



City of

MORRISTOWN

Tennessee

March 2018

Community Events

March 3rd@10am

Shootout & Free Throw Contest
at Talley Ward Rec Center

March 6th & 20th@5pm

City Council Meeting
at City Center

March 9th, 10th & 11th

Home Show
at College Square Mall

March 17th @9am

Hazardous Waste Collection
at County Courthouse

March 20th @4:30pm

Easter Eggsellent Adventure
at Fred Miller Park

Blue Recycling Cans Available

Are you someone who recycles, or would like to start recycling? If you don't already have one, contact the Morristown Public Works Department for a free large blue recycling can. There are no additional charges for recycling services and our crew members will deliver the can right to your home or business. Items are collected every other week on your designated recycling day.

Recycling is a huge part of the City's sanitation department. Last fiscal year, the City collected over 500 tons of recyclables, diverting them from ending up in the landfill. The City will soon be updating their recycling program. Glass items are no longer being collected and we ask that items put into bins not be placed in plastic bags.

Call Public Works at 585-4658 to get your recycling can today and help us in our conservation efforts!



Helping Small Business Owners

Every year, about a dozen City employees are enrolled into the Municipal Management Academy, sponsored by the Municipal Technical Advisory Service(MTAS). The academy serves as specialized training for local government employees identified as leaders in their department to learn the skills required for successful management. Those enrolled in these courses undergo 3 levels of training over the course of a few years. The training culminates into a group project required to pass the course. Each group creates a project that could be used to help their municipality in the future.

This past year, three groups from Morristown staff successfully completed their projects and graduated from the Academy. One of the Morristown groups in the class created a "Small Business Guide" for their project. City employees from the tax office, planning department, and administration office united their combined knowledge on city operations to create an easy-to-use step-by-step guide to starting a business here in Morristown. In the past, residents trying to start a new businesses were never quite sure where to start or who they needed to talk to. To remedy that, this guide contains information on how to obtain a business license, required building and sign permits, proper zoning for types of businesses, and much more. The idea was to compile the basic needed information into a single resource for a new business owner to get started. After presenting their project, this group was asked by City staff to prepare this useful information for public use. After review by council, this guide is now available for the public. Copies are available at City Center, Chamber of Commerce, and other locations in town. A concept that began as a group project turned into what we hope will serve as a valuable resource to our community.

Community/Council Listening Roundtable

If you have never been to one of the Listening Roundtables, consider this your invitation to attend. Each quarter, City Council hosts one of these informal gatherings for residents to voice their comments, questions and concerns to their Council members, similar to a town hall meeting. This quarter's roundtable will be held at Buffalo Trail Baptist Church on **Tuesday, March 27th at 7pm**. All are invited to attend and have their voice heard.

Park Maintenance Crew



If you've ever visited a Morristown city park, you've probably enjoyed walking along one of the paved paths, had a picnic under a pavilion, or watched your kids play on the playgrounds. All of these City parks are made enjoyable thanks to the Parks and Rec Maintenance staff. A crew of 10 full-time staff members

and about 15 part-time and seasonal staff members maintain the parks and equipment for the public to enjoy.

The maintenance crew is responsible for the upkeep of 317 acres of park property. The warmer months keep the crews busy with mowing and landscaping. During the cooler months, they use that time to catch up on construction and maintenance projects such as repairing playground equipment and laying concrete. This past winter, the crew has been busy replacing the roofs on all the park bathrooms and pavilions and laying a concrete pad for a picnic area at MLK Park. With baseball season around the corner, they have been prepping the fields for play and will be installing 10 new scoreboards. Some new and exciting parks projects are currently underway. The Rotary Disc Golf course at Frank Lorino Park is getting a second set of baskets along the course that will add a higher degree of difficulty for disc golfers. The crew has been busy installing these baskets and the course is set to open later this spring. Also coming this year is new playground equipment at Popkins Field and Fred Miller Park along with a new shelter at Civic Park.

The Parks and Rec Maintenance Staff is responsible for almost any task that is park related. The crew members must be skilled in a variety of areas. As one employee put it, "From Christmas trees to concrete – we can do it!" Thank you to the Maintenance Staff for their hard work in making our City parks a great place to play and enjoy the outdoors!

Easter Eggsellent Adventure

The annual "Easter Eggsellent Adventure" at Fred Miller Park is coming up on Tuesday, March 20th. Children can participate in the egg hunt and get their photos with the Easter Bunny. This free event runs from 4:30-7:30pm with time slots for different age groups (ages 5-10) to hunt eggs. Children ages 2-10 can visit the Easter Village for age appropriate activities. Children must be registered prior to the start of the hunts, which begin at 6pm. Early registration is available at the Parks & Rec office beginning March 5th, or register at the event. Come and enjoy this fun kick-off to spring!

Sign up to receive our e-newsletter at:

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

Message from the Mayor

"When are you going to tear down ____? " or "Why don't you get rid of that old ____?" You can fill in the blanks - many have and still do. It has been three years since the City became serious about improving local appearances with the removal of dilapidated houses and buildings. To date over 40 former residences have been either demolished or brought back up to code. A new batch recently went on the radar screen.

Greg Ellison and the Inspections Dept. have done commendable work toward achieving long term goals of public appearance improvements. There is more work to be done. Most visible is the new space that is becoming Heritage Park at the corner of East 6th and N. Cumberland. Another project sits at the corner of N. Henry and W. 2nd.

Known as the "old phone co. building", the three story relic became a decades-long eyesore as a succession of owners failed to make improvements. Last month Council appropriated \$17,000 to have a contractor secure the windows and doors with a high quality material that is resistant to vandalism. A lien for the expense will be placed on the property.

This is not the beginning of a policy change but is a City option unique to this privately owned structure. High profile structures needing attention still remain and Inspections will continue with its primary goal of acting in the best interest of public safety.



Mayor Gary Chesney