

# Connections

The Newsletter of Easton Utilities

Fall 2017



410-822-6110 (24/7)

Office Hours  
Monday-Friday,  
8:00am-4:30pm

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Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

## Easton Utilities Supports Talbot Goes Purple



Easton Utilities is proud to support Talbot Goes Purple, a substance abuse awareness program that will engage our community and youth to stand up against substance abuse. The purpose of the project is to promote the 'new conversation' – one that includes prescription drugs. Talbot Goes Purple is an initiative from Talbot County Sheriff's Office and Tidewater Rotary, in partnership with several other organizations.

The project is based upon THP Project Purple, an initiative of The Herren Project established by former NBA basketball player, Chris Herren. THP Project Purple assists individuals and families struggling with addiction.

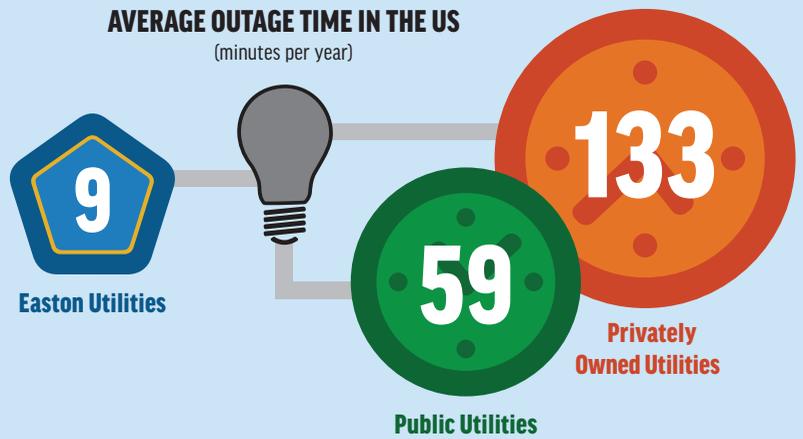
Learn more at:  
[www.talbotgoespurple.org](http://www.talbotgoespurple.org)



**EASTON UTILITIES**  
Life. Made better.™

## Did You Know?

Easton Utilities has an average of **85% less** outage time per year than other public utilities and **93% less** than privately owned utilities.



## Impressive Interns at EU

In early June, five fresh faces arrived at Easton Utilities eager to participate in the summer-long internship program, now in its eighth year. The company welcomed:

- **Christopher Bounds**, Environmental Studies Graduate from Salisbury University
- **Morgan Kearney**, Mining and Civil Engineering Majors from West Virginia University
- **Nicholas Marshall**, Accounting Major from Salisbury University
- **Will Peerman**, Business Administration Major from Salisbury University
- **Erin Sauter**, Computer Science and Engineering Majors from Washington College

The internship program is a formal, comprehensive experience consisting of tours, learning workshops, projects and presentations. The tours and workshops educate the interns on the various services, infrastructure, and demands of each department at Easton Utilities. While completing this in-depth orientation, the interns are fully immersed in their respective departments for a true hands-on experience. In the first few weeks, they each select a specific project as a focus during the internship and are required to give a presentation at the culmination of the program.

Hugh E. Grunden, President and CEO of Easton Utilities, stated, "An internship with Easton Utilities is an ideal opportunity to apply lessons learned in the classroom and acquire first-hand knowledge in an active business environment."

The program is led by Melissa Book, Human Resources Assistant and Athena Mellis, Systems Analyst in IT, who was also an intern in 2015. The internship experience has helped many interns secure full time positions with both Easton Utilities and elsewhere upon graduating.



*L to R: Melissa Book, Hugh Grunden, Christopher Bounds, Morgan Kearney, Nicholas Marshall, Will Peerman, Erin Sauter, Vicki Petro, and Athena Mellis.*



*L to R: MDE Secretary Ben Grumbles, Paul Moffett, Buck Duncan, Hugh Grunden, Governor Larry Hogan, Comptroller Peter Franchot, Mayor Robert Willey, Senator Addie Eckardt and Delegate Johnny Mautz.*

## Solar Array Groundbreaking

It took creativity, innovation and teamwork to make the Easton Sustainability Campus what it is today and will be soon, officials said on July 19<sup>th</sup>, during a groundbreaking ceremony for one of the campus' new aspects — a solar field. "Maryland has already been graded as the most innovative state in America, and I look forward to future developments at the Easton Sustainability Campus, which will help our state continue to lead the way," Gov. Larry Hogan said at the groundbreaking ceremony.

