

# Our Neighbors Speak

Would you prefer replacing the current system with a flat federal income tax?



**DIANE McDONALD  
MORRISVILLE**

Yes. If you make less money, you would pay less. It just makes sense.



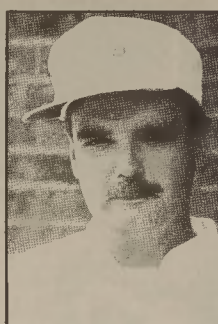
**ALAN CHANETE  
MORRISVILLE**

No. We need to revise the whole system, especially for the average person who is paying everything.



**MARY WARREN  
MORRISVILLE**

Yes, I think a flat rate would be preferable and more accurate.



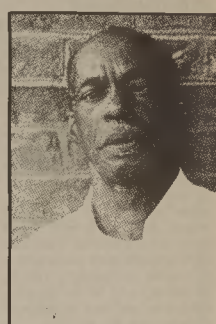
**SCOTT DAVIS  
PRESTON**

No. I don't think it will benefit the majority of the public.



**SARAH LANDIS  
PRESTON**

No. It wouldn't be fair to people who don't make as much. The people who are making about \$80,000 a year could handle it.



**DOUG MANGUM  
HOLLY SPRINGS**

No. If we switched, it would favor the rich more.

## Morrisville residents point out good, bad, ugly in survey

Morrisville residents were far from shy when it came to responding to the Quality of Life and Economic Development Survey prepared by the town's Economic Development Task Force.

In addition to the statistical data that will assist the town in planning for and accommodating growth, the survey (which went to both homes and businesses) also offered an opportunity to voice individual opinions.

And that's exactly what many of the 134 respondents did. Here is what some of them had to say, with two of the responses coming from businesses and the remainder from residents.

### Green space and planning

Planning is very important. We must stop letting all the trees be cut down for ugly businesses. We need aesthetic beauty to enjoy it here. Cutting down all the trees at Morrisville Parkway and 54 was a tragedy. Also, many homes and businesses in downtown Morrisville have trash junk around them. This lowers the appreciation on our homes.

The construction I have seen recently has been allowed to strip the land of all the vegetation. You need to control what can and cannot be removed. We need to provide for stronger buffer areas and maintain a quality appearance.

Maintaining the rural character of the Morrisville area will help keep it livable. If development is controlled in a measured, long-term and systematic manner to minimize impact and damage to natural areas, everyone will reap the benefits. Perhaps tax breaks for perimeter and interior buffer zones and greenways would encourage developers and landowners to plan and execute projects more aesthetically. Thus new construction could fit into the landscape more naturally rather than generating strip-type eyesores.

The beauty of Morrisville is the "feel" of the country, with the convenience of the city close by. If Morrisville is built up too much, the very thing that makes it a desirable place to live will be destroyed.

I'm very unhappy with any planned or on-going development in Morrisville. I'd like to see it kept rural with lots of green trees and woods. We don't need any businesses because we can get everything we need over in Cary and Raleigh. Keep the farms and trees. Get rid of destroying the nice quiet town that we now have.

Development needs to be planned and controlled. Good examples are Reston, Va. and Columbia, Md.

We think that the environment is a primary concern that is being overlooked. Trees are being cut down for malls and housing. If Highway 54 were cleaned up the town might not have to tear down trees to provide space. The corner of 54 and Morrisville Parkway is a rape of the land.

### Water and sewer bills

Morrisville must do everything in its power to reduce water and sewer charges. Our first two months' bills were over \$500, while neighbors two doors away in Cary paid \$100 for the same period. If this situation is not fixed, Morrisville will not exist in 10 years. Everyone will have joined Cary.

The cost of water and sewer is a definite block to residential growth here. Last month my water and sewer bill was almost as high as my electric bill and I have an all-electric house!

The cost to residents for water and sewer service is way out of line. Other municipalities in the area do not find it necessary to charge such outrageous rates and neither should Morrisville. Were it not for the irrigation meter program, the cost would be prohibitive enough to cause my family to seek residence outside the town limits. As it is, the cost is still intolerable and a constant source of irritation to residents. I strongly suggest using general tax revenue to invest in ways to reduce this burden on residents.

