

NEWS in a NUTSHELL

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF MARYVILLE



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July 2017

Roundabout Fun in Ireland with Gary Walker

This month, we interrupt our series of stories featuring COM Directors to bring you this hilarious account of vacation calamity written by Gary Walker, Building Official, in Development Services. Enjoy!

In 2009 my wife Anna and I took a trip to Northern Ireland for a vacation and genealogical research. The areas we intended to go to were not on tourist routes, so we had to rent a car and drive. Although this had the benefit of having the flexibility to go where we wanted and at our own pace, it also meant that I was going to have to instantly learn driving on the left side of the road.

We rented a car with a GPS device (they call it SatNav for “satellite navigation”) at the Belfast airport and made our way to downtown Belfast where we stayed a couple of days. We soon learned that this is the land of roundabouts. Almost all significant roadway intersections outside of the city center are serviced by one or more roundabouts of various designs. Some roundabouts are nothing more than a dishpan-sized painted area in the center of the intersection while others range from a simple single lane, to three lanes that have traffic signals part of the way around.

The Irish have a peculiar attitude about how driving is supposed to work. They believe that it’s the driver’s responsibility to steer and to always have either the brake pedal all the way down or the gas pedal all the way down. All other driving responsibilities (such as crash avoidance)



Arial photo of the Roundabout in Ireland where Gary met a blue haired opera singer.

belong to Almighty Providence. This was some adjustment for me.

Our SatNav device had a female Gaelic voice that was pleasing until about the 23rd time that she had to say “re-calculating route”. That’s when I noticed that the electronic voice seemed to have a slight tone of disgust. I told Anna that I think that she really wanted to say “YOU STUPID AMERICAN, WHY DIDN’T YOU TURN WHERE I TOLD YOU TO?” Anna replied, “She would be right to ask that question.” My feelings were hurt. Due to jet lag, Anna sometimes would dose off as we traveled along. Countless times, Anna jumped as she was jolted awake by the sudden loud voice “In 1.8 miles, take the

second exit at the roundabout.”

When we left Belfast we went up the coast to Carrickfergus and then inland of County Antrim. On the outskirts of Ahoghill we came to a medium sized roundabout. I entered it correctly by going left. When I took the correct exit that the electronic

Irish lady told me to take, I mistakenly came off on the right instead of the left. Unfortunately

there was an elderly Irish lady driving up to the roundabout in the same lane. I quickly maneuvered up over the curb and partially onto the sidewalk to avoid hitting

“Murdered by blue-haired Irish lady”

~Gary Walker’s Would-be Obituary

Continued, see Gary’s vacation on page 3

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People are the Key

July Birthdays

1	Debbie Ryan, Finance
3	Darryl Adams, Electric Daniel Fipps, Fire
4	Michael Braden, MPD
7	Greg McClain, Administration Scott Poland, Dev. Services Chad Wilson, E&PW Kevin Stoltenberg, E&PW
8	Mike Caylor, Fire Marcus Walker, MPD Jordan Marshall, E&PW
10	Barry Webb, Electric
12	Rod Fernandez, MPD Travis Hill, MPD
13	John Priest, MPD DJ Porter, MPD
15	Keith Anderson, Water & Sewer
16	Derik Hilbert, E&PW
18	Laurie Head, E&PW Dustin Finger, Electric
20	Randy Thompson, Fire Logan Rogers, E&PW
22	Tyler Kirkland, E&PW
26	Paul Shoffner, Electric Terry McCoy, IT
28	Jerry Barnes, Finance Donnie Williams, Electric
31	Chance Hawkins, Fire



July Anniversaries

David Graves, MPD	33
Rebecca Connatser, Finance,	32
David Hodges, Fire	31
Bill Walt, Electric	30
Stay Chissay, E&PW	29
Keith Wilson, Water & Sewer	28
Ralph Goodson, Finance	28
Douglas Short, Electric	27
Johnny Garner, E&PW	24
Ricky Cummings, E&PW	24
Charlie Martinez, Fire	22
Tony Clark, Fire	22
James Yearout, Electric	22
Amy Woody, Electric	21
Chad Simpson, MPD	21
Teresa Brown, Finance	21
Wendell Wilson, Water & Sewer	19
Richard Johnson, Electric	19
Donnie Alexander, E&PW	14
Tony Hatcher, Water & Sewer	14
Celia Quintana, Finance	12
Ray Boswell, Administration	12
John Ellenburg, Water & Sewer	10
Mark Hasty, Fire	9
Ronald Breazeale, Water & Sewer	9
Jason Barham, MPD	5
Clayton Hall, MPD	2
Jacob Curtis, MPD	1
Matt Tipton, MPD	1
Adam Cook, MPD	1
Tyran Harrison, MPD	1
Michelle Portier, Dev. Services	1

