

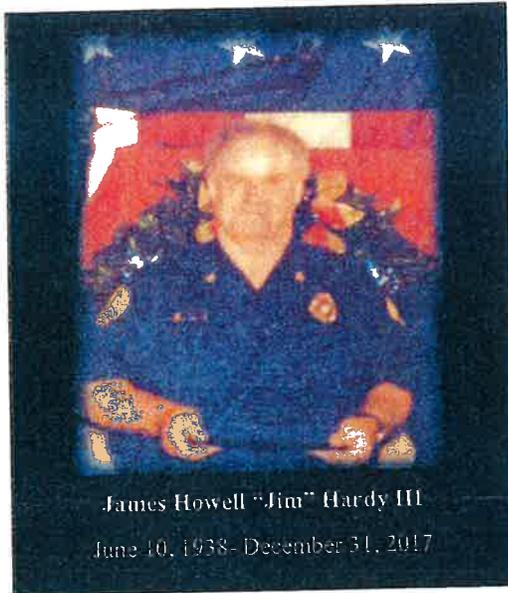
Bluefield News

Winter

Newsletter

2017 / 2018

SAYING GOODBYE TO TWO MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

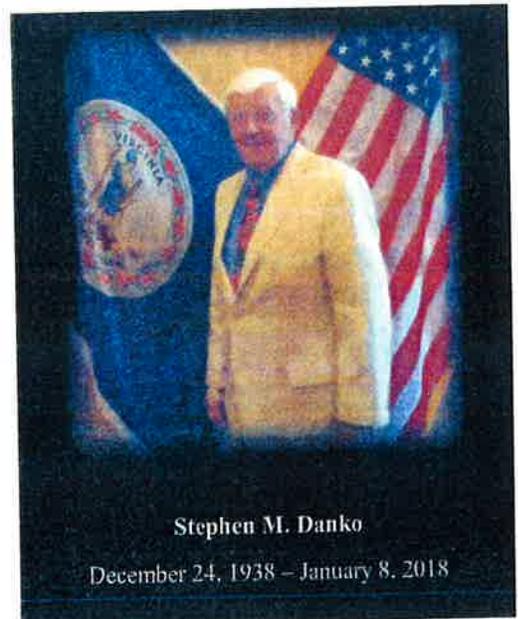


James Howell "Jim" Hardy III
June 10, 1938 - December 31, 2017

On December 31, 2017, Bluefield, Virginia Fire Chief, James Howell "Jim" Hardy III answered his final call. At the young age of 15, he began his life-long career of working with the Bluefield, Virginia Fire Department and the Town of Bluefield, Virginia. Before he was appointed Fire Chief of the Bluefield, Virginia Fire Department on August 1, 1994, Jim worked in several positions for the department, including many years served as Assistant Chief. During his career with the department, several projects came to light, including the design and construction of the new fire station located on North College Avenue, as well as the purchase of the Town's first Ladder / Tower Fire Truck (Tower 78). In addition to his years served at the Fire Department, Chief Hardy also served on the Tazewell County Emergency Services Committee for several years, worked at Rockwell Industries, and was

a caregiver to his mother. A Fireman's Funeral to celebrate Chief Hardy's life was conducted by the Honor Guard from Hillsville Fire Department in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Fire Programs and the Virginia L.A.S.T. Team, held on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at Dudley Memorial Chapel. Chief Hardy was laid to rest at Maple Hill Cemetery in Bluefield, Virginia. A reception to celebrate his life was held after the funeral services at the Bluefield, Virginia Fire Station.

Stephen Michael "Pete" Danko passed away on January 8, 2018. He was born and raised in Pocahontas, Virginia, before graduating from East Tennessee State University with a Bachelor's Degree. He then spent most of his career in sales, working for Blizzard's, Inc. and President of Bluefield Hardware Company, before retiring from Dan Corp, Inc. Mr. Danko and his wife, Anne, resided in Bluefield, Virginia, where he served as a member of the Bluefield, Virginia Town Council. He was currently serving his second term on Council, in which he worked diligently to try to bring more commerce and jobs to the Southwest Virginia area. He loved his community and was a man dedicated to his family, faith, and friends. A Mass of Christian Burial was conducted on January 13th at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church in Pocahontas, Virginia. Interment followed at Maple Hill Cemetery in Bluefield, Virginia.



