



175 Kirk Street
Morgantown, WV, 26505

*This will be the last printed version of Museum News. To start receiving the email version please visit <http://eepurl.com/hXNYfz> and fill out the form.

Preserving Morgantown's Cultural Heritage



Greetings,

My name is Vincent Kitch, and I am the Director of Arts & Cultural Development for the City of Morgantown. There have been some exciting changes going on at the museum and I want to share that information with you.

As of July 1, 2021, the Morgantown History Museum transitioned from under the auspices of BOPARC to the City of Morgantown and became part of the Department of Arts and Cultural Development. Our department includes the museum, historic Metropolitan Theatre, and Ruby Amphitheater at Hazel Ruby McQuain Park. In addition to the city's cultural facilities, we also coordinate public art projects and support arts, culture, and history initiatives and projects with community stakeholders and organizations.

Since July, staff at the museum have updated our pre-history section of the museum along with other updates. We have expanded the hours of the museum to include weekends, which has increased visitorship and accessibility. The museum is now open Wednesday-Friday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and noon – 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

We have also been backlogging accessions of many new artifacts. Which has been made possible by a full time AmeriCorps member who has been organizing all of our artifacts and databases, and scanning hundreds of photos.

This fall, we have partnered with the Public History program at West Virginia University. A number of students have conducted research projects on artifacts in the museum and shared all of their findings with our staff to support our work. We are working with them to seek funding for graduate students to research and develop exhibits and materials on women and enslaved people in Morgantown for 2023.

Very soon, you will see some new programs and exhibits at the museum. We will continue hosting Free Kids and Family Days through April. A new exhibition on Printmaking in Morgantown will premiere in April as well. For more information continue reading.

Of course, I would be remiss if I did not thank Pam Ball, long-time champion and leader of the Morgantown History Museum for her tireless efforts to bring the museum to life and to build it to the community treasure it is today. We thank her for her service and wish her the best in her retirement and future endeavors.

Thank you all for your continued support and interest in the Morgantown History Museum. I hope you all come and see what's happening at the museum soon.

Sincerely,

Vincent E. Kitch

Director
Department of Arts & Cultural Development



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FREE Kids & Family Days

April 2
 12-1:30 p.m. - Morgantown's Textile Industry
 2-3:30 p.m. - Morgantown's Mining Industry

April 23
 12-1:30 p.m. - Native Peoples in Morgantown
 2-3:30 p.m. - Animals of West Virginia

Events are free, but registration is encouraged at www.morgantownhistorymuseum.org



These programs will include visual displays, hands-on activities, and close examination of artifacts. The Animals of West Virginia program on April 23 will include a 30-minute scavenger hunt around the museum!

Exhibition on Printmaking in Morgantown Opens April 6

A new exhibit celebrating the History of Morgantown Printers is making its debut this weekend. Beginning Wednesday April 6, the exhibit will be available to the public throughout the summer.

The exhibit was curated by Harold "Swifty" Shaver, long time museum staff member and President of the Friends of Morgantown History Museum. The exhibit will include ongoing demonstrations on printing with letterpress printing machines and bookbinding equipment.

Along with "Swifty", a number of guest speakers and printers will be featured. Demonstrations can be viewed at the museum and on Facebook live, details will be posted on our website and on Facebook.

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Printmaking...

Throughout the summer, other guest speakers will be invited to give presentations on various topics pertaining to the advancements of printmaking in Morgantown spanning from the 1960s through the 1990s.

This exhibit is supported in part by an Organizational Arts Grant made possible through a collaborative effort between YCF and the Arts Council of Greater Morgantown, with funding from the City of Morgantown, the Monongalia County Commission, and the Douglas H. Tanner Memorial Fund for the Arts.

Staff Expands to Include Full Time AmeriCorps Member

Lee Maddex joined the Morgantown History Museum staff in early September 2021. Lee is an AmeriCorps member and is working full time at the Museum thanks to a generous donation from the Friends of Morgantown History Museum and grants from the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia and Your Community Foundation of North Central West Virginia. Lee has a MA in History from West Virginia University and brings many years of history-based work experience to this position. His long-term research interest and passion is the Northern West Virginia's historic iron industry. Lee is excited to be at the Museum and helping in the archives.



Lee's first tasks has been cataloging the Museum's backlog of donations. Back logged donations ranged from Morgantown High School yearbooks, William E. Rumsey glass plate negatives, photographs, postcards, Metropolitan Theatre posters, Morgantown made glassware and much more.



When not working in the Museum's archive, Lee enjoys spending time with his family. He also enjoys hiking at Coopers Rock State Forest, photography, and cooking tasty meals.

Lee has also been working with non-Museum constituents including the West Virginia University Public History program and with fellow AmeriCorps volunteer Autumn Martino, who is developing the Kids



We would like to thank the following individuals, families, and organizations for their volunteer work and/or their generous contributions to the Morgantown History Museum:

James & Susan Abrams
Gene V. & Sarah Jane Ball
Pamela Ball
Joan Berwick
Carye L. Blaney
Tyler W. & Jenny C. Boulware
Margaret Brennan
Dan C. Clark
Dan Cunningham
Roger & Charlotte Dalton
Helen Davis
Beverly Historical Society
Lyn & Susan Dotson
Jeffrey C. Dyer
Susan Elkin
Dave, Darlene, & Lucy Fogarty
Diane Ball Freeland
Mary Ann Gallagher
Greater Morgantown CVB
Barb Howe
William A. Kawecki

Mike Keller
Vincent Kitch
Peter & Cynthia Kudren
Robert & Linda Lang
Carroll & Jane Larke
Diane Liberatore Lofstead
Fern & Larry Luttrell
Craig N. Mains
Charlene Marshall
Beverly & Mike Vernon Martin
Roger McCormick
Richard McEwuen
Jane A. Moore
Mary Lee Moore
Oliverio's on the Wharf
Mountaineer Country Tours
Woodmen of the World
Thomas F. Pue
John & Charlotte Pyles
John & Nancy Raley
Melvin & Helen Rexroad

Susan & Kelly Riddle
Shirley Rosenbaum
Nancy Ruhe
Marti Shamberger
Harold & Helen Shaver
Wanda Shaver
Brenda Shinkovich
Joan Simms
Donald L. Spencer
Patricia Stewart
Judith Stitzel
Don Strimbeck
Kevin Swisher
Rita Tanner
Lori Tanner
Paul E. Templeton
Gary H. Vellenzer
Lillian Waugh
Sheila Wexler
Bill & Vicki Wilson
Pam & Karl Yagle

In the last 6 months, Friends of the Morgantown History Museum has received a \$500 anonymous donation and \$100 from James & Susan Abrams. Thank you!

Membership Application

The City of Morgantown invites you to join the Friends of Morgantown History Museum to help promote and preserve the rich history of Morgantown and the surrounding area.

Annual Memberships

\$25 Individual _____
\$30 Family _____
\$50 Corporate _____

Additional Contributions

\$ _____
Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Telephone (____)-____-_____
Email _____

Mail to:

Friends of the Morgantown History Museum
175 Kirk St.
Morgantown, WV 26505

Note: New Email!

morgantownwvhistory@morgantownwv.gov

New Hours:

Wednesday - Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday - Sunday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

To donate objects or to volunteer some time, please contact the Morgantown History Museum at (304) 319-1800 or at morgantownwvhistory@morgantownwv.gov

To make a monetary donation to the Friends of Morgantown History Museum, go to <https://www.justgiving.com/friendsofmorgantownhistorymuseum> or send donations directly to Morgantown History Museum, 175 Kirk St, Morgantown, WV 26505.