

October 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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Enjoy the Outdoors This Fall

Autumn is one of the most scenic times of year in Southwest Virginia. Our beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains turn to shades of red, gold and orange before the weather grows colder. It's an ideal time for you and your family to get outdoors and breathe in some of the mountain air while exploring some of our wonderful parks and recreation areas.

Just three miles from Downtown Wytheville, Crystal Springs Recreation Area encompasses 1,800 acres of town-owned property offering a variety of hiking and biking trails. The recreation area is surrounded by the 7500-acre Big Survey Wildlife Management Area, managed by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. The thirteen miles of hiking and mountain biking trails range in difficulty from beginner to advanced. The newly built terrain park gives the intermediate to experienced mountain biker a fun place to practice on balance beams, teeter totters, rock gardens, log crossings, and other obstacles.



There is a lot of history tucked away in the mountains that make up Crystal Springs. Prior to the Town of Wytheville purchasing the property, families farmed and logged the land. Piles of rocks that were cleared from the fields by farmers still stand along Woodpecker Run Trail as testaments to how difficult farming in the mountains could be. The Short Cut Trail and the southern portion of the Boundary Trail follow an old wagon road that crossed Lick Mountain. Stories passed through the generations tell of moonshiners using this road to move their product out of the sight of law enforcement. In the 1930's, the Town of Wytheville purchased the land to preserve the watershed, which flowed to the town, and to build a water reservoir. The reservoir remains and is approximately 60 square feet and 8 feet deep, although years of erosion have filled it with sediment. Hike the Crystal Springs Loop Trail to see the remnants of the reservoir. Along the Waterline Trail you can see the sections of the water pipe that carried water from the reservoir down the valley. Evidence of the past is scattered all throughout Crystal Springs, but you will have to look closely as it is now camouflaged by mother nature.



Take a little time this fall to enjoy the beauty of Crystal Springs. For more information, visit our tourism website at VisitWytheville.com or stop by the Visitors Center at 975 Tazewell Street.

Did You Know?

- The last Vintage Baseball game for this year will be held on Sunday, October 17, at 4:00 p.m. at Withers Park.
- The Wythe County Historical Society is restoring the historic school building known as the "Spiller Annex" and they need your help. Call 276-228-6061 or 276-223-3330 for more information.
- The Town of Wytheville has several committee vacancies, including the youth member spot on the Recreation Committee and a vacancy on the Wytheville Industrial Development Authority. If you are interested in serving, please contact Town Clerk Sherry Corvin at 276-223-3349

Medical Transportation Cost Savings

By air or ground, there are cost savings programs available to all citizens who need medical transportation and do not have the funds/insurance available to cover the high cost of transportation to the hospital. Here are two ways to protect your family and your finances.

* **By Ground:** The Wytheville Fire & Rescue Department offers a plan called the "Ride Saver" program. It is available to Wytheville and Wythe County citizens we have the pleasure to serve. For \$200 annually, the program covers any out-of-pocket expenses not covered by insurance, uninsured citizens and out-of-pocket interfacility transports (hospital to hospital) expenses. All individuals who reside in the household and are listed on the form are covered. This \$200 fee is good for one year only. If interested, please call 276-223-3302 or send a message on Facebook (Wytheville Fire & Rescue Department).

* **By Air:** Helicopter transportation from hospital to hospital can result in significant out of pocket expenses even if you have health insurance. The AirMedCare network can help with these expenses. Some of the member benefits include no out-of-pocket costs if flown by AirMedCare, membership covers all members of your household, and you are covered while traveling in 38 states. I have had my family covered since my children were young. Now, I'm more concerned about my husband and myself as we get older.

For more information, please call 1-540-588-2732.

VML Award

Councilman Mark Bloomfield and I recently attended the Virginia Municipal League (VML) Annual Conference in Leesburg and were honored to accept an award on



behalf of the Town. Each year, the VML bestows honors, called Innovation Awards, for excellence in local government. The statewide competition recognizes innovative problem-solving, excellence in management, citizen participation, and improved services to citizens. This year, the Town of

Wytheville received the Communications award for the 40-minute video presentation entitled the "Wytheville Christmas Show." As you will recall, this video included performances and interesting segments from some of the most talented people in our community to help bring some holiday cheer during 2020's unusual holiday season. We appreciate all those who were involved in making this video possible and are pleased that our community has been recognized with this state award.

Emergency Preparedness Guide

The Wytheville Police Department has a booklet called the "Emergency Preparedness Guide." Today, I will share the tools and equipment we all should have on hand in a designated area of our home, easily accessible and high enough to avoid flooding. Here's a list of some important emergency items: battery powered radio, flashlights and extra batteries, resealable plastic bags, heavy duty plastic garbage bags, washcloths and towels, paper cups/plates and plastic eating utensils, toiletries such as toothbrush and soap, change of clothing/extra shoes/socks and blankets or sleeping bags for each person. Personal items should include your personal identification, copies of birth and marriage certificates, an inventory list of household items, bank account numbers, extra car and house keys, and your prescription medications. Let's not forget our first aid kit to include (but don't forget those items that may pertain to your health issues) bandages and wraps, antacid, antidiarrhea medicine and laxatives, aspirin and a non-aspirin pain reliever, cleaning agents such as soap or hydrogen peroxide, latex gloves, germicide, petroleum jelly, cotton balls, needle and thread, thermometer, tourniquet, tweezers, and scissors.

Council Actions

September 13, 2021:

- Conducted a public hearing to consider amending and reenacting the Code of the Town of Wytheville, VA, Chapter 5, Cemeteries, Section 5-6 Monument Work and Markers, regarding the foundation depth requirement for monuments and markers.
- Appointed Town Manager T. Brian Freeman, or his designee, as the Town Air Pollution Control Officer.
- Adopted Ordinance No. 1401, an ordinance amending and reenacting Chapter 5, Cemeteries, Section 5-6. Monument Work and Markers, of the Code of the Town of Wytheville VA, on first and final reading.
- Approved Ordinance No. 1402, an ordinance of the Council of the Town of Wytheville, VA, to accept the highest bid and establish criteria, procedures, and standards by which the Town will grant and enforce a natural gas franchise on first, but not yet final, reading.

September 27, 2021:

- Amended Ordinance No. 1402, to accept the highest bid and establish criteria, procedures, and standards by which the Town will grant and enforce a natural gas franchise, to name the franchise grantee as Atmos Energy Corporation, and adopted the ordinance on second and final reading.