

# PEARISBURG

## TODAY

### T O W N O F P E A R I S B U R G

### T O W N E L E C T I O N S

The Town elections will be held on November 5th this year. On the ballot will be the Mayor's Office and three of the six Town Council seats. The incumbents who's term expire are Charlie Via, Kristi Eaton, George Psathas as well as Mayor Robert Dickerson. To qualify for a spot on the ballot petitions must be completed and turned into the Voter Registrar by June 11, 2013 at 7 p.m. The signature of 125 qualified town voters is required for the petition to be valid.

George Psathas has announced that he will not seek another term on the Town Council. George served on Town Council from 1976-2004 and from 2005-2013 for a total of 36 years. The final makeup of the ballots will be known after June 11th when valid petitions are certified by the Election Commission. Winners of the election will take office January 1, 2014 and will serve four year terms. Watch for announcements in local paper and be sure to get out and vote on November 5th.

### PSA WATER ISSUE

The Town of Pearisburg has joined with Narrows and Pembroke in voicing opposition to a River Withdrawal Project that is being pursued by the Giles County Public Service Authority (PSA). The three towns represent two-thirds of the revenue and customer base of the PSA, but have a minority vote on the PSA Board. The three towns think that the proposed project is too expensive, not needed, and that cheaper alternatives are available to insure adequate and reliable water. The PSA has voiced concern that any water source, except the New River, is unreliable and leaves no option except the expensive River Project.

Although the PSA Board has agreed to a study of the cheaper well option proposed by the towns, they have contracted with Thompson & Litton Engineering firm to design the River Intake. In the meantime, the towns have retained legal counsel for advice on how to proceed with opposition to the PSA. The PSA position is that in times of drought the existing wells are not sufficient and only the river can guarantee adequate source. The towns' position is that wells have been used for many years as a source for municipal water and industrial needs at Celanese. The preliminary engineering work available to the Town indicates that the well withdrawal option in the New River alluvium area can provide a reliable source of high quality water at a much lower cost compared to withdrawing raw water from the New River with the necessary treatment costs. The use of wells in the New River alluvium area as a water source is not as susceptible to drought conditions as would be deep wells in fractured rock as typically used in areas outside of the New River alluvium area.

Pearisburg's Tannery Well has little to no drawdown in drought conditions. In rainy weather it does not increase in turbidity. In short, this well takes river water and naturally filters it without the costly treatment facilities needed for the treatment of river water. The PSA's main well, located at the

water treatment plant, is more susceptible to drought than would be wells located directly in the New River alluvium area. The Town's engineers recommend looking at the use of existing wells in Pearisburg and Narrows and drilling of a possible new well in the river alluvium. By doing so, a reliable and safe source can be achieved at a drastically lower cost to the customers.

No matter which water supply alternative is ultimately selected, any new well, water intake, pumping facility or pipeline located within the Town's boundaries will require review under the Town's Zoning Ordinance and the Comprehensive Plan. These land use review processes will include public hearings and opportunities for citizens to comment.

Unfortunately the PSA continues to move forward on the expensive project even as the cheaper alternative is being discussed. If done, the cost of water from the PSA will increase significantly. This will then lead to big increases in the cost of water supplied by the town to our customers. In the end, this cost will be paid by you when paying the monthly bill for water services. The towns have asked to discuss and resolve this issue in order to avoid costly legal fees, unnecessary and expensive projects, and to insure safe and reliable water services to everyone. The PSA continues to assert that it will act as it determines even if contrary to the concerns and opposition of half of its member localities who represent two-thirds of the PSA's customer base. Pearisburg will continue to work to serve the best interests of our citizens.

In addition, the PSA has notified the Town of its intent to raise water rates July 1, 2013 to \$3.33 per 1000 gallons or about 75%. This is more than any other member, although Pearisburg by contract does not pay transmission costs. The town is actively opposing this increase, which is obviously punitive in nature and in violation of its contract with the PSA.

