

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

"Winter, a lingering season, is a time to gather golden moments, embark upon a sentimental journey, and enjoy every idle hour." - John Boswell

One Golden moment I've had this winter was to attend a ceremony at the Mountain View Fellowship Brethren Church where New Market Town Councilman, **Harry Durrett** received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award. The award ceremony, in its 12th year, is sponsored by the Shenandoah Valley HIT newspaper. Harry was in good company with other recipients such as Congressman Bob Goodlatte and Charlotte McNulty (first night Harrisonburg) to mention just a couple. I, along with others, am pleased to have the representation on our Town Council of such a recognized leader. **Congratulations Harry, Way to Go!!**

Welcome to town **Lifeline to America and Shenandoah Baked Goods**. This non-profit organization offers health lectures on Thursday evenings at the Good Life Station located on S. Congress Street (across from the Southern Kitchen). They also bake and sell additive free bread. You may contact them for further information and the schedule of lectures at 540-713-5651. Welcome to New Market, I'm sure you will be a good addition to our town.

Since I am in a welcoming vein, let me give a welcome to three new town employees. First, the Town has filled a vacancy in the Police Department with an internal candidate, **Jonathan**

"John" D. Collins, who has served as a volunteer in the New Market Police Auxiliary program for the last 2 years. Officer Collins has accepted a conditional offer of employment pending his satisfactory completion of the criminal justice training program given at the police academy. Officer Collins will enter the academy in late January. Second, the Town Water Department had two positions open. Both vacancies have been filled. **Dennis Kane** and **Zach Roy** began their employment with the Town in mid-January as trainee operators. Again, welcome to all three of you.

You may have recently noticed a great deal of work on the town water system or had your water shut off for a period of time. Carole King's song, "I Feel the Earth Move under My Feet", was right on target for this water system problem. It seems the freezing and thawing of the soil, which often occurs this time of year, can cause movement in the earth. This movement sometimes causes the underground water lines to shift and leaks occur. Thus, we experience more leaks. Please try to be patient as the town maintenance crew will do the repairs as soon as possible, even if it means working all night in freezing temperatures as recently occurred. **Big thanks go out to the crew** for all the hard work.

Although the beginning of our winter has been relatively mild, there is still a lot of winter to come. Try to stay warm and healthy, keep an eye out for your neighbor who may need your help, and keep the faith, spring is just around the corner.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

If you have ever wanted to serve your community, now is the time. The Town is currently accepting volunteer application forms for the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). There is one opening on this Board.

BZA members are appointed by the Circuit Court Judge to serve a five-year term upon Town Council recommendation. The BZA has no set meeting schedule, but rather they meet on an as-needed basis. The BZA conducts public hearings when an applicant requests a variance from the requirements of the zoning ordinance. Variances may only be granted when the applicant can demonstrate the following:

- 1) That the strict application of the zoning ordinance in question would produce an undue hardship.
- 2) That such hardship is not shared generally by all other properties in the same zoning district and the same vicinity.
- 3) That the authorization of such variance will not be of substantial detriment to adjacent property and that the

character of the district will not be changed by the granting of the variance.

Self inflicted hardship, whether deliberately or ignorantly incurred, affords no basis for the granting of a variance.

The BZA also hears cases in which an applicant challenges the determination of the Zoning Administrator on zoning related issues.

Should you have any questions about this opportunity, please feel free to contact Chad Neese at 740-3432. All interested parties are encouraged to apply. Volunteer Applications may be downloaded off the Town's website, www.newmarketvirginia.com or obtained at the Town Office, 9418 John Sevier Road. Completed applications may be turned in at the Town Office or mailed to Chad Neese, P.O. Box 58, New Market, VA, 22844. Deadline for applications is Friday, February 24th, 2012.

NEW MARKET FIRE AND RESCUE

The New Market Fire and Rescue held their monthly meeting on January 9, 2012. The following fund raising events were announced:

- **February 5, 2012 – Ham and Oyster Dinner from 11:00 am - until.....**
- **March 23, 24, 25, 2012 – Spring Gun Show**

Volunteers are needed on February 4th and 5th to help with preparation and serving of the ham and oyster dinner. All help will be greatly appreciated. Anyone interested in helping the Fire and Rescue Department in any capacity please call 740-8904.

NEW MARKET AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Chamber of Commerce will hold its Annual Banquet on Thursday, March 22, 2012 from 6:00 - 9:00 pm at the Quality Inn, New Market. The theme for the banquet this year is "Let's Make A Deal". Come out and support your local Chamber of Commerce and enjoy a fun evening with a silent auction and great food. Ticket cost is \$20 per person and can be purchased by calling the Chamber office at 540-740-3212.

