

The Strasburg Signal



www.strasburgva.com

Official Newsletter of the Town of Strasburg, Virginia

February 2015

The Strasburg Signal is published monthly by Town staff to inform citizens about town programs, services, and events. Your feedback is welcome. Please fill out the comment section below and return to the Town Office at 174 East King Street, PO Box 351, Strasburg, VA 22657, or call (540) 465-9197, or email info@strasburgva.com.

YourGOV

The Town of Strasburg is pleased to introduce YourGOV, an innovative citizen request application that allows community members to conveniently report non-emergency issues and service requests using the web or a smartphone.

In just three steps, YourGOV users can submit common issues, such as potholes, vandalism, street light outages, and more, complete with location, details, and photos. Once submitted, YourGOV will automatically deliver requests to the town's Public Works Department where they are reviewed and routed for proper handling.

The town has also adopted Cartegraph, a leading operations management system. Cartegraph gives the Town of Strasburg powerful tools for managing its day-to-day operations. Working in tandem, YourGOV and Cartegraph will help the town manage citizen requests and resolve them more efficiently than ever before.

YourGOV is being offered free of charge and is available for immediate use. Visit the web-based portal at: yourgov.cartegraph.com

Users of the Apple iPhone can download the free YourGOV iPhone app in the iTunes App Store. Users of Android enabled smartphones can download the free YourGOV app in the Google Play Store.

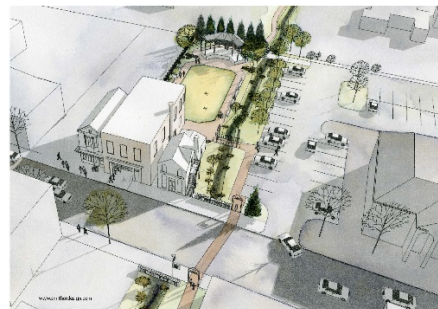
DOWNTOWN STRASBURG COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) IMPLEMENTATION APPLICATION UNDERWAY

The Downtown Strasburg Economic Restructuring Plan is now available online at www.strasburgva.com. The Council reviewed the Plan at their work session on January 5, 2015 and directed staff to move forward with three items to prepare for the Community Development Block Grant implementation application: funding for a downtown revolving loan fund to help existing and future downtown businesses; a façade improvement grant program to assist commercial property owners within the designated project area with rehabilitating the exteriors of their buildings and making other exterior improvements that enhance the downtown

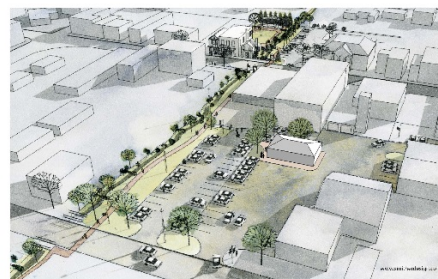
environment; and funding for the capital improvements to the Brill property, the pedestrian path, and parking area behind the Strasburg Fire Department. Elements of the application will be discussed at the Council Work Session on February 17, 2015 at 7:00 pm at Town Hall.

Any CDBG grant that might be awarded must be applied to improvements in a designated project area for the purpose of eliminating blight and blighting influences, addressing economic blight, or improving public infrastructure or tourism assets. The application is due March 25, 2015 and a public hearing on the application is planned for March 10, 2015. If awarded, this Grant could bring an additional \$1,000,000 of investment into our downtown. Please visit our website for updates or contact Kimberly L. Murray, Economic Development & Planning Manager at kmurray@strasburgva.com.

Brill Property Plan:



Parking Plan:



WINTER WEATHER UPDATE

Winter is here and along with winter comes snow and ice. When storms hit the area, please remember to clear the sidewalk in front of your home or business within six (6) daylight hours of snowfall ending; doing this will help keep pedestrians safe and make it easier for school children to board a bus.



Also, if you are a business owner or resident on King Street where the streetscape project has been completed, please remember to use your sand bucket and apply **ONLY** sand to the new sidewalks. This will help ensure our sidewalks last for many years.



WINTER DRIVING SAFETY TIPS

Winter driving can be hazardous and scary. Of course, it is best to stay off the roads until roads are cleared, but this is not always possible. OSHA reports the three P's for Safe Winter Driving are:

PREPARE for the trip;
PROTECT yourself; and
PREVENT crashes on the road.

Below are some safety tips provided by AAA, Cartalk, and OSHA:

- Clear your vehicle completely of snow and ice. This is important no matter how long or far you plan to drive.
- Make sure your tires are inflated properly.
- Maintain your car: check battery, windshield wipers, tire tread, antifreeze, and windshield washer solution.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze-up.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface (wet, snow, ice, sand).
- It takes longer to stop in snow and ice. Increase your following distance. When driving in snow, do everything slowly --- accelerate slowly, brake slowly, and turn slowly.
- Watch for pedestrians walking in the road.
- Watch weather reports prior to traveling long-distances. If bad weather is in the forecast, delay traveling, if possible; if not, be sure to let others know your route, destination, and estimated time of arrival.
- If you become stalled, **stay with your vehicle** and don't overexert yourself trying to

push or dig yourself out. Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna or place a cloth at the top or a rolled up window to signal distress and make sure the exhaust pipe isn't clogged with snow.

- **BUCKLE UP AND USE CHILD SAFETY SEATS PROPERLY AT ALL TIMES. DISTANCE OF TRIP DOES NOT MATTER!!!**



Prepare for bad weather by keeping the following in your vehicle at all times during winter months:

- Flashlight
- Jumper cables
- Abrasive material (sand, kitty litter, or even floor mats)
- Shovel
- Snow brush and ice scraper
- Warning devices (flares)
- Blankets and extra winter clothing, especially boots
- Food, water, medication, and a cell phone

DMV2Go

Do you have business you need to take care of with the Department of Motor Vehicles, but can't find the time to go to the DMV or don't want to wait in a long line? We have the answer for you! **The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) mobile unit will be visiting the Town Hall on Tuesday, February 10.** This is a good time to report vehicles that have been sold, renew registrations, or renew your driver's license. It's basically a DMV office on wheels, offering all the same services as a regular DMV office.



TRASH & RECYCLING SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY:

- Wednesday, Feb. 4: **Trash Collection ONLY**
- Wednesday, Feb. 11: **Trash & Recycling Collection**
- Wednesday, Feb. 18: **Trash Collection ONLY**
- Wednesday, Feb. 25: **Trash & Recycling Collection**

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2 – Council Work Session, 7 p.m.	23 – Finance & Personnel Comm., 5 p.m. Ordinance Comm., 7 pm
10 – Town Council, 7 p.m.	24 – Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
17 - Council Work Session, 7 p.m.	26 – ARB, 7 p.m.