

City Calendar

<http://bit.ly/mgacal>

Monday, 1/6

City Council Meeting
6pm @ City Hall

Thursday, 1/9

**Planning & Zoning
Commission Meeting**
5:15pm @ City Hall

**Recreation Advisory
Commission Meeting**

6pm @ Community House

Saturday, 1/11

Pop-Up Farmers Market
9am @ 111 N. Green St.

Friday, 1/17

Leanne Morgan
7:30pm @ CoMMA

Monday, 1/20

**City Hall closed for Martin
Luther King Jr. Day**

Monday, 2/3

City Council Meeting
6pm @ City Hall

Thursday, 2/6

**Peacherine Ragtime
Society Orchestra**
7:30pm @ CoMMA

Thursday, 2/13

**Planning & Zoning
Commission Meeting**
5:15pm @ City Hall

**Recreation Advisory
Commission Meeting**

6pm @ Community House

Thursday, 2/27

The Color Purple
7:30pm @ CoMMA

Monday, 3/2

City Council Meeting
6pm @ City Hall

City hires new Finance Director

The City of Morganton is excited to welcome Jessie Parris as its new Finance Director. Parris comes to the City from the civil engineering company WithersRavenel, where she worked most recently as a Finance Manager. She will begin her new role with the City on December 30.

Parris offers the City a breadth of financial experience in both the private and public sectors. She has served as the Finance Director for the Town of Rutherfordton, and worked for auditing firms Deloitte & Touche, LLP and KPMG in Charlotte. Parris earned her Master's in Accountancy from Wake Forest University, and her Bachelor's in Accountancy from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She is a Certified Public Accountant.

She said she has always been drawn to a career in government finance.

"My father was a CPA, and did governmental auditing for more than 20 years," Parris said. "I grew up around the government finance world and loved it, and always wanted to work in finance when I grew up."

Parris' experience includes a wide range of budget management, fund financial analysis, capital improvement planning, funding strategy, Local Government

Commission application support and other finance-related skills. She serves as treasurer on the board of the Family Care Center of Catawba Valley.

"Jessie is going to be a great addition to our team," said City Manager Sally Sandy. "Her experience in both the public and private sectors make her an ideal fit for the role of Finance Director. She has already experienced being a Finance Director in a smaller community, and we are excited to work with her as she joins the management



Jessie Parris

continued on page 2

2020 Census begins this Spring

The United States Census is coming up, and participating in the census is your chance to make sure everyone in Morganton and Burke County is counted.

The census is about more than simply counting the population of an area.

The census provides critical data for Morganton and Burke County that lawmakers,

business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide services, funding, and support for the community. Census data is responsible for determining how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is allocated across the nation each year. When everyone participates, it is more likely our area will receive its fair share



of those funds. Receiving these funds helps local government to continue to improve the quality of

continued from page 1

team in Morganton."

Parris said she was drawn to Morganton because the City is innovative in its approach to development and is continually looking toward the future. The City offers a chance to realize her dream of returning to the world of government finance in a more direct way.

"Not every community in western North Carolina is being innovative and making progress, but Morganton is," Parris said. "Morganton provides a perfect opportunity to work in a growing community that is making progress toward a bright future."

Parris and her husband Trevor have two children. She grew up in Granite Falls, and loves working and living in western North Carolina.

"I'm most looking forward to working with the team at the City of Morganton," Parris said. "Everyone I've talked to and interacted with is very encouraging, and it's very much a team environment. I'm excited to be part of the team and to grow in this position."

life for everyone who lives in Burke County.

Each home will receive an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire. You can complete the questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail. Most households will receive invitations in the mail in March 2020.

There are a few important things to note about the census:

- It's easy to participate. The Census can be completed by mail, over the phone, or online.

There are 9 questions about how many people live at the location, their ages, relationship to others living in the household, and race.

- It's safe and secure. The Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information and keep

it strictly confidential. Answers will be used only to produce statistics and cannot be used for law enforcement purposes, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). There are no questions about citizenship status or requesting a Social Security Number.

- Everyone counts. The Census counts all residents – not voters, not citizens, but anyone who is living in the United States. An accurate count of anyone living in Morganton and Burke County as of

April 1, 2020 is the goal.

It is important to make sure everyone gets counted so that we get proper amounts of funding and representation in Congress.

For more information, please visit www.2020census.gov.



Follow these tips to save on your utility bills

Winter is here, but your utility bill doesn't have to send a shiver down your spine. There are several simple tips you can follow that will help you save money during the colder months. Check out some tips from ElectriCities of North Carolina below that will help you beat the winter blues and warm up to savings:

- 68 is the magic number. Set your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower when heating your home. Every degree above 68 can

increase your bill by a whopping 3-5 percent!

- Set it and forget it. Take advantage of programmable thermostats. Especially if you have a furnace, set your thermostat to automatically turn the heat down at night and when you're away.

- Small isn't always mighty. Despite what you might think, space heaters use a lot of energy and can increase your monthly bill. If you have energy efficient central heating in your home, use that instead.

- Don't forget your maintenance. There are three things to remember regularly. When your fireplace is not in use, make sure your damper is closed; check or replace filters once a month; and clean air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators, and be sure

they aren't blocked.

- Hello, sunshine! Besides providing Vitamin D, sunlight helps heat your home for free. Open drapes and let the sun stream in.



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