

# Stephens City Newsletter

Volume 32 Issue 6 November and December 2013

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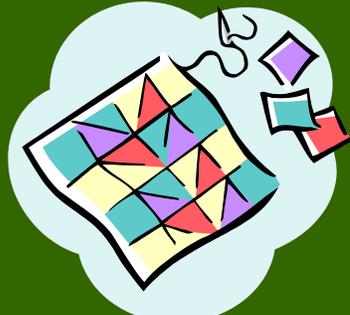


The Town Newsletter is published by the Town Government of Stephens City for its citizens; to inform, to apprise, and to clarify the issues and undertakings before the Town Government. Citizen feedback is encouraged. Contact the Town Office at 1033 Locust Street weekdays between the hours of 8:30a.m.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

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

### The Newtown Heritage Festival is proud to present the 2014 Quilt Calendar

After a one-year hiatus, the Newtown Heritage Festival is back in the calendar business. And what an unusual calendar the Festival has to offer for 2014.



*Come One, Come All!*

6th Annual

## Christmas on the Commons

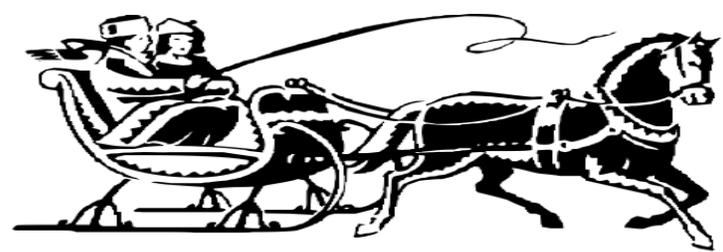
**Saturday, December 7, 2013**

*(Rain Date: Sunday, December 8, 2013)*

**3:30pm to 5:30pm**

**at the Newtown Commons on Main Street in Stephens City**

This is a social celebration for 5th grade and below, their families and friends. Events include: Ornament Decorating for kids, the ever popular Critter Tree, Fresh baked goodies and seasonal beverages for all. Music by the Sherrando Band and Chorus, the Aglor Middle School band, the Tree Lighting Ceremony and much, much more!





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

**TRASH COLLECTION**

There is an ongoing problem with some citizens in the town who continually place garbage and refuse on the streets well before the day it is scheduled to be picked up. Wednesday is the scheduled collection day. Trash is to be placed on the side of the street or curb by 7 am of the day of pickup. This does not mean 24 hours prior to pickup or earlier! There is also a problem when empty containers are not removed in a timely manner. Containers are to be removed by the end of the day on Wednesday.

Stephens City provides curbside collection to all residences and businesses where once a week pick up is sufficient. The intent is to keep our town free from piles of garbage and litter and minimize problems with rodents and other animals. The Town Code specifies that garbage be placed in containers designed for that purpose with well fitting lids of not more than 30 gallons in capacity.

Trash bags and boxes placed on the curb are not considered proper containers. Trash bags are susceptible to dogs, cats, and wild animals such as raccoons and skunk scattering contents throughout the neighborhood. **Every household is required to utilize trash cans with lids.**

The Town intends to enforce the ordinance about trash collection.

One last reminder: materials not accepted in the weekly collection include poisons, acids, paint, batteries, petroleum waste, stumps, rocks, materials accumulated as a result of demolition, construction or repair. These items must be taken to the county land fill. Yard waste is not accepted in the weekly collection and may be taken to the town's yard waste site.

**Mike Kehoe**, Town Manager

**Watch What You Flush IV**

Once again you are reminded not to flush synthetic towels or wipes down the drain. These so called "rags" cause major problems downstream at the Stephens Run pump station causing turbine pumps to become clogged and damaged. This in turn causes high costs for repairs and additional maintenance and personnel expenses. This problem is not unique to Stephens City. All jurisdictions in the northern Virginia region are experiencing these problems. If you are not sure if these products are flushable, do not dispose of them in the toilet—use a trash can. We recommend that you not flush any fabric-like or thick cleaning pads or wipes.

