

**~ PEOPLE, PLACES, & THINGS ~**



**Meet Multi-Faceted Gail**

Gail Minggia is truly a multifaceted woman. She has been employed by Eastern Petroleum since April, 2001 as the resident Accounts Receivable Clerk.

She is responsible for entering daily prices, bills of lading for all EP Marts and Bulk Plant as well as all wholesale and heating tickets into the computer. She processes all entries at the end of the day, accounts for inventory at the bulk plant, keeps up with credit card accounts by either charging or debiting customers. Gail also bills money orders and fees weekly. Most of all she provides friendly and courteous customer service.

Gail also went to cosmetology school which is reflected in her many trendy hair styles. She is a devoted mother to her 2 sons and a daughter and is involved totally in their lives. She is also active in her church.

Not only is Gail multi-faceted, she is very resilient. She recently experienced the passing of her father and her nephew and her daughter was involved in a car accident yet she remains upbeat and almost always wears a smile.

One final and very exciting thing is Gail is an up and coming poet. She recently won a contest for her poem "Secrets" that will be published in The Anthology of Poets.

**COUNTRY MEETS CITY**

In the normal course of business, we sometimes have to go outside of our comfort zone, or our normal environment. Such was the case recently when Ed Harris accompanied by Mike Smith and Daniel Lynch went to the Southeastern Trade Show of the National Propane Gas Association in Atlanta, Georgia.

"Being in the market for a new propane delivery truck, and wanting to have some help from two of our most experienced delivery drivers, I thought it most important to have Mike and Daniel see everything available to the industry. Also, it was an opportunity for Daniel to explore the latest in leak detection equipment and "Gas Check" programs," reasoned Ed Harris, who has been numerous times before, but has never taken others from the company.

The experience turned out to be even larger and more exciting than anticipated. Not only was it the first time either Mike or Daniel had been exposed to that large of a trade show, with that wide a range of equipment displayed before them, but it was memorable in several other ways. It was the first time Daniel had been inside of an airport or flown on a plane of any kind, and the first time either had been to a city larger than Raleigh, NC. To say that the experience was educational and eye-opening would be an understatement.

The trio left Raleigh-Durham early Saturday morning, April 2nd, and returned late on the afternoon of April 5th. Harris admits that he put them through the paces, trying to fit every meeting and every seminar, and every bit of information into their day, but they "hung in there." "I think they were ready to get home and back to normal when it was over. They even admitted that they had previously thought that business trips were fun for those in the company who travel regularly," Harris said.

Eastern Petroleum appreciates Mike and Daniel being willing to give up their weekend and home time to go outside their normal routine in order to help guide the company into better decisions.

**CONGRATULATIONS**



To **Terrelle Lynch** on being awarded a General High School Diploma from James Madison High School in Atlanta, Georgia. Terrelle received her diploma through home correspondence classes while working as Assistant Manager at EP Mart # 8. Terrelle has been with Eastern Petroleum since September 24, 2001.

It took her over a year to complete her studies, but it was worth it. Terrelle said that she did it for her children Tre, age 7 and Kevona age 4.

## Information Technology Directions

By Bill Ridge

### Company Near Completion of Corporate Network Rollout

For the past year Eastern Petroleum Corp. has been working on computer infrastructure enhancements that should help enable better, quicker and cheaper ways of doing business. The initial phase of these enhancements is anticipated to be complete by the middle of May.

The heart of this project is the rollout of the company's Wide Area Network (WAN). This WAN electronically ties all the stores to the corporate office 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Essentially all computer equipment in the company, whether at a store, at the home office, or in a residence, can be accessed via this network at any time. Store surveillance systems, tank monitoring equipment, personal computers, are all tied to one network to help speed business processes, enable better communication among employees and simplify maintenance issues.

Security of the network and equipment has also been a focus of the project. All employees have a single point of entry into the network and can only be accessed given the right credentials. All email, machines and networking hardware are monitored by security systems to prevent intrusion and virus infection.

