

# PEARISBURG TODAY

## WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES

Pearisburg welcomes its newest members of the business community! 1<sup>st</sup> Pawn has opened in the Food Lion Shopping Center. In the Pearis Theater is Big Dowg Gun Shop. At Pearis Square Shopping Center Russell Cellular has opened. For the motorcycle enthusiast be sure and check out Gearhead Junction located on Wenonah Avenue in the Downtown. Be sure and stop in and check out these and other local businesses. Remember to Shop Pearisburg First!

Dahlia's Delight bakery on Main Street has closed due to health problems. Open only a short time this little bakery will be missed and we send our best wishes to the owners.



## OLD HOSPITAL PROJECT

Town council approved a Conditional Use Permit to allow Giles County to begin converting part of the former hospital property on Taylor Avenue into office and meeting space. The first offices to move will be the Sherriff's Department. This move will not include booking and holding cells. These will be placed in the basement of the Timberlake Building along with Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. A sally port and elevator will be added to this building. The Magistrate's Office will also remain downtown.

Plans are to also phase in other offices at a later date, including the Giles County School Board and the Health Department. Other county offices would be considered in separate phases.

## SHENTEL PROJECT

The town has been contacted by Shentel about a fiber optic line that will be constructed through town in the near future. Construction mapping and documents have not been submitted but should be submitted in the near future. The new line will enter town on Wenonah Avenue at Woodland Drive and be placed underground until near the Community Center. It then uses existing poles to continue down Wenonah, branching off to serve Macy School and possibly the old hospital building. The main line continues to Curve Road and then Mountain Lake Avenue to Main Street. The line continues past town towards Narrows.

**Department News**

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

Do you know what you can do to help stop ZIKA virus? Mosquitoes breed by laying eggs in and near standing water. As little as one teaspoon or bottle cap of water standing for more than one week is enough for mosquitoes to breed and multiply.

Here are ways that you can stop the breeding of mosquitoes.

**At your house or business:**

- Put away items that are outside and not being used because they could hold standing water.

**In your garden:**

- Keep flower pots and saucers free from standing water. Some plants, such as bromeliads, hold water in their leaves-flush out water-holding plants with your hose once a week.

**Around all buildings:**

At least once a week, empty, turn over or cover anything that could hold water.

- Tires
- Buckets
- Birdbaths
- Toys
- Coolers
- Pet dishes
- Trash cans

*\*Virginia Town and City / June 2016\**

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Registrations for Flag Football and Flag Football Cheerleading is going on now. The last day to register will be August 31st. Practice will start on September 7th.



The next sport will be girls volleyball for grades 3rd-7th. Signups will begin in early September. Watch our website for online registration forms and information. You can also follow us on Facebook for registration information.

Basketball registrations for grades K-7th will begin in November.



We are currently working with Virginia Tech Community Design Assistance Center on a project looking at improvements at the Community Center fields and grounds so they could be better utilized by the community.

**HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

September 5, 2016—Labor Day

October 10, 2016—Columbus Day

November 11, 2016—Veterans Day

November 23, 2016 CLOSE AT NOON

November 24, 2016—Thanksgiving

November 25, 2016—Thanksgiving

# Mayor's Corner

Summer has just gone by so quickly and the new school year is starting already. That also means Spartan football season is getting underway. Go Spartans! This has been a busy year and a productive one as well.

Council is facing an important decision in finding a replacement for our town manager. This will be one of the most important decisions that council will make and one that no council has faced in a quarter century. This will be a big decision that I am sure council will make in the best interest of the town.

The manager is responsible for all day to day operations and implementing the policies and programs adopted by the town council. The new manager will begin by developing a new budget in the first six months in office. Existing projects will need to be guided to completion while new projects are developed.

Please feel free to call on me for any assistance or questions concerning the town. It is an honor to serve you as Mayor.

ROBERT L. DICKERSON, MAYOR

## Manager Retirement

Pearisburg Town Manager Kenneth Vittum announced his plans to retire at the end of the year. After thirty-three years serving as a manager, 28 in Pearisburg, Vittum felt the time was right to begin a new phase of life. Giving six months' notice will assure time for council to complete the important task of recruiting a replacement and allow current projects to continue uninterrupted during this period of transition. Vittum intends to continue living in Pearisburg, but expects to have more time to travel when not working full time.

Applications are being sought through September 15<sup>th</sup> for qualified candidates to fill the position. Mayor Dickerson and council hope to complete the process with the new manager starting in January 2017.

