



Sharpshburg Town Crier

The Roger Moore Edition



Volume 30

April 2022

Number 4



it into this initial article.

Meet Your Neighbors: Sharpshburg Volunteer Fire Company

As always happens, the story the Editor thought he was after turns out to be another one altogether. Meet Matt Ryan, Daryl “Breeze” Benner, and Ron “Peanut” De-launey. This month, the Crier sat down with these fellows at Sharpshburg Volunteer Fire Company (SVFC). There are pages of notes, photos, plus their handouts from our meeting – sadly, little of which will make

Continued Page 2

We Remember: Ryett VanCleave, A Message from Mayor Russ Weaver

When Councilman Waters came forward with the request to put ribbons and bows along Main Street and to have a parade, we said of course no problem. We asked if there was anything else that we could do, and Robbie suggested that we could make Ryett the Mayor of Sharpshburg which we did. I would like to spend a few moments discussing what these symbols really mean. They are outward and visible signs of just how much a community can care. The death of a 9-year-old child is a tragedy and there is little anyone can do to relieve that pain and sorrow. However, as you traveled along Main Street looking over all the people lining the street and we see the people here today in their orange t-shirts there is one thing that stands out, Ryett's family is not alone. You're not alone. We want to present the family the key to the Town, a certificate showing Ryett as Mayor and a collectible teddy bear from our Museum of History as tokens of that concern but most importantly to remind you that the community and the Mayor and Council are here to help you in any way we can, The Town wishes to express our heartfelt condolences to the Ryett VanCleave family.



Volunteer Fire Company , *Continued*

The real story is one of generations of devotion to the job of first response, firefighting, and rescue and to this community. All three of these gentlemen have dedicated their lives to the safety of the people of Sharpsburg and vicinity. They each have been at it most of their lives. These guys put the “V” in Volunteer!

The story of SVFC goes back to 1943 and the fire that nearly destroyed Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on Main Street. (See the photo on Page 11.) There was no firefighting capability close by and the town’s people decided to create a local fire company. The attached photo shows some well-known members of the initial fire company and the first fire truck, a 1930s era American LaFrance.



**Thomas Spong, William Bender,
Alan Leatherman, and Flavious Latta**

Over the years, SVFC has expanded its mission into every kind of rescue situation they get called to undertake. These include categories one might not immediately think of - heavy rescue, confined space rescue, high angle rescue, vehicle

rescue, water, and (related) swift water rescue. In addition to specialized equipment, these capabilities require hundreds of hours of training and constant updating. SVFC has come a long way!



About training, the list of hundreds of required hours just to qualify for the dozens of different skill sets is mind boggling. In addition, there are hundreds of additional hours of training required for retaining and upgrading skills. These are committed people.

In addition to 20 active volunteers, SVFC has three career staff, part of county-wide operations, on site 24/7.

Regarding volunteers, there is opportunity for folks in our community to get involved. In addition to volunteer roles in first response, firefighting, and rescue operations, you can take on the tasks of administration, operations, or any of the dozens of activities and skills required to keep SVFC, in Matt’s words, “The Best in Washington County”.

Young people 12 to 15 years old can get involved, too. The Cadet Program trains committed young volunteers to become First Responders in a demanding program.

Recently the early 1960s Ford firetruck truck was discovered, purchased, and is now undergoing restoration. It will be used to promote fire and rescue awareness in our community. Look for future

Volunteer Fire Company , *Continued*

articles in the Crier as we follow the restoration progress. This restoration project is funded out of voluntary donations for this purpose only, not from any SVFC operational funds.

The Crier thanks Matt, Daryl, and Ron for taking the time to make this article possible.

Look for additional spots in the Crier as we dig deeper into this important part of our community.



From the Town Council

Memorial Day Reminders

As many of you already know, our annual Memorial Day Commemoration, which, this year, will be held on May 28th, is almost upon us. As a reminder, I just wanted to inform everyone of the following traffic changes and restrictions that will remain in effect throughout the day:

1. From the hours of 7:00 am - 4:00 pm, there will be NO PARKING in the Town Square along Main Street.
2. North and South Mechanic Street, including abutting alleyways, will be closed to through traffic beginning no later than 10:30 am.

