

NEWS in a NUTSHELL

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF MARYVILLE



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Greg McClain Chooses a Legacy of Service

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

Greg McClain was born to Marion Lee and Earl William McClain in Salina, Kansas in 1960. He was the McClains' third son, his brother Dennis was 8 when he was born and Jeff was 5. Their father was a military man serving in the United States Air Force, and he often had to leave his family behind when he was deployed, sometimes for as long as two years at a time. Military life often meant moving too, over the years Greg attended

twenty different schools. Learning how to say goodbye to cherished friends and how to make new friends wherever he went was something that Greg would eventually see as a blessing.

Greg has been an active member of the workforce for decades starting when he was 8 years old. His mother dressed him in a sports coat and a bow tie, and handed him a brief case that belonged to his father filled with Christmas Cards. He went door to door selling those cards to neighbors and friends, shamelessly using his adorableness for personal gain! What human with a heart could say no to such a vision of cuteness wrapped up in a miniature business suit?

The McClains moved back home to Blount County when he was 10. Greg's father left the military at the age of 42

with deteriorating health due to exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam. He passed away when he was 52.

Greg had several uncles on both sides of his family back in Knoxville, and they all had a skill to teach him. Starting at fourteen, he worked with several

of them learning all he could from each. He became a skilled brick layer, wood worker, plumber, and electrician and through the long hours and back breaking work, he learned the value of college. He set his sights on a degree in Architecture and ultimately earned his bachelors at Tusculum University in Greeneville.

When Greg met Linda in his 5th grade class at Eagleton Elementary, little did he know that they would remain friends for life. When they were sixteen, Greg and Linda started dating and by twenty, they were married, and parents at 26. They've been married now for 37 years. Their son Chris and his wife Kari have given them two grandchildren who they adore, Carmen 13 and Christian 6. Greg and Linda returned home to Maryville after college and he took a job with ALCOA. He spent fifteen years in the business of making aluminum cans. He eventually realized that although it was a good job, it provided very little personal satisfaction. What he really wanted was to make a difference in the community. Greg soon left The Aluminum Company to work for the City of Alcoa. Nine years later, an Assistant City Manager position at the City of Maryville opened up.



Greg, Carmen, Kari, Christian, Chris, and Linda visiting the Grand Canyon

By then he knew that public service was his calling and he began his journey at the City as Assistant to Gary Hensley. Greg was responsible for one half of the organization for the first two years, then the other half of the organization was added to his plate for another two years. He became the City Manager when Gary retired in 2006. Knowing he is making a difference through his work is one of his favorite things about his job. For the last 10 years he has worked with a specific goal in mind.... Putting the city on a sound financial path. Under his leadership, and with the guidance of the

City Council and Mayor, the city has greatly reduced the amount of debt they carry and traded volatile adjustable-rate loans for more stable fixed rate loans. Leaving a large amount of debt for future generations to deal with is not an option in Greg's mind. Responsible spending coupled with improvements that set Maryville up for comfortable future growth are the legacy he prefers to leave behind.

Many years ago, Greg's great grandfather became convinced that he was a direct descendant of Pelham Humphries, a man who owned 4,000 acres of land in Texas.



Greg at five years old

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People are the Key

March Birthdays

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4	Ed Greene, E&PW Jason Barham, MPD
5	Mike Davis, Water & Sewer Bill Bryant, E&PW
8	Jason Cable, Water & Sewer Ron Nugent, E&PW David England, Water & Sewer
10	Perla Garrett, Finance
11	Mike Davis, MFD Doug Chapman, E&PW
12	Jewell White, MPD
14	Wayne Lewis, E&PW Jeremy Snyder, E&PW
15	Jacob Curtis, MPD Jack Loveday, Water & Sewer
17	Garrett Holloway, MFD
18	Danny Wilson, Water & Sewer
20	Michael Hicks, MPD Adam Cook, MPD
21	Bobby Queen, MFD
22	Rickie Trentham, Water & Sewer
23	Ronnie Irwin, E&PW
24	Rob Woods, MFD Matthew McKeel, MPD
25	Laurie Galvin, Finance Eugene Hannah, Water & Sewer
27	Andrew Payne, MPD
28	Jack Bryant, E&PW Kim Walker, Finance
29	Michael Hall, Water & Sewer
31	David Graves, MPD Ray Boswell, Admin.

