

MAYOR'S CORNER

Throughout the years, New Market has faced the challenges of its streets and sidewalks. In the early 1700's, when the first European families settled here, they established their wagon paths along trails that the American Indians blazed during the centuries past. In 1796 the Virginia General Assembly officially recognized the town of New Market, which was previously known as "Cross Roads". These initial settlers planned our streets for their own needs, as well as lots for houses, which at that time were mostly European inspired log cabins. Some of those first living quarters were constructed within an arm's reach of the road. The width of the street was sufficient for the mode of transportation of wagons, horses and buggies during that time period.

Well, that was then and this is now. The present-day citizens of New Market have inherited the extreme challenge of improving our streets and sidewalks for efficient vehicular transportation and the safety of our pedestrians. HOWEVER, what most citizens don't know is that we don't have dominion of our roads – Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) does. When VDOT put the slurry over our streets two years ago, our Town Staff absorbed all the complaints of the citizens, yet we have very little leverage with VDOT's decisions or methods. The same goes for the water running across John Sevier Road behind Jackson's Corner Café near the intersection at Old Cross Road. The town has had to petition VDOT to correct the problems.

When it comes to our sidewalks, we have to work hand in hand with VDOT to make major improvements.

The street and sidewalk improvement project from a few years back on Congress Street is a primary example of the town and VDOT working together to provide beautiful results. So, if it can be done once, how about again and again and again?

Let's face it; the town of New Market has many needs when it comes to our sidewalks and streets. Our council and town staff recognize the shortcomings in these matters and know well that we are confined by our budget. A small town like ours has to prioritize its list of needs and appropriate money towards the top of the list. At the same time, we are constantly searching for grants and other sources of money to expedite the projects we identify as most important.

In my next newsletter, I will state our list of needs in respect to our streets and sidewalks. I will also share with you the financial avenues that we are pursuing to fund the improvement projects.

In closing, let me be clear that I am not placing the lion's share of blame on VDOT for our shortcomings of roads and sidewalks. They too have limited budget and dollars for each of the towns in their jurisdiction. We understand previous councils of New Market had their difficulties in juggling a limited budget based on the economic landscape of their time.

Frustrating? Most definitely! Nonetheless, we will strive for improving our town.

Mayor Larry A. Bompiani

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
-

LIBRARY NEWS FOR FEBRUARY

New Market Library continues to observe Covid precautions for the safety of our volunteers and patrons. We are open from 12-5 on Tuesdays and Fridays for picking up holds. Holds can be made using your library card through the Shenandoah County Library online card catalog. If you do not have a computer or need assistance in placing a hold, call the library 740-8650 or the county library at 984-8200. Although the New Market Area Library is not yet open for computer use, the Shenandoah County Library at Edinburg is offering computer use by appointment. Check the county library webpage at countylib.org for more information.

WINTER READING PJ PARTY

Put on your pjs, get your blanket to snuggle up with your family and join New Market Area Library friends for our first ever ZOOM story time! We'll be sharing some great bed time books, songs and more. Monday, February 8th at 7 pm. The ZOOM link can be accessed by emailing 5kipps@shentel.net or by sending a PM to the New Market Library FB page.

Follow our FB page for more stories read aloud from Ms. Erica at the Shenandoah County Library and from New Market Area Library volunteers. Information will be forthcoming on Winter Reading, Beanstalk challenges for children! The library is collaborating with the SJHS National Honor Society members who have set up a YouTube channel to post books being read for children. The link is posted on the New Market Area Library Facebook page!

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.

RESPONSIBILITIES DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please remember to do your part to keep the sidewalks open and clear for those wishing to use them this winter season. In 2004 the Town Council passed an ordinance in which property owners are responsible for the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks along their property. The Town thanks you for promptly clearing your sidewalk for the benefit of not only you, but for your neighbors and the entire community as well. Please contact the town office for details pertaining to the Town Ordinance.

If you are unable to clear snow on or along your property you will need to find someone to assist you. There are many people who offer this service. It would

be wise to seek out help before the winter weather arrives.

