

NEWS in a NUTSHELL

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF MARYVILLE



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Chumming the Lake with Baron Swafford

The first in a series of stories featuring COM Directors by Mary Bristol



Baron shows off a large mouth bass he caught in the J. Strom Thurmond Lake in Georgia

Baron Swafford is our Public Utilities Director, he graduated from the University of Tennessee with a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering in 1987 and started working at the City of Maryville as an Engineer in Training in the Electric department in 1988. He is a son raised in a family of avid outdoorsmen, a brother, a husband to Kim, and a fisherman. At five years old, he reeled in his first fish under the guidance of his dad. He's been jigging ever since. Baron remembers with a twinkle in his eye, the days when his dad and his grandfather, better know as Pa, would bust him out of Kindergarten

Inside the Nut

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Life event news to share

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E-Cigarettes and Your Child

on Thursdays to go fishing. He admittedly spent a good part of those days asleep in the boat while his liberators patiently cast their lines hoping for a bite, but even so, the love of fishing began right there on Chickamauga Lake in Dayton, Tennessee.

As the years passed, Baron and his family seized every opportunity to get out on the water. Baron, his dad, and his grandfather spent countless weekends camping, fishing and cooking over a coleman stove. The menu was always the same... first night was hamburgers, second night was steak, and the third night was fish, if you caught enough, and leftovers if you didn't. By the time Baron was in his 20's, he was fishing two to three times a week and had learned a thing or two. Fishing was then; and still is today, a complete distraction or escape for him; out on the boat the day's worries just slip away. Back in the day, his favorite bait was Pig and Jig, today Baron uses a Carolina Rig and Crank Baits the most. His favorite places to fish are J. Strom Thurmond Reservoir in Georgia, and if he's slipping out for a few hours of casting after work, he heads to Fort Loudon Lake in Tellico. Twice a year, every year since 1987, he meets his childhood friend, James Wesley of Georgia, for four to five days on the water. He claims his wife knew what she was getting into when she married him, so it's all good.

Baron believes there is no such thing as a bad day of fishing, although that may be up for debate when he talks about the day he and his dad went out to do a little December backwater fishing in Suwannee, Florida. They were in a bass boat on the ocean and keeping track of the coast line by sighting the telephone poles in the far off distance. They lost track of time like fishermen do, and the

"Keep your line wet!"

~Baron Swafford

tide went out leaving them two miles from the shore and 200 yards from

the channel in water so shallow that the bottom of the boat was barely clearing the floor of the ocean. Baron jumped out to push and his dad stood on the front of the boat in an effort to raise the stern enough to keep it from dragging. They made it to the channel where Baron jumped back in and they went on their way again. Some might think that was a bit of a bad day, but to Baron, it's just a fond memory that makes him smile. On another cold, windy and rainy day, this time in May, Baron and Pete Kizer decided to wrap it up for the night.

Continued, see Baron on the back page



A collection of antique lures that belonged to his father and grandfather hangs in Baron's office at the Operations Center

People are the Key

March Birthdays

- 2 Jason Ayers, Police
- 4 Edmond Greene, EPW
Jason Barham, Police
- 5 Mike Davis, Water and Sewer
Bill Bryant, EPW
- 8 Jason Cable, Water & Sewer
Ron Nugent, EPW
David England, Water & Sewer
- 10 Perla Garrett, Finance
- 11 Doug Chapman, EPW
Mike Davis, Fire
- 12 Jewell White, Police
- 14 Wayne Lewis, EPW
Jeremy Snyder, EPW
- 15 Jack Loveday, Water & Sewer
Jacob Curtis, Police
- 16 Jacob Wenger, Fire
- 18 Danny Wilson, Water & Sewer
- 20 Mike Hicks, Police
Adam Cook, Police
- 21 Bobby Queen, Fire
- 22 Rickie Trentham, Water & Sewer
- 23 Ronnie Irwin, EPW
- 24 Rob Woods, Fire
Matthew McKeel, Police
- 25 Laurie Galvin, Finance
Eugene Hannah, Water & Sewer
- 27 Andrew Payne, Police
- 28 Jack Bryant, EPW
Kim Walker, Finance
- 29 Todd Hall, Water & Sewer
- 31 David Graves, Police
Ray Boswell, Administration

