

Wytheville

A Publication of the Town of Wytheville

Observer

April • May • June 2015 • www.wytheville.org



Run For The Wall Returns to Wytheville

"It doesn't seem possible that this will be the fifteenth time that Run For The Wall has come to Wytheville," said Wytheville Mayor Trent Crewe. "What an incredible impact this group of honorable Americans has made on our community. How fortunate we are that they chose our Wytheville to be a host town."

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New Website Unveiled

In today's world of technology, websites have become a key instrument used to convey information to the public. The World Wide Web is recognized as an important source of information and an accepted form of media and communication. In recent years, governmental agencies, large and small, have increased their use of the Internet as an effective means to communicate with their citizens, businesses, and those who are interested in their communities.

"For many years, the Town of Wytheville has had a municipal website to relay information to our citizens. It was time for us to relook at its effectiveness and create a new look with added enhancements to communicate information more efficiently," said Wayne Sutherland, Town Manager.

During 2014, the Town of Wytheville Computer Operations Department began planning to do a complete

redesign of the Town's website. They looked at a variety of websites to get ideas regarding how to make the Town's more user-friendly. Software programs and other aspects of technology were also investigated. Computer Operations also received feedback from some of the Town departments to help determine what types of information they needed to communicate. Then the design work began.

Continued, See New Website, page 4

MAYOR'S MEMO

by Mayor Trenton G. Crewe, Jr.



My last column was dedicated, as a somber tribute, to a dear friend and fellow councilman who left us way too soon. Now, I would like to begin this column with a hearty welcome to the gentleman who has so kindly stepped up to help fill this huge void.

We welcome Bill Weisiger back to Wytheville Town Council with our gratitude as he has agreed to serve the late Jack Hunley's term until the next election (May 2016). Bill is no stranger to Wytheville Town Council or our community. Beginning in 1994, he was elected and served four terms and is a long-time pharmacist and owner of Counts Drug Store. He will serve on our Budget and Finance Committee as well as other boards and committees on behalf of the Town.

We would like to commend the Wytheville Police Department (WPD) for once again successfully completing the accreditation process. The WPD has been an accredited agency since 2002. While the evaluation process for this occurs every four years, this is an ongoing effort by our police department to maintain the standards, procedures, and documentation necessary to achieve this accreditation designation. Interestingly, having this accreditation allows us to have a discount on the Town's risk management liability insurance which in turn saves tax dollars. We applaud their continued hard work in this regard.

A beautiful spring is underway with lots of activities throughout our community. Downtown Wytheville continues to make strides in our revitalization efforts. The next event on tap will be the Artisan Showcase & Sale on Saturday, April 25, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This will be located in Hannah's Attic on Main Street and will coincide with the grand opening of their new location. We are happy to see business growth in our downtown and it is especially good to see an existing business have such success that necessitates expansion. Make plans to come out to this free event and see some of the most talented artisans in our region showcasing their handcrafted skills.

The removal of the Bradford pear trees in the downtown area between Sixth and Fifth Streets has been underway. While providing flowers, green leaves, and shade to the downtown for decades, the trees have outgrown their planting areas, obstruct traffic signals, and need to be replaced. This is the first of many steps in the downtown streetscape improvements that have been funded by a Community Development Block Grant. While the new work is presently in the early design stages, new trees will be included. The Town

will utilize the resources of the Town's Tree Committee and landscape architects in the selection of the replacement trees. These experts will advise on the most appropriate trees that should be planted in these locations. Many of these trees will be replaced beginning in the fall of 2015.

There's no doubt that May is a busy month in our community on several levels. The activities that are annually held during the latter part of the month, shine a light on the freedom we enjoy as Americans and give us an opportunity to show our humble thanks. On May 20, Run For The Wall will roll into Wytheville for the fifteenth time. I have ridden with them each time and it is hard for me to imagine that so much time has passed. We are blessed to welcome them into our town. I know that they have made a lasting impact on many here. But, do you realize what an impact you have made on them? Every year, during the ride and in the months leading up to it, I hear from riders from all across the country. They all are unified in what they have to say—they can't wait to get to Wytheville. Some of these folks have served our country all over the world. Many were on the frontline during wartime. Too many didn't receive the respect they deserved when they came home. Decades later, they joined this cross country journey to try to heal and raise awareness. What they didn't realize is that they would ride into a small town in Virginia one day and finally be welcomed home. If there is a tear in your eye as you read those words, you understand what your impact has been. My heart is filled with pride at the love, compassion, and honor that you have shown to this wonderful group of Americans.

A few days after this ceremony, our annual Memorial Day ceremony will also be held in Withers Park. If

Continued Page 3

you haven't been to this ceremony in recent years, I encourage you to come out on Sunday, May 24. As is our tradition, we are honored to have a local veteran be our speaker this year, Michael Sobey. The event begins at 1:30 p.m. It is a solemn and inspiring tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

I welcome the opportunity to talk to you regarding your ideas and concerns. My office, at the Wytheville Municipal Building, is open prior to Council meetings on the second and fourth Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m., and other times by appointment. I can also be reached by phone at 223-3356 or via email at tcrewe@wytheville.org.



Sobey to Speak at Memorial Day Ceremony

LTJG Michael J. Sobey will be the guest speaker at the annual Wall of Honor Memorial Day Ceremony at Withers Park. The ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 24, 2015, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

In 1981, Michael J. Sobey graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy. Upon graduation and commissioning as an Ensign in the Coast Guard, Sobey was assigned as a Deck Watch Officer aboard the Coast Guard Cutter DAUNTLESS in Miami Beach, Florida, conducting law enforcement operations and search and rescue missions. In 1983, under an exchange program with the United States Navy, he was assigned as operations officer on the USS PEGASUS, the lead ship in Patrol Combatant Hydrofoil Missile Squadron 2 in Key West, Florida. A fast, agile attack platform, PEGASUS conducted extensive readiness and

defense operations in the Caribbean and the Florida Straits. In 1985, LTJG Sobey was assigned as Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Cutter Cape York in Key West. Cape York conducted search and rescue and law enforcement operations in the Florida Straits, the Gulf of Mexico and the Bahamas. During his tenure as Commanding Officer, Cape York seized seven vessels attempting to smuggle more than 100 tons of illegal drugs into the United States. Additionally, Cape York was credited with saving 24 lives during this time.

