

# The Mayor's Corner

BY MAYOR BETH A. TAYLOR  
August 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

150 East Monroe Street  
beth.taylor@wytheville.org

## COME WORK WYTHE US

Come work for the Town of Wytheville, we have great employees and benefits. All the departments of the Town of Wytheville are working hard to keep things running smoothly. Unfortunately, like other businesses, the Town has a shortage of employees. We apologize if that has inconvenienced our citizens in any way. I invite you to be part of the solution by applying for a job at the Town of Wytheville by calling our Human Resources Department at 276-223-3321 or coming by the Municipal Building at 150 East Monroe Street and picking up an application. We have full-time, part-time, and seasonal positions available. A list of current openings, along with information on how to apply is available online at [www.wytheville.org/employment](http://www.wytheville.org/employment).

### Here's a list of some of the current openings:

- Full-Time Technology Specialist - Meeting Center
- Full-Time Athletic Facility Supervisor – Recreation
- Full-Time Certified or Uncertified Police Officer
- Full-Time Wastewater Treatment Plant Assistant Operator/Trainee
- Full-Time Laborer 1 - Public Utilities
- Full-Time Building Maintenance Custodian - Public Works
- Full-Time Laborer 1 - Public Works
- Part-Time Facility Assistant - Recreation
- Full-Time IT Tech/Installer – Computer Operations
- Part-Time Swim Instructor - Recreation
- Part-Time Information Desk Specialist - Visitors Center
- Part-Time Front Desk Attendant - Recreation
- Part-Time Assistant Recreation Supervisor Fitness - Recreation
- Part-Time Assistant Supervisor Climbing Wall & Teen Center - Recreation
- Part-Time Assistant Pool Supervisor - Recreation
- Part-Time Lifeguard – Recreation

Volunteer-ism is also a great way to make an impact on your community. It is a positive way to connect with others while making a valuable contribution. There are numerous ways to volunteer, you can be a volunteer on a Town Committee (276-223-3349) or with Downtown Wytheville (276-223-3343). The Museum Department (276-223-3330) has all sorts of areas inside and outside to volunteer.

## Upcoming Events

- **Wytheville Wine Festival** will be held in Withers Park on **Saturday, August 13**, from 2:00-6:00 p.m. Multiple Southwest Virginia wineries will be present with food and musical entertainment throughout the day. Advance tickets are \$15 or \$20 at the gate.



- **Light Up the Millwald** will be held on **Saturday, August 20**, from 8:00-9:00 p.m. at the Millwald Theatre on Main Street. The event will celebrate the 94th birthday of the Theatre with the lighting of the newly restored marquee sign.



- Willowbrook Homestead Museum is partnering with the Round The Mountain Artisans Network and The Crooked Road to host the **Southwest Virginia Arts & Music Fair** on **Saturday, August 27**. This event is FREE to attend. Parking is at the adjacent Wytheville Visitors Center at 975 Tazewell Street.
- **OctoberFest** will be held on **Saturday, October 1** at the Willowbrook Homestead Museum from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Sauerkraut Band will perform from 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m. Food and beer will be available for purchase. More details coming soon.



Check out the Events tab at [VisitWytheville.com](http://VisitWytheville.com) for the latest information about these and other events happening in our area!

## Important Information from Your Fire & Rescue Department

Extension cords are a common household item, but if used incorrectly can pose a fire hazard. Here are some basic extension cord tips. Only use outdoor extension cords that are made to be used for outdoor use. Never remove an extension cord's grounding pin to fit into a 2-prong outlet.



Never run multiple extension cords together. Do not run extension cords under rugs, carpets, or furniture. Stop the use of extension cords if they become hot to the touch. Extension cords are intended to be temporary solutions.

If you find that you use them all day in various areas of your home, then consider updating the electrical systems in your home.

## Important Information from Your Police Department

Did you know that Wythe County has an Emergency Alert texting service? Every member of your household that has a cell phone should sign up for this free service. In the event of a weather emergency, or other serious emergency, you will receive a text message with information and instructions. It only takes a few minutes to sign up for this free service.

