

THE MAYOR'S CORNER

"Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man."

Benjamin Franklin

Happy New Year to all of you. I hope you had a joyous holiday season. Thanks to everyone, shop owners and residents, for all your efforts. The town looked great with all the decorations and lights.

As I was in conversation with one of our downtown merchants she made an observation that I feel is worth mentioning. Her observation - **"We have it all right here in New Market"**. We have doctors, dentists, a pharmacy, lawyers, banks, insurance agencies and a vet. We have a dry cleaner, a pet groomer and grocery stores. We have shops that range from specialty gifts, to furniture and antiques. We have a music store, a florist (that delivers locally), a sports shop, a hardware store, a barber shop, several beauticians and a spa. And please don't forget we have our own playhouse, baseball team, golf course, battlefield and a community center that has ongoing activities and meeting space. We have a beautiful town park that contains a soccer field, tennis courts, baseball diamonds, basketball hoops, a swimming pool, exercise trail, swings and several picnic pavilions. A top rate library and bingo at the fire hall are two more town amenities. Over and above the array of "fast food" places, we offer several good restaurants ranging from Mexican to Italian to seafood, and some featuring the best southern cooking in the valley. We have auto and small machine repair shops as well as many gas stations. There are motels and B&B's for those visiting our area and real estate agencies for those that visit and decide to stay. We have fantastic fire, rescue and police services as well as several churches that add so much to our community. To top all this off there is the com-

pletion of our brand new streetscape with the second phase scheduled to start sometime in 2012. Look around, when you think about it she's right, **NEW MARKET HAS IT ALL!** So the next time you think about heading to Harrisonburg or Woodstock for some of the above, or when the winter roads ice over, just stay in town, we probably have just what you need right down the street.

"People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and the New Year, but they really should be worried about what they eat between the New Year and Christmas."

Author Unknown

My wife and I have been trying to work off those extra pounds put on over the holidays by walking our dogs in the town park. What a great facility that is used by so many folks, especially those walking their dogs. We've been impressed at how well kept the trail is and have found very few little (or big) presents left by dogs along the way. A big thanks goes out to the **town maintenance staff and fellow dog walkers** who obey the law by cleaning up after their dogs. The park continues to be a clean and safe family recreation area.

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home." **Edith Sitwell**

I hope your winter is mild and that you are surrounded by family and friends!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

If you have ever wanted to serve your community, now is the time. The Town is currently accepting volunteer application forms for the Historic Overlay District Review Board. There are two openings for this Board, one position for a resident and one position for a property owner within the Historic District.

The Historic Overlay District Review Board is made up of seven members (1 staff member, 3 residents of town, and 3 owners of property within the historic overlay district, who may, but need not be residents of the town). The Board is appointed by Town's Council to 3 year terms. The Board is in charge of reviewing all plans that will significantly change the exterior appearance of buildings located within the Historic Overlay District which is predominately on Congress Street from Stonewall Street to Lee Highway but also includes the New Market Battlefield. The Board is to encourage all construction projects to be compatible with the Town's historic character and to promote the historic areas for the education,

pleasure and welfare of the citizens of the town as well as tourists. While similar, the current Board is not charged with architectural review regulations that are enforceable as in other communities.

The Historic Overlay District Review Board does not have a set meeting date; rather they meet as applications are received. Most meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Town Office.

Should you have any questions about either of these opportunities, 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 Tuesday, January 31st, 2012.

PAST DUE TAX COLLECTION

To ensure the collection of past due taxes, since 2007 the Town of New Market has participated in the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicle Renewal Withholding Program. Through this program, the DMV will not renew drivers licenses and/or vehicle registration until the entire past due tax is paid in full along with a \$20 fee charged by DMV. Only cash, money orders and certified checks will be accepted for payment with a DMV stop. If you have questions please contact the Town Office at 540-740-3432.

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.

NEW MARKET ROTARY SPONSORS YOUTH TO LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

New Market Rotary Board members Jerry Biller, Bernard Brown and Tim Palmer recently interviewed candidates from the Stonewall Jackson High School to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Seminar at Blacksburg, Virginia which was held December 2 - 4, 2011. Four students were selected for the Leadership Seminar and were accompanied to the Seminar by Rotarian, Beverly Holsinger.

The students selected, who are all Juniors, are listed below with some of their notable achievements:

Julia Jermstad

- Academic Excellence award
- Governors School

Bria Bryant

- Honor Roll student
- Spanish Nation Honor Society

Brittany Bowman

- Massanutten Regional Governors School
- Virginia Residential Governors School of Agriculture

Whitney Bowman

- Massanutten Regional Governors School
- National Institute on Cooperative Education Participant

The students participated in a number of work-shops, prepared presentations and interacted with students from the other Rotary Clubs in District 7570. During the above Youth Leadership Assembly, Brittany Bowman, was awarded the top honors for the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention speech. She is now invited to attend the 2012, 7570 District Conference at the Homestead March 16 - 18, 2012. Following the District Conference, Brittany is also invited to the Rotary Zone 33-34 Conference in North Carolina.

NOTICE TO PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE TOWN OF NEW MARKET

In late December or early January, each owner of tangible personal property in the Town of New Market should receive Form 762 from the Shenandoah County Commissioner of Revenue's office. This form will indicate all of your personal property on record as of January 1, 2012. It is each taxpayer's responsibility to verify that the information on this form is correct and return it to the Commissioner of Revenue's Office by Feb. 1, 2012 if there are any changes or discrepancies. If all the information is correct you do not need to do anything further.

It is important to verify the information in the Place of Residence box at the top left of Form 762 is correct. If you live in the Town of New Market, be sure the box for Town is checked. Be sure your physical and billing addresses are also correct.

