



## Natural Gas Update

We have started the gas line expansion in Spartanburg County on Hatchett Road (Sptg. County Road-see pic). We are awaiting state highway encroachment permit approval before continuing on Walnut Grove Road. We are also waiting on encroachment permits for Union County – Gas Main Extensions on: Joe Eubanks Road @ Mt. Lebanon Road and Bobby Faucett Road.

Gas leak repair at Mini Mart was due to atmospheric corrosion (see Pic). We also made a gas leak repair @ Timken .

Monthly Maintenance: The Annual Stub Up Survey was completed 07-01-2020, the Annual Commercial Meter Survey was completed 07-14-2020. The crew continues to work on the Annual Atmospheric Corrosion Natural Gas Survey. Several gas crew members assisted the Electric crew with storm damage this past month.



## Electric Update

Upgrades, New Services And of Course Storms have kept us busy this Month. We upgraded the old Trakas Building on Main St. for USC-Union with a 3-pot bank to supply them with three phase power. The new Founders Bank which is coming soon required new poles and a new Transformer Bank as well. Several underground services for Customers have also been completed this month. Street lights and checking meters are an everyday job that keeps the service truck busy.

A storm that came through had us working long hours into the night in the Rice Ave. area when 4 Poles were taken out and service to customers was interrupted. (see pic above) Service was restored within hours not days. Something we pride ourselves in doing. Keeping the lines on right of ways cleared of trees is a task we work on as much as possible to ensure no outages when and if a snow /ice storm comes along during the winter months.



## Water/Sewer Update

This month the water crew repaired 16 leaks and replaced 10 service lines. The crew cut and cleared trees off ROWs. We cleaned up our tank sites and cut the lagoon. We ran our sewer camera in several sewers trying to find problem areas for future sewer projects. The sewer crew repaired 2 sewer mains and cleared 13 blockages around town in different locations. We had a blown air valve out in the middle of a field on Hwy 49. It looked like fog according to a few drivers driving by. One of the guys that work on the water crew knew exactly what it was when he passed it on the way to work. The geyser was shooting over 100 ft. in the air. The picture on Page 1 shows how high it was shooting compared to the truck and guys standing beside it. We repaired the air valve and got the river pumps started back up. Our younger guys are doing a great job and we are proud of them.

# UNION UTILITIES

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## The Importance of Infrastructure

When you are on the boulevard and hit a pot hole, you know it is time to repave the street. When your tires are bald and refuse to stop effectively, you know it is time to replace them. But when a sewer line or a water line needs to be replaced, you cannot see or feel it. And if the decline is allowed to go for too long, the damage can be much more expensive and the service could be interrupted for a much longer period of time. The same is true for our natural gas lines and much of our electric grid.

We are continuing to bring in new technology and newer methods to allow us to monitor all of these potentially destructive situations. Sometimes, when we replace lines, it is easy to wonder why we are fixing something that isn't broke..yet. If there is a pothole in the road, you can drive around it but if the water service is interrupted, life is not so easy. Water is our most important commodity and is essential to life. Our mission is to do all we can to guarantee the continued supply of clean and healthy water. We work hard to insure that every dollar spent gives us the most bang and the customer the most protection for continued quality service. Repairing the problems before they happen is key and it is our goal to be ahead of the curve. In water, sewer, natural gas and of course, electric.

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Natural Gas, Electric & Water



*Billy Smith celebrates 22 years as part of our team.*

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### Birthdays :

Matt Kendrick

#### Work Anniversaries :

Billy Smith 22 years

Vic Kingsmore 12 years

Patrick Russell 29 years

# Quality water... for life.

## WATER PLANT Update

During the month of July, Osborn Services completed the spray coating in our #3 basin and it has been placed back in service. We have cleaned #1, #2, and #4 basins and #4 basin has been placed out of service to be spray coated. The rehabilitation of the basins will be finished once #4 basin has been completed.

We are continuing with the upgrades for the Aqua Lane project, along with the upgrades at the river for pumps #3 and #4 for the control on SCADA at the water plant.

