

## Reconnect Morrisville

The Town of Morrisville has updated its plan to gradually re-open in phases to minimize the spread of the virus.

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



### PAGE 2

Morrisville Aquatics  
& Fitness Center

### PAGE 3

Morrisville Carpenter  
Road Project

### PAGE 4

New Amenities for Parks

### PAGE 5

Morrisville 101  
Registration Open

Connect Morrisville

Virtual Morrisville

### PAGE 6

Crabtree Creek  
Greenway Underpass  
Open

Design-A-Poster  
Contest

Holiday Schedule  
Trash Recycling

### PAGE 7

Open Data Morrisville

Smart Morrisville

Did You Know?



# Morrisville CONNECTION

## Tenth Best Place to Live in the U.S.

Money Magazine has released its 50 Best Places to Live in the U.S. in 2020, with Morrisville named 10th Best Place to Live on the list. Money's methodology looked at close to 212,000 data points to select the top 50 cities and ranked them based on the location's economy, the housing market, cost of living, diversity, public education, health and safety, weather, lifestyle, amenities, and other factors which contributed to their calculations. For details on their ranking criteria, visit their website, [www.money.com](http://www.money.com).

In 2020, Morrisville received recognition as the No. 1 Best Place to Live in North Carolina by Niche.com and was ranked No. 6 for NC's 50 Top Cities for Fit Lifestyles by BarBend.com. Morrisville Elementary School and Cedar Fork Elementary School were recently ranked No. 1 and No. 7 respectively by the Triangle Business Journal in their Best Elementary Schools in Wake County for 2020. Morrisville tied for International Data Corporation's (IDC) 2020 Smart Cities North America Award in their Smart Water category. Morrisville shared the Smart Water recognition with the Town of Cary, Holly Springs, Wilson, Raleigh, Wake County, and NC Emergency Management for their participation in the North Carolina regional water level monitoring data sharing pilot.

In 2019, the Chamber of Commerce ranked Morrisville the No. 2 Best City to Live in North Carolina and WalletHub.com ranked Morrisville the No. 3 Best Place to Raise a Family in NC.

Thank you, Morrisville for making these recognitions possible!

## In This Issue!

We highlight the connectedness created by Morrisville residents, businesses, organizations, and the Town of Morrisville — Smart Morrisville and adapting to the pandemic, from newly renovated facilities, such as Morrisville Aquatics & Fitness Center, to new amenities for parks for children and adults alike.

Beyond all of these improvements, you are at the heart of keeping Morrisville a great place to live!

## Morrisville Moves to COVID-19 Phase 3

On October 2, the Town of Morrisville transitioned to Phase 3 of its plan to ease COVID-19 restrictions. The Town of Morrisville is requiring face coverings anytime a Town employee interacts with the public; members of the public will also be required to wear a face covering when visiting a Town building (recognizing exceptions as outlined in Executive Order 169).

# Morrisville Aquatics & Fitness Center Opens



*Six-lane lap pool at MAFC*

The newly renovated Morrisville Aquatics & Fitness Center (MAFC) reopened August 31 with significantly enhanced amenities in the center and with greater capacity for participation.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on September 8, attended by the Morrisville Town Council, Town Administrative and Communications staff, and the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources staff and Advisory Committee to commemorate the re-opening, renovation, and expanded services now offered by the facility. A recording of the ceremony is available on the Town's YouTube and Facebook social media pages.

Updated features include:

- Three new swimming areas (six-lane lap pool, recreation pool, and a zero-depth entry wading pool with a kid's play structure) covered by a glass natatorium with a retractable roof
- Two new outdoor lighted tennis courts for early morning or evening play
- An updated group fitness area and new sound system
- A new TRX station
- A new weight room
- Updated strength and cardio equipment
- Updated locker rooms and bathrooms
- Updated racquetball courts

Group fitness classes in the fitness studio and the pool at MAFC have resumed and require appointment sign-up.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all MAFC classes and exercise areas have limited capacity and require registration through Signup Genius. Outdoor fitness classes are still available by sign-up.

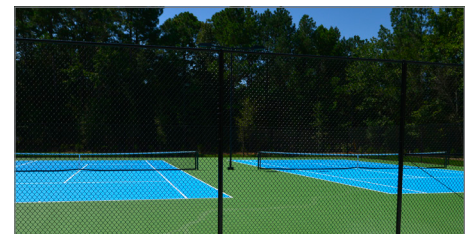
A guided virtual tour and images of the newly renovated MAFC facility are available on the Town's website, YouTube, and Facebook page. To watch, visit [www.TownofMorrisville.org/MAFC](http://www.TownofMorrisville.org/MAFC). We hope to see you at the MAFC very soon and welcome you to come by appointment to check out the renovations!



