



The Town Crier



A Newsletter from the Town of Warrenton

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Town Taxes and the Costs of Governmental Services

By Brannon Godfrey, Warrenton Town Manager

As we begin to plan for another fiscal year, I want to share with you some basic information on the sources and uses of the Town's funds.

The Town has two principle funds in which it budgets operations: the General Fund (GF) and the Water & Sewer Fund (W&SF). The GF includes governmental operations (police, fire, recreation, solid waste, streets, planning, finance, etc.) that are supported with taxes that you pay. The W&SF is the enterprise – the business – of delivering and treating drinking water and collecting and treating sewer with the charges that you pay in your monthly utility bill.

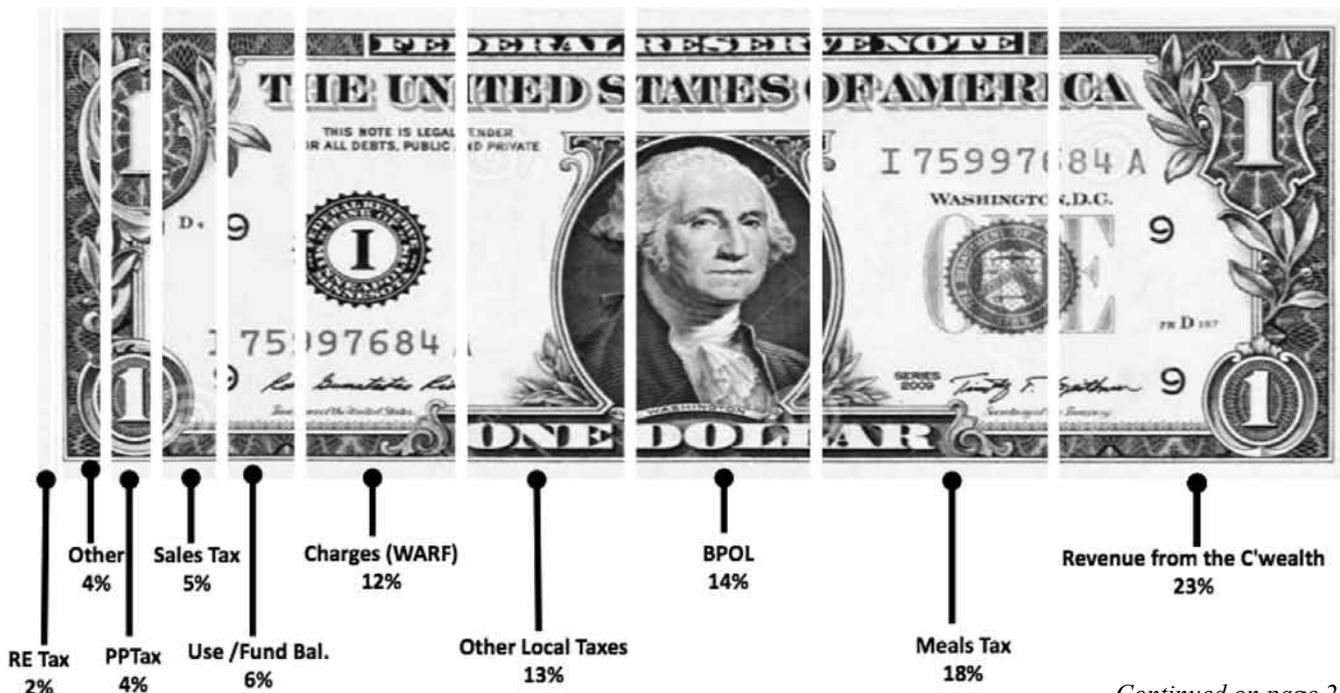
I have illustrated below the revenue sources ("where it comes from") and the expenditure uses ("where it goes") for the GF. Given the space limitations and that we have previously dealt with balancing the W&SF bud-

get and those rate increases, this article focuses only on the General Fund.

