

## City Calendar

<http://bit.ly/mgacal>

### Memo on events:

City events remain subject to change due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19.

Please visit [morgantonnc.gov](http://morgantonnc.gov) to get the most up to date information about events throughout the year.

We hope to hold as many events as possible, while remaining committed to keeping our community safe during these uncertain times.



## Farmers Market

Open for the season!

Wednesdays • 12-4 pm  
111 N. Green St.  
Saturdays • 8am-Noon  
300 Beach St.

<http://bit.ly/mgamarket>

## Parklets and Streateries introduced to Downtown area

The City of Morganton Main Street Office is bringing downtown's best eats to the streets with the creation of "parklets" and "streateries" throughout the downtown area. Restaurants, breweries and social establishments tend to be the first to attract people to an area, and those customers then branch out to all the retail shops. By helping these establishments seat more customers, this Main Street initiative will bring more patrons to all downtown businesses.

Morganton City Council approved the creation of these areas at its June 1 meeting. Parklets and streateries create temporary areas in parking spots, on sidewalks and in public streets for people to sit and dine or drink outside of a nearby business. This effectively maximizes how many customers a business can serve while still adhering to state-mandated restrictions that are in place to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

The new parklets and streateries will be in place for the next 90 days, or until the State of Emergency issued by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper is lifted. These new areas have been installed on East Union Street and West Union Street, North Sterling Street, and North Green Street. One parklet location, on East Concord Street, between Green and Sterling, can be installed and removed on demand by local businesses as needed to accommodate larger numbers of customers.

Another location, on North King Street, has a unique mural painted along the street that was created by Brandon Lynn, a Morganton native. Lynn is the artist behind the mural painted on the side of Oak Hill Iron + Wood on King Street. King Street will be closed from West Union Street to just behind Root & Vine while this streatery is in place.



Brandon Lynn painted a mural on North King Street as part of the new parklet and streatery initiative in Downtown Morganton. Lynn, a Morganton native, said the mural is meant to evoke the playfulness and joy of childhood. You may have seen his work before — he is the artist who painted the mural on the side of Oak Hill Iron + Wood on North King Street. For more information on Lynn's new mural, visit [www.morgantonnc.gov](http://www.morgantonnc.gov).

TOSS, a local nonprofit art collective, was commissioned by the Main Street Office to create art banners that are draped over the fenced-in parklet areas, to give the installations a unique and aesthetically pleasing appearance.

The N.C. Forest Service constructed two parklets that will allow for some unique outdoor seating in the downtown area. Judge's Riverside Restaurant has very generously loaned the Main Street office tables and chairs to assist with this project.

"Morganton's Main Street Office has always been at the forefront of finding new and innovative ways to help our downtown businesses," Main Street Director Sharon Jablonski said. "It is our hope that these new parklets and streateries help our businesses recover some lost revenue, and provide our citizens with a unique experience to enjoy this summer."

View photos of the parklets and streateries here: <https://bit.ly/37TOtuz>.

## City pools, skeet range reopened

The City reopened its pools and skeet range with restrictions in June.

"We are very glad we feel we can safely reopen some facilities and offer options for fun activities this summer, but this does not mean the pandemic is over," said City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Director Rob Winkler. "People using these facilities should be vigilant and adhere to guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services."

There are strict rules in place to help keep our community safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19. The City is practicing and enforcing social distancing at all times. Throughout the day, multiple times per day, staff cleans and disinfects common areas, dressing rooms and other equipment at City facilities. If you plan to use City facilities, you must adhere to rules that are now in place.

These rules include limiting the number of people in a facility at one time, bringing your own towels and chairs to City pools, not using the dressing rooms at City pools to change clothes, adhering to social distancing guidelines, not bringing outside food or drink into City facilities, and more.

To read all the new rules and regulations, as well as hours of operation, visit <https://bit.ly/37VKwFV>.



## Recycling convenience center to close permanently

The City's recycling convenience center, located in Shuey Park at 101 Golf Course Road, will permanently close by July 15. The City has offered recycling services to its citizens at its convenience center since 1992.

"The reality is that this unmanned recycling center has not operated effectively for years," said City Manager Sally Sandy. "The center requires daily clean-up by City staff. More times than not, the private contractor we use is unable to pick-up product due to contamination by improper

recycling practices. This requires City crews to dispose of the product at the landfill, thus not achieving the benefit of recycling and citizens end up paying for a service that cannot be provided."

Closing the recycling center was approved during the June 15, 2020, City Council meeting when the council voted to adopt the proposed budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The measure to close the convenience center was discussed during a budget presentation at the June 1, 2020 City Council meeting.

The containers designated for recycling collection will be removed from the convenience center no later than July 15.

There are still recycling sites provided by Burke County, which are paid for, staffed and maintained by taxpayer dollars. These centers are located at: 1679 N.C. 126; 3251 U.S. 64; 3836 N.C. 18 South; and 2500 Marsh Trail. The City encourages people to continue to recycle at the above facilities, or to contract with Simply Green to collect recycling from their homes.

## City Council passes 2020-21 budget

The Morganton City Council unanimously voted to pass the proposed budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year following a public hearing on the matter during its June 15 meeting.

The budget does not include any increases in the ad valorem tax rate, the downtown special tax rate, or for solid waste, water and sewer service.

Under the new budget, citizens received a rate cut for their City electric service. Rate decreases vary between 2 and 7.5 percent, and the average household will receive a 3 percent rate reduction.

There is also no rate

increase for COMPAS X-Stream internet and phone customers in the approved budget. COMPAS television customers will see a \$10 monthly increase in their bills, beginning in January, to help cover rising programming costs.

There is funding included for various projects in the City that have been in the works for many years. There is not funding included for cost of living and merit raises for employees.

"The goal was to continue to provide the services that we have come to expect, enjoy and deserve in the community," said City

Manager Sally Sandy. "Even though this was a very difficult budget season — probably the most difficult budget season I have ever experienced — we managed to strike a balance between being conservative and careful, but also understanding that we're a community that needs to move forward, and that we have to think about the days when COVID-19 is no longer a threat."

To view the full City budget for fiscal year 2020-2021, visit <https://www.morgantonnc.gov/index.php/government/finance/current-budget-fees>.

### 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

☎ 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