

Mayor's Corner

I hope everyone had a great start to the New Year! With spring fast approaching, I look forward to seeing everyone out walking in the Town as the weather warms. Town Council and staff are working on several important projects aimed at providing more effective services to the residents of Pearisburg. The UV/Sewer Project is moving closer to the construction phase, which we hope will begin this summer. The Town has acquired the property located at 1611 Wenonah Avenue, which was once a family practice doctor's office. We plan to renovate the property and make it our new police department. We have also acquired the property at 1331 Wenonah Avenue, formerly the 7-Day Market. This property is for sale by the Town. Any questions or requests for more information should be directed to the Town Manager at (540) 921-0340. An online payment system for utility bills is now available. Please note that citizens may use this system to pay utility bills at no additional charge. Town Council, staff, and volunteers continue to work on advancing the Parks and Recreation Revitalization Project. We are currently exploring ways to move a utility pole and three light poles so that grading work on the initial part of Phase 1 can begin. I would sincerely like to thank everyone who has donated their time and money to the project. Together we will make this project a success. Students from The College of the Holy Cross will be in town March 3 through March 9 to complete public works for Town residents. Thank you to the residents, businesses, and other organizations who have agreed to help make their stay here an enjoyable experience.

As always, please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Robert L. Dickerson, Mayor

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## **You Can Now Pay Utility Bills Online!**

The Town has contracted with Paymentus to provide residents with a convenient method for making online utility payments. This service is provided at no additional charge to customers. Access the online payments link at [www.pearisburg.org](http://www.pearisburg.org). Call 1 (844) 410-6795 to make payments over the phone. The Town Council and staff extend their thanks to Nicole Haskins for assisting the Town throughout the acquisition and installation process.

## **New Telephone System**

The Town has installed a new phone system in the Municipal Building. The new system makes use of a voice avatar and call tree to direct citizen phone calls to the desired office more quickly and efficiently. Simply listen to the prerecorded message for the needed extension number. The new system makes use of Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology. This will enable town staff to transfer calls to phones housed in separate Town facilities.

## **New Police Facility**

In December, the Town closed on the property located at 1611 Wenonah Avenue. This was once a family practice doctor's office. The building and surrounding lot will become the Town's new police department facility. Renovations, including a new roof and HVAC system, are needed to make the facility fully operational. Once complete, the new location will officers with a safer, quicker, and more direct route of access to all areas of the Town.



Pearisburg's

# FARMERS MARKET

MAY 24th - SEPTEMBER 27th

Pearisburg Community Center  
1410 Wenonah Ave.  
Pearisburg, VA 24134

GREAT FOOD | PRODUCE  
LIVE MUSIC | FLOWERS  
CRAFTS & MORE

**VENDORS CONTACT**

921-0340

follow us on facebook/pearisburgcommunitymarket





### **Pearisburg Parks and Recreation Revitalization Project**

To date, the Town has received \$15,560 in donations for the Parks and Recreation Revitalization Project. Town Council is most appreciative of everyone who has donated time, money, and effort toward its completion. Council, staff, and volunteers are working to complete plans for the construction of Phase 1. This phase is focused on the baseball field complex, including the new fields and concession stand.

### **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

The Town will hold a public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday March 13, 2018 to discuss potential application for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The goal of this grant is to improve the economic and physical environment of the Town. Utilizing a planning grant, staff from Hill Studios have created new designs for the downtown district area near the intersection of Wenonah Avenue and Main Street. Included in the designs are façade improvements for several downtown buildings, a festival shelter with terraced seating, expanded parking, etc. The intended outcome is a revitalized downtown area that attracts residents, events, and other stakeholders to the area, while improving the quality of life for town residents. These designs were developed to be included with the Town's potential application for CDBG funds to implement the project.

### **Library News**

Have you been to the Pearisburg Library lately? There's something for everyone! Come in to enjoy our new board game selection, find the latest bestseller, or explore our new makerspace!

Join the #50statesreadingchallenge for a chance to win prizes! Read 25 books to receive a road atlas, and 50 books to receive a gas card and a chance to win an Amazon Kindle. Carry over up to ten books and finish the rest by December 31, 2018 to be eligible. Find the checklist at the library or online at [www.pearisburg.org/library](http://www.pearisburg.org/library).

Celebrate National Library Week from April 8-14 and join the library for an Open House on Thursday, April 12 from 4-6 p.m. Don't miss the National Library Week Book Sale - held in the library basement.

Thinking about joining the Teen Advisory Board? It meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 4 p.m. and helps plan exciting things for the library, including a creative writing contest and the new makerspace. Have questions? Email [along@pearisburg.org](mailto:along@pearisburg.org) for more information.

Finally, mark your calendars for the Summer Reading Program, "Reading Takes You Everywhere," which will kick off on June 13. And look for more information about the first annual Friends of the Pearisburg Library Garden Tour on June 16.

As always, for the latest information about library events and programs (and for fun activities), follow us on Facebook or Instagram @pearisburgpubliclibrary.

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE BUILDING OFFICIAL ABOUT SPRING SAFETY**

With warmer weather and longer days approaching, residents in Pearisburg will be emerging from their winter cocoons to focus on long neglected projects like spring cleaning, home repairs and yard work. These activities can be extremely beneficial but they also involve a variety of health and safety hazards that can be avoided with the proper precautions. To help ensure everyone in our community stays safe this season, the Town of Pearisburg offers the following tips:

### **YARDWORK SAFETY:**

- Limber up. Yard chores may seem easy, but they involve muscles you probably haven't used in a while.
- Always wear protective clothing when you handle pesticides and fertilizers.
- More than 75,000 people are injured in lawn mowing accidents each year. 10,000 of them are children.
  - ✓ Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.
  - ✓ Pick up or rake stones and loose debris before mowing to help prevent them from being launched into the air.
  - ✓ Wear sturdy shoes while mowing. DO NOT WEAR SANDALS.
  - ✓ Wear eye and hearing protection.
  - ✓ Always start and refuel mowers outdoors.
- Lawn trimmers, edger, pruners and power saws also contribute to injuries and death each year.
  - ✓ Inspect the tool for damage. Do NOT use it if there are any problems.
  - ✓ Make sure blade guards are in place on all cutting equipment.
  - ✓ Unplug all tools when not in use.
  - ✓ Make sure the tool is in the "off" position before you plug it in.
  - ✓ When pruning trees, be careful not to let metal ladders or trimmers contact overhead wires.
- Before you do any hands on weed removal:
  - ✓ Make sure you know how to identify poison ivy, sumac, oak and similar toxic plants.
  - ✓ Find out ahead of time how to treat the rashes they cause to reduce irritation.

### **LADDER SAFETY:**

Ready to do some home repairs? More than 90,000 people visit the emergency room each year because of ladder mishaps. Here are a few safety tips:

- Read the manufacturer's instructions that come with the ladder. They contain guidelines for weight and height limits as well as for the proper use of their product.
- Inspect the ladder before using it to make sure there are no loose or broken rungs.
- Make sure the ladder is the right height for the job. Many accidents happen when people overextend their reach because their ladders are too short.
- Never stand on a ladder's bucket shelf.
- Keep weight centered between the two rails.
- Avoid using a metal ladder near electrical sources.
- Face the ladder when climbing and descending.
- Extension ladders should not be placed at an angle that is too extreme.