



**THE TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE TREASURER'S OFFICE  
WILL BE CLOSED**

**MARCH 27TH — APRIL 3RD, 2024**

**TO PERFORM A COMPUTER CONVERSION.**

**THE NEW SOFTWARE WILL ENHANCE THE  
OPERATIONS OF THE TREASURER'S OFFICE  
AS WELL AS PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SERVICES TO  
TOWN CITIZENS.**

**WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.**

**FOR PAYMENTS, PLEASE USE THE NIGHT DROP LOCATED AT THE  
FRONT OF THE BUILDING OR USE THE ONLINE PAYMENT OPTION AT  
[HTTPS://WWW.WYTHEVILLE.ORG/ONLINE-PAYMENTS](https://www.wytheville.org/online-payments)**

**FOR WATER/SEWER EMERGENCIES DURING THE CLOSURE, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**BILLY ANDERSON 276-223-3434**

**OR**

**MICHAEL DAVIS 276-223-3428**

Spring is in the air! From Groundhog Day predictions to outdoor activities and yes, the Town of Wytheville Mowing Regulations!

# The Mayor's Corner

BY MAYOR BETH A. TAYLOR

March 2024



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

## Origin of Groundhog Day

We joke about this holiday every year, but what is the origin of the Groundhog Day prediction? The holiday, which began as a German custom in southeastern and central Pennsylvania in the 18th and 19th centuries, has its origin in ancient European weather lore, wherein a badger or sacred bear is the prognosticator as opposed to a groundhog. According to the Germanic tradition, if a hibernating animal casts a shadow on February 2, winter/cold weather will last another six weeks. So, is he right? The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club states that, as of 2024, Phil (the groundhog) has predicted more winters (108) than springs (21). The Stormfax Weather Almanac says that is a 39% accuracy rate.



## Do You Need A Permit

If you are planning to make changes to your property this Spring, here are some items that may need permits in the Town of Wytheville.

- **Swimming pools**, in-ground and above, new and old (if they did not go through an inspection previously when they were put in place.)
- **Chickens** (in Town limits)? Yes, you need a permit.
- **Construction** of new buildings, housing, additions and storage or outbuildings also need permits.
- You need a permit to put up new **fences** of any kind, in any place, in the Town of Wytheville. See the Town of Wytheville's fence ordinance, which is found in Article 16, Section 16-20 (Fencing Regulations) of the Zoning Ordinance located on the Town's website. (Go to [www.wytheville.org](http://www.wytheville.org), click the Government tab, and select the Ordinances link.) The online permitting portal can be found at [WythevilleVA.Portal.OpenGov.com](http://WythevilleVA.Portal.OpenGov.com).

For further information, contact **Dr. John Woods**, Zoning Administrator and Director of Planning, at **276-223-3361**, [jwoods@wytheville.org](mailto:jwoods@wytheville.org).

## Mowing Ordinance

The Town of Wytheville would like to remind property owners of their obligation to the **Town's Mowing Ordinance Chapter 12. Solid Waste Collection and Disposal, Article IV. Nuisances on Premises, Removal of Weeds, Mowing, Etc., and Clutter, Division 2. Removal of Weeds, Mowing, Etc., of the code of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia**. This ordinance was amended on June 26, 2023, to reflect the need to control grass, weeds and other foreign growth to a height of 12 inches. **NOTE: the previous verbiage of only having to mow three (3) times a season is no longer in our code.** The Town would



like to remind citizens that it is unlawful to dispose of grass, weeds and other vegetative debris on the sidewalks and streets of the Town. The Town of Wytheville appreciates the efforts of its citizens in maintaining yards and outdoor spaces. Please contact the **Town Clerks office** at **(276) 223-3349**, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the Mowing Ordinance or if you would like a copy of Division 2. Removal of Weeds, Mowing, Etc., Sec. 12-92 Excessive Vegetation; Overgrowth; Sec. 12-93. Nontraditional Landscaping of Property; and Sec. 12-94. Mowing Exemptions. The complete Code of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, can be viewed online at [Library.Municode.com/VA/Wytheville](http://Library.Municode.com/VA/Wytheville).

## Contacting After Hours

Due to the Town's aging infrastructure and cold/wet weather, we want Town citizens to be able to contact the appropriate department after hours.

- **Water/Sewer** issues, contact the **Public Utilities Department**
- **Street Maintenance** and related issues from storm or snow damage, contact the **Street Maintenance Department**
- **Traffic Signals** and **Town Building** issues, contact the **Maintenance Department**

To relay any of the above issues after hours (**Monday-Thursday after 5:00 p.m., Friday after 12 noon, and on weekends**), call **(276) 223-3300**. Please **follow the "prompts"** on the phone for your specific concerns and the department you need to reach.