March Anniversaries

Bill Bryant, E&PW	40 years
Doug Strickland, E&PW	35 years
Danny Kimsey, Water & Sewer	34 years
Joe Hartline, Water & Sewer	33 years
Scott Poland, Dev. Services	33 years
Mark Wheeler, Electric	32 years
Mike Seagle, Electric	31 years
Eric Holder, Water & Sewer	28 years
James Bond, Electric	24 years
Gary Caughron, MPD	23 years
Brad Poplin, Electric	22 years
Marcus Walker, MPD	20 years
Kevin Whitehead, E&PW	19 years
Wendy Phillips, Water & Sewer	18 years
Keith Anderson, Water & Sewer	17 years
Sam Newport, Electric	16 years
Christopher Hope, E&PW	15 years
Sharie Gaby, HR	14 years
Shawn Ridings E&PW	14 years
Robert Anderson, Water & Sewer	4 years
Jordan Marshall, E&PW	3 years
Mark West, E&PW	2 years
Michael Wilson, E&PW	2 years
Matthew Watson, MPD	1 year



Accolades and Applause



Retiring April 2, 2018
David Hodges
MFD Deputy Chief
32 Years of Service



Promotion
David Headrick
Water & Sewer
Chief Wastewater Treatment
Plant Operator



Promotion
Mike Hicks
MPD
Police Sergeant



Promotion
Shawn Riddick
Water and Sewer
Construction Worker II



Promotion
Brent Robbins
Water & Sewer
Construction Worker III

Greg - Continued from Page 1

Pelham died in 1850, and the Spindle Top Oil Company discovered oil on his land in 1901. Today there is over one billion dollars due to the heirs of Mr. Humphries and little if any evidence that anyone alive today has legal right to the money. Greg's grandmother had collected thousands of documents that she believed supported



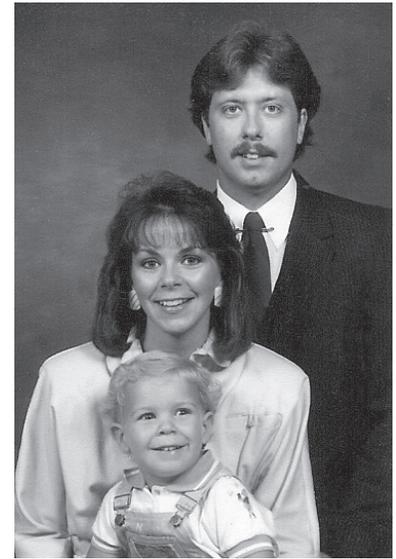
Greg welcomes Bridgeway Apartments to Maryville.

her father's claims and she often spoke of how she and her family had been robbed of their money. All this talk of lost fortune and rightful heirs sparked an interest in lineage in Greg and he began researching his family's history starting with his grandmother's box of documents. At one point he had identified 144,000 people who held a place in his family tree. He has discovered royalty, clergy, and outlaws in his family's past, but no ties to the Texas fortune. Searching for his heritage

has become a lifelong love and a passion for him even though he long ago ruled out the possibility of becoming instantly wealthy. He's always been interested in history starting with high school history classes, and to this day he finds himself smitten with the past. He writes an article for a quarterly publication, *Blount County Horizon Magazine*, called *Looking Back*. In the Fall of 2017 he penned an article featuring one of his distant family members, Andrew McClain who like Greg, chose to serve the public through local government here in Blount County. Andrew was elected the Register of Deeds in 1860 and served for fourteen years. He then became an Alderman serving with Mayor Samuel Pride until the pressures of the Civil War forced him to move his family to West Tennessee.

Greg is an Ordained Deacon, and a Sunday School Teacher. He's a golfer, a lover of the mountains and of the Fall. He never makes New Year's Resolutions, has visited 49 states and hopes to get to the only remaining state, Alaska, eventually. He loves Christmas, especially when he and Linda's family gathers to decorate the tree with ornaments that were created by his parents long ago. He swears he will never jump off a 40' cliff (into a body of water) again, on account of the memories of a broken tailbone he suffered with for a year following the last time he jumped. The last movie he saw in the theater was *Paddington II*, the last book he read was *Right Thinking in a Church Gone Astray* by Nathan Busenitz, and he once tried out for the Cincinnati Reds. He loves being outdoors, his all time favorite movie is *It's a Wonderful Life*, his hero is the Apostle Paul, and the most influential person he has known is his mother. He misses the simpler times of his childhood, but wouldn't change a single thing about his life if he were given the opportunity.

Theodore Roosevelt once said, "The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future." If that's true, the city of Maryville is in good hands with Greg at the helm! He not only knows the past, but he understands the importance of public service too.



The McClain family in the late 80's

Interactive Health Committee News



New Equipment in the Gym

Take a few minutes to stop in the fitness center and check out our newest equipment. A new recumbent bike, speed bike, and treadmill, as well as new resistance bands have all been added to our collection of machines and equipment in the gym. If you would like to start working out in the gym all you have to do is visit HR, watch a video and sign a release and you're all set. There is no cost to use the gym and your immediate family is welcome to join you.

Mark Your Calendars!

