

December 2021

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



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Wythe Bland Animal Welfare League

Wythe Bland Animal Welfare League (WBAWL) is doing an amazing job. They are passionate and dedicated volunteers who work at the cat shelter in the Town of Wytheville. (The County of Wythe cares for the dog shelter). In 2021, there were 150 cats that were cared for at the cat shelter by these volunteers. The volunteers have big hearts and a vision. The shelter is a small space and is also the location for the Town of Wytheville's Animal Control Officer's office. The volunteers have cleaned up, organized, and even painted some walls. They would like to see the space enlarged by enclosing the car port, more painting, updating the sink to stainless and updating the bathroom. They could use a small washer/dryer unit. They hope to get more people involved by others sharing their skills, manpower, or monetary donations. Feel free to contact Ms. Debbie Turner, President of WBAWL at 276-620-7197. A major goal is for no cats to undergo euthanasia. The statistics for euthanasia in the year 2021 are 9 total, down from 22 in 2020. For that we can thank all involved.

Shredding Event

The Truliant/Chamber of Commerce spring shredding event has been postponed. Stay tuned for future details about the next event.

Council Actions

February 14, 2022:

- Conducted a public hearing to consider amending various sections of the Town of Wytheville Zoning Ordinance regarding fencing and screening regulations in all Zoning Districts within the Town. Later in the meeting, Council adopted Ordinance No. 1405, an ordinance amending various sections of the Town of Wytheville Zoning regarding fencing and screening regulations in all zoning districts within the Town.
- Conducted a public hearing to consider Article XV11-provisions for appeal, to parallel the Town of Wytheville Zoning Ordinance with the current

Virginia Code regarding the Board of Zoning Appeals and Variances. Later in the meeting, Council Adopted Ordinance No. 1406 that amended those provisions.

- Council adopted the 2022-23 Fiscal Year budget schedule: first reading will be May 9, 2022, second on May 23, 2022, and third will be June 13, 2022.
- Appointed Ms. Lisa Anderson to the Wytheville Planning Commission for a four-year term.
- Appointed the Director of Planning and the Assistant Town Manager as the alternate member to the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission Transportation Rural Technical Committee.
- Adopted a resolution authorizing certain Town Officials to execute the acceptance of conveyance of real property.
- Amended the Electronic Participation Policy for meetings.

February 28, 2022:

- Presented certificates to participants who completed the Appalachian Trail Program which was a wellness initiative through the Department of Parks and Recreation.
- Reappointed Mr. John W. Jones, Jr. to the Wytheville Planning Commission for another 4 years.
- Adopted Ordinance No. 1407, an ordinance amending and reenacting Chapter 2 Administration, by adding section 2-67, Bonuses for Employees of Local Governments, to the code of the Town of Wytheville.

Tree Planting Season is Coming!

This Spring, the Town of Wytheville will be planting more new trees along sections of Main Street between 11th Street and Grayson Road. This will complete a project that was started in 2015 with the removal of trees that were diseased or in conflict with power lines. Tree replacements have been completed in several phases. Trees in the core of Downtown Wytheville were replaced during the Town's Streetscape project. Trees along West Main Street were installed in two separate plantings funded by Appalachian Power and the Town in 2016 and 2018 respectively. This year's planting is funded by a \$5,800 grant from the Virginia Department of Forestry. The project will install about 35 trees along West Main Street between 6th Street and Grayson Road and along East Main Street between 5th Street and 11th Street.

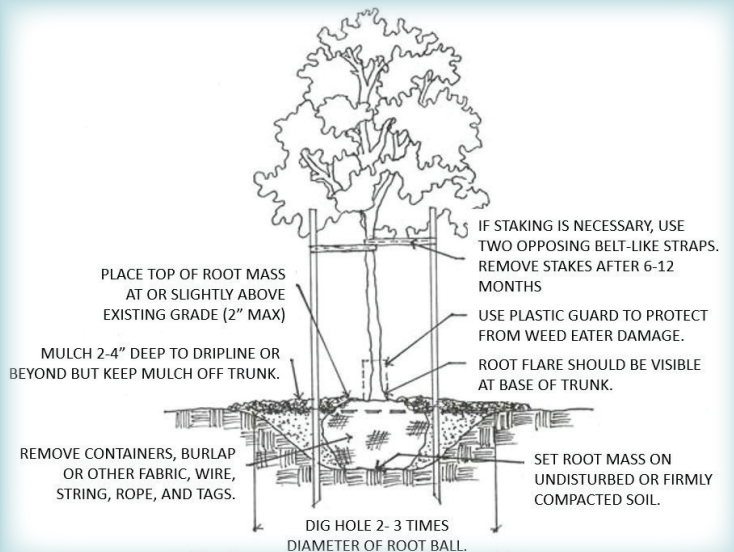
should be two to three times as wide as the root ball.

- **Placing the Tree in the Hole:** Think about how the tree should be positioned in the hole. Turn branches away from structures and pathways to avoid future conflicts. Lift the tree by the root ball not the trunk.
- **Height in the Hole:** When placed in the planting hole, the trunk flare should be even with or slightly above the surrounding grade as shown in the diagram. Remember the saying, "Plant it high; it won't die! Plant it low; it won't grow!"
- **Straighten the Tree:** Set the tree trunk plumb even if the surrounding ground is sloped.
- **Backfill:** Fill the hole with a blend of 1 part compost and 2 parts native soil. The fill material should be packed firmly to remove air pockets.
- **Staking:** Install two or three stakes as shown in the diagram for large trees or windy locations. Soft flexible ties protect the tree bark. Stakes should be removed between 6 months and one year later to promote stronger tree growth.
- **Protect the Trunk:** Install a protective shield around the base of the tree to protect the trunk from weed-eaters, rabbits, and other hazards.
- **Mulching:** Apply a 2-to-4-inch layer of mulch around the tree, but do not cover the trunk flare.
- **Irrigation:** Water your tree at least weekly to start. Your new tree will require additional water, especially during dry periods, for at least the first three years and during prolonged drought periods. Water infrequently during winter months, but don't ignore winter drought periods. Tree root growth continues all winter long.
- **Fertilizer:** Provide quality all-purpose fertilizer when planting and every spring and fall. Avoid "Weed-n-Feed" fertilizers for your lawn. The same chemicals that kill those dandelions will slowly kill most trees.

Trees for Your Home

Many Wytheville homeowners will also be planting trees this summer. Trees add value to your home and create cooler summer temperatures in our community. The benefits of trees are tremendous. If you would like to add a tree or two in your yard, here are some tips for assuring that your tree thrives for many years to come.

- **When to Plant:** Plant trees during the dormant season. Late fall planting is best in our area but planting in early spring before trees bud out is also good.
- **Utility Mark-out:** Do not dig until you are sure there are no buried utilities. Call Miss Utility by dialing 811 before you dig.
- **Selecting the Location:** Select a location away from power lines, foundations and other structures that might be damaged by the mature tree.
- **Preparing the Planting Hole:** The planting hole should be no deeper than the depth of the root ball but



Bring Out Your Dancing Shoes!



Djoukil, a group from Lyon, France, inspired by the jazz and swing genres of the 1940s American culture, will make a return visit to Wytheville Friday, April 22, at the Wytheville Meeting Center Ballroom. Tickets are \$50 (includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, desserts and drink). Beer and wine available for purchase. Fundraiser for co-sponsors Town of Wytheville Department of Museums and Wythe County Historical Society. Reserve your tickets at (276) 223-3330.