

# NEWS in a NUTSHELL

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF MARYVILLE



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## Opening Gates and Kissing Calves

Cristy West, (in the Finance Department) and her sister, Leah grew up on their parent's farm south of town on Nile Mile Road. The Holders loved their little piece of paradise that had been owned by Holder family members for as long as they could remember. They raised cattle, hay, and tobacco. Like most kids raised on a farm, the Holder girls had their chores to do before and after school. They grew up working outdoors in the mud, the heat, and the cold. They cleaned stalls, hauled buckets of feed, scooped manure and all the other unglamorous tasks that it takes to keep a farm running. Cristy loved it. Every minute of it. All the dirt and the muck, the smells and the sights; some harrowing, some beautiful. All of it, and she still loves it today.

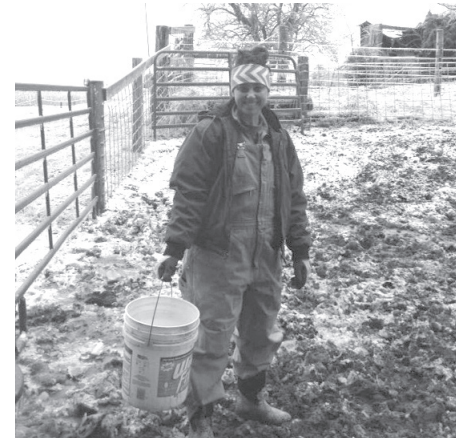
Cristy and her sister spent many Saturdays in the fall helping to prepare the tobacco they raised. They listened to the Vols football games on an old radio while the worked to pull the tobacco from the rafters of the barn where it had been hung to dry. It was hard work, but they didn't mind so much. After all, pulling down and baling the leaves (they called it "handing it off")

was the final step in the year-long process of getting their crop to market and that meant that the girls would soon enjoy the benefits of their labor, payday. Every year each daughter was paid a portion of their father's profits according to their age and the amount of work they were responsible for as the family prepared their crop for sale. Just in time for Christmas too.

In 1982 Cristy's dad and her grandfather headed to Kansas City, MO with a trailer to bring a huge windmill, built in 1915, home to the farm. Her grandfather's uncle had left it to him in his will. They disassembled the windmill, loaded it up on the trailer and headed back to Tennessee. There, they reassembled it high on a hill and the farm became known as Windmill Farm from that day forward. The windmill is visible for miles and the Holders often find strangers knocking on their door with offers to take it off their hands. All of them are politely turned away disappointed no matter how lucrative their offer might be.

East of the Holder farm, on Old Niles Ferry Road, about eight miles from town there is another farm where another family taught their children to love farm life too. Kent West grew up there with his brother and three sisters.

Kent and Cristy met, married, and moved to Kent's family's farm. Their son Lane was born nine years ago and just like his mother and his father, he is a farmer at heart. Lane and Cristy, both pet lovers, have 2 horses, 1 dog, and a cow named Emmy (short for Emerald, born on St. Patty's Day). Lane works along-side his parents on the farm. Together they look after 40 head of cattle that belong to Kent's brother. During calving season, in the fall and again in January or February, they check the fields two to three times a day looking for newborns. If a calf seems to be struggling, they take it into the house for bottle feeding and warming. The calf is moved to the barn



Cristy helping with the chores.

for a couple of days after it gains some strength and from there to the pasture with its mother. The winter brings more work for the Wests. There is no grass to graze on so the horses must be fed. The wet ground can cause infections to their feet, so they have to spend more time in their stalls, resulting in the need to be cleaned daily. New straw has to be added after cleaning for warmth, and their feet must be kept clean and dry. Lane is right there next to his parents scooping, hauling, feeding, and loving it.

From the very beginning, Cristy has held a deep love for the farm and everything about it. She confesses that just looking at a sunset can bring tears to her eyes. Her favorite season on the farm is summer when the crops resemble a patchwork quilt and the sweet smell of just-cut hay fills the air in the evening. When Kent and Lane make a run into town to Rural King, she's ready to go in just a few, in spite of the fact that she might have cow manure in her hair and/or on her clothes. Kent teases her that she can go from working professional to cowhand in a heartbeat, and she takes great pride in her official title on the farm, *Chief Gate Opener and Calf-kisser*. She hopes that someday Lane and his family will take over running the farm. She knows he already shares her love of the land and she knows he would *never* ask her to give up her title.

