



Saturday Farmers Market • 300 Beach Street

CITY PRIDE

MORGANTON, NC

May 2012 • Morganton's Citizen Newsletter



City Calendar

Hotel California

May 4 @ CoMMA

Valley Hills Antique Plow Day & Swap Meet

May 5 @ Catawba Meadows

Flintknapping Lesson

Exploring Joara Foundation
May 5 @ Catawba Meadows

Kevin Spencer

May 8 @ CoMMA

Dog Agility Contest

May 12 @ Catawba Meadows

Art in the Park

May 19 at Catawba Meadows

Palisade Building

Exploring Joara Foundation
May 26 @ Catawba Meadows

Memorial Day

May 28 - City Hall Closed

Red, White and Bluegrass Festival

June 30 - July 4
@ Catawba Meadows

Independence Day

July 4 - City Hall Closed

For more details on City Calendar events, visit www.ci.morganton.nc.us, and search for the event, or visit www.commaonline.org!

Morganton City Council

- Mel Cohen, Mayor
- Dr. Alfred Hamer Jr., Mayor Pro Tem
- John H. Cantrell
- Forrest A. Fleming
- S. Sidney Simmons

citymayor@ci.morganton.nc.us
citycouncil@ci.morganton.nc.us

www.ci.morganton.nc.us

Farmers Markets open!

Two markets open this year

Downtown Morganton will host two weekly, open-air farmers markets in 2012!

The Saturday Market will be open from 8:00 am until 12 noon April 21 through Oct. 27. The market is located at 300 Beach Street, behind Gepetto's and More Lace at Morganton Station.

The Wednesday Mini-Market will be open from 2:00 pm until 6:00 pm April 25 through Oct. 24. The Mini-Market is located at the corner of Green Street and Avery Avenue.

The Morganton Farmers Markets offer the best locally grown products in the area. Shoppers can buy locally grown artisan breads, baked goods, eggs, fresh cut flowers, fruits (chemical-free options available!), goat cheese, herbs (fresh cut and seedlings), honey, jams and jellies, meat (beef, pork & poultry), salad greens (chemical-free options available!), Shiitake mushrooms, vegetables, and much, much more!



By visiting the Market and supporting your local growers, you reduce your carbon footprint and help the local economy.

Visit www.downtownmorganton.com for more information and other events!

City attorney enjoying post

Morganton City Attorney Louis Vinay has been on the job since April, and he is enjoying the challenges of being a municipal attorney. Vinay was appointed by the Morganton City Council in March this year.

"I've enjoyed it very much so far," Vinay said. "There are so many different types of issues and questions that people have presented to me already, both staff and citizens, and that is what makes working as a municipal attorney very interesting."

Vinay is very familiar with municipal planning and zoning issues. He served on the City's Planning and Zoning Commission for 12 years, and he also served as attorney for the towns of Connelly Springs and Glen Alpine.

However, Vinay was surprised by the large number of staff and citizen inquiries he receives. By the middle of April, he had already fielded many questions on law enforcement issues, zoning and compliance concerns, land use,



City Attorney Louis Vinay

and much more.

Vinay said the City staff had welcomed him to the team and made him feel right at home.

"Not only have they made me feel at home, they have made me feel wanted," Vinay said.

Vinay was born and raised in Valdese, graduating from Valdese High School in 1972. He majored in history at the University of North Carolina, was Phi Beta Kappa, and graduated in 1976. He then attended Duke Law School, where he received his J.D. in 1979.

Vinay has been a lawyer in private practice in Morganton

See **VINAY** on Page 2

TGIF

Free!

Friday-night
Concerts



Food and drink vendors open at 6:00 pm and the concerts start at 7:00 pm!

- Throwdown Jones...** May 4
- Lizzy Ross Band** May 11
- Mark Roberts Band** . May 18
- The Broadcast** May 25
- Skinny Legs and All** .. June 1
- Uncle Lucius** June 8
- Sweet Revenge** June 15
- Uncle Hamish & The Hooligans** June 22
- Yarn** June 29
- The Buchanan Boys..** July 13
- The Alligators** July 20
- Buick MacKane**.....July 27

Visit www.morgantonfest.com to learn more about the bands.

