

NEWS in a NUTSHELL

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF MARYVILLE



Volume 40, Number 11 | All Heart Edition

November 2020

Stay Chissay wins Prestigious Award



The Tennessee Chapter of American Public Works Association recently awarded Stay Chissay, one of Maryville's public works employees, the 2020 Murphy

Snoderly Award. Nominees from 350 other municipalities in the State of Tennessee were considered for this honor.

Stay has been an employee of the Sanitation Department for 32 years. A sanitation collection Crew Leader, he began his career with the City in 1988 on the back of a sanitation collection truck. In 1992 he was promoted to Sanitation Collection Driver, then in 2004 promoted again, this time to Crew Leader. He credits his success to the Sanitation Superintendent, Dan Cantwell, for pushing him to think outside the box, and get out of his comfort zone. Cantwell, and Assistant Public Works Director, Tim Phillips, nominated Stay for this prestigious award for his dedicated service to the city, his ability to adapt to change, and his impeccable safety record. For a little over 3 decades Stay has been one of the most reliable employees in City history. He has trained countless new crew members and provided exceptional customer service to the citizens of Maryville.

Stay was born near Cibecue, AZ on the White Mountain Apache Tribe Reservation. He grew up a foster child in Maryville, TN with a family who were friends of his grandfather's. After graduation from Heritage High School, Stay found a job at J&J Security and moved into an apartment. He married his high school sweetheart, Barbara on September 19, 1992. She and Stay celebrated their 28th anniversary this year. Stay is still head over heels in love, "My wife Barbara is the love of my life. She is the inspiration behind everything I do. Barbara is the best wife and friend that God could ever bless a man with," he explained.

Early on Stay chose to lead by example and has practiced that perspective throughout his career. For over 20 years, Stay didn't use one single sick day, and has used only a handful of

days in the last several years. "I know I can always count on Stay to step up, he always makes himself available if help is needed in other areas of Solid Waste. He has a very humble manner. That combined with his work ethic makes him an excellent example for other employees to follow," Cantwell said. Stay is well known by his co-workers as someone who is always available and ready to help others both at work and in his personal life. He is extremely well liked at the City, "There isn't anybody who doesn't like Stay," declared Tim Phillips.

The award's namesake, Murphy Snoderly, was an engineering and public works consultant for the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service. He believed that the "working people," who perform tasks like garbage pickup or pothole repair, and without whom a city could not function properly, should be recognized for all that they do. Only operations level employees—working people—are eligible for the Murphy Snoderly Award. The recipient is selected from a slate of statewide candidates and is considered the state's most outstanding non-administrative public works employee.

Congratulations from your work family Stay. We couldn't possibly be any prouder of you!



Stay accepted his award at last month's City Council Meeting on October 6, 2020. Several of his EPW co-workers were there to support him and even gave him two standing ovations. Back Row Left to right: Michael Alexander, Logan Turbyfill, Brad Hurst, Brian Gray, Jordan Marshall. Front Row: Eric Bailey, Stay, Aaron Inman, Jeremy Snyder, Johnny Garner

Applause Please



Promotion
Michael Alexander
 EPW
 Sanitation Collection
 Crew Leader



Promotion
Tony Bailey
 Electric
 Senior Electric
 Engineering Technician



Promotion
Joe Bogart
 Finance
 Purchasing Agent



Promotion
David Morton
 Finance
 Purchasing/Contracts
 Manager



New Employee
Shawn Garnett
 Finance
 Warehouse Inventory
 Coordinator

Salt Bin Open for Business

Engineering and Public Works stands at the ready for winter



Brian Boone, Angie Luckie, and Tim Phillips prepare to cut the ribbon to open EPW's band new, long awaited Salt Bin at the Open House on September 30.

Glory Days

Heirloom photos of City Employees from back in the day.



Animal Control Crew 2005. Left to right: Danny McKee , Kenneth Crowder and Marcus Walker.