*Wade pool*



*MAFC towels*

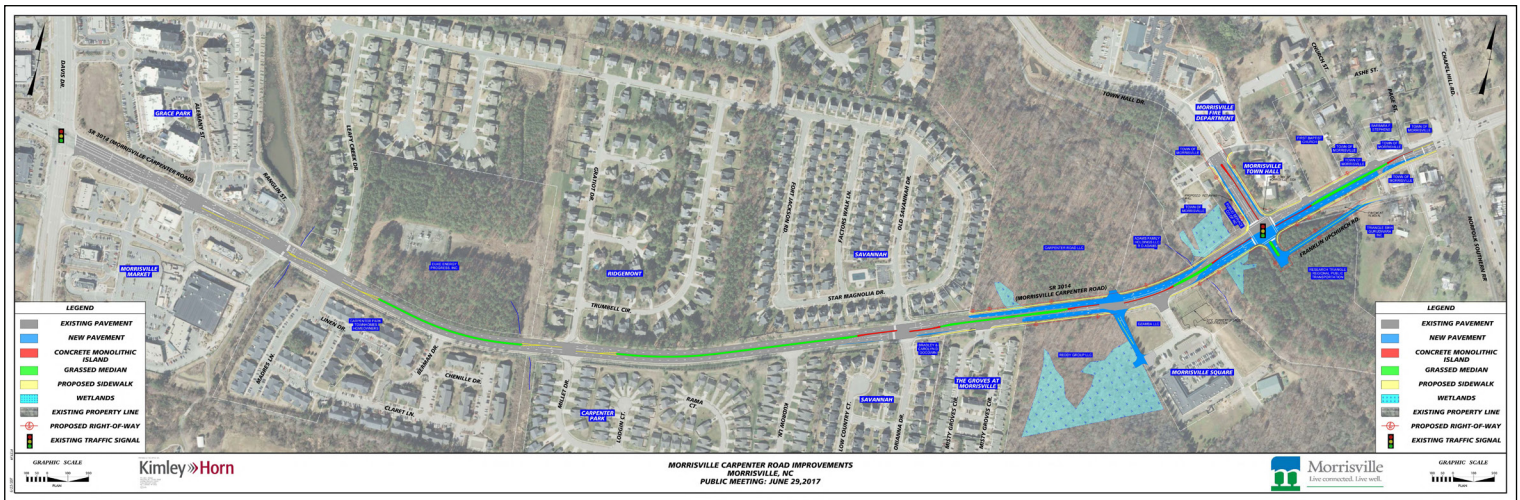


*Lighted tennis courts*



*Town Council ribbon-cutting*

# Morrisville Carpenter Road Improvement Project



The upcoming Morrisville Carpenter Road improvement project includes improvements from Davis Drive to just west of Chapel Hill Road (NC 54). The improvements include new pavement and a landscape median installation from Davis Drive to Old Savannah Drive and widening to a four-lane landscape median divided roadway from Old Savannah Drive to just west of NC 54.

This project will also include the widening of Town Hall Drive (near the Morrisville Carpenter Road intersection) and realignment of Franklin Upchurch Street. Construction will also include stormwater/drainage improvements, traffic signal improvements, utility relocations, streetlights, and sidewalks throughout the corridor.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on state funding, the project was put on hold in May of 2020 by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The Town received authorization from NCDOT to proceed with the project in late August. This project is partially funded by federal and state funds through a grant from NCDOT.

Residents, visitors, and business owners should expect to see construction activities starting in January of 2021. The project is estimated to take 18 months and is expected to be completed in the summer of 2022.

Town staff provided project informational updates to area HOAs on October 20, 21, and 22. The Town will also be providing regular construction updates via the Town's website, social media, and site construction signage.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact Mark Spanioli at ([mspanioli@townofmorrisville.org](mailto:mspanioli@townofmorrisville.org)) or Vinod Korategere, P.E., Senior Capital Project Manager ([vkorategere@townofmorrisville.org](mailto:vkorategere@townofmorrisville.org)).

## For updates

Visit the link below to signup for project development news through Everbridge:  
<http://bit.ly/Morrisville-Carpenter-Road-Updates>

# New Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Resources Amenities

Throughout 2020, Morrisville's Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Resources have been involved in improvement projects to add amenities to the parks and greenways.



**Morrisville Community Park, Church Street Park, Shiloh Park, and Northwest Park** all now have a variety of smaller concrete park amenities including cornhole boards, chess tables, and a concrete tennis table.



**Church Street Park** now has a fitness shelter located next to shelter B with a variety of equipment targeting the upper body, lower body, and core exercises.



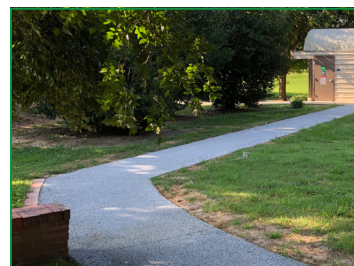
**Morrisville Community Park** now has a larger shaded fitness station with individual exercise pieces by the playground.



