

MAYOR'S CORNER

This month's article is the first of a three part series to inform the citizens of New Market of our plans and needs for future growth. It has been over 20 years since a new neighborhood has been planned and developed in New Market. The availability of vacant building lots are scarce and aging lifetime residents who want to downsize are having to move to other towns. This has contributed to our slight decline in population from 2010 through 2020 census. It has been established that New Market's median age of its citizen is 57 whereas the other 5 towns in the county averages between 34-39 years. Our school age children make up only approximately 15% of our population yet our neighboring Shenandoah towns are greater than 25%. Furthermore, the businesses that are located in our town have difficulty finding employees. For the past 2 summers even the town has found it challenging to find lifeguards to keep our community pool open.

Consider the cost of operating a municipality. New Market has 21 full time employees dispersed between the police department, public works and the central office. Salaries, Health Insurance, Retirement Plans, vacation days as well as other benefits all add up to a large percentage of our fiscal budget. The escalation of minimum wage by our federal government over the past 3 years mandates increasing the salaries of our employees proportionally so as to be fair to them. In addition to the salaries of our great employees, and I do mean that we have **GREAT** employees, comes the expense of updating equipment. The cost of replacing the filters at our

water treatment plant alone would shock you. Thank God that we have Johnny Griggs that is so versatile at identifying and correcting problems before they happen. The amount of money that he and J. D. Fadley, our Public Works Director, save us by fixing many problems themselves adds up to tens of thousands every year!

Now, over the years, add a street sweeper, wood-chipper, utility trailer, dump truck, skid loader, police cruiser, pickup truck, emergency light trailer etc., etc., etc. After that comes the cost of insurance on the vehicles and buildings as well as the utilities and repairs. A new maintenance building was long past due because the employees were working in an antiquated, mold infested shop. The new building should be completed by September. We haven't even touched the cost of the new projects and infrastructure upgrades that are planned. I will discuss those in the next article.

Some people say to reduce the number of employees to cut costs. However, that same citizen lies in a warm comfortable bed at 2:00 AM while the employee is outside in 25 degree weather fixing a water main leak. Quite simply, there is a great expense to operate a town and we citizens have to pay for it. Simple economics says that the cost per person is less when you divide it among more residents. According to the 2020 census New Market is going in the opposite direction.

Larry A. Bompiani
New Market Mayor

ACH AVAILABLE FOR PAYMENT OF YOUR UTILITY BILL

We know how busy our customers are and how quickly the due date comes around for water/sewer bills. We want to remind citizens that we offer the option of paying their water bill through automatic deduction (ACH) from their bank account each month. This could save writing a check, paying postage, or even a trip to the Town Office. **We no longer offer monthly credit/debit card deductions.** Forms for ACH can be picked up in the Town Office or downloaded from the Residents tab of the Town's website, www.newmarketvirginia.com. Completed forms should be returned to the Town Office. Automatic deductions will be deducted from your bank account on the fifteenth of each month unless it falls on a weekend or holiday; then it will be deducted on the next business day. The amount due on your bill is the amount that will be deducted from your account. If you have questions or want to know more about this service, please call the Town Office at 540-740-3432.

CONGRESS STREET BLOCK PARTY

- **When:** Thursday, July 25, 2024 from 5:00 pm -7:00 pm
- **Where:** Downtown New Market

Join us downtown to shop sidewalk sales, enjoy music from Sound Solutions, play games like life size Connect 4, Kerplunk, Jenga, and more. Dine at one of our wonderful restaurants too! Shop local to be in a drawing for gift certificates and fun prizes.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

- **When:** Tuesday, August 6, 2024 from 6:00 pm -8:00 pm
- **Where:** New Market Community Park

Join the New Market Police Department for free hot dogs, chips, games, giveaways and more!

LIBRARY NEWS

Adventure Begins at your Library! Summer programs are scheduled for each Wednesday morning at 10 am. June 5-July 24th. There will not be a program July 3rd.

July 10th-Adventure with Bees, Joe and Barb Haller

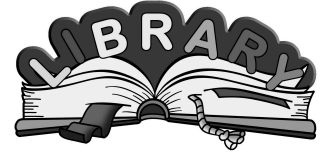
July 17th-Adventures with Art, Dawn Murray

July 24th-Adventures in Space, Captain Curiosity

Families can pick up reading logs to keep record of time

spent reading. Bring in logs each week to win prizes. A bigger prize can be won when logs are completed.

