

PEARISBURG TODAY

COMMUNITY VISIONING

Visioning sessions were held in the Town Council Chambers on February 8th and 9th. Local citizens, business owners, and other stakeholders met with representatives from the New River Valley Regional Commission to develop ideas for downtown revitalization. These ideas will be sent to Hill Studios for further development and design. Once complete, the designs may be used to apply for construction grants. Funding for the project was secured through a planning grant received by Giles County from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

UV/SEWER LINE PROJECT

At the regular meeting in March, the Town Council approved financing for a project to improve the Town's existing sewer system. This will include the installation of approximately 6,058 feet of sewer lines, manholes, a UV disinfection system, and related appurtenances. Financial assistance for the project will be in the form of a Rural Development Loan not to exceed \$1,537,000 and a Rural Development predevelopment planning grant (PPG) not to exceed \$11,200. The town will be retiring debt on the Bluff City project on 4/1/2018. This will allow the Town to incur the new debt without raising water/sewer rates.

PEARISBURG PARKS AND RECREATION REVITALIZATION PROJECT

On Thursday January 26th the Town of Pearisburg hosted a community meeting to view proposed designs for revitalizing the town's parks and recreation facilities. The proposed designs were created by the Virginia Tech Community Design Assistance Center (CDAC). Concepts include redesigns to the baseball field at the Pearisburg Community Center, creation of new batting cages, a new concession stand, creation of a disc golf field, and designs for a baseball and soccer/football field on town property on Old Tannery Road. Funding for the design work was made available through a grant supplied by the US Forest Service with the cooperation of the Virginia Department of Forestry and the Town of Pearisburg. The sketched designs on display in the lobby of the Municipal Building and on the Town's website and Facebook pages.

UPCOMING NOVEMBER TOWN ELECTIONS

This November the Town will hold elections for the Mayor and three (3) Council Seats. The packets to qualify to be on the ballot can be picked up at the Registrars Office and are due back by June 13, 2017 by 7:00 p.m. There will also be a Special Election for an unexpired term for a Council Seat and the deadline for that packet is August 18, 2017 by 5:00 p.m.

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

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|------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| March 4-10, 2017 | Volunteers for Communities Program in Pearisburg |
| March 12, 2017   | Daylight Saving Time Begins                      |
| March 14, 2017   | Town Council Meeting                             |
| April 11, 2017   | Town Council Meeting                             |
| April 14, 2017   | Pearisburg Offices Closed                        |
| May 9, 2017      | Town Council Meeting                             |
| May 18, 2017     | Opening Date for Pearisburg Community Market     |
| May 29, 2017     | Pearisburg Offices Closed                        |

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GOODWILL PROJECT

Goodwill is preparing to build a new store on Boxwood Lane beside Wal-Mart. The store should open in the Fall of 2017. Town council has completed a subdivision of the property owned by Giles County Industrial Development Authority and Public Works crews have completed the relocation of twin 10-inch water lines necessary for the construction of the new building. Plans are being prepared for submittal and review by the town's staff. The project will be built by Piedmont Companies out of Lincolnton, NC.

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### RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Recreation Department is currently taking registrations for boys baseball and girls softball. Registration forms can be picked up at the Pearisburg Town Office.

The Pearisburg Pool will be opening in May. Pool parties can be scheduled when the pool opens by calling 921-2357 (921-ADIP).



## 2017 Pearisburg Community Market

We are very excited about the start of our 2017 market season. Planning is underway and it seems that we will have many new and exciting things to offer!

Our Saturday hours will be 8:30 am to Noon. Thursday hours are 4:30 to 8:30 pm. We will operate on the first Saturday and third Thursday of each month. The only exceptions will be in May when there will be no Saturday market and in October the market will be open on the second Saturday.

Our market will open this year on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm. We will open with the ***Music at the Market***, an outdoor concert series. Music at the Market is funded in part by a Local Challenge Grant awarded by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and matching funds contributed by the Town of Pearisburg in partnership with the Giles Arts Council. There will be a bluegrass band and meals to be purchased.

Please follow us on Facebook on the following pages for updated information about our ***Music at the Market*** series: Town of Pearisburg, Pearisburg Community Market and Farm to Fork. This information will also be available on our website at [www.pearisburg.org](http://www.pearisburg.org).

Food this year will be provided from the hottest trend in the area, Food Trucks from the New River Valley. They will provide food on the third Thursday of each month. On Saturday the market will offer breakfast.

We will also continue our ***Children's Art Program***. This year we plan on making barn quilts, incorporating music and dance and having a reading program. All of these events will be listed on our sites and some may require registration so that all children will have the needed supplies. This will also ensure that the instructor has the help needed. All art programs are free of charge. We are excited to offer this to the youth in our community. This program is also funded in part by a Local Challenge Grant awarded by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and matching funds contributed by the Town of Pearisburg in partnership with the Giles Arts Council.

