

City Calendar

<http://bit.ly/mgacal>

Saturday, 7/6
Freedom FAB Crawl
All Day @ Downtown
Morganton

Saturday, 7/13
Cooking Demonstrations
at the Farmer's Market
8am @ 300 Beach St.

Saturday, 7/20
The Butterbeans Live at
the Farmer's Market
8am @ 300 Beach St.

Thursday, 8/1
Center Square Park Public
Input Meeting
5:30pm @ Collett Street
Recreation Center

Monday, 8/5
City Council Meeting
6pm @ City Hall

Thursday, 8/8
Planning & Zoning
Commission Meeting
5:15pm @ City Hall

Recreation Advisory
Commission Meeting
6pm @ Community House

Saturday, 8/10
Cooking Demonstrations
at the Farmer's Market
8am @ 300 Beach St.

Monday, 8/12
Board of Adjustment
Meeting
5:15pm @ City Hall

Saturday, 8/17
The Butterbeans Live at
the Farmer's Market
8am @ 300 Beach St.

Monday, 9/2
City Hall Closed for Labor
Day

Alpine Mill named Great Transformation

Alpine Mill has officially been recognized as a "Great Transformation" in the 2019 Great Places in North Carolina awards program, sponsored by the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-NC).

A Great Transformation is a place that has been retrofitted and reenergized. Morganton's nomination highlighted the \$6.5 million investment by Airlie Properties into transforming the property into a mixed-use residential and commercial development, with 47 apartment units and 40,000 square feet of commercial space in downtown Morganton. The panel noted the project's gateway appeal and wide-ranging positive impacts of this project on the surrounding community. Jason Burdette, who served on the expert panel and is the Planning Director for the Town of Davidson, said, "The Alpine Mill project transformed a longtime eyesore into a stunning gateway anchoring downtown Morganton. The 47 residential units are 100% leased, and the commercial component, which is under construction, is generating a lot of buzz for the community."



Alpine Mill turned the old Drexel Heritage furniture plant into a thriving mixed-use development.

Great Places winners are recognized at the APA-NC Annual Conference in October. Winners are also provided marketing materials to use in their business and economic development efforts, receive an award at a special presentation in their community, and will be featured on the Great Places NC and the NC Chapter of the American Planning Association websites. Representatives from APA-NC will be present at the Aug. 5, 2019, Morganton City Council Meeting to present the Great Transformation award recognizing Alpine Mill.

Morganton Festival returns Sept. 6 & 7

The Morganton Festival will return to the streets of Downtown Morganton Sept. 6 & 7, 2019.

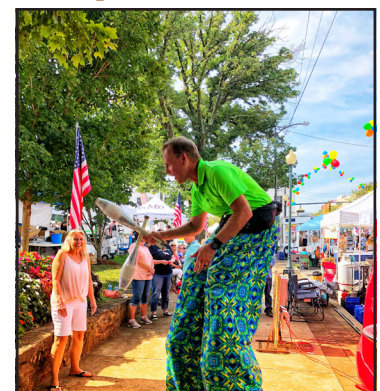
Come out to enjoy hundreds of vendors selling their crafts and other wares, delicious food and fantastic live music. The Kid and Teen Zone will offer entertainment and activities for youth.

The MADE Competition (Morganton Arts, Design and Engineering) Competition is back for its

second year. This year's competition brings the twist of having students build a wind turbine live on site.

Rodney Atkins, one of country music's biggest stars, will headline this year's festival, performing on the City stage at 8:30pm Saturday night.

Find out more information by visiting morgantonfest.org.



The Morganton Festival returns this year on September 6 & 7, 2019.

City Council approves budget for 2019-2020

The Morganton City Council approved the City's 2019-2020 Fiscal Year budget after a public hearing Monday, June 17. The budget totals \$77,086,786, and includes funding for basic services and for projects that will advance the vision for Morganton to be a vibrant and attractive community for residents and visitors.

This new budget brings positive changes for City utility customers, as electric service rates will drop for the second consecutive year. The average City electric customer will see a \$3.70 decrease in their monthly bills when the changes go into effect July 1. There will be no changes in the City's property tax rate, special downtown district tax rate, or rates for solid waste, water and sewer services. COMPAS internet and phone

customers will not see any rate increases, either.

"We continue to provide big city services wrapped in small town charm at a tremendous value for our customers," said City Manager Sally Sandy. "We are proud of that, and we are continuing to respond to the marketplace to provide our customers with the best value possible."

Programming costs for COMPAS cable television service remain significant, at \$2,269,182, representing 42 percent of COMPAS' budget. Renegotiations have helped some, but COMPAS broadcast basic customers will see a slight \$4 per month rate increase, and COMPAS basic subscribers will see a small \$5 per month rate increase to help mitigate programming costs. These new rates will take effect on

Jan. 1, 2020.

The approved budget supports continued investment in the experience of Morganton. Resources are included to ensure Morganton remains desirable for residents and visitors alike, with funding being allocated for projects that are underway all over the City that improve quality of life.

"Large projects are underway all over Morganton. New hotels, restaurants, housing, the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics-Morganton Campus, housing, greenway connectors and streetscape projects are just a few," Sandy said. "The City and our partners are investing to ensure the positive economic momentum in this community is not

interrupted. While the process of budgeting for the next fiscal year may be old hat, the development and commitment to a budget that challenges us and takes Nature's Playground to new levels is anything but old hat. We work hard to continue to master all the pieces that allow us to fund the climb of realizing our vision of Morganton being a vibrant and attractive community. I encourage the community to get excited. Look for ways to be involved in the bright future of Morganton. At the very least, take pride in the community we call home."

To view City Manager Sally Sandy's full budget message and learn more about the 2019-2020 City budget, visit <https://www.morgantonnc.gov/index.php/government/finance/current-budget-fees>.

Keep grass out of storm drains

The City would like to remind its citizens to keep grass and lawn trimmings out of storm drains.

Do not mow or blow loose grass into the curb or gutter.

Instead, mulch grass and clippings and return those nutrients to the soil, or bag the clippings for collection and disposal.

Not only do loose grass and yard clippings clog City storm drains, organic yard debris can have a negative impact on local streams and rivers.

Once in the storm drain system, clippings eventually make their way to the river where they contribute nitrogen and phosphorous. These

nutrients cause unwanted and uncontrolled growth of algae and aquatic weeds in the local waterways and lakes.

If you have questions, call the Public Works Department at 828-438-5248.



You can bag your clippings for collection and disposal.

Efficiency rebates are available

Did you know you can get a rebate for installing an efficient heat pump or water heater in your home?

Rebates for a heat pump 15 seer or greater start at \$350, and Energy Star compliant water heater rebates start at \$150.

You can call our Electric Services Department at 828-438-5277 for more information on the rebate program.

Visit <https://www.morgantonnc.gov/index.php/government/electric-services/rebate-programs> for more information.

MORGANTON CITY COUNCIL

Ronnie Thompson • Mayor

S. Sidney Simmons • District 1

Forrest A. Fleming - Mayor Pro Tem • District 2

Chris Hawkins • District 3

Wendy Cato • District 4

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