



Sharpsburg Town Crier

The Wetterer Edition

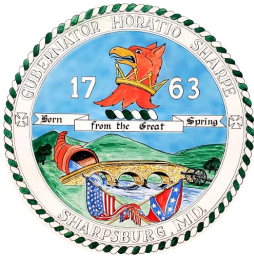


Volume 29

December 2021

Number 11

A Message from Mayor Russ Weaver



The Mayor and Council would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a happier New Year. The last two years have been challenging to say the least.

We also wanted to spend a few minutes making sure everyone understands what we are doing with the water and sewer rebates.

Utility costs have been a major issue since the systems were implemented decades ago. Former councils, former Vice Mayor Brian Gabriel and I have worked somewhat successfully with the county commissioners to limit rate increases. *Continued Page 2*

Miss Sharpsburg 2022

The Town Crier along with the Mayor and Council ask you to join us in welcoming our newly appointed Miss Sharpsburg for 2022, Miss Lucy Baker. The Miss Sharpsburg crown has remained in storage until the title was revived this year by the Sharpsburgh Museum of History.

Lucy is the daughter of Sarah and Gary Baker. Her grandparents are Gary and Lou Baker and Lynn and John DiCarlo. She was nominated by her great-grandfather, Ernie Wetterer. Currently a first-grade student at Sharpsburg Elementary School, she attends the Burnside First Church of God. She would one day like to teach school or work at an aquarium and enjoys softball, soccer, and playing with her brother Levi and their dog Hawkeye.



She wins everyone's heart with her sense of humor.

Her reign will be a busy one. She will be formally introduced to the Mayor and Council, lay a wreath on Memorial Day and represent the town in the parade, preside over Sharpsburg Days and museum open house, attend the lighting of the town Christmas tree, and cheer us all by her kind and happy presence.



Left to Right: Gary Baker, Lucy, Sarah Baker, and Ernie Wetterer

May she reign in a time of peace, goodwill, and prosperity in our town.

- Editor

A Message from Mayor Weaver

Continued

However, it remains a fact that Sharpsburg's sewer and especially water rates are the highest in the county. Why? We need to understand there is no such thing as a county water or sewer "system". County sewer and county water are separate components within county government, managed independently with their own budgets.

Additionally, within each component is a collection of sewer and water systems. The sewer component is ten times the size of the water component. Although the sewer component has the highest rates in the county it is the highest by just a fraction. Because our sewer system is an old grinder pump type system there is little opportunity to improve the cost of operating it. In contrast the coun-

ty water component cost is more than double the next higher rate and Sharpsburg is the major water system in that component.

Councilman John Hammond included helping citizens with their water bills as part of his campaign. With his leadership and full support from the mayor and council we have and will provide rebates to help with water and sewer costs issuing a \$140 rebate for early next year. These rebates are available to town residents only because we are funding them from town revenue and surrounding developments elected not to be annexed into the town years ago.

Our water is very expensive for two reasons. First, we are small and because of locally preserved areas have no real chance to grow the number of users. Secondly and more important we use surface water which is very expensive to treat. You may wonder why not just use water from the Big Spring. Its water is considered surface water as well. Therefore, we are pursuing and have obtained county funding to drill wells on town property. Well water requires much less processing. Because of the successful use of wells by surrounding municipalities we are confident we can significantly reduce our water costs. If you have any questions, please call the town office or come to a council meeting.

- Mayor Russ Weaver



Visit By Representative Trone and Secretary Haaland

Several notable government figures recently visited Sharpsburg for a meet-and-greet event.



Present, from left to right in the photo, were Superintendent Ms. Susan Trail (Antietam National Battlefield), Councilman Joe Kudla, Ms. Carrie Estell (Town Administration), Mayor Russ Weaver, Secretary Deb Haaland, and Representative David Trone.

Secretary Haaland and US Department of the Interior are responsible for the management and conservation of most federal land and natural resources, leading such agencies as the Bureau of Land Management, United States Geological Survey, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and National Park Service.

Congressman David Trone represents Maryland's Sixth District in the US House of Representatives.

- Editor

Master Gardeners: Winter Sowing Class

The Washington County Master Gardeners offers a free online class on winter sowing Friday, January 14 10AM to 11AM. Master Gardener Tina Webster will teach participants how to start seeds and grow transplants – including vegetables and native plants – outdoors in winter. Participants will learn how to produce seedlings without grow lights and with little cost and after care. They will get step-by-step instructions on creating a mini greenhouse from a recycled container.

