



City of

MORRISTOWN

Tennessee

December 2019

Community Events

December 5th@7pm

Christmas Parade
in Downtown Morristown

December 6th@6pm

Holiday Open House
at Rose Center

December 7th@7am

Jingle Run 5K
in Downtown Morristown

December 7th@3pm

Christmas in the Park
at the Farmers Market

December 7th@6pm

Tree Lighting Ceremony
at the Farmers Market

December 13th@5pm

Christmas Downtown
in Downtown Morristown

December 14th@1pm

Christmas in the Park
at Panther Creek State Park

December 17th@5pm

City Council Meeting
at City Center

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

City Wins Voice of the People Award

The City of Morristown was recently presented with a Voice of the People Award for its "Transformation in Built Environment". The Voice of the People Awards are given to jurisdictions that best listen and act to improve their communities. Twenty awards for different categories were given to municipalities across the nation. Awards were given based on citizens' responses to the National Citizen Survey, which is sent out each year to a sampling of residents. The results in last year's survey showed residents saw improvement in our community, particularly in the area of built environment. Morristown has improved in its design, construction and management of the human-made spaces in which people live, work and play. This is the third Voice of the People Award that Morristown has received in the 8 years it has been a participant in the National Citizen Survey. Receiving these awards shows that the City of Morristown has listened to its people's needs and responded accordingly.

The City of Morristown has taken great steps to improve the look and feel of our community. An emphasis on community appearance prompted the removal of dilapidated buildings, a curb maintenance program, and enhanced codes enforcement. The City's Planning Department recently created a "shepherding" program to guide and direct development projects from start to finish, making new development and construction projects an easier process to create well-planned and executed developments across town.

The City has itself undergone several development projects including expanding the disc golf course at Frank Lorino Park, adding a bike pump track, expanding the greenway system and opening Heritage Park. A new firehouse was dedicated last year and construction is currently underway on a new Public Works facility. All of these improvements, seen by our Morristown residents, are what helped Morristown to receive this award.

The City of Morristown will continue to utilize survey data from the National Citizens Survey to pinpoint which areas are of concern to our citizens. The City recently mailed out this year's National Citizens Surveys. 2400 households were randomly selected to participate in the survey. If your household received one, please complete the survey and return it by the end of the month. Your responses to this survey are what help the City set its priorities in the coming years.



MPD Receives Safety Grant

The Tennessee Highway Safety Office (THSO) announced that \$15,000 in federal grant funds will be awarded to the Morristown Police Department for the 2019-2020 Federal Fiscal Year. Over 335 federal grants approximately \$23 million in total were distributed statewide from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) through the THSO to support local highway safety initiatives.

“Every year, traffic safety advocates, non-profit organizations, emergency response personnel, law enforcement, District Attorneys' offices, and other state agencies across Tennessee seek funding through grant applications offered by the THSO,” said THSO Director Vic Donoho. “Applicants who meet the required data-driven criteria and highway safety standards are awarded grant funds to support the THSO's mission to reduce traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities.”

The Morristown Police Department strives to keep motorists safe through traffic enforcement. Grant funds allow officers assigned to this patrol to focus primarily on driving under the influence during peak enforcement times. Part of this grant is participating in the THSO's various campaigns. The next campaign is Booze It and Lose It. The campaign is from December 13, 2019 through January 1, 2020; the Morristown Police Department will have increased patrols during this time.

For more information about the THSO, please visit www.tntrafficsafety.org.

City Taxes Due

A reminder that 2019 City Property Taxes are due by December 31st. Payments must be made prior to the deadline to avoid any additional late fees or interest. Taxes can be paid in person at City Center, by mail, over the phone, or online by visiting the City's website, www.mymorristown.com/departments/taxes.

Message from the Mayor

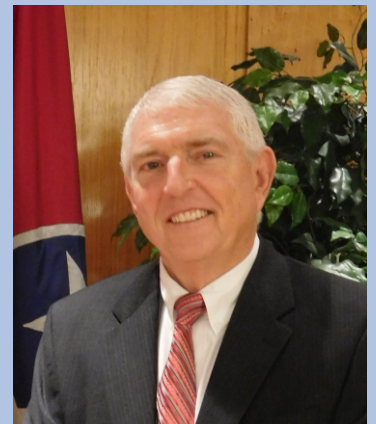
WHAT'S NEXT

What a year 2019 has been for Morristown. We've seen the opening of the new 52-acre Heritage Park, gave official approval to begin design and bid procedures for the new \$36 million Community Center, and formally secured the financing structure to pay for it. We are nearing completion of our new Department of Public Works compound, which means the beginning of the TCAT expansion on the former Public Works site is on the horizon. Our Farmers Market Pavilion and Downtown Green has hosted evening concerts, a very popular well-attended craft beer festival, and now will be the annual location for the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

We're catching our breath,...but not standing still. 2020 will provide a nice encore.

Anticipate extensive infrastructure improvements to sidewalks, downtown development in retail and residential growth, the City Center's front porch is about to look “new and improved”, groundbreaking for the construction of the Community Center, Van Hool Bus Co. and anticipated suppliers wanting to be their neighbor. And yes, the sinkhole repair stalling the opening of Exit 4 from I-81 is almost complete. There will also be a spurt of housing growth.

2020 will continue to be an exciting time to be in Morristown - and your Mayor and Council are glad you are here.



Mayor Gary Chesney

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