

## 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

Starting Sat., May 2!

Wednesdays • 1-5:30 pm  
@ 111 N. Green St.  
Saturdays • 8am-Noon  
@ 300 Beach St.

<http://bit.ly/mgamarket>

## Angela Shores named North Carolina Main Street Champion

Angela Shores, owner of Adventure Bound Books in Downtown Morganton, was recognized as a North Carolina Main Street Champion by the N.C. Department of Commerce and N.C. Main Street Program at a statewide conference in March.

North Carolina Main Street Champions are individuals that work and advocate for revitalized downtowns. The N.C. Department of Commerce and N.C. Main Street program began recognizing Main Street Champions in 2000.

A total of 766 Champions have been recognized by the North Carolina Department of Commerce over the past 20 years.

The Morganton Main Street Program nominated Shores as its 2019 Main Street Champion. Adventure Bound Books opened in Morganton in June of 2018 under the direction of Shores.

"Angela has been an incredible addition to our downtown merchant community," said Main Street Director Sharon Jablonski. "She immediately got involved with our development efforts, and runs a business that is much-loved by the community. She is innovative in her offerings and deeply cares about the business she runs. We are

thankful to have her in our City."

Since opening in 2018, Shores has been involved with downtown and Morganton Main Street efforts. She quickly joined

the Downtown Development Association, joined the steering committee for the Courthouse Square redevelopment, got involved with the Burke Arts Council Third Thursday Art Crawls, and, among other things, she has taken promotional retail events to the next level and become a champion among Morganton's retailers. A few of the programs Shores has conducted at Adventure Bound Books include: weekly story-time, adult book clubs, author meet and greets, poetry nights, and writing contests. As one of Morganton's newer businesses, Shores has highlighted the path to what it takes to be a champion.



Angela Shores

## City offering bill payment plans

The City of Morganton is now working with citizens to make payment plans for utility bills to lessen the economic burden on our customers bearing the brunt of the COVID-19 crisis.

The payment plans will allow customers to pay parts of their utility bills

over a longer period of time, instead of being required to pay the entirety of their bill at once.

The City suspended late fees and disconnection of utility services for nonpayment of bills beginning March 20, and this practice remains in

effect. However, debts and outstanding charges are not being forgiven, so it is important that customers pay as much as they can afford. Utility debts and outstanding charges cannot be forgiven by law.

To set up a payment plan, contact the City's business office at 828-438-5245.

## TGIF shows canceled for May

In the wake of Gov. Roy Cooper's stay-at-home order, and to help slow the spread of COVID-19, the Historic Morganton Festival, Inc., has canceled the May dates of the TGIF Summer Concert Series. The shows will not be rescheduled for later in the year. This includes the following shows:

- May 1st - The Extraordinaires and Morganton Car Club Cruise In
- May 8th - Chris McGinnis Band
- May 15th - The ACE Party Band
- May 22nd - The 20/20 Band
- May 29th - Greg Mastin and the Druthers

HMF, Inc., will continue to follow guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and adhere to orders from Gov. Cooper throughout the year. Decisions regarding the June and July TGIF Summer Concert event dates will be made in the coming weeks as more information becomes available. Check [morgantonnc.gov](http://morgantonnc.gov) and [downtownmorganton.com](http://downtownmorganton.com) for updates on later TGIF dates.

"Like so many of our supporters, we do not know what to expect, but we will do our part to help keep our community safe," said HMF, Inc., Director Sharon Jablonski. "The TGIF Summer Concert Series is an event that is loved by our community. This was not an easy decision, but we believe it to be the right one. We cannot wait to reconnect with everybody once this crisis is over."

Downtown Morganton and Historic Morganton Festival, Inc. presents



## New dog park now open at Catawba River Soccer Complex

There's a new place in Morganton for your larger furry friends to run and play. A new dog park for dogs 25 pounds and up opened at the Catawba River Soccer Complex on Friday, April 24.

The new dog park opened as an extension of the existing park at the soccer complex for dogs under 25 pounds. This helps separate breeds of different sizes, and ensure dogs of all sizes can enjoy a day at the park.

The new dog park offers more than an acre of space for dogs to run and play. Its construction

was planned as part of Phase III of the Catawba River Soccer Complex's expansion. It was made possible through a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant, as well as a number of private donations from the community.

The park is open daily from sunrise to sunset.

The following rules are in place at the park:

- Dogs must have tags displaying current vaccines, registration and ownership.
- Choke, spike, pinch or prong collars are strictly prohibited.
- Children under 14

are not allowed without an adult.

- Aggressive dogs are strictly prohibited.
- In-heat females are not allowed.
- No food is allowed inside the dog park.
- Owners must pick up after pets.
- Use of tobacco or vaping products is prohibited.



## Community Appearance Advisory Commission celebrates Arbor Day

Members of Morganton's Community Appearance Advisory Commission recognized Arbor Day in North Carolina, and in the United States, by having a tree planted at Morganton Public Safety Station 2 in early March.

The City's Public Works Department planted the tree, and members of the advisory commission gathered during their regular meeting on March 10 to dedicate the tree at the public safety station.

North Carolina Arbor Day was recognized on March

20, and Arbor Day in the U.S. was recognized on April 24.

A Yoshino Cherry tree was planted at the station. The tree is considered a medium-sized shade tree that blooms in March and April each year. The tree can grow to be 30 to 40 feet tall, and is native to Japan.

"We are thankful that our Community Appearance Advisory Commission continues to

endeavor to have trees planted around our City so that Morganton may always be known as Nature's Playground," said Public Works Director Scott Lookadoo.



Members of the CAAC gathered to dedicate the tree in early March.

### 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](mailto:citymayor@ci.morganton.nc.us)  
✓ [citycouncil@ci.morganton.nc.us](mailto:citycouncil@ci.morganton.nc.us)

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☎ (828) 432-2516  
✓ [pubinfo@ci.morganton.nc.us](mailto:pubinfo@ci.morganton.nc.us)