



## Girl Scouts & the Rock House Garden

A project to improve the Haller-Gibboney Rock House Museum Garden will help a local Girl Scout Troop achieve their highest honor – the Silver Award.

Cadet Girl Scout Troop 641 of Wytheville is working on their Silver Award – the highest honor a Girl Scout ages 11-14 can earn. Girl Scouts working on the award are Abby Duncan, Courtney Miller, Pollyanne South, Emaleigh Thompson and Brennan Younger. Their Leader is Gwen Duncan and Co-Leader is Denise Caldwell.

The Girl Scout Silver Award is symbolic of accomplishments in Girl Scouting and community activities, as they work to better their life and the lives of others. This award represents a girl's commitment to herself and to her community, as she focuses on leadership, career exploration, personal challenges and completing a project that will benefit her community. This award takes many hours of preparation, planning, and work to accomplish the set goals.

On a weekly basis throughout the summer, the troop has been working with Debbie Moody, Assistant Director of Museums, in the Haller-Gibboney Rock House Museum Garden. In addition to developing a garden plan of work, the girls and their leaders



spent time keeping the weeds out of the garden, planting new plants, and creating and maintaining a wildlife habitat. They learned about water conservation, composting, and vermacomposting (using worms) as ways to conserve and recycle. The girls planted tulips and daffodils that will brighten the garden next spring. Next spring, the girl scout troop will continue their work in the garden with more planting and will develop garden programs for area children.



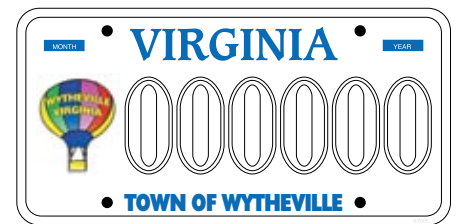
**Nominations Accepted Until December 31**

Do you know someone who has contributed their time and energy to the betterment of this 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.

**Wytheville License Plate Proposed**



Over the past few months, the Town of Wytheville has been working with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles to create a special license plate. The Wytheville Town Council has requested and been authorized to have special license plates designed and manufactured upon the receipt of 350 paid applications. In the event that 350 paid applications are not received by June 1, 2011, all monies will be refunded to you. The special license plate registration is in addition to, not in lieu of, your regular state registration which must be kept current at all times. Checks are to be made payable to the Town of Wytheville in the amount of \$10 for a special license plate. If a personalized plate is desired, check the appropriate highlighted box on the application and include an additional \$10 with your payment.

Mail completed application and payment to: Town of Wytheville, P.O. Box 533, Wytheville, VA 24382. For more information and a copy of the application, visit <http://www.wytheville.org> or call 223-3333.

# MAYOR'S MEMO

by Mayor Trenton G. Crewe, Jr.



It's hard to imagine now that a year which started so slowly with the winter's confining storms has now flown by so fast.

As we all rush around to complete our holiday tasks, do not forget that there are some wonderful items available at the Museum Gift Shop that are locally made or depict something from our area. Two of the latest commemorative items honor Smith Jewelers and Big Walker Lookout, local businesses that have certainly stood the test of time.

Just because winter is upon us doesn't mean that there aren't a lot of activities going on. I encourage you especially to check out all the opportunities that you will find in the latest edition of the Recreation brochure that will be in your mailbox in just a few weeks. Those New Year's resolutions will be upon us soon. Get a jumpstart by utilizing some of the great recreational opportunities that are conveniently and reasonably offered through our Recreation Department.

There are a few things within this newsletter that Wytheville Town Council would like you to review closely. Near the back of this publication, you will find the

2011 Brush Collection Guidelines. The photographs clearly show how and where we would like for brush, grass, leaves and small branches to be left for pickup. Please remember that this is a free service offered to you. Few localities offer this at no cost. We need your complete cooperation to continue to make this service available.

