

# WGTH ISSUES & PROGRAMS LIST

## THIRD QUARTER 2022

### JULY – SEPTEMBER

#### IMPORTANT ELECTION INFORMATION

Precinct changes have occurred that involve a significant number of Tazewell County voters. Redistricting, following the census, is the main reason for the changes. However, other reasons were factors in some of the changes.

The Virginia Department of Elections is planning to mail new voter cards to every registered voter in the state. It would be very beneficial to voters to open this mail, carefully read the information on their card, and retain the card for use at the polls or as a form of identification that includes their physical address. An additional change that voters will notice is that the Virginia Senatorial District number for Tazewell County was changed from the 38<sup>th</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District as a result of redistricting.

Program: Pre-recorded interview

Dates/Time/Duration: September 20, 2022 @ 7:08 pm & September 21, 2022 @ 11:30 am /22 minutes

Guest: Brian Earls, Director of Elections and General Registrar for Tazewell County

In an interview with Brian Earls, Director of Elections and General Registrar for Tazewell County, an upcoming mailing of new voter cards to every registered voter in Virginia was announced. Part of the concern on the part of Brian Earls was that, in his experience, many people are quick to suppose that the mailings are unimportant and will simply throw them away. He gave some compelling reasons for retaining the new voter card and placing it in a wallet or another safe location... after reading it carefully.

First of all, the fact that some voters' precincts had been changed was brought to the attention of the voters. Brian suggested that voters check to be sure of their voting location. Knowing where they would vote would save a lot of frustration on Election Day. As he pointed out, nothing is more upsetting than

going to vote and finding out that you need to vote at another precinct and not having time to get there before it closes.

Additionally, the reasons for precinct changes were given to avoid questions and frustration. Brian explained the redistricting situation, based on the most recent census, was the primary cause for precinct changes. Tazewell County had an eleven percent population loss. The roughly 40,000 residents in Tazewell County had to be, relatively equally, divided into the five existing districts. Therefore, approximately 8,000 people (plus or minus five percent) needed to be placed into each district. The Northern District was, especially, lacking. Some of the boundary lines had to be changed. Brian gave several specific locations where residents could expect precinct changes for those reasons.

The changing of precincts and boundaries for redistricting also gave Brian and the Directors of Elections in neighboring Russell and Buchanan counties the opportunity to “clean up” some of the oddly assigned voter precincts that resulted from rural roads that weave in and out of the county lines. Furthermore, there were some voters that had been assigned to precincts, many years ago, that were not as convenient as they could and should have been. These peculiar situations were set right along with the other changes.

One important flaw in the system, according to Brian Earls, is that the voting laws and tax laws do not match up in several areas of Tazewell County. By law, you are to vote in the county where your house sits. However, you may be assigned to pay taxes to another county... maybe because the vast majority of your acreage may be in the other county. This is a real case of “taxation without representation,” because you may not get to vote for your local supervisor or school board member. Brian encouraged those who were affected to contact their representatives to have that corrected.

Two additional election information points were mentioned. Redistricting generated reassignments in Virginia State Senatorial Districts. Tazewell County went from the 38<sup>th</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District. Early voting starts September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## RECOGNITION OF AND CARE FOR AREA VETERANS

Those who have laid their lives on the line to preserve freedom and to protect and preserve the defenseless deserve to be recognized for their sacrifices and honored for their unselfish bravery. Veterans are very much appreciated and

highly respected by most area citizens. Although there is not a large military presence in the area, the local Virginia Army National Guard battalion and the Air Force Junior ROTC at Richlands High School provide constant visual reminders of the protection provided by those on active duty, as well as those that have served in the past. Area veterans are given recognition at various community events in order for the citizens to show their appreciation for services rendered.

Program: Interview following the pregame salute to veterans and the display of an enormous United States of America flag surrounding the playing of the National Anthem at the Richlands High School vs. Union football game

Date/Time/Duration: September 2, 2022 @ 6:52 pm/3 minutes

Guest: Karen Patton, Woodmen of the World Insurance Agent

Karen Patton, insurance agent for Woodmen of the World, explained that she had been able to sign up to have the impressive United States flag, brought to Richlands for the game that night. The tremendous flag traveled to various venues to promote patriotism on behalf of Woodmen of the World. It was about twenty yards in width... as it covered the middle of the field to both forty yard lines.

Because it was being displayed as part of a veterans' salute, it seemed even more appropriate that those carrying the flag were members of the Richlands High School JROTC. According to Karen, the students had practiced, diligently, during the day for the evening's festivities that took place before, during, and following the playing of the National Anthem at the football game at Richlands High School on September 2, 2022. The flag was displayed with great care and respect in honor of area veterans.

