



TOWN OF BUCHANAN

TOWN HALL NEWSLETTER



January 2022

Winter 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 from Town Hall! It has been a busy and much more of a snowy winter than expected!

The Town staff have been extremely busy, and we are catching our breath after a busy holiday season. The Festival of Lights brought people in from as far as Williamsburg, Virginia and Small Business Saturday received compliments from business owners and shoppers. We appreciate our businesses participating in the events, since visitors like to enjoy the whole Buchanan experience. We also appreciate our citizens for shopping, dining, and patronizing our many businesses throughout the Town.

The Buchanan is Open for Business event was held on Saturday, November 6, 2021 from 11AM to 1PM. This was an event to feature buildings/businesses for rent or sale to potential business owners and investors. We invited targeted businesses to generate interest. We were thrilled by participation from 11 businesses that were available to rent or buy, and follow-up questions by five potential businesses, one very serious expansion, and a few “for sale signs” on buildings, which will help buyers reach property owners, as well as one business procuring a very enthusiastic realtor to help market the building. We will regroup and host an Open House event to Gauntlet Competitors in the Spring.

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:**

If you plan to install an accessory structure (such as a storage building) or add a porch or section to your building, please see the Town first for Zoning clearance to make sure you meet requirements for setbacks.

Please report streetlight blinking/outages to our office at 540-254-1212. We will contact Dominion Energy to ask them to investigate.

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 fearlessly handling all of the Public Works challenges during the past few months

Harry Gleason for going above and beyond to create a beautiful small-town Christmas

Tina Kingery for helping us through the real estate tax and property tax season

Claudine Stump for always being on top of Council agenda packets and minutes

**American Recovery Act Program Funds (ARPA)**

- The Town has been awarded over \$900,000 in ARPA funds, which is based on population and annual budget. The funds are restricted to certain spending options, but one of the categories allowed is for water and sewer
- Council voted to purchase a much-needed sewer jetter (pictured above) and sewer camera in December, 2021, and the jetter has already been put to work, saving the Town staff time which equates to money
- Council also voted to establish a Real Estate investment program, which allocates \$40,000 towards a matching grant program to help combat blight in the Commercial, Trade and Manufacturing-zoned districts. Each brick-and-mortar business can apply for up to \$5,000 in matching funds for needs such as fencing, signage, façade improvements, awnings, and much more. Please call 540-254-1212 x4 for more information
- In the upcoming Town Council will review the next priorities for the remaining ARPA funds

**Thank you!**

Thank you to the many residents, good neighbors, business owners and VDOT for helping with snow removal on streets, sidewalks, and in parking spaces throughout Buchanan!

Thank you: Wayne Atkins (photo to the left) for clearing the snow in front of Town Hall and many other buildings, Spring Witt for stopping by to see if we need help and offering to help with snow removal, and Tim Helmick for shoveling in front of his and his neighbors' buildings!

Public Works – September-December

Miss Utilities – 35

Meter Reader Inserts Replaced - 2

Sewer Backups – 15

Sewer Line Repair - 2

Water Bills

Due to staff shortage, illness, holidays, and post office delays, you may have received your water bill late in January. We truly apologize for the inconvenience. Because of this delay, Town Council unanimously voted to move the due date to January 20th. Please call Town Hall if you are not sure of the amount due should it be late, and we'll be happy to let you know.

Please pay your water bills by:

- Online: <https://www.townofbuchanan.com/bill-payment.php>
- Drop off at Town Hall (24/7; we have a mail slot in our door) 19753 Main Street, Buchanan, VA
- Mail to PO Box 205, Buchanan, VA 24066

Buchanan's Festival of Lights

Hundreds of residents and visitors enjoyed Buchanan's Festival of Lights on the Town Park this year, we hope you were able to enjoy the lights also. During the last weekend of January, the Festival of Lights was turned back on as part of a national effort in support of our Healthcare heroes who have worked so hard during the Pandemic, thank you.

Festival of Lights has been made possible through generous donations. If you enjoyed the Festival of Lights and would like to see this activity continue and grow, you may make a donation to the Town of Buchanan Festival of Lights and mail to Town of Buchanan, Post Office Box 205, Buchanan, Virginia 24066.

The Town also thanks Shentel for hanging and removing the lighted wreaths along Main Street.

Upcoming Town Meetings:

- Thursday, February 3rd at 7PM – Work Session (Town Hall)
- Monday, February 7th at 7PM – Planning Commission (Town Hall)
- Tuesday, February 14th at 6PM – Planning Commission Public Hearing (Town Hall)
- Tuesday, February 14th at 7PM – Public Hearing and Regular Town Council Meeting (Town Hall)
- Thursday, March 3rd at 7PM – Work Session (Town Hall)
- Monday, March 7th at 7PM – Planning Commission (Town Hall)
- Monday, March 14th at 7PM – Regular Town Council Meeting (Town Hall)
- Monday, April 4th at 7PM – Planning Commission (Town Hall)
- Thursday, April 7th at 7PM – Work Session (Town Hall)
- Monday, April 11th at 7PM – Regular Meeting (Town Hall)

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.

- Presidents Day – Monday, February 21, 2022
- Memorial Day – May 30, 2022
- Juneteenth – June 20, 2022
- Independence Day – July 4, 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.

Mobile Farmers' Market - Monthly in Buchanan

(Above) Connie Kenny, Market Manager with LEAP

A new event will be happening in Buchanan the 4th Wednesday of each month! The Local Office on Aging for Botetourt and Craig County approached the Town and asked if LEAP (Local Environmental Agricultural Project, Inc.), a Roanoke-based 501 (c) 3 nonprofit and Feeding SW Virginia could set up in Buchanan. Wednesday, January 26th was LEAP's first appearance! Set up was at 1:30PM, but this may vary in upcoming months – please call Town Hall with questions.

Food is set up on tables in farmers' market style in the parking lot at the Botetourt County Resource Center. LEAP offers fresh fruit/vegetables, breads, cheeses, meats, and jams/sauces. The emphasis is to sell food from local farmers.

The LEAP markets offer Healthy Food Incentives – use SNAP / EBT (food stamps), P-EBT, or show proof of Medicaid, WIC, or TAP Head Start, and for every \$1 you spend, get an additional \$1 FREE for fruits and vegetables.

Please come and support our local farmers!

Upcoming Events

- ✓ Arbor Day
- ✓ Buchanan Garden Festival
- ✓ Town Spring Cleanup Day
- ✓ Buchanan Civil War Weekend
- ✓ Check the Town Website and Facebook Page for the latest updates on Events