

NEWS in a NUTSHELL

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF MARYVILLE



Volume 37, Number 10

October 2017

Teresa Best, the Farmer's Daughter

The seventh in a series of stories featuring COM Directors



Teresa on the tractor helping with the harvest of the silage this summer.

Just outside of town in the Carpenter's Campground community, on Holder Road, there lies a farm that has been in Teresa Best's family for over a century. Back in the 60's and 70's, it wasn't unusual for Wilma and Edward Holder to have their four children up before the sun and working in the fields. Teresa and her three brothers all had their assigned jobs; given according to their age and level of responsibility. Each child learned how to operate the equipment at a very young age eliminating the need to hire a farm hand. The Holder family worked together to grow acres and acres of watermelon, cantaloupe, tobacco and to raise livestock. During melon season, they had a roadside stand in front of their house where customers would help themselves

neighbors would stop to buy a melon and end up spending the rest of the afternoon catching up under the shade tree. The farm continues to be a working farm today, but on a much smaller scale under the leadership of 92 year old Wilma Holder. It also continues to be home to four generations of Holders.

After finishing high school Teresa bypassed college and accepted a full time job at Blount Memorial Hospital at the age of 18. Her first assignment was in the Admitting Office. From there she was promoted to the Business Office and then finally to Human Resources where she found her niche. Along the way one of her supervisors introduced Teresa to her son Mike, and 3 years later, they were married. Being painfully shy, the bride wasn't interested in a large wedding so she and Mike said their vows in front of close family members only. Edward and Wilma Holder gave their only daughter and her new husband an acre of land on their farm. The newlyweds knew it would be their forever home and began making plans to build a house there. Part of those plans included moving in a trailer to serve

Monday - Saturday and simply do what the sign said... "Put Money in Jar" (a Mason jar). Sundays, however, were a day of rest; they were spent under the massive shade tree in their front lawn.

Friends and neighbors would stop to buy a melon and end up spending the rest of the afternoon catching up under the shade tree. The farm continues to be a working farm today, but on a much smaller scale under the leadership of 92 year old Wilma Holder.

I can always return it.

~Teresa Best

as their home for the next 5 years while they saved enough money to break ground. The Bests had two children of their own and now, 38 years later, Teresa and Mike can step out on the front porch of the house they built together and wave to Eli, Noah, and Hannah, their grandchildren across the way, in their own home on Holder Farms.

At the age of 34 Teresa had a husband, two young children, Travis and Katelyn, a home to care for, and a full time job. Yet she somehow found the time, energy, and commitment to earn her bachelor's degree in Organizational Management. Over the next two and a half years she completed the required classes in the evenings and with the help and support of her understanding husband, Mike, she accomplished her goal.

In 1998 the City of Maryville was growing fast. Along with that growth the need for more employees to support the residents grew as well. Up until that time Human Resources responsibilities were not a central focus of the organization. With an expanding workforce creating a need for more comprehensive approach to human resource management, the decision was made to hire the City's first full time Human Resources professional. Teresa

became the Director of HR, the first female to ever become a Department Director at the City of

Maryville. She takes pride in the fact that she has consistently managed the department in a professional and focused manner. Teresa says that maintaining the highest level of integrity is perhaps one of the most important things she strives for. She attributes many of her characteristics to the lessons she learned from her father.

One of Teresa's hobbies is beekeeping. The primary reason she began beekeeping was for crop pollination. An added bonus is the honey that she extracts from the hives. She considers her children the best gift she's

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People are the Key

October Birthdays

- 1 Jonathan Ellenburg, Water & Sewer
- 2 David Headrick, Water & Sewer
Gary Caughron, MPD
Nathaniel Robinson, MPD
- 3 Leslie Crawford, HR
Caleb Compton, Public Works
- 4 Steven Wickert, MPD
- 5 Brian Gray, Public Works
- 7 Keith Wilson, Water & Sewer
- 8 Joe Tipton, Water & Sewer
- 9 Kevin Bailey, IT
Sharie Gaby, HR
William Murphy, Electric
- 11 Terri Caylor, Admin.
Brent Robbins, Water & Sewer
- 13 Matthew Watson, MPD
- 21 Elizabeth Riffle, MPD
- 22 Tammy Hankinson, Finance
- 23 Bill Bain, MFD
Jamie Hipps, Public Works
Don Myers, Electric
- 28 Terry Welshan, Eng/Dev Services
- 29 Joe Bogart, Finance
Ricky Cummings, Public Works
- 30 Jonathon Riggsbee, Admin.