Another issue that continues to arise involves our four-legged residents. We realize that many of our citizens like to walk their pets throughout their neighborhoods or at our Town parks. But it is very important to remember that as the pet owner, it is your responsibility to remove any waste that your pet leaves on the property of others or on Town-owned property. It is not only the respectful thing to do, it's the law.

You may have seen in the news that we have been reviewing and researching the benefits and opportunities associated with the Main Street Program. We believe that Wytheville has a vibrant downtown, but we also think it is important that we assist with measures that will ensure a healthy economic environment in the downtown area. We have asked our local Chamber of Commerce to re-examine such programs as well and open up a discussion for possible collaborative efforts in this regard.

On behalf of Wytheville Town Council, I would like to wish you and your family a healthy, safe, and enjoyable Christmas and New Year and all the best for the continued success of our community in 2011.

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](mailto:tcrewe@wytheville.org).

## Snow & Ice Removal

With the winter months upon us, the Town of Wytheville Public Works Department will be busy keeping the community free from potentially hazardous snow and ice. With over 180 miles of streets within the town limits, road crews must be ready at any moment to handle a winter storm.

The following procedures are utilized in the snow-removal process:

- Snow forecasts are monitored to determine the anticipated extent of storm and expected temperatures.
- Snow removal personnel are notified of anticipated shift times. All employees of the Public Works Department are available twenty-four hours a day for snow removal.
- Anti-icing product is applied to arterial roadways when temperatures are appropriate to minimize bonding of snow to pavement.
- Snow removal equipment and personnel are deployed when snow starts falling.
- Prioritization criteria are used on snow routes with arterial roadways being addressed first, followed by collector roadways and residential streets.
- Abrasive materials are applied to roadways when required to provide traction. Curves, hills and intersections normally receive a salt and pea gravel mixture.
- Roadways are widened to completely remove snow from driving surfaces. Several passes are sometimes necessary to completely remove snow.
- Ice removal and cleanup operations may take place several days after a snowstorm.



### NOMINATIONS, Cont'd. from Page 1

- 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, 2010. 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.

# Treasurer's TALLY

## Trash Decals

2011 Annual Trash Decals are on sale. Decals must be purchased by December 31 for use starting January, 2011. They may be purchased at the Treasurer's Office on Monroe Street or by mail. Name, address and payment may be mailed to P. O. Box 533, Wytheville, VA, 24382. Decals are \$50 for one 32-gallon can or \$25 for one 13-gallon can. The decal should be displayed on the trash container or on a structure that is clearly visible to the trash collection crews.

## 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.

## Credit Cards 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 more information about any of the above subjects, call 223-3333.*

## 10 Important Tips for Fire Safety & Awareness

1. Install smoke alarms outside of sleeping areas and rooms and on each level of your home.
2. Practice an escape plan from every room in the house. Caution everyone to stay low to the floor when escaping from fire and never to open doors that are hot. Select a location where everyone can meet after escaping the house. Get out then call for help.
3. When home fire sprinklers are used with working smoke alarms, your chances of surviving a fire are greatly increased. Sprinklers are affordable - they can increase property value and lower insurance rates.
4. Test your smoke alarm each month and change the batteries at least once a year.
5. Plant fire prone trees and shrubs away from your home and far enough apart so they won't ignite one another.
6. Install noncombustible 1/4 inch or smaller mesh screening on chimney outlets, attic/soffit vents and around elevated wood decks.
7. Maintain a "defensible" space around your home by clearing all flammable vegetation a minimum of 30 feet around all structures. Clear dead leaves and branches to leave widely spaced ornamental shrubbery and trees.
8. Consider installing protective shutters or heavy fire-resistant drapes.
9. Have a garden hose that is long enough to reach any area of the home and other structures on the property.
10. Portable heaters need their space. Keep anything combustible at least three feet away.

## Vehicle Decals

It will soon be time to purchase your 2011 Town of Wytheville vehicle decals. Beginning March 1, decals will be available for automobiles and motorcycles. 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, 2011, 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. 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.

