

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



(276) 223-3356
150 East Monroe Street
beth.taylor@wytheville.org

Appointment of New Town Manager

At the April 26, 2021 meeting, Wytheville Town Council appointed T. Brian Freeman to be our new Town Manager effective June 1, 2021. Mr. Freeman will assume this position following the retirement of current Town Manager Stephen A. Moore. Since joining the Town of Wytheville staff in 2008, Mr. Freeman has held the positions of GIS/911 Coordinator, Assistant Director of Planning & Development, and Director of Operations before most recently becoming the Assistant Town Manager and Director of Planning.

His background includes a Bachelor of Arts degree from Virginia Tech with a major in Geography (Geospatial and Environmental Analysis) and a minor in Public & Urban Affairs. In 2012, he earned a graduate certificate from Virginia Tech in Local Government Management. He is also a Certified Planning Commissioner. During that time, he was given learning opportunities in the fields of community development, economic development, engineering, zoning, GIS and project management, locally and through working with a variety of state and federal agencies. Local projects that he has played a key role in include Downtown Wytheville Revitalization, the Wytheville Farmers Market, Wytheville's Comprehensive Way-finding System and the East Main Street Entrance Corridor Improvements Project. A native of Smyth County, Mr. Freeman is the proud father of Natalie, age 8, and Owen, age 3.



T. Brian Freeman

As a council member, I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Freeman for the past six years. He has always been a very knowledgeable employee who has continued to build his institutional knowledge as well as his education and experience. He has fifteen years of experience in local government, thirteen of those being with the Town of Wytheville.

The Town has been going through an unprecedented time with the unique situation of the retirement of several long-term employees who held key positions. A significant amount of institutional knowledge has left with them. These positions include the Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Director of Public Safety, Director of Public Works, Chief of Police, Town Attorney, Director of Computer Operations, and Director of Museums as well as the long-standing previous Mayor and Vice-Mayor. Because of this unique situation, Council had some challenging decisions to make. We knew that this institutional knowledge was extremely important for the continuity of government and smooth operations. I reached out and consulted with the leadership of the Virginia Municipal League to seek their knowledge and advice. They supported our decision to promote our next Town Manager from within our existing organization to retain as much institutional knowledge as possible in the management of our town. They agreed that it was the right thing to do for our citizens.

Wytheville Town Council is looking forward to working with Mr. Freeman and his management team. Although the Town will have many challenges due to budget constraints because of COVID-19, there are many exciting projects on the horizon and we appreciate Mr. Freeman's help in shaping Wytheville's future.

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Smithsonian Exhibition

Exhibit
Logo



Did you know that the Town Museums is now the proud owners of a Smithsonian Exhibition? A few years back, you may remember that Wytheville hosted a traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian

Museum through their "Museum on Main Street" program. That exhibition was on "WORK." Shortly after, the Smithsonian gifted an exhibition on the "History of Transportation" to the Rural Retreat Depot Foundation.



Exhibit
Entrance

Unfortunately, the Depot Foundation was not able to fully utilize this gift because of lack of space. After it had been in storage for several years, the Depot Foundation reached out to our Museum Director and offered the display as a donation. We graciously accepted this wonderful gift. It was delivered in 14 crates. The installation of this exhibit is underway on the upper floor of the Heritage Preservation Center as a temporary location. This amazing gift will be incorporated into the master planning for the development of the Homestead/ Great Lakes to Florida Transportation Museum site and tied into the transportation theme of the Great Lakes to Florida Museum. Keep your eyes



Staff Working
on Exhibit

Did You Know?

- SHRED-DAY is Saturday, June 5, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the Wytheville Municipal Building parking lot at 150 E. Monroe Street. This is a non-business shredding event! Acceptable Items are white and colored paper, envelopes and paper with staples and paper clips (not the big clips). Unacceptable items include binders and binder clips, plastic bags (garbage bags, food wrappers, paper plates/cups/napkins) and no TRASH. (The tentative date for next Shred Day is Oct. 16, 2021.)
- The Wythe County Public Library will start a Story Walk program soon. This is an innovative way to get people of all ages out walking while reading children's picture books. For updated information please contact the library at 276-228-4951.

