



City of

MORRISTOWN

Tennessee

May 2018

Community Events

May 19th @10am

Strawberry Festival
at 510 W. Economy Rd.

May 21st-25th

CHAMP Camp
at Talley Ward Rec Center

May 22nd @4pm

Special Called Work Session
at City Center

May 29th @4pm

Special Called Work Session
at City Center

June 8th @8pm

Starlite Cinema
at Fred Miller Park

National Police & Public Works Weeks

May is filled with special weeks to honor public servants. The week of May 13th is National Police Week. People honor the dedication of local law enforcement during the week by displaying blue ribbons or wearing blue.

The week of May 20th is National Public Works Week. This is a week to specifically thank the public works crews for all the work they do to maintain our city.

Thank you to Police, Public Works and all employees who work to serve our community.

Fire Department Graduation

The Northeast Tennessee Regional Firefighter Basic Recruit Class celebrated their 2018 class graduation on May 7th in Kingsport. This 12-week class was comprised of 26 firefighting recruits from 10 different regional departments, including our Morristown Fire Department recruits. Over the course of the 12-weeks, training sessions rotated between several area fire departments. The Morristown department hosted a four-day session that concentrated on water supply, developing firefighting master streams, and the application of firefighting foam.

Morristown Fire Department had five firefighter recruits enrolled in this class – William “Sully” Cobble, Ryan Garretson, Aaron Adkins, Dylan Robinson, and Austin Rutherford. At the graduation, Aaron Adkins was awarded the overall individual Academic Award and Dylan Robinson was given the Outstanding Squad Award.

The process of becoming a firefighter is lengthy. Even after this graduation, the recruits now must also go through a two-week Medical Responder Class before they can report for duty on May 21st. One recruit, Dylan Robinson, was already a Certified Medical Responder so he was able to begin duty on May 8th.

Congratulations to our Fire Recruit graduates for all their hard work in training and best wishes as you protect and serve the people of Morristown!



Distracted Driver Campaign

The month of April is nationally recognized as Distracted Driving Awareness month. The Morristown Police Department (MPD) was among one of many agencies that participated in the Tennessee Highway Safety Office's (THSO) Distracted Driving campaign.

Distracted driving falls under various categories; the main category is failure of driver to exercise due care. The law states that “every driver of a motor vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any other motor vehicle, either being driven or legally parked, upon any roadway, or any road sign, guard rail or any fixed object legally placed within or beside the roadway right of way, by operating the motor vehicle at a safe speed, maintaining a safe lookout, by keeping the motor vehicle under proper control and by devoting full time and attention to operating the motor vehicle, under the existing circumstances to avoid endangering life, limb or property.” Drivers can be cited for this law because they are distracted, fiddling with their phones, putting on make-up, reaching for something in the backseat of the vehicle, etc. In April, there were 57 citations issued for failure of driver to exercise due care. In addition to due care, there were five texting while driving citations issued. The MPD wants to remind citizens that even though the campaign is over, distracted driving is a problem that the department will continue to focus on in an attempt to reduce crashes. Deputy Chief Michelle Jones stated, “The Morristown Police Department is committed to increasing awareness of the dangers of inattentive driving on our city streets and officers will continue to proactively enforce traffic laws to promote driving safely.”

Budget Presentation

Earlier this month, City Administrator Tony Cox presented to Council, staff and the public the proposed plan for how to allocate city funds in the upcoming fiscal year. Each spring, staff members meet to compile the monetary and personnel needs of each department. Requested items are then prioritized and categorized until a comprehensive plan that fits within the budget amount is made.

In this year's budget, city departments developed very specific goals they wanted to accomplish in the upcoming year. At the presentation, Council was informed of how the City plans on utilizing the \$45 million annual budget. Some of the plans for Fiscal Year 2019 include the construction of the Public Works complex and the colonnade at Heritage Park, the purchase of vehicles for the Police Department, and the hiring of an arborist to assist with trees and planting in our city parks. The proposed budget will go before Council for first reading on June 5th.

New Bucket Truck



This past winter, a new piece of equipment was added to the Morristown Public Works fleet, the bucket truck. The truck is utilized by the Traffic Signal Department within Public Works. It is used for a variety of functions, mainly for the maintenance

and repairs to overhanging traffic and pedestrian signals.

In the past, the City had to out source these repairs to a third party because we did not have the needed equipment to do it ourselves. Now, with this purchase, and properly trained staff, the Public Works Department can quickly respond to these repairs themselves.

The two employees of the traffic signal & communication team, Steve Peoples and Matthew Manning, were recently trained and certified to be able to operate the bucket truck. They work on-call, responding to broken signals. When they're not fixing damages, they are daily using the bucket truck for regular maintenance to the signals. Most require yearly testing and inspections. The team maintains 62 traffic signals across Morristown. In addition to the maintenance and repairs of traffic signals, the truck is also utilized to help in emergency situations, such as clearing trees after a storm.

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

Message from the Mayor

PROGRESSIVE POLICE DEPARTMENTS – Councilmembers Ken Smith, Kay Senter and I had the privilege of leading a discussion at last month's Command Staff Training Program held in Gatlinburg by our Police Department. The three-day session covered a wide variety of law enforcement topics presented by various professionals. The Council segment involved what we see as coming challenges and the expectations the elected have of police and, likewise, them from us.

Our group expressed concerns about opioid addiction and its effect on crime rates. Broadening the makeup of MPD staff to reflect the diversity of Morristown's ethnic population makeup, and being more creative with financial incentives for officers to improve their formal education level with advanced training and classes, were two other categories we (council) believe need attention.

On May 11, City Administrator Toy Cox presented to Council his proposed spending plan for the 2019 fiscal year. Budget discussions will occupy a considerable amount of councilmember time between now and the new year, which begins July 1.

The MPD training program gave us some insight into the level of preparation and organization required of an accredited, quality police department. City population and budget limitations are the prime reasons the "Needs" list is usually longer than the "Can Pay For" list. However, your Mayor and Council are of the opinion citizens are getting an excellent value from our law enforcement division.

Well done.



Mayor Gary Chesney