Morganton receives Excellence in Communications awards

The City of Morganton recently received three Excellence in Communications Awards from the North Carolina City & County Communicators, during the NC3C Annual Conference in March.

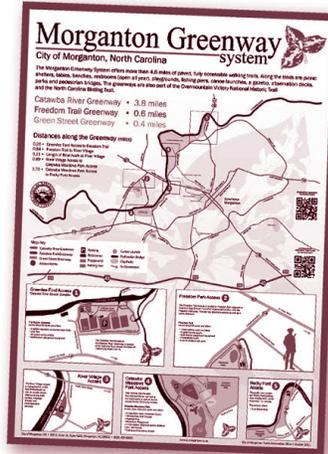
The City received first place in the *Printed Publications* – Brochure category for the Morganton Greenway System Kiosk Map; second place in the *Communication Technology* – Website for the Compas Cable TV, Internet and Voice website; and second place in the *Communication Technology - Other Technologies* for incorporating QR Codes into the Greenway kiosk maps.

Morganton Public Information Officer Joshua Harris created

the brochure and Compas Cable TV, Internet and Voice website. Harris said he appreciated the recognition, and is always open to ways to improve communication between the City government and residents.

“My goal is to provide our residents with easy access to as much information about the City of Morganton that they want – City government, services, finances, parks, etc.,” Harris said. “If you have a question, you can give me call or send me an e-mail. I’ll find out the answer.”

Judges for the NC3C Excellence in Communications Awards were government communication professionals from California, Florida, Texas, Virginia, Colorado and Georgia.



Each judge had previously won first or second-place in the national Savvy Awards, presented annually by the City-County Communications and Marketing Association.

For more information about NC3C, visit the www.nc3c.com. Visit www.ci.morganton.nc.us to learn more about Morganton.



Don't miss Morganton's Ninth Annual Red, White and Bluegrass Festival June 30 - July 4, 2012.

The Isaacs, Larry Sparks & The Lonesome Ramblers, Blue Highway and Rhonda Vincent & The Rage.

Fan Appreciation Day is Saturday June 30 and is FREE to all! Music starts at 12:30 noon.

Early Bird ticket price available through May 31. Visit www.redwhiteandbluegrassfestival.com!

Please keep grass in the lawn

When grass clippings are mowed or blown into streets, the clippings have unwanted effects.

Freshly cut grass or wet grass can become a traffic hazard. If a driver needs to stop suddenly and happens to be driving on wet grass clippings, his car could slide out of control. Wet grass is also a hazard for cyclists and motorcycle riders.

Grass clippings also impact water quality. When it rains, the rain fall will wash grass clippings into storm drains. The clippings can clog drains and will

eventually run into the Catawba River. The clippings contain phosphorus, and phosphorous feeds algae growth in the river and lakes.

The easiest way to dispose of grass clippings is to use a mulching mower that cuts grass into short, fine pieces that fall and settle to the ground. Grass clippings provide natural and free nutrients for your lawn. Or, combine your clippings with other materials such as leaves, yard brush and food scraps and create compost for your garden!

Please Pick Up After Your Pet.

Pet owners shall not allow their pets to defecate in any public park, playground, greenway, ballfield, street, sidewalk or parking area unless the owner immediately removes the waste. It is also unlawful for owners to allow their pets to defecate on any property other than the owner's property.

For more information, see Morganton City Code Sec. 8-2022 (a) & (b)(5).

IT'S THE LAW.



Vinay

From the front

since 1979, initially with the firm of Simpson Aycock Beyer & Simpson, then with Simpson Kuehnert Vinay & Jones, and most recently with The Starnes Law Firm. He has a long-time interest in municipal law and government; and has been attorney for the Town of Connelly Springs for six

years, and for the Town of Glen Alpine for some 23 years.

Vinay has been married to Beth Ann Miller since 1989, and they live in the Oak Hill area with their two children, Seth, age 19, and Sara Grace, age 12. Beth is an ordained Presbyterian minister, and the entire family is very active at First Presbyterian Church in Morganton, where Vinay is an Elder and Sunday school teacher.

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