

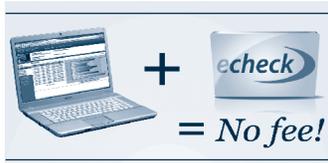
CITY PRIDE

MORGANTON, NC

September 2013 • Morganton's Citizen Newsletter



Pay bills online, no fee



The City of Morganton is now offering a free payment option to residents who prefer to pay City utility, cable and tax bills online. The City has contracted with Point & Pay to provide online bill payment services. The new system went live July 1.

Residents can pay bills online with an e-check at no charge. Point & Pay does charge a fee for residents who want to pay online or by phone with a credit card.

"We are excited to be able to offer customers the option to pay online without having to pay an extra fee," said City Finance Director Karen Duncan. "We think the free e-check option will be very popular. Of course, Point & Pay's credit card fees are also lower which benefits customers who choose to use a credit card."

Point & Pay charges a 2.6% fee with a minimum charge of \$1.50 to pay online with a

See **PAY ONLINE** on Page 2

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

City election set for October

The City of Morganton municipal election will be Oct. 8, 2013, the second Tuesday in October. This year, two seats on the Morganton City Council are up for election, and four candidates have filed to run for office.

John Cantrell, incumbent, and Nathan Chapman are running for election to the District 3 seat on the Council. Alfred Hamer, Jr., incumbent, and Ronnie Thompson, are running for election to the District 4 seat.

Early One Stop Voting will be open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, Sept. 19 through Oct. 4, and from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm Saturday Oct. 5. One Stop Voting will be at the Burke County Board of Elections located in Suite 100 of the Foothills Higher Education Center, 2128 S. Sterling Street, and at the Morganton-Burke Senior Center located at 501 N. Green St.

City Election Details

Registration Deadline..... Sept. 13
One Stop Voting Starts ... Sept. 19
One Stop Voting Ends..... Oct. 4
City Election Day..... Oct. 8

Voting Locations

Burke County Board of Election
2128 S. Sterling St. Suite 100
Morganton-Burke Senior Center
501 N. Green St.

City residents can register to vote through 5:00 pm Sept. 13. Residents must complete and return a voter registration form to the Burke County Board of Elections by the registration deadline. Voter registration forms are available on the NC State Board of Election website, www.ncsbe.gov, and at the Burke County Board of Election.

There are two voting locations

for the City election – the Burke County Board of Elections Office and the Morganton - Burke County Senior Center.

Residents who traditionally vote during a general election at W.A. Young Elementary School, Salem Elementary School, Mull Elementary School, the NC Cooperative Extension office, Public Safety Station No. 2 (Carbon City) or the Burke County Senior Center, will cast their City election ballot at the Burke County Board of Elections.

City residents who traditionally vote during a general election at Oak Hill Ruritan, Burke County Fairgrounds, First Advent Church, CoMMA, or Pleasant View Baptist Church will vote at the Burke County Senior Center for the City election.

If you have a question about where to vote, call the Board of Elections at 764-9010.

Morganton Heights Shopping center filling up

More and more retailers continue to sign on to locate in the new Morganton Heights shopping center on Fleming Drive in Morganton.

Two of the latest additions are Golden Corral and Dick's Sporting Goods.

Most stores will open in October and November, according to the site developer.

Shops List

- Super Walmart
- Shoe Show
- Cato
- Maurice's
- Rue 21
- Hallmark
- Fashion Max
- Nails R Us
- Claire's Boutique
- Great Clips
- Sally Beauty
- G2K Games
- PetSmart
- Froogle's Dollar Store
- JoAnn Fabrics
- Ross
- Shoe Dept.
- TJ Maxx
- GNC
- Mexican Restaurant
- AT&T
- Hwy 55 Restaurant
- China King Buffet
- Dilishi Frozen Yogurt
- Kay Jewelers
- Mattress Firm
- Verizon
- Tobacco Store
- Smart Cuts
- Staples
- Dick's Sporting Goods
- Belk
- Murphy Oil
- Golden Corral
- Blue Ridge Health Care



The above aerial photo shows construction progress at the new Morganton Heights Shopping Center as of July 19, 2013. Photo submitted by WRS.

