# **Our Town**

#### Volume 55

#### December 2024

#### Number 12

#### MAYOR'S CORNER

In May of 2020, at the early beginnings of the Covid pandemic, the citizens of New Market elected me for the position of Mayor. My first day serving in this capacity was July 1, 2020 and my term ends on 12/31/2024. I have enjoyed my 54 months of which I did my best to honor our town. I must say that my job was facilitated by having a terrific council and supportive team of hardworking town employees. Now, it is time to "pass the baton" to new leadership.

With the recent election, Mr. Peter Hughes has been selected as Mayor for New Market and will guide us for the next 4 years. Many of you already are acquainted with Peter as past president of the New Market Rotary Club, previous principal of Stonewall Jackson High School, member of the Independence Day Committee as well as his multiple years serving on our council. In fact, it was Peter that encouraged me to run for council in 2018 and so it is only fitting that I have the honor to place the gavel in his hands.

During my 6 years on council and as mayor, there were a number of projects that were discussed and set in



#### TOWN OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Town Office will be closed the following business days this holiday season: Tuesday, December 24, 2024 Wednesday, December 25, 2024 Thursday, December 26, 2024 Wednesday, January 1, 2025



motion. Some of these have come to completion and still others are yet to be finalized. For that reason, I decided to run for council and continue to assist in any way I can. Thanks to your vote, Mr. Scott Wymer, Bob King and I have another 4 years to serve New Market. Along with new leadership in Mr. Hughes, a stable council that has worked together for the past 4 years, and a town manager that has a team of loyal employees, the future for our town is bright.

In closing, I want to thank you, the citizens of New Market, for providing me with the opportunity to serve our town. I ask each of you to consider what skills you can offer to assist New Market in achieving its goals. Perhaps serving on one of our committees or boards is your calling. Maybe even helping with one of the many events that our marketing director stages each year suits your talents. Whatever you decide just remember that New Market will benefit from your positive energy.

Larry A. Bompiani Mayor of New Market

## CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM

Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Join us at the Virginia Museum of the Civil War as we celebrate the holiday season at the museum, battlefield, and Bushong Farm! Explore the museum and make take home crafts, enjoy festive treats, and see a special Christmas film. Take a step back into 1859 and visit the Bushong family as they cook, sing, and tell stories in anticipation of a special Christmas visitor.

Event prices are \$5 for New Market residents (ages 6+) with proof of residency. Bring two non-perishable canned food items to benefit our local food pantry to receive \$1 off your ticket price.

#### **'TIS THE SEASON PARADE**

Is your business or organization interested in joining our 2024 'Tis the Season parade? Reach out to Jim Douglas at 540-630-1503 or Savannah Frazier at <u>s.frazier@newmarketvirginia.com</u> for more information and registration details. You can also check out our Facebook page for more information.

## LIBRARY NEWS

We are ready for the holiday season at the library! Come celebrate with us as part of the Town of New Market's 'Tis the Season festivities. Santa will be at the library following the parade for photo opportunities and a treat bag for each child.

Letters to Santa can be written and posted in Santa's mailbox at the library. Be sure to include your address for your child to receive a letter from Santa.

Books and Babies and the Preschool Story Time will also follow the "Tis the Season" theme with a variety of books, songs and rhymes.

## 'TIS THE SEASON LOCAL PASSPORT GAME

Travel around town on December 7th and find wonderful treasures in our shops! ONE DAY ONLY this year- your goal is to shop local for presents and collect stamps for your Shop Local Passport card and WIN A FREE ORNAMENT (while supplies last).

The game is simple.

1. Get a passport game card (free)

2. Visit and shop at the participating stores listed on the card

3. Present passport card to collect stamp

4. Collect the allotted amount of stamps to win a free ornament

5. Turn the completed passport card in to receive your free ornament.

There will be three locations to redeem your ornament:

The Home Store, Valley Sports Connections, or the Town Office

Passports will be available to print off/pickup when we get closer to the event.

## MEET AND GREET SANTA

Santa will be visiting with the good little kids of New Market at the New Market Library. Santa's elves will be handing out goody bags and you will have the opportunity to take photos with Santa.

When: December 7, 2024 Time: Immediately following the parade Where: New Market Area Library Cost: FREE • Books and Babies-10:00 am., Wednesday, December 4 for children ages 0-3 and their caregivers.

• Preschool Story Time- 10:00 am., Friday,

December 15 for children ages 3-5. The library will be closed December 24th and 25th for the Christmas holiday.

We will be open New Year's

Eve December 31st. No adult program is scheduled for December



## **'TIS THE SEASON 2024**

The Town of New Market is excited to present our annual Tis the Season Celebration on December 7, 2024.

