

NEWS in a NUTSHELL

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF MARYVILLE



Volume 38, Number 1

January 2018



For Mike Swift, Change is Good

The ninth in a series of stories featuring City of Maryville Directors



Mike reading to little Miss Grace

“And suddenly you know... It’s time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings.”

~Meister Eckhart

Mike Swift, Director of Finance, and his wife Linda, made major changes in their life in 2017. He retired. They sold their home and moved 400 miles away, trading home ownership for apartment life. He rekindled his love affair with golf, and he took a new job. They did it all out of love for a tiny little human, barely two feet tall with big beautiful eyes and an adorable smile.

Mike and Linda have been married for

34 years. They have three children, two of whom live in West Knoxville. When the Director of Finance position at the City of Maryville became available, the Swifts were already considering the idea of being closer to their favorite baby in the whole world; 16 month old Grace, their granddaughter. It was a no brainer. Mike had spent the last 26 years working for Shelby County, the last five years as Chief Financial Officer. In that position he was in charge of a \$1.2 billion budget as well as all of the stress and after hours phone calls that go along with responsibilities of that magnitude. Mike wasn’t ready to retire yet, but he had put in the time required so he announced his date of departure and he and Linda began to pursue their dream of being closer to Grace.

Mike decided that since he was technically retiring, he would make it a priority to play more golf - something he loves, but wasn’t able to do often in his former position. He has made good on that promise to himself, golfing at least once a week. His life has changed dramatically in the last year, and that’s just fine with him. A trip to see his granddaughter only takes a twenty minute road trip now, a huge improvement compared to an almost six hour trip from Memphis. They are much closer to the mountains he loves and his level of stress has been greatly reduced. Still, Mike’s retirement looks completely different than what most folks think of when they dream of their own retirement and that’s OK with Mike too. He enjoys the fact that he doesn’t have to work, but chooses to.

Mike was born to Dr. Richard and Mrs. Mary Swift in a small town in the northwest corner of Missouri. Grant City was home to 1,062 citizens back then. Just like in most small towns, part time jobs suitable for kids were hard to come by in Grant City, but at the age of 10 Mike found work mowing yards during the summer. He attended Worth County High School along with forty-six fellow classmates. Mike played

on the football, basketball, track and golf teams, and went bowling whenever he could fit it in during the years of his youth. Math quickly became his favorite subject and that led him to become an Accounting Major at the University of Missouri where he earned his bachelor’s degree. Growing up he had dreamed of being a doctor like his father, but after he discovered he preferred to deal with numbers rather than body parts, he focused on his new plan. After graduating from college he was offered a job with Coopers & Lybrand, a CPA Firm where he was offered \$12,000.00 per year as an auditor. In that position, he picked up some insight as far as what an auditor looks for. He still uses that insight today to make an audit easier for everyone involved. Most audits take six months, but this year the City’s audit was completed a full month ahead of time largely due to Mike’s involvement. His goal for next year is to have the audit complete in four months.

When Mike’s kids were younger, he was a Sunday School Teacher, and involved in the Youth Ministry at their church. He also volunteered to lead Mission Trips to help the

elderly and impoverished with home repairs in the Cookeville/Mountain Top area and even took one group to Alaska. Mike’s father had taught him the art of all things home repair so he was well prepared to lead the

mission trips, able to work on everything from plumbing to electrical to finish work. For several years Mike also coached baseball and refereed high school soccer games. As a coach, he informed the parents and other fans that if they were to act inappropriately on the sidelines, their child would be benched because of their actions. He was challenged on that by one person, a grandmother who soon decided that he was serious and curbed her loud critical assessment of the refs so her grandson would be allowed to return to the field.

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If you don’t have time to do it right, how will you ever have time to do it over?

-Unknown

Inside the Nut

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Sanitations Santa and Shop With a Cop
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Fridays in the Truck
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People are the Key

January Birthdays

2	Henry Bergen, E&PW Michael Boring, Water & Sewer Dallas Stephens, MFD
9	Patrick McGinley, MFD Gary Walker, Dev. Serv.
10	Michael Collins, MPD William Potter, E&PW
14	John Bivens, MPD
17	Tim Phillips, E&PW Eddie Davis, MPD Shawn Riddick, Water & Sewer
19	Jesse McWhorter, Water & Sewer Eddie King, MPD
21	Kins Stafford, Water & Sewer
23	Robert Large, Dev. Serv. Ian Callaway, E&PW
24	Jessica Cooper, Water & Sewer
25	Ryan Rogers, MPD Celia Quintana, Finance
26	James Middleton, E&PW Gary Johnson, E&PW
27	Travis Brown, MPD
28	Kenneth Crowder, MPD
31	Jeremiah Morton, E&PW



