



City of

MORRISTOWN

Tennessee

August 2016

City Street Paving Project



The City of Morristown has contracted with Summers-Taylor to pave approximately 10 miles of City streets this year. The contractor began work on July 13th and is continuing to mill and pave streets. The project is expected to be completed in the next couple of months. The contractor began on Lincoln Avenue in coordination with the Safe Routes to School

project. The Safe Routes to School project included improvements such as new sidewalks, handicap ramps, and crosswalks in areas around Morristown schools. Special attention was given to these areas in order to have the road work done before the school year began.

The contractor has been busy milling the following streets: Lincoln Ave, S Jackson, W 3rd N, W 2nd N, Hayter Dr, Annie Ln, Geneva Ln, Montvue Dr, Brown Ave, Locust Street, and Ridge St. They have already paved Lincoln Ave, S Jackson St, and Montvue Ave and they will be paving the remaining streets very soon. To see the full list and maps of streets to be paved, visit the City's website and click on the Paving Schedule.

The City thanks you for your patience during the repair process. We hope you will be happy with the newly repaired roads in your community.

Community Events

August 5th & 6th

City Council Planning Workshop
in Kingsport

August 13@2pm

Davy Crockett's Birthday
at Crockett Tavern

August 16th@5pm

City Council Meeting
at City Center

August 19th@6:30pm

Disco Party
at Rose Center

August 5th & 26th@7pm

Summer Jam Concert
at DMLK Park

Fiscal Year Audit

As part of the fiscal year process, and to remain transparent to the public, a yearly audit is conducted. A new group of auditors, Brown Edwards CPA, was selected this year. They were selected based on their qualifications and were approved by Council. They began this month to become familiar with our procedures and will begin the full audit next month.

Brown Edwards understands the regulatory environment in which municipalities operate. They have decades of experience conducting municipal audits, working with governmental staff, and resolving the challenges they seek to address.

Concert Series at DMLK Park

School may be back in session, but Parks & Recreation is still enjoying the last days of summer by featuring outdoor concerts this month at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park in Morristown. The first concert will be local band "Deeper Faith" on Friday, August 5th. This faith-based musical group, comprised of family members, will be singing gospel-style music.



Later in the month, on August 26th,

enjoy another local band, "40 til 5". This band, which has played for the Parks & Rec music series in the past, will entertain the crowd with their rock 'n roll style.

Both concerts will run from 7pm-9pm at the park located at 350 W. Ninth North Street. Bring your own chairs or blankets and enjoy a free concert.

Morristown's Butterfly Garden



On a high hill on the north side of Morristown, you'll find Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (DMLK) Park, a beautiful park tucked into a neighborhood near the downtown area. A nice walking trail, pavilions and playgrounds make this a destination the whole family can enjoy. Perhaps the most noteworthy attraction of this park is the Butterfly Garden.

The Butterfly Garden began in 2007 when the local Lowe's store approached then mayor, Sami Barile, with a grant proposal. They wanted to donate \$1200 for a parks project as part of their Hometown Heroes Program. The City had just one day to decide what to do with the donation money, so Mayor Barile called up master gardener Barbara Garrett, who had an idea.

Barbara proposed the idea of a butterfly garden, and she knew just where it should be - a vacant area on a corner of DMLK Park. She came up with a design for the garden - a swallowtail butterfly-shaped pathway leading around beds of wildflowers. With the help of Parks & Recreation, Public Works, Lowe's, and many volunteers, the butterfly garden took shape. Topsoil was brought in, a black mulch path was laid and seeds from Wildseed Farms were planted. Barbara brought in daylilies from her own garden and before long the garden was filled with blossoms, everything from coneflowers to cosmos to larkspurs.

Throughout the year, the garden was tended by the Lakeway Area Master Gardeners Association (LAMGA), directed by Mannie Bedwell. They maintained the garden for several years until 2011. During that spring, the garden unfortunately became overcome with weeds and Barbara feared that it would need to be plowed up. However, Craig Price stepped in right away with the desire to make the butterfly garden a permanent fixture of DMLK Park. With the help of a talented intern, Erin Tharp, who was working for Parks & Rec, a landscape design was developed for the garden. Plans for a concrete walkway, benches, and curbing around the gardens took shape. Crepe myrtle trees, rose bushes and wildflowers were planted and a special grant from MUS provided additional funds for lighting. In the spring of 2013, the garden, as it now sits, was dedicated at the park. The LAMGA continues to maintain the flowerbeds and the City crews maintain the structure.

The Butterfly Garden now provides an oasis in the city for residents to come and enjoy the flowers and fluttering butterflies. Visitors to the park can enjoy walking the pathways around the gardens or can grab a seat on one of the benches and enjoy the view. Children are often seen running through the gardens chasing after monarchs and attendees of the annual Arts in the Park event enjoy taking a stroll past the zinnias.

Through the help of Barbara Garrett, Lowe's, and many organizations and volunteers over the past years, the City of Morristown now has a beautiful place for people to get outside and enjoy seeing nature up close.



Message from the Mayor

City Council is preparing for the August 5-6 strategic planning workshop in Kingsport. This annual activity could well be our most important work of the year. It permits mayor and councilmembers to sell to each other his/her vision of Morristown's immediate future. It also allows the city administrator to share his thoughts and to get a solid "feel" for the preferences of his council. Most of the changes in ordinances and public strategies introduced and passed these last three years originated at our workshop.

With seven members and a city administrator there can often be eight opinions on one topic. I believe it's a credit to city voters to have selected a group of councilmembers who study viewpoints different from their own and render decisions based on the underlying theme "what's the greatest good for the greatest number in our city?" The casual setting is beneficial to creating a more open exchange of ideas. Council "chemistry" has been very good. By going out of town, mayor and councilmembers are removed from many of the local interruptions which divert attention away from topics being discussed and the setting allows the 10-12 hours of planning seem less of a grind and more of a special event. Local media is invited to attend. Kingsport's Meadowview Convention Center has been an excellent location.

Again, proud to be your Mayor.



Mayor Gary Chesney

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