



# MARS HILL LETTER

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

## SPRING 2026

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

Phone: (828) 689-2301

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[www.townofmarshill.org](http://www.townofmarshill.org)

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

#### FAREWELL TO SHAWNA FOWLER

Shawna Fowler is that smiling face in Town Hall that is always eager to assist residents with water billing and any other issues that come in the door. Shawna has served as the utility billing specialist for over 16 years. She has been the go-to problem solver working with customers, field staff, vendors, and management to “keep the water on.”

In the coming weeks, Shawna will be leaving us to relocate where her husband has taken advantage of a new employment opportunity. We are sad to see her go. Her positive attitude and great sense of humor will be sorely missed by all of us.

Please join us in thanking Shawna for her hard work and tireless service to the Town of Mars Hill.

Thank you, Shawna, and best wishes on your next adventure!



#### TOWN HONORS MHU PRESIDENT RETIREMENT WITH “TONY FLOYD DAY” PROCLAMATION

The Town of Mars Hill issued a proclamation at the April meeting honoring Mars Hill University President Tony Floyd on his upcoming retirement. Floyd was appointed president by the MHU Board of Trustees on June 1, 2018, and will retire in May. Throughout his tenure President Floyd has been a valuable partner, working closely with Town officials on many mutually beneficial projects including: the redevelopment of Gazebo Park, Main Street revitalization projects, Bailey Mountain Park, special events such as relocation of July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration to Athletic Street, and many other initiatives.

The Proclamation states in part:

**WHEREAS**, President Floyd has dedicated himself to the highest standards of professionalism and excellence in leading Mars Hill University; and

**WHEREAS**, President Floyd has focused first and foremost on serving the students of Mars Hill University with caring and compassionate leadership;

**WHEREAS**, President Floyd has been a valuable and instrumental partner with the Town of Mars Hill by becoming involved with many Town initiatives and projects that have brought the community together.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen thank President Floyd for his exceptional leadership of MHU and his commitment of partnership to the Town of Mars Hill. In recognition of this, they have **PROCLAIMED** Wednesday, April 15, 2026, to be “**TONY FLOYD DAY.**” We wish you all the best in your retirement adventure.



### MARS HILL 250

#### INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

The year 2026 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. A defining moment in our nation’s history, this year provides an opportunity to reflect upon the ideals that shaped the founding of the United States and continue to guide our democracy today. In recognition of this occasion, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen approved a proclamation at their April meeting.

The community is invited to join in the **MARS HILL 250 Independence Day Celebration** on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. The festival will take place on Athletic Street and will feature inflatables, carnival games, food trucks, and music. The Town is partnering with the Bailey Mountain International Folk Festival, SART, and MHU Music Dept. & Music City Drum Corps, to provide live entertainment offerings. Free and plentiful parking will be available in all MHU lots. The festival kicks off at 5 PM with the fireworks at 9:30 PM. More information to come.



#### TOWN POOL OPENS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

The Town of Mars Hill Recreation Pool opens for the summer season on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> and will operate through August 15<sup>th</sup>. Hours of operation are Monday-Saturday, noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission remains \$5 for age 6 and older, free for 5 years and under.

**The Town is excited to announce that the pool will be managed this season by Swim Club Management Group, a professional pool operations company.** This group will manage all aspects of pool operations, including hiring of lifeguards, providing swimming lessons, and scheduling pool parties.

To register for swim lessons, obtain a seasonal pool pass, or schedule a pool party, please visit the Town website [www.townofmarshill.org](http://www.townofmarshill.org) and follow the link on the main page to Swim Club Management’s website. **Town Hall staff will not be able to complete these transactions for you.** You may contact Town Hall at 280 N. Main Street or call (828) 689-2301 for questions and more information.

## MAYOR CHANDLER AND ALDERMEN HONEYCUTT & ZINK BEGIN NEW TERM

The Town of Mars Hill held municipal elections on November 4, 2025, to fill the office of Mayor and two alderman positions. Incumbent Mayor John Chandler and Alderman Nicholas Honeycutt and Alderman Bob Zink were re-elected to a four-year term.

Mayor Chandler and Alderman Honeycutt and Alderman Zink took the oath of office administered by retired District Court Judge Larry Leake in a ceremony at the Town Board meeting on December 1, 2025.



Chandler

Honeycutt

Zink

## MARS HILL RECEIVES GRANT FROM NC LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

The Town of Mars Hill recently received a \$5,000 Safety Grant from the N.C. League of Municipalities (NCLM). This grant will be used to match Town funds to purchase a portable light tower.

This is the second light tower purchased by the Town in partnership with the NCLM. These light towers will be used to enhance safety of both town employees and the public in work zones, accident and investigation scenes, as well as at town festivals such as the Christmas Parade and First Fridays. These towers are part of the Town's overall efforts to enhance the Town's own Emergency Management equipment including two LED message boards, and utility task vehicles (UTVs) for the fire, police, and public works departments.

A presentation of the grant check was made by NCLM representative Andrew Smith to Town Manager Nathan Bennett and Fire Chief Nathan Waldrup in late March.



## DATES OF INTEREST

May 1....First Friday Event – Main and College Street

May 23....Mars Hill Recreation Pool OPENS!

May 25....Memorial Day Holiday

Town Offices Closed

Trash Pickup on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>

June 5....First Friday Event – Main and College Street

July 3.....Independence Day Holiday (OBSERVED)

Town Offices Closed

July 3....First Friday Event – Main and College Street

July 4.....Independence Day Holiday

**MARS HILL INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**FESTIVAL & FIREWORKS**

**ATHLETIC STREET, MHU STADIUM, and AREA**

**Festival Begins @ 4:00 / Fireworks @ 9:30 p.m.**

Aug. 7.....First Friday Event AND National Night Out Event

Main and College Street



Complete registration through the Town website:  
[www.townofmarshell.org](http://www.townofmarshell.org) OR call Town Hall (828) 689-2301.

**SEEGER**  
A MULTIMEDIA SOLO SHOW  
WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY RANDY NOOJIN

June 4 - 7

**SART Season 52: Embracing Our Heritage**

**SINGING MARY**

June 11 - 21  
Sung by Mrs. MARY SANIER at Allansand, N. C., July 31, 1916

Hexatonic, Mode 2, a.

1. There was a rich mer-chant in Lon-don did right Had one on - ly daugh - ter, her beau - ty shined bright. She lov - ed a port - er and to

July 11 & 12

**SEUSSICAL JR.**

July 4<sup>th</sup>

**RED WHITE & BLUEGRASS!**

July 16 - 26

**LICKETY SPLIT**

WOMEN AND MEN IN OUTRAGEOUS SHORTS

July 30 - Aug. 2

**MEREDITH WILLSON'S THE MUSIC MAN SR.**

**SARTPLAYS.COM**