At **Indian Creek Trailhead**, ADA accessible playground equipment was added, including musical instruments, spinners, and a seated seesaw. **Dedicated to Our Community of North Carolina (DOCNC)**, a local youth group, donated \$15,000 to help purchase and install this equipment.



At **Cedar Fork District Park**, a concrete parking pad was installed to improve the ADA accessible parking lot.



**Morrisville Community Park** now has pervious concrete sidewalks designed to improve ADA access.

# Morrisville 101 Registration Now Open

Registration is open for Morrisville 101; our annual citizens academy held for the residents of Morrisville. This is a free class for citizens 16 years of age and up. Due to COVID-19, the 2020 class will consist of four virtual sessions, held via Microsoft Teams. Sessions will be from 6-8 p.m. on the following dates:

- Monday, Nov. 30
- Wednesday, Dec. 2
- Monday, Dec. 7
- Wednesday, Dec. 9

What's in it for you?

- A "behind-the-scenes" look at community services
- The chance to make connections with other civic-minded residents
- Knowledge and personal contacts to help you become an effective leader in your community
- A clearer understanding of the big picture that's needed to run for elected office in Morrisville

Registration will end on Nov. 13. Visit the Town's website for more information and to register for the class.

## Connect Morrisville Strategic Plan

Morrisville's first-ever strategic plan, Connect Morrisville, was adopted by Town Council in April 2018. As a three-year plan, 2020 would typically be the start of the organizational review period. Town Council received a plan update and reviewed the next steps for a proposed plan revision timeline during a work session on October 27.

Citizen engagement is a key component of any successful plan, and with the COVID-19 pandemic limiting in-person engagement, Town staff utilized several remote and contact-less tools that will allow Morrisville staff, elected officials, and citizens to provide input safely and effectively. We look forward to your engagement and participation over the next several months!

## Virtual Morrisville *Advisory Boards and Committees*

In compliance with Governor Cooper's Executive Orders related to COVID-19, Morrisville staff have implemented resources to allow elected officials and appointed committees to meet virtually to safely continue advancing the work of the Town.

Virtual meetings are hosted in Microsoft Teams and streamed live on the Town's Facebook page. Meeting recordings are linked to the Town Council video page on the Town's website, and advisory boards and committees have a folder of meeting videos on the Town's Facebook page.

This coordination was executed in conjunction with many Town departments to ensure its success. We are thankful for all our board and committee members and their support of the virtual meeting initiative.

The virtual meeting platform remains compliant with North Carolina Open Meetings Law and offers a transparent discussion of Town business. Additionally, amendments were required to the Appointed Public Bodies Administrative Policy (guiding document) to allow for remote meeting participation.

## Crabtree Creek Greenway Railroad Underpass Now Open



*Crabtree Creek Greenway NC Railroad Underpass*

The last section of Crabtree Creek Greenway has been completed, with an underpass running below NC-54 and the North Carolina Railroad bridge and by Crabtree Creek. This section is now open to the public, allowing for unrestricted pedestrian and bicycle passage from Davis Drive to Evans Road and Lake Crabtree. This greenway underpass provides a much-needed east-west greenway corridor through Morrisville connecting to Lake Crabtree to the east and the Town of Cary's greenway system to the west.

The North Carolina Railroad project contractor responsible for the Crabtree Creek Bridge replacement completed the missing portion of the greenway between Crabtree Creek Greenway and Hatcher Creek Greenway. The greenway project was completed in August 2018, excluding the missing greenway portion under the North Carolina Railroad.

For more background information visit the Current Projects section on the Town's website.

## 2020 Winter Trash Recycling Schedule and Town Holidays

Morrisville's trash and recycling are completed by our contractor, Waste Industries, who utilizes their transfer site in Durham to offer the Town pickup services on holidays when other municipalities are closed.

Durham Waste Industries only recognizes three holidays that affect service: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

### **Veterans Day**

Normal trash and recycling service on Wednesday, November 11.

### **Thanksgiving Holiday**

No trash or recycling service on Thursday, November 26. Thursday pickup routes moved to Friday, November 27. Friday pickup routes moved to Saturday, November 27.

### **Christmas Day**

No trash or recycling service on Friday, December 25. Friday pickup routes moved to Saturday, December 26.

### **New Year's Day**

No trash or recycling service on Friday, January 1. Friday pickup routes moved to Saturday, January 2.

## Design-A-Poster Contest

The Morrisville Environment and Stormwater Committee is having its 15th Annual Design-a-Poster Contest. During October, all children (Kindergarten through 5th grade) that live or attend school in Morrisville are invited to submit an entry in the poster contest. This year's theme is "How Can I Live Sustainable During the COVID-19 Crisis?" Entries are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, November 2 at Town Hall. For contest rules and information, please visit the Public Works page on the Town's website.