On Saturday, April 14, the Interactive Health Committee will hold a 5K Race and Fun Run/Walk for City of Maryville employees and their families. By participating you can earn 50 activity points towards your personal health score goal, get some fresh air, a cool free tee shirt, and perhaps start a healthy new habit. There is no cost to participate and your well behaved dog is welcome to come along! Give Sharie Gaby a call to sign up if you haven't already!

News from Human Resources

Flexible Spending Reminder

March 31, 2018 is the deadline to request reimbursements from your 2017 Flexible Spending Account. If you need information regarding your Flexible Spending Account, please call Leslie Crawford in Human Resources at extension 3426.

Daylight Saving Time Begins

You may want to try to get some extra sleep in the next few weeks because we are about to lose an hour of it. On March 11 at 2 a.m. most of America will be "springing forward" as daylight saving time begins, giving us another hour of sunlight at the end of the day. In the United States, daylight saving time began on March 21, 1918. At the time government officials reasoned that fuel could be saved by reducing the need for lighting in the home.

But wait, there's more!

Fridays in the Field ...at the Wastewater Treatment Plant

During the week of February 5, 2018 approximately 3.5" of rain had fallen in our area. While most of us see a rainy day as a good time to catch a movie or read a good book, Chris Hamrick, the Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent sees it as a good way to make his day unusually hectic. Most days at the plant, eight to ten million gallons of wastewater wind their way through the process of becoming clean enough to return to the river. However, by February 13, the plant's intake had ballooned to 40 million gallons of extra dirty wastewater daily. Chris was in the middle of managing the deluge, yet he took the time to give me the grand tour of the plant he clearly is proud to be a part of. Chris, Doyle Prince, Rick Trentham, and Brian Hutsell, patiently explained the many steps of taking in wastewater and producing both clean, disinfected water and a usable product, mulch, from it.

The plant, located off of Wheeler Road in Louisville, TN (just off Singleton Station Road) is staffed 24/7 by 17 employees who all take pride in their work. Rick, the Maintenance Supervisor and City of Maryville employee for the last 31 years often jumps in with an idea for a fix to spare the expense of a new purchase. His workshop is equipped with what he needs to accomplish great things and he and his staff quietly save the City thousands of dollars a year with their brilliant ideas and skills to match. They recently were able to avoid purchasing a new catch screen for \$40,000 by putting their heads and talents together to repair the existing screen at a cost of \$2,100.



Rick Trentham, Maintenance Supervisor and long time City of Maryville employee.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant uses very few chemicals to treat the waste, it's largely a natural biological process that they monitor, carefully measuring levels and staying within State and Federally mandated regulations. When the wastewater



Brian Hutsell, Biosolids Technician has been with the city for 23 years.

has completed it's course through the plant, it goes to one of two discharge points. The Tennessee River will take up to 20 million gallons of treated water a day, and any amount over that goes to the second discharge point; the Little River. If you were to compare a glass of water taken from the river and a glass of water as it leaves the wastewater treatment plant, the clearer and cleaner of the two would be the water re-entering the river after Chris and his crew have treated it.

With all of that said, the most impressive thing about

the WWTP team is their vision for the future. They work tirelessly to "do the right thing" for the environment. While it would take less effort to treat wastewater without regard for the next generation, they focus their efforts on not only producing clean water, but also reducing the amount of screenings (solid waste or coarse materials) that must be disposed of in the landfill.

At the end of the treatment process a semi-dry sludge remains. This is where Brian Hutsell, Biosolids Technician, shines. The organic material is moved to the "pad" a 4.4 acre slab of concrete where it is first mixed with wood chips from tree limbs the Electric Department generates, keeping those out of the landfill also. The sludge and wood chip mixture is laid out in small piles to continue the natural process of composting. Composting is a bio-thermal aerobic process. During composting the heat generated by the decomposition of the organic portion of the sludge reduces the moisture content further, stabilizes it and naturally renders it free of contaminants. Brian monitors this process making sure that the temperature of the compost pile hovers between 131°F and 158°F, hot enough to kill bacteria but not hot enough to combust. The result is a black mulch which is then sold for use in gardens and flower beds throughout Blount County. Genius! And, it's the right thing to do, on so many levels!

The WWTP is a win-win-win for the community. Its probably fair to say that most of us don't even know that in a picturesque corner of Blount County, there are 17 employees of the City quietly going about the business of treating our wastewater while doing good things for the environment 24/7.



Chris Hamrick, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent pauses at his desk for a few short minutes.

Business is Booming

Spotlight on Economic & Community Development with Angie Luckie

Journeys shoe store is set to open in Foothills Mall on March 17th. Journeys is your destination if you're searching for shoes and accessories that express your unique attitudes and lifestyles.

They carry a wide variety of trendy brands including Vans, Converse, TOMS, Sperry, UGG, DC, adidas, Polo and many more! Accessories include backpacks, hats, bags, socks, belts, watches and more.

-Angie