3. Beginning at approximately 12:15 pm, both lanes of Route 34 will be shifted into the westbound shoulder, from Sharpsburg Elementary School to approximately Ranch Lane, to accommodate staging of parade participants in the eastbound shoulder.

4. From 10:45 am - approximately 12:15 pm, the Town Square will be CLOSED to vehicular traffic. During this time, vehicles will be diverted around the square utilizing Chapline Street for westbound traffic, and Antietam Street for eastbound traffic.

5. Beginning at approximately 1:45 pm, Route 34 will be closed in its entirety to vehicular traffic from Canal Road to Rodman Avenue, and will reopen following the passage of the parade.

6. Both preceding and following the parade, we ask that drivers be mindful of increased pedestrian traffic throughout the town, particularly in and around the Town Square and Sharpsburg Elementary School.

The Memorial Day Committee is committed to delivering a fun, exciting and respectful experience for our spectators, while at the same time ensuring the safety of all our participants, volunteers, and everyone else involved in making the event possible. Thank you for your cooperation, and I look forward to seeing you at this year's 155th Memorial Day Commemoration!

- Mr. Jacob Martz: Vice Mayor/
Memorial Day Committee Chairman



Town Council, *Continued*

Feral Cats

The town requests your assistance in managing our feral cat population. Before taking any action to vaccinate them against rabies and to neuter/spay them we need to determine their numbers. If you are aware of any feral cats in town, please provide your estimate of numbers and known locations to Town Hall. Call 301-432-4428 or drop a message at townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

Proactively taking the steps to reduce numbers and provide vaccination will improve the overall health of our feral cats and the town's environment.

Sometimes we encounter previously neutered/spayed/inoculated cats released back into their environments. These can be identified by an ear crop called an "ear tip", the removal of about one centimeter of the tip of an adult cat's ear. This is a universally recognized procedure that is done while the cat is under anesthesia for spay/neuter surgery.

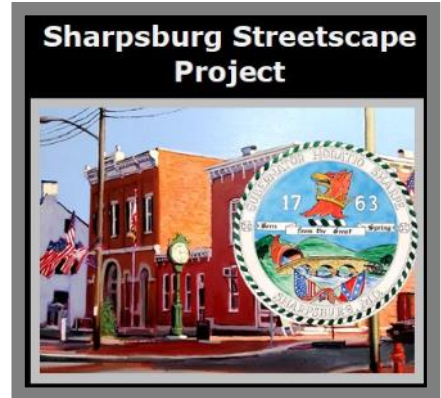


Streetscape Project

You may have noted this month the tree pruning on Main Street and the removal of some trees. Town residents

who had trees removed from in front of their houses are invited to suggest what variety of tree they'd like to have planted to re-

place the removed one. Call 301-432-4428 or drop a message to townofsharpsburg@comcast.net



About the Town

American Legion Auxiliary Announces Essay Winners

Ava Gift, pictured below, Americanism chairwoman of Sharpsburg American Legion Auxiliary Unit 236, presented monetary awards, ribbons, and flags to the winners of the annual Americanism Essay Writing Contest, April 5 at Sharpsburg Elementary School.

The title of this year's essay was "How can we support families who provide care to their veterans?"

Fourth Grade winners were 1st Place Winner Morgan Molesky, daughter of Matthew and Melaine Molesky, 2nd Place Mallory Johnikin, daughter of Anna Johnikin and 3rd Place Abigail Rose, daughter of William and Catherine Rose.



Essay Winners, *Continued*

Fifth Grade winners were
1st Place
Kathryn Ransom, daughter of Rex and Sarah Ransom,
2nd Place



Emily Franko, daughter of Michael and Michelle Franko and 3rd Place Avery Larson daughter of Matthew and Rebecca Larson.

Sharpsburg American Legion Auxiliary to Collect Worn Flags

Spring has arrived and yard cleaning has begun, making an ideal time to replace tattered, torn and worn American flags.

