



City of

MORRISTOWN

Tennessee

October 2017

Community Events

October 3rd & 17th@5pm

City Council Meeting
at City Center

October 6th@8pm

Starlite Cinema (Casper)
at Fred Miller Park

October 13th@8pm

Java Jive
at Rose Center

October 27th-29th

Mountain Makins
at Rose Center

October 30th@4:30pm

BooFest
at Fred Miller Park

Bluegrass Band

Visitors to this year's Mountain Makins Festival will have the chance to see one of our own performing on the upright bass with his award-winning bluegrass band. Fire Lieutenant Tim Carpenter is a member of the "Lost Creek Band". This past year, Carpenter, along with his band, had the honor of playing all 3 countries of North America - a cruise in Cozumel, Mexico, a festival in Palmer Rapids, Ontario, Canada and this month at Rose Center. Come and support our local firefighter!

Fire Prevention Week

October 8, 1871 is a date that will forever be remembered by fire departments nationwide, but more especially for 2 Midwestern towns, because it was on this date that 2 major fires erupted, sparking the need to educate the public about fire safety. Recorded as the most devastating forest fire in American history, the largest of those 2 fires occurred around Peshtigo, Wisconsin and resulted in 16 towns being completely destroyed, 1,152 lives lost, and 1.2 million acres burned before it ended. Historical accounts say this fire started from a brush fire.

The fire that received the most attention, however, occurred in Chicago. Through the years, the legend of the "Great Chicago Fire" has been blamed on Mrs. Catherine O'Leary's cow, when it kicked over a lantern, while she was being milked. The fire started in the barn and then extended to other areas nearby. The horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. Most damage occurred on October 9th.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation and, in 1925, President Calvin Coolidge issued the first National Fire Prevention Week for October 4- 10. As a tradition, the period from Sunday- Saturday of which October 9th falls has been observed as a time of remembering those 2 fires. Since 1925, every President of the United States has signed a proclamation, naming the week of October 9th National Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!".

For more information about Fire Prevention and Safety, contact the Morristown Fire Department at (423) 586-5072 or online at www.mymorristown.com or contact the National Fire Protection Agency at www.nfpa.org/public-education.

New Fire Station #4

The Morristown Fire Department has occupied Fire Station #4 since 1967. While the building has served the MFD well over the years, it no longer is adequate for their needs. Early this month, the department will be breaking ground on a new facility to be located on Central Church Rd.

The new fire station will feature three spacious engine bays, as compared to the two smaller bays currently available, to accommodate larger fire apparatus. The new building will have more living space to house additional personnel and will be a gender-friendly facility, for both male and female staff. It will be fully ADA compliant and will be the first MFD facility to have a sprinkler system.

Local architect Eddie Fuller designed the building. Burke-Ailey Construction Co. is the construction contractor. The project is expected to be completed in 10 months.



Fall Festivities



Fall is a beautiful time to be in east Tennessee. The temperate weather, the changing leaves, the crisp air, all make it a great time to get outdoors and celebrate the season.

Morristown Parks & Recreation loves this time of

year too, so each October they offer a variety of fall activities to the public. They are kicking off the season this year with an outdoor movie of "Casper: The Friendly Ghost" at Fred Miller Park on October 6th. This movie will wrap up the Starlite Cinema movie series for the year. Also taking place that evening will be the judging for the "Scarecrows at the Park" contest. Each year, contestants enter in handmade scarecrows that are on public display at Fred Miller Park throughout the month of October. These offer a nice "festive" touch to the park.

On October 7th, Parks & Rec is hosting a City Disc Golf Championship to be played at the two city disc golf courses. There will be several age/skill level divisions. Morristown has come to be known as the "Disc Golf Capital of Tennessee". We are proud to have several tournament-level courses here in our community.

The highlight of the month is the annual "BOO Fest", to be held on Monday, October 30th at Fred Miller Park. This family-friendly event features a trick-or-treating trail throughout the park. Kids can enjoy games, activities, and of course, candy! Every year this event draws huge crowds. Last year, 15,000 people came out to enjoy it! Due to the large volume of attendees, parents are encouraged to pre-register their children for the event by visiting the Parks & Recreation office beginning October 16th. If you are a business or individual looking to set up as a vendor for the event, please contact the Parks & Recreation office at 586-0260 or find the vendor registration form on the City's website.

The City is looking forward to the fun events this month and hope you can join us for one or all of them!



Sign up to receive our e-newsletter at:

http://www.mymorristown.com/residents/city_newsletter.php

Message from the Mayor

There was a time when the mention of Council making changes to alcohol ordinances prompted a high level of passionate public comment. The sale of packaged beer either warm or cold, for consumption on or off-premises, during different hours of the day on specific days of the week, at a variety of decreasing distances from schools, churches, and public parks would all bring out plenty of opinions. Such was the challenge of small cities coming to grips with changing public mores about alcohol.

Liquor sold by package stores and at public establishments by the mixed drink, although requiring a public vote, is governed by the Tennessee ABC. The conflict of rules and laws which apply to liquor and beer sales has grown to be a nightmare for both enforcers and sellers of the beverages. Council decisions on making retailer-friendly ordinance tweaks often brings criticism.

This month, Council and the Planning Commission will conduct the process of evaluating and, if approved, the implementation of a new alcohol ordinance. Most changes put beer sales into compliance with state liquor laws. Definition clarity is high-priority.

Distances from schools, churches, and parks for beer sales (currently 150') will go away and be replaced with new zoning language. New categories of permits will also be available for qualifying private non-profit agency fund-raisers, outdoor events, and micro-brewers.

City attorney and department staff have worked long hours putting together the document which makes its first of two appearances on Council agenda October 3. Regulating alcohol sales in Morristown began in the early '70's and has a history of following trends set by others. The intent is to provide realistic controls on expansion without giving up enforcement of responsible behavior.



Mayor Gary Chesney