

# NEWS in a NUTSHELL

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF MARYVILLE



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October 2022

## City of Maryville Training Center is Top Notch

For many years, Chief Tony Crisp and the Blount County Sheriff, James Berrong, had a working arrangement that permitted City Police Officers to train on the Blount County Shooting Range, located off William Blount Drive behind the Newell Rubbermaid plant. The Fire Department used their driveway and empty parking lots as training facilities. For several years at budget time, the Chief requested the money needed to build a City of Maryville training facility for first responders. As you might remember, 2008 was a challenging time for the U.S. economy and, consequently, the City of Maryville. Each year, more pressing needs required any funds that might have been allocated towards the training center to be spent elsewhere. Yet, Chief Crisp never gave up on his dream.

Finally, in April of 2021, the City Council approved the funds needed to create a state-of-the-art facility on Home Avenue near the Operation Center. These days, city of Maryville first responders use the classrooms, driving simulators, a fire tower, and a firing range on the property.

The fire tower, built of wood and metal, is five stories tall. It can be reconfigured to simulate different floor plans and building types. Firefighters can practice gaining access to a building when a door isn't available by busting through wooden barriers, running the stairs in full gear carrying their equipment and hoses, rescuing victims via the engine ladder, and more.

The classroom area is the perfect place for the annual testing of recruits, as well as continuing education for both police and fire.



CPR training and re-certification classes were most recently held there in May.

The driving simulators provide realistic scenarios for both police and fire too. Firefighters train in a seat designed to feel like the big engines they drive to the scene of a fire. The oversized steering wheel imitates the feel and response of the real deal. The three screens surrounding the driver in the seat lend a realistic element to the training,

including interactive scenarios of proceeding safely through red lights in heavy traffic.

When the firefighters finish their training session, they can roll their seat and attached steering wheel out of the simulator, and the police can move their equipment into position. With a few clicks on the computer, the scenery surrounding the driver on the screens moves to a police chase or one of several other situations that officers might encounter daily.

Next door to the classroom is the shooting range. The facility is long and lean, built from shipping containers. Training Sgt. Travis Brown oversees the entire training facility. He is proud to show it off to visitors.

Inside, the first thing you see is the instructor's booth which is separated from the shooting area by bulletproof glass. The walls, ceiling, and floors are made of bulletproof materials also. Four shooting lanes span the length of the facility. Two long lanes for rifles on the left and two for handgun shooting on the right make up the range. Sgt. Brown can pull up any one of 800 different scenarios or situations that an officer might encounter. As the training session begins, a frighteningly realistic active shooter in a high school, an armed robbery, or an alcohol-



fueled domestic scene unfold, complete with all the sounds you might expect in a high-stress situation. The perpetrator will continue to shoot until he is stopped by the officer, or until he shoots the officer. When the session is complete, a report shows where the officer's bullets struck in the scene. The report shows response time, as well as accuracy.

Chief Crisp has more plans for the training facility. He wants to add a K-9 course and a "burn cell" that will simulate live fires in the future. He believes the process of preparing first responders for the difficult and unpredictable situations they might encounter is not only important but has the potential to be lifesaving.



## Picnic Lunch October 13th

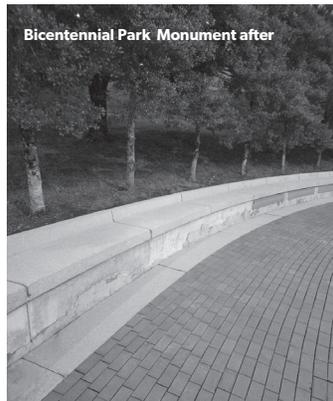
The Employee Appreciation Picnic will be held at the Op Center on Thursday, October 13, 2022. Drop in between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. for a delicious lunch catered by Buddy's BBQ.



Menu:  
Hickory-smoked Pulled Pork  
Smoked Chicken Breasts, Thighs, and Legs  
Baked Beans & Cole Slaw  
Chips, Lemonade, Sweet Tea and Unsweetened Tea, Brownies and Cookies

# People are the Key

## Fort Craig Monument and Bicentennial Park Looking Brand New



In September the Fort Craig Monument and Bicentennial Park got some much needed attention. Weed pulling and pressure washing gave both a fresh new look!