After his tour as Commanding Officer, LT Sobey reported to the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, as a navigation instructor and, later, Chief of Cadet Training. While at the Academy, he served as Operations Officer in the Coast Guard's training vessel, the Tall Ship EAGLE. During this time, he attended the University of Connecticut School of Law and earned his Juris Doctor.

Sobey moved to Wythe County in 1998. He served in the Commonwealth Attorney's office for nearly six years. Presently, he is an attorney in private practice in Rural Retreat.

The Town of Wytheville invites all citizens to attend the Wall of Honor Memorial Day Ceremony in Withers Park and honor all military men and women.

Calendar

April

- 09 - Planning Commission Meeting
- 13 - Town Council Meeting
- 15 - Town Decals Due
- 27 - Town Council Meeting
- 27-5/1 - Curbside Brush Pick Up

May

- 11 - Town Council Meeting
- 14- Planning Commission
- 24 - Memorial Day Celebration (Withers Park)
- 25 - Memorial Day Holiday (Offices Closed)
- 26 - Town Council Meeting

June

- 08 - Town Council Meeting
- 11 - Planning Commission
- 22 - Town Council Meeting
- 22-26 - Curbside Brush Pick Up

New Website, Continued from Pg 1

"Our team tried to look at all possible uses for the website as we were deciding on a new design," said Steve Henley, Director of Computer Operations. "There are several different types of users who may come in contact with this site. Our citizens, of course, look to the site for information and news about Wytheville. Existing and perspective businesses search for information regarding regulations, fees, etc. Within the Town of Wytheville itself, our departments and employees use the site for a variety of different reasons including communication."

It took several months, behind the scenes, for the redesign work to be completed as the three-person department had to find time in between the many responsibilities associated with maintaining all of the computers, hardware and software for the Town's many departments as well as the phone system and a variety of other computer and electronic needs.

The new website, located at www.wytheville.org, was unveiled earlier this year and has many new convenient options for its users. Across the top of the website are four sections and a search function. The "Contacts" section links to contact information for Town of Wytheville Departments, similar to what you might find in the phone book, and a Staff Directory. The "Jobs" section is the connection to the Human Resources department and where interested persons can find the latest employment opportunities available for the Town of Wytheville. The "Employees" section is a password protected area used by the Town staff. The "Publications" dropdown provides links to the latest

electronic edition of the Wytheville Observer and the Parks & Recreation Brochure.

Below this area are dropdown sections which across focus on business, government, residents, departments, visitors, links, and a section entitled "How Do I..." These sections provide quick links to a variety of information and, hopefully, answer many questions that persons may have regarding living and doing business in the Wytheville area. A rotating slideshow of photographs also has links to some of the main departments that persons may be seeking information about.

Below this section, in the middle of the page, are three additional sections. On the left hand side, under the word "Spotlight," you will find a Video Tour of Wytheville. There are five links under this tour that provide short videos about the area including Quality of Life and Business and Industry. These videos were produced by an independent company that works with municipalities across the country to promote communities as great places to live, work, and do business. The videos were produced, at no cost to the Town of Wytheville, in 2014. Businesses and community organizations have had the opportunity to become sponsors of this program. Underneath this section, you will find other pertinent postings regarding Town-related programs. Currently, you can find a link to information about the fundraising efforts for the Wounded Warrior Monument.

In the center column, is an RSS feed with the latest news from Wytheville Town Council and its departments. If persons wish to receive all these news items via email, they can

sign up by clicking on the "Town of Wytheville All" link under the RSS Feeds section at the bottom of the page. An instruction page (RSS Info tab in orange on the right hand side) regarding how to sign up is also provided. The column on the right shows post from the Town of Wytheville's Facebook page.

Citizens and businesses are encouraged to regularly view the Town of Wytheville website to learn about the latest events and other news items or to find information regarding a question about a service that the Town provides. A mobile responsive design is currently in the works which will automatically adapt the screen to fit the type of device you are viewing the website on. Check out all of the interesting information at www.wytheville.org.

**For the latest
information from
the
Town of Wytheville
visit
www.wytheville.org.**

Wytheville VIRGINIA
TOWN OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

74°F Partly Cloudy

HOME BUSINESS GOVERNMENT RESIDENTS DEPARTMENTS VISITORS LINKS HOW DO I...
Town Office
Town Council
Town Manager
Assistant Town Manager
Planning Commission
Public Notices
Treasurer's Office
Town Clerk
Town Engineer
Human Resources
Public Works
Public Utilities
Public GIS Site
Forms & Publications
Employment
Online Payments
Business
Bids & RFPs
Contacts
Code of the Town

Home » Departments » Town Office » **Information for Businesses**

All new businesses must see the Town of Wytheville Building Official which will verify zoning and building safety codes and issue a certificate of occupancy. Once a certificate of occupancy is issued, below is additional information concerning Business Licensing processing, including links to forms and other required information and documentation.

Business License
All businesses operating in the Town of Wytheville are required to obtain (and display) a current annual Business License. All licenses are issued by calendar year and expire on December 31st each year. No business license of any type will be issued by the Town if the business has any type of delinquent revenues (personal property taxes, lodging tax and meals due to the Town of Wytheville).

New businesses can obtain a Business License by completing and faxing the **Business License application**.

Retail and Annual occupational tax fees are based on gross receipts of the business. Initial fees are generally based on estimated gross receipts, then subsequent renewals are based on prior year gross receipts of the business. Additional information may be required prior to issuing the certificate for the business. Examples include state licenses, health department approval, professional licenses, etc.

Once all paperwork is submitted, approved and all appropriate fees paid, the Business License will be issued by the Town of Wytheville. Appropriate fees include any revenues owed to the Town of Wytheville. Business Licenses will not be issued to any business or business owner who owes delinquent revenues of any type to the Town of Wytheville.

Business Name or Location Changes
The Town of Wytheville is to be notified of all business name and location changes, as well as transfers of ownership. It is the Owner's responsibility to keep all address changes up-to-date with the Town. Otherwise, renewal packets may not reach the right address.

