



TOWN OF BUCHANAN

TOWN HALL NEWSLETTER



May 2022

Spring Newsletter

Mayor: Craig Bryant

Vice Mayor: Chris Witt

Council Members: Chris Petty,
James Manspile, Marty
Rickman

Town Manager: Susan
McCulloch

540-254-1212

Website:

www.townofbuchanan.com

**NOTE: Check the website and door
of Town Hall for Public Hearings,
Public Service Announcements,
and updates**

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Town Manager's Message:

Hello! Activities for the 68th Buchanan Community Carnival are in the works! Mark your calendar to attend this year's event which starts on Thursday, June 30, 2022 to Saturday July 9, 2022. Remember, the Carnival is not open Sunday, July 3rd. Harry Gleason has been extremely busy preparing for this year's event with volunteers from the Carnival Committee who have thought of wonderful ideas to enhance Carnival.

Cole Amusements will return offering quality rides, food, and games to complement the Town's Food Stands and Games. Wristbands can be preordered for \$20.00 at www.colerides.com. Familiar faces will be in the food stand, fry stand, games, tickets, bingo, and ice cream stand. If you would like to volunteer, please call us at 540-254-1212 x1. Big raffle prize tickets are available at Town Hall and many locations in the community. Potatoes, bread, ice cream, stuffed animals, and more items have been ordered. Bands will play one night each so that we may add more bands. Ride Night Specials are noted on the Town website at www.townofbuchanan.com.

The 2021 Carnival Proceeds to emergency services has been allocated! Town Council voted to spend almost \$19,000 to repair the cupola, re-shingle the gabled end roof and add new gutters and drain spouts at the Buchanan Volunteer Fire & Rescue Building. This was identified as a critical need that had needed to be fixed for a long time. The 2022 proceeds have not been designated yet, because in order to determine how much to grant, the net proceeds calculation needs to be finalized first. I will be looking for three quotes for a priority item from emergency services in August or September 2022

Thank you for reading the Newsletter!

~ Susan McCulloch

Follow Us!

Follow the Town and "like" us on Facebook @Town of Buchanan, VA. You can also visit the Town website at www.townofbuchanan.com and Twitter at [Twitter.com/TownBuchananVA](https://twitter.com/TownBuchananVA) for important updates, public service announcements, town activities, and lots more! We are adding to our Instagram page, too - @townofbuchananva.

Help Share the Town News

If you find this newsletter informative and interesting and want to forward a copy to someone, you can request another copy by visiting Town Hall. A copy of the newsletter will be placed on the Town's website.

***Reminders:**

It's swimming pool season! Before you purchase a swimming pool, please obtain a Zoning Permit upon approval, the Town will refer you to Botetourt County's Inspection office to make sure State Code is followed.

Before you dig dial 811, Miss Utility! 800-552-7001

Utility Payments can be submitted online for Water/Sewer/Trash pickup at
<https://www.townofbuchanan.com/bill-payment.php>

STAFF SHOUT OUTS

Andy Newcomb for finding a water leak and fixing it on Parkway Drive

Harry Gleason for finding new attractive planters to beautify the Town

Tina Kingery for completing needed end of year filing and reports for our fiscal year-end and setting up the new employee health insurance program

Claudine Stump for saving the Town money buying office supplies using her terrific research abilities

*Farewell, Chris Glenn!
Best wishes on your new position!*

Welcome, Marty Rickman!

Welcome Back, Rob King!

American Recovery Act Program Funds (ARPA) Spending

- Council voted to purchase a new HVAC system for \$33,400 which will be more energy efficient, heat/cool better, and provide a safer public meeting space
 - New portable work lights were purchased for the evening emergencies for \$2,400
 - On May 9, 2022, Town Council voted to award matching grants up to \$5,000 to 7 businesses for the Real Estate Improvement Grant applications. A total of \$12,451.00 will be awarded, which represents a total investment (public and private) of \$24,902.88 in real estate improvements.
 - Stable Hill Studio: \$997.00
 - Buchanan Theatre: \$991.73
 - Stylin' Shed: \$1,377.50
 - Twin River Outfitters Check in Building: \$618.00
 - Twin River Outfitters Canoe Barn: \$2,763.00
 - 120 Parkway Drive: \$3,491.21
 - Austin Electric: \$2,213.00
- Total: \$12,451.00**



Above: New lights ensure visibility and safety at the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

New Health Insurance

The Town pays 100% for health insurance for each full-time employee. Due to the rising costs, we investigated new plans. The Town is saving with a new health insurance program effective June 1, 2022. **The Local Choice program, effective June 1, 2022, will bundle medical, dental and vision for each employee at a savings of \$33,217.20 per year for the Town.**

Budget: As a reminder, the Town of Buchanan has two (2) budgets, a General Fund, and a Utilities Fund Budget. Both budgets run in a “fiscal year” from July 1st to June 30th. Town Council will adopt this fiscal year’s budget at their public meeting on June 13, 2022. Council is also doing a deep dive into the budget every 90 days to review trends and make changes as needed.

