

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORT

Sustainable Development and Awareness

Lewisburg is proactive in its attempt to make new residents and businesses aware of the city's environmental efforts. Information is found on the city's website (www.lewisburg-wv.com) and in brochures. Even the Greenbrier Greeters, a group dedicated to welcoming all newcomers to the town, hands out environmental literature, as well as area business information.

MUNICIPAL

Water System

The City of Lewisburg water system provides drinking water and fire protection to Lewisburg, as well as Fairlea, Caldwell, Maxwelton, Ronceverte and portions of Frankford and Renick. The water for the system is supplied by water drawn from the Greenbrier River. Water is treated by the processes of chlorination, flocculation, sedimentation, and filtration. Fluoride and sodium carbonate are added to the finished water for corrosion control and tooth protection. Treated water is stored in seven tanks with a combined capacity of approximately 3-5 million gallons.

Lewisburg is in the process of constructing a new, larger water plant to meet the needs of a growing region. Current production is two million gallons per day, and the new plant will be capable of producing six million gallons per day from a relocated intake structure which will help lessen



Downtown Lewisburg at night

the potential threat of nearby upstream facilities that could contaminate the river water before it enters the current intake. The current plant produces water that meets or exceeds water standards set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency and West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.

The system is monitored by a modern SCADA System which controls pump booster stations and monitors main tank levels. The city has recently installed new water meters that have the capability of being remotely read which can detect higher than normal water usage and potentially give consumers the capability of saving water and money.

Fire Department

The Lewisburg Fire Department is a principally volunteer department providing services to the Lewisburg municipality and areas of the county immediately surrounding the city.

It provides fire prevention, education, and suppression activities, plus water rescue services, auto extrication, rope rescue and hazardous materials decontamination service. The fire department responds to a variety of incidents varying from routine minor vehicle collisions along our City streets to complicated rescues along the Greenbrier River to large hazardous materials incidents on Interstate 64.

Fire Hydrant Maintenance

Fire hydrants are flushed yearly to assure hydrant performance and to record water pressure data for the water department.

Recycling

Lewisburg offers free, curb-side recycling twice per month through a contract carrier for all City residents and businesses. Curb-side recycling includes aluminum, #1 and #2 plastic, steel cans, newspaper, computer paper, magazines, cardboard and electronic devices. Bags for plastic and aluminum recyclables as well as recycling brochures are available at City Hall.

In 2009, Lewisburg joined the nationwide effort proclaiming November 15 as America Recycles Day, raising awareness and encouraging residents to make more efficient use of natural resources by maximizing recycling, buying recycled products and preventing waste. Each year Lewisburg gives an award for outstanding recycling efforts.



L&R Trailhead

The LIB Committee is currently submitting grant proposals to secure recycling bins to accompany each trash receptacle. In February, the LIB Committee submitted a request for the Dr. Pepper Snapple Group/Keep America Beautiful Park Recycling Bin Grant program, but was unsuccessful due to the overwhelming number grant applications. Of the 350 grant requests, only 42 were awarded. The LIB Committee continues to search for funding sources for this endeavor.

The Lewisburg and Ronceverte Trail

The Lewisburg and Ronceverte (L&R) Trail will one day connect these two historic towns set amid the Allegheny Mountains of southern West Virginia. Explore the city on the trail that traces the route of the former

L&R Railroad, which provided freight and passenger service between Lewisburg and Ronceverte from 1906 to 1931.

Currently, less than a mile of the trail has been constructed, but plans call for expanding the pathway to 6 miles. The completed Lewisburg segment is a 4-foot-wide path paved with vibrant colored asphalt that follows quiet, tree-lined streets through a town known for its many 18th and 19th-century buildings. The trail begins near the Old Stone Cemetery and winds through residential areas. Phase II of the project will continue the pathway southward along Rt. 219 toward Ronceverte.

Pet Waste Stations

Lewisburg began installing pet waste stations throughout the city limits in 2005. In 2012, the City added extra stations along the L&R Trail.

Resolution 360

On March, 2011, Lewisburg passed a resolution expressing concern to the West Virginia Legislature about Hydraulic Fracking within the Marcellus shale deposits within the state. Noting that state regulations and funding are inadequate to protect water sources, including the Greenbrier Watershed, and water systems, the City of Lewisburg petitioned the State Legislature to refrain from issuing any permits for horizontal drilling in the Marcellus Shale until adequate regulations are promulgated to protect public water supplies.



Center Green during Literary Festival

BUSINESS

Greenworks Recycling offers pickup recycling services, including glass, which the local recycling center does not accept. Greenworks services both residential and commercial locations.

RESIDENTIAL

Lewisburg allows its residents to dump leaves at the Public Works Department. The compost serves the Community Garden and City related projects.

COMMUNITY

Lewisburg Green Team (LGT)

In September of 2015, the LGT was formed to promote and improve environmental stewardship, teach civic responsibility, and nurture a passion for sustainable living practices. LGT is committed to supporting the City of Lewisburg, West Virginia in building environmentally sustainable communities by bringing together individuals, households, neighborhoods, businesses and government in a comprehensive and collaborative effort. The program's main focus is to inspire community members to embrace environmental sustainability and focus on promoting each individual's positive impact on the earth. In November of 2016, local residents formed a solar co-op to save money and make going solar easier, while building a network of solar supporters. The Lewisburg Green Team, the Greenbrier River Watershed Association, and WV SUN sponsored the co-op. The Lewisburg Solar Co-op is currently seeking additional members to join the group.

LGT Mission:
The Green Team's mission is to promote and improve environmental stewardship, teach civic responsibility and nurture a passion for sustainable living practices in order to strengthen our community.

The Greenbrier River Watershed Association (GRWA)

GRWA, founded in 1990, is one of the oldest watershed associations in the state. The Greenbrier River Watershed Association is a nonprofit organization that partners with other environmental nonprofits, government organizations, and like-minded groups to educate the public. Their goal is for citizens to appreciate the watershed's unique resources. The association also works with local schools and civic groups to teach classes, organize field trips, and support similar organizations that protect the watershed.

GRWA depends on grants and public support to assist the public with issues such as water quality, water quantity, protection of forests to alleviate pollution, prevention of substandard and/or illegal developments, using sinkholes and cave systems for trash disposal, leaking septic tanks, water sampling, straight piping, and wastewater treatment plant issues.

The Greenbrier River should be saved as a legacy. It is an essential part of our lives that enriches and inspires us. The watershed is a unique ecosystem with rich varieties of aquatic, riparian, and upland wildlife, tributaries, farmland, forest, people, and communities. The GRWA purpose is to promote the maintenance, preservation, protection and restoration of the ecological integrity of the Greenbrier River and its watershed.

The watershed association also accomplishes public outreach through monthly email newsletters and their yearly newsletter.

West Virginia Land Trust

A public outreach effort in the Greenbrier watershed helped engage local stakeholders, including numerous landowners, in a multi-year effort aimed at protecting Lewisburg's sole drinking water source, the Greenbrier River.

Working with Downstream Strategies, Greenbrier River Watershed Association, and the City of Lewisburg,