

## A look behind the blue wall

by Debra Gibson Isaacs

What if virtually every product you made had to be customized for the customer and went from hand-sized products to some so large they have to be shipped in pieces?

In Nicholasville, Donaldson Company does just that and has since 1979. The Nicholasville plant, which has 150 employees, is part of Donaldson Company Inc., an international company founded in 1915. They develop and produce innovative filtration solutions that increase efficiency and maximize performance for customers and their equipment.

Plant Manager Tony James says the Nicholasville plant focuses on air

filtration, producing customized filtration systems for different industries, each designed to meet a specific need.

“Most people don’t know what goes on behind the blue wall out here,” says Plant Manager Tony James, “but we are really on center stage when you talk about our world and the filtration solutions that help keep companies going, lower energy use, and improve air quality and equipment performance.”

Quality and safety are always at the forefront.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Rachel Settles, Editor



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

# We're ready for storm season. Are you?

Now that summer is in full swing, like many of you, I welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather.

But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. These potential weather events can cause damage to our electrical system, but I want you to know that Blue Grass Energy employees are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary safety precautions before they work on any downed lines. I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

Planning before a storm arrives can ensure you and your family have what you need if you experience an interruption in your service. Having food and water supplies, and a plan for powering needed medical and communication devices are a few proactive measures you should consider.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and do not walk through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

I hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. At Blue Grass Energy, we recommend that you act today because there is power in planning. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer.

By President/CEO  
Michael I. Williams





Above, Blue Grass Energy Key Accounts Manager Jake Campbell, left, is with Donaldson's Plant Manager Tony James during a tour of the Nicholasville plant. They are pictured in front of a Donaldson Torit® Rugged Pleat Baghouse Dust Collector.

Right, Donaldson's shipping area where items are packaged for transport.



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The plant has received the Kentucky Governor's Health and Safety Award four times as well as ISO (International Organization for Standardization) certifications 9001 for quality management; 14001 for environment management systems; and 18001 certification for safety. It has also received the Donaldson Chairman's Cup award for the best plant seven times.

James says Blue Grass Energy plays a key role in Donaldson's accomplishments by providing quality electricity they can rely on and quick response to any issues that come up. After all, quality and safety are at the forefront of Blue Grass Energy as well.

"Blue Grass Energy is a great partner," says James. "Anytime we have an issue, they are right there to support us. They do everything required to satisfy our customers, which are also their customers. It has and continues to be a great partnership."

James also emphasizes the commitment of his colleagues, "I love the work ethic of our people. It's like we're a family. I have been at this plant for

12 years, and I love the folks here." James is particularly proud of the plant's performance during the recent trying times.

"Donaldson prioritized the health and safety of employees; we did a tremendous job keeping our customers satisfied; and worked to minimize the spread of the coronavirus. We cared for each other and respected each other."

**OUR 2021 CHARITY PARTNER**

**PARKINSON'S FOUNDATION**

At the beginning of 2020, we introduced Parkinson's Foundation as our charity partner for the year. Then, the pandemic struck and we had to pause our employee-led fundraising efforts. Now that restrictions are lifting, we are happy to resume our fundraising and support of Parkinson's Foundation.

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a neurodegenerative disorder that affects predominately dopamine-producing neurons in a specific area of the brain called substantia nigra. Symptoms generally develop slowly over years. The progression of symptoms is often a bit different from one person to another due to the diversity of the disease.

If you or someone you know has Parkinson's disease (PD), here are some of the services they provide.



**Talk with a PD information specialist.**

Call 1-800-4PD-INFO (473-4636) or email [Helpline@Parkinson.org](mailto:Helpline@Parkinson.org) to ask a specialist your PD questions and find your nearest community resources. Open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.



**Order A Patient Safety Kit** at [Parkinson.org/AwareinCare](http://Parkinson.org/AwareinCare).

The life-saving Aware in Care kit contains tools and information to share with hospital staff during a planned or emergency hospital visit.



**Visit [Parkinson.org](http://Parkinson.org)** for up-to-date articles dedicated to the latest Parkinson's information. Look for pages featuring symptoms, research and caregiving.

*Each year, Blue Grass Energy chooses a charity to work with for the year. We partner with a local nonprofit organization that benefits the communities in which we live and serve. Our fundraising efforts for the entire year go to that cause. This year, we are partnering with the Parkinson's Foundation.*

**Don't be a distracted driver**

What a beautiful day outside. There are no storms in the area and the skies are blue. Then suddenly, your power goes out. Many people think outages are caused by the weather, but a distracted driver might actually be the culprit.

Unfortunately, distracted drivers cause more outages than people realize. Inattentive drivers hit poles, guy wires and even pad mounted transformers, causing members to lose power.

In our digital world, people feel pressure to remain in constant contact, even when behind the wheel. As mobile technology increases, distracted driving—talking, texting, sending emails—is a growing safety issue. When distracted, drivers don't realize the danger when they take their eyes off the road, hands off the wheel and focus on activities other than driving.

Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55 mph, that is comparable to driving the length of a football field while blindfolded. Talking on a cell phone also carries significant risks. According to the National Safety Council, drivers can miss seeing up to half of what's around them—traffic lights, stop signs, pedestrians, even utility poles—when talking on a cell phone.



ANDREY POPOV/ADOBE STOCK

Safety is a core value at Blue Grass Energy, and we encourage everyone to join us in keeping our communities safer by putting down the phones and focusing on the road when driving. By focusing on the road, we can avoid injuries—and yes, even power outages.