

The Mayor's Corner

By Mayor Beth A. Taylor

Fellow Citizens,

As we begin a new fiscal year for the Town of Wytheville, the Wytheville Town Council is pleased to announce that Stephen A. Moore has been appointed as the new Town Manager effective July 1, 2020. Previously, Mr. Moore had been our Assistant Town Manager for almost thirty years. We welcome Mr. Moore's leadership and experience to this important role within Town Administration.

Wytheville Fire & Rescue

As mentioned previously, the Wytheville Fire & Rescue Department will be working to improve our Town's ISO (Insurance Services Office) rating. This can save money

by lowering our homeowner's insurance. The ISO fire insurance rating, also referred to as a fire score or public protection classification (PPC) is a score from 1 to 10 that indicates how well-protected the community is by the local fire department. The lower the score, the better the rating. Our current rating is five in the Town limits and the number is nine in the more rural areas in Wythe County. According to the ISO's Fire Suppression Rating Scale (FSRS), there are four main criteria to a fire rating score.

- 50% - quality of your local fire department (staffing levels, training and proximity of the fire house).
- 40% - availability of water supply (fire hydrants and the amount of water available)
- 10% - quality of the area's Emergency Communications System (911).
- An extra 5.5% - community outreach, including fire prevention and safety courses.

Another component to improving the ISO score is response time. Since the Town has taken over Wythe County EMS services into the Fire & Rescue Department, response times have gotten quicker which therefore provides a better service to our community. A total of six minutes and twenty seconds is allotted from the time the alarm is received at dispatch to the time the first fire engine arrives. Most of the calls are now meeting this standard.

Chief Marc Brade and his team are working hard to lower the Town's ISO rating. If you happen to see the fire and rescue crews out and about, make sure to slow down and give them a safe workspace. Also, give them a wave and a word of encouragement and support. I would like to give Chief Brade and his Team a big thank you for their hard work. We were also pleased to see the wonderful national television coverage that our Fire & Rescue Department received by being included in the CBS program entitled United We Sing: A Grammy Tribute to the Unsung Heroes. If you did not see it, there's still time to view the entire episode by following this link:

<https://www.cbs.com/shows/grammys/>.

Wytheville Police Department

A message from Acting Chief Joel Hash: Traffic has increased in the Town of Wytheville due to some of the restrictions being lifted by Governor Ralph Northam. The increase in traffic and people getting out more has drawn a lot of attention to traffic violations being committed. Please be cautious of your speed and other traffic law violations. Our goal at the Wytheville Police Department is to enforce the Virginia Traffic Laws and to keep our community safe. Remember, we're here to assist you in any way possible, but we also have a job to do. Our streets, our community, the people whom we serve, are the uttermost safety concerns to the Wytheville Police Department. Be Smart, Be Safe and Be Happy.

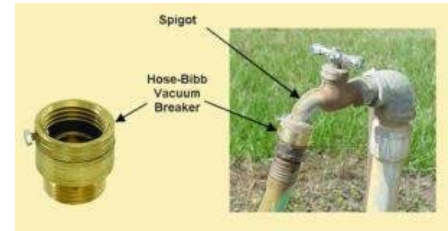


Water Utilities Department

What is a Cross-Connection? A cross connection is any actual or potential link or connection between your drinking water system and any source of contamination. Cross connections can occur due to backpressure or back siphonage, which together are kinds of backflow. Backflow is the reversed flow of contaminated water or other liquids into your drinking water system.

Typical Residential Cross-Connections:

- Hose Bibs
- Jacuzzis and Hot tubs
- Swimming Pools
- Toilet Ball-cocks (pre modern)



An estimated 50% of all residential cross connections revolve around the use of water hoses and hose bibs. A simple and inexpensive solution is a screw on vacuum breaker installed between the water hose and hose bib. For more information: <https://wytheville.org/townoffice/pdf2020/cross-connection-information.pdf>.

Wytheville Convention & Visitors Bureau

As we all realize, travel and tourism has been significantly impacted by COVID-19. Here is a short update about what our tourism department is doing to help bring visitors to Wytheville as our country reopens and people begin to travel. Experts forecast that people are more likely to visit destinations they can drive to, rather than flying, and that they will seek out smaller areas over major cities because of the perception that these areas are safer from the virus (and in recent weeks, safer from riots). That's good for Wytheville. We are designing our advertising to promote the idea that Wytheville is a safe and relaxing getaway location and emphasizing our vast outdoor recreation and diverse selection of authentic attractions.

We are focusing on the drive markets that are within a two-six hours radius of Wytheville. Many of these areas have been under quarantined conditions since the beginning of the outbreak and these individuals, couples, and families will be ready to get out and enjoy a getaway to our beautiful, relaxing mountains. We also hope to soon begin to see increased travel from the group tour industry as well as more meetings and events being held at the Wytheville Meeting Center. We will continue to increase our marketing and advertising throughout the summer and fall in print, online, and on social media platforms.

Council Actions

- Ordinance No.1381: The 2020-2021 Town of Wytheville Budget Ordinance. The budget is balanced and totals \$23,496,120.
- Ordinance No.1382: This is an amendment to the personnel policy and sets forth guidelines for employees who are permitted to work at home.
- Ordinance No.1383: Ordinance adopting and enacting a new code for the Town of Wytheville.

Appointments:

- Mr. Steve Moore as Town Manager effective July 1, 2020

Re-appointments:

- Mr. Michael Stephens as Town Treasurer
- Mrs. Sherry Corvin as Town Clerk
- Mr. Chris Menerick as Town Attorney
- Mr. Brad Litton to the Building Code Appeals Board

Did You Know?

- The Wytheville Recreation Center plans to reopen to the public on Monday, July 6. Please go to <https://www.wytheville.org/recreation/covid19> for a breakdown of operational changes.
- The Wytheville Meeting Center plans to reopen to the public on Wednesday, July 15.
- The Museums of Wytheville plans to reopen to the public on Saturday, September 5.
- E. Lee Trinkle Regional Visitors Center plans to reopen to the public on Saturday, August 1.
- The Census is still ongoing. PLEASE BE COUNTED AND COMPLETE YOUR CENSUS! If you need assistance, I am willing to help you, please call 276-223-3356 or 276-620-7301 and leave a message. This is very important to our communities, Wytheville and Wythe County. It effects how much funding we receive from the Federal and State Governments.
- That if you have a swimming pool over two feet in depth, by state law, in a county or town, you need a permit, and can be fined for non-compliance with safety regulations.

I welcome the opportunity to talk to you regarding your ideas and concerns. I can be reached by phone at (276) 223-3356 or via email at beth.taylor@wytheville.org.

**Thank You, Wayne Sutherland,
for 40 Years of Dedicated Service
to the Citizens of the
Town of Wytheville**

**A Career of Vision,
Dedication, & Integrity**

