



City of

MORRISTOWN

Tennessee

February 2018

Community Events

February 6th & 13th@5pm

City Council Meeting
at City Center

February 3rd@7pm

Mystery Dinner Theater
at 5251 E. Morris Blvd.

February 10th@10am

Recreation Summit
at College Square Mall

February 16th@7pm

John Meyers in Concert
at Rose Center

February 23rd@7pm

Java Jive Concert
at Rose Center

Barnard Appointed Asst. Administrator

At last month's council retreat, City Administrator Tony Cox announced a new staff restructuring in the City offices. As part of this restructuring, Finance Director Joey Barnard has been appointed as Assistant City Administrator over Finance. As part of this role, he will now have oversight of additional departments including airport operations and City Court. To support the City's financial operations, Michelle Woods was recently hired to serve as an account manager in the Finance Department.

Partnerships for a Better Community

This month, City staff will begin working on the annual budget to go into effect July 2018. One major line item every year is \$250,000 set aside to support charitable organizations outside our doors. Local non-profits such as Boys & Girls Club, Rose Center, and CEASE require funding from grants and donors, and the City steps in to provide some of those funds, allocating tax-payers' money to do good in our community.

One of the organizations that receives funds from the City is HC*Excell. HC*Excell is a foundation that exists to promote educational excellence and student achievement in Hamblen County. They focus on preparing students to succeed not just at their current level, but into their post-secondary education, work and life. One of the ways they do this is through their "Arts Build Skills" initiative. With no dedicated art teachers in Hamblen County elementary schools, this program seeks to bring arts into the curriculum. By incorporating arts into daily students' work, the students learn creativity, problem solving, and critical thinking.

This City is proud to be able to partner with these organizations in our community. We are so thankful for all the employees and volunteers who staff these charities and are making a difference to the people of Morristown and beyond.



Det. Harmon Retires from MPD

After 32 years with the Morristown Police Department (MPD), Detective Sergeant Rick Harmon retired this past January. Sergeant Harmon began serving the City of Morristown in August of 1985 as a patrolman; he was promoted to detective and then to detective sergeant in February 2008. He worked in General Investigations as well as Narcotics/Vice.

Sergeant Harmon was on various teams with the MPD as well as State Task Forces, including the Special Response Team, Multiple Crimes Task Force, Auto Theft Task Force, 3rd Judicial Drug Task Force and the Marshall's Smoky Mountain Task Force. During his career with the MPD, Sergeant Harmon was recognized for various awards including Outstanding Performance as a member of the Arrest Team and the Medal of Honor. MPD Chief Roger Overholt stated, "There is nothing greater than that which we do for others. Sergeant Harmon has done that for others every day for the past 33 years. I want to thank him on behalf of our community for his service and congratulate him on behalf of the MPD on his retirement."

After retiring, Harmon says he is not leaving the MPD; he will simply move to a Reserve Officer to still serve on a part-time basis.



New Public Servants

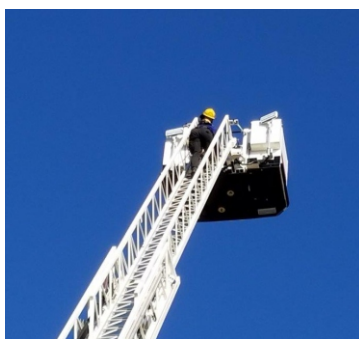


This past month, staff has seen a variety of new civil servants join the Police and Fire Departments. These employees serve on the front lines of the community, often putting their lives in danger. Because of the demands of the jobs, fire and police are required to do intense training.

Four new police officers were sworn in to the Morristown Police Department in January. Joining the department are Mason Wisecarver, Kelsey Hickey, Joshua Johnston and Ernesto Rodriguez. They have begun their Field Training. Those who have not already completed a Basic Police Academy will be enrolled in the academy at Walters State.

Also this month, four new entry-level firefighters were sworn in. Ryan Garretson, Aaron Adkins, Austin Rutherford and William Cobble have already begun their strenuous training. One of their first tasks was the daunting ladder drill, running up and down the ladder 100 feet into the air. The new recruits will be heading to a 14-week long fire academy in Kingsport. They will receive training on interior firefighting, emergency medical care, and hazardous materials.

Best wishes to all these new public servants as they train to serve and protect the people of Morristown.



Recreation Summit

Morristown Parks and Recreation is hosting a "Recreation Summit" at College Square Mall. A variety of recreation providers will be on hand to share their latest offerings and schedules as well as answer your questions. Parks and Recreation will be showcasing what they have to offer in parks, sports facilities, and league play, along with different types of fitness opportunities. Recreation providers from a variety of private and public organizations will all be there to promote their 2018 calendar of activities.

Come by College Square Mall on Saturday, February 10th from 10am-4pm to see what local recreational opportunities are available for you and your family to enjoy. Whether you are looking for fitness facilities, outdoor sports, recreation leagues, or indoor entertainment, this summit will be the place to start your planning.

Sign up to receive our e-newsletter at:

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

Message from the Mayor

Council's mid-year retreat last month allowed a look at where our city stands as 2018 unfolds. The recently released Audit shows a healthy fund balance (\$7.9 million), an excellent credit rating, and appropriate spending plans for projects underway.

City Administrator Tony Cox outlined his plan of departmental reorganization which consolidates duties, fills an administrative vacancy, and creates a new position in support services.

These developments add strength to the momentum we carry into the new year. Industrial activity indicates 2018 is going to see very strong job growth. Nashville says necessary funding for expansion of the TCAT is in the budget. The new facility on W. Morris Blvd. and the curriculum possibilities it brings will be the star example for the rest of the state.

The much-discussed community center is now on the horizon. A multi-purpose activities facility which includes an aquatic feature is targeted for a 2023 completion. Funding is to be implemented in equal phases over the five-year period. The current grant monies and previously budgeted dollars will continue to see specific parks & recreation upgrades throughout the city.

Morristown's current and future strides in economic strength, job growth, industrial activity, and quality of life improvements bring to mind a recent quote from Governor Bill Haslam, "Morristown outpunches its weight class."

Hey now.



Mayor Gary Chesney