



Stephens City Newsletter

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2011

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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



From the Mayor's Office...

Just about a year has passed since I last wrote you. Much has been accomplished during that year and much remains to be done. We have been constantly negotiating with the County in an attempt to settle their law suit against the Town. Communication is still going on and progress is being made. Hopefully a settlement will be reached in the near future.

Watch What You Flush III

This time a year ago I addressed the continuing problem and concerns of what is being flushed into the town's sewer system. Although there has been a lot of publicity in local newspapers and other media sources, some people in Stephens City apparently have not gotten the message. **That message should be made clear at the end of this article.**

Synthetic towels or wipes continue to 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 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.

Frederick County Sanitation Authority which operates the pump station has recently imposed a 33% increase to the Town to cover additional operation and maintenance costs which was reflected in the Town's recent water/

There is still a problem with rags being dumped in our sewer system. Citizens, please read the packaging on any towels or cleaning rags that you are using. The packaging will indicate whether it can be flushed or not. If this problem does not cease immediately it will be very costly for the Town and the citizens of Stephens City.

We have had a number of successful community projects during the past year including our Heritage Days, Christmas on the Commons and Hop In on Commons, the Route 11 Crawl, and plans for a veteran's memorial. Thanks to Mr. Jim
Continued on Page2...

*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

TOWN OFFICE

CLOSED

on Monday,

September 5, 2011

In honor of

Labor Day

Will re-open on

Tuesday,

September 6, 2011

sewer rate increase and is reflected on your current sewer bill enclosed.

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 Clothes and Earth Essentials;" "All Purpose Cleaning Wipes;" Lysol Disinfection Wipes. We do not believe this is an all inclusive list but each of these manufacturers have instructions or reference 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 sewerline 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 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 a condition of anonymity.

TOWN MANAGER,

Michael Kehoe

From the Mayor's Office...

Davis, former President of Shenandoah University and current member of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, there is exciting news concerning the interchange relocation study which is the first step needed to relieve congestion in Town. I will share more on this topic in the next newsletter.

Treasurer's Notes...

A Word About Online Banking

In this computer - oriented world, many people avail themselves of the online banking option offered by their banks. The idea of being able to sit down and click to pay all our bills rather than write a check or drive by a payment seems ideal.

However, you should be aware of how your bank get your payments to the Town of Stephens City. If we were a large organization or company, your payment would get batched and sent out using something called an ACH transfer. It is electronic and quick, with many of the payments being processed and transmitted within two business days. However, due to the size of the Town, we do not qualify for ACH payments by banking institutions.

When you sit and click to pay your utility or tax payment, the bank takes several days to process a physical check. That check is then placed in an envelope and mailed conventionally just as you would mail it yourself.

Please keep this in mind when paying your bills. If you are near the due date, think about just writing out a check and coming by the Town Office or placing it in the drop box. If you do take advantage of your banks online services, feel free to contact us or follow up to be certain that the check has arrived.

Kim S. Uttenweiler,
TOWN TREASURER

We look forward to the fall, the start of a new school year and Sherando's Spirit Week, Sunday, September 11th through Saturday, 17th. Please plan on making to the Homecoming Parade.

Thank you for letting me serve you.

Mayor Joy Skull

Water and Sewer Billing

Water and sewer bills for the bi-monthly billing end **Tuesday, October 4th, 2011** and are due upon receipt.

On October 5th, 2011 a 10% penalty will be added. On **Wednesday, October 12th, 2011** 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 that for your convenience a night drop is available at the Town Office for dropping off check or money order payments and payments can now be made online at the Town's website. 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!

From the Stephens City Police Department

Trick or Treating will be on Halloween Night, Monday, 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!

Veterans Memorial Update

The Town of Stephens City, along with the Newtown Heritage is continuing to honor your service member at the Newtown Commons Stage with United States Flag. Proceeds from this display will go towards the construction of the permanent Veterans Memorial at the Newtown Commons. To recognize your service member we are receiving donations where you can choose from a \$5.00 donation for a "bar" and \$25.00 donation for a "star". If you are interested please contact the Town Office.

The Town's Park and Recreation Committee is working on finalizing estimates and the design and will be presenting opportunities to help support the construction of the monument in the coming months.



SHERANDO WARRIOR Club

September 11 - September 17

"Sherando Spirit Week"

Thursday, September 15th

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

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

Friday, September 16th

Homecoming Game, 7pm at Sherando

Town Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

Sept	5	Labor Day– Town Office Closed
Sept	6	Town Council Meeting at 7:30pm
Sept	13	Personnel Committee at 6:00pm
Sept	15	Water/ Sewer Committee at 5:30 p.m. Public Works Committee at 6:00 p.m. Newtown Heritage Festival at 7:00p.m.
Sept	20	HPC meeting at 5:00p.m.
Sept	21	Finance Committee at 5:00p.m.
Sept	26	Parks and Recreation Committee - 5:00p.m.
Sept	27	Planning Commission at 7:30p.m.

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

OCTOBER

Oct	4	Town Council– 7:30 p.m. Water/ Sewer Bills Due without penalty
Oct.	5	Penalties added to Water/Sewer Bills
Oct	10	Columbus Day– Town Office Closed
Oct	11	Personnel Committee at 6:00 pm
Oct	12	Water/ Sewer Shut off Date
Oct	18	HPC meeting at 5:00p.m.
Oct	20	Water/ Sewer Committee at 5:30 p.m.. Public Works Committee at 6:00 p.m. Newtown Heritage Festival at 7:00pm
Oct	24	Parks & Recreation Committee– 5:00p.m.
Oct	25	Planning Commission at 7:30p.m.
Oct	26	Finance Committee at 5:00p.m.



We're on the web!
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!!!



Did you hear about the Town providing leaf collection throughout November?

Starting in the month of November, the Town will provide leaf collection.

Please place leaves in either garbage 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.

The Town will be by to pick up the leaves sometime Monday or Tuesday at the latest (dependent upon schedule and weather).