

# The Mayor's Corner

By Mayor Beth A. Taylor

## Fellow Citizens,

We are enjoying a beautiful autumn, but unfortunately the leaves must eventually fall. That brings up the topic of our Annual Leaf Collection Program. We want to inform citizens that the Town's Public Works Department will begin collecting leaves around the first of November. Initially, leaves will be collected as they are placed at the curbside. As the volume of leaves increases, the collection will be carried out on a street by street method.

Remember to rake the leaves to the edge of the curb or to the edge of the street, but not into the street. Piles of leaves in the street can impede traffic and create hazards.

Here's also a few other points from the basic brush guidelines that can be remembered all year long. Sort leaves and grass clippings into separate piles. Grass clippings must be bagged or in containers. Branches should be in very small piles in the same direction parallel to the street. Please do not put any other items in a brush pile. Please do not block the travel lane or sidewalks. Vehicles should not be parked near the brush pile as this hinders crews from accessing the piles.

Town crews will be working diligently to remove leaves in a timely manner, but at the peak of leaf season, it will take longer to get to all neighborhoods. Thank you for following the basic guidelines. We appreciate your patience as our crews work through this process.

## Shredding Event in 2021

The next shredding event has been tentatively scheduled for June 5, 2021 at the Wytheville Municipal Building parking lot. The Town has the pleasure of partnering with Truliant for this event. Truliant will provide up to three trucks for this event. It will be open for citizens and businesses countywide. There will be a limit of two 30-gallon trash cans for businesses. I will keep you posted on any changes as we get closer to the time.

## Council Actions

- Ordinance No. 1389 amending and reenacting Chapter 2, Administration. Article 111 Procurement Procedures. This Ordinance will change the Town Code for the amount of procurement of small purchases from \$100,000 to \$200,000.
- Ordinance No. 1390 amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 1028, generally known as Personnel Rules. This Ordinance will change the Personnel Policy to reflect that smoking, vaping and the use of tobacco products in all Town owned vehicles is prohibited.
- Council agreed to support The Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Foundation with a donation of \$1,000.

## Appointments

- Zachary Cooley has been reappointed to the Wytheville Industrial Development Authority for another four-year term expiring December 12, 2024.
- Brittney Litton has been appointed to the Wytheville Recreation Committee for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2023 to fill the expiring term of Kenny Sayers
- Michael Mitchell has been reappointed to the Wytheville Recreation Commission for another three-year term expiring December 31, 2023.



## Shout Outs

- Wytheville Town Council recently recognized four employees (Zach Dillion, Charlene Abate, Crystal Hylton and Brandon Wolford) from the Town of Wytheville Parks & Recreation Department for their quick thinking, quick acting, and heroic acts in saving the life of an individual who had a cardiac event while exercising at the Wytheville Wellness and Recreation Center.
- Wythe County dispatchers (Jami Grubb, Cody Mutter and Santana Crowder) are also recognized for their outstanding job performance after receiving a 911 call from the Wytheville Recreation Department which led to the lifesaving event mentioned above.
- We congratulate Town of Wytheville Treasurer Michael Stephens and his staff (Angela Pennington, Dara Wood, Janet Lynn-Taylor, and Amanda Duncan) on their hard work that recently resulted in receiving an accreditation from the Treasurer's Association of Virginia. This represents a dedication to maintaining the highest standards possible in fiscal administration.

## From a Citizen

I recently received the following message from a former citizen of our area:

Having been born and raised in Wytheville and Wythe County, I like many others who made decisions to explore life in other areas of the Country, while infrequently returning to our roots, to visit with family and friends as time and opportunity allows. This week, I came to Town on business and to visit with family. When traveling on Main Street, I stopped and absorbed the changes and improvements made over the last 50 plus years. A great resurgence and revitalization of the Downtown area overall is a product of hard work by the Town leaders and Business owners who have developed the ever-changing vision by improvement and change. Leaders like yourself have in the present and the past given so much of themselves to ensure that the community did not "rust away" like so many in America. Please share with all the Town Departments my thanks for their dedication and hard work which is very evident on every street and in every neighborhood. It's easy to see the pride and hear the positive comments of those who live and work in Wytheville.

Respectfully, Mike Lefler

I welcome the opportunity to talk to you regarding your ideas and concerns. I can be reached by phone at (276) 223-3356 or via email at [beth.taylor@wytheville.org](mailto:beth.taylor@wytheville.org).



The Open for Business – Recovery Assistance Grant has been made available by Wythe County, Town of Wytheville and Town of Rural Retreat through Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding awarded from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

Administration of the grant program is provided by Downtown Wytheville Incorporated, Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County, Visit Wytheville, and Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the localities.

The program has been made available to businesses operating in Wythe County, the Town of Wytheville, and the Town of Rural Retreat. The grant program provides one time, emergency funding to eligible, for-profit businesses for rent and mortgage relief, operating expenses, and to help with changes a business might have made to respond to COVID-19.

Applications are currently being accepted and reviewed on an ongoing basis.

More information, the application, and attachments are available via this link:

<https://www.madewythepride.org/openforbusiness>