Brush collection guidelines

The City of Morganton Public Works Department provides weekly brush collection services for City residents. To ensure City workers can safely collect brush and other yard debris, please follow these guidelines:

- Place brush behind the curb or ditch along the street.
- Limbs should be no longer than 10 feet and no larger than 3 inches in diameter.
- Do not place brush beneath a power line or in a place that prevents the safe operation of City equipment.
- Grass and small trimmings should be bagged for collection on Fridays, and bags should not exceed 35 pounds.
- Excessive loads, stumps, logs or dirt may be collected for a fee at the direction of the Director of Public Works.

Brush created by tree trimming services, logging operations or other tree cutting operations provided by private contractors must be collected and disposed of by the contractor and not placed at curbside for pick up by the City.

If you have questions, contact the Public Works Department at 438-5248, or e-mail tmassey@ci.morganton.nc.us.

Did you know?

The City of Morganton provides a recycling center for residents at Shuey Park located at 101 Golf Course Rd. At the Shuey Park site, residents can recycle aluminum and steel cans, cardboard, glass, mixed paper, newsprint and plastics 1 & 2.

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



Holiday events in Downtown Morganton

Halloween Spooktacular

Thursday • Oct. 31
3:00 - 6:00 pm

On Thursday Oct. 31, join the myriad of imps, ghouls, princesses, heroes and more in Downtown Morganton for the annual Downtown Trick-or-Treating and Halloween Carnival, brought to you by the Morganton Downtown Development Association with assistance from the City of Morganton Recreation Department!

Trick-or-treating is from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, and games and food will be available on the old courthouse square until 6:00 pm.

Winter Carnival & Memorial Tree Lighting

Saturday • Nov. 23
1:00 - 5:30 pm

Downtown Morganton wants to help you kick off the holiday season with some Holiday

Family Fun!

Saturday, Nov. 23, the old Courthouse Square will transform into the North Pole!

Free activities like Ice Fishing, Santa's Putt-Putt, Elves Craft Shop, and Snowman Bean Bag Toss will be setup for everyone to enjoy.

Santa, will be hanging around waiting to hear what all of the GOOD little boys and girls of Morganton are hoping for this holiday season.

Holiday Farmers Market

111 North Green Street
Saturday • Nov. 23 & Dec. 14
12 noon - 5:00 pm

Just in time for your holiday events, stop by for fresh vegetables, baked goods & crafts!

The special Holiday Markets are located at 111 North Green Street, at the corner of Green Street and Avery Avenue.

Christmas Parade

Tuesday • Dec. 3
6:00 pm

Please join the Morganton Downtown Development Association as they present the Downtown Morganton Christmas Parade!

The parade is rain or shine!

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday • Dec. 7 & Dec. 14

The annual Breakfasts with Santa in downtown Morganton are scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 7 and 14, at 8:30 am or 10 am.

Come and enjoy a wonderful pancake breakfast at the Community House, located at 120 N. King Street, and visit with your favorite characters, Mrs. Claus, Santa's elves and other special guests.

Call 438-5252 to purchase tickets. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for children.

www.downtownmorganton.com

Leaf Collection: October - January

Leaf collection starts in October and continues as needed through January.

The City Public Works Dept. currently collects leaves every two weeks during leaf season at no charge. After January, loose leaves will be collected for a \$25.00 fee.

Please pile leaves as close to the road as possible without blocking the road, gutters or sidewalks.

The City no longer provides leaf bags. Loose-leaf collection is much more efficient, saves money and eliminates unnecessary plastic bag waste.

Pay Online

From the front

credit card. Customers can use Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express. There is no fee for customers who pay online with an e-check.

To review utility account information and pay bills online, visit the City website at www.ci.morganton.nc.us and click the "Pay Bills Online

/ My Utilities" link at the top right of the page. The link takes customers to the City of Morganton Payment Portal.

Once at the Payment Portal, customers must register and then add their utility accounts. After adding an account, customers can view account information including billing history, usage details and balance history, and pay their bill online.

Tired of standing in line?



POWERED BY
Point2Pay

Just pay online!