As taxpayers, we pay for most of the cost of GF operations when we spend our personal income in Town businesses. Unlike cities and counties who collect most of their GF revenue from real estate taxes, the Town taxpayers pay very little for their government services with real estate taxes. Thus the thin white border of the dollar bill is all that comes from real estate taxes, and the sections that include BPOL, meals, sales tax and other local revenues comprise 50% in the three big sections in the middle of the bill. The Commonwealth provides the next largest source of revenue with aid to localities for street maintenance and law enforcement.

To further illustrate how little of the GF we support with real estate tax revenue, the annual real estate tax bill on the median Warrenton home of \$345,300¹ is \$51.80. That's all the typical taxpayer directly pays in real estate taxes to the Town.

Where It Comes From...



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TOWN TAXES, continued from page 1.

By comparison, the costs of the principle Town government services are:

Town Service	Annual Cost	
	Total	Per Household
Solid Waste Collection	\$730,000	\$195
Police Services	\$3,000,000	\$800
Streets, Sidewalks, Parking Lots, Stormwater Facilities	\$2,200,000	\$247 ²
Parks & Recreation	\$2,000,000	\$216 ³
Fire Services	\$200,000	\$53
Community Development & Inspections ⁴	\$910,000	\$240
Government Administration, Finance & Legal	\$1,200,000	\$320
Total	\$10,240,000	\$2,071
<i>Median Real Estate Tax Revenue</i>		<i>\$51.80</i>

¹ (Zillow, 2/20/16)

² for the equivalent portion of the \$2.2M Street Budget that is local share only (\$925,000) and net of the State Aid for Street Maintenance

³ for the equivalent portion of the \$2M Recreation Budget that is supported

by GF taxes (\$810,000) but not WARF memberships and facility use revenues

⁴ Community Development includes Planning & Zoning, Visitors Center and Economic Development

So the \$51.80 in average real estate taxes paid per household barely covers a quarter of the whole year’s cost to deliver trash collection . . . alone. Or 23 days of police protection. Or 74 days of street maintenance. Or 84 days of recreation services. The point is this: real estate tax revenues cover considerably less than the whole year and the whole of government services that the tax is collected for.

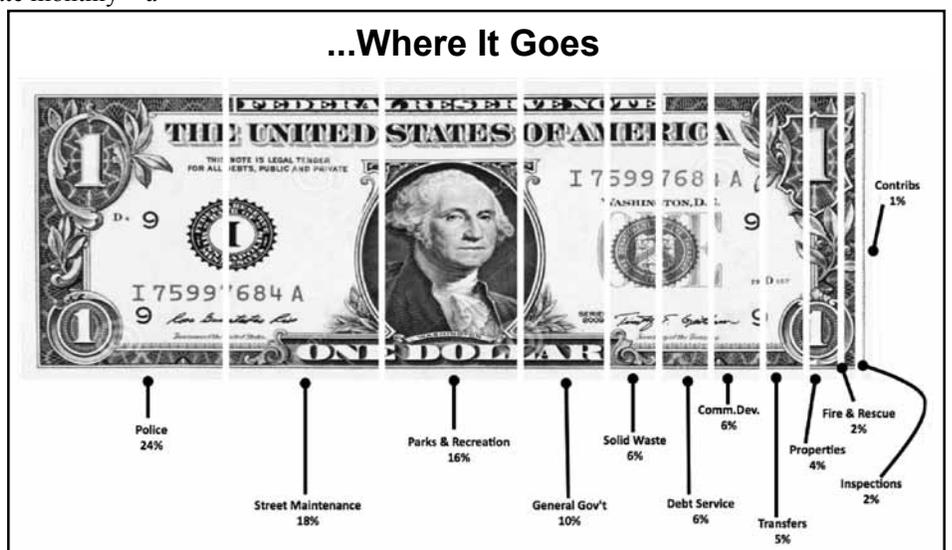
Again, the vast majority (45%) of GF revenue comes from the businesses in town where you and visitors purchase merchandise, meals and services. As Warrentonians, we can claim with pride that we have one of the lowest RE tax rates in the Commonwealth. But we are also subject to the ups and downs of the economy and consumer spending because so much of our operations is funded with BPOL, meals and sales tax revenues. Those revenues fluctuate monthly – a heavy weekend snowstorm will have a negative impact on the month’s receipts for many businesses. In contrast, real estate values are only reassessed once every four years. Even with changes in the real estate market, the real estate tax revenue is much more predictable from month to month than business taxes. We would therefore be better able to set our annual GF budget if more of it came from real estate tax revenue.

This is why we will be looking at a real estate tax rate increase in next year’s budget (FY17) – to provide more stable GF revenue, to take some of the burden off the businesses and to reduce the reliance on Town surpluses. This is not what the new Town Manager wants to

say in his first few months on the job – that he recommended raising your utility rates, and now he’s recommending raising your real estate tax rate, too. But keep the tax levy in perspective to the rate: tripling your real estate tax bill – an act punishable by tarring & feathering in most localities – increases the median homeowner tax bill to \$150/year, or an increase of a little over \$8 a month. That is still not bad for the value services previously noted. And it would only increase GF revenue share to 6% of GF revenue.

I hope this has been helpful toward understanding Town taxes, revenues and the General Fund budget. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (540) 347-1101 or email me at bgodfrey@warrentonva.gov at Town Hall. ■

Continued on page 3.



TOWN TAXES, continued from page 2.

Warrenton Tax Rates Compared to Other Localities

How do Warrenton’s tax rates compare with other localities that surround us? This table illustrates.

Locality/Tax Rate	Real Estate (\$/\$100 valuation)	Pers. Prop. (\$/\$100 valuation)	Meals (%)	Lodging (%)	Cigarette (\$/pack)
Warrenton (Rank out of 8 localities)¹	\$0.015 (7)	\$1.00 (5)	4% (4)	4% (7)	\$0.15 (5)
Fauquier County	\$0.999	\$4.65	0.0%	2.0%	\$0.00
Culpeper (Town)	\$0.110	\$1.00	6.0%	5.0%	\$0.10
Leesburg (Town)	\$0.183	\$1.00	3.5%	8.0%	\$0.75
Manassas (City)	\$1.210	\$3.25	4.0%	5.0%	\$0.65
Winchester (City)	\$0.910	\$4.50	6.0%	6.0%	\$0.25
Front Royal (Town)	\$0.013	\$0.64	4.0%	6.0%	\$0.00
Fredericksburg (City)	\$0.820	\$3.40	6.0%	6.0%	\$0.31

Locality/Tax Rate	BPOL Contracting (\$/\$100)	BPOL Retail (\$/\$100)	BPOL Pers. Service (\$/\$100)	BPOL Professional (\$/\$100)	BPOL Wholesale (\$/\$100)	Veh. License (car/MC per sticker)
Warrenton (Rank out of 8 localities)¹	\$0.085 (5)	\$0.1 (5)	\$0.187 (7)	\$0.2975 (5)	\$0.0425 (5)	\$15/\$10 (7)
Fauquier County	\$0.085	\$0.10	\$0.187	\$0.2975	\$0.04	\$25/\$15
Culpeper (Town)	\$0.080	\$0.10	\$0.290	\$0.1800	\$0.00	\$0.00
Leesburg (Town)	\$0.100	\$0.10	\$0.200	\$0.2000	\$0.075	\$25/\$15
Manassas (City)	\$0.100	\$0.12	\$0.220	\$0.3300	\$0.05	\$25/\$10
Winchester (City)	\$0.160	\$0.20	\$0.360	\$0.5800	\$0.20 ²	\$25/\$12
Front Royal (Town)	\$0.080	\$0.12	\$0.200	\$0.3600	\$0.08	\$25/\$15
Fredericksburg (City)	\$0.160	\$0.20	\$0.360	\$0.5800	\$0.05	\$20/\$10

On the whole, our rates are among the lowest in every category. If you have any questions about tax rates, please do not hesitate to call me at 347-1101 or email me at bgodfrey@warrentonva.gov at Town Hall.

¹ Ranked from 1 to 8 with #1 as the locality with the highest tax rate and #8 as the locality with the lowest tax rate. There are some tie rankings.

² \$50 for the first \$40,000 of gross purchases plus \$0.20/\$100 thereafter

Rodney Woodward Named Town Employee of the Year

Warrenton firefighter Rodney Woodward, Sr. was chosen as the Town's Employee of the Year for 2015. He received his award from Mayor Powell Duggan at the annual Town employee luncheon in December.

Aside from his regular firefighter duties, Rodney is known for his involvement in other areas of keeping the fire company going. He maintains the entire fleet of vehicles, making sure they are in a state of constant readiness, keeps the station itself up to date, and participates in training staff to handle any incident they encounter. In 2015 Rodney coordinated the department's annual smoke alarm campaign, producing the highest number of homes visited and smoke alarms distributed. He also took responsibility for equipment testing to make sure the company's gear receives its annual certification.

"I cannot stress enough the amount of pride we have for Rodney," said Warrenton Fire Chief Samuel Myers. "His hard work and dedication is very important to us, and we know the Town government, elected officials and residents feel the same way." ■

Town Police Partner With Project Lifesaver

The Town of Warrenton Police Department is pleased to announce their partnership with Project Lifesaver International, whose primary mission is to provide a timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children who wander due to Alzheimer's, autism, and other related conditions or disorders. The Project Lifesaver Program is now available to the Town's citizens.

With a generous grant awarded by an anonymous donor and the Fauquier Health Foundation, Warrenton Police officers have received specialized training and equipment to aid them in locating lost or missing adults and children, who participate in the program.

Qualified citizens will wear a battery-powered transmitter which will emit a constant radio tracking signal every second, 24 hours a day. Should this person become lost or separated from their caregiver, officers will use their training and equipment to locate the person. The national average of locating a person is approximately 30 minutes.

Caregivers wishing to participate in the Project Lifesaver Program are encouraged to contact Lt. George Southard at (540) 347-1107. There is no cost to participate.

All information received and maintained pursuant to this program and its participants is considered confidential in nature and will not be disclosed. ■



Rodney Woodward was named Employee of the Year at the Town's annual employee luncheon in December. From left: Brannon Godfrey, Town Manager; Rodney Woodward, recipient, Mayor Powell Duggan, and Sam Myers, Fire Chief, Warrenton Fire Company.

WARF Staff Receives the Lifesaving Award



From left: Denise Robey, Graham Grosvenor, David Bagenstose, Bill Brent and Patrick Foley.

WARF staff members Denise Robey, Graham Grosvenor, and Patrick Foley recently were awarded the American Red Cross Lifesaving Award for the Professional Responder. The WARF staff members were recognized for their work in saving the life of a thirteen year-old child who, due to a medical condition, was rescued from the leisure pool with no pulse and not breathing.



The Drain Is Just For Rain

Did You Know That April is National Stormwater Awareness Month?

The Town of Warrenton MS4 Stormwater Program Coordinator is seeking community volunteers to help mark stormwater drains throughout the Town during National Stormwater Awareness Month. The round plastic medallions denote that a particular drain is for rainwater only and no materials whatsoever are permitted to be dumped there.

“Many people don’t realize that when they dump materials down the storm drain they could have a negative impact on local waterways,” says Ron Battaglia, the Town’s MS4 Stormwater Program Coordinator.

Stormwater runoff and the water flowing into storm drains are not treated. Pollutants that get inside the drains contaminate local waterways, which affects aquatic life and the ability to use the water for recreational and industrial purposes.

Picking up and properly disposing of pet waste, keeping yards free of trash and debris, and taking used motor oil to a recycling facility are small things residents can do every day to help keep waterways healthy. Residents are also encouraged to report any signs of stormwater pollution by calling (540) 347-6574.

Most of the stormwater drains that need to be marked are in neighborhoods in Town. In addition to adhering the markers on top of storm drains, informational brochures will be distributed to nearby homes to make neighbors aware of the dangers of polluting stormwater.

“Storm drain marking is a quick and easy way for citizens to take an active role in keeping our waterways clean,” Ron Battaglia said.

To learn more about the drain marking initiative and volunteering with the Town’s Stormwater Management Program, contact Ron Battaglia, Town of Warrenton MS4 Stormwater Program Coordinator, at rbattaglia@warrentonva.gov or (540) 347-6574. ■



Warrenton Cemetery Clean-Up Notice

The Town of Warrenton would like to inform all citizens that it will be doing a pre-spring cleaning of the cemetery by removing all winter/Christmas flowers. All arrangements, decorations or flowers that are dead, dried up, faded or falling apart were removed as of February 29. The Town will be doing a pre-check/cleaning prior to Mother’s Day and again prior to Memorial Day. All items such as vases, saddles, baskets, etc., that you wish to keep, and any items, arrangements or containers that may have fallen off or need attention, please take care of them prior to these days. The Town appreciates your cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Public Works at (540) 347-1858. ■



Town Water Lines To Be Flushed

The Town of Warrenton Utilities Department has scheduled to begin its bi-annual flushing of the water lines throughout the water distribution system. This is a standard maintenance practice normally performed twice a year to clear the water lines of any sediment and to inspect and exercise the valves and fire hydrants in the process.

The Utility Department will be flushing water lines throughout the water system between the hours of 7:00 PM and 1:00 AM March 28 – April 28 (Monday thru Thursday).

If you experience any discoloration in your water, such as a rusty or brownish color, this can normally be resolved by running your cold water until it clears. This process usually takes two to seven minutes. Do not run the hot water to clear up the water. This only allows the discolored water to enter the hot water tank. If after all attempts have been made to clear up the water it is still discolored, please contact Warrenton Utilities Superintendent Richard Wines at (540) 347-1858 and a service person will respond.

The Town of Warrenton appreciates citizens’ cooperation in this effort as we continue to provide the best possible service. ■

Spring Clean-Up Week Scheduled

Spring Clean-Up Week for the Town of Warrenton is scheduled for April 11 – 15. Town trucks will provide extra collections in all residential areas to pick up trash, refuse and other items that cannot be handled on the regular weekly refuse schedule.

All items are to be placed on the street line by 8:00 AM of the day scheduled for your area. No return trips can be made.

All trash and refuse must be placed in proper containers. Tree trimmings and brush must be placed separately. Small clippings from bushes or shrubs should be bagged and placed with regular refuse. Town crews will not pick up tree trimmings and brush cut by tree companies and contractors; it is the responsibility of the contractor/company doing the work. All metal must be separated from wood and placed separately.

The Town will pick up Freon appliances (air conditioning units, humidifiers/de-humidifiers, refrigerators, freezers, etc.) A local recycling company takes the items and drains the Freon at no cost so we are able to pick them up. If you place a refrigerator or freezer out for pick up, the door must be removed.

Also for this collection we will pick up tires, but there is a fee of \$3 per tire. This collection is only for car and pickup truck tires; nothing bigger than a standard pickup truck tire will be taken. To have tires picked up (with or without rims) you must pay \$3 per tire. This is the amount the County Landfill charges. Call Public Works in advance to make arrangements. If the fee is not paid in advance, or no arrangements have been made, the tires will not be picked up. To make arrangements or if you have questions call Public Works at (540) 347-1858.

Items The Town Will Not Pick Up

- Dirt, rocks or sod
- Stumps and large logs
- Concrete, blocks, bricks, slabs and masonry products
- Mattresses and box springs
- TVs, computers and monitors, printers, copiers and fax machines
- Battery packs
- Liquid chemicals, antifreeze or paint

Some of these items can be recycled at the landfill; there are fees to dispose of some of them. For more information on the cost or when you can take any of the items listed to



the landfill, call the Fauquier County Waste Management Office at (540) 422-8840. If any of these items are set out during Clean-Up Week, they will not be picked up. If you have paint cans that are empty or dried up, remove the lid and we will pick them up.

Collection Schedule

(See area map on page 7.)

