



CITY PRIDE

MORGANTON, NC

Morganton's Citizen Newsletter • January 2015

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

Cable rates increasing in January

During the budget meeting held in June, the Morganton City Council approved a cable television rate increase effective January 1, 2015.

The rate increase will cover continued increases in programming costs that CoMPAS must pay to various broadcasters to carry channels.

Broadcast Basic will increase by \$1.50 to \$25.45 per month. Basic Cable will increase by \$4.00 to \$67.95 a month. Digital Basic will increase by \$1.00 to \$10.00 a month.

BROADCAST BASIC: \$25.45
ANALOG BASIC: \$67.95
DIGITAL BASIC: \$10.00

CoMPAS recently completed an upgrade to its high-speed internet system, and now all CoMPAS Internet customers receive a minimum Internet speed of 10/2 Mbps; that is 10 Mbps download and 2 Mbps upload.

In addition to the 10/2 speed, Internet customers can choose to purchase even higher speeds - up to 100/20 Mbps! Residents can get a \$10.00 discount on Internet service when bundled with Voice, CoMPAS' telephone service.

Find out more at www.compascable.net.

Find out more about the City's budget online at www.ci.morganton.nc.us/docs in the "City Budget and Fees" section.



New zoning ordinance

City Council approves land use changes

The Morganton City Council approved a new zoning ordinance during its December meeting. The new ordinance replaces regulations that have been in place since the mid-1990s and implements some goals of the City's Mission 2030 plan.

The new ordinance makes a major change to the number and type of zoning districts in the City. Rather than using 13 use-based districts, the new ordinance creates six intensity-based districts. The goal of the intensity-based districts is to simplify and diversify opportunities for developers and property owners.

The new districts are Low Intensity District (LID), Medium Intensity District (MID), High Intensity District (HID), Central Business District (CBD), Exclusive Industrial District (EID), and State Institutional



Many residents attended the Dec. 1, 2014, Morganton City Council hearing to make comments to the Council and hear what was discussed about the new zoning ordinance.

District (SID). Uses will be permitted or denied in the various districts based on their particular impacts to the surrounding properties.

This opens the door for land uses to be mixed if they have

similar impacts. For example, single-family homes, home occupations, family care homes, bed and breakfasts, greenhouses, day cares, and churches would

See **ZONING** on Page 2

City hires new Human Resources director

The City of Morganton has hired Rus Scherer as the new director of the City's Human Resources Department. Scherer will take over after current Director Cheryl Dellinger retires at the start of the year.

Scherer has more than 10 years experience in human resources in the private sector and 10 years experience in municipal government working in both finance and human resources. For the past 10 years Scherer has worked as the Finance Director for the Town of Rutherfordton where he handled financial matters and personnel matters.

"I really enjoy working with people and helping them be the best that they can be," Scherer said. "And I enjoy solving problems and helping departments run smoother."

Scherer said he looks forward to the challenge of working in a larger municipality and working with the City staff in Morganton.

"I've known Sally Sandy (City Manager) and Karen Duncan (Finance Director) from my finance duties, and I've heard great things about the culture and the employees there," Scherer said. "Morganton is a place that is moving forward; it feels like



Rus Scherer
Human Resources Director

a progressive City that is still maintaining its small town soul." Scherer started his career in 1992 as an Interviewing Specialist

See **SCHERER** on Page 2



HOLIDAY GARBAGE Schedule 2015

Post this schedule on your refrigerator as a reminder about trash collection during the holidays this year.

New Year's Day • Thursday, Jan. 1

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday will be on regular schedule, Thursday's route will be picked up Friday, Jan. 2.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday • Monday, Jan. 19

No pick up Monday. Collection will be on a one-day delay all week.

Good Friday • Friday, April 3

Garbage collection will be on regular schedule.

Memorial Day • Monday, May 25

No pick up Monday. Collection will be on a one-day delay all week.

Independence Day • Saturday, July 4

Garbage collection will be on regular schedule.

Labor Day • Monday, September 7

No pick up Monday. Collection will be on a one-day delay all week.

Veteran's Day • Wednesday, November 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.

Thanksgiving Holiday • 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 Holiday • 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.

New Year's Day 2015 • Friday, Jan. 1, 2016

Garbage collection will be on regular schedule.



Stay up-to-date with what's happening in your local government by visiting www.ci.morganton.nc.us and following the City on Twitter @cityofmorganton, or on Facebook at facebook.com/cityofmorganton

ZONING

From the front

all be allowed within the Low Intensity District (LID), because those uses have low impacts on surrounding properties.

In addition to the six districts, the new ordinance also creates overlay districts to protect and enhance certain areas in the city.

The Neighborhood Conservation Overlay District protects established neighborhoods, and the Corridor Overlay Districts will enhance major entryways coming into the city and create a more consistent community appearance.

The Corridor Overlay District regulation will require improved street frontage landscaping, asphalt reductions in the front

yard areas, prohibitions to visually obtrusive land uses and signage enhancements. The districts would also propose to prohibit visually objectionable building materials along major tourism and business corridors.

The Council did change a few sections of the ordinance during the public hearing after receiving input from the community.

The Council removed a prohibition against pennants and streamers, which was requested by local car dealership owners, and the Council increased the length of time that political signs could be erected from 30 days to 45 days before election.

Residents can download and read the entire ordinance by visiting www.ci.morganton.nc.us/zoningupdate.

SCHERER

From the front

at Pic 'n Pay Stores in Charlotte while still in college. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Concentration in Human Resources Management, and with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

In 1994, he went to work with One Price Clothing Stores in Duncan, S.C., moving up the human resources ranks to Compensation Manager. In 2004, he accepted the position as Finance Director with the Town of Rutherfordton where he has been responsible for directing all the financial activities for the town and handling human resources duties.

"Working for a small town like Rutherfordton, you have to wear many hats," Scherer said. "In addition to my core finance and HR responsibilities, I liked to help out wherever I was

needed – from helping to set up festival stages to coordinating the Historic Preservation Commission. I've enjoyed the diversity and broad experience it has provided."

City Manager Sally Sandy said Scherer's many years of experience, background in finance and human resources, and personality make him a good fit for Morganton.

"Rus is going to get along well with everyone here, and I know he has the experience needed to take over the City's Human Resources department," Sandy said. "He understands HR, he knows how to work with people, he has a background in finance, and a degree in psychology, all of which is a plus.

"We're looking forward to having him on board in January."

Scherer and his wife Julie have been married for 22 years. They have two children. Courtney is a senior in high school and Nick is a freshman.

Scherer will start January 5, 2015.