

Welcome to Morristown

September 2015

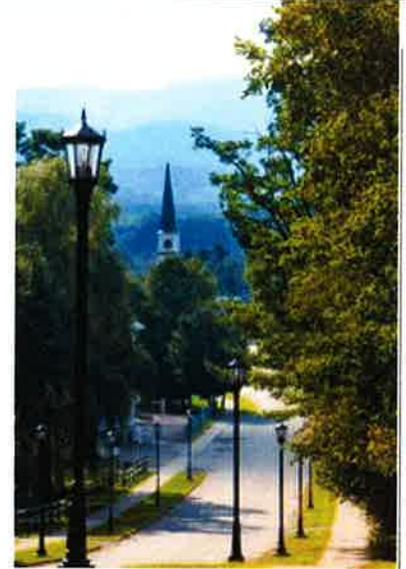
✧ Issue 14

Welcome to Our Community

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to Morristown. You will find some interesting information enclosed that should be helpful. We encourage you to take a moment to read this newsletter and we hope that it will serve as a great resource as you get acquainted with our community. Feel free to call our office at 888-6370 or stop in if you have questions and we will try to send you in the right direction. We look forward to meeting you.

Morristown at a Glance

Morristown is a rural town of more than 5,000 people (5,227 according to the 2010 census) located in the center of Lamoille County and serves as the region's center for commerce, services and industries. Morristown is situated in a valley along the winding Lamoille River and is nestled among the Green Mountain and Worcester mountain ranges. The famous Long Trail traverses the mountain ranges located here. Morristown is located 45 miles northeast of Burlington, Vermont's largest city and 30 miles northwest of Montpelier, the State Capital.



Many people often ask the difference between Morrisville and Morristown. Morrisville is a village located within the Town of Morristown. Located within the Village limits are various amenities including the local schools, Municipal Offices and Copley Hospital. Mail in Morristown is actually delivered to Morrisville addresses because the Post Office is located within the village limits of Morrisville.

Morristown provides many great opportunities for the community to come together. One of the many ways people hear or read about local events is through the radio station 93.9 WLVB or in the local weekly newspapers. Official notices are published in the News & Citizen newspaper. You can also learn about community events online by joining the **Front Porch Forum** email list at www.frontporchforum.com or by visiting the **Town Website** at www.morristownvt.org. You can also follow the Town of Morristown on the social media site **Twitter** via [@morristownvt](https://twitter.com/morristownvt) or like us on **Facebook** at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Town-of-Morristown/274807425876151>.

History of Morristown

On November 6, 1780, the General Assembly of the Independent Republic of Vermont granted Dr. Moses Morse his petition to establish a land grant in the north central part of the State. On August 24, 1781 Governor Thomas Chittenden issued the Town's Charter. By 1791, there were ten inhabitants that had moved from New York and Massachusetts and two Native American Indians from the St. Regis Tribe. By 1795, there were enough settlers to establish a tavern that held the first school, a town house and a brick church. It is the only town in the county that has gained in population by every census but one since it was created. In the late 19th century, much of the growth was directly related to the arrival of the railroad that also helped to create the unique style of architecture seen about town. The hospital and one of the



country clubs located in Town are named after Alexander Copley, a philanthropist who donated much of the money for their construction. Copley also donated a large sum of money for the construction of the Town's high school that is currently called Peoples Academy. The Town Clerk's Office sells history of Morristown books if you would like to learn more about our history. We also encourage you to visit the Noyes House Museum located in the historic village of Morrisville. Since 1952, the Morristown Historical Society has leased the Noyes House to house their growing collection of Morristown and Lamoille County artifacts, documents and historic images. Learn more about it at <http://noyeshousemuseum.org>



Municipal Offices

The Morrystown Municipal Offices are located at 43 Portland Street, diagonally across from the Post Office.



