

The Mayor's Corner

BY MAYOR BETH A. TAYLOR

April 2024



I welcome the opportunity to talk to you regarding your ideas and concerns. I can be reached by phone, mail or email.

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Spring Is Here

Along with the seasonal change from cold, blustery winter to warm, breezy, breathtaking Spring, Summer and Fall comes outdoor events. Spring is the beginning of beautiful, colorful flowers and trees that invite the birds and the bees to dance from plant-to-plant pollinating as they go. Spring also signals our brain to start moving and to get outside. Family walks or picnics in our local parks are a great way to start that transition out of hibernation. The



Heritage Walk connects the Visitors Center to Withers Park, which has a walking path and playground area. Withers Park connects to Elizabeth Brown Park, if you follow the Heritage Walk path and it also has additional walking paths and picnic areas. At Crystal Springs Recreational



Area, located at 723 Pump Hollow Road, you can hike on trails of various lengths and difficulty, bike, or just go and have a picnic. Last, but not least, Truss Bridge Park, located at 1565 Church Street, is a great place to picnic near the creek. Spring also brings all sorts of festivities and other events, so I want you to mark your calendar now and stay tuned next month for any additions or changes. Happy Spring! Let's get started.

Committee Vacancies

- **Tree Advisory Committee:** Meets quarterly on the second Thursday at 8:30 a.m. A knowledge and/or passion for trees is helpful, but not mandatory.
- **Airport Commission:** Mountain Empire Airport Commission meets once a month on a Thursday at the airport in Rural Retreat. There is a vacancy coming up that is one of two Town of Wytheville positions. Other local governments on the Commission include Wythe County, Smyth County, and the Town of Marion.

From the Wytheville Police Department

SPEEDING ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN: OBEY THE SIGN OR PAY THE FINE

Although we enforce the Town's speed limits all year, we want you to be extra aware of your speed now that the weather will be getting warmer. Many adults, children and families will be out walking, running and biking. Watch your speed, be aware of your surroundings, no distractive driving (texting, email, social media). The Town of Wytheville town-wide speed limit is 25 MPH, unless otherwise posted. Speed limits in higher speed limit zones are clearly marked. When you leave a higher speed limit zone and enter a 25 MPH zone it is also clearly marked. Officers will be conducting concentrated speed enforcement campaigns in the Town of Wytheville. Those traveling over the posted speed limit will be ticketed. Be part of the solution and not part of the problem.



From the Wytheville Fire & Rescue Department

On Saturday, March 20, 2024, the Wytheville Fire & Rescue Department partnered with the American Red Cross and many volunteers from around the region as well as officials from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs and the State Fire Marshals office to conduct a smoke detector blitz in several neighborhoods in and around Wytheville. Firefighters and volunteers knocked on the doors of approximately 150 homes and installed 51 smoke detectors as well as discussed fire prevention with 70 residents. We could not have accomplished this without the volunteers who came from various local organizations as well as students from Emory and Henry College. Additionally, we would also like to thank several local businesses that donated food and drinks to this effort including Food Lion, Food City, Walmart, Hardees, McDonalds, Papa Johns, Dominos and Little Caesars. We greatly appreciate all those who assisted us in the Community Risk Reduction effort.



May.

- **Friday, June 7, 2024**, is the first **After Hours Concert** in **Withers Park** with the ACE Party Band on stage. Show times are **6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**, gates open at 5:30 p.m. Admission is \$7 at the gate, children free. Tickets can be purchased at the Wytheville Community Center for \$5 in advance.
- **Friday, June 14, 2024, Saturday, June 15, 2024, and Sunday June 16, 2024**, are the dates for the **Chautauqua Balloon Glow** at **Wytheville Community College**.
- **Saturday June 15, 2024, Chautauqua Festival Parade.**
- **Saturday June 15, 2024, Chautauqua Fun Run.**
- **Saturday June 22, 2024, Chautauqua Festival 5K.**
- **Thursday, July 4, 2024, 4th of July Celebration.**
- **Friday, August 2, 2024, After Hours Concert** in **Withers Park** with the band Too Much Silvia on stage. Show times are **6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**, gates open at 5:30 p.m. Admission is \$7 at the gate, children free. Tickets can be purchased at the Wytheville Community Center for \$5 in advance.
- Let's not forget the **Farmers Market** located at **210 W. Spring Street** in Wytheville. Check their web site at www.wythefarmers.org for hours and special events.
- The schedule for the **Vintage Base Ball** season will be out soon. Watch for more details from the **Wytheville Department of Museums**.

Save the Date

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SAVE THE DATES NOW FOR A SEASON FULL OF FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS.

