

MAYOR'S CORNER

As I enter the final year of my 4-year term as mayor, I am prioritizing ongoing projects and future goals for our town. As I have said in the past, the pace that government moves is much slower, and therefore more frustrating than private business. The slower action is understandable when you realize that government has to coalesce the citizens' needs, opinions and options before making a decision. Nonetheless, achieving goals through government is a slow process.

For the moment, let's run through some of the projects that council and I have been working on completing for the past 3-6 years since I became a councilman, then mayor. You may have noticed the pink surveyor ribbons along Route 211 East from Congress St. towards the Dollar store. Yep, we are finally going to have a sidewalk built that distance for the safety of our citizens. Construction will begin this spring. Even though we had appropriated money for the project 2 years ago, we had to wait for VDOT's share that was placed on hold due to Covid.

Also, the Public Works maintenance building has all the excavating and concrete work completed. The steel needed for completion of the structure is being delivered this month. Our employees will be relieved to get out of the existing, mold infested shed that has served as their operating base for far too long! Speaking of "far too long", this also can be said of our new 500,000-gallon water storage tank that has been discussed since before I arrived on council. It appears that all

the design, cost estimates, DEQ/EPA and loan procurement steps are complete so that we can now obtain bids for construction. Our hope is that we can start at least the site excavation by the end of this year.

Some other quick notes of completed and current projects for New Market:

- The daycare has expanded into the former American Legion building.
- We have entered the negotiating stage with an engineering/architectural firm for the planning and use of the community center. They will then work together with our steering committee to outline goals for the building as well as assist us in applying for construction grants.
- We are in negotiations with VDOT to take ownership of our roads so we can perform maintenance and upgrades congruent with our goals.
- We are also in the final stages of traffic studies to identify solutions for our truck congestion.

There are many other matters that our council is working on with the guidance of our town manager, Mr. Garrison. I will do my best to keep you appraised as this year progresses. In the meantime, I wish each of you a successful new year of 2024!

Larry A. Bompiani
Mayor of New Market

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORIES

The onset of the Holidays often brings cold weather and snow right along with it. Whether the storm totals 1" or 12"+, winter weather presents challenges for all of us. Here are a few tips in advance of this winter season:

- **Be prepared:** Predicting weather seems to be a challenge even with advances in 21st century meteorology. With few exceptions winter storms are rarely a total surprise. Winter weather advisories are usually posted days in advance of the storm. Use that time to restock your medications, food and other essentials.
 - **Be careful:** It may seem like an overused piece of advice, but when you travel unnecessarily on snow covered roads you put yourself and your vehicle at risk and make clearing roads that much more challenging. For those of you who do have to travel, plan ahead and leave yourself extra time to get to your destination.
 - **Be patient:** Removing snow from streets takes time. Storm duration, temperature and sunlight all affect how quickly streets are cleared. Often it's not until the sun returns and day time temperatures exceed 32 degrees that frozen snow and ice on streets can completely be removed.
 - **Be helpful:** After the snow has stopped, please help keep your neighbors and friends safe by clearing the sidewalk(s) that fronts your property. It's not only the right thing to do; it's also required by town ordinance.
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LIBRARY NEWS

Children's Programs for January*:

Books and Babies - Wednesday, January 3rd at 10:00 am. The theme will be "Winter Wonderland." Stories, songs, rhymes and play together time will be enjoyed by children ages 0-3.

Preschool Story Time – Friday, January 19th at 10:00 am. "Bundle Up for Winter!" We'll share stories, songs, rhymes and activities geared for children ages 3-6.

*If Shenandoah County Schools are canceled due to inclement weather, story times are also canceled. If schools open late, story times will be held at their normal times.

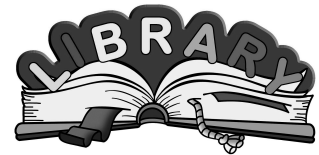
January brings winter weather and maybe some extra days to **Snuggle with a Book!** That will be the theme of our Winter Reading Program for children. The program kicks off with our annual PJ Party on Wednesday, January 31st from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm and runs through the month of February. Each child who registers receives a reading log and Reading Buddy stuffed animal. A new, free book will be awarded upon

completion of their log. An event ending celebration of the Winter Reading Program is planned for Wednesday, March 6th.

Adult Program-Sunday, January 14th at 2:00 pm.

Local author Tammy Fulk Cullers will present a program about the Custer's Mill Mystery Series. She, along with Mary Smith and Barbara Larson Finnegan have collaborated, writing under the name Mary Fulk Larson. Custer's Mill is a cozy town and the setting for a young librarian sleuth, Emma Kramer, and Jake, the town's police officer, to protect the town and shine light on secrets from the past. Readers of Susan Wittig Albert, Laura Childs and Molly Cox Bryan will feel at home in Custer's Mill.

The library will be closed Monday, January 1st for New Year's Day and Monday, January 15th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



SHENGO TRANSIT

Don't forget ShenGo Transit is available! The transit service runs from the Woodstock Walmart down to New Market on its Southern route. The transit will have four timed stops in town including New Market North Apartments, The Community Park, New Market Poultry, and Valley Heath. ShenGo will be running from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Saturday with a fare of \$1 each direction with an option to transfer routes at the Woodstock Walmart Stop. Children 12 years of age and under, when accompanied by an adult, ride free. For maps and transit schedule visit <https://vatransit.org/shengo/>.



LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD PANTRY



Loaves and Fishes food pantry is located in the basement of Manor Memorial Methodist Church (9320 North Congress Street). The basement entrance is located in the back of the Church along John Sevier Road. The pantry is open to all on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Next food pantry is Thursday, January 18, 2024.

NEW MARKET FIRE AND RESCUE NEWS

We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We hope that everyone has a great 2024!!

During the month of November, our crews ran 159 calls for service. Of those calls, 84 were within town limits. One hundred seven of these calls were for EMS services and 52 were calls for Fire service.

We would like to thank everyone who supported us with our Gun Bash in December. It was a huge success.

Our next blood drive is Wednesday, January 10, 2024 from 12:30 pm until 5:30 pm. Stop by and donate. Remember, the life you save could be yours.

Stop by on Saturday, January 20, 2024 and grab a bite to eat at our Spaghetti Dinner from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm. We will be serving spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, and drinks. We are accepting a free will offering for your meal. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mark your calendars for our Annual Spring and Fall Flings this year. The dates are:

- March 23rd Spring Fling
- September 28th Fall Fling

We are always looking to add to our membership, whether volunteering to run calls, or help with fundraisers. Please stop by our station and see any member for more information.

Thank you for your continued support to our department!!!

YOU ARE INVITED!

WHERE: Reformation Lutheran Church
9283 Congress St.

What: Home Cooked Lunch and Fellowship

When: 11:00 am (First Thursday of every Month)

Everyone is welcome! Please come!

Freewill offering/donations accepted

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that if your wheel falls off your trash bin, we can replace it? Just call the office at 540-740-3432 as soon as you notice the wheel is missing. We will send our Public Works crew out to fix it for you by the end of the day on Fridays after the trash is picked up in town.

MAINTAIN ACCESS TO YOUR WATER METER

It is very important that customers maintain clear access to their water meters from the public right-of-way. Obstacles that may block the radio signals include building materials, foliage and metal objects located between the street and the meter pit.

All town water customers are responsible for the upkeep of the area between their meter pit and the street. Please assist us by trimming foliage and by clearing snow and ice from the lid of the meter pit. Landscaping or fencing should be kept at least 1-3 feet from the meter pit.

Maintain access to your water meter to assist us with:

- Meter Reading
- Emergency shutoffs (for frozen pipes) when you are away from home or are unable to turn off the water yourself; and
- Emergency water meter maintenance

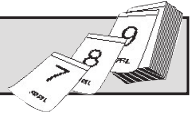
HEAVY TRASH PICK-UP ADDITIONAL DAYS

The Town's Public Works Crews will be collecting heavy trash items **FOUR TIMES THIS YEAR (see dates below)**. This month, they will be out picking up your heavy trash items and live Christmas trees from Monday, January 8th through Friday, January 12th. Please place all heavy trash curbside. Crews will not go onto private property to make collections. This service is provided to our residential customers only. Crews will pick up trash by item type during the week and will have all trash picked up by the end of the day on Friday, January 12th, 2024. Brush and limbs must be tied in bundles no longer than four feet in length. To ensure removal, all heavy trash should be placed curbside no later than 7:00 am on Friday, January 12th, 2024. Due to State laws governing the operation of the Shenandoah County Landfill, the Town is unable to remove old TVs, computers, tires, or hazardous materials such as pesticides, herbicides, paint, paint thinner, etc. For instruction on where to take the aforementioned items, you may call the Shenandoah County Landfill at 540-984-8573. Thank you for your cooperation.

This year's heavy trash pick-up schedule is:

- **January 8-12 – including live Christmas trees**
- **May 20-24**
- **Aug 12-16**
- **Oct 15-18**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



January 2024

- 1 Town Office Closed in Observance of New Year's Day
- 8-12 Heavy Trash/Christmas Tree Pickup
- 15 Water/Sewer Bills Due
- 15 Town Office Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 16 Town Council Meeting
(Tuesday instead of Monday) 6:30 pm



February 2024

- 15 Water/Sewer Bills Due
- 19 Town Office Closed in Observance of Presidents Day
- 20 Town Council Meeting
(Tuesday instead of Monday) 6:30 pm



TOWN OF NEW MARKET CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergency Services:

Emergencies: 911
 Shenandoah County Dispatch: 540-459-6101
 Police Department: 540-740-3776
 Fire and Rescue: 540-740-8904

New Market Town Office: 540-740-3432

Dispatch: 540-459-6101
 (After-hours and weekend Water/Sewer Emergencies)

Town of New Market

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 (540) 740-3432 • www.newmarketvirginia.com

9418 John Sevier Road • P.O. Box 58 • New Market, VA 22844

TOWN COUNCIL

Larry Bompiani, Mayor • Peggy Harkness, Vice Mayor
 Scott Wymer • Daryl Watkins • Bob King • Janice Hannah • Peter Hughes
 Jason J. Ham, Town Attorney

ADMINISTRATION

Nathan Garrison *Town Manager*
 Chris Rinker..... *Police Chief*
 Teresa Green..... *Town Treasurer*
 J.D. Fadley.....*Public Works Director*

Savannah Frazier *Events & Marketing Director*
 Amber Smoot..... *Executive Assistant*
 Lindsey Kipps *Office Assistant*
 De Prunka..... *Office Assistant*

An Equal Opportunity Community

**Boxholder
 P.O. Box Section
 New Market, VA 22844**

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www.newmarketvirginia.com**

