

The Mayor's Corner

By Mayor Beth A. Taylor

Spring Clean-Up

Spring is upon us! I know you are as excited as I am. Let's SPRING into action. When we do our Spring cleaning, let's not forget to also spruce up the outside. Our garages, driveways, and even lawns are sometimes used as collection areas for old appliances, furniture, mattresses and other miscellaneous items. Using some of these areas for collection points could be breaking a Town Ordinance. Let's take pride in our community, help a neighbor, if needed, and haul these items to the Wythe County convenience and recycling centers. Don't forget to "brush up" on the rules and times for brush removal as you are doing your yard work and gardening.



EMERGENCY EMERGENCY What do I do? Who do I call?

If you have a situation or problem that is not an emergency 911 issue, there is an after-hours phone system you can use to receive assistance. Call 223-3333, after hours for a recorded message system that will help you. You will be directed to push a number for the appropriate department. When you push the button, you will be connected to the on-call person for that department. Option 1 is water and sewer, option 2 is signal light outage or problem, option 3 is street blockage problem such as tree down in road, option 4 is animal control, and option 5 is for issues regarding parking tickets, police reports or to speak with an Officer regarding something that is not an emergency or 911 issue.

Tree City USA

Wytheville was recently recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a 2018 Tree City USA. Wytheville is one of over 3,500 communities to receive this designation. Trees provide multiple benefits for our community. A few are listed below:

- Improve visual appeal to our neighborhoods, Town and streets
- Can increase property values
- Remove air pollutants
- Provide wildlife habitats

Downtown Wytheville Incorporated

Downtown Wytheville incorporated is a 501c3 volunteer based nonprofit organization. They value strong partnerships with local government, local businesses, community partners and local citizens, many of whom are volunteers for the organization. Their vision is to become the "vibrant heart of community and commerce for the region." As a state and national accredited organization, they must follow the "Main Street Approach" emphasizing: *economic vitality, organization, promotion and design* to maintain their accreditation. Downtown Wytheville has become an economic driver for our community and has gained national recognition and notoriety for the revitalization and economic development that has happened in our community in such a short time.

Downtown Wytheville Incorporated is in its third year as a Virginia Main Street designated community and National Main Street Accredited organization. In 2018, the Downtown district generated over \$5.7 million dollars of private investment (*non-tax payer dollars*). A big portion of that investment was contributed by 7 Dogs Brew Pub, Seven Sisters Brewery, Smith Enterprises and Family Fare, to name a few. Building façade improvements, new construction, infrastructure improvements and other private business capital investments are a part of that figure. Additionally, there was a 22% increase from 2017 to 2018 in meals tax within the downtown businesses and a 15% increase in lodging tax with no new rooms added to the district. In 2017-2018, Downtown Wytheville was one of four Virginia Main Street

communities awarded the Community Business Launch Grant in which they partnered with the Joint Industrial Development Authority and the local Chamber of Commerce to create and launch the Evolution Wytheville business competition. A total prize pool of \$75,000 included (\$60,000) grant money from Virginia Main Street and a match of (\$15,000) local fundraising dollars. The organization awarded four businesses: 7 Dogs Brew Pub, Seven Sisters Brewery, Chau's Corner Bakery and Rose Cottage School of Art (expansion). The total \$75,000 that was awarded will leverage and generate over \$4 million of business/property owner investment dollars to the downtown district by the end of 2019.

Executive Director Todd Wolford had the honor to represent the community at the National Main Street conference in Seattle, Washington at the end of March to speak about the success of this grant and the revitalization and continued development that has been made in our community in a three-year span.

Stay tuned for more details on the July 4th Celebration. The organization is looking to change the format this year to have additional bands at various business locations with beer gardens and other activities in Downtown.

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.

Three Chosen for Wall of Honor Civic Monument



Three local citizens were recently chosen for inclusion on the Wall of Honor Civic Monument in Withers Park. Each person has left a distinctive and unique mark on Wytheville and Wythe County.

Walter S. Barton, M.D.

Born in Priceville, Tennessee in 1933, Walter S. Barton grew up in Wise County, Virginia and graduated from Appalachia High School. He received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Roanoke College, before pursuing his Doctor of Medicine degree from the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University. He graduated in the Class of 1959. Following an internship at Roanoke Memorial Hospital, Dr. Barton served as a medical officer in the United States Navy. His practice of family medicine began at a clinic in South Boston, Virginia. He moved to Wytheville in 1964 to join a family medical practice. After eight years of solo practicing, he was joined by three other doctors to establish Family Physicians of Wytheville, now Carilion Family Medical. He retired in 1996.