## Town Hall Upgrades – Front Door, Locks, Rear Door

The current budget allocates funding for several needed improvements to the Town Hall. Last year the flooring in the Council Chambers was replaced and the front of the building landscaped. This year the front doors to the building will be replaced and an automatic door opener will be added to allow easier access to the building. The rear entrance to the Finance Department will be replaced with a new door. Last year the Community Center exterior doors were replaced and this year's project will replace locks at the Town Hall. All of the doors in both buildings will be keyed alike. The current schedule calls for this work being completed before the November elections. Later in the year, additional improvements are planned for the front counter in the Finance Department. The building was constructed in 1965 and last renovated in 1997.

## 7 Day Market Demolition

Demolition of the old 7-Day Market building was completed under a contract administered by the Town of Pearisburg. Town council placed a lien against the property for the \$32,000 cost of demolition. These funds will be recouped upon sale of the property. Council has begun taking the needed steps to affect this sale.

## Cigarette Tax

Town council approved a new Cigarette Tax in the 2016-17 budget. The tax went into effect on July 31<sup>st</sup>. The tax is \$.10 per pack on cigarettes sold in the corporate limits. The town anticipates this will result in \$25,000 in annual revenue. The tax stamps are placed on the packs by the suppliers. Each store is required to remit a payment on existing inventory held August 31<sup>st</sup>. After that all stock delivered to the local stores will have stamps affixed by the supplier.

## Sign Ordinance Updated

A recent court decision found that content based sign ordinances are not legal. This decision threw into question existing ordinances in most localities across the nation. This included Pearisburg. Staff has worked on a revised Ordinance based on a Virginia Local Government Attorney's model ordinance. The new Ordinance was adopted September 9<sup>th</sup> and took effect immediately. The new Ordinance regulates size and types of signs allowed in each zoning district, but no longer considers content in determining compliance.

## FOIA Policy Adopted

The state of Virginia adopted new requirements for localities to comply with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Both the state and the town council believe that citizens have reasonable right to freely access information from government. The changes in the state law require a written policy be developed and a contact person identified for handling FOIA requests. Copies of the new policy are available to citizens at the Town Hall. The Designated Contact Person for the Town of Pearisburg is Regina Harless, Town Clerk.

## Sewer PER

The town is working on a Preliminary Engineering Report to study the feasibility of converting the Waste Water Treatment Plant from chlorine gas to Ultraviolet (UVA) disinfection. This process would eliminate the need for storing and handling chlorine gas, which is a hazardous material. Anderson & Associates engineering firm is doing the report and should submit the results to council within sixty days. The project is being funded by a \$15,000 grant from SERCAP.

## ATC Projects – Bikes, Library, Postcards

After a very successful event in May the Pearisburg AT Community Committee has worked on several summertime projects to make the hikers visit to town more enjoyable. Partnering with the Giles County Rotary Club two projects will be completed by fall. The Bikes for Hikers Project was made possible by a Rotary Foundation Grant that purchased and equipped two bikes that will be made available to hiker. The bikes will be housed at Holiday Motor Lodge. Continuing this partnership, the Rotary Club will be placing a Little Library at the Holy Family hostel. This facility will include free books that hikers using the hostel can take to read or carry along on their trail journey. Be sure and check out the free postcards that feature art work of local Giles High students. Six designs were chosen to be printed and distributed for hikers. If you want some for your place of business contact the Town Hall at 921-0340.

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### Good Will Project

Council has approved abandonment of right of way on Boxwood Lane to clear the way for construction of a Good Will Store. Part of the project includes the relocation of about 500' of water line, which will be done jointly by town and county Public Works crews. Council expects to consider a subdivision plat later this fall to split the property owned by the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) into two parcels and incorporate the abandonment of the right of way and extension of necessary easements. The developer for the project, Piedmont Companies, indicates that construction should be complete by September 2017 on the store.

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### Planning Grant

Narrows and Pembroke have been working on a Planning grant project for most of the last year. The New River Valley Regional Commission has received funding to implement a similar process in Glen Lyn, Rich Creek, and Pearisburg. This will allow the five towns to work with the county in developing projects to enhance the New River as an economic driver in each locality and the county as a whole. Federal funding over a two-year period will be a potential source for funds to develop construction projects out of this planning process. The funds are called POWER funds and are being made available to localities affected by the transition out of a coal economy. The closing of the Glen Lyn power plant makes Giles County eligible for funding from this new source of revenue. There will be a series of community involvement session scheduled later this year and local citizens are being encouraged to participate.