Attention teens and adults!
You can also read for rewards this summer. Stop by the library for information.



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 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

The next food pantry pick up is Thursday, July 18, 2024.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Food, Fun, Friends, Family & Fireworks!!

Come join us for an evening of live entertainment, great food, youth and adult activities, and of course FIREWORKS. The New Market Independence Day Celebration committee has been working hard with the Town of New Market to host our annual celebration.

- **Date:** Friday, July 5, 2024
- **Time:** 5:00 pm- 9:30 pm
- **Where:** New Market Community Park
- **Live Entertainment** by Prime at 6:00 pm
- **Fireworks** at 9:20 pm

Feel free to bring chairs or blankets for comfort. PETS and ALCOHOL are NOT permitted. Parking will be at the New Market Fire and Rescue building

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Maintaining utilities such as heat, electric and water are crucial to housing stability. In partnership with the Salvation Army, SAS administers a Utility Assistance Program for Shenandoah County residents who have received a shut-off notice.

This assistance is limited to individual/household use once every 2 years per Salvation Army requirements, and the amount of assistance provided is based on donations received. In order to be considered for utility assistance the household must have suffered a financial crisis in the last 90 days.

Please be prepared to provide proof of income, and documentation of a financial crisis.

SAS developed and operates a HelpLink system for Local Area Churches to encourage partnership and distribution of community assistance to residents in need as well as to prevent the duplication of financial assistance within Shenandoah County.

<http://www.allianceforshelter.com/utility-assistance.html>

ONLINE PAYMENT COMING SOON!

The Town of New Market will soon begin accepting online payments for those customers who prefer the convenience of paying electronically with their debit/credit card. There will be a small service fee associated with making payments online. The Town will not profit from this fee.

Other payment options available to customers at no charge include in person via cash, check, money order or debit/credit card; by mail; or by depositing payment in the drop box located to the right of the entrance to the Town Office. In addition, water/sewer/trash customers can make payment through automatic monthly deductions from their bank account. Forms are available on our website or at the Town Office.

More information regarding the online payment process will be forthcoming. Please check our website at www.newmarketvirginia.com for updates.

SEASONAL LEAF AND GRASS REMOVAL

Curbside removal service for leaf and grass and other organic yard debris continues every Friday through November. Leaves must be in biodegradable bags and placed curbside by noon. Please visit our town website www.newmarketvirginia.com or call the town offices at 540-740-3432 for more information or questions pertaining to this service.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that we have Town Council meetings every month? The public is welcome to attend. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month. If you'd like to know what is on the agenda for each meeting, please check our website www.newmarketvirginia.com the Wednesday before the meeting to see what is coming up. Want your opinion heard? Don't like how something is going? Attend the meetings on the third Monday of each month and let your voice be heard.

YARD SALES

As summer approaches we begin thinking about yard sales. The guidelines below are a good reminder on the rules and regulations in town regarding these sales.

Guidelines

1. All individuals conducting a yard sale are required to obtain a yard sale permit from the Town Office prior to the sale.

2. In residential districts, a household is only allowed two yard sales annually. There is no fee associated with permits for these two sales and sales cannot exceed a 72-hour consecutive period.

3. In commercial districts, a household is allowed two yard sales annually with no fee associated with the permits for these two sales. If the householder wishes to hold additional sales an annual permit must be obtained at a fee as set from time to time by the Town Council. Each yard sale in a commercial district cannot exceed a 72-hour consecutive period every three months.

4. **Signs shall NOT be placed on telephone poles, power poles, street signs, public trees, sidewalks or any other publicly owned and/or maintained places or structures.** All signs shall be limited to private property and shall be removed within 24 hours after the conclusion of the sale.

5. During the weekend of the *Route 11 Yard Crawl*, the Town will not count participation in that event towards total allowable yard sales on an annual basis.

6. Civic organizations are exempt from the above regulations, except for #4.

Questions?

You may contact the Town Office, Monday – Friday, during regular business hours with questions regarding this service.

NEW MARKET FIRE AND RESCUE NEWS

We hope everyone is trying to stay cool with the high temperatures outside. Please remember to stay hydrated in this hot weather.

