



# Stephens City Newsletter

Volume 31 Issue 3

May and June 2012

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**Don't miss "the Boxcars" this year at the Newtown Heritage Festival!**

Just 24 months ago, the name "The Boxcars" meant nothing. Two years later the name is synonymous with the five guys that make up this ground breaking band. They don't sound like anyone else. And yet they capture the excitement of the seminal bands that preceded them in the genre and combine it with cutting edge sounds of bluegrass today. The result is, well, magical. You can't replace chemistry between band members. And these guys have it.

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

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

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**Website:**

[www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov](http://www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov)

## Sherando High School Spring Band Concert

**Thursday, May 24th  
7:00pm**

**Newtown Commons**



Be sure to pick up the 2012 Newtown Heritage Festival commemorative! The POTTERY is BACK and better than ever! This year's commemorative features a Flower Pot and will complete your collection of commemoratives for Heritage Festivals of the past. The Flower Pot 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!



**Newtown Heritage Festival  
Thursday, May 24, 2012 - Saturday, May 26, 2012  
Don't Miss It!**

Come one, come all for the Crafts, the Museums and of course the Food! Don't miss the 20th Newtown Heritage Festival Thursday, May 24 thru Saturday, May 26. For families and friends!



**BATTLE OF THE BANDS**  
**FRIDAY, MAY 25**  
**6PM TO 9PM**  
**AT THE NEWTOWN COMMONS**



**PARADE**  
**Saturday, May 26th**  
**2:00PM**  
**Down Main Street**  
*(Streets close at 1:30pm)*



**"Happy Feet"**  
Cloggers  
5:30pm- 7:00pm  
Saturday, May 26th  
at the Newtown Commons

**"Explicit Faith"**  
*(Christian Rock)*  
takes the stage on  
Saturday,  
May 26h at Noon  
at the Newtown Commons stage.



**"Something Else"**  
Band  
takes the stage on  
Saturday,  
May 26h at 3:30pm  
at the Newtown Commons stage.



**REMINDER!**  
**Fireworks at DUSK**  
**Saturday, May 26th**

**From the Mayor's Office**

Hello again everyone. Spring is in the air and we have escaped any major snowstorms this winter. They certainly help the groundwater but are horrible to deal with.

I would like to share some information with you. Perhaps you have already heard that Frederick County has put the remaining buildings at the Old School site out to bid. After much consideration, the Town Council decided to submit a bid on them. Hopefully by the time you receive this newsletter, it will have been accepted.

We have met with several firms already that are able to help us plan development for this

*Continued on page 3...*

**Veteran's Memorial Brick Sponsorship**

The Parks and Recreation Committee along with the Town Council have decided that the brick sponsorship is to honor the memory of those who served, to honor those who have served or are serving in any of the five branches of the service, (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and US Coast Guard).

At this time, we will only be taking sponsorships for veterans, although general sponsorship of bricks may eventually be considered and will be displayed elsewhere on the Veteran's Memorial.

Please consider giving to this most worthwhile cause to honor our veterans.



*From the Town Manager's Desk...*

**Town Elections**

The General Assembly and Governor McDonnell have approved the changes to the Stephens City Town Charter to hold elections on the first Tuesday in November instead of May. Normally at this time the Town would be in the midst of elections however the three Town Council seats will be continued until January 2013 instead of July 1 of this year.

The primary reasons for moving the election

date to November is to generate more interest in local elections. In recent years, less than 40 votes have been cast in Town elections at a cost of over \$3,000 to use the voting machines.

If any Town citizens are interested in running for one of the Council seats this coming November, you must be a registered voter in Stephens City and need to file for office with the County Registrar by June 12, 2012.

The last day to register to vote for the November 6th general elections is October 15, 2012.

Town Manager,  
*Mike Kehoe*

**Corner**

**The Planner's**

Well March seems like it was so long ago, but I did want to take this opportunity to thank all of those involved with the success of the 4th Annual "Hop In" on the Commons held on Saturday, March 31st of this year. Below are the sponsors that made this event possible for the kids.

- Commercial Press**  
**Annie Williams and Kelly Henshaw**  
**Stephens City Insurance Agency**  
**Waveland Farms**  
**Blue Ridge Hospice Thrift Store**  
**BB&T Bank**  
**Capon Valley Bank**  
**Lantz's Pharmacy**  
**Edward Jones- Janet Davidson**  
**Remax Realty- Sheila Pack**  
**Stephens City Lions Club**  
**Virginia Savings Bank**  
**Jack's Auto Sales**

Without these businesses giving back to the community, the Hop In would not be possible! We look forward to the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Hop In next year!

