

Our County  
D. Gary Davis  
County Mayor

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

In a “normal” year, mentioning that we only have 120 days from today’s date until Christmas and 127 days until we arrive at the beginning of 2021 would be met with a similar response that I often receive to what some best describe as “Dad jokes”. This year I believe that many will offer a sigh of relief that we are quickly approaching the last 1/3 of the year known as 2020. What was once thought of as a start to a new decade of “perfect vision” has rapidly become a time that has sent many of us on a journey to find an “improved vision” to once more anticipate another new and hopefully different year.

I know that some people have written songs with the title of “I did it my way” but I am also sure that most people are not meant to be isolated. We need each other, even if we think otherwise. The past few months have taught us many things about ourselves, our communities, and our ability to adapt to change. Hopefully, we can all learn from the experiences of 2020 and use our acquired new knowledge to continue to improve ourselves, and our community.

Having a different opinion does not make us “mortal enemies” nor does it make it impossible to become, or remain, friends. It simply means that we have a different opinion! As I continue to enjoy each time the earth orbits completely around the sun, I have witnessed the great loss that many inflict upon themselves and others. Social media is a great tool that can be used for good. It has allowed many to communicate in ways that have built friendships and brought family members together who may be on opposite sides of the earth. Like any tool, it can also be used to bully, intimidate, and cause harm in ways that were not even thought possible just a short time ago.

Political conversations were always thought to be civil in times past, but one only has to look at previous generations and centuries to find those who deviate from the norms of the day. “No matter how much you push the envelope, it will always remain stationary” will cement my ability to compete with the best of Dad’s jokes and one-liners, but it is also true that nothing truly is new, under the sun. Some people have always sought to help others and build up communities, while some people have always sought to sow discord, strife, and mayhem. It has ALWAYS paid to choose your friends, and your life’s path, wisely. Every choice that a person makes has always

brought them closer to their destination, whether that be a positive or a negative outcome.

Each generation has also had a conspiracy (or many) that they have lived through. Ours is no different in that we have a few (or many) that circulate amongst certain circles. Remember when we were taught to seek “the facts, and only the facts” on a journey to the truth? I still believe that this is the best path to move forward as a person or even a community. We have seen the news in some instances become more of an entertainment variety show depending upon one’s choice of networks. Truth is often buried somewhere in the middle of various sources and is still best sought by those willing to have a variety of sources of information.

I do NOT have all of the answers, but I have lived long enough to witness those who have been successful in navigating their paths through time. The traits that have served each of them well in years and decades past have also served them well during this year as well. Life is not a sprint, but it is a marathon and those who are successful have learned to use facts to gain knowledge (there is a difference). They then use this knowledge to adapt to best navigate successfully through any uncharted territory with confidence. This success is not a local phenomenon but I can say with confidence that Bradley County has been, is currently and hopefully always will be home to a tremendous amount of citizens who know this process to be true. We have been blessed with those individuals who then continue to seek ways in which they might help those who they meet on this same journey called life. In 2020, or any year, these residents, going about their daily lives, greatly continue to help keep Bradley County, Tennessee at its best!

I have committed to always mention “the guidelines”! Our numbers of “active” COVID 19 cases are down compared to the beginning of August. That is great news. Let’s keep up the great work! Remember to wash your hands often, remember the 6’ rule, avoid large gatherings, and wear a mask when in the public. We are in this together! Let’s all do our part!