

City Calendar

<http://bit.ly/mgacal>

Monday, 3/9

Board of Adjustment
5:15pm @ City Hall

Thursday, 3/12

**Planning & Zoning
Commission Meeting**
5:15pm @ City Hall

**Recreation Advisory
Commission Meeting**

6pm @ Community House

Friday, 3/13

ACC Chili Cook Off
11am @ Community House

Saturday, 3/14

Luck of the Irish FAB Crawl
11am @ Downtown
Morganton

Friday, 3/20

An American in Paris
7:30pm @ CoMMA

Friday, 4/3

Edwin McCain in Concert
7:30pm @ CoMMA

Monday, 4/6

City Council Meeting
6pm @ City Hall

Thursday, 4/9

**Planning & Zoning
Commission Meeting**
5:15pm @ City Hall

**Recreation Advisory
Commission Meeting**

6pm @ Community House

Friday, 4/10

**City Hall Closed for Good
Friday**

Saturday, 4/25

**Farmer's Market Opens
for the Season**
8am @ 300 Beach Street

Lowdermilk named Interim Chief

Tony Lowdermilk was sworn in as Interim Chief of Morganton Public Safety during a ceremony at Morganton City Hall Friday, January 31. Lowdermilk was promoted to Interim Chief from the rank of Major of Support Services. Lowdermilk stepped into the role after the retirement of Ronnie Rector.

Lowdermilk was born and raised in Morganton, and graduated from Freedom High School. He received his Associate's Degree in Applied Science and Criminal Justice Technology from Western Piedmont Community College and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Lees McRae College. He said he is looking forward to serving as Interim Chief of Morganton Public Safety, and feels well prepared for the role.

"It is an honor to be selected to serve as Interim Chief," Lowdermilk said. "I always had an interest in police work and firefighting, and Morganton Public Safety does both, which is what drove me to join the department here after my schooling. Going from first serving as a Public Safety

Officer to now serving as Interim Chief is a dream come true. I look forward to continuing to serve the citizens of Morganton, and hope to meet and exceed their expectations during my tenure."

City Manager Sally Sandy said Lowdermilk was a natural successor to Rector to serve as Interim Chief.

"Tony is well-qualified for this position, and we are sure he will serve the citizens of Morganton with integrity," Sandy said.

To read more about Lowdermilk's career, as well as Rector's retirement, visit <https://www.morgantonnc.gov/index.php/government/city-manager/public-information-office/newsroom>.



Tony Lowdermilk

2020 Census begins this month

The United States Census is beginning this month, and it is imperative that people living in Morganton and Burke County participate. Each home will receive an invitation in the mail this month to respond to a short questionnaire. You can complete the questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail.

The census is about more than simply counting the population of an area.

The census provides critical data for Morganton and Burke County that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide services, funding, and support for the community. Census data is responsible for determining how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is allocated across the nation each year. When everyone participates, it is more likely our area

will receive its fair share of those funds. Receiving these funds helps local government to continue to improve the quality of life for everyone who lives in Burke County.

There are a few important things to note about the census:

- It's easy to participate. The Census can be completed by mail, over the phone, or online. There are 9 questions about how many people live at the location, their

Please pick up litter

The City of Morganton would like to ask for its citizens' help in keeping our streets litter-free.

The City would like to remind its citizens to not litter. But, if you see litter on the street or in a public place, please pick it up and place it in the nearest trash can.

If you want to take it to the next level, the City offers an Adopt-A-Highway program. Any citizen or group of citizens can "adopt" a highway and pledge to do their part to keep it clean.

To learn more about the City's Adopt-A-Highway program, call the Public Works Department at 828-438-5248.

Festival wins two awards

The Historic Morganton Festival, Inc. won two major awards at the North Carolina Association of Festivals and Events ShowFest Conference in Charlotte January 26 and 27.

Maureen Austin won The Betsy Roseman Volunteer of the Year Award, and the Morganton Festival won the Best Non-print Media Award for its 30 second commercial produced by Motion Media.

"Every festival and event should have a Maureen Austin on their team. We cannot thank her enough for all of her help over the years, and she is very deserving of this prestigious award," said Morganton Festival Director Sharon Jablonski.

To read the full press release about the awards, visit <http://bit.ly/2PbSUZj>.

ages, relationship to others living in the household, and race.

- It's safe and secure. The Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information and keep it strictly confidential. Answers will be used only to produce statistics and cannot be used for law enforcement purposes, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). There are no questions about citizenship

status or requesting a Social Security Number.

- Everyone counts. The Census counts all residents – not voters, not citizens, but anyone who is living in the United States. An accurate count of anyone living in Morganton and Burke County as of April 1, 2020 is the goal.

It is important to make sure everyone gets counted so that we get proper amounts of funding and

representation in Congress.

For more information, please visit www.2020census.gov.



Electric Services wins Public Power Awards of Excellence

The City of Morganton's Electric Services Department recently won two 2019 Public Power Awards of Excellence from ElectriCities of North Carolina.

Morganton earned the Value of Public Power Award and the Wholesale Power Cost Award.

"The commitment and dedication that North Carolina's public power providers demonstrate to their local communities is extremely impressive," said ElectriCities CEO Roy Jones. "They are constantly working, in ways big and small, to deliver better service and more value to the millions of North Carolina businesses and homes served by public power."

Morganton won the Value of Public Power Award for effectively demonstrating and

communicating the benefits of public power to its citizens and stakeholders. Morganton was recognized for highlighting its Electric Service Department's response to inclement weather events through the use of social media, shining a spotlight on its linemen during Public Power Week with a lineman video series, and its involvement in community outreach events.

ElectriCities awarded Morganton the Wholesale Power Cost Award for providing competitive and stable wholesale electric rates for its customers. Morganton was recognized for passing along an average 3 percent cost reduction to its customers in their bills, beginning on Aug. 1, 2019. Additionally, the City's Electric

Services Department was recognized for effectively conducting load management at its power substations, and implementing power saving measures, such as installing LED lights, fault current indicators, fuse cutoffs and line reclosures throughout its system.

"The men and women of our Electric Services Department work tirelessly to keep the lights on for all of our customers," said City Manager Sally Sandy. "We are always searching for ways to serve our customers better, and we are very proud that our Electric Services Department has earned this well-deserved recognition."

To read the full press release on these awards, visit <http://bit.ly/39VRBWV>.

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

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