Wytheville VIRGINIA
TOWN OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

74°F Partly Cloudy

HOME BUSINESS GOVERNMENT RESIDENTS DEPARTMENTS VISITORS LINKS HOW DO I...
Parks & Recreation
Aerobics
Aquatics
Athletics
Climbing Wall
Community Programs
Fitness
Gymnasium
Parks & Shelters
Youth/Teen Center

Home » Departments » **Parks & Recreation**

Comments DIRECTIONS FACILITIES FEES
HOURS REGISTRATION RULES STAFF

Spotlight
Brochure
Click to view in full screen

Video Tour of Wytheville

Aerobics Aquatics Athletics Climbing Wall
Community Programs Fitness Gymnasium Parks & Shelters

Wytheville VIRGINIA
TOWN OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

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HOME BUSINESS GOVERNMENT RESIDENTS DEPARTMENTS VISITORS LINKS HOW DO I...
Public Safety
Museums
Publications/Research
Education Programs
Special Events
Rentals
Museum Shop
Wythe Co. - Historical Review

Home » Departments » **Department of Museums**

Department of Museums

Latest Information
RSS info
News & Recent Post
SAVE THE DATE
A Sip and Paint Event will be held Saturday, May 16, 2015 at Wytheville's Heritage Preservation Center.
Read More

Facebook
Find us on Facebook
Wytheville Museums
NEW ITEMS JUST ARRIVED in the Museum Shop - located inside the E. Lee Strible Regional Visitor Center, 875 Toward Street. Hours are Monday-Saturday, 10-4:30.

Wytheville VIRGINIA
TOWN OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

74°F Partly Cloudy

HOME BUSINESS GOVERNMENT RESIDENTS DEPARTMENTS VISITORS LINKS HOW DO I...
apply for a job? sign up for alerts? start a business?
report a problem with the website? report a problem after business hours? sign up for RSS Feeds?

Planning Commission
Public Notices
Treasurer's Office
Town Clerk
Town Engineer
Human Resources
Public Works
Public Utilities
Public GIS Site
Forms & Publications
Employment
Online Payments
Business
Bids & RFPs
Contacts
Code of the Town

Home » Departments » Town Office » **Information for Businesses**

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Business Name or Location Changes
The Town of Wytheville is to be notified of all business name and location changes, as well as

Run For The Wall Returns ...

In just a few weeks, Fourth Street and Withers Park will again be the location that hundreds of motorcycle riders will first see as they roll into Wytheville on May 20 and 21. The group calls Wytheville home for less than 24 hours on their cross-country journey of awareness and healing. But, their brief presence each year makes a lasting impression on the citizens of all ages who come out to greet them.

Wytheville will hold the traditional "Welcome Home Ceremony" beginning upon their approximate arrival at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20, in Withers Park. Citizens are encouraged to come and help with this welcome as the group arrives via Exit 70 and Fourth Street. Following a brief ceremony, the group will be paraded down Main Street to their hotels. A dinner hosted by the Wytheville Moose Lodge will conclude the evening.

One of RFTW's favorite Wytheville experiences occurs on Thursday (May 21) morning as the students of Spiller



Elementary School provide a musical welcome program beginning at 9 a.m. in Withers Park. Run For The Wall will depart with a Main Street parade at approximately 10 a.m. Wytheville became a stop on the "Run" when a Southern Route was started in 2001, because there were too many riders on the previous Central Route. The effort has grown so much that a third Midway Route was created last year. The journey takes the riders across the United States simultaneously for 12 days each May to raise awareness concerning the POW/MIAs from

all wars that have never returned home. Run For The Wall was started as an effort by a couple of Vietnam Veterans who traveled across the heartland of America on motorcycles, talking to local radio, TV, and newspapers about the thousands of men and women still unaccounted for from all wars. Their goal destination is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial which they reach on the Friday evening before Memorial Day. For more information about the organization, visit www.RFTW.org.

**Run For The Wall
Withers Park
May 20 - 4:00 PM
May 21 - 9:00 AM**



Wytheville is First Community to Complete DRIVE Tourism Initiative

The Wytheville Convention & Visitors Bureau is pleased to announce the completion of an intensive series of tourism product development workshops, resulting in the implementation of a new two-year and five-year product development plan. The DRIVE Tourism workshops, facilitated by Virginia Tourism Corporation, equip communities across the state with the tools they need to succeed in an overly competitive travel and tourism market. Wytheville is the first community in the Commonwealth to complete this groundbreaking initiative and one of only 20 communities who will complete the DRIVE Tourism Workshop program in 2015.

"Wytheville has invested time and talent into getting it right - which will play a crucial role in attracting visitors to their region," said Governor Terry McAuliffe. "When I introduced my plan for a New Virginia Economy, I challenged Virginia businesses and communities to be bold. Wytheville has done just that by sharpening its competitive edge to increase visitation and visitor spending. Wytheville recognizes the power of a diversified economy, and is a true leader in the Virginia tourism industry."

"Travelers spend \$59 million a day, but we must compete against nearby competitors for every cent. What will set Virginia apart from its competitors will be its ability to focus and prioritize its development on key lures in a deliberate, consumer-oriented approach. Getting it right means doing the fundamentals exceptionally well," said Rita McClenny, President & CEO of Virginia Tourism Corporation. "VTC

applauds the Wytheville Convention & Visitors Bureau and its partners for investing in the health, success, and future of the community."

The DRIVE Tourism workshops are designed around the State Tourism Plan (STP). The STP was developed after VTC reached out to 4,000 industry partners and comprises recommendations on building a tourism industry that is economically and culturally sustainable for Virginia's



Rosa Lee Jude, Director of the Wytheville Convention & Visitors Bureau, receives the "First to the Finish" designation from Randy Rose, Senior Partnership Marketing Development Specialist with the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

visitors and residents. The DRIVE Tourism program consists of three workshops, wherein VTC works with each community to build the framework for actionable two- and five-year product development plans, as well as a plan for enhancing existing products. The workshops allow communities to see their destination from a different perspective, encouraging imagination, vision, innovation and creativity.

DRIVE Tourism is built upon three core components: authenticity,

connectivity and the visitor experience. The communities participating in the trailblazing DRIVE Tourism workshops are challenged to enhance their tourism products in order to entice more visitors to stay longer and spend more money.

"We are excited to be the first community that has reached the finish line of this new tourism development initiative," stated Rosa Lee Jude, Director of the Wytheville Convention & Visitors Bureau. "We applaud the Virginia Tourism Corporation for listening to its partners across the state and creating such a needed mechanism to stimulate tourism growth."

