



# The Strasburg Signal



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

Official Newsletter of the Town of Strasburg, Virginia

August 2016

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, or call (540) 465-9197, or email [info@strasburgva.com](mailto:info@strasburgva.com)

## DID YOU KNOW.....

There is a new face at Town Hall! Meet Michelle Bixler.

### **“Welcome home!”**

I hear those words all over town these days as I tell people my story of growing up in New Market, working for a few years in the deep south, settling in Oregon for 10 years, and finally, coming back home to the valley. And I have to say, it feels good to be back!



While I was gone, I gained a broad variety of experience in the nonprofit, private and public sectors. Mostly, I did development, outreach, community engagement, public relations and marketing work, and I also volunteered for organizations focused on community and economic development.

My husband and I had been contemplating moving our two kids across the country to be closer to my family for several years. When I saw the job posting for the Economic Development and Marketing Manager position, I couldn't NOT apply. It felt like the perfect fit, and when I met the folks at Town Hall that I would be working with, I KNEW it was a perfect fit.

So thank you, Strasburg, for allowing me the opportunity to come home and serve our community! I look forward to hearing your ideas for how to keep and grow the assets we have, bringing in resources to help accomplish our goals, and just generally supporting and promoting our beautiful town.

*Michelle Bixler*

## ACTIVE SHOOTER WORKSHOP

Hopefully, this is something the Strasburg community will never have to deal with, but in an effort to help our citizens be prepared, the Strasburg Police Department, in conjunction with the Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce, will host an Active Shooter Workshop on **Wednesday, August 10, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.** at the Strasburg Town Hall. Come and find out how to protect yourself and others if such an event ever happens.

## YARD CRAWL

The Annual Route 11 Yard Crawl will be held on **Saturday, August 13**. Pedestrians might not be watching as carefully as they should while seeking bargains and vehicles may make sudden turns or stops when they see the perfect item along the side of the road. There will be 43 miles of bargains, in both Shenandoah and Frederick Counties. **Please watch out for both people and vehicles.** Visit [www.route11yardcrawl.org](http://www.route11yardcrawl.org) for more information.



## STRASBURG KIWANIS FREE SWIM PARTY

The Strasburg Kiwanis Club will host a free community pool party on **Thursday, August 18, from 6 – 8 p.m.** Free food (hotdogs, chips, small drink, and popsicles) will be available. The Town wishes to thank the Kiwanis Club for sponsoring these popular community events for our young citizens.

## PRESENTATION AND BOOK SIGNING

Learn about the “disastrous” cavalry battle at Toms Brook, Virginia

Author William J. Miller will speak about the characters and events of the controversial battle and sign copies of his new book:

### **Decision at Toms Brook**

**Saturday, August 20, 11:30 a.m.**  
Hupp's Hill Civil War Park and Museum  
Gateway to Shenandoah Visitor Center  
(540) 465-5884

## CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK



One of the easiest and best ways of keeping up with the happenings of Strasburg is to “like” our Facebook pages. The **Town of Strasburg** page will let you know about matters ranging from street closings to events sponsored by the town. The **Downtown Strasburg** page features happenings in the downtown area and other business news. The **Strasburg Park and Pool**, page will keep you posted

of pool closings and events happening at the park and pool. And, check out the **RevUp Strasburg** page. Be in the know and “like” all the pages!

Come join the Splash Dash!  
**Saturday, August 20**  
**8 a.m. – noon**  
 Strasburg Town Park



1<sup>st</sup> Annual Benefit 5K/Fun Run  
 to benefit the Mission Fund of  
 Strasburg United Methodist Church

A picnic and access to the Town Pool will follow the event.  
 Register at: [splashdashva.com](http://splashdashva.com)

**BEAR SIGHTINGS**

Periodically, the town receives phone calls about bears being seen in neighborhoods. Here are a few tips from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries that might help to keep the bear population away from your back yard. Remember, it is up to you to change your behavior to avoid having a bear visit.

- Bird feeders, garbage, beehives, and pet food are the most common food attractants. Don't allow the bear to become comfortable on your property!
  - Remove bird feeders between April and November to help deter bears.
  - Secure garbage cans in a shed or garage.
  - Feed only what your pet will eat in a single feeding or feed inside; remove uneaten food.
- Use harassment techniques along with removing items that attract bears.
- Talk to your neighbors and ask that they discourage bears by removing the attractants.
- If you see a bear on your property, respect the bear's space and stay away. If it is in a tree, leave it alone and keep your pets away so it will leave on its own.



Never deliberately feed a bear. We all need to work together to keep bears wild. For more information, please visit: [www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/bear/](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/bear/) or contact the Wildlife Conflict Helpline at **(855) 571-9003**.

**PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR UTILITY PAYMENTS**

All of us sometimes forget to pay a bill. The Town of Strasburg offers “Auto Draft” for your utility bill. Here is how it works:

- Sign up at the Town Office (174 E. King Street) or call (465-9197) or check our website ([www.strasburgva.com](http://www.strasburgva.com)) for a form.
- Your payment will automatically be deducted from your bank account on the due date.

Other payment options are also available. Credit cards are accepted at the counter for utility bills. In addition, utility bills and taxes can be paid online using Official Payments (a small fee will apply for online payments). On the town's website, click on the “Official Payments” link and follow the directions given. The Town's jurisdiction code is “9004”.

**END OF SEASON POOL HOURS**

The Strasburg Town Pool will be open regular hours until **Monday, August 29**. The pool will be closed **August 29 – September 2**, but will re-open for Labor Day Weekend. Watch next month's newsletter for information about a Doggie Dive-in event to be held the weekend following the closing of the pool. Also, stay informed of special events on our Facebook page.

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual  
 CAMP HOPE  
 for Grieving Children & Teens**

Camp Hope is a FREE camp designed for grieving children and teens who have experienced the death of a love one.

**September 17, 2016**  
**8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**  
 Northern VA 4-H Education Center

To request a registration packet:  
 (540) 313-9200 or [blueridgehospice.org](http://blueridgehospice.org)

Sponsored by Blue Ridge Hospice

**TRASH & RECYCLING SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST:**

- Wednesday, August 3: **Trash Collection ONLY**
- Wednesday, August 10: **Trash & Recycling Collection**
- Wednesday, August 17: **Trash Collection ONLY**
- Wednesday, August 24: **Trash & Recycling Collection**
- Wednesday, August 31: **Trash Collection ONLY**

**AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

1 – Council Work Session, 7 p.m.	16 – DMV2Go, Town Hall, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
2 – <b>National Night Out, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m., Town Lot behind Fire Department</b>	22 – Finance Comm., 5:30 p.m. Ordinance Comm., 7 p.m.
9 – Town Council, 7 p.m.	23 – Planning Comm., 7 p.m.
15 – Council Work Session, 7 p.m.	25 – ARB, 7 p.m.

**VISIT THE  
 SHENANDOAH COUNTY FAIR**



August 26<sup>th</sup> – September 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 For more info: [www.shencofair.com](http://www.shencofair.com)