



# THE TREE LINE

News for Sunland Construction & Affiliates

## Eastern Division

September 2018 Edition

### Gotta Dig-It

*Your Hard Work in the Spotlight. Thanks to you for your hard work. Your professionalism and workmanship have kept jobs in the pipeline.*

*There are a number of jobs currently underway. If you are between jobs and are looking for a good opportunity, feel free to contact the Division Office to find out what work is available.*

Sunland's Division 12 rang in the New Year with most of their efforts focused in Darrow, LA on Spread 3 of a large project involving the installation of a new 24" pipeline numbering at around 85,000 feet. Division 12 worked in conjunction with Division 17 who was awarded an additional spread of this same project. Executed with the leadership of Superintendents Marty McNease and Lance McNease, this was a good project for Eastern Division. This project held some unique challenges, such as working under wet, swampy conditions. Also unique was the added element of trying to complete our appointed task, while also respecting an environmental group's right to protest.

In the end, Division 12 was able to complete this Project before the deadline with only around 10,000 feet remaining to clean up. Congratulations to Marty, Lance and their entire crew, as well as Project Manager Todd Ferry for a job well done!

Division 12 also picked up a project this February in Macon, GA. Superintendent, David McGary and crew were tasked with the installation of a new 1.5 miles of 30" pipeline. Also involved was 800 feet of 16" line lowering and the relocation of an existing 36" pig trap. Thank you to David and his crew for all their hard work!

Brian Ward and crew have been working on a project in Maryland since Mid-March, which is scheduled to be completed in early November. This project called for the fabrication and replacement of 5" - 22" mainline valves. The replacement of both a launcher and receiver, as well as a 24" valve at the pressure reducing station.



Brian Ward's crew digging to expose lines in preparation to replace mainline valve.



George Spratlin's crew installing piping.



Brian’s crew received special accolades from the client for their efforts. The gas company was impressed with the speed and efficiency with which the crew got mobilized and how well they have maintained that speed and efficiency throughout the whole project.

During certain phases of the project the crew was dealing with restricted working hours, torrential rain, and permits that only allowed work on certain dates. Special thank you to Brian Ward and his entire crew. The leadership of George Spratlin, Landle “Bubba” McGee, Jason Claypool and Luis Hernandez helped to make this project a major success.



George Spratlin’s crew challenged to install pipe about 6 feet underneath these exposed pipes.



The night shift, as crew works round the clock for tie-in for valve replacement.

George Spratlin, along with a 12 man crew have returned to finish up a project in Virginia. The scope of work involved the installation of 2,100 feet of 24” pipeline. That same crew previously completed the majority of the project. The remainder of the work is set to be completed by the end of September.

Approaching the summer season, Division 12 was on track to complete these projects. At times, the forecast of available work can seem like either a feast or a famine. With the next few months uncertain, Division 12’s dedicated team of Project Manager’s worked hard to lay the groundwork necessary to obtain future projects.

That hard work paid off with the award of several good solid jobs to round out the summer and fall. David McGary and his crew are currently in Glasco, KS, while Landle McGee and crew are also in America’s Heartland, in a town called Red Oak, IA.

Most recently, Eastern Division was awarded a job in South Carolina, and by extension the opportunity to work with a sought after new client.



George Spratlin’s crew as they install pipe at station in Maryland.



# “Picture Overview” Great Job Eastern Division!





# “Marlon Gonzalez” Foreman



Marlon Gonzalez was born in a very small town in Mexico, called Nayarit. A town so small, according to Marlon, you couldn't even find it on a map.

Marlon began working for Sunland Construction, soon after he moved to the United States in 1996. Over the years, he has worked on site as a seasonal employee doing jobs such as laborer and welder helper. Marlon began working full time at Sunland's Eastern Division in 2013 as its' Yard Foreman *Extraordinaire*. While the last part is not part of his official title... it really should be.



If I had to describe Marlon Gonzalez in five words... I would call him: kind, quiet, dependable, hardworking *and* hardworking. I do realize I said hardworking twice, but it's worth repeating. If you give Marlon a task he will be *on it* before you can blink an eye. That's part of what makes him so good at it his job. It can get hectic in a hurry when those trucks get lined up on the yard to be loaded or unloaded. Marlon may have inherited a bit of his good work ethic from his father Manuel, who is also a Sunland employee.

Michael Lollar, purchasing clerk, describes Marlon as “The best yard hand he’s ever worked with. That’s saying something... because Marlon’s dad Manuel also used to help us out on the yard in between jobs... and he was the best too.”

