

Meet the Mayor January 2020

Saturday, January 25, 2020 10:00 am

Wally's of East Ridge

City Council Meetings

As you probably already know the times for our City Council meeting and work session were rearranged to streamline the meetings. Starting back on October 24th, the regular City Council meeting will begin at 6 PM and the tentative agenda for the next council meeting will be the last item on the regular agenda.

Council Initiative

Update on my council initiative, I initially started with the East Ridge City Council Community Food Pantry Food Drive from October through December. Which offered all attendees at City Council meetings an opportunity to bring non-perishable food items or monetary donation for the East Ridge Community Food Pantry. To be clear, admission into a City Council meeting is not predicated on a donation.

Started in March 2015, the Food Pantry is located at the East Ridge Methodist Church on Prater Road. The Pantry services over 300 families a month, which includes approximately 550 children.

For more information about the East Ridge Community Food Pantry, contact McDowell at Jones Memorial by calling 423-624-6073.

Now January and through March our charity is Friends of East Ridge Animal Services. They are located at 1232 Greens Lake Rd. They are a 501c3 non-profit organization which is comprised 100% of dedicated volunteers. Their mission "We Matter to That One" and passion is to help animals in our area live the quality of life they deserve.

Key information about this organization:

- Support animals that are in need.
- Provides heartworm treatment for the animals at East Ridge Animal Shelter.
- Provides a collar & leash for every adopted dog.
- Routinely walk the shelter dogs.
- Monthly sales at their location of donated items.
- 100% of all donations or proceeds from sales go to support their mission and cause.
- Trap cats pay to have them spayed or neutered to control over population and then return to their environment.

Donations:

- Any type of donation (clothes, furniture, small appliances, etc.) for inclusion in their monthly sale.
- Dog & cat food.
- Cash

Remote Area Medical (RAM) November 15th and 16th

RAM is a major nonprofit provider of free mobile clinics. Their mission is to prevent pain and alleviate suffering by providing free, quality healthcare to those in need. We do this by delivering free dental, vision, and **medical** services to underserved and uninsured individuals.

933 patients, 1,116 teeth extractions, 314 fillings, 45 cleanings, manufactured 337 pairs of glasses, \$478,884 of valued of services.

Over the past 3 events at Camp Jordan

2,633 patients, 3,387 teeth extractions, 749 fillings, 267 cleanings, manufactured 1,029 pairs of glasses, \$1,300,000 of valued of services.

RMHC Run4Kids was Saturday, January 18 at 2 p.m. at Camp Jordan

Ronald McDonald House hosted their first RMHC Run4Kids. This is a big celebration for our community and Ronald McDonald House families. There was a great turn out. Greg Funderburd, Rusty from the Red Wolves and Louie from the Lookouts was there. We had lots of fun activities including a best dressed award for those that show up in the best spirit gear!

As of January 2020, there are 375 Ronald McDonald Houses in 45 countries and regions, 262 Ronald McDonald Family Rooms in 28 countries and regions, and 50 Ronald McDonald Care Mobiles worldwide in 10 countries and regions. There will be a 5k Run & 1 mile walk for our families and friends!

Chattanooga is home to the 137th Ronald McDonald House®, 4th Ronald McDonald Family Room® and 13th Ronald McDonald Care Mobile®.

Families stay an average of 15 nights.

550-600 families stay at the Ronald McDonald House every year.

Since the Chattanooga chapter opened on November 18, 1990, more than 10,000 families have stayed at the Ronald McDonald House.

Census 2020 – Why It Matters! Hospitals. Fire departments. Schools. Even roads and highways. The census can shape many different aspects of our community. The results help determine how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities. East Ridge has formed a Complete Count Committee which utilizes local knowledge, influence, and resources to educate communities and promote the census throughout our city. Our CCC members are local business owners, citizens, educators. We began back in June of last year when Mayor Burke's office contracted me to participate county wide census meeting. The City of Chattanooga has been well out in front toward Census preparations and provide East Ridge with valuable help and information. East Ridge is the second best informed and preparing for the Census and helping prepare and lead other cities within the small city's collocation.

Hot News!!! With the help and assistance of State Rep Esther Helton we are extremely excited to announce that our Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett will speak and answer questions at a Census Kickoff event on Friday, February 21st at 6pm at the Community Center. We are

pumped to have this event in East Ridge, we will invite Chattanooga officials, Hamilton county officials and the officials with the small cities collocation to attend. The public is invited.

Strategic Planning Session

Create a Mission Statement - Our mission is to provide services through effective and efficient governance which promotes business opportunities, sports tourism, and quality of life within our diverse, inclusive, and safe neighborhoods.

Conduct an environmental scan – what are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing the City of East Ridge

Create a Vision Statement: - As the Gateway to Tennessee, East Ridge strives to be the Pioneer of economic progress, where all people can reach their full potential while embracing culture, recreation and family values.