Donations for the Silent Auction can be dropped off at The Home Store, Valley Sports Connection, or the Chamber of Commerce office. We will also be happy to pick up any donations. Simply call the Chamber at the number above to make arrangements.

The Chamber would like to make a correction to last month's newsletter article. We incorrectly stated that the presentation of "Journey to Bethlehem" was produced by The Shenandoah Valley Academy. While the Academy did participate, the production was actually put on by the New Market Seventh Day Adventist Church. We apologize for any confusion and look forward to next year's production.

POLICE BLOTTER

During the month of December 2011 the New Market Police Department responded to 337 calls for service. The Department made 3 physical arrests, worked 5 motor vehicle crashes and responded to 32 calls for mutual aid for other law enforcement agencies. A total of 83 traffic stops were initiated resulting in 30 summonses for various violations.

<u>By the numbers:</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Calls for Service	4,670	4,414
Motor Vehicle Crashes	47	65
Physical Arrests	80	48
Traffic Citations	779	661

Safety Tip: Winter's chill sure makes spring seem a long way off, but now is the ideal time to assess the landscaping surrounding your home or place of business. Shrubbery, trees and bushes that obscure windows, doorways and security lights create opportunities for potential criminals to gain access to your property. Consider using this time to trim your landscaping back to make your property safe and secure.

FREE CLOTHING

Free Clothing for Needy People - Wednesdays 8:30 am - 5:00 pm and Thursdays 8:30 am - Noon, at the Seventh Day Adventist's Community Services Center located at 62 West Lee Highway. Questions? Call 740-8550.

THEATRE GROUP HELPS WITH ROTARY FUND RAISER

The New Market Rotary Club will team up with the Schultz Theatre Group to produce a Murder Mystery Dinner Theater fund raising event slated for April 28, 2012. This is the second time in two years that the Schultz Theater Group has partnered with a New Market Rotary Club sponsored event. The Murder Mystery theme is, "Murder Under the Big Top" and will be held at the American Celebration on Parade facility at the Shenandoah Caverns.

The proceeds from the fund raising dinner theater event will go to support the Lord Fairfax Community College scholarship fund. Also, funds raised will be shared with the Schultz Theater for their ongoing work and teaching programs. Tickets for the event are available on a first come basis by calling Rotarian, Joanne Burns at 540-477-4177.

LIBRARY NEWS

If you have a child from birth to 6 years old, don't forget to come and register for the Winter Reading Program. You will be given logs and stickers to keep track of books read to your child. If 30 books are read by March 2nd your child will receive a free book.

Friday, March 2nd, will be our annual birthday party for Dr. Seuss. Children can come make green eggs and ham, Cat in the Hat hats, have some cake and listen to favorite Dr. Seuss books read aloud. The fun starts after school at 4:00 pm!

New books are arriving every week at the library. Come browse the shelf of recent arrivals across from the circulation desk. Perhaps one of the new titles listed below will catch your eye!

Deadline, Fern Michaels
Private #1 Suspect, James Patterson
The Hunter, John Lescroart
Gun Games, Faye Kellerman
A Devil Is Waiting, Jack Higgins
Breakdown, Sara Paretsky
Love In A Nutshell, Janet Evanovich
Need You Now, James Grippando
Sisterhood of Dune, Brian Herbert
Gideon's Corpse, Douglas Preston
Believing the Lie, Elizabeth George
Taken, Robert Crais
Copper Beach, Jayne Ann Krentz

The Rope, Nevada Barr
Raylan, Elmore Leonard
Death Of Kings, Bernard Cornwell
All I Did Was Shoot My Man,
Walter Mosley
Home Front, Kristin Hannah
The Fear Index, Robert Harris



SMITH CREEK GRANT SUPPORTS URBAN AND RESIDENTIAL WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

The Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (“the District”) will be awarded a grant from the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation in January 2012 to support Smith Creek clean-up efforts. These funds were provided to the Commonwealth by the Environmental Protection Agency to support reduction of non point source pollution across the state. Called the Smith Creek Residential and Urban Implementation Program, grant funds will support public education about what homeowners can do to reduce their pollution contributions to the creek, and the implementation of residential and urban practices that improve water quality.

In 2004 Smith Creek and some segments of its tributaries were designated as “impaired” because water quality monitoring information indicated that the creek does not meet water quality standards for E. coli bacteria and for aquatic life uses. The sources of E. coli bacteria are warm blooded animals, including humans, pets, livestock and wildlife, and can pose a threat to human health including severe illness and infection. The primary cause of the aquatic life impairment is sediment, which is soil and other material that runs off of building sites, farms, and roads.

