

Summer 2021

# Dayton Discovery

Official Newsletter of the Town of Dayton, VA

## Mayor's Message *Cary Jackson*

Summer is here and we are returning to normal activities. It was fantastic to welcome back the Redbud Festival and see so many Dayton residents' smiling faces. I would like to thank the entire Dayton staff for all of their hard work in coordinating the Dayton events. The events are part of what make Dayton a special place and they couldn't happen without our dedicated staff.

Congratulations to the many students who have graduated high school and college. I am excited for you and the many adventures that are in your future. Always believe in yourself and push yourself toward greatness. Never let someone tell you that you can't succeed. Remember to be kind to others, enjoy time with your friends, take time to travel and don't be afraid to try new things.

The Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget was approved at the June meeting. We have a great group of council members and staff and I appreciate the additional time everyone spent preparing the budget. I am happy to report that a sixth police officer was approved in the budget and there are no tax increases.

The past year and a half have been difficult for many and I'd like to take this time to recognize that September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness month. It is intended to promote awareness for the suicide prevention resources available in our community. The goal is to learn how to help those around us and learn how to talk about suicide without increasing the risk of harm. I encourage residents to take the time to check the wellbeing of your family, friends, and neighbors and to genuinely convey your appreciation for their existence by any gesture you deem appropriate. A phone call, text, handshake, or hug can go a long way towards helping someone realize that suicide is not the answer. If you or someone you know is in an emergency, call The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255), text NAMI to 741-741, or call 911 immediately.

If you are looking for ways to get out and meet your neighbors, Dayton has a variety of community events coming up including the Summer Concert Series, the Dayton Police Department's National Night Out, the Muddler, and Dayton Days (see the event schedule on page 3 for dates and locations). We look forward to seeing you at these events and around Town at our local businesses and restaurants.



## In this issue...

New Town Website

Historic Dayton: A look back at the local poultry industry

Manager's Message

Chief's Column

Maintaining our Roadways

Mill Street Project

Welcoming a New Councilperson

*Go Green - Go Paperless!*

To receive Dayton Discovery electronically, email [events@daytonva.us](mailto:events@daytonva.us)

# Have you seen the new website?

<https://www.daytonva.us> 

The Town unveiled a new website in May with some exciting new features, like an upgraded business directory and subscriber alerts. As always, visitors can continue to pay their utility bill, view the Town calendar, and find information on local rules and regulations on the website.

## Rocktown History Seeking Volunteers

Rocktown History is Historic Dayton's Welcome Center. As the pandemic fades and travel enthusiasm returns, friendly volunteers are needed to greet visitors at the front desk. Do you have a few hours to join the Very Valuable Volunteer team? Please contact Margaret or Penny to learn more about volunteer opportunities at Rocktown History. Thank you!

382 High Street, Dayton | Open Wed-Sat, 10a-4p | (540) 879-2681 | [rocktownhistory.org](http://rocktownhistory.org)

## Historic Dayton: A look back at the local poultry industry

At 260 S. Main Street in Dayton, sits an unassuming rectangular brick and concrete building tied to the history of the local poultry industry. Mid-Valley Hatchery opened in Dayton in 1938 and first operated out of the Post Office building. In January 1957, the business moved two spaces north into its newly constructed home at 260 S. Main. The new hatchery cost over \$30,000 and had the capacity for Mid-Valley to grow from 80,000 to 390,000 chicks per week.

Franklin Pierce Hurst operated the Mid-Valley Hatchery starting in 1948. During his career with Mid-Valley, he helped to form national and international poultry organizations and travelled around the world on behalf of this work. Some of his trips were not so distant; in West Virginia, Hurst participated in congratulating 1956 West Virginia Broiler Project King Webster Morris, who produced his winning birds from Mid-Valley chicks.

