

Halloween events planned within city

The City of Morganton is “creeping” it real this year with two events for families to enjoy this Halloween season.

Halloween Spooktacular

Halloween Spooktacular, a family-friendly event, brought to you by the Morganton Downtown Development Association, is set for **Tuesday, October 31st from 3-6pm**. Come decked out in your best Halloween costumes to enjoy trick-or-treating at several downtown businesses from 3-5pm. The Courthouse lawn will be host to several activities kids of all ages will love!



- **10am-4pm** - Pumpkin Carving Demo on amphitheater stage
- **3-6pm** - FREE hayrides, FREE pumpkin decorating, and inflatable fun provided by Summit Community Church
- **3-5pm** - Kids pumpkin decorating
- **4pm** - Jack o' Lantern Contest entries begin
- **4:15pm** - Witches Dance on East Union
- **4 pm** - Dance Factory Dance on East Union
- **4:30pm** - Jack o' Lantern Judging Contest
- **5pm** - FREE (0-10 year old + family) costume contest

Spooky Meadows Haunted Hayride

Ghosts, goblins, and jack-o-lanterns at night; we sure hope you visit Spooky Meadows for a fright. Spooky Meadows Haunted Hayride is right around the corner and ready to bring all the chills and thrills. Parental Discretion is advised for children 5 and under. Come out to Catawba Meadows on **October 20th and 21st from 7-10 pm** to hop on board a thrilling, haunted hayride. Tickets are available on site. Cash only. Ages 13 and up will be \$5. Ages 5-12 will be \$3 and ages 4 and under are free. Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase on site. At Spooky Meadows, teamwork makes the screams work!

To see a promo video of Spooky Meadows, scan this QR code!
Warning: Parental Discretion Advised



CITY CALENDAR



Friday, 10/20

M.A.D.E Competition
8am-5pm @ CoMMA



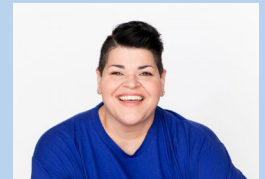
Friday, 10/27

Ofrenda: A Dia de los Muertos Celebration
7:30pm @ CoMMA



Thursday, 11/9

Jen Kober – Stand-Up Comedy
7:30pm @ CoMMA



Saturday, 11/18

Winter Carnival - 2:30-5:30 pm @ Historic Courthouse Lawn

City celebrates Public Power Week in October

Public Power Week is celebrated October 2-6, but we want to thank our City of Morganton electric customers and employees the whole month of October because it is something worth celebrating. Why is it worth celebrating?



Public Power Week is dedicated to promoting how the City of Morganton is a part of Electricities of North Carolina, Inc., which is the membership organization that provides power supply and related critical services to more than 90 community-owned electric systems in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Being a part of public power provides local control allowing prioritization of local needs when making important decisions. We also are connected to a broad network of public power communities across the country, giving us access to great support systems.

We have published a video series on the City of Morganton website (www.morgantonnc.gov) where we provide several energy and money-saving tips for our customers. Anything from thermostat advice to how air filters can affect your power bill and how to seal air leaks in your house. We will be giving away a limited amount of energy kits filled with items that help you conserve energy at City Hall during Public Power Week. We can't thank you enough for being a part of public power with the City of Morganton!

Leaf season reminders

Why is it so easy to trick a leaf in October? They fall for anything! As leaf season begins, we want to remind our residents how leaf collection works.

Leaf collection starts in October and continues as needed through January. Public Works collects leaves during leaf season at no charge to residents. However, after January residents must pay a \$25.00 fee to have loose leaves collected. If you bag the leaves there is no charge.

Residents should pile leaves as close to the road as possible without blocking the road or sidewalks. Please do not place any large limbs or rocks in your leaf piles because this will damage the equipment used to gather the leaves. This service is dependent on weather conditions. Please be patient and understand that pickup could be delayed due to inclement weather.

Call Public Works at 828-438-5248 and make a request for the bags to be picked up. Bags are collected every Friday unless it is a holiday. Starting in October, please check our website under Leaf and Grass Collection for a leaf collection log that will be updated weekly and for tips on how to correctly pile your leaves.

Leaf litter can supply nutrients

Leave the leaves, for nature's sake. Alternative to kicking all of your leaves to the curb and landfill, try allowing them to work for you and do their job.

Leaf litter provides nutrients for your trees and other plants while providing a place for insects which many birds depend on. Leaves fall to create natural mulch and fertilizer for trees and woody plants. These fallen leaves also provide wildlife, especially pollinators, with some winter cover. Many insect larvae such as fireflies rely on leaf litter. Bees, moths, butterflies, snails, spiders, and dozens of arthropods and pollinators overwinter in dead plant material for protection from cold weather and predators. Many butterflies overwinter as chrysalises or cocoons disguised as dry leaves. (Be careful when you throw away leaves)

Try leaving leaves on your garden beds as mulch through the winter and allow them to naturally fertilize your plants and deter weed growth. If you don't like the look of your natural mulch you can top dress with wood mulch to cover your degraded leaves in Spring. Your butterflies, pollinators and birds will thank you. See these websites for more tips on leaves. Audubon.org and Almanac.com. Thank you for keeping Morganton beautiful. CAAC



Pictured above is an Eastern Towhee who thrives off of leaf litter. Photo credit/ Christina Rollo.

Program provides activities for individuals with disabilities

The City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Center is filling a need in our community that will help support and bring together individuals with disabilities.

They have created and rolled out the Individuals with Disabilities Adaptive Program (IDAP) where each month features a free event that gives individuals with disabilities an opportunity to socialize and grow in a different setting. Activities include playing sports, arts and crafts, movie nights, puzzles and boards games and more.

It was noticed by the Parks and Recreation Department that there were no adaptive programs in between the cities of Asheville and Hickory. They knew that individuals with disabilities don't have many outlets and wanted them to have a safe space to feel comfortable in.

The goal for the program is to grow bigger and eventually have a sports league. There is no age limit to the program, but that may change in the future depending on the activity. They plan on completing a needs assessment to gather ideas from the community of what they would like to see happen within the program.

Recreation staff members have said this is not something they are going to give up.

Upcoming events include:

- October 13th - Movie Night watching Hotel Transylvania (5-8pm)
- November 21st - Thanksgiving Craft Night (4-8pm)
- December 21st - Christmas Gift Making (4-7pm)



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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