Upon completion of the workshops, each community has the base for a five-year development plan, including specific action steps, success factors, timelines, priorities and parties responsible for implementation. VTC also provides guidance for tourism development, investment and funding, helps to identify top lures for each region, and suggests policies to achieve tourism vision and spur sustainable growth.

Tourism is an instant revenue generator in Virginia. Last year, visitors in Virginia spent \$21.5 billion, supporting 213,000 jobs and contributing more than \$1.4 billion in state and local taxes. Every \$1 Virginia invests in tourism marketing generates \$5 in tax revenue for the Commonwealth - a 5:1 return on investment. To learn more about DRIVE Tourism, please visit <http://www.vatc.org/stp/>.



Commonwealth of Virginia Accreditation Seal used by all accredited agencies.

Chief of Police Named to Accreditation Board

Chief Rick W. Arnold has been appointed to serve the unexpired term as Vice Chair on The Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Coalition (VALEAC) Board and will automatically advance to the Chair position of VALEAC in January, 2016. The VALEAC Board is composed of law enforcement personnel directly or indirectly involved in Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation activities. VALEAC endorses and supports the concept of accreditation for law enforcement agencies, as provided by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC). It is a process to allow agencies to have a means of enhancing the quality of law enforcement services throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. VALEAC provides a network for member agencies that encourages communication, mutual cooperation, support and sharing of resources.

Chief Rick W. Arnold's appointment follows the recent departure of Lt. Derrick Mays, Brunswick Co Sheriff's Office, who is now the new Accreditation Program Manager for the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). Chief Arnold has been a member of the Wytheville Police Department since 1977 and become involved in the accreditation process in 2000. The agency was first accredited in 2002 and has received this prestigious recognition of being an accredited agency every four years when the agency undergoes an evaluation process that it must pass to stay accredited. The most recent on-site evaluation occurred in May, 2014. With his appointment to Chief of Police in January, 2013, the responsibilities of the agencies accreditation have been turned over to Captain Joel L. Hash, Jr., a member of the department since September, 1985.

Town Encourages Citizens to Register Alarm Systems

Many local citizens and businesses have security alarm systems installed in their residential or business structures to assist in protecting their property from emergencies such as fire or invasion. In the past, the companies that monitored these systems would have either made contact with the dispatch of the Wytheville Police Department (WPD) or the Wythe County Sheriff's Office, depending on where the structure was located, in the event that a system would alarm.

In June of 2013, the dispatch operations of the two above-mentioned police departments consolidated into one. The WPD dispatch is closed. Town of Wytheville residents and business owners should contact their security alarm companies and instruct them to register with the Wythe County Consolidated Emergency Dispatch Center by calling James Copeland, Wythe County Director of Emergency Communications at 276-223-4533.



Saturday, May 16, 2015

Heritage Preservation Center, 115 West Spiller Street, Wytheville
Bring Your Own Beer or Wine
Food and Non-Alcoholic Drinks Will Be Provided For Both Sessions
By Sponsor - Jennifer Walters, State Farm Insurance

\$35 per person (\$15 of each reservation will be donated to support the Town of Wytheville Department of Museums)

Two Sessions:

1 p.m. Reception

1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Painting &

5 p.m. Reception

5:30-7:30 p.m. - Painting

Fundraiser For The Town of Wytheville Department of Museums
The fun event will feature Colleen Kutish of Artfully Yours Sip & Paint who will guide participants step-by-step through an original painting! All

Art Supplies Provided!

No experience needed!

Register: www.artfullyu.com

Please make checks out to, and mail to:

Town of Wytheville Dept. of Museums

P.O. Box 533, Wytheville, VA 24382.

Checks must be received by Wednesday, May 13, 2015

"Dispatch is no longer located at the WPD office," said Police Chief Rick Arnold. "It is now necessary for citizens and businesses to have their alarm system providers contact James Copeland as soon as possible so that these calls can be handled properly. By making these changes, it will help the officers respond quickly to alarms in a timely manner."



May is Building Safety Month

Refuse To Be A Victim Program Offered to Mt. Rogers Community Services Board

On March 31st, Wytheville Police Officer Lonnie C. Anders and Chief of Police Rick W. Arnold presented the Refuse To Be A Victim (R2BAV) safety program to members and clients of the Mt. Rogers Community Services Board. Approximately 40 individuals participated in the program to learn how they can develop a personal safety plan to prevent them from being the victim of a criminal act.

The program was developed by women of the National Rifle Association of America (NRA) in 1993 in response to women nationwide who requested crime prevention and personal safety information. Since one of the Association's goals, as cited in Article II of its bylaws, is "To promote safety, law and order and the national defense," the development of such a comprehensive program was a natural fit.

Today, R2BAV continues to be sponsored by the NRA. As one of the Association's 170+ General Operations programs, its life saving message is carried to hometowns across America and abroad by a dedicated cadre of NRA certified instructors, NRA publications and the internet.

The program directly addresses the goal of promoting both public safety and law and order, and reinforces the Association's long-standing commitment to safety education.

It is a personal safety course that teaches strategies that are proactive actions, rather than reactive. Criminals prefer easy targets. Having a personal safety strategy in place will make you more difficult to prey upon and lessen your risk of being the victim of a criminal act.

It is hoped that the program will be offered again for the Mt. Rogers Community Services Board. The Board has approximately 170 employees and serves five counties (Wythe, Smyth, Bland, Grayson, and Carroll counties and the City of Galax). The program is available to any group that wishes the trained officers to present the message of safety to the group and the community. In the past, the program has been presented at the Wytheville Meeting Center.

If you should have an interest in this program being presented to your group, contact Chief Rick Arnold at 276-223-3310.

Resilient Communities

Start with Building Codes

Building Safety Month is a public safety awareness campaign to help individuals, families and businesses understand what it takes to create safe, resilient, affordable and energy-efficient homes and buildings.

