

Reconnect Morrisville

The Town of Morrisville constantly updates its re-opening plan to minimize the spread of the virus.

For COVID-19 updates visit the Town's website.



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Morrisville CONNECTION

Community Feature: Town Hall North

Morrisville communities have been key collaborators with the Town during COVID-19. In this issue we hear from Town Hall North's Maharajan Shunmugam to discuss their involvement.

What makes the Town Hall North community special?

Our community residents are what makes the Town Hall North community special. We are always looking forward to taking advantage of participating and engaging with our fellow residents, with Town staff, and with our neighboring community members as well.

Why is community engagement important between the Town Hall North community and the Town of Morrisville?

Community engagement with the Town and with our community is important because we believe that it takes all of our community members to engage and work together to make our town a better place for everyone. It takes the community to contribute to our town's success.

What are some cool programs that Town Hall North has been a part of in collaboration with the Town of Morrisville?

The Town Hall North community had a huge turnout for the 2020 Town of Morrisville National Night Out event where our community members took advantage of the opportunity to engage with the police department and with Town Council and administration leadership.

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In This Issue!

The Town and Morrisville communities continue to collaborate through initiatives such as the Morrisville Stewardship Program, Morrisville's Community Emergency Response Team, and Morrisville's advisory committees in order to meet each other's needs throughout the pandemic and keep Morrisville connected. We are excited to bring these updates and stories to you in the February issue of the Morrisville Connection!

Morrisville Carpenter Road Updates

As the Morrisville Carpenter Road Improvements Project gets underway and construction starts, stay updated with developments via the Town's social media sites, and signup for real-time text updates through the Town's Everbridge platform by visiting: bit.ly/MorrisvilleTextAlerts.



Morrisville Fire Station No. 1 Solar Panel Array *Project Set for Summer 2021*

The Town of Morrisville is moving forward with its first permanent renewable energy project, the installation of a 30kW solar panel array on Morrisville Fire Station No. 1 on Town Hall Drive. Once completed, the array will generate approximately 40 percent of the station's electricity usage and reduce Town emissions by 22 metric tons. The array will be integrated with the Smart Morrisville initiative, and will include a networked dashboard monitor for Town staff and residents to see the array's energy production in real-time. Southern Energy Management, a Certified B Corporation, will start the installation of the array over the next few months. The array is slated for completion over the course of 2021. The Town will provide periodic updates to the public through the Town's website and other communication channels. To learn more about Southern Energy Management visit www.southern-energy.com. For details on a B Corporation Certification visit www.bcorporation.net.



Sustainability Coordinator Kimberly Conley

"In my spare time, I love to practice yoga, cycle, and plot my purchase of a Vanagon (Volkswagen Type 2-3), so I can truly see the country!"

Morrisville Staff Feature: Morrisville's New Sustainability Coordinator, Kimberly Conley

Tell us about your role and work with the Town currently, and a bit about your background leading you to work with the Town as Sustainability Coordinator.

I'm Kimberly Conley, the new Sustainability Coordinator for the Town of Morrisville. This position was designed to help develop a platform to support sustainable clean energy, environmental stewardship, and community engagement in Morrisville. Before joining the Town, I was a clean energy industry project manager for NC State University, working on a myriad of industry and local government projects. My desire to engage in impactful and rewarding work in sustainability was inspired by my coursework while earning my master's of arts in liberal studies degree.

What does the Morrisville Fire Department No. 1 Solar Panel Array represent?

Adding a renewable energy system is one of the best ways to demonstrate the Town's commitment to sustainability because it directly offsets or replaces electricity generated and provided by our utility, Duke Energy. Solar is a powerful visual for progressive, future-thinking renewable energy technology that offsets Morrisville's environmental impact.

The dashboard monitor for the solar panel array will be another example of transparency and accountability through our Smart Cities initiative. The dashboard provides a way to engage with our residents and demonstrate, in real-time, what our solar array is producing or conversely, what it's saving in emissions; the equivalent of trees planted or maybe even something specific such as fire trucks charged or first responders' oxygen tanks refilled as a portion of the electricity we harness from the sun.