- **Friday, April 26, 2024**, is **Arbor Day**. This will be the Town's fifth year of being a Tree City USA community, so please join the Tree Committee and the Department of Forestry on **Friday, April 26**, for our annual tree planting. Snacks and beverages will also be provided. The time of the event will be **10:00 a.m.**, and the location is **375 Church Street** near Barnett Funeral Home.
- **Saturday, May 18, 2024**. Head to **Withers Park** on Saturday, May 18, for the **Seventh Annual Chautauqua Brews and Bands!** Sample craft beers while cheering on your favorite local bands (5) as they compete for "Band of the Year." Food vendors and nonalcoholic beverages will be available all day at the family-friendly event. The first band takes the stage at **noon (until 6pm)**. Don't forget your lounge chairs. The winner will perform at the Chautauqua Festival in June.
- **Saturday, May 18, 2024**, is also **National Museum Day**. More details will be announced in May.
- **Wednesday, May 22, & Thursday, May 23, 2024**, is **Run for the Wall**. More details will be announced in May.
- **Saturday, June 1, 2024 - Homestead Museum** will host the second annual **BABA (Bands, Art, Bourbon, and Ale Festival)**. More details will be announced in



Council Actions

March 11, 2024:

- Conducted a public hearing to consider budget appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget.
- Approved amending the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget to include appropriations to the 2023-24 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$732,500 and the Wastewater Fund Budget in the amount of \$60,886.
- Approved authorizing the Wytheville Police Department to issue a purchase order for two police vehicles with the understanding that the funds will be appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget.
- Scheduled Budget Work Sessions for Monday, March 25, 2024, and Monday, April 8, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building before the regularly scheduled Town Council meetings to discuss the development of the budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25.
- Adopted the proposed budget adoption calendar for Fiscal Year 2024-25.
- Approved the request of the American Cancer Society for a Waiver of Fees for the use of Withers Park on Saturday, May 4, 2024, for the Relay for Life of Wythe County event.
- Approved the request of the Wytheville Branch of American Association of University Women for the issuance of a raffle permit for calendar year 2024.
- Scheduled a public hearing for the Town Council meeting on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Municipal Building to consider the renewal of a lease of Town property for the Wytheville Farmers' Market located at 210 West Spring Street in Wytheville.
- Approved renewing the town employee health insurance with The Local Choice; to continue the same plan offerings in prior year percentages; and, for the Town to pay a \$350 monthly contribution to the "Plus 1" plan or "Family" plan.
- Conducted a closed meeting pursuant to 2.2-3711(A).(7.) Consultation with legal counsel pertaining to probable litigation and certified the closed meeting.

March 11, 2024:

- Conducted a public hearing to consider renewing the Wytheville Farmers' Market Lease Agreement.
- Approved renewing the lease of town property for the Wytheville Farmers' Market located at 210 West Spring Street in Wytheville.
- Scheduled a public hearing for the Town Council meeting on Monday, April 8, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Council Chambers to consider an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget for sewer improvements.
- Approved the request of the Wythe Arts Council to provide traffic control on Friday, June 14, 2024, and traffic control assistance Saturday, June 15, 2024, and Sunday, June 16, 2024, for the Chautauqua Balloon Glow.
- Approved the request of Wythe Arts Council to provide traffic control on Saturday, June 15, 2024, for the Chautauqua Festival Parade.
- Approved the request of the Wythe Arts Council to provide traffic control on Saturday, June 15, 2024, to conduct the Chautauqua Fun Run.
- Approved the request of Wythe Arts Council to provide traffic control on Saturday, June 22, 2024, to conduct the Chautauqua Festival 5K.
- Approved the request from Wythe Arts Council for a Waiver of Fees for the use of Withers Park, Elizabeth Brown Memorial Park and the 4th Street Civic Center beginning Friday, June 14, 2024, through Sunday, June 23, 2024, for the Chautauqua Festival event, as presented by the Town of Wytheville Parks and Recreation Department.
- Approved the request of the Wythe Arts Council for the issuance of a raffle permit for calendar year 2024.
- Approved eight holiday hours for Friday, March 29, 2024 (Good Friday observance).
- Conducted a closed meeting pursuant to 2.2-3711 (A.) (1.) to discuss the performance of appointed employees and certified the closed meeting.



Wytheville has a bright & vibrant future, full of growth. A new year gives us the opportunity to reach into the future for new & exciting projects. Please consider donating to your favorite department!

You can choose the department you wish to support!
All donations are tax deductible!
Remember to ask your employer if they match employee donations!

DONATE ONCE · DONATE MONTHLY · LEAVE IN YOUR WILL

DONATE LAND · MAKE A MEMORIAL GIFT · MAKE A DEFERRED GIFT
DIRECT GIFT OF CASH OR SECURITIES (STOCKS & BONDS)
PLEDGE & BUILD YOUR LEGACY (MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION)

*For more information call the Town of Wytheville
Treasurers Office at 276-223-3333*