

# The Mayor's Corner

BY MAYOR BETH A. TAYLOR  
May 2022

I welcome the opportunity to talk to you regarding your ideas and concerns. I can be reached by phone, mail or email.



(276) 223-3356

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## Pool Season

It will not be long before that warm sunshine we all have been waiting for will be here, and that means pool season will follow. So, before we start planning swimming in our back yard there are some state requirements for outdoor residential swimming pools that we all need to be aware of to keep our family, neighbors, and friends safe this season. The Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code requires a building permit for any swimming pool that is larger than 150 square feet in surface area, holds over 5,000 gallons of water or is 24 inches or more in depth. The code makes no distinction between in-ground, above ground or inflatable pools, hot tubs, or spas. To help you answer these questions: What is the process? What documents do I need? What permits do I need? Who should apply for the permits? What are the fees for the permit? How long does it take to get the permit? Outdoor swimming pools are required to have barriers around them! What type of barriers? What are the entrapment protection requirements? What are the electrical requirements? And what are the inspection requirements?

The Town of Wytheville Building Department has an online pamphlet that is your guide to the permit and inspection process and lists the requirements for installing outdoor residential swimming pools. Please use the following link to access the information or call (276) 223-3339 or 3354.

[www.wytheville.org/docs/general/082720-Swimming-Pool-Pamphlet-regulations.pdf](http://www.wytheville.org/docs/general/082720-Swimming-Pool-Pamphlet-regulations.pdf)

Let's not forget to call Miss Utility by Dialing 811. Miss Utility is a free service, and notification must be made a minimum of 48 hrs. prior to any excavation.

## 2021-Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The Town of Wytheville 2021 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is now available online by accessing the following link: [www.wytheville.org/docs/notice/Wytheville2021CCR.pdf](http://www.wytheville.org/docs/notice/Wytheville2021CCR.pdf)



A paper copy of the report may be obtained by calling Robby Krunich, Water Plant Superintendent at 276-223-3322 or Trevor Hackler, Town Engineer at 276-223-3342.

## Upcoming Events

- **Relay for Life:** May 21, 2022, from 6:00—9:00 p.m. at Elizabeth Brown Park. Bring a lounge chair.
- **Run For The Wall:** The much-anticipated return of Run For The Wall (RFTW) occurs on May 25 and 26 in Withers Park. The "Welcome Home Ceremony" will begin upon their approximate arrival at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 25, in Withers Park. Citizens are encouraged to come out and welcome them as the group arrives via Exit 70 and Fourth Street. Following a brief ceremony, the group will parade down Main Street to their hotels. A dinner hosted by the Wytheville Moose Lodge will conclude the evening. One of RFTW's favorite Wytheville experiences occurs on Thursday (May 26) morning as the students of Spiller Elementary School provide a special welcome program beginning at 9 a.m. in Withers Park. Run For The Wall will depart with a Main Street parade at approximately 9:30 a.m.
- **Memorial Day Ceremony:** Patty Harmon Younger will be the guest speaker at the annual Wall of Honor Memorial Day Ceremony at the Wytheville Meeting Center. The ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 29, 2022, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Younger served in the United States Army Reserves for more than six years.



Her unit was activated in November 1989 to serve in Desert Storm. She achieved the rank of E5 Sergeant during her years of service. She was a long-time Art teacher in Wythe County Public Schools, retiring in 2020.

## Important Information from Your Fire & Rescue Department

The Town of Wytheville Fire & Rescue Department is a 24 hour, 365-day staffed fire and rescue service available to the citizens it serves. In the event of an emergency, whether a fire or a medical call, DO NOT HESITATE or delay accessing 911. In the event of an emergency, seconds and minutes count greatly. The sooner 911 is accessed, the quicker we are available to be part of the solution.

Also, the Town of Wytheville Fire & Rescue Department is launching a "BE SEEN" campaign. Participants would purchase a reflective marker from the store of their choice and place it in front of their home. This could improve response times and help responding units when a call for service is needed. Yes, we memorize streets and driving routes, but this simple visual can help responding personnel, specifically at night. Many can be attached to mailboxes, but also can be placed close to the street in the front yard. Even if you live outside the town, but are in our coverage area, we highly recommend this.



## Important Information from Your Police Department

"IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING" - There seems to be almost daily occurrences of people posting things on social media about what they have seen or encountered, and then there are others posting a negative reply against the Town and the Police Department for not responding or doing anything about it. If that person would have simply called 911 when it was happening, instead of posting on social media hours after the occurrence, the Police Department would have had the opportunity to respond and resolve the situation.



If a citizen observes something that is just not right, they should call 911 immediately. A suspicious activity report is the sharing of information concerning activities, incidents, or behaviors that the reporting individual considers to be outside normal parameters. This can include, but is not limited to, threats, risks, or concerns to the public safety and is not limited to known criminal activities. Here's some examples: Someone being inappropriate in public parks, parking lots, or stores. Someone in a parking lot going from vehicle to vehicle checking for unlocked vehicles. Someone coming to your door asking if someone lives there that does not. Someone going house to house checking for locked doors. When you are making a report, you should try to provide this information: WHO did you see? WHAT did you see? WHEN did you see it? WHERE did you see it? WHY is it suspicious? But remember factors such as race, ethnicity, gender and or religious affiliation are not indicators of suspicious behavior.