In 1958, Mid-Valley announced production of Ames In-Cross hybrid chicks. The hybrids were developed by an Iowa corporation from inbred and crossbred Leghorn chickens. The

Ames In-Cross light weight 400 Series were touted to "live and lay profitably" with a "quiet temperament," while the heavy weight 500 series out-produced with large egg size, excellent interior quality, and high resistance to disease.



## Manager's Message *Angela Lawrence*

I hope this finds you well and returning to normal activities with family and friends. Although Town staff continued their job functions throughout the pandemic, it is nice to be getting back to normal. We recently had a staff cookout that included getting to know one another better and building a stronger team so that we can provide the very best customer service to you. How refreshing to be able to interact with one another in a group setting. We are proud to say 88% of our staff are now fully vaccinated.

As the newer variants of the coronavirus spread, it is important that all family members that are eligible be vaccinated. The Virginia Department of Health website, <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/>, is an excellent resource.

When I began my position two years ago, I was handed the Mill Street project, which had originally been planned and engineered in 2001 and for a variety of reasons put on the back burner. The revenue share grant had been awarded (thanks to VDOT and Rockingham County!) and a public meeting had been held right before I arrived, but there was still much work to complete regarding final design, approvals, contractor procurement and construction. While there are just a few outstanding items to complete for the project, we are all delighted to have all of the major construction work done. Read more about the status of the project on page 3.

You may have noticed a little more color in Town. We refreshed a few flower beds and the Town's downtown planters and have been maintaining them with our staff as well as volunteers. Next year, we hope to improve the beds further, but are waiting until we replace some of the welcome signs that are rotting and showing their age. We have a consultant working on the long-awaited directional signage grant that will direct visitors to historic and tourism sites in town. We have also been using community service volunteers and others to pick up trash, mulch garden beds, and maintain public areas.

Finally, a reminder that if you have a question or concern, or have heard a rumor you don't understand, please call Town Hall and speak with me, or other members of the staff directly. We try hard to communicate openly and transparently, but sometimes things arise that we have not addressed.

Enjoy all that the summer and this wonderful community have to offer.



# Chief's Column

## Police officers receive body-worn cameras

The Dayton Police Department is excited to have received a grant from the US Department of Justice COPS Office and VRSA to purchase Body-Worn Cameras. All Dayton Officers have been trained on the operation and issued a Body-Worn Camera.

## New Laws Effective July 1 Cannabis Legalization

There have been many new law changes in Virginia for 2021. One law that has been changed, is the possession of Marijuana. In order to avoid confusion and educate the public, the following are legal and illegal:

### Legal

- Possession by adults (aged 21+) of up to one ounce in public
- Personal Cultivation of up to four plants per household by adults aged 21+ at their primary residence
- Adult sharing of up to one ounce in private without remuneration

### Illegal

- PUBLIC CONSUMPTION
- Possession or Consumption by anyone under age 21
- Possession on school grounds including school bus
- Consuming or having an open container in an operating motor vehicle (Driver & Passengers).
- Sharing or offering in public
- Selling or purchasing outside of the Medical Monopoly Programs

## Bicycle Laws

There are also new laws to protect bicyclists. These include:

- Drivers must change lanes to pass cyclists
- Bicyclists may ride two abreast in a travel lane

## Balloon Laws

It is now illegal for anyone over the age of 16 to intentionally release or discard non-biodegradable balloons.



## SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, August 3 from 6 pm - 8 pm  
At Sunset Park

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign held throughout the nation to promote police and community partnerships to help combat crime! Come join us and get to know your neighbors and your Dayton Police Officers. This will be a great evening of fellowship and will include food treats, goodie bags, games and activities for kids and adults. This will be a Night Out that you don't want to miss.



## Coming in 2022

Both Silver Lake and Silver Lake Mill will celebrate their 200th anniversary in 2022! A planning committee is putting together lots of stories and activities for you and your family to enjoy throughout the year!

