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A Quarterly Insight into your City Government

On the Move

State Auditor Meets with City Officials

Dates to Remember:

- Feb. 7 – Council Mtg. 6pm*
- Feb. 8 – BZA Mtg. 6pm*
- Feb. 9 – Planning Mtg. 4:30pm*
- Feb. 10-Landmarks Mtg 5pm*
- Feb. 14-WSB Mtg. 4:30pm*
- Feb.15-Chamber Mtg. 5:30pm*
- Feb. 17-Code of Appeals 6pm*
- Feb.23-Public Mtg. ARPA*
- Mar. 7 – Council Mtg. 6pm*
- Mar.8 – BZA Mtg. 6pm*
- Mar.10-Landmarks Mtg 5pm*
- Mar.14 – WSB Mtg. 4:30pm*
- Mar.14 – Cemetery Bd. 9am*
- Mar.15-Chamber Mtg. 5:30pm*
- Mar.17-Code of Appeals 6pm*
- Mar.18-Parks & Rec. 2pm*



JB McCuskey, WV State Auditor, met with City of Weston officials on Wednesday, January 26 at the Weston Municipal Building. Accompanied by his Deputy Chief of Staff, Kallie Cart, McCuskey discussed the Community Resurrection and Economic Development Act that will be introduced this legislative session. This Act will help people stay in their homes, help communities deal with dilapidated buildings and attract people to live and invest in our communities. The bill is intended to revolutionize the way the Land Bank is operated in West Virginia and will set aside \$30 million dollars to help cities and counties demolish buildings that cannot be saved. The first goal addresses properties that can be saved and incentivizes ownership and repurposing of abandoned lands.

If the taxes are delinquent and the property ends up in the Auditor's Office, it will first be offered to owners of neighboring parcels of land, then the city or county in which it sits, then nonprofit corporations and charitable groups. The second piece of the legislation deals with helping communities tear down dilapidated structures. Auditor McCuskey believes awarding larger, regional contracts to tear down several buildings at once will provide a major cost savings to the state, cities, and counties. Other highlights include creating a uniform process for collection and enforcement of property taxes; changing the methodology for calculating interest and penalties; shortening the time periods for redeeming delinquent taxes and returning abandoned property back to the books before it is uninhabitable.



Don't Forget Chocolate Lover's Feast - Feb. 12 from 1 – 3 pm!

New Recycling Center Location

Last fall, the City of Weston was awarded a REAP Grant to move the location of the recycle bins from the Weston Municipal Building to the former Mountain State Waste facility on N. Main Avenue in Weston.

The concrete foundation was completed, as well as the construction of a fence, at the new location. Mountain State Waste employees will be moving the bins to the new location and it will be up and running on February 9th.

We wish to thank JP Phillips at Mountain State Waste, Councilor Sherry Rogers, Steve Rogers and City Clerk Judy Piercy for working to obtain this grant.

WSB news >>>

Our History of Sludge

Sludge management was not part of the original scope for the plant planned in the 1990's for two reasons: lack of funding and reduced necessity. When the new plant was designed, it was designed at a larger capacity than the then existing plant due to the prospects of a resort/casino in Weston. To accommodate the size of the plant and the anticipated increase in flow – the cost of construction increased, taking away flexibility of design and the opportunity to include sludge management in the plans.

When the latest project was being planned in 2005, there was still not enough biomass being produced to create sludge that needed addressed. The lack of biomass was a problem for the former operator. There was a low strength of sewage coming in and how it affected operations. For these reasons, sludge management continued not to be a priority.

In 2015, operations at the plant changed. At this time, projects were completed by the WSB to reduce inflow and bring more sewage to the plant through the JL extension. Sludge began to increase. It was beginning to be noted in both DEP and EPA inspections about the excess sludge buildup. By this point, the new project was already designed and permitted. It was too late to include include in the original project. Included in the project centered on removing sludge in one of the existing holding tanks so it could be converted to an equalization tank.

During the final design of the last project, sludge measurements were taken in the holding tank and it was determined there was more sludge than originally planned. The budget for sludge removal was increased but did not supply enough funds to remedy the situation.

Thanks to the Lewis County Commission and the City of Weston for recognizing the imperative need and assisting with funding to remove sludge at the plant. The WSB is currently working to remedy the current issue. In the meantime, requests for proposals from engineers are being sought to provide a long-term solution for sludge at the plant.

Should citizens have any questions, please feel free to contact Brock Perkins, Plant Operator or Dee Evans, Director, at (304)269-1300.

Grant Submissions Are On Tap

City of Weston has completed the Letter of Intent to apply for the second round of funding through the WV Department of Arts, Culture and History. The Phase II Grant application is due March 30th. The city of Weston will be applying for \$99,999 with matching funds required equalling \$99,999. The City's intent is to write additional grants to cover the matching funds requirement.

The City of Weston has also applied for a grant through the WV Humanities Council for \$20,000 (Cash Match \$5000) for programming.

The process for applying for other grants to assist with matching funds has also begun. We will be applying for a Preservation Alliance of WV Grant in the amount of \$200,000. This requires a 15% in-kind match. Donated labor and materials count towards the match.

\$1500 is being sought from the WV Humanities Council for an ongoing oral history project. This is a no match grant and in conjunction with an ongoing project for NEH Grant already submitted in January 2022.

None of the possibilities of funding would be possible without the help of a professional and faithful crew. Thank you to Anna Cardelli, Chelsea Hathaway McCarthy, Victoria Stansberry, Jamie Billman an HLC Americorp volunteer. Your efforts provide hope and marked improvements in the community.

Chocolate Lover's Feast – February 12th

The City of Weston, through a grant from the Division of Culture and History is pleased to offer assistance to the Museum of American Glass in West Virginia for their annual Chocolate Feast. The event will be held on Saturday, February 12th from 1 – 3 pm at the Glass Museum. Attendees will have the option to dine in or pay for a carryout box of their choice of chocolates. Pre-filled boxes may also be available. The charge will be \$10.00 for guests and \$5.00 for persons who donate chocolate. The volunteers at the Glass Museum are seeking persons who are willing to make chocolate for the event. A volunteer will be present at the Glass Museum on Friday, February 11th to receive chocolate donations.

The Glass Museum depends largely on the funding generated from the Chocolate Festival. The volunteers are to be commended for their devotion to our glass heritage by putting together such a stellar attraction in Weston that draws tourists and donations from all over the world. Their Chocolate Festival is a classy affair - as these volunteers pay attention to every minute detail. The organizers are very warm and welcoming as they look forward to interacting with friends and neighbors who come to enjoy the afternoon's offerings and support the fabulous work of the museum.

For more information about volunteering or donating chocolate, please contact Fay Bell at (304)269-4761 or the Museum of American Glass in West Virginia at (304)269-5006. Please note that dine in or carryout options may change contingent on health guidelines due to the coronavirus pandemic.