

City of Maryville Newsletter



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Mayor Chad Jackson presenting Bob Horn with the Employee of the Quarter Award.

Visit our website at www.maryville.org to view Current Job Openings with the City

In Defense of Municipal Golf

by Ron Darnell, Golf Course Manager

I have been in the golf business for nearly twenty-five years and during this time have had the pleasure to meet and get to know many others in the business be they superintendents, golf course owners, or PGA club professionals. Often a topic of discussion has been the question as to whether municipalities should be operating golf facilities and more recently due to our country's economic problems and sluggish recovery the frequency of these debates have heightened. To illustrate this, the business of golf has definitely been suffering. The National Golf Foundation has compiled figures showing that from 2007-2009, 141 privately owned public golf courses were built and 15 municipal and 80 country clubs were opened. In the same time frame, 305 privately owned, 22 municipals and 40 country clubs closed their doors. Doing the math this is a net loss of 133 golf courses.

Opponents of municipal golf argue that government should not be in direct competition with small business owners in the private sector, this being "unfair competition". They cite the above NGF stats of course closings in their argument.

Proponents of municipal golf claim the private sector does not promote the growth of the game. The golf construction boom of the 1990's and the first half of this decade targeted the high-end client and the owners' intent to cash-in on the boom. Today, many of their clientele have been forced to stop paying higher fees and have dropped down to lower fee municipals. Municipal golf courses provide a place for people to learn the game, and develop a passion for the game. These folks go on to play at the venue where they are most comfortable. They might stay at the municipal or move on to an exclusive country club.

Undoubtedly, both sides of the

debate make valid points. But my take on this is in direct agreement with the official mission statement for the City of Maryville, which states: *The City of Maryville City Council and staff, in cooperation with the members of the community is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life, while inspiring economic growth and vitality within the community.* I cannot think of a more appropriate means in which to support this statement than by providing an accessible, affordable, quality golfing opportunity. Your municipal, Mozingo Lake Golf Course, along with the entire Mozingo Lake recreation area provides the citizens of Maryville and surrounding communities a healthy recreation activity, it reflects positively on our community's image and promotes others to visit our area.

That in my opinion is why there is and always should be a place in the hierarchy of the golf industry for the municipal course.

Employee of the Quarter

by Amy Strough, Human Resources Manager

Bob Horn has been selected as the Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2010. Other nominees were Rick Smail and Rachel Crawford.

Bob has been working part-time as the Assistant Equipment Technician in the Golf Maintenance department since May 17, 1999. He works every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, during which time he assists in maintaining the golf cart fleet, ensuring that all 50 golf carts are available for duty. In addition, he also performs most of the oil changes and routine services on an additional 40 pieces of equipment, including mowers and trucksters. And if this were not enough, he also

does a significant portion of the reel sharpening on our 41 reel to bedknife cutting units every week, which should total over 1,000 reel sharpenings annually.

Bob's work ethic is beyond reproach. He arrives early every day and hits the ground running. There is no sitting around the break room for this man. If he does get caught up on his job duties, he either grabs a broom or scouts the equipment storage buildings for low or flat tires, dead batteries, etc. His efforts do not go unnoticed even by the greenest of seasonal employees on the staff.

Over the last 2 years, our most

recent fleet of rental carts (brand new models) have basically been lemons with many problems and quirks. Bob has done an exceptional job keeping these carts on the trail. His efforts were exceptionally beneficial during our tournaments when all 50 carts were needed at once.

At 82 years of age, Bob is our oldest city employee and definitely one of our hardest working employees. He is an inspiration to all that know him, and we are proud to have such a dedicated employee on our staff. Thanks for all of your hard work Bob and congratulations on your nomination!!

City offices will be closed for the following holidays.



