



CITY PRIDE

MORGANTON, NC

May 2015 • Morganton's Citizen Newsletter

MORGANTON CITY COUNCIL

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Summer sounds!

TGIF Free Concerts

Downtown Morganton's TGIF Free Friday night concert series runs from May through June. Bring your friends and family, a lawn chair or blanket and have a good time! Visit www.morgantonfest.org and check out the full line up!

Red, White and Bluegrass Festival

The 12th Annual Red, White and Bluegrass Festival will feature more than a dozen great bluegrass bands, great food, vendors, tent sales, jam sessions, and more! The festival runs Wednesday through Saturday, July 1 through July 4, 2015, at Catawba Meadows Park. Find out more and buy tickets at www.redwhiteandbluegrassfestival.com.

CoMPAS changes

Due to contractual requirements, CoMPAS is making some changes to the HD lineup in May and is adding six new HD channels. These new channels will be available for free to any customers using an HD DVR box. Visit www.compascable.net to download a new channel guide. Changes effective May 4.

Donors give \$150,000 to Community House

The Morganton City Council gave the go ahead Monday, April 20, 2015, to build a new courtyard at the Morganton Community House. The \$150,000 project is being funded by two private donors. The Johnson (Phifer) family and the Bridges family have donated \$75,000 each to fund the renovation. The new

courtyard will spruce up the main entrance to the Community House and create a new outdoor venue for events.

"This is one of the most exciting pieces of the renovation plan," said Main Street Director Sharon Jablonski, who oversees the Community House. "The new courtyard will be the most visible im-

provement, and it will bring us a new venue. So many people want to have events outdoors.

Morganton Mayor Mel Cohen said he appreciates the commitment within the community to upgrade and maintain one of the most important community buildings

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Case Farms gives \$20,000 to Community House



Case Farms donated \$20,000 to the Morganton Community House renovation project. Charles Rigdon, Case Farms VP and GM, and Jason Middlecamp, Division Controller, presented the check to Mayor Mel Cohen and Main Street Director Sharon Jablonski. "We are grateful to receive Case Farms' donation. They have set the bar high for other industry leaders in Morganton," Cohen said. bit.ly/cf20000gs

Morganton wins Main Street Awards

Orrison named 2014 Main Street Champion

The City of Morganton Main Street Department won three awards during the 2015 N.C. Main Street Conference hosted in Morganton last week, show-

ing once again that Downtown Morganton has what it takes to be a great main street.

The Morganton Main Street Department received awards in the following categories: "Best Public Relations Effort" for the City's Main Street Program Energizes Downtown brochure and video; "Best Image-Build-

ing Campaign" for the City's Wayfinding Project; and "Best Business Retention, Expansion or Recruitment Effort" for the City's Creative Arts Center Recruitment Initiative.

"I'm very excited about winning these awards, because

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Citizens of the Year

The City of Morganton Human Relations Commission (HRC) named Wendy Cato as the 2015 Adult Citizen of the Year, Ryan Tanner as the High School Citizen of the Year, and Lillie Katherine Epley as the Middle School Citizen of the Year. Cato, Tanner, and Epley were honored for their commitment and service to their neighbors and their communities.



Cato



Tanner



Epley

The awards honor outstanding adult, high school and middle school volunteers who have made a positive difference in their school, neighborhood, or community. Recipients represent a wide range of interests and backgrounds, but all share the same commitment to community and mankind. They have given of themselves by providing assistance for those in need of shelter and medical care, volunteering in rest homes and local ministries, organizing civic events and celebrations, and by volunteer service through their church, school or civic group. bit.ly/HRCCoY15

Secretary Kluttz visits Morganton



N.C. Dept. of Cultural Resources Secretary Susan Kluttz visited Morganton in March continuing her and Gov. Pat McCrory's push to restore the state's historic preservation tax credits program. Kluttz is asking North Carolinians to sign a petition supporting the program and to call their state senators and representatives as well and voice their support. "The average person doesn't know about the great things that have happened in their community that were a result of the tax credits," Kluttz said. "We urge you to go onto the website and sign the petition." www.historictaxcredits.org/bit.ly/kluttzmg

COURTYARD

From the front

in Morganton.

"On behalf of the City Council and the City of Morganton, I want to thank the donors for such a generous gift to the City," Cohen said.

Construction on the new courtyard will take eight to 10 weeks to complete, barring any unforeseen issues. The courtyard will be surfaced with pavers and will be at grade

with the Community House porch. The space will be able to seat around 100 people. A retaining wall around the area will contain ornamental shrubs and trees. The handicap accessible entrance will be moved to the left of the courtyard.

In January this year, the City Council took the first step in the renovation process by approving improvements to the infrastructure and kitchen. That project was also funded partly by private donations and grant money.

During the meeting Monday, the City Council voted unanimously to award the construction contract to Wilkie Construction for \$132,910; to contract with Patti Glazer, Inc. for architectural services for \$5,000; and to make budget amendments to use capital reserve funds for the project in the amount of \$150,000.

The \$150,000 in donations will be given to the City over three years, and will be put back into the capital reserve fund each year. bit.ly/MCH150gs

AWARDS

From the front

a lot of hard work went into all these projects" Morganton Main Street Director Sharon Jablonski said.

In addition to the awards, Dr. Gresham Orrison was named Morganton's 2014 Main Street Champion. Orrison has worked with Morganton's Main Street program for more than 23 years.

As a property owner of more

than 15 properties in Downtown, Orrison has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in his properties and completed several first-class renovations. He diligently works with current and potential tenants to see and participate in the vision of Downtown, and he also visits the Main Street Department often to stay up-to-date on what's happening



Orrison

Downtown, and offers suggestions on potential tenants.

"Dr. Orrison has worked very hard and invested a lot of time and money to bring businesses into his properties and make Downtown Morganton a success," Jablonski said. "We

really appreciate everything he does and we're sure that he will continue to be a Main Street Champion in Morganton." bit.ly/MSAwards15