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Town of Morrisville, NC



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Morrisville Town Council

TJ Cawley, Mayor

Satish Garimella, Mayor Pro-Tem
(At Large)

Anne Robotti, Council Member
(District 1)

Donna L. Fender, Council Member
(District 2)

Liz Johnson, Council Member
(District 3)

Vicki Scroggins-Johnson, Council Member
(District 4)

Steve Rao, Council Member
(At Large)

Calendar of Meetings and Events

May

May 2 - Music in the Park, 6:30 p.m.
May 3 - Fire Department Open House, 11 a.m.
May 6 - Public Safety Advisory Committee, 6 p.m.
May 7 - Environment & Stormwater Committee, 6 p.m.
May 8 - Senior Advisory Committee, 6 p.m.
May 8 - Planning & Zoning Board, 6:30 p.m.
May 13 - Budget Listening Session, 4:30 p.m.
May 13 - Town Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
May 15 - Budget Listening Session, 4:30 p.m.
May 15 - Town Council Budget Work Session and Budget Public Hearing, 6 p.m.
May 17 - SpringFest, 10 a.m.
May 22 - Smart City Steering Committee, 6:30 p.m.
May 26 - Memorial Day, Town Offices Closed
May 27 - Town Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
May 28 - Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee, 6 p.m.
May 29 - Town Council Budget Work Session, 6 p.m.

June

June 3 - Public Safety Advisory Committee, 6 p.m.
June 4 - Environment & Stormwater Committee, 6 p.m.
June 5 - Town Council Budget Work Session, 6 p.m.
June 6 - Music in the Park, 6 p.m.
June 10 - Town Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
June 12 - Senior Advisory Committee, 6 p.m.

June 12 - Planning & Zoning Board, 6:30 p.m.
June 14 - Morrisville Bike Rodeo, 10 a.m.
June 20 - Music in the Park, 6 p.m.
June 24 - Town Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
June 25 - Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee, 6 p.m.
June 26 - Smart City Steering Committee, 6:30 p.m.

July

July 3 - Red, White & BOOM!, 5 p.m.
July 4 - Independence Day, Town Offices Closed
July 8 - Town Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
July 10 - Senior Advisory Committee, 6 p.m.
July 10 - Planning & Zoning Board, 6:30 p.m.
July 22 - Town Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
July 24 - Smart City Steering Committee, 6:30 p.m.
July 30 - Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee, 6 p.m.

Meeting and event dates and times are
subject to change.

For current information, visit
morrisvillenc.gov/calendar



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Morrisville CONNECTION

Morrisville Announces Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Theme

The Town of Morrisville's Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) theme is “Focused on Our Community’s Perspective.” The goal, as always, is to create a budget that reflects our community’s input and perspective on budget priorities — and this year is no exception.

Town staff has worked collaboratively with the community to gather feedback through outreach and engagement, identifying the top three priorities for next year: Quality of Life, Safe Community/Public Safety Readiness, and Thriving, Livable Neighborhoods. This year’s recommended budget invests \$11.5 million addressing community and Town Council priorities for FY26 and beyond.

How to Participate:

Listening Sessions

Residents are encouraged to attend sessions to discuss the recommended FY26 Budget:

- Tuesday, May 13, 4:30–5:30 p.m.: Morrisville Town Hall, 100 Town Hall Drive.
- Thursday, May 15, 4:30–5:30 p.m.: Morrisville Town Hall, 100 Town Hall Drive.

Dooley Named Fire Chief

The Town of Morrisville has appointed Thomas Dooley Jr. as its next fire chief. Chief Dooley has more than 26 years of fire service experience and is one of four original full-time firefighters hired in 1999 when the Town transitioned from part-time positions. In his new role, he oversees daily operations and leads a dedicated team of Morrisville firefighters.

Having held every rank within the department, Chief Dooley is a strong advocate for community engagement and fire safety education. He is proud to be a part of a progressive and forward-thinking team.

Throughout his career, Chief Dooley has received numerous accolades, including being named Officer of the Year at the Morrisville Fire/Rescue Department in 2011 and 2014. In 2018, he was recognized as the Child Passenger Safety Instructor of the Year at the North Carolina Traffic Safety Conference and Expo.



Creek Week 2025: Cleaner Streams, Stronger Community

Morrisville Creek Week 2025 was a tremendous success, thanks to the active participation of residents, volunteers, and local organizations. This year's event, in partnership with the Clean Water Education Partnership (CWEP), brought the community together for a week of environmental education and stewardship through a variety of engaging activities.



Throughout the week, participants took part in 22 events, including community stream cleanups and stormwater drain assessments, helping preserve the health of Morrisville's waterways. Volunteers worked diligently to assess 861 stormwater drains and remove debris, protecting water quality and ensuring that local streams remain clean and healthy. In total, 102 trash bags were collected throughout the week.