**Veteran's Day
November 11**



**Thanksgiving
November 25-26**



**Christmas
Dec. 23 @ noon &
December 24**



**New Year's
December 31**

Get Twitter updates regarding City activity by following City Manager, Matt LeCerf at <http://twitter.com/mlecerf>

**Beautification
Award Winners**



August Winner

Lynn Felton
912 S. Walnut



September Winner

Stephen & Donna Wilson
416 E. 4th

Humane Society Update

by Guest Columnist Kristina Martinez, NNHS Board Member

Hello and Happy Autumn from the New Nodaway Humane Society (NNHS)!

As you all prepare yourselves and your home for winter, remember to include your pets in these plans and assist neighbors in doing the same. When you see a need that is not addressed and you cannot address it yourself, please call the Animal Shelter and request assistance. If pets are not ready for winter, we would rather know now and figure out a way to help, then to find out later when the pet has already suffered. Remember to be kind whenever possible. It is always possible!

November 18th the Humane Society of Missouri is sending two staff members to train community members on animal welfare and the law. These trainers are driving up from St.Louis. The NW University Police is hosting the program on campus. The room reserved will hold 30, and it is by reservation only. Interested persons should call 660-562-1254. The spaces will be open first to law enforcement and police personnel, animal shelter employees and administration, city employees and prosecutors. Prosecutors and law enforcement will receive 4 hrs of approved credit towards their certifications or licenses. Even if you cannot make this training you can become familiar with laws pertaining to animal welfare by going to the city's website and opening the section on animals in the ordinances. The city ordinances reflect state law and have some additional guidelines to follow to keep our community comfortable. http://www.maryville.govoffice2.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={1DCCB75E-677A-42EF-BAE3-EF54BCB9C90C}&DE=

[{60DE5915-503C-474F-A12E-FOB87EBCC78B}](#)

Also on November 18th, NNHS members will be hosting the Fall Luncheon Fundraiser for the animal shelter. It will be held at the First Christian Church's fellowship hall at Buchanan and Third Street. This is always a good time and a good meal, besides a much needed fundraiser. NNHS relies heavily on the bi-annual luncheons to keep afloat. If you or your organization would like to host the Spring Luncheon (NNHS members will help), contact the shelter with your interest! The Luncheon runs from 11am to 1:30pm.

A very brief summary of Shelter activity and finances from July 2009 to June 2010:

We took in 611 animals (dogs and cats mostly) and we released 500 to owners, adopters or rescue organization. 69 animals either died or were euthanized because no other option was available. The Shelter has an average of 6 employees that take care of 120 to 180 animals on a daily basis. It has Humane Officers that respond to calls 24 hrs a day, when dispatched by Maryville Public Safety or another City we might have a contact with. Last year they responded to 305 calls to an animal situation away from the shelter. We spent \$159,690.87 to care for the lost and abandoned pets of NW MO. Unfortunately our income was less than this. We had a loss of \$5,680.24. That's just one good Fundraiser to break even, if anyone has a great idea!

As of October we had 105 cats and 85 dogs residing in the Shelter. This puts us in a squeeze for space and resources, it's more than we are

set up for. Please join the New Nodaway Humane Society today. Our membership levels are affordable and we need your support! Last year we brought in just over \$2,000 in membership dues. We need more support, both financially and as friends needs friends.

Things you can do for the NNHS Animals Shelter:

- Financial support by becoming a member or a sponsor in one of the available ways we offer.
- Walk dogs.
- Wash dogs.
- Play with the cats.
- Volunteer your time to clean at the shelter or help landscape or help with other shelter improvements or repairs.
- Donate supplies: newspapers for cat cages, clean bedding, collars and leashes. Cat litter. Bleach, laundry soap, brooms, paper towels etc.

As you can see the NNHS Animal Shelter is a busy place that operates on limited funds. Please come visit the Animal Shelter, tell the staff thanks for what they do and develop your plan to make a difference in the lives of animals this year.

Maybe you can't help the Shelter, but can you help a neighbor? If you can't help your neighbor, can you do a better job with your own pets? Spay and neuter all pets! Feral cats are domesticated animals that are only running scared of humans. Please consider getting them fixed too. Have all your pets vaccinated against rabies and get some identification on them. Returning pets ASAP to owners is key in reducing the cost to operate an animal shelter.

