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THE DES REPORT

Fall 2017

GM's Corner: Aging



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The older I get, the more I think about getting older. I looked it up and discovered that I am a “baby boomer.” There are some minor discrepancies on the date ranges, but for the most part, baby boomers are people who were born between 1946 and 1964, “Generation X” are the people born between 1965 and 1980, “Generation Y,” also known as millennials, were born between 1981 and 2000, and “Generation Z” are people born after 2001. Who knows what’s after that? Each generation has different ideas and different values.

I was recently told that the word “aging” has a negative connotation. I suppose that is relative depending on who or what you are talking about.

The older I get, the more I find that I cannot physically do all the things I used to. In the past, I noticed that “older people” seemed to talk more about their ailments, doctors and the people they knew who had passed away rather than having conversations about new restaurants, concerts or other fun things they had done over the weekend. Who knew this would be me some day? When my wife and I meet friends for dinner, we are now having the “older people” conversations. I guess this happens to all of us eventually.

Constellation Energy's Nashville Community Service Activities

CNE employees recently participated in several community service fund raising activities. Their fund raising goals were met in each of them.

On Saturday morning, October 14th, CNE

Getting older presents new challenges. I didn't know there were so many assisted-living facilities until I started shopping for one. Thank goodness they are around so they can help us take care of our elderly family members. I'm not there yet, but I have had to start researching Medicare, Social Security and retirement income for my family members who are.

I guess getting older is depressing in some ways; however, there are good things about aging. These include watching your kids grow up, graduate from college, get married and give you grandchildren. Once your children are out of the house, you may have enough money to travel, buy that condo on the beach or get that midlife crisis sports car.

When you buy a new car, not much needs to be done – change the oil, rotate the tires, wash it and put gas in it. If something happens, you can take it to the dealership and they will repair it under warranty. As the car ages, the miles begin to rack up, the warranty expires, and the car will begin showing signs of wear. You must have service work done and spend money on it to keep it from breaking down.

On occasion, I watch a TV channel called Velocity. It is all about cars. On many of their shows, they restore older classic vehicles to original condition. Sometimes they will upgrade the engines and brakes to make them faster, more reliable and more valuable than when they were new. Prior to restoration, some of the cars look as though they are beyond repair. The ones that are still in good shape seem to be easier and less expensive to restore. It appears the better we take care of things, the less likely we will be to have trouble with them later. This applies not only to cars, houses, clothes and our bodies, but also to the Nashville District Energy System.

The older equipment and machinery get, the more chance there is for them to break down. With proper preventive maintenance, equipment can be kept in good condition. Regardless of the care, sometimes things do wear out. As with buying new tires, restoring that classic car or getting a knee replaced, HVAC equipment has to be restored or replaced too.

Over the past several years, we have made several upgrades to the district energy system due to wear. These include replacing condensate piping in the energy distribution system, replacing fill in the cooling towers and replacing the resin in the water softeners. Other improvements have been made as a result of improved technology. The DES computer equipment is replaced every three to five years. The boiler controls are currently in the process of being replaced. Building security upgrades are being made.

The life expectancy for a boiler is 50 years, and a chiller's is approximately 30 years. The MNDES Energy Generation Facility is only 14 years old and is in excellent condition. With our constant care and continuing improvements, there is no doubt the system will provide many more productive years of service to DES customers. Hopefully, my employees and I will have many more productive years as well.

Customer Spotlight:

Bridgestone Arena

Tim Friedenberger, VP Facilities Operations

employees and family members participated in the "2017 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Nashville Walk".

This 2.5 mile walk around Rolling Mill Hill began and ended at the Music City Hall of Fame Park across the street from the Country Music Hall of Fame.



Team members were: Richard West, Gayle Bowman, Angela West, Katherine Bowman, Alonzo Welch, Rachel Bowman, Tim Hestle, Emily, Daniel, Taylor and Shannon Priddy

On the afternoon of Saturday October 14th, Angela West served as a greeter at the Information Booth for "VetFest".

This was a two-day family festival at Fort Negley to honor and support veterans.

The event was co-hosted by Operation Stand-Down Tennessee and Vetlinx. They planned the entertainment, activities and furnished prizes.

At the same time, they were attempting to increase awareness of



We interviewed Tim Friedenberger, who is the VP Facilities Operations at Bridgestone Arena. Bridgestone is home to the Nashville Predators, a well-loved hockey team that played a historic run in the NHL playoffs in 2017.

Q: What does your role entail at Bridgestone Arena?

I oversee all of our back of house operations, which means I wear a few hats. I'm in charge of engineering, conversion operations, new construction, renovations and other operational tasks.

Q: What would you say is your favorite part about your job?

The daily challenges. We often receive tasks that need to be completed in a very short timeframe, and it's fun to work through these challenges with my team. It makes every day interesting.

Q: What makes Bridgestone Arena special or unique compared to other entertainment venues in Nashville?

Definitely our fan base. Our approach is the fans come first. We have an open-door policy with our fans to build relationships with them, and we are always thinking of them whenever we make any operational changes.