Each year, presidential, gubernatorial and municipal proclamations are approved to bring attention to Building Safety Month. This year's theme is Resilient Communities Start with Building Codes. Weekly themes during Building Safety Month are: May 4-10, Don't Get Burned-Build to Code; May 11-17, Bounce Back Faster from Disaster-Build to Code; May 18-24, Water Safe, Water Smart-Build to Code; and May 25-31 \$ave Energy-Build to Code. Homes and buildings that are built in compliance with building safety codes result in resilient structures that minimize the risks of death, injury and property damage. Regardless of the department code officials work in—building, fire, planning or elsewhere—they work hard every day to provide public safety by ensuring buildings are constructed safely. Because resilient structures minimize the risk of property damage, property owners may pay lower insurance costs and millions of taxpayer dollars can be saved when rebuilding from natural disasters.

Based on building science, technical knowledge and past experiences, model building codes provide protection from man-made and natural disasters, guarding public health and reducing property losses. The codes address all aspects of construction, from structural to fire prevention, plumbing and mechanical systems, and energy efficiency.

The International Code Council, a U.S.-based membership association, created Building Safety Month as a public service to promote safety in the built environment. Code Council members develop the family of International Codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures. Most U.S. communities use the Council's codes. If you have questions concerning building safety issues, contact the Town of Wytheville Building Official Department at the Wytheville Municipal Building, 150 East Monroe Street, 223-3339.

Officer Attends CIT Training in Blacksburg, VA

Officer Zachary Taylor participated in Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training February 2 - 6, 2015, at the New River Community Services Board in Blacksburg, VA. Officer Taylor joined the department in December, 2013. During the 40-hour training, the officers who attended learned about community resources, mental illness, substance abuse, and de-escalation techniques when facing an associated crisis in the community. One of the training days was dedicated to traveling to public and private mental health facilities in the region. Training units are provided by professionals from the fields of mental health, medicine, law enforcement and judiciary.

The Crisis Intervention Team Model was established in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1988 following an incident where an individual with a mental health disorder and substance abuse history was fatally shot by police during a crisis situation. As a result of public outcry for alternative ways of intervening when responding to situations involving persons with mental illness, the Memphis Police Department joined in partnership with the Memphis Chapter of the Alliance for the Mentally Ill, mental

health providers and two local universities. They worked together to organize a specialized training and support model for law enforcement to ensure a safe and compassionate response to mental health crises. Since then, police departments across the world have participated in training their officers in the Crisis Intervention Team Model.

The officers completing the training received a certificate of completion and a CIT pin to be worn on their uniforms identifying them to their community as Crisis Intervention Team trained officers upon graduation. In addition, forty in-service credit hours, approved by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, were awarded to each officer upon training completion.

The Wytheville Police Department currently has 29 sworn officers trained in crisis intervention. This represents 100% of the police force being trained in these skills. With the exception of smaller agencies, the Wytheville Police Department is one of the few law enforcement agencies in Virginia who have their entire staff of officers trained in these critical skills.

WPD Completes Third Accreditation Process

It's an ongoing process that never stops for the Wytheville Police Department (WPD), but the results of the latest evaluation in May prove that its standards of operation are remaining high and consistent.

In mid-May, the local agency completed the accreditation process for the third time. It was initially accredited in 2002, with re-accreditation occurring in 2006. While the assessment team conducts their evaluation over a three-day period, the true accreditation process is ongoing. This year's assessment group involved representatives from the Martinsville Police Department, Botetourt County Sheriff Office, Wintergreen Police Department (the only private police department currently accredited in Virginia) and the Radford City Police Department.

The accreditation process addresses law enforcement issues in Administration, Operations, Personnel and Training. There are 187 standards with 541 bulleted issues for a total of 728 law enforcement issues addressed. Of these 728 issues only six were returned for corrections and all were considered minor. These standards cover all aspects of law enforcement operations - from the way patrol cars are marked to procedures involved in the investigation of all types of crimes. Accreditation is voluntary but once an agency is certified then process is required every four years.

The assessment began with a static display of agency equipment, both emergency and standard, used by

See Accreditation page 11

Accreditation from previous page:

officers of the department and an agency tour. The process ended on with an exit interview with the Chief of Police, his staff and the assessment team to discuss their findings regarding the assessment and to determine if the agency was in full compliance with the accreditation standards.

The Wytheville Police Department is one of 82 state accredited agencies out of 370 Law Enforcement agencies in Virginia. This represents less than 25% of possible agencies that have gone through this process to join this elite rank. Once the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) voted on the accredited status of the department, a re-accreditation plaque was presented to Chief Harry L. Ayers, the accreditation team and the Wytheville Police Department at the VLEPSC quarterly board meeting in Abingdon in June. The plaque was presented by the VLEPSC Board Chair Fred P. Newman, Sheriff of the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

The WPD's accreditation team includes Captain Rick Arnold, Lieutenant Joel Hash, and Sergeants Dewey Clemons and John Claypool. "This whole process would not have been possible without the hard work of the Wytheville Police Department who believe in what we do for the community of Wytheville," stated Captain Rick Arnold. "They are the ones that answer the calls and investigate the crimes, and make sure that it is done properly, every day, every time. I also want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the many people that became involved to help this process move smoothly and ensure that anything that was needed to prove a standard was made available. It was a tremendous effort on everyone's part. This was reflected in the fewest number of files returned by the assessment team for correction. In

fact, there is only one other agency who has had a better assessment and that agency, the Salem City Sheriff's Office, received a '0' return of files, or 100% by their assessment team. That speaks volumes in how far this agency has progressed over the years."

What is VLEPSC?

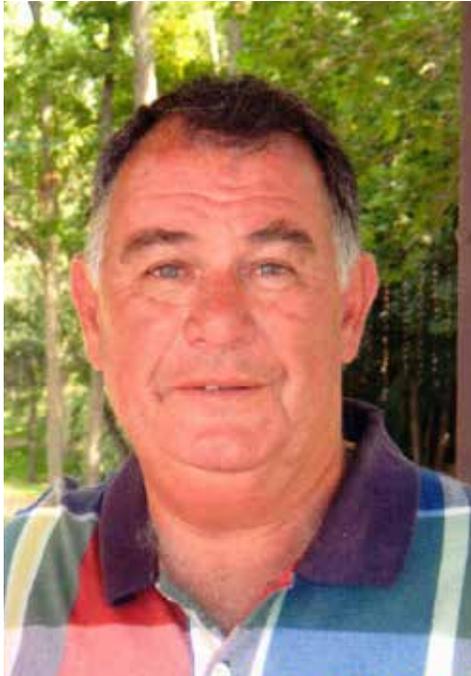
The Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) is made up of the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). Executive board members consisting of active Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police establish professional standards and administer the accreditation process by which Virginia agencies can be systematically measured, evaluated, and updated. DCJS manages the day-to-day operations for the commission.

