



## Natural Gas Update

Plexiglass dividers were fabricated to provide protection for Council members to meet. (see pic above)

Gas crew completed the annual inactive meter survey. We continue to work on the annual atmospheric corrosion survey and annual stub up survey.

We have contracted with GMC to assist with SC DOT Encroachment Permits for expanding gas mains in Spartanburg and Union Counties. Plans are to run gas mains in Union County on Joe Eubanks Road and Bobby Faucett Road. In Spartanburg County will plan to run a gas main on Walnut Grove Road from the intersection of Blackstock Road for a total length of 4,724 LF.



Summers in the South are not only HOT, they cause storms that plague Electric Crews with Fallen trees. Our Crew is no different and we have worked storm damage calls quite frequently this month. Fallen trees have been the culprit for the majority of our Power Outages this Month. While we work to keep Power lines free from potential limbs that may cause outages, we can't control Mother Nature.

Normal Ground Maintenance at our Substations continue as well as clearing of right of ways. It was brought to our attention the War Memorial on Main St needed a little TLC, so we took the poles down, gave them a facelift and re-installed them. The Veterans Building was also another project we worked on this month. " We live in the land of the free because of the Brave."

Even though the Utilities are divided into different divisions, at times it requires us to pull together as one. We would like to thank the Gas And Water Crews for the help they provided this month with a Directional Bore and Road Crossing.



## Water/Sewer Update

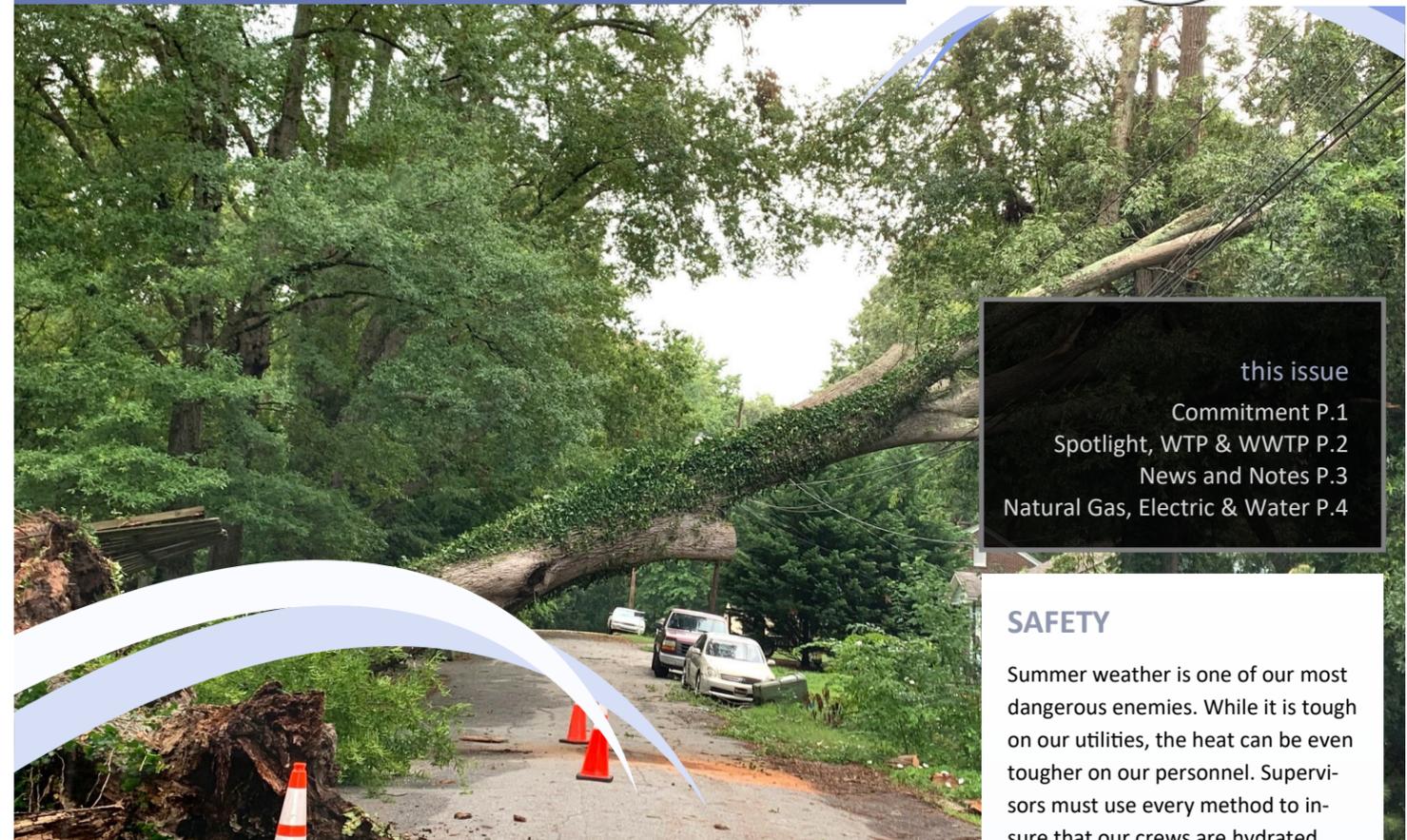
This month the water crew repaired 18 leaks and replaced 12 service lines. The crew also made a 6inch tap for DOT. We continued on our yearly valve maintenance and ROW cutting (incl tank sites and reservoir). We ran our sewer camera in multiple places to prepare for upcoming and existing sewer projects. We flushed 20 sewer lines to clear blockages.



