



Sunflower at the Community Garden

# CITY PRIDE

MORGANTON, NC

March 2013 • Morganton's Citizen Newsletter



## My Utilities

Did you know that City utility customers can view account information and pay utility bills on the Internet?

Visit the City's website and click the 'My Utilities' link at the top right of the web page to register.



[www.ci.morganton.nc.us](http://www.ci.morganton.nc.us)

## Connect Online!

We post. We tweet. We syndicate. We share photos and video. And we want you to get connected to the City of Morganton!

You can "Like" us on Facebook; follow us on Twitter; subscribe to our YouTube Channel; and check out images from around the City in our Picasa Galleries.

Visit the City's website at [www.ci.morganton.nc.us](http://www.ci.morganton.nc.us) and look for the social media icons at the top right of the page to connect online!



## Did you know?

The City of Morganton provides a recycling center for residents at Shuey Park. At the Shuey Park site, residents can recycle aluminum and steel cans, cardboard, glass, mixed paper, newsprint and plastics 1 and 2.

Visit the City's web site and search for "recycling" for more information.



## 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](mailto:citymayor@ci.morganton.nc.us)  
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# City to remove old water tank

The Morganton City Council recently voted to move ahead with plans to demolish the old water tank at 105 Mountain View St., and erect a communications monopole to take its place.

At their January meeting, the Council approved a contract with West Consultants to perform engineering services and present a report during the Council's February workshop. The current water tank was built in the 1920s and is deteriorating. The tank is no longer used for water storage, but it supports various City communications equipment

that are essential to providing police, fire, electric, water and wastewater services, and the Council wanted to review options for relocating that equipment.

After the presentation, West Consultants staff recommended that the Council remove the old tank and install a 150-foot monopole at the same location. That location on Mountain View Street is one of the highest elevations in the City and it is the ideal spot for the communications antennas. The Council agreed and instructed City staff to move ahead with the project.

Before demolishing the old tank, the City will have to complete an environmental review process on the site, which will include comments by the State Historic Preservation Office, since the site is adjacent to a historic district, and apply for an FCC license based on new tower position and height. After receiving approval from the state and FCC, West Consultants will request bids for the project and move ahead.

Water Resources Director Brad Boris said he doesn't foresee

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# New directors come on board

## Brad Boris hired as new water resources director

The City of Morganton has hired Brad Boris as the new director of the Water Resources Department.

Brad is originally from Lancaster, Ohio, and he currently lives in Marion. Boris has 17 years experience in the water services business, and he is looking forward to working for the City.

"I was looking for a position that was in management, but closer to home," Boris said about the opportunity with Morganton. "I wanted to provide leadership within a high quality organization that serves the citizens of the local area I call home, and I was fortunate enough to be selected to join the City of Morganton."

Boris moved from Ohio to North Carolina in 1995, two years after graduating from Bowling Green State University in Ohio with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry. He wanted to go into the marine biology field, but decided to take a job as lab supervisor with the Town of Butner so he could relocate to the Raleigh-Durham area.



Brad Boris

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## Brooks Kirby promoted to electric director

The City of Morganton has hired Brooks Kirby as the new director of the City Electric Department. He has nearly 40 years experience working in the electric industry and has served as the Technical Services Supervisor in the City's Electric Department since 2006.

Brooks is from Lenoir and has been working with electricity since high school. He served in the Navy from 1975 to 1981 aboard the USS Mount Whitney stationed out of Norfolk, Virginia. Kirby earned an Associate's Degree in Electronic Engineering in 1984 from Catawba Valley Community College.

From 1989 to 1996, Kirby worked at Blue Ridge Electric Co-Op as a meter technician. After moving from the Co-op, he started working with the electric utility vendor Hesco as the Field Service Engineer. He drove from Delaware to South Carolina servicing meters, transformers, and breakers for numerous utilities. After Hesco, he was employed as a Support Engineer for several electric utility suppliers in North and South Carolina.



Brooks Kirby

See **KIRBY** on Page 2

## Boris

*From the front*

“That’s how I got my foot in the door of the water industry,” Boris said.

Boris later went to the City of Raleigh as the water operations supervisor, and then to the City of Asheville as the North Fork Water Plant supervisor. Before coming to Morganton, Boris was working as water superintendent for the Broad River Water Authority in Rutherfordton. So far, Boris is enjoying his new position and new location, and he is looking forward to a new challenge.

“The people are great to work with and everyone has been very welcoming,” Boris said.

City Manager Sally Sandy said Boris has the skills and experience to take over the department.

