



# ENERGY CONNECTION

March 2024

*A Monthly Newsletter for the City of Rocky Mount Customers*



*Pictured are employees in the Energy Resources Department - Gas Division*

## **City to Celebrate Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day on March 18**

On March 18, 2024, the city of Rocky Mount will celebrate Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day. This day of recognition is a time when communities such as ours give recognition to the employees who work so hard to provide one of their most valuable assets—their natural gas utility.

The official Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day is March 18th because that is the date of the New London, Texas school explosion in 1937 that led to the widespread odorization of natural gas and an increased emphasis on safety. Safety is a vital aspect to natural gas distribution and the employees of distribution companies endeavor to make natural gas delivery as safe as possible.

This annual nationwide event is intended to build public awareness about the hard work done by the employees of natural gas utilities. On this day, we will also educate residents on the environmental, safety and cost benefits of using clean, reliable and affordable natural gas. Our customers recognize the need to access reliable, affordable, safe energy and depend on the service of natural gas utility employees for that need.

“Natural Gas Utility Workers’ Day is an opportunity to recognize the individuals that are essential in delivering natural gas safely and efficiently to our customers,” says Bradley Walters, gas operations manager. “Our gas employees are experienced, well-trained, and committed to serving the energy needs of our customers and our community. We are extremely grateful for their efforts every day.”

The city of Rocky Mount Energy Resources department maintains the second largest public gas system in North Carolina with more than 17,000 customers and 560 miles of natural gas distribution lines in Nash and Edgecombe counties. The Energy Resources Gas Division has 28 employees which includes management, engineering, compliance, maintenance, gas service technicians, gas meter technicians and gas construction crews.

In addition to their hard work in providing and maintaining the city’s natural gas services, the Gas Division is also a recipient of the Gold designation award in the American Public Gas Association’s (APGA) prestigious System Operation Achievement Recognition (SOAR) program. SOAR awards are given to natural gas utilities that demonstrate excellence in worker safety, workforce development, system integrity and system improvement. The SOAR Award lasts for three years, and the Gold designation is the SOAR award’s highest level of recognition. Rocky Mount is one of only three gas systems to receive the Gold designation three times. The SOAR award is a testament to the city’s commitment to safely providing natural gas service and the hard work of its natural gas workers.

“Natural Gas Utility Workers’ Day is a great opportunity to recognize our gas workers and the entire Gas Division for their hard work and dedication to safely providing a valuable resource for our city and community,” says Chris Beschler, director of Energy Resources.

If you would like to learn more about the benefits of natural gas, please visit <http://rockymountnc.gov/natural-gas>. We invite the community to join us in celebrating our natural gas employees on March 18th and throughout the month of March by visiting the Energy Resources Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/RockyMountEnergyResources](http://www.facebook.com/RockyMountEnergyResources).

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## Energy Resources to Host the Annual Tree Giveaway



Energy Resources will host its annual tree giveaway event on March 4th through March 6th or until supplies last. This event will be hosted at the City of Rocky Mount Business Service Center located at 224 S Franklin Street from 8:30am until 5pm. The department's tree advisory board will be giving away 3,000 Eastern Red Bud seedlings to city residents who visit the Business Service Center during the event. Limit two trees per customer, while supplies last.

Please remember, before planting trees, North Carolina law requires you to call 811 at least three full business days before digging and wait for utility lines to be marked on your property. For information call 811 or visit [nc811.org](http://nc811.org).

For more information about choosing the right tree type for your property and the best location, visit the [Arbor Day Foundation](http://ArborDayFoundation.org).



# Annual Nash County Recycle Day

Spring cleaning season is just around the corner, get a jump start on Saturday, March 2nd. Nash County Recycle Day is scheduled for tomorrow, Saturday, March 2nd at 10a.m. until 1p.m. at the Nash County Courthouse. The Nash County Courthouse is located at 234 W. Washington Street, Nashville, NC 27856. This event will allow Nash County residents to shred documents and recycle electronic products. For more information, please contact 252-467-4960.

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## Electric Division Prepares for American Public Power Association Lineworker Rodeo

Rocky Mount Energy Resources lineworkers begin practicing for the American Public Power Association (APPA) Lineworkers Rodeo. This year's rodeo is to be held April 5th through April 7th in Lafayette, Louisiana. According to the APPA website, the Lineworkers Rodeo is, "the ultimate venue for public power lineworkers to demonstrate their skills and knowledge while competing for professional recognition within their field." Rocky Mount's journeyman and apprentice lineworkers will compete for professional recognition, attend trainings, and practice essential skills while in at the APPA Lineworker Rodeo. More information about the APPA Lineworker Rodeo can be found visiting the [APPA Rodeo](#) website.



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[www.rockymountnc.gov/energy-resources](http://www.rockymountnc.gov/energy-resources)



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