

## THE MAYOR'S CORNER

As I begin to write this article for the February Newsletter, it is the day after the horrific shootings of a public servant and innocent bystanders in Arizona. The images of this tragedy which resulted in the death of six people, coupled with the school board shooting in Florida last December gives cause for one to pause and think about public service in general and what it means. Those of us who choose to serve as elected officials do see ourselves targets, however targets of thoughts and ideas, rather than targets of bullets. In the United States of America we revere our freedom of speech, however when this freedom seems to be so subverted that people feel their only method of discourse is a gun, we have to ask where we have gone wrong. Our forefathers saw freedom of speech and a right to assembly as civil discourse, not derisive and vitriolic rhetoric which gives rise to violent action. As elected officials we face tough decisions which are not always agreed upon by all. However, we still try to create forums where all can be heard and all sides are taken into account before a decision is made. This is the nature of a democratic society and it is up to each citizen to be involved in the process, to have their concerns heard and participate for the good of the whole. Your town government works hard to ensure that each citizen is heard and we hope that every citizen becomes involved. We want to be targets for your positive ideas and concerns about our town. I would ask all of you to let this recent tragedy be a call to action. Don't just ask the empty question, "What can I do?" Instead, "Do Something!" Show your outrage by exercising your constitutional rights and be involved. Don't let those who gave and are giving their lives everyday be lives given in vain.

In this mode of thinking, a big and public thank you goes out to all the town committees, staff, management and council for a job well done. I don't know whether the citizens are aware that the audit of the town's finances were recently completed and the town received an A+ on its financial report card. We have reserves which are above the required minimum for towns due to excellent budgeting. Congratulations to everyone who had a part in the budgeting process for being so fiscally responsible in these tight economic times.

By the way, if you've seen lights on at Rebel Park it's because the Rebel folks are working hard to get ready for the return of the "Boys of Summer". Thanks to the hard work and donations of many, a new tarp for the field has been purchased. However, thinking ahead to summer, there is one thing that is needed now more than anything - housing for the Rebel players. Have you ever thought about being a host family and housing a player? If not, please give it some thought. Being a host family is a two month (June and July) commitment in which you provide room and board for a college baseball player. The host families find the fun and rewards are long lasting. The players often become members of the family and can serve as a positive role model for younger children. Many host families stay in contact with their player(s) long after the season is over. My wife and I have hosted the coaches for the last six years and have many positive memories and lasting friendships. If you would be able to host one or two players or have questions concerning hosting, please contact Melissa Dodge who is in charge of host families, at 540-758-1160 or e-mail [cmtdodge@shentel.net](mailto:cmtdodge@shentel.net).

Other things happening around the town include (at long last) the pumps pumping toward Broadway at the site of the old sewer plant, not too many frozen water pipes, and to date, not much snow to be plowed. Our Streetscape Project is moving forward with bids being opened in early February and work scheduled to begin this spring. We are also moving ahead with the Shady Lane project. As you can see, even in the dead of winter, your town is still hard at work.

Many of my personal thoughts are on the garden and the warmth that it brings, dreaming of homegrown tomatoes on a BLT, with a glass of lemonade on a long, hot summer day.

*In the coldest February, as in every other month in every other year, the best thing to hold on to in this world is each other.*

-Linda Ellerbee

## LIBRARY NEWS

Glancing at the February calendar I see several significant dates that might influence your reading selections:

**Chinese New Year, February 3, 2011** - We have the following books for children: My First Chinese New Year by Karen Katz; Happy New Year, Kung-hsifatsi by Demi; Dragon Dance by Joan Holub. Adults may be interested in What China Thinks by Mark Leonard or a novel by Anchee Min, Pearl of China.

Don't forget **Valentines Day, February 14<sup>th</sup>**! Your preference might include a book of poetry like Sonnets from the Portuguese by Elizabeth Barrett Browning, or one of hundreds of romantic novels found on our shelves. Maybe a recipe book with decadent chocolate treats or Love Smart, relationship advice from Dr. Phil would enhance your holiday celebration.