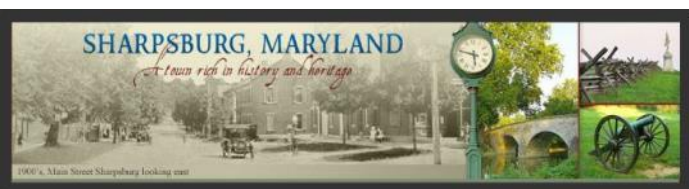
Pre-registration is required at https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0ocOGur-j4sGd2_9RIUObulwcloatTeGZSB

After registering, participants will receive a confirmation email with infor-



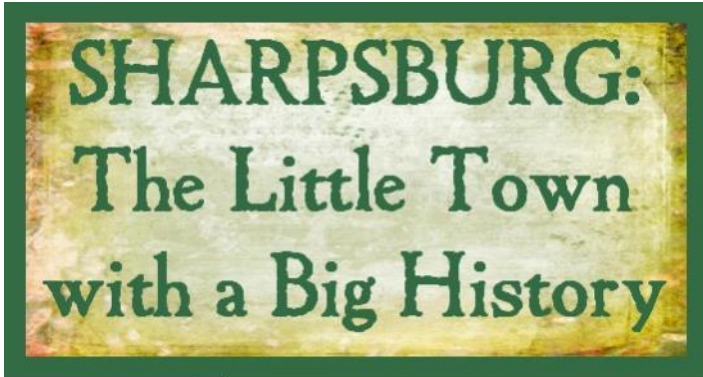
mation on joining the meeting.

Volunteer educators with the University of Maryland Extension, Master Gardeners teach people safe, effective gardening practices that build healthy gardens and communities. They give educational talks, create demonstration gardens,



offer therapeutic horticulture, host information booths at community events and recognize Bay-Wise landscapes.

For more information on the Master Gardener program, contact Annette Cormany at acormany@umd.edu or 301-791-1604.



Community Calendar

January 8 at 9:30 AM:
CAWAT Monthly Breakfast & Meeting

3904 Mills Road, Sharpsburg
cawatveterans@gmail.com
www.comeallwhoarethirsty.org

January 10 at 6PM: Mayor and Council Meeting

Sharpsburg Town Hall
townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

January 14 10AM to 11AM: Master Gardeners, Starting Seeds and Growing Transplants Outdoors in Winter

Pre-registration is required at
https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0ocOGur-j4sGd2_9RIUObulwcIoatTeGZSB

acormany@umd.edu or 301-791-1604.

Recurring Events 2021

1st Wednesday of the month 1PM
Adults: Book Share

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Kid's Zone: Ages Eight and Up
Sharpsburg Library anytime we are open

301-432-8825

January: Bottle cap necklace

January Crafting: Every Wednesday
6PM to 7PM

Learn how to knit or rug hook!

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

January: Winter Spice Club

Pick up while supplies last! December - Fennel

*History and info about the spice;
Recipes including the spice

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Thursdays at 3:30PM: Storytime

Masks are required for those 2 and up during Storytime in the library.

[Sharpsburg Library](#)

301-432-8825

Second Thursdays every month, Lion's Club 7PM, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main St, Sharpsburg, MD 21782

Area Churches

Christ Reformed Church

117 West Main Street
Sharpsburg
301-432-6182

Sundays: 9AM

United Christian Fellowship

18823 Shepherdstown Pike,
Keedysville, MD 21756

301-432-0110

Sundays: 8:45AM Fellowship, 9AM
Sunday School, 10AM Worship &
Children's Church

Sharpsburg Church of the Brethren

123 E Main St, Sharpsburg

Sundays at AM, Sunday School at
10:30AM

301-432-4944

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

209 West Main Street

Sharpsburg

301-432-7098

Sundays: 10AM

Burnside First Church of God

3904 Mills Rd, Sharpsburg

Sharpsburg Bible Church

5134 General Stuart Court, Sharpsburg

301-432-5309

Sunday School 9:30 AM to 10:30
AM, Sunday Morning Worship &
Children's Church 10:30 AM to
11:30 AM

Mayor & Councilpersons

Russ Weaver – Mayor

Jacob Martz – Vice Mayor

Mia Parsons – Council

John Hammond – Council

Ed Beeler-Council

Robbie Waters – Council

Joe Kudla – Council

106 East Main Street

PO Box 368

Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782

Phone: 301-432-4428

Fax: 301-432-8990

<https://sharpsburgmd.com/>

townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg)
TheTownOfSharpsburg

Zoning Administrator-Tim Lung

Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com

msa12/23/21 Ver 1.0



Christmas Season 2021

Photos came from
several sources. A
special thanks to Ms.
Beatrix Gregg who
took the best ones.



Beatrix Gregg
Photography



ATTACHMENT:

Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg Meeting Minutes DRAFTED

December 6, 2021, 6 pm

I. Call meeting to order and pledge-John

II. In attendance: Russ Weaver, Jacob Martz, Ed Beeler, Mia Parsons, John Hammond, Carrie Estell, Randy Crist, Kayden Snyder, Gary Candelaria, Perry Jamieson, and Jen Bruni

III. Meeting minutes from November 2021 to approve-Ed motioned, Jake seconded, all approved

Audit/Budget + November Actuals (audit extended through to the end of the calendar year) Russ explained the financials stated that legal fees have exceeded the budget due to the fees associated with purchasing land, legal advice for land purchase, surveyor costs have been high but the results are favorable to the town's interest. John motioned to accept, Ed seconded and all were in favor.

Public Comments: Randy Crist who resides at 215 Chapline Street asked why Jacob Martz is still the vice mayor? Russ spoke of being innocent before guilt is proven in a court of law. Randy then questioned why with the vice mayor's record he is the vice mayor; Russ reiterated that any previous charges were misdemeanors and that the law both state a federal allow felons to vote and hold office. Russ said that he spoke to the town's lawyer and the council and that Jacob Martz will continue with his vice mayor duties and serve the town.

Mayor's Comment(s)

Thank you-Russ wanted to thank all the councilmembers with a gift bag of local goodies. BIG THANKS for all the members and what they are doing for the town. At the beginning of this, he was a little learry as many of the members, along with a new town clerk and new zoning administrator, but feels that many things have been accomplished and the town is in a good place. The goodie bags were well received.

New format for January meeting – Status and 2022 objectives

For the January meeting and future meetings, reports to be mostly written

Main focus to be for the first meeting of 2022

Accomplishments for 2021

Plans/ideas for 2022

Next meeting is scheduled for January 10th

Zoning with Tim-out of town-report provided

Requested guidance from the Town Attorney, Brian Kane regarding property maintenance enforcement of owner-occupied property in the Town as it relates to the current Town codes.

225 W. Antietam Street - Weed complaint

10-day notice of weed violation sent on Oct 25. The property was brought into compliance by the owner prior to the Nov 4 deadline.

0 W. Antietam St. (Crampton)

In response to Mayor & Council discussion at the November meeting concerning the open foundation hole and safety issues; contacted Rich Eichelberger, Director of the County Department of Permits and Inspections regarding the status of the building permit and if there is any action the County can take to correct the issue. Still waiting for a reply as of Nov 19.

121 E. main Street – Weed complaint.

10-day notice of violation was sent, some mowing of the property occurred prior to the deadline. Questionable if the property would be considered in compliance.

124 E. Main Street – Building Permit for roof replacement

Building permit has been issued.

Russ had councilmembers and the public to highlight this section-since Sharpsburg is a historic district, a district commission is not needed.

Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program

To follow up on last month's discussion, contacted Maryland Historic Trust regarding eligibility for state and federal tax credits for rehabilitation and preservation of historic structures in the Town and the possible necessity to adopt Historic Preservation Zoning. The response was that Homeowners located within the boundaries of the state and national registered district and with properties considered contributing to the district are eligible for the historic tax credit regardless of any local designations. The Town is designated on the National Register. As of Nov 19, still waiting for response concerning eligibility for County Tax credits.

Looking into issues related to the discussion regarding the Town mowing properties that are not brought into compliance with the weed ordinance after the notification period. It appears that Chapter 16, Article 2 Section 2-2, allows the Town to cut weeds after the expiration of the notice period and bill the property in the form of a lien on the property.

Processed and issued a Town permit for a 12'x30' shed to be located in the rear yard of 123 W. Antietam Street. No County building permit required (<400 sq ft.).

