

# The Woodstock Wire



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## Mayor McCleary's Message...

I am proud to announce that through hard work we have produced a balanced budget, for the upcoming fiscal year, without increasing taxes and without increasing water and sewer rates!

The town council members, the town administration, and I have spent the last month thoroughly going over the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget, which begins on July 1, 2011 and ends on June 30, 2012.

At our first budget work session, we were presented with projections of revenues and expenditures for the upcoming year, which included a *nearly half-million dollar shortfall* in our Public Utilities Fund. The Public Utilities Fund is comprised of water and sewer services, while the remainder of our budget is designated to the General Fund.

Along with projections, we were presented with proposals for overcoming the shortfall by dramatically increasing water and sewer rates. Instead of heading down that path, we adopted an approach that *increases in rates should be an absolute last resort, only considered after all options for cutting expenditures have been explored*. We went through our budget, line-by-line, and made tough decisions on ways to trim expenditures, without reducing the quality of services we provide to the residents of Woodstock.

I am extremely proud of the budget we produced as a result of this process. I would like to express a great deal of gratitude to the rest of the town council members and the town administration for their hard work and dedication throughout the budget process. Particularly I would like to thank our Finance Director, Mandy Belyea, for her tireless efforts and invaluable expertise. The success of the budget could not have been accomplished without the great collaborative efforts of the council and administration.

We will hold a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2012 budget in May and then vote on the budget in June. If any Woodstock residents would like to discuss the budget with me, I would be more than happy to answer any questions or address any concerns. To date, I have received overwhelming support for our efforts on the budget.

I look forward to hearing from you!  
Mayor Jeremy D. McCleary  
459-2444/mayormccleary@gmail.com

## Continuing Planning Efforts with the Assistance of Grant Funds

### Urban Development Area Ordinance Planning

The Code of Virginia requires that localities with a growth rate of 15 percent or more develop an Urban Development Area (UDA) to accommodate at least ten years of future growth. State law requires the Town to amend the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance to include elements of Traditional Neighborhood Design (TND) to be incorporated into UDAs at specified densities. These characteristics include: pedestrian-friendly road design, interconnection of new local streets with existing streets, connectivity of such roads and sidewalks, preservation of environmental and historic resources, mixed uses and mixed housing types, reduced front and side setbacks, and reduced subdivision street widths. The Town is utilizing a grant from VDOT in the amount of \$50,000 to accomplish the goals and objectives of the legislation. Town Staff, the Planning Commission and the Town Council will continue to work with its assigned planning consultant, The Cox Company, who will assist in the development of Woodstock's UDA vision.

### Indian Springs Wetlands Park Project

In January 2010, the Town of Woodstock received a grant agreement approval for \$50,000 of Federal Stimulus Funds (ARRA) administered through the Department of Forestry for its Indian Springs Wetlands Park Project. The Indian Springs Wetlands was donated to the Town of Woodstock by Mr. I. Clinton Miller in 2005. The Town has been collaborating with James Madison University staff and students as well as Central High School staff and students to develop an interpretive park area. With grant funds, the Town has worked with Sympoetica and Bushman Engineering, PC to develop a master plan for the one acre space in order to preserve its historical and environmental significance. The Town will be going to bid in early March on the first phase of the project, which includes an observation deck located above the wetlands, located off of South Water Street.

## Mark Your Calendar for the WEC's Upcoming Events

The Woodstock Enhancement Committee will host the **Virginia Downtown Development Association Hot Topics Luncheon in Woodstock on April 7, 2011**. This meeting will bring economic development professionals, appointed and elected city and county officials, downtown managers, planners, architects, business owners, tourism officials, chambers of commerce and others who are stakeholders in maintaining Virginia's vibrant historic downtowns to Woodstock for the day. Please make them feel welcome!

**The Vintage Woodstock Festival** ~ Friday, June 24th on Court Square, 5:30-9pm: Featuring the popular band, "Souled Out." Join us for music, Shenandoah County wines, food, crafters, children's activities and MORE!

**Music on Main** ~ will be held on a monthly basis—May through September at the Main Street Park, 7-9pm: Featuring a variety of bands/musicians. If your business or service organization is interested in sponsoring desserts at a concert this season, please contact Jane Beasley at woodbe@shentel.net or 540-459-3621.

**I am a Town Resident...  
Why Do I Pay Town & County Taxes?**

When you live in the Town of Woodstock (incorporated limits) which is located within the County of Shenandoah, you pay personal property and real estate taxes for services offered by both Shenandoah County and the Town. The Town and the County offer valuable citizen services, and work together to not duplicate efforts.