## TOWN COUNCIL & DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### 2013 LIBRARY ACTIVITY REPORT

#### First Quarter

Circulation	14,051
Book Acquisitions	294
Membership	7,164
Total Volumes In Library	35,877
Library Donation Account	\$14,198.41
Number of Internet Users	1,164

### 2013 FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

#### First Quarter

Structure Fires	5
Automobile Accidents	17
Brush Fires	4
Total Calls	64
Mutual Aid Received	6
Mutual Aid Given	11
Calls In Town	18
Calls In County	38

### 2013 POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT

#### First Quarter

Driving While Intoxicated	6
Reckless Driving	4
Speeding	72
Moving Violations	61
Non- Moving Violations	79
Assists and Other Calls	104
Alarms Answered	11
Driving Suspended/Revoked	37
Seatbelt	13
Felonies	49
Misdemeanors	51
Drunk In Public	16
Domestic Calls	16
Vandalism/Larceny	32
Animal Related	9
Total General Calls	688
Accidents	21
Traffic Control	48
Warnings	36
Total Service Calls	9,809
Total Fines and Fees	\$16,392.65
Miles Logged	18,764

### TOWN COUNCIL ACTIONS

#### March 2013 to May 2013

- \* Council approved a grant from SERCAP for \$11,500 to conduct an analysis of the sewer system.
- \* Council approved bid for a new dump truck submitted by Newberry Ford (\$43,411).
- \* Council approved small subdivision plat off Horsely Drive.
- \* Council accepted parade permits for the Macy Tiger Run and Autism Walk.
- \* Council approved a subdivision plat for four lots in the Dogwood Farms Planned Unit Development.
- \* Council approved Spring Banner design.
- \* Council attended a meeting with the PSA to present an alternative approach to the River Withdrawal Project.
- \* Council approved use of a special donation to the Fire Department.
- \* Council approved a Budget Amendment to the FY 13 Budget.
- \* Council approved a contract with Anderson & Associates to conduct the study of the Sewer Collection System.
- \* Council approved a contract with Sawyer Paving to overlay several streets.
- \* Council presented a resolution honoring a team from The Bank for the Cast Iron Cook Off Competition.
- \* Council approved parade permits for Walk With Jesus and for the Festival 5K Race.
- \* Council approved a Proclamation for Relay for Life Paint Pearisburg Purple.
- \* Council approved granting Columbia Gas an easement to install a line serving the new car wash.
- \* Council approved writing off certain bills and taxes as uncollectable.
- \* Council approved revisions to Operational Procedures for the Fire Department.
- \* Council acquired additional property for parking at the Fire Station.
- \* Council agreed to work with Davenport, Inc on debt restructuring.

### 2013 BUILDING PERMIT REPORT

#### First Quarter

New Residential/Commercial	1
Additions	5
Total Permits	24
Total Construction	\$ 367,130

## BUSINESS NEWS!

We welcome Drs. Nick and Susan Clark to Pearisburg. They are located in Dr. Dan Bowling's building on Tazewell Street. Dr. Bowling has retired. Their business is Pearisburg Eyecare Associates. Coming soon is Dr. Chad Johnston who is opening River Ridge Dermatology on Buchanan Street. Be sure and stop by Sweet Bliss in Pearisburg Square for a delicious frozen yogurt or the Xanadu Game Room on Main Street (formerly Old Virginia BBQ). Coming soon will be Papa's Pizzeria which is being remodeled and will have new management. We welcome all these new businesses to Town. Remember...Shop Pearisburg First!

**HOLIDAYS**  
 July 4, 2013  
 TOWN OFFICES, LIBRARY and  
 COMMUNITY CENTER WILL BE CLOSED

## WATER UPGRADE



Jack St. Clair, Inc continues work on replacing water lines in Town. The construction is finished in the Curve Road and Lilly Fair areas.

The Town added Mayo Circle, Woodrum Street and Tyler Avenue to the project with remaining funds from the Rural Development loan. This work is underway at this time.

This work is part of over \$1.5 million in new lines that will replace old worn out leaking lines. The project is being funded by a low interest loan from Rural Development. These funds were part of the federal stimulus program. The Town urges you to be cautious and careful when utility work is underway. All construction should be completed later this summer. Thank you for your patience while these important projects are completed..

## FESTIVAL IN THE PARK

Customers are reminded that utility bills are due and payable before the 3rd day of the month following receipt of the bill. A 10% penalty is added to the bill on the 4th day of the month. Water service will be cut off ten days later for failure to pay. There is a \$35 reconnection fee applied to turn the meter back on following payment of the bill. Any deviation from this policy must be approved by the Town in order to avoid cut off of service. The Town normally sends out utility bills around the 15th of the month. Prompt payment will not only save you money by avoiding penalties, but will also insure that service is not interrupted.

