



City of

MORRISTOWN

Tennessee

June 2017

Community Events

June 6th & 20th@5pm

City Council Meeting
at City Center

June 3rd@9am

Young Eagles Event
at Morristown Regional Airport

June 10th@11am

From the Pages to the Park
at Fred Miller Park

June 10th@6pm

Ties & Tiaras Dance
at Talley Ward Rec Center

June 16th@5pm

Kids Fun Fair
at Fred Miller Park

Starlite Cinema

Morristown Parks & Recreation will once again be hosting their outdoor summer movie series. All movies are free. Bring a blanket or chair and sit under the stars. Come early to enjoy outdoor games. Concessions will be available for sale. Schedule for the summer is:

June 2nd - "Captain America: Civil War" at Fred Miller Park

July 7th - "The Jungle Book" at Fred Miller Park

July 28th - "Trolls" at Downtown Farmers Market

Buddy Fielder Retires

After 30 years of service, Assistant City Administrator Ralph "Buddy" Fielder announced his retirement from the City of Morristown this past May.

Buddy began his career with the City as an engineering technician with Public Works when he was only twenty-two. Through diligent efforts, he worked his way through the ranks eventually becoming the Public Works Director before taking the position of Assistant City Administrator. In this position, he oversaw City Development, including the planning & inspections department and the municipal airport.

Through hard work, Buddy made a powerful impact on the City. He has shown himself to be a natural leader and dedicated public servant. His contributions to the City and community are countless. He will be greatly missed. The City thanks Buddy for his services and wishes him well.



Parks & Rec Addresses Special Needs

The City of Morristown Parks & Recreation department understands that no two children are the same. They all have their own unique skills, interests, and personalities. Because of this, Parks and Rec staff aim to provide a variety of activities to suit all children, particularly those who may have special needs.

Athletics, at times, can be a challenge for children with physical or mental handicaps. In an effort to give all children the opportunity to participate, the Challenger League was developed. This is a softball league comprised of 4 teams. All players are children or young adults with special needs or disabilities. This league is possible through the efforts of Kevin Hatfield, a special ed teacher at Russellville Elementary who has partnered with Parks & Rec to organize and coach the teams. Casey Smith, the Parks & Recreation athletic coordinator and former Challenger League umpire said, "There is nothing that would bring you more joy than to see some of those kids and young adults out there having a good time."

In addition to athletics, Parks & Recreation hosts two DIDD (Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) events. The events are geared towards those with disabilities and their caregivers. Staff reaches out to local organizations such as Lakeway Achievement Center and invites them to participate. The Fall Back Bash is held at Talley Ward and features indoor games, fall-themed activities and food. The Spring Fling Picnic is held at one of the area parks. Guests are invited to bring their own picnic and join in outdoor lawn games and karaoke. Both events seem to be well received by all who attend.

Parks & Recreation understands that we have residents that face physical challenges, but still want access to all the facilities and events that our parks offer. Because of that, the department is implementing a variety of ADA compliant updates. This includes adding more handicap parking spaces, adding paving to access bleachers, restroom facilities, and pavilions, and the recent addition of handicap accessible playground features at Fred Miller Park. More features will be added to the parks in the coming year.

Market Opens for the Season

All winter, people in Morristown wait for the downtown Farmers Market to open for the season so they can purchase local fresh produce. The wait is finally over as the market is now open for business!

The Morristown Farmers Market is open every day except Sunday, hosting a variety of local vendors.

During the week, Holt's Farm and Hipsher Farm can be found at the market selling Grainger County tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, strawberries, potted plants, and lots more! The Morgan family comes with their vegetables and are known for their tomatoes. On Fridays, Honey Creek Farm from Dandridge brings their naturally grown vegetables and chicken that has been processed at a USDA-approved facility.

Saturday welcomes many other vendors to the market selling a variety of local items. Orchard Creek Farm, from Hawkins County, raises their vegetables and herbs naturally without pesticides and they make goats milk creams in lavender and lemon grass. The lemon grass one, besides being all natural, is designed to keep away insects.

One of the customer favorite vendors comes on Saturday too. Appalachian Bakery makes fried pies, sweet breads like banana and zucchini, and other breads including focaccia, sourdough and other treats. Southern Select Meats comes to the market as well, usually on Saturdays. They have all cuts of beef that are also processed in a USDA facility.

Several other vendors come to the market. Barbara Crites makes hair bows and Little Lamb's Florist brings handmade arrangements that are great for use in seasonal décor and some are specially designed to decorate cemetery plots.

Visitors to the market may notice a few changes in the area. Last year the covered pavilion was added to the market. Now, this year, a grassy park area and new parking is nearing completion. The grassy area will be used to host outdoor concerts and other downtown festivals throughout the year. There



are park benches, bike racks, and a water station for pets. The City hopes that this new addition will be a welcomed feature to our thriving downtown.



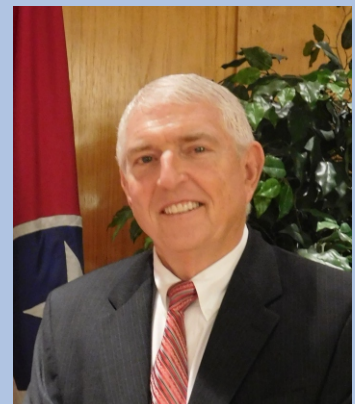
Message from the Mayor

I have spent a lot of time recently studying the results of city residents' responses to the 2016 National Citizen Survey (NCS). This was our 6th year of participation. Those responding rank our community's Characteristics and Ability to Deliver Services at roughly the same level of other comparable cities in the country (16 from Tennessee). This is noteworthy, previous local opinions ranked us well below.

There are several reasons why the community is giving higher marks to its city government. Most prominent, in my opinion, is because we're paying attention to those opinions. It's not an overnight change, but consistent planning and appropriate dollar allocations have brought about improvements that earned public notice. Community appearance, efficient public works operations, public safety, downtown core preservation, and industrial / retail growth have been the targets.

Room for improvement remains. Weak links need to be strengthened. Responsible fiscal management must remain a foundation block. The Council and I thank the citizens who participated in the 2016 NCS and encourage those selected (randomly) for the 2017 edition to do likewise. Morristown has twice been recognized as a national finalist for award recognition among municipalities that best listen and act to improve their communities.

Let's keep that trend alive.



Mayor Gary Chesney

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