

MAYOR'S CORNER

As I recently traveled to and through various places in Virginia, I have noticed that many small towns have mottos or slogans to describe and promote their town. For example, the City of Manassas, which has gone through a fantastic revitalization in the not so distant past, has adopted the slogan "An old Town with a New Attitude". I believe that New Market, in conjunction with our upcoming streetscape project, could use a motto/slogan that describes the town, our proud history and our citizens. Perhaps something like "New Market, the Crossroads of History, Heritage and Community", but that's just one of my ideas. I'd really like to hear yours.

The Town of New Market is therefore announcing a "motto/slogan contest" where all of you can get involved by submitting your ideas and voting for the most popular. Once your ideas are submitted, we will share them with the citizens through e-mail and the town newsletter and ask you to vote on the one you feel best suits New Market and our positive goals for the future. The

motto/slogan receiving the highest vote will be adopted and hence become an important part of our town image. The winner of the contest will receive one month free water bill (up to \$75.00).

We plan to solicit ideas in December and January (it's cold outside, so sit inside and be creative). Submit your motto/slogan to the town office, in person or by e-mail, with your name, address and telephone number. The deadline for ideas is 4:00 pm on Friday, January 16th, 2009. We will have the ballots and voting instructions available in the February newsletter. All votes must be turned in by Wednesday, February 18th, 2009. The winner will be announced in the March newsletter. Put your creative thinking caps on and let us know your ideas.

Please take this and other opportunities to get involved in **YOUR TOWN**. I hope to see many of you at the upcoming Mayors Forums - **Thursday, December 11, 2008 and January 15, 2009, 7:00 pm at the Town Office.**

WATER/SEWER RATE INCREASES

As many of you are aware, the Town will be constructing a sewer pipeline and pump station to transfer the Town's wastewater to the Town of Broadway Plant located on Route 211. This construction is necessary because flows at the existing Town Sewer Plant often exceed the plant's designed capacity and the plant is not capable of meeting new nutrient reduction requirements set by and mandated by the Chesapeake Bay Act. After analyzing the costs, the Town Council voted to join with Broadway because it would be more cost effective than reconstructing the Town's plant.

The total cost of the pipeline/pump station construction and for hooking up to the Broadway Plant is estimated to be approximately \$10 million. Unfortunately this figure will require increases to the sewer rates as the existing revenues cannot absorb the increased debt service costs.

The following rate increases are proposed for this year. Sewer rates for in-town and out-of-town users are proposed to increase by 15%. For in-town residents the minimum user would see an increase of \$2.85 per month and the average user (3,500 gallons per month) \$5.36 a month. The 15% increase for out-of-town residents would equate to a \$4.99 increase per month for the minimum user and an increase of \$9.36 for the average user. The water rate is proposed to increase 2.8% based on the Consumer Price Index for 2007. This small increase is needed to account for the increased costs of operating the water plant. In our ongoing attempt to be honest and upfront with the citizens of New Market we must say that future increases in sewer rates will likely be necessary due to the

amount of money the Town must borrow to fund this construction.

There are also proposals for new water and sewer connection fees. These fees deal with new structures. For in-town properties the rates are proposed to increase from \$3,000 to \$12,000 for sewer and from \$3,000 to \$6,000 for water. Out-of-town connections would increase from \$6,000 to \$18,000 for sewer and from \$6,000 to \$10,000 for water.

The Town Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed increases on December 15th at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Town Hall. **The Mayor's Forum will also deal with these increases. The forum will be held on December 11th at 7:00 p.m., also in the Council Chambers. We urge all interested to attend the forum as it is an informal, give and take opportunity, to clarify issues and have your voice heard.**

Through all of this it is important to keep an open mind and remember that the Town doesn't have a choice on whether to upgrade or replace our old sewer plant. The State would have eventually forced us to do something to correct the issues through fines or shutting the plant down. We did, however, have a choice in how to solve the problem and the decision to join with the Broadway Plant is expected to save the Town at least \$10 million, which we believe may be a conservative estimate. The rate increases proposed would have been at least twice as high had The Council chosen to renovate the Town plant instead of pumping our wastewater to the Broadway plant for treatment.