## Updated Brochure Reveals Best of Wythe and Bland Counties



Looking for a one-of-a-kind treasure handcrafted by a local artisan? The "Mountain Crossroads" brochure, just released from the Town of Wytheville Department of Museums and Bland County, will direct visitors to some of the best spots for artisans in Wythe and Bland counties.

The new brochure features trails journeying through the two counties that lead visitors to local artisans as well as artisan sales centers, heritage sites and other points of interest - all telling a vibrant story of area culture.

This publication follows the format set by 'Round the Mountain: Southwest Virginia's Artisan Network, a non-profit organization based in Abingdon. 'Round the Mountain has been working to create a network of artisan driving trails to showcase the Southwest's creative economy and build upon natural cultural and heritage assets.

"Round the Mountain has proved to be a valuable asset for promoting sustainable economic development in Bland County. Because of its easy access to Interstate 77, Bland County provides access to talented artisans who show a passion for their community through hand-crafted work. I am excited to have had the opportunity to be a part of the planning," said Audra T. Repass, project manager for Bland County.

Frances Emerson, Director of Museums for the Town of Wytheville, agreed that 'Round the Mountain is a valuable asset to both counties with the network of artisan trails. "In addition to talented artisans, the two counties offer a wealth of scenic roads, historic sites and cultural attractions - this network of trails is one way we can showcase and build upon our cultural and heritage assets."

For more information or to request a "Mountain Crossroads" brochure, call (276) 223-3330 or email at marcellat@wytheville.org.

# H♦I♦S♦T♦O♦R♦Y

## In The Making

### New Tour Honors First Lady



Wytheville is unique in many ways – especially when it comes to history. With four museums and one in the making, a new partnership between two of the museums will bring even more attention to a famous Wytheville native.

In addition to the Thomas J. Boyd Museum and the Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Museum, St. John's Episcopal Church has joined in to form a tour that will allow visitors to "follow in the footsteps" of Edith Bolling Wilson, First Lady to Woodrow Wilson, 28th President of the United States.

"With the partnership, we feel that there is more commu-

nity recognition for Mrs. Wilson as a historic person of prominence. The tour really rounds out the story of Wytheville's own presidential First Lady and provides insights that one site alone cannot," said Leslie King, director of Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Museum.

The special self-guided tour following the path of Mrs. Wilson kicked off Oct. 16 and will run on the third Saturday of each month. Scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the special tour includes a visit to the Thomas J. Boyd Museum (295 Tazewell Street) where visitors can learn about the history of Wytheville, the town that

Mrs. Wilson called home. Tour admission is \$4.

The special tour also includes a visit to the Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Museum (145 East Main Street) where visitors can see the site where Mrs. Wilson was born and learn about her history. Seasonal birthplace tours are \$5. Museum admission is free.

At St. John's Episcopal Church (275 East Main Street) visitors will see the stained glass window Mrs. Wilson dedicated to her parents in 1960 and learn about her childhood church. Donations are welcome.

Normal tour hours for the Thomas J. Boyd Museum are Tuesday-Friday and the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (last tour at 3:30). The Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Museum is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For more information or to schedule a group tour (special tour rates available), please call 276-22-EDITH (276-223-3484).

### Items Sought For New Exhibit

The Town of Wytheville Museums is looking for memorabilia for a temporary exhibit honoring the Wytheville Statesmen baseball team.

The Wytheville Statesmen semi-professional baseball team games were a popular pastime in Wytheville in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Mickey Winters was the founder and president of the Wytheville Statesmen. His sons, Andy and Chuck Weintraub, have joined the museums in collecting memorabilia for a temporary exhibit honoring the Wytheville team and their dad, now deceased.

The temporary exhibit, scheduled for early 2011, will be in the Thomas J. Boyd Museum located at 295 Tazewell Street. All items loaned will be returned after the exhibit is closed. Please contact the Museums at (276) 223-3330.

### Run For The Wall



The **Run For The Wall** exhibit may be gone, but you can still purchase a copy of the RFTW DVD with exclusive footage of previous RFTW events in Wytheville. Get a copy for \$15 at The Museum Shop, 115 West Spiller Street, Wytheville. Open M-F & 3rd Saturday, 10-5.



