

OUR TOWN

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THE MAYOR'S CORNER

It's almost summer which means Rebel Baseball. What a terrific activity. The "Boys of Summer" will soon be here to add to the Town, and echoes of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" will be heard resounding off the mountains. So get your "clackers" ready for another great season. Buy your Rebel gear at the ball park concession stand and come out to support your hometown team! Check their website for the game schedules and we'll see you at Rebel Field.

Another sign of summer, besides the opening of the seasonal ice cream shops, is the Town's 4th of July Celebration. The planning committee, led by Council Member, Harry Durrett, has a great slate of activities planned to keep the whole family busy for the entire day. This year, admission to the swimming pool will be free, so bring your bathing suits with you when you come to the park and plan to take a dip to cool off. The parade will be held downtown and is scheduled to begin at 4:00 pm. There will be music in the park throughout the day and into the evening. As usual, great food will be available and spectacular fireworks will begin around dark. Our thanks to all the groups and individuals who have helped thus far and will continue to help to make this event the best 4th of July celebration in the Valley.

The Streetscape Project is finally becoming a reality. The plans are on paper and beginning to take shape. Although we don't have a firm date for construction to begin, we should know something soon. With all of this said, I am still feeling some frustration. The streetscape committee, Town council, and citizens of New Market have put, and are still putting, a great deal of effort into making our streets attractive and beautiful not only for the citizens of New Market, but for the tourists. However, a walk down Congress Street will reveal that some of the buildings along our soon to be beautiful "Main Street" are looking rather rough!! If New Market is truly to be a town we can all be proud of, then all of us have a responsibility to step it up a notch. If you are the owner of one of these neglected buildings, please consider cleaning it up. If you know an owner, please talk to them for the good of the town. Remember, if you're not part of the solution then you may be part of the problem.

Hopefully I will see you at the next Mayor's Forum on Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall. Let's continue a dialogue on exploring ways to make our town beautiful and protect its history.

MAY COUNCIL MEETING

The May Council Meeting has been moved from Monday, May 18th to Tuesday, May 19th, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. The 09-10 Town budget is expected to be presented that night to the Council for their approval.

FREE CLOTHING!

The Seventh Day Adventist Church is offering free clothing for needy people at the SDA Community Services Center, 62 West Lee Hwy. The hours are Wednesdays from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm and Thursdays from 8:30 am until noon. Questions? Call 740- 8550.

ROAD TRIP TO HISTORY'S WAYNE BRONSON TO BE GUEST SPEAKER AT 142ND ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S MEMORIAL SOCIETY TO HONOR CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS

On Friday, May 15, 2009 at 10:30 am The Women's Memorial Society will hold its annual commemorative ceremony at St. Matthew's Cemetery honoring the anniversary of the 1864 Civil War Battle of New Market. Beginning in 1867, the tribute is held each year at the Confederate monument in St. Matthew's Cemetery located behind Reformation Lutheran Church on Congress Street in New Market, Virginia. A memorial wreath will be placed in remembrance of the Southern soldiers who participated in the May 15, 1864 Battle of New Market. The casualties included ten young soldiers from the Virginia Military Institute.

This year's guest speaker is the creator of the PBS series Road Trip to History, Wayne Bronson. Mr. Bronson is the Executive Producer of the series featuring "The Great Valley Road", now US Route 11, and has written "If there is one thing that you will rediscover on Road Trip to History it most definitely will be that these small towns are truly the backbone of America."

VMI cadets will participate in the ceremony and Jeff Sonafelt, pastor of Reformation Lutheran Church, will provide the invocation and benediction. GATE students from Ashby Lee Elementary will be placing memorial flowers at the monument.

The public is cordially invited to attend this historic ceremony which was organized in 1867 by a group of ladies from New Market whose purpose was to honor their fathers, husbands, sons and betrothed who gave their lives during the War Between the States, 1861-1865. Originally named the Women's Memorial Society of the Lost Cause, the society was initially organized for the purpose of raising a fund to erect markers for Confederate soldiers and to care for their graves. On May 12, 1898, a monument at St. Matthew's Cemetery dedicated to the memory of the Southern soldiers and the VMI cadets was unveiled.

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the social hall of Reformation Lutheran Church.