**Presidents' Day**, observed on February 21<sup>st</sup> would be a great time to pick up one of several biographies of Abraham Lincoln or George Washington.

The Library is looking for new volunteers that would be available from 9:30 am - 1:00 pm one or two Saturdays per month. Anyone who is over 18, enjoys people and has some computer ability is qualified. Training is provided. Contact the library at 740-8650 during open hours or leave a message for Peg Harkness, Library Director.

The Children's Story Hour for February will be Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup> a 10:00 am featuring Teddy Bear stories. Children are invited to bring along their own Teddies for a cuddly story time. Families, mark your calendars for March 2<sup>nd</sup>. On this date the library will host a celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday from 4:00 - 5:00 pm.

### New Adult Fiction:

Home Free by Fern Michaels

Damage by John Lescroart

The Judas Gate by Jack Higgins

The Inner Circle by Brad Meltzer

The Sentry by Robert Crais

Strategic Moves by Stuart Woods

Tick Tock by James Patterson

The Red Garden by Alice Hoffman



## ANNUAL ATTIC TREASURES APPRAISAL FAIR

Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter will host its second Annual Attic Treasures Appraisal Fair on Sunday, March 20, 2011 from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm at the New Market Community Center. Bring your treasures to have them appraised by local appraisers, John Bowman, Hoyle Laughlin, Larry Wittig, Merrill Hausenfluck and Jim Bushong. The cost is \$10 for one item or \$25 for 3 items. Call 540-436-3202 for more information.

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## THE NEW MARKET LIONS CLUB

We held our annual event of providing refreshments to the I-81 southbound travelers at the rest area south of New Market on January 2nd. Travelers enjoyed our coffee and treats, and we enjoyed visiting with them as they paused on their way home or just headin' south after the holiday weekend. We share this venture with the Timberville Lions Club. It is always a very enjoyable day, in spite of the chilly weather, to socialize with everyone, young and old, from all over the east coast.

If you would like more information on our club's activities or are interested in becoming a member, please call our membership chairman at 540-740-3754 or club secretary at 540-740-4257. You can also visit the Lions International website at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) or read about Lions activities around the world in the *Lion Magazine* at the New Market Library.

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## NEW MARKET ROTARY CLUB UPDATE

The purchase of a new tarp for the New Market Rebel Park baseball field will be completed during the month of January 2011. This will replace the tarp that was damaged by a hail storm in the spring of 2009. The purchase has been made possible by funds raised by the New Market Rotary Charitable Fund and funds that were provided by the Shenandoah Valley Grandstand Managers Club. The 160' x 160' foot tarp should arrive in February for use in the 2011 season. Thanks go out to those New Market Rotary Club members and individuals in the community who donated funds through the fund raising cruise in September 2010. Also, thanks go to other donors who contributed nearly a thousand dollars directly to the New Market Rotary Charitable Fund. In addition, some matching funds were received from the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line.

## NEW MARKET AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

We are in the midst of our annual membership drive. For more information on becoming a member please contact the Chamber office at 540-740-3212.

The next monthly meeting of the Chamber will be held Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 6:30 pm at The Schultz Theatre in New Market. Come enjoy an evening of refreshments, entertainment and socializing.

The Chamber of Commerce will hold its Annual Banquet on March 17, 2010 at The Quality Inn beginning with a social hour at 6:00 pm. The Theme will be "A Night in Italy" featuring an Italian dinner menu. Tickets are \$20 each and are available at The Sports Connection, The Home Store, BB&T and the Chamber Office. Please come and support your local Chamber of Commerce.

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## POLICE BLOTTER December 2010

For the month of December the Police Department responded to 378 calls for service. There were 5 physical arrests, 5 motor vehicle crashes and 29 mutual aid responses. During the month there were 110 traffic stops with 53 summonses being issued.