If you do not receive Form 762 from Shenandoah County, please contact the Commissioner of Revenue's office promptly at 540-459-6170 or visit their website at <http://www.shenandoahcountyva.us/revenue/Form762-2012.pdf>.

Both Shenandoah County and the Town of New Market are non-prorating localities. Taxation is based on what is owned January 1 of the tax year and will be taxed for the entire year.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact the Town Office at 540-740-3432.

LIBRARY NEWS – JANUARY 2012

Winter months are the best time to "Snuggle With a Book"! This will be the theme of the Library of Virginia's Winter Reading Program for children from birth to grade one. For the first time New Market Library is participating in this program to promote literacy. Parents will be able to use logs provided to keep track of books read by and to children from February 1st -March 2nd, 2012. Each child who completes the log will receive a prize. Sign up at the library in January to be ready to start reading on the first of February.

Parents of young children will also want to stop by and visit our newly completed Early Learning Center. The unit contains blocks, magnetic letters and a magnetic board, alphabet bean bags and 12 different boxes with educational toys based on the theme, "Community Helpers." The toy theme will change every six months in a rotation system with other libraries.

Don't forget our monthly preschool story hour on the 3rd Friday of each month at 10:00 am.

New Books:

Red Mist, Patricia Cornwall

The Forgotten Affairs of Youth, Alexander McCall Smith

Locked On, Tom Clancy

Covert Warriors, W.E. B. Griffin

D.C. Dead, Stuart Woods

Death Benefit, Robin Woods

Down the Darkest Road, Tami Hoag

77 Shadow Street, Dean Koontz

Sleepwalker, Karen Robards

NEW MARKET AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Chamber of Commerce would like to take this opportunity to thank the town for the wonderful Christmas celebration this year held on December 3, 2011. It is truly a blessing to work and live in a town that is so welcoming to their community! We look forward to many more successful events in the future. The Chamber would also like to congratulate the Shenandoah Valley Academy in the huge success of their first ever presentation of "Journey to Bethlehem." We have heard nothing but great reviews on the production!

The next Chamber of Commerce meeting will be held January 10, 2012 at the Quality Inn, New Market from 12:00 -1:00 pm. Come join us and share you ideas to help promote business growth in our community!

The Chamber of Commerce will be holding a marketing seminar on January 17, 2012 at 7:00 pm. This seminar will be held at The Shenvalee in New Market. To reserve your seat or for more information please call the Chamber office at 540-740-3212.

We are also in the process of planning our Annual Chamber of Commerce banquet for March 2012. More information will follow.

NEW MARKET FIRE & RESCUE

The Fire and Rescue have planned the following fundraising events:

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

The organization is also exploring options for holding a carnival this year in July, provided rides can be engaged. We would like to make this an annual event.

We are also providing reflective house number signs as we did several years ago. If you need a sign contact the Fire & Rescue at 740-8904 or 975-0840.

POLICE BLOTTER

During the month of November the police department responded to 297 calls for service. The department made 4 physical arrests. There were no motor vehicle crashes for the month. The department responded to 11 mutual aid calls to other law enforcement agencies.

Safety Tip: It has been brought to the attention of the police department that there are a number of houses and businesses in town that do not have numbers displayed. If you fall in that category, it makes it difficult for the police and fire and rescue departments to locate your house or business in emergency situations. When they have to spend time looking for the address it slows down the response. If you need help with this, contact the New Market Fire and Rescue. They are able to provide reflective numbers and will also help you find a location to mount them so that they are readily visible from the road. Because of the 911 system, Dispatch uses house and business numbers when dispatching assistance to a location. If there is no number displayed it makes it more difficult for them to locate the emergency.

The next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 7:30 pm in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Please remember to wear your seatbelt. They save lives!

THE NEW MARKET COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.

We are pleased to announce that Eleanor Blosser McClure has been elected to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the New Market Community Center. Ellie cares deeply for the old New Market High School and stated, "I grew up in this building". We look forward to working with her in our continued efforts to preserve this historic landmark for the citizens of New Market, the surrounding area, and all those who attended school in this wonderful old building.

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 2012. 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.

NEW MARKET HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Fifth Annual New Market Historical Society Dinner and Program will be held on **Thursday, January 26th**, 6:30 PM at the Quality Inn in New Market. The Dinner will feature two main hot entrees, vegetables, salad, assorted deserts, and beverages. The cost will be \$20.00 per person payable at the door. Reservations are requested by **January 20th**. Following the dinner, Philip Crown will present another documentary in his "Yester-Years in the Shenandoah Valley" series. This one is entitled "A Conversation with Junior and Martha Steptoe". For more information or to RSVP for the dinner call Caroll Douglas at 740-2740 or e-mail her at nmhs@newmarkethistoricalsociety.org. Guests are welcome.

Happy New Year!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



January 2012

- 2 **Town Office closed in observance of New Year's**
- 2 - 13 Town will pick up discarded Christmas trees
- 3 Council Committee meetings in the following order: Finance & Personnel, Public Works, Public Safety, Tourism, Economic Development & Historical Preservation 6:30 pm
- 13 **Town Office closed in observance of Lee /Jackson Day**
- 15 **Water/Sewer Bills Due**
- 16 **Town Office closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day**
- 17 Town Council Meeting 7:30 pm
(Note this is a Tuesday, not Monday)
- 26 New Market Historical Society Dinner Meeting

February 2012

- 2 Neighborhood Watch meeting at The Town Hall 7:30 pm
- 6 Council Committee meetings in the following order: Finance & Personnel, Public Works, Public Safety, Tourism, Economic Development & Historical Preservation 6:30 pm
- 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

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 <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
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www.newmarketvirginia.com**



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