Stephen M. Danko
December 24, 1938 - January 8, 2018

ADDRESSES NEED TO BE VISIBLE FOR EMERGENCIES

In an emergency, timing means everything. In order for emergency services to identify your address in a timely manner, it is important that your approved address is easily visible. Virginia State Maintenance Code requires that approved address numbers be placed in a position that is plainly visible and legible from the street or road fronting the property. Numbers must be a minimum of 4 inches in height with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inches. Please make sure your address numbers meet the above requirements to ensure your property can be easily identified in an emergency situation.

BE AWARE OF SCAMMING

As tax time rolls around, scamming becomes more prevalent and many people can easily fall victim to these scam artists. Scamming is a fraudulent scheme used for making a quick profit. Telemarketing, phone scams, medicare / health insurance scams, and investment schemes are in the top 10 financial scams targeting individuals, especially seniors. According to the National Council on Aging, “the most common scheme is when scammers use fake telemarketing calls to prey on older people. With no face-to-face interaction, and no paper trail, these scams are incredibly hard to trace.”

If you receive a call from someone you are unsure of, ask yourself the following: (1) “Who’s calling and why, (2) What’s the hurry, don’t be forced into making an on-the-spot decision, (3) If it’s free, why are they asking you to pay, especially if they’re claiming you won a prize or gift, and (4) Why are you confirming your account information or giving it out? Do not give out your personal or billing information or confirm that information over the phone. Scammers are trying to get you to say “yes” or “okay” to claim that you approved a purchase or transaction.

If you become a victim to a scam, report the incident to the local police, contact your bank and / or credit card company, and change any personal identification numbers or passwords relating to any of your accounts. More information on scamming can be found on the Federal Trade Commission’s Consumer Information website at www.consumer.ftc.gov.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES IN OUR TOWN...



RECYCLING SCHEDULE 2018

Attached is the 2018 Recycling Schedule for the Town of Bluefield, Virginia. Any changes to the recycling schedule, due to holidays, etc., will be posted on the Town's digital sign, Facebook page, and website at www.bluefieldva.org.

January

9th -cardboard/newspaper
16th -plastic
23rd -cardboard/newspaper
30th -plastic

February

6th-cardboard/newspaper
13th-plastic
20th -cardboard/newspaper
27th -plastic

March

6th-cardboard/newspaper
13th-plastic
20th -cardboard/newspaper
27th-plastic

April

3rd-cardboard/newspaper
10th-plastic
17th-cardboard/newspaper
24th-plastic

May

1st -cardboard/newspaper
8th-plastic
15th -cardboard/newspaper
22nd -plastic
29th -cardboard/newspaper

June

5th-plastic
12th-cardboard/newspaper
19th-plastic
26th-cardboard/newspaper

July

3rd-plastic
10th-cardboard/newspaper
17th-plastic
24th-cardboard/newspaper
31st -plastic

August

7th-cardboard/newspaper
14th-plastic
21st-cardboard/newspaper
28th-plastic

September

4th-cardboard/newspaper
11th-plastic
18th-cardboard/newspaper
25th-plastic

October

2nd-cardboard/newspaper
9th-plastic
16th-cardboard/newspaper
23rd-plastic
30th-cardboard/newspaper

November

6th-plastic
13th-cardboard/newspaper
20th-plastic
27th-cardboard/newspaper

December

4th-plastic
11th-cardboard/newspaper
18th-plastic
25th-CLOSED

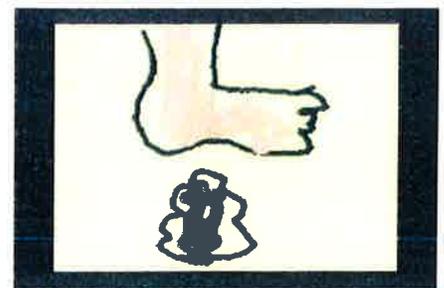
CONGRESSMAN MORGAN GRIFFITH REPRESENTATIVE AT TOWN HALL

A Representative from Congressman Morgan Griffith's Office will be at Town Hall, 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia to discuss any questions or concerns citizens may have. The Representative will be at Town Hall the **2nd Thursday of each month from 10 am – 2pm:**