## Customer Service Knocks it Out of the Park



September 2, 2022

Ralph Goodson, Jr.  
Service and Collection Supervisor  
City of Maryville  
412 West Broadway  
Maryville TN. 37801

Dear Mr. Goodson:

By way of introduction, my name is Tom Howard, and I am the Business Manager for Church of the Redeemer. We are a relatively new church and meet on Sunday at Alcoa High School. Recently we leased the former TN Driver's License location on Home Ave for office and meeting space.

During the transfer of the utilities from the building's owner to our church we ran into a rather complicated situation as the state of TN actually leased the entire building but it was shared by two tenants: the Driver's License folks and the TN Highway Patrol and the building had two mailing addresses and, unknown to us, two utility accounts. To make a long story short there were some billing confusions resulting from this misunderstanding about separate utility meters. As I tried to work through the confusion, I had opportunity to speak on the phone (and later meet personally) with Sandra Ullman and now I am to the purpose of this letter. I'm writing to simply tell you what a wonderful representative the City of Maryville has in Sandra. She listened to our problem, asked the right questions, understood how to fix the problem, and deserves an A++ for every aspect of how she helped us resolve this issue.

Thank you for having such a well-trained, customer centered representative.

Sincerely,

*Tom Howard*  
W. Thomas Howard  
Business Manager  
Church of the Redeemer

## Facebook Love

Maryville Police Department-TN  
September 12 at 4:26 PM

Reserve Officer Walker received the Life Saving Award for his actions in late May when, as part of BSORT (Blount Special Operations and Response Team) he responded to a call of a kayaker that had been stranded in a small island in the Little River. Due to heavy rainfall, the river was above flood stage which made for a complicated and dangerous rescue. With the aid of other members of BSORT, Officer Walker was able to make it through the water and rescue the individual.



You, Jane Groff, Christine Kolich Tillman and 362 others · 49 Comments 10 Shares

Love Comment Share

Kim Jackson  
September 17 at 10:25 AM

Today is National Thank A Police Officer Day. Thank you Officer Steven Dotson for protecting our students and faculty and all the things you do for our school that no one sees. And especially thank you and Coach Rouse for carrying a young man with a medical emergency down 20 rows at the football game last night when AMR said they couldn't carry him.



Amy Raulston Lovin, Bart Stinnett and 51 others · 8 Comments

Like Comment

# Congrats are in Order



New Employee  
**Sarah Freels**  
MPD  
Police Officer



New Employee  
**Heather Giger**  
EPW  
Administrative Assistant



Promotion  
**Jayson Alexander**  
EPW  
Traffic Signal  
Technician I



Promotion  
**Jana Brown**  
EPW  
Civil Engineer



Promotion  
**Chuck Rowan**  
EPW  
Stormwater Program  
Manager



Promotion  
**Chase Sands**  
EPW  
Sanitation Collection  
Driver



Retiring October 25  
**Julie Anderson**  
Electric  
33 Years of Service

## Police and Fire Efforts Very Appreciated

Greg, I would like to express my appreciation for an outstanding job by several City of Maryville employees. The results of the fire and incident that occurred at Regal Towers on 08/20/22 left the residents upset and worried about the safety of the building to say the least.

I asked if the Fire Fighters and Police Officers who worked the case would come and talk with the residents to help calm their fears. Without hesitation they accepted and told me to let them know when, where, and what time, and they would make it happen.

On 09/06/22 Lt. Steven Talbott, Sgt. Rod Fernandez and Inv. Clayton Hall shared as much information as they could and assured the residents the building was safe.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for having such fine people working for the City. I just could not let their efforts, knowledge, and commitment to the safety of the residents of Regal Towers go unnoticed.

Thank you, Debbie Yarnell

## COVID Booster Clinic Scheduled

The Tennessee Department of Health will be administering the latest COVID booster to all employees and dependents who are interested on November 1st at 8 a.m. at the Operations Center.

Call Patty at 3427 if you would like to receive a booster.



Jeff Weaver is with Matthew Tipton and 3 others.

