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January 16, 2019

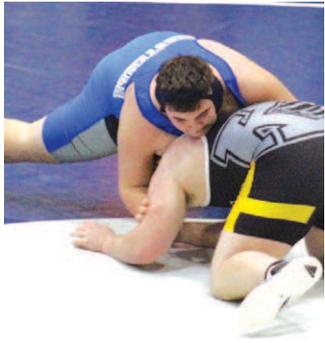
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Citizens Bank of Weston has been providing quality service for over 100 years in adapting to change.

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Kuhn, Blake lead Minutemen grapplers at Winner's Choice.

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Clarksburg, WV 26301

Weston zoning ordinance to be topic at open house

by Jonathan Weaver

STAFF WRITER

The city of Weston may be divided into many as five different zones in 2019 depending on the input from Wednesday's community open house.

The open house begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Weston Fire Department, which is located at 321 Center Ave.

David Blake, Planning Commission board president since December, said the open house will be the result of a cooperative effort with West Virginia University.

"The city of Weston has never had any zoning whatsoever. There are some ordinances that would control things under zoning, but the state likes for cities to have zoning, and WVU has brought some good help," Blake said. "The committee is trying to do what we think is right for everybody."

"We want people to feel like they have protection."

Blake looked forward to comments from the open house and "ways to make things better for everybody."

The current plan would divide the city, which is less than two square miles, into five zones: Residential, commercial, mixed-use, recreational and industrial, Mayor Julia Spelsberg said.

Blake added that local residents are living in commercial zones, or in some cases, lawyers are working out of residences.

"We'd also like to see the historical area, which is very small, rebuilt with the same type of architectural design. Or we don't want to see a two-story home with a house trailer



Submitted photo

The Weston Better Buildings Committee worked with the Northern West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center to identify vacant and dilapidated buildings in Weston. Pictured above are members of the committee: Sheila Share, Brenda Reed, Bonnie Rogers and David Blake.

sitting right beside it," he said.

A Ward 4 councilman for four years before he was defeated in the 2015 election, Blake said many infringements will remain until grandfathered property rights expire.

"Zoning affects everybody in almost every city. I've lived in cities where you couldn't work on your car outside and all you could do on your car in the driveway was wash it. Or if you built a fence, all your neighbors had to agree on your design and how high it was going to be.

"Zoning can be very restrictive, but starting out like we are, we want to make it as friendly as possible."

See Zoning, 9



Staff photo by Steven Baublitz

Weston hopes to enact a zoning program in 2019, which would benefit many of the city's businesses, Mayor Julia Spelsberg said.

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