Administration Office

The Administration Office is responsible for the day to day operations of the Town and serves as the liaison to the Town Selectboard as well as the Town's Village and Highway Road Crews. The Administration Office is available to answer any questions regarding any Village/Highway road or sidewalk concerns, annual budget, ambulance billing or general questions for the Selectboard. The Selectboard meets every other Monday at 6:00 PM at the Municipal Building. If you wish to be on the Selectboard's agenda or to contact this office directly, call Erica Allen at 888-5147 or email her at ecallen@morrystownvt.org.

Town Clerk's Office

The Town Clerk's Office provides many services to the public including registering people to vote, registering dogs, issuing marriage licenses, certifying copies of vital records and recording land records. Other services provided in cooperation with State Agencies include: posting land, processing DMV registration renewals and issuing Green Mountain Passports. Notary services are provided free of charge; a photo ID card must be shown as proof of identification. The Town Clerk's Office is open to the public Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Fridays from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM and Wednesdays from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. To contact the Town Clerk directly call Mary Ann Wilson at 888-6370 or email her at mawilson@morrystownvt.org.

Listers' Office

The Listers office is responsible for assessing all personal and real properties subject to taxation in Morrystown, preparing the grand list & conducting grievance hearings. This office is open Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM and afternoons by appointment only. Morrystown properties were reappraised in 2007 and before that in 2003. The CLA as of December 2014 was at 105.10%. To contact this office directly call Charles McArthur at 888-6371 or email him at cmcarthur@morrystownvt.org.

Zoning & Planning Office

The Planning & Zoning Department is responsible for all permitting, zoning, development and planning issues in Morrystown. Permits are required for all structures, changes of use and land subdivisions. Todd Thomas, the Zoning Administrator, also serves as the Town's Health Officer. This office is open Monday - Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. To contact this office directly call Todd Thomas at 888-6373 or email him at tthomas@morrystownvt.org.

Community Development Coordinator

The Community Development Coordinator aids in working with municipal boards, commissions, community groups and businesses to identify & implement activities of the Town to enhance the community. To contact this office directly call Trish Follert at 888-6669 x 231 or email her at tfollert@morrystownvt.org.

Police Department

The Town of Morrystown has a full service Police Department that provides 24 hour service to the community. They are responsible for all safety & emergency activities in the Town. For non emergencies, contact them at 888-4211.

Fire Department

The Morrisville Fire Department provides dedicated volunteer service to our community by protecting lives and property. They have been serving the community since July 13, 1890. You can leave messages for the Fire Department at 888-3575. For burn permits, page the Fire Warden, Dennis DiGregorio, at 826-2626.

Emergency Medical Services Department

The Morrystown EMS Department is a BLS & ALS ambulance organization comprised of volunteers and paid staff, serving the residents of Morrystown and surrounding communities. EMS is highly dependent on volunteers and always looking for more. For more information on volunteering or non-emergencies contact Nathan Pickard at 888-5628 or email npickard@morrystownvt.org.

Recreation Commission

The Morrisville Recreation Commission is a volunteer group endeavoring to provide the community with varied year-round activities for all ages. The Recreation Council runs a summer recreation program for elementary aged students that promotes healthy eating and exercise.

Water & Light Department

Established in 1895, Morrisville Water and Light is a municipally owned electric utility serving approximately 3800 residential and commercial customers. It is their goal to provide power that is clean, economical and reliable. To contact them call 888-3348.

Volunteers are always needed for elections & special projects. Please call us at 888-6370 if you are interested.

Elections/Important Contact Numbers



Registering to Vote

To register to vote in Vermont, you must be a US citizen, a resident of Vermont & 18 years or older on or before the next election. You must register to vote in the town where your residence is located. If you have never registered to vote in Vermont, you must also provide a State issued ID & take the voter's oath. If you have decided to vote, the deadline to register to vote for any particular election is the Wednesday prior to the election by 5:00 PM.

Absentee voting is available for every election as soon as the ballots are ready, approximately 30 days prior to the election. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is the Monday before each election by 4:30 PM.

Elections

Unless otherwise indicated, the polling location is the **Morristown Municipal Building** at 43 Portland Street and polling hours are **8:00 AM to 7:00 PM**.

