

# THE STRASBURG SIGNAL

*Discover the Different Sides of Strasburg*



**STRASBURG  
VIRGINIA**

[www.strasburgva.com](http://www.strasburgva.com)

Official Newsletter of the Town of Strasburg, Virginia

September 2023

The Strasburg Signal is published monthly by Town Staff to inform citizens about Town programs, services, and events. Your feedback is welcome. For suggestions, please contact the Town Office at 174 East King Street, PO Box 351, Strasburg, VA 22657, call (540) 465-9197, or email [info@strasburgva.com](mailto:info@strasburgva.com).

## **DID YOU KNOW.....THE SPOTTED LANTERNFLY IS NOW IN SHENANDOAH COUNTY**

Town residents have called, reporting the sightings of the Spotted Lanternfly. Joanne Royaltey, Consumer Horticulture and Invasive Species Program Associate with the Virginia Cooperative Extension, will give a presentation on this invasive species at the Council Work Session on Tuesday, September 5 at 7 p.m. Following this presentation, residents can pick up literature at the front counter of Town Hall. Additional information can be found at: <https://ext.vt.edu/agriculture/commercial-horticulture/spotted-lanternfly.html>.

## **DID YOU KNOW....SEPTEMBER TAX TIDBIT**

Just a reminder.....we will begin adding DMV stops to Personnel Property tax accounts that have a past due balance beginning in September. If your account has a stop placed on it, there is an additional \$45 fee to release the stop.



**2023 Second half taxes will be due on Dec. 5.**

### **ONGOING PROJECTS WITHIN THE TOWN:**

Utility easement work by TC Energy (work being done by Apex Pipeline Services, Inc.). The locations of work include:

- North side of Borden Mowery Drive
- Between I-81 and Cedar Spring Drive
- Through the Cedar Spring Estate subdivision, between Spring Place and Cedar Spring Drive.
- Utility meter reading upgrades – meters being installed by National Metering Services, Inc.
- Comcast underground and overhead line installation.

### **SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

9/4 – Town Office CLOSED – LABOR DAY	26 – Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
9/5 – Council Work Session, 7 p.m.	28 – ARB, 7 p.m. (TBD)
9/12 – Town Council, 7 p.m.	

## September 10th 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm **DOGGIE DIP**

295 PARK ROAD  
STRASBURG, VA 22657



MORE INFORMATION  
[WWW.STRASBURGVA.COM](http://WWW.STRASBURGVA.COM)  
ON FACEBOOK @DISCOVERSTRASBURG

Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Donations will be accepted on behalf of the Human Society of Shenandoah County

For the safety of dogs and owners, all dogs must:

- Be accompanied by a responsible adult handler age 16+.
- Be leashed when not in the water.
- All dogs should be vaccinated and they must be in good health to participate. A waiver/terms and conditions form must be signed upon entering.
- Dogs and/or handlers who display any sign of aggression or lack of control will be asked to leave immediately.

Doggie Dip Rules & Additional Information:

- The main pool will be used for dogs of all sizes and the tot pool will be used for small dogs only.
- Users of the facility do so at their own risk. Owners are responsible for the actions of their dogs. All dogs must be leashed when not in the water.
- Dogs must be accompanied by a responsible handler 16+ years of age. Maximum 2 dogs per handler. Handler is also required to clean up after their dog.
- NO HUMAN SWIMMING is allowed in the pool with the dogs at any time.
- Friends and family members are welcome to attend!
- Dog life vests are allowed. Feel free to bring their favorite toys to play with as well!
- No puppies under 4 months are permitted.

The Town of Strasburg does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from public assistance programs, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program of activity funded by USDA Rural Development.



## CHILDREN'S DAY

Strasburg Museum  
440 East King St.  
Strasburg, VA

Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
**FREE ADMISSION**

TREASURE HUNT with PRIZES  
MODEL TRAIN  
CRAFT (make a souvenir on an antique sewing machine)  
FACE PAINTING  
BARREL TRAIN  
FIDDLE MUSIC  
CORN BOX (play in loose corn kernels)  
GIVEAWAYS (including Strasburg History booklet for children and railroad materials)

# Strasburg Ghost Walking Tours ARE BACK!



The Strasburg Heritage Association  
and the Town of Strasburg will host  
ghost tours for two evenings on  
October 21 & 22, 2023

First tour starts at 6 pm with the last one leaving at 8 pm

**TOURS WILL BE HELD AT THE STRASBURG  
VISITOR AND INFORMATION CENTER AT  
HUPP'S HILL**

**COST IS A FREE-WILL DONATION TO THE STRASBURG  
HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**

*Look for more information in next month's newsletter!*



### September Library Happenings

**September Is Library Card Month!** Fee waived to replace your lost library card in September. Or stop by anytime and renew your card or get a card. Unlock priceless treasures with your library card.