Veterans Day November 11, 2020



This holiday started as a day to reflect upon the heroism of those who died in our country's service and was originally called Armistice Day. It fell on Nov. 11 because that is the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I, formally recognized on the "11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month" in 1918. In 1954, the holiday was

changed to "Veterans Day" in order to account for all veterans in all wars. We celebrate and honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. (military.com)

Drive-thru Flu Shot Clinic

The Blount Co. Health Dept. will hold a free drive-thru flu shot clinic on November 19 and they are currently offering drive-up flu shots at their McGee St. office. Those wishing to receive their shot while remaining in their car will complete registration over the phone upon arrival. A nurse will then come to the car and provide the immunization at no cost.

Call the Blount County Health Department at 865-983-4582 for more information.

2021 Holiday Calendar Announcement

In 2021 the City will observe the following 10 holidays.

- New Year's Day** - Friday, January 1
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day** - Monday January 18
- Good Friday** - Friday, April 2
- Memorial Day** - Monday, May 31
- Independence Day** - Monday, July 5
- Labor Day** - Monday, September 6
- Thanksgiving Day** - Thursday, November 25
- The day after Thanksgiving** - Friday, November 26
- Christmas Eve, Eve-** Thursday, December 23
- Christmas Eve** - Friday, December 24

People are the Key

Madison Wethington Graduates as the First Female Traffic Motor Officer

New Female Motorcycle Officer is also the First in the County

Maryville Police Officer Madison Wethington achieved a first for the City of Maryville on Friday, October 2, 2020. She became the first female officer to graduate from the City's Motor Unit training program and is officially the newest of the eight-person traffic motor team.

The motorcycle training program is an intensive two-week program taught by instructors certified by the Institute of Police Technology and Management (IPTM) – a gold standard for training in the police field. Certification requires completion of the rigorous training course which tests the ability to properly and safely operate a police motorcycle and demonstrate a basic mastery of those applicable skills.

"It's demanding to pass this program because it's a demanding job. We work in all conditions, all hours of the day and night," said Corporal Ben Belitz, IPTM certified trainer and member of the City's traffic motor unit.

Officer Wethington explained, "Being on the motor team has been a goal of mine since day one of the Police Academy. I wanted to prove that I could do everything my motorcycle colleagues could do," she said. "I wanted to be part of that team."

According to Wethington, "The hardest part for me was mental. It was knowing the motorcycle will do what it is designed to do if you just trust your ability and have the confidence to do it."

Police Chief Tony Crisp emphasized, "This is a very intense and difficult process and tests the ability to function in high stress situations. Very few are cut out to be certified as a motor officer." Chief Crisp said, "With her level-headed demeanor, abilities, determination and work ethic, Officer Wethington happens to be the first female to do so in the history of our department."



Crisp said, "Wethington showed us she had what it takes and that she wasn't going to take no for an answer. She had a goal and she worked very hard to achieve it. I'm extremely proud of her and know she will be an example to other young women who want to grow up and follow in her footsteps."

Wethington said of the Chief's comment, "That really makes me proud, to think I could inspire a little girl to believe she can do anything – to live her dreams."

Officer Wethington has been with the department since January 22, 2019 as a reserve officer and was hired full time on June 23, 2019.

Ed Young ▶ Maryville Matters

Conversation Starter
October 16 at 5:35 PM

Maryville Greenbelt, below library, about 3:00pm today.
Do you see the whale cloud with his tail flipped over his back?
Hoping for a smile, this pandemic won't last forever.



Flexible Spending Accounts for 2021

Don't let this excellent benefit pass you by!

Information regarding the medical reimbursement and dependent care accounts will be distributed soon!

If you have any consistent medical, dental or vision expenses that you know you will incur in 2021, you can apply those dollars to the pre-tax Flexible Spending Account (up to \$2,500). The money you pledge to put in the account during the year will be available to you on January 1st. You can spend it throughout the year.

You can also pay your child care expenses (up to \$5,000) on a pre-tax basis if you would like to take advantage of the Dependent Care benefit.

The enrollment form for 2021 deductions must be turned in to Patty Cox in Human Resources by December 4th. Remember, your previous election will not carry over. A new FSA enrollment form is required.

Reimbursements will be processed through the payroll system and will be applied to your pay check. Documentation of your expenses must be submitted to Patty Cox in Human Resources by the Friday before the next pay date.

