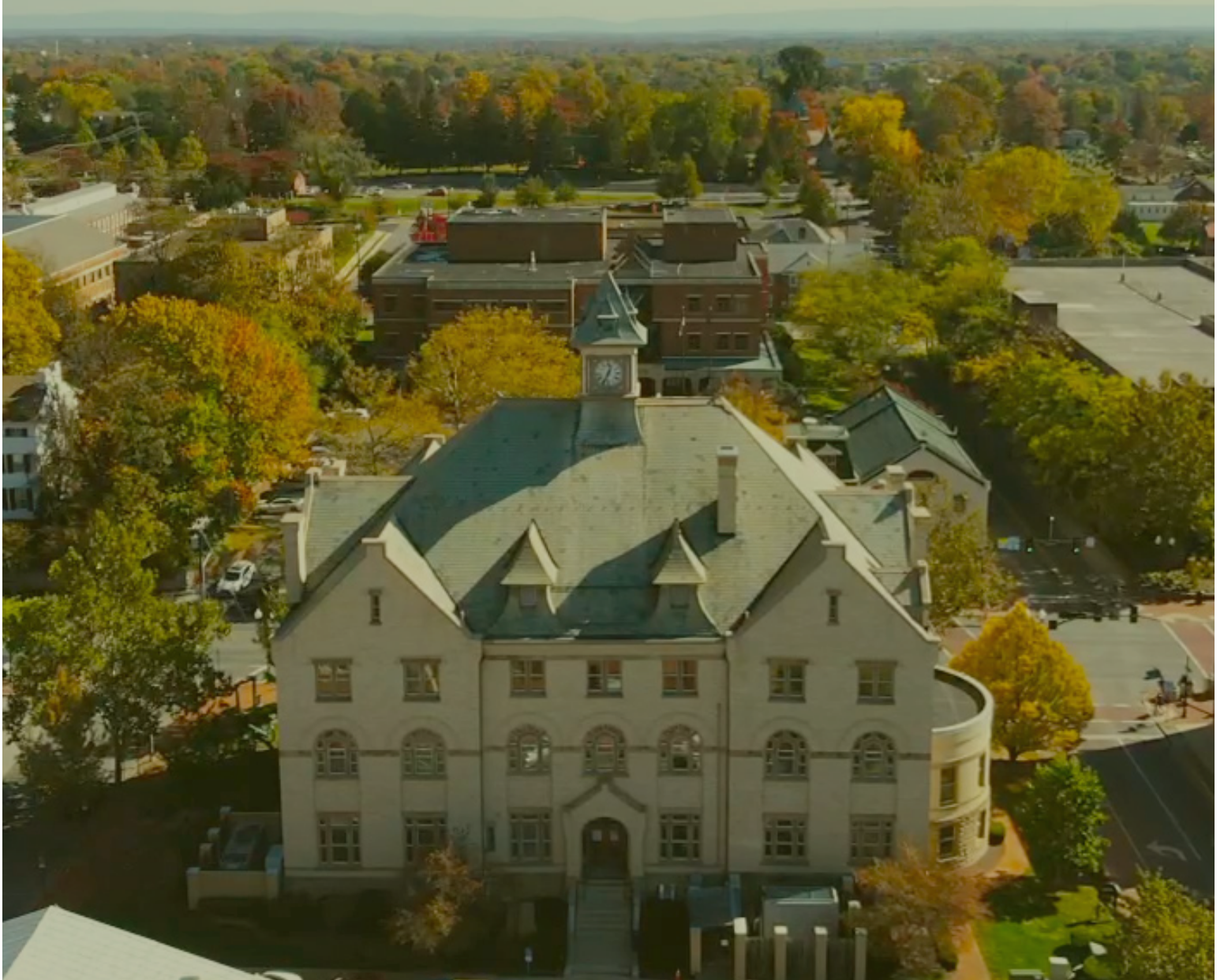




Mayor John David Smith, Jr.'s

ANNUAL REPORT



Calendar Year 2020

The year 2020 has been a challenge to say the least, but I'm extremely proud of City employees for their ingenuity and continuing to provide outstanding service during these difficult times. I'm also proud of the way our community has come together to help others in need. For our City leadership, this was also an election year and a year the City's leadership changed. We said goodbye to City Manager Eden Freeman in March after more than five years of service. Then we welcomed Interim City Manager Mary Beth Price and hired Dan Hoffman as City Manager in September.



John David Smith, Jr.
Mayor

The City is in a great place at the end of 2020 and in this annual report are a few accomplishments and activities from a year we won't soon forget. Stay safe and healthy!



