As we approach the holidays, it is an appropriate time to reflect on all that we have to be thankful for in our lives and in our community.

As a local government, the Town of Wytheville has experienced several transitionary changes over the past few months. A couple of these have resulted in new personnel. By the end of the summer, we said goodbye to two gentlemen who had dedicated a significant portion of their lives to the operation of the Town. Albert Newberry, Director of Public Safety, and Tommy Seagle, Director of Public Works, retired after each having worked over 36 years. In the last few weeks, we have hired John Bishop to become the new Director of Public Works, and Marc Brade to become Wytheville’s first paid Fire Chief. The Town will be well served by both new employees. The Council, along with management, are looking forward to both of them being an integral part of the Town’s family.

As you may have noticed throughout Wytheville, it is that time of the year when the Town tends to street maintenance. This work is usually contracted out. There are always comments, concerns, and inquiries as to what streets are to be done, why are partial streets done and why not “my” street. I thought I would try to explain. This is an annual line budget which is usually around $500,000. To keep in budget, there is a decision-making process that our Town Engineers use to formulate a list. There are a number of engineering factors used to assess the remaining life of asphalt overlays. It is important to identify and choose those streets (or partial streets) with the most significant pavement fatigue.

Crystal Springs Recreation Area has become a tremendous asset to local recreation. The Town of Wytheville, Wythe County, and VDOT are working together to get the road to Crystal Springs paved. Once that is done, directional signage can be placed on U.S. 21. With increased interest and use by local citizens and visitors, we feel it is time to begin work on expansion of the trails and activities available there. The plans include the construction of an additional three miles of trail which will complete the Boundary Trail Loop as well as adding a bicycle challenge course to the property. We are considering the formation of a “Friends of Crystal Springs” group to assist with future projects. The Crystal Springs Recreation Area is a magnificent outdoor venue for hiking, mountain biking, picnicking and camping or merely enjoying nature.

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 beth.taylor@wytheville.org.
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$20.00 plus tax

Commemorates the 100th Anniversary of
The Presbyterian Children’s Home of the Highlands

The Museum Shop is open
Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
(within the E. Lee Trinkle Visitors Center, 975 Tazewell Street)
New Town Road Opens

The construction of the second half of Community Boulevard is now complete, and the roadway is open for public use. In 1996, the Town Council identified the need for roadways to connect Peppers Ferry Road with the eastern side of town. The service road on the east side of the interstate was completed a number of years ago. Construction of the service road on the west side of the interstate, between Peppers Ferry Road and East Main Street, was delayed because of State financial circumstances. Subsequently, the Virginia Department of Transportation proceeded with the design and construction of the second phase of Community Boulevard, which was originally designed to connect Peppers Ferry Road with Lithia Road as it approaches East Main Street. When the project was initiated, the Virginia Department of Transportation utilized a portion of right of way that was already in existence and obtained by the Town. VDOT then acquired the rest of the right of way for the project. At the time the project was bid, the Virginia Department of Transportation had insufficient funds to construct the entire portion of roadway and chose to complete only one half of the proposed roadway. The project was, in fact, bid in late 2016, and in early 2017, a contract was awarded to W&L Construction, Incorporated for the construction of the roadway. The total construction cost for the portion of roadway was $6,326,000. The second phase of Community Boulevard consists of approximately 0.76 center lane miles of roadway. The total length of Community Boulevard, from Peppers Ferry Road to its intersection with Lithia Road, is approximately 1.35 miles. The entire portion of roadway had betterments included in the project, which included water and sewer utilities. The Town is very pleased to have this roadway complete because it is an important section of roadway to connect the East Main Street area with the Community Center and tourist attractions along Peppers Ferry Road.

Town Welcomes New Employees

The Town of Wytheville is pleased to report that it has employed two new people to hold key positions within the Town’s organization. Mr. John Bishop was selected as the new Director of Public Works and assumed his duties on November 1, 2018. Prior to coming to the Town of Wytheville, Mr. Bishop had many years of experience with the Virginia Department of Transportation, as well as the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. Mr. Bishop possesses an Engineering Degree and has extensive knowledge of public works activities. He replaced Mr. Tommy Seagle who retired from the position earlier this year. The second position that was filled by the Town of Wytheville was the hiring of Mr. Marc Brade as the Fire Chief of the Town’s Fire Department. Mr. Brade has extensive credentials in both fire and EMS services, and, previously, he worked in a community in North Dakota. He is a native of Virginia and attended Virginia Tech. Mr. Brade and his family have relocated to Wytheville, and he is beginning to develop documents and plans that will enable the Town and its Fire Department to move forward. He began his employment with the Town on November 7, 2018. Town Manager Sutherland noted that both of these people are highly trained and conscientious people, and he is looking forward to their abilities to move the Town forward with its programs.