Also part of this rollout is wireless access to the network. Employees with corporate laptops can gain access to the company network in any EP Mart store. The newest store, EP # 14 on Old Carriage Road, also offers wireless Internet access to the public while they are on the premises. Students, business people, and the casual Internet user can check their email or browse the web from their laptops while they are dining in the restaurant or setting at the EP Mart window bar.

As time goes on, more and more devices will be added to the network. The store point-of-sale systems will be added, counter devices such as check verifiers, money order machines and customer loyalty systems will utilize the company network. All this will simplify the way we do business, saving the company time and ultimately money.

Keeping in line with Eastern Petroleum Corporation's dedication to serving customers, the company now has a very solid technology foundation to build on as we look for more ways to increase customer satisfaction. Enhancements to this foundation will continue to be implemented as time goes on and new technology becomes available.

## 2 Attend Continuing Ed Class

Joe Coppock and Daniel Lynch attended a seminar in Greenville, NC on March 18, 2005. This class was strictly for those who have a NC Piping License and was a "Piping Upgrade" class.

It was comprised of three two-hour sessions and was sanctioned by the North Carolina Propane Gas Association, Inc.

## STORE OF THE MONTH

November EP Mart # 2

**Kathy West, Manager**

**Frances Coley, Assistant Manager**

December EP Mart # 16

**Teresa Prater, Manager**

**Cheryl Sparks, Assistant Manager**

January. EP Mart # 11

**Jackie Sullivan, Manager**

**Mona Freeman, Assistant Manager**

February. EP Mart # 16

**Teresa Prater, Manager**

**Cheryl Sparks, Assistant Manager**

## LUNCH N LEARN

Jackie Sullivan, Peggy Mullins, Teresa Prater, Brenda Worsley, Valerie Baker, Mitch Parrish, Charlie Gagliano and Cheryl Barnhill attended the seminar "Time Management for Champions at Edgecombe Community College with speaker Mike Collins.

This seminar gave ways to get the most out of your time. The program also showed how to better handle the tasks, people, and stuff in life that effect your time.

The program included: Understanding how much time you really have, planning with a purpose, setting and tracking priorities, and getting it done and having a life.



## ADOPT A HIGHWAY

The next scheduled Saturday clean up is May 28th at 9:00 A.M. There has been good response in the past clean ups, but we encourage everyone to come and participate. Can't bend a lot? Come anyway! You can help distribute bags, vests, and deliver people. Or you can walk along holding someone else's' bag for the exercise.

Eastern Petroleum has dedicated itself to this highway project, which bears our name and the Locke Family name. It is usually the employees who work in Enfield who participate, but anyone who is employed by the Convenient Store Division, Transport, or Fuel Division can Participate.

**SEE YOU ON THE ROAD!!!**

## News Needed

**When you have a birth, marriage, special family event, death of a family member or someone at your location does something outstanding please let me know about it. Just write it up and send it to my attention or call me and tell me about it. Please share your news with your fellow employees. Let's make our newsletter the best it can be.**

**Jean Waters**

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

### 1 Year

Kim Solomon

Julia Barnes

Merrea Abdul-Karim

Samuel Branch

Renee Langley

Tonya Lewis

Tanika Pryor

Barbara Rice

### 2 Years

Vicki Campbell

Thomas Clay

Linda Howard

Michelle Pearsall

Jean Waters

Glenda Williams

Garland Langston

### 4 Years

Vivian Fillery

Linda Cooper

Gail Minggia

### 5 Years

Tara Wells

Edward Caudle

Jackie Caudle

Jackie Sullivan

### 6 Years

Lukisha Deloatch

### 7 Years

Carol Tyson

### 8 Years

Raymond Strickland

### 12 Years

Willie Mae Battle

Ed Harris

Daniel Lynch

### 15 Years

Mike Smith

### 17 Years

Eula Mae McKellar

Charles Gagliano

Sarah Bynum

### 18 Years

Kathy West

### 21 Years

Joe Coppock



## Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary

to Peggy and Leroy Mullins. The couple was recently honored with a celebration at Mildred Baptist Church in Tarboro, NC. Approximately 75 friends and family attended the event.

