

# The Mayor's Corner

BY MAYOR BETH A. TAYLOR

October 2022



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

## Fall is Here

Fall is not just cooler weather and pretty leaves; it is also the prime time to plant more trees. David Richert is the Chairperson for the Town of Wytheville's Tree Advisory Committee, and he shares three beneficial reasons to consider planting in the Fall. First is temperature: cooler temperatures combined with shorter, brighter days during the fall months create an ideal environment for newly planted trees. Extreme environmental factors, such as high temperatures, can compound a new tree's stress level making it more difficult for it to properly establish. Second is fewer pests and diseases: threats from pests and diseases are often lower during the fall season. For example, leaf defoliating insects are more common during the spring and summer months but begin to recede as the temperature starts to decline. Fewer



pest and diseases mean less stress on newly planted trees. Third is new root growth: new trees begin establishing their new root system immediately after planting in the fall. Following the hot summer months, the soil remains warm well into the fall season, creating a new root environment for new root growth. In addition, the cooler temperatures, and shorter days trigger trees to send resources to their roots in preparation for the winter which furthers root development. A tree's roots will continue to grow until the ground freezes in the fall, resulting in a stronger, more developed root system ready to "spring" into action when leaves emerge in April /May.

I would also like to introduce you once again to the Town of Wytheville Specimen Tree Program that was adopted by the Tree Advisory Committee to recognize trees with significance to Wytheville and the surrounding area. The Specimen Tree Program should help citizens engage, notice, appreciate and be inspired by trees throughout the Town and surrounding area. The Tree Advisory Committee is working hard to obtain citizens' participation by taking a few minutes to submit their special tree. Nomination forms for the Specimen Tree Program are available on the Town's OpenGov site located at <https://wythevilleva.viewpointcloud.com>. (If you don't have a computer or can't navigate, call me at 223-3356 and leave a message. We can make this happen.) Once an account has been created through OpenGov, click on the "Administration" box, locate, and complete the Specimen Tree Nomination form. If you have questions or need help completing the form, please call 276-223-3367.

## Important Information from your Police Department

First, I would like to recognize Chief Joel Hash for his recent appointment to the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission to serve on the Executive Board of Directors.



As the fall season sets in, temperatures drop, and the sun sets earlier each day. While we are all busy enjoying the weather, it is important to remember that this time of year is perfect cover for petty criminals. Here are a few simple tips that will help you from becoming a victim of theft. Put on those lights, criminals do not like bright lights. A carefully placed floodlight on a motion sensor is an economical way to prevent people from lurking in the shadows. Lock those doors! Most vehicle thefts are spontaneous events. If a thief is confronted with a locked door, it is likely that they will move on to next car. Keep your valuables in the house. Lock your car!!! Don't be afraid to call the police if there is something abnormal in your neighborhood. If you see suspicious activities, don't hesitate to call 911.

# Important Information from your Fire & Rescue Department

First, this year's Fire Prevention Parade will be held Saturday, October 8! Please come and support our local fire departments. October is Fire Prevention Month. During this month and every six months, it is recommended that smoke detector testing and battery replacement be conducted. Maintenance and testing are vital to ensure that maximum safety measures are being utilized. All detectors have a life span. When changing their batteries, check to make sure the detector is within 10 years of the manufacturer's recommendations. If you have any questions, concerns, or need help, please do not hesitate to call the station at 276-223-3302 and we will be happy to help.

## Did You Know

Did you know that the Wythe Bland Animal Welfare League (WBAWL), is a partner with the Town of Wytheville's Cat Shelter? WBAWL helps with supplies and some Vet care, the volunteer program is growing, and you do not need to be a member of WBAWL to volunteer. They still need help with transports or spending time with the kittens/cats to get them socialized for adoptions and rescues. The last time WBAWL reached out, the community was very responsive, and they were able to purchase a washer/dryer, a set of cage banks, food, and other supplies. We have a great community. Presently, there are 18 cats/kittens at the shelter. "HELP" is needed and appreciated. Here's some examples of ways you can help:

- Walmart gift cards marked/labeled for CAT Shelter. (This can purchase food and all sorts of supplies.)
- Monetary donations by check. You can signify for Cat Shelter/Cage Banks, etc., if you wish.

Mail to: WBAWL, Attn: Debbie Turner, PO Box 1086, Wytheville, VA 24382

Items can be dropped off. If you have questions, call Debbie Turner at 276-620-7197.

An Adoption Event will be held soon. Watch the Town of Wytheville VA Cat Shelter page on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/catsofwytheville](http://www.facebook.com/catsofwytheville)) for details!