Council Actions

April 12, 2021:

- Conducted a public hearing to consider amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 640, then later in meeting adopted Ordinance No. 1393, an ordinance amending, and reenacting Ordinance No. 640 generally known as the Zoning Ordinance.
- Adopted a resolution that authorized signatures to lower interest rate on a Series 2011 sewer bond.
- Renewed Town of Wytheville employee health insurance plan with The Local Choice.
- Approved revising the Town Personnel Policy, legal holidays to follow the State of Virginia Holiday Schedule.
- Appointed Town Clerk Sherry Corvin as the Town's Freedom of Information Officer.
- Adopted a resolution endorsing a grant for a Town-owned dog park and pollinator meadow.

April 26, 2021:

- Authorized the Town Treasurer to write off \$1,500.01 in delinquent personal property taxes for 2015 and \$17,507.66 in delinquent water/sewer funds for 2010-2013.
- Authorized the Town Manager to execute the PFAS Drinking Water Sampling Study.
- Appointed Mrs. Ellen McDaniel to the Wytheville Redevelopment and Housing Authority.
- Appointed T. Brian Freeman as Town Manager, effective June 1, 2021.

and ears tuned in for any announcement when it will be open to the public for viewing. I want to thank Rural Retreat Depot Foundation once again for this amazing gift.

Edith Bolling Wilson & St. John's Episcopal Church

Edith Bolling Wilson
dedicating St. John's
window



Did you know that two of Wytheville's historic entities have a special bond? It's Edith Bolling Wilson and St. John's Episcopal Church.

St. John's Episcopal Church on Main Street in Wytheville was built in 1846 and was "admitted into the union with convention on May 18, 1846." Now celebrating its 175th anniversary, St. John's Episcopal was the home church of Edith Bolling and her family, Judge William Bolling was a very active member being on vestry and a lay reader. Edith (who went on to be First Lady to President Woodrow Wilson) and her two sisters were all confirmed and married at St. John's. After Edith's wedding to jeweler Norman Galt in 1896, they moved to the DC area. Norman Galt died unexpectedly in 1908. Edith's path led to a fateful encounter with the then recently widowed President Woodrow Wilson. The two married in 1915. Edith made one last trip to Wytheville in 1960 to dedicate the stained glass windows at St. John's. The stained-glass window named "The Blessing of Children" was dedicated in memory of her parents, Judge William H. and Sally S. Bolling. The beautiful stained-glass window remains in St. John's. The window, designed by Miss. Katherine Lamb, is located on the left-hand side facing the alter. Below the theme of the window is inscribed in the Biblical words "Suffer Little Children To Come Unto Me." A bronze tablet below the window reads, "To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of William H. Bolling and Sally S. Bolling." Edith died the following year on Woodrow's birthday. I hope all of you get a chance to view the window. It is beautiful. You can learn more history, heritage and romance regarding Edith Bolling Wilson by visiting the Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Museum, also on Main Street.

2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The Town of Wytheville 2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is now available online by accessing the following link:

<https://www.wytheville.org/townoffice/pdf2021/Wytheville2020CCR.pdf>

A paper copy of the report may be obtained by calling Robby Krunich, Water Plant Superintendent at 276-223-3322 or Trevor Hackler, Town Engineer at 276-223-3342.



SHRED-DAY 2021

Saturday, June 5

9 am – 1 pm

(or until truck is full)

FREE



150 E. Monroe Street
Wytheville
(Town Municipal Parking Lot)

Shred documents
safely and securely.

(Non-Business)

For more information: 276.223.3365 or
chamber@wytheville.org / wwwchamber.com

Tentative Date for Next Shred Day – October 16, 2021

Acceptable Items

- White Paper
- Colored Paper
- Envelopes
- Paper with Staples or Clips
- Newspapers

Unacceptable Items

- Binder Clips & Binders
- Plastic/Garbage Bags
- Food Wrappers
- Paper Plates/Cups/Napkins
- Trash



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