“We are glad to have Brad on board,” Sandy said. “He has

the background and expertise to succeed in this position and I believe he will fit in well. He definitely knows his way around the business.”

As Water Resources Director, Boris is responsible for the management and operation of the City’s water treatment plant, water distribution lines, sewer plant, sewer collection lines, and the supervision of 40 employees. The department is currently involved in an \$11.4 million sewer plant upgrade.

Boris said his primary goal is to improve some of the City’s aging facilities and develop a good maintenance protocol that will allow his department to continue to maintain the City’s assets in a cost effective manner.

Boris and his wife, Vanessa, live in Marion. They have one son, Brian, who is 12 years old. The family attends Bethel Baptist church.

## Kirby

*From the front*

In 2006, Kirby started working with the City of Morganton as the Technical Services Supervisor. He was responsible for maintaining the City’s substations, meters, generators, the electric systems in City buildings, traffic lights, and load management programs. He also served as a liaison between the City and Key Accounts, which are the 30 largest electric customers in the City. When the Electric Department director position opened up, Kirby saw the position as the next step in his career.

“I am very thankful for the opportunity,” Kirby said. “I’ve worked on both sides of a meter – as an industrial technician, an electrician, a vendor, a co-op technician, and with a municipal utility. Everything I have learned during the last 40 years has paid off.”

City Manager Sally Sandy said

she was glad to be able to fill the electric director position from within the department.

“Brooks knows the Electric Department inside and out, and I know he will do an excellent job as director,” Sandy said. “He knows how we operate here in Morganton, he knows all the staff, and he knows what our customers expect.”

Kirby said he is enjoying the new position and plans to maintain a high standard of customer service in the Electric Department.

“In Morganton, everyone is an important customer and our customers are our first priority,” Kirby said. “If we have an outage, our crews can restore power within hours, whereas it can sometimes take days for our competitors.”

Kirby and his wife of 27 years, Melanie, live in Lenoir. They have a 26-year-old daughter, Elizabeth. They attend East Flat Baptist Church in Lenoir, where he serves as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, and choir member.

## ACC Chili Cook-Off!

Friday March 15, 2013 • 11:00 am

The Chili Cook-Off will take place Friday March 15, from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm, at the Community House on King Street. A BARGAIN PRICED \$7.00 ticket buys all-you-can-eat chili with ALL the fixin’s, cornbread, salad, desert and drink! (If you’re busy, you can get it to go!) Find out more at [www.downtownmorganton.com](http://www.downtownmorganton.com). Sponsored by the Morganton Downtown Development Association.

## Earth Day at Catawba Meadows!

Saturday April 20, 2013 • 10:00 am

Be sure to stop by Catawba Meadows Park Festival Area Saturday April 20 and participate in the Earth Day celebration! Enjoy live music, food, educational programs and activities for sustainable living, resource conservation exhibits and more.

## Water Tank

*From the front*

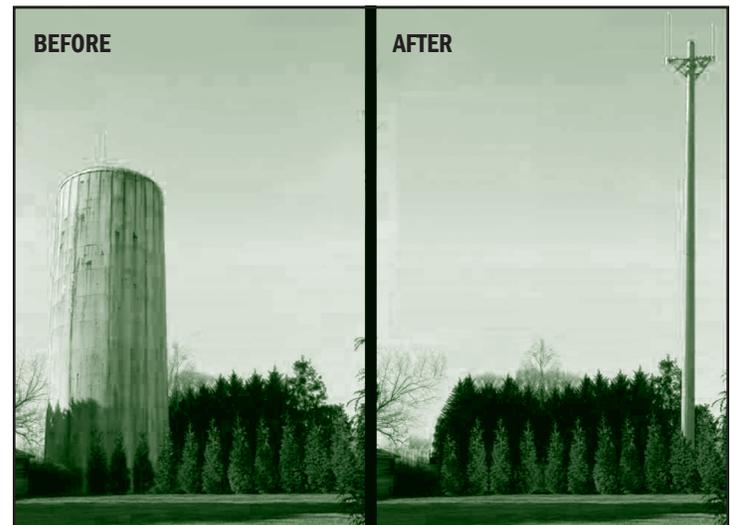
any obstacles to the project and expects the plan to move forward in the next few months.

“We have a contract with West Consultants and they are doing site work,” Boris said.

“I would anticipate the project

will completed this spring to early summer, barring any unforeseen problems.”

The City has budgeted \$350,000 for the project. Removing the tank will cost about \$40,000 and the remaining funds will be used to install the new communications pole.



This is a photo rendition of the proposed changes. The existing water tank is shown in the left panel. The new monopole is shown in the right panel.