The American Legion Auxiliary, Antietam Unit 236, will place a collection barrel in front of Sharpsburg Town Hall from April 23 to May 27, where residents may place their worn American flags for proper disposal by unit members.

The Unit reminds all Americans that every day is a good day to display an American flag in good condition but it is especially important to display them for the upcoming patriotic holidays of Armed Forces Day (May 21), Memorial Day (May 30) (town observance May 28), Flag Day (June 14), Independence Day (July 4), Labor Day (September 5), Patriots Day (September



11), National POW/MIA Recognition Day (September 16), 75th U.S. Air Force Birthday (September 18), Gold Star Mothers and Families Day (September 26), 247th U.S. Navy Birthday

(October 13), National Day of the Deployed (October 26), 247th U.S. Marine Corps Birthday (November 10), Veterans Day (November 11), National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (December 7), 386th U.S. National Guard Birthday (December 13)

- Ms. Ava Gift

Sharpsburg Historical Society News Sharpsburg Historical Society Archives

Did you know the Sharpsburg Historical Society maintains extensive archives, photos, and files on many varied topics regarding our town's history? They are housed on the second floor at 100 West Main Street and are available for use by appointment. You can find information about your house, former town businesses, photos, and descriptions of people and places that contributed to making Sharpsburg what it is today, our home.



To arrange for a visit to the Society's records, you can email President Gary Candelaria at monaghadd354@yahoo.com, or text him at 301-660-1824.

Historical Society News, *Continued*

The answers to your questions may just be waiting for you there. And remember that during 'Washington County Gives' in May, you can donate directly to the

Sharpsburg Historical Society (and avoid the program's 'carrying charges') by sending your check to the Society at PO Box 513, Sharpsburg, MD, 21782. The Society is a 501(c)(3), tax exempt organization, and your donation may be tax deductible.

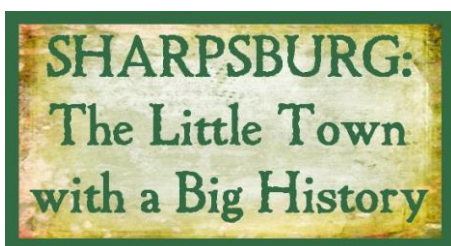
- Gary Candelaria, President Sharpsburg Historical Society

Methodist Cemetery Preservation Project

This is the 3rd phase of work to preserve the Methodist Cemetery (established 1828).

SHS started this project in 2017. SHS has mapped the cemetery, cleaned the stones, and reset and repaired remaining tombstones. SHS also paid to repair and reinstall the wrought iron fence at the cemetery. This third phase will determine locations of reported burials that are missing tombstones.

- Ms. Vernell Doyle



Sharpsburgh Museum of History & Town of Sharpsburg: March Highlights and News

March Attendance: 274, Year to date Attendance: 486

Metal Detecting Exhibit had six vendors displaying artifacts found around Sharpsburg & Washington County. Attendance: 65, and the vendors would like to come back next year.



Our Three Student Interns and I were invited to the Army Heritage Center Museum in Carlisle, Pa, for a tour.

Next month, May the 14, The History of Sharpsburg's Fire & EMS Exhibit, which I already have two donations of pictures and other items of the EMS.

The Sharpsburg Museum of History is now a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Donations for the month of March:

1. Two leather flagpole carriers that belonged to the Sharpsburg Rifles
2. A file full of letters, books, and bulletins from the Church of the Brethren
3. A large file full of items from the Lutheran Church
4. Items from two people about the EMS of Sharpsburg

Museum of History, *Continued*

5. One display case from the Alsatia Club of Hagerstown

6. Several pieces of slag from the Iron Furnace back at Antietam

- Ed Beeler – Executive Director/
Archivist, Sharpsburgh Museum of History & Town of Sharpsburg

Community Calendar

April 30: Money Bonanza

Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company
Boonsboro American Legion

301-991-2230

<https://sharpsburgvfc.org/>

April 30 9AM to 2PM: Maryland Poultry Swap and Farmers' Market

Green Hill Farms

<https://www.ghfarm.org/>

April 30: 7AM to 10AM: Sharpsburg Fishing Rodeo

Town Pond

townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

301-432-4428

May 2 at 6 PM: Town Council Meeting

Sharpsburg Town Hall

townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

301-432-4428

May 5 from 1:30PM to 6:30PM:
Plant/Seed Swap and Share

Sharpsburg Library

301-432-8825

Tables will be set up in front of the Sharpsburg Library. Feel free to drop off and pick up!

