



From Murfreesboro's

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**MURFREESBORO, Tenn.** -- A team of Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Department employees, Terry Taylor, Dale Richardson, Steve Richardson, Andy Landrum, Josh Alcorn, Ben Weatherford and Dana McKenney was named STARS Award recipient for July during the July 11 meeting of Murfreesboro City Council.

STARS, or "Succeeding Through Attitudes Reflecting Service Excellence", is awarded monthly to individuals or teams that demonstrate "Excellence", program originator and Service Excellence Coordinator Shannon Logan said, adding the STARS Award is an honor that recognizes the City's greatest assets – its employees.

This past spring, a severe waster main break occurred at Old Fort Golf Club. Due to the location of the break, and the depth of the hole that had to be dug to reach the line, the job required special safety restrictions. The sides of the hole were over four feet in depth and therefore required stabilization and safety training specific to this type of work. The golf course staff recognized repairs would require special attention and training so asked MWSD for help.

Terry Taylor, MWSD Operations Manager, responded quickly with a seven-man crew of seasoned employees, including three employees with over 25 years of service each. Altogether, the crew has over 100 years service to the City.

The golf course's staff could not have done the repairs without putting several employees in danger or hiring out the repairs to an outside company, Director of Golf Tracy Wilkins said. The MWSD team was nominated because of how cooperative Taylor and his staff were and Wilkins was very complimentary about on how friendly and hard-working the repair team was. The teamwork demonstrated how City departments work together to provide safer and less expensive services to citizens.

Taylor said a contractor would have charged between \$7,500 and \$10,000 for the repairs but his crew completed the same job for \$1,500 to \$2,000, less than half what it would otherwise have cost.

"I'm proud to work with such conscientious, respectful co-workers, MWSD Director Darren Gore said, "and I am doubly proud that they (the MWSD team) were so eager to help another City Department."

