

The Mayor's Corner

By Mayor Beth A. Taylor



It's hard to believe that the end of 2019 is almost upon us. Here are a few things to consider as we approach the winter season and the beginning of a new year.

PUBLIC SAFETY

With the recent time change, it is always recommended to test and change the batteries in your smoke detector. If you do not have a smoke detector in your home or are having trouble with one, please contact Fire Chief Marc Brade at 276-617-2712.

The police and fire departments are working closely with Downtown Wytheville Inc. to provide our citizens with a safe environment to enjoy our Christmas holiday events.

The Town of Wytheville continues discussions with Wythe County so that we can provide the best emergency medical services for our citizens. The Town will have a Fire/EMS department and all personnel will be cross trained in both fire and EMS duties. They will all be very qualified to provide emergency assistance as well as in fighting fire. This will also provide for rapid response for better outcomes.

Animal Control Officer Kevin Kelley shares a few tidbits on how to keep our beloved outdoor pets safe in the cold weather. Shorthaired dogs do not tolerate cold weather as well as their longhaired friends do. The basics are food, water, and shelter. Remember, water freezes, so we need to give our pets water at least every twelve hours. A dog house is the best shelter and needs to have a solid floor. Concrete or plastic is somewhat better than wood, because wood is absorbent. Consider providing some insulation, such as straw or wood chips, either will keep our pets a little bit warmer.

COLD WEATHER BRINGS POTENTIAL FOR SNOW

Public Works Director Chris Peeples explains the Town of Wytheville policy for snow removal: A prolonged event consisting of several inches of snow will require implementing a 24-hour shift and mobilizing most of our fleet. The snow removal fleet consists of five dump trucks and four pick-up trucks all equipped with both snow plows and salt spreaders. There are eight additional vehicles with snow plows only. The procedure is as follows. Arterial roads, such as Main Street, North 4th Street, Peppers Ferry Road and West Lee Highway are given priority and will be cleaned and maintained throughout the event. Next, connector roads will be treated, followed by residential streets. Most of the concerns we receive are regarding driveways that get snow pushed back into them. Please be patient and try to clear your driveway after your street has been plowed, but if that is not feasible then pile your snow on the left side of your drive (as you are looking at it from the street). Please park vehicles off the street, if at all feasible. Most importantly, stay off the roads during a snow storm.

FOSTER CARE

I am supporting a young lady that is passionate about foster care. Since November was Adoption Month, I thought this would be a good time to talk about being a foster parent. Brandy Page, a foster parent herself, founded the Southwest Virginia Crossroads Coalition. They work with "Virginia Kids Belong" and other coalitions across the state. Right here in Wythe County, there is a foster care crisis with many more children in care than homes. There are many ways you can help support these children if you are not able to be a foster parent. You can support other foster parents with meals, errands, chores or even fieldtrips. There are endless ways to help. You can contact the Coalition by emailing swvacrossroadscolition@gmail.com.



2020 CENSUS

The 2020 census will be here before you know it, here is some information that may help. We will all get a postcard in the mail sometime in March 2020, then we can register. It is important that we all count ALL that are staying with us in our residence. We need to count all family, do not leave out children, relatives, friends, renters any person that is at your residence that day. Every head needs to be counted on that day. Your census responses are safe and secure by law your responses cannot be used against you. Please reach out to the elderly or shut ins to help them register. There will be numerous places people can go to register. The Wytheville Municipal Building, Wythe County Public Library, and Wythe County governmental offices, to name a few.

Need a part time job? Be a census taker. They need more help. Work will be in the Spring of 2020, you need to be at least 18 years old, wages are \$13.50/hr. and \$0.58/mile. Apply online at 2020census.gov/jobs or call 1-800-JOB-2020. (Be patient, there may be a several week delay before you hear back from them.)



ORDINANCE CHANGES

ORDINANCE NO. 1371 – Rezoning to allow dog parks in industrial districts M-1 and M-2.

ORDINANCE NO. 1373 – Establishes rules and regulations governing the operation of sharing systems (shared mobile devices), such as scooters.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

On behalf of Wytheville Town Council, I would like to wish all citizens a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are excited about everything that is in store for our community in 2020.

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.

Available at The Museum Shop

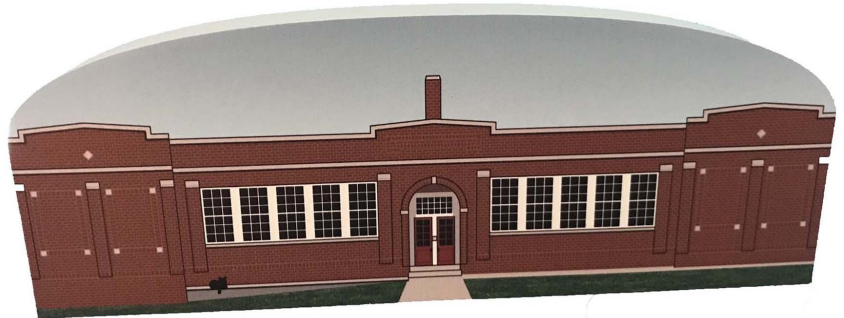
(975 Tazewell Street within the Visitors Center)



2019 St. John Lutheran Church *Heritage Christmas Ornament Collection*

\$20 (PLUS TAX)

Historic church, formerly organized in 1799, is located in Wytheville, Virginia at the intersection of Interstate 81 and U.S. Routes 21/52. The present structure was dedicated in 1854 and underwent extensive remodeling in 1884.



TAKE HOME A PIECE OF HISTORY!

Original Spiller Elementary School Building *Historic Wythe County Buildings Collection*

\$20 (PLUS TAX)**

****\$9 OF EACH SALE WILL BE DONATED TO THE
WYTHE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO HELP PRESERVE
AND RESTORE THIS HISTORIC BUILDING**