Carilion will be setting up at the market this year with various programs to promote healthy lifestyles.

We are currently recruiting vendors for our market season. We are seeking producers and artisans. If you make handmade items and would be interested in becoming a vendor please contact Lynne or Regina at 540-921-0340.



# Mayor's Corner

The new year has brought with it many changes. Birdie Moya retired from the Town Library on February 28th. She began her service with the Town Library as a Library Clerk in 1981 and will retire as the Director of Library Services. During her tenure, she assisted moving the library from the Municipal Building to the current location. Birdie's friendly manner, sense of humor, and smile will be missed greatly by all who worked with her.

Allison Long has been hired as the new Director of Library Services. She is a native of Giles County and graduate of Giles High School who had been employed as a public relations specialist with the Town of Christiansburg since 2012. She has a Bachelor's degree in Media Arts & Design from James Madison University and a Masters of Arts degree from the National University of Ireland, Galway in Writing/Fiction.

I am pleased to announce that Jason Ballard has been appointed to the Town Council. Local attorney and Councilman Jason S. Ballard was born in Pearisburg, Virginia, in 1978. Mr. Ballard graduated from James Monroe High School in 1997, and thereafter attended and graduated from Concord University in Athens, West Virginia, where he received both a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Bachelor of Science in Management. After graduating from Concord in 2001, Mr. Ballard attended the West Virginia University College of Law where he graduated in 2004 with a Doctor of Jurisprudence.

Following his law school graduation, Mr. Ballard joined the active duty military as an Army Judge Advocate (JAG). He was commissioned as an officer in 2005 and sent to Fort Drum, New York, to serve with the historic 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry). He deployed to Afghanistan in 2006-07 and then again to Iraq in 2008-09. Ballard earned a Bronze Star for his service in Iraq. Following his deployments to the Middle East, he was selected as the first army lawyer in 236 years to take command of The Judge Advocate General's School's Student Detachment. Based on his performance, the American Bar Association named him as the 2011-12 Young Military Lawyer of the Year for the United States Army.

Ballard was promoted to the rank of Major and he earned a Master of Laws (LL.M) in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2014. Major Ballard then served our nation as a special operations lawyer for the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (commonly referred to as "The Night Stalkers"). Ballard was the lawyer for an elite group of special operations troops, as well as the CIA, FBI, NSA, and CBP, as part of a Joint Special Operations Task Force staged at various undisclosed locations throughout the Middle East.



In the summer of 2016, Major Ballard left the active duty military to return home to family, friends, and his birthplace – Pearisburg. Ballard is a partner with the local law firm, Headley Ballard LLC, that specializes in complex civil and criminal litigation.

On January 2nd Todd Meredith assumed the duties of Town Manager. Todd is a native of Giles County who graduated from Giles High School in 1996. Todd graduated from Radford University in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in Social Science. Upon graduating, he returned to Radford University where he earned a Master of Science in Education in 2005. Todd graduated from Virginia Tech in 2012 with a Master of Public Administration (MPA). He is currently working on a Ph.D. in Public Administration at Virginia Tech. Todd has over ten years of work experience serving the public as a Social Studies Teacher with the Giles County Public School System. He is looking forward to serving the citizens of Pearisburg in his new role with the town.

As summer approaches, there is much to be excited about. Our Recreation Department will be utilizing the ball fields with youth softball and baseball. The pool will be opening at the end of May. Kids will be out riding their bikes in the neighborhoods. As always, be very mindful of the children. Allow yourself a few extra minutes when traveling in the neighborhoods and around the Community Center.

May brings the opening of the 3rd year of the Pearisburg Community Market. The grant was originally funded by a grant. That grant has closed and will no longer fund the market. The town formed a subcommittee to look at the operation of the Market. Changes have been made to the operational days and hours. This information is contained in the newsletter. We will continue with the Music at the Market series and the Children's Art Program. There are exciting things planned. As things are finalized they will be published on our website at [www.pearisburg.org](http://www.pearisburg.org) and on our Facebook pages: Town of Pearisburg and Pearisburg Community Market. The subcommittee is taking applications for vendors and information can be obtained at the Pearisburg Town Office. We hope that our market will provide a fun, family oriented place to shop, eat and socialize. There will be something there for everyone!

Colonial Florist is open under new management. Fabric and Fellowship (Ms. Audrey's) will be leaving town and opening their business in Narrows.

As always be sure and let me know if I can be of any help or answer any questions about the town.

**ROBERT L DICKERSON, MAYOR**