

The Mayor's Corner

By Mayor Beth A. Taylor

Fellow Citizens,

After serving the Town for 40 years, Wayne Sutherland will retire from his position as Town Manager on June 30, 2020. I want to thank Mr. Sutherland for his many years of hard work and dedication to the Town of Wytheville and the Town's employees. He will be missed by many. The Council will take an action appointing current Assistant Town Manager Stephen A. Moore to the position of Town Manager, effective July 1, 2020. The Council has developed a transition plan for the supervision of the departments, after Mr. Sutherland's departure. There will no longer be a designated Assistant Town Manager. The plan will be for two people to be appointed that will oversee the daily operations of

various departments. The two people who will be appointed are Chris Menerick, who is the current Town Attorney and will serve as the Director of Administrative Services. The other position that is being created is the Director of Operations. The person who will be appointed to this position is Brian Freeman (currently Assistant Director of Planning & Development). As Town Manager, Steve Moore will have oversight over both Directors, Town Treasurer Michael Stephens and Town Clerk Sherry Corvin. Mr. Menerick will have oversight over the following departments; Human Resources, Police, Fire and Rescue, and Computer Operations. Mr. Freeman will have oversight of the following departments; Public Works, Recreation, Museums, Convention & Visitors Bureau, Building Inspection, Engineering and Planning & Community Development.

Another long-term Town employee who is retiring on July 1 is Wytheville Police Chief Rick Arnold. Chief Arnold has served the Town for almost 43 years with the last seven and a half years as Chief. During his tenure with the Wytheville Police Department, Chief Arnold held every rank, ultimately rising to serve as the Chief. The Council is advertising this position and hopefully a new Chief will be appointed soon. I want to thank Chief Arnold for his dedication to our town and the safety of our citizens.

Water Utilities Department

The Town of Wytheville's Water Utilities Department has a water meter reading software that helps improve customer service and operation efficiency. The software has advanced leak detection and notification capabilities that allows the Town, as the water service provider, to identify abnormal usage patterns and then communicate with customers via text message, e-mail or an automated phone call. Even though the software is not 100% accurate, it has allowed the Town to inform water customers of possible leaks, reducing cost to the customer and reducing water loss. The Town is asking water customers to contact the Town Office at (276) 223-3333 and update their contact information on their water billing. If we do not have your updated information and/or you do not take action to fix a leak, there will be less or no forgiveness on the increase on your water bill due to a leak.



2019 - Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



WATER TREATMENT PLANT WYTHEVILLE, VIRGINIA

The Town of Wytheville 2019 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is now available online by accessing the following link:

<https://wytheville.org/townoffice/pdf/Wytheville2019CCR.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.

Wytheville Fire & Rescue

The Wytheville Fire and Rescue Department (WFRD) has been running EMS calls since March, and they want to thank the community for the overwhelming and continued support. It is paying dividends for the Town and County residents in many ways. Recently the WFRD has responded to numerous calls involving unconscious/unresponsive persons. Having the quick response of our firefighters and paramedics has resulted in saving many lives, we can't minimize the importance and effects of bystander CPR. It truly makes a difference. We encourage all our residents to learn CPR, and if you are interested you can contact the Wytheville Fire and Rescue Department at (276) 223-3302.

As well as the improvements made in our EMS capabilities this year, the Fire and Rescue Department will be working to improve our town's ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating which could save all citizens money by lowering their homeowner's insurance. One of the components to this is our fire hydrants and water supply system. Over the next few months, you will see members of the WFRD flow-testing the fire hydrants throughout the town which calculates the needed GPM's (Gallons per Minute) to adequately fight a fire. The crews will also begin to clean and paint the hydrants, which makes them easier to see and allows for the use of the closest and most appropriate fire hydrant in an emergency. We would also ask that if you have a fire hydrant in your yard or business to please keep a three-foot clearance radius around the fire hydrant. This includes flower beds, bushes, yard décor and anything that could hinder the firefighters from gaining access to the hydrant. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the fire department at (276) 223-3302. Stay tuned next month to learn all about the "IOS" criteria and scoring.

Council Actions

In May, Council unanimously passed Ordinance No. 1380 "Back Yard Chickens". I would suggest that those interested familiarize themselves with the ordinance. You will need a permit from the Town of Wytheville. There are certain building restrictions that will be inspected by the Town. I also recommend if you live in a community that has a Home Owners Association Agreement that you familiarize yourself with it because it may prohibit such things as chickens.

Did You Know?

- The Town of Wytheville has some vacancies on its various committees. If interested, contact Sherry Corvin at (276) 223-3349.
- The State of Virginia has some new animal regulations. For example, the minimum length for a tether will be increased to at least 15 feet or four times the length of the animal, whichever is greater. This is effective July 1, 2020. To see other changes for animal owners, you can go to Wytheville.org and it should be listed under Spotlight.
- The next "Shred It" event is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2020.

Lastly, please remember that the Wytheville Municipal Building continues to be closed to the public. Staff may be reached by calling the main phone number at 276-223-3333 or searching for the particular department or staff directory at www.wytheville.org. You may also fax information to 276-223-3315.

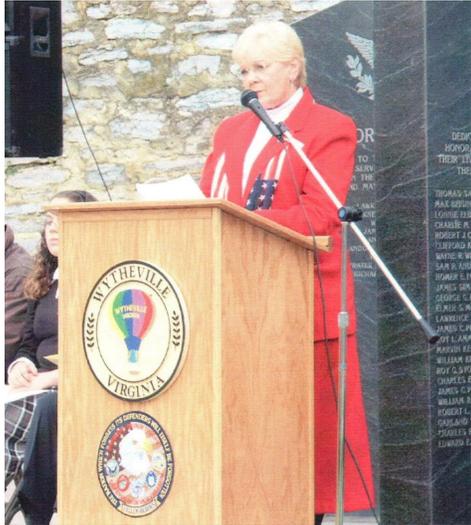
Please pay Town-related bills (taxes, water & sewer, other fees) online (<https://www.wytheville.org/townoffice/payments.php>), by phone (276-223-3333), via U.S. Mail, or by using the overnight deposit box outside the front of the building.

I welcome the opportunity to talk to you regarding your ideas and concerns. I can be reached by phone at 223-3356 or via email at beth.taylor@wytheville.org.

GET OUTSIDE at CRYSTAL SPRINGS



In Honor & Memory
of
Vice-Mayor
Jacqueline K. King
"Jackie"



**Thank You for 28 Years
of Dedicated Service to the
Citizens of Wytheville**