

City Calendar

<http://bit.ly/mgacal>

Monday, 5/10
Board of Adjustment
5:15pm @ City Hall

Thursday, 5/13
Planning & Zoning Commission
5:15pm @ City Hall

Monday, 5/31
Memorial Day
City Hall Closed

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

Thursday, 6/10
Planning & Zoning Commission
5:15pm @ City Hall

Monday, 7/5
Independence Day Holiday
City Hall Closed



Get Involved!

Openings are available on multiple City boards and commissions. If you are interested in serving, contact: Kelly Russell at krussell@morgantonnc.gov or 828-438-5228.

CoMMA to hold concert series

CoMMA Performing Arts Center invites the community to join together on the BackPorch — CoMMA's open-air amphitheater — as they showcase local and regional artists while giving 100 percent of ticket sales to support local charities. Seating will be offered both in the amphitheatre and on the lawn behind the amphitheatre. Beer, wine, water and Pepsi products will be for sale. CoMMA will be following Centers for Disease Control Guidelines with socially distanced seating and hand washing stations, and masks will be required.

CoMMA is excited to offer you, your family and friends a chance to get out and enjoy some great evenings under the stars as they present four shows with great variety. May 6th will feature country music artist Casey Clark, and 100 percent of ticket sales will go to The Meeting Place Mission. On May 27th, Joseph Hasty & Centerpiece Jazz will play the BackPorch and all ticket proceeds will go to The Blue Ridge Healthcare Foundation. Latin Twist Food Truck will be on site May 27th only. On June 10th, A Very Magical Family Reading Night with Mark Daniel will be at the amphitheatre, and ticket proceeds will go to the Burke Literacy Council. On June 24th, join us for A Night of Comedy with Jason Allen King and Tara Brown, where all ticket sale proceeds will go to The Outreach Center. All tickets for each event are \$20 amphitheatre seating/\$15 Lawn seating; except for June 10th, on kids' night, when tickets will be \$5.

Country music artist Casey Clark, who is kicking off the series, is a North Carolina native. Clark is a firm believer in the power of a well-crafted tune. Clark's work both as a songwriter and relentless road dog have won him respect from several of Nashville's hottest hit makers. At his show on May 6th, Clark will be performing with Dale Meyer and James Brock.

Two weeks later on May 27th, Joseph Hasty & Centerpiece Jazz will take the stage performing classic jazz, swing tunes, show

tunes and other standards. Centerpiece Jazz will be playing all of your favorites.

On June 10th, bring out the whole family for A Very Magical Family Reading Night with Mark Daniel. Imagine if you mixed the voice of Andy Griffith, the laugh of Mister Rogers, a book lover, a storyteller, a puppeteer, a magician, a dad, with a bit of folksiness and whimsy, then shook it up a bit — out would come Mark Daniel!

On June 24th, join CoMMA for A Night of Comedy with Jason Allen King and Tara Brown.

Jason Allen King is a comedian, writer, actor, and award-winning filmmaker based in Charlotte. Using the backdrop of his personal experiences, family, and relationships — or lack thereof — King's stage presence evokes a unique perspective on familiar situations. Recently voted Charlotte's Favorite Comedian by Elevate Lifestyle, King has opened for renowned comedians like Rob Schneider, Christopher Titus, Colin Quinn, and Dave Attell.

Winner of "Jeanne Robertson's Comedy with Class Humor Competition", Tara Brown performs clean and family-friendly comedy across the country. Tara was a winner of the "Fight Night" and "Comedy Battle" competitions at The Comedy Zone in Charlotte; and was a two-time finalist for "Comedian of the Year" by the Queen City Awards. A native of Brooklyn, New York, Tara Brown now resides in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The CoMMA Box Office hours are from noon until 5:00 pm weekdays and one hour prior to all events. For additional information, please contact CoMMA at 828-433-7469, ext. 1 or visit the CoMMA website at www.commaonline.org.

COMMA

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Martha's Park now open to the public

After being closed for renovations for several months, Martha's Park officially reopened to the public at the end of April. The park has been completely revamped, with all new equipment being installed.

Martha's Park, which is 1.4 acres, now features a fenced and gated play area, all new Americans with Disabilities Act compliant playground equipment, three picnic shelters, a splash pad, swing sets and handicap-accessible restrooms. These renovations and new features were made possible by funding from the City of Morganton and the Morganton Service League.

Martha's Park originally opened in 1972 as The Children's Park, and was funded by the City of Morganton. The Park was renovated in 2004 with funds raised by the Morganton Service League and renamed in honor and memory of Martha Pheifer.

"We were able to use the colder winter months to completely update Martha's Park for our citizens, so they can enjoy an upgraded recreational experience all summer," said Parks and Recreation Director Rob Winkler. "The new equipment installed at the park will be more enjoyable, and last longer, so more children can continue to play at Martha's Park for years to come."

Morganton Festival returning in downscaled format for 2021

Get ready for not one, not two — but three weekends of fun this year as the Morganton Festival returns to the streets of Downtown Morganton. The festival weekends will see craft and food vendors, live music and more fill our streets.

The Morganton Festival Weekends will take place over the weekends of Aug. 27-28, Sept. 3-4 and Sept. 10-11 with the tagline of "Tradition Upheld, Safely Downscaled." While festival organizers are glad to be able to have Festival Weekends this year, they will be adhering to all NCDHHS COVID-19 protocols, gathering restrictions and safety measures in place at the time of the Festival Weekends.

Each Friday during the Festival Weekends will have a concert held on the courthouse square with

some traditional festival fare to follow on Saturday. The lineup for each of the Saturdays throughout the event will feature about 50 vendors, several of the most popular food vendors from previous festivals and a specialty event, like the Sunrise Run and the MADE competition.

Traditionally, the festival sees a larger concert headline its Saturday night performance, but this year the focus will be on regional bands for the Friday night concerts.

This year will not count toward the official number of Historic Morganton Festivals held in Morganton throughout the decades. While this would have been the

39th year, that count will be paused until full-scale festivals can hopefully resume in 2022.

If you are interested in signing up to participate in the Sunrise Run, you can already do so by visiting <https://morgantonfest.org/sunrise-run/>.

More details about the lineup for each weekend, specialty events, musical acts and more will be released closer to the first weekend of the Festival Weekends. In the meantime, visit <https://morgantonfest.org/> to learn more.



CoMMA wants to show your stuff

Come back to CoMMA and show off your stuff! As part of CoMMA's "Come Back to CoMMA" campaign, the performing arts center is seeking to feature photos of our community members at CoMMA over the past 35 years. CoMMA is currently accepting photos, ticket stubs, playbills, and memorabilia from past

shows and events held at CoMMA. They will feature these items during an open house event before the opening of our next season.

Items are being accepted until May 31, 2021. Items may be dropped off at CoMMA Monday through Friday from 12-5 p.m. or emailed to aaustin@morgantonnc.gov.

All items must be marked with name and phone number so CoMMA can return them to their respective owners. Also please mark items with an approximate date if possible.

For further information, contact Amber Austin at 828.433.7469.

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

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

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