A major highlight of the week was the Morrisville Stormwater Runoff 5K, held on Saturday, March 15. The event saw a remarkable turnout, with 200 registered participants—more than three times the number from last year. It was a perfect morning for a run at Cedar Fork District Park, and participants helped raise awareness about the importance of stormwater management.

A special thank you goes to our presenting sponsor, Timmons Group, for their generous support, along with our other sponsors, whose contributions helped make the 5K event possible and furthered awareness about clean water and environmental stewardship.

Over the course of Creek Week, 221 volunteers contributed an incredible 523 volunteer hours to making the event a success.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, participated, and supported Morrisville Creek Week 2025! Your efforts have made a meaningful impact on our community and environment. For more information and to stay tuned for next year's event, visit morrisvillenc.gov/creekweek.

Budget Cont.

Public Budget Hearing

A formal opportunity to provide input during the Town Council Budget Work Session will be Thursday, May 15, 6 p.m., at Morrisville Town Hall, 100 Town Hall Drive.

Budget Timeline

- Tuesday, May 13: FY26 Recommended Budget presented to Town Council
- Thursday, May 15: Town Council Budget Work Session/Public Budget Hearing
- Tuesday, May 27: Town Council votes to approve the budget

Residents can also submit feedback via email at budget@morrisvillenc.gov. For more information and updates on the budget process, visit morrisvillenc.gov/fy2026.

Your voice is vital in shaping the future of Morrisville. Join us in this collaborative effort to ensure our Town's budget reflects the community's priorities.



Pictured: Stormwater 5K participant Khelsey Lemon of Clayton

Town Launches New Engagement Platform



The Town of Morrisville has introduced a new method to connect with residents, increase transparency, and improve access. The new platform, Rep'd, is a video messaging and engagement platform for municipalities. Rep'd allows the community to ask questions of the Town, and in response, will receive either an instant AI-generated answer or a short video response from a member of Town staff.

The Town is committed to building personal connections with the community while keeping everyone informed. This tool will ensure every voice is heard and strengthen the bond with Town leadership.

Community members are invited to join the discussion at repd.us/morrisville.

Giselle Rodriguez-Villanueva Named NCCCMA Assistant Town Manager of the Year



The Town of Morrisville is celebrating its deputy town manager, Giselle Rodriguez-Villanueva, along with the rest of North Carolina. Rodriguez-Villanueva was recognized as Assistant Manager of the Year for 2024 by the North Carolina City and County Management Association (NCCCMA) at the annual Winter Conference in Winston-Salem in February. She was selected unanimously from a pool of nominees across the state.

Rodriguez-Villanueva joined the Town in 2019 as the public works director and worked her way up to deputy town manager in October of 2023. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico. Along with her usual leadership role as part of Town administration, Rodriguez-Villanueva has also been instrumental in implementing the Language Access Plan, and bringing on a local government Fellow to lead the plan into fruition.

Town Manager Brandon Zuidema said, "Giselle is an incredible leader, mentor, and manager. She brings a level of commitment and vision to her work, her staff, and our community that is unparalleled in my experience in local government. Giselle consistently works to develop herself as well as those around her to bring the maximum benefit to the Morrisville community. We are very fortunate to have her."

"Know Your No's" Recycling Effort

Did you know the Town of Morrisville boasts a 68% recycling participation rate among the 6,700 curbside-serviced residents? That's phenomenal given the national average is just over 30%. To further grow this effort, the Town is sponsoring a new campaign called, 'Know Your No's.' This is a shift of thinking from 'Is this recyclable?' to focusing only on items NOT recyclable such as plastic containers, cups, utensils, receipts, and especially plastic bags (grocery or trash).

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that about one in four items placed in recycling bins are not actually recyclable. These statistics were verified during a recent recycling cart audit of Morrisville bins conducted by the Public Works team last Fall. Almost a quarter of the carts audited had some level of contamination such as plastic bags, Styrofoam, or household glass.

Contaminants often get tangled in the recycling machinery at the materials recovery facility, making it harmful to workers and potentially breaking the sorting machines. By 'knowing your no's,' you can help reduce contamination and improve recycling overall.

For additional information, visit the Town's 'Recycling Collection' page at morrisvillenc.gov/recycling.



Newsletter Moving to Digital Format

Go Green.
Go Digital.



To continue our sustainability journey, the Morrisville Connection newsletter will soon be moving to a digital format.

If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter, please fill out the form located at www.morrisvillenc.gov/connection to provide your email address.

Residents who want to continue receiving the newsletter by mail will be provided an option to do so.