# Open Data is coming to Morrisville!

Open data is data and datasets that are freely available to the public, and can be used, re-used, and redistributed by anyone.

In the fall of 2020, the Town of Morrisville will venture into the open data realm with the launch of our open data portal. The purpose of the open data portal is to increase government transparency by facilitating public access to local government information. With the new web-based tool, users will be able to create graphs, charts, and maps based on the dataset(s), as well as download the dataset(s), interact with it, reuse it, and redistribute it. Datasets will be organized under the headings of Administration, Environment, Planning and Permits, Public Safety, Recreation and Transportation. The initial open data portal launch will include a handful of datasets with more datasets coming online at regular intervals.

## Introducing Smart Morrisville!

**Smart Morrisville: Data-driven.**

**Community Focused. Future-forward.**

The Town of Morrisville has recently developed Smart Morrisville, a smart city program guided by the strategic direction and goals of Morrisville that uses technology and data to improve operational efficiencies and positively impact citizen quality of life. The vision of the program is to create sustainable, community-driven, technology-enabled innovation to enhance the quality of life in Morrisville today, and in the future. The Program will be incorporated into several initiatives that the Town will be working to implement. The complete plan will be released on our Town's website over the next few weeks.

## Did You Know?

Did you know that a building permit may be required for modifications or additions that you want to make to your home? Often homeowners contact the Morrisville Permit Department during the sale of a home when it is discovered that work may have been completed without permits. Unpermitted work can be costly and time consuming for a homeowner to rectify. The following is a partial list of work done to your home that would require a building permit:

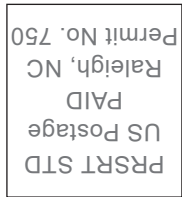
- Adding or extending a deck
- Building a screened porch or a sunroom
- Finishing a basement or attic that was previously unfinished
- Erecting a shed or other accessory structure that extends more than 12' in any direction
- Modification, alteration, or extension to electrical, plumbing, or mechanical systems

A good practice is to contact the Town of Morrisville Inspections Department at 919-463-6190 before beginning a building project.

For more information visit:

[www.TownOfMorrisville.org/inspections](http://www.TownOfMorrisville.org/inspections)





# Morrisville Lately

## Calendar of Meetings and Events

### October

October 6 - Morrisville Public Education Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m.  
October 7 - Morrisville Environment & Stormwater Committee, 6:30 p.m.  
October 8 - Airport Boulevard Sidewalk Improvement Project Virtual Informational Q&A Session, 5 p.m.  
October 8 – Planning and Zoning Board, 6:30 p.m.  
October 10 – Town Council Draft Land Use Plan Mini-Retreat/Work Session  
October 13 – Town Council Meeting, 6 p.m.  
October 19-23 – Bulk Pickup Week  
October 24 – Trick or Treat the Trail Drive-Thru and Virtual Event, 3 p.m.  
October 26 – Town Council Work Session, 6 p.m.  
October 27 – Town Council Meeting, 6 p.m.  
October 28 – Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee, 6 p.m.

### November

November 3 - Morrisville Public Education Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m.  
November 4 - Performance Measures Advisory Committee, 6 p.m.

### November (Continued)

November 4 – Morrisville Environmental Stormwater Committee, 6:30 p.m.  
November 10 – Town Council Meeting, 6 p.m.  
November 11 – Veterans Day Celebration, Town Offices Closed  
November 12 - Senior Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
November 12 - Planning & Zoning Board, 6:30 p.m.  
November 18 - Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee, 6 p.m.  
November 24 – Town Council Meeting, 6 p.m.  
November 26, 27 – Thanksgiving Holiday, Town Offices Closed

### December

December 1 – Morrisville Public Education Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m.  
December 2 – Morrisville Environment & Stormwater Committee, 6:30 p.m.  
December 4 – Annual Tree Lighting, 6 p.m.  
December 8 – Public Safety Advisory Committee Meeting, 6 p.m.  
December 8 – Town Council Meeting, 6 p.m.  
December 9 – Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee, 6 p.m.  
December 10 – Planning and Zoning Board, 6:30 p.m.  
December 24, 25, 28 – Christmas Holiday, Town Offices Closed



### Morrisville Town Council

TJ Cawley  
Mayor  
Liz Johnson  
Mayor Pro-Tem (District 3)

Anne Robotti  
Council Member (District 1)

Donna L. Fender  
Council Member (District 2)

Vicki Scroggins-Johnson  
Council Member (District 4)

Steve Rao  
Council Member (At Large)

Satish Garimella  
Council Member (At Large)

townofmorrisville.org  
@Morrisville\_NC  
Town of Morrisville, NC  
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