HERE  
TO  
HELP

## From the Wytheville Fire & Rescue Department

The **Burn Law** is in effect from **February 15 until April 30**. Open burning is only allowed **between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and midnight**, if it is within 300 feet of wooded area or dry grass. Burns must always be attended to. The 4:00 p.m. Burn Law applies to open air burning, which means any outdoor fire that is not covered and/or contained within a non-flammable barrier and the smoke from the fire does not pass through a chimney.



## From the Wytheville Police Department

### NO TEXTING WHILE DRIVING - IT'S THE LAW

What is distracted driving? Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating, drinking, talking to people in your own vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system, anything that takes your attention



away from safe driving. Texting is the most alarming distraction. Sending or reading your text takes your eyes off the road for five seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

You cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full attention. Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing.

What are some of the consequences? Using a cell phone while driving creates enormous potential for deaths and injuries on U.S. roads. In 2020, 3,142 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers. Teens can be the best messengers with their peers, so we encourage them to speak up when they see a friend driving while distracted, to have their friends sign a pledge to never drive distracted, to become involved with their local Students Against Distractive Decisions chapter, and to share messages on social media that remind their friends, family and neighbors not to make a deadly choice to drive distracted. Parents first must lead by example by never driving distracted as well as having a talk with their young driver about distraction and all the responsibilities that come with driving. Have everyone in the family sign the pledge to commit to distraction-free driving. Remind your teen driver that in states with a graduated drivers license (GDL), a violation of distracted-driving laws could mean a delayed or suspended license. Educators and employers can play a part too. Spread the word at your school or workplace about the dangers of distracted driving. Ask your students to commit to distraction-free driving or set a company policy on distracted driving.

## Committee Vacancies

Want to be involved in your Town? Here are the committee vacancies coming up soon.

- **Tree Advisory Committee:** One position is open now and two more opening in May.
- **Smyth-Wythe Airport Commission:** One position is opening in June.

For more information, contact the **Town Clerks** office at **276-223-3349**.



## Save the Date

- **Hometown Sounds: Musical Culture in Wythe County** is now on display at the **Wythe County Decorative Arts Museum** and will run through **March and April**. Located at the Homestead Museum at 1125 Tazewell Street, it is open for tours **Wednesday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**



- **The 2024 BA-BA (Bands, Art, Bourbon and Ale) Festival** is scheduled for **Saturday, June 1**, at the **Homestead Museum** located at 1125 Tazewell Street from **2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.** Free admission into the event. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Some of the featured musical artists are Adam Boly, Nate Montgomery and Annabelle's Curse. If you know an artisan, distiller, brewer, winery or food truck vendor that is willing to participate, or if you or your company want to be a sponsor, please call Museums Director Grant Gerlich at **(276) 223-3433**.



## Council Actions

### February 12, 2024:

- Authorized the Town Treasurer to write the following amounts off the Town books: 2018 Personal Property/Mobile Home Taxes of \$758.51; water and sewer accounts over the statute of limitations of \$60,085.96.
- Scheduled a Special Town Council Meeting for Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. and scheduled a public hearing for this meeting to consider a bond in the maximum amount of \$491,784 to be used to pay the cost of capital improvements to the Town's wastewater facilities.
- Approved the request of Open Door Community's Director of Marketing and Communications, Mr. Eric Bucey, to provide traffic control on Saturday, June 15, 2024, to conduct the Fast and Fiorini Metric Century Charity Ride.
- Appointed Mr. Rick Krietemeyer as the second alternate member to the Wytheville Building Code Appeals Board (term expires July 26, 2028).
- Reappointed Mr. George Wittwer to the Wytheville Planning Commission for a four-year term (new term expires March 2, 2028).
- Conducted a closed meeting for consultation with legal counsel for legal advice.

### February 26, 2024:

- Approved the request of Rural King Realty, Inc. for a Subdivision Variation, as presented.
- Approved the request of District Three Governmental Cooperative for a Waiver of Fees for the use of Withers Park on Thursday, June 13, 2024, for a Senior Day in the Park event.
- Scheduled a public hearing for the Town Council meeting on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, to consider amendments to the Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget.



Wytheville has a bright & vibrant future, full of growth.  
A new year gives us the opportunity to reach into the  
future for new & exciting projects.  
Please consider donating to your favorite department!

You can choose the department you wish to support!  
All donations are tax deductible!  
Remember to ask your employer if they match employee donations!

DONATE LAND • MAKE A MEMORIAL GIFT • MAKE A DEFERRED GIFT  
DIRECT GIFT OF CASH OR SECURITIES (STOCKS & BONDS)  
PLEDGE & BUILD YOUR LEGACY (MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION)

DONATE ONCE • DONATE MONTHLY • LEAVE IN YOUR WILL

For more information call the Town of Wytheville  
Treasurers Office at 276-223-3333