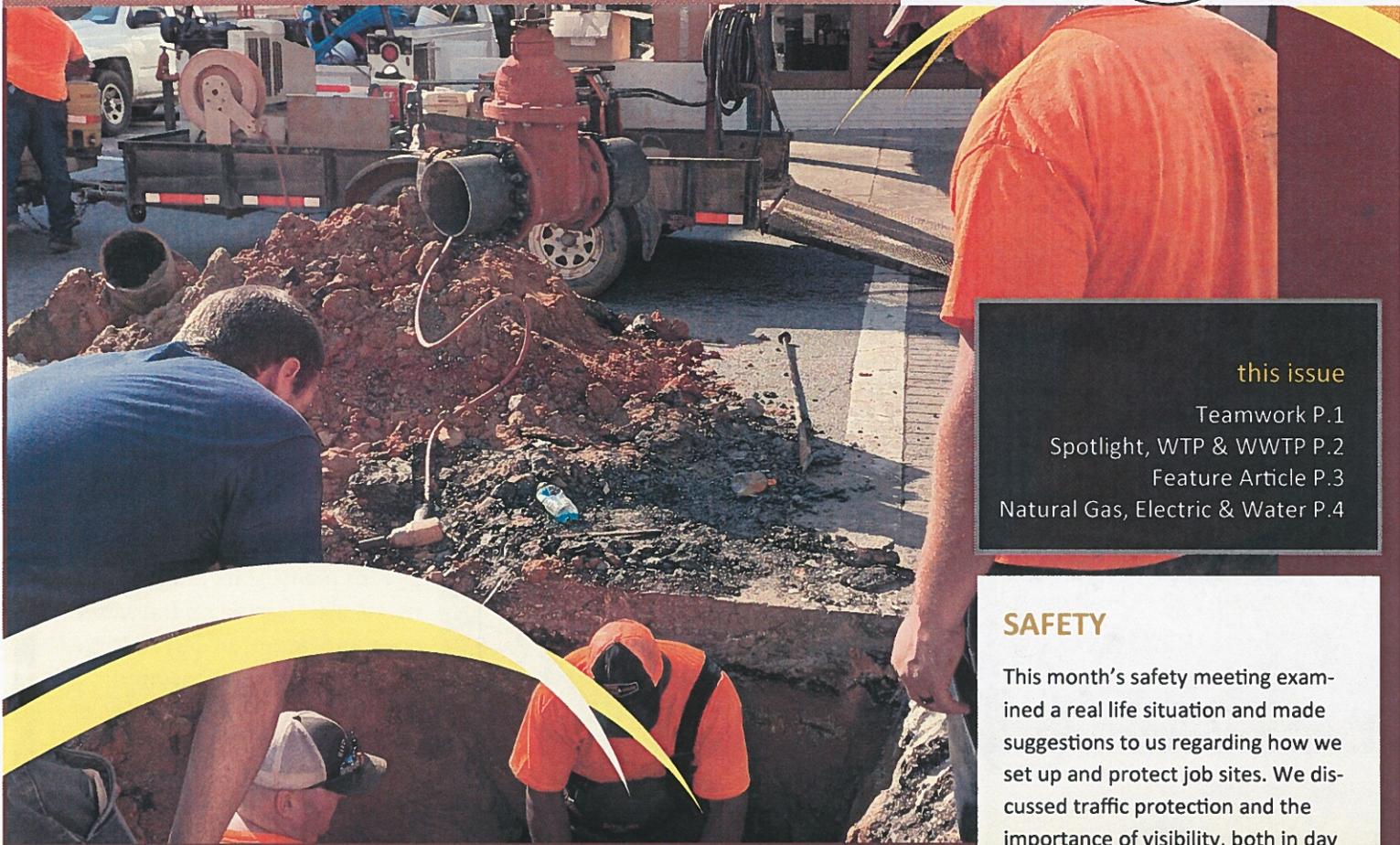


UNION UTILITIES

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this issue

Teamwork P.1
Spotlight, WTP & WWTP P.2
Feature Article P.3
Natural Gas, Electric & Water P.4

Teamwork Makes Us Strong

There can never be enough said about the value of teamwork. In every business, industry and activity, teams that work together win together. It is important to realize that every position on the team is equally important. Many people forget how important the offensive line is in football or how important a good bass player is in a band. They are not in the spotlight but trust me, the show would not go on without them.

That applies to our organization. We are made up of equals, just performing different tasks. And across department lines, the same things apply. It is heartwarming for me to see our team assisting one another across those imaginary department lines. To see that we can truly use the word "team" in more than just a tagline is exhilarating.

I talk a lot about family. We work at least 40 hours a week. We sleep 56 hours a week. That leaves 184 hours for family, friends and other activities. That means that our work family is 22% of our waking hours. Wow. So being close in spirit and communication is vital. It is how organizations (and families) function. Cheers to yall for being a great family!

