

NEWS in a NUTSHELL

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF MARYVILLE



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June 2022

“I feel so blessed, and yet so broken,” - Anonymous

Julie Anderson, Administrative Assistant for the Public Utilities Department, was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio. While growing up, she and her family came to Maryville every summer to visit their grandmother and vacation in the Smoky Mountains. After her high school graduation, Julie enrolled at the University of Tennessee - Knoxville and moved to Maryville. She also found a job at First Tennessee Bank Operations Center in Alcoa. While working there she met Michael Anderson who was a student at Maryville College at the time. Mike and Julie were married in May of 1987.

In 1994 Julie and Mike welcomed their first child, a son named Derek, and then in 1999 their son Blake.

Derek attended Maryville City Schools and completed his undergraduate degree in Biochemistry at the University of Tennessee - Chattanooga. Derek went on to get his Master's Degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Colorado State University and now works for Neurona Therapeutics as a Research Associate in San Francisco, CA working to cure various neurological disorders.

Blake was a quiet child with a very big heart. Julie and Mike often referred to him as an old soul. He was wise beyond his years. He was mature, a deep thinker, and a good listener. He became the kind of person whose friends would turn to him for advice when they needed it. Blake was a good student with good grades. He had a soft place in his heart for those who might need a hand. Whenever he could, which was often, he reached out to help. He would offer friends a ride home after football games and buy a meal for someone who forgot their lunch money or didn't have any money to spare. He helped elderly women at church to their cars. He developed a dry sense of humor, much like his dad's, and he had a devilish laugh that was infectious. He enjoyed fishing and camping with his grandparents and taking trips with his Aunt Diane. Blake loved music. He played the clarinet in the Intermediate, Middle, and High School bands. Music was easy for him as he came by it naturally. His father and his grandparents from both sides of the family were all musicians. Blake played handbells in the choir at church and volunteered to serve dinner to homeless folks. Blake, Derek, and Mike were avid moviegoers.

From Heartbreak to Honor - In Julie's words

On November 9, 2015 our lives changed forever when we lost our beloved Blake.

Blake made heart prints on everyone's lives that he touched. That is why we want his life to define him, not his passing. Blake was our bright star here on this earth, and now his star is shining brightly in Heaven.



To lose a child is unfathomable under any circumstance. The order in which this takes place is so unnatural and the heartbreak is unspeakable. Without my faith, the continual support of family, friends, therapy, and a

good support group, I wouldn't have survived the loss of my son. It has been almost seven years since Blake left us, and it is still surreal. The pain in my heart remains unbearable and overwhelming at times. I don't know why God chose this journey for me, but I have decided to put my trust and faith in Him for the path ahead. God is constantly beside me; He pushes me to get through another day for Derek, the rest of our family and for my own preservation.

Looking Back

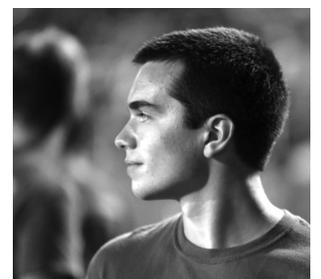
We thought we had good communication with our boys. We talked openly and wanted them to know they could discuss anything with us. As parents, you love your children and want to protect them. We were very involved in our children's school and activities, in our church, and in our faith.

Blake enjoyed gaming. His father and I didn't put restrictions on the amount of time he spent playing video games. In retrospect, I feel we should have limited his time on the computer, and I urge other parents to do so. I think our young people are especially vulnerable to being bullied, exploited, harassed, and harmed online and through social media. I want to encourage parents to check in with their kids often, asking how their day went, what's new in school, what are your friends up to, and is there anything they need? Limit their time on social media and computer screens and encourage them to spend more time offline. Watch for mood swings, changes in sleep habits, and anything out of the ordinary for your child. These could all be warning signs that something is going on deep inside & they aren't able to process. Professional counseling is a great option. Your child may be more inclined to share their secrets with someone outside the family. Make sure you give your children opportunities and encourage them to find friends through hobbies or organized sports. Most of all, be aware of your child's habits and be involved. Life can change in an instant. The heartache of suicide is forever.