Proposed Changes:

- *Increase Residential and Commercial Garbage by \$0.50 each month*
- *Increase the Sewer Rate by \$1.50 each month*

No Changes: *Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes, Permit Fees, Water Rate*

Public Works –January-April 2022

Miss Utilities – 54

Meter Reader Inserts Replaced – 5

Water Line Repair - 1

Sewer Backups – 19

Sewer Line Repair – 11

Building Permits – 2

Town of Buchanan Grant Status and Update

The Town of Buchanan has received several grants this year and staff is constantly searching for funding.

The **Virginia Brownfield Assessment Fund** grant from Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) provides \$50,000 for a Phase 1 Environmental Assessment and related testing, as well as planning activities for the Groendyk adaptive reuse to boost economic development projects.

The **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** approved Targeted Brownfield Assessment Funding for Buchanan to work with the firm Tetra Tech. Tetra Tech will provide Phase 1 Environmental Assessments, which will help buildings that have been listed in the Town’s Community Revitalization Planning meeting as high priorities, including the Glow-a-Rama building.

Botetourt County’s Park, Recreation, and Tourism department provided a matching grant for \$10,622.48 to the Town from its Capital Improvement Incentive Fund. This will provide items to improve the Buchanan Town Park, including trash receptacles, basketball goals, sealing the basketball court, painting the court, mulch for the playground, benches, and pet waste receptacles.

Submitted but not approved/denied applications include \$25,000 to the Get Outdoors (GO) Foundation for a master plan for Buchanan Town Park, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Flood for \$60,000 for a Flood Resiliency Plan, and to Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Office of Drinking Water (ODH) for ARPA funding to build a new well house for Well 1 and improve monitoring software for \$446,300. Also, the Town applied for two planning grants for water/sewer studies from SERCAP and the annual allocation from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. We hope to hear positive news regarding these grants soon.

Upcoming Town Meetings (All are at Town Hall unless otherwise stated):

- Tentative: Monday, June 6th at 7PM – Planning Commission
- June Work Session Cancelled
- Monday, June 13th at 7PM – Regular Town Council Meeting (Budget Public Hearing)
- July Planning Commission & Work Session - Cancelled due to Carnival
- Monday, July 11th at 7PM – Regular Town Council Meeting
- Monday, August 1st at 7PM – Planning Commission
- Thursday, August 4th at 7PM – Work Session
- Monday, August 8th at 7PM – Regular Town Council Meeting
- Thursday, September 1st at 7PM – Work Session
- Monday, September 5th at 7PM – Planning Commission
- Monday, September 12th at 7PM – Regular Town Council Meeting
- Thursday, October 3rd at 7PM – Work Session
- Monday, October 6th at 7PM – Planning Commission
- Tuesday, October 11 (Mon. Columbus Day) at 7PM - Regular Meeting

NOTE: Work Sessions will be posted to the front door of Town Hall and advertised on the town's website several days in advance of the meeting or as per state code requires.

Town Hall Office Holidays:

Town Hall will be closed in observation of the following upcoming Holidays.

- Memorial Day – May 30, 2022
- Juneteenth – June 20, 2022
- Independence Day – July 4, 2022
- Town Staff Appreciation Day – July 15, 2022
- Labor Day – September 5, 2022

Final Word: Thank you for taking the time to read the Newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact Town Hall at 540-254-1212. As always, your feedback is appreciated.

LEAP Mobile Market

4th Wednesday of each month, 1:30 to 2:30

Resource Center, 33 Bedford Street

When you use SNAP/EBT or show proof of Medicaid or WIC at any LEAP Farmers Market: For every \$1 you spend, get an additional \$1 FREE for fresh fruits and vegetables!

Feeding Southwest Virginia Mobile Market

2nd Wednesday of each month, 1:30 to 2:30

Resource Center, 33 Bedford Street

Debit, Credit or SNAP/EBT accepted. Cash is not accepted

Welcome New Businesses!

- Faithful Country Creations (17858 Main Street, Buchanan)
- Gateway Real Estate (19834 Main Street, Buchanan)
- Pure Essence (19834 Main Street, Buchanan)
- U-Haul Rentals (120 Parkway Drive, Buchanan)
- Tammie's Place (19857 Main Street, Buchanan)
- Relocation: H2Health (120 Parkway Drive, Buchanan)

Home Occupations:

- C&A Lawncare
- Instahub Catering
- James River Lofts (Airbnb)
- RYE Investments (Airbnb)
- Specified Products Inc.
- Tilson Technology Management

Upcoming Events

- ✓ BOCO Wild, Saturday, June 4 at the Buchanan Town Park
- ✓ **Iron Man**, Sunday, June 5 – Cheer Zone on Main Street 7:30 AM to 9 AM (bicyclists)
- ✓ Buchanan Community Market, Saturday, June 25 by Town Hall
- ✓ Buchanan Town Carnival – Thursday, June 30th through Saturday, July 9th
- ✓ Parade and Fireworks, Monday, July 4th
- ✓ Reggae By the River, Saturday, July 23rd
- ✓ Buchanan Community Market, Saturday, July 30th