Robert Rice was hired at the water plant as an apprentice in the SC Rural Water Program. See picture below as he learns the ropes!



## Waste Water TREATMENT PLANT

Over the course of the month we treated 226.27 million gallons of wastewater. We also registered 2.1" of rain for the month.

The operators worked hard at keeping the wastewater plant in compliance with our permit. They also checked our 15 sewage pumping stations regularly to make sure they were pumping all they were designed to pump. We changed out a pump at Meng Creek secondary pump station and sent the broke one to the shop for repair. We had to replace a starter for the aerovent system at the Munro pump station. We also received leachate water from the landfill and septic trucks brought water from those who have septic tanks from our county.

We have ordered all the parts for the sodium hypo project. We also completed our Standardized samples for requalifying the lab and each operator. Which is a n every year occurrence. Preventive maintenance was performed on ALL of the wastewater equipment. We have also started preparing for a Sludge Land Application event. This should happen sometime in the early fall.

The photo is of a contractor tanker emptying a load of Leachate that originated at the Republic Landfill in the Cross Keys area.



## GIS Update

We're a month into the weeds of the changes in GIS. With all the new tools, we are beginning to make a launch for the 21st century. Currently, the water and electric crews are learning to use WorkForce by receiving work orders electronically from Tamika Browning. By the end of the month, I'm hoping to have the gas crew set-up to use the app.

I'm also looking into acquiring a Trimble R1 GNSS receiver. It will allow us to collect data without the turn around time of contractors. Beverly Carter has been drafted to work with me on this project and also with the card drawer for service lines. By being active in creating the data, it has a higher probability of being correct.

I spoke with the Fire Chief Larry Robinson about setting up a tablet for them to use for flow testing. He is very receptive to the idea and requested a fire map to be posted online. During our discussion, he mentioned that he would like to have a tablet in the trucks eventually. When they are at a fire scene, it will help them to know the sizes of the water lines and the capacity of the hydrants.

Sometimes it seems like we are moving at a snail's pace, but in reality, we're making progress.



• A very SPECIAL THANKS to PFC Thomas Willingham #415 for the time he spent with Daniel Medford today. You have truly made his whole day. The kindness he has shown today really shows the heart he has. We saw him just pulled over making sure all was going well in Union today, We stopped at a convenience store and bought him a bottle of water for Daniel to give him, then he returned the kindness back, he let Daniel not just get in his police car but also let him turn the lights on. He told Daniel they even go to fire's so then he let Daniel put on his full fire-fighters gear. Then seen another officer so he called her over, then she came over to see Daniel also, so another BIG THANKS to Officer Garrett. (from a facebook post by Anna Brown).

• The tennis court project is nearing completion. The final coating should be installed by the end of the month, still allowing for a Labor Day grand opening. The new vinyl coated black fence is currently being installed. The

courts will be lined for tennis and pickleball.

• We will doing an emergency repair of a sewer main that runs under Union Blvd. This is an 12" clay tile that was in place BEFORE the road! We located a break that if left alone would endanger the road as well as stop a major sewer flow. We will be boring in a new line with casing and it should take 2-3 weeks.

• If you saw the pics of all the major storm damage on Rice Ave a few weeks ago, you would be surprised to know that after the initial damage, we restored power to almost the entire city while we repaired the damage. Just a few homes were without power

Thanks to the Water and Sewer Crew

I would like to thank the crews for their swift response to a water leak at 101 Wells Alley. Someone was on the scene in less than 15 minutes. WE very much appreciate the quick customer service!

Audrey Robinson

# NEWS and NOTES

## A Semi-Regular Feature

during the 8 hour repair time. It is amazing what our skilled electric crew can do!

• Though we continue to work out a few kinks, our new customer service and phone system is working well. The call center has performed remarkable well in regular times and in the emergency situations that we have had so far. Tamika is continuing to study and learn as she has set pretty lofty goals for herself and the call center.

• Upon seeing the latest pics of the water basins at the WTP, Tom Sherbert remarked "Best I have ever seen those basins!" We must be doing something right!