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

*From the Mayor's Office continued...*

property, should we be awarded the bid. The Council feels this could be a great opportunity for the Town.

I hope everyone is getting geared up for our Heritage Days celebration. This year marks our 20th Anniversary! Adrian O'Conner (Chairman of the NHF) and his committees have worked hard planning a wonderful weekend of fun for everyone. I hope to see you there!

Mayor,

*Joy B. Shull-Gellner*

*Newtown Heritage Festival  
Pageant Winners*

- Wee Baby - Maddy Lambert*  
*Baby - Lily Fleming*  
*Tiny Miss - Gracie McCoy*  
*Petite Miss - Mikayla Hoffman*  
*Pre-teen Miss - Alivia Keatts*  
*Junior Miss - Emily Baldwin*  
*People's Choice - Abby Lopez*  
*Miss Newtown 2012 -  
Taylor Ritter*

**Water and Sewer Billing**

Water and sewer bills for the bi-monthly billing period ended on **Friday, April 25, 2012** and are due upon receipt.

On **Tuesday, June 5, 2012** a **10% penalty** will be added. On **Monday, June 11, 2012** service will be discontinued for delinquency. A reconnect 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 or MasterCard. 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 reconnect fee will need to be paid as well, prior to reconnection.

**DO NOT PUT CASH IN THE DROP BOX!**

**2012-13 budget news**

The Stephens City Finance Committee is in the process of finalizing the 2012-13 budget. The budget process has been delayed to some extent waiting on final numbers coming from the state in regards to revenues which seem to decrease every year while at the same time the state imposes additional mandates on localities.

In addition the town has received notice of rate increases from Frederick County Sanitation Authority. The Authority is increasing the town's whole sale water rate by 3 cents per 1,000 gallons or 2%. The rate for sewage treatment will go up by 78 cents or 37%.

FCSA is also increasing the monthly debt service amount from \$9, 241 to \$13,387 or almost \$50,000 a year.

Prior to adjusting the towns 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 two years running

On the General Fund side, the town finance committee is recommending a one percent rate increase for the meals tax which begins July 1.

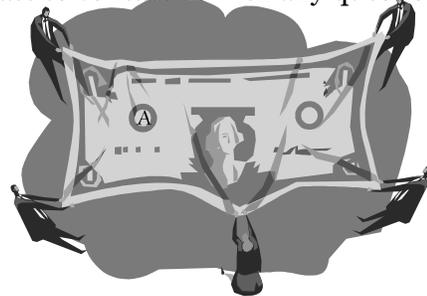
A Public Hearing will be held June 5, 2012 concerning the 2012-13 budget and these proposed changes .

**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 an 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 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.



**Town Calendar of Events**

**May 2012**

- May 1 **Town Council at 7:30pm**
- May 4-6 Apple Blossom Festival (Winchester)
- May 8 Personnel Committee 5:00pm
- May 15 Historic Preservation at 5:00pm
- May 17 Water/ Sewer at 5:30 pm  
Public Works at 6:00 pm  
Newtown Heritage Festival Committee at 7:00pm
- May 21 Parks and Recreation Committee at 5:00pm
- May 23 Finance Committee at 5:00pm
- May 24 Public Safety at 7:00pm
- May 24-26 **Newtown Heritage Festival**
- May 28 **TOWN OFFICE CLOSED- MEMORIAL DAY**
- May 29 Planning Commission at 7:30pm



**June 2012**

- June 3 **Town Council Meeting at 7:30pm.**
- June 4 **Water/Sewer Bills Due without penalty.**
- June 5 **Penalties added to Water/Sewer Bills**
- June 11 **Water Shut Off Date**
- June 12 Personnel Committee at 5:00pm
- June 19 Historic Preservation Commission at 5:00pm
- June 21 Water/ Sewer Meeting at 5:30pm  
Public Works Meeting at 6:00pm  
Newtown Heritage Festival Committee at 7:00pm
- June 25 Parks & Recreation Committee at 5:00pm
- June 26 Planning Commission at 5:00pm
- June 27 Finance Committee at 5:00pm



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