## ELECTRIFYING UPDATE

# UNION UTILITIES

Monthly Journal of Progress, Innovations and Achievements  
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## SAFETY

Summer weather is one of our most dangerous enemies. While it is tough on our utilities, the heat can be even tougher on our personnel. Supervisors must use every method to insure that our crews are hydrated and aware of the symptoms of heat-stroke. Hydration begins as much as 48 hours before the heat event and we must all work to be hydrated.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Celebrating Birthdays this month :

Billy Smith

Celebrating Work Anniversaries:

Cory Smith: 1 Year

Matthew Kendrick : 6 Years

Jamie Babb: 20 Years

## Commitment, Even In The Toughest Times

Folks just assume that when they turn on the faucet, water will pour; when they flip the switch, the lights will turn on; when they flush, their problems will disappear. Even in the best environments, insuring that reliability is a tough task. It takes tons of planning, preventing, maintaining, training and educating to stay ahead of the elements and the destructiveness of time.

Storms roll through. Why did my lights go out? When will they be restored? Even as they speak, while the wind is still blowing and the rain is still pouring, our crews are already on the scene. Brainstorming, planning, bringing in the proper crews and equipment. The whole team is part of this recovery effort. Not only those on the scene but those behind the scenes as well.

We have folks who maintain the equipment for emergency readiness, those who insure that we have inventory ready for emergency repairs, those who coordinate training and hire the best people for the response. We have others who direct emergency calls and of course, those who have the tough job of insuring our finances thru planning and collection.

I am the rare person who is grateful EVERY time the water is running or the lights switch on. I know what an effort it is and I appreciate everyone who is committed to the excellence that we deliver daily.

# Quality water... for life.

## WATER PLANT Update

The month of June, we completed the installation of our last new Swan Turbidimeter on our raw water.

We cleaned #1, #2, #4, basins and #1, #3 flocculator basins in preparation for the continuation of the rehab of basins with the spray coating by Osborn Services. (see pic below)

We are still working on Aqua Lane project with the upgrades.

Matt Rawls passed his "A" water certification.

Our goal at the City of Union Water Plant is to continue to strive to produce the best quality water to our customers with the new upgrades at the Water Plant.



The City of Union Tosches Creek Wastewater Plant events that took place the Month of June. Over the course of the month we treated 27.4 million gallons of wastewater. We also registered 2.8" of rain for the month.

The operators worked hard at keeping the wastewater plant in compliance with the permit issued by SCDHEC. They also checked our 15 sewage pumping stations regularly to make sure they were pumping all they were designed to pump. We also received leachate water from the landfill and septic trucks brought water from those who have septic tanks from our county.

We have started the process for the sodium hypochlorite and sodium thio-sulfate system. We had all of the siding panels removed off of our chlorine tank shed. This will be future site of our NaClO system. We also completed our Standardized samples for requalifying the lab and each operator. Which is a 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.

This is a photo (below) of EMA, sludge hauling contractors, mixing the sludge basin during our last land application event.



## In the Spotlight

### One Phone Number for All Customer Service!

We have officially made the change and so far, so good! We sent out a press release, put it on the new bills and our trucks are now advertising billboards.



# NEWS and NOTES

A Semi-Regular Feature

- The City Hall call center and welcome station is off to a successful start. Many thanks to the work put into the project by many but particularly Melody Porter and Rebecca Lance. Now, the tough part begins and we are fortunate to have Tamika Browning to step up. She is learning quickly while giving great customer service. Thanks to you all!
- The tennis court replacement project continues. The contractor has added several inches of foundation base and compacted it properly. The asphalt is going down soon and will cure for 30 days. Then the coating will be put down and we will play!
- The Monarch sewer rehabilitation project is nearing completion. It has been a tough project dealing with deep sewers and narrow streets. Our contractor has done a great job and it should be completed by Sept. 1.
- We will have our kick-off preconstruction meeting for the Evans-West Main sewer project on Aug 6.
- We received bids on the City View water main upgrade project this week. It is expected that work will begin in August. This project increases reliability and safety for this neighborhood.

From Melody Porter—Mapping Specialist & Project Manager

Our kick-off date was July 1st only fourteen days ago, so we're still finding our way through the weeds. Tamika is doing a fantastic job with the dispatch/customer service desk. She's positive and willing to learn the many processes involved with utilities. I feel confident she can handle anything I throw her way. We are very fortunate to have the assistance and knowledge of Rebecca Lance as well. She has been a vital part of this success.

As part of our changeover process, we did a screen share with CPW-Greer to better understand how they are using ArcGIS Online in the field. One of the takeaways I got from the session was not feeling I have to get all crews active at once. That was my biggest fear. Like us, they have electric, gas, water, and sewer to maintain. During the presentation, Heath Pitt explained they started with the water and sewer then added the gas. So, Joey, I am coming for you first.

Also, we began using the after-hours call center IUC (Interactive Utilities Communications). It takes the responsibility off of the Water Plant. The change is working well as we become accustomed to the new process.

So far, July has been educational. With the changes in our phone system and getting the utility maps and work-orders field accessible, we are lucky to keep our sanity.

To: Joe Nichols, Mark Brown and the City of Union Team

Thanks for the assistance that you provided at the Veterans Memorial and the Veterans Building as well. The on-going upgrades at the Park will be a help for years to come. All Veterans and citizens alike appreciate your dedication to these facilities.

**Charles Lott and John McKnight**

