

## BUCKET LIST ITEM #1 – DONE!

Since she was a very young girl, Dawn Mushill has always dreamed about being in a band. “My dad was in a band for over 35 years and I always envisioned myself on the stage” said Dawn. Well, her number one bucket list item has now come full circle. Dawn is the new lead singer in the Avery Hill Band. “It was just a strange thing that happened. Avery Hill was playing at Time Out in Troy. I heard them say over the microphone that they were looking for a lead singer. At break I approached the band and Shorty (leader) remembered me speaking at one of his classes. He even remembered that singing in a band was on my bucket list. So, I auditioned that night and was offered the job. Actually, when we got to Time out, we had no idea a band was even playing that night” said Mushill. “I remember coming back to the table and telling my husband ‘I think I am auditioning tonight’.”

Mushill started in music pretty early. Her dad was a musician as well as a music teacher. She started playing Suzuki violin at age 3 ½ and then switched to piano at 9. She never really got the bug to sing until karaoke became popular. “As a public speaker, getting up in front of people just really doesn’t bother me so really, I just needed some help singing.” She took voice lessons and worked on her songs at home. “Being in a band is totally different than karaoke. There are no words that come up when you are to come in and you have to know your stuff” said Mushill.

“At one point, I really thought about simply removing the bucket list item of singing in a band. At 47, I felt that the time had passed and with my crazy schedule, there was no way I could fit in band practices, band performances and all of the individual practice that was needed” said Mushill. But, clearly, if you have a passion for something and you really want it, there is always opportunity.

Mushill serves as the Executive Director of the Troy/Maryville/St. Jacob Chamber of Commerce and also the CEO of her own company, which specializes in training and keynote speaking. “I truly have the best of both worlds. I have been with the Chamber of Commerce for over twelve years and have owned my own company for eleven. The band is just one more passion to add to my life. I encourage anyone who has a dream to work on it every single day” said Mushill.

The Avery Hill Band has been around for twenty years. “Every single individual in this band is a seasoned musician. I feel like a very small fish in a very big pond but I have to say, each of them has really welcomed me.” Mushill began singing with them three weeks ago and has set their big Troy debut for Friday, February 8 at Time Out in Troy. “It seemed like a natural fit to debut at the same place that I auditioned” said Mushill.

The band plays a variety of music including country rock, rock and even some blues. The band includes Shorty, Jeff, Derreck and Fish. “I think I might need a stage name too” said Mushill. The band has a schedule that includes local performances as well as performances throughout the Midwest.

For a complete schedule, you can visit [www.dawnmushill.com](http://www.dawnmushill.com) or if you would like to book the band, Shorty can take care of you at 978-3730. You can also find Mushill’s bucket list on the site, where you will see that “singing in a band” has moved to the “done” column.