

NEWS in a NUTSHELL

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF MARYVILLE



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March 2021

Engineering a Community of Encouragement and Support



Sharon Smith, the City of Maryville's Engineering Intern, grew up in Hawkins County, Tennessee. She and her older brother, Adam, were active in their church, and it was there that as young adults they met a kind family who invited them into their lives. They taught them about love and Jesus with their actions and their words. The Smith siblings had found a much-needed community of encouragement and support and soon began to regard this family as their own.

After High School, Sharon enrolled at Walters State Community College at the Morristown campus. Her graduation day was looming, and she was still unsure of what career path she wanted to pursue. She had been asking for guidance in her prayers and she scheduled a meeting with her advisor for her input as well. As they talked about her strengths and her deep desire to help people, they began to consider engineering. Sharon had always excelled in math and enjoyed it immensely. Her advisor suggested that a career in engineering would allow her to use her math skills and take care of people through the safe design of civil projects. It made perfect sense to Sharon to combine the two, so she began her mission to become a Civil Engineer and transferred to UT Knoxville.

Throughout her young life, Sharon has placed a high value on the guidance and support of the people who have been placed in her life. She is laser-focused on the things she needs to do to be successful, but she takes the time to cultivate relationships along the way. While some people never bother to connect with their college professors, Sharon has. It isn't unusual for her to stop by their offices to discuss a lecture, a test, an assignment, and sometimes even her doubts about a difficult field of study. The support and encouragement they offer, along with her grit and determination, help Sharon to keep working towards her goal, no matter how many roadblocks she might encounter.

The opportunity to participate in an internship through UT presented itself for the fall of 2020. Dr. J, her professor thought Sharon would be a good fit for the City of Maryville Internship. She contacted Kevin Stoltenberg, City Engineer and a mentor at UT for senior design students in the engineering department, asking if he would consider interviewing Sharon. And just like that, Sharon once again found herself in a community of encouragement and support. Working with Kevin and Chuck Rowen, EPW Civil Engineer has given her "a safe environment to ask

questions in, while putting this massive engineering puzzle together," she said. The two men take time to help her learn, always explaining the why and the how. They tell her that as a student, she's still learning the complex field of engineering. They remind her that the foundation of engineering is to serve people well while prioritizing safety. It's the unspoken mission of our civil engineers... just what Sharon had set out to do when she first considered engineering as a career choice.

The Jarvis Park Project

In the first week of her internship, Kevin handed her the construction plans for Jarvis Park and asked her to get familiar with the project. She studied the specs and got a good idea of what would be expected of the contractor. Since then, Kevin has included her at almost every turn of the project. She has been a willing participant in the bidding process, she's attended meetings with contractors, made phone calls, assisted with the landscape design, and even shopped for the plants.



She was also responsible for taking progress photos of the project to document the entire process. While on-site one day she stopped to take a photo and realized that she was standing in the absolute perfect spot to place a bench next to the creek along the South Loop of the trail. Kevin asked her to GPS the spot when she mentioned her discovery to him later. (You can sit on that bench now that the park is open and see and hear for yourself that it really was the perfect spot). Kevin allowed Sharon to become completely invested in Jarvis Park. Because he placed his confidence in Sharon, and the fact that he and Chuck encouraged her and supported her, she will leave her internship ten times more confident in her abilities. "I got to watch the park go from plans on paper to reality and I contributed to the process. I couldn't be more thankful for this experience," Sharon shared while wearing the biggest, most fearless smile!

Sharon's internship with the City will continue through the coming summer and she will graduate from UT in May of 2022. After graduation, she will enter the workforce where she will be able to use her internship experience to be a contributing member of another team. Chances are good that down the road a bit when she has many years of experience in civil engineering, she will be the one providing a community of support and encouragement to someone just like herself who seeks a safe environment to ask questions in, while putting this massive engineering puzzle together.

Applause Please

Jarvis Park Ready to Welcome Dog Walkers and Serenity Seekers



Mayor Andy White, Mrs. and Dr. Craig Jarvis, Jim Cornett and his son, & former Mayor Tom Taylor cut the ribbon to officially open Jarvis Park.