Looking Forward with Hope

Our hope for the future is that suicide at any age will end. We want people to know there is no shame in talking openly about your struggles or in seeking help. Some teenagers may not understand that tomorrow is another day and things will look better as a new day begins. Whatever the problem you seem to be facing, know that you don't have to go it alone. No problem or issue is too big to resolve. All you must do is reach out and ask for help. Our lives would be so different if Blake had taken this step.

I intend to honor my son all the days of my life. God has a plan for all of us. I know one day He will show me how



Continued - see Julie on page 2

Applause Please



Promotion
Jerry Barnes
 Finance
 Property Tax Specialist



Promotion
Michael Braden
 MPD
 Police Captain



Promotion
Eddie Davis
 MPD
 Police Lieutenant



Promotion
David England
 W&S
 Sr. Wastewater Treatment
 Plant Operator



Promotion
Heath Hampton
 W&S
 Wastewater Treatment
 Plant Operator



Promotion
DJ Porter
 MPD
 Police Lieutenant



Promotion
Nate Robinson
 MPD
 Police Corporal



Promotion
Scott Spicer
 MPD
 Police Lieutenant



Promotion
Luke Thompson
 MFD
 Firefighter/EMT



Retiring June 20
Jason Barham
 MFD
 25 Years of Service



Retiring June 17
Tony Clark
 MFD
 27 Years of Service



Retired April 22
John Foley
 MPD
 23 Years of Service



Retiring June 15
Steve Holte
 Dev. Services
 23 Years of Service



Retiring June 3
Darrell Lewelling
 W&S
 39 Years of Service



Retiring June 20
Scott Poland
 Dev. Services
 37 Years of Service

CORRECTION



New Employee
William Ferguson
 MPD
 Police Officer



New Employee
Greg Endsley
 MFD
 Reserve Firefighter



New Employee
Mark Allgood
 W&S
 Sr. Water Treatment
 Plant Operator

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 Julie - continued from page 1

I can honor my son by using my voice in the fight to stop the pain of suicide. Derek also wants to help bring awareness and education to schools and families to eliminate the stigma associated with suicide. He also plans to extend his influence into mental health awareness with social media and volunteer projects. We both hope to use social media as a positive tool to expand the conversation to prevent tragedies such as this.

Derek reminds me often to find happiness in all the love we shared as a family and to remember all that Blake was able to accomplish while he was here with us. He encourages me to look past the grief to see the memories we made as a family, and to find peace within. We have hope and encouragement to use our pain as a force for good, so others won't have to suffer as we do.

People are the Key

2022 Graduates



Jeremiah Cope
Son of Clay (EPW - Streets) and Katherine Cope
 Graduating from Greenback High School. He plans to attend Pellissippi in the fall and complete the Water Quality Technology program



Hannah Doherty
Daughter of Michael (MFD) and Christy Doherty
 Graduating from Maryville College with a BA in Elementary Education



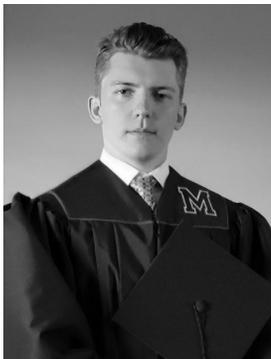
Alexis Garrett
Daughter of Perla (Finance) and Gene Garrett
 Graduating from William Blount High School
 Future Plans: BS Orthodontics



Logan Freshour
Son of Niki Freshour (Finance)
 Graduating from Lenoir City High School.
 Future plans: Joining the United States Air Force



Kayla Johnson
Daughter of Mike Davis (MFD)
 Graduating from Caylor School of Nursing at LMU Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Employed at Blount Memorial in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU)



Kaleb Large
Son of Robert Large, (Dev. Services).
 Graduating from Maryville High School. Kaleb plans to either attend Pellissippi State or join the Military



Nathan Seery
Son of Vince and Laura (Finance) Seery
 Graduated summa cum laude from William Peace University (Raleigh, NC) with a BS in Business Analytics
 He plans to attend Reinhardt University (Waleska, GA) in the fall to play soccer and complete his masters in Sports Administration and Leadership



