



CITY PRIDE

MORGANTON, NC

November 2013 • Morganton's Citizen Newsletter



CoMPAS upgrading Internet system

CoMPAS customers will soon be able to surf the web at speeds faster than ever before, once the department completes a \$600,000 upgrade to the system. In September, the City Council approved the purchase of a new Cable Modem Termination System (CMTS), which will allow CoMPAS to offer Internet download speeds 10 times faster than current speeds.

CoMPAS General Manager Bill Harkins said the upgrade is needed and will put CoMPAS Internet service well ahead of the competition in the area.

"Our current system doesn't allow us to offer the faster Internet speeds that people want," Harkins said. "Many households have more than one device using the Internet at the same time and customers require a lot more bandwidth to power those devices."

Once the new CMTS is installed, CoMPAS will be able to meet customers' increasing demands

See **COMPAS** on Page 2

Cantrell, Thompson win election to City Council

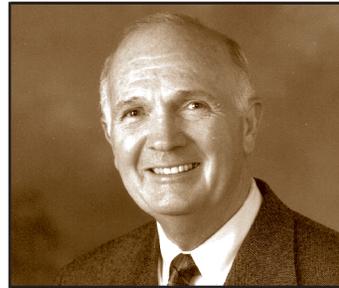
On Tuesday Oct. 8, Morganton voters elected John Cantrell and Ronnie Thompson to serve on the Morganton City Council, according to the unofficial results provided by the Burke County Board of Elections.

Cantrell, the incumbent, was running for election to the District 3 seat. Cantrell received 779 votes (62%) to challenger Nathan Chapman's 477 votes (38%).

Thompson was running for election to the District 4 seat against incumbent Alfred Hamer. Thompson received 801 votes (63%) to Hamer's 457 votes (36%).

According to the Board of Elections, there are 10,101 people registered to vote in the City election. Voters cast

See **ELECTION** on Page 2



John Cantrell
Councilman - District 3



Ronnie Thompson
Councilman Elect - District 4

District 3 Council Seat	Votes	Percentage
John H. Cantrell, Jr.	779	61.87%
Nathan Chapman	477	37.89%
Write-in	3	0.24%
District 4 Council Seat	Votes	Percentage
Ronnie Thompson	801	63.37%
Alfred W. Hamer, Jr.	457	36.16%
Write-in	6	0.47%

Source: Burke County Board of Elections Unofficial Results

City launches new website

The City of Morganton launched a new website in early October. The new site offers many features that residents will find useful including a mobile friendly design, an integrated Google calendar, and more information on the site's front page.

"As always, the goal is to provide as much useful information to our residents as possible, and to make it easy for everyone to find that information online," said Public Information Officer Joshua Harris. "Our new site provides a lot of great information about Morganton. There are hundreds of pages about City departments, the City Council, elections, recreation facilities and programs, parks, public meetings, Google maps, news releases, and more."

See **NEW WEBSITE** on Page 2



Featured Article

Cantrell, Thompson elected to the City Council

Morganton voters elected John Cantrell and Ronnie Thompson to serve on the Morganton City Council Tuesday night, according to the unofficial results provided by the Burke County Board of Elections.

Read more...

Quick Links

- City Calendar
- Crime Releases
- Job Openings
- My Utilities
- News Releases
- Pay Bills Online

City News

Click here for more News Releases.

Compas upgrading Internet system

Compas customers will soon be able to surf the web at speeds faster than ever before, once the department completes a \$600,000 upgrade to the system. In September, the City Council approved the purchase of a new Cable Modem Termination System (CMTS), which will allow Compas to offer Internet download speeds 10 times faster than current speeds.

City Calendar

Click here for the full City Calendar.

- Board of Adjustment
Oct 14, 2013 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm
- Farmers Market
Oct 16, 2013 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
- Smoky Mountain Bird Fair
Oct 19, 2013

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



Election

From the front

1,279 ballots, which equals a 12.66% voter turnout. The Board of Election will perform the election canvass Tuesday Oct. 15, 2013 and then release the official results. The purpose of the canvass is to account for every ballot cast and ensure that

every valid vote cast is included in the election totals.

