

City Calendar

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Monday, 12/5

Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular
CoMMA

Tuesday, 12/6

Christmas Parade
6 pm Downtown

Saturday, 12/10

December Holiday Market
10 am - 2 pm at the Farmers Market

Wednesday, 12/14

John Berry's 26th Annual Christmas Tour
CoMMA

Friday, 12/16

Shimmer: A Winter Cirque Reverie
CoMMA

Wednesday, 12/21

A Winter Solstice & Christmas Jazz Concert Featuring Joseph Hasty & Centerpiece Jazz
CoMMA

Winkler Inducted into Caldwell County Sports Hall of Fame

Rob Winkler, Special Project Manager for the City of Morganton, was inducted into the Caldwell County Sports Hall of Fame on November 14, 2022. Winkler was recognized for his many athletic talents including playing football at West Caldwell High School, where he was a varsity letterman for three years as a Quarterback and Defensive Back, earning All-Conference for two years and the team won the conference championship

New Development & Design Director

The City of Morganton is pleased to announce that Wendy Smith will be Morganton's new Development and Design Director. She was chosen after an extensive search and selection process from dozens of applicants from around the country. She began her new role on November 7.

Smith brings an expansive breadth of planning knowledge from across a wide range of environments that will be a great asset for the City. She has experience in strategic planning, preparing comprehensive plans, and managing a broad range of disciplines and functions. Her 20 years of experience includes work in both the public and private sectors. While originally from Morganton, she has most recently worked for the Northern Territory Government in Australia in the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics where she served as the Manager of Rural and Katherine Planning.

City Manager Sandy commented, "Wendy's diverse experience and her approach to planning, development, and leadership style make her a great fit for us. We are excited she has come home and will use her talents to move the City forward."

Smith will supervise the Development and Design Department, which includes planning, zoning, code enforcement, and engineering. Her perspective, expertise, and team-centric approach will be valuable to the City as it begins a new comprehensive planning process in the near future.

Her previous experience includes serving as the Manager of Planning and Regulatory Services and Acting Director of Infrastructure and Operations for Litchfield Council as well as the Northern Territory Planning Manager for Elton Consulting, both in Darwin, Northern

Territory, Australia. Stateside work includes serving as an Associate Planner for RRM Design Group in San Clemente, California and with the City of Washington DC as a Comprehensive Plan Assessment Intern. She also served as the Program Manager for the NC Smart Growth Training Program at the Center for Urban and Regional Studies at UNC- Chapel Hill while she was earning her Master of Regional Planning degree from UNC-CH. Smith also earned a Graduate Certificate of Urban Design from the University of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, and has a BA degree from Appalachian State University in psychology with a minor in general business. Now that she has returned to the States, Smith will be sitting for the American Institute of Certified Planner's exam in December.



Wendy Smith started her new position as Development & Design Director with the City of Morganton on Nov. 7, 2022

MERRY
Christmas

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year.....

...is getting even better in Morganton this year! We have something for everyone to enjoy. The Holiday Raffle runs through Dec. 16th. There will be 5 drawings with prizes totaling \$3,000 in Downtown Bucks!

The season kicked off on November 19th with a little bit of something for everyone. The morning started with the Holiday Market, the Winter Carnival on the new Courthouse Square, an ice sculpture demonstration, the memorial tree lighting ceremony and carriage rides. Carriage rides will continue every Friday and Saturday until Christmas.

On December 5th we keep the fun coming with a performance of Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular at CoMMA. This spectacular show focuses on Nochebuena(Christmas Eve), where Mexican families attend midnight mass before returning home to a late-night feast and lots of music!

What can we do to follow up an amazing show at CoMMA, how about the Morganton Christmas Parade. it will begin at 6 pm on December 6th in Downtown Morganton. The parade is always a blast as you watch the different organizations ride through with festive floats and decorations.

Next on our holiday extravaganza is a special evening at CoMMA with John

Berry's 26th Annual Christmas Tour on December 14th. The grammy-winning, platinum-selling country star returns to CoMMA with a crowd pleasing Christmas concert. The exceptional evening will have plenty of holiday cheer, videos, an incredible light show, and classic John Berry songs in the first half of the concert followed by an unforgettable set of Christmas songs for you to enjoy this season.

Would you like a little bit different holiday event? On December 16th, Shimmer:

A Winter Cirque Reverie will be coming to CoMMA. This show will take you on a journey to a shimmering wonderland of circus spectacle and derring-do! You will find yourself aglow as this aerial snow show mesmerizes your senses.

If all of this was not enough, we have one last show at CoMMA! A Winter Solstice & Christmas Jazz Concert featuring Joseph Hasty & Centerpiece Jazz which will be held on December 21st. A musical career that has spanned over 30 years, Joseph Hasty's extensive performing experience has carried him to stages in America, Australia, and Europe. Joseph is a gifted performer who displays talents as a composer and arranger. Centerpiece Jazz has been pleasing audiences for over a decade with their unique arrangements of holiday and Christmas Classics.

Whether you are taking a carriage ride, entering to win Downtown Bucks, seeing a show, taking a picture with Santa, or just enjoying twinkling lights downtown, Morganton is sure to provide you with an experience of a lifetime this holiday season!



Thank you to our Electric department for putting up the decorations including our newest star.

all three seasons playing in the state playoffs each year. He played basketball for two years in which the team won the conference tournament championship both seasons and made the state playoffs. His biggest athletic accomplishments were in baseball. He played varsity baseball all four years in High School. Their team won two conference championships, he was All Conference three years, two time Conference Player of the Year, three time team MVP. He played in the State playoffs three years and the Western Finals his junior season. Winkler is the all-time strikeout leader; innings pitched and wins for West Caldwell, where he was a pitcher and shortstop. He went 27-6 including 10-0 his senior season, his batting average was over .400 for three seasons. He struck out 120 batters in only 65 innings of his sophomore season with twenty strikeouts in seven innings of a conference tournament game. Winkler was the 1991 Gatorade Player of the Year for the state of North Carolina a recognition based on athletic ability and academics. Rob also played on the

West Caldwell team that ranked fifth in the country according to USA Today.

Winkler was a two time Silver Medalist in the NC State Games going 2-0 and hitting three homeruns. He played for American Legion Post 29 for three years where he was a member of the 1990 and 1991 State Champions, leading the team in wins and strikeouts both seasons.

After High School, Winkler attended NC State University on a baseball scholarship as a pitcher, outfielder and infielder. During his tenure, the Wolfpack won the ACC Tournament once and was tournament runner-up once; they played in three regionals. He batted over .300 in three of his seasons and was a Team USA Alternate during the summer of 1993.

After graduation from NC State University, where he attained a BS in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management, Winkler has served in multiple positions with Parks and Recreation. He was Director of Recreation for the City of Lenoir and the City of Morganton. He also referees basketball and has been a ref in three high school state championship games.

Rob and his wife Elizabeth have two sons, Ben and Ryan. They reside in Cedar Rock.



MORGANTON CITY COUNCIL

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- Chris Jernigan • District 2
- Chris Hawkins • District 3
- Wendy Cato - Mayor Pro Tem • District 4

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