All veterans in attendance that night had been asked to come to the field and to stand together to be recognized during the National Anthem and the tremendous flag's display. The veterans received a tremendous round of applause. Also during the ceremonies, a flag was presented by Karen Patton, on behalf of Woodmen of the World, to Richlands High School for use on the school's flagpole when a replacement is needed. The appropriateness of the recognition and all that had happened were discussed.

Program: Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival (live remote)

Date/Time/Duration: September 17, 2022 @ approximately 10:25 am /2 minutes

Guest: Bill was the spokesperson for VFW Post 9640 and Laura Cecil is the Veteran Service Representative at the local office in Tazewell, Virginia

The Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival is an acclaimed festival that has been known to bring several thousand visitors to the small, historic town of Cedar Bluff. It affords the opportunity for many organizations to promote their services. The VFW Post 9640 had a booth at the festival in which representatives were able to share information that could be very helpful to veterans in need of physical or mental health services. In a brief interview, the spokesman talked about the Virginia Department of Veterans Services... "Veterans Helping Veterans." Area veterans were urged to present claims to Laura Cecil, Veteran Service Representative, at the office at 657 Main Street in Tazewell, Virginia.

#### PRESERVATION OF HISTORY INCLUDING LOCAL PARTICIPATION

Southwest Virginia and southern West Virginia are rich with museums, reenactments of local skirmishes and battles, demonstrations of encampments, and historical societies. There are many individuals and organizations that dedicate countless hours and resources, on a frequent basis, in order to share their love of history with anyone that shows interest. Many local historians are quite knowledgeable about the American Revolutionary War and The War Between the States... both in general and regarding local involvement.

Program: The Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival (live remote)

Date/Time/Duration: September 17, 2022 @ 9:30 am /3 minutes

Guest: Kevin Pruitt, member of the Sons of the American Revolution and The Flat Top Copperheads (War Between the States organization from Princeton, WV)

In an interview describing the encampment that was set up at the Town Square in Cedar Bluff during the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival, Kevin Pruitt shared a wealth of historical information in a fairly rapid summary. Kevin is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and The Flat Top Copperheads from Princeton, West Virginia. He spoke for the group that had set up an authentic encampment for festival visitors to see and use as a living history learning center.

In addition to giving vivid descriptions of the items at the encampment, Kevin explained the uses for the items, their value to the militiamen of that day, and the materials that were available for use in that time period. Some of the items

that Kevin described were a Confederate soldier's uniform, a dining table with primitive kitchenware that was set for militiamen, a sewing kit, a haversack, and a howitzer that had been found on the battlefield. Kevin spoke of the importance of the haversack, "If you have it, it's in your sack." He explained that the militiaman's horn, made of bone, was like the "plastic" of the day. He claimed salt pork and cornmeal as the staples of the day. However, in tough times, scavenging and foraging were necessary for survival.

## NEW TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TO HELP WITH TISSUE REGENERATION

Many people suffer with soft tissue pain. Too often, the pain can be so severe as to interfere with the person's ability to function normally and to live a productive life. Long-term medicinal use for such problems can be harmful itself. Other solutions have been limited in the past.

Program: Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival (live remote)

Date/Time/Duration: September 17, 2022 @ approximately 9:40 am /3 minutes

Guest: Dr. Jordan Baldwin, Doctor of Chiropractic at Chiropractic First

Dr. Jordan Baldwin, a Doctor of Chiropractic at Chiropractic First, explained the benefits of a, relatively, new technology that recently became available to area patients known as "Softwave Tissue Regeneration Technology," or "Softwave TRT." Functioning like a stem cell treatment, "Dr. Jordan" explained that this low intensity shockwave technology promotes regeneration of soft tissue in the body. He talked about the success of this technology among his patients and the comfort and healing that they have been experiencing.

## USEFUL SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The Tazewell County Sheriff's Department serves the citizens of the county far beyond the obvious criminal investigations and traffic stops. There are several programs that the deputies are involved with that are for the benefit of citizens and their property in order to prevent them from harm or criminal activity such as theft, fraud, and substance abuse. The Tazewell County Sheriff's Department wants to

get the word to area citizens about what is available and how their current programs can help.

