

PW History

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

Paducah Water's story begins in 1885, when a group of East Coast investors built the city's original water works along the Ohio River, right where the Carson Center for the Performing Arts stands today. In the early years, the company changed hands several times before being purchased in 1888 by Muscoe Burnett, who would guide the utility for the next 40 years. Under his leadership, Paducah Water became an industry pioneer. In 1903, the company built one of the nation's first rapid sand filter plants, setting a new standard for water treatment. By 1911, more than 40 miles of water mains served the city, and just two years later, Paducah Water Company became the first facility in the country to use a dry-feed chemical dispenser. A flyer from that same era proudly declared: "Liberal pressure and constant supply. 40 miles of water main. 100 pounds of pressure." It's safe to say Mr. Burnett accomplished plenty during his tenure.



Fast forward to 1930, when the City of Paducah purchased the company and renamed it Paducah Water Works. The utility endured tough moments, like the devastating 1937 flood, but bounced back strong with the construction of the Forest Hills Reservoir in 1938, still serving the community today. Over the following decades, PW kept expanding, merging with smaller districts, extending water mains, and building storage facilities. By 1984, a brand-new treatment facility opened on North 8th Street, setting the stage for future growth.



That spirit of progress never stopped. From a small water works on the Ohio River in 1885 to serving nearly 30,000 customers today, Paducah Water has always been about innovation and service. Burnett's sand filter in 1903 made headlines, the City's bold purchase in 1930 secured our future, and the 1984 plant pushed us forward. Nearly 700 miles of water mains later, Paducah Water is still delivering what matters most—clean, safe, reliable water.

Happy RETIREMENT!

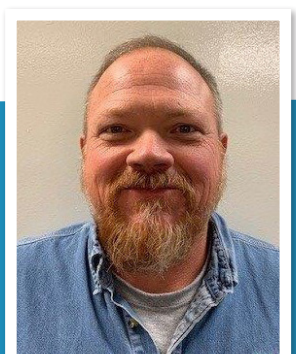
Corey Becker, Field Operations Operator, retired on July 31 after 28 years of service. Corey began employment in October 1996 as a Laborer.

Jared Merritt, Water Treatment Plant Control Systems Technician, retired on September 30 after 27 years of service. Jared began employment in August 1998 as an Operator.

Best wishes on your next adventure!



Corey Becker



Jared Merritt

Welcome TO THE TEAM!

PW welcomes Lea Ann Smith to the team as Director of Finance in the Business Office. We also welcome Nathan Gossom back to the team as a Laborer in the Field Operations Department.



Lea Ann Smith



Nathan Gossom

KWWOA Western Chapter 2024 OPERATOR OF THE YEAR!



Congratulations to Tee Vinson, PW's Treatment Plant Superintendent, on being recognized as the 2024 Operator of the Year by the Western Kentucky Chapter of the Kentucky Water & Wastewater Operators

Association (KWWOA). This award honors Tee and commends both him and his staff for their outstanding dedication, leadership, and commitment to protecting public health through safe, reliable drinking water. We're proud to celebrate this well-deserved achievement!

Bottled Water Donation

At Paducah Water, we're proud to support local nonprofits that serve our community. If your organization is hosting an event, we may be able to help with bottled water. To request a donation, email info@pwwky.com or call our Business Office at 270-442-2746.



WATCH THE ROAD!



Source: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/distracted-driving>

We all know distracted driving is dangerous. In fact, most collisions on the road today are linked to simple driver inattention. But what exactly counts as "distracted driving"? According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), it's any activity that takes your attention away from driving. That could mean texting or talking on your phone, eating or drinking, adjusting the stereo, or even losing focus in conversation with passengers. The bottom line: if you're not fully focused on the road, you're distracted.

Distractions fall into three main categories:

- Visual – taking your eyes off the road
- Manual – taking your hands off the wheel
- Cognitive – taking your mind off driving

Texting is especially risky because it combines all three distractions. In just five seconds, the time it takes to read a text, you'll have traveled the length of a football field at 55 mph.

Pledge to stay safe by driving phone-free and encouraging your friends and family to do the same. When you keep your eyes, hands, and mind on the road, you're not just protecting yourself; you're protecting everyone around you.

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