Anniversaries

- Bill Bryant, EPW 39 yrs
- Doug Strickland, EPW 34 yrs
- Danny Kimsey, Water & Sewer 33 yrs
- Joey Hartline, Water & Sewer 32 yrs
- Scott Poland, Development Services 32 yrs
- Mark Wheeler, Electric 31 yrs
- Mike Seagle, Electric 30 yrs
- Henry Hill, Water & Sewer 27 yrs
- Eric Holder, Water & Sewer 27 yrs
- James Bond, Electric 23 yrs
- Gary Caughron, Police 22 yrs
- Brad Poplin, Electric 21 yrs
- Marcus Walker, Police 19 yrs
- Kevin Whitehead, EPW 18 yrs
- Wendy Phillips, Water & Sewer 17 yrs
- Keith Anderson, Water & Sewer 16 yrs
- Sam Newport, Electric 15 yrs
- Chris Hope, EPW 14 yrs
- Sharie Gaby, Fire 13 yrs
- Shawn Ridings, EPW 13 yrs
- Robert Anderson, Water & Sewer 3 yrs
- Jordan Marshall, EPW 2 yrs
- Michael Wilson, Water & Sewer 1 yr
- Mark West, EPW 1 yr

Accolades and Applause



Mike Myers
Water & Sewer,
Utility Construction
Worker II
(Promotion)



Chad Wilson
Transferred to
Heavy Equipment
Operator in EPW



John Spence
Electric Line Worker
Trainee Electric
(Promotion)



Leslie Crawford,
Human Resources
Generalist (Promotion)



Chase Green,
EPW, Sanitation
Collection Driver
(Promotion)



Amy Large
HR
(Retires March 31)



Kind Words

Public Services

As a new resident of the city I would like to give my appreciation and high regard for the services the City of Maryville provides. I've lived here just a few months but the quality and efficiency of the different departments is very impressive. Whether it's police, fire, trash/waste removal, street clearing or any other department, they provide excellent service and I can't thank you enough. Keep up the good work!

Miranda Smith

Police and Fire

My name is Cynthia White, and I am a teacher at John Sevier Elementary. Today, we had to be evacuated because of gas leak. Thank you, thank you to MPD for being there to help us get all of the students to safety. It was so comforting to see the police everywhere for both the teachers and the students. Big thanks to the fire department as well for being at the ready. Thank you!

Cynthia White, JSE

Save the Date!

Annual Employee Meetings with Greg are scheduled April 25-27 at 7:30 a.m. in the MOC Auditorium and 2 p.m. in the Gary Hensley Room at MMC each day.



COM Employee Giving Campaign Efforts Appreciated

Jennifer Wackerhagen, President and CEO of United Way of Blount County sent her thanks in a letter to Greg McClain recently. She wrote, "The City of Maryville is changing lives! Women and children are escaping abusive situations, families

are moving out of homelessness into secure environments, homes are being repaired all over our community, and so much more. Over 50,000 people will be impacted because of the work of United Way of Blount County." She went on to say, "your employees contributed \$17,931.90 through your Employee Giving Campaign. This money will go a long way in helping us continue this work and provide support for the most vulnerable in Blount County. Because of the City of Maryville, we are making a difference!"



National Puppy Day is March 23



National Puppy Day is an international holiday created to celebrate the magic and unconditional love that puppies bring to our lives. More importantly, it is also a day to help save orphaned puppies across the globe and educate the public about puppy mills. National Puppy Day was founded in 2006 by Colleen

Paige, an Animal Behaviorist. She asks us on this day, and everyday, to adopt a puppy from a shelter, "Please don't buy a puppy from a pet store, which only supports puppy mills that neglect and torture dogs. If we are ever going to fix the problem of pet overpopulation, it starts with you! Adopt, don't shop!"

In 2016 the City of Maryville Animal Control department picked up 455 dogs and cats. Of those animals, 174 were adopted, 100 were returned to their owners, 178 were rescued, three escaped (cats), and zero were euthanized. According to vetstreet.com a rescued dog makes the best pet,

"Somehow, shelter dogs always know they've been given a second chance. Can we scientifically prove that dogs rescued from shelters know they've been given something special? Of course not. But we'll be darned if the owner of every rescue dog doesn't tell you that somehow, some way, their dogs just know."

Check out the Maryville Animal Shelter at www.maryvillegov.com/animal-control, phone: (865) 681-2241 as well as the Humane Society of Blount County at www.blountcountyhumanesociety.org or call (865) 382-7652 for adoptable best pals.

Puppies are the most trusting and joyous creatures on the planet.

~Colleen Paige

