



# Stephens City Newsletter

Volume 31 Issue 5

September and October 2012

## this issue

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| School and Pedestrian Safety                  | P.1 |
| From the Mayor's Office                       | P.1 |
| From Town Manager's Desk                      | P.2 |
| Stephens City Lion's Club                     | P.2 |
| Planner's Corner                              | P.3 |
| Important Notice to Water and Sewer Customers | P.4 |



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

## NEWTOWN LOCAL MARKET

The Newtown Local Market is up and running again this year. Visit us at the corner of Fairfax St. and Main Street in the Trinity Lutheran Church Parking Lot every Saturday from 8 am until 11 am from now 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!!!



## *Schools are back in Session!*

The Stephens City Police Department would like to remind you to be alert and safe as our schools head back into session. Here are a few reminders:

- State law requires the driver of a motor vehicle to stop when approaching a School bus from “any” direction that has stopped for the purpose of taking on or discharging students.
- If the red lights are flashing and the stop sign is “out”, then you are required to stop.
- Stephens City Police Department will be out on patrol and will charge drivers with reckless driving for not stopping for a stopped school bus.

Also, as a reminder State Law requires the driver of any motor vehicle on any street or highway to yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian at any clearly marked crosswalk.

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

After some negotiations, it looks like the Town will be able to acquire all of the old school properties. The deal should be finalized with Frederick County in September.

Town officials have already talked with two investment firms to get ideas for the development possibilities. We will

continue to investigate the avenues available for funding and grants.

We don't expect renovations to begin overnight but anticipate the development of this site to be a real boost for the future of the Town.

*Joy Shull-Gellner - Mayor*



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

**Reminder about Town Elections**

As the election season is gearing up, as well as all the ads, I wanted to remind the citizens that this year's election for the Town will be in November with the general election. The voting districts have not changed, nor have the polling locations. The registrar will verify that you are a resident of the Town and they will insert the program that will allow you to vote in the national, state and our local election.

This year, we have three Town Council positions up for re-election. Running for re-election are *Joe Hollis, Ron Bowers, and Joe Grayson*. All three are running unopposed. If you would like to learn more about our candidates, visit the Town's website for more information

The last day to register to vote is October 15, 2012 for the November elections

Town Manager,  
*Mike Kehoe*

**Stephens City Lions Club  
"Citizen of the Year Award"**

This past Spring, the Stephens City Lions Club was pleased to recognize **Dennis Clem** as the "Citizen of the Year" for the Town of Stephens City in 2011.

The Stephens City Lions Club is proud to announce that it will once again sponsor a Citizen of the Year Award to be presented to a person who has made significant contributions to the community of Stephens City, Virginia. The recipient should live in the general Stephens City area.

More information on the nomination process will be available in the November/December Town Newsletter and on the Town's website. So begin thinking about who our next "Citizen of the Year" will be, today!

*Stephens City Lions Club*

**TOWN OFFICE CLOSED**

on Monday,

September 3, 2012

In honor of

Labor Day

and

on Monday, October 8, 2012

in honor of

Columbus Day

Will re-open on the following

Tuesday, at 8:30am

***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.

Sponsorship opportunities will end in November of this year. Please consider giving to this most worthwhile cause to honor our veterans.

**SHERANDO  
WARRIOR Club**



**September 16 - September 22**

**"Sherando Spirit Week"**

**Thursday, September 20th**

**Homecoming Parade on Main Street at 6:00pm,  
Stephens City**

**Inflatable Carnival and Bonfire at the Newtown Commons**

**Friday, September 21st**

**Homecoming Game, 7pm at Sherando**

## Corner

The Planner's

### *North Main Street Enhancement Project Update...*

The plans are not complete, yet. We will not be seeing bulldozers or other equipment on North Main Street this year. However, this does not mean that there has not been progress. It has taken us a little longer than anticipated to get the concepts and some of the early plans approved by VDOT.

As of right now, we do have approval of the concept and cross section drawings of the project. We have

currently broken the project into 2 phases. The first phase includes all the existing houses with the only difference between what was discussed and proposed during the citizens meeting two years ago is that the two way turn will remain and will be stamped asphalt to look like bricks. There will be raised medians approximately where the current welcome sign is located and as it narrows down to two lanes before you get to Barley Drive or Lantz's Pharmacy.