I would strongly recommend that you find a way to decrease the very high cost of water and sewer. I've checked around and Morrisville seems to be one of the highest rates in the country. At present, this would keep me from buying a house in Morrisville.

I suggest that water and sewer deposits be refunded after one year of the purchase of a home if there is a good credit history. Renters should have to leave a deposit, but not homeowners. We wouldn't sell with a lien for an unpaid bill!

The sewer costs are outrageous and because of this Morrisville is the last place I would buy a home.

### Traffic headaches

It is almost impossible at times to turn west onto Highway 54 from Morrisville Parkway since the light was installed at Weston Parkway. Please consider adding a light here that perhaps synchronizes with one at Weston.

Morrisville does not need any more warehouse or distribution businesses which would bring more tractor-trailers onto Route 54.

Traffic is a mess in the mornings and soon there will be a tragic accident there as cars try to merge going to work from the Morrisville Parkway onto 54. It will only get worse when construction of a commercial area is completed. Let's not become another Cary.

Highway 54 should be six lanes through Morrisville and well-lit. A bike path should be built parallel to Highway 54 to keep joggers and bicyclists off the highway (a very dangerous situation now).

### Affordable housing

We feel the interests of commercial endeavors override the interests of homeowners in our town. We would like to seek a stronger interest in attracting homeowners to buy

land and build homes. Even double- and triple-wide manufactured homes would offer a desirable home for the mid-income wage earner and prospective resident.

Affordable housing is absolutely required. Many people for one reason or another need to rent for a couple of years. They need, quality, space and good management.

We both like living here and would like to stay. We don't plan to stay in an apartment, however. We both believe that it is important to the development of Morrisville to have housing that is affordable for middle-class families.

### Cleaning things up

I enjoy living in Morrisville but I don't like having people visit me because of the condition of the houses and yards. I live in Treybrooke, which is very well kept, but Church St. is a totally different story.

I feel that it is very important for Morrisville to clean up the downtown area on Highway 54 from Morrisville-Carpenter Rd. to past the post office. I feel embarrassed to direct friends through the downtown.

I would like to see the "weed" law changed from 24 inches to 8-10 inches and enforced to keep property mowed and cleaned up. Also, with all the construction, I would like for vehicles to be cleaned of mud before entering roadways and streets.

Get rid of all the abandoned buildings and clear the lots. Put up more new homes with nice landscaping. When the area doesn't look good it brings down land and home values.

### Expanding recreation

Please look at parks and recreation. We need a baseball team like Cary. Basketball, too. Look into us having a Babe Ruth League. How about miniature golf or a putting green? So many parents of school-age children would welcome this. I think adults would benefit, too. Exercise equipment at the Community Center is really needed. Let's try to develop this.

We feel that the Community Center is a great idea, but it needs better equipment.

I am concerned about the recent cost increase to use the facilities at the Morrisville Community Center. The increase is too drastic and discourages our family from visiting more often. Please reconsider the feasibility of such a cost increase.

Nine to 12 year olds need a pitching machine in Little League.

Morrisville is great the way it is. I would only suggest upgrading the park somewhat with more swings, slides, etc. for kids.

### Plenty more to say

Some Morrisville natives are the nicest people I've ever met. Some are exactly the opposite. I choose to ignore the obstinate and negative

attitudes of those individuals who refuse to accept "Yankees" into their neighborhoods and business centers. These people should remember that it is those exact "Yankees" who are causing their property values to skyrocket!

It seems to me there is a great opportunity to develop a nice downtown area with nice shops, restaurants, etc., instead of just building a bunch of strip malls. A

downtown area properly planned and done right could be an extraordinary asset for the town.

I feel Morrisville needs a town center with an "old town" feel. The "Main Street" would add charm and character and distinguish the town. The architect could use Disney World Frontier Land as an example, not Preston. Also, I feel a library is very important for centering the families of the town. Final-

ly, Morrisville must plan for the residents first and industry second.

Leash laws should be more strictly enforced. Also, Morrisville should have an ABC store again.

Morrisville should give up its charter and become part of Cary. This would improve public services for the residents in this area. Many Morrisville residents and business people feel this way.

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