basic needs are met during the day and they rise in the night to do the same, and they do it all with a champion's heart.

### Citizens Thank MPD & W&S

#### MPD officer patient and kind

Hello. My name is Katie Jones. I had a very minor wreck yesterday and just wanted to compliment the police officer that came, Cpl. Travis Hill. It happened at 6:35 p.m. on May 1, at the intersection in front of National Fitness. The officer was so nice and did not seem annoyed that a call was made for such a minor thing. I had my 7 month old with me and just wanted to make sure everything was ok (baby, car seat, vehicle, other driver) since I was hit from behind. Thankfully everything was fine and we went on with our day. I would just like it to be passed along to Cpl. Hill how great it was to have him be so nice to me and then also be patient with the elderly gentleman that hit me. Maryville Police Department is awesome! Thanks so much for all you do.

-Katie Jones

#### Break down in a construction zone

Kudos to the Maryville Police Department! My wife broke down on Hwy. 321 yesterday and had to leave her SUV parked on the side of the road. The problem was, it was in a construction zone. My daughter got my wife to work before I got there. By the time I arrived an officer by the name of Cpl. Jamie Long stayed with me blocking traffic to prevent an accident. He also called a tow truck that responded quickly. Jamie was very nice, polite and an all around great guy. With all the negative press about law enforcement officers now, I wanted to pass this on. Thanks Jamie and Maryville Police Department.

-Roger Smith

#### Builder compliments Water & Sewer

The Water Department recently installed a line in the development that I am currently working on. When the crew arrived there were only 4 guys and everyone piled out of the truck and began sawing asphalt, exposing utility lines, and assembling parts. They all knew their part and worked toward one end. I enjoyed watching them work together!

# People are the Key

## June Birthdays

2	Matthew Clark, EPW
5	Joey Hartline, W&S
7	Katie Pledge, Finance
	Stleveland Green, EPW
9	Thomas Vananda, EPW
10	Ron Breazeale, W&S
12	Scotty Martin, W&S
14	Kevin Whitehead, EPW
15	Steve Holte, EPW
	Matt Lafon, EPW
16	John Foley, MPD
17	Tony Crisp, MPD
18	Jake Kagle, EPW
	Michael Hutsell, W&S
19	Zach Amburn, EPW
20	Doyle Prince, W&S
22	Stacy Frye, W&S
23	Steven Kennedy, Electric
	Ryan Hickman, MPD
	Stay Chissay, EPW
	Darrell Lewelling, W&S
26	Scott Spicer, MPD
28	Curtis Tate, MPD
29	Doug Short, Electric
30	Julie Anderson, Electric



Left to right: James Bond, Steve Davis, Baron Swafford, Christy Cagle-Brooks of TVA, Tom Irwin of TVA, Debbie Ryan, Sherri Phillips, and Ralph Goodson.

## TVA Recognizes Electric Department

Dear City of Maryville Electric Department,

The EnergyRight® Solutions team would like to personally thank you for all of your efforts in helping to make 2018 a great year for the Tennessee Valley. Our partnership with you enabled us to exceed our load management target goals for the 11th year in a row!

City of Maryville Electric Department was a powerful partner in helping achieve these accomplishments and your company was recognized in the 2018 Highlights Report as a Top Performer in EnergyRight® Solutions for Industry. Congratulations!

## June Anniversaries

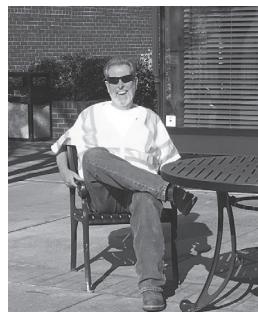
Debbie Ryan, Finance	38 years
Brian Myers, Finance	33 years
Dennis Effler, EPW	31 years
Steven Kennedy, Electric	30 years
James Hurst, Electric	30 years
Eddie King, MPD	30 years
Carlos Hess, MPD	28 years
Brian Gray, EPW	23 years
Eddie Davis, MPD	23 years
Darin Carver, MPD	23 years
Sid Davis, Electric	22 years
Scott Brown, Electric	21 years
Randy Cupp, Finance	20 years
Shane Collins, MPD	20 years
John Spence, EPW	15 years
Brian Boone, EPW	14 years
Jill Ridings, Finance	14 years
Jessica Cooper, W&S	13 years
Dusty Finger, Electric	12 years
William Potter, W&S	7 years
Adam Parton, W&S	7 years
Steve Green, EPW	4 years
Garrett Holloway, MFD	2 years
Mark Huffstetler, Finance,	1 year
Katie Pledge, Finance	1 year



Retiring June 27

**Danny Baldwin**  
EPW

35 years of service



Retiring June 28

**Dennis Effler**  
EPW

31 years of service



Retiring July 5

**Wayne Lewis**  
EPW

20 years of service



New Employee

**Kelly Duggan**  
Senior Planner

Development Services