# Behind the Badge

## Pet O2 Kits!



The Wytheville Fire Department Auxiliary has made some new equipment possible that will help four-legged residents. The WFD Auxiliary recently donated two Pet O2 kits to the fire department.

Just like a human who escapes or is rescued from a fire, animals also can suffer from smoke inhalation. In some extreme cases, an animal may need resuscitation. Previously, firefighters had to rely on "mouth to snout", but with the engineering of the Pet O2 Masks they now can be given resuscitation in an easier and more hygienic manner.

The kit contains three masks. The smallest mask can not only be used on dogs or cats, but also birds, lizards, or any



small pet. The kit has everything needed except the O2 tanks. There is a sticker on the storage compartment of the fire truck indicating where the kit is located. In the future, the Auxiliary hopes to purchase more kits so that each truck can have one.

### WPD STATS

## By the Numbers...

Statistics for the  
Wytheville Police Department  
July 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010:

**TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT:**

DUI/DUID	
Alcohol Related	20
Speeding Violations	317
Safety Belt/	
Child Safety Seat	48
Stop Sign/Traffic Light	27
Right of Way	12
All Other Traffic Offenses	151
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>575</b>

**TRAFFIC RELATED WARRANTS**

Served	290
<b>Total Traffic Summons/Warrants</b>	<b>865</b>

**CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT:**

Drunk & Disorderly	83
Shoplifting	13
Assault & Battery	34
Patrol Initiated Drug Charges	31
Cont to Delinq of Minor	3

All Other Criminal Charges	94
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>258</b>

**MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS:**

	Major Damage	Minor Damage
July	5	43
August	18	28
September	8	30
<b>TOTAL Crashes</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>101</b>

## Pet Owners – Show Respect!

Anyone who has been a pet owner knows that an animal can become an important member of the family. But, owning a pet also is a big responsibility which extends to when that animal is walked onto the property of others.

Wytheville Town Council reminds citizens to show respect for the property of fellow residents, businesses, and the Town of Wytheville by disposing of dog or cat waste in a safe and sanitary manner. Failure to do so can result in a criminal

offense as the below sited portions of Town Code indicate.

**Sec. 3-20.**

(5) Cats or dogs causing unsanitary conditions in enclosures or surroundings where the cat or dog is kept or harbored upon property owned and/or occupied by someone other than the owner of the cat or dog.

**Sec. 3-26.**

(d) It shall be unlawful for any owner or any person in charge of a dog or other

animal to knowingly or willfully allow the dog or other animal to defecate on town-owned property, except that defecation by a dog or other animal on town-owned property shall not constitute a violation of this section if the owner, or person in charge, of the dog or other animal immediately removes the material defecated and disposes of it in a safe and sanitary manner.

(e) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a class 4 misdemeanor.

# First Thursdays *With History*

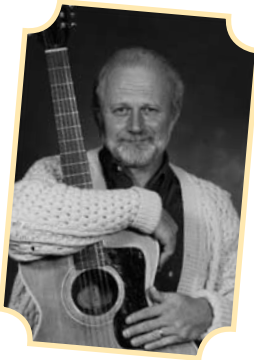
The eighth season of First Thursdays with History is underway. This popular performance series is hosted by the Town of Wytheville Department of Museums at the Heritage Preservation Center. Excellent acoustics and reserved seating create a comfortable atmosphere in the upstairs Education Room as superb performers take the stage with music, stories and good humor.

The Museum Shop opens at 7 p.m. with the program beginning at 7:30 p.m. The Heritage Preservation Center is located at 115 West Spiller Street. Call 223-3330 for further details and to purchase tickets.

March 3, 2011

## Frank Emerson

You don't have to be Irish to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Come listen, laugh, and sing along to Irish ballads, Irish-American songs and just some plain, old fun tunes in this Pre-Paddy's Day Irish "Sing Song" as Wytheville's own Irish bard, Frank Emerson, returns to the First Thursdays' stage.