NEW MARKET POLICE BLOTTER MARCH 2009

During the month the Police Department responded to 452 calls for service. There were 7 physical arrests, 4 DUI's, 1 Intoxicated in Public and 3 Under Age Possession of Alcohol. Officers worked 2 motor vehicle crashes and responded to 30 Mutual Aid calls to other agencies. The Police Department made 155 Traffic Stops, and issued 42 summonses for traffic violations.

The May, New Market Area Neighborhood Watch meeting is set for May 7, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Just a reminder that May is "Click It or Ticket" month and the Police Department will be conducting extra check points and roving patrols during this event, so please remember to **Buckle Up**.

TOUGH BUDGET YEAR

It's been hard to open the local newspaper this Spring and not find an article detailing how a local government is struggling to balance their budget. The national recession and declining funds from the state are making this one of the toughest budget years in recent memory. While the Town of New Market was not immune to these factors, we were somewhat insulated when compared to the counties and cities in the region. One of the primary reasons for this is because we do not rely as heavily on state funding as do the counties and cities.

The national recession is expected to impact General Fund revenues, which are predicted to decrease almost 15% from the 08-09 revenue predictions. People are eating out less, not taking vacations, not buying new cars, and overall reducing their spending. For this reason we are predicting losses in personal property tax, meals tax, lodging tax, and business/professional license tax revenues. To accommodate these losses we have proposed various cuts in the General Fund including most of the requested capital projects. Employee raises have been limited to a very modest 1.5% for July 1st with the option for Council to add another 1.5% halfway through the fiscal year if revenues rebound.

The Water and Sewer Account looks very different. We are showing an increase in revenues of over 100% from last year. This fund is inflated because of a \$9.1 million loan we expect to receive during the year to help pay for the Force Main and Pump Station project and the payoff of a \$4 million loan with Sun Trust. The Force Main and Pump Station project will transfer our wastewater to the Broadway Regional Plant as part of the regional sewer agreement. While this project is expensive, it has been estimated to be at least \$10 million cheaper than renovating our own wastewater plant. We have applied for Stimulus Funds for this project and by the time this article is published we will know if we will receive any of those funds. The \$4 million Sun Trust loan must be paid off in January of 2010. Those proceeds have been used to pay for the I&I project and for the engineering of the Force Main project.

The Town Council made it very clear from the beginning of the budget cycle that tax increases should be avoided this year. The proposed budget does not include any tax increases but does propose to increase some of the user fees in areas where the Town is not recouping its costs to provide these very specific services. These increases are in areas like private pool party fees, planning and zoning fees, and water reconnection fees. The idea of these increases was not to greatly increase revenues but to ensure that the users of these services were paying the full costs to provide these services, and thus taking more of the burden off of the general taxpayer. The Town Council and Town staff worked very hard this year to reduce expenditures without reducing the level of services provided to the citizens. A public hearing on the budget will be held in the Council Chambers on May 11th at 7:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend. The full budget is available at the Town Hall during normal business hours and on the Town website www.newmarketvirginia.com

THE NEW MARKET COMMUNITY CENTER

For rentals at the Center, please contact **Claudia Gray at 540-740-4257**. We rent the Cafeteria/kitchen and the gymnasium, as well as the classrooms. Call for rental prices. For an additional fee, the kitchen is also available.

Our Craft Show is set for October 24 & 25, 2009. Reservation forms will be mailed the first week of July. If you wish to be included on our mailing list, please call Claudia with your name and mailing address.

LIBRARY NEWS

Mark your calendars for two very special events in May! We are delighted to welcome back the Shenandoah Valley Academy Choir on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 7:00 pm. All who attended our grand opening in November were wowed by the beautiful sound produced by their talented voices, enhanced by the acoustics of the library building. Come hear for yourself May 12th!

This year our annual Book Sale will be held for two days! It will start Friday, May 8th from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm and continue Saturday, May 9th from 9:30 am - 1:00 pm. As always there will be a big selection of used books, both hard back and paperbacks at bargain prices. All proceeds of the sale go toward paying for the new library. Also available for sale will be the lovely library tote bags and stationery featuring the drawing by Janet Cardwell.

In conjunction with the concert and book sale there will be a silent auction. Many quality items will be available to the highest bidder.

Now through May 8, 2009 anyone dropping by with a donation of \$25.00 or more has the opportunity to participate in a drawing for tickets for two Sunday Buffet dinners at The Shenvalee. See the display with the big box as you enter the library. Checks can also be mailed to the library at P.O. Box 452, New Market, VA 22844.

