

City Calendar

www.morgantonnc.gov

Monday, 3/7
City Council Meeting
6pm @ City Hall

Thursday, 3/10
Sidewalk Prophets
7pm @ CoMMA

Saturday, 3/12
Lynn Trefzger
7:30pm @ CoMMA

Saturday, 3/19
Sons of Mystro
7:30pm @ CoMMA

Monday, 3/21
Hairspray
7:30pm @ CoMMA

Tuesday, 3/22
Human Relations Commission Meeting
5:15pm @ Mountain View Rec

Saturday, 3/26
Rhonda Vincent & the Rage
7:30pm @ CoMMA

Thursday, 3/31
Tannahill Weavers
7:30pm @ CoMMA

Monday, 4/4
City Council Meeting
6pm @ City Hall

Tuesday, 4/26
Human Relations Commission Meeting
5:15pm @ Mountain View Rec

Saturday, 4/30
Southern Fried Chicks
7:30pm @ CoMMA

Monday, 5/2
City Council Meeting
6pm @ City Hall

Courthouse Square completed

The finishing touches are complete, and Morganton's newly-renovated Courthouse Square in Downtown Morganton is open for the public to enjoy.

"There were some challenges with this project along the way, but we are so proud of how it all came together, and are overjoyed that our community can enjoy such a wonderful outdoor space now," said Cultural and Creative Development Director Sharon Jablonski. "The new amphitheater and revamped courthouse grounds are something everyone can be proud of, and we look forward to hosting events on the Courthouse Square later this year."

Construction on the project began in September 2020, beginning with demolition of the old jail building before the grounds were graded for new construction. Crews worked hard against COVID-related delays to get the space ready as quickly as possible, delivering a breathtaking new space for citizens to enjoy.

There are several art installations on the

Courthouse Square, placed there as part of the project. Beside the new amphitheater stage, citizens will see three jail doors painted different shades of orange. These jail doors are from the old jail building demolished for the project, placed there as a way to commemorate the jail. In the cross section of sidewalks on the grounds, there is Morganton's Community Mandala. This mandala design was created in 2019 by City of Morganton Project Designer Michael

cont. on Page 2



City launches six new websites

If you think there's something different about the City's websites lately, you aren't wrong — after more than eight months of work, the City of Morganton recently launched six new websites. The new City websites have a completely overhauled design, are more user-friendly, navigate intuitively and are packed with updated features.

The City worked with Municode, who has more than 75 years of experience working with local governments, to build these new websites. The new sites are packed with ADA compliant features, can be translated into different languages, offer the ability for users to submit forms and applications online, and

provide users quick access to what they need with more intuitive navigation.

The new websites are budget-friendly, also — the City paid for the new sites using CARES Act dollars. It became clear during the COVID-19 outbreak that the City's web

cont. on Page 2



The City recently launched six new websites, which are packed with new features and content and have a completely revamped look.

cont. from Page 1

presence was not ready to handle moving business online, and updating and improving our online presence became more critical than ever. Using CARES Act money to pay for the development of the new websites ensured we were being fiscally responsible about the process, too.

These websites are the result of collaboration between more than 50 City employees spanning every City department. This level of collaboration ensured the new websites had unique perspectives shaping them during the design and build process, and made them ready for any user who may encounter them.

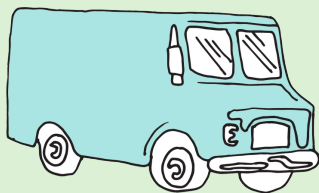
The new websites have the same domains users are already used to visiting:

www.morgantonnc.gov
www.commaonline.org
www.downtownmorganton.com
www.morgantoncommunityhouse.com

www.compasxstream.com

And, there is a brand new website being added to the mix. The Parks and Recreation Department has received its own website, which you can find by visiting:

www.morgantonparksandrec.com



Food Trucks!

Mondays • 11am-2 pm
On King Street
Wednesdays • 11am-2pm
On King Street

www.morgantonnc.gov

cont. from Page 1

Berley, and contains different design elements that all represent our community. Then, the back drop of the amphitheater stage is an art piece created by artist Miki Iwasaki. Iwasaki visited Morganton and met with various community groups to create a piece that is representative of our entire community and its history. This piece is made of panels that can be opened and rotated as necessary, so the stage can turn into a passive space for the community to use each day.

"Not only is the space naturally beautiful, but the art installations add character and a sense of place to a gathering place in our community that everyone can use and connect with," Jablonski said.

The amphitheater itself is

designed to be representative of the mountain ranges that surround our community. Throughout the grounds, there is plenty of outdoor seating so citizens can utilize and engage with the green space all year round, in addition to the space being able to be used for events such as TGIF and the Morganton Festival. Behind the stage, there is a space for food trucks to pull in and park during events throughout the year.

"This is such an incredible space for our citizens to enjoy," said City Manager Sally Sandy. "So much thought and effort went into each detail of this project, and the finished product is something we can all be proud of for decades to come." The City would like to recognize and thank the following for their private

donations to the Courthouse Square project:

- Huffman-Cornwell Foundation
- Wall Lumber Company
- Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of Hickory
- Burke County Board of Realtors
- Case Farms
- J. Michael and Charle S. Bridges
- Charles M. Fulenwider
- North Carolina Arts Council
- Burke Arts Council
- Burke County

The City would also like to thank Stimmel Associates, P.A., for their landscape architecture work on this project; Stitch Design Shop, for their design work on this project; and Wilkie Construction Company for their work in completing this project.

Chief Lowdermilk retires from City

Chief Tony Lowdermilk officially retired from Morganton Public Safety on March 1, 2022, after a 27 year career in law enforcement with the City. He will take some well-deserved time off, and then get started on a career in the private sector. Lowdermilk has served as Chief since early 2020.

"The best advice I could give anyone getting into law enforcement is to stay true to yourself and maintain your integrity," Lowdermilk said. "If you hold on to your values, regardless of who you are, it will follow you for your entire

career. I have been in Public Safety for my entire career, so I'm looking forward to finding out what my next career feels like, and plan to approach it with that same mentality."

Lowdermilk was born and raised in Morganton, and graduated from Freedom High School. He had a storied career with Morganton Public Safety, earning a multitude of honors, certifications and achievements during his career.

The City Manager's office and Human Resources will begin the hiring process

to replace Lowdermilk in the coming weeks, and are currently developing the process that will select the next Chief.

Read the full story at morgantonnc.gov.



MORGANTON CITY COUNCIL

Ronnie Thompson • Mayor
 Butch McSwain • District 1
 Chris Jernigan • District 2
 Chris Hawkins • District 3
 Wendy Cato - Mayor Pro Tem • District 4

CONTACT THE COUNCIL

☎ 828-438-5228
 ✓ citymayor@morgantonnc.gov
 ✓ citycouncil@morgantonnc.gov

Morganton Matters is produced by the City's Public Information Office.

☎ (828) 432-2516
 ✓ pubinfo@morgantonnc.gov