**Thurs. Sept. 7th & 21st, 1—2 p.m. Knit & Knatter.** Bring your needle-work. All welcome! 1st floor Quiet Room.

**Fri. Sept. 8th, 1—2 p.m. All Booked Up!** Informal book discussion— come with your latest good read. All welcome! 1st floor parlor.

**Wednesdays 10 a.m. Baby Rhyme Time**

**Thursdays 10 a.m. Pre-School Story Time**

### BIG THANKS!

Our Library's ADA construction is finished! Watch for news of an October Open House. Big kudos to the following who delivered quality, on-time service:

- Cornerstone Technologies in Quickburg—internet cabling
- Provost Construction—carpentry and floor installation
- Ratcliffe Concrete—new handicapped parking pad
- Virginia Automatic Door Company—installation of automatic door

**Want a fun volunteer opportunity? Stop by the Library for an application!**

Strasburg Community Library 195 W. King Street 540-465-8464 Follow us on Facebook

# BOOK SIGNING

1:00 pm to 3 pm

**Sunday, Sept. 24**

**Strasburg Visitor Center**

33229 Old Valley Pike, Strasburg, VA 22657  
(540) 465-5884

Come "Meet and Greet" the author and members of the Fisher's Hill Ladies Project on the occasion of their first public signing.

It's your opportunity to ask about the three unusual urban women who spent years living and working in the northern Shenandoah Valley, including Fisher's Hill, Middletown, and Winchester.

*All three women were devout Catholics, yet their gender-defying careers set them apart during an era of narrowly proscribed expectations for women.*

*The Fisher's Hill Ladies Project was created to research the rich details of their stories, culminating in this 400-page softbound volume.*

**"...generously illustrated  
and an engaging read"**



Books on sale at the  
Strasburg Visitor Center  
beginning August 25, 2023



# Press Release

## Town of Strasburg

### TOWN DECLARES DROUGHT EMERGENCY CONDITION

As a result of low river flow levels in the North Fork of the Shenandoah, **the Town of Strasburg hereby declares a Drought Emergency Condition and requires all residents and businesses to begin water conservation measures.**

In accordance with the Virginia Water Protection withdrawal permit issued by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the provisions set forth by the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Water Supply Plan, the Town of Strasburg is required to follow a drought response plan. Should river flow levels fall below a seven-day moving average of 90 cubic feet/second (cfs), the Town of Strasburg will declare a Drought Emergency Condition. As of August 9th, 2023, the seven-day average flow had dropped to 70 cfs. The following mandatory actions will be implemented for the duration of the declared emergency. The non-essential uses listed below are prohibited during the drought emergency.

### DROUGHT EMERGENCY CONDITION

The following non-essential water use will be prohibited during periods of declared drought emergencies. Below each non-essential use is a list of exceptions. These prohibitions and exceptions will apply to uses from all sources of water. The conservation actions listed in the Drought Watch and Warning sections listed shall also become mandatory during a Drought Emergency Condition.

Water use restrictions shall not apply to the agricultural production of food or fiber, the maintenance of livestock including poultry, nor the commercial production of plant materials so long as best management practices are applied to assure the minimum amount of water is utilized.

### NON-ESSENTIAL WATER USE PROHIBITIONS (DROUGHT EMERGENCY CONDITION)

❖ Exceptions are listed below each use.

#### •Unrestricted non-commercial watering (public or private)

##### Lawn Irrigation

*Exceptions:*

- Newly sodded and seeded areas may be irrigated to establish cover on bare ground at the minimum rate necessary for no more and a period of 60 days. Irrigation rates may not exceed one inch of applied water in any 7 day period. Consider delaying seeding or sodding of new lawns.
- Gardens, bedding plants, trees, shrubs and other landscape material may be watered with hand held containers not exceeding three (3) gallons in capacity. Watering may be done between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. to avoid the heat of the day. Do not use sprinklers.