## CERTIFICATES of Commendation

are presented to Christy Allen, Mae McKellar, Rasheli Sears, Tara Whitaker and Michelle Bowman when the NC Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, Alcohol Law Enforcement Division conducted tobacco compliance checks in Nash County. While there, these EP Mart employees were checked and displayed excellence in that they did not make a sale to the underage person that attempted to purchase cigarettes from them according to Michael D. Robertson, Director of the agency.

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION!!

### Lori Alford, Manager EP Mart #4

Thanks for all the help opening EP Mart #14.

### Vicki Campbell, Assistant Manager

EP Mart # 12 Thanks for spending the night in the store during the ice storm so that you could be there to work the next day.

### Chandra Turner, Assistant Manager

EP Mart #10 Thanks for filling in for Sylvia Jones while she was in the hospital.

### Teresa Lynch & Mary Taylor, Assistant Managers EP Mart #4

Thank for running EP Mart #4 while Lori Alford was managing EP Mart #14

## BLUE EXTRAS

(Blue Cross Blue Shield)

BluePoints: Earn free prizes for being physically active

GetFitBlue: Save up to 25% on weight management programs

HealthlineBlue: 24-hour health information 1-877-477-2424

OpticBlue: Discounts on laser eye surgery



# Happy Birthday

## January

Judieth Garris  
 Elizabeth Lindsay  
 Lisa Pineda  
 Vivian Tillery  
 Cheryl Barnhill  
 Michelle Bowman  
 Frances Coley  
 Edward Cook  
 Jonathan Earwood  
 Michael Hicks  
 Clifton Hunter  
 Terry Johnson  
 Renee Langley  
 Daniel Lynch

## February

Tammy Andrews  
 Lela Taylor  
 Valerie Baker  
 Charlie Gagliano  
 Sharon Green  
 Tonya Harvey  
 Charlotte Locke  
 Bill Ridge  
 Audrey Shearin  
 Mike Smith  
 Sylvia Warren  
 Glenda Williams

## March

Cinique Houston  
 Jennifer Johnson  
 Melissa Wise  
 Merrea Abdul-Karim  
 Jackie Caudle  
 Delia Cobb  
 Josephine Driver  
 Arthur Harlow  
 Ricky Lewis  
 Zola Shearin  
 Raymond Strickland

## April

Julia Barnes	Debby Bradley
Linda Cooper	Diane Daniels
Allen Davis	Garland Langston
Carolyn Sullivan	Allison Whitley



## EP MART MANAGERS ATTEND SOUTHCO SHOW

All of the EP Mart Managers along with Cheryl Barnhill, VP of Marketing recently traveled to the Greenville Convention Center, in Greenville, NC to the annual Southco Show.

Everyone enjoyed a fun-filled day and had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with the vendors that they do business with. They met with new vendors and got to see new and exciting products that are just being introduced to the market. They had an opportunity to purchase items on deals (reduced rate) and to pick and choose from the many show promotions. They actually got to taste and sample the products that they would be buying for their customers at the EP Marts.

This show gives the vendors a forum to show their new products and to let the retailers have an “up close and personal” look at the products before making a commitment to purchase.

Everyone had a great time and learned a lot. They all sampled to many goodies, but since they walked a lot they hopefully burned off all of those extra calories. This event also allows the hardworking managers an opportunity to network with their peers.

## Grand Opening May 2nd - 6th EP Mart 14



**THERE WILL BE A  
CELEBRATION EVERY DAY.**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT.**

**FREE GIVEAWAYS**

**DAILY SPECIALS**

## Words of Praise

for EP Mart #15 from Al Thorne who writes: “Thank you for the information. I like to stop by your store for gas, coffee, hot dogs and a clean restroom. Your staff is always pleasant and helpful.”

for Sylvia Jones, Manager at EP Mart #10 in Knightdale who acted as a good Samaritan when she loaned a perfect stranger money to buy enough gas to get to work. The lady came back the next day to pay back the loan and left a hand written thank you note for Sylvia.

for EP Mart #10 from Beeler Eskridge who writes “Thank you so much for returning my lost check. You were very nice to do that for me.”

**Be a trouble-shooter. When you run into a problem, try to think of at least 2 solutions before you take the problem to your boss. It shows that you are a problem solver. (copied)**