

## City Calendar Sept - Oct.

September - October

Art in the Hall

"Light and its Interruption"

by Steve Brooks

8 am-5 pm, Mon-Fri @ City Hall

**Monday, 9/5 • Labor Day  
City Hall Closed!  
Trash collection on  
a one-day delay all week!**

Friday, 9/9 - Saturday 9/10

Historic Morganton Festival

Friday • 3-11 pm

Saturday • 9a-10pm

@ Downtown Morganton

Monday, 9/12

City Council Meeting

6 pm @ City Hall

Thursday, 9/15

"You've Got A Friend"

Music of Carole King &  
James Taylor

7:30 pm @ CoMMA

Thursday, 10/6

"FAME" - THE MUSICAL

7:30 pm @ CoMMA

Saturday, 10/8

Help Our Project Race

7:30am - Noon

@ Martha's Park

Thursday, 10/20

"Shanghai Nights"

7:30 pm @ CoMMA

Friday, 10/28 & Saturday, 10/29

Spooky Meadows Hayride!

7-10pm @ Catawba Meadows

Monday 10/31

Halloween Spooktacular

3-5pm @ Downtown Morganton

City Calendar

@ <http://bit.ly/mgacal>

## New season, services at CoMMA

### Blue Blazers and Ambassadors team up to wow patrons

It's a new season at CoMMA, Season 31 to be exact, and CoMMA Director Jim Smith, who is also new, is planning a few upgrades for this year!

"I realize that the patrons are the heartbeat of our theatre," Smith said. "Our success depends on their support, and that's why we're working to create more opportunities to enjoy CoMMA."

One of those new opportunities is food. You heard that right. Starting with Season 31, patrons will be able to enjoy refreshments before the show and during intermission including crackers, peanuts, M&Ms, cookies, and drinks.

"Food and entertainment just belong together," Smith said.

Another upgrade is the CoMMA Ambassador program. Smith said the new Ambassador program is a way to give younger residents an opportunity to get involved and get to know the theatre. Anyone 14 and older can apply to be an Ambassador.

"The Ambassadors will help cultivate younger patrons and encourage more people to come experience what the theatre is all about," Smith said.

The AARP Blue Blazers and Ambassadors will work together as house staff.

Smith said the Blue Blazers and Ambassadors are getting along great. Ms. Carolyn Malcolm, AARP Blue Blazer Coordinator, said she has already called on the Ambassadors to fill in for the Blue Blazers when she was short staffed.

"I've already fallen in love with some of

our Ambassadors," Carolyn said. "I think they are a wonderful addition to the AARP Blue Blazers!"

CoMMA Ambassadors Coordinator Eric Davis said the feeling is mutual.

"This is another example of what makes CoMMA and Burke County shine!" Davis said. "I'm excited about working alongside Ms. Carolyn and the Blue Blazers. They are a great group of volunteers and I look forward to many great seasons together!"

For some volunteers, serving at CoMMA is a family affair.

"We have a grandmother in the Blue Blazers who recruited her granddaughter to serve as an Ambassador, because they share a love for the theatre," Smith said. "It is exciting to see a grandma and granddaughter asking to serve together at CoMMA!"

MainStage Morganton 2016 - 2017 will include 20 performances, an increase from last season. Smith said he is very excited about the new season, and he looks forward to meeting all the patrons and building on CoMMA's successes.

"I am only a phone call or hand shake away!" Smith said. He'll be greeting guests at the door on performance nights.

"Please introduce yourself, because I'm excited to make new friendships and build relationships as we share great times at CoMMA. It's a new season, but I know you're still gonna love it!"



Dr. W. Jim Smith  
Director



Starting with Season 31, CoMMA will offer refreshments in the lobby before shows and during intermission!

## Water test advertisements not from City

In August, some Morganton and Burke County residents on the City of Morganton water system found a stake in their yard with information about water testing.

City staff wants to make sure residents know this test and any others like it are not from the City. City water customers can rest assured that their water is safe.

The solicitation in August was from a local company that sells water filtration systems. The City's water exceeds already stringent guidelines.

"City of Morganton water exceeds all state and federal regulations, and recently received the N.C. Area Wide Optimization Award for the seventh straight year," said Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Jason Green. "We just want to remind our customers that these "tests" are really the start of a sales solicitation."

The N.C. Area Wide Optimization Award is given to water systems that meet performance goals that are significantly more stringent and exceed federal and state drinking water standards. Find out more about the program at <http://bit.ly/2aQuCU8>.

Also, the City already offers free water tests year-round, and those tests don't come with a sales pitch.

"We offer water tests anytime, for free, for any customer that is concerned about their water quality," Green said. "And we won't put any pressure on you to buy a water filter system."

Residents interested in more information, can read the City's latest water quality report online at <http://bit.ly/2bAXiyI>.

To request a water test, call the Water Resources Department at 828-438-5276



## Winkler taking helm at Parks and Recreation

The City of Morganton is pleased to announce that Robert (Rob) Winkler has been hired as the Parks and Recreation Director. While Rob has spent the last nine years serving as the Parks and Recreation Director in Lenoir, he previously worked for the City of Morganton as well as Burke County.



**Rob Winkler**  
Director

City Manager Sally Sandy said that she is thrilled that Rob has decided to return to Morganton. "His leadership and energy has allowed recreation in Lenoir to blossom. Now, he can use his enthusiasm and love for recreation to

make Morganton's already top notch program even better."

Winkler grew up in Lenoir where he graduated from West Caldwell High School. After graduation he attended North Carolina State University where he received his Bachelor of Science in Parks Recreation and Tourism Management.

In 1996, after graduating from NC State, Winkler moved to Morganton where he became Athletic Supervisor for the City of Morganton Parks and Recreation. He then went on to become the Athletic Director for Burke County in 1999. After a brief stint back with Morganton in 2007, Winkler was named Director of Parks and Recreation for Lenoir where he supervised 19 full time (50 part time) employees and managed three recreation centers as well as

various parks and facilities.

Winkler loved the time he spent working in Morganton and is excited to come back. He is looking forward to finishing his career here and continuing to grow the already strong recreation program in Morganton. Winkler said, "I am truly honored to be selected as the next Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Morganton, as it has been at the forefront of Recreation for many years. My goal is to continue the success of the Department, and I am excited to work with the staff in serving the citizens of Morganton. My family and I look forward to the opportunity to return to where I began my career."

Winkler and his wife Elisabeth have two children, Ben and Ryan. Winkler's first day will be August 30.

### MORGANTON CITY COUNCIL

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