What to expect during the day:

\* Open Houses with participating downtown businesses

\* Shop Local Passport Game- ONE day only

\* Festive music while strolling downtown

\* Fun activities to participate in

\*Yummy food

\* Visit with Santa at the New Market Library (After the parade)

\* Tis the Season parade on Congress Streetbeginning at 5:00 pm

We hope you will mark your calendars to come to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with us in New Market!





Letters to Santa

Hello Kids! I have dropped off TWO Santa letter boxes in New Market so you can send me a letter for Christmas! They are at the Town Office & at the New Market Library! Make sure to put your address on the envelope, and I will write you back.

Make sure to send your letter by December 15th, or I won't have time to write you back.

Your Pal, Santa

## YOU ARE INVITED!

WHERE: Reformation Lutheran Church

9283 Congress St. What: Home Cooked Lunch and Fellowship When: 11:00 a.m. (First Thursday of every Month) Everyone is welcome! Please come!

Freewill offering/donations accepted

## FLASHLIGHT CANDY CANE HUNT

Bundle up, grab a flashlight and come to the New Market Community Park to make crafts, listen to music and hunt for candy canes, and other fun items!

**Registration is REQUIRED and LIMITED SPOTS are available.** This year we will have four rounds.

Participants may only hunt 1 of the 4 rounds.

Date: December 14th, 2024

Time: 5:30pm-8:30pm

Ages: 1-14 Cost: FREE

#### Hunt Times

Round 1 at 6:00

Round 2 at 6:30

Round 3 at 7:00

Round 4 at 7:30

(limited availability per each round)

We will have a bonus round at 8- no registration for that round and no guarantee on items.

Check out our Facebook event or our website for more details and to register.

# EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR YOUNG CREATIVES!

As part of our 'Tis the Season festivities on December 7th, one lucky kiddo will have the chance to assist the mayor with the official tree lighting at the Town Office following the Parade!

To enter the drawing, children 3-12 years of age simply must color one of our Christmas tree pictures and submit it with their name, age, and contact information. You can pick up & drop off the coloring sheet at any of the following locations: the Library, the Town Office, Simple Tymes, or The Home Store. The drawing opens on November 1st and closes on December 2nd, so don't miss the chance for your kiddo to enter the drawing!

# MAINTAIN ACCESS TO YOUR WATER METER

It is very important that customers maintain clear access to their water meters from the public right-of-way. Obstacles that may block the radio signals include building materials, foliage and metal objects located between the street and the meter pit.

All town water customers are responsible for the upkeep of the area between their meter pit and the street. Please assist us by trimming foliage and by clearing snow and ice from the lid of the meter pit. Landscaping or fencing should be kept at least 1-3 feet from the meter pit.

Maintain access to your water meter to assist us with:

• Meter Reading

• Emergency shutoffs (for frozen pipes) when you are away from home or are unable to turn off the water yourself; and

• Emergency water meter maintenance



LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD PANTRY



Loaves and Fishes food pantry is located in the basement of Manor Memorial Methodist Church (9320 North Congress Street). The basement entrance is located in the back of the Church along John Sevier Road. The pantry is open to all on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 1:00 pm-5:00 pm.

Next food pantry is Thursday, Dec 19, 2024.

# **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

#### December 2024

- 5 2nd Half Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes Due
- 7 Tis the Season Celebration
- 14 Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt at New Market Park
- 15 Water/Sewer Bills Due
- 16Town Council Meeting6:30 pm
- 24-26 Town Office Closed in Observance of Christmas

Happy Holidays

#### January 2025

- 1 Town Office Closed in Observance of New Year's Day
- 6-10 Heavy Trash Pickup
- 15 Water/Sewer Bills Due
- 20 Town Office Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 21 Town Council Meeting (Tuesday instead of Monday) 6:30 pm

### TOWN OF NEW MARKET CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergeny Services: Emergencies: 911 Shenandoah County Dispatch: 540-459-6101 Police Department: 540-740-3776

Fire and Rescue: 540-740-8904

New Market Town Office: 540-740-3432

Dispatch: 540-459-6101 (After-hours and weekend Water/Sewer Emergencies)

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 Bompiani, Mayor • Peggy Harkness, Vice Mayor Scott Wymer • Daryl Watkins • Bob King • Janice Hannah • Peter Hughes Jason J. Ham, Town Attorney

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ADMINISTRATION

Nathan Garrison	Town Manager
Chris Rinker	Police Chief
Teresa Green	Town Treasurer
J.D. Fadley	Public Works Director

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An Equal Opportunity Community

Boxholder P.O. Box Section New Market, VA 22844

> 9418 John Sevier Road P.O. Box 58 New Market, Virginia 22844 www.newmarketvirginia.com



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