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How can Morrisville residents be involved in and support Morrisville's sustainability platform and initiatives?

On an individual level, we can be mindful of the decisions we make daily. Those decisions include proper recycling, minimizing food waste, walking or biking, considering solar for your home, or buying an electric car. Additional opportunities include supporting the local vendors at the Western Wake Farmer's Market, volunteering in the Community Garden, and taking part in the Morrisville Stewardship Program.



Solar panel dashboard monitor example

How does your role managing the sustainability efforts integrate Smart Morrisville and Smart City initiatives? How do these areas complement the Town's strategic plan and goals to serve residents?

The Town's Open Data Portal provides an opportunity to engage and learn about how we're striving as a community to create a smarter and more sustainable Morrisville every day. The sustainability-focused projects will largely live under the "Environmental" tab being built, allowing residents to see insightful and actionable information.

As an example, we plan on showing information on our electric vehicle (EV) charging stations so that EV owners can make decisions on where to charge based on their travel plans.

Another example is the addition of sensors at Cedar Fork District Park, which has a history of flooding. Park sensors will feed data to a portal that residents can check before visiting the park. Those same sensors will automatically close the park gates so that a Public Works employee doesn't have to jump in a truck (generating emissions) to close the gate. ■

Morrisville Community Feature

(Continued from page 1)

The Town Hall North community is currently collaborating with the Morrisville Police Department for the Neighborhood Watch Program by being an extra set of eyes and ears to help their team prevent and stop crime in our community.

What is something that the Town Hall North Community is currently participating in and is excited about?

We are also currently participating in the Morrisville Stewardship Program, hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department. We are participating in the program by bringing together 25 community members which helps support our local parks, greenways, and water resources. We look forward to helping plant trees and flowers, pick up litter, and do other activities to beautify and protect these Morrisville resources in February and March 2021! ■

Poster Contest Winners

The Environmental & Stormwater Committee sponsored the 2020 annual poster contest themed "How can I live sustainably during this COVID Pandemic?" Congratulations to Grand Prize Winner, **Daelyn R.**, from Cedar Fork Elementary School! For a list of all the winners visit the Town's website: TownofMorrisville.org.



Daelyn's winning poster entry.



Morrisville Upgrades to Hybrid Police SUVs

In 2020 Morrisville's Fleet Division converted their police vehicle purchasing plan from gasoline powered vehicles to pursuit-rated hybrid police SUVs.

The conversion started in the summer of 2020 with the purchase of Ford Police Interceptor SUVs that are a combination of gas engines and on-board electrical motors powered by lithium-ion hybrid batteries. Each SUV has factory default law enforcement specific options. The Town further upfits them to fit our local needs. Once they arrive from the factory, the Town installs all the lights, radios, radars, computers, cameras, and markings in the vehicles prior to their use. To date, the Town has nine Ford Police Interceptor Hybrid SUVs in the Fleet Division.

The advantage of a hybrid vehicle over a standard vehicle comes from the savings while idling. Police vehicles sit idle for long periods of time. The hybrids use battery power to reduce the engine running time, saving both fuel and emissions.

Based on information from Ford's Hybrid SUV savings calculator, the advantages of using hybrids versus non-hybrids in the fleet include the following annual savings and reductions per vehicle:

- **500 gallons of fuel at a cost savings of \$1,200**
- **Potential reduction of 9,775 pounds of CO₂**

The Town will continue working toward reducing our carbon footprint by exploring new technologies in our fleet.

Morrisville Strategic Plan Update

The Connect Morrisville Strategic Plan was adopted in April of 2018 with considerable accomplishments being made to date. A strategic plan update is needed to see what areas can potentially be streamlined, expanded, and clarified to make it germane to staff and the Morrisville community alike.

View the current plan by visiting **TownofMorrisville.clearpointstrategy.com**.

Share your thoughts, ideas, and recommendations by email to ConnectMorrisvilleInput@townofmorrisville.org.

White Goods Collection

Thursday, March 11 is Morrisville's next white goods collection. White goods include washing machines, dryers, freezers, and refrigerators.