Benjamin Walker
Son of Kim (Finance) and Todd Walker.
 Graduating from Maryville College. Awards: Dean's List (all 4 yrs) President of the American Chemistry Society (2 yrs)
 SI Instructor for 3 years
 Magna cum laude-Bachelor of Science Chemistry.
 Future Plans: Baylor University graduate school five year program for PhD in Chemistry



Courtney Chapman
Daughter of Doug (EPW) and Teresa Chapman.
 Graduating from Alcoa High School. She plans to attend Tennessee School of Beauty
 Tennessee Ready Graduate
 Tennessee Promise
 Scholarship and C.B. Brown Scholarship

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Julie - continued from page 2

Recently a plaque with Blake's name and the Suicide Prevention Lifeline number was placed on a bench in downtown Maryville across from Bella's Restaurant so it would be highly visible. We would like to send a special thank you to City of Maryville employees David Morton, Angie Luckie, Edmond Greene and his crew for being a part of this memorial and getting the message out to others. If it can help save one person's life, then we have all made a difference in the memory of my son and others taken by suicide.

For support, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255. The American Suicide Prevention Network, The Jason Foundation, and many others are available to help.

Note: Julie's husband (best friend and soulmate) Mike, passed

away on March 18, 2018, from a heart attack just 2 1/2 years after Blake passed. Derek, Julie, and their family mourn their losses every day, but find a bit of comfort in knowing that Blake and his father are together again.



The Andersons in 2011

People are the Key

June Birthdays

- 1 Mike Brusseau, Dev. Services
- 2 Matthew Clark, EPW
- 7 Katie Pledge, Finance
Steveland Green, EPW
Charles Teffeteller, Electric
- 9 Jackson Morton, EPW
Thomas Vananda, EPW
- 12 Scotty Martin, W&S
- 14 Kevin Whitehead, EPW
- 15 Steve Holte, EPW
Matt Lafon, EPW
- 17 Tony Crisp, MPD
Brandon Cooper, W&S
- 18 Jake Kagley, EPW
Brian Hutsell, W&S
- 21 Chris Worley, EPW
- 22 Stacy Frye, W&S
- 23 Steve Kennedy, Electric
Ryan Hickman, MPD
Stay Chissay, EPW
Darrell Lewelling, W&S
- 26 Scott Spicer, MPD
- 29 Doug Short, Electric
- 30 Julie Anderson, Electric



June Anniversaries

- Jim Hurst, Electric 33 years
- Steve Kennedy, Electric 33 years
- Junior Hess, MPD 31 years
- Darin Carver, MPD 26 years
- Eddie Davis, MPD 26 years
- Brian Gray, EPW 26 years
- Sid Davis, Electric 25 years
- Scott Brown, Electric 24 years
- Shane Collins, MPD 23 years
- Randy Cupp, Finance 23 years
- John Spence, EPW 18 years
- Brian Boone, EPW 17 years
- Jill Ridings, Finance 17 years
- Jessica Cooper, W&S 16 years
- Dusty Finger, Electric 15 years
- Adam Parton, W&S 10 years
- Bill Potter, W&S 10 years
- Steve Green, EPW 7 years
- Mark Huffstetler, Finance, 4 years
- Katie Pledge, Finance 4 years
- Jordan Isbell, MPD 3 years
- Reid Walker, MPD 3 years
- Chris Buchanan, MPD 2 years
- Mary Winchester, EPW 2 years
- Kyler Love, EPW 2 years
- Nick Crawford, EPW 1 year

Electric Department Facebook Kudos



Shout out to the Maryville utility men. Tree down. Lights out. Got here in 10 minutes, got tree out of lines in 30, and power restored less than 5 minutes after leaving. Thank you heros.



2022 Safety Training Complete

Beginning on April 25, 2022 David Graves, Workplace Safety and Risk Manager hosted a week long driver safety training course at Foothills Mall. Robert Livingston, Lead Driving Trainer for East Tennessee Law Enforcement Academy, who has extensive training in driver safety, led the class.

170 City of Maryville employees from IT, Electric, Water and Sewer, Engineering, Development Services and Public Works Departments completed the course. Each employee was required to complete video training and then a driving course that tested their skills behind the wheel of the vehicles they drive daily. City of Maryville employees are required to complete this training every three years, however 2020 training was postponed to 2022 because of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