Collage Drawings of Maryville Businesses Now Available

by Sheila Smail, City Clerk

The City of Maryville was approached by Community Creations, Inc., requesting distribution of copies of collage pictures/drawings of various businesses in the Maryville area. The drawing includes current businesses, as well as historical features. Several local businesses paid to advertise on the piece and in return received a signed and numbered copy of the print. You may recall seeing

a similar drawing that was done in 1988.

The prints, measuring approximately 16" x 20", will be sold at City Hall at the price of \$5.00, plus tax (\$5.40 each). They will be on a first come first serve basis, while supplies last. There will be a limit of five (5) per person sold. Orders will not be taken by phone or e-mail. Requests must be made in person, with the fee paid at

that time. If you would like to see an example of the drawing available, there is a portion of the print shown at www.maryville.org, or come by City Hall, at 415 North Market Street.

Proceeds from the prints will go back into the community by purchasing a bench and trash receptacle to be placed for public use.



Collages are now available for sale at City Hall for \$5.40

Mozingo Lake Horse Trail to Double in Size

by David Middleton, Lake Maintenance Superintendent

Located on the northwest corner of Mozingo Lake is a four mile horse trail built in 2000. While many equestrians use the trail, several have requested a longer trail along with overnight camping facilities and holding pens for the horses.

Thanks to a \$200,000 grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources awarded to the City of Maryville in April 2010, the citizens' requests will be granted. Work began in September to almost double the length of the trail, add holding pens for the horses as well as overnight camping facilities which include a bathhouse.

The City's responsibility for their part of the grant is to utilize their existing equipment as well as supply the labor force for the improvements. Bids went out for the purchase of a track loader, a very integral piece of equipment for the project. A Bobcat 190 loader was subsequently purchased from Northwest Power Sales of Maryville. This will be used for many of the phases of the project and will be ongoing in the maintenance of the trail once it is completed.

Taking the most manpower and time will be clearing the brush for the approximate four mile addition to the trail. Prepara-

tion of the road and laying tubes for drainage along the way will come next. At this point plans are being made to include ten camping sites with six having electrical hookups.

While Mozingo Lake offers many forms of entertainment and leisure for the visitors to the lake, the addition of better facilities for the riders will truly enhance this activity. Much interest has been shown and volunteer labor has already been pledged to get this project completed. If anyone would like to volunteer, please call 562-8001 for more information.

Adopt a Neighborhood

If you or your organization would like to help keep Maryville beautiful, please contact Amy Strough at 562-8002 to learn more about this valuable volunteer program.

Follow Mozingo Lake Golf Course on Facebook

City Hires New Public Works Director

by Amy Strough, Human Resources Manager

The City recently hired a new Public Works Director to fill the vacancy left by the departure of former Public Works Director, Greg Decker in June 2010. Clifford "C.E." Goodall stepped into the position on October 11, 2010. Prior to working for the City of Maryville, C.E. was employed with the City of Richmond, MO for 6 years. He began his career there as a wastewater plant operator and eventually advanced to the position of Public Works Director. He holds a Wastewater A license, a Water Plant Operations D license, and a Water Distribution

I license. While at Richmond, he supervised the water plant operations, 2 wastewater plants, the water distribution department, the street department, and the solid waste department.

He and his wife Lura are in the process of acquiring a home in Maryville. Lura currently works for the Richmond school district as a special education aide, and they have 3 children, Derek-20yrs, Damon-16yrs, and Dalane-14yrs. When his children were young he got involved with coaching little league

sports and enjoyed working with the youth so much that he has been a coach for 15 years. He is also an avid fisherman and is looking forward to checking out Mozingo Lake.

With quite a few large Public Works projects already underway here at the City, C.E. will definitely have his work cut out for him, but we are confident he will be up to speed in no time and become a great asset to the City. Please be sure to give him a warm Maryville welcome next time you see him or stop by City Hall and say hello.