Area A	Monday, 4/11/16
Area B	Tuesday, 4/12/16
Area C	Wednesday, 4/13/16
Area D	Thursday, 4/14/16
Area E	Friday, 4/15/16 ■

Holiday Refuse Schedule

Memorial Day – May 30

Monday, 5/30/16 – Holiday; no refuse collection
Tuesday, 5/31/16 – Double collection; Monday and Tuesday's refuse
Wednesday, 6/1/16 – Recycling collections (newspaper, cardboard, bags)
Thursday, 6/2/16 – Regular refuse collection
Friday, 6/3/16 – Regular refuse collection

Independence Day – July 4

Monday, 7/4/16 – Holiday; no refuse collection
Tuesday, 7/5/16 – Double collection; Monday and Tuesday's refuse
Wednesday, 7/6/16 – Recycling collections (newspaper, cardboard, bags)
Thursday, 7/7/16 – Regular refuse collection
Friday, 7/8/16 – Regular refuse collection

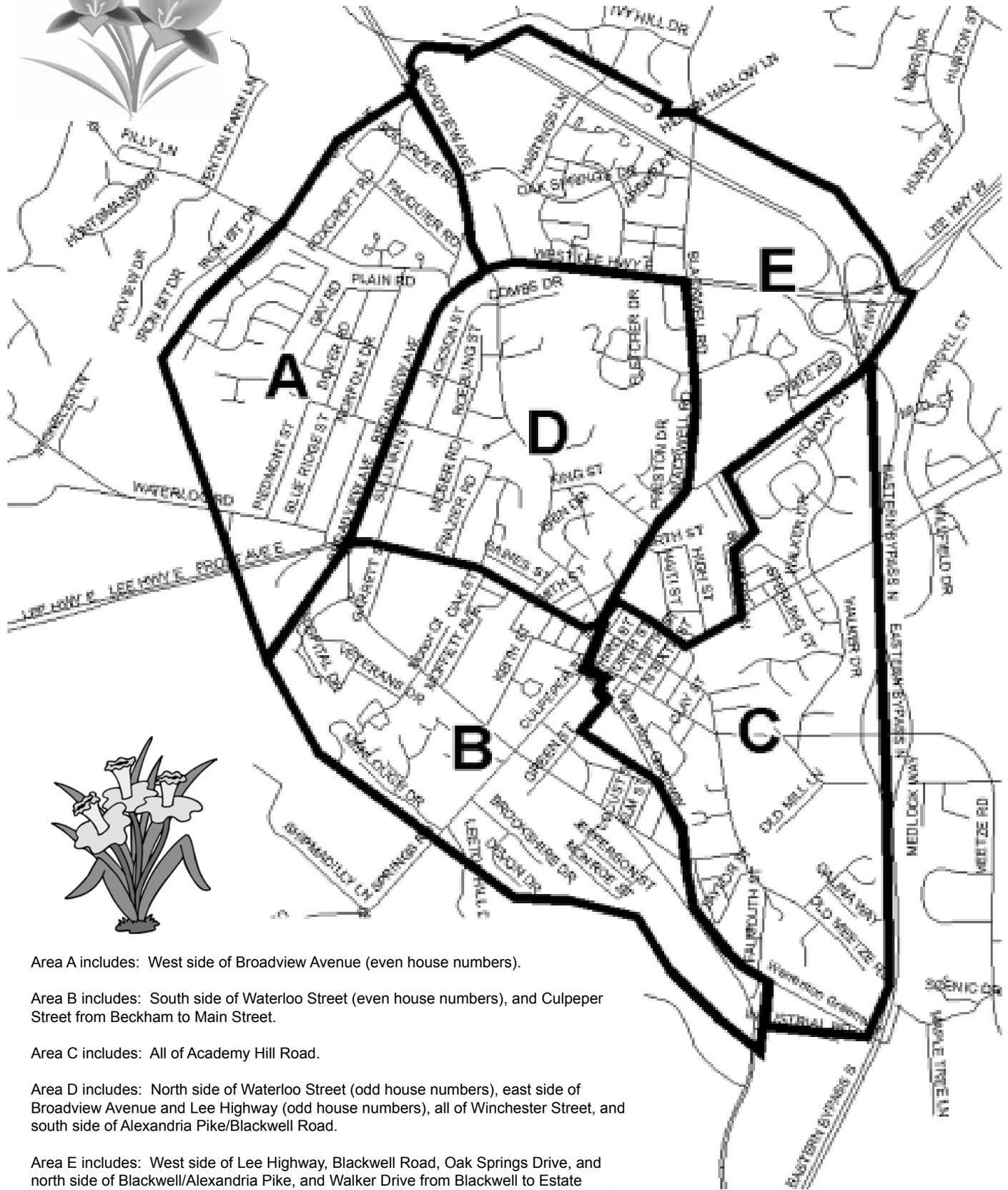
Labor Day – September 5

Monday, 9/5/16 – Holiday; no refuse collection
Tuesday, 9/6/16 – Double collection; Monday and Tuesday's refuse
Wednesday, 9/7/16 – Recycling collections (newspaper, cardboard, bags)
Thursday, 9/8/16 – Regular refuse collection
Friday, 9/9/16 – Regular refuse collection

NOTE: There will be a refuse truck available at the Public Works Facility (360 Falmouth Street). This is for household refuse only; no furniture, electronics or miscellaneous items. ■

Town Area Map

(for special collections)



Area A includes: West side of Broadview Avenue (even house numbers).

Area B includes: South side of Waterloo Street (even house numbers), and Culpeper Street from Beckham to Main Street.

Area C includes: All of Academy Hill Road.

Area D includes: North side of Waterloo Street (odd house numbers), east side of Broadview Avenue and Lee Highway (odd house numbers), all of Winchester Street, and south side of Alexandria Pike/Blackwell Road.