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Purchased equipment for first responders and employees using CARES Act funding
- Distributed PPE and public health information to 15 vulnerable areas as part of VDEM's Health Equity Pilot Program
- Received a donation of 50,000 surgical masks from Ford Motor Co. and distributed among City departments and local organizations

\$960,000
in CARES Act small
business grants for
expenses
167
businesses helped

\$275,000
in CARES Act Rent &
Mortgage Relief
136
households helped
(\$2,022 avg/household)

\$120,000
in CARES Act grants
for past-due water/sewer
assistance
144
households helped

CARES ACT FUNDING

- Offered three rounds of grants for businesses and non-profits
- Offered second round of assistance for past-due water/sewer bills (\$263,620)
- Provided grants for rent/mortgage assistance
- Enhanced online services
- Purchased roll-off carts and truck lifts for trash collection pilot program
- Offered reimbursements to restaurants for outdoor heaters and provided \$10,000 in VA Main Street Grants (21 downtown businesses helped)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Launched a Coronavirus information web page
- Water/sewer shutoffs for non-payment was suspended
- Enhanced online services offerings
- Provided virtual park and tourism programs, classes, games, events (including 9/11 memorial) and activities
- Coordinated disaster management and vaccine distribution strategies with local stakeholders
- Assisted the Rescue Mission and Shenandoah University to open an emergency shelter
- Launched and staffed a pop-up grocery store at Jim Barnett Park in partnership with Sysco
- Closed Boscawen Street temporarily on weekends to allow for expanded dining options

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMPLETED

Despite the pandemic, we began and/or completed several capital improvement projects in 2020.

- Sidewalk repairs - Replaced or repaired 30 miles of sidewalks with either concrete or painted asphalt
- Handley Library HVAC system replacement
- Water meter replacements city-wide
- Water tank replacement on Strothers Lane
- Building repairs and generator replacement at the Water Treatment Plant
- Creamery Building renovation and relocation of five offices (Commissioner of the Revenue, Treasurer, Commonwealth Attorney, Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Office and Winchester Fire and Rescue)



Creamery Building
Renovate and relocate five offices to the building.



N. Cameron Drainage-Phase I
Replace sewer/stormwater pipes to reduce flooding.



Boscawen Street at Loudoun Intersection
Replace damaged road surface.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS BEGAN

- Central Downtown Infrastructure Improvements Project - Replacing underground water/sewer infrastructure and repaved road
- New maintenance facility at City Yards
- Trails at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley - Managed construction since a grant was awarded to the City for the trails which connects to the Green Circle Trail off Amherst Street



Green Circle Trail-Phase III
Add trail where none existed and painted crosswalks.



Wentworth Drive
Replace water/sewer/stormwater pipes, sidewalks, repave road.



Trash Cart Pilot Program
Use roll-off carts in four areas to test process and benefits.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Completed the Fire & Rescue long-range master plan and began implementing recommendations
- Fire & Rescue received the American Heart Association Mission: Lifeline® EMS Gold Plus Award for the third consecutive year for excellence in heart attack care and survival rates
- Winchester Police Department (WPD) launched and completed a true-crime podcast series to reopen and investigate a cold murder case from the 1970s
- WPD started a new program whereby officers surprised children 10 and under by stopping by to see them on their birthday (visited 56 children)
- WPD added Use of Force policies and data to their website



Park Field MOA with SU
 SU to upgrade several fields in Jim Barnett Park (\$4.5 million)



Holiday Lane Lights Show
 Due to COVID-19, the Old Town Holiday Parade was canceled, but a new tradition, Holiday Lane, was created. Holiday Lane is a drive-thru lights show in Jim Barnett Park.



Mayor's 2020 Excellence Award
 Recipients were Kira Skala and Hideaway Cafe



New Neighborhood Park
 Created and dedicated a new neighborhood park on the corner of N. Kent and E. Cecil Streets in honor of Ruth Jackson, owner of Ruth's Tea Room once located on the site



Historic Renovation
 Approved funding for WPS historic renovation of Douglas School



Unity Forums & Protests
 Several City departments, including Police, worked with protesters and the United Way to discuss the relationship between the community and law enforcement locally



Former Mayors, Councilors & City Managers Lost
 Mayor Charles Zuckerman
 President Charles Gaynor
 Vice Mayor Richard Kern
 Vice-Pres. J. Thomas Kremer, Jr.
 City Manager Wendell Seldon



Pleasant Valley Improvements
 Assisted VDOT with a traffic study and applied for funding



#27 Best Small City for Business
 Included in the national ChamberofCommerce.org list



New Insurance Provider
 Changed insurance provider resulting in significant savings



AAA Bond Rating Reaffirmed
 City's Bond Rating was reaffirmed by S&P Global Ratings. The higher the rating, the more the City can save on financing capital projects. This is the highest possible rating for governments.



2019 Water Quality Report
 According to the tests, the City's drinking water met all state and federal requirements. The City's water is safe and in full compliance with no violations in calendar year 2019.