**WBAWL**  
the Wythe-Bland  
Animal Welfare League  
[www.WBAWL.com](http://www.WBAWL.com) 276-613-3695

## Council Actions

### September 12, 2022:

- Upon recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee, Council approved amending the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget to appropriate \$10,500 to account number 011010-5682 to restore the Main Street Program to full staffing level.
- Scheduled a public hearing for the Oct 10, 2022, Town Council Meeting to consider the request of Kenneth and Jennifer Peebles for a Special Exemption Permit to use property located on the north side of North Street between Tremough Drive and Fairfield Lane, Tax Parcel 24A-1-49, as pasture for four horses, in a R-3 residential zone.

### September 26, 2022:

- Reappointed Mr. Jeffrey Lucas to the Wytheville Economic Development Authority for a four-year term (expires December 12, 2026).
- Appointed Ms. Lisa Anderson to the Wytheville Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a four-year term (expires September 8, 2026).
- Adopted a resolution supporting the issuance of a revenue bond by the New River Regional Water Authority and acknowledging certain matters with respect to the bond, including a moral obligation to make certain appropriations in support of the Authority.
- Adopted an amended resolution waiving the Peddler's License fee for food truck operators participating in events sponsored by the Town of Wytheville, Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated, Wythe County Joint Industrial Development Authority or Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce until December 31, 2023.

FALL EDITION

**WALK & TALK**

WITH MAYOR TAYLOR



Join us for a leisurely lunch time stroll on the Heritage Walk for our fall series of "Walk & Talk" with Mayor Beth Taylor, where guests can engage in lively conversation and learn more about what's going on in the Town of Wytheville.

WALKS START AT  
**12:00 P.M.**  
WITHERS FIELD

**THURSDAYS**

333 COMMUNITY BLVD. | (276) 223-3378 | [REC.WYTHEVILLE.ORG](http://REC.WYTHEVILLE.ORG)



Voter Registration  
and Elections

**General Election  
House of Representatives  
Town Election  
Tuesday, November 8, 2022**

**General Election  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Town of Wytheville & Town of Rural Retreat Council  
SAMPLE BALLOT IS AVAILABLE ONLINE**

**ACCEPTABLE FORM OF IDENTIFICATION OR  
AN ID CONFIRMATION STATEMENT IS REQUIRED!  
POLLS OPEN 6 a.m. – 7 p.m.**

**Tuesday, October 18, 2022:** Last day to register to vote or change your voter registration information for this election.

Mailed voter registration applications must be sent to the Registrar's office postmarked on or before the deadline.

**MAIL ABSENTEE VOTING AVAILABLE**

**Request an Absentee ballot online:**

<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov>

**Absentee ballots ARE counted.**

**Friday, October 28, 2022:** Last day to request an absentee ballot be mailed. Applications must be received in the Registrar's office by 4:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 8, 2022: Election Day ALL** Absentee voted ballots must be returned to the Registrar's Office by 7:00 p.m. (Virginia time) to be counted.

**In-Person Absentee Voting**

225 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Wytheville VA 24382

**Monday–Friday, September 23–November 4, 2022:**

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Saturday, October 29, 2022:** 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Saturday, November 5, 2022:** Last day to vote an In-Person absentee ballot at the Registrar's Office

**Lennon Counts, Registrar**

245 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Wytheville, VA 4382

Telephone: 276-223-6038 Fax: 276-223-6039

Email: [govote@wytheco.org](mailto:govote@wytheco.org)

Website:

<http://www.wytheco.org/index.php/departments/voter-registration>

**For East Wytheville Voters, we will no longer be using the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Civic Center as a polling place, the new polling place for East Wytheville is Spiller Elementary School, located at 330 Tazewell St, Wytheville VA.**

**MATH ON MAIN**  
5K RUN KIDS FUN RUN LIVE MUSIC

**Downtown TRICK OR TREAT**

ALL THE INFO HERE

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 22**  
2:00 – 7:00pm

WINNER 2020  
BEST OF THE BLUE RIDGE  
outdoors

@downtownwytheville

Town of Wytheville Parks & Recreation

**OKTOBERFEST**

RESCHEDULED DATE DUE TO RAIN

**Saturday, October 22**

**11 AM — 4 PM**

**HOMESTEAD MUSEUM**

PARKING: WYTHEVILLE VISITORS CENTER, 975 TAZEWELL STREET

**FREE ADMISSION**

FOOD, BEER & DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

**MUSIC**

**12 Noon-3 PM**

**The Sauerkraut Band**



**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**

**CONTESTS**

PRESENTING SPONSOR



**RE/MAX**  
Outstanding Agents  
Outstanding Results  
Landmark Real Estate

Joseph Hand, Jr.  
Owner/Broker  
695 East Main Street  
Wytheville, VA 24382

SPONSOR

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Jennifer Walters Agency  
[www.JenniferWalters.net](http://www.JenniferWalters.net)



PRESENTED BY THE TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUMS