

Mayor's Message
Rowlesburg: April 2025

As late spring rolls into early summer, Mother Nature's creatures, both plants and animals, are responding. There are many native flowering plants blooming now, my favorites are trilliums and redbuds. You will find both beautiful plants in abundance down the river road out of town. The trilliums, with white blooms, are located on the bank above the road and the redbuds with their fuchsia blossoms can be found along both sides of the river road. Robins, other birds, and bees are busy building nests in preparation for raising their young. For many animals their preparation for their young is less apparent. It's all part of Mother Nature's plan for renewal and preparation for a new generation.

Duty under Ordinance No. 38. My point is that we humans respond to the seasonal transition as well. We tidy up the debris left by storms and the sound of lawnmowers is everywhere. We undertake these renewal actions to make our surroundings as pleasant as possible. In doing so, I want to remind everyone about the duty of property owners to comply with Ordinance No. 38, which states in part the following:

“It shall further be the duty of every person, firm or corporation owning, leasing, occupying or possessing any lot, parcel of land or property whether vacant or occupied, to be responsible for the mowing and trimming in a proper manner of the yard and real estate of such owner and maintain and keep all abutting sidewalks swept reasonable clean and free of grass trimmings. Further such owners shall be responsible for any grass clippings or trimmings that are dropped or blown onto the roadway abutting the property and shall clean and or blow said grass clippings from the roadway.”

When grass is blown into the street, it eventually ends up in a storm drain and over time it interferes with the proper working of the storm water drainage system. Consequently, I am asking all citizens to make sure that their grass is not blown onto the sidewalk or street. If you hire someone to mow your grass, ask them to be sure to clean up any grass blown onto the sidewalk or street.

Dates for deep Spring Cleanup. Rowlesburg citizens and garbage customers may place qualified items in dumpsters located at R & B Auto off Buffalo Street starting May 16 (Friday) from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and then May 17 (Saturday) from 8 a.m. to noon. Items **PROHIBITED, NOT ALLOWED**, in the dumpsters are tires, batteries, electronics, microwaves, refrigerators or air conditioners, anything containing freon or any refrigerant compound. It's a good time to get rid of worn-out lawn furniture, mattresses or bedding, couches or other furniture, appliances (only those without freon or other refrigerant compounds), or any other “gold items” that you no longer want. The limit is one pickup truck load. If you don't have a pickup truck, place your cleanup items at the curb and call Town Hall at 304-454-2441 to arrange for pick up. Lastly when you unload, make sure your stuff goes in the dumpster and not on the ground.

Rowlesburg Dog Ordinance. Complaints from citizens are coming to Town Hall about dogs running loose in Town and defecating on neighbors' lawns. On October 11, 2004, the Rowlesburg Town Council passed a Dog Ordinance. Section 4 of that ordinance reads as follows: “No owner or keeper of any dog shall permit such dog to run at large within the corporate limits of the Town of Rowlesburg, and such dog **shall at all times be on a leash, chain, or other suitable device**, whether head tax is paid thereon or not except when upon the premises of the owner.” I should note that the Dog Ordinance applies to all times of the day, that is, both day and night. To live in peace and harmony, we must abide by our ordinances and avoid behaviors that are disgusting and potentially dangerous to our neighbors.

Banners. The Rowlesburg Area Historical Society has purchased 25 attractive banners for placing on power poles standing throughout the corridor of our Town. The intention is to place the banners starting south of Town and progressing to where Catherine Street leaves the Town going down river. Other places in Town will receive banners as well. Perhaps you have already seen the banners on poles near the center of Town. Banners have an image of a steam locomotive with a river and woodland in the background. Wording includes “Rowlesburg Historic Railroad Town.” Very nice, thank you to the Rowlesburg Area Historical Society for contributing to recognizing our heritage. The new banners are put up as time permits.

Yours truly,
Darrell
Mayor of Rowlesburg
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