January Anniversaries

Ricky Jackson, Electric	39
Scotty Martin, Water & Sewer	31
David Morton, Finance	30
Julie Anderson, Electric	29
Greg Cooke, MPD	28
Patrick Effler, Electric	26
Danny Wilson, Water & Sewer	26
Danny Frye, Electric	26
Bill Garner, MPD	25
David McCarter, Electric	24
Brenton Robbins, Water & Sewer	24
Brad Hurst, E&PW	22
Michael Hutsell, Water & Sewer	22
Tim Phillips, E&PW	22
Jason Pesterfield, MPD	21
Tammy Hankinson, Finance	20
Sherry Phillips, Finance	20
Dan Cantwell, E&PW	19
Angie Luckie, Admin	19
Jennifer Cunningham, MPD	19
Christine Tillman, IT	16
John Bivens, MPD	14
Jamie Dyer, Water & Sewer	13
Dale Jayne, E&PW	11
Michael Myers, Water & Sewer	10
John Craw, MFD	6
Dave Prichard, Dev. Serv.	3
Matthew Lafon, E&PW	3
Jason Ayers, MPD	2
Maria Nelson, Dev. Serv.	2
Andrew Payne, MPD	2
Curtis Tate, MPD	2
Jonathon Riggsbee, Admin	1

Accolades and Applause

Dusty Finger Completes Lineman Apprenticeship Training

Apprentice Lineman training introduces the beginning apprentice to the math, electricity and alternating current fundamental principles that are the groundwork for understanding the “hows and whys” of the Lineman’s profession. Students learn the tools and equipment used in everyday operations, and applications include stringing and sagging wire, underground distribution systems, transmission and distribution line maintenance, transformer connections, meter applications, substation operations, and phasing and measuring voltage and current.

Dusty was required to complete laboratory sessions, boot camp, book-work, tests, and a final exam that included both field work, and a written exam over the course of the last year and a half in order to become certified. Congratulations Dusty!



More Good Stuff



Promotion
David England
Water and Sewer
Wastewater Plant Operator



December Graduate
Matthew Davis
son of Mike (Fire Dept.) and Debbie Davis, graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with a Bachelor Degree in Anthropology with a Minor in Biology and Forensics. He has applied to University of Tennessee, Texas Tech and Chico University in Northern California for acceptance to their graduate programs.



From the City Manager

A letter to employees from Greg McClain

Happy New Year everyone.

Each New Year brings new beginnings. I have a number of tasks at work that I do early in January to get a fresh start. I clean off my desk, organize my paper files, file needed emails and dump the spam and then I dust off last year's to-do list and rework my priorities hoping to actually take something off the list this coming year. It is a vicious cycle to say the least.

It would be easy to become complacent and cynical with the day to day grind that our work demands of us but let us be reminded who we are and what we do for a living. Each morning the citizens of Maryville and the surrounding area climb out of bed and turn on the lights in their warm houses made possible by the energy we provide. They shuffle into the bathroom and run through the daily routine of preparing themselves for work. The water is there clean and pure and all of the drains in the house conveniently carry all the waste far from their home. Our citizens are well rested from a quiet night as our police and fire employee's patrolled and stood watch over our city as they slept. Off to work they drive on safe streets with well-timed traffic lights passing our solid waste and grounds trucks collecting the garbage of the week and cleaning our parks and public spaces. As they approach downtown, they stop behind our school buses as they pick up our city's children and as they wait they look at our city offices all lit up with many more of our employees working behind the scenes to keep everything running. They arrive at work where they begin their new job at the new company that the city worked with to relocate here bringing new opportunities for this generation and many more to come. Their new company President welcomes them to work and describes how happy they are to be in Maryville where the taxes are low and the city services are top-notch.

Each of you do your job so well that our citizens rarely think about our employees or the long hours of service you provide to them. It's what we do. This is our job, our mission, to serve our community and make life safe, convenient and clean. It makes me very proud to say I work with each of you.

So, as I rework my to-do list, I am writing on the top of the list to – "Thank our employees each day for their continued service to our community."

I hope you too will start off this New Year as another year to serve.

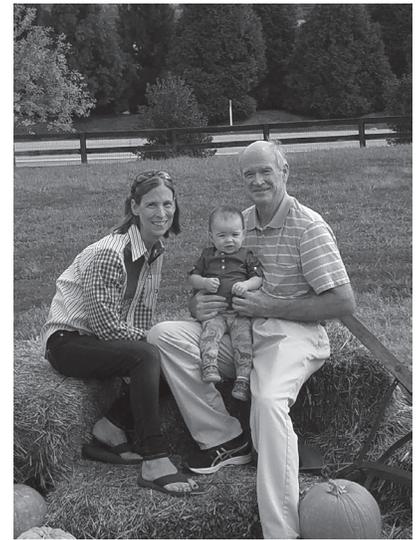
God bless you and your family.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Mike - Continued from Page 1

Mike is a long time fan of the Missouri Tigers, Christmas, the weather in the fall, and Chick-fil-A. He will go to concerts when Linda forces him to go (she's a big fan of concerts, him - not so much), he'll visit San Francisco every chance he gets, but will never go parasailing again. He can't make it through the day without a hearty breakfast and a good cup of coffee. He has eaten chocolate covered ants, possesses every Liberty Silver Dollar coin ever made, a one half cent coin, and a two cent coin. His all time favorite movie is The Sound of Music and the last movie he saw in the theater was A Bad Mom's Christmas (which he found to be vulgar, but pretty darn funny). If there was one thing in history he would change if he could, it would be to somehow prevent the assassination of President Lincoln. He'd rather wash dishes than vacuum, and if he won the lottery he would start a business that employed only extremely underprivileged folks. If he were in charge of his own country he would pass a law that mandated that everyone had to be nice to each other.