January 11th / February 8th / March 8th / April 12th / May 10th / June 14th / July 12th / August 9th / September 13th /
October 11th / November 8th / December 13th

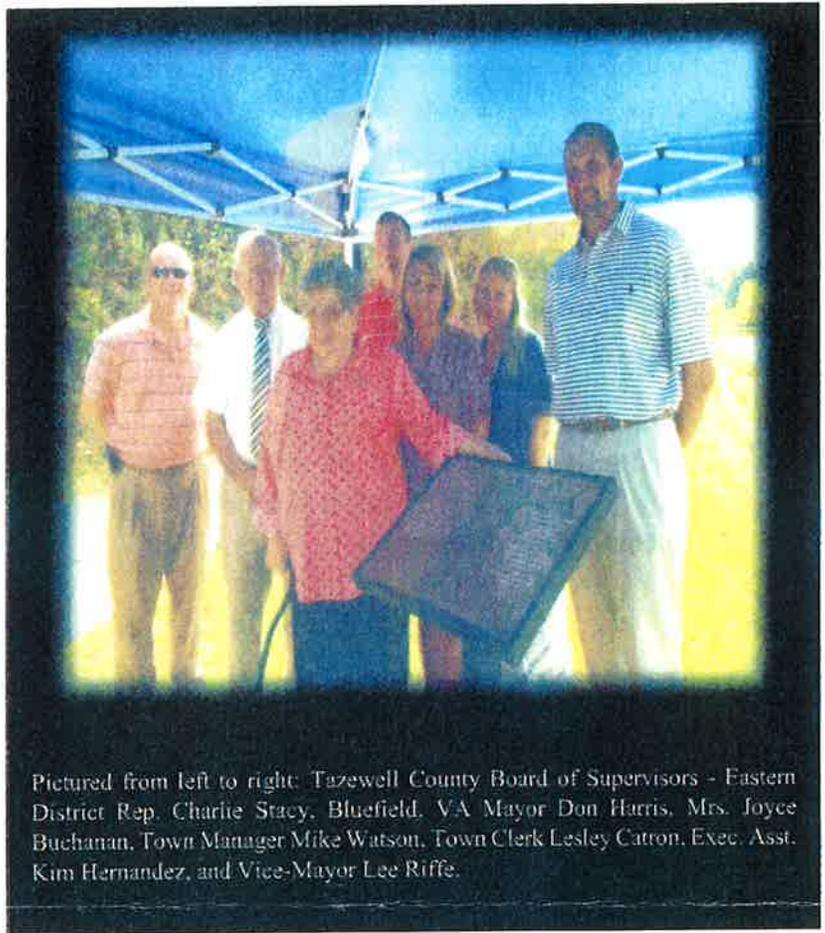
KEEP IT CLEAN

With new sidewalks now connecting more town streets, many folks are enjoying evening walks through their neighborhood and around town. As a friendly reminder, if you walk your pet along the sidewalks, or in other public areas around town, please be courteous of other pedestrians and clean up after your pets if they make a mess. It is with the help of our citizens that we continue to keep our town clean and beautiful!



DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR MRS. JOYCE BUCHANAN

On Wednesday, September 27th, individuals from the community joined together to honor Mrs. Joyce Buchanan. The ceremony was held by the Town of Bluefield at Hockman Pike Bridge in Pinehill Park, Bluefield, Virginia. During the ceremony, Mrs. Buchanan was presented with a plaque that showcased a poem she wrote about the Bluestone. The plaque was proudly mounted along the green space at Hockman Pike Bridge. Mrs. Buchanan worked many years as an educator and dedicated volunteer, and she proudly served on the Board for the Tazewell County Soil and Water Conservation District. She was the Conservationalist Winner of the 1999 Watershed Connections Award, presented by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District for her work in the Bluestone / New River Watershed.