For the year 2010 the police department responded to 4,691 calls for service and made 44 DUI arrests - up 26% from 2009. There were 109 physical arrests, up 76% from 2009. Motor vehicle crashes were down by 61% to 46. Breaking and entering charges were down and drug related charges were up. There was \$16,663 in property loss reported with \$1,205 having been recovered. The police department answered 163 citizen assist calls and did 557 property checks.

Some of the highlights for 2010: Officer Miller received an award from Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD); Sgt Rinker received the 2010 Click it or Ticket Dedication award from the Virginia Highway Safety Office; the Police Department received first place in the Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge. 2010 was a great year!

With the number of B&E's that have been occurring in the area around New Market we wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone to lock your doors and windows. If you are going to be away, let a trusted friend know to keep a watch over your property or contact the police department. When you buy a new flat screen TV, a new computer, or other large item do not set the box out for trash pickup. Instead, break down the box. If you do, anyone that rides by knows what is potentially in your house, and the bad guys look for these clues. Be aware of your surroundings and who is watching you or your property.

The next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be Thursday, April 7, 2011 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

## THE NEW MARKET COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.

Thank you for your support of the New Market Community Center, Inc. We are a 501 © (3) non-profit organization as designated by the Internal Revenue Service and are not owned by the Town of New Market. You may mail your contributions to the Center at P.O. Box 1377, New Market, VA 22844. All contributions will be greatly appreciated. We absolutely cannot operate the Center without the support of the Town of New Market, its citizens and citizens of the surrounding area.

The RMH Mammography Van will be at the Center on April 11, June 27, September 12, October 17 and December 1, 2011. You may call 540-433-4641 or 800-277-1021. Ladies, call and schedule your mammogram and save yourselves a trip to Harrisonburg.

The Shenandoah Banjo and Fiddle Club is at the Center for "picking sessions" Friday evenings at 7:00 pm and continues each Friday night through the end of May. Admission is free.

Weight Watchers meet at the Center on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm. 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 540-856-2214. 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.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## February 2011

- 3 Neighborhood Watch Meeting 7:00 pm  
At the Town Hall
- 7 Council Committee Meetings in the  
Following order: Finance & Personnel, 6:30 pm  
Public Works, Public Safety, Tourism, to  
Economic Development & Historic 7:30 pm  
Preservation
- 7 Planning Commission Meeting 7:30 pm
- 8 Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting 6:30 pm  
At the Schultz Theatre
- 15 Water/Sewer Bills Due**
- 21 Town Office closed for Presidents Day**
- 22 Town Council Meeting 7:30 pm  
(Note this a Tuesday, Not Monday)

## March 2011

- 7 Council Committee Meetings in the  
Following order: Finance & Personnel, 6:30 pm  
Public Works, Public Safety, Tourism, to  
Economic Development, & Historic 7:30 pm  
Preservation
- 7 Planning Commission Meeting 7:30 pm
- 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 15 Water/Sewer Bills Due**
- 17 Annual Chamber of Commerce 6:00 pm  
Banquet at The Quality Inn
- 21 Town Council Meeting 7:30 pm
- 24 New Market Historical Society 7:30 pm  
Meeting at the Town Hall

Town of New Market  
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
(540) 740-3432 • [www.newmarketvirginia.com](http://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  
Mary Alice Burch • Gary D. Comer • Harry Durrett • Troy Fadeley • Charles E. Litten  
Jason J. Ham, Town Attorney

### ADMINISTRATION

Evan L. Vass ..... <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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**An Equal Opportunity Community**

**Carrier Route  
Presort  
Rt. 3  
New Market, VA 22844**

9418 John Sevier Road  
P.O. Box 58  
New Market, Virginia 22844  
[www.newmarketvirginia.com](http://www.newmarketvirginia.com)



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