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Purcellville Post

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Mayor & Town Council

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TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE

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Get Engaged!

As a member of the Purcellville community, you have a role in shaping the future of our Town. But you need to be engaged – use your voice – to make a difference. The Town Council wants your feedback on services. Fellow citizens and visitors can benefit from your input. So what can you do?

- Talk to the Town Council.** Members of the Town Council are elected by the citizens, but that's just the first part of the story. They want to keep hearing from you about priorities, community issues, and government activities. Here's how:
 - ▶ **Speak at a Council Meeting.** The Council meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. The public is welcome at every meeting and there is a set time for Citizen Input.
 - ▶ **Email the Council.** It's simple – send them your thoughts at PurcellvilleTC@purcellvilleva.gov
 - ▶ **Talk to them individually.** Whether you see them at a ball game, school event, church activity, or the grocery store, say "Hi!" and let them know what's on your mind.
- Serve on an Advisory Group.** The Town Council relies on the ideas, suggestions, and expertise of community partners to help shape new programs, concepts, and solutions. We need participants on a number of Committees, Commissions, and Boards. Check out www.purcellvilleva.gov/ccb for more info.
- Contact Town Staff.** The Town staff – from the Town Manager to the Water Treatment Plant Superintendent to the Police Officer on the street – are here to help. Let us know how we can serve you. Did we do a good job? We'd love to know that, too! Visit our various departments on the website, or stop by Town Hall to say hello.
- Sign Up for Alerts.** The Town shares a lot of information through Press Releases and News Alerts. We won't spam you (promise!), but we will share a lot of great information. See how you can sign up and get engaged at www.purcellvilleva.gov/engage
- Follow us on Facebook.** That's right, we're on Facebook now, so Like Us and let us know what you think about what's happening around town. ■

CURIOUS ABOUT THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE?

In September, the Town will hold a community presentation in Town Hall to review the first six months of public engagement in the ongoing process to update the Town's comprehensive plan. Soon thereafter, the supporting documents summarizing and analyzing this information will be released for public review. The Town is also seeking to partner with organizations and groups interested in hosting additional presentations in the community about the comprehensive plan update process. To express your interest in scheduling a community presentation or to view more information about the comprehensive plan update, please visit PlanPurcellville.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

The trees by Fireman's Field are part of the Town's largest urban forest, named Dillon's Woods. The largest of these trees are centuries-old White Oak trees, standing majestic in the heart of Town. They reach heights of 80 feet and taller, providing a large canopy of shade to the property. They also serve as a dramatic backdrop to the Fireman's Field ballfield. As some of these trees reach the end of their life span, they decay and weaken. The Town works closely with local arborists to care for the trees, extend their lives, and carefully remove and replace them when necessary. Be sure to enjoy Dillon's Woods at one of our Signature Events or for a picnic in the park!



RULES TO LIVE BY

Our community thrives on the kindness, care, and support that each neighbor displays to one another. Just as we have personal "rules" that we live by, there are community "rules" and ordinances that govern what can and cannot be done within the Town Limits. For all residents, new and old, it's important to be reminded about key laws within the Town:

Zoning: Zoning determines what use may or may not be allowed on a particular property and is defined by districts. If you want to do something with your property, be sure to check with our Planning and Zoning staff to see if it is permitted.

Permits: Many common building activities require a permit within the Town limits. Are you planning to build a fence? You need a permit. Hoping to put a shed in your backyard? Yup, you need a permit. We know it can be tricky to navigate all the rules and get the proper Town and County approvals and we're here to help. Stop by our Permits desk (it just so happens to be our Planning and Zoning desk, too) and we'll walk you through the process.

Architectural Changes: Do you have a non-residential property in Town or own property in the Historic Corridor Overlay District? You might need to get approval from the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) before making changes to your structure. The BAR is responsible implementing the Town's historic preservation and community design goals. Stop by – you guessed it – our Planning and Zoning desk for more info.

Traffic Laws: Have you liked our Facebook Page? Did you notice that we provide a Traffic Safety Tip every Thursday? Be sure to pay attention to our traffic laws. We want everyone to be safe and courteous as we drive, bike, and walk. What are the top complaints we receive? Speeders, those who "roll" through stop signs, and those who don't stop for pedestrians. Follow the traffic laws and help keep our roads safe. ■

Community Corner

If you would like to submit a picture for consideration in future Newsletters, contact the Town at info@purcellvilleva.gov.

