

Mayor's Message
Rowlesburg: May 2025

Centenary Birthday Celebration. On June 14, Wanda Jean Wiles will turn 100 years young. What an achievement! An open house at the Kingwood Health Care Center will take place from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in celebration of her centenary birthday. Wanda Jean's family is inviting the public to attend the open house and participate in the celebration. Birthday cards sent to Wanda Jean will brighten her day. Please send her cards addressed as follows:

Wanda J. Wiles
c/o Pat Wiles
102 Pratt Ave.
Kingwood, WV 26537

Building Permits. If the rain ever stops, some may think about making improvements to their property. A Town Ordinance requires that a building permit application be submitted to the Town Council when repairs, alterations, or additions are anticipated to your property. Before the application is approved by the Town Council, it is checked for compliance with the flood plain ordinance by the flood plain coordinator. The building permit application may be picked up at the Town Hall. I can also email you one if you want.

Property Maintenance. Most everyone in Town wants their property to be well maintained and with no clutter, at least none that is visible. However, we have a few folks who, for whatever reason, do not operate under the idea of keeping a well-maintained home and a tidy yard. First, a big thank you to those who contribute to making our Town a pleasant place to live by maintaining their property in compliance with Ordinance # 38, the property maintenance ordinance. I encourage all, including those less inclined to tidiness, to keep their grass mowed, keep the grass trimmings off the sidewalks and out of the streets, and keep shrubbery trimmed so that sidewalks are open for pedestrians. Get rid of the clutter too. I also encourage everyone to clear their sidewalk of winter grit. It's important to keep grass and grit out of our storm sewer systems so that clogging them does not become a problem. Inadequate or poor property maintenance by one neighbor can adversely affect property values in the neighborhood. Let's all work to meet the standard of maintenance required in Ordinance #38. If you want a copy of Ordinance #38, please stop by Town Hall or email me.

Water and Sewer Repairs. Maybe you have noticed traffic cones marking some locations around Town. The cones on East Catherine mark the location of a yet to be resolved sanitary sewer problem. Here a sanitary manhole had been paved over and eventually, the discharge line became clogged. The result was that the sewage backed up and surfaced near the sidewalk. The manhole was pumped out, an effort to use a pressure water jet to open the line was only partially successful. Using a camera in the line did not result in finding the problem. Work will continue to find a solution.

The traffic cones on West Catherine mark the location of a frequently clogged storm sewer. A "rogue" inlet permits leaves and other debris to clog the discharge pipe. The "rogue" inlet bypasses an existing storm sewer grate, now covered, causing the problem. The solution will be to plug the "rogue" inlet and cause the storm flow to enter the existing storm sewer grate. Other storm sewer problems exist as well, particularly, on Main Street.

A water leak on South Buffalo has existed for some time. Work to resolve that problem will take place in the near future.

With the manpower the Town can afford, it is challenging to undertake all the infrastructure repairs and perform the monitoring and sampling required by state regulations in connection with our sanitary sewer system. Mowing, not only at locations in Town but, also around the lagoons or sewer ponds must be undertaken as well.

With our aging infrastructure systems, there is always a need to address some immediate repair. Other repairs and tasks are made as time permits. The goal is to maintain systems so that the health and safety of our citizens are never compromised.

Yours truly,
Darrell

Mayor of Rowlesburg
mayorofrowlesburg@gmail.com