Ideas? Or want to volunteer?  
Email [silverlakemill@gmail.com](mailto:silverlakemill@gmail.com)

## Maintaining our Roads

VDOT owns and maintains the roads in Dayton (although we contract with them for snow removal). They evaluate and plan for road improvements as their budget allows. They recently paved portions of Westview, Willow, and Summit streets using a latex based coating. This was not a full asphalt paving project, but they were able to re-surface the road to improve traction and waterproofing. While we realize it does not look as nice as a complete paving project, it was cost effective and allowed road improvements for the time being.

## Mill Street Project

The Mill Street project now has new storm drain structures, sidewalks and pavement that will help divert much storm water to its proper place during storms. During the process, we were able to replace some water and sewer lines and valves that were quite old and not functioning as well as needed. A huge thank you to Adam Meek, Public Works Supervisor, who stepped into that position at the beginning of the project and supervised it to the end. Thank you, again, to all the residents in the work area who have endured much noise, dust, modifications to their property, and changing travel routes. Thank you to the residents and businesses for your patience with road closures, water shut offs, and other inconveniences.

## Welcoming New Councilperson Susan Mathias

After the resignation of Tara Worthy, Town Council appointed Susan Mathias to fill the vacancy. Susan and her spouse, Nathan, have lived in Dayton since 2011 with their teenager, Jaden. Susan is currently a Human Resources Lead for the Eastern Division of Select Genetics, a turkey breeding company located in eight states. She served 11 ½ years in the U.S. Army and has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Eastern Mennonite University in Management and Organizational Development.



# More Events!

**Summer Concert Series**  
Kelly May Brown  
July 10 @ 7:00 pm  
Dove Park Pavillion

**Summer Concert Series**  
Thieves of Burden  
August 7 @ 7:00 pm  
Dove Park Pavillion

**National Night Out**  
August 3rd  
@ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Sunset Park  
Get to know neighbors and police

**Summer Concert Series**  
Big City Band  
August 28 @ 7:00 pm  
Dove Park Pavillion

**The Muddler**  
Adventure Course  
August 7  
Starts @ Dove Park Pavilion

**Dayton Days**  
Autumn Celebration  
October 2 @ 8:00 am  
Handmade Arts & Crafts, Food, Music, and more throughout Downtown Dayton

Find more information on all of our events at [www.daytonva.us](http://www.daytonva.us)

# Upcoming Town Meetings

**Regular Town Council Meeting**  
July 12 @ 6:00 pm

**Planning Commission Meeting**  
July 15 @ 6:00 pm

**Regular Town Council Meeting**  
August 9 @ 6:00 pm

**Planning Commission Meeting**  
August 19 @ 6:00 pm

**Regular Town Council Meeting**  
September 13 @ 6:00 pm

**Planning Commission Meeting**  
September 16 @ 6:00 pm

Town Meetings are now back to being in-person at Town Hall! But for those who still wish to tune in virtually, live streaming will now be available. Check our website and social media for a link to watch the meetings.

# Holiday Closings

**Labor Day:** September 6, 2021

**Columbus Day/Yorktown  
Victory Day:** October 11, 2021

# Refuse Collection Schedule

NOTE: When a holiday falls on a weekday, collection may be delayed one day for the remainder of the week.

Household trash 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.

Yard debris collected on Mondays.

Bulk/heavy items collected on first Tuesday of month. Items must be put out no more than 48 hours ahead of time and must be placed at the curbside.

Town of Dayton  
125-B Eastview Street  
Dayton, VA 22821

Phone: 540-879-2241  
Fax: 540-879-2243

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

[www.daytonva.us](http://www.daytonva.us)

## Town Special Election on November 2



Due to a resignation and appointment on council earlier this year, there will be a special town election on November 2.

Individuals interested in running must be a resident of the Town of Dayton and be registered to vote. All forms for candidacy must be completed and filed with the Rockingham County Registrar's Office by August 4 at 5:00 pm. Forms can be found on our website at [www.daytonva.us](http://www.daytonva.us).