



City of

MORRISTOWN

Tennessee

August 2020

Community Events

August 18th@5pm

City Council Meeting
at City Center

August 22nd@10am

Skateboard Competition
at Frank Lorino Park

August 28th@9am

Council Work Session
at WSCC

August 28th@8:30pm

Drive-In Movie
at Frank Lorino Park

MPD Applications

The Morristown Police Department is currently accepting applications for police officers. Applications received by September 4th will be eligible to participate in the round of testing to begin on September 25th.

Applicants must be at least 21 years old, graduate from an accredited high school or successfully completed the GED Test, be a US citizen, be in good physical health, and possess a valid driver's license.

Applications can be obtained in-person at City Center or can be found on the Human Resources page of the City's website.

HOME Grant

The City of Morristown was recently chosen by the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) as a recipient for the HOME Grant. This federally-funded program promotes the production, preservation and rehabilitation of single family housing for low-income households. The \$500,000 of grant money, which was the maximum amount allotted, will be used for the rehab of citizen-owned homes in Morristown. Low-income homeowners will be given the opportunity to apply for the grant to conduct major repairs to their homes.

The grant is very competitive, with many municipalities applying and few being chosen. As part of the qualifications to receive the grant, the city must have among its purposes "the provision of decent housing that is affordable to low-income and moderate-income persons, as evidenced in its charter, articles of incorporation, resolutions or by-laws, and experience in the provision of housing to low income households". The City of Morristown was very proud to be chosen as a recipient of this grant and hopes that it can be put to good use providing safe places for our citizens to call home.

Staff Changes for Morristown Fire

When Chief Bill Honeycutt retired earlier this summer, he left the Morristown Fire Department (MFD) in very capable hands. Promotions were recently chosen by City Council for the fire administration team. Clark Taylor, who has 37 years of experience with the MFD, was chosen as the new fire chief, Brian Shepherd as Deputy Fire Chief and Billy Hale replaced him as Fire Marshal. Tim Carpenter will serve as Deputy Fire Marshal. We thank these men for their willingness to serve and lead our Morristown Fire Department.



Chief Clark Taylor

Mask Mandate

Hamblen County has seen a recent steep rise in positive COVID cases. In response, Hamblen County Mayor Bill Brittain issued a mask mandate by Executive Order. The mask mandate is in effect from August 4th to August 29th. A masks or cloth facial covering is required to be worn in indoor public spaces and outdoor spaces where you are unable to socially distance. Children 12 and under are exempt as well as those with health issues that would prevent them from wearing a mask.

There will not be police enforcement of this mandate; however, Morristown City Police will be taking efforts to inform the public about the mandate and encouraging compliance. Police will be distributing free masks and information to those not wearing a mask. The hope is that Morristown citizens can work together through this mandate and help stop the spread.

Parks & Rec Skateboard Competition



While many events have had to be cancelled over recent months, one that is still able to take place as a non-contact sport is the annual Skateboard Competition. The event will be hosted by Morristown Parks & Recreation on August 22nd at Frank Lorino Park beginning at 10am.

This annual event is open to any skater age 8 or older who would like to compete at the skate park for prizes. Pre-registered skaters will compete in 2 two-minute heats to free skate and showcase their skills. Volunteers will judge the skills based on talent, tricks, and control. First and second place prizes will be awarded in both youth and adult categories with an overall “best trick” prize. All prizes have been donated by Pluto Sports in Knoxville. Music for the event is provided by DJ Robbie Britton.

Pre-register with the Morristown Parks and Recreation Department by August 17th. The entry fee is \$5.00. Boards in good working order and helmets are required. Other safety equipment is recommended. Check-in on the day of the event begins at 9:30 am. All skaters and parents of minors are required to sign a waiver on day of event. Parents must be present for minors to participate.

For more information and to register, call Morristown Parks & Recreation at 423-586-0260.

Message from the Mayor

FIGURING OUT MASKS

On August 4th, County Mayor Bill Brittain issued a Mask Mandate to be in effect for all of Hamblen County. The order, via authority by the Governor's Executive Order, requires masks be worn by all residents and visitors in public spaces or businesses when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. The order is the latest effort by local leaders to slow the spread of the COVID-19 Virus.

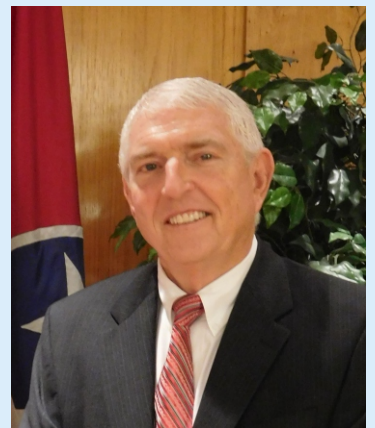
The rapid rate of the virus' spread in our city and county has caused a high level of concern. Adding masks to the guidelines of frequently washing hands and social distancing makes sense. The role of Morristown Police will largely be one of educating and handing out masks to those who need one.

There is no formal enforcement arm to this order; however, those who choose to ignore it and call blatant attention to their refusal in such a manner that causes a disturbance, there will be consequences. Citations and fines for Disorderly Conduct and/or Trespassing are regular violations that could come into play.

Coronavirus is a serious health problem. The pandemic has disrupted the lives and routines of most of us in our community. Medical evidence overwhelmingly suggests these guidelines are effective when we all comply. It is much safer to follow the advice from professional healthcare experts and not that from grads of the University of Facebook Medical School.

Stay safe, and we will sooner return to normalcy.

We are Morristown.



Mayor Gary Chesney

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