- * **Annual Town & School Meeting (Floor Vote):** 1st Tuesday in March; floor vote on Town budget, Town officials & other warned articles. Starts at 9:00 AM at the **Peoples Academy High School gym** at 202 Copley Ave.
- * **Annual Town & School Meeting (Australian Ballot):** 1st Tuesday in March; Australian ballot vote for Town Selectboard, School Board members & School budget. Coincides with Town Meeting election.
- * **Presidential Primary:** 1st Tuesday in March every four years; vote for party nominations for United States President. Coincides with Town Meeting election.
- * **Village Meeting:** 2nd Monday in April at 6:30 PM, vote for Village officials and warned articles.
- * **Vermont State Primary:** 4th Tuesday in August every even year; vote for party nominations for State officials.
- * **General Election:** 1st Tuesday in November every even year; vote for State officials, Justices of the Peace. Every four years vote for US President & Members of Congress.



To learn more about elections in Vermont go online to: <http://vermont-elections.org/>

Important Contact Numbers

Animal Control Officer	888-5629	Lamoille County Sheriff's Department	888-3502
Community Garden	224-6097	Morristown Police Department	888-4211
Copley Hospital	888-8888	Morrisville Fire Department	888-3575
Department of Motor Vehicles	828-2000	Burn Permits (Pager)	826-2626
Green Mountain Transit Agency	223-7287	Morristown EMS Department	888-5628
Lamoille Family Center	888-5229	Town Administrator	888-5147
Lamoille Region Chamber of Commerce	888-7607	Town Clerk's Office	888-6370
Lamoille Regional Solid Waste District	888-7317	Town Lister's Office	888-6371
Casella Waste Management	888-3627	Town Zoning Office	888-6373
Lamoille Trash Services	888-2469	Town Fiscal Office	888-6374
Lamoille South Supervisory Union	888-4541	Community Coordinator	888-6669 x231
Elementary School	888-3101	Town Highway Department	888-6369
Middle Level	888-1401	Village Street Department	888-3398
Peoples Academy High School	888-4600	Water & Light Department	888-3348
River Arts	888-1261	Morristown Centennial Library	888-3853
Rural Community Transportation (RCT)	888-6200	Morrisville Post Office	888-3557



Tax Billing

The Town of Morrystown operates on a fiscal calendar (July 1 to June 30).
The Village of Morrisville operates on an annual calendar (Jan 1 to Dec 31).

Bills are sent out from the Town Treasurer at least 30 days before the first installment is due on November 16, 2015. You will receive only one bill for the current tax year, and it will include coupons for the first and second installments of your Morrystown tax bills. The bill that you receive will also include applicable Village taxes. **You will NOT receive a second notice of payment due for the second installment due on May 16, 2016.**

By law, taxes are levied on both real and personal property as it exists in the owner of record on the April 1st prior to the fiscal year start date of July 1st. Tax bills are mailed to the April 1st owner of record at the address on file with the Listers' Office. If all or a part of the taxed property is sold, it is the seller's responsibility to forward the tax bill to the new owner. **Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve any taxpayer of responsibility to pay the property taxes, interest or penalties when they become due to the Town of Morrystown. Please notify the Town Clerk's Office of any address changes at 888-6370 or shaskins@morrystownvt.org.**

Currently dated checks should be made payable to the Town of Morrystown and mailed to PO Box 748, Morrisville, VT 05661. Post dated checks or other checks not meeting the requirements will be returned, and penalties will be added if applicable. All checks returned by the bank will cause the tax payment to be cancelled, any receipt issued will be void, and delinquent penalties will be added. Payments are due in the hand of the Treasurer by 4:30 PM on the due dates. Only official U.S.P.S. cancellation marks will be considered timely. For a receipted copy of the tax bill, you must send a self addressed, stamped envelope with your payment. To properly credit your account, we would appreciate it if you would return the installment coupon with your payment.