May 5, 2011  
Jim Lloyd and  
the Skyliners

Jim Lloyd's musical roots extend back to at least four generations of fiddlers, guitar players, dancers and singers from the Appalachian mountains of Virginia and West Virginia. While accomplished on many instruments, he is known especially for his skills on guitar and banjo. Mark Rose developed his style of bass playing with many area old time bands. He honed his skills on the upright bass by playing with the Konnarock Critters and Nick and Chester McMillan. Trevor McKenzie began studying traditional Appalachian music at Lloyd's Barbershop in 1998. He adds his vocal talents as well as his skills on guitar, banjo, and mandolin into the musical mix.



June 2, 2011  
Rob Sharer  
& David  
DiGiuseppe

Using songs, stories and dance tunes, DiGiuseppe and Sharer present a lively and engaging performance that traces folk traditions from the Scottish highlands to coastal Carolina, from northern Ireland to the Carolina piedmont and mountains. Join these nationally recognized musicians on a musical journey featuring instruments from both the old and new worlds – fiddle, wooden flute, accordion, banjo, mandolin, lap dulcimer and guitar.



April 7, 2011  
Elizabeth LaPrelle

LaPrelle has been performing Appalachian ballads and old-time songs since she was 11. Her magnificent voice, respect for the songs and authentic mountain sound and style have made her a favorite performer at festivals and fiddlers' conventions. A native of Rural Retreat, LaPrelle learned her craft from singing with her family and she will be joined onstage by her mother Sandy.



## First Thursdays *With History*

*The First Thursdays with History Performance Series is made possible by sponsorship through the Town of Wytheville, Woman's Club of Wytheville, and Counts Drug Co.*

## Wythe County Historical Library



Looking for information on your family history? The Wythe County Historical Society Library, located in Wytheville's Heritage Preservation Center, 115 West Spiller Street, is here to help. Call (276) 228-6061 or email at [wch\\_library@wytheville.org](mailto:wch_library@wytheville.org). The WCHS Review, current and past issues, is available for purchase at The Museum Shop, located in the Heritage Preservation Center.



**BRUSH COLLECTION GUIDELINES**

**TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE, VIRGINIA**

**BRUSH PICKUP DATES FOR 2011**

- January 24-28
- February 21-25
- March 28-April 1
- April 25-29
- May 23-27
- June 27-July 1
- July 25-29
- August 29-September 2
- September 26-30
- October 24-28
- November 28-December 2
- December 26-30

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**BRUSH COLLECTION GUIDELINES**

- In order to avoid getting a citation, please do not have brush out earlier than 6:00 PM on the Friday before collection week.
- Do not place brush on water meters or sewer cleanouts.
- Do not place branches, grass clippings or leaves in the travel lane or block sidewalks.
- Any brush placed out after the scheduled collection time may not get picked up in a timely manner or may result in a fine/charge.
- Tree removals by a contractor for a homeowner are to be disposed of by the contractor.
- Vehicles should not be parked near the brush, as this blocks accessing the piles.
- The Town will not pick up old furniture, lumber, tires, or similar items. Disposal of these items are the responsibility of the owner or tenant.
- The brush disposal site is open Monday-Friday from 8 AM to 3 PM and the first and third Saturday of each month from 8 AM to 1 PM.

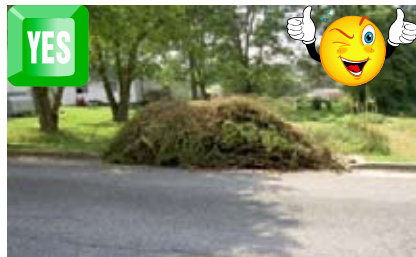
Few localities offer this type of free service. Your assistance in following the guidelines will ensure the service continues and is not abused. Please contact the Director of Public Works at 223-3357 with additional questions.