Mike and Linda moved mountains to be closer to Grace and they don't regret one single second of their journey. They plan to pour their time and hearts into their grandchildren (there is another one on the way due to arrive in May) because holding your baby's baby is a joyous thing. Lesley Stahl recently described her own grandmotherly mindset, "...we are a band of lovesick indulgers whose ability to say no seems to be disabled the day our grandbabies are born. We sneak them candy when Mom says no, we let them play on iPads, read them "Fancy Nancy" over and over ... and over. We get out our wallets whenever they point to something and say, 'I want dat.' Yup, that's us. And it's Grampa, too. Someone wise said, 'If God had asked Abraham to sacrifice his grandson, he'd have said, 'No way!' " Mike agrees wholeheartedly!



Mike and Linda with sweet little Grace

And That's a Wrap

Operation Sanitation Santa served 379 children this year. Pictured here are just a few of the people that helped Public Works pull off another successful year of giving.



People Are the Key

Stay on Track to Reach Wellness Goals

The Interactive Health Committee is offering another opportunity for you to earn points towards your goal. You can earn 50 points by participating in the Maintain Don't Gain Challenge beginning January 8. This challenge will encourage employees to maintain their weight by increasing their physical activity and learning about good nutrition. This challenge is focused on weight management, not weight loss.

The goal is to log at least 30 minutes of physical activity, five days a week, for four weeks (600 total minutes) and log your weight throughout the challenge.

Sign up for the challenge on the Interactive Health website beginning January 1 - 15.

Christmas Lamp Art?

*Secret Santa Visits
Development Services*

Keith Brewer found this eclectic, slightly creepy lamp made of severed doll parts, flowers, elephants and leopard print ribbon on his desk in late December. Rumor has it that it may be a Christmas gift from a former co-worker at the Operations Center. Whoever it was that left it on his desk... you should know that you made his day!



Shop with a Cop

At 6:30 a.m. on a snowy Saturday morning, over 100 police officers gathered at the Alcoa Walmart and waited anxiously for a big yellow school bus to drop off 76 kids between the ages of six and ten. Each child received a \$150 gift card from the area FOP to buy Christmas gifts for their families and themselves. The officers and other volunteers were there to offer advice, keep track of the budget, and to get to know the child they were paired with. This was the 28th year for the Blount County Shop with a Cop event.



Captain Sharon Moore helps Julieanne choose just the right gift.

Officers from Maryville, Alcoa, and the Blount County Sheriff's Office volunteered their time to help make Christmas a little bit happier for the kids served by the program.

Fridays in the Truck ...with Water & Sewer

Paul Gilley's Water and Sewer Construction crew recently



Robert Anderson (Clyde) & Golman Myers pause while Jonathan Ellenburg retrieves a bucket of rock for the pit.

completed a fire tap to a main water line on Neff St. at Washington. Robert Anderson, Golman Myers, Jonathan Ellenburg, and Tony Hatcher started the job before the sun was up on a cold and blustery day. Their mission was to bore a hole in the main line so that a nearby business, Resurrected Relics, would be able to connect and add sprinklers to the inside of their building. The process is a slow one due to the fact that the guys must be meticulous

with everything from avoiding hitting other underground lines with the back hoe to making sure the new tap lies level under the ground. Water service to the area is not interrupted during the whole process which makes the job more complicated, but easier for everyone involved! After ensuring there are no leaks and locating the piece of the main pipe that is removed to make the connection, the guys can call the job a success and move on to the next underground work order.

Business is Booming

*Spotlight on Economic & Community Development with
Angie Luckie*

What's happening at the former Kroger building?

Hutton, a real estate and construction company out of Chattanooga has purchased the building and is retrofitting it for five national retailers. These stores should be open Summer of 2018. As we get individual announcements, we'll let you know who is coming! -Angie

In Memory of Houston Ray McCammon

We offer our condolences and sympathies to Ray's family, friends, and former coworkers. Houston Ray McCammon, age 72, of Maryville, passed away on Saturday, December 2, 2017, at his home. He was born on May 15, 1945. He retired from the City of Maryville in 2010 after 46 years of service in the Electric Department. He is survived by his loving wife of over 54 years, Linda McCammon, their children and spouses. He also left behind a special friend,



Jack Poplin, along with several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and many friends. Mr. McCammon was cremated and per his wishes no services were held.