

OUR TOWN

PUBLISHED BY THE TOWN OF NEW MARKET

Volume 39

January 2008

Number 1

Growth and New Market

After nearly half a year in the making the New Market future growth area concept plan was recently adopted and made part of the Town's comprehensive plan. As many of you know, New Market, like many communities throughout the valley have experienced pressure, particularly from the residential housing market over the course of the last decade. While the housing market has slowed some in the past 18 months it is certain to return. The slowdown has provided town officials an opportunity to perform some long term planning to address future growth related issues.

The basic idea behind the future growth plan was to provide direction and vision to the future leaders of New Market, answering such questions as where our future residents are going to live, where will future businesses be built, how will that growth impact traffic, how do we ensure adequate open space for parks, how do we preserve our character, etc. What developed from these and other questions was a forty year future growth plan. This plan is conceptual in nature and provides direction on land uses and locations. As time goes by, aspects of the plan will be embraced and adopted while others may not.

In total, approximately 1,700 acres were identified as potential future growth areas. Of these 1,700 acres, approximately 600 are in floodplains, protected as part of the core New Market battlefield property, a part of existing or future right-of-ways for the road system or otherwise unable to be developed. Of the remaining 1,100 available acres, approximately 800 are reserved for high, medium and low density residential development. The remaining 300 are reserved for commercial and light industrial future development. The plan assumes a 2.0% growth rate, which for perspective is approximate to the rate at which

New Market has grown for the last two decades. At this growth rate, in 40 years New Market would be a community of approximately 4,000 residents; we currently have a population of approximately 2,000 citizens.

The plan predominately addresses growth outside of New Market within Shenandoah County. However, the plan also identified 165 acres (10%) of property located within Rockingham County as potential growth area. The Town's intent was to recognize the potential for growth pressures to our south as we share a common border with Rockingham County. Though we have identified what land may be used for, we have not requested, nor do we have plans, to pursue a growth relationship with Rockingham County. It is simply proactive to recognize that growth pressures to our south may occur.

For our neighbors located outside of our current boundaries with Shenandoah County, this plan does not imply your property's inclusion into the Town overnight. In fact for all intents and purposes, until you want your property to be adjusted into the Town's boundaries, you will remain in Shenandoah County.

This is New Market's first attempt at long range planning. It is a straightforward vision that should see New Market growing at a conservative rate; holding on to the small town values we cherish so much. This type of planning attempts to prevent the suburban sprawl so many communities across this commonwealth have experienced. This plan attempts to recreate and encourage the old town patterns that New Market is known for.

A copy of the plan is available for review at the Town Hall during regular business hours. It is also available online at www.newmarketvirginia.com/announcements.

THE NEW MARKET COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.

Our fund raising letters have been mailed to the citizens of New Market and the Alumni members. Heating season is upon us again, and we need donations to continue operating the Center. We are a non-profit corporation. All donations to the Center are tax-deductible. A receipt for taxes will be issued upon request. Thank you for your past donations and we hope you will continue to support the Center.

The Rockingham Memorial Hospital Mammography Van has finalized their schedule with the Center for 2008. The dates the van will be at the Center in 2008 are: April 8; June 17; September 4; October 8 and November 14. Please schedule your mammogram as soon as possible. You may call 540-433-4641 or 800-277-1021. The Center wishes to thank RMH for offering this service to the ladies of New Market and the surrounding area.

Plan to attend The Shenandoah Banjo and Fiddle Club "picking sessions" at the Center on Friday nights at 7:00 pm. Admission is free. Snacks and coffee are available for a small fee.

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

Thank you for your continued support of your Community Center.

DEQ WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

An average home uses more than 200 gallons of water per day

- ***Clothes Washer** - 21.7% of water use; 56,000 gallons/year
 - Operate only full loads and/or use correct volume settings
 - Consider replacement - old washers use about 41 gallons per load, while new high-efficiency machines use only 23 gallons
- ***Dishwasher** - 1.4% of water use; 3600 gallons/year
 - Wash full loads
 - Consider replacement - reduce by 30 - 50% water usage per load
- ***Faucet** - 16% of water use; 35,000 gallons/year
 - Turn off the water running while brushing teeth, shaving, etc.
 - Catch "warm-up" water and use for plants
 - Consider installing low flow restrictors/aerators to faucets (\$2 - 4)
- ***Irrigation Systems** - seasonally high domestic use; up to 100,000 gallons/yr or more
 - Lawns need only 1 inch of water per week and don't need to be watered daily
 - Water at night, if possible, to reduce evapotranspiration
 - Upgrade your sprinkler clock
 - Install a rain shutoff device
 - Collect rainwater with a rain bucket or cistern system with drip lines
 - Convert turf to low water-use landscaping such as drought resistant grass, plants, shrubs and trees
- ***Showerhead** - 16% of water use; 37,000 gallons/year
 - Take shorter showers (typical shower lasts 8 minutes and uses 17 gallons; an efficient shower lasts 3 or 4 minutes and uses 7.5 gallons)
- ***Leaks** - 14% of water use; 30,000 gallons/year
 - Check for and repair toilet leaks; will waste from 30 to 500 gallons/day
 - Fix faucet leaks (usually a washer will work) - a gradual dripping faucet can leak up to 5 gallons of water/day
- ***Toilet** - 27% of water use; 60,000 gallons/year
 - Offset older toilets with a plastic jug of pebbles and water to minimize flushing
 - Flush less frequently

