

Lewisburg Mayor Jim Bingham year end report 2022 another year of recovery and change

Special to the Tribune

It is again time to look back on our previous financial year's developments and achievements. While we are still not where we want to be, financially we are far ahead where we thought we would be. For example, our available funds this time last year was \$2,020,000.00, this year we are considerably ahead with our available funds being \$3,560,000.00. Reasons for this achievement are:

- Our dedicated employees continue to work hard.

- Sales tax increased due to more people shopping local and on-line.
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded one time capital expenditures such as:
 - Replacement of recreation Rotary pavilion, new brush truck, police cars, body cams, and Tasers for our police department just to mention a few.
 - Remaining financially disciplined i.e., living within our income.
 - Results of reforms from the 2021 Charter revision.
 - Controlled growth has



Jim Bingham

remained a top priority as more and more people move to Lewisburg from near and far. Our location and infrastructure have made us a very desirable location

and we will continue to monitor and make the best decisions for our community as a whole.

Other positive projects and programs in 2022 were:

- Being named a "Main Street Community". This is a great accomplishment many years in the making and it will make us eligible for more grant funding.
- New playground equipment placed at Rock Creek Park donated by Teledyne.
- TDOT awarding a 3.6 million dollar contract for the bridge replacement and widening on

Nashville Highway over Rock Creek.

• A two million dollar plus sewer line project that will remove the moratorium on new development.

• Continuation of Fun Friday events on the square sponsored by the Marshall County Young Professionals.

• Increased in aiding the under privileged by the non-profit Hope-town.

Things to look forward to in 2023:

- Replacement of the lap pool heater at the Recreation Center.
- Installation of the

traffic signal at Mooresville Pike and West Elington Parkway.

• Putting measures in place to bring speeding under control throughout the city.

• Continued financial responsibility.

• Create and fund an additional budget line item specifically for a "Rainy Day" Fund.

Wishing each of you a very, blessed, happy and prosperous New Year!

Jim Bingham, Mayor

A sunflower grows in Ukraine

By **Hannah Davis**
Tribune Correspondent

The conflict in Ukraine has elicited a variety of reactions from those across the United States. Some have started campaigns for donations, others have held rallies, and even more have spoken up about their opinion on the conflict. It is a conversation at any dinner table lately, but local author Tyler Newcomb has decided to take a creative approach to responding to the Ukrainian conflict. He has written "Song of the Sunflower", a novel that follows a Russian soldier as he is sent to fight in Ukraine and discovers a difference between his own morals and the plans of those controlling the conflict. "The idea for the book came to me almost like a dream," said Newcomb in an interview.

According to Newcomb, he's followed the Ukrainian conflict closely since the beginning, and has known that he wanted to contribute to the national conversation somehow. But it wasn't until the past year that he settled on just how he would do this.

The Chapel Hill local has always loved to write but has never written a book until "Song of the Sunflower", which has been self-published through Amazon and is available on their marketplace. His inspiration for the story stemmed from a desire to recalibrate people's priorities regarding conflicts, both in their backyards and in countries far away.

"We get so caught up in the politics that sometimes we forget about the everyday people that are there," said Newcomb, who felt empathy for those struggling in Ukraine cur-

rently.

It's his opinion that those in Ukraine are not receiving the assistance that they need while being attacked by the Russians daily. Newcomb hopes that his book will be a source of hope and inspiration for those that are both educated and unaware of the conflict in Ukraine.

"If I can use my spiritual gifts to get a message across to people and to use my gift for good, all while doing what I love, then that's a dream for me."

The new author also carries a more personal connection to the Ukrainian conflict, drawing inspiration from the struggles he has faced in his life. Newcomb spoke of being born prematurely and facing challenges early on because of this. As an infant, he was in a car accident and underwent injuries that left him with a diagnosis of ce-

rebral palsy. Though his mental capacities weren't impacted, the condition affected his motor and muscle functions.

"Put it this way, I'm not going to be the next Peyton Manning," said Newcomb.

Through his own perseverance and with the help of others along the way, Newcomb has not let his own struggles stop him from achieving. Though his story is not a direct intersection with those struggling in Ukraine, the inspiration that can be drawn from other challenges might be fruitful for the political conversations. He hopes that others can see his book as a claim that helping others and sidelining one's own political beliefs for the good of the common man is overall more beneficial for everyone.

From beginning to end, this novel has been a charitable project.



Tyler Newcomb

Newcomb will donate all the book royalties to refugees and those currently in Ukraine. He's modest about the accomplishment, claiming that the book "is not a literary masterpiece but... a good story." Furthermore, Newcomb has dedicated the book to his late great grandmother who died in 2020.

Though "Song of the Sunflower" is his first

book, Newcomb is hoping that it won't be his last. He already has ideas for his next book, also inspired by his own life and his father and stepmother's corgi farm. He is considering writing a new novel, centering around a homeless man who adopts a spirit animal, resulting in his life changing for the better. All royalties for this second book would be donated to shelters.

Marshall County Retired Teachers Association meets

On December 1, poinsettias and holly decked the halls of Church Street Church of Christ annex. The buffet table was filled with food from Rock Creek Market & Deli, and donated gifts filled another table. This was the scene that greeted members of Marshall County's Retired Teachers Association as they arrived at the Christmas meeting, hosted by First Commerce Bank. Luke Buckley and Donna Roberson of First Commerce Bank and Charles Sellars, president of MCRTA, greeted guests.



Photo submitted
Members of the Retired Teachers Association celebrated the close of the year with their annual Christmas meeting.

After a delicious meal, the Marshall County High School Choir under the direction of Mrs. Rachel Verdon entertained the group. Choir members presented a selection of Christmas tunes. Former director, Elise Dumser, accompanied the choir.

At each meeting, MCRTA members contribute to a project or organization. At the December meeting donations are made to the Retired Teachers Scholarship Fund. In June, the organization will award \$1,000 in each of the county's high schools to a senior planning on entering the teaching profession. This year the members contributed over \$800 to this project.

Chapel Hill Fire adds new engine



Photo submitted

The Chapel Hill Fire Department has put a new fire engine in service to better serve the citizens of the Town of Chapel Hill and northern Marshall county. A wet-down and push in ceremony (pictured) was held Saturday, December 10 to commemorate the occasion. Engine 1 is a 2022 E-One Freightliner M2 106 four door Commercial Pumper features a 1,500 gallon per minute fire pump, 1,000 gallon water tank, and a 30 gallon foam tank and seats 5 firefighters. Equipped with Akron Brass valves, Whelen emergency lighting, and HiViz LED scene lighting, Engine 1 will offer increased firefighter safety. Additional features include a rescue body with roll up compartment doors for increased storage, internal ground ladder storage, and integrated SCBA seats allowing firefighter to be dressed and ready upon arrival to scenes. Engine 1 replaces a 1993 American Fire Apparatus 2 door Freightliner with 1,000 gallon per minute and 1,000 gallon water tank that seated 2 firefighters.

