



Wytheville Observer

A Publication of the Town of Wytheville • December 2009

Changing the Way We Communicate

You may be surprised to be receiving this smaller edition of the Wytheville Observer in your mailbox this holiday season. We are endeavoring to make some changes in the way we communicate with you, our citizens.

Beginning with this edition, the Wytheville Observer and the Town of Wytheville Recreation Activities brochure will become two separate publications. You will continue to receive the Recreation piece three times a year on a schedule that coincides with the recreation programming and is the most effective for registering for the sports leagues and other activities that take place throughout the year.

But, the Wytheville Observer will be found in your mailbox more often; and, we hope that this will enable us to provide a more effective means of communication with you. Over the past few years, it has become increasingly harder to deliver the most-timely information to you. Writing an article or notice in July about something that will occur in December makes accuracy a challenge. Let's face it, things change, and many factors can play into those changes. We feel that it is important for our communication with you to be the most-timely and most-accurate possible. These editions will be four to eight pages in length and will come to your mailbox about every other month. The information will be more current and less repetitive.

Communication with you, our citizens – it is the foundation of everything that the Town of Wytheville does each day. In many ways, we are in communication with you every day through services that are provided or initiatives you participate in. But when it comes to the direct relaying of news and other information, we feel it is time to take this means to another level. We hope you will find it an effective one.

Christmas AT THE ROCK HOUSE

There's still a few days left to experience Christmas in the 1800's at the Haller-Gibboney Rock House Museum, 205 Tazewell Street, Wytheville. The Museum will be open for tours during regular hours Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (last tour at 3:30 p.m.) and special Saturday hours on Dec. 19 (last tour at 3 p.m.) Tickets are \$4 and available at the Heritage Preservation Center (115 W. Spiller Street) or the Thomas J. Boyd Museum (next door at 295 Tazewell Street). Call (276) 223-3330 for more information.



Wytheville Landmark Gets a New "Coat"

With visibility from Interstates 77 & 81, there are few people that pass through Wytheville who do not see the elevated water tank on Cove Road. The tank was given its brightly-colored hot air balloon design in 1997. In the years since, the tank has served as a beacon to residents and travelers and has been used in a variety of ways to symbolize Wytheville. But in the last couple of years, the ten-year lifespan of those last coats of paint began to fade.

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MAYOR'S MEMO

by Mayor Trenton G. Crewe, Jr.



Happy Holidays! There have not been too many opportunities in my almost 20 years as your Mayor that I have had the opportunity to formally send you these wishes. And, as you have probably read from the beginning article in this newsletter, there's been a change in how we communicate with you that has made this possible.

Every member of the Wytheville Town Council, town administration and staff works each day on behalf of you, the citizens of Wytheville. There are hundreds of daily tasks that must be performed to keep a variety of services and programs running smoothly throughout our town. Sometimes these result in changes that we need to communicate with you. You need to be informed. We hope that the new publication schedule of this newsletter will help do that in a more timely and accurate way.

"While many localities throughout the state have increased their local taxes, we have once again held the line and not increased taxes this year."

We are continuing to keep a watch on the state's budget and how cuts in state funding will impact the services we provide. This is making us even more mindful of making sure that every tax dollar counts and that we spend them wisely. Recently several of our departments have submitted applications or been awarded grant funding for different initiatives; this will further enhance what a "Wytheville dollar" can accomplish.

While many localities throughout the state have increased their local taxes, we have once again held the line and not increased taxes this year. We will continue to look for ways to keep our expenses in line with revenues as we ride out the current economic storm. One way to do that is through cooperative efforts. One such project has been our work with Wythe County in the development of the Regional Water Authority. This is allowing us

to tap the resources of the New River and further produce clean, safe water for today and tomorrow. We are currently exploring, also with Wythe County, the possibility of a combined 911 communication center that could potentially save money for both local governments and provide more efficient services.

Make sure you are counted in 2010! It is once again time for a national census and it is very important that the residents of Wytheville are accurately counted. Many sources of funding are tied to population. So make yourself count! We will provide further information about this as it becomes available.

It's hard for the mind to grasp that we are approaching the second decade in the 21st century. Looking over the past ten years for our local community and our nation, there have certainly been many changes. So, as we are in the midst of this holiday season, it is an appropriate time to reflect on these and remain thankful that we still live in a nation that is built on freedom and that our town is still a growing and vibrant part of Southwest Virginia. On behalf of the Wytheville Town Council, I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a blessed holiday season and hope that 2010 will begin another positive decade for our community.

