



December 2020 City Newsletter

Community Events

December 11th@6:30pm

"The Santa Clause" Drive-in Movie
at Frank Lorino Park

December 15th@5pm

City Council Meeting
at City Center

December 24th @ 25th

Christmas Holiday
City Offices Closed

January 1st

New Year's Day
City Offices Closed

A New Christmas Tradition

The annual City Christmas tree is something that City staff and citizens look forward to every year. In past years, the Christmas tree was donated by a citizen, cut from their yard and moved to the City Center plaza. A new tradition is being started this year with the planting of Morristown's own tree. Last spring, City Horticulturalist Mike Cupp carefully chose a tree farm, Cumberland Mountain Conifers in Palmer, TN. In October, he, along with Assistant City Administrator Larry Clark, went to the farm and chose the perfect tree to be the new City Christmas landmark. The Norway Spruce tree was dug up and transported to its new location by the Farmers Market

earlier this month. It currently sits around 15 feet tall but will grow from 40 to 60 feet tall.

The tree has been beautifully decorated by City staff members. The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on December 8th under the market pavilion. It was a smaller affair this year, live streamed online, but still expressed the spirit of the holidays. The program included the reading of the Christmas story and a visit from Santa. The tree will remain lit now through the holidays.

The tree will stay in its location at the Farmers Market for decades to come. Proper irrigation was installed around the Farmers market to keep the tree watered and thriving. Mike Cupp and horticulture staff will trim and care for the tree as it grows. We hope this tree is something that our community can enjoy this Christmas and for many Christmases to come.



Chickens in the City

City Council recently passed an ordinance that allows City residents to keep domesticated hens within City limits. The raising of chickens at home has become a popular hobby nationwide, but City ordinance previously prevented the keeping of chickens in Morristown. This new ordinance allows residents up to 6 hens within certain guidelines, including a proper sized fence and coop. No roosters will be allowed. Those wanting to keep chickens will be required to submit a permit application.



MPD Welcomes Three New Officers

The Morristown Police Department's (MPD) three newest members were sworn in on November 30, 2020, by Judge Matt Sexton surrounded by family and MPD personnel.

Joining the department are Christopher Cary, Logan Gilmer and Anthony Smith. They began the Field Training Program last week. All three officers have law enforcement experience. Christopher Cary worked as a patrol officer in Georgia for six years; Logan Gilmer and Anthony Smith worked in the Hamblen County Jail prior to joining the MPD.



Officer Cary



Officer Gilmer



Officer Smith



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Message from Mayor Gary Chesney

COMMUNITY CENTER UNDERWAY

Earlier this month, City Council voted to award the construction contract to PATH Inc. to begin work on the new \$28+ million multi-purpose Community Center. We expect to have ground broken as 2021 arrives and cut a ribbon in mid-2022.

Our community has been pushing for such a facility for decades. Arriving at the right time to be able to make it happen is the result of the work of many in the areas of industrial and job growth, retail development, and government financial planning.

As we close out 2020, a year that has caused many disruptions, inconveniences, and public health concerns, there is a degree of satisfaction in looking back on the positive changes brought to Morristown citizens. Open park green spaces such as Fulton-Hill Park and the Downtown Green, a new comprehensive facility for our Public Works employees, multiple startups of new residential developments, and continued interest from industrial prospects scouting Morristown, all make the statement "We are Morristown" an upbeat thought to end a year that has had precious few.

A shout out "Thank You" to all city employees who have worked to make it possible.

Proud to be your Mayor.

Gary Chesney

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