SAFETY

This month's safety meeting examined a real life situation and made suggestions to us regarding how we set up and protect job sites. We discussed traffic protection and the importance of visibility, both in day and night time situations. The extra time it takes to protect our work site and warn the public of our presence is invaluable.

SAFETY MANTRA

"Any employee can stop any job at any time if the employee believes that the procedure, equipment, tools or site is unsafe, without the fear of repercussion. In fact, the employee should be commended."

We are all in charge of safety. We should all be looking, focusing and thinking about ways to improve our safety and thereby our efficiency.

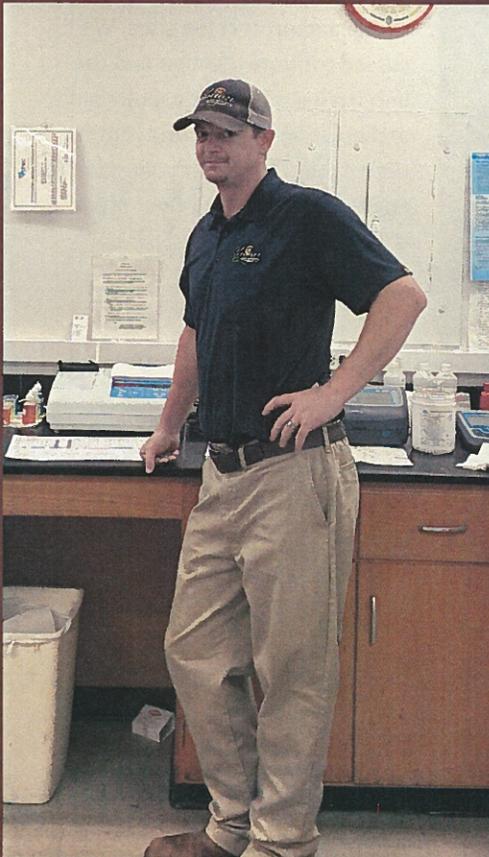
Quality water... for life.

WATER PLANT Update

During the month of November, we installed a double check valve on our vacuum priming system for better operation. Had Nix/Purser to repair our power supply to our SCADA system. Installed one new Swan turbidimeter to upgrade our turbidimeters. We are in the process of installing eight more for our raw, settled, and finished water monitoring.

Our new projects coming up include adding a new pump at Aqua Lane pump station to give us more pumping capacity. Also the renovation of the existing building at Aqua Lane pump station. We're also in the process of installing a new check valve at our raw water reservoir to upgrade our system. Upgrades to our SCADA is also in the works. This will keep us up to date with the latest technology.

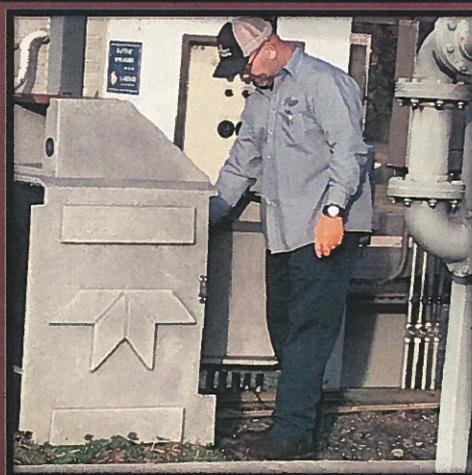
Congrats to our newest employee Jesse Gregory (pic below) for 1 year of service on Nov 29, 2019.



Over the course of the month of November, we treated 32.90 million gallons of wastewater. We also registered 4.8" of rain for the month, which I am sure added to the total wastewater received. Eric Howie with Piedmont Chlorinators performed mechanical integrity on our Chlorine and Sulfur dioxide feed systems. We also repaired the antenna at Meng Creek SCADA RTU (Scotty, Daniel, and City FD Ladder Truck).

Some new projects on the horizon consist of the decommissioning of our Chlorine and Sulfur dioxide systems. We will be installing Sodium hypochlorite and a Sodium bi-sulfite system for our chlorination and de-chlorination processes. We are also replacing the manual gates with automatic gates in our contact chambers. The upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant will reduce the threat of a hazardous release of chlorine gas.

John Patterson will be celebrating his 17th year with the City of Union this month. John has been a member of the wastewater team since 2006.



Pic (above) - John Patterson collecting influent samples for analyzation



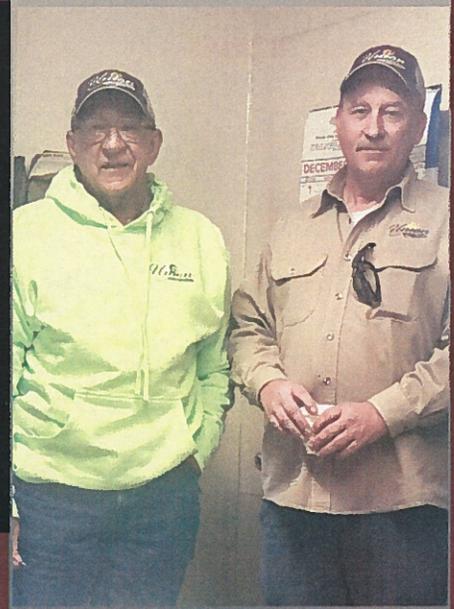
Proud of our Retirees!