If you have any questions about how this program works, call Patty at 273-3427.

ACTION REQUIRED!

City employees are required to acknowledge certain policies on an annual basis. You can do so by going to the employee page on the website (maryvillegov.com/employees). At the top of the page under the title, Important Message! Action Required by November 15, click on the Ethics Policy link & Drug-free Workplace Policy Agreement link to review each. To acknowledge that these policies were provided to you, enter your name and department, click on Yes, I confirm, and then Submit. It's as easy and quick! The deadline to complete the review is November 15, 2020.

People are the Key

November Birthdays

- 2 Chuck Rowan, Engineering
- 3 Jerry Hall, W&S
- 4 Brad Poplin, Electric
- 5 Tom Bible, W&S
- 6 Jana Brown, W&S
- 8 Josh Richards, MFD
- 9 John Roberson, EPW
Kyle Reimer, MPD
Mike McClurg, W&S
- 10 Steve Davis, Electric
- 13 Leland Blackwood, Admin.
Matthew Tipton, MPD
- 16 Derrick McMurray, MPD
- 18 Sarah Harris, MFD
- 21 Brian Myers, Finance
Jill Ridings, Finance
- 22 Matthew Gagnon, MFD
William Pedigo, EPW
- 24 Brandon Nichols, EPW
John Wilson, Electric
- 25 Scott Brown, Electric
Aaron Inman, EPW
- 27 Rom Everett, MFD
Timothy Lane, EPW



November Anniversaries

- Terry Welshan, Engineering 39 years
- Gary Walker, Dev. Services 30 years
- Kelly Hembree, EPW 26 years
- Randy Teffeteller, Electric 22 years
- Steve Holte, Engineering 21 years
- Debbie Yarnell, Dev. Services 20 years
- Jeremiah Morton, EPW 16 years
- Mike Hicks, MPD 15 years
- Eric Bailey, EPW 14 years
- Kim Walker, Finance 14 years
- Ben Belitz, MPD 9 years
- Daniel Rogers, MFD 6 years
- Brandon Riggs, MFD 6 years
- Leslie Crawford, HR 5 years
- Alex Steele, MFD 4 years
- Ryan Spencer, MFD 1 year
- Robbie Fox, IT 1 year

Special Thanks from a Citizen

Greg-

I want to take this opportunity to tell you about a few interactions I've experienced in the last couple of months.

Firstly, on Aug. 6, while working in my yard, my son and I unfortunately broke a gas line. We immediately called 911, and police and fire responded shortly thereafter. The policeman (unfortunately I didn't get his name) was professional and calming. When the fire trucks rolled up, they immediately went to work securing the yard and my house. Captain Puckett was professional and supportive even though I had made such a boneheaded mistake. He was clearly experienced and his personable attitude was calming in a stressful situation. The crew were respectful and obviously well-trained. Even though it was extremely hot that day, they quickly got organized, setup their equipment and were prepared for the worst in only a few minutes. When all was said and done, my family and house were well protected by these fine professionals.

More recently, Kathy and I had a huge oak tree die in our backyard. Since it was over the power lines, I contacted Dwayne Shoffner to see what could be done. Dwayne came out to the house, assessed the situation and agreed that something needed to be done. He also looked at a couple of hemlock trees that were dying along the power lines. Dwayne didn't see a way of removing

the oak tree without removing a healthy hemlock, showed concern about this and looked for my approval before scheduling anything.



When the time came to actually remove the trees, Dwayne brought Danny Frye with him. Both advised me of what needed to be done and were very personable and professional. They both showed genuine concern for the impact their work would have on my yard and were open and honest about how long it would be before they could start. When the time came, Danny had the crew dig up, rather than cut down, a few bushes that were in the way. This allowed me to save the bushes and replant them instead of losing them. The crews worked for days and carefully removed the dead trees, and the property was left just as I was told it would be.

I know I've said it before, but I want to say it again. I appreciate the value my tax dollars bring to this town. I appreciate the men and women who work for the City of Maryville, and my examples above illustrate why. I hope, if you have the opportunity, you will pass along my appreciation to all those involved.

Sincerely,
Artie Yarlett