

The Mayor's Corner

BY MAYOR BETH A. TAYLOR

December 2023

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

Give Thanks

What a wonderful Holiday Season we are experiencing in the Town of Wytheville. There are so many enjoyable Christmas events scheduled that are sponsored by local businesses, Downtown Wytheville, civic organizations, and the Town of Wytheville. How fortunate we are to live in a community that works together to make such celebrations possible for all! Let's take a moment to thank our Veterans and those in Active Military Service, our first responders - Police, Fire and Rescue, and Health Care Workers. Individually and collectively, all these folks make a huge impact on our community through their dedication and sacrifice. As we reflect on this year, we have so much to be thankful for and many things to look forward to in the future.

From the Wytheville Police Dept

Holiday travel is always at a peak this time of the year. The Wytheville Police Department wants you to make it to your destination safely.

Tips to remember:

- Be flexible in your travel plans, try to avoid peak hours.
- Perform a maintenance check on your vehicle before you hit the road.
- Make sure you have extra warm clothes, water, food, and gas.
- Take rest breaks.
- Designate a driver if alcohol is involved.
- Do not drive distracted. Put your cell phone down.

Upcoming Events



- **Wytheville's A Christmas To Remember** event will be held from **2:00-8:00 p.m.** on **Saturday, December 9, 2023.**

MILLWALD

Historic Millwald Theatre Events for December

Here are some of the events being held at the Millwald during December. Visit TheMillwald.org for more information.

- **December 8: Scott Fore with Wayne Henderson and Friends at 7:00 p.m.**
- **December 9: Roanoke Symphony Orchestra Holiday Brass at 7:00 p.m.**
- **December 15: The Tree of Forgiveness Band: A John Pride Tribute at 8:00 p.m.**

Let's Take Care of Our Furry Friends

Remember your pets are part of your family, and it is your responsibility to care for them.

There are state laws that our Animal Control Officer follows.

Here are a few cold weather tips to follow:

At 32 degrees or less, no owned animal should be left outside unless they have access to a well-insulated structure that is large enough to curl up in and has a wind block at the door; a heated water bowl or access to an unfrozen water source; has a floor; is elevated from the ground; has cedar shavings, dry straw or its equivalent; and has heating or an outdoor heating pad. Blankets are not to be used, because they hold moisture.

From the Wytheville Fire & Rescue Dept

Wintertime is holiday time - and that means lots of cooking, lots of entertaining, and unfortunately, lots of opportunities for home fires to occur. Considering many fires occur during the colder months, the Wytheville Fire and Rescue Department urges individuals to pay particular attention to fire safety during the winter and holiday season.

The winter season and holidays create a greater risk of fire. The following are a few safety tips from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) to ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season:

- **Do not overload outlets or misuse extension cords** • **Turn off lights and decorations before going to bed or leaving the home**
- **Replace old or worn holiday lights** • **Replace worn out electrical cords and do not run extension cords under carpet or mats**
- **Keep a clear space of at least three (3) feet around heating devices** • **Be sure you have working smoke detectors in your home**

Here are some additional fire safety thoughts. Make sure your fire alarm in your home is present and working. If you don't have one, please contact me (the Mayor) at 276-620-7301 and I'll try to help you out.

Caution, this is the time of year that the air is dry, the temperature is low and the decorations for the season are going up. Be very diligent and DO NOT start any outdoor fires for burning anything, do not start campfires, or any other fires!! If using heaters inside make sure they are meant for indoors, keep them away from anything flammable, do not use extension cords! If you are putting up holiday decorations, outside or inside – make sure the lights are tested and working, make sure only outside lights are used outside and inside lights are tested and in good condition. I would recommend thinking twice about using a real Christmas tree inside due to the extreme dry air and lack of water, as mother nature has not been able to provide for the trees. If you use a live tree inside, I recommend no lights.

