

Our County  
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County Mayor

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It seems impossible that we have arrived at the midpoint of August 2020, already. We need Captain Kirk to ask Mr. Sulu to stop using “Warp Speed” increments as we navigate each new day, week, and month of this year! One of the things that made me think of new questions each week while watching the original (and the best) Star Trek episodes was if it is necessary to manually navigate through space during normal speeds of travel, then how did that process disappear when incrementally exceeding the speed of light (186,000 miles per second)?

This, and many other, realities are often missing when we are watching popular television shows and movies. Their depiction of fiction, or non-fiction, are just that, depictions. The realities of “real – life” are left for those of us who are involved in the day to day activities known as life. This year has indeed been one of the most epic proportions. Even though we have been through slightly more than half, we seem to have been traveling at warp speeds through at least two if not three years by now.

While we may be experiencing life at an advanced speed, the truth is that we are still blessed to be experiencing life, at any speed. The changes brought about by our world-wide pandemic have caused us all to step back and try to find ways to make rational and objective decisions based on ever-changing data. May we never lose sight of the benefit of wise counsel and diversity of thought. In the final analysis, we ALL have to make the best decision for ourselves, our families, and our community. Diversity of thought is one thing, but we all should also remember that for anyone to get anywhere they have to have a final destination in mind, and they have to work towards achieving that destination as a team. If everyone is going in their directions they may all indeed see movement, but they will not see progress!

The fascination with Space exploration was significant in the early 1960s. The resulting television shows were plentiful. My Favorite Martian, Lost in Space, Buck Rogers, The Jetson’s, and many others became a part of life that has resulted in what many of those shows had as ideas to many of today’s everyday occurrences. Cellular telephones, video communications, GPS mapping, and telemedicine consultations just to name a few. With the words **"First, I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the**

**moon and returning him safely to the Earth”** a process was started. That proclamation by President John F. Kennedy before a joint session of Congress on May 25, 1961, set the stage for an astounding time in our nation's emerging space program. The goal -- fueled by competition with the Soviet Union dubbed the "space race" -- took what was to become Kennedy Space Center from a testing ground for new rockets to a center successful at launching humans to the moon. Neil Armstrong's "one small step" on the lunar surface in 1969 achieved a goal that sounded also like science fiction just a few years earlier.

I am sure each generation feels that they are embarking daily on a course across new and uncharted territory. In less than 10 years the successful completion of President Kennedy's goal was made possible by a multitude of opinions being presented as ways to achieve a single goal with many options of getting there. This process was replicated again earlier this month with a new space exploration goal of traveling to Mars. As unrealistic as that would have sounded to the citizens of 1960's America, we should never lose sight of the possibilities that lie before and within us ALL when we work together toward a common goal. This same process has worked for centuries here within Bradley County and I hope that it will ALWAYS continue. My thanks go out to those who seek to improve not only their own lives but also those of their families, friends, and neighbors. This process, repeated daily, has, does, and will always help to keep Bradley County, Tennessee at its best, no matter what the perceived speed of travel through time!