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In the 1960’s the Commission had an Engineering Company complete an Improvement Survey of the Water System. The survey concluded with the need for 59 projects to improve the Water System. These projects were prioritized, with a list of them being approved to begin in 1965. The majority of the projects were completed by the Commission’s Water Crews, with the Engineering firm on contract when needed.

In 1970, the Water System started working on the water line from Cherokee Lake to the Filter Plant and received a Waterworks Revenue Bond to finance the Water Plant expansion.

Included in these projects, the Water System would build, among others, a new water supply source, transmission main, buildings at treatment plant, new clear well, and water tank.
To make sure no one is cold this upcoming season, MU and Central Services have teamed up for Operation Help, a community campaign that will allow individuals and/or businesses to make charitable contributions for utility needs to Central Services. These funds will be used solely for MU residential customer relief in paying utility bill related to electric, water, and wastewater services.

MU pledges to match donations up to an amount not to exceed $50,000.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to Operation Help, please make checks payable to Central Services and in the memo line, write Operation Help. Checks may be mailed to Central Services at P.O. Box 1622 Morristown 37816 or dropped off at their office.

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HealthStar Physicians Announces Availability of Rapid COVID-19 test

Healthstar Physicians announced rapid testing for the COVID-19 virus is now available for their patients. In order to offer the best point of care treatment to benefit patients and staff, Healthstar Physicians will implement the rapid test for COVID-19 for those exhibiting symptoms and are concerned they have contracted the virus. “The rapid COVID test allows us to know in a more timely manner whether a patient has the virus so that we better know how to proceed with treatment and can best advise him or her concerning self-care and quarantine measures,” says Dr. Eric Delay, Healthstar Board President.

Patients who expect they may have contracted COVID-19 should call Healthstar Physicians for further instructions about how to be seen and tested. Primary care providers at Healthstar may order the test but the patient must be symptomatic and within the first five days of exhibiting symptoms or who have had direct exposure. He or she can expect a nasal swab inserted into each nostril as Healthstar staff collects a specimen for testing, which will then be processed in-house for rapid return. Providers may perform flu and strep tests prior to a rapid COVID-19 test to eliminate other illnesses as potential diagnoses.

While initial COVID-19 tests have required a 3-10 day turnaround time, and often depend on the schedule and workload of the reference labs involved with delivering results, the new test can be completed much quicker.

The rapid COVID-19 test may be covered by insurance. Self-pay patients will be charged $110 for the test.

“We hope the rapid testing will encourage patients to get tested who are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19,” says Dr. Paul Cardali, Lab Director of Healthstar Physicians. “It’s quick, easy, and accessible.”

The rapid test is available at the After Hours Clinics including Family Practice-Morristown and The Family Practice Center-Newport. The rapid test is available in Morristown at Healthstar Family Practice, Merchants Greene Family Practice, Comprehensive Care and Wellness, and Medical Specialties. It is available in Jefferson City at Healthstar Physicians and Mountain View Pediatrics and Internal Medicine; and in Newport at The Family Practice Center, Healthstar Physicians Premier Medical, and Healthstar Internal Medicine-Newport. The rapid test is also available in White Pine at the White Pine Family Practice Center, in Greenville at Healthstar Internal Medicine-Greeneville, in Knoxville at East Tennessee Primary Care Associates and Faculty Physicians, and in LaFollette at Faculty Physicians.

In addition to offering rapid COVID-19 testing, Healthstar Physicians is currently accepting new patients. Appointments and information concerning services and specialties offered are available by calling the Healthstar office in your area. Additional information can be found online at healthstartn.org.
City Plants Christmas Tree

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. There was 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.
Deadline for January Chamber Chatter: NOON Friday, January 15.

- All articles must be submitted with “CHAMBER CHATTER” in the subject line.
- All the submissions should be in JPEG format or as Press Releases in Word.
- Information must be submitted to: manager@morristownchamber.com.
- Press releases and ads may be edited or resized due to space constraints.
- Ads must change each month and be resubmitted each month.
- This is a FREE service to our members.