Visit this website for more information and to sign up for the service:

<https://member.everbridge.net/1332612387832195/new>

## New Assistant Town Manager

I would like to introduce our new Assistant Town Manager, Ms. Elaine R. Holeyton, who joined the Wytheville Team in January 2022. Elaine has a background in planning/zoning and project management. Certifications include American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). Certified Zoning Administrator (CZA) and certified Floodplain Manager (CFM). Elaine has over ten years of local government leadership experience with prior service as Planning Director for Pulaski County and Grayson County.

## Did You Know?

- The Millwald Theatre opened its doors on August 20, 1928. This was one week after originally planned due to the seats arriving late.
- The Millwald Theatre did not originally have a lighted marquee. It had a two-sided blade sign and advertised movies on billboards beside Hobert & Grubb.
- If your toilet is running for 24 hours, it can waste over 4,000 gallons of water and can cost you up to an extra \$36 a day. If its running, turn it off and get it fixed! Remember to update your contact information with the Treasurer's office. The Water Department may be the first to detect water over usage and may be able to notify you.
- The next Shred-It event is coming soon in September or October! Stay tuned for more details.
- Downtown Wytheville has maintained Main Street America accreditation for the last six consecutive years and Downtown Wytheville's Executive Director Todd Wolford was named best director in the nation by Main Street America in 2022.



- Downtown Wytheville can assist businesses with logos, business branding and offers sign design assistance.
- The Town's wastewater and stormwater infrastructure is getting old and worn out and has seen a lot of wear and tear. The increase in demands on the system come from the growth of our community and businesses as well as mother nature. The marked increase in heavy and frequent rainfall deposits a tremendous amount of ground water and storm water which then can overload our wastewater system. The Town is in the process of evaluating the present infrastructure needs and planning future repair and growth. Regardless of new or old pipes, there are some steps we as citizens can do to decrease the incidents of "Major Backups" to help protect our pipes going forward. Help avoid these major causes of sewer backups. Avoid disposing of fats/oils/grease through the sewer system. These can build up and block sanitary sewer lines, especially in the colder weather. DO NOT flush wipes, paper towels or similar products.

FATS	OILS	GREASE
Solid at room temperature	Liquid at room temperature	Turns to liquid during cooking, but solidifies when cooled
Butter, shortening, margarine Peanut butter Meat trimmings Uncooked poultry skin Dairy: Cheeses, milk, cream, sour cream, ice cream	Vegetable oil Canola oil Olive oil Corn oil Salad dressings Cooking oils	Gravy Mayonnaise Melted meat fat Bacon and sausage Boiled poultry skin Salad dressing

# Message from New Director of Parks & Recreation

**Here is a message from our new Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Joshua Sharitz:**

*"First, I would like to introduce my family, all are glad to have me home. My wonderful and supporting wife Alisa, and three exceptional daughters, Piper, Tatum, and Laken. Growing up in Wytheville, I participated in many of the various athletic and community program offerings through the Town of Wytheville. I am thrilled to return as part of the organization. During my previous time at the Town, I worked as a lifeguard at McWane pool. When the Wellness and Recreation Center opened in 2007, I worked full time as the Aquatics Supervisor. Since that time, I have continued to be passionate about Parks and Recreation. My educational and employment opportunities have been structured along this path. My educational path started at Bluefield College where I received my degree in Business Leadership and Communication. I am presently working toward a master's degree in public administration at Virginia Tech. My professional development and journey continued with a position at Montgomery County Parks & Recreation as their Aquatics, Special Events and Youth Program Coordinator. During that time, I served in many leadership roles with Montgomery County and the Town of Blacksburg. In 2021, still commuting to work and trying to get closer to home, I took the position of Director of Parks & Recreation with Grayson County. Soon after that, I applied for the position of Director for the Town of Wytheville Parks & Recreation and was offered the position. I would like to be working on a strategic plan and invite citizens, staff, and any other stakeholders' input. Some of the goals we will be striving for are much more robust outdoor programs, more park and green space development, explore opportunities for development and expansion of walk and bike ways throughout the town and to continue to grow Crystal Springs as a hiking, climbing and mountain bike destination for all of Virginia and surrounding states. I am thrilled to return and be part of this organization and to be home."*

