



Town of Mars Hill
 PO Box 368
 280 N. Main Street
 Mars Hill, NC 28754

MARS HILL LETTER

A Publication of the Town of Mars Hill, N.C.

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Phone: (828) 689-2301

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Town of Mars Hill Responds to COVID-19

A lot has happened since the last issue of the **MARS HILL LETTER**. In February – remember February? – we were looking for an early spring and return of warmer weather. Since March, the coronavirus and COVID-19 pandemic has consumed the attention of people around the world.

Things in the era of COVID-19 may look differently, but here in Mars Hill and Madison County we have fortunately been spared the possibility of a large outbreak and community spread that some nearby areas have not. Early action by Madison County and town officials have played a large role in that outcome but you, the citizens, have heeded the advice of public health officials keeping our community safe.

The Town of Mars Hill responded to the global pandemic with a number of actions aimed to protect our citizens and employees. We temporarily closed Town Hall, the Recreation Park, and other Town facilities to limit potential exposure. However, the Town has been able to continue to operate with only minimal impacts to services. Our Public Works Department has continued to provide all services that are normally available without interruption. There has been a noticeable increase in the volume of garbage that has been collected. Our Police and Fire Departments are also continuing to operate at normal levels. They have adjusted their operating procedures to help limit direct contact with the public unless necessary. Importantly, the Otis Duck Greenway has remained open and available for your use...just remember to maintain appropriate social distancing to other users.

Although Town Hall remains closed to the public for now, we are still here to assist you by phone or email. Visit our website for COVID-19 information and other resources. We encourage you contact us if you need assistance.

Staying Connected While Being Socially Distant

The Town of Mars Hill continues to operate under the local and statewide state of emergency proclamations that were issued in early March. While the Town is still following the Governor’s Executive Orders and guidelines from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, our staff is working hard to provide the same level of services our residents have become accustomed to, even if it’s in a different way. We encourage everyone to visit the Town social media sites where we are keeping in touch and providing information on available resources.

If you leave home, know your Ws!



WEAR a cloth face covering.



WAIT 6 feet apart. Avoid close contact.



WASH your hands often or use hand sanitizer.

@NCDHHS

#StayStrongNC

As of this writing, we anticipate a relaxing of the state stay at home order with a move to Phase 2 guidance as the Memorial Day holiday approaches. Information from the N.C. Department of Health and Human Resources can be viewed online at <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/>.

Please continue to follow the directions of public health authorities and together we will get through this challenge.

We're all in this
T♥GETHER

Be kind and help neighbors if you can

Practice patience

Check in with friends and family

Have You Completed Your CENSUS 2020?

By now, you should have received your 2020 Census questionnaire. According to recent data, the response rate by residents of Mars Hill and Madison County lags well behind the state average. Your response to the Census is very important. Census results directly impact federal funding for our Town and county and representation at the state and federal level.

Take a few moments to complete your Census form online at <https://my2020census.gov>. It will take less than 10 minutes to complete if you know everyone's birthdate that was living in your house on April 1, 2020. Rather than having a Census Taker visit your home in June, or after depending upon the COVID situation, gather your information and take a few moments to complete your form today. Their goal is to count everyone only once, and in the right place. Federal law protects the confidentiality of all individual responses the Census Bureau collects.

Visit <https://2020census.gov/en/census-data.html> for more information.



Decision Pending on Opening Town Pool

The decision to open the Mars Hill Pool, located at the Recreation Park on Park Drive, for the season is still pending due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation. The Town continues to review guidance from the CDC and NCDHHS to determine if, and under what conditions, the pool may reopen for the 2020 summer season. As of this writing, the state decision to move to phase 2 reopening is pending and pools may be included in that process. Stay tuned to our social media accounts for additional information.

DATES OF INTEREST

*May 25.....Memorial Day – Town Offices Closed
Trash Pickup on Tuesday, 5/26*

*July 3... Independence Day (observed)
Town Offices Closed*

Farmers Market Opens

The Mars Hill Farmers and Artisans Market has returned for the 2020 season. The market runs from the first Saturday in April through the last Saturday in October from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The market has changed locations and can now be found at the parking lot across from the new Ammons Field House at the intersection of Park Drive and NC 213 on the MHU campus.

For more information on the market, please visit them on the web at: <http://marshillmarket.org/>

SART Will Return

Like most everything else these days, the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre (SART) programming schedule has been impacted too. **SART has decided to postpone their two summer musicals, SISTER ACT and VIOLET.**

SART is offering donation-based alternate programming via their Facebook page to keep you entertained, in addition to a brand-new line of SART merchandise. According to Managing Artistic Director Chelsey Mirheli, "We are simply continuing to be patient with our decisions moving forward as we navigate this new journey day by day." Stay tuned for more information on the remainder of season.

Visit SART on Facebook and at www.sartplays.com to view their alternate programming, for more information and to purchase tickets.