The Commission's goals are to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth through the delivery of services; to promote cooperation among all components in the criminal justice system; to ensure the appropriate level of training for law enforcement personnel; and to promote public confidence in law enforcement.

Accreditation increases the law enforcement agency's ability to prevent and control crime through more effective and efficient delivery of law enforcement services to the community it serves. Accreditation enhances community understanding of the law enforcement agency and its role in the community as well as its goals and objectives. Citizen confidence in the policies and practices of the agency is increased. Accreditation, in conjunction with the philosophy of community policing, commits the agency to a broad range of programs (such as crime prevention) that directly benefit the public. Accreditation creates a forum in which police and citizens work together to control and prevent crime. This partnership will help citizens to understand the challenges that confront law enforcement. Law enforcement will, in turn, receive clear direction from the community about its expectations. Thus, a common set of goals and objectives will be arrived at and implemented.

For more information about this process, visit <http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/accred/>.

Two Chosen for Civic Monument



Richard "Dickie" Julian Boyles

Two persons have been chosen for inclusion on the Civic Monument at the Wall of Honor in Withers Park. These new inductees, Ruth Anna Reed Chitwood and Richard "Dickie" Julian Boyles, will be formally announced at a special presentation during the Chautauqua Festival on Sunday, June 21, 2015.

Born in Willis, Virginia, in 1922, Ruth Anna Reed Chitwood grew up on a farm. After graduating high school, Chitwood entered the pre-nursing program at Radford College and then the University of Virginia. It was there that she met her future husband Dr. W. Randolph "Ranny" Chitwood. She graduated with a Registered Nurse degree in 1944.

In the late 1940s, the Chitwoods moved to Wytheville. After raising her three children, Mrs. Chitwood returned to work as a registered nurse when Wythe County Community Hospital opened in 1927. She worked



Ruth Anna Reed Chitwood

there until her retirement at age 69 in 1981.

Through her years in Wytheville, she has been active in many church and civic organizations. Mrs. Chitwood was the first woman to be appointed to the Wytheville Community College Board where she served as chairperson and vice-chairperson. She was also the first woman to be chairperson of the college's Educational Foundation Board of Directors. She has received numerous awards from the college including the Presidential Medal of Merit in 2004. Other community awards include the Paul Harris Fellow from the Wytheville Rotary Club in 2004 and the Outstanding Citizen of the Year in 2005 from the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce.

Her husband passed away in 1992. Her three children are Dr. Randolph Chitwood, Jr, in Greenville, NC; Ed Chitwood of Abingdon; and Dr. Patty

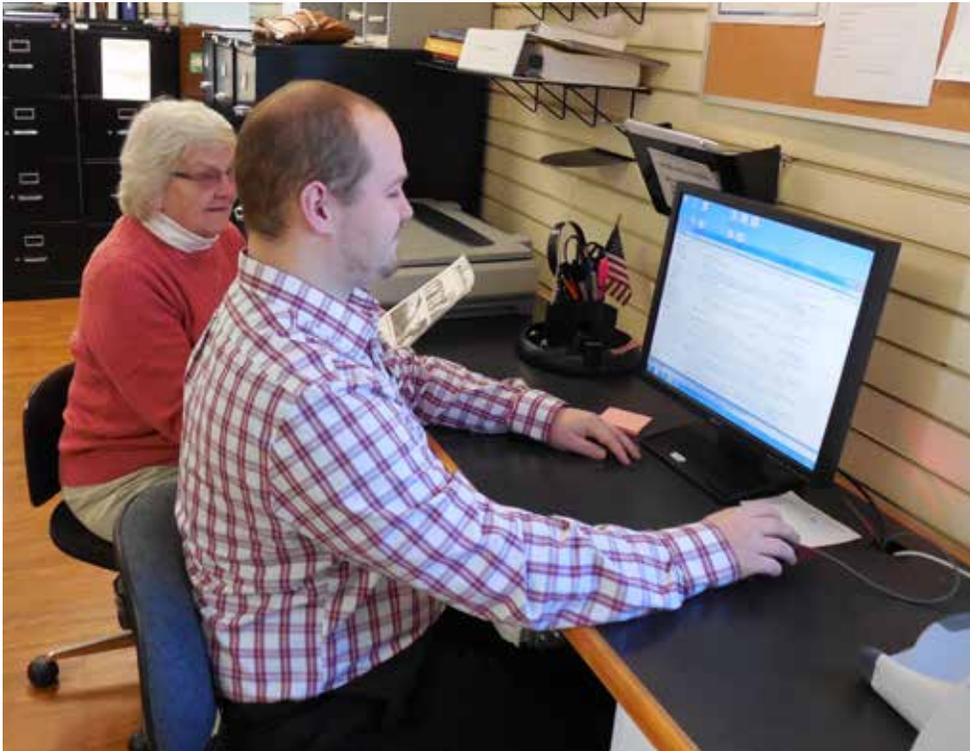
Chitwood of Blacksburg. She has five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Richard "Dickie" Julian Boyles was born in Smyth County in 1946. He graduated from Marion Senior High School in 1967, and Southwestern Business College in Marion. He worked for several years in the Smyth County area before moving to Wytheville. He worked for the Town of Wytheville Recreation Department for 33 years, serving primarily as the Assistant Recreation Director. He retired in 2007. It is impossible to estimate how many young lives were touched and inspired by Boyles over his decades of working in recreation.

Boyles was an avid antique car collector, especially loving Chevilles. He was known throughout the region from his attendance at numerous car shows. He helped organize the first vintage car show held in Downtown Wytheville. The event is now held annually on July 4th and named in memory of him. His contributions to athletics have also been honored by his induction in 2015 into the Wythe County Sports Hall of Fame. Boyles passed away in May, 2013.



The Wythe County Historical Society Research Library has a new look.



Rose Lester (left), chair of the WCHS Research Library Committee, and Jacob Spraker, Town of Wytheville Department of Museums staff member, look up a research question online.

"We have made the Library more accessible and user-friendly for researchers, expanding the services and resources we already had in place" explained Frances Emerson, Director for the Town of Wytheville Department of Museums. She added that the library space had also been reorganized to allow an easier work space for volunteers and staff.