During his years of caring for the citizens of this area, Dr. Barton served on the medical staff at Wythe County Community Hospital and also on the hospital's first board of directors. He was chief of the medical staff when the hospital opened in 1972. A diplomat of the American Board of Family Practice, Dr. Barton has been a member of the Medical Society of Virginia, the American Medical Association, and the American Academy of Family Practice.

Medicine is not the only way that he has impacted his community. Through the years, Dr. Barton has served on a variety of committees and boards for many organizations including the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Wythe County, Wytheville Community College Education Foundation, Wythe-Bland Foundation, Brock Hughes Free Clinic, Wytheville Community College, and Asbury Retirement & Health Care Centers. As a member of the Wytheville Rotary Club, Dr. Barton was selected to be a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International. In 2015, he was awarded the Stanley King Sr. Outstanding Citizenship Award by the Chamber of Commerce. He received the Chamber's Community Service Award in 2006.

Dr. Barton is an active member of St. John's Episcopal Church. He and his wife Frances have three children and twelve grandchildren.

James L. Gleaves Jr.

James Lucian Gleaves Jr. was born in Wytheville in 1924. He graduated from Wytheville High School in 1941. While attending the Citadel, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps serving in the 23rd Fighter Control Squadron in the China-Burma-India Theatre of WWII. Mr. Gleaves earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Commerce from the University of Virginia in 1948, followed by a law degree in 1951. From 1951 to 1953, he served in the FBI in their Newark and Philadelphia offices. He returned to Wytheville in 1953 to enter private law practice where he remained until retiring in 1991.

His practice of law entered the public service arena when he was appointed attorney for the Town of Wytheville in 1969, a position he remained in until his retirement in 1991. Afterward, he was appointed to and served on Wytheville Town Council from 1994-1996. Mr. Gleaves served as a director of the Wythe County National Bank for over 20 years and also served as the Chairman of the Board for this entity.

Mr. Gleaves' life is defined by public service with a love and dedication for Wythe County and its people. A long-time member of the Wytheville Presbyterian Church, he was a deacon, elder, treasurer and teacher. He was married to his late wife Dorothy for 57 years, they had four children and four grandchildren.

Thomas F. Hundley

Born in Radford in 1969, Thomas F. Hundley has always called Wytheville home. Firmly rooted in the business community, he worked for Wytheville Office Supply for twelve years, before being hired by State Farm Insurance in 2000. He took over the Garrett Cochran State Farm Agency in 2002 after Mr. Cochran's retirement. Mr. Hundley's agency has been very successful. He received one of the company's most prestigious awards in 2017 by being named to the State Farm Chairman's Circle.

In 2010, Mr. Hundley was elected to Wytheville Town Council. Serving on the Public Works Committee, he was active in helping to bring many projects to completion, such as the East Main Street Project and the Heritage Walk. But his greatest passion was at the heart of the community, the Downtown. He was one of the driving forces to help breathe new life into downtown through the multi-year revitalization. He devoted countless hours to this initiative and was part of the formation of Downtown Wytheville, Inc. He supported the efforts to not only beautify the downtown area but also revive the infrastructure through new lighting, brick sidewalks, and other improvements to make the downtown an attractive place to do business and encourage visitors to want to experience it.

Mr. Hundley was a member of Wytheville Town Council for eight years. He has served on many committees and boards including the District Three Governmental Cooperative, Wytheville Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Downtown Wytheville Inc., Wytheville Community College Educational Foundation, and the Wytheville Fraternal Lodge #42. He and his wife Annessia have two children.

TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE VEHICLE DECAL REMINDER

Citizens are reminded that if you live in the Town of Wytheville and own a vehicle, a Wytheville Decal must be displayed on your windshield. Wytheville Police Officers will be patrolling town streets and neighborhoods and are authorized to ticket vehicles in violation of this requirement. *The fine for failing to display a Town Decal is \$50.00,* and you may be ticketed daily for failure to display a Town Decal.

Please purchase your vehicle Decal *now* to avoid penalties.

Town of Wytheville Decals are on sale in the Treasurer's Office located in the Municipal Building at 150 East Monroe Street. For more information, please call (276) 223-3333.