FIRST INSTALLMENT – DUE NOVEMBER 16, 2015:

Interest charges of 1% per month for the first 3 months and 1 1/2 % per month thereafter as provided in 32 V.S.A Section 5136, will be added to the unpaid first installment of taxes after the close of business at 4:30 PM on November 16, 2015. **Only official U.S.P.S. cancellation marks will be considered timely. *Post-dated checks will be returned.*** After May 16, 2016 any unpaid balance of this first installment will be delinquent and subject to an 8% penalty, 1 1/2% interest per month, and all collection costs.

SECOND INSTALLMENT – DUE MAY 16, 2016:

An 8% penalty on the entire unpaid tax due plus collector's costs and interest charges of 1% per month for the first 3 months and 1 1/2 % per month thereafter as provided in 32 V.S.A. Section 5136, if payment is not received in the office at the close of business at 4:30 pm on May 16, 2016 **Only official U.S.P.S. cancellation marks will be considered timely. *Post-dated checks will be returned.***

PAYMENT METHODS:

The Town of Morrystown offers choices for paying your property tax bill.
Contact us for more information at 888-6370 or mawilson@morrystownvt.org.

- * **Direct Debit**
- * **Power Pay™**
- * **Cash**
- * **Check**
- * **Credit/Debit Card (convenience fees apply)**



IMPORTANT: You can pay property taxes more frequently than the two installments. Our system is capable of receiving tax payments weekly, monthly, quarterly or whatever way accommodates your budget, as long as the taxes are paid in full by the due dates.

Escrow

If a property owner has his/her property taxes held in escrow by a mortgage company, the Town will no longer forward a copy to the institution without a written request. The property taxpayer must contact the escrow service with all the information included on the property tax bills.

Homestead Information



Homestead Declaration

Beginning January 1, 2013, Vermont State law now requires that homestead declarations must be filed **annually** by April 1st. The State of Vermont defines a homestead as the principal dwelling and parcel of land surrounding the dwelling, owned and occupied by the resident as the person's domicile. You must file a declaration if you expect to be a Vermont resident on April 1st **and** you own and occupy the Vermont property as your principal residence on April 1st. Filers will use Vermont tax form **HS-122, Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment Claim**, to file homestead declarations with the State of Vermont Tax Department.

Income Based Adjustments (State Pre-bate)

To apply for an income-based adjustment to your Vermont property tax payment, you must file Form HS-145 every year. To determine your eligibility, complete Schedule HI-144, Household Income forms which are available on the Vermont Department of Taxes website. Generally, a Property Tax Adjustment is generally not available to households whose income is \$109,000 or more.



You may be eligible for an adjustment if:

- * You were a Vermont resident all of calendar 2014; and
- * You are not claimed as a dependent of another taxpayer for tax year 2014; and
- * You have owned and occupied the property as your principal; residence on April 1, 2015; and
- * You have the property declared as homestead on the 2015 Morristown grand list.

Pre-bates, Rebate, Homestead Declaration

Questions regarding pre-bates, rebates or Homestead Declaration should be directed to the State of Vermont. Property Tax Assistance - (Education Payment, Rebate, Homestead Declaration) Tel: 1-866-828-2865 (toll free in VT) or 802-828-2865 (local & out-of-state) Fax: 802-828-2720. The State Web site is www.tax.vermont.gov

Veterans Exemption

In Morristown, the first \$40,000 of appraised value of the established residence of a qualifying veteran, his or her surviving spouse or child is exempt if:

- * the residence is owned in fee simple by one or jointly and;
- * a written application for the exemption is filed with the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs (VOVA) before May 1.

Address questions regarding the application process and eligibility directly to the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs at (802) 828-3379.



Veteran's Monument erected 2012 in Academy Park

Grievances

Property owners may grieve the assessed value of their property by submitting a written notice of appeal to the Board of Listers on or before the date that grievance hearings are held - sometime after April 1st. Call the Town Office for the specific date. If your property has been improved (with an addition, for example) or if the town has conducted a town-wide reappraisal, you will receive a "change of appraisal" notice. The date for grievance hearings will be specified in the change of appraisal notice. Please note that you may grieve your assessment even if you do not receive a change of appraisal notice. Mail your notice of appeal to: Board of Listers; Town of Morristown; PO Box 748, Morrisville, VT 05661. The written notice of appeal should include the name, mailing address, and phone number of the property owner, the parcel ID # of the property that is the subject of the appeal and the reason for the appeal.