October Anniversaries

- Steve Martin, Electric 42
- Ed Lindsey, Electric 41
- Todd Burchett, Water & Sewer 32
- Jack Loveday, Water & Sewer 30
- Ronnie Pryor, MPD 28
- Joe Head, Water & Sewer 26
- Rusty Thompson, Dev. Services 22
- Robert Large, Dev. Services 18
- Shaun O'Neal, MPD 17
- Matthew Clark, Eng. & Pub Works 16
- Kenneth Crowder, MPD 16
- David Headrick, Water & Sewer 15
- Keith Brewer, Dev Services 14
- Kevin Stoltenberg, Dev Services 10
- Steve Datson, MPD 10
- Chance Hawkins, MFD 10
- Sarah Harris, MFD 10
- Michael Alexander, E&PW 7
- Jerry Hall, Water & Sewer 4
- Tyler Kirkland, E&PW 1
- Benjamin Tatham, MFD 1
- Derik Hilbert, Dev Serv. 1

Just so you know!

**National Boss's Day is
Oct. 16th... all day!**



Accolades and Applause



Bentley Lou Steele

*Daughter of
Alex (MFD) and
Lyndsey Steele
9/8/17, 6 lbs 10 oz*



Eliana Grace Green

*Daughter of
Austin (MPD)
and Chelsey Green
9/6/17, 8 lbs 5 oz*



Noah James Porter

*Son of DJ (MPD) and
Kelley Porter
9/7/17, 8 lbs 11 oz*



George Sailors Phillips

*Grandson of Tim (EPW)
& Wendy (WSD) Phillips
8/18/17, 7 lbs 9 oz*



Promoted
Alex Steele
Firefighter/EMT



Promoted
Garrett Holloway
Firefighter/EMT



Newly Hired
Alex Rouse
Police Officer



Newly Hired
Don Kitts
SCADA / Instrumentation
Tech. Water & Sewer



Promoted
Michelle Portier
Land Development
Administrator
Development Services

Good News!

Defibrillators Now Available to All COM Employees

Contributed by: Leland Blackwood



An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a machine used to deliver a therapeutic shock to the heart following sudden cardiac arrest (SCA).



A shock from an AED can restore the heart's normal rhythm if it is done within minutes of the onset of heart failure. Numerous scientific studies have proven that it is the single most important factor affecting survival from SCA in adults. Recently Leland Blackwood met his goal of having an AED

available to all COM employees when he delivered 18 new units to various departments.

Every year in March CPR/Defib Training is offered at the Ops Center. An email announcing the date of the 2018 training will be sent 2-3 weeks prior to the training for those



who need to be re-certified. If you'd like to be certified, please contact Leland. A desire to learn, 3-4 hours of your time, and your department manager's approval is all you need to participate.



Household Hazardous Waste Round-up at the Court House

Keep Blount Beautiful is hosting a FREE household hazardous waste drive-thru collection day on October 21, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visit keepblountbeautiful.org/upcoming-events-1/ for a detailed list of what is and isn't accepted.

Teresa - Continued from Page 1

ever been given, and couldn't imagine living anywhere else other than here in Maryville. Her hero is her father who taught her about life, love, and integrity by his example and actions. She loves to garden, tend to her flowers, cook, and although mowing sounds a lot like work to some folks, Teresa sees it as an excellent excuse to go outside. On Saturday mornings from May until September, she can be found at the Holder Family Farm booth at the Farmer's Market in Founder's Square helping her brother sell the vegetables he raises. Her favorite family tradition happens in the spring of each year, when she and Mike, Travis and Katelyn, their spouses and children all gather at a beach house for a week of vacation on Kiawah Island in South Carolina. She is a big fan of Chick-fil-A, and can't imagine life without coffee. She's a self proclaimed romantic whose favorite movie is Sabrina (the Harrison Ford 1995 version) and her favorite holiday is Christmas. White water rafting is at the top of a very short list of things she will never do again. The one time she did try it, she was thrown out of the raft. Turns out she is not a fan of near death experiences.



The Edward and Wilma Holder family.

Every year late in the summer, Teresa and her brothers gather on the farm for two full days of chopping corn silage. Leaning on the lessons their parents taught them in their youth, the whole family works as a team to gather and store the harvest, each with their specific tasks to perform. These days Teresa's job is to drive a tractor with a wagon hitched up behind it. Driving right next to the chopper she watches carefully and keeps the pace so that when the corn travels through the chopper and out of a chute, it lands in her wagon and not on the ground. When Teresa's wagon is full, a second tractor takes her place as she heads to the barn with her load returning in time to take her turn again. So it goes all day long until the entire field has been harvested. It's all hands on deck for the harvest, a testament to the teamwork the Holders have practiced all their lives.

Teresa is a farm girl through and through. She has a deep "seeded" love of the land where she was born and raised. She treasures the memories of her childhood, but looks forward to the future with an equally full heart. She has lived on the Holder family farm since her birth with absolutely no regrets and is happily making memories there surrounded by her beloved family. Teresa's story reads like the plot of a romantic movie in paradise, or maybe a happily ever after in Blount County - pretty much the same thing as far as Teresa is concerned.

Do you know....

Are you or a co-worker involved in a community service project that helps to make Maryville a better place? We would like to feature COM employees who work to make a difference in the community and spotlight their project in the Nutshell. Call Mary at 3407 or email at mdbristol@maryville-tn.gov if you or someone you know is actively working as a volunteer to promote the welfare of others. *Let's talk about it!*



People Are the Key

Fire Prevention Week October 8 - 14

In a fire, seconds count. Seconds can mean the difference between escaping safely and an unnecessary tragedy.

These tips for surviving a fire are from the National Fire Protection Association:

- Draw a map of your home marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit and share it with all members of your household.
- Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day and practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- Make sure the number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.
- Close doors behind you as you leave – this may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Never go back into a burning building.

Remember to Check Your Smoke Alarm Batteries!

October is a Busy Time for MFD

The fall is an important time for the Maryville Fire Department. The entire month of October is earmarked as the primary time to spread their fire-safety message. On October 7th MFD is working with Home Depot on a Safety Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and holding Emergency Services Day at Everett Gym from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. as well. Andrew Puckett explains that through visits with various City Schools and several station visits, and the events mentioned above, they will have contact with an estimated three to four thousand citizens, ranging in age from 4 to 99. The Fire Department also provides free smoke detectors to those who cannot afford to buy them, and will also change smoke alarm batteries for folks who are unable to do so all throughout the year.

Business is Booming

Spotlight on Economic & Community Development with Angie Luckie

Three new businesses recently opened their doors on West Broadway in Maryville.

Kopper & Frodo's Pet Market

2024 W. Broadway Avenue (865) 980-8989
Kopperandfrodos.com - Holistic, healthy pet food thoughtfully sourced with your pet's well-being in mind.

Over the Top Donut Shop

1811 W. Broadway Avenue (865) 336-4914
Overthetopdonutshop.com - Signature donuts and donut sandwiches or build your own from a large selection of toppings, icings, and fillings.

O'Reilly Auto Parts

1912 W. Broadway Avenue (865) 724-0666
www.oreillyauto.com - An auto parts retailer with over 50 years of auto parts experience.

2017 United Way Campaign Kicks Off

From Human Resources

The 2017 United Way Employee campaign will run October 1 through October 31. Pledge forms and brochures about how your monetary contribution can bring about lasting change in Blount County will be distributed within your department.

Employees who increase their payroll deduction amount by at least 5% or who donate through payroll deduction for the first time will be eligible to win one of four "vacation 1/2 day" (4 hour) prizes or a \$100 gift card provided by Greg McClain. Also eligible are those employees who donate for the first time with a one-time donation (cash or check) of at least \$25 or increase their one-time donation by 5% or more.

You can also support the United Way by eating out. Three local restaurants will sponsor Dine-Out Days, where a percentage of sales is donated to United Way of Blount County.

The Dine-Out Days are:

*October 5–Gracie's
October 29–Barley's
November 4–Aubrey's*

Visit the United Way website at www.unitedwayblount.org for more information.

Fridays in the Truck ...with Cpl. Riffle

Cpl. Elizabeth Riffle was in the final stretch of Nursing School when she felt a nudge in the direction of Criminal Justice. A trusted advisor suggested that she might want to complete a ride-along before she made a final decision to change her career path. The first thing the veteran officer showed her was the computer in his car, and he encouraged her to enter the license plate number of the car in front of them. Her search revealed a stolen vehicle. The chase was on! So were Elizabeth's plans for her futureno way would she go back to nursing after that. She set her sights on law enforcement the moment the blue lights went on and the pursuit began. Now she spends her days in her own squad car patrolling Maryville, backing up her fellow officers, and educating the public. She has been tasered and pepper sprayed in training,



chased by a Rottweiler while running down a fugitive, and even physically attacked by a man twice her size on a domestic disturbance call. She carries

a blue stuffed Care Bear in her patrol car. He's a gift from her kids, meant to be a constant reminder that they love her and think of her when they are apart. She loves her job and her MPD family and she knows that the work she does matters.