#### •Athletic Field Irrigation

*Exceptions:*

- Athletic fields may be irrigated between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. at a rate not to exceed one inch per application of more than a total of one inch in multiple applications during any ten day period. All irrigation water must fall on the playing surfaces with no outlying areas receiving irrigation water directly from irrigation heads.
- Athletic fields may be irrigated between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. during necessary overseeding, sprigging or resodding operations at the minimum rate necessary for a period that does not exceed 60 days. Irrigation rates during this restoration period may not exceed one inch of applied water in any seven day period.
- All allowed athletic field irrigation must be applied in a manner to assure that no runoff, puddling or excessive watering occurs.
- Irrigation is prohibited on athletic fields that are not scheduled for use within the next 120 days.

#### •Washing of paved surfaces such as streets, roads, sidewalks, driveways, garages, parking areas, tennis courts and patios.

*Exceptions:*

- Surfaces may be washed with hand held containers not exceeding three (3) gallons in capacity. Washing should not occur during the heat of the day.
- As needed to ensure public health and safety and approved by the Town of Strasburg.

#### • Use of water for the operation of ornamental fountains, artificial waterfalls, misting machines, and reflection pools.

*Exceptions:*

- Fountains and other means of aeration necessary to support aquatic life are permitted.

#### • Serving water in restaurants, clubs, or eating places.

*Exceptions:*

- May only be allowed at the specific request of the customer.

#### • Washing or cleaning of mobile equipment including automobiles, trucks, trailers, and boats.

*Exceptions:*

- Mobile equipment may be washed at car washes that utilize reclaimed water as part of the wash process or reduce water consumption by at least 10% when compared to a similar period when water use restrictions were not in effect. Any facility operating a reclaimed water system must prominently display, in public view, a sign stating that such a recycling system is in operation.
  - Mobile equipment may be washed using hand held containers not exceeding three (3) gallons in capacity or hand held hoses equipped with automatic shutoff devices provided that no mobile equipment is washed more than once per calendar month and the minimum amount of water is utilized.

- Automobile dealers and rental agencies may wash cars that are in inventory no more than once per week utilizing hand held containers not exceeding three (3) gallons in capacity, hoses equipped with automatic shutoff devices, automated equipment that utilizes reclaimed water as part of the wash process, or automated equipment where water consumption is reduced by at least 10% when compared to a similar period when water us restrictions were not in effect

- **Filling and topping off outdoor swimming pools.**

*Exceptions:*

- Newly built or repaired pools may be filled to protect their structural integrity.
- Outdoor pools operated by commercial ventures, community associations, recreation associations, and similar institutions open to the public may be refilled as long as:
  - *Levels are maintained at mid-skimmer depth or lower.*
  - *Any visible leaks are immediately repaired.*
  - *Backwashing occurs only when necessary to assure proper filter operation.*
  - *Deck areas are washed no more than once per calendar month (except where chemical spills or other hazards occur).*
  - *All water features (other than slides) that increase losses due to evaporation are eliminated, and*
  - *Slides are turned off when the pool is not in operation.*
  - *Swimming pools operated by health care facilities used in relation to patient care and rehabilitation may be filled or topped off.*

**DROUGHT WATCH and WARNING (Mandatory while in a Drought Emergency)**

All water users are encouraged to implement the following water conservation measures:

- **Reduce or eliminate OUTSIDE water consumption by implementing the following actions:**

- Mow lawns to 3 inches or more and leave clippings (higher cut encourages grass roots to grow deeper to hold soil moisture better than closely clipped lawn).
- Use mulch around plants to reduce evaporation.
- Aerate lawn to reduce evaporation.
- Avoid fertilizing your lawn. Fertilizer applications increase the need for water.
- Place rain barrels under gutter downspouts to collect water for plants, car washing, or general cleaning projects.
- Avoid washing cars and other vehicles.

- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways, walks and patios.
- Do not wash hard surfaces or buildings.
- Do not plant new landscaping or grass.

- **Reduce or eliminate INSIDE water consumption by implementing the following actions:**

- Using automatic dishwasher only when load is full.
- Installing faucet aerators, low-flow shower heads, and water efficient toilets.
- Avoiding running water to get cold temperature; keep a pitcher of cold water in the refrigerator.
- Minimizing use of garbage disposal.
- Limiting showers to 5 to 10 minutes / day / person.
- Wrapping hot water heater and pipes with insulating material.

**It should be noted that these are MANDATORY water conservation measures and restrictions.** Anyone found in violation of the Emergency Drought restrictions is subject to penalties as established by the Town Code Section 86-40 and Section 86-41.

Should additional, mandatory measures be required, citizens will be notified. Please contact the Town office with any questions, and monitor the Town’s website and social media outlets for additional information.