May 7 from 1:30PM to 6:30PM: Free Comic Book Day

Sharpsburg Library

301-432-8825

Drop in and pick up a free comic!

May 11: Bulk Trash Pickup

Sharpsburg Town Hall

townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

301-432-4428

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2564932940306411&id=147327805400282

May 14: History of the Sharpsburg Fire & EMS History Exhibit

Sharpsburgh Museum of History

301-800-6877 or Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com

May 26 at 3:30PM: Special Story Time

Sharpsburg Library

301-432-8825

Memorial Day! Patriotic Craft!

May 28: Memorial Day Commemoration, Wreath Laying, and Parade

Sharpsburg Town Hall

townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

301-432-4428

May 30 at 7:30PM: Memorial Day Pork Raffle Drawing

Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company

301-991-2230

<https://sharpsburgvfc.org/>

See poster in Attachments

June 1 Through September 7: 2022 Civil War Lecture Series

(More details right here starting in May)

<https://jacob-rohrbach-inn.com/blog/2022/01/2022-civil-war-lecture-series/>

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

<https://jacob-rohrbach-inn.com/>

301-432-5079

June 4 10AM to 2PM: Plant Sale, Sunny Meadows

Sunny Meadows Garden Center

7437 Sharpsburg Pike, Boonsboro, MD 21713

301-302-0740

info@sunnymeadows.net

June 11 at 1PM: Unveiling of National Historical Landmark Plaque

Tolson's Chapel

tolsonschapel@gmail.com

RSVP Requested, see poster in Attachments

June 11: Sharpsburg Rifles Reunion

Sharpsburgh Museum of History

301-800-6877 or Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com

June 18 2PM to 8PM: Potomac Valley Fire Company Carnival

2202 Dargan School Rd

Sharpsburg, MD 21782

301-432-2130

<http://potomacvalleyfire.com/>

July 9: Sharpsburg Founder's Day

Sharpsburgh Museum of History

301-800-6877 or Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com

Recurring Events 2022

1st Wednesday of the month 1PM

Adults: Book Share

Sharpsburg Library

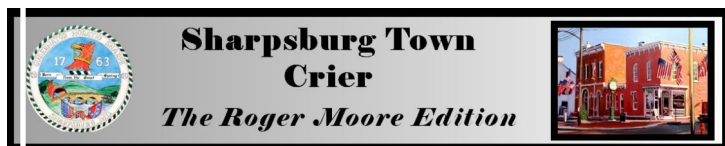
301-432-8825

Kid's Zone: Ages Eight and Up

Sharpsburg Library anytime we are open

301-432-8825

May: Grab some stickers, check the color key and help us reveal an eye popping image!



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

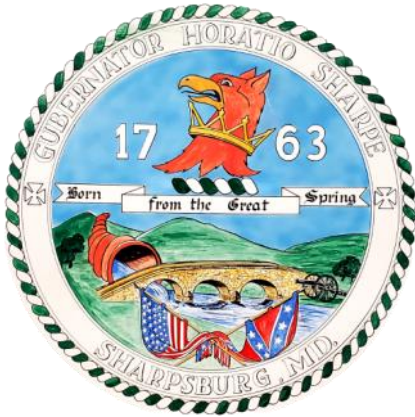
Zoning Administrator-Tim Lung

Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com

msa 4/26/22 Ver 1.0

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT:



Friends of Tolson's Chapel
Invite You to Join This Special Celebration
156 years In the Making



Historic Tolson's Chapel and School
National Historic Landmark Plaque Dedication
Saturday, June 11, 2022, 100-200pm

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Cheryl LaRoche

Guest Speakers: Dr. Dean Herrin, Kathryn Smith, Supt. Susan Trail

Musical Selections from the Ebenezer AME Church Choir of Hagerstown

Blessings by Pastor Don Marbury and Pastor John Schildt

Chapel and Cemetery Tours

Tolson's Chapel and School is a historic African American church located in Sharpsburg, Washington County, Maryland. It was built in 1866 and served as a church, Freedmen's Bureau school, and county school for Black residents of Sharpsburg in the years following the American Civil War. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008, and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2021.