Section 22-136 of the Stephens City Town Code states that it is unlawful for any person to discharge any waste or substance into any Town sewer that will cause damage to the sewer. The Town intends to enforce this ordinance.

Stephens City Water and Sewer Committee

**Throughout the month of November, the Town will provide leaf collection. Please place leaves in either plastic or paper bags at the curb where you leave trash on Monday mornings by 8:30am. Your leaves must be bagged! Piles will not be picked up.**



**TOWN OFFICE CLOSED**

**on the Following Dates:**

**Monday, November 11, 2013**

**Veterans Day;**



**Thursday and Friday,**

**November 28 & 29**

**Thanksgiving Holiday;**



**Wednesday, December 25**

**Christmas Day;**



**Wednesday, January 1, 2014**

**New Year's Day**

**The Office will re-open on the**

**next Business Day at**

**at 8:30am**

**CHANGES TO**

**TRASH PICKUP DAYS**

*Trash pickup days fall on Christmas Day and New Years Day this year so trash and recycling make up days will be the Saturday following each holiday*



## **Christmas on the Commons— Veteran’s Memorial Fundraiser**

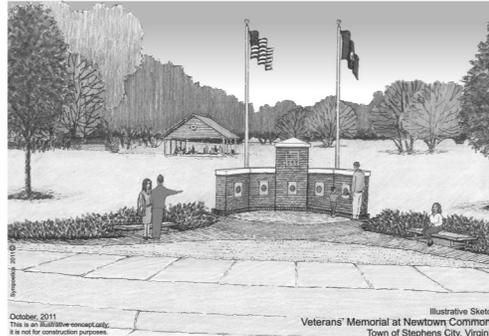
This year as always the Christmas on the Commons will have a tree lighting ceremony, but as last year the tree will be decorated in nothing but red, white and blue and you can help!

Due to the success of last year, the Business Association, along with the Town is holding another fundraising effort for the construction of the Veteran’s Memorial on the Newtown Commons. You can help by donating and sponsoring red, white and blue Christmas ornaments for the town tree. Our goal is to make sure every branch has an ornament and the tree is covered in red, white and blue.

Ornaments can be donated for \$10 a piece or 3 for \$25. Donation forms can be found at the Town Office and online at the Town’s Website. Your donation will go directly to the Veteran’s Memorial Fund. Please help us make this year’s tree patriotic by honoring our veteran’s!

Sincerely,

Mike Kehoe, Town Manager



### **Why did I get Another Tax Bill this Month?**

Currently, the Town of Stephens City sends out tax bills twice a year. The first bill you received was due in June and was for half of the amount of tax you owe for the year. The first half of the personal property tax bill included the decal fee for your motor vehicles or trailers.

The bill you will received this month is for the second half of what you owe for this year. Please read your tax bills carefully. If there is a prior balance unpaid, you will need to add that amount to the current tax due in order to be in compliance.

*( Remember, interest is added each month to unpaid tax bills and leaves you open for DMV stops and liens against your property!)*

The Town of Stephens City is a non-prorating jurisdiction. That is to say, any property you own on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year is taxed. If you should acquire other property on any other day of the year, you will not be taxed on it until the following tax year. Likewise, if you move or dispose of your property (real estate, vehicles, etc.) 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, Frederick County. Based upon the value their office assesses, Stephens City applies the tax rate and that is how we arrive at the amount of tax you owe.

For Frequently Asked Questions concerning reassessment of values, please see this web site:

[http://taxes.co.frederick.va.us/comm\\_rev/re\\_reassessment\\_faq.aspx](http://taxes.co.frederick.va.us/comm_rev/re_reassessment_faq.aspx)

### **2014 CALENDAR OF QUILTS**

#### **Quilts!**

Yes, quilts. This past spring, the Festival featured a quilt show at the Old Stephens City School. The theme; historic Valley quilts—and the older, the better.

