

## CITY CALENDAR



**Monday, 2/6**

**City Council Meeting**  
6pm @ City Hall

**Thursday, 2/9**

**Zuzu African Acrobats**  
7:30pm @ CoMMA



**Saturday, 2/11**

**Pop-up Farmer's Market**  
9am-1pm @ North Green Street location



**Thursday, 2/23**

**Who Hijacked My Fairytale?**  
Starring Kelly Swanson  
7:30pm @ CoMMA



**Thursday, 3/9**

**ACC Chili Cookoff!**  
11am-1:30pm @ The Morganton Community House



## ACC Chili Cook-off returns in March

Can you smell the return of savory spices in the air? The 29th Downtown Development Associations Annual ACC Chili Cook-Off presented by Farm Bureau Insurance is BACK on the court and in-person on Thursday, March 9th from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Morganton Community House. The DDA is planning the best event yet for your taste buds to enjoy. You will have the opportunity to taste over 20 recipes of the BEST chili from amongst local amateur chefs and commercial restaurants! Tickets are \$7 and include all-you-can-eat chili with all the fixin's: cornbread, salad, dessert and a drink. Tickets are available for purchase before the event and at the door. For those who think their chili recipe has what it takes to win, you can enter it in the competition. Applications for amateur and commercial chili recipes are now available online at [downtownmorganton.com](http://downtownmorganton.com). Proceeds from this event go to sponsor projects supported by the DDA throughout the year such as Halloween Spooktacular, Winter Carnival and the Christmas parade!



*"We are so excited to have the ACC Chili Cook-off back in-person this year! Since our last in-person cook-off in 2019, we've got new recipes and new restaurants that are eager to compete. It's going to be AMAZING"*  
- Abby Gentry, Main Street Manager

## City names Sigmon new PIO

The City of Morganton has selected Jonelle Sigmon as the newest Public Information Officer effective Dec. 12, 2022.

Sigmon is a Morganton native and graduate from Gardner Webb University with a degree in Communications. She previously worked for the Morganton News Herald as a reporter and Burke County Public Schools as their Marketing and Communications Specialist. She has experience with social media and print marketing, graphic design, photography, videography, writing, podcast creation and management.

In her time at The News Herald, she received multiple awards for her work in journalism from the North Carolina Press Association. Sigmon chose journalism because she enjoys meeting new people, writing and telling stories through photos and video. While at BCPS, she was a

member of the North Carolina School Public Relations Association and also received awards for multiple video projects, podcast episodes and photography pieces.



Sigmon started her new role as PIO on Dec, 12, 2022.

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Sigmon grew up in the Morganton area and wants to use her knowledge and skills to help as many people as possible realize how wonderful of a place it is to live, work and play.

Sigmon will oversee all internal and external communications, social media and website content, the generation of press releases, graphic design, photography and videography, and newsletters.

City Manager Sally Sandy said, "We are thrilled to have Jonelle onboard and know that her work experience and her abilities in the realm of journalism and public relations will help move the City of Morganton forward in a positive direction. She has come to the position already having established relationships with several city employees which will help her hit the ground running."

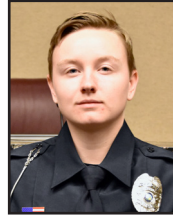
While Sigmon isn't on the job, she enjoys hunting for antiques with her husband Cody, spending time with family and friends, shopping, photography, crocheting and watching professional tennis. Sigmon is also a volunteer youth leader at her home church Royal Chapel Church of God and enjoys spending time with the youth group.



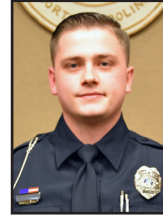
## MDPS welcomes 5 new officers



D. Snead



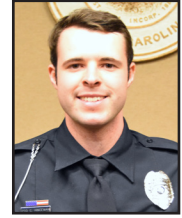
K. Patton



T. Martin



H. McCall



C. Hinceman

Morganton Public Safety recently swore in five new police officers at Morganton City Hall. This is the first time in more than two decades where that many officers have been sworn in at one time. We are very excited that they have chosen

the City of Morganton to serve and protect. The new officers are H. McCall D. Snead, K. Patton, T. Martin and C. Hinceman, who all recently graduated from Basic Law Enforcement Training. The ceremony at City Hall included the officers

and their families, MDPS command staff, and various members of MDPS that came out to show support. The officers are from around Burke and Caldwell counties and we are happy that MDPS has become a part of their law enforcement journey.

## A beautiful Morganton starts here...



Arbor Day in North Carolina was 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 remain high by late April. Tree plantings should be kept at least 30 feet away from overhead power lines. Plant a tree this March to celebrate an important event in your life.

Thank you, CAAC

## WE ARE HIRING!



Scan this QR code to see our job openings!

## Recreation releases athletic calendar

The City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Department has released their 2023 athletic calendar! What will you take a swing at this year? From softball, cornhole and flag football there is a sport for everyone. Please visit the city's Parks and Recreation page at [www.morgantonparksandrec.com/parksrec](http://www.morgantonparksandrec.com/parksrec) under youth or adult sports to see the full schedule.

Please contact Jesse Bunton at 828-438-5356 or email at [jbunton@morgantonnc.gov](mailto:jbunton@morgantonnc.gov) for more information on signups or schedules. Grab a friend and come see how much fun you can have!



### 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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