

Meet the Mayor September 2019

Saturday, September 21, 2019 9:00 am

Local Coffee

Sanitation Trucks

- Two new sanitation trucks have been purchased and our schedules are back to normal.

Update: *Question concerning the leaf pick schedule. Pickup will begin mid-November through February and follow the brush pickup schedule. Leaves must be swept to the curb (side of the street) and kept loose (no bagging).*

I-24/I-75 Interchange – Completion June 2021

- Scope 13 bridges, 22 retaining walls, grading, drainage, paving and lighting
- Fall 2019 to Fall 2020 = I-24EB to I-75NB
- Fall 2020 = I-75NB to I-24WB
- Winter 2020 to Spring 2021 – Bridge and Roadway tie-ins
- Spring 2021 to Early Summer 2021 – final paving, striping & grass
- TDEC meeting was this past Thursday, September 20th to discuss the wetland impacts.
- Public meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 24th to discuss the interchange modification. East Ridge Community Center from 5:30pm to 7:00pm

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. CCCs utilize local knowledge, influence, and resources to educate communities and promote the census through locally based, targeted outreach efforts.
- East Ridge Complete Count Committee has been formed and now met twice.

Update: *Census is hiring positions \$14hr apply online. They are wanting and needing people that live in East Ridge, so they are neighborhood friendly. Last meeting East Ridge Complete Count Committee was Saturday the 18th at Wally's. Discussions were around timelines and schedules for the Census. Planning for publicity items and events (i.e. billboards, Christmas parades, etc..). I plan to have our city webpage updated with Census information and updates. How does the Census count impact to our city? Specifically, is it per person or is there a range for state and federal funding is allocated? Funds are allocated per person, so every person "Counts"!*

City Vision/Mission Statement

We have engaged MTAS and have a few dates we are working on for the strategic planning workshops for the creation of our City Vision & Mission Statement.

Camp Jordan

Completion of the 2.3-million-dollar upgrade to the park.

- Which include new fencing, scoreboards, field upgrades, new & upgraded bathrooms, concessions, bleachers & sun shades.
- Final items have been completed and we are now working through the final review of construction and the contractor is working on a punch list.
- The park is looking great. We are going to pressure wash the front of the Arena.

Tennis Courts

The 4 tennis courts at the high school have been repaired and refinished with new nets. They look great and are starting to be utilized. East Ridge Rally Cats – beginner youth tennis program for kids ages 4 – 10. Saturdays & Sundays – Sept 28-29, Oct 5-6, 12-13. Price \$60 Call Amy Gibson 423-886-0974 or rallycatstennis.com

East Ridge Citizens Police Academy Program

The Inaugural Citizen’s Police Academy began on September 16th and will take place for 10 weeks. This will be an opportunity for future participation and will be additional classes offered in the future.

The citizen’s academy is aimed 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, but not limited to: Uniform Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Traffic Enforcement, K-9 Unit, and much more. Don’t miss this great opportunity to learn about your police department – what they do and why they do it. This is also a great opportunity to become more involved in your community, and network with others throughout the community. The ultimate goal is for you to partnership with your police department and improve our community.

Tennessee River Rescue - October 5th 9am – 1 pm.

Spring Creek - Yale Street Behind Parkridge East - Contact Larry Clark Email: larry5253@att.net

Accomplishments

- Lt. Clint Uselton, Patrol Commander for the department recently graduated from the FBI National Academy. Previously in March of 2017 Daniel Stephenson has also graduated the FBI National Academy back in March of 2017. This is a great accomplishment for both men, and we are proud to have both of our Lieutenants FBI Academy graduates.
 - This program is a 10-week program—which provides coursework in intelligence theory, terrorism and terrorist mindsets, management science, law, behavioral science, law enforcement communication, and forensic science—
 - Its purpose serves to improve the administration of justice in police departments and agencies at home and abroad and to raise law enforcement standards, knowledge, and cooperation worldwide.”
- Police Chaplains
 - Danny Lance & Daniel Beard took their oath on September 12th.
- Congratulations to Hal Duncan for receiving the Officer of the Year and Brandon Clark for receiving the Firefighter of the Year awards. We thank them for their outstanding service, and we thank all Officers and Firefighters for their sacrifice, dedication and service to East Ridge.

East Ridge Animal Services are needing volunteers

Developments in East Ridge

Opened recently:

- Hampton Inn, Melodee’s Restaurant, Jacks, Starbucks & Buddy’s b-b-q

Coming Soon:

- NOIRE The Nail Bar, The Lost Cajun (Our very own Firefighter Thomas Finch & his wife), Champy’s Famous Fried Chicken, Southern Honda Powersports, “The dimple ball company” & Chattanooga Mercantile expanding.

Guest Speaker

Diane Qualls – East Ridge Finance Director

In government over 20 years and a CMFO (Certified Municipal Finance Officer) and oversees all compliance with all state regulations concerning purchasing, bidding and quotes.

Overview of questions and items discussed:

- Reports that our city is in great financial shape
- Fund balance around 5 mil
- State requires 2 months of funds in reserve. We have approximately 4 months of reserve.
- Constantly keeping up-to-date on legislative changes that impact city finances.
- City has 5 million in reserve funds. Council recently change the minimum from 2 million to 4 million.
- The 2.3M Camp Jordan upgrades are funded by the Hotel/Motel tax and not from our General Fund.
- Property Tax collected last year 5M+ and Sales Tax 2M+
- Property Assessment percentages are Residential 25% and Commercial and Industrial 40% of appraised value.
- 18K per month for street and traffic lights costs.
- Is there a possibility to reduce the sanitation fees (\$180 annually for both solid and recycle) in the future? It is possible but we need to maintain a fund balance to be able to maintain and purchase equipment.
 - We have a very reasonable cost for sanitation fees compared to the private services below:
 - Republic Services for solid waste only is \$270 annually 1st year and \$300 thereafter.
 - Republic Services for both solid waste and recycle is \$306 annually 1st year and \$348 thereafter.
 - C & M Disposal for solid waste only is \$228 annually.
 - C & M Disposal for both solid waste and recycle is \$300 annually.
 - The above does not include container purchases
- East Ridge has great internal controls and are transparent. Our state requires stringent controls. Diana recommends watching a documentary Amazon Prime “All the Queen’s Horses”. This is a documentary of a state and city without internal controls.