The WCHS Research Library is located in the Heritage Preservation Center, 115 West Spiller Street. The HPC is also the main office for the Town of Wytheville Department of Museums.

According to Emerson, the improvements have been made possible through the work of the WCHS Board, Department of Museum Staff and library volunteers.

The goal is to put everything accessible online so that researchers will have information immediately - especially if they are not local and unable to make an appointment.

Another goal currently underway is to have an online directory of subject files so researchers and volunteer staff will be able to locate files quickly. The subject files include

newspaper clippings, photographs, manuscripts, documents and miscellaneous papers. The subject files are arranged alphabetically, focusing on everything from architecture to Wythe County history.

In addition to a new look, the Library has upgraded equipment with a new computer, printer/copier and scanner. There is also an area with a computer just for researchers.

"I'm excited about the reorganization of the library and the addition of two museum staff members to work specifically in the Library, along with our dedicated volunteers," said Rose Lester, chair of the WCHS Research Library Committee.

In addition to newspapers and photographs, the Library offers books, family files, subject files, manuscripts, maps and business directories. Faye Titus, a Library volunteer, is currently working on a project to inventory newspapers in the collection and list them in a computer database.

The Library is open from 10-4 Mondays and Wednesdays or by appointment. Call (276) 228-6061 to make an appointment or send questions by email to wch_library@wytheville.org



Wounded Warrior Monument

The Town of Wytheville, via the Wall of Honor Committee, is working with the local Wounded Warrior Program and other Veterans organizations to add a new monument to the Wall of Honor in Withers Park. Spearheaded by local veterans from the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program's veterans networking group, over \$12,000 has already been raised to erect a monument honoring the men and women from all branches and eras of the military who have selflessly delivered their service to this country and are returning home to this community.

This public tribute will be an appropriate addition to the beautiful war memorials within Withers Park that honor those who have lost their lives in military service. It will be constructed in a style befitting this place of honor. To do so, an additional \$10,000 in funds needs to be raised. The help of civic organizations, businesses, and local citizens is being

sought to make this tribute a reality. Everyone knows a family member, neighbor, or friend who has served in the United States military. This community is strong in its patriotic spirit of honoring Veterans; and this monument will offer special recognition to all of those Veterans whether they live in this community or are just passing through.

Tax deductible donations can be made via mail to Town of Wytheville, Treasurer's Office, P.O. Box 533, Wytheville, VA, 24382 or by stopping by the office at 150 East Monroe Street. Please note Wounded Warrior Monument on your check. You can also donate via PayPal by following this link: <http://www.wytheville.org/townoffice/woundedwarrior.php>

By working together, this idea can become a reality and honor the sacrifice of those whose lives have been forever changed in service to this great nation.



Garden Plots Now Available

Spring is finally here and it's time to think about your summer garden. Why not consider joining others in your community by planting at Wytheville's Community Garden? The garden is a unique venture between the Town of Wytheville and local citizens and is located on Cove Road near the elevated water tank. For a \$20 fee, residents have access to a 10' x 20' plot of land they can utilize to grow all types of summer plants. All maintenance of the garden plot is the responsibility of the person renting the space. A 200-gallon water tank is located on the property so that gardeners can more conveniently water their plants with buckets or watering cans. Spaces fill up quickly! Reserve your spot today by calling 223-3505.



New Items in The Museum Shop! Just In Time For Spring!



Mason Jar Mugs - I Love Wytheville, Virginia

Colorful Handmade Crocheted Puppy Coats

Beeswax Candles Made With 100% USA Beeswax

Handmade Pysanky Eggs

Shop Hours: Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Shop Location: 975 Tazewell Street, Wytheville
(Inside E. Lee Trinkle Regional Visitors Center)
(276) 223-3372

Downtown Wytheville

DISCOVER WHAT'S WYTHE IN

Artisan Showcase-Sale

& Grand Opening of Host Location: **Hannah's Attic**

FREE Admission

230 West Main Street

Artisans



Art Sales

Authors

Food Vendor

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM



Free Children's Art Workshops

11:00 AM - Ages 6-14
Pressed Flower Bookmark
Limited to 15 Participants

1:00 PM - Ages 6-14
Thumbprint Flowers in Vase Art
Limited to 15 Participants

Must Register Online: www.DowntownWytheville.com

Help support the Revitalization Project of Downtown Wytheville.

www.DowntownWytheville.com

BRUSH COLLECTION GUIDELINES

TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE, VIRGINIA



BRUSH PICKUP DATES FOR 2015

- February 23—27
- April 27—May 1
- June 22—26
- August 24—28
- October 26—30
- December 28—January 4

BRUSH COLLECTION GUIDELINES

- In order to avoid getting a citation, please do not have brush out earlier than 6:00 PM on the Friday before collection week.
- ♦ Do not place brush on water meters or sewer cleanouts.
- ♦ Do not place branches, grass clippings or leaves in the travel lane or block sidewalks.
- ♦ Any brush placed out after the scheduled collection time may not get picked up in a timely manner or may result in a fine/charge.
- ♦ Tree removals by a contractor for a homeowner are to be disposed of by the contractor.
- ♦ Vehicles should not be parked near the brush as this blocks accessing the piles.
- ♦ The Town will not pick up old furniture, lumber, tires, or similar items. Disposal of these items are the responsibility of the owner or tenant.
- ♦ The brush disposal site is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 AM to 3 PM. A fee of \$3 per cubic yard must be paid at the Treasurer's Office prior to disposal or the **\$5 minimum fee**. The receipt must be presented to the attendant on duty. Unless brush permits are sold, there will be no attendant on duty. The site will be open on the first and third Saturday of each month from 8 AM to 1 PM for Town residents to take one pickup load of brush without a fee. Disposal of brush in excess of one pickup load will be charged the \$3 per cubic yard fee and the receipt must be presented to the attendant. During the week of the bi-monthly pickups, the site will be open Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 3 PM.

Few localities offer this type of free service. Your assistance in following the guidelines will ensure the service continues. Please contact the Director of Public Works at 223-3357 with additional questions.