The second phase will be everything north including the Shenandoah Valley Christian

Academy. It is unfortunate, but we have had to revert back to conventional stormwater management. The project still features sidewalks on the eastern side of Main Street and a 8' to 10' shared use path on the western side of Main Street. Landscaping will continue to be featured throughout the entire corridor.

There is a possibility, dependent upon funding that we may break the project into three phases of construction in order to complete a connection the Shenandoah Valley Christian Academy.

The goal at this time is to begin the construction in the Spring of 2013, once the final design is approved by the Virginia Department of Transportation. Should you have any questions, please let me know.

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



### **From the Stephens City Police Department**

Trick or Treating will be on **Halloween Night, Wednesday, October 31st. The children may go door to door from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. within the Town Limits.** If you do not wish to participate in the trick or treating, **please leave your outside lights off.**

There will be police patrol and please impress upon your children, if there is **no light on, do not go to the door.**

Be sure the children have on light colored clothing and carry a flashlight or something bright that can be seen from vehicles.

**Let's make this year another safe and problem free Halloween!**



*Chief, Charles Bockey*

## Water and Sewer Billing

Water and sewer bills for the bi-monthly billing period ended on **Tuesday, October 2, 2012** and are due upon receipt.

On **Tuesday, October 2, 2012** a **10% penalty** will be added. On **Tuesday, October 9, 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, MasterCard or Discover (at the office). 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!**

**NOTICE TO WATER/SEWER CUSTOMERS**

Because of changes made by the State Legislature effective July 1, 2012, some changes will be made to the Town Code Chapter 22 governing the water/sewer accounts in the Town. Some of these resulting changes impact the policies that guide the administration of water/sewer accounts. Residents of the Town of Stephens City with water and sewer accounts should be aware of their responsibilities regarding this service which are as follows:

- All customers are required to complete an application and provide a security deposit when establishing a new account.
- New customers will be required to submit authorization from the property owner prior to establishing a new account effective September 2012.
- Water/sewer bills are sent every two months.
- Non-receipt of a bill or cut-off notice does not cancel out the customer's obligation to pay by

the penalty date or cut-off date. It is the customer's responsibility to contact the Town Office if you have not received a bill.

- Bills are due and payable upon receipt.
- Payments must be received by 5:00 pm on the penalty date printed on the bill to avoid a penalty or by 5:00 pm on a cut-off date to avoid a turn off. If paying after 5:00 pm on a cut-off date, the \$25.00 administrative fee must be included whether service is turned off or not. A postmark date or bank process date does not represent receipt of payment.



**Town Calendar of Events**

**September 2012**

- Sept. 3 **Labor Day– Town Office Closed**
- Sept. 4 **Town Council at 7:30pm**
- Sept. 11 Personnel Committee 5:00pm
- Sept. 18 Historic Preservation at 5:00pm
- Sept. 19 Water/ Sewer at 5:30 pm  
Public Works at 6:00 pm
- Sept. 20 Newtown Heritage Festival Committee at 7:00pm
- Sept. 24 Parks and Recreation Committee at 5:00pm
- Sept. 25 Planning Commission at 7:30pm
- Sept. 26 Finance Committee at 5:00pm
- Sept. 27 Public Safety at 7:00pm

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



**October 2012**

- Oct. 2 **Town Council Meeting at 7:30pm. Water/Sewer Bills Due without penalty.**
- Oct. 3 **Penalties added to Water/Sewer Bills**
- Oct. 8 **Columbus Day– Town Office Closed**
- Oct. 9 **Water Shut Off Date**  
Personnel Committee at 5:00pm
- Oct. 16 Historic Preservation Commission at 5:00pm
- Oct. 17 Water/ Sewer Meeting at 5:30pm  
Public Works Meeting at 6:00pm
- Oct. 18 Newtown Heritage Festival Committee at 7:00pm
- Oct. 24 Finance Committee at 5:00pm
- Oct. 25 Public Safety at 7:00pm
- Oct. 29 Parks & Recreation Committee at 5:00pm
- Oct. 30 Planning Commission at 5:00pm