Council comments

- John Hammond-Building and Infrastructure

- Wall meeting with Brian Kane this morning went well. Test drill a well to check for water production, Mr. Kane is going to speak with the county to request 30K for this pilot well program. The main bottom line for this project is to get better water rates for the town's residents. A memorandum of understanding will need to be crafted prior to this arrangement.
- Town's pond needs to be beautified, (floating dock which is handicapped accessible, brush removed, a possible pavilion, benches and/or picnic tables. Some type of strategy to get rid of the invasive cat tails
- Russ mentioned monies from Project Open Space for some beautification park projects, (fencing at the park, new or extended jungle gym equipment)
- John brought up future rebates for water/sewer bills for the next two quarters, (January & April)
- ✦ Russ discussed that energy costs look to be rising and that the rebate will assist our town's residents.
- ✦ John motioned, Mia seconded and all were in favor of the rebate.
- ✦ Carrie will reach out to the water quality billing department this week
- ✦ Building updates performed but not reported:
- ✦ HVAC was checked by T&D Duct Cleaning out of Frederick. Our system was given a 2 on a scale of 1-5; 1 for no need for cleaning and 5 needs a lot of cleaning. Suggested that the filter in the library and the filter at the back of the council room be cleaned at least one time per year.
- ✦ Larry and Sons Plumbing came out to unclog main toilet drain, Carrie set up a cleaning station in each bathroom to assist with the cleanliness of the bathrooms between the weekly cleaning.
- ✦ JS Electric came out to fix/assess the outdoor outlet, clock and spot lights. There was a bad GFI, some of the outdoor wires were not taped down. All outside electronics are currently working. Clock still needs to be set.
- ✦ Mallick Plumbing came out today, as they are Back Flow certified. They tested the back flow and it passed.
- ✦ Joe Kudla-streets, roads & culverts (not present)
- Russ reported that Joe is doing a lot of work for the town and wished he was here
- John and Russ met with MDOT SHA, this was a productive meeting that ultimately took away any resident/home owner responsibility for the walls.
- ✦ While the walls are not private property, the curbs bump up to the walls and the maintenance and fixing could be the state's responsibility. At the meeting, Delegate Wivell and Congressman Corderman, shared enthusiasm with helping to find funding for this historic treasure. There looks to be a 1–3-year time frame to fix and extract growth and fix the pointing.
- ✦ Walls were included in the historic survey
- ✦ Joe is cultivating a very good relationship with the transportation at the county and state level.
- ✦ He will work on a written agreement between us and the state.
- ✦ Bridge at Chapline by Post Office is ours the culverts are state's responsibility
- ✦ There is a hole on Antietam Street.
- ✦ Street cleaning should be done this month. Joe has reached out to Williamsport and they've agreed to help with this task. Main and side streets will be cleaned.
- ✦ Robbie Waters-parks, railroad station, town operations (not present)
- Fishing Rodeo Application was sent in for April 30th from 7-10 A.M.

Officer Peyton's report for November included:

- ✦ 8 school checks, 8 park checks, 7 ball field checks, 10 checks Antietam Station, 4 hrs. foot patrol, 3 hrs. traffic enforcement for Main St and Church St-2 warnings 1 citation.
 - ✦ Veteran's Day ceremony
- Assault investigation with paper service afterwards assisted county with an animal complaint, trespassers, harassment, and a medical emergency out of town

- Jake Martz-communications, parade, grants

- Memorial Day Parade planning is underway, next meeting is tomorrow, Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 6 pm at Town Hall.
 - ✦ The theme is The Greatest Generation, working on a grand marshal and Jack Myers is a possibility.
 - ✦ Got the first completed application for Miss Vicky the secretary at Sharpsburg Elementary school
- Jake has reached out to many reenactors early to have a presence at the parade for 2022

Jake Thanked Ed Beeler for the two events, Tree lighting and Miss Sharpsburg, for a job well done.
Jake to reach out to Mike Arant to meet up concerning the paper edition for the Town Crier

Jake will reach out to the county to have a proclamation for Miss Sharpsburg for the next Mayor and Council meeting, January 10, 2022