NEW MARKET GARDEN CLUB

New Market Garden Club hosted the New Market Family and Community Education Club at their annual Christmas luncheon and party at the Johnny Appleseed restaurant on December 11, 2007.

The Shenandoah Valley Academy handbell ensemble directed by Cynthia Coston presented an enjoyable program of Christmas music. Following the meal, Kathy Walker entertained the Clubs with humor and music. She has lead many humanitarian projects throughout the world including Cash Shalom, a children's home and orphanage in Romania.

Member of both Clubs brought wrapped gifts to be exchanged. The wrapping was judged. The "Funniest Wrapped" award was won by Virginia Thompson. Dorothy Bostin and Paulette Eaton tied for the "Most Unique".

The Club is sponsoring the Christmas decorating contest in New Market this year.

NEW MARKET COMMUNITY DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS

This year the New Market Garden Club sponsored the New Market community decorating contest. Out-of-town judges viewed all homes, churches and businesses that were requested by their owners. Their selections were:

Homes - (traditional with greens): Mrs. Mary Anne Rhodes

Homes - (modern lighting): 1st: Mr & Mrs. Larry Roberts
2nd: Mr. & Mrs. Charles Peery
3rd: Mr & Mrs. Tom Brower

Homes - (c reative lighting): 1st: Mr. & Mrs. Carl Goldsborough
2nd: Ms. Nancy Smith
3rd: Mr. & Mrs. Ripley Click

Businesses - (modern lighting): 1st: Faye's Flowers
2nd: Cross Roads Bed & Breakfast
3rd: Bella Damen Moxie

Businesses - (c reative lighting): Water Wheel Square

LIBRARY NEWS

Congratulations to Laura Borne who won the raffle for the Father Christmas. Thanks to all who purchased tickets and to all who attended and participated in the Christmas concert! We were able to distribute more than 30 books to area children from books donated.

You'll soon see lots of exciting activity at the library site on Lee Street as construction begins. While we appreciate all the money that the community has so generously donated, more is still needed to complete the project and then to furnish it and maintain it. Please send your tax deductible check to P.O. Box 452, New Market, VA 22844. If you'd like to have a speaker for your church, school, business or civic organization from the library to talk about the project and the fact that the building is a GREEN project, please call Peggy Harkness or Becky Kipps or call the library at 740-8650.

With the new building will come longer hours of operations if the library is able to attract more volunteers - the library is currently staffed with all volunteers. We are seeking people who would like to volunteer at the new library (or the old one). Ideal candidates enjoy reading, assisting people and should be somewhat familiar with computers. Training will be provided. Please stop by the library or call and leave a message at 740-8650.

Here are a few new best selling books to check out at the library:

David Baldaci Stone Cold
Clive Cussler Chase
Greg Iles Third Degree
J. D. Robb Creation in Death
Jennifer Chiaverini The New Year's Quilt
James Patterson Double Cross
Dean Koontz Darkest Evening of the Year
Sue Grafton T is for Trespass
Colleen McCullough Antony and Cleopatra
J.A. Jance Hand of Evil
Walter Mosley Diablerie

DECEMBER COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

Finance and Personnel: The committee discussed the FY 2008-2012 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Due to time constraints with other matters on the agenda, the Committee voted to table the item until the next meeting.

The Committee also discussed the revised Personnel Rules and Regulations. Following some revisions, the manual had been approved by the Town's attorney. After some discussion regarding the salaries of part-time employees, the Committee voted to present the manual to full Council for approval.

The Committee discussed the transient occupancy tax. The Council had voted to increase the tax from 3% to 4%, to be effective January 1, 2008, but no action was taken as to how the increase was going to be dedicated. After some discussion regarding what percentage, if any, would be dedicated to Shenandoah County for regional tourism efforts, the Committee voted to table the issue until the January Committee meeting.