When and how to notify the Police: If you believe you have information that would help authorities, you are encouraged to do the following, call 911 immediately for life-threatening emergencies and crimes in progress. For reporting something after the fact or an ongoing issue, call local law enforcement on a non-emergency number or via email. The Wytheville Police Department non-emergency number is 276-223-3300 and the Wytheville Police Department TIP email is [wpdtips@wytheville.org](mailto:wpdtips@wytheville.org).

## Tree City USA® & Arbor Day

The Town was recently informed by the Arbor Day Foundation that Wytheville has earned recognition as a 2021 Tree City USA® community. Wytheville is part of a network of more than 3,600 communities across the United States who have earned this annual designation.

Cities and towns across the globe are facing challenges when it comes to air quality, water resources, personal health and well-being, and energy use. Wytheville shows its residents and peers that they are forward-thinking and eager to combat these issues by demonstrating a commitment to a brighter, greener future.

Recently on Arbor Day (April 29), the Town of Wytheville in cooperation with the Tree Advisory Committee held its fourth annual celebration by planting a tree at the HOPE Ministry Center on West Main Street.



# Council Actions

## April 11, 2022:

- Adopted a resolution commending the George Wythe High School Swim Team for a winning season and presented the resolution to the Swim Team.
- Adopted a resolution recognizing The George Wythe High School Scholastic Bowl Team for a very successful season and presented the resolution to the team.
- Appointed Ms. Lee Johnson to the Wytheville Tree Advisory Committee for a four-year term.
- Appointed Ms. Tammie Lowery to the Wytheville Tree Advisory Committee for a four-year term.
- Appointed Mr. David Kause to the Wytheville Industrial Development Authority (WIDA) to fill the expired term of Mr. James B. Willis.
- Appointed Mr. Jeffrey Lucas to the Wytheville Industrial Development Authority (WIDA) to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Judith Burkett.

## April 25, 2022:

- Conducted a public hearing to consider an ordinance to move the East Wytheville Precinct and Polling Place from the 4th Street Civic Center located at 250 South Fourth Street to Spiller Elementary School located at 330 Tazewell Street. Later in the meeting adopted Ordinance No. 1409, an ordinance moving the East Wytheville Precinct and Polling Place to Spiller Elementary School.
- Approved proceeding with executing the purchase to acquire radar speed signs.
- Authorized the Town Treasurer to write off \$1,157.40 in delinquent 2016 Personal Property/Mobile Home Taxes.

## The Return of the After Hours Concert Series & Chautauqua's Brews & Bands



**Sat. May 28th 12-5pm**  
**2 Dozen Craft Brews to Taste & Food Vendors**  
**BAND COMPETITION**  
 Bring A Chair ID Required For Tasting Raffle  
**WITHERS FIELD \$10 - DD or Under 21**  
**WYTHEVILLE, VA \$25 - 10 Tastings**  
**\$35 - 20 Tastings**  
 www.wythe-arts.org



Show times are 6:30-9:30pm. Withers Park will open at 5:30pm with food vendors on site. Rain out shows will relocate to Wytheville Meeting Center. Advanced tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at The Wytheville Community Center, Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce, Three Rivers Media, and Wythe Produce. Tickets will be \$7 at the gate and children 5 and under are free.

*Lauren Light*  
 June 3rd



*The Entertainers*  
 August 5th



*Withers Park*  
 Advance Ticket Price - \$5  
 Gate Price - \$7



COMMUNITY of Southwest Virginia  
 NEWSAPERS



WYTHEVILLE ENTERPRISE



Mary Ann Bennett  
 Curtis Miller  
 Josh Pennington



For More Info Call:  
 (276)223-3378  
 Facebook: wythevilleparksrec





## **ATTENTION WATER/SEWER CUSTOMERS**

THE VENDOR THAT PRINTS OUR WATER/SEWER BILLS HAS INFORMED US THAT DUE TO THE INCREASED COST OF PAPER, LABOR AND TRANSPORTATION, OUR PRINTING COSTS WILL INCREASE DRASTICALLY THIS MONTH. WITH INCREASING PRINTING COSTS, ALONG WITH DELAYS IN MAIL DELIVERY, WE ARE ENCOURAGING OUR CITIZENS TO “GO DIGITAL.”

AT THE TOP OF YOUR WATER/SEWER BILL, THERE IS A LINK TO RECEIVE YOUR BILL ELECTRONICALLY BY EMAIL. THIS WILL ALLOW YOU TO RECEIVE YOUR BILL IN A TIMELY MANNER AND HELP SAVE COSTS. IN THE MEANTIME, WE WILL EXPLORE OTHER OPTIONS FOR THE PRINTING OF OUR BILLS.