



City of

MORRISTOWN

Tennessee

December 2017

Community Events

December 5th@6pm

Tree Lighting Ceremony
at City Center

December 5th & 19th@5pm

City Council Meeting
at City Center

December 7th@7pm

Christmas Parade
in Downtown Morristown

December 9th@1pm

Christmas in the Park
at Fred Miller Park

December 15th@5pm

Christmas Downtown
on Main Street

City Taxes Due December 31st

The City would like to remind area residents that City Taxes are due by the end of the month. To avoid any fees, payment should be made or postmarked by December 31st. Payment can be made in-person at City Center during business hours, mailed in to the tax office, or can be paid online through the City's website (mymorristown.com).

Payments made after the deadline will receive a 4.5% late fee. Each month past the due date will accrue an additional 1% fee.

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

If you travel through the downtown area this month, you will see the City and downtown merchants celebrating the upcoming holidays. The large tree in front of City Center, the wreaths on the lamp posts, and the new decor along Main Street are enough to put anyone in a festive mood. If you're looking to find fun activities for you and the family to celebrate, there are plenty of area events to attend.

The City will be hosting its annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Tuesday, December 5th at 6pm. Come and enjoy live music, the reading of Christmas stories, and the lighting of the City tree. Later in the week, head to Fred Miller Park to experience the first ever "Christmas in the Park". This new Parks & Rec event invites participants to create holiday displays/exhibits throughout the park. Visitors can view the displays while enjoying hot chocolate, kids crafts and a visit with Santa. The event begins at 1pm on December 9th. Exhibits will remain on display through the end of the month.

The downtown is also getting in on all the Christmas fun. The annual Christmas parade will make its way down Main Street on Thursday, December 7th at 7pm. This year's theme is "Christmas Memories". The Christmas parade is always a seasonal favorite and draws a large crowd. Downtown will also be hosting "A Downtown Christmas" on the evening of December 15th. Come and enjoy carriage rides, live performances, caroling, and late night shopping downtown.

Whether you attend some of the area events or stay home to enjoy the season, we at the City of Morristown wish you a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of holidays.



Becoming a Police Officer

The Morristown Police Department (MPD) is conducting testing and interviews this month to grow their force and hire new Police Officers. We are often asked, what does it take to become a police officer?

After submitting an application, those interested in law enforcement must undergo a rigorous physical test to make sure their bodies can handle the physical demands of the job. If they pass, they then take a written test to analyze how well applicants can recall and apply information, use good judgement and logic, and communicate verbally. If they pass this step, the next, and possibly most stressful part, includes individual interviews with the Civil Service Board and Police Chief. All applicants who have reached this step are then ranked according to points accrued during the testing process and a hiring roster is created. Applicants who have served in the military, attended a police academy, or have prior law enforcement experience accrue additional points towards ranking.

This process may be demanding, but the purpose is to find the most qualified individuals to become public servants so the MPD can better serve the people of Morristown.

Captain Cliff & the K-9 Unit



The Morristown Police Department (MPD) currently has five K-9 Officers. The unit is overseen by Captain Dan Cliff. In addition to his captain duties, Cliff trains all the MPD K-9s and handlers which requires at least 16 hours of regular training per month. Morristown Police Department K-9s are trained for off and on leash obedience, area searches, building searches, tracking, officer protection, criminal apprehension and either bomb detection or narcotic detection.

Captain Cliff has been serving with the Morristown Police Department since August of 1993; he was assigned to the K-9 Unit in 2001. He has been the K-9 Supervisor for approximately 14 years. Over the course of his career with the MPD K-9 Unit, Captain Cliff has trained approximately 12 MPD K-9s and numerous K-9 Handlers. Captain Cliff also uses his experience to work with other agencies training K-9s. He has helped surrounding agencies, as well as the United States Military.

The Morristown Police Department is fortunate to have Captain Cliff as a supervisor and his wealth of knowledge for K-9s is invaluable. His experience has helped the MPD save money for training new K-9s and handlers and helped choose K-9s that are a good fit for the department. Chief Overholt stated, "Captain Cliff's dedication to the MPD and K-9 Unit is why this unit continues to grow. The K-9 Unit works closely with Narcotics/Vice to combat the drug epidemic within the City of Morristown."

Message from the Mayor

At the recent National League of Cities Conference I participated in a roundtable of mayors discussing problems and solutions for a strong public education system. Most of the 20 at the table were from cities larger than Morristown (i.e. E. Lansing, MI, W. Palm Beach, FL, Wichita, KS). None of the participants ran their own school systems. The challenges had a familiar ring to them, so did the solutions. The difference was Morristown & Hamblen County have already implemented many things others are just beginning. Workforce ready curriculum, dual enrollment, pre-k programs, and English language learner instruction were among standouts.

However, what grabbed the most attention was our HC*EXCELL program, the privately funded foundation which has provided dollars and creativity pushing local academic success. The strong positive reaction from my fellow mayors at the table to how HC*EXCELL operates caused me to wonder if we (I) are taking for granted the value of the program's footprint in Morristown.

We all agreed the strength of a school system is one of the first things an industrial prospect evaluates. It's in a city's best interest to be supportive of efforts to make that happen. Morristown residents are also Hamblen County residents and pay for schools through our county tax bill. Devoting city dollars to our public school budget would amount to "double-payment". But supporting independent programs that prioritize strong schools often makes both good business sense and a positive impression on industrial scouts. The City contributes funds to HC*EXCELL, Imagination Library, and assorted other efforts.

The NLC session fueled a bit of local pride and also reminded all that regardless of which local government is in charge of our schools, giving a high priority to public education is in the best interest of all of us.



Mayor Gary Chesney

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