GARDEN CLUBS

COHEE GARDEN CLUB

The Cohee Garden Club held their annual Birthday Luncheon at Shenandoah Place on April 6, 2009 at noon. The site was chosen in order to honor Anna Coffman, a Charter Member, on her birthday.

President Janet Cardwell announced that this was the 9th time since the club was founded that the 1st Monday in April was the 6th and thus also Anna's Birthday. Janet thanked Ruth Garretson and Johan Guss for helping her set up and bringing daffodils; Sylvia Hunt for getting favors; and, SuAnn Edwards, Reformation Lutheran Church and the Shenandoah Valley Tourist Association for letting us borrow tables and chairs.

After lunch, Shenandoah Place presented the Cohees and Anna with a beautiful cake. Anna then opened small gifts from present and past members of the Cohee Garden Club. After the luncheon, Vivian Myers conducted the installation ceremony for the new officers. The installation program used the parts of the daffodil to describe each officer's functions. The officers for the 2009-2010 year are: President, Janet Cardwell; Vice President, Johan Guss; Recording Secretary, Gloria Shelton; Corresponding Secretary, Ruth Garretson; and Treasurer, Sylvia Hunt.

The next meeting will be lunch at the Garden Café at the Fort Valley Nursery. We will then browse around for plants that just really need a place in our gardens.

NEW MARKET GARDEN CLUB

The New Market Garden Club celebrated its birthday with a luncheon at Shenvalee Lodge on April 20, 2009.

President Virginia Thompson reported on the Shenandoah District Spring Meeting held in Staunton. Ethel Garber gave tips on spring gardening. Ingrid Flowers, Program Chairman, discussed the programs for the new club year. Marion Jordan and Ruth Simons received Life Memberships in the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs. Virginia Thompson received an award for the most blue ribbons for the year on horticulture exhibits, potted plants, and artistic arrangements. She obtained special recognition for her inspirational and dedicated service to the Club.

The May meeting will be a tour and lunch at Fort Valley Nursery.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



May 2009

- 1 Leaf and grass pickup
- 4 Council Committee Meetings 6:30 pm
In the following order: (1) Finance & Personnel (2) Public Works (3) Public Safety (4) Tourism, Economic Development & Historic Preservation To 7:30 pm
- 4 Planning Commission Meeting 7:30 pm
- 7 Neighborhood Watch Meeting At the Town Hall 7:00 pm
- 8 Leaf and grass pickup
- 11 Public Hearing on FY 09-10 Budget at the Town Hall 7:00 pm
- 12 Planning meeting for July 4th Celebration at the Town Hall 7:00 pm
- 15 Water/Sewer Bills Due**
- 15 - 17 New Market Battlefield Reenactment
- 15 Leaf and grass pickup
- 19 **(Tuesday)** Town Council Meeting 7:30 pm
- 22 Leaf and grass pickup
- 25 Town Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day**
- 28 New Market Historical Society Meeting at the Town Hall 7:30 pm
- 29 Leaf and grass pickup

June 2009

- 1 Council Committee Meetings 6:30 pm
In the following order: (1) Finance & Personnel (2) Public Works (3) Public Safety (4) Tourism Economic Development & Historic Preservation To 7:30 pm
- 1 Planning Commission Meeting 7:30 pm
- 4 Neighborhood Watch Meeting At the Town Hall 7:00 pm
- 5 Real Estate & Personal Property Taxes Due**
- 5 Leaf & grass pickup
- 12 Leaf & grass pickup
- 15 Town Council Meeting 7:30 pm
- 15 Water/Sewer Bills Due**
- 19 Leaf & Grass Pickup
- 26 Leaf & grass pickup

Town of New Market
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(540) 740-3432 • www.newmarketvirginia.com
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TOWN COUNCIL

Larry M. Smith, Mayor • John H. Blosser, Vice-Mayor
Harry Durrett • Ripley R. Click • Gary D. Comer • Troy Fadeley • Charles E. Litten
Jason J. Ham, Town Attorney

ADMINISTRATION

Chris Boies <i>Town Manager</i> Charles Peery <i>Police Chief</i> Jeanne K. Rinker <i>Town Clerk</i> Chad Neese <i>Town Planner/Zoning Administrator</i>	Michael Ritchie <i>Public Works Director</i> Teresa Green <i>Treasurer</i> Donna Lohr <i>Administrative Assistant</i>
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