The end of December will be bittersweet as our employees Steve Belue and Tim West retire.

Belue, as he is better known around here, started his career with us 28 years ago...way back in 1991. He started on the water crew but transferred over to the gas division in 1996. Who knows what his plans are after retirement? But if it involves spending money, you can bet it will not happen!

Tim West came to us 8 years ago. He worked as a contractor for the city for many years prior to joining us. He also started on the water crew and later transferred to the warehouse. He has become known as Mr. Fix It or MacGyver. You are sure to find him fishing, hunting or enjoying his grandchildren. We wish them both well in their future endeavors!

Pic below: Tim West and Steve Belue





GIS: Not Just a Pretty Map

In October of this year I attended my annual SCARC Conference in Florence. It's basically a meeting where the GIS users come together to discuss new software, techniques and ideas for future development.

With all the different ideas and techniques discussed there was one consensus of conversation with our internal customer. All they want is a map. The finished product is their only concern. Our desire is for them to understand that the data attached to the map is the real engine of the finished product. Without the data there is no map.

GIS is becoming more digital and user friendly for the novice. So here at the city we are trying to make our data mean more than a pretty map. We have purchased iPads for each crew and our locator so they can access the data while in the field. With ArcGIS Online they have access to live data and if they see something incorrect, it can be corrected before the end of the work day.

On Thursday, December 6th, ESRI came to Union for the second time to present a demo for their Collector and WorkForce software. In the presentation they displayed the many uses and connection ability to all departments. Currently only the Utility side is implementing the soft-

ware, but with the additions of Collector and WorkForce; Planning, Finance, Public Works, and Fire Departments can be added as users.

The software system allows our crews to create data in the field, but will also allow them to receive real time workorders. With the workorder feature they will be able to actually let us know when the job was completed, again in real time.

If we implement the new software, it will create a flow of information. With that information, we can make better decisions for our internal and external customer.

Call Before You Dig Or 811 Update

South Carolina takes the 811 law seriously! They have now asked the utilities to notify the attorney general of violations and certain ones will be prosecuted by the state attorney general!

Section 58-36-120 (Penalties)

Any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars for each violation. Actions to recover the penalty provided for in this section shall be brought by the Attorney General at the request of the injured party in the proper forum in and for the county in which the cause, or some part thereof, arose or in which the defendant has its principal place of business or resides. All penalties recovered in any such actions shall be equally divided between the state's general fund and the Office of the Attorney General.

Take it to heart. Call before you dig!

Good afternoon.

I just wanted to say thanks for assisting us with the gas leak at Jonesville Middle School earlier this week.

Patrick Russell was very professional and really helped us tremendously.

Thanks,

Mark W. Haney
Director of Maintenance
Union County Schools





Water/Sewer Update

This month we have been working really hard to better the water and sewer systems. Sorry for the customers without water for a few hours and some customers that had to be without water for extended periods. It is essential to stop future problems. We replaced a 10 inch valve at the Church St. and Pine St. intersection that was from 1928. We replaced a valve at intersection of Wimbledon and Toney Rd. Another valve was replaced at the end of Catherine at intersection of N. Pinckney from the 1920's. We replaced 3 old valves on Main St before it was repaved.

We have Monarch sewer project going on right now to improve the sewer mains. We also have another project coming up to improve sewer lines around the West Main/Hillcrest area.

Jacob Robinson (see pic top right) is our newest employee and has been with us for about a month. Jared Anderson has been with us for about a year now and he is a skilled worker.

Natural Gas Update

Having the right equipment improved the outcome of a bad situation as a car plowed (see pic above left and front cover pic) into our high pressure regulator station on Jonesville Highway. Luckily no one was injured but it completely demolished the station. The loss of gas was minimal due to using the hydraulic squeeze off tool and personnel were close to the scene. The cost of repairs exceeded \$9000.00

All welders have completed annual certifications. The annual atmospheric corrosion surveys as well as the annual farm tap survey have been completed. Gas service line installation requests are keeping the crew busy as cold weather is on the way.

Don't forget that if you smell gas or even if you THINK you smell gas, call us right away! 911 or 429-1707

ELECTRIFIED UPDATE



The City of Union Electric crew was busy this month as they prepared for the Holiday Season by installing Christmas lights on Main St. and Foster Park. We sent crew members Jeff Roberts and Matt Kendrick to Buffalo and Monarch Elem Schools where they demonstrated a sample circuit for students.

We have installed several new services, and built a new single phase tap at various locations within the city. Wrecks causing damage to utility poles and/or trees have kept the crew busy. Our substation project adding fiber technology and digital monitoring has been completed. We are currently in the process of upgrading the Aqua Lane Water Tank with fiber optic technology. Congrats to Clarence Auton, crew supervisor, for 25 years of service. (see pic left)