[The Dignity of Free Men: The Story of Tolson's Chapel](#)

RSVP by Monday June 6
tolsons.chapel@gmail.com

Sharpsburg Vol. Fire Company's
**2022 Memorial Day
Pork Raffle**

Drawing May 30, 2022 7:30 PM at Fire Station
(110 W. Chapline St., Sharpsburg, MD - Presence not required)

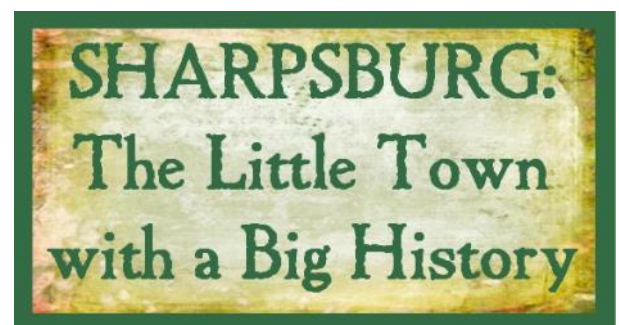
1st Prize - Full Pig - Cut and Vacuum Sealed & 14+ Cubic Foot Chest Freezer
2nd Prize: 1/2 Pig - Cut and Vacuum Sealed
3rd Prize: A Ham and 10lb of Bacon

Tickets \$10
Maximum 500 Tickets Sold

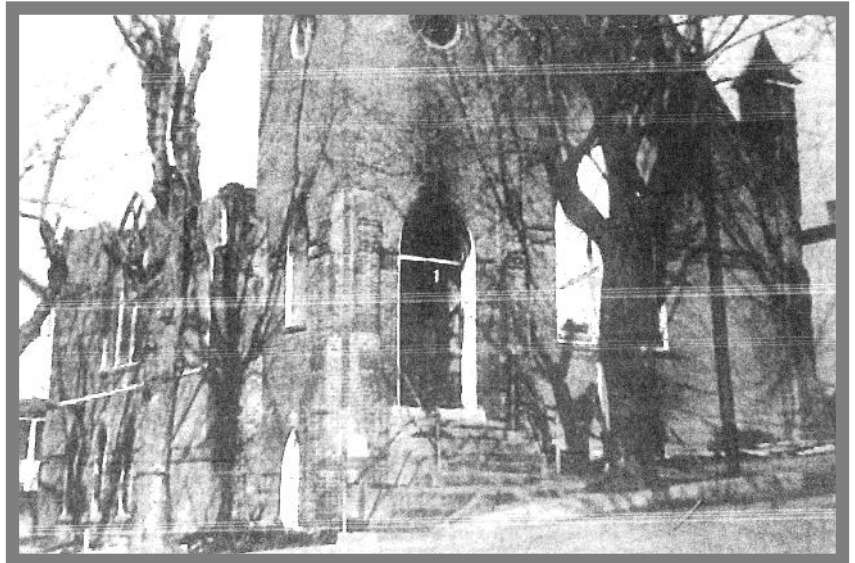
For Tickets: Contact a member, message on facebook at sharpsburgvfc1,
or email to sharpsburgvfc@gmail.com

Meat packaged by Three Springs Meat Sharpsburg, MD

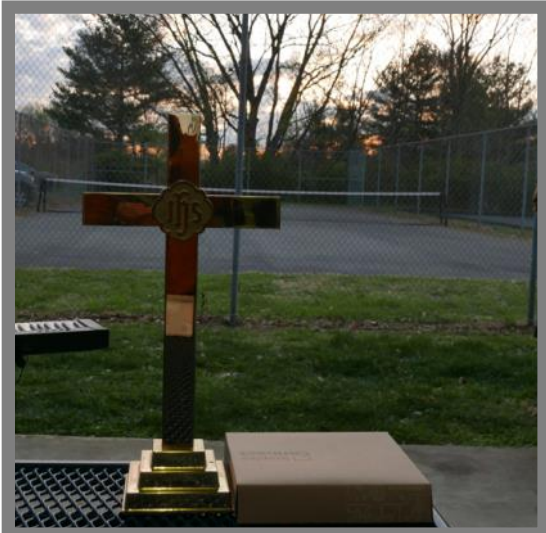
Thank you for your support of our local volunteer efforts.