I welcome the opportunity to talk to you regarding your ideas and concerns. My office, at the Wytheville Municipal Building, is open prior to Council meetings on the second and fourth Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m., and other times by appointment. I can also be reached by phone at 223-3356 or via email at tcrewe@wytheville.org.

Calendar

January

- 01/01 – New Year Holiday – (Offices closed)
- 01/11 – Town Council Meeting
- 01/14 – Planning Commission Meeting
- 01/18 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (Offices closed)
- 01/25 – Town Council Meeting
- 01/25-01/29 – Curbside Brush Pick Up

February

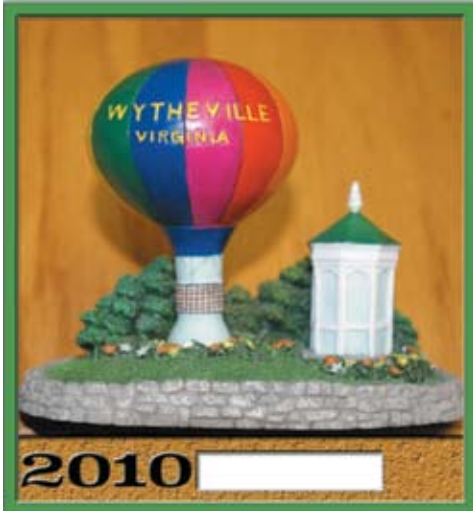
- 02/01 – Cat License on Sale
- 02/08 – Town Council Meeting
- 02/11 – Planning Commission Meeting
- 02/15 – President's Day Holiday (Offices closed)
- 02/22 – Town Council Meeting
- 02/22 – 02/26 – Curbside Brush Pick Up



WYTHEVILLE LANDMARK GETS A NEW COAT, *Continued from front page:*

Earlier this year, the Wytheville Town Council approved for work to begin to refurbish the tank. While most work was for the exterior of the tank, some interior repairs needed to be done in areas where the paint had failed. A cathodic protection system was also installed to prevent corrosion and metal loss in the interior of the tank. The project began in late August and was done by the contracting firm of J&W of North Carolina, Inc., and the engineering firm of Tank Industry Consultants, at a cost of just over \$200,000. Over 60 gallons of paint were used to make the multicolored layers. The project was completed in the beginning of October.

Treasurer's TALLY



Vehicle Decals On Sale

It's time to purchase your 2010 Town of Wytheville vehicle decals. Beginning March 1, decals will be available for automobiles and motorcycles at the Wytheville Municipal Building on Monroe Street. All personal property and mobile home taxes for the Town of Wytheville and Wythe County must be paid before a decal will be issued. Automobile decals cost \$20.00; motorcycle decals are \$6.00. Your Social Security number and vehicle registration will be required when purchasing the decal. All decals must be purchased and displayed by April 15, 2010, to avoid violation.

Cat Licenses on Sale in February

The Town of Wytheville reminds cat owners that cat licenses will be on sale during the month of February. The fee for a license is \$4.00 for each neutered cat and \$6.00 for each non-neutered cat and must be purchased annually for each cat. Licenses will be on sale February 1-28 at the Wytheville Municipal Building. All cats, within the town limits, over four months of age must be vaccinated against rabies. Owners will need to present the cat's vaccination certificate before a cat license can be issued. Please note that it is unlawful to allow non-licensed cats to roam outside, and that these cats may be apprehended by the animal warden or a police officer.

Purchasing a Business License

The Treasurer's Office will mail applications around January 20. The application and fee for the license is due by March 1st. Anyone doing business in the Town of Wytheville is required to purchase a license.

Treasurer's Office Credit Card Payments

For the convenience of their customers, the Treasurer's Office accepts Master Card and Visa credit cards, in person. Customers can use their credit card to pay for any bills due to the Treasurer's Office – water, sewer, taxes and licenses.

For further information about any of these items, please contact the Town of Wytheville Treasurer's Office at 223-3333.

Around Our Community

Wythe County Public Library

300 East Monroe Street
Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Public access computers available for Internet research, filling out job applications, general research, etc. Call 228-4951

First Thursdays with History

February 4, 2010 – 7:30 p.m.
Frank Emerson
Heritage Preservation Center
115 W. Spiller Street
Limited tickets, call 228-3457

New Date!