Celebrating Small Business Success

The Town's Morrisville Means Business program is excited to celebrate the success of two small businesses that recently completed the Storefront Upfit Grant Program. This initiative offers small businesses up to \$5,000 for upgrades to their signage, landscaping, and other public-facing elements. Fusion9 and SGA Gymnastics are the two businesses that successfully completed the program, using their grants to enhance their storefronts.

Fusion9, an Asian fusion restaurant offering a unique mix of Indian, Thai, and Nepalese cuisines, used the grant to upgrade its exterior signage, making it more vibrant and inviting to customers. SGA Gymnastics, a facility dedicated to promoting physical activity and self-confidence in children, also invested in new signage to create a welcoming environment for families.

Looking ahead, the Town is renewing its commitment to small businesses through the continuation of the Morrisville Means Business program. This comes with an ongoing focus on strengthening resources and support, encouraging local patronage, facilitating business interactions with the Town, convening collaborative networking opportunities, and enhancing communications and connections within the business community.

To learn more about the Morrisville Means Business program and upcoming opportunities, visit morrisvillenc.gov/morrisvillemeansbusiness.



Pictured: Kavitha Aremanda of Fusion9 and Morrisville Community Relations Liaison, Wendy Liu

Chief Acosta Announces Retirement

After seven years of dedicated service to the Town of Morrisville and 31 years in law enforcement, Chief of Police Pete Acosta has announced his retirement, effective July 4.

Chief Acosta began his Morrisville tenure in 2018 and has served as chief since 2022. During his time in leadership, he has spearheaded numerous initiatives to enhance public safety, build community relationships, and modernize policing strategies. Under Chief Acosta's leadership, the department implemented an enhanced chaplain program designed to promote spiritual diversity, officer wellness, and enhanced community support during times of crisis. Additionally, he established an impact team to take aim at prevailing crime trends that adversely affect the quality of life for both residents and visitors. To promote enhanced transparency, Chief Acosta introduced a professional standards reporting system that enables the police department to systematically document and accurately collect data concerning complaints, use of force incidents and pursuits, thereby fostering trust and legitimacy within the community. The establishment of the domestic violence and crisis intervention investigator is a source of great pride for Chief Acosta, as it aims to safeguard some of the most vulnerable members of the community, providing avenues for justice, healing and intervention. Furthermore, the implementation of an inclusive approach with staff has cultivated a culture that promotes creativity and a sense of ownership within the department, providing officers with opportunities to actively contribute to positive change.

"It has been an honor to serve this community as the chief of police," said Chief Acosta. "My goal has been to serve this community with respect, dignity, and inclusivity, thereby fostering a safe environment that enhances the quality of life. As I reflect on the amazing work being performed by my team, the unwavering commitment and community-focused approach I witness from each member on a daily basis has undoubtedly contributed to a safer community."



During Chief Acosta's tenure the department achieved significant milestones, including Advanced Accreditation with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) which increased compliance from 183 standards to 461 standards. After 13 years of utilizing a shared Records Management System (RMS), the Morrisville Police Department is transitioning to being a sole user with their own RMS. Lastly, the national 30x30 Initiative aims to advance the representation of women in law enforcement with a goal of women comprising 30% of recruits by 2030. Being fully committed to the importance of women in law enforcement, the Morrisville Police Department's current staff is already 27% women.

Town Manager Brandon Zuidema expressed gratitude for Chief Acosta's years of service. "Chief Acosta was selected as our chief of police based on his diverse experience, his knowledge and understanding of the Morrisville community, and his leadership abilities. Most importantly, he was selected because he was the right person to lead the Morrisville Police Department and to bring a people-focused vision. Chief Acosta has been the chief of police that Morrisville needed and wanted and has taken the department to the next level in terms of community engagement, professional performance and outstanding service."

The Town of Morrisville has launched a national search for its next chief of police with the intention of having the new chief in place to work with Chief Acosta prior to his retirement in July.



Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources

Summer Program Registration – Get ready for an exciting summer! Registration for summer programs are now open. Morrisville Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources is offering a diverse lineup of programs for all ages, including STEM-focused summer camps, pickleball clinics for kids and adults, field trips and socials for seniors, free athletic clinics, and much more. Mark your calendars and don't miss your chance to join in on the fun! To browse programs and register online, visit activenet.active.com/mprplaymorr.



Music in the Park at Indian Creek Trailhead

- May 2 - 6:30 p.m. | Autumn Nicholas
- June 6 - 6 p.m. - Pride Celebration | 22 Strings
- June 20 - 6 p.m. - Juneteenth Celebration | NiiTO
- August 1 - 6:30 p.m. | Sterling Scott



Events

- May 17 - SpringFest, 10 a.m. - Indian Creek Trailhead
- July 3 - Red, White & BOOM!, 5 p.m. - Cedar Fork District Park
- August 9 - S'Morrisville, 4 p.m. - Morrisville Community Park