Pictured from left to right: Tazewell County Board of Supervisors - Eastern District Rep. Charite Stacy, Bluefield, VA Mayor Don Harris, Mrs. Joyce Buchanan, Town Manager Mike Watson, Town Clerk Lesley Catron, Exec. Asst. Kim Hernandez, and Vice-Mayor Lee Riffe.

NOISE ORDINANCE

Citizens of Bluefield, Virginia: The Town of Bluefield has implemented a noise ordinance to the Town's Code of Ordinances. The purpose of this ordinance is to provide a means of reasonably regulating certain noise within the corporate limits of the Town of Bluefield in order to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Town. The ordinance recognizes certain noise restrictions between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., with certain exceptions applying. To review the Noise Ordinance in its entirety, please visit the Office of the Town Clerk at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, VA. A copy of the final Noise Ordinance is also available on the Town's website at www.bluefieldva.org, under the September 12, 2017 Town Council Meeting Minutes.

DEPOT STREET PLAYGROUND NAMED WARHAWK PARK

The playground located on Depot Street in Bluefield, Virginia was officially named "Warhawk Park" after a unanimous vote by the Town Council during the September 26, 2017 Town Council Meeting. The Warhawk was the mascot of the original North Side School that many African American students attended during the segregation period. A very prominent lady by the name of Catherine Johnson was a teacher at the school before she began her career with NASA. Mrs. Johnson was one of three African American females who worked for NASA that were credited as the brains behind the operation that sent Astronaut John Glenn into orbit, as portrayed in the 2016 movie, "*Hidden Figures*". A "Warhawk Park" sign will be erected at the playground during the spring.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED...

WATER SYSTEM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Town of Bluefield is very fortunate to have an excellent public water system to offer drinking water to the community. The Town provides water to approximately 2,100 customers and have several emergency connections to buy or sell water to the surrounding areas. Over the past 20 years the Town of Bluefield has made great strides in the production and distribution of water. However, as the water plant and service lines become dated, maintenance costs increase and operating costs continue to grow with inflation, therefore, there is a need to make improvements. As a result, The Town of Bluefield's public water system is beginning a much needed Capital Improvement Project. The project will include benefits that will allow the water plant to more effectively produce and monitor water, increase water production capacity, provide more accurate leak detection monitoring, and the replacement of water meters. This will allow the public water system to operate more efficiently for many years to come by providing the necessary up-to-date improvements needed. In the past, the Town has been able to continue to provide quality service with only slight increases. Without an increase, it becomes increasingly difficult to continue to provide and maintain excellent, reliable service. As a result of improvements and rising costs, rate increases are necessary.

RESCUE SQUAD APPRECIATION DINNER

Attention Former Bluefield, VA Rescue Squad Employees and Volunteers: The Town of Bluefield, Virginia and the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors will host an Appreciation Cookout for former employees and volunteers of the Bluefield, Virginia Rescue Squad on Thursday, June 7, 2018 in downtown Bluefield, Virginia, across from the Welcome Center. Attendees will be allowed one guest each and must RSVP before Monday, May 28th. If you or someone you know worked or volunteered for the Bluefield, Virginia Rescue Squad, please contact Lesley Catron @ (276) 322-4626 or email compton@bluefieldva.org for more info or to RSVP.

CEMETERY COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENTED WITH RESOLUTIONS

During the Bluefield, Virginia Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, Town Council presented resolutions to two members of the Maple Hill Cemetery Commission, Mr. Ed Spurgeon and Mr. Ben Muncy. Mr. Spurgeon has served on the Commission since 2002 and Mr. Muncy has served on the Commission since 1998, becoming the Chairman in 2013. Both Mr. Muncy and Mr. Spurgeon, along with their fellow-Commission members, have served on a Commission that has overseen the completion of several projects at Maple Hill Cemetery, including the construction of the new cemetery building to serve as an indoor chapel, the remodeling of the gate, the placement of new benches and trash receptacles, the addition of a cremation garden, the addition of a fence around the perimeter, the revitalization of the older area of the cemetery, and the annexation and maintenance of the African American section of the cemetery, located on the west end.



Pictured from left to right: Councilmen Ron Holt, Cemetery Superintendent Jody Shrewsbury, Mr. Ben Muncy, Mayor Don Harris, and Mr. Ed Spurgeon