To arrange a collection, complete the online form or call (919) 463-7070 no later than **Tuesday, March 9** to be included.

NOTE: Microwaves are not included and should be dropped off at the South Wake Landfill located at 6130 Old Smithfield Road in Apex.

Morrisville Public Works conducts white goods collection every three months.

Policy Updates

At its November 10 and 24 meetings, Town Council reviewed and subsequently approved several amendments to the Appointed Public Bodies Administrative Policy, which is the guiding document for all Morrisville advisory committees.

The policy was comprehensively reviewed by staff and any outdated references were removed and unclear areas were addressed. Sections were reworded and realigned to add proper context. The authority, roles, and responsibilities of the Town Council, Town staff, and Committee members were clarified. The full updated policy is available on the Town's website for quick reference, with the final document pages denoting high-level changes made in each version. Additional language was incorporated into the policy to further enhance collaboration between Town Council and advisory committees and clarify each's roles and responsibilities.

Updates include:

- A provision for Town Council review of advisory committee charters at least once every two years
- Expanded guidelines for the establishment and use of subcommittees by advisory committees
- Provisions for development of annual work plans, twice-yearly reports to Town Council, and an annual meeting with Town Council
- Transition responsibility for Town Council to approve of selection of Chair and Vice-Chair
- Advisory committees providing recommendations to Town Council

As noted within the policy, the Town Clerk offers orientation for all advisory committee members and supporting department staff each spring. For details on this training email the Town Clerk at townclerk@townofmorrisville.org.

To view the updated Appointed Public Bodies Administrative Policy, visit:
<https://www.townofmorrisville.org/government/citizen-advisory-committees>

2020 CAFR

The Town of Morrisville's Finance Department recently published the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for 2020, the official statement of the Town's financial position as of the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2020.

The Financial statements and supplementary schedules in the CAFR were audited by Cherry Bekaert LLP, Certified Public Accountants.

A few CAFR Highlights Include:

- The Town's Finance Department received its 26th Consecutive Annual Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).
- As of the end of this fiscal year, the Town of Morrisville maintained its AAA bond rating - the best possible rating for a local government - with Standards and Poor's and Fitch and its Aaa rating by Moody's.
- The Town's assets and deferred outflows exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at the close of the fiscal year by \$182,600,191 (net position). Of this amount, \$10,819,174 (unrestricted net position) may be used to meet the Town's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- The Town's total outstanding debt decreased by \$2,427,841 in the current fiscal year due to payments on outstanding debt. The Town issued no new debt in fiscal year 2020.
- The Town's total net position increased by \$4,743,807 in fiscal year 2020 of which \$5,423,509 was derived from an increase in governmental activities and decrease in business type activities of \$679,702 in fiscal year 2020.
- As of the close of the 2020 fiscal year, the Town of Morrisville's governmental funds reported a combined ending fund balance of \$53,180,558, a decrease of \$5,261,390 over the prior year, 2019. Approximately 29.65% of total governmental funds fund balance, or \$15,765,786 is available for spending at the Town's discretion (Unassigned fund balance).

To read a complete copy of the 2020 CAFR, visit www.townofmorrisville.org/finance

Morrisville Stewardship Program

The Morrisville Stewardship Program is officially underway! There has been considerable interest in participation. Group liaisons have conducted introductions with over 30 participants. The program is still accepting participant applications. For more information and to apply visit TownofMorrisville.org/Stewardship.

Morrisville's 2020 Celebration of Service

During the Celebration of Service Awards in December 2020, the Town of Morrisville recognized employees who demonstrated exemplary service and a commitment to the Town through their dedication, resilience, and adaptability in their role.

The Town specifically recognizes the following employees for their **exemplary work and commitment**.