Council Actions

November 13, 2023:

- Approved the Farmers Market Board to have a mural painted inside the Farmers Market building and for the Board to purchase sun shades to be installed on the porch area.
- Approved the request for the Wythe County Public Schools Foundation for Excellence to provide traffic control on Saturday, January 13, 2024, to conduct a Sandman Half Marathon and the MLK 5K Run.
- Approved the request of Open Door Café to provide traffic control on Thursday, November 23, 2023 to conduct the Stuffed Strut 5K Run.
- Approved the request of the Kiwanis Club of Wythe County to provide traffic control on Saturday, May 4, 2024, to conduct a 5K Run.
- Approved the request of Downtown Wytheville Incorporated to provide traffic control on Saturday, December 2, 2023, for the Wytheville Christmas Parade and Celebration.
- Established the Property Tax Reimbursement Rate at 36.48 percent.
- Scheduled Meet and Greet sessions for applicants for the Joint Industrial Development Authority and for the Building Code Appeals Board.
- Dispensed with the December 25, 2023, Town Council Meeting due to the Christmas holiday.
- Amended the holiday hours for Friday, December 22, 2023, from four holiday hours to eight holiday hours (Christmas Eve observance).
- Amended the holiday hours for Wednesday, November 22, 2023, from four holiday hours to eight holiday Hours (Thanksgiving holiday observance).
- Approved providing the full-time and part -time employees with a Christmas Bonus.
- Held a closed session regarding acquisition/disposition of property used for a public purpose.
- Authorized the Town Manager to offer the Town owned property on Stafford Umberger Drive to the interested party at an amount authorized by Town Council and subject to the approval of the Town Council after a public hearing, and if unsuccessful, prepare a request for proposal (RFP) for a real estate agent to be selected by the Council.
- Set a public hearing for the January 8, 2024, Town Council meeting to consider the proposed acquisition of real property for \$200,000 at 1035 North Fourth Street.

November 27, 2023:

- Appointed Vicki Parks to the Joint Industrial Development Authority for a four year term, which expires November 10, 2027.
- Made the following Appointments to the Wytheville Building Code Appeals Board: Landon Sayers for a five year term which expires July 26, 2028; and Andy Sayers to fill an unexpired term which expires July 26, 2026.



Wythe County Real Estate Credit for Elderly and Handicapped

INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR ANNUAL ELIGIBILITY

MAXIMUM WYTHE COUNTY CREDIT IS \$200.00
MAXIMUM TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE CREDIT IS \$100.00

QUALIFICATIONS (Each of the following must be met for eligibility):

- **Must be age 65 and/or totally disabled before January 1 of the tax year.**
- **Annual household income may not exceed \$30,000.**
- **Total net worth (excluding the house and one acre of land) may not exceed \$80,000.**
- **An application MUST BE completed in our office every year between February 1 and May 1.**

VERIFICATION OF INCOME AND ASSETS:

Please bring all of the following items that pertain to you into the office when you apply each year for this credit:

Verification of **ALL INCOME** from the previous year for you, your spouse **AND** anyone living in the household with you. Such verification needed is:

- **Federal Income Tax Returns for the Previous Year**
- **Form SSA-1099 Social Security Statement**
- **SSI Statement**
- **Fuel Assistance**
- **Food Stamps**
- **Railroad and/or Retirement Income from ANY Source**
- **Rental Income**
- **Inheritance**
- **Interest & Dividends**

Verification of **ALL ASSETS** for you, your spouse **AND** anyone living in the household with you. Such verification needed is:

- **Checking Account Bank Statement from December of the Previous Year**
- **Savings Account Bank Statement from December of the Previous Year**
- **IRA Account Statements**
- **Savings Bonds Statements**

KATHY T. VAUGHT, COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE
101 WYTHE COUNTY COURTHOUSE • 225 SOUTH FOURTH STREET
PH: 276-223-6015 • FAX: 276-223-6047

Town of Wytheville Animal Control **Cold Weather Animal Care & Information**

Phone: 276-223-3300

After Hours: 911

Email: wpdac@wytheville.org

PROVIDE SHELTER

At 32°F or less, no owned animal should be left outdoors unless they have access to a well-insulated structure that:

- Is large enough to curl up in and has a wind block at the door
- Includes a heated water bowl so they have access to an unfrozen water source
- Has a floor, is elevated from the ground, has cedar shavings, dry straw or the equivalent and has heating or an outdoor heating pad

WALKING YOUR DOG

- Consider shortening your walks if the temperature is too frigid & increase indoor exercise.
- Ask your vet if your pet may benefit from additional clothing beyond their "fur coat" in chilly weather.
- Watch for any signs of injury or extreme cold to their paws, especially in snow or ice.

WARNING SIGNS

Signs that an animal may be getting too cold include:

- Trembling
- Sleepiness
- Slowed Breathing
- Mobility Issues
- Dry Skin
- Numbness
- Illness

Download the complete Town of Wytheville
Animal Care & Information Brochure at:
Wytheville.org/Docs/General/O10422-Animal-Safety-Brochure.pdf



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!

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

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

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