SORT LEAVES AND GRASS CLIPPINGS INTO SEPARATE PILES; GRASS CLIPPINGS MUST BE BAGGED OR IN CONTAINERS



IN A VERY SMALL PILE, BRANCHES MAY BE IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS



ARRANGE ALL BRANCHES IN THE SAME DIRECTION PARALLEL TO STREET



MORE THAN ONE DUMP TRUCK LOAD (10 FT. X 7 FT. X 4 FT.) PER HOUSEHOLD



DO NOT PLACE BRUSH, GRASS CLIPPINGS, OR LEAVES IN THE TRAVEL LANE OR BLOCK SIDEWALKS



DO NOT PUT ANY OTHER ITEMS IN THE BRUSH PILE



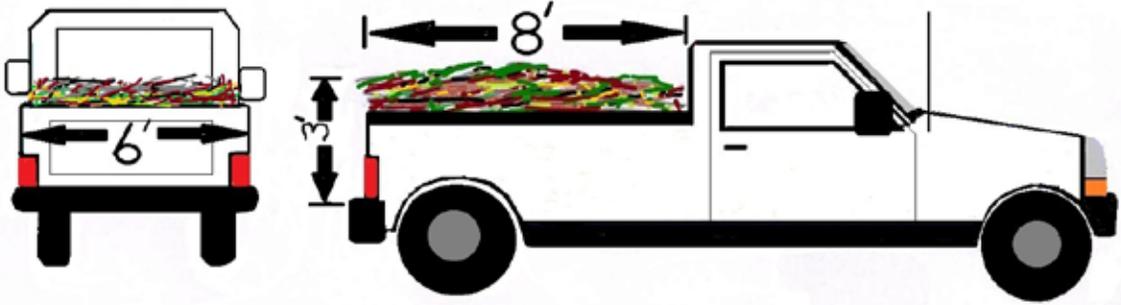
BRUSH SHOULD NOT BE ON WATER METERS OR SEWER CLEANOUTS OR AT FIRE HYDRANTS OR GUIDEWIRES



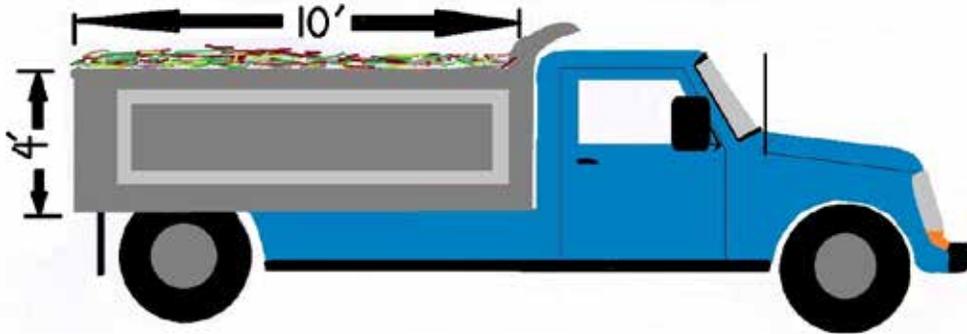
BRANCHES MUST FACE SAME DIRECTION; STACK LOGS SEPARATELY NO LARGER THAN 4 INCHES IN DIAMETER

TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE BRUSH AND YARD WASTE DISPOSAL FEES @ \$3.00 PER CUBIC YARD

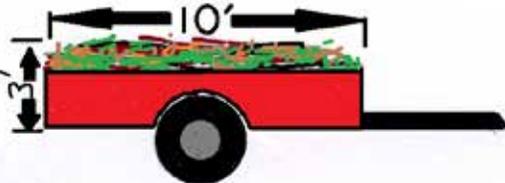
Average Pickup $\frac{6' \times 8' \times 3'}{27} = 5 \text{ c.y.} \times \$3.00 = \$15.00$



Dump Truck $\frac{7' \times 10' \times 4'}{27} = 10 \text{ c.y.} \times \$3.00 = \$30.00$



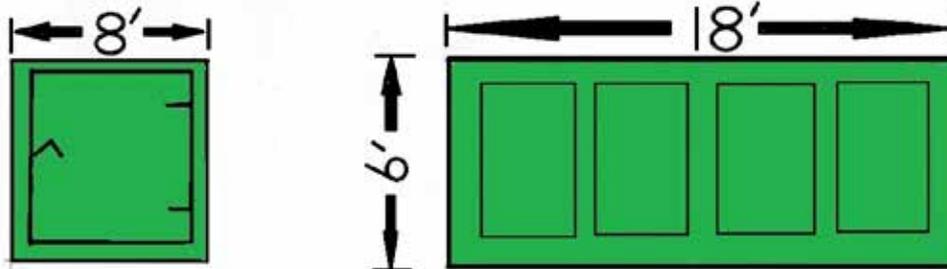
Average Trailer $\frac{6' \times 8' \times 3'}{27} = 5 \text{ c.y.} \times \$3.00 = \$15.00$



Trailer lengths:

- 10' = \$17.00
- 12' = \$19.00
- 14' = \$21.00
- 16' = \$23.00
- 18' = \$25.00

Box Containers $\frac{18' \times 8' \times 6'}{27} = 32 \text{ c.y.} \times \$3.00 = \$96.00$



NOTE: There will be a minimum charge of \$5.00 for small loads (i.e., trunk of a car).



**TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE
REGULATIONS
FOR
BRUSH DISPOSAL
EFFECTIVE
SEPTEMBER 1, 2012,
AND AMENDED
MARCH 24, 2014.**

On the first and third Saturday of each month, from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., Town residents may take one pickup load of brush to the disposal site without a fee. Disposal of brush in excess of a pickup load will be charged the \$3.00 per cubic yard fee, and the Treasurer's receipt must be presented to the attendant on duty.

The Town of Wytheville brush disposal site will be open on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. for disposals pursuant to a permit. There will be a disposal fee of \$3.00 per cubic yard that must be paid to the Treasurer's Office prior to disposal. The receipt must be presented to the attendant on duty at the brush disposal

site. (Unless brush permits are sold, there will be no attendant on duty.)

On the reverse side is an illustration which indicates the approximate size of a load that may be hauled on an average pickup truck, trailer, dump truck, container, and the associated fees for disposal.

The Town will conduct bi-monthly curbside brush collection for the residents of the Town, which will be at no cost to the residents. These collections will be made the last weeks of February, April, June, August, October, and December 2014. All curbside brush regulations will still be applicable.