NEW MARKET POLICE BLOTTER

During the month of October, the Police Department responded to 497 calls for service. There were 8 physical arrests, 3 DUI arrests, 4 intoxicated in public arrests, and 1 driving while revoked/DUI related arrest. Officers worked 5 motor vehicle crashes and responded to 49 mutual aid calls to other agencies. The police department made 159 traffic stops and issued 44 summonses for various traffic violations.

The January meeting of the Neighborhood Watch Program will be January 8, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall. (Note that this is the second Thursday, so scheduled because the first Thursday falls on New Years Day.) Everyone is invited to attend.

The Police Department would like to remind everyone to remember to be safe during the holiday season. Please keep track of your debit/credit cards. Also, remember not to drink and drive. During the holiday season, the Police Department will have extra units patrolling the streets for intoxicated drivers.

Also, do not forget to "BUCKLE UP", and have a safe holiday season!

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP

The Town will pick up discarded Christmas trees from January 5, 2009 through January 9, 2009.

LIBRARY NEWS

The new library opened to the public November 3, 2008. Thanks for the support and efforts of all who made it possible! Many of you have been in to visit and get your library card. If you haven't yet been by, we hope to see you soon! We are now open Mondays 11:00 am - 6:30 pm, Tuesday through Friday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm, and Saturdays from 9:30 am - 1:00 pm. All are invited to attend the GRAND OPENING CEREMONY on Friday, December 12, 2008 at the library, time to be announced.

A Christmas Party/Story Hour for children will be hosted at the library Saturday, December 13, 2008 at 1:00 pm. Help us decorate the Christmas tree, hear stories of the season and enjoy some holiday treats!

The New Market Book Club will hold its December meeting at the library on December 10, 2008 at 7:00 pm. The book to be discussed is The Lucky One by Nicholas Sparks. The group welcomes new members. For information call Linda King at 740-3296.

Continued donations are appreciated. They are being used for the new library and its upkeep. They can be sent to New Market Library, P.O. Box 452, New Market, VA 22844.

New Books for December:

A McKettrick Christmas
by Linda Lael Miller
Salvation in Death by J.D. Robb
Divine Justice by David Baldacci
The Price of Butcher's Meat
by Reginald Hill
A Mercy by Toni Morrison
Ender in Exile
by Orson Scott Card
Just After Sunset by Stephen King
Santa Clawed by Rita Mae Brown

The Bodies Left Behind
by Jeffery Deaver
The Hour I First Believed
by Wally Lamb
The Private Patient
by P.D. James
Crossroads by Belva Plain
Your Heart Belongs To Me
by Dean Koontz
Cross Country
by James Patterson

CHRISTMAS IN NEW MARKET

In conjunction with Shenandoah County's 3rd Annual "Christmas Along the Old Valley Pike", New Market will have a tree lighting and carol singing at the Town Hall on December 6, 2008 at 6:00 pm. The Chorus from Stonewall Jackson High School will be performing, and refreshments of hot cocoa and cookies will be served in the Council Chambers.

Also on December 6, at 1:00 pm, the American Legion will sponsor our annual Christmas parade. So come on out for the parade, enjoy the afternoon visiting our shops, then gather round the outdoor tree at the Town Hall for the festivities there.

DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE MEETING

Land, Planning & Design Associates will hold the second public meeting on the Downtown Streetscape Project on December 8, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Arthur L. Hildreth, Jr. Municipal Building, located at 9418 John Sevier Road in New Market. LPDA will summarize the meeting held on October 14th, present some preliminary design work for public comments and discuss material choices for the project. The Public is encouraged to attend this meeting, which is the second of a series of public meetings that will focus on the streetscape plan. Anyone with any questions or concerns should contact Chris Boies, Town Manager, at 740-3432.