Clifford "C.E." Goodall, Public Works Director



GO BEARCATS!!

NWMSU

Homecoming

Sat. Oct. 30

9:00am Parade

**2:00pm Game vs.
Fort Hayes State**



**Daylight Savings Time
Ends November 7**

**Don't Forget to Move
Your Clocks Back an Hour**

**Not on our
mailing list?**

**Call Sheila Smail at
562-8001 or email her
at ssmail@maryville.org**

What is a Bond Rating??

by Denise Town, Finance Director

In order to finance certain large capital expenditures with a long useful life, municipalities will often issue bonds. General obligation bonds (often referred to as GO bonds) are used to finance projects that benefit the community as a whole and are available to all residents. The issuer pledges its full faith and credit to support the repayment of the debt, which is typically secured by the issuer's promise to levy a tax, such as a property tax or sales tax. Revenue bonds, which are issued for projects that have identifiable users, are considered to be limited-liability obligations and are supported by the pledge of a specific revenue stream, usually derived from the project being funded.

Obtaining a bond credit rating is an important step in the debt issuance process. There are three main rating agencies: Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch Investors Service. Ratings serve as an indicator of the creditworthiness of the bond issuer, and have a direct impact on the interest cost since most investors are willing to accept a lower yield in exchange for greater security. Each agency has its own scale for designation of credit quality. Standard & Poor's uses AAA to designate its highest rating for very strong securities; AA indicates a very strong security only slightly below the highest; A ratings are average securities but more subject to adverse financial and economic developments; BBB ratings are considered adequate, but are more likely to suffer when adverse conditions arise. To define the ratings even more, Standard & Poor's uses designations of "+" or "-"

along with the letter rating to indicate relative strength or weakness.

When requesting a credit rating, the issuer must supply the agency with a variety of documents for their review and analysis. These include audited financial statements, the current year budget, the capital improvement plan, the comprehensive plan, adopted financial policies, trend reports, etc. The agency examines the documents to assess the capacity and willingness of the issuer to repay the debt, focusing on four main areas: economic indicators, debt burden, management, and financial performance. To evaluate the economic base the agency looks at the issuer's employment base, geographic proximity to metropolitan areas, its tax base, and demographic characteristics like population and personal income. To measure debt burden, the agency will develop ratios such as debt to market value, debt per capita, debt as a percentage of personal income, and debt as a percentage of operating expenditures. Financial analysis revolves around accounting and reporting methods, revenue and expenditure structure and patterns, annual operating and budgetary performance, etc. The ability of the issuer to obtain the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is viewed favorably by the rating agencies.

To aid in its analysis, the rating agency will conduct an in-depth interview of the issuer; typically the finance director and city

manager (for the City of Maryville it's usually been an hour-long telephone conversation discussing all the various focus areas). Follow up questions from the analyst are common to clarify or expand upon certain factors. Once the analyst has completed reviewing the data, the rating recommendation is reviewed by a formal rating committee consisting of the agency's most experienced personnel. After agreement on the assigned rating is reached, the agency contacts the issuer to verbally notify them and a formal report is provided a few days later.

The City of Maryville has one outstanding GO debt issue for the remaining balance of the Aquatic Center, and the construction and recent expansion of the Parks & Recreation Community Center. This issue was done in the spring of 2009 and was assigned an "A+" rating by Standard & Poor's. The City's one outstanding revenue bond issue for the 1999 expansion and upgrade to the Water Treatment Plant was refinanced in early summer of 2009 and was assigned a rating of "AA-" by Standard & Poor's.

To gain some perspective, Maryville's GO rating is comparable to the following Missouri cities as of Standard & Poor's 4-15-09 listing: Belton, Grandview, Hazelwood, Joplin, Liberty, Raytown, St. Joseph, University City, Warrensburg, and Washington. Cities with just a slightly higher rating include Blue Springs, Grain Valley, Independence, Kansas City, and Kirkwood. Only the State of Missouri and a handful of suburban St. Louis cities are rated AAA.