**SORT LEAVES AND GRASS CLIPPINGS INTO SEPARATE PILES; GRASS CLIPPINGS MUST BE BAGGED OR IN CONTAINERS**



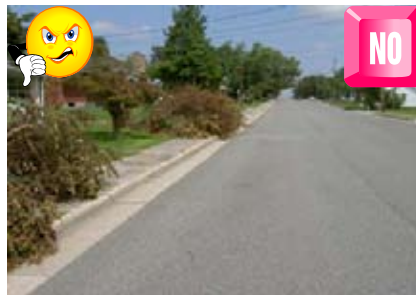
**IN A VERY SMALL PILE, BRANCHES MAY BE IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS**



**ARRANGE ALL BRANCHES IN THE SAME DIRECTION PARALLEL TO STREET**



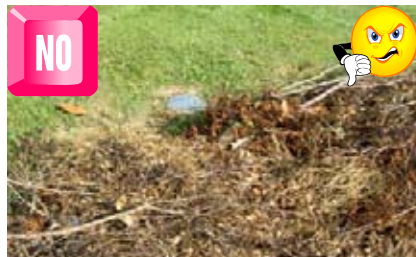
**MORE THAN ONE DUMP TRUCK LOAD (10 FT. X 7 FT. X 4 FT.) PER HOUSEHOLD**



**DO NOT PLACE BRUSH, GRASS CLIPPINGS, OR LEAVES IN THE TRAVEL LANE OR BLOCK SIDEWALKS**



**DO NOT PUT ANY OTHER ITEMS IN THE BRUSH PILE**



**BRUSH SHOULD NOT BE ON WATER METERS OR SEWER CLEANOUTS OR AT FIRE HYDRANTS OR GUIDEWIRES**



**BRANCHES MUST FACE SAME DIRECTION, STACK LOGS SEPARATELY NO LARGER THAN 4 INCHES IN DIAMETER**

Town of Wytheville  
PO Box 533  
Wytheville, VA 24382

PRESRT STD  
US POSTAGE

**PAID**  
WYTHEVILLE, VA  
PERMIT #128

**BOXHOLDER**

## Wytheville Observer

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### Calendar

#### December

- 09 – Planning Commission
- 13 – Town Council Meeting
- 23 – 24 – Christmas Holidays (Offices closed)
- 27 – 30 – Curbside Brush Pick Up
- 31 – New Year Holiday (Offices closed)

#### January

- 10 – Town Council Meeting
- 13 – Planning Commission Meeting
- 17 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (Offices closed)
- 24 – Town Council Meeting
- 24 – 28 – Curbside Brush Pick Up

#### February

- 01 – Cat License on Sale
- 10 – Planning Commission Meeting
- 14 – Town Council Meeting
- 21 – President's Day Holiday (Offices closed)
- 28 – Town Council Meeting
- 22 – 25 – Curbside Brush Pick Up

#### March

- 1 – Cat License Due
- 1 – Car Decals on Sale
- 1 – Business License Renewal Due
- 10 – Planning Commission Meeting
- 14 – Town Council Meeting
- 28 – Town Council Meeting
- 28 – 4/01 – Curbside Brush Pick Up

## THE Museum Shop

*The Museum Shop, located at 115 West Spiller Street, is open Monday through Friday from 10 to 5 and the third Saturday from 10 to 5. Special Saturday hours from Thanksgiving to Christmas from Noon to 4. Call (276) 223-3457.*

Looking for a unique holiday gift? The 2010 Historic Building, featuring Smith Jewelers, is now available in The Museum Shop. Don't forget to add the 2010 Heritage Christmas Ornament to your collection – this year it is the Big Walker Lookout Observation Tower. Try our Wythe County Cola BBQ Sauce (made with Dr. Pepper) or some handmade soap or lotion straight from the beehive with Bland County's Chick-A-Bee Farms products.



#### Wytheville Town Council

Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Mayor  
Jacqueline K. King, Vice-Mayor  
H. Judson Lambert, Councilman  
Jack Hunley, Councilman  
Tommy Hundley, Councilman