GARDEN CLUBS

COHEE GARDEN CLUB

The Cohee Garden Club met Monday, November 3, 2008 in Farrow Hall of the Manor Memorial United Methodist Church. Vivian Myers, assisted by Kay Fadeley, gave a wonderful program on Christmas decorating. She used an abundance of items ranging from pinecones to flowers with hundreds of methods of putting things together. We were all inspired to go home and start decorating immediately!

The Christmas luncheon at Blessings Lodge was discussed along with wrapping gifts for shut-ins that will be distributed by the Senior Center in Edinburg. Also discussed were plans for judging Christmas decorations in New Market.

The judging will take place starting at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, December 9, 2008. Three members of the Shenandoah Garden Club in Woodstock will serve as judges. Categories include: contemporary, traditional, business, and most impressive lighting display. All residences and businesses will be included in the judging, so please remember to turn those lights on that night!

NEW MARKET GARDEN CLUB

The New Market Garden Club held its monthly meeting on November 17, 2008 in the Fellowship Hall of the New Market Seventh -Day Adventist Church. There were 11 members and 2 guests present. Hostesses were Kay Seek, Ruth Simons and Dot Johnson.

A report on the Shenandoah District meeting, which was held in Staunton, VA on October 9, 2008, was given by President Virginia Thompson.

Plans were made for our Christmas project. Karen Ockenga held a workshop for making unique wreaths.

Our Christmas Luncheon will be hosted by the FCE on Tuesday, December 9, 2008. Each member will bring canned food for the food pantry and a wrapped gift of candy to be exchanged by members of the Club. The wrappings will be judged.

Those receiving blue ribbons on horticulture were dot Johnson, 4 and Ellen Dever, 1.

NEWS FROM THE NEW MARKET AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The New Market Chamber of Commerce office is beginning the tasks of updating its website and mailing out 2009 membership applications. Anyone desiring additional information can contact the Chamber office at 540-740-3212, or email us at nmchambr@shentel.net.

The Chamber welcomes Barnes & Phillips Insurance Company located on South Congress Street for 2009 Membership.

The Chamber's last 2008 meeting, a Member Business Social, will be held on Tuesday, December 9th at Dr. Jeff Burns' Office and SPA 122 at 9626 S. Congress St. from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The Chamber welcomes this newest addition to the New Market business community. Meetings are open to the public and the Chamber welcomes attendance from both members and non members alike.

It is time for the Chamber to fill out its schedule for 2009 monthly meetings. Chamber meetings are always held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. There are 4 opportunities for evening business social meetings during each year, one every 3 months. The socials allow members to showcase their businesses and unique abilities to provide services to the Town and surrounding area. If you would like to host one of the business socials at your location please call or email the Chamber.

Thanks to all of you for your support to the Chamber during the past year.

*From all of us at the Chamber,
we wish you and your family
a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you have ever wanted to serve your community, now is the time. The Town is currently accepting volunteer application forms for both the Planning Commission and the Historic Overlay District Review Board. Forms are available at the Town Office and on the Town website.

The Planning Commission meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Members are appointed by the Town Council and terms run for 4 years. While working closely with the Council, the Commission is mainly involved in the preparing of the comprehensive plan, reviewing site plans, subdivision plats and land use applications and offering their recommendation of approval or denial to the Town Council.

The Historic Overlay District Review Board does not have a set meeting date; rather they meet as applications are received and terms are for 3 years. Most meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Town Office. The Board itself is charged with reviewing plans that will change the exterior appearance of buildings and structures located in the Historic Overlay District. Specifically, the Board encourages construction projects to be compatible with the Town's historic character and promote the historic areas for the education, pleasure and welfare of the citizens and tourists alike. It is important to note that the Board only makes recommendations and that they are not binding on the applicant.

Should you have any questions about either of the opportunities please feel free to contact Chad Neese at 740-3432.

THE NEW MARKET COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.