Please also maintain access to your water meter. Trimming foliage and clearing snow and ice from the lid of the meter pit can ensure proper access to your water meter. Maintaining access to your water meter will assist us with:

- Emergency shutoffs (for frozen pipes) when you are away from home or are unable to turn off the water inside your location.
- Emergency water meter maintenance.

HASSLER-SUTPHIN POST 166

(540) 740-8653

Ronald Thompson – 540-246-7901 – thomps548@gmail.com

The Legion is now open 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. For further information you can call the Legion or e-mail Commander Ronald Thompson, at thomps548@gmail.com. Call in orders are available for all meals. You can call Jeannie after 4:30 p.m. Facemasks and social distancing are recommended.

The Legion officers for the year of 2020-21 are Commander – Ronald Thompson- 540-246-7901; Vice Commander – Mitch Chambliss – 703-509-6958; Adjutant- Stanley Thompson – 540-379-8510; Chaplain – Wilmer Olinger – 540-740-8976.

February Friday Night Dinner Specials

- 5th - Steak Ribeye (10-12oz) Baked Potato, Salad, Roll, and Dessert
- 12th - Spaghetti with sauce or with meatballs, includes Salad, Garlic Toast, Dessert
- 19th - Shrimp: 24-26 Shrimp, French Fries, Coleslaw, Dessert
- 26th - Meatloaf w/ Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Dessert and Roll

The Legion is scheduling another inside yard sale for February 19th and 20th from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. If you have any items you would like to donate, which would be appreciated, drop them off at the Picnic Pavilion or contact Commander Thompson by February 17th for

pickup. All used, but usable items accepted. Donation Tax Form is available.

Upcoming events for March and April are being planned. We anticipate we will be selling Turner Ham, Roast Beef, and Tenderloin Sandwiches in March. Dates and arrangements to be determined.

We anticipate the Legion BBQ chicken sales will begin in March or April, depending on the weather conditions.

If you have e-mail, please let Commander Thompson know, so you can receive the latest Legion updates.

The Legion's meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday evening of each month at 6:30 p.m. All members are welcome, even Auxiliary members.

Let us schedule your party, meetings, reunions, receptions, banquet or other events in our social hall, located at 202 E. Old Cross Rd. Contact Commander Thompson at 540-246-7901, or the Post after 4:30 p.m., Tuesday Through Friday.

We have the honor to collect and retire the colors which have served us for many years. We shall retire them with the respect they so well deserve, so if you have an old worn or torn flag, please use the drop box located in our parking lot at 202 E. Old Cross Rd. Please do not leave them in bags or boxes when putting in the drop box.

USA – “Home of the Free, Because of the Brave”



NEW MARKET/MT. JACKSON LITTLE LEAGUE

Who: Children ages 4-16

When: December 1 - February 4

Where: www.mjnmlittleleague.com

Cost: \$55 (December 1 - January 11);

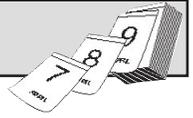
\$60 (January 12 - February 4);

Discounts for multiple children.

CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATE

The beginning of the year is a great time to make sure your information is up to date. Often times our staff will attempt to contact our customers via phone when an issue is suspected at a property. It is always best to have a phone number where you can be reached during the day in case an emergency situation arises. Without a phone number on file often times we have to shut off water service to a property until an issue can be resolved and town staff is unable to make the resident aware. This can cause issues when a resident arrives home and no longer has access to water service. Phone numbers will never be shared outside of the town office. If you would like to update your phone number you can call our office at 540-740-3432, or write it on the remittance stub included with your payment.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



February 2021

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

March 2021

- 1 2021 Business License Applications Due
- 15 Water/Sewer Bills Due
- 15 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

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

ADMINISTRATION

J. Todd Walters *Town Manager*
 Chris Rinker *Police Chief*
 Teresa Green *Town Treasurer*

Donna Lohr *Administrative Assistant*
 Lindsey Kipps *Office Assistant*
 Amber Smoot *Events & Marketing Director*

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**



**BULK RATE
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 New Market, VA
 Permit No. 10**