Goals:

1. Create a finance plan to increase revenue and maintain fund balances
2. Build a new animal shelter
3. Evaluate the need for a third fire hall and create a plan for building one if needed
4. Build a dog park
5. Establish an employee retention/succession plan

Business Scene

Red Wolves – field is graded and prepped, and turf will be to be delivered and laid.

Top Golf building erected and poles set and nets hung. Planned opening April/May 2020.

Champy's – starting the foundations. Planned opening April/May 2020.

Jonathan's Grille - Established in 1999, Jonathan's Grille is a family-owned, upscale sports grille based in Nashville, Tennessee. Their restaurants provide two different settings - first, a bar with enough tv's to catch any game and second, a restaurant providing an upscale, yet comfortable setting for any group of family or friends.

Fresh Burger Grill – in the location of All American Grill at Germantown Rd. and Ringgold Rd.

Level Up – new arcade located will be opening next to Amigo's in Osborne Plaza.

Also don't forget our hometown businesses. Please patronize them often.....

I wanted to remind of two individuals that recently passed. Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Alma Jeffries – 101 years old and honorary member of the Crestwood Garden Club of ER

L. Brock Bennington – 50 years old, lived in ER and I served on the Beer Board with him.

Guest Speaker

Police Chief Stan Allen

Background: retired as a 28-year veteran from Chattanooga Police department. Worked in the private sector prior to coming to East Ridge approximately 5 years ago. Currently the Police Chief for the past month and Acting Police Chief for the previous 13 months.

Currently backfilling some positions from promotions from within the department (i.e. Assistance Chief, Patrol Lieutenant and down line).

Goal to make East Ridge a safer place for its citizens and visitors, make this a place that people want to come here and to be blunt a place where people that are transporting drugs, selling drugs and committing crimes are terrified to come here.

Chief Allen states that we have an excellent police force and very proud of all the officers.

Budgeted strength is 45 officers with 1 open position and 12 reserve officers.

The police department is broken down into a patrol division 2 shifts X 2 teams, 5 Crime Investigating Division, 2 Crime Suppression Unit, 2 traffic officers, 12 reserve officers.

Topics to touch on to keep citizens from being victims:

Phone calls, text messages and emails soliciting for your personal information. The best way to handle that is that is you don't initiate a contact don't provide the requestor any information. The IRS will not call you on your cell phone and tell you to send them money or gift cards to pay your tax bill. Latest new scam is the FedEx text with a link that requests your credit card info for the package delivery. If you are not expecting a package, then don't provide your information. An Amazon scam was mentioned that is similar to the FedEx one. Then one citizen mentioned their dad was called and informed that his grandson was in jail and needed bail via money order or a credit card. Chief Allen mentions there have been 10's of thousands of dollars lost to these types of scams.

A citizen stated they had seen a strange man in a hoodie walking in her neighborhood at 2am and asked what to do. Chief Allen stated be alert and if you see something say something. If you see something out of place call the non-emergency police number (622-1725). If there is truly a emergency by all means call 911.

Second topic is please lock your car and don't leave valuables in the car visible. Don't be a victim of a crime of opportunity. Do not leave your car unlocked and running due to the cold temperatures.

One citizen mentioned that some insurance companies will not cover the damages and expenses when you leave your vehicle unlocked or left running and the car is vandalized or stolen.

Question was asked if Ring doorbell video's or other video recordings can help. Answer is yes possibly if quality is good but that is after the fact of a crime. ERPD has used video to help in the arrest of a crime.

Citizen mentioned to lock doors when you get into your car. Chief Allen mentioned that a locked door is less likely to pop open during a crash.

Citizen asked if ERPD will offer a women's self-defense training? Chief Allen stated not at this time.

One family at the meeting stated that moved to East Ridge 3 years ago and they researched Hamilton county for violent crime statics and zip code 37412 was the 2nd safest area in a 3 years study in Hamilton County.

Chief Allen announces the second class of the East Ridge Citizens Police Academy Program starting March 30th. The citizen's academy is a 10-week program. Every

Monday for 10 weeks from 6pm to 9pm. The application will be available on the city website. The applicants are screened and a background check if performed. They will accept 15 applicants in this class. The program is focused at familiarizing our citizens with the various aspects of the law enforcement profession. During these training sessions representatives from various divisions within the police department will conduct presentations and demonstrations on a variety of topics to include: Uniform Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Traffic Enforcement, K-9 Unit, Court Observation and discussion with our DA and Judge, firearms training and shooting range.

Citizen asked if there any programs for young children. Chief Allen stated not yet, however East Ridge Elementary School comes and tours our city departments and observe what they do.

Citizen asked who filled his position and Chief Allen stated that Lieutenant Uselton was promoted to Assistant Chief and Sergeant Hewitt was promoted to Patrol Lieutenant.

Citizen asked if the police officers are required to live in East Ridge. Chief Allen stated they are not required to live in East Ridge. Then it was asked if officers can take their car home and it was stated they have to live within 25 miles of the city limits.