



## February 2024 City Newsletter

### Community Events

#### Live at Rose Center

February 23rd@7pm  
at Rose Center

#### Breakfast & Bingo

February 26th@9:30am  
at Talley Ward Rec Center

#### City Council Meetings

March 5th & 19th@5pm  
at City Center

#### Hot Wheels Derby

March 9th@9am  
at Talley Ward Rec Center

#### Girls Aviation Day

March 16th@9am  
at Morristown Regional Airport

### City Taxes Due

A reminder that Morristown City taxes are due on Thursday, February 29th. Pay taxes by the due date to avoid additional late fees and interest. Taxes can easily be paid in-person at City Center, over the phone, by mail, or visit the City's website to pay online.

## Hot Wheels Derby is Ready to Roll

Community events slow down a bit during the winter months, but Parks & Recreation is ready to get back into the event season by hosting the annual Hot Wheels Derby on Saturday, March 9th.

Talley Ward Recreation Center will open their doors at 9am for racers to check in, with races beginning at 10am. Each racer may enter 3 cars to race the gutter track and 1 car for the timed track. Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in each age category. Categories are: 5 and under, 6-12yr olds, 13-18yr olds and Ol' Hot Rods.



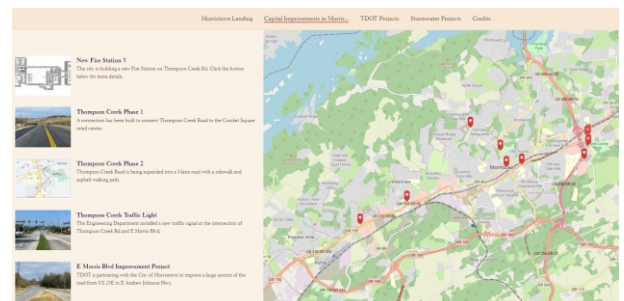
Cars must be 1/64 scale to fit onto the racing track. While racers wait for their turn to compete, there will be activities and coloring pages available.

Register online to participate on the Morristown Parks & Recreation Facebook page or the City's website. Deadline to register is March 1st.

## GIS Launches New Projects App

The City's GIS (Geographic Information System) Department has developed and launched a new application to keep citizens informed about major capital projects happening in Morristown. This application, called the "Capital Projects Storymap," shows up-to-date information regarding road construction, new city buildings, rehabilitation projects, and storm water repairs. See photos of concept plans along with before and after photos. Utilize the map feature to see the exact location of where projects are taking place and get detailed information about the work that is being done.

The City hopes this web application will inform and engage the public regarding past, current and future projects in our community. You can find this application on the City's website under the Residents tab.



# Demolition has Begun at Parks-Belk

This past January, Morristown's downtown was hit with the huge loss of the historic Parks-Belk building as a result of arson. In the aftermath of the fire, inspections determined that the remaining building walls were unsafe and needed to be demolished.

The streets around the building have remained closed for weeks as permits and inspections for demolition awaited approval. On February 21st, all permits were approved and demolition has now begun. Crews are working carefully on the demolition to preserve as many of the bricks and materials from the building as possible. This is expected to take several weeks to complete.

The loss of the building from Morristown's Main Street is heart-wrenching for many Morristown natives who remember visiting the building when it was still open for business. Renovations on the building had begun on the building just weeks prior to the fire. However, the new owner of the City block still has plans to move forward with rebuilding on the site and greatly enhancing Morristown's historic downtown.

As the demolition work is being done, the intersection of Main Street and Cumberland will still remain closed. Once the area is cleaned up and secured, the City and TDOT will evaluate any damage that may have occurred to the street pavement from hot falling bricks. The City asks that residents remain patient through this process as staff will do all they can to open up the intersection as soon as possible.

In the meantime, you are encouraged to shop and dine at the locally-owned Main Street businesses. All businesses in the downtown area remain open for business, however, due to the partial street closure, many shops report reduced customers during this time. Shop local and show support for your community.



## Message from Mayor Gary Chesney

### WELL DONE, TONY COX

Tony Cox officially retires as City Administrator on March 8. It marks the end of one of the most impressive eras in the City of Morristown's long history of growth and development. A comparison of where Morristown was in 2010 and where it is in 2024 reflects a striking example of his expertise.

Fourteen years ago, the City was in dire straits financially and potential lenders were not eager to talk. One of the newly hired City Administrator's challenges was to turn this around. Spending cuts, budgets adjustments, a trip to Nashville, changes with success in industrial recruiting, and voters making a few changes, all combined to brighten Morristown's economic picture.

Tony will tell you there were many team players in the improvements seen during his tenure, but it was he who rode the lead horse and his management abilities were easily recognized by those team members.

One of those members, Assistant City Administrator Andrew Ellard, comes now with two years of experience in Morristown government to take the reins as our new City Administrator. Council believes Andrew has been well taught and is the capable successor.

The Mayor and Council also congratulate and thank Tony Cox for a job -- well done.

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