- Brandon Zuidema, Assistant Town Manager
- Michael Leonce, Police Officer
- Tim Hendrickson, Police Lieutenant
- Chuck Queen, Human Resources Risk Manager
- Jen Miller, IT Support Analyst
- Billy Whitehead, IT Support Analyst II
- Emily Mattocks, Inspections Customer Service Supervisor
- Jan Wall, Cedar Fork Community Center Aid II
- Chris Lawson, Planning Manager
- Anna Willis, Code Enforcement Officer
- Joe Dolinger, Senior Facilities Maintenance Technician
- Wil Glenn, Communications and Outreach Director
- Nate Lozinsky, Assistant Fire Chief

The Town celebrates 20 years with:

- Jeanne Hooks, Director of Management Services
- Tim Hendrickson, Police Lieutenant
- Mike Lee, Inspections Operations Manager
- Brian Pinel, Police Sergeant
- Rodney Wadkins, GIS Manager

The Town celebrates 15 years with:

- Jerry Allen, Community Services Supervisor
- Lauri Shedlick, Human Resources Director

The Town celebrates 10 years with:

- Conelle Farrar, Fire & Rescue Engineer
- Shandy Padgett, Inspections Director
- Chuck Queen, Human Resources Risk Manager
- Bryan Rhea, Parks & Recreation Athletics Program Supervisor
- Brad West, Senior Planner

The Town celebrates five years with:

- David Buchanan, Public Works Grounds Maintenance Technician
- Joe Bumgarner, Public Works Grounds Maintenance Technician
- Erin Hudson, Strategic Performance Manager
- Kent Powell, Master Police Officer
- Danny Reilly, IT Operations Manager

2021 Bond Referendum

The Bond Portal closed on January 31 receiving great input. A summary report will be provided to Council in February. Your feedback provides Council with important community insight as they deliberate on how best to invest tax-supported dollars that help shape future capital projects that can make a difference for our growing community. Council and staff are working to identify and align potential bond project packages to formulate appropriate ballot questions.

The November 2021 election ballot will ask voters, using separate ballot questions when developed, whether taxpayers approve of the Town's use of general obligation (GO) bonds to finance future capital projects. Follow updates to this developing initiative by visiting the Town's website at Townofmorrisville.org/MSVBOND2021.



MLK Jr. Day Employee Food Drive

In honor of MLK Jr. Day 2021, Town staff participated in a contactless food drive, in partnership with the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. Staff collected and donated 645 pounds of food, enough for nearly 450 meals for our neighbors in need.

Community Service Recognitions

For **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**, the Town of Morrisville recognized individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to community service in honor of Dr. King and his legacy.

Lindsay Holcombe

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Lindsay lost her job at a local Morrisville restaurant. She decided to make the best of her situation by starting her own company, If You Had Wings, Inc. Through her new company, Lindsay builds and “sells” birdhouses for a donation. Each month Lindsay donates her profits to a local community non-profit organization. Lindsay is a service leader in Morrisville for her resilience and support of the community during the pandemic.

Sister Nayla Al-Mohannadi

Over the past few years Sister Al-Mohannadi diversified the face and participation at the Islamic Center of Morrisville (ICM) through her local activities, outreach, business, and charity. The growth of ICM and its inclusivity as a diverse group, especially women and youth, is due to Sister Al-Mohannadi's dedication to Morrisville and surrounding communities.

Western Regional Food Security Action Group Members

The following members of the Western Regional Food Security Action Group have been instrumental in distributing food to those in need in Morrisville and surrounding areas:

- Savannah and Nayte Click and family
- Darshanna and Ajit Dixit
- Dale Cowley and his family
- Manoj Pandya

Peter Prichard

For over 20 years Peter Prichard has been a dedicated member of the Morrisville Planning and Zoning Board. For most of his time on the board, Peter has served as chair. During his long tenure, Peter has led efforts to develop, adopt, and update long range plans which have brought positive, innovative change to the Town of Morrisville. The countless volunteer hours Peter has given in public service have led to awards and accolades for the Town of Morrisville.

Hindu Society of North Carolina

Throughout the height of the pandemic in 2020, the society's volunteers prepared 32,000 meals for Wake County food distribution and homeless shelters and manufactured over 6,000 masks. These hometown heroes demonstrate the light of love and hope that makes our community even stronger!

