



City of

# MORRISTOWN

Tennessee

May 2019

## Community Events

**May 7th & 21st @5pm**

City Council Meeting  
at City Center

**May 7th**

Municipal Election Day

**May 9th @11am**

Spring Fling  
at DMLK Park

**May 11th @10am**

Cycle the City  
at Downtown Farmers Market

**May 11th @6pm**

Strawberry Festival Jam  
at Downtown Farmers Market

**May 13th @5pm**

"Sine Die" Swearing In  
at City Center

**May 16th @7pm**

Tom's Handgun Concert  
at Downtown Green

**May 18th @10am**

Strawberry Festival  
at W. Economy Rd.

**May 18th @10am**

From the Pages to the Park  
at Fred Miller Park

## Music on the Green

With the warming weather, everyone is spending as much time as possible outdoors. Entertainment is moving outdoors and heading to the center of town for the 2nd annual Downtown Green Music Series. This popular music series has a variety of musical acts setting up stage in the green space adjacent to the Morristown Farmers Market. Concerts are held once a month on a Thursday night from now into autumn. All are invited to attend. Bring your own chairs or blankets and arrive early to enjoy food and beverages from local food trucks that will be on site.

This month's concert features music act "Tom's Handgun". Concert will be on May 16th at 7pm. In the event of rain, the performance will move under the adjacent Farmers Market pavilion. For the full concert schedule, visit [www.crossroadspartnership.com](http://www.crossroadspartnership.com).



**downtown green**  
MUSIC SERIES

## Planning for Bike & Pedestrian Safety



The Lakeway Area Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (LAMTPO) is currently in the process of developing a new Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for Morristown and the surrounding area. Federal and state regulations have recently changed regarding bicycle and pedestrian routes, so LAMTPO is using this opportunity to bring our current sidewalks and bike routes into compliance while also adding some amenities to improve mobility.

To help LAMTPO identify areas for improvement, they are conducting an online survey. The survey will gather information regarding where people walk or bike and then use that input to make those areas safer. The idea of bike lanes and pedestrian paths will be explored. If you are someone who regularly walks or bikes in our community, or would like to do so, please visit [www.lamtpo.com](http://www.lamtpo.com) and participate in the bicycle or pedestrian survey.

Morristown Parks and Recreation will be hosting a "Cycle the City" event on May 11th beginning at the Farmers Market. Representatives from LAMTPO as well as Mattern and Craig, the consultant working on the plan, will be there conducting surveys and getting feedback from the community on what they'd like to see to improve bike and pedestrian travel.

## Look Twice, Save a Life

Weather is warming up and our city will soon begin seeing an increase in motorcyclists. May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, and the Morristown Police Department (MPD) would like to increase awareness in the community about the importance of sharing the road and looking twice for motorcyclists.

Hamblen County is ranked 37<sup>th</sup> in the state for motorcycle crashes. In 2018, Hamblen County had 22 motorcycle crashes. In the city limits, there were 9 motorcycle crashes with 1 being fatal.

General tips to drivers on preventing a crash with a motorcycle are:

- Even though a motorcycle is a small vehicle, the operator still has the same rights of the road as any other motorist. Be sure to allow the motorcycle the full width of a lane at all times.
- Slow down behind a motorcycle; they can maneuver faster than cars and changes in the surface of the road they are sensitive to. Always allow more follow distance. Three to four seconds of distance will give operators more time to maneuver or stop in an emergency.
- Be cautious of a motorcycle with a blinker on, before proceeding make sure they will be turning. Motorists should always use their turn signal to allow others to anticipate your move. Be sure to check all your mirrors and blind spots before changing lanes and turning, especially at intersections.

MPD Chief Roger D. Overholt stated, "Morristown is a favorite pass through for many motorcyclists. MPD urges all motorists to be aware of increased motorcycle traffic during the warmer months." The MPD would also like to remind motorcyclists to wear their helmets and be aware of their surroundings.



Sign up to receive our e-newsletter at:

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

[www.mymorristown.com](http://www.mymorristown.com)



## Message from the Mayor

### Annexation

Once upon a time, city governments could annex subdivisions by merely passing an ordinance and sending the tax notices to its new citizens. The arguments for both sides of that action often wound up before a judge. A series of state legislative actions now require annexations to be allowed only when requested by the property owners to be affected. That swung the fairness pendulum against cities.

Morristown has embraced the plan of convincing only one person to request annexation - that being a developer who intends to build new residences. Homeowners buy their new home which is already in the city instead of being incorporated afterward. This system has worked well for our city's need to grow.

This month, a developer with a long track record of constructing high amenity residential property will request annexation of 23.3 acres on Highway 25E facing Walters State. The 250 units will come with pool, tennis courts, walking track, and more. The new homes will be a nice addition to the property tax rolls, plus it comes without the rancor of unwanted annexation.

The definition of fairness in annexation has often been revised through the decades, but in 2019, it would appear Morristown has reached a level closer to the middle.



*Mayor Gary Chesney*

Edition #5.4