Q: What is your favorite type of event at Bridgestone?

Hockey for sure. We have a huge presence within our community and the leaders of the Predators have made a point to give back to the Nashville community whenever possible. Our team has also grown nationally. ESPN named our team as the number one sports franchise, and our arena has been recognized as Arena of the Year by Pollstar. Of course we're really proud of this, but our biggest goal is to win the Stanley Cup!

Q: What do you want the Nashville community to know about Bridgestone Arena?

We're a 20-year-old facility that does not show its age. We put a lot of time and money into updating our operations every year to make our venue look brand new, and we've found that our fans have noticed.

community resources and offering direct access to support services.

Vendor booths and food trucks rounded out the good time for family, friends, neighbors and supporters of veterans.

It was a free event open to everyone.

On Saturday, October 21st, CNE employees and family members met at the Energy Generation Facility to participate in the 4.5 mile "2017 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Nashville Walk".

The walk began and ended at Nissan Stadium after circling downtown.



Team members included: Angela West, Tim Hestle, Katherine Bowman, Alonzo Welch, Gayle Bowman and Steve Bowman

Employee Spotlight:

Steve Bowman, Senior Mechanic



Steve Bowman works as a senior mechanic.

Q: How long have you worked on the Nashville District Energy System?

I've been working for Constellation Energy on the District Energy System for 10 years.

Q: What did you do before coming to work for DES? What experience did you have prior to taking your current position?

I worked for the Ford Motor Company Glass Plant, Boiler Supply and Opryland Hotel. I worked on boilers, chillers and refrigeration systems in each of my former jobs.

Q: What made you apply for this job?

After leaving Ford Glass, I had my own residential HVAC business. I decided I needed something that offered benefits for my family.

Q: What is the most rewarding part of your job at DES?

I really like that I don't have to do the same thing every day. I am the person certified to transfer refrigerant to and from chillers, I tune the burners on the boilers and sometimes I do millwright work on pumps. Other days I work in the distribution system. It's hard to get bored when you get to do different things.

Q: Do you have any advice for individuals who are starting out in this career?

Learn as much as you can when you are young. Being a mechanic is not just turning wrenches. There are technical specialties. You can be an auto mechanic, aircraft

mechanic, boiler and machinery mechanic, HVAC mechanic, etc. If a person is not afraid of a little hard work, they can make a good living in this profession.

Q: How would you describe DES' importance to the city of Nashville?

The system supports 42 of the largest buildings downtown. The largest is the Music City Center. Heating and cooling large spaces, like the Convention Center, is a big deal.

Q: What do you enjoy doing when you are not at work?

I love fishing, being with my family and cooking on my Big Green Egg.

Nashville District Energy System Invitational Golf Tournament

The 25th Annual Nashville District Energy System invitational golf tournament took place at Indian Hills Golf Course in Murfreesboro on May 13. This was the 14th consecutive year the event was organized and put on by Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. The tournament, usually held on the third Saturday in July, was moved due to last year's exceptionally warm weather. Players included NDES customers, contractors, vendors, employees, family and friends. Jim Minor (National Boiler Service) won the "Longest Drive" contest and Eric Shekarabi (American Pipe) won the "Closest-to-the-Pin" contest.



Jim Minor and Eric Shekarabi

A three man team won the tournament in a score card playoff with a score of 64.



First Place Team: Mason Adcock, Ray Adcock and Todd Davis



In Memory of Harry Ragsdale Former President of Thermal Engineering Group, Inc. 1948-2017

Harry Ragsdale was born in Indianapolis, In., on Oct. 26, 1948, and passed away suddenly on the morning of May 31, 2017, in Gallatin, Tenn. He is preceded in death by his parents, Harry Gilbert Ragsdale and Leona Mildred Ragsdale.

He is survived by his loving wife, Patti Lynne (Kirk) Ragsdale, son Patrick Jeremy (Lorraine) Ragsdale, daughter Ashlie Amanda Ragsdale (Dustin)

Wright, and five wonderful grandchildren, Isaac, Ava, Iris, Lila and June. He is also survived by his siblings, Gary Ragsdale and Darlene Swain.

Harry was the President of Thermal Engineering Group, Inc. and was an invaluable member of the DES team, where he served as the Metro District Energy system project administrator for the past 10 years.

His professional career included manager of facilities engineering at Dow Chemical and construction project manager for Fleming Electric in Indianapolis, In. In 1980, Harry took a job as the senior project manager of engineering with Catalyst Thermal. This is the job that brought him to Nashville, which is when he discovered his love for the District Energy business. In 1991, Harry and his business partner Dan Coyle decided to open Thermal Engineering Group, Inc. as an engineering firm that specializes in district energy systems. Over the past 37 years, Harry has been highly regarded and respected in the District Energy profession.

Outside of work, his interests included boating, golf, racquetball and hockey. He enjoyed these activities because they gave him the opportunity to share time with his family and friends. He shared his love of life and family with everyone he met and never wavered in his service to others. Harry was a good man and the effects of his passing will be felt by everyone who had the honor and pleasure of knowing and working with him.

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