

FEBRUARY 2024 • The City of Morganton Local Government Newsletter

Saturday, 2/10 & 3/9
Pop-up Farmer's Market
9am-1pm @ 111 North Green Street



Friday, 2/16
Push Physical Theatre:
Generic Male
7:30pm @ CoMMA

Sunday, 2/25
Johnny Cash - The Official Concert Experience
3 pm @ CoMMA



Tuesday, 3/12
The Peking Acrobats
7:30pm @ CoMMA



Wednesday, 4/10
Coffee with a Cop
8:30-9:30am @ Little Guatemala

Bethel Park renovations to start in February

Renovations for Bethel Park are set to start in February with the official closure to the public starting February 5th.

After many months of preparation, the city is moving forward with Baker Grading to begin the renovation and repair process for Bethel Park. Flooding issues within the park prompted these renovations and repairs. The city is taking these steps to help resolve the flooding issues and to make other improvements as well. Stream restoration, park improvements, new playground equipment, relocation of the dog park, new picnic shelter, new walking track with workout stations and new bridges entering the park are among the list of updates.

A reopen date is not available at this time, but renovations are anticipated to take up to one year. The city will keep the public updated with periodic updates during the renovation process through the city website and social media. While these renovations are being made, please enjoy the City of Morganton's other beautiful public parks including Catawba Meadows, Freedom Park, Carbon City Park, Drexel Heritage Park, Martin Luther King Jr. Park and Martha's Park.

"This project has been a long-time coming and we are thrilled that the time has come to restore Bethel Park and make it better than it ever has been for our community."

- Sally Sandy, City Manager



ACC Chili Cookoff stirs up competition

Chilly? ... drive on over to the Morganton Community House on Friday, March 15th from 11am to 1:30pm to join the Downtown Development Association for the 30th Annual ACC Chili Cook Off presented by Farm Bureau Insurance. It's time for restaurants, amateurs and businesses to get back in the kitchen and cook up their award winning chili recipes.

If you have a chili recipe that you think is on fire, we encourage you to enter into the competition! Amateur entry forms will be available soon. On the day of the event, simply bring your crock-pot of chili to the Morganton Community House between 7:30am and 9:00am Friday, March 15th. Prizes given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners! All restaurants are welcomed to join the action as the commercial division of the Chili Cook-Off includes bragging rights of "The BEST chili in town"!

Tickets will be available closer to the event at a bargain price of \$10 a ticket. This buys you all-you-can-eat chili with all the fixin's: cornbread, salad, dessert and drink. Can't dine in? You can get your meal to go. The Cook-Off features over a dozen chili recipes to sample and a place for friends to relax. Visit www.downtownmorganton.com for more information.



Right tree, right place

A BEAUTIFUL MORGANTON STARTS HERE ...

Arbor Day in North Carolina is designated as the first Friday following March 15. This precedes National Arbor Day, which is not until the last Friday of April. For NC, March tends to be a more forgiving time for plant survival as temperatures can become too high by late April.

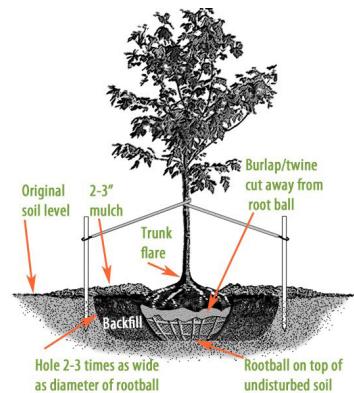
Tree plantings should be kept at least 30 feet away from overhead power lines. If closer, trees should not mature more than 15 feet tall.

How To Plant A Tree from the NCUFC website

Ready to plant your tree? The first thing you need to do is to determine what you want the tree to do for you.

- A large tree to provide shade?
- An ornamental tree with beautiful flowers, leaves, or bark?
- A tree with dense leaves or needles to act as a windbreak or screen?
- A deciduous tree that cools the house in the summer and drops its leaves in the fall so the winter sun can warm the house?
- A tree that bears fruit for you or attracts wildlife?

Answering these questions can help determine where to locate a tree and what type of tree you want or need. You also need to determine if the tree needs full sun, partial shade (like dogwood), or a wetter environment (like weeping willow). For help with selecting high-quality nursery stock, refer to the NC Urban Forest Council's handy Tree Owner's Manual.



Morganton Community Appearance Advisory Commission

IMAGINE Morganton 2040 Update:



Scan the QR Code to visit the Conceptual Growth Strategy PDF.

The Conceptual Growth Strategy is an important step on the path to creating Morganton's new Future Land Use Map. The strategy features a map that reflects current trends and influences on future development first introduced in the Community Characteristics Report. The map also reflects the feedback received from the community, stakeholders, City staff, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and City Council. The Conceptual Growth Strategy serves as the first glimpse of how Morganton's approach toward land use can fulfill the intent of the Vision and Planning Principles.

To see more information about the progress of the IMAGINE Morganton 2040 Comprehensive Land Use Plan, visit <https://engagekh.com/im2040>

City, county installs new windows on Historic Burke County Courthouse

If you have driven by the Historic Burke County Courthouse in the past few weeks, you may have noticed something different about the more than a century old building. In a joint effort by Burke County Government and the City of Morganton, the windows of the courthouse have been upgraded and replaced. The windows are now double pane and tempered on the bottom level. City of Morganton Public Works department contracted with Home Solutions to help with the installation. The city's electric department provided a bucket truck to help the contractor reach the high windows. Upgrades and maintenance of the courthouse is an ongoing process with several more projects coming up in the near future including a new membrane on the "cupola" or top dome of the courthouse, wood repair and replacement, and painting the exterior of the building.

Michael Chapman, Public Works Director for the City of Morganton, said "It is a historic building and in the heart of downtown Morganton, so it is important to make sure it is kept in great condition."

Linda Lindsey, past president and current treasurer of the Historic Burke Foundation said, "The replacement windows in the Old Burke County Courthouse have made a transformational difference in the appearance, inside and outside, of this beautiful and historic building. They also have significantly increased the amount of sunlight that comes in through the windows and the brighter interior on both floors is very welcome..." To see the full press release, visit www.morgantonncc.gov.



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