

## City Calendar

<http://bit.ly/mgacal>

**Thursday, 11/7**

**Sports Hall of Fame Banquet**

6-8pm @ Community House

**Monday, 11/11**

**City Hall closed for Veteran's Day**

**Thursday, 11/14**

**Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting**

5:15pm @ City Hall

**Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting**

6pm @ Community House

**Saturday, 11/23**

**Winter Carnival**

5:30pm @ Downtown Morganton

**Thursday & Friday, 11/28-29**

**City Hall closed for Thanksgiving**

**Saturday, 11/30**

**Small Business Saturday FAB Crawl**

ALL DAY @ Downtown Morganton

**Monday, 12/2**

**City Council Meeting**

6pm @ City Hall

**Tuesday & Wednesday, 12/24-25**

**City Hall Closed for Christmas**

**Tuesday, 12/31**

**New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball**

9pm @ CoMMA

**Wednesday, 1/1**

**City Hall closed for New Year's Day**

## City receives award for financial reporting

The City of Morganton Finance Department is being recognized for the 32nd year in a row by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its excellence in financial reporting.

The City recently received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the association for its most recent Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). It is the highest form of recognition for governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management, according to GFOA.

"We are incredibly pleased that we are again being recognized for our excellent financial reporting practices," said Finance Director Karen Duncan. "Just because we have received this award for more than three decades does not mean it is an easy feat. Our Finance Department works very hard to hold itself to the highest standards, and this award reflects our employees' commitment to ensuring accuracy and



From left, Accounting Manager Tammy Kirkpatrick, Finance Director Karen Duncan and Customer Service Manager Jennie McNeilly are responsible for preparing the CAFR that is judged each year by the GFOA.

transparency in all of the City's financial reporting."

The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet stringent criteria, including demonstrating a spirit of full disclosure in order to clearly communicate the city's financial story.

The Government Finance Officers Association is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, and is a major professional association servicing the needs of more than 20,000 appointed and elected government officials and other finance practitioners.

## Don't miss these Downtown events!

The holiday season is upon us, and that means plenty of fun downtown events for the family to enjoy.

Starting Nov. 1, tickets go on sale for Breakfast With Santa at the Morganton Community House. The event is Dec. 7 & 14 at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Tickets can be purchased at the UPS Store in Downtown Morganton.

The Winter Carnival and Memorial Tree Lighting will be held Nov. 23 from 5 p.m.

to 9 p.m.

The Small Business Saturday FAB Crawl will be held Nov. 30.

Holiday Farmer's Markets are scheduled for Nov. 23 and Dec. 14 at 10 a.m. at 111 N. Green St.

Then join us for the Downtown Morganton Christmas Parade Dec. 3 at 6 p.m.

More information is available at <http://www.downtownmorganton.com/index.php/events>.



The Morganton Christmas Parade will be Dec. 3, 2019 in Downtown Morganton, beginning at 6 p.m.

# Water Resources employees earn certifications

Seven Water Resources Department employees recently received state certifications that distinguish them from peers in their field and help ensure Morganton's water treatment practices remain top notch.

Wastewater Treatment Plant employees Robert Wright, Jacob Larance and Lee Gray each received the Grade 1 Wastewater Biological Operator Certification. This brings the Wastewater Treatment Plant up to nine employees with this certification.

"With these certifications, these employees are able to legally operate the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant by themselves," said Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Eli Self. "We are very proud of these employees for achieving this certification."

Water Resources Distribution and Collection Employees Mark Calisti, Jacob Burgess and Josh Davis each recently received the Grade 1 Collections Operator certification. This is an entry-level certification that demonstrates an employee's commitment to adhering to state standards and knowledge of water distribution and collection systems.

"We try to require all of our Distribution and Collection employees to receive this certification, because it demonstrates to our citizens that we are committed to best practices in our department," said Distribution and Collection Superintendent Ronnie Suttles.

Water Treatment Plant employee John Shatley received the B-Surface

certification. This level of certification is one of three available, with the other two being C-Surface and A-Surface. Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Raymond Presley said many Water Resources employees believe the B-Level certification to be the most challenging to receive.

"This is a very proud accomplishment for John, as the B-Surface certification is rather difficult to obtain," Presley said. "The B-Surface certification requirements go into depth about various pumps, horsepower calculations and more that are all required for safe operation of the

Water Treatment Plant. This certification allows John to handle and calculate the fluoride that we add to our water. We are quite proud of John, and have put his certification up on display at our certification display board here at the Water Treatment Plant."



## Leaf collection season is here

Leaf collection began in October and continues as needed through January.

Public Works collects leaves every two weeks during leaf season at no charge to residents. However, after January residents must pay a \$25.00 to have loose leaves collected.

Public Works would like to remind its citizens of proper leaf collection practices.

Residents should pile leaves as close to the road as possible without blocking the road or sidewalks.

Residents should remove all twigs, branches and other debris from leaf piles before they are collected. If debris and sticks are left in the piles, they can damage the collection truck.

Leaf collection happens at different times for each street throughout the season. You can find the collection schedule at <https://www.morgantonnc.gov/index.php/government/public-works/leaf-collection>



Rake leaves to the curbside for collection.

## Rate cut for electric customers

Did you know the City implemented a three percent rate cut for its electric customers on July 1, 2019?

From City Manager Sally Sandy's Budget Message, "Effective July 1, 2019, the City will receive a wholesale rate decrease of 2%. The proposed budget includes passing on an average 3% reduction to our customers."

This rate decrease was voted into effect when the 2019-2020 Budget was passed by the City Council.

Customers began seeing the savings in their August 2019 bills.

### 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

### CONTACT THE COUNCIL

☎ 828-438-5228

✓ citymayor@ci.morganton.nc.us

✓ citycouncil@ci.morganton.nc.us

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

☎ (828) 432-2516

✓ pubinfo@ci.morganton.nc.us