Cantrell and Thompson will be sworn in to serve their terms during the December Council meeting. The District 3 and District 4 seats will be up for election again in 2017. The next Morganton City election will be in 2015, when the Mayor's seat and District 1 and District 2 seats are up for election.

CoMPAS

From the front

for bandwidth. CoMPAS will be able to offer 100 Mbps download speeds and 20 Mbps upload speeds. The slowest speed available will be 10 Mbps download and 2 Mbps upload.

A lot has changed in the decade that has passed since CoMPAS started offering high-speed Internet service. Back then, residents who had a computer with Internet access primarily used the Internet to send e-mail and surf very basic websites, and CoMPAS' Internet system was built accordingly.

Then, the social media revolution occurred and people started demanding a lot more Internet bandwidth. In 2004, Facebook launched its social media site. In 2005, YouTube started hosting videos online. The next year, Twitter came online, then Tumblr, then Pinterest, and so on. Today, customers have multiple devices connected to the web including desktop computers, laptops, tablets, phones, and gaming systems; and those devices are using more bandwidth than ever.

"We'll be able to offer extremely fast download and upload speeds to our residential customers, and our prices will be very competitive," Harkins said. "This upgrade puts us far ahead of our competitors, and we'll be able to meet Internet demand well into the future."

The new CMTS should be installed by the end of the year, and once new, competitive rates are approved by City Council, CoMPAS will start offering the faster Internet packages to current and new customers.

Find out more about CoMPAS at www.compascable.net.

Background

The CMTS is a device located in the cable head-end that allows cable television operators to offer high-speed Internet access to computers. The CMTS sends and receives digital cable modem signals on a cable network.

CoMPAS has fiber nodes installed throughout the City. The fiber nodes connect homes to the CMTS and to the Internet. Currently, one fiber node serves up to 250 homes and eight fiber nodes are connected to one Internet port on the current CMTS. The new CMTS will allow CoMPAS to connect one fiber node to one Internet port and will dramatically increase the available bandwidth to each home.

For example, the way the system is currently set up, there are about 2,000 homes connected to one Internet port on the system. Once the new CMTS is installed, only 250 homes will be connected to one Internet port, thus increasing the available Internet speeds to those customers.

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 pet owner's property.

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



IT'S THE LAW.



New Website

From the front

The new website offers a lot more information on the front page. When visitors land at www.ci.morganton.nc.us they will see the latest City Council meeting video on the front page, or other featured videos; a featured article; the latest City news releases; and upcoming City events. There are links to the City's Payment Portal and the City's social media pages; current job openings are posted on the front page as well.

The new site was built with mobile and tablet users in mind. The website template, which determines what the site looks like, is a mobile- and tablet-friendly template that automatically adjusts to fit a visitor's device. If residents visit the new website on a smart phone, the site automatically adjusts to fit the small screen size of the phone.

"Visitors using a smart phone shouldn't have to zoom in and out to read menus and view content," Harris said. "But my two favorite features, in addition to the new layout, are the Google calendar and new RSS feeds for City meetings," Harris said.

The site incorporates the City's public Google calendar. The calendar shows City events and public meetings, and visitors can

easily add those events to their personal Google calendar. The new site also consolidates public meeting information and makes agendas, minutes and videos available in one location on the website.

"In the past, if you were looking for information about a City Council meeting, you would have to download and read PDFs of agendas and minutes. If you wanted to watch video of the meeting, you would have to find the video on our YouTube page," Harris said. "Now all that information is located on one page on the website."

The site provides RSS feeds for pages that are updated often including the Crime Releases page, News Releases, Job Openings, City Council Meetings, Board of Adjustment Meetings, Planning and Zoning Commission Meetings, Adult Athletics programs, Aquatics Programs, Classes & Fitness programs, Recreation Events, Senior Citizens events, and Youth Athletics programs.

Visitors who have bookmarked pages or subscribed to the old RSS feeds will have to update their bookmarks and subscribe to the new RSS feeds.

Check out the new City website at www.ci.morganton.nc.us. Anyone with recommendations for the site can e-mail them to Harris at pubinfo@ci.morganton.nc.us.