Another year is almost over and we find ourselves near the closing of a large project of construction and revitalization in our Downtown.

By the time you receive this information, we anticipate that the milling and paving work on Main Street should be near completion, as it began in late-October. We have also bid the line painting and traffic control measures for this area. The Heritage Walk, between Main Street and Spring Street, is now essentially finished and has added an attractive walkway through our downtown district. The outdoor shelter at the Farmers Market is a beautiful addition. Interior renovations are underway to create restrooms at the facility. Most of the new light poles have been installed by Appalachian Power Company and the new traffic signals are operational. Many new businesses have been opening over the last few months and we anticipate this to continue in 2018. We will celebrate this revitalization work with a variety of activities and ceremonies prior to the annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 2. I will be honored to serve as the parade’s Grand Marshal this year and hope that our community will come out and experience these events as our town kicks off the holiday season. Additional activities, including the annual Tree Lighting, will be held in Withers Park the evening before on December 1. Stay tuned for more details about these events as they become available at www.DowntownWytheville.org.

In an effort to encourage fire detection and prevention, the Town of Wytheville Department of Public Safety has instituted a new program to provide free smoke alarms for citizens who cannot afford them. You may contact the Wytheville Fire Department at 223-3302 for more information about this program.

Wytheville Town Council has also adopted a resolution to join the HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) Cities and Towns Campaign. This initiative champions local government policies that improve access to healthy foods and physical activity in communities throughout Maryland and Virginia. We are fortunate that our community already has walking and exercise venues in place to help our citizens improve their health. We are also pursuing additional funding from the Virginia Department of Transportation for the construction of sidewalk improvements at different locations throughout the town to make this an even more walkable community. In the months to come, you will learn more about other ways that this program will contribute to the well-being of our citizens.

A new burning system has recently been added to our brush collection program. Weighing approximately 27 tons, this large piece of equipment has been placed in an area of the closed landfill where brush is disposed. The burning operation is very efficient and virtually eliminates smoke plumes from rising over the disposal site. For many years, citizens have been concerned about the smoke emission from the burning process. Until now, there have been few methods for correcting the situation. We are pleased that we have been able to acquire such equipment for its efficiency and environmental attributes.

On behalf of Wytheville Town Council, I would like to wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season. 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 tcrewe@wytheville.org.

NOW AVAILABLE AT THE MUSEUM SHOP

2017 Heritage Christmas Ornament
Wythe County Blanket Chest
24-karat gold plated brass ornament in 3-D
$20.00 (plus tax)
The Museum Shop
975 Tazewell Street (inside the visitors center)
276-223-3372—Open M-Sat 10-4:30
Friday, December 1st & Saturday, December 2nd

Join us in Downtown Wytheville to ring in the Christmas season. Two days of Christmas cheer including a visit with Santa, Carriage rides, Tree lighting, the annual Christmas Parade and more, all leading up to “the big unwrapping”.

For a full schedule of events visit: www.downtownwytheville.org