



City of

# MORRISTOWN

Tennessee

June 2018

## Community Events

### June 5th & 19th @5pm

City Council Meeting  
at City Center

### June 12th @1pm

Special Called Work Session  
at City Center

### June 8th @8pm

Starlite Cinema  
at Fred Miller Park

### June 9th @8am

First Fire Truck Car Show  
at Fred Miller Park

### June 23rd @6pm

Paint & Picnic in the Park  
at MLK Park

## Adult Kickball Registration Open

Team registrations are underway for the Parks & Rec kickball league. Registration deadline is June 22nd with play beginning on July 9th. All games are played at Frank Lorino Park.

Team entry fee is \$150.00 for Hamblen County Residents, and \$200.00 if 50% of your roster is Out-of-County.

Contact Parks and Rec at 423-586-0260, or come to the main office at 415 W. Louise Avenue during office hours for more information, and to pick up registration forms.

## New Body Cameras for MPD

In May, the Morristown Police Department (MPD) began using Axon Body-worn Cameras. The 100 cameras were partially funded by a Department of Justice grant that covered about 40 percent of the cost. The MPD has been using a variety of body-worn cameras since 2009; however, the new camera does come with advantages.

Axon cameras have a battery life that will allow for the camera to last the officer's entire shift. Storage on the cameras is also a welcome advantage; the new body-worn cameras contain a hard drive that allows up to 64GB or approximately 23 hours of video footage or pictures to be stored. This system automatically uploads evidence via a secured connection in docking stations, eliminating the need for SD cards like previous cameras.

When a photo or video is accessed in the secured evidence system, an audit trail is created. Officers do not have access to delete or alter anything captured on the camera. The technology also allows the department to more efficiently share body-worn camera footage with prosecutors for adjudication.

The MPD is fortunate to have obtained this grant that only approximately 100 agencies received across the nation in 2016. It allowed the MPD to have uniformity of body-worn cameras throughout the department, as well as revise our policy and practices with input from community and judicial stakeholders.

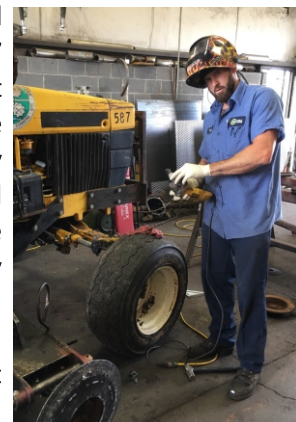


## Equipment Shop Mechanics



The Public Works Equipment Shop has recently welcomed two new mechanics to its team - Tom Sturm and Elijah Lane. Tom brings skills in fabrication on anything from a riding mower to a leaf truck. With training in the automotive field, Elijah brings expertise in electrical work and diagnostics. They join the crew of 7 staff members in the equipment shop. The shop oversees the maintenance and repairs of nearly 300 pieces of equipment, from small engines on lawnmowers to large garbage trucks and fire engines. They

take care of all the oil changes, brakes, inspections, transmission work, tires, and more. The experienced mechanics in Public Works can take care of the entire City fleet all in-house.



## MFD Upgrades ISO Rating

Chief Honeycutt and Mayor Chesney are very proud to announce a major improvement to the City's ISO rating. Mayor Chesney said, "We are very happy to see the rating improve from a 3 to a 2."

The Insurance Service Office (ISO) staff collects information about municipal fire protection in communities throughout the United States. ISO analyzes the relevant data and assigns a Public Protection Classification (PPC) — a number from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria.

"Moving from a 3 to a 2 is a great honor for the Fire Department and I'm pleased with the hard work of everyone who worked to improve our department" Honeycutt said.

ISO evaluates the fire department, water supply, and emergency communications system; everything it takes to respond to a fire emergency. City Administrator Tony Cox said that "we appreciate the continued efforts of 911, Morristown Utility Service, and the water utility districts that serve our citizens. Their hard work is a big part of supporting the Morristown Fire Department's improvements."

"Morristown residents should sleep well knowing that the men and women of the Morristown Fire Department are ready to respond to any emergency" said Mayor Chesney. "We've got a great department lead by an outstanding Fire Chief. "This rating just verifies what we already knew about our department."



## June Fun with Parks & Rec

Summer is a time for getting outdoors, soaking up some sun, and enjoying fun moments with family and friends. Morristown Parks & Recreation is helping you to create special summer memories by hosting a variety of events throughout the summer.

The annual Starlite Cinema outdoor movie series kicks off with "Moana" to be shown at Fred Miller Park on June 8th. Other shows include "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" on July 13th at MLK Park, "101 Dalmations" on July 27th at the Farmers Market, and "Breaking Legs" on August 4th at MLK Park. Each show begins at dusk and is free to all. Concessions are available.

In the evening on June 15th, kids ages 14 and under are invited to the "Kids Fun Fair" at Fred Miller Park. This exciting event will feature inflatables, games, face painting, food, and more! It's always a popular event for families.

Sign up to receive our e-newsletter at:

[http://www.mymorristown.com/residents/city\\_newsletter.php](http://www.mymorristown.com/residents/city_newsletter.php)

## Message from the Mayor

BUDGETS-BUDGETS-BUDGETS - 'Tis the season. The season when suggestions run long and the money runs short. The month of June is when Council will make two votes on the FY19 Budget. City Administrator Tony Cox's spending plan begins July 1. The recipe includes cost of living raises, repairs to the city center parking garage, and medical insurance costs rising faster than a Hawaii volcano. Keeping infrastructure firm and the emergency fund balance adequate, the pressure cooker that is "budget preparation" is close to popping.

Council will be asked to approve a 5 cent property tax increase to maintain all of the above plus move forward with capital projects.

What does a nickel on the tax rate cost? If you own a \$200,000 house, the increase equals 48 cents per week. The \$100,000 house owner would be required to add a weekly quarter. Our combined city/county tax rate remains well below surrounding neighbors.

Council considers these types of financial decisions are much preferred by taxpayers as opposed to draining the fund balance then coming with periodic double digit increases to catch back up.

Feedback is helpful and appreciated: however, I hope we'll remember — " 'tis the season" . . . for THIS season is not to be jolly, but to be responsible.

I believe we will have a fruitful 2018-19 year.



Mayor Gary Chesney