Address Changes

Please notify us at (802) 888-6370 or shaskins@morristownvt.org of any address changes so that you may receive timely information from our office regarding your tax bills, voting, dog licensing, or other Town business.



Dog Licensing/ DMV Renewals/Green Mountain Passports

Dog Licensing

By law, all dogs and wolf hybrids six months of age or older must be licensed by April 1st each year in the town where the dog resides. Licenses are only available through the Town Clerk's Office and may be purchased in person or by mail if there is a current rabies certificate on file. Licenses are available after mid January each year. Morristown does not currently license cats.

In order to license your dog you must present the following items:

- A copy of a valid rabies certificate (unless one is already on file).
- Proof of Spay/Neuter certificate (if applicable)
- Cash or a check made payable to "Town of Morristown" for proper fees.



Fees:

Before April 1st:

Neutered/ Spayed: \$4.00 + \$5.00 state = \$ 9.00

Male/ Female: \$8.00 + \$5.00 state = \$13.00

After April 1st:

Neutered/ Spayed: \$ 6.00 + \$5.00 state = \$11.00

Male/ Female: \$12.00 + \$5.00 state = \$17.00

DMV Renewals

Our office is able to issue temporary vehicle registration renewals. The receipt and sticker that are given out at the Clerk's office are only temporary and within a few weeks after paying, the state will send the appropriate stickers to you. You can also renew your registration online at:

<https://secure.vermont.gov/dmv/express>



In order to renew your registration you need the following:

- A preprinted renewal form from the DMV.
- The renewal form must be for current month or the previous two month period.
- A check or money order made payable to DMV. **(NO cash accepted)**
- A separate \$3.00 processing fee paid directly to the Town for each renewal. **(Cash accepted)**

Green Mountain Passports

The Green Mountain Passport Program was started in 1973 by an Act of the Vermont General Assembly. Use your passport for free admission to Vermont State Parks (overnight camping and other fees are excluded), Vermont State Historical Sites and events which are fully State sponsored.

To be eligible for a passport you must be a resident of Vermont AND:

- 62 years old or older ***or***
- A veteran of the uniformed services



Come to the Town Clerks office and pick your card up today!

MACC membership/ Reflective 911 Signs



The Morristown Alliance for Culture and Commerce mission is to help ensure a strong and viable community. MACC serves the community by building upon our historic past, recognizing our existing assets and utilizing local knowledge, skills and resources. When you donate or become a member, you help work with property owners, businesses and community organizations to keep our town's inviting hometown atmosphere and bring new life to our commercial districts. Learn more at: www.morrisvillevt.org

MACC

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join Us!

Memberships are for the calendar year and are fully tax deductible.

- Sponsor \$250
- Business, Corporation, Professional \$100
- Non-Profit \$50
- Family \$35
- Individual \$20

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION _____

TITLE _____

ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Please complete this form and mail with a check payable to: MACC, P.O. Box 748, Morrisville, VT 05661



MORRISTOWN ALLIANCE FOR CULTURE & COMMERCE

Morristown Rescue Squad Reflective 911 Address Number Marker Form

**If we CANT find you
We CANT help you!**

Sign: \$15.00 Sign & Post: \$20.00

- Sign is green in color
- Size is 6" x 18"
- Post is 5 feet

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Address Number Request



Note: If your address is fewer than 5 digits please X those boxes not used.

Circle one: Vertical Horizontal

Circle one: Sign Sign & Post



Please complete this form and mail with a check payable to:
Morristown Rescue
PO Box 424
Morrisville, VT 05661

Questions: Contact EMS Department (802) 888-5628

Courtesy of the Morristown Town Clerk's Office



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**Town Clerk's Office
PO Box 748
Morrisville VT 05661**

Mail To:

