



Stephens City Newsletter

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 2

MARCH AND APRIL 2014

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Newtown Heritage Festival** Page 1
- **From the Mayor's Desk** Page 2
- **Jason Nauman—new Council member** Page 4
- **Police Reminder** Page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Watch What You Flush IV** 1
- Daylight Saving Time** 2
- Water and Sewer Billing** 3
- Update on Veterans Memorial** 3
- Town Calendar** 4
- Newtown Farmers Market** 4

Stephens City Newsletter is proud to enter its 30th year of publication. Throughout the year we will highlight the significance of this Town Newsletter. 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



Watch What You Flush IV

Two years ago, I addressed the problem that is caused by “rags” that were being improperly disposed of in the sewer system. The problem seemed to have diminished for a while but did not stop. Since that time, the local and national media have covered the problem of flushing synthetic towels and wipes in newspaper articles and on TV news reports about the growing problem across the nation. The problem is not Stephens City’s alone, but that is of little consequence since the cost of removing these disposable products, some of which are advertised as “flushable” cause major problems by clogging sewer lines and stopping and damaging wet well pumps. **That message should be made clear at the end of this article.**

Synthetic towels or wipes continue to be improperly disposed of by flushing these products down the drain instead of disposing of these items in the trash. These so called “rags” cause major problems downstream at the Stephens Run pump station causing turbine pumps to

Continued on Page 2

Newtown Heritage Festival

Residents and Friends in Stephens City, we realize it’s only March, but spring, we promise, is on the way. And that means preparations are in full swing for the 22nd annual Newtown Heritage Festival, to be held **May 22-24** in the heart of downtown.

One thing you can count on is that the festival will retain its down-home charm. That translates to the usual constants—good food, arts and crafts, fine entertainment, the Saturday parade, salutes to our heritage, the best fireworks display in the Northern Valley and plenty of local pride.

To provide just a sampling of what’s in store, our entertainment lineup features the classic rock strains of The Robbie Limon Band (Saturday, May 24 from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm), followed at 7:00 pm by the Nashville-based offerings of the

Continued on Page 3

*Stephens City
Police*

*Department
Announcement*

The Stephens City Police Department would like to remind everyone that the Town does have a curfew for minors (Code 14:4). Anyone that is under the age 18 should be off the streets between 11:00pm and 6:00am unless in the company of an adult family member or guardian. This does not include those going to or from work. If you have any questions please contact the Stephens City Police Department at 540-868-1012

*DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS
TIME*

Sunday

March 9, 2014

*Don't forget to set
your clocks ahead
one hour*

become clogged. When this happens, the pumps must be taken apart and cleaned. Damage to the pumps may also occur, along with additional maintenance and personnel expenses. This year Frederick County Sanitation Authority imposed a \$46,000.00 additional fee upon the Town based upon their increase in operation and maintenance cost. As of this time, the costs have not been passed on to you, the Stephens City customer, but no doubt will result in higher water and sewer rates to you in the near future.

Further investigation has found that there is a wide range of cloth cleaning products that are not suitable for flushing! To name a few that we have found are Scotch Brite, "Kitchen Wipes;" Magla Reusable, "Easy Wipes;" Dymon Hard, Cleaning "Scrubs;" Scott Multi Purpose "Rags;" Scott Shop



Towels, All Swiffer Products or Wet Floor Cloths; CVS, "Antibacterial Wash Cloths and Earth Essentials;" "All Purpose Cleaning Wipes;" and Lysol Disinfection Wipes. We do not believe this is an all inclusive list but each of these manufacturers have instructions or references as to how to properly dispose of their products. **If you are not sure, dispose of them in the trash, not your toilet!**

Town employees, along with the Frederick County

Sanitation Authority are actively narrowing down the location of the source(s) of the problem. Additionally the FCSA will be using their sewer-line TV cameras to pin point the discharge location(s).

Once pinpointed, the Town will enforce the ordinance governing the unlawful disposal of materials that clog, impair or cause damage to the public sewer system. Each day of violation will be considered a separate violation. Section 22-136 of the Town Code states that the owner of the premises shall be presumed to be the violator, unless the person making the discharge is identified. If you know of any person(s) doing this, we ask that you notify the Town Office as soon as possible under condition of anonymity.

TOWN MANAGER,

Michael Kehoe

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

For the past several months, the Town has been discussing our contracts with the Frederick County Sanitation Authority (FCSA) for water and sewer. These contracts are up for renewal and we hope to finalize new contracts before the next fiscal year (July).

The Town wants to make sure we understand all the charges for operation and maintenance (O&M) at the treatment plants and the basis for rate increases. Our rates for sewer treatment by FCSA have increased 100% over the past three years.

Part of these increases are due to the problem the Town has with infiltration and inflow (I&I). This problem causes excessive leaks into our sewer system and it needs to be addressed. There is a major project planned on Mulberry Street that will eliminate about 50% of the I&I, but it will be costly.

The dilemma for the Town is how to continue to pay increasing rates and do the necessary repairs to I&I. The Town is exploring a number of avenues and hopes to come up with a solution in the near future.

Joy Shull-Gellner
Mayor



Water and Sewer Billing

Water and sewer bills for the bi-monthly billing end **Thursday, February 20, 2014** and are due upon receipt.

