



CITY PRIDE

MORGANTON, NC

May 2014 • Morganton's Citizen Newsletter



Vote for Morganton!

Don't miss your chance to vote for Morganton as the Greatest Main Street in North Carolina!



North Carolina residents have spoken and pitched their favorite Main Streets to the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association. Main Streets were nominated by the public through the "People's Choice" campaign launched in May. A panel of nine expert judges narrowed that list down to six finalists, and Morganton's Main Street made the cut!

Now it's up to the residents to vote and select the greatest main street in the state.

See **VOTE** on Page 2



To vote for Morganton, scan the QR code with your smart phone or visit <http://bit.ly/1qAXWJa>

Morganton City Council

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

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

www.ci.morganton.nc.us

Enhancements at I-40 Exits

Anyone driving around Morganton has most likely encountered the construction work at Interstate 40 Exit 105 on Sterling Street and Exit 104 on Enola Road. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is replacing both bridges along the interstate. As part of those projects the City of Morganton worked with NCDOT to design and fund enhancements to these exits to set Morganton apart from the other communities across the state. Both projects represent more than \$50 million in upgrades to the interstate system and are intended to be in service for more than 50 years.

"When I came on board with City in January 2007, these two interchange projects were in the works with NCDOT," said City Engineer Mark Young. "Lee Anderson, Michael Berley, and I started brainstorming on ways to make the interchange stand out and attract visitors and businesses. We were able to get NCDOT to



Contractors work to sculpt the mural on the west wall of the I-40 Exit 105 bridge underpass April 2, 2014.

approve stone treatments to the bridge rails at both exits, two murals on the underpass walls along Sterling Street at Exit 105, and columns at Exit 104."

The enhancements at Exit 105 include the two murals on the underpass walls, stone treatments to the bridge rails, and stone treatment

of a retaining wall on the westbound off ramp coming from I-40 to Sterling Street. The enhancements to Exit 104 include stone treatments to the retaining walls, bridge rails, and support columns visible from I-40.

See **I-40 EXITS** on Page 2

Monopine communications pole goes up

The City of Morganton is installing a 150-foot, monopine communications pole at 105 Mountain View St. The monopine pole replaces an old water tank that was out of service, and will support communications equipment for City departments.

As of April 15, contractors had installed the City's communications equipment and several layers of branches onto the monopine, but many more branches will be added.

Final appurtenances such as fencing, cables, antennas, ground wires, and landscaping should be installed by the end of

April, and the project should be totally complete by mid-May.

Once installed, the new 150-foot monopine will support communications equipment for City departments including the Public Safety Department, Public Works Department, the Electric Department, the Water Resources Department and CoMPAS Cable.

The project will cost \$421,136. The City Council approved the project and the funding in February 2013.

Find out more about the project, watch installation videos, check out photos at www.ci.morganton.nc.us/monopine.



Get ready for some spring and summer fun!

Visit "www.ci.morganton.nc.us/recevents" for more free events sponsored by the Parks Recreation Department!

TGIF Free Concerts start in May!

TGIF runs May 2 through June 27 in 2014! Bands perform from 7:00pm till 10:00pm with food and beverage vendors opening at 6:00pm. TGIF is a rain or shine event. Bring a chair or blanket out to the Historic Burke County Courthouse Lawn and come enjoy free music!

Food choices include hamburgers, hot dogs, french fries, kettle corn ... and of course your favorite beer and wine!

Family Night features DJ Bert Lindsey of Magical Music! From 6-10pm on May 23rd, join the DJ on East Union Street next to the Courthouse Lawn for a dance party! Corn Hole games on the northeast corner of the Courthouse Lawn!

Find out more at www.morgantonfest.org.

2014 TGIF Schedule

- May 2: Throwdown Jones (Classic Rock)
- May 9: PD9 (Hot Jazz, Swing, Jump)
- May 10: Morganton Jazz Festival
- May 16: Uncle Hamish & The Hooligans (Celtic Rock)
- May 23: Special Family Night with proceeds benefiting D.A.R.E. featuring Sweet Revenge (Classic Rock) & Teen DJ Night
- May 30: "Songs From Burke" featuring Balsam Range (Bluegrass, Folk)
- June 6: Carolina Soul Band (Beach)
- June 13: The Alligators (Blues, Rock)
- June 20: The Matt Stratford Band (Rock)
- June 27: Too Much Sylvia (Rock, Blues, Retro)

11th Annual Red, White and Bluegrass Festival!

The 11th Annual Red, White and Bluegrass Festival is the bluegrass event of the year! The festival will feature more than a dozen great bluegrass bands, great food, vendors, tent sales, jam sessions, and more! And, the festival is a family-friendly event. Find out more and buy tickets at

www.redwhiteandbluegrassfestival.com.

New Dates! Thursday through Friday, June 26 - June 28, 2014 from 2:00 pm to 11:00 pm at Catawba Meadows Park

Bluegrass Camp for Kids - Wednesday June 25 through Thursday June 27, 2014, at the Collett Street Recreation Center. Call (828) 438-5350 to find out more information about the camp.

Old Time July 4th Fireworks

Don't miss a spectacular fireworks show this Independence Day in Morganton. There will be games, music, vendors, and much more at this year's Old Time July 4th celebration! For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at (828) 438-5350.

When: Friday July 4, 2014 starting at 2:00 pm at Catawba Meadows Park. Fireworks show starts at 9:30 pm.

Vote

From the front

Morganton is competing against main streets in Boone, Benson, Mooresville, Charlotte, and Gastonia, so be sure to visit the website, log in, and vote for Morganton! This is a People's Choice award, so the main street with the most votes by May 9 wins!

To vote for Morganton, scan the QR code with your smart phone or visit <http://bit.ly/1qAXWJa>

I-40 Exits

From the front

The City funded all the enhancements at a total cost of \$244,330. The City Council approved the funding for the enhancements in December 2010.

The two murals, a silhouette carving of the Table Rock and Hawksbill mountain range, were designed by Michael Berley, Project Designer for the City. Berley also chose the stone treatments for

the bridge rails to tie into the stone retaining wall around the Historic Burke County Courthouse Square in downtown Morganton.

"When people come off Exit 105 or 104 into Morganton, they'll notice the enhancements - the stone work, the murals - and hopefully that will make Morganton stand out in their minds on future trips on I-40," Berley said.

Young said he wasn't aware of any other underpass murals like this in the state. In addition to the murals

and stone work, there will be sidewalks along both sides of Sterling Street from the Waffle House/Plaza Inn area south of I-40 to Grace Hospital. NCDOT is also installing traffic light mast arms like the mast arms already installed at the intersection of Sterling Street and the Grace Hospital entrance. Two more will be at the off ramp intersections.

Find out more about the project, check out 360 degree views, and check out photos at www.ci.morganton.nc.us/i40exits.