



Stephens City Newsletter

Volume 32 Issue 3

May and June 2013

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Don't miss "Robbie Limon" this year at the Newtown Heritage Festival!

Currently, Robbie plays over 200 dates a year. Robbie has been on the bandstand for over thirty years and brings his love of the '70s-era songwriters to each performance. The result is an eclectic mix of the Eagles, John Denver, Gordon Lightfoot, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Roy Orbison, The Doobie Brothers, Jim Croce, Willie Nelson, and several others. Listeners report that the song arrangements and voice characterizations are exactly what is recalled from the original recordings.

See the live band Saturday, May 26 at the Newtown Commons from 7-9pm



Be sure to pick up the 2013 Newtown Heritage Festival commemorative! The POTTERY returns again and is better than ever! This year's commemorative features a mixing bowl and will complete your collection of commemoratives for Heritage Festivals of the past. The Mixing Bowl is \$25. Also the Town has many other commemoratives from the past that are on sale for half off and will remain at that discount until sold. Contact the Town Office or stop by and get yours before they are gone!

The Town Newsletter is published by the Town Government of Stephens City for its citizens; to inform, to apprise, and to clarify the issues and undertakings before the Town Government. Citizen feedback is encouraged. Contact the Town Office at 1033 Locust Street weekdays between the hours of 8:30a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or by mail: P.O. Box 250, Stephens City, VA 22655

Phone: 869-3087

Fax: 869-6166

Police: 868-1012

Website:

www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov

Don't Miss the Inaugural Newtown 5-K Fun Run at 9am Sponsored by



Newtown Heritage Festival

Thursday, May 24, 2012 - Saturday, May 26, 2012

Don't Miss It!



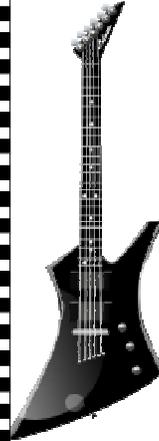
*Wednesday, May 22nd -
Saturday, May 25th at the
Stephens City Old School.
Fun for all ages!*



**BATTLE OF THE
BANDS**

**FRIDAY, MAY 24
6PM TO 9PM**

**AT THE
NEWTOWN
COMMONS**



From the Mayor's Office

Hello Citizens,

On April 13, 2013, the Town Council and staff had a work session to discuss some major issues facing the Town. I feel this was a very productive day. We now have some good ideas and direction for the Town to pursue. For the past three years, FCSA has increased our W & S rates. We will be taking a close look at the contracts we have with them and ways to obtain revenues to cover these increases.

I'd like to invite everyone to our 21st annual Heritage Days to be held May 23-25. There are many different kinds of activities planned for this family oriented weekend. I hope to see you there!!

Mayor,

Joy B. Shull-Gellner



"Happy Feet"
Cloggers
5:45pm- 6:45pm
Saturday, May 25th
the Newtown Commons



PARADE
Saturday, May 25th
2:00PM
Down Main Street
(Streets close at 1:30pm)



*Newtown 5-K Fun Run
Saturday, May 25th*

**"Sherando High
School Jazz Band"**



*takes the stage on
Saturday May 25th
at 10:30am at the
Newtown Commons Stage*

**"Back Creek Valley
Boys"**



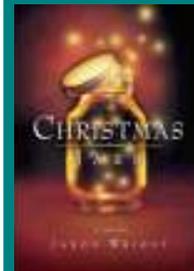
*takes the stage on Saturday,
May 25th at Noon at the
Newtown Commons stage.*

**"Linda Lay and
Springfield Fxit"**



*takes the stage on Saturday,
May 26th at 3:30pm at the
Newtown Commons stage.*

DON'T MISS



Author, Jason Wright will be featured at the Parish Hall of Stephens City UMC to talk about his book "The Christmas Jars" Friday, May 24th at 7pm.



Old Time Quilt Show
Stephens City Old School
Building
10am-4pm



REMINDER!

Fireworks at 9:15pm

Saturday, May 25th

From the Town Manager's Desk...



2013-14 Budget News

The Stephens City Finance Committee is in the process of finalizing the 2013-14 budget.

We had anticipated that the process would be a little more straight-forward this year since the economy seems to have stabilized and business growth seems to be coming back to Town. So far this year five of our empty buildings have been re-occupied with new business openings and we are hopeful this trend continues.

But as usual things do not go as smoothly as one would hope and for the third year in a row the town has received notice of significant rate increases from Frederick County Sanitation Authority. The Authority wishes to increase the town's whole sale water rate by 47 cents per 1,000 gallons by January 2014. This reflects a 40% increase in the cost of water to the town. The rate for sewage treatment will go from \$2.89 per thousand gallons to \$3.28 per thousand in July for an increase of 39 cents or 14%. FCSA does not anticipate the rates going up to their own customers this year. According to their explanation, the costs for the water increases are due to increased operations and maintenance costs at the James Diehl Water Plant in Stephens City and the costs from removing "rags" from

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**Sherando High School
Spring Band
Concert
Thursday, May 23rd
7:00pm
Sherando
Auditorium**



Corner

The Planner's

It's with mixed emotions that I am announcing that my last day with the Town of Stephens City will be Friday, May 10th. Normally, most staff members come and go without writing an article about their exit, however I wanted to take a moment to talk about this Town.

Many people have different opinions about this little Town, some positive, some negative, but opinions none the less. Let me tell you what I have seen in this Town over the past six plus years. See, all planners have their strong suits; some love data, some love the administration, some enjoy working with the citizens and some are truly visionists. I fall into the last two categories but seeing the vision of what could be is a gift that I have been given in life. Every time I have walked or driven through Town, I see what this Town is and can be and its exciting to me.

