



# CITY PRIDE

MORGANTON, NC

March 2015 • Morganton's Citizen Newsletter

## MORGANTON CITY COUNCIL

Mel L. Cohen, Mayor • S. Sidney Simmons - District 1  
Forrest A. Fleming - District 2 • John H. Cantrell, Mayor  
Pro Tem - District 3 • Ronnie Thompson - District 4  
citymayor@ci.morganton.nc.us | citycouncil@ci.morganton.nc.us

## City launches paperless eBilling



The City of Morganton is pleased to announce that eBilling is now available to City customers. This new, free service allows customers to view an exact image of their CoMPAS, utility, and tax bills online.

Customers who switch to eBilling will receive an email each month letting them know that their bill is ready for viewing and payment. Once customers view their bill, they can then visit the City's Payment Portal to pay online or visit City Hall to pay in person or mail the payment.

"We're excited to announce that we are now offering eBilling to our customers," said Finance Director Karen Duncan. "We have been working to make more utility information available online for our customers, and this is another welcome step in that direction."

Duncan said eBilling improves customer service by giving customers the ability to say goodbye to opening envelopes and filing papers, and hello to accessing their bills online from anywhere they have an internet connection.

See **EBILLING** on Page 2

# Council approves upgrades to Community House

## Leviton donates \$10,000 to fund project

The Morganton City Council approved making upgrades to the Morganton Community House infrastructure and kitchen in January, taking the first steps in a public/private renovation project to overhaul the facility to meet the needs and expectations of today's guests.

In February, Leviton donated \$10,000 to the renovation project, adding to the list of private donors in the community who are supporting the project. Tim Lockard, Senior Director Operations of Leviton, presented the check to Morganton Mayor Mel Cohen Friday, Feb. 13, 2015, in front of the Morganton Community House. Leviton also plans to donate electrical components for the project.

"The community in Morganton and Burke County has been good to us over the years, and we are donating these funds to show



Tim Lockard, Senior Director Operations of Leviton, presents a \$10,000 check to Morganton Mayor Mel Cohen Friday, Feb. 13, 2015, in front of the Morganton Community House.

our thanks and our support for this project," Lockard said. "I'd also like to challenge the other industry leaders in Burke County to follow us and do what they can to help the City."

Morganton Mayor Mel Cohen said he appreciates the support from Leviton and he looks forward to seeing the Community

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## Send in nominations for Citizen of the Year

The City of Morganton Human Relations Commission is accepting nominations for the 2015 Citizen of the Year Awards. The Citizen of the Year awards will honor the 2015 Citizen of the Year, 2015 Senior High School Citizen of the Year, and 2015 Middle School Citizen of the Year.

The purpose of the award is to recognize adult and youth citizens for outstanding volunteer service to the community, school, or neighborhood. This may include volunteer service for a school, church, nursing home, hospital, civic group,

or non-profit organization such as a United Way agency. A person may also be nominated for service to an individual, such as tutoring, assisting an elderly neighbor, etc.

If you know of a person who has made a difference in the schools or community, please nominate them for this honor. Monday, March 16, 2015, is the deadline for submitting an application.

Applications are available online at [www.ci.morganton.nc.us/hrc](http://www.ci.morganton.nc.us/hrc), or by calling the Human resources Department at 438-5253.



MORGANTON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

# ACC Chili Cook-Off!

Friday, March 13, 2015 • 11:00 am

The 21st Annual ACC Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser for the Downtown Development Association will take place Friday, March 13, 2015 in the fellowship hall of the First United Methodist Church from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm. A bargain-priced \$7.00 ticket buys all-you-can-eat chili with all the fixin's, cornbread, salad, dessert and drink! If you're busy, you can get it to go! Access the fellowship hall via the rear parking lot off Queen Street.

Chili Cook-off tickets are available at the Main Street Office, 112 B. W. Union Street. Tickets may also be purchased from DDA Board Members and are available the day of the event at the door (cash or check only).

[www.downtownmorganton.com](http://www.downtownmorganton.com)

## COMMUNITY HOUSE

*From the front*

House project move forward.

"I want to thank the corporate officers for this contribution," Cohen said. "The presence of Leviton in our community over the last several decades is a sign that they are dedicated to Morganton and Burke County and they appreciate the restoration and revitalization of the Morganton Community House."

"I think Leviton, like so many others in the community, understands the historic significance of the Morganton Community House."

During its meeting in January, the Morganton City Council approved making more than \$450,000 worth of upgrades to the Community House. The Council approved funding for new kitchen equipment and infrastructure improvements to the plumbing, electrical service, HVAC, as well as improvements to the basement entry, air conditioning to the kitchen, and noise reduction around the kitchen.

Private contributors have

already donated and pledged \$175,000 to be used for the improvements, thanks to a fundraising campaign led by the Morganton Pilot Club, and the City also received a \$75,000 grant to help upgrade the kitchen. The combined gifts and grants total more than \$250,000 and that money will help offset the cost of the project.

City Councilman John Cantrell said he supports the improvements and looks forward to seeing the Community House progress in the coming years. Cantrell said that he remembers delivering groceries to the Community House when he was a boy and braving the steep steps into the basement. He said he remembers going to birthday parties, taking dance lessons, and attending Christmas parties all at the Community House.

"The Morganton Community House is an asset that I think we have to protect," Cantrell said. "I've seen up close the needs that are there, and I also see the value. I can't see any reason why we shouldn't move forward with these improvements. I think our citizens deserve a first-class Community House."

# IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

for City of Morganton Residents

828-437-8863 | [www.ci.morganton.nc.us](http://www.ci.morganton.nc.us)

## EMERGENCIES ..... 9-1-1

Dial 9-1-1 for **ALL** life-threatening emergencies.

### PUBLIC SAFETY (Police/Fire)

Non-Emergency..... 437-1911 or 437-1211  
Records (M-F)..... 438-5290  
Administration (M-F)..... 432-2676  
Animal Control..... 584-2627

### CITY UTILITIES

Power ..... 438-5277  
Water & Sewer..... 438-5276  
CoMPAS Cable..... 438-5353  
Garbage Collection..... 438-5248

### OTHER

City Hall ..... 437-8863  
Burke County Sheriff ..... 438-5500  
Burke County Narcotics Task Force ..... 430-4221  
Carolinas Poison Center..... 1-800-222-1222  
Crime Stoppers..... 437-3333

### STAY UP-TO-DATE ON CITY NEWS AND EVENTS!

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City of Morganton, NC  
**NC Public Power**  
City Owned Electric Service

## EBILLING

*From the front*

"We are always working to improve customer service and provide more options," Duncan said. "eBilling is good for our customers who prefer to bank online and pay bills online."

To sign up for eBilling, customers should visit <https://morganton.estmt.net> and enter the registration number found on their bill. Customers can enter two email addresses where they want to receive their

digital bills. Once registered for eBilling, customers will no longer receive a paper bill, but the eBill will be an exact replica of their paper bill.

In addition to eBilling, City customers can pay online, or set up an automatic bank draft to eliminate the hassle of paying bills altogether. To set up an automatic bank draft, visit [www.ci.morganton.nc.us/bankdrafts](http://www.ci.morganton.nc.us/bankdrafts). To pay online via the City's Payment Portal, visit [www.ci.morganton.nc.us/payonline](http://www.ci.morganton.nc.us/payonline).