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#### UPCOMING MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION EVENTS

October 15, 2016	Scarecrow Festival
October 31, 2016	Trunk or Treat Trail
December 2nd-4th, 2016	Small Town Christmas

These events are being planned. Watch the Pearisburg website at [www.pearisburg.org](http://www.pearisburg.org) and follow us on facebook for details about these events.

## Flood Relief In West Virginia

The Town of Pearisburg has responded to the needs of flood victims by collecting and delivering supplies to the Town of Rainelle, WV. On July 2<sup>nd</sup> nineteen volunteers spent the day delivering relief supplies and assisting with removal of water damaged materials from two homes. Ten vehicles full of supplies was also delivered to a distribution center. Since that time, additional supplies have been collected and delivered to be used by victims of the flood. A few town employees have continued to help in the recovery efforts in Rainelle.

In total, fourteen vehicles and a one ton dump truck have taken loads of supplies to Rainelle, White Sulphur Springs and Rupert. The devastation left behind is wide spread and these communities will take months or years to rebuild.



This picture shows a portion of the street where residents were throwing all their belongings to the street to be picked up and destroyed. Debris was piled shoulder high on both sides of the streets as far as the eye could see. Furniture, antiques, toys, boats, appliances and clothing that were water logged and waiting for pick up. It was a sad site.

This picture shows one of the homes where town staff assisted flood victims. The yellow line above their heads shows the water line. It's hard to imagine almost 8 feet of water until you have something to compare it to. A family of five lived here but have since moved out of the area. Most homes in this area have been condemned by FEMA. Staff is still in contact with this family and a few others that have decided to stay and rebuild.



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### New Vehicles – two trucks and a Police Vehicle

Three new vehicles have been placed into service recently. In the Police Department, a 2016 Ford Explorer becomes the second SUV in the fleet. This vehicle will allow better access during winter weather and storm conditions. In Public Works, an F-150 and an F-350 have been added to the fleet to upgrade available vehicles used in water, sewer, and street departments. With the addition of these vehicles the town will be reassigning a number of existing vehicles for lighter duty uses. The town will also be taking three vehicles out of service and selling these as surplus.

# SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER 2016

- Sept. 15th ~ Jazz Night at the Market with Ratatouille
- Sept. 17th ~ Giles Art on the Lawn

## OCTOBER 2016

- Oct. 2nd ~ Cast Iron Cooking Class. Details coming soon!
- Oct. 8th ~ Scarecrow Building Workshop at the Market. *This event is being sponsored by the Pearisburg Community Market Kids Art Program, Virginia Cooperative Extension and Giles AG LAB.*
- Oct. 15th ~ Scarecrow Festival on Wenonah Ave. **Daytime events** include a children's parade, shopping with market vendors, FREE pumpkin painting and live performances on stage. **Please call Hope Harrell at 540-921-1222 for details. Evening events** include an Outdoor dinner party from 4-7 pm. Reservations and prepayment required for this event. Details coming soon!
- Oct. 20th ~ Oktoberfest at the Market with the Sauerkraut Band. The evening will feature German food and wine garden.
- Oct. 31st ~ Trick or Treat with Downtown Businesses
- Oct. 15th-Nov 1st ~ Scarecrow Stroll. Tour the scarecrow Trail! A map of the scarecrow locations can be Found at the Giles County Visitors Center, Pearis Mercantile and the Pearisburg Town Office. Join in the fun and build a scarecrow at your place or business or your front lawn!  
*The Scarecrow Festival is being sponsored by the Pearisburg Merchants Association, Pearisburg Junior Woman's Club and the Town of Pearisburg.*
- A Fall Float N' Fork event is being planned. The date will be announced soon.

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## **DOUBLE YOUR SNAP/EBT BENEFITS**

If you are age 65 or older or receive EBT/SNAP benefits visit the Pearisburg Community Market and see the Market Manager to learn how you can receive \$20 worth of Market products for just \$10. This benefit is available for a limited time only.

## **River Sculpture Walking Trail**

A one mile walking trail that features five permanently installed sculptures created from materials found in the New River or on its riverbanks in Giles County. The walking trail is located at the Pearisburg Community Park at 1410 Wenonah Ave.

Each sculpture promotes the message of sustainability, conservation and recycling.