A plan for cleaning up Smith Creek, called the Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plan (“clean-up plan”) was completed in 2009 and includes clean-up goals, implementation strategies and associated costs. The plan can be viewed on Virginia Department of Environmental Quality’s website: <http://www.deq.state.va.us/export/sites/default/tmdl/implans/smthippubdoc.pdf>

The focus of this newly funded project is to help homeowners implement cost-effective residential and urban Best Management Practices (BMPs) and support implementation of the clean-up plan. While current restoration efforts and associated partnerships are substantial in the Smith Creek watershed, most of the efforts to date have focused on agricultural BMPs and have not addressed water quality impacts related to urban and residential land uses. Establishing a Residential and Urban BMP Program is a vital component for successfully meeting water quality goals and milestones set forth in the clean-up plan.

Early in 2012 the District will establish a residential septic system cost-share program (i.e., the cost of repairing or replacing a failing septic system will be shared by the participating property owner and the District). The program will provide information and support to the public about septic maintenance and will help fund septic tank pump outs, and the repair or replacement of failing septic systems. Landowners with straight pipes (pipes directly discharging untreated sewage into the creek) will also be eligible to receive considerable financial assistance with the installation of septic system. Additionally, the urban component of the program will address excess sediment and bacteria running in to the creek from rooftops, driveways, parking lots and roads. The District will work closely with the Center for Watershed Protection to provide technical and financial support for the installation of urban BMPs including five rain gardens. These gardens are specially designed to catch and treat polluted stormwater runoff before it enters the creek. They are also attractive landscape features that can serve as great backyard habitat for butterflies and hummingbirds.

The District’s creation of a Residential and Urban Implementation Program will significantly expand current partnerships with local governments, local citizen organizations, and other government agencies, aiming to involve the whole community in stewardship of local water resources. The Town of New Market will be a primary focus for the installation of urban BMPs due to the amount of paved or “impervious surface” found in more developed areas. Stream segments in Rockingham and Shenandoah counties that have a high percentage of bacteria from human sources will be a focus for residential BMPs.

Implementation goals for this project include:

- An urban streamside buffer planting
- A pet waste reduction program encouraging pet owners to pick up after their pets and prevent runoff of waste into the creek
- Five rain gardens to treat residential stormwater runoff
- Two bioretention filters to treat urban stormwater runoff
- 100 septic tank pumpouts
- Connection of 3 failing septic systems to public sewer
- Repair or replacement 23 of failing septic systems

For more information about the Smith Creek Residential and Urban Implementation Program, contact Megan O’Gorek at the Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, 540-433-2853 ext. 120; megan.ogorek@svswcd.org

NEW MARKET COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.

The RMH Mammography Van will be at the Center on April 17, June 29, September 14, October 17 and December 4, 2012. You may call 540-433-4641 or 800-277-1021. Ladies, call and schedule your mammogram and save yourselves a trip to Harrisonburg.

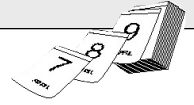
The Shenandoah Banjo and Fiddle Club is at the Center for "Picking Sessions" Friday evenings at 7:00 pm and continues each Friday night through the end of May. Admission is free. The event is held in the cafeteria.

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



February 2012

- 2 Neighborhood Watch meeting at 7:30 pm
The Town Hall
- 6 Council Committee meetings in the 6:30 pm
Following order: Finance & Personnel
Public Works, Public Safety, Tourism,
Economic Development & Historical
Preservation
- 15 **Water/Sewer Bills Due**
- 20 **Town Office closed in observance of
Presidents' Day**
- 21 Town Council Meeting 7:30 pm
(Note this is a Tuesday, not Monday)
- 29 Leap Day

March 2012

- 7 Council Committee meetings in the 6:30 pm
Following order: Finance & Personnel,
Public Works, Public Safety, Tourism,
Economic Development & Historical
Preservation (Wednesday, not Monday)
- 11 Daylight Savings time begins
- 15 **Water/Sewer Bills Due**
- 19 Town Council Meeting 7:30 pm
- 20 Spring begins
- 22 Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet 6:00 pm
at the Quality Inn

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
Doug Bradley • Gary D. Comer • Harry Durrett • Troy Fadeley • Charles E. Litten
Jason J. Ham, Town Attorney

ADMINISTRATION

Evan L. Vass *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

**Carrier Route
Presort
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New Market, VA 22844**

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