

MAYOR'S CORNER

The Town of New Market had its first and second significant snowfalls in January. My first concern was to check and see if I needed to shovel my property, and second, to see if the roads were cleared. Well, the roads were clear and treated but I still had to shovel! The Town's crews did a great job from my viewpoint! (My driveway took a little while.) So, a special thanks to our maintenance crew members for clearing the roads so quickly.

I am hoping to use the Town's newsletter to communicate areas of short-term importance as well as longer term expectations for our residents. In the last newsletter I highlighted the major projects we have planned. I want to use this issue of the newsletter to manage some expectations. Based on the condition of the current water tank, the new water tanks are absolutely needed in order to provide a reliable water supply. The costs are being finalized, and the financing will require the Town to take out a note to cover the costs. There are two tanks that are going to replace the current tank. The height of the tank on the hill is needed to provide water pressure. The reason for a second tank is the need for "redundancy," which means that in the event of a problem the Town will have an alternate source of water. Currently we do not have this insurance available. This project will be costly, but we have to ensure that our residents and businesses have a reliable water system. As the final costs are calculated we know that the costs will need to be reflected in water/sewer bills. In the coming months residents will be provided with more specific information once we are able to finalize more details and costs.

Water is a commodity, and the cost is determined by how much water is used. If you are thinking about how to manage your costs for water, it may be useful to consider your home's current uses of water and to consider some ways to reduce water usage. Knowing that there are new water rates coming to cover the cost of the tanks, I have been looking at water conservation practices and strategizing how to reduce water use in my home **and stay under the minimum usage**. There are many resources available to get good information on how to reduce the use of water. The September 2024 issue of *Consumer Reports* has an overview that is a good place to start looking for water conservation suggestions. The New Market Library has this copy of *Consumer Reports* available for you to read and learn more about this topic.

Lastly, in today's newsletter I would like to establish a time when I can be available to meet with residents to discuss topics about the Town, current projects, or consider suggestions that any resident might have. I will be available on Town Council nights, typically held on the third Monday of the month, at 6:00 P.M. to meet briefly, or set up a longer meeting, if needed. You can also leave a message with your phone number with the Town Office, 540-740-3432.

Thank you,
Peter Hughes
Mayor of New Market

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that if your wheel falls off your trash bin, we can replace it? Just call the office at 540-740-3432 as soon as you notice the wheel is missing. As long as we have wheels in stock, we will send our Public Works crew out to fix it for you by the end of the day on Fridays after the trash is picked up in town.

LIBRARY NEWS

The following programs for children are planned for February:

- Books and Babies- February 5th at 10 am. “Winter Fun!” for children ages 0-3 and their caregivers.
- Preschool Story Time-February 21st at 10 am. “Hearts of Love” for children ages 3-5.

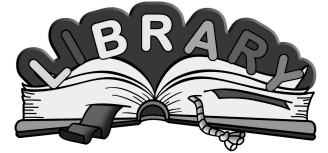
(If Shenandoah County Schools are closed, programs are canceled. If schools are 2 hrs. late, programs will be held.)

Children ages 0-6 can still be enrolled in our Winter Reading Program. Pick up a reading log, check out books, read and record. Return the log to the library by March 4th to receive a free book for your child. A celebration is planned for early March for all participants!

Adult program: February 9 at 2:00. Our speaker will be Dr. Brent Kendrick

Artificial Intelligence is no longer just the stuff of science fiction. It's here, transforming our daily lives. Join us for an engaging talk that demystifies AI, with a focus on ChatGPT and humanoid robots. Discover the capabilities and potential of these technologies and walk away with the confidence to explore AI's possibilities, whether you're curious or cautious.

Dr. Brent L. Kendrick is the author of *More Wit and Wisdom: Another Year of Foolin' Around in Bed* (2024), *In-Bed: My Year of Foolin' Around* (2023) and *Green Mountain Stories* (2023). After a twenty-five-year career at the Library of Congress, where he received the institution's Distinguished Service Award, he taught more than 7,000 students at Laurel Ridge Community College over twenty-three years.



