



## Scottsville Business Newsletter: April 2018

### Quick Notes to Support Businesses in Town

#### Recent milestones in town

In planning for next year's budget and goals, Town Council reviewed some recent achievements to help the community:

- Adopted a [Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) for emergency management
- New public bathrooms open at Dorrier park
- Farmers market season open April 7
- [Police officer recruitment underway](#) –refer a candidate!

Businesses can weigh in about Town priorities moving forward.



#### New town administrator

[Matt Lawless](#) started work for the Town in March. The town administrator works full-time to implement the vision and plans of Town Council. Supporting the growth of the town's existing businesses is a high priority, and Lawless brings high energy and experience to the job. He previously served as town manager in Boones Mill, a similar small town near Roanoke, and he has worked for Albemarle County as well as the City of Winchester, his hometown. Lawless holds a B.A. in Government from William & Mary and a Master's of Public Administration from American University in D.C.

Planning, budgeting, and learning about the town have been early priorities, along with volunteering to improve plantings on the creek. Every business can share ideas about how the Town can be supportive. Send any suggestions or concerns to [mlawless@scottsville.org](mailto:mlawless@scottsville.org), or stop by the town office. Town government works best when local businesses are active civic partners!



### Fiber internet availability

CenturyLink sales engineer Gary Miller visited the town office recently to share updates on broadband for business. Key points:

- There is gigabit-speed fiber in town, available to most businesses with no trenching or major connection costs.
- CenturyLink doesn't have many business customers with high-speed accounts here. "We could probably do better on outreach to business clients."
- If DSL isn't serving your business needs for file transfer, e-commerce, or video conferencing, [CenturyLink wants to upgrade your service](#). Contact [Gary.L.Miller@centurylink.com](mailto:Gary.L.Miller@centurylink.com).

### Marketing available buildings and land

Scottsville is lucky to have a good supply of move-in ready commercial real estate, and buildable commercial lots, often in high-traffic areas. The Town can help market such sites and recruit entrepreneurs, making a match between business and place. The [Business Base](#) on the Town website will feature some prime locations. Contact Town staff to share your property details.



### Town budget planning underway

Town Council and staff have prepared a first-draft budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Feedback from businesses matters, both in estimating Town revenues and in setting priorities for spending on projects. Please share your advice and ideas! Key points on the draft budget:

- The total Town revenue estimate is \$620,925.
- Revenues are up about 5%. The strongest growth is in the bank franchise tax.
- All local tax rates stay at the same level.
- As with most businesses, staffing is the largest Town expense, with pay and benefits being about 60% of the budget.
- The Town is debt free. Most infrastructure funding is on a pay-as-you-go basis. The budget includes \$30,000 for farmers market repairs and \$5,000 to save to future police vehicle replacement.
- Community events which attract large crowds will receive improved logistical support.
- Volunteer boards and commissions will have greater training and professional education.

### Comprehensive Plan update

The Planning Commission is also working on updates to the Town's long-range land use and infrastructure plan. If big-picture thinking about the business environment is your cup of tea, please get involved! First draft plans are now ready for review.