19h · 🌐

I wanted to give a huge shoutout to our AWESOME Maryville Police Department!!!! Officer Hicks and Officer Dotson gives us a police escort to and from our away football games!! They stop traffic at each red light to make sure we get through. It is also to keep our buses all together. It is a HUGE BLESSING to us!!!! Last Thursday night, we arrived back to school about 10-15 minutes less than if we did not have the escort!!!!

Thank you all so much for being so good to us!!!!!! These guys are a BLAST and deserve all the positive accolades!!!! They also work our home games to make sure all goes well!!!! They work very HARD!!!! Clayton Hall, you are missed brother!!!! **Congratulations** on your promotion!!!!



# Applause Please

## October Birthdays

- 1 Jonathon Ellenburg, Electric
- 2 David Headrick, W&S  
Nate Robinson, MPD
- 3 Leslie Crawford, HR
- 4 Steven Wickert, MPD
- 5 Brian Gray, EPW
- 7 Keith Wilson, W&S
- 8 Joe Tipton, W&S  
Chris Flores, MPD
- 9 Jordan Clark, Dev. Services  
William Murphy, Electric  
Kevin Bailey, IT
- 10 Tate Murphy, EPW
- 11 Brent Robbins, W&S  
Terri Caylor, Admin.  
Autumn O'Briant, MFD
- 13 Matthew Watson, MPD
- 14 Sandra Warwick, Finance
- 19 Nicholas Yoakum, EPW
- 21 Riley Huff, EPW  
Jennifer Riffle, MPD
- 22 Mary Winchester, EPW
- 23 Jamie Higgs, EPW  
Bill Bain, MFD  
Don Myers, Electric
- 24 Lucus McCall, W&S
- 26 Mark Allgood, W&S
- 29 Joe Bogart, Finance  
Ricky Cummings, EPW
- 30 Jonathon Riggsbee, Admin.



## October Anniversaries

- Todd Burchett, W&S 37 years
- Ronnie Pryor, MPD 33 years
- Robert Large, Dev. Services 23 years
- Shaun O'Neal, MPD 22 years
- Kenneth Crowder, MPD 21 years
- Matthew Clark, EPW 21 years
- David Headrick, W&S 20 years
- Keith Brewer, EPW 19 years
- Steven Dotson, MPD 15 years
- Chance Hawkins, MFD 15 years
- Sarah Harris, MFD 15 years
- Kevin Stoltenberg, EPW 15 years
- Michael Alexander, EPW 12 years
- Jerry Hall, W&S 9 years
- Derik Hilbert, EPW 6 years
- Perla Garrett, Finance 6 years
- Tyler Kirkland, W&S 6 years
- Jordan Clark, Dev. Services 5 years
- Phil Stewart, W&S 4 years
- Matt Gagnon, MFD 3 years
- Shawn Garnett, Finance 2 years
- Arnold Blackwell, Dev. Services 1 year
- Jillian Love, Dev. Services 1 year

## New Kenjo on Robert C. Jackson Thankful

Greg,

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you and your team for working with us on the Robert C. Jackson project. It has definitely presented challenges for us regarding supply chain issue etc, but the cooperation, coordination, and understanding from you and your team has been very much appreciated!

Thanks again,

Wes Carruthers

Downey Oil Company, KenJo Markets

## Don't Forget Our Free Flu Shot Clinic

*For employees and spouses • No appointment is necessary*

Tuesday, October 18th | 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  
Operation Center Auditorium

Wednesday, October 19th | 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.  
Maryville Municipal Center Gary Hensley Room

*Pneumonia and Shingles shots will also be offered at no cost!*

## August Medic Blood Drive a Success

Patty Cox  
City Of Maryville  
404 West Broadway  
Maryville, TN 37801

Dear Patty:

Thank you for coordinating the August 10, 2022 blood drive. We were very pleased with the drive overall, and the willingness of the donors to share this life saving gift.

The efforts of City Of Maryville have always been greatly appreciated and their support of the community blood program will go a long way toward replenishing blood supplies and ultimately saving lives.

We appreciate your efforts during this crucial time. You may be interested to know that 27 units were collected at your drive.

Again, thank you for your contribution and ongoing support of this important community program. I look forward to working with you again on an upcoming blood drive.

Sincerely,

Chris Phipps  
Donor Engagement Coordinator