ATTACHMENT:



Lutheran Church Fire 1943



Holy Week in Our Town



ATTACHMENTS:

Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 4, 2022
6 PM

- I. Call meeting to order and pledge-Ed led the pledge
Meeting minutes from March 2022 to approve-Ed motioned, Jake seconded and all were in favor of the meeting minutes from March.

In attendance: Russ Weaver, Jake Martz, Joe Kudla (via phone), Ed Beeler, John Hammond, Randall Short, Mike Arant, Dave Hays, Perry Jamieson, Jen Bruni, Carrie Estell, Brian Albert, Oley Griffith, Daniel Shaffer, and Diann Shaffer

Brain Albert, introductions and brief vision-Running as for sheriff from Clear Spring as a republican, Mr. Albert has 28 years of law enforcement experience and has directed the 911 center and learned a lot. He feels that he brings forth a great amount of service experience and a fresh set of eyes. One of his goals if he wins the election for sheriff is to create a county wide task force that would assist communities.

Dave Hays, Director of Washington County Emergency Services-ALLEY NAMING

Russ explained that the letter that the town received was without explanation and no phone call to follow up.

Mr. Hays said that the naming of alleys/streets are important for safety and emergency services. Emergency employees are sometimes outside the community and without knowledge, it is important to have unique names for alleys. The list of names that are not able to be used are due to sound alike names, duplicate names, these cause issues when calling in an emergency. The lack of landlines, which were associated with an address, are also problematic as cell phones because the GPS linked to cell phones sometimes is not accurate and 80% of emergency calls are from cell phones. The technology is getting better; with cell phones location can be about 3 meters away. Some suggestions for new alley names that Mr. Hays and Mr. Griffith thought of that reflected the history of the town were: Biggs Alley, Tolson Alley, Garrison Springs Alley and Clipp Alley. Russ thanked the gentlemen for their thoughtfulness of names and will take this to the town's planning commission. The need to name the alley by Tolson's Chapel is needed as it will be part of the town's walking tour.

Public Comments

Randy Short-the gravel that was replaced on his alley way was not compressed and is all over his property. He has requested the town remove said gravel. Joe and Robbie to take a look to see what type of solution will result in fixing this issue.

Perry Jamieson-his property is adjacent to Randy's and he feels that the issue with the alley needs more work, possible paving.

Daniel & Diann Shaffer-requesting to be annexed into the town limits. They have a property and some is in town and some of it is not. They would like for the entire area to be part of the town. They brought to the meeting some paperwork that was copied and Tim will be aware of this request.

Mayor's Report

Budget/Finances-March finances were reviewed and discussed-Jake motioned and Joe seconded, all were in favor of the budget and March's finance report. Russ asked that council take a good look at the budget as we will have to create a budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

3-person election board-The three women from the Library Board will continue to serve as the election board, (Patty Hammond, Judy Spielman and

DSL (10%, who is able to use room)-spending the money to get council meeting audio equipment; with the cost of the equipment, we need to rethink allowing outside organizations using the room. If the Sons of the Confederates wish to still use the room, the meeting night would remain on the first Wednesday of the month and because Ed has to stay to lock up, a 25\$/hour fee, in check or cash, will be donated to the museum. Ed and Carrie will draft up an agreement for the use of the room.