Accolades and Applause



Walker Sean Riggs

Born 6/2/17, 6 lb. 10 oz.
Parents: Melissa and
Brandon Riggs (MFD)



Promotion:

Kevin Stoltenberg

Engineering & Public Works
City Engineer



Promotion:

Michael Wilson

Electric
Vehicle and
Equipment Mechanic



Promotion:

Jonathan Wilson
Engineering & Public Works
Utilities Construction
Worker I in Water & Sewer



New Employee

Garrett Holloway
Firefighter Trainee/EMT



Sarah Breid

MFD (now Sarah Harris)
Married Dan Harris on
5/13/2017

Movies in the Park 2017

Mark your Friday night calendar! Beginning June 30th and continuing through July 28th, the city of Maryville's Movies in the Park series will again be offered free to the public. The outdoor movies are scheduled to start at sundown - usually around 9 p.m. Bring your family, a picnic, coolers, chairs, and blankets, and relax under the stars while enjoying a great movie on the the big screen in the Theater in the Park. (See our website: www.maryvillegov.com/movies-2017 for more information).

- June 30 - Sing
- July 7 - The Lego Batman Movie
- July 14 - Zootopia
- July 21 - Jungle Book
- July 28 - The Secret Life of Pets



Kind Words

GREAT JOB!

Citizen Appreciates the Grounds Maintenance Crews

Just wanted to let you know that everyone in my family loves Mom's bench. I even sent a photo to her sister in Arizona and one to her cousin in Germany. They all are so pleased with this bench. I meant to send you an email days ago to thank you, but things have just been crazy. Thanks so much for your help and Gary Johnson's help as well. Walking along this trail and seeing all the new benches makes me proud to live in our beautiful city of Maryville. You guys do good work and we all appreciate everything you do.

Thanks again from the Harrison, Breeden, Muzyngo, Wolsiffer, Ecker and Gluck families.

See you on the Trail! Trish

Kudos to Special Employees

Doug Short and Hank Woods responded to our distress call on Monday evening (5/29/17) about 6-6:30. They were very professional, polite and focused on the job at hand... we realize that the storm presented urgent priorities. We are thankful for the assistance we received. Our community is fortunate to have such dedicated and efficient service providers.

Thank you, Betty Rawls

Incredible Responders

May 23, 2017

On Sunday, my ex-husband suffered a heart attack during my son's graduation from Maryville College. Your officers were incredible responders and were such an amazing help and source of comfort to my son and the entire family. I cannot for the life of me remember the officers' names. But they found us, transported us, made sure we were where we needed to be and continued to check on us. I just cannot express what that meant. I just wanted to be sure to say the proper thanks.

Sincerely, Beth Garrett

Email from Chris Soro of C2RL

Sent to Gary Walker and Greg McClain, submitted by Greg:

Gary,
I did not have a chance last week to thank you for all your hard work on this. We could not have gotten into that building and met our deadline for tomorrow's shipment to Toyota without your help. I just want you to know how much that is appreciated.

Have a great day! Chris

Gary's vacation - Continued from Page 1

her car. I suppose that Almighty Providence's responsibility of crash avoidance extends to American drivers when they are in Ireland. I glanced at the lady as I was steering past. I remember thinking that I had never seen that much of the white of someone's eyes before. I think she was singing opera because her mouth was opened really wide.

I saw that Anna was shaken, so to calm her I said "Don't worry, we didn't hit, so it doesn't matter." It didn't work. I pulled over to give Anna a chance to restart her breathing. I kept looking in the mirror for the Irish lady in case she came after me. I imagined that the title of my obituary would be "Murder by blue-haired Irish lady". Fortunately she didn't come after me. I suppose she went home to clean herself.