### Inside the Nut

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# Applause Please



Promotion  
**Dusty Finger**  
Electric  
Journey Line Technician



Promotion  
**Golman Myers**  
Electric  
Apprentice Line Technician



Promotion  
**Adam Parton**  
W&S  
Utility Plant Mechanic III



New Employee  
**Heath Hampton**  
W&S  
Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Technician

## Sanitation Santa

Santa's elves were hard at work at Sanitation Santa Headquarters from December 18 to 20. Pictured here are just a few of the volunteers who helped this year. Left to right: Ron Nugent, EPW, Leslie Crawford, HR, Angie Luckie, EPW, Donna Boone (Brian



Boone's mother), Tim Green, EPW, Jamie Hipps, EPW, and Brad Myers, EPW.

## Thank You Notes

A citizen called and left a voice mail message on James Bond's phone thanking the Electric Department for their prompt service on Saturday, November 30 at 8 a.m. The caller lives on Morganton Road and she wanted to be sure that Dusty Finger and John Wilson knew that she appreciated their fast response, the way they explained everything to her and how courteous they were. She said, "we sure do appreciate you guys, especially Dusty and John!"

## A letter sent to Chief Crisp

To whom it may concern:

This note of thanks is being written to express our sincere appreciation to two Maryville Police officers: Scott Spicer and Matt Watson for their act of kindness this past summer. After becoming a quadriplegic a year and a half ago, my only means of transportation is in a wheelchair accessible van. This past summer my wife was taking me to therapy when our van had a blow out on the right rear tire. She pulled in at the convenience store across from Smith's Mortuary at the corner of Tuckaleechee and 321. It was a terribly hot day and she and I wondered what to do next. Almost immediately officer Spicer pulled in and offered his assistance. He got the spare tire out of the back of the van and jacked up the van then officer Watson pulled in and offered his assistance. These men were very polite and showed a sincere desire to help their fellow man. It is this attitude that makes one glad to live in a community where police officers go above and beyond to lend a helping hand in whatever capacity the situation warrants. These men demonstrated true southern hospitality for which we will be eternally grateful!

Sincerely,  
Horace and Billie Stephens

## Posted on Facebook December 9, 2019.

I would like to take a moment to thank the City of Maryville police officers that worked my dad's funeral procession this afternoon from Miller Funeral home to Grandview Cemetery and stood at attention as the hearse entered. Also to the folks that actually stopped and got out of their vehicles and saluted or placed their hands over the heart, you don't know how much it means to a daddy's girl to know that he was appreciated for his service. You all helped heal his little girl's broken heart.

Thank you.

## Santa Sam

The statue of Sam Houston in front of the Municipal Building was suited up for the season in a jaunty red and white santa hat and a red scarf. Kudos and thanks to the Electric Department for their kind assistance in getting Sam in the Christmas spirit! Sam received his hat and scarf in time for the Christmas Tree Lighting Event on December 2.

A special shout out to the Public Works - Grounds Crew employees who came through again this year to install and decorate the Municipal Building Christmas trees. We couldn't do it without you, and we sure appreciate you taking the time away from your daily responsibilities during an already busy season!





# People are the Key

## Two More Bridges Replaced

On December 3 two more bridges were installed over Pistol Creek along the Greenway Trail in the Sandy Springs Park Area. Engineering and Public Works spearheaded the project, led by Kevin Stoltenburg. The first photo shows the bridge being lifted from the truck and the second one is some of the City of Maryville employees who worked to get the bridge into place.



## Officer Kenny Moats Memorial Bridge

On November 7, 2019 the Blount County Highway Department renamed a bridge in honor of the life and memory of Maryville Police Officer Kenny Moats. Kenny was killed on August 25, 2016 when he and his partner responded to a domestic violence call.

“I think it’s fitting that a bridge was chosen to dedicate to Kenny. Bridges bring things together. He was always building and bridging relationships in life, and his sacrifice brought our community together.” - Tony Jay Crisp, Chief of Police

“He was so much a part of the Blount County community, and we are honored to be able to remember Officer Moats in this way today,” Blount County Mayor Ed Mitchell said. “We always want to remember his service and sacrifice to Blount County.”

The Kenny Moats Memorial Bridge is located at the intersection of Ellejoy Road and River Ford Road.



## A New Year’s Message from Our City Manager, Greg McClain

Happy New Year to you and your family! 2020 promises to be another productive year for the City of Maryville. It’s hard to imagine that ten years ago we were in a significant economic downturn. Today we are seeing tremendous growth in every sector of business and the economic outlook looks bright for the next few years. This welcomed growth brings a challenge to all of us as we rise up to meet new demands. Our records show that 163 new businesses received licenses to operate in our town. Serious pressure is taxing our community’s workforce as many businesses struggle to find and keep employees. Workforce needs are driving robust growth in residential home building with 160 new homes built in 2019 alone. While these numbers will most likely begin to slow down in 2020, we should still see healthy growth in the coming months.



