



City of

MORRISTOWN

Tennessee

January 2018

Community Events

January 2nd & 16th@5pm

City Council Meeting
at City Center

January 5th@5pm

Art Exhibit Opening
at Rose Center

January 12th@8pm

Wallace Coleman Concert
at Rose Center

January 19th@8pm

Java Jive Concert
at Rose Center

January 21st @3pm

The Story of Black Colleges
at Rose Center

City Retirements

Last month, the City said farewell to two employees, Larry Arnwine and Claude Smith.

Arnwine faithfully served with Public Works for 28 years. He began as a utility worker and worked his way through the ranks to General Utility Supervisor. His loyalty and dedication through the years has been greatly appreciated.

Smith served in our Inspections office as a building inspector for just 2 years, but he has a long history as an inspector in surrounding communities. We were thankful to have him on our staff, even if just for a short time.

Review of City Operations in 2017

The City of Morristown saw lots of changes in 2017. Each department had its highlights and accomplishments. Here's some of what happened here this past year –

Parks & Recreation added a new playground area to Rotary Place at Fred Miller Park. Other park additions included a horseshoe pit at Frank Lorino and a lawn at the Farmers Market. The City acquired the old Morristown College site to transform into Heritage Park. Planning for the new park has gone on throughout the year. New community events were added and participation in athletics programs has grown.

The Fire Department broke ground on a new firehouse and construction is underway. Brian Shepard was appointed as the new Fire Marshal and has done a fine job in that role for the department.

In addition to many individual awards received by our Police Officers, the Morristown Police Department was given its 3rd State Accreditation Award and a Narcotics Award from the FBI.

Public Works undertook another paving project of City streets. A new recycling plan has been implemented and land was purchased for a new Public Works facility on Morristown's west side.

The City said farewell to several long-time employees through retirement, but also welcomed new members to the team. We look forward to continuing to serve you in the coming year!

New Firehouse

This past October, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for a new Morristown Fire Station #4, located on Central Church Rd. Now, just a couple months later, construction work is well underway.

Currently the Morristown Fire Department Station #4 resides on W. A.J. While the building has served the MFD well since 1967, it no longer is adequate for their needs. The new fire station will feature three spacious engine bays to accommodate larger fire apparatus. It will have more living space 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. The property includes adequate acreage for future expansion.

Local architect Eddie Fuller designed the building. Burke-Ailey Construction Co. is the construction contractor. The project is expected to be completed by Summer 2018.



Heritage Park Progress



The former Morristown College site is rich in local history. Previously used as a slave market and later as hospital during the Civil War, it became the site for the college in 1881. Morristown College served as a place for higher education for African Americans. Many students walked the halls and received valuable training and degrees. However, in 1994

when the college was closed, the buildings fell into disrepair and became the subject of vandalism and arson. After trading hands between several owners and investors who left the site untouched and closed to the public, the City of Morristown stepped in last year to take ownership of the site and begin its transformation into a public park.

As soon as they were able to, crews moved in to get to work. Unfortunately, after careful review, none of the existing buildings were able to be saved. Public Works crews began clearing underbrush to reveal sloping hills and beautiful views overlooking the city. Irrigation was put in place to create a great lawn area that can be used for leisurely recreation and events.

Designer Lose & Associates have been chosen to develop what will be Heritage Park. Aiming to pay homage to the education institution, and also to commemorate the site's history, the park will feature historical displays and memorials. As the park is quite large, the development will be completed in multiple phases over many years. Future plans are still in progress, but proposals call for a gathering place, reflection pool, and walking paths.

It will be a large capital undertaking for the City and will take many years, but we hope that it is something that the City can be proud of and is a way to preserve the heritage and history of our community.

First Fire Truck Up & Running



After years of hard work & fundraising, Morristown's First Fire Truck is operational! The Ladies of the Soma Sala Circle were among the first to take it out for a spin. They were instrumental in holding fundraising events to restore the

truck. Some cosmetic work still needs to be completed, but this was a huge step in the process.

Sign up to receive our e-newsletter at:

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

Message from the Mayor

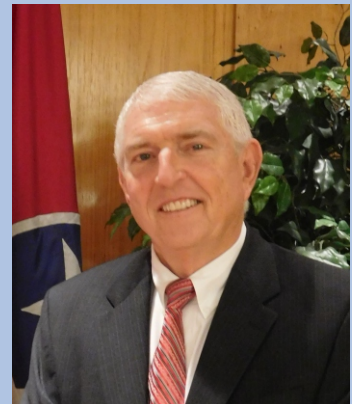
The planned growth of our public park system takes a major step in January with the formal beginning of Phase One at Heritage Park. The 52 acre site in the northeast quadrant of the city represents a significant response to our challenge of having an appropriate amount of passive recreational park space for Morristown residents. It also jumpstarts the effort to bring appearance improvements to a historical area of the city.

Council has budgeted \$1 million for Phase One which will feature a constructed replica of the former colonnade, a reception plaza, and new streets to the Great Lawn area. Both sites will be suitable for outdoor group gatherings and festivals.

Heritage Park's previous occupant, Morristown College, is to be remembered in Phase One with a historical marker / map, street name dedications, and two monument style commemorative park benches donated by the great grandchildren of the school's founder Dr. Judson S. Hill.

We expect growth at this park to be gradual but steady and for a wide variety of citizen recreational interests to be met for decades to come.

As I like to say, "Stay tuned."



Mayor Gary Chesney