Town Services

- Refuse Collection
- Fall & Spring Clean-Up Program
- Snow Removal
- Leaf Collection
- Right-of-Way Maintenance (cleaning, paving, striping, signage)
- Streetlights
- Police Protection
- Town Planning & Zoning
- Development Site Plan Review
- Erosion & Sediment Control
- Stormwater Control
- Pool Facility Management
- Parks System
- Enhancement/Economic Dev.
- Capital Improvement Planning
- Water Treatment
- Wastewater Treatment
- Infrastructure Maintenance & Planning
- Tree Maintenance
- Grant Application & Admin.
- Fire & Rescue Funding

County Services

- Animal Control
- Sheriff's Department
- Property Assessments
- Parks & Recreation
- Tourism/Economic Dev.
- Social Services
- Courts System
- Education
- County Planning & Zoning
- Fire & Rescue
- Building Inspections
- Health Department
- Geographic Information Systems
- Emergency Planning
- Voter Registration
- Solid Waste Management

*Taxes are due by June 5th & December 5th every year.*

If you lived within an incorporated City limits, then it is likely that the total amount that you pay toward both Town and County taxes would be a fairly comparable payment amount (depending on property assessments, etc.), payable to *one* City office. As the Town continues its budget process year after year, the Council and Staff work hard to keep tax rates low, while still supporting Town services.



**“Greening” Woodstock:  
Refuse & Recycling Bids**

The Town of Woodstock has received bids for the contracting of residential refuse collection and curbside recycling. Stay posted for further updates as this is incorporated into the budget process!

**Tree Canopy Offers Benefits to Town**

Trees are extremely important to urban areas, as they reduce pollution, reduce energy costs, increase storm-water control and raise property resale values. Frequently, urban trees do not reach their full tree canopy potential because of improper planting, selecting the wrong tree species for a location, poor tree maintenance (like “tree topping” which weakens a tree’s resistance to disease/pests and ultimately compromises the benefits of tree canopy) and lack of tree protection in urban settings.



The Town of Woodstock was recently selected (with the likes of the City of Richmond and the City of Winchester) to be participants in the Department of Forestry’s Urban Tree Canopy Study. As a result of the study, the Town and the Woodstock Tree Board will work to commit to a 20-Year Urban Tree Canopy Goal. The Town will maintain its commitment to public trees through regular maintenance, plantings and educational Arbor Day celebrations, and hopes that residents continue to enhance their properties with tree plantings and proper maintenance.

Tree planting guides are available from the Department of Forestry, [www.dof.virginia.gov/urban/index.shtml](http://www.dof.virginia.gov/urban/index.shtml) and from the Arbor Day Foundation, [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE**

*First Tuesday of each Month  
Regular Meeting Starting Time 7:30 p.m.  
Woodstock Council Chambers*

- Tuesday, April 5, 2011
- Tuesday, May 3, 2011
- Tuesday, June 7, 2011
- Tuesday, July 5, 2011

**PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE**

*Fourth Tuesday of each Month  
Regular Meeting Starting Time 7:30 p.m.  
Woodstock Council Chambers*

- Tuesday, April 26, 2011
- Tuesday, May 24, 2011
- Tuesday, June 28, 2011
- Tuesday, July 26, 2011

**TOWN COUNCIL**

- Mayor Jeremy McCleary
- Councilwoman Alicia Gutshall
- Councilwoman Jacqueline Lambert
- Councilman H. Ed Munden
- Councilman Stephen Heishman
- Councilman Frank Haun
- Councilwoman A. Paje Cross

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

- Mr. Keith Lantz, Chairman

**TREE BOARD**

*Meets Bi-Monthly, Contact  
Chairwoman Joan Comanor for  
further information  
([jcomanor@shentel.net](mailto:jcomanor@shentel.net))*

**TOWN ADMINISTRATION**

- Mr. Larry Bradford, Town Manager  
([woodtown@shentel.net](mailto:woodtown@shentel.net))
- Mr. Brent T. Manuel, Assistant Town Manager/Planner  
([woodplan@shentel.net](mailto:woodplan@shentel.net))
- Mr. Albert T. Mitchell, Town Attorney  
([comatty@shentel.net](mailto:comatty@shentel.net))
- Chief Bryan Hutcheson, Chief of Police  
([chiefwpd@shentel.net](mailto:chiefwpd@shentel.net))
- Mr. James E. Didawick, Superintendent of Public Works  
([woodpw@shentel.net](mailto:woodpw@shentel.net))
- Ms. Amanda Belyea, Director of Finance  
([woodfin@shentel.net](mailto:woodfin@shentel.net))
- Ms. Deann Ebersole, Treasurer  
([woodtre@shentel.net](mailto:woodtre@shentel.net))

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**WEBSITE**

[www.townofwoodstockva.com](http://www.townofwoodstockva.com)