



City of

MORRISTOWN

Tennessee

September 2017

Community Events

September 5th & 19th@5pm

City Council Meeting
at City Center

September 16th@10am

Arts in the Park
at DMLK Park

September 19th@5pm

Touch-A-Truck
at Frank Lorino Park

September 23rd@8am

Police Auction
at 691 N. Liberty Hill Rd.

September 23rd@10am

Fly-In
at Morristown Regional Airport

Airport Fly-In

Every year in September, airplanes flock to the Morristown Regional Airport for the annual Fly-In Event. This year's event will be held on Saturday, September 23rd, hosted by the local EAA Chapter. They invite the public to come and enjoy this fun day focused on aviation.

The Fly-In features airplanes from across the region, including historical war planes. Attendees can take an airplane ride for \$25. There will be food vendors, kids' activities and educational displays. New this year, there will also be a Cruise-in, featuring classic cars.



Explosive Ordinance Detection



One of the Morristown Police Department's special units is the Explosive Ordinance Detection Unit (EOD). The EOD Unit is a Federally Certified Explosive Ordinance Unit. The unit responds to calls where there is a possibility of explosives being located. The unit has five full-time MPD officers and one part-time. They are commanded by Captain Chris Blair, who has over 15 years of experience with the unit. In addition to Captain Blair, there are two technicians and two assistants.

The newest technicians completed a six week certification earlier this year at the FBI's Hazardous Devices School (HDS) in Alabama. Captain Blair just completed his fifth recertification at HDS. Each member of the unit has to receive extensive training in this area.

They are trained to handle calls involving commercial and military explosives; as well as improvised (homemade) devices.

The unit handles all calls for explosives in Morristown and those in surrounding areas. They have worked with surrounding agencies as well as Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, FBI, and the Tennessee Highway Patrol.

Last month, the Morristown Police Department EOD Unit was called out to assist for what seemed to be a bomb threat at Wal-Mart in Jefferson City. They have helped dispose of various old military explosives and they responded to the suspicious package on Morris Blvd. a few years ago. When a suspicious package is located, the EOD Unit deploys with the robot so that it can be determined if it is in fact an explosive.

Those who serve on the special units, such as the Explosive Ordinance Detection Unit, are trained to perform certain tasks and respond to special situations in addition to their regular duties. Having special units lets the Morristown Police Department have the resources to serve the citizens of Morristown more effectively.

Street Paving Project

Work is currently underway for the annual street paving project. The City has a rotation for street paving so that every street in city limits gets maintained. This year, the Public Works Department will oversee 3.85 miles of road paving. Most of the work is expected to be completed in early October.

Also this month, TDOT will be repaving much of Morris Blvd. All work is taking place in the evening so as not to disrupt traffic. Watch for lane closures.

State-of-the-Art Technology



Morristown Airport's Weather Station

The Morristown Regional Airport is one of 40 airports in the state that utilizes a state-of-the-art technology called "AWOS" (Automated Weather Observing System).

The TDOT Aeronautics Division is working with airports across the state to install upgraded, state of the art AWOS III systems. Morristown Regional Airport was one of the first in the state to be upgraded.

AWOS features a local weather station that measures wind speed and direction, visibility, and other weather features. Few things

change faster than the weather, and this weather system, located just west of the runway, collects and broadcasts real-time weather information that is accessible to pilots.

Prior to taking flight, a pilot is required to check all available weather information for their departure and arrival airports. The newly upgraded weather system allows pilots to access information through a variety of long standing and more modern methods. Pilots still have access to airport weather over the VHF radios in their aircraft or by calling over the phone. The upgraded system in place at Morristown Regional Airport allows pilots to access this same weather information via a tablet, smart phone or other electronic device, facilitating more accurate and timely flight planning.

The AWOS makes this information available for use by all known apps, so pilots can access it. No matter where a pilot is looking for the information, it is all the same accurate data. They can access this data live while en route so they know exactly what to expect when they are landing. Having accurate weather data is integral to the safety of pilots and makes for safer take-offs and landings.

Another unique technology that local aviators can access is "Live ATC". Within the state of Tennessee, the Morristown Airport is the only General Aviation airport to broadcast a Live ATC feed. Live ATC is a way for pilots and the public to tune into the airport radio system through the internet. Listeners can tune in to one of two frequencies to hear either the AWOS weather information, or to listen to pilots announcing their positions and movements. Students can use this resource as a way to learn aviation terminology and pilots can use it to become more aware of the types of aircraft flying in and out of the airport.

Technology has become a crucial tool in the ever-changing world of aviation. Morristown is thankful to be able to offer these technology tools to improve the safety of local pilots and aviation enthusiasts.

Message from the Mayor

Your Council's annual planning retreat was held last month over a two day period in Kingsport. City Administrator Tony Cox presented 39 topics to be discussed and prioritized. We made it through 32. But an action plan of high priority did evolve.

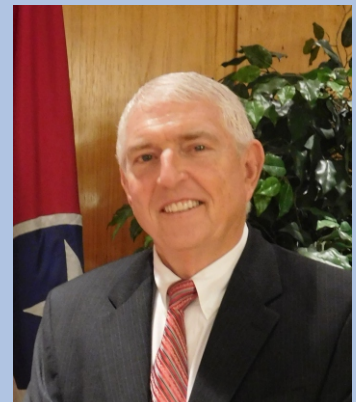
Repairs to the City Center plaza are among the top. As many of you know, there are serious leaks in the underground parking garage and the First North / Cumberland walk-in entrance is deteriorating. The Center is 20 years old and there is a likelihood design flaws have come home to roost. The fix will not be cheap.

Proceeding with the first year development at Heritage Park is also a top priority. \$1 million has been budgeted. A restored colonnade, reception "plaza" with historical markers, and improvements to driveways and parking will require the bulk of the dollars. City staff will re-disc and seed the upper Great Lawn for festival type events. The Morristown Rotary Club has expressed its desire to construct a new disc golf course in the wooded northern section of the park.

Another priority is continuing the momentum of Downtown revitalization which has made great strides in recent years. Improving public perceptions of safety and remaining eyesore buildings will earn special attention.

And that's just the highest priorities! Plenty remains on the plate to be dealt with in this fiscal year. Council expressed opinions on all the top issues and remains committed to the policy of "study, prepare a plan, work the plan." Our city staff and each department has done a nice job seeing those plans to fruition.

It's a pleasure to serve with you.



Mayor Gary Chesney

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