The Committee discussed the next agenda item which was the discussion and consideration of making two appointments to the Historic Overlay District Review Board. Two existing seats are up for re-appointment at the end of November 2007. The bylaws require certain ratios of property owners and at-large members on the membership of the Review Board. The bylaws also require that a staff member serve on the Board. The Committee voted to reappoint Mr. Chad Neese and Mr. Jim Weissenborn to the Historic Overlay District Review Board.

The Committee then entered into a closed session as authorized by Virginia State Code section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) to discuss personnel matters.

The Committee received a report from Mr. Vass regarding a letter from Rockingham County that addresses the recent adoption of future growth area. Rockingham County had requested that New Market take the area located in Rockingham County out of the plan. Committee members agreed that since the amendment to the Comprehensive plan to include this future growth area had already been passed that the plan should remain unaltered. The Committee suggested that Mr. Vass and the Mayor meet with the Rockingham County Administrator in order to keep the lines of communication open.

Public Works: The Committee discussed leaf and grass pick up for 2008 and the possibility of requiring the use of biodegradable bags for the weekly collection in order to implement a composting operation. The Committee indicated no interest in implementing such a system at the present time.

Public Safety: The Committee had no new business to discuss at this meeting.

Tourism, Economic Development, and Historic Preservation: The Committee had no new business to discuss at this meeting.

Planning Commission: The Planning Commission recommended that Town Council approve a conditional use permit

submitted by Lee & Anna Getz for the operation of a home décor/gift shop at 9525 S. Congress Street.

The Commission also approved a mutual agreement with the Town Council for an additional 40 days for review of a rezoning application submitted by Virginia Lutheran Homes, Inc.

The Commission approved a parking waiver request by Lee & Anna Getz for a home décor/gift shop business at 9525 S. Congress Street.

The Commission endorsed the proposed site plan for the New Market Area Library.

COUNCIL MEETING DATE CHANGE

The January and February 2008 meetings of the New Market Town Council have been changed from their previously scheduled dates. The New Market Town Council will meet on Monday, January 21, 2008 and Monday, February 18, 2008 at 7:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

SUMMARY FROM THE DECEMBER 17, 2007 MEETING OF COUNCIL

The New Market Town Council took the following actions at their December 17, 2007 regular meeting:

The Town Council voted to adopt a revised personnel rules and regulations manual as resolution #184.

The Town Council also voted to approve a conditional use permit for the operation of a retail gift shop in the R-2A zoning district at 9525 S. Congress Street.

The Town Council voted on and approved a third agenda item, added as an amendment to the agenda, which was to hold the January 2008 and February 2008 Council meetings on the third Monday of each month, instead of the third Tuesday of the month.

The Town Council was also briefed on the rezoning request by Virginia Lutheran Homes. Negotiations with Virginia Lutheran Homes are ongoing and by early January the Town should be in a position to hold a second public hearing to receive additional proffers.

The Town Council was briefed that work continues on the design of the regionalization of Wastewater Treatment by engineering firm Stearns and Wheler, LLC.

The Town was updated that 36 different firms have requested bid packets for the TEA-21 Grant Administration.

Council was informed that New Market's future growth area plan and report have been forwarded to Shenandoah County for consideration. The matter will be discussed in a public hearing held by the Shenandoah County Planning Commission on January 31, 2008. If approved by the Planning Commission the growth area plan will be forwarded to the Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors for final approval as an amendment and inclusion to the Shenandoah County Comprehensive Plan.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



January 2008

- 1 Town Office Closed in Observance of New Year's Day**
- 2-11 Christmas Tree Pick-up
- 7 Council Committee Meetings 6:30 pm
In the following order: (1) Finance & Personnel (2) Public Works TO
(3) Public Safety (4) Tourism, Economic Development, & Historic Preservation 7:30 pm
- 7 Planning Commission Meeting 7:30 pm
- 15 Water/Sewer Bills Due**
- 18 & 21 Town Office Closed in Observance of Lee/Jackson and Martin Luther King, Jr. holidays**
- 21 Town Council Meeting 7:30 pm
- 25 Final Date to Pay Water/Sewer Bills before Disconnect**

February 2008

- 4 Council Committee Meetings 6:30 pm
In the following order: (1) Finance & Personnel (2) Public Works TO
(3) Public Safety (4) Tourism, Economic Development, & Historic Preservation 7:30 pm
- 4 Planning Commission Meeting 7:30 pm
- 7 Neighborhood Watch Meeting 7:00 pm
At the Town Hall
- 15 Water/Sewer Bills Due**
- 18 Town Office Closed in Observance of Presidents Day**
- 18 Town Council Meeting 7:30 pm
- 25 Final Date to Pay Water/Sewer Bills before Disconnect**

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

Thomas F. Constable, Jr., Mayor • John H. Blosser, Vice Mayor
Mary Alice Burch • Ripley R. Click • Gary D. Comer • 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>
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