

final thoughts...

Family is important. Love your kids. Love your parents. Forget about the little day to day dramas. Focus on what is really important. Richard lived that life everyday. A prouder father never existed than when his daughter graduated!



in this issue >>>

Please allow us to share with you, our memories of Richard LaRose. This is for him.



THE CITY OF
PERRYVILLE
MISSOURI
Plant your family here.

Vol 6
Issue 11

Office Report

All Hands Meeting: June 18 at Park Center at 3:15

Visitors at Public Works!!

Tim Christopher with Broen Valves, Folks from J.T. Blankinship and Jacobs Engineering, Kyle Bierk with Baer Engineering, Frank Boitano with Key Equipment, Joe Scaturo with IMCO, Kathy Kraemer with United Rentals, Ken Baer, and Charles Richey with NM NEGWER.

Happy Birthday's in June:

Jesse Whistler	5 th
Barbara Maxwell	12 th
Joe Berger	25 th
Gerry McCloud	29 th
Jordan Malone	30 th

coming soon >>>

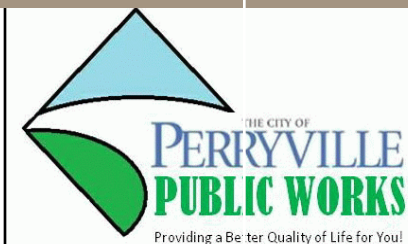
In The Next Issue

- Warmer Weather
- NGV Update
- MEL Scholarship
- Trash Truck policy
- And more!

A Twice Monthly Update from Perryville Public Works

June 1, 2018

What's In The Works And More!



On the morning of May13, 2018 I lost a very close friend, brother firefighter and co-worker Richard LaRose. I served many years on the Perryville Fire Department with Richard. He was always willing to help with any situation no matter what it was. I also worked with him at Perryville Public Works for several years. I have been on many road trips with him. I always got a kick out of Richard when he talked to a salesman. He would listen to their sales pitch and then commence to tell them more about their product than they knew. Richard has always been what I called a gear head. Mechanical work has always been Richards's passion. He always had a smile on his face even if he was mad after he would express his feelings and then he would always smile or giggle at the end. Richard was one of the LUCKIEST people I have known. We used to meet up in my shop and then call around and find us a few more card players to come over and Richard would clean our plows for awhile. Everyone would walk in and if Richard was sitting there they would take their money over and lay it down in front of him and say here just take it you are going to end up with it anyway and he would just chuckle. I never played cards anywhere that he didn't win. Richard was always a go to man if you needed mechanical advice or a price on something. He would come up with the answer or a good price on it. He was also a very big family man. Richard always hosted his family's holiday gatherings, like Thanksgiving, Christmas etc.

Till we meet again my friend R.I.P. Richard LaRose

I hadn't been working at Public Works for very long and trying to remember everyone's name was a bit difficult to say the least. Richard didn't speak to me much at the time which made it a bit harder. I was speaking to Mark about Richard but I couldn't recall his name. I just remember that he had nice hair like Elvis. Mark had no clue to whom I was speaking of. When Richard came in the next day I told Mark that he was the guy with Elvis hair. Mark found this humorous and shared with him that I thought that he looked like Elvis! Richard and Mark had a really good laugh at my expense, but I feel it was the day Richard and I became friends.

-Barbara Maxwell

I will always remember Richard for being the person when he wrote a letter he never used periods or capital letters. His sentences always ran together, but he would always get his point across. Richard was always concerned for his children. His two youngest boys would be with him a lot in the evening when they were younger. He tried to be Mom and Dad at the same time. We all know that one or the other is a full time job.

-Brenda Ochs

On The Loss of a Friend

When I first arrived here in 2013, I was concerned about how many, if anybody, would accept me. I was, after all, the new guy in town. On Day One, Richard walked into my office and gave me 100 keys. I am pretty sure that I had the key to the City! And he said, "Mark, I am always here for you." Great start!

It wasn't long before he would walk into my office with news. "Mark, we need to spend a zillion dollars to fix the trash truck." "Richard, what are our options?" "We have none. We have to spend the money." "So why are you asking me about it?" "I just like you knowing."

And I said, "Well, quit telling me stuff where I have no decision. Just do what you have to do." Yet almost everyday after that, Richard would walk into my office and I would say "What the Hell do you want now?" And he would give me that big grin and laugh a little before he told me the bad news. And we would have the same conversation again. Everyday.

I cannot tell you how much I miss not only his acumen with our fleet or his innate ability to make things happen but it is his smile and good naturedness that is irreplaceable. He had a smile for everybody, even those who would occasionally get under his skin. He still loved them, He still wanted to be the best teammate he could be.

And he was always the best friend he could be. I have tried to replace the hurt of losing him with the many memories of his smile, his laugh and his friendship.