On February 19, 2021 City officials and supporters of the Jarvis Park project gathered for a ribbon cutting ceremony that signaled the completion of a new park in the city and a three year long labor of love.

Jarvis Park lies off Court Street just north of the Vulcan Materials Soccer Fields. It's a 10-acre peaceful retreat. A sweet babbling creek borders the trail and works together with singing birds to provide background music for a hike among the 200+ year old trees. Stop to rest on a bench or enjoy a quick bite on one of the picnic tables while you're there. Dogs are welcome to walk the trail with you as long as they are on a leash and you are willing to clean up after them.

EPW Plants a tree for NSDAR Chapter

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890, during a time when women felt the desire to express their patriotic feelings but were frustrated by their exclusion from men's organizations. As a result, a group of pioneering women in the nation's capital formed their own organization, and the Daughters of the American Revolution has been active ever since.



Above, Thomas Vananda, Tyler Breazeale, Edmond Greene, and Stephen Jordan, EPW employees and Myrtle James, Regent of the Mary Blount Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution stand next to a newly planted tree. The Mary Blount Chapter NSDAR was organized on April 12, 1921. The tree was planted next to the pavilion in Jack Greene Park, in celebration of their 100th anniversary.

Gov Deals User Tips his Hat to Bill Walt

My question? WHY IS THE PERSON THAT POSTED THIS NOT DOING MARKETING FOR ALL OF GOV DEALS. I like buying 4X4's, but I may buy this just because. GREAT JOB!

From the Facebook Files

Citizen praises EPW on Maryville Matters Facebook Page - Ashley Hull (posted on January 25 at 11:56 AM)

!! Shout out to Maryville City Sanitation !!

Our "junk" pickup is scheduled to be tomorrow so we have all the stuff we wanted rid of all together in the garage neatly placed. The truck comes in the neighborhood and I run up to the truck and nervously ask "can I please grab some things I want taken, I thought you were coming tomorrow and I planned to get it out at some point today but haven't yet." The gentleman (not pictured) smiled and said, "yes ma'am, no problem." I run to the garage and low and behold he is right behind me lending a helping hand to drag it all to the curb. I continually thank him for his generosity to help and taking the time to wait on me. These men didn't have to wait nor help and it literally took maybe 2 minutes so it wasn't like it was a heavy duty job but the kindness they showed didn't go unnoticed. I hope if anyone knows the men on today's route behind 321 Weigles, they tell them how much they were appreciated for going above and beyond today!! Obviously if it didn't get picked up there's always next month but it feels so nice to declutter.
#HappyRant #AlwaysBeKind #GiveThanksWhereItsDue

Johnny Garner (pictured below) and Eric Bailey, thank you for going the extra mile for the citizens we serve. ❤️



People are the Key

Streets Department Repairs MC Bridge

In January the Streets Dept. began work to repair the pedestrian bridge that crosses Lamar Alexander Pkwy. at College Street.

The first order of business to complete the repairs was to find the 2.5" thick western cedar needed to replace the hand rails. Anderson Lumber Co. located the wood and special ordered it for the Engineering and Public Works department. Both the top and bottom rails were replaced and all 360 pickets were sanded and repainted. The cement and brick on the bridge needed to be pressure washed, and the cracks had to be sealed. The next item on the to-do list was to pour concrete pads around each bridge column to prevent mud from splattering up on the bridge. After four solid weeks of work, the bridge was deemed good as new and re-opened to the public.

The photo below was taken as the new hand rails were being installed.



Glory Days 🕶️

Heirloom photos of City Employees from back in the day.



Kelly Hembree, EPW and Wayne Louis (retired) pictured next to the Maryville College Bridge as repair work began approximately 20 years ago.

Daylight Savings Time Reminder

Don't forget to move your clocks one hour ahead on Sunday, March 14 and check the battery in your smoke detectors. DST begins each year on the second Sunday in March at 2 a.m. and ends on the first Sunday in November.

