



Mary Willis, Morrisville Planning Director, enjoyed a ride on Lisa, the elephant at the Roberts Brothers Circus in early October.

## Morrisville residents come together on local development

By Mary Beth Phillips  
Staff Writer

The first meeting of the Better Morrisville Association, a homeowners civic association organized because of concerns about a lack of input during the initial phase of the town's booming development and about traffic and high-density housing, will be held November 4 at the Morrisville Community Center at 7:45 p.m.

Richard Elliott, president of the organization, said goals and objectives will be arrived at at the meeting and questions will be answered about the newly-formed group.

Elliott, a strong supporter of single-family developments, has aligned with Linda Lyons, spokesperson for the Shiloh Coalition for Community Control and Improvement, and other residents primarily of the Preston and Huntington neighborhoods to form the group.

In a news release, association members also cited a need to improve and expand town services.

"BMA members want Morrisville to realize its full potential to become an attractive suburban town that is fully competitive with the surrounding housing market. We believe Morrisville's exceptional location adjoining Research Triangle Park and its proximity to Cary, Durham, and Raleigh make it ideal for quality, low-density, single family and

*'With Cary serious about wanting to slow down, this is a golden opportunity for Morrisville.'*

—Richard Elliott,  
Better Morrisville Association

retirement subdivision developments," the news release said.

Members hope to become involved in the process of revising the town's land use plan, encouraging major expansion of the residential zone and halting future high-density, high-traffic residential development.

Elliott, who often speaks during the public comment portion of the Morrisville Board of Commissioners' meetings, has said that fine quality residential developments pay for themselves better than most commercial or industrial uses.

He said on one-third-acre lots at \$250,000 per house the undeveloped parts of Morrisville could generate \$1.8 billion in tax revenue. He said the commercial side of the town, which now makes up 80 percent of the tax base, brings in about \$425 million. This is assuming that every acre of undeveloped land was developed as high-quality, single-family residential.

"With Cary serious about wanting to slow down, this is a golden opportunity for Morrisville. We could be the bedroom community of RTP. I don't know what they [the board of commissioners] have against refined housing," he said, adding that, in fairness, few developers have brought plans for the kind of housing he envisions.

Elliott is a retired public relations director for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. He moved to Morrisville in '95.

Officers for the new group include Elliott as president, Ms. Lyons as vice president, Annabelle Fountain and Alan Klimeck as vice presidents and Diana Jansen as secretary.

## Elephants, aerialists entertain Morrisville

Over 400 children and adults enjoyed the Roberts Brothers Circus, held at the town hall grounds on October 3.

Despite early clouds and rain, the sun was out in time for young and old to enjoy the activities under the Big Top, and elephant and pony rides along the midway.

Morrisville Planning Director Mary Willis rode the biggest star of the circus, Lisa the Elephant, in the opening ceremonies.

Morrisville's new recreation facility

supervisor Tim Grant was chairperson for the circus project, one of his first official duties since coming on board Sept. 14.

"We were very pleased with the number of people who came out to see the circus in spite of what looked to be a rainy day," Grant said. "The quality of entertainment, reasonable prices, and the care given to the animals makes this a first-rate circus. We look forward to their return next year."

This year's performers included

aerialists, jugglers, clowns, daredevil acrobats and trained animals. The crowd got a glimpse of the glitter, glamour and nostalgia of yesteryear. From the looks on their faces, it was a great day for children age 2 to 102 inside the Big Top.



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## Yeager social chairperson at Appalachian State University


William Yeager of Morrisville is serving as Social Chairperson for the Appalachian State University Student Ambassador program.

Appalachian ambassadors work to improve the quality of the university through professionalism, dedicated service and a partnership with the alumni association and admissions office. The 38-member organization was founded 21 years ago, and it was recently one of five schools named 1998 Outstanding Organization for the Student Alumni Association/Student Foundation Network (SAA/SF).

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