- Mia Parsons-Planning-(Streetscape), grants
 - Holiday banners and hardware have arrived, Robbie will be contacted to get these up soon. These will be in the new shed; John has the keys and will give to Robbie.
 - Bids for arborists to trim and/or remove trees from the Tree Survey will be done and once an arborist is selected, work on this will start. This will be a spring project.
 - Some discussion about other seasonal or veteran banners.
 - Russ requested the planning committee to get ideas for the town square beautification together to be able to execute this project early next year.
 - Ed Beeler-Historical Planning, town archives, communications, grants
 - I welcomed Max Gregg as our second student intern, He will be responsible for our Dioramas and small Antietam display, and Adam is Responsible for Artifact Processing and Exhibit Design, plus both interns will be trained to give tours.
 - Our Staff and Volunteers help to decorate the council chambers, and Bea Gregg mother of our intern Max made our Mural that hangs in the council chambers.
 - On December 1st, our Elementary School came down and decorated our trees out front of town hall. A thank you to Russ Weaver, Bea Gregg and Laura Oates for helping me that day.
 - On December 3, we had our tree lighting which had around 90 in attendance. Again a thank you to our volunteers: Robbie and Heather Waters, Adam Oates and Jacob Martz for turning on the tree lights, Bea Gregg, Lynn DiCarlo, Laura Oates and Jen Bruni for serving the refreshments and for Jessica Snyder for her music and the Sharpsburg Fire Company for bringing Santa.
 - On January 11th I will be at the Sharpsburg Elementary School talking to the history club about the Sharpsburgh Museum of History, this club will be made up of 4th and 5th graders and I will give them a little glimpse of what we have to offer.
 - On January 13th a homeschooling group of around 20 will be visiting the library and the museum.
 - March 26th 9-4 There will be a metal detecting exhibit
 - Will be working on an EMS & Fire Company History display
 - Our first Miss Sharpsburg pageant was a great success.
 - ✦ Miss Lucy Baker was crowned Miss Sharpsburg 2022 and will start her reign in January 2022, when she will visit our first council meeting of 2022. Lucy is the daughter of Gary and Sarah Baker and Great Granddaughter of Ernie Wetterer.
 - ✦ Some activities she will be asked to participate in are: representing our museum and the town, laying a wreath at the Memorial Day service, ride in the parade, participate in Sharpsburg Days in October, museum's open house, lighting of the tree and the crowning of Miss Sharpsburg 2023. She may be asked to attend other events.
 - ✦ Staff and volunteers did a terrific job and a BIG thanks for their help-Saran Baker, Lynn DiCarlo, Laura Oates, and Cindy Beeler for helping and providing the food for the reception after the coronation.
- Will be working on guidelines for future Miss Sharpsburg Pageants.

Mayor's Report

POS updates

Need for a small group to meet with architectural landscapers, three local companies

Targeting purchase this calendar year for the remaining lot for the park at the top of the town. There cannot be a small building for living history, there are many restrictions for this parcel of land.

Use Dave Guiney for RFP phase (maybe project management)

Sustainable Community Application-submitted on time, this is a good thing for our town, it helps with funding and grants

SAMs application submitted-our application is active and has a renewal date of November 29, 2022

EMS monies paid-this included a donation and extra monies for their updated internet.

Met with Secretary Wendi Peters, David Cotton (ARC) – help with CIP-this organization can provide free guidance with capital improvement planning

Met with Secretary of Interior and Delegate Trone-met at the Antietam Battlefield and had some pictures taken at the National Cemetery.

Possibility of adding a paper copy of the Town Crier-there are many options to get this paper out in print and many options were discussed, (getting a company to do the printing, purchasing a good color copier that can staple, etc.), some ideas were to have them available at local businesses, (Battlefield Market, Nutter's, Sharpsburg Pharmacy and Bender's). The library has always provided FREE of charge a color copy to anyone wanting a copy.

Add to the street scape committee-Russ would like the town square beautification plans made available for January's meeting.

Old Business/ACTIONS

Lutheran Cemetery-Gary Cardelaria, the president of Sharpsburg's Historical Society, would like to adopt the Lutheran Cemetery to assist with maintenance, getting it repaired and overall upkeep. Russ and council appeared to favor this partnership, the town would maintain the cemetery's ownership and assist with some of the projects' funding. Russ reiterated that monies need to be separate and that folks donating would be assured that monies would go towards the cemetery and not the historical society. There is a meeting scheduled for December 15th at 1 pm, at Town Hall.

New Business

Bids-schedule needed

Trash (ends 12/2022)

Mowing (ended)

Snow Removal (ends 12/2022)

AV bids-received one bid, waiting on a second

Website design and hosting-four companies provided information for the new website/design. The website needs to be updated and be user friendly for phones. The current website manager is not able to attempt any work until spring time 2022, the other companies'

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m., Mia motioned, John seconded, all were in favor. Next meeting Monday, January 10th at 6 pm