Bear Statue

On February 2 Engineering and Public Works installed on the Greenway Trail, a carved oak statue of two bears in a tree stump by artist Gene Webb of Townsend. The statue was donated by Buzz Thomas, Judge Kelly Thomas, and Andy Morton. The three men thought it would be a great way to beautify a 4' stump that was left after a tree had to be removed from the trail.



Edmond Greene, Grounds Superintendent, and his EPW crew paused for a group photo after successfully installing the statue. Back row, left to right: Lucas McCall, Kyler Love, Edmond Greene. Middle row: Stephen Jordan, Kelly Hembree, Logan Thomas, Brandon Nichols, Nick Yoakum, Jared Belcher. Front row: Ernie Herin, and Thomas Vananda.

Bette Approves and Highly Recommends!

Jane Groff's side kick, Bette, gave her approval to Jarvis Park following her guided tour. Bette gave the creek two paws up.



People are the Key

March Birthdays

- 2 Jason Ayers, MPD
- 4 Jason Barham, MPD
Edmond Greene, EPW
- 5 Mike Davis, W&S
- 7 Jason Chai, EPW
- 8 Jason Cable, W&S
David England, W&S
Ron Nugent, EPW
- 10 Perla Garrett, Finance
- 11 Doug Chapman, EPW
Mike Davis, MFD
- 12 Jewell White, MPD
- 14 Caleb Smith, MFD
Jeremy Snyder, EPW
- 15 Jake Curtis, MPD
- 17 Garrett Holloway, MFD
- 18 Stephen Jordan, EPW
Danny Wilson, W&S
- 19 Ernie Herin, EPW
Cody Herron, W&S
- 20 Adam Cook, MPD
Mike Hicks, MPD
- 21 Jane Ellis, Finance
Bobby Queen, MFD
- 22 Rickie Trentham, W&S
- 23 Ronnie Irwin, EPW
- 24 Bobby McKeel, MPD
Robert Woods, MFD
- 27 Tyler Buckingham, MPD
Heath Hampton, W&S
Ross Jamerson, MPD
Andrew Payne, MPD
- 28 Kim Walker, Finance
- 29 Todd Hall, W&S
- 31 Ray Boswell, Admin.
David Graves, MPD



March Anniversaries

- Doug Strickland, EPW 38 years
- Danny Kimsey, W&S 37 years
- Joey Hartline, W&S 36 years
- Scott Poland, Dev. Services 36 years
- Mark Wheeler, Electric 35 years
- Mike Seagle, Electric 34 years
- Eric Holder, W&S 31 years
- James Bond, Electric 27 years
- Brad Poplin, Electric 25 years
- Marcus Walker, MPD 23 years
- Kevin Whitehead, EPW 22 years
- Wendy Phillips, W&S 21 years
- Keith Anderson, W&S 20 years
- Sam Newport, Electric 19 years
- Shawn Ridings, EPW 17 years
- Robert Anderson, Electric 7 years
- Jordan Marshall, EPW 6 years
- Michael Wilson, Electric 5 years
- Matthew Watson, MPD 4 years
- Bradlee Myers, EPW 3 years
- Jason Russell, W&S 3 years
- Thorn Cooper, W&S 2 years
- Aaron Inman, EPW 2 years
- Cody Teffeteller, W&S 2 years
- Mike Brusseau, Dev. Services 1 year
- Nick Galloway, W&S 1 year
- Taylor Harrison, W&S 1 year
- Blake Henegar, Dev. Services 1 year
- Mike McClurg, W&S 1 year
- Chris Meyers, MPD 1 year



New Employee 12/19/20
Alyssa Estabrook
MPD
Police Officer



New Employee 2/2/21
Ben Keck
W&S
Utility Plant Mechanic I



New Employee 2/1/21
Kaleb Russell
MFD
Reserve Firefighter



New Employee 2/15/21
Charles Teffeteller
Electric
Electric Engineer



Promotion
Steve Kennedy
Electric
Lead Vehicle and
Equipment Mechanic