WINTER WEATHER ADVISORIES

The onset of the Holidays often brings cold weather and snow right along with it. Whether the storm totals 1" or 12"+, winter weather presents challenges for all of us. Here are a few tips in advance of this winter season:

- **Be prepared:** Predicting weather seems to be a challenge even with advances in 21st century meteorology. With few exceptions winter storms are rarely a total surprise. Winter weather advisories are usually posted days in advance of the storm. Use that time to restock your medications, food and other essentials.
- **Be careful:** It may seem like an overused piece of advice, but when you travel unnecessarily on snow covered roads you put yourself and your vehicle at risk and make clearing roads that much more challenging. For those of you who do have to travel, plan ahead and leave yourself extra time to get to your destination.
- **Be patient:** Removing snow from streets takes time. Storm duration, temperature and sunlight all affect how quickly streets are cleared. Often it's not until the sun returns and day time temperatures exceed 32 degrees that frozen snow and ice on streets can completely be removed.
- **Be helpful:** After the snow has stopped, please help keep your neighbors and friends safe by clearing the sidewalk(s) that fronts your property. It's not only the right thing to do; it's also required by town ordinance.



NEW MARKET FIRE AND RESCUE NEWS

Winter is here. We hope that everyone is staying warm. With the winter months here and the snow falling, we would like to remind everyone of the following:

1. If you use heaters in your house, please make sure that you keep everything away from the heater.
2. Please help us if you have a fire hydrant near you by keeping it clean so that if we need to use the hydrant it will be easily accessible.
3. If we are experiencing bad weather, you only go out when necessary. We want to make sure that your safety is taken care of.

For 2024, Our crews ran a total of 1644 calls for the year. Of those calls, 1156 were for EMS services and 113 for Fire Services and 774 of those calls were within town limits.

For December, our crews ran a total of 145 calls. Of those calls 97 were for EMS services and 14 were for Fire services with 72 of those calls within town limits.

Upcoming events:

- Feb. 15th: Bingo

Doors open at 4:30 pm Games start at 6:30 pm.

- March 12th: Blood Drive

The Blood drive will be here from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm. Remember the life you save could be yours.

- March 22nd: Spring fling

Doors open at 9:00 am Drawing starts at 10:00 am. \$25 a ticket Over \$100,000.00 in prizes to be given away that day. You do not need to be present to win. We notify all winners. If you attend, we serve food and drinks from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. You can play pull tabs for money or other prizes throughout the day.

Our officers for 2025-2026 President: Stephanie Seekford Vice president: Gary Biller Secretary: Michelle Biller Treasurer: Nance Lovelace

Board Members: Cherie Remick and Della Biller Chief: Jeff Mongold

Asst Chief: Amy Wilmerton

Captain: Maeghan Kisling Fire Lt: Tyler Mongold

We are always looking to add to our membership, whether running calls or helping with fundraisers. Stop by our station and see a member for more information.

For more information about our upcoming events, find us on Facebook at New Market Fire and Rescue then like and follow our page.

2025 EVENT LINUP

- Community Easter Egg Hunt- Saturday, April 12th
- Jammin' Foods Fest- Saturday, May 17th
- Independence Day Celebration-Saturday, July 5th
- Block Party on Congress Street- Thursday, July 17th
- National Night Out- Tuesday, August 5th
- Puppy Pool Party- Sunday, September 7th
- Fall Festival- Saturday, September 27th
- Trick or Treat on Congress Street- Friday, October 31st
- Tis the Season/Parade- Saturday, December 6th
- Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt- Saturday, December 13th

- Cross Roads Music Festival- Friday

June 13th

August 8th

September 12th

October 10th

Movie Night in the Park

May 31st

June 28th

August 16th

September 20th



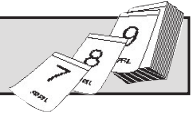
LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD PANTRY



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-4:30 pm.

Next food pantry is Thursday, Feb 20, 2025.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



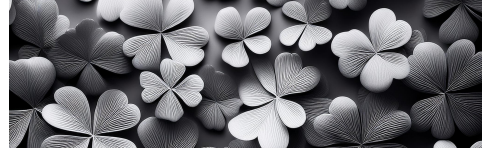
February 2025

- 15 **Water/Sewer Bills Due**
- 20 **Town Office Closed in Observance of Presidents Day**
- 21 Town Council Meeting
(Tuesday instead of Monday) 6:30 pm



March 2025

- 1 **Business License Due**
- 15 **Water/Sewer Bills Due**
- 17 Town Council Meeting 6:30 pm



TOWN OF NEW MARKET CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergency 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

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

Savannah Frazier..... *Events & Marketing Director*
Amber Smoot *Executive Assistant*
Lindsey Kipps..... *Office Assistant*
De Prunka *Office Assistant*

An Equal Opportunity Community

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

**9418 John Sevier Road
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New Market, Virginia 22844
www.newmarketvirginia.com**



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