



Fall 2023

Dayton Discovery

Official Newsletter of the Town of Dayton, VA

Mayor's Message *Cary Jackson*

"The tans will fade but the memories will last forever." As the cooler weather ushers in, the Town is welcoming fall! The new school year gives our children the opportunity to reconnect with friends and to expand their knowledge. As my youngest child enters her senior year of high school, it gives me the opportunity to reflect on all of the back-to-school nights, sporting events, musicals and award assemblies my wife and I have attended over the years. I hope all Dayton parents are able to take the time to create these same wonderful memories with your children.

Fall is my favorite season with the cooler weather, football, Halloween and of course, Dayton Days. I hope you had the opportunity to enjoy Dayton Days which had a tremendous crowd. Dayton Days has brought visitors to town for over 40 years. This gives visitors an opportunity to see what an inviting, talented place Dayton is while also providing support for our local restaurants and shops.

It was another busy summer in Dayton. A large crowd joined our Dayton Police Department in celebrating National Night Out, participating in activities such as the donut eating contest, running an obstacle course and sharing a meal with family and neighbors. Once again, our concert series was a success bringing residents and visitors alike together to enjoy some outdoor music fun! Please join me in thanking our town staff for all they do to make these events successful.

The town has installed new playground equipment at Sunset Park. Consider bringing your children, grandchildren and friends to explore it along with our other parks in town.

Not surprising to us locals, we again had many businesses recognized in the 2023 Best of the Valley contest. We'd like to congratulate the following businesses on their accomplishments:

- Blue Ridge Christian School, FINALIST, Best High School
- Town & County Furniture, WINNER, Best Furniture Store
- Fab Refurbs, FINALIST, Best Furniture Store
- The Dayton Market, WINNER, Best Shopping Center, Best Farmer's Market, and Best Handcrafted Art
- Rusty Willow Decor, FINALIST, Best Handcrafted Art
- Zola's, FINALIST, Best Gift Shop
- The Cheese Place, FINALIST, Best Grocery Store
- Patchwork Plus, FINALIST, Best Fabric Shop
- Heritage Real Estate, FINALIST, Best Realty Company
- Mountain Valley Auction Group, LLC, FINALIST, Best Auction Company
- The Prissy Country Girl, WINNER, Best Boutique. FINALIST, Best Gift Shop

And a special shout out to Dayton Days Autumn Celebration for WINNING in the Best Festival Category!

Part of the joy of fall is the slide into the holiday season! I, along with Council and town staff, wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a joyful New Year.

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I wish you all the best as 2023 draws to a close and we look ahead to a prosperous 2024!



Go Green - Go Paperless!

To receive Dayton Discovery electronically, email events@daytonva.us



Manager's Message *Earl Mathers*

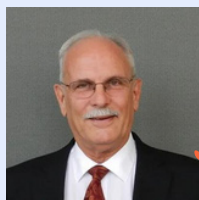
Dayton: Destined for Distinction

Dayton, Virginia is already a very distinctive place. The community has a unique charm which most residents and our many visitors want to preserve. At the same time, informed people recognize that change is inevitable and that Dayton, while insulated to a degree from the most glaring problems of our troubled world, is not immune from these negative forces. High crime rates, tawdry businesses and widespread homelessness, among many other problems of contemporary society, are not yet significant concerns in Dayton. The danger is in becoming complacent about this wonderful community and assuming that it will always remain this way without a concerted effort to maintain and build upon our significant attributes.

Town Government is fully committed to protecting public safety, maintaining a healthy and attractive environment, delivering high quality public services and enhancing quality of life. These goals are most readily accomplished through the active support and involvement of the residents of the community. Town employees serve the public and seek to accomplish as much as our budget and staffing constraints allow. The small size of Dayton Town staff does create some constraints on our capacity to take on new challenges. However, it is the intention of Town Government to be as proactive and strategic as possible in promoting continuous improvement in the community by leveraging our existing assets.

