

OCUS ON COMMUNITY

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Town gets seven-year jump on celebration

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HAYMARKET — Improvements in this western Prince William town are geared toward its bicentennial — still seven years away.

The coffee cups, the new Haymarket Historic Commission, the improved sidewalks and a plan to acquire a caboose from Norfolk Southern Railroad. "It'll serve as our visitors center and museum," said Sarah Turner, director of the Historic Commission. "The bicentennial is going to be the biggest and best thing that ever happened in Haymarket."

"We've done a lot of improvements in the last couple of years," said Mayor John Kapp. "It makes the townspeople pull together like a community."

Some of those improvements include new sidewalks. Last fall, workers replaced at least 1,325 feet of sidewalk on the north side of Va. 55 from Fayette Street to Payne Lane and Jefferson Street to the railroad tracks, Kapp said.

"We spent \$30,000," he said. "It was worth it."

Last spring, townspeople planted three trees around Town Hall, including two dogwoods.

"Some people are saying we have too many trees," Kapp said.

The Town Council last week voted to apply for a grant to buy trees from the Virginia Department of Forestry.

Keith Hawkins, a state forest warden assigned to Prince William County, told the council that the grants were available.

Late last year, the town also hired a second, part-time police officer to help Town Sergeant Thomas Kiley patrol the one-square-mile township.



Potomac News file photo

The main street through Haymarket is where the town will celebrate its bicentennial in 1998.

"The bicentennial is going to be the biggest and best thing that ever happened in Haymarket."

Sarah Turner
Historic Commission

Officer Billy Gray Tatum may be named a full-time officer later this

year, said Town Clerk Dorothy Keller.

The Historic Commission, created last year to preserve the integrity of the town, has its own office in Town Hall and dark blue coffee cups with the commission's name printed in white lettering.

Its sole purpose has become acquiring historical information and local artifacts for the town's 200-year charter celebration.

"We're really excited about it," Turner said.

The commission's first event will be an "old-timers" dance scheduled for May 9 at the Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department, Turner said.

Haymarket, founded in the late 1700s by a tavern owner, originally included 140 lots and 13 streets. The town remains much the same, unless you look across the road at the 300 new town houses that have been built over the past two years.

"But it's still a crossroads country town," Turner said.