Three months have now passed since I was sworn in as the new Mayor of Wytheville. The time has indeed been filled with many learning opportunities as I endeavor to better understand how the Town of Wytheville operates to provide services and amenities for citizens and visitors. There is a great deal of excitement brewing with my fellow council members and Town staff regarding many projects that I look forward to sharing with you. I do believe that the best part of these first few months has been talking with you, the citizens of Wytheville, about your ideas and suggestions for the future of our community.

With my background in medicine, it should not be a surprise that promoting a healthy lifestyle is one of my passions. To that end, I have created an opportunity for citizens to exercise while having a dialogue with me about the future of our town. Throughout September and October, I have been hosting “Walks with the Mayor” on Thursday mornings beginning at 7:30 a.m. These thirty-minute strolls begin at different locations in the town and also allow us to get to know each other while promoting a healthy, active lifestyle. For more information about the locations, visit the Town’s website at www.wytheville.org. There is a flyer on the rotating banner with more details. I hope you will consider joining me.

You may have noticed some ground-moving activity going on at 260 West Monroe Street, the area adjacent to the entrance to McWane Pool. Wytheville Town Council is excited to report that this is the newest location for the Virginia Tourism Corporation’s (VTC) LOVEworks. This state-wide branding initiative is designed to promote travel in Virginia and strengthen awareness of the “Virginia is for Lovers” message. Each community or attraction that is a part of this program designs their letters to showcase the significance of their area. The letters depicted there show aspects of Wytheville’s history that have had an impact on our community. The L represents the influence of the railroad. The O showcases a hot air balloon, such as the one used in our elevated water tank in honor of the annual Chautauqua Festival. V depicts the two interstates that cross here, I-77 and I-81, as well as our branding theme of “Wytheville...There’s Only One.” E honors the history of baseball in this community as it was played in Withers Park behind the LOVEworks display.
The “LOVE letters” program is popular throughout Virginia and visitors have learned to seek out such representations within each community they stop in. Don’t be surprised if you see visitors around this location taking photographs with the letters. If you see such a visitor there, you might want to stop and chat or offer to take a photo for them. We hope that these travelers will explore the new Downtown Wytheville. Visitor spending grew over five percent in 2017 and tourism revenues remain an important part of our local business economy and our tax revenues.

Before I close this first column, I would be remiss if I did not say a few words regarding the distinguished individual who served in this position before me. Over his 35 years of service (28 of those as Mayor) as a member of Wytheville Town Council, Trent Crewe dedicated countless hours to help make Wytheville a better place to work and live. It takes a special level of endurance to be in public service that long. It takes a love for the community and those who call it home. We owe him our respect and appreciation for that service. As I have become his successor, I have put on my “new shoes” and am walking into the future with the hope of even more success as we work together to continue to make Wytheville a healthy and prosperous community for the generations to come. I look forward to working with each of you toward that goal. I am honored to serve as the Mayor of Wytheville.

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.
DOWNTOWN WYTHEVILLE

MAYHEM ON MAIN STREET

5K

Saturday, October 20

5K RUN SIGNUP

www.downtownwytheville.org

New for 2018

ZOMBIE PAGEANT

- Kids Costume Contest
- Downtown Trick or Treat
- Pumpkin Painting Competition
- Bolling Building Haunted Tours

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