



New wayfinding sign on Burkemont Avenue

# CITY PRIDE

MORGANTON, NC

January 2014 • Morganton's Citizen Newsletter



## Basic Cable rate increasing in January

The rate for CoMPAS basic cable will increase by \$3.00 to \$63.95 per month starting in January. The increase was approved by the City Council in June 2013.

Once again, the increase is needed to cover the constantly increasing fees charged by networks such as WBTV, WSOC, WCNC, WCCB, WSPA, WLOS and others. Additionally, the costs to carry Fox Sports South and other stations continue to rise.

Programming costs represent roughly 42% of the total budget for CoMPAS.

## Upgrades to cable head end continue

CoMPAS is currently working on a \$600,000 upgrade to the Internet service, and once completed, CoMPAS customers will be able to surf the web at speeds faster than ever before!

In September 2013, the Morganton City Council approved the purchase of a new Cable Modem Termination System (CMTS),

See **COMPAS** on Page 2

# Thompson hopes to continue Morganton's success

City Councilman Ronnie Thompson is looking forward to serving on the Morganton City Council and being involved in the local government process. His desire is for Morganton to continue to grow and prosper.

Thompson was elected in October 2013 to the District 4 seat on the Council, and he took office in December. He said he is excited to be involved and will be engaged in the civic process.

"Local government is the place where things get done," Thompson said. "Local governments build parks, pave roads, and pick up trash; local government is where the action is."

Thompson was born at the old

Grace Hospital and he graduated from Valdese High School. He went on to receive a degree in economics from UNC Chapel Hill and he worked briefly at the Western Carolina Center. In 1975, he started working with his family's real estate business and has worked there ever since. Thompson and his wife Anne have been married for 36 years; they have two daughters.

This isn't Thompson's first foray into local government. In 1988, he was elected to serve on the Burke County Board of Commissioners, and he served as the board chairman in 1992. Thompson said he enjoyed serving on the Board of



**Ronnie Thompson**

Morganton City Councilman, District 4

Commissioners and he wanted to get involved in local government once again.

"I was encouraged by a lot of people to run for Council, and with that encouragement I decided to go for it. I felt like I could have a positive impact

See **THOMPSON** on Page 2

## Mountain View Street water tank removed

The old water tank located at 105 Mountain View Street has been demolished to make way for a new 150-foot monopine that will house City communications equipment.

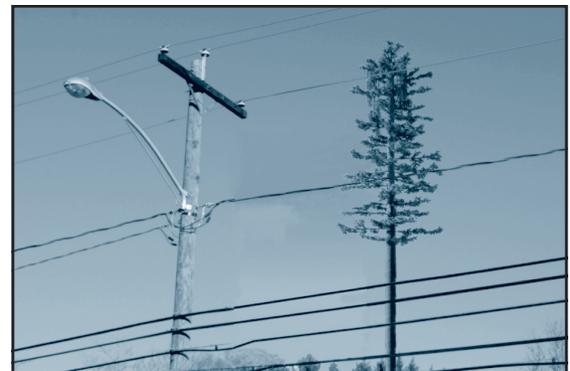
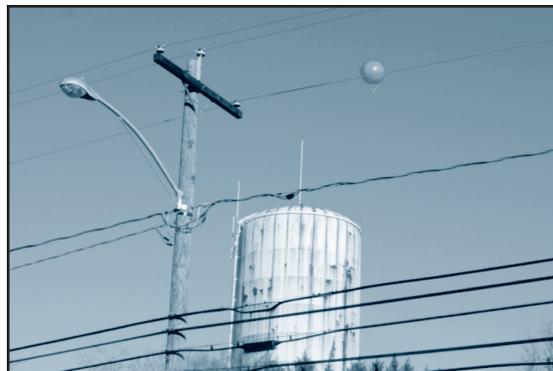
NHM Constructors of Asheville is performing the work for the City. The project is scheduled to be completed by April 2014.