In the future we will seek input from residents concerning their vision for the future of the community. Although it is never possible to make everyone happy all the time, we would like to strategically target our efforts in conformance with a shared vision of the future. To be most effective in community development, it is important that we become as unified as possible around the execution of a limited number of shared goals. It is said that a rising tide lifts all boats and for this reason, we should be quick to celebrate the successes of others. There is no reason to expect unbridled economic development pressure in Dayton. However, it is important to have a clear vision of what we consider to be most desirable in terms of development.

There is almost universal agreement that the rich history and cultural charm of the community must be preserved as part of both Dayton's heritage and its future. These significant aesthetic features are a good place to initiate our thought process moving forward. If our shared vision for the community is catalyzed by strong community buy-in and a realistic assessment of our competitive advantages, intelligent growth will be the outlook for Dayton.



Earl Mathers
Interim Town Manager



Upcoming Town Events

24
NOV

*A Small Town Christmas,
5 pm -8 pm, Downtown Dayton

01
DEC

Town of Dayton Tree Lighting and
Santa's Workshop
7 pm - 9 pm, Dove Park

09
DEC

Town of Dayton Christmas Parade
10 am

13
DEC

Town of Dayton Resident Christmas Party
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Woodmen of the World

18
DEC

Holiday Decorating Contest Winners
Announced

*Community event not hosted by the Town of Dayton

Authority & Board Vacancies

Looking to get involved in local government and have a voice in your community? We have vacancies on the Economic Development Authority and the Board of Zoning Appeals! We are looking for diverse candidates that have an interest in the future development of Dayton.

The Dayton Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) shall be responsible for conducting public hearings of 1) appeals of administrative decisions made by the Zoning Administrator, 2) applications for variances which are regulated by the Zoning Ordinance, and 3) the establishing of setbacks for non-conforming buildable lots of record within the Town. Members of the BZA are recommended by the Dayton Town Council and appointed by the Circuit Court of Rockingham County.

The primary purpose of the Dayton Economic Development Authority (EDA) is to administer the Town's Façade Enhancement Grant. The EDA meets quarterly to review and act on these applications unless there are no applications that quarter. Members of the EDA are appointed by the Town Council.

Please contact Meggie Roche at mroche@daytonva.us or 540-879-2241 if you would like to apply.

≡Welcome≡

New Businesses to the Town of Dayton

● **Karen's The Prissy Country Girl**
August 12, 2023

● **Secure Storage Sheds of Dayton**
September 1, 2023

● **North River Loft**
October 19, 2023





Chief's Corner



November 11th from 12-4pm, the Dayton Market is hosting their customer appreciation day. The department will be at the Dayton Market for Touch-A-Truck event.



We have been receiving a lot of parking complaints from many residents in town. Part of the Dayton Police Department's mission is to educate the community about laws. In an effort to educate prior to taking enforcement action, Officers will place a letter on your vehicle windshield to explain the parking violation to allow for corrective action. The department will start enforcing violations on November 1st. If you receive a parking ticket, payment is made at the town office. If you have a question or need more clarification about the violation, call a department member at 540-879-2161.

Introducing Bee Friends of Dayton

Introducing Bee Friends of Dayton!

Did you know that 1/3 of the foods you eat are assisted by pollinators? These are the bugs, bees, birds, butterflies and other beneficial creatures so crucial to local agriculture and the beauty of our town. They carry pollen from plant to plant, a necessary service for most flowering plants, including (according to the USDA) over 100 crops grown in the USA.

But pollinators are in decline. This summer, a group of pollinator pals, Bee Friends of Dayton, organized to help them! Be on the lookout for the Bee Friends educating, inspiring and creating habitats for our local pollinators. Meanwhile, you can help: Reduce pesticide use when possible. Plant our native plants. Work for habitat restoration. Maybe you would even like your own pollinator garden with bee-friendly nectar, pollen and water sources.



Sign up for Town alerts to be notified about water service interruptions, road closures, special events, meeting agendas, and more!