Marlon married his wife Cynthia back in 2001. They have a son... also named Marlon, age 15... and daughter Daniela, who is 7. In addition to their partnership as parents... they also owned/operated a restaurant together called El Soborcito, for nearly 3 years. Cynthia ran the day to day operation at the restaurant. According to Marlon, “She did a little of everything... from waitressing to cooking to management.” Being a small business owner can be a stressful endeavor... which led them to the decision to close their doors. Most people would be upset if their favorite restaurant went out of business, but Marlon got the good end of the deal. He still gets to enjoy his wife’s cooking... for free. If you were wondering... her enchiladas are his favorite. If you live in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, you may be surprised to realize that other sports besides football do, in fact, exist. Take soccer, for example. The whole rest of the world considers *that* to be the “real” football... but *that* is a debate for another day. For Marlon Gonzalez, soccer plays a major role in his family’s day to day life. The whole family plays every Sunday in Fosters, AL with their soccer league... also known as *Liga Hispanoamericana*.

Marlon plays on a team with his son Marlon. Father plays defense, while son plays in the front. Marlon’s wife Cynthia won an award for best player in their league this year. Marlon’s daughter also played on a team, coached by her father. However, Marlon is going to have to change his coaching status to *former* youth soccer coach, because while the girls were a joy to work with, the soccer mommas... not so much. Ask just about any youth sports coach and I bet they will tell you that the kids are easy. It’s the parents that are the real challenge.

While Marlon Gonzalez may be retiring from his coaching gig, he will continue to be a key player on this Division 12 team. Thank you to Marlon for his daily contribution to the success of this division!



# Co-worker Connection



***Tammy Fendley***  
***Office Manager***  
***Eastern Division***



**Which company do you work for and how many years of service?** Sunland Construction, Inc., for 23 years.

**Tell us about your family?** Amanda (daughter), Jason (son-in-law); 2 grandkids, Bo (age 4) and Mary Alice (age 2); Old English Sheepdog Konrad (age 4), Jenxie my 8 year old “outside” cat and many pet chickens.

**What does your perfect day off look like?** I would be working in my yard. I love yardwork!

**This year, what has been your biggest work-related challenge?** T&M entry and for one of our customer’s new A/P programs.

**This year, what has been your biggest work-related achievement?** Teamwork. I firmly believe that it takes everyone working together to make a company great.

**If you could have dinner with anyone past or present, who would it be and why?** Being a fan of Pearl Jam since 1991, I would love to have dinner with the lead singer, Eddie Vedder. Their first album “Ten” is my favorite album of all time.

# From Our Desk to Yours

## *“Values – Family”*

Upon arriving on my first day of work back in 1995, Sunland Construction, Inc. was a smaller company at the time. It was comprised of the corporate office (approx. 20 office/shop employees), a small office in Channelview, and a small office in Tuscaloosa. It seemed then that I had walked into a family atmosphere, everyone knew and cared about each person. We knew each Superintendent, their spouse, Foreman, and many laborers not only by name but would recognize them when they walked in the door of the office.



Thinking back to that time, there was truly an atmosphere of Family love. The love I am speaking of is *brotherly love, which encompasses love for fellow humans, care, respect, and compassion for people*. This is what Sunland Construction’s Family value stands for and the reason that it has grown to add to the family with Foremost, Buffalo Gap, Kori, and Field Services.

As a family grows, there are always “growing pains” like when having the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> child added to the family. There are few hours of sleep and always something that needs taking care of. As Sunland has grown, we have experienced those “growing pains” but when we get back to the basics of one of our core values such as Family, we can overcome those “growing pains” by having love for our fellow man/women and caring and respecting the people we work with.

You don’t have to see someone with your eyes to care and respect who they are and what they do for the company. There are many employees that I speak with on the phone or see in the computer system that I may never see face to face, but I care and respect them for what they do every day. Some say there is a divide between office and field, but if we truly understand that one cannot exist without the other and come together with caring and respect as a Family, we may find there was truly no divide to begin with.

As for myself, I am truly grateful for the Sunland and Affiliates Family. Without every employee, I would have never had the chance to be a part of Sunland and Affiliates for 23 years (hopefully, many more!). It is my “home” away from home and I couldn’t ask for better Family to work with. Whether it be the laborer out on a job, the Superintendent running the job, the welder welding the pipe, or the CFO, we should always have that brotherly love and caring and respect for all of our co-workers. They may be the only reason we make it home safely today. Isn’t that what a Family is truly all about?

*“Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”*  
*Romans 12:10*

*Melody Guidry*  
*HR Manager*