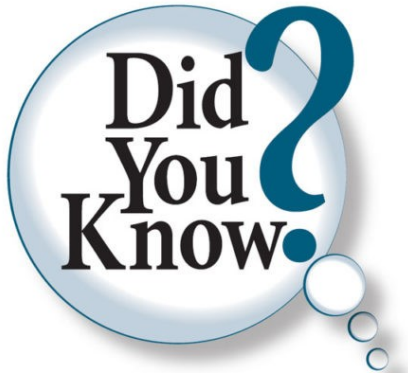




The Mayor's Corner

By Mayor Beth A. Taylor

I've enjoyed speaking with many of you over my first six months as Mayor of Wytheville. These conversations have resulted in great feedback from you and many questions. I would like to address some of these and other Town of Wytheville activities through a "Did You Know?" format below.

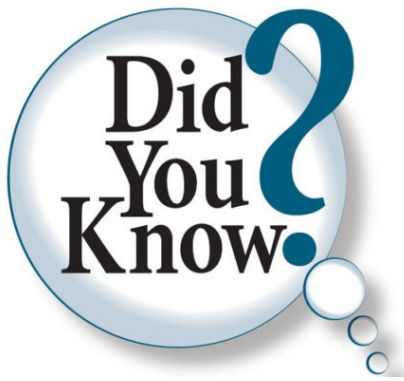


- The Town has a tree nursery. This serves two purposes. First, when a tree is needed for a new area or as a replacement, a tree is available for use that is the extra height needed without the extra cost. Secondly, since it has been grown in our nursery, it is appropriate for our climate/zone and should have a longer lifespan. When landscaping and planting are complete, the Town will have planted 444 trees of 20 different species (does not include shrubs) on East Main Street, 40 trees on Main Street, and 12 trees on West Main Street (replacing those removed due to power lines). We are considering hiring a part-time arborist to help maintain healthy trees and to nurse the older trees to prolong their lives.

- The Town has a cemetery ordinance. Under Town Code, three cemeteries (East End, West End, and Oakwood) are maintained by the Town. We are now beginning to focus on cleaning the historical markers/monuments using a special solution designed for such care. This work will be done on monuments for graves when no family can be located to handle the care.
- The Town has a noise ordinance. In order to make the language clearer and easier to understand, the Town recently updated this ordinance. It includes different types of noises as well as restrictions based on the time of day. This ordinance can be found in the Town Code, Chapter 9, Article V.
- The Town has nuisance ordinances. Accumulation of trash, uncut grass, and running bamboo are all nuisances regulated by Virginia state law and the Town Code Section 12-106. The requirements regarding cutting grass are listed under Town Code Section 12-91. Bamboo regulation is a new ordinance and will be listed under Town Code, Chapter 13, Article V.

The Town Code is available online at <https://library.municode.com/va/wytheville>. Click on "Browse" and then scroll to find the appropriate section, chapter, and article. There is also a "search" tool available.

- During this winter, instead of "Walking with the Mayor," the Town will host "Coffee with Council" on the second and fourth Thursday mornings (January-April) at 10 a.m. beginning on January 10. Come have a cup of coffee and conversation with myself and other members of the Wytheville Town Council. Watch for locations to be announced in the Wytheville Enterprise, on WYVE/WXBX, Facebook, and the Town's website at www.wytheville.org
- The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has approved the paving of the road to Crystal Springs Recreation Area. Once this work is complete, hopefully signage leading to the area will follow.



- There are a number of factors that contribute to responding to any type of snow event. First, it is important to remember that Wytheville has approximately 15 square miles of land area and 185 lane miles of roadway. Those two factors alone are significant compared to our surrounding neighbors. This past snowfall, the Town vehicles were loaded with salt and the plows were ready on Thursday prior to the event on Saturday. Town forces did pretreat roadways in town on Friday and Saturday prior to the beginning of the snowfall event. Once the snowfall began, the Town had varying amounts of resources on the roadways (between 12 and 14 plows at any given time and involving approximately 35 employees). Town crews worked continuously Saturday, Sunday and Monday. This snowfall was significant because it was not only 18 inches, but it was accumulating at a rate faster than it could be removed from the roadways and temperatures remained below freezing most of the time. We realize that residents often clean their driveways and then the Town comes and plows the street and piles snow back into the driveway. When this happens, the Town is not trying to make the situation difficult. Here's a suggestion that might help. When citizens clear their driveway, pile snow on the left-hand side (as you are looking up at your driveway from the street), so that snow doesn't get redeposited back into the driveway.

What would you like to know? I will address other topics in future columns. 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.



Coffee with Council

**Join
Wytheville Town Council for a
fresh cup of coffee
& conversation.**

**Second & Fourth Thursdays
at 10:00 AM**

January 10—Farmers Market
January 24—Flourz
February 14—Cedar Bay Café
February 28—Virginia Heights
March 14—Grayson Restaurant
March 29—Olykoek Donuts
April 11—Starbucks
April 25—Wytheville Recreation Center