1. Go to www.daytonva.us
2. Click on the @ subscribe button in the black toolbar in the middle of the page
3. Enter your email address
4. Select the topics you would like to receive updates about
5. Click on "Subscribe me"



On Saturday, October 22, the Town held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the new playground equipment at Sunset Park. At 6 pm, Mayor Jackson shared some words about the new playground equipment and thanked everyone who came out. Councilperson Bob Wolz was there with his granddaughter to do the honor of cutting the ribbon. Situated around the park were pumpkin tic tac toe, ring toss and design your own pumpkin and firepits. S'mores and roasting hotdogs were popular among the many that attended!



Celebrate Christmas at Fort Harrison



5th Annual Wreaths Across America



Join Fort Harrison on Saturday, December 16th when they place wreaths on all veterans' graves in the Dayton Cemetery. The ceremony will begin at 11:30 a.m., Pence Middle School auditorium. If you would like to sponsor a wreath (\$15 each) contact Pat at fortharrisonva@gmail.com.

Look for more details on all these events at fortharrisonva.org.

An Old-Fashioned Christmas at the Daniel Harrison House

If you would like to celebrate Christmas the old-fashioned way, join Fort Harrison for music, storytelling, antique doll exhibits, antique toys, children's crafts and much more. \$5 per person, maximum of \$20 per family, 4-6 p.m.

December 9th (Saturday) "Twas the Night Before Christmas"

December 10th (Sunday) "Joy to the World"

Trim a Tree, Promote Your Business, Support Fort Harrison

Fort Harrison invites all local businesses and churches to sponsor Christmas trees to be displayed on our grounds from late November until New Year's 2024. Decorate your tree to highlight your business. The trees will be lighted nightly and visitors are welcome to view them whenever they like.

The Dayton Cemetery of Virginia

The Search for Harrison's Chapel of Ease

The Dayton Cemetery of Virginia is pleased to announce that James Madison University archaeology students will soon be working in the oldest part of the cemetery in hopes of finding the Chapel of Ease, built around 1747.

Last spring, Fort Harrison sponsored a ground penetrating radar study of this section and the results of the study show the possibility of a portion of the building's foundation as well as some unmarked graves.

The students will be working under the supervision of Dr. Dennis Blanton. The plan is to excavate two perpendicular trenches, each six feet long, eighteen inches wide and eighteen inches deep. The excavation will be done this November, 2023. Daniel Harrison donated land for the chapel and it would become one of the oldest English chapels in Augusta Parish. A chapel of ease is a small church, built to meet the needs of a congregation when the traveling distance to the larger church is a hardship for parishioners.

This is an exciting time as we look forward to learning more about the earliest years of settlement here in the Dayton community.

Ribbon Cutting & Fall Bonfire at Sunset Park





Town Meetings

Regular Town Council Meeting
November 13 @ 6:00 pm

Planning Commission Meeting
November 16 @ 6:00 pm

Regular Town Council Meeting
December 11 @ 6:00 pm

Planning Commission Meeting
December 21 @ 6:00 pm

Regular Town Council Meeting
January 8, 2024 @ 6:00 pm

Planning Commission Meeting
January 18 @ 6:00 pm



Live streaming is available for council meetings at www.daytonva.us.

Holiday Closings

Election Day: November 7

Veterans Day: November 10

Thanksgiving: November 22
(close at noon) November 23
and 24

Christmas: December 22 (close at noon) and 25

Refuse Collection Schedule

Household trash is collected on Fridays. Containers should be placed at the curb no earlier than 5:00 p.m. on the afternoon preceding the collection day and be removed to a point at the side or rear of the structure not later than 8:00 a.m. of the day following collection. **All waste must be placed in the provided tote.**

NOTE: When a holiday falls on a weekday, collection may be delayed one day for the remainder of the week. Changes to the schedule will be posted on the Town website & Facebook.



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Office/Drive Thru Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm
24-hour drop box

www.daytonva.us

For after hours non-emergencies
pertaining to Town matters, please call
540-434-4436.