Also remember to check the Town's website at [www.pearisburg.org](http://www.pearisburg.org) or Facebook page for notices of service interruptions and other important information.

June 14-15 will be the dates for Festival in the Park this summer. The Town will sponsor the year's event. A Festival Committee has been appointed and is working to make the annual event come together. The Friday evening picnic and gospel night will once again start the celebration. All day Saturday will feature music, crafts, games, and exhibits. Be sure to check out the car show. The Committee will continue to expand the entertainment schedule. The Festival will start off with a 5K Race so be sure and sign up for this new event. In addition to the Town and Merchant's Association, the Committee includes members of the Giles Rotary Club and Pearisburg Junior Woman's Club. So mark your calendar and plan on a full weekend of fun with friends and family.

## NEW CARILION CLINIC

Plans are under review for a new doctor's office building to be located on Boxwood Lane near the hospital. This will hold space for nine doctors. The Carillion Family Practices in Pearisburg will be relocated into the new facility. There will be room for future expansion on the property that would allow additional specialties to be added as the need arises. The Town Council has approved a subdivision plat for four new lots cut from the former Dogwood Farms property. Once the storm water, site, and building plans are approved construction will begin. The Town anticipates that this will occur by early summer. With the new hospital anchoring development, the doctor's offices will join Davita Dialysis as new medical facilities. Future plans for the area allow additional office and medical facilities as well as commercial and residential development. Other announcements are anticipated as interest grows in this area.



**TOWN OF  
PEARISBURG**

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# Mayor's Corner

Be sure and mark your calendar for the annual Festival on June 14-15. Once again we will have food, games, fun, and fellowship for everyone. A new feature will be the return of the 5K Run/Walk. Starting at the Town Hall participants will run out Wenonah Avenue to Woodrum Street and back. Bring your whole family and enjoy a full weekend of activity. Festival 2013 promises to be a good time for all.

I am very pleased that the Town is working with Giles County on two boat ramp improvement projects at Bluff City and at Whitt-Riverbend Park. The Town is also partnered with Macy on a Safe Route to School project featuring the first Macy Tiger 5k Walk/Run. The Town looks forward to more partnerships like these.

Unfortunately the disagreement between the Town and the Public Service Authority continues. The Town opposes a costly River Withdrawal Project planned by that Authority. It will significantly raise water rates and we do not think it is the best solution. Narrows and Pembroke also oppose the project. I remain hopeful that the PSA will work with the Towns and avoid costly legal fees. Thank you for your support.

**Robert L. Dickerson**

mayor@pearisburg.org

## 2013 PAVING PROJECTS

The Town has completed paving projects for the year. Easton Road and part of Monroe Street have been paved as part of the water/sewer upgrades recently completed. This work was funded by a Rural Development loan.

Also paved this year were Fort Branch Road, Robinhood Drive, High Street, and McGuire Lane. These streets were capped using VDOT Revenue Sharing money that was matched with budgeted funds by the Town.

Henson Avenue was paved earlier this year as part of improvements funded by VDOT Urban Construction Fund. This project included installation of new sidewalks as well as other improvements.

Pearisburg attempts to budget paving funds annually as part of a plan to pave all streets instead of the older chip and seal method of maintenance. We want to thank everyone for their patience during the construction done on Town streets. We hope you enjoy the new streets.



## BOAT LAUNCH PROJECTS



The Town and Giles County are working jointly to improve boat access on the New River. Bluff City and Whitt-Riverbend Park will benefit from upgrades provided by funds awarded in January by Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The two grants were among the largest amounts awarded this year statewide. Concrete ramps, 30 space parking areas and a restroom area are among the improvements being planned for the two popular boating areas.

The Bluff City landing will be relocated off private land and entirely onto public right of way. This will insure future access is kept open at this location. Town and County equipment and labor will provide the required 20% match for the projects. Design work is being started and we anticipate work will begin later this summer. The Town is very excited to be working with Giles County on this project that will benefit citizens and visitors who use the New River.