As we traveled on through the stunning beauty of the Antrim countryside of farms, villages, power-generating wind mills and multitudes of roundabouts we soon forgot the "incident". As we came to the Presbyterian church and cemetery at Ballyrashane, we discovered that the bell tower of the ancient church was being refurbished. The contractor was there and, as it happened, he was also a member of the church. He was very friendly and offered to show us the inside of the church. We found it interesting that architecturally it was essentially identical to several Presbyterian churches we had seen in Upstate South Carolina. When he discovered that I did building inspections he surprisingly said "I like you guys, you help us keep our buildings from falling down." I gave him my business card and told him to send me an email if he ever needed an inspection.

When we got back to Maryville it took me a couple of weeks to muster enough courage to drive the roundabout on East Broadway.



Gary and Anna in Northern Ireland on the Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge

May 27 Storm Ensures Solid Waste Department Will Have a Busy Summer

City crews continue the cleanup process after several May storms – including the May 27 storm that damaged property throughout the City. Crews estimate the latest storm will generate 1400 tons of additional volume for pickup on top of the already high-volume spring season. Solid Waste Superintendent Dan Cantwell explained, "Spring is normally the busiest time of year for junk and brush pickup in general. With this additional volume, we anticipate it will take three months to fully recover from the storm damage debris."



Johnny Garner, gets started on the long process of cleaning up following the May 27th storms.

People Are the Key

New Signs Installed at the Pistol Creek Wetlands Center

City of Maryville Mayor, Tom Taylor explains the importance of the Wetlands to our area. New signs were installed in May by the Engineering and Public Works department under the direction of Dale Jayne. They focus on specific elements found in the Pistol Creek Wetlands Center.



Impressive Improvements

The results for March 2017 Health Evaluations have arrived and they are very impressive. Over 90% of employees reached their personal health goal! Thirteen employees who did not meet their goal last year, achieved their goal this year. Seven critical conditions were found and referred to a doctor. City of Maryville employees had improvements in almost every category and received high scores as a company from Interactive Health. We should all be proud of the extra effort and hard work we invested in improving our health. The results are impressive!



Keep Up the Good Work!

The new wellness year will begin on July 1st and will run through May 23, 2018. Opportunities to earn points and focus on healthy habits will be featured in the Nutshell, emails, posters and of course on the Interactive Health website. This would be a good time to log in to the website to become familiar with the new format. If this is your first-time logging in to Interactive Health you will need to register using the sponsor code SXM9V. Any questions can be answered by your department's Wellness Representatives or you can call Sharie Gaby in Human Resources at 3426.

Mark your calendar...

Medic blood drive will be held on July 12. Watch for posters and emails with more information to follow soon.

Why is the day that you do laundry, cook, clean, iron and so on, called a day off?

Your News... *If you have news about your department, coworkers, or a personal life event that you would like to share in the Nutshell, please email Mary Bristol at mdbristol@maryville-tn.gov.*

We want you... We need you!

United Way Gas Day will be held on Friday, July 14th at the Exxon Station located on the corner of Sandy Springs Road and Hwy. 411 South.

Please come out and volunteer to help raise money for a good a cause.

Employees are needed to cover one to two hour shifts from 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. with the approval from their supervisor. Sign-up sheets will be posted in department breakrooms or you can call Human Resources to get your name on the list. We would like to extend a special thank you to Chief Tony Crisp and his Wife Phyllis for being co-sponsors for this event.



July is National Ice Cream Month

Back in the 1980's President Ronald Reagan designated July as National Ice Cream Month with the third Sunday of the month being National Ice Cream Day.

YOU CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS, BUT YOU CAN BUY ICE CREAM. AND THAT'S KIND OF THE SAME THING.



Until 1800, ice cream remained a rare and exotic dessert enjoyed mostly by the elite, but today's total annual production of ice cream in the U.S. is more than 1.6 billion gallons.

Life is short... say yes to ice cream often, especially in July!

Fridays in the Truck ...with Brad

Brad Hurst watches the on-board cameras in his Automated Python truck during his Friday route in Meadow Oaks subdivision. Brad spent the first two years of his employment with the COM on the back of a manned garbage truck "building character." He says the automated trucks are a huge improvement in both safety for employees and efficiency, not to mention job satisfaction!