After Tuesday, April 1, 2014 a **10% penalty** will be added. On **Monday, April 7, 2014** service will be discontinued for delinquency. An administrative fee of **\$25** plus the full amount of the bill must be paid before service can be restored.

Just a reminder that for your convenience

a night drop is available at the Town Office for dropping off check or money order payments or payments can 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.

Water and sewer bills can be paid using 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 administrative fee will need to be paid as well, prior to reconnection

DO NOT PUT CASH IN THE DROP BOX!

bluegrass ensemble Blue Moon Rising. As always, these concerts will emanate from the Newtown Common stage. And, on Thursday, May 22, don't forget to stop by Sherando High School for the Warrior band's annual spring concert (7:00 pm).

You can also count on the festival board to, as they say, "kick it up a notch." In the works this Memorial Day Weekend is the festival's first ever Cornhole Tournament. We are very excited to be adding this new event. This will be a 2 person team event. Team registration is \$30.00 and the tournament will be conducted through a bracket. First place winner \$75.00 and a swag bag, second place winner \$50.00 and a swag bag. Please call 540-508-0369 for more information on registration. The Festival will once again be offering the Memorial Day 5K fun run. This was a huge success last year and your support was appreciated. All proceeds from the 5K will go to the Veteran's Memorial Fund. Please call 540-508-0379 for more information on registration for race participants or sponsorships.

The Festival will also reprise the first-time event from a year ago - the Newtown Quilt Show at the old Stephens City School. Quilt show director Jacquetta Owen wishes to remind quilters that this year's event will feature contemporary as well as ole-timey historical quilts.

The old school will also be the site of the festival's annual transportation exhibit, a salute to the wagon that put Newtown on the map in the early 19th century. And, speaking of history, on Friday evening, May 23, the festival will premiere a historic video, crafted by Sherando High senior Meagan Arnold, about the events of late May to early June when Union General David Hunter threatened to put the town to the torch. Also on the slate of that evening's festivities will be a lecture by local Civil War historian Jerry Holsworth about the Northern Valley's role in the Campaign of 1864.

Finally, what would a Newtown Heritage Festival be without our annual commemoratives? This year, our concessionaires will be selling a NHF butter crock fashioned by the folks at Granville Pottery and a distinctive Newtown Wagon pin made of pewter.

So, as you can tell, we're ready for the 22nd annual festival—and we hope you're getting ready to join us.

The Newtown Heritage Festival Board

Adrian O'Connor, President

Veterans Memorial Update

The Town of Stephens City, along with the Newtown Heritage is continuing to honor your service members. To recognize your service member, memorial bricks are for sale. An application form is available on the Town's website or at the Town office. The Veterans' Memorial Committee is working on final estimates and will be working on funding opportunities to help support the construction in the coming months.

If you have any questions, please contact the Town Office.

Veterans' Memorial Committee



Town Calendar of Events

MARCH

Mar	4	Town Council Meeting at 7:30 pm
Mar	11	Personnel Committee at 6:00 pm
Mar	18	Historic Preservation Comm. at 5:00 pm
Mar	19	Public Works Committee at 4:30 pm Water/Sewer Committee at 5:00 pm
Mar	20	Newtown Heritage Festival at 7:00 pm
Mar	24	Parks and Recreation Comm. at 5:00 pm
Mar	25	Planning Commission at 5:00 pm
Mar	26	Finance Committee at 4:00 pm
Mar	27	Public Safety Committee at 5:00 pm

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



HAPPY ST PATRICK'S
DAY
MONDAY, MARCH 17TH

APRIL

Apr	1	Town Council at 7:30 pm Water/ Sewer Bills Due without penalty
Apr	2	Penalties added to Water/Sewer Bills
Apr	7	Water/Sewer Shut-off Date
Apr	8	Personnel Committee at 5:00 pm
Apr	15	HPC meeting at 5:00 pm
Apr	16	Public Works Committee at 4:30 pm Water/Sewer Committee at 5:30 pm
Apr	17	Public Safety Committee at 5:00 pm Newtown Heritage Festival at 7:00 pm
Apr	23	Finance Committee at 4:00 pm
Apr	28	Parks and Recreation Comm. at 5:00 pm
Apr	29	Planning Commission at 7:30 pm

We're on the web!
www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov

NEWTOWN LOCAL MARKET

The Newtown Local Market will be up and running again this year. Visit us at the corner of Fairfax St. and Main Street on the Stonehouse property every Saturday from 8 am until 11 am from May until October. Featured vendors have locally grown produce, farm fresh eggs, jams and jellies, plants, hand crafted items, baked goods, and so much more!! See you Saturday!!!



JASON NAUMAN

At the February meeting of the Town Council, Mr. Jason Nauman was appointed to fill the unexpired term of James Harter who resigned from Council in December of 2013.

Mr. Nauman has been a resident of the Town of Stephens City since 2009 and was a member of the Stephens City Planning Commission, having been appointed in 2010.

At the February Council meeting, the Mayor noted that Mr. Nauman was well versed in public safety and parks & recreation issues and that he had the background that made him suitable to be a member of Council. Mr. Nauman's term will expire at the end of December of this year and he, if he chooses, can run for re-election in November.

Elections this year will include the position of Mayor as well as three Council seats. More on the elections in the next issue of the newsletter.