For several years, the City Council had discussed what to do with the old water tank. In January 2013, the Council approved a contract with West Consultants to research what options the City had regarding the old tank. Although the tank was no longer used for water storage, it did support various

City communications equipment that were essential to providing police, fire, electric, water and sewer services to Morganton residents.

In February 2013, the Council voted to demolish the old water tank and erect a

See **MONOPINE** on Page 2



The photos above show a before and after rendering of the 105 Mountain View St. site from the sidewalk on West Union Street. The photo on the left shows the old water tank before it was demolished. The photo on the right shows the proposed monopine tower with the water tank removed.

## Morganton City Council

- Mel Cohen, Mayor
- John H. Cantrell, Mayor Pro Tem
- Forrest A. Fleming
- S. Sidney Simmons
- Ronnie Thompson

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# HOLIDAY GARBAGE Schedule 2014

## New Year's Day • Wednesday, Jan. 1

Garbage collection will be on a regular schedule Monday and Tuesday; no pickup on Wednesday Jan. 1; collection for Wednesday and Thursday will be on a one-day delay.

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday • Monday, Jan. 20

No pick up on Monday Jan. 20. Collection for the remainder of the week will be on a one-day delay.

## Good Friday • Friday, April 18

Collection will be on a regular schedule all week.

## Memorial Day • Monday, May 26

No collection on Monday May 26. Pick up for the remainder of the week will be on a one-day delay

## Independence Day • Friday, July 4

Collection will be on a regular schedule all week.

## Labor Day • Monday, September 1

Regular schedule all week. Garbage will be collected on Monday.

## Veteran's Day • Tuesday, November 27

Garbage will be collected on Monday. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday's collection will be on a one-day delay.

## Thanksgiving Holiday • Thursday & Friday, Nov. 27 & 28

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will be on regular schedule. Thursday's garbage will be picked up a day early on WEDNESDAY.

## Christmas Holiday • Wednesday & Thursday, Dec. 24 & 25

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will be on regular schedule, Thursday's garbage will be picked up on FRIDAY.

## New Year's Day 2015 • Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will be on regular schedule, Thursday's garbage will be picked up on FRIDAY.

## 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.**



## Thompson

*From the front*

serving on the City Council," Thompson said.

"I wasn't upset about anything, but I wanted to be involved in the local government process."

Thompson said he is concerned about the date of the City elections; he wants to ensure that the City has a balanced budget, and he would like to get more people involved with City advisory boards.

"I'd like to increase citizen involvement, make sure our finances are in order and continue to make Morganton a great place to live work and raise a family," Thompson said.

Thompson also wants to maintain and improve recruiting efforts to bring industry into Morganton and Burke County.

"We have to have jobs to bring people into the community," he said.

All in all, Thompson believes Morganton is a great place to live and work and he wants to build on the City's successes. As the District Governor for Rotary International, Thompson travels a lot across western North Carolina, and he believes Morganton is the best of the best.

Thompson said the City's Recreation Department, especially the greenway system, is very impressive. The various arts programs, CoMMA, and TGIF Friday night concerts provide entertainment not found in other towns. Morganton's downtown is filled with a variety of restaurants and shops, including art galleries and studios.

"All that sets us above and apart from other cities," Thompson said. "Nobody has a town like ours."

## CoMPAS

*From the front*

which will allow CoMPAS to offer Internet download speeds 10 times faster than current speeds. CoMPAS General Manager Bill Harkins said the upgrade will put CoMPAS Internet service well ahead of the competition in the area.

"We'll be able to offer extremely fast download and

upload speeds to our 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."

After the new equipment is installed, CoMPAS will be able to offer speeds up to 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads! Also, CoMPAS will offer a new pricing structure once the upgrade is complete.

## Monopine

*From the front*

communications monopole to take its place. However, when West Consultants presented the project for review at the state level, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) said the monopole would not

pass the review process. SHPO suggested that the City consider installing a monopine. The City Council members agreed to redesign the project using a monopine.

A new monopine will be erected on the site to house the City's communications equipment. The total project will cost \$421,136.