Review Spending Policy-spending policy was reviewed

Feral Cat update-Carrie reached out to a few organizations and need to get a number of feral cats

Website update-website is looking great and should be up and running by the end of the month

Thank You note from the Spielmans for the lunch council bought when Hal was sick

Tim Lung Zoning Report (submitted electronically)

- Continue to work on obtaining the necessary information to complete the zoning permit application for the Short-Term Rental at 110 S. Mechanic Street, owned by Gideon Properties. Draft copy of a parking easement plat has been submitted. Waiting for submittal of the recorded parking easement document.
- Attended a Zoom meeting on March 21 with Russ and County staff in regard to naming of some alleys. Meeting summary is attached. Dave Hays, Director of Emergency Services to be in attendance at the April meeting.
- Meet with the Planning Commission at its meeting on March 9 to go over 2022 action items that were listed in my January report. Draft minutes are attached.
- Follow up on 121 E. Chapline Street zoning violation letter for the construction of a fence without a permit and for use of the property as a Short-Term Rental without proper zoning approval and zoning permit. The owner has restricted the rental of the property to over 30 days. The fence contractor has submitted a permit application for the fence.
- Have been working with Beatrice Gregg regarding her plans for a coffee shop in the former Kretzer's Market at the corner of Mechanic and Main Street.
- Continue to work on the review of a subdivision plat to divide off the town spring from the Hall property on East Antietam Street to be conveyed to the Town. Frederick, Seibert & Associates to revise the plat per comments. Planning Commission granted approval of the Plat at its March meeting. A deed of conveyance will need to be prepared most likely requiring involvement by the Town Attorney.
- At the request of the Planning Commission, attended a Zoom meeting on April 1 with Vernell and staff from the County Planning Department to discuss options for the Town property owners to be eligible for County Historic Preservation Tax credits. The County Historic District Commission and staff will be developing a draft MOU that Towns may use as an alternative to appointing its own Historic District Commission. The Towns would still need to adopt a form of Historic Preservation Zoning. A draft MOU probably won't be available till later this year. The Planning Commission will discuss further and present recommendation to the Council.
- Have talked to owners of property at 143 East High Street regarding the possible annexation of their property into the Town. Their property is located at the end of E. High Street past Church Street and is currently split by the Town boundary but is taxed entirely in the Town. Discussed options with Joe Rogers at the Maryland Department of Planning. It may be possible to use a process known as a "Boundary Adjustment Annexation"; however, this would still require going through with the standard annexation process involving submittal of a petition by the property owner, an annexation resolution, a boundary survey and a public hearing by the Council. Will continue working with State Planning on guidance for a boundary adjustment.
- Received an inquiry from a contractor for Antietam Broadband regarding their plans to do work involving installation of new fiber optic cable in the public right of way and the possible need for permits, etc. I requested that they submit a scope of work and drawings showing the location and extent of the work.
- Will not be in the office on Friday April 15. Beginning Friday April 22, my office hours will be changing from 10am – 2pm to 9am – 1pm.

Planning Commission Meeting Notes

Tax Credits for Historic Structures. Tim reported that in order for the Town to be eligible for County historic tax credits the Town must adopt Historic Preservation Zoning and appoint a Historic District Commission (HDC). Vernell acknowledged this and noted that she is a member of the County HDC. She stated that the HDC is aware that several Towns in the County are interested in the Tax Credit program and that the HDC has been exploring options to the need for each town to have its own HDC through the use of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the County. She stated that County staff Jill Baker and Meghan Jenkins have been working on this. Tim stated that he would reach out to County staff for more information regarding an MOU and report back.

5 G antennas on Town property. Tim explained the benefit for Town oversight of such antennas, including the control of location, design, maintenance and establishment of a fee for use of Town infrastructure, and reviewed Boonsboro's Ordinance. It would need to be a separate Ordinance and not part of the Zoning Ordinance. The Zoning Ordinance covers such antennas on private property. Following a discussion, the Commission asked Tim to gather more info and forward to the Planning Commission for review and possible recommendation to the Council for adoption.

Definition of a "Block". Tim stated that the Town's Zoning Ordinance does not define a "block". The term "block" is used in the section dealing with the regulation of short-term rentals (STR) and set a limit on the number of STR's permitted in a block. Tim stated that in the absence of a definition in the Zoning Ordinance, he would use the definition found in the Subdivision