While all these demands push on our ability to keep up, our organization is going through major changes. Retirements continue to occur at a rapid pace as our employees reach retirement age. Thirteen employees retired this year and the need to fill those vacancies along with those created through turnover allowed us to welcome 32 new employees this year. As you know, each time an employee retires it starts a cascade effect as we promote employees into these vacated positions. 2019 had 46 promotions. The net impact in the last few years is 80 employees out of a total of 313 have been with us less than five years. This many new people in our workforce demands our attention to help them to be successful in their career with us.

We welcome this New Year and look forward to serving our community, and I believe we are ready to face the challenges it will bring. Our City Council and a grateful community thank you for all that you do on their behalf. They realize that our employees are directly responsible for the wonderful quality of life they enjoy every day. I too am grateful for each of you and commit to continue working on your behalf to ensure competitive wages, superior benefits and a safe workplace while at the same time honoring our citizens by being a good steward of their hard-earned tax dollars.

Many happy and joyful blessings to you and yours, *Greg*



## Biscuit Breakfast

Work family and friends gathered in the Fire Department bay for the Annual City Manager’s Biscuit Breakfast on Dec. 19. For many years Greg has hosted the event as a way to show employees that they are valued and their work is very much appreciated. At right, Greg gives Doug Short (Electric) a hand with his drink.



# People are the Key

## January Birthdays

- 1 Gabe Emert, W&S
- 2 Dallas Stephens, MFD
- 3 Jason Rogers, EPW
- 9 Gary Walker, Dev. Services  
Patrick McGinley, MFD
- 10 Trever Nix, MPD  
Shane Collins, MPD  
William Potter, Water & Sewer
- 12 Phillip Stewart, Water & Sewer
- 14 John Bivens, MPD
- 16 Jessica Mason, Finance
- 17 Eddie Davis, MPD  
Tim Phillips, EPW  
Shawn Riddick, Water & Sewer
- 19 Jesse McWhorter, Water & Sewer  
Eddie King, MPD  
Patty Cox, HR
- 23 Robert Large, Dev. Services  
Ian Callaway, Electric
- 24 Jessica Cooper, Water & Sewer
- 25 Ryan Rogers, MPD
- 26 Gary Johnson, EPW  
James Middleton, EPW
- 27 Travis Brown, MPD
- 28 Kenneth Crowder, MPD
- 31 Jeremiah Morton, EPW



## January Anniversaries

- Ricky Jackson, Electric 41 years
- Scotty Martin, W&S 33 years
- David Morton, Finance 32 years
- Julie Anderson, Electric 31 years
- Mike Caylor, MFD 31 years
- Eric Russell, MFD 31 years
- Greg Cooke, MPD 30 years
- Patrick Effler, Electric 28 years
- Danny Frye, Electric 28 years
- Danny Wilson, W&S 28 years
- Brent Robbins, W&S 26 years
- David McCarter, Electric 26 years
- Tim Phillips, EPW 24 years
- Brad Hurst, EPW 24 years
- Brian Hutsell, W&S 24 years
- Jason Pesterfield, MPD 23 years
- Tammy Hankinson, Finance, 22 years
- Sherri Phillips, Finance, 22 years
- Jennifer Cunningham, MPD 21 years
- Dan Cantwell, EPW 21 years
- Angie Luckie, EPW 21 years
- Christine Tillman, IT 18 years
- John Bivens, MPD 16 years
- Jamie Dyer, W&S 15 years
- Dale Jayne, EPW, 13 years
- Michael Myers, W&S 12 years
- Thomas Craw, MFD 8 years
- Matthew Lafon, EPW 5 years
- Maria Nelson, Dev. Services 4 years
- Andrew Payne, MPD 4 years
- Jason Ayers, MPD 4 years
- Jonathon Riggsbee, Admin 3 years
- Caleb Smith, MFD 1 year
- Ryan Hickman, MPD 1 year
- Logan Turbyfill, EPW 1 year



The Electric Department helped decorate the city for the holidays. Richard Johnson, on the left and Casey Ryding on the right wrap the light poles in front of the Municipal building with garland.

## Business is Booming

*Spotlight on Economic & Community Development with Angie Luckie*



Next to Los Amigos, across from the Library, In/Out Pizza opened in late September. The menu features specialty pizzas, but the buffet is their main attraction. The buffet pizza selection can vary day to day, except for standards like Pepperoni, Meat Lovers and Cheese. Those are always there, along with the Italian pasta offerings and dessert pizzas.

In/Out Pizza is open Sunday-Thursday from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 11 a.m.-10 p.m. and located at 501 N. Cusick Street.