The response was such that the Festival decided to build a calendar for 2014 around these down-home treasures. The Festival had plenty of help in this endeavor: Ginger Perry, staff photographer at the Winchester Star, took the photos; Commercial Press of Stephens City did

the printing; and two local businesses—The Cloth Peddler and Lantz’s Pharmacy—helped to underwrite the effort.

The result is a calendar brilliant in color and vibrant in its sense of history. Each month features a quilt selected to represent that particular time of year.

You may obtain your calendar at the Town Office for \$5.00. Look for it as well at a number of commercial and retail establishments around town. All proceeds go to support the Festival.

### **Newtown Heritage Festival Collectibles**

**There are still a few 2013 Festival collectible bowls available for purchase at the Town Office as well as some collectibles from prior years. The prior years’ pottery can be yours at discounted prices. Stop by the Town Office to see what is left in stock and which one of these would make a beautiful gift for the holidays.**

## Water and Sewer Billing

Water and sewer bills for the bi-monthly billing period ended on **Monday, October 21, 2013** and are due upon receipt.

On **Tuesday, December 3, 2013** a **10% penalty has been added**. On **Monday, December 9, 2013** 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: for your convenience a night drop is available at the Town Office for dropping off

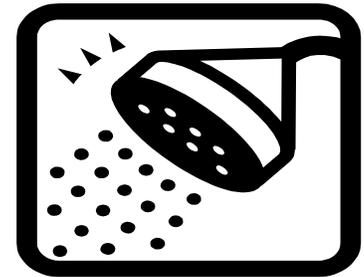
check or money order payments and payments can also be made online at the Town's website. ***It is important to note that, if you pay your bill online after midnight the day it is due, it will not be posted until two business days later.***

This means that the bill will be subject to additional penalties and/or shut off, if you use on-line payment at the end of the billing period. The Town does not accept payments over the telephone.

Water/Sewer bills can be paid using Visa, MasterCard or Discover

at the Town 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 administrative fee will need to be paid as well, prior to reconnection.

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



## Town Calendar of Events

### NOVEMBER 2013

Nov.	5	<b>Town Council at 7:30 pm</b>
Nov.	5	Personnel Committee 5:00 pm
Nov.	11	<b>Veterans' Day— Office Closed</b>
Nov.	12	Historic Preservation Comm. 5:00 pm
Nov.	14	Newtown Heritage Festival Committee at 7:00pm
Nov.	20	Water/ Sewer at 5:30 pm Public Works at 6:00 pm
Nov.	21	Public Safety Committee 5:00 pm
Nov.	25	Parks and Recreation Committee at 5:00 pm
Nov.	26	Planning Commission 7:30 pm
Nov.	27	Finance Committee at 5:00 pm
Nov.	27	Town Office Closed at noon
Nov.	28	<b>Happy Thanksgiving—Office Closed</b>
Nov.	29	Office Closed

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

### DECEMBER 2013

Dec.	2	<b>Water/Sewer Bills Due without penalty.</b>
Dec.	3	<b>Town Council Meeting at 7:30pm. Penalties are on Water/Sewer Bills</b>
Dec.	5	Tax Payments due without penalty
Dec.	9	<b>Water Shut Off Date</b>
Dec.	10	Personnel Committee at 5:00pm
Dec.	18	Historic Preservation Commission at 5:00pm
Dec.	19	Water/ Sewer Meeting at 5:30pm Public Works Meeting at 6:00pm Newtown Heritage Festival Committee at 7:00pm
Dec.	25	<b>Town Office Closed</b> <b>Merry Christmas</b>
Dec.	26	Finance Committee at 5:00pm
Dec.	27	Public Safety at 7:00pm
Dec..	31	Parks & Recreation Committee at 5:00pm