The replacement windows have been installed at the Center, and we now have central air and heat in the cafeteria and kitchen. A special thank you to Mountain Valley Home Comfort, David Hughes Electrical and Mountain View Guttering. Also, thank you to Gordy Farrey for donating his time to install the drop ceiling in the cafeteria. His free labor saved us about \$10,000 on the ceiling.

The New Market Community Center is a non-profit corporation operating under the IRS designation of 501 © (3). The property is not owned by the Town of New Market. The Center is managed by a Board of Directors who serve on a volunteer basis. All contributions to the Center are tax-deductible. The Town of New Market is a great supporter of the Center. However, we depend on donations from the citizens of New Market and the surrounding area to supplement our rental fees. Rental fees alone do not generate enough income to operate the Center.

Weight Watchers meet at the Center on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. You may call 800-651-6000 for further information.

Kathy Hurd-Corillo operates a dance studio Monday, Thursday and Friday nights at the Center. Her telephone number is 540-333-1511. New students are welcome.

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. Check with us before you book your party elsewhere. We have a family-friendly atmosphere at the Center. Call for rental prices. The cafeteria will comfortably seat 100. For an additional fee, the kitchen is also available.

The Board Members have voted to offer, on a limited basis, space for public-service organizations to hold special events. The Center Board must approve these events in advance. Requests for meeting space are to be mailed to the Center at P.O.Box 1377, New Market, VA 22844. This is offered to assist those organizations needing a large meeting area.

AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

The American Legion will host a Christmas Craft Show on December 6th and 7th, 2008 from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. Come get your Christmas gifts from quality crafters.

Also, Sons of Legion will host the Annual Christmas Parade December 6, 2008 at 1:00 pm with the parade line up beginning at 12:00 noon. All entries are welcome. Following the parade, Santa will visit with the children at the American Legion.

Also, the Girl Scouts will be collecting Toys for Tots at the Legion December 6, 2008. Bring a toy to help one of many unfortunate children.

We now have karaoke at the Legion every Sunday from 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Ya'll come!

We want to thank everyone for your support of our chicken barbecues. We look forward to seeing you in the spring.

Steak suppers, which are open to the public are held the second Friday of each month. Call 740-8653 to order. The third Friday of each month features shrimp dinners beginning at 5:00 pm.

Anyone wishing to join the Legion may call Charles White at 740-3433.

Anyone having questions regarding rental of our social hall may call 740-4189 and ask for Tom.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



December

1	Council Committee Meetings in the following order: (1) Finance & Personnel (2) Public Works (3) Public Safety (4) Tourism, Economic Development, & Historic Preservation	6:30 pm 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 and Personal Property Taxes Due	
6	Christmas Parade	1:00 pm
6	Treelighting, caroling, refreshements At the Town Hall	6:00 pm
8	Downtown Streetscape Meeting at the Town Hall	7:00 pm
11	Mayor's Forum	7:00 pm
15	Water/Sewer Bills Due	
15	Town Council Meeting	7:30 pm
25-26	Town Office Closed in Observance of Christmas	

January 2009

1	Town Office Closed in Observance of New Year's Day	
5	Council Committee Meetings In the following order: (1) Finance & Personnel (2) Public Works (3) Public Safety (4) Tourism, Economic Development & Historic Preservation	6:30 pm TO 7:30 pm
5	Planning Commission Meeting	7:30 pm
15	Mayor's Forum	7:00 pm
15	Water/Sewer Bills Due	
16 & 19	Town Office Closed in Observance of Lee-Jackson & Martin Luther King, Jr. Holidays	
19	Town Council Meeting	7:30 pm

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 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 *Town Manager*
Charles Peery *Police Chief*
Jeanne K. Rinker *Town Clerk*
Chad Neese *Town Planner/Zoning Administrator*

Michael Ritchie *Public Works Director*
Teresa Green *Treasurer*
Donna Lohr *Administrative Assistant*

An Equal Opportunity Community

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