Area E includes: West side of Lee Highway, Blackwell Road, Oak Springs Drive, and north side of Blackwell/Alexandria Pike, and Walker Drive from Blackwell to Estate Avenue.



Town Office Hours and Telephone Numbers

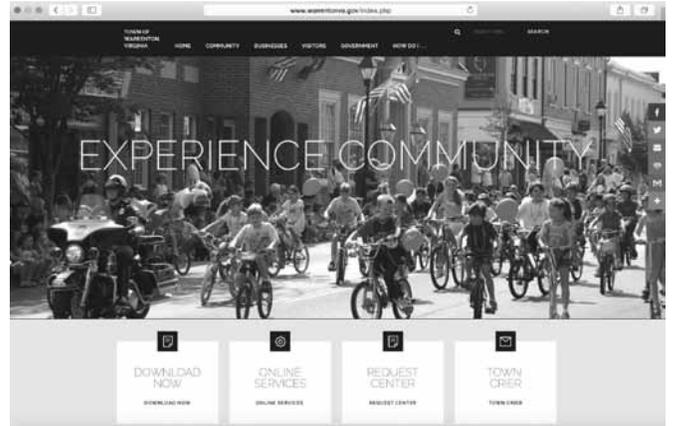
Town Office Hours are 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

The area code is 540 unless otherwise noted.

Economic Development.....	422-8275
Finance Department.....	347-1102
Fire Department.....	347-0522
Inspections.....	347-2405
Maintenance Shop.....	347-1858
Police Department	
Office of the Chief.....	347-1105
Police Station.....	347-1107
Non-emergency.....	347-1100
Emergency.....	911
Planning and Zoning.....	347-2405
Recreation Department (Aquatic Center).....	349-2520
Recycling.....	347-1858
Sewage Plant.....	347-1104
Town Hall.....	347-1101
Town Manager.....	347-4505
Utilities.....	347-6574
Water Bills.....	347-2678
Water Plant.....	347-1103
TTD/TTY.....	1-800-828-1120

**After Hours Water and Sewer Emergency
347-1100**

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- Powell L. Duggan, Mayor.....powell@duggan.com 347-1871
- Sunny Reynolds, Vice Mayor.....sreynolds@warrentonva.gov 349-0040
- Sean M. Polster, At Large.....spotster@warrentonva.gov 428-3048
- Jerry M. Wood, Ward One.....woodjcm@verizon.net 349-1372
- Joan R. Williams, Ward Two.....347-4057
- Yakir M. Lubowsky, Ward Three.....ylubowsky@warrentonva.gov 341-1992
- Robert H. Kravetz, Ward Four.....bobkrv@warrentonva.gov 349-2012
- John S. Lewis, Ward Five.....heyls@warrentonva.gov 347-3766

TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Crier is published by the Warrenton Town Council to inform citizens of the major events which affect our government and community.

The Town Crier

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