



The Mayor's Corner

By Mayor Beth A. Taylor

March is upon us and the flowers are peeking through the ground looking up to Spring. This is the time of year that we all start thinking about Spring cleaning, inside and out. Remember that Town residents are allowed to take our trash to the Wythe County Trash and Recycling "Convenience" Centers. Hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday and Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Note that the Transfer Stations have different operating hours.

At the Town of Wytheville Recycling Center, located at 1025 S. 3rd St., acceptable materials are glass, #1 and #2 plastics (remember to remove the caps, lids and corks and place in trash) mixed metals, cardboard, newspapers and magazines. Operating hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please refer to Town of Wytheville's Website for further information.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Wytheville Fire/Rescue Department

The new Wytheville Fire/Rescue Department will become completely under the control of the Town of Wytheville on March 9, 2020 at 7:00 a.m. Sixteen new personnel have been employed to provide fire and rescue services. The Town of Wytheville will have professional fire and emergency medical services available 24 hours per day. The vehicles previously operated by the Wythe County Rescue Squad have been given to the Town for this purpose. Those vehicles are being transformed to the same appearance as other Town fire apparatus. The vehicles will be red with a white strip and inscribed as "Wytheville Fire and Rescue." A logo will be on the vehicles saying, "Changing the Outcome Together." The department will operate three 24-hour shifts with eight personnel on-duty each shift. Two personnel for each ambulance and four on the fire engine. The fire engine, known as "Rescue Engine 1," will also be licensed as a non-transport EMS vehicle and will have the capability to respond to assist the ambulances as needed.

The service area for the EMS is the same footprint that was covered by the Wythe County EMS which includes all Town residents and the service area of the County that the previous Wythe County EMS served. The remaining County residents will still have the same EMS service coverage as they previously did.

Wytheville Police Department

Our Police Department has several items to bring to you from our recent "Coffee and Conversation" with the Mayor.

- ◆ Anytime Animal Control Officer Kelley is off duty, whether it be after hours, weekends or holidays, there is a protocol in place. The patrol officers normally take care of the animal calls. The response time may vary due to the officers handling other calls, but they will get to that call. The individual calling after hours, weekends or holidays is encouraged to call the 911 center first, then the call will be given to the officer on duty. This accomplishes two things. First, the call gets logged and documented. Secondly, it avoids those occasions when a caller leaves a message on the Police Dept phone after hours and gets lost in the automatic phone system.
- ◆ When to call 911: Call for any type of medical emergency, day or night. Call for fire or toxic fumes, day or night. Call for automobile accidents, day or night. Call for unlawful activities, day or night. Call for animal control issues that occur after hours, weekends and holidays.
- ◆ If you are going out of town and concerned about the safety of your business or home, you can let the Police Department know and they will try to keep an eye on it. If you have empty buildings or homes in your neighborhood and concerns about unlawful activity, please make the Police Department aware of this.
- ◆ Community outreach: The Police Department has ongoing classes that citizens can sign up for such as CPR-AED and First Aid. The next one is Saturday March 14 at 8:00 a.m. The Police Department also teaches the DARE program to fifth graders at Spiller Elementary School, and an Identity Theft class, to name a few. There is also an upcoming class called "Refuse to be a Victim" Call the Police Dept at 276-223-3300 for details and dates.

PUBLIC WORKS

I have been asked by a resident to please clarify brush and leaf pickup, especially if you have a “lawn care service” that does your leaf cleanup or trimming of shrubs and trees. The Town offers brush and leaf pick up as a service to our citizens and not as a convenience for the business owners. It is the responsibility of the business that was contracted to do your lawn work to also haul it off for you.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

Ordinances

Ordinance #1378, amending Ordinance #640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, to rezone a block of properties bounded by West Pine Street, West Reservoir Street, North 24th Street and North 26th Street, from B-2 Business to R-3 Residential.

Resolutions

Authorized the Town Manager to sign an Emergency Services Agreement with the County of Wythe and the Wythe County Rescue Squad.

OTHER ITEMS

- ◆ **Census 2020:** The Census Bureau is still looking for workers. You can earn \$13.50/hr. and 58 cents per mile, 30-40 hours per week. There are certain requirements. We should all receive a post card in the mail around March 12-20 to prompt us to register. If you need assistance, there are plenty of people that are willing to help such as your family or neighbors, staff at the Town office, County Administration Office, or the public library, to mention a few. The bottom line is that we, “Your Town” and “Your County,” can lose around a \$1000.00 per person in state and federal funds for grant money or school funding, or other types of funding, for every person who is not counted. Let’s make sure everyone is counted.
- ◆ Mark your Calendars for **Community Connections Day** on Thursday, April 2! Formerly known as the Community and Business Expo, the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce’s annual event is getting a makeover this year. Job seekers can attend a career fair from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Wythe and Bland County businesses can network from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and the public can visit booths and shop the new marketplace from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.! Non-profit organizations sponsored by the Wythe-Bland Foundation will also be set up. Be sure to check out the food truck and register for amazing door prizes as well! Community Connections Day will be held at the Wytheville Meeting Center. To register a booth or to learn more about the event, visit www.bchamber.com.
- ◆ The **2020 Civic Monument of the Wall of Honor** award recipients were inducted on Saturday, February 29, 2020. Those honored were Linda Pratt DiYorio and the late Dr. Dennis Throckmorton. Congratulations!
- ◆ **Celebrate Museums Thursdays with History, Songs & Stories** is back in full swing with March through May performances on the first Thursday of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Heritage Preservation Center. Tickets sell out quickly, so call 276-223-3330 for the latest information.
- ◆ When the spring weather begins, make plans to take a stroll through the historic district and learn about our town’s unique heritage. Stop at the Visitors Center at 975 Tazewell Street for your free copy of **Wytheville’s Historic Walking Tour**. It’s a great way to spend an afternoon or evening as the days get longer.

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 beth.taylor@wytheville.org.

Celebrate Museum Thursdays With History, Songs & Stories!

Heritage Preservation Center, 115 West Spiller Street, Wytheville
Tickets: \$8—Reserved Seating – For Reservations Call (276) 223-3330



April 2, 2020—7 p.m.

Bil Lepp – Storyteller

Friendly tall tales and stories have earned him the appreciation of listeners of all ages

May 7, 2020—7 p.m.

Eve Watters – Celtic Harp, Songs & Tales

A singer, storyteller, harpist and multi-instrumentalist, Watters’ repertoire includes beautiful old ballads, classical pieces and folk songs

