



The leaves are falling!

As a reminder to residents, the Public Works Department collects leaves at no charge from October through January. Workers collect leaves about every two weeks, although streets with more leaves may be collected more often.

Residents should pile leaves as close to the road as possible without blocking the road, sidewalks, gutters, or storm drains.

After January residents must pay a \$25 fee to have loose leaves collected. Call Public Works at 828-438-5248 for more information.

Holiday Garbage Schedule

Garbage collection will be off schedule on Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Veteran's Day

Wednesday, Nov. 11: Routes will be collected on schedule Monday and Tuesday. No pick up Wednesday, Nov. 11. Wednesday and Thursday's routes will be collected on a one-day delay.

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Thompson, Simmons, Fleming win election

Ronnie Thompson, Sidney Simmons, and Forrest Fleming were elected to the Morganton City Council Tuesday night, Nov. 3, 2015, according to the unofficial results from the Board of Elections.

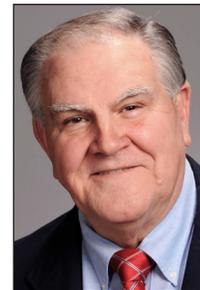
Thompson won the Mayor's seat, and Simmons and Fleming held off challenges to their respective council seats.

Thompson, who was elected to the District 4 Council seat in 2013, challenged Mayor Mel Cohen. Thompson received 1,263 votes (55.35%) to Cohen's 1,005 votes (44.04%) to win the Mayor's seat. This will be Thompson's first term as Mayor.

Sidney Simmons won the District 1 seat for a second time with 1,306 votes (60.46 %). Challenger Jasper Hemphill received 469 votes (21.71 %), Richard Garrison received 292 votes (13.52 %), and Robert Griner received 91 votes



Ronnie Thompson
Mayor



Sidney Simmons
District 1



Forrest Fleming
District 2

(4.21 %). Simmons was first elected in 2011.

Forrest Fleming won the District 2 seat for the third time with 1,161 votes (55.66 %) compared to challenger Bill Sim-

mons' 918 votes (44.01 %). Fleming was first elected in 2007.

Morganton residents also approved changes to

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Community House Courtyard

More than 150 people gathered at the Morganton Community House Thursday afternoon, Oct. 29, 2015, to celebrate the dedication of the new Bridges Family and Johnson Family Courtyard.

Speakers included Jan Richardson, Co-Chair of the Renew the Tradition Campaign; Dr. Jim Richardson, Fundraising Director for the Renew the Tradition Campaign; Sharon Jablonski, Main Street Director; Dr. Bob Shepherd, Co-Chair of the Renew the Tradition Campaign; Mayor Mel Cohen; and Mike Bridges.

Attendees enjoyed some live music and refreshments in the new courtyard and learned about plans for the future for the Community House.



Mike Bridges, left, and Susu Phifer Johnson, right. Find out more about the courtyard at <http://bit.ly/mchyard>.

ELECTION

From the front

the City's rules on alcohol sales. With 1,606 votes "For" (71.73 %) versus 633 votes "AGAINST" (28.27 %), residents chose to remove the hotel, motel, and restaurant restrictions. Now, alcohol sales will be allowed in any establishment in the City that can obtain the appropriate permits from the State.

Thompson, Simmons, and Fleming will take their oaths of office and start their new terms in December 2015.

The Council will also have the opportunity to appoint someone to fill Thompson's vacant District 4 seat. Any appointment will have to be approved by a majority of the board.

The next City Council meeting will be Monday Dec. 7, 2015.

<http://bit.ly/1Q6Qjvk>

SCHEDULE

From the front

Thanksgiving

Thursday & Friday, Nov. 26 & 27: Collection will be on schedule Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Thursday's route will be collected a day early on Wednesday.

Christmas

Thursday & Friday, Dec. 24 & 25: Collection will be on schedule Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Thursday's route will be collected a day early on Wednesday.

<http://bit.ly/1OqHBYs>

City awarded \$150K grant to improve MLK Jr. Park

The City of Morganton has been awarded a \$150,000 grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust to help renovate Martin Luther King Jr. Park on Bouchelle Street.

City of Morganton Parks and Recreation Director Gary Leonhardt said the project to improve MLK Jr. Park was initiated by Mountain View community members who thought the park needed some upgrades. Leonhardt said that local resident Allen Fullwood and Morganton Mayor Mel Cohen worked together to build community support for the project and for the grant.

"I'm elated; I'm very happy for the community," Fullwood said. "Bouchelle Street has come a long way since I lived there as a kid. This really will be an enhancement for the community and the residents of the area."

The initial plans to renovate the park are estimated to cost \$432,000. City staff will



Martin Luther King Jr. Park is located on the 700 block of Bouchelle Street near the Mountain View Recreation Center.

continue working on designs that include a splash pad, new playground features, upgrades to the restrooms, new fencing, lighting, and seat walls. Construction should start by late spring 2016.

The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust was established in 1947 and is now one of the largest private trusts in North Carolina. Its mission is to improve the quality of life and quality of health for the finan-

cially needy of North Carolina. The Health Care Division promotes wellness state-wide by investing in prevention and treatment. The Poor and Needy Division of the Trust responds to basic life needs and invests in solutions that improve the quality of life and health for financially needy residents of Forsyth County. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. serves as sole trustee.

<http://bit.ly/1iFiByw>

Check out the #OpenGov portal

The City of Morganton is committed to transparency and to the concept of open government. Open government is the governing philosophy of transparency, the belief that the public has the right to access documents and information pertaining to government activities.

The purpose behind an open government philosophy is to

instill and build trust between the government and the public.

The City's website has an #OpenGov portal that provides useful information in a single location about how the city government operates. You can find budget information, financial records, tax rates, fees, and other information via the #OpenGov portal.



www.ci.morganton.nc.us