Bob and Lauren Butler

Bob and Lauren Butler moved to Morrisville in January 2005 and for the last 16 years have volunteered at just about every Morrisville event. You may have seen them as Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus, selling tickets at the East Meets West festival, or sprucing up our parks and recreation facilities. Lauren was a member of the Morrisville Performance Measures Advisory Committee and Bob is a long-standing member of the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee, often serving as chair. Bob also helped start the Morrisville Veterans Memorial Foundation - a nonprofit organization raising funds to construct a Veterans Memorial at Indian Creek Park.

Town Hall North Community

Maha Shunmugam and his friends and neighbors in the Town Hall North community provided service to others throughout 2020 including lunches to Parkside Elementary staff and Town of Morrisville staff.

Donna Willard

Donna was instrumental in creating the Education Garden at the Morrisville Healthy Food Hub and tends to the garden several times a week. Her dedication and perseverance have led to the garden producing food year-round. The food grown at the garden is donated to non-profit food pantries including Dorcas Ministries. While a member of the Morrisville Environment and Stormwater Committee, Donna helped establish the Morrisville Community Garden off Church Street. The Morrisville Community Garden is a nonprofit organization that fosters a cooperative environment for healthy living through educational programs, events, and charitable giving.

Becky Martin and Keith Petsche

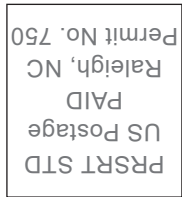
Becky and Keith build community through their work as board members of the Morrisville Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).



Hindu Society of North Carolina



Western Regional Food Security Action Group



Calendar of Meetings and Events

March

- March 2 - Public Safety Advisory Committee (Virtual) 6 p.m.
- March 2 - Morrisville Public Education Advisory Committee (Virtual) 6:30 p.m.
- March 3 - Morrisville Environment & Stormwater Committee (Virtual) 6:30 p.m.
- March 9 - Town Council Meeting (Virtual) 6 p.m.
- March 10 - Performance Measures Advisory Committee (Virtual) 6 p.m.
- March 11 - Planning & Zoning Board 6:30 p.m.
- March 16 - Town Council Work Session (Virtual) 6 p.m.
- March 23 - Town Council Meeting (Virtual) 6 p.m.
- March 31 - Parks Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee (Virtual) 6 p.m.

April

- April 2 - Holiday, Good Friday, Town Offices Closed
- April 3 - Easter Egg Hunt
- April 6 - Morrisville Public Education Advisory Committee (Virtual) 6:30 p.m.
- April 7 - Morrisville Environment & Stormwater Committee (Virtual) 6:30 p.m.
- April 8 - Planning & Zoning Board 6:30 p.m.
- April 13 - Town Council Meeting (Virtual) 6 p.m.

April (Continued)

- April 27 - Town Council Meeting (Virtual) 6 p.m.
- April 28 - Parks Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee (Virtual) 6 p.m.
- April 30 - Music in the Park

May

- May 4 - Town Council Budget Workshop (Virtual) 6 p.m.
- May 4 - Morrisville Public Education Advisory Committee (Virtual) 6:30 p.m.
- May 5 - Morrisville Environment & Stormwater Committee (Virtual) 6:30 p.m.
- May 11- Town Council Meeting (Virtual) 6 p.m.
- May 12 - Performance Measures Advisory Committee (Virtual) 6 p.m.
- May 13 - Planning & Zoning Board 6:30 p.m.
- May 15 - SpringFest 4 p.m.
- May 18 - Public Safety Advisory Committee (Virtual) 6 p.m.
- May 25 - Town Council Meeting (Virtual) 6 p.m.
- May 26 - Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources Advisory Committee (Virtual) 6 p.m.
- May 31 - Holiday, Memorial Day, Town Offices Closed



Morrisville Town Council

Mayor
TJ Cawley

Mayor Pro-Tem (District 3)
Liz Johnson

Council Member (District 1)
Anne Robotti

Council Member (District 2)
Donna L. Fender

Council Member (District 4)
Vicki Scroggins-Johnson

Council Member (At Large)
Steve Rao

Council Member (At Large)
Satish Garimella

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