American Cancer Society 2010
Relay For Life
May 21 & 22, 2010, Withers Park

CIVIC WALL OF HONOR



Do you know someone who has contributed their time and energy to the betterment of our community? If so, the Wall of Honor Committee would like to hear from you. Nominations are now being taken for persons to be honored by inclusion on the Civic Monument located at the Wall of Honor in Withers Park. This award honors dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life in this community with the intention of creating a better and brighter tomorrow.

Candidates must meet the following criteria to be considered for the award:

- The nominee, living or deceased, must have been born or have lived in Wythe County.
- The nominee has contributed to improving Wythe County citizens' quality of life.
- The nominee has been recognized as a leader in business, religion, education, government, politics, medicine, arts, philanthropy, etc., thereby demonstrating hard work, diligence, intelligence, ability, and talent.
- The nominee has brought honor or recognition to Wythe County on the local, state, or national level.

Citizens wishing to nominate a person may pick up an application from the Wytheville Meeting Center located at 333 Community Boulevard. The deadline for returning applications is December 31, 2009. For more information concerning the nomination process for the Civic Monument, call 223-3505.

Applications are retained for five years. After that point, if the nominee has not been honored, an application must be resubmitted. Applications currently on file may be updated at any time.

Town of Wytheville
 PO Box 533
 Wytheville, VA 24382

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WPD Stats

Year-to-Date Statistics from the Wytheville Police Department



The primary mission of the Wytheville Department of Public Safety is to provide a range of programs designed to protect the lives and property of the inhabitants of the Town of Wytheville from the adverse effects of fire, crime and violence that affect the quality of life or the exposure to dangerous conditions created by either man or nature.

The following statistical information will give you an idea of the volume and type of calls for service and incidents that are handled. In future editions of this newsletter, look for further information regarding local public safety efforts.

Calls for Service

3rd Quarter (Jul-Sept '09) - 4,421
 Year-To-Date through September 30, 2009 - 12,875

Traffic Enforcement for 3rd Quarter (Jul-Sept '09) and Year-To-Date (Jan-Sept '09)

3rd Quarter YTD

DUI/DUID			
Alcohol Related	..... 12	.....	103
Speeding	..... 108	.....	637
Safety Belt			
Child Safety Seat	..... 34	.....	163
Other Traffic (Stop Signs, Traffic Lights, Fail to Yield, Reckless Driving, etc.)			
	..... 217	.....	1,084
Totals	..... 371	.....	1,987

Criminal Offenses reported to Investigations through September 30, 2009 - 772
 Criminal Charges placed/Arrests made through September 30, 2009 - 615

Forcible Fondling	.....	1
Robbery	.....	1
Assaults (Aggravated/Simple)	.....	29
Burglary/ Breaking & Entering	.....	2
Shoplifting – Felony	.....	44
Thefts from Bldg/Motor Vehicle	.....	3
All Other Felony Larceny Charges	.....	38
Motor Vehicle Thefts	.....	2
Counterfeiting/Forgery	.....	8
ID Theft/Swindle/Confidence Games	...	9
Stolen Property Offenses	.....	3
Felony Destruction of Property	.....	12
Felony Drug Violations/Equipment	...	57
Statutory Rape	.....	1
Weapon Law Violations	.....	1
Felony Bad Checks	.....	4
Drunk in Public/Disorderly Conduct	...	167
Liquor Law Violations	.....	10
Trespassing	.....	6
All other violations (misdemeanors)	...	217

Community Garden Returns



Before you know it, springtime will be here and the time to begin thinking about gardening. It will also be time for the Town of Wytheville Community Garden to get underway. Each year, this community activity has become more popular! Because so many local citizens were interested in gardening there was a waiting list last season.

Divided into 10'x20' plots, the Community Garden is located near the elevated water tank on Cove Road. A small fee is charged for a half season year and helps cover the cost of the initial plowing of the plot.

It's a great opportunity to grow your own fresh produce and also make a new gardening friend or two. To reserve your spot in the Community Garden, please contact the Town of Wytheville Department of Public Information/Tourism at 223-3505 or email at cvb@wytheville.org. Plots are reserved on a first come, first serve basis.



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
 from Wytheville Town Council*