## Council Actions

**July 11, 2022:**

- Conducted a public hearing to consider renewing a Special Exception Permit for Mr. Larry Sharitz to open an automobile shop and to add the use to operate an auto welding shop at 140 Hillcrest Road, and later in the meeting, Council issued a Special permit for Mr. Larry Sharitz for the same.
- Made the following appointments:
  - Cathy D. Pattison as the Vice Mayor
  - Vice Mayor Pattison and Councilmember Bloomfield to the Budget and Finance committee
  - Councilmember Atkins and Councilmember Gillman to the Public Works Committee
  - Councilmember Adkins to District Three Governmental Cooperative, Councilmember Gillman as the alternate
  - Councilmember Bloomfield to the Homestead Museum Advisory Board
  - Councilmember Atkins as the Council Liaison to the Wall of Honor Committee
  - Councilmember Gilman to the Recreation Commission
  - Vice Mayor Pattison to the Wytheville Planning Commission
  - Mayor Taylor to the Tree Advisory Committee, the Beautification Task Force, and the Joint Industrial Development Authority
  - Councilmember Gillman to the Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated Board
  - Mayor Taylor and Town Manager Freeman to the Crossroads Regional Industrial Facility Authority
  - Town Manager Freeman, Vice Mayor Pattison and Councilmember Bloomfield to the New River Regional Water Authority.
- Adopted a resolution setting forth the dates, time, and place of the regular meetings of the Wytheville Town Council through June 30, 2023.
- Adopted a resolution confirming the designation and affiliation with the New River Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy as the training academy for Town of Wytheville Law Enforcement personnel.
- Adopted a resolution authorizing an application to the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, for funding to be used for equipment for the Millwald Theatre.

**June 13, 2022:**

- Adopted and presented a resolution recognizing Ms. Maggie Minton of the George Wythe High School Tennis Team for winning the Girls Singles Final State Championship.
- Postponed considering Ordinance No. 1414, which addresses Trespassing Designation of Police to Enforce Trespass Violations, until the August 8, 2022, Town Council Meeting.



*Voter Registration  
and Elections*

**General Election  
House of Representatives  
Town Election  
Tuesday, November 8, 2022**

**General Election  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Town of Wytheville & Town of Rural Retreat Council  
SAMPLE BALLOT IS AVAILABLE ONLINE**

**ACCEPTABLE FORM OF IDENTIFICATION OR  
AN ID CONFIRMATION STATEMENT IS REQUIRED!**

**POLLS OPEN 6 a.m. – 7 p.m.**

**Tuesday, October 17, 2022:** Last day to register to vote or change your voter registration information for this election.

Mailed voter registration applications must be sent to the Registrar's office postmarked on or before the deadline.

**MAIL ABSENTEE VOTING AVAILABLE**

**Request an Absentee ballot online:**

<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov>

Absentee ballots ARE counted.

**Friday, October 28, 2022:** Last day to request an absentee ballot be mailed. Applications must be received in the Registrar's office by 4:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 8, 2022: Election Day ALL** Absentee voted ballots must be returned to the Registrar's Office by 7:00 p.m. (Virginia time) to be counted.

**In-Person Absentee Voting**

225 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Wytheville VA 24382

**Monday–Friday, September 23–November 4, 2022:**

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Saturday, October 29, 2022:** 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Saturday, November 5, 2022:** Last day to vote an In-Person absentee ballot at the Registrar's Office

**Lennon Counts, Registrar**

245 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Wytheville, VA 4382

Telephone: 276-223-6038 Fax: 276-223-6039

Email: [govote@wytheco.org](mailto:govote@wytheco.org)

**Website:**

<http://www.wytheco.org/index.php/departments/voter-registration>