

Chamber Meeting Buzzes with Mosquito Tips and CPR

BY **Beverly Bonilla**
BANNER REPORTER

The February meeting of the Morgantown Chamber of Commerce was held on February 26, 2026, at the Eva Hawes Building in the city park.

This month's meeting was sponsored by Hood Rescue, CPR and Patriot Pest, with lunch generously provided by Diaz Ranchitos.

Andrew Smith of Patriot Pest presented information on a new mosquito treatment that they offer called the In2Care Bait System. This revolutionary mosquito control approach uses specialized bait stations and is eco-friendly and is a scientifically proven method for reducing mosquito populations. Patriot Pest serves multiple counties, with no job that is too small or too large. Patriot Pest also offers a Military Discount. Mr. Smith also brought along with him Matt Holland from Smith's Grove and Tyler Howard from Owensboro. If you need pest control at your home or your business, you can contact Patriot Pest at 270-925-0996.



▲ PHOTO | BEVERLY BONILLA
Joe Tom, Tom Hood and Neisha Hood were among those attending the February meeting of the Morgantown Chamber of Commerce at the Eva Hawes Building.

Tom Hood of Hood Rescue, CPR also shared a presentation. Tom is a certified instructor and works with the American Heart Association. Attendees received a keychain that contained CPR face shields in small pouches, an important reminder of the life-saving value of CPR training.

Participants learned that cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death. Each year in the United States, more than 350,000 people experience an

EMS-assessed out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. More than 23,000 of these cases involve children, and nearly 20% are infants. When cardiac arrest occurs, survival depends on immediate CPR from someone nearby. About 70% of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen in the home, highlighting the importance of being prepared.

If you or your organization would like to learn CPR, you can contact Tom at hoodrescuecpr@gmail.com.



▲ PHOTO | BEVERLY BONILLA
Andrew Smith of Patriot Pest presented information about the company's In2Care mosquito treatment system during the February Chamber meeting.



▲ PHOTO | BEVERLY BONILLA
Becky Hankins attended the February meeting of the Morgantown Chamber of Commerce held at the Eva Hawes Building.



▲ PHOTO | BEVERLY BONILLA
Tom Hood of Hood Rescue, CPR spoke to chamber members about the importance of CPR training and being prepared to respond during a cardiac emergency.



▲ PHOTO | BEVERLY BONILLA
Tyler Howard, Andrew Smith and Matt Holland attended the Morgantown Chamber of Commerce meeting where Patriot Pest shared information about mosquito control services.

Council Reviews Ice Storm Response, City Updates

BY **Lynn Bledsoe**
JOB REPORTER

Public Works reported they had mainly cleaned streets due to the ice storm. 80 tons salt was used and 75 hrs overtime were worked to help clean the streets. Public Works has managed to work on a few ditches and storm drains, that had to be cleaned out.

Housing reported 18 vacancies, 54 applicants, 29 for 1 bed, 5 for a 2 bedroom, 10 for 3 bed, and 2 for 5 bed. Bids for the mowing contract will be submitted by Feb 18.

Tourism-reported they will hold a regular meeting March 26. Any donation requests are due by March 15.

Animal Control reported they had been working with the shelter and the humane society from Nashville is bringing in new dog houses.

MOGO was shut down a week and half due to weather, Mayor Phelps said roads were clear but yards and parking lots weren't so he kept things closed longer to avoid injuries to riders. For the month of January there were 959 and 360 meals delivered.

Code Enforcement stated they had 15 open cases. They have been working with the attorney to release liens. The ABC license are being looked at and worked on also.

Fire Department has been busy with vehicle

crashes; 2 in the city and 2 in the county, calls for assistance; county 2, medical assistance; city -4, county- 9, cancel in route calls; county- 2, Structure fires; county- 2, field fires; county- 1 city -9.

Planning and Zoning reported they had met February 3. They did a plat review for 3 proposed commercial buildings and approved their permits.

Utilities said they are going to purchase new equipment to read the meters for gas and water. Gas stations will also under-go upgrades. During the ice storm there was a gas and water leak that has been taken care of.

Police report for January listed 191 dispatch calls, 13 motor vehicle accidents, 6 arrest, they opened 4 new criminal cases, performed 25 traffic stops- 12 citations and 12 courtesy for a total of 720.

Morgantown City Clerk reported their office is working on upcoming yearly events and the next M magazine, all while also preparing for audits that are happening.

In the Mayors report, Clerks Kersey Sharp Assistant City and Tax Clerk Dana Phelps became certified USDA agents to give out vouchers for farm to table food at the farmers market. The voucher amount will depend on how much the county gets also but the City Clerks



▲ PHOTO | BEVERLY BONILLA
Mayor Phelps and Morgantown City Council honor Nathan Whittinghill for his service during Ice Storm Fern.

they will be distrusted then. This is just Morgantown's way of helping the whole county.

The Eva J. Halls building was used as a warming center during the storm. The city has been busy updating the city website. Bids are being accepted for Cemetery, fireworks and sidewalks. The Miss Morgantown pageant will be held June 5, with 4 different divisions, the Roots and Rhythm festival is set for June 6, on September 19 the Hispanic Heritage Festival will be held and the Mayor's Monster Mash will be October 24. The 6th annual Holiday Hoopla will be held on November 21.

Mayor Phelps honored Nathan Whittinghill whom stayed in

the fire department to ensure the emergency response was covered for six days. Whittinghill began his long duty on January 31 and ended on February 5. Whittinghill took his duty seriously to ensure the people of Morgantown would have access to emergency services if they were needed.

In unfinished business ordinance 2026-01 adopting an investment policy was approved

Kim Marrow with BRADD presented the information about Morgantown/ Butler County strategic plans.

These plans will be updated. Marrow asked for everyone to attend the meetings to help with the vision of Morgantown to be complete.

Church News

Green Meadows Gospel Music Association Unplugged

Green Meadows Gospel Music Association will host an "Unplugged" gathering on March 7, beginning at 5:00 p.m., at Lisa's Place in Beaver Dam, Kentucky. Friends, neighbors, and all who enjoy Gospel music are invited to attend for an evening of fellowship and worship. Everyone is welcome.

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pursue new funding opportunities that benefit farmers and rural communities.

HB 314 modernizes oversight of KentuckyWired by transferring operational management to state technology professionals and reforming governance to improve accountability and efficiency. An emergency provision ensures uninterrupted service during the transition.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you. I look forward to keeping you updated as the work of the 2026 Regular Session continues.

If you have questions or ideas, feel free to contact my office at 502-564-8100 or email me at Stephen.Meredith@kylegislature.gov. You can learn more about bills, committees, and other updates from the Kentucky General Assembly at www.legislature.ky.gov.

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