Program: Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival (live remote)

Date/Time/Duration: September 17, 2022 @ 10:10 am/5 minutes

Guests: Neil Turley and Landon Heiatt, both Deputies with the Tazewell County Sheriff's Department

Deputy Neil Turley answered questions about the Tazewell County Sheriff's Department's booth at the Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival. He explained that they were promoting some of their programs that were designed to help area citizens. That day, they were selling Christmas ornaments for Project Lifesaver, a search and rescue program made to help find those who are prone to wander due to cognitive issues. Another activity they were involved with at their booth was teaching folks how to boost their home security. Specific suggestions included; checking for site safety, using proper locks, putting serial numbers on valuable items, taking photos of valuables and storing them in safe places. When asked about some of the issues they had to address recently, Deputy Turley mentioned protecting the citizens, especially elderly folk from scams and the need to patrol more often to discourage potential criminal activity. He said they used their Facebook page to warn people about the current scams and to encourage citizens to report attempts made by scam artists to defraud people.

Deputy Landon Heiatt spoke on behalf of the DARE Program. (DARE stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education.) Tazewell County is just three years away from having forty years of DARE in the local schools. He, also, mentioned the cooperation DARE had with area school resource officers (SRO's). After some interruption of the program due to COVID, Deputy Heiatt said that things were back to normal. The purpose of the DARE program, according to Deputy Heiatt is to teach students to take responsibility for their actions and the decisions they make. They, also, learn what it means to communicate in an appropriate way with others, and that "bullying" is never appropriate and that it should be reported. DARE teaches students what alcohol and drug abuse is and why it is bad for them. He explained that the target ages that DARE focuses on is the fifth grade student just before they go to middle school and the seventh grade student that needs to know the consequences that follow certain actions and decisions.

## MEETING THE HEALTH NEEDS OF AREA RESIDENTS

The vulnerability of the wellness of area residents was revealed during the battle with COVID that remains today but to a lesser extent. The local hospital and local health care providers have gone above and beyond to provide information and, in some situations, vaccines to care for the health of area folks. They have been quite proactive in trying to help people maintain their own wellness more effectively and to look for warning signs before a major health event occurs.

Program: Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival (live remote)

Date/Time/Duration: September 17, 2022 @ approximately 9:50 am/2-3 minutes

Guest: Sarah Ramey, spokesperson for Clinch Valley Medical Center

Sarah Ramey, who works for Clinch Valley Medical Center, let listeners know that the hospital was offering free flu shots at the festival that day. The location of their setup was given and listeners were encouraged to take advantage of the free flu shots in order to protect themselves from potential illness. Sarah said they would really love to have people sign up to be volunteers at the hospital. In addition to the shots, they were distributing information about such things as early heart attack symptoms awareness, safe sleep protocol for babies, and a special “Girls’ Night Out” that the hospital is planning to promote women’s health information during October: Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

## PROMOTION OF AREA FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS

Area media outlets are a prime source of information regarding area events, including festivals and celebrations. Local towns and communities depend, in part, on revenue that comes from these events. Individual vendors, churches and other non-profit organizations, local high school bands and sports teams... so many benefit by a goodly turnout at these events. Promotion of area events is essential in order to release important information ahead of an event and to maximize the success of the events.

Program: Tazewell County Fair (live remote)

Date/Time/Duration: August 2, 2022 @ 5:10 pm/10 minutes

Guest: Jerry Foster, Member of the Tazewell County Fair Committee

Jerry Foster, member of the Tazewell County Fair Committee, shared important information about the Fair... especially the Gospel Music Night that was

under his oversight. Jerry welcomed listeners to the fair and shared some specific information about the two very special groups that were coming to sing. The Primitive had announced their upcoming retirement in April of 2023 after fifty years of singing their very unique style of bluegrass Gospel music. The Chuck Wagon Gang, also a very long-running group, was to headline the night with their unique sound, as well. Other interesting information about the groups was shared, as well as information about other events during Fair week.

Program: Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival (live remote)

Date/Time/Duration: September 17, 2022 @ 9:10 am/7 minutes

Guests: Mayor Luke Phillips, Town Manager John Absher and Event Coordinator Natasha Ratliff

The Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival returned for the first time after being cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to covid. Mayor Luke Phillips, Town Manager John Absher and first time event coordinator Natasha Ratliff welcomed people to the Festival and provided information about the number of participants and some important information about the Festival.

Program: Cedar Bluff Heritage Festival (live remote)

Date/Time/Duration: September 17, 2022 @ 9:18 am/8 minutes

Guests: Richlands High School Band Director Bruce Miller and the Richlands High School Marching Band

A couple of selections performed by the band were aired and then Band Director Bruce Miller was interviewed and provided information on the band's upcoming competition schedule and their fund raising efforts to go to perform at Disney World.