I challenge residents to get involved in their town, make it your Hometown. Take pride in **everything** that you do in this Town, whether its with your property or even when you are asked "where are you from?" Stephens City is a great place, you are **Frederick County's Main Street**. There is so much growth all around this Town, but this Town has a lot more to be proud of than is usually thought of, or mentioned. Treasure fall homecoming parades, they don't really happen any where else. Attend family friendly festivals at Christmas, Easter and most definitely around Memorial Day. Take a ride down Main Street and don't look at what everything was in the past, but visualize what it can be today. Then get involved!

Our founding fathers of this country once created a beautiful system of governance (although most would argue it is eroding away). Nonetheless, it was "for the people, by the people." They never asked for there only to be seven individuals who volunteer to look out for what they perceive to be the best interest of the Town, the Town needs you all. What the Town of Stephens City is has yet to be determined, it is up to you as to how it gets there.

Till our paths meet again,
Sincerely

Town Planner/ Asst. Town Manager,
Brian P. Henshaw

Water and Sewer Billing

Water and sewer bills for the bi-monthly billing period ended on **Thursday, April 24, 2013** and are due upon receipt.

On **Tuesday, June 4, 2013** a **10% penalty** will be added. On **Monday, June 10, 2013** service will be discontinued for delinquency. An admin fee of **\$25** plus the full amount of the bill must be paid before service can be restored.

Just a reminder for your convenience a night drop is available at the Town Office for dropping off **check or money order** payments and payments can also be made online at the Town's website. **It is important to note that, if you pay your bill online after midnight the day it is due, it will not be posted until two business days after the due date and will be subject to additional penalties or shut off.**

Water/Sewer bills can be paid using a Visa, MasterCard or Discover. If you pay a bill online after the due date, you will still be responsible for the 10% penalty and if the bill is paid after the shut off date, the \$25 admin fee will need to be paid as well, prior to reconnection.

DO NOT PUT CASH IN THE DROP BOX!

Continued from page 3...

the Stephens City sewer line before it reaches the FCSA pump station.

Last year FCSA also increased the monthly debt service amount from \$9,241 to \$13,387 but that figure does not go up this year and represents the town's share of expansion and enhanced treatment at the Parkins Mill wastewater treatment plant.

Prior to adjusting the town's rates to meet the increases imposed by FCSA the town will request that FCSA verify the justification for such extremely high increases to the town for three years running! Last year the town auditors were able to find a mistake in their calculations in the amount of nearly \$33,000 in depreciation costs.

Last year the town was able to absorb the increases but this year if the Sanitation Authorities rate increases stand unchanged the town will necessarily have to pass on the costs to our customers.

As a result of the proposed elimination of the town's discount for water purchases by the town is considering and may impose a charge to FCSA for water extracted from the town quarries.

On the General Fund side, the town finance committee is not recommending at this time any tax rate increases for the next fiscal year which begins July 1.

A Public Hearing will be held June 4, 2013 concerning the 2013-14 budget.

Town Manager,
Mike Kehoe

Tax Billing Information

Currently, the Town of Stephens City sends out tax bills twice a year. The first bill you receive is due in June and this bill includes the fee for decals for your motor vehicles and trailers. The bill you receive in the second half is for the remainder of the year and is due in December.

The Town of Stephens City in a non-prorating jurisdiction. Which means any property you own on January 1st of each year is taxed. If you should acquire property on any other day of the year, you will only be taxed on it for the following tax year. Likewise, if you move or dispose of that property throughout the year, you still owe the entire year's tax to the Town.

The value of the property, (both real and personal) is set by the Commissioner of Revenue for Frederick County. Based upon the value the Commissioners office assesses, Stephens City applies the tax rate and that is how we arrive at the amount of taxes you owe. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

Treasurer,
Shannon D. Rothemich



Town Calendar of Events

May 2013

May	2-5	Apple Blossom Festival
May	7	Historic Preservation at 5:00pm <i>(Please note change in date)</i> Town Council at 7:30pm
May	9	Newtown Heritage Festival Committee at 7:00pm
May	14	Personnel Committee at 5:00pm
May	15	Water/ Sewer at 5:30 pm Public Works at 6:00 pm
May	16	Newtown Heritage Festival Committee at 7:00pm
May	22	Finance Committee at 5:00pm
May	23	Newtown Heritage Festival Committee at 7:00pm Public Safety at 7:00pm
May	22-25	Newtown Heritage Festival
May	27	TOWN OFFICE CLOSED- MEMORIAL DAY
May	28	Planning Commission at 7:30pm
May	30	Public Safety Committee at 5:00pm

Memorial Day

June 2013

June	4	Town Council Meeting at 7:30pm. Water/Sewer Bills Due without penalty.
June	5	Penalties added to Water/Sewer Bills
June	10	Water Shut Off Date
June	11	Personnel Committee at 5:00pm
June	13	Newtown Heritage Festival Committee at 7:00pm
June	18	Historic Preservation Commission at 5:00pm
June	19	Water/ Sewer Meeting at 5:30pm Public Works Meeting at 6:00pm
June	24	Parks & Recreation Committee at 5:00pm
June	25	Planning Commission at 5:00pm
June	26	Finance Committee at 5:00pm
June	27	Public Safety Committee at 5:00pm

** All meetings subject to change without notice w/ the exception of the Town Council meeting.*