For the month of May, our crews ran a total of 130 calls. Of those calls, 106 were for EMS and 24 for Fire Service with 72 of those calls being within town limits.

We would like to thank everyone who supported our department by purchasing a Gun Bash ticket.

Upcoming events:

- July 5th: New Market Independence Day Celebration is being held at the New Market Community Park from 5:00pm until 9:30pm. There is free parking behind the fire station. Come by and see the fireworks.
- July 10th: Blood Drive from 12:30pm until 5:30pm. Please donate. Remember, the life you save may be your own.
- July 20th: Bingo! Doors open at 4:30pm and games start at 6:30pm. Come play bingo and have supper with us! The special will be spaghetti, tossed salad and garlic bread.
- September 28th: Fall Fling. Mark your calendars! We will soon be announcing when tickets will go on sale.

Thank you for your continued support to our department and we hope everyone has a safe and happy 4th!

PET WASTE

Pet waste left on the street or lawn does not just go away or fertilize the grass. Rain washes pet waste down storm drains and into waterways like rivers, bays, and beaches. Pet waste also provides a nitrogen source for algae blooms, which deplete the water of oxygen and can make people and animals sick.

The Town of New Market has an ordinance regarding pet waste. Sec. 14-3.1 – Unlawful to allow dogs to defecate on public or private property; exception

a) No person shall knowingly or willfully allow a dog belonging to him or in his custody to defecate on the private property of other persons without the consent of such persons, or to defecate on public property; except that defecation by a dog on such property shall not constitute a violation of this section if the owner or person in custody of the dog immediately removes the material defecated and disposes of it in a safe and sanitary manner.

b) Any person violating and foregoing provisions of this section shall be guilty of a class 4 misdemeanor for each violation.

What You Should Do

- Keep a supply of bags handy

When walking your pet, take a bag with you for quick waste pick-up. It helps to keep a supply of bags near your dog leash and to tie the bags on the leash if you don't have a pocket or pack. Consider re-using plastic newspaper bags or bread bags. Use the bag to pick up the waste, and tie it closed. When at home, long-handled pooper-scoopers are available at pet stores make it easy to pick up after pets without stooping over.

- Dispose of pet waste properly

Place sealed bags of pet waste in the trash. It may help to double bag dog waste or kitty litter. Do not throw waste near or into storm drains, and do not dump kitty litter outside. Do not flush pet waste down your toilet.

- Follow local rules and signs

Some cities and towns have fines for not picking up waste on streets, in parks, or in dog parks.

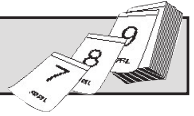
- Help others remember to scoop the poop

Don't let your pet pollute, and encourage those around you to be responsible pet owners, too.

SHELTER RENTAL 2024

Shelter #1 (11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.)	\$30.00
Shelter #1 (4:00 p.m. – closing)	\$30.00
Shelters #2-4 (11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.)	\$25.00
Shelters #2-4 (4:00 p.m. – closing)	\$25.00
Shelters #5-6 (11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)	\$20.00
Shelters #5-6 (4:00 p.m. - closing)	\$20.00
Gazebo (All Day)	\$25.00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



July 2024

- 4 Town Office Closed in Observance of Independence Day
- 5 Independence Day Celebration
- 5 Lawn and Leaf
- 12 Lawn and Leaf
- 15 **Water/Sewer Bills Due**
- 15 Town Council Meeting 6:30 pm
- 19 Lawn and Leaf
- 26 Lawn and Leaf

August 2024

- 2 Lawn and Leaf Pickup
- 6 **National Night Out at New Market Park 6:00-8:00 pm**
- 9 Lawn and Leaf Pickup
- 16 Lawn and Leaf Pickup
- 10 **New Market Pool Open Weekends Only**
- 10 **Route 11 Yard Crawl**
- 15 **Water/Sewer Bills Due**
- 16 **Crossroads Music Fest at Rebel Park-Bottle Shock 6:30-9:00 pm**
- 17 **Movie Night in the Park at sundown (approx. 7:50 pm)**
- 19 Town Council Meeting 6:30 pm
- 23 Lawn and Leaf Pickup
- 30 Lawn and Leaf Pickup

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**

**9418 John Sevier Road
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 www.newmarketvirginia.com**



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