For submitting: Please submit .png or .jpg files only. For quality print reproduction, we will need high resolution images. Either large sized files at 72 dpi or small sized files at 300 dpi. Please set your camera on its highest settings. ■

Department Spotlight: WASTEWATER

Most people turn their noses when we start to talk about Wastewater. In reality though, it's a really important topic and a critical part of the Town's operations. The safe transmission and treatment of waste means we are protecting families, public health, and the environment. So what exactly happens when you flush the toilet or dump something down a sink?

All homes are connected to sewer lines which feed into mains – the Town has about 35 miles of sewer pipes. Sewer systems use gravity to reach their destination, and pump stations are used to “force” the waste uphill. One of the most important discussions about wastewater is what NOT to put down your drains or in your toilet. The following items can clog pipes, pump stations, and mains:

- Wipes (even flushable wipes), feminine hygiene products, paper towels and diapers
- Grease, fats, oils, and food solids
- Toys, sticks, rags, and trash

The Town has a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant – the Basham Simms Wastewater Facility (BSWF) – located on South 20th Street. The treatment process begins with coarse screening and grit removal to remove any debris that may have traveled down the pipes that may harm downstream equipment or processes. The next step – and one of the most crucial – takes advantage of normal biological processes: we pump the waste into aerated biological reactors (filled with a bunch of waste-eating bacteria); stimulate the aerobic process with air, motion, and sunlight; and let the bacteria go to work. The biosolids are then pushed through a membrane system that eliminates any remaining bacteria or filth and is then sent through a UV process for disinfection. Next, we transition to an aerobic digested process, which effectively breaks down more of the harmful bacteria. After separating the solids from the liquid, the remaining biosolids are reused in an agricultural land application program (such as fertilizer for farmers), and the remaining liquid is returned for final treatment.

The Town is proud of its award-winning BSWF and the staff that operate it to meet and exceed all regulations. As a resident, we ask you to care for our infrastructure and protect your pipes! You can learn more about proper use of sewer lines by visiting: www.protectyourpipes.org. ■



A HUGE Success Despite the Storms

Passing thunderstorms could not dampen the spirits of more than a thousand visitors to Purcellville's 5th Annual Wine and Food Festival. The event started with a SOLD OUT VIP entry at 2pm, as guests were greeted by the casual music of Andy Hawk and The Train Wreck Endings. Parked at individual tables under the shade of large oak trees, VIPs tasted beer, drank wine, and celebrated with friends.

General admission guests began packing the park and took advantage of all the activities – from kid's fun to great artisan products to excellent food – and of course the great craft beverages! Due to lightning in the area, patrons were safely evacuated to the Bush Tabernacle to wait out the passing line of storms.

After a brief delay, the gates were reopened, and the party continued. Lines for wine tastings were full but moving freely. The beer vendors were a huge hit. The Colin Thompson Band played their favorite hits and kept everyone entertained. And from multiple reports – the variety of food options was pleasing to everyone. Kids jumped in a bounce house and the cornhole tournament was full.

It was clear that patrons enjoyed the parting skies and the cool, sun-filled evening. As the Festival wound down near 8pm, you could tell that all guests, sponsors, and vendors had experienced an incredible day.

We look forward to seeing you NEXT YEAR!! ■

PHOTOS BELOW: DAVE LEVINSON

54th Town Council

The 2016-2018 Town Council held its first meeting on July 12, 2016. Members of the Council are pictured below. Be sure to check out: www.purcellvilleva.gov/council to learn more about your Council members and to connect with them!



Members of the 2016-2018 Council Pictured L-R: Doug McCollum, Kelli Grim, Chris Bledsoe, Mayor Kwasi Fraser, Ryan Cool, Nedim Ogelman, Vice-Mayor Karen Jimmerson; Photo credit: Mike Beaty



Don't miss our other Upcoming Events!

Our annual **September 11th Memorial Ceremony** and our **Christmas in Purcellville**. You can get all the latest updates on our website or Facebook page. www.purcellvilleva.gov/events



Water Conservation Tips

Is your water usage creeping up? Do you see peaks and valleys of water use and can't figure out why? Keep these tips in mind:

- Remember that when you have visitors over – especially overnight guests – your water use will increase significantly.
- Listen for leaky faucets and toilets – a leaking toilet can result in thousands of gallons of lost water over a three-month billing cycle.
- Keep your showers short and turn off water while brushing your teeth.
- Practice smart lawn watering. Your lawn only needs about an inch of water per week, so you can skip the sprinkler if rain is forecasted.
- Secure your outside faucets before you go out of town for an extended period of time.
- Consider other water-conservation measures, as found at: www.purcellvilleva.gov/585/Water-Conservation