The Easton Sustainability Campus is a portfolio of renewable resources. Hogan said with the new solar array project, "Easton Utilities continues to demonstrate its longstanding commitment to renewable energy and environmental stewardship." The solar project has secured \$3 million in grant funding through the Maryland Department of the Environment. Franchot called the Board of Public Works' vote to award the money an easy one to make, due to its benefit to the town, county, surrounding communities and state.

"When this solar array is fully functional, it will not only reduce the cost associated with operating the wastewater treatment plant, it will also eliminate the site's carbon footprint," Franchot said. "This is a win-win for the taxpayers. Also, for the electric ratepayers, it affirms our state's commitment to investing in resources and supporting efforts to reduce pollution and carbon emissions in Maryland." Hogan said the solar array "will contribute to a reduction in Maryland greenhouse gas emissions and will play a vital role" in helping the state reach its pollution reduction targets.

Mayor Willey said that when the Town and Easton Utilities work together as a team, "we're hard to beat," and Easton Utilities Commission Chairman W.W. "Buck" Duncan called it "one of the most exemplary teamwork efforts I've ever been involved in."

"You've come to a place where we get things done and we get things done well," Hugh E. Grunden, President and CEO of Easton Utilities told the crowd of dignitaries.



# Easton Sustainability Campus

POWERED BY **EASTON UTILITIES**



# SMELL GAS?

Call  
**410-822-6110**

Natural Gas is a clean and efficient energy source to use in your home.

## RECOGNIZE

Natural Gas is a non-toxic, colorless and combustible fuel. An unmistakable "rotten egg" odor is added to natural gas as a built-in safety signal to detect even a very small leak.

## REACT

If you smell gas, leave the area immediately.

## REPORT

Call Easton Utilities at 410-822-6110 or 911 immediately.

Easton Utilities will dispatch a technician to investigate.

### FUGAS Y EMERGENCIAS DE GAS NATURAL

Easton Utilities  
Servicio al cliente:  
410-822-6110



*Working Together for*  
**EU WELLNESS**

## Wellness Award

Easton Utilities earned a Silver Medal as a 'Healthiest Maryland Business Wellness at Work' recipient. To receive this award, businesses must have an established worksite wellness program, practices and strategies in place to include a workplace health improvement plan. Easton Utilities has had a wellness program

in place for over 15 years. The program continues to grow each year and includes a comprehensive wellness scorecard with activities such as health risk assessments, biometric screenings, wellness seminars, lifestyle improvement activities and programs, wellness challenges, community engagement and gym attendance. "As a mission-driven organization, we aim to enhance the quality of life in our community and for our employees. Prioritizing wellness is a perfect example of this as we believe healthy employees are happy and productive employees," said Vicki L. Petro, Director of Human Resources for Easton Utilities who manages the wellness program.

## Annual Customer Satisfaction Phone Survey

Starting soon! If you are asked to participate, we appreciate your time and input.

## Easton Utilities

### Celebrates Public Power & Gas Week

As a municipally owned utility company, Easton Utilities brings a range of benefits to the community that privately held utility companies generally do not. Across the nation, public power companies offer favorable rates, local customer service, and a commitment to the local community.

**Come Visit Us! October 2 – 6, 2017 8 am – 4:30 pm**

### GET CONNECTED!

Follow Easton Utilities to get the latest news and information!

- Outage alerts
- Project updates
- Community news
- Energy tips



## *Committed to our Community*

*In keeping with our mission to enhance the quality of life in our community, Easton Utilities is proud to support many local organizations and events including:*

Talbot Hospice Foundation

Mid Shore Mediation

SOS: Sink or Swim

Waterfowl Festival

Talbot Mentors

Talbot Humane Society

Talbot Goes Purple