

# The Mayor's Corner

BY MAYOR BETH A. TAYLOR

June 2022

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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## Mark Your Calendar

## Now For These

## Upcoming Events

**British V-8:** The British are coming.... BACK! This is so exciting! The British V-8 group (mini cars) were last here in 2019. This group usually does not return to the same place twice. We are honored that Wytheville once again will be their host town from Sunday, June 12 to Wednesday, June 15. The Days Inn will be their host hotel for their stay. There will be approximately 50 registered drivers and 18 spouses/guests. As of this printing, there are registrants from 17 states and one Canadian province. Upon their arrival on Sunday, the group will gather for dinner in the hotel parking lot. On Monday, they will drive up Big Walker Mountain and East River Mountain on Route 52 over to Princeton, WV, to enjoy a large private collection of vehicles belonging to another British V-8 enthusiast. Afterward, they will tour the Princeton Railroad Museum. On Tuesday, they have tech sessions at their hotel in the morning, then gather for lunch at Elizabeth



Brown Park and have an afternoon of local drives. On Wednesday, there are more tech sessions and more local drives, concluding with a closing ceremony and banquet at the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre. Follow them on their website [BritishV8meet.org](http://BritishV8meet.org).

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**Chautauqua:** As a preliminary event before the festival, the Chautauqua Festival Pageant will be held Saturday, June 11, in the Snyder Auditorium at Wytheville Community College, beginning at 4:00 p.m. Chautauqua kicks off on Friday, June 17 with the famous Balloon Glow at the Community College and Vintage Baseball also at the Community College fields. The eight-day festival will be held from Saturday, June 18 through Saturday, June 25 at Elizabeth Brown Park. To see the full schedule, visit [www.wythe-arts.org/chautauqua](http://www.wythe-arts.org/chautauqua).



**July 4th Celebration:** Downtown Wytheville, Inc. will be hosting the July 4th Celebration and street festival on Monday, July 4. The event will kick off at 3:00 p.m. beginning with the Patriotic Kids Parade starting on Tazewell Street this year and ending at the main stage with a giveaway of four bicycles to some lucky parade goers. At 3:30 p.m. up-and-coming country artist Makenzie Phipps will take the Food City Main Stage followed by the Town of Wytheville Parks and Recreation After Hours Concert Artist, The Ryan Perry Band, at 6:00 p.m. Last, but definitely not least, The Georgia Thunderbolts will rock the stage, followed by fireworks set-off from Withers Park. Throughout the day, starting around 12 noon, a total of eight bands will give event goers many different options to see and hear live music. Additional downtown music venues include Bolling Wilson Hotel, Moon Dog Pizza, Seven Sisters Brewery, the Tazewell Street parking lot and 7 Dogs Brewpub. Other activities throughout the day include a collector car cruise in, kids inflatables, axe throwing, as well as artist and craft vendors. Downtown Wytheville will be utilizing their "Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area" (DORA) license allowing event goers to roam freely with adult beverages from participating establishments throughout Downtown. We look forward to bringing everyone together for a great celebration in the heart of our community. Follow Downtown Wytheville on Facebook for all the event information.



# Important Information from Your Police Department

**Vacation Crime Prevention Tips:** Summer is the time of year that many families go on vacation. Being on vacation can lead to crime victimization if crime prevention tactics are not used. Most families do not think about being victimized while on vacation. The following crime prevention tips are designed to allow the vacationer to enjoy a safe and secure trip and return to a safe and secure residence.

- Call your local police department to advise them you will be out of town.
- Make sure all your locks on doors and windows function properly and lock up.
- Make sure your residence looks lived in and not empty. Leave your shades and blinds in the normal position you usually do.
- Ask your neighbors to keep a watchful eye on your residence while you are away and share your vacation address and telephone number with them in case of emergency.
- Make sure your smoke and burglar alarms are working and turned on.
- Arrange for someone to pick up your packages, mail, and newspapers.
- If you are going to be away for an extended period, arrange for yard maintenance and for someone to put out and take in your garbage cans.
- Use timers for lights, TV, and radio to reflect your usual times.
- Turn the ringer for your phone (land line) on low or off, so as not to alert intruders to your absence by a ringing phone. Forward your calls to your cell, if feasible. Use a normal message on your answering machine and do not leave a message that you are gone.
- Ask your neighbors to park a car in your parking spot so as not to look empty.
- If you have valuables that you cannot live without, consider putting in a safe deposit box.
- While you are traveling, be sure to secure your car. Always lock your vehicle after entering or leaving it. Park in well-lighted areas. Check the back seat before entering your vehicle and try not to advertise that you are a tourist.
- Have a great vacation.



## Council Actions

### May 9, 2022:

- Adopted a resolution recognizing the George Wythe High School Indoor Percussion Ensemble and presented the resolution to the Ensemble members.

### May 23, 2022:

- Awarded the Classification and Compensation Study contract to Bolton USA and allocated \$50,000 to the 2022-23 Fiscal Year budget for the cost of the contract and ancillary expenses.
- Reappointed Ms. Alma Watson to the Tree Advisory Committee for a four-year term.
- Approved Ordinance NO. 1410, the Budget Ordinance for fiscal year 2022-23, on first but not yet final reading.
- Adopted Ordinance NO.1411, an ordinance amending and reenacting Chapter 10. The Wytheville Industrial Development Authority (WIDA). The Virginia code provides localities with the option to name authorities created under Virginia Code 15.2-4900 economic development authorities to acknowledge that they are often utilized for economic development that would not fall under industrial development such as housing and theatre projects. The name change simply clarifies that the WIDA is engaged in industrial economic development and, therefore, a better name would be Wytheville Economic Development Authority (WEDA).
- Approved the Build It 2025 Housing Grant Program and authorized executing a Memorandum of Agreement with the Wytheville Economic Development Authority (WEDA), the (former WIDA), to administer the Build It 2025 Housing Grant Program.
- Upon recommendation from the Wytheville Planning Commission, set three public hearings for June 13, 2022, at the 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting that night:
  1. Consider amending the Zoning Ordinance to include regulations regarding Solar Energy facilities.
  2. Consider amending the Zoning Ordinance to repeal and replace the current sign ordinance.
  3. Consider the request of Riley Construction Incorporated for a Special Exception Permit to construct approximately 17,000 to 20,000 square feet of additional storage units on their property located at 555 Peppers Ferry Road, Wytheville, VA, which is located on the east side of Peppers Ferry Road between Community Boulevard and Hedgefield Lane, in B-1 Business District.