Richard, we will never forget you.



Richard at the front of our Leadership Class in 2015. He always stood out and he was always outstanding. He wanted to learn and grow and be the best he could be. One of a kind.

Water & Sewer

A tribute to Richard Larose from the Water/Sewer Department.

I have only had the pleasure working with Richard for a little over 3- 1/2 years. The one thing that I could count of from Richard was in our monthly staff meetings. It seemed like whatever issues we had at public work I could count on him to blame the water/sewer crews. We drive too fast, whatever broke was our fault even if it was a bolt or rivet behind the tool boxes that no one could see or get to. When the line blew apart in front of Steinbecker's, it was Richard that was operating the hydrant for a structure fire. At last my chance to get on him however, he threw it back on me that the line was improperly installed and he didn't cause it to blow. Richard did come through for me every time I asked for help or equipment. He will be missed.

-Charlie McLeod

Having the opportunity to work with Richard both with Public Works and Fire Department gave me so many opportunities to learn from him. I am forever grateful to him for the opportunity to grow in the fire service as a leader. With his kids and grandkids growing he wanted to spend more time together with family. With this happening he requested to be moved from Captain to Engineer to allow for more family time. It was then I was promoted to Captain and step into Richards shoes. While they are big shoes to fill, I hope to make him proud and continue his great duties. Thank you brother. We'll take it from here.

-Jeremy Mantz

What's Happening

Street Dept.

sidewalks everywhere

Gas Dept.

Cathodic Survey; new services

WWTP

Working on Water Affect Ratio Study

Refuse Dept

New trucks due next week!

Water/ Wastewater Dept.

Hydrant repairs; flushing; etc

Customer Care Center: Now online at 547-2500! 24 hr emerg line!

Don't Forget that we still have the

Natural Gas Appliance Rebates!



I remembered Richard LaRose from my days of driving milk trucks for the Perryville Cheese Plant. With me being only 21 years of age, kept Richard working on those milk trucks all of the time. Shortly after becoming the Assistant Public Works Director we were in need of another mechanic. Wayne Walker was the only mechanic that we had at the time and he was overwhelmed with work. The city was growing and we just needed more help in that area. I had mentioned to Charles LaRose his brother about getting him a job with the City as another mechanic. He did not think that this would work as he was the Public Works Director and he would be working under him. After some more brain storming, Craig Lindsley said he could work under me and would be the Police Departments Mechanic and this is how it worked out. I could always count on Richard to take care of plowing or salting with the big truck with the spreader and plow to get everything out by Progress Drive area and then come down Big Springs and some of the long streets in that area. It was always good to have him work and double as a mechanic if the need should arise. Whenever I needed equipment, Richard was my go to guy for specs and the maintenance on that piece of equipment. He would also tell you if someone was not using the equipment properly, etc. He was very good about saving the City's money and always trying to get a better deal to save money. He would always get his point across even if you were his boss or not. I can remember Richard helping me out for the better part of 48 years. He was always nice to me even in my early days of driving trucks for the Cheese Plant and because he knew I was young and was the one tearing those trucks up.

-David Clements

Building Department Update

By Angie Brown, CBO

Over the past 5 years, I have had just a few opportunities to get to know Richard. He spent many hours keeping the Building Inspector vehicle up and running. In 5 years I have had 2 somewhat well used Jeep Cherokees. Both trucks were in similar condition and it took Richards know how to keep them going. Several weeks ago I submitted a work order to have Richard look at the air conditioner as he has done each spring. It wasn't cooling off so I knew it needed a little recharge. The Friday afternoon of Mayfest, Richard called me before I left for the day to ask me about the problem. He said he would get it fixed that afternoon before he left. Richard was a man of his word because when I got in the truck Monday morning, it cooled off immediately! I looked to the sky and thanked him for being such a great guy. We never know what the future holds so it is so important that we all appreciate the people around us and let them know how we feel. We will all miss Richard and every time I get in my truck this summer I will think of him.

-Angie Brown

NATURAL GAS: THE BEST CHOICE!

Clean burning natural gas logs...inexpensive and warm!
Cleaner, Cheaper, Better!

547-2500

We can go a long way without going far at all.

Natural gas: It's abundant and it's here at home.



Quality water... for life.

Richard was a great father and a great guy to work with. He was a very funny guy who always had to give you some crap every time he you called about mechanic work or anything. He would always get the job done (no matter how big) and was a master at juggling several jobs and not forgetting them. I will always remember his kindness and sarcasm. Every time he called me he said "Hey Meyer". Now it's my turn to say "Hey Larose" rest in peace big guy.



Richard's Funeral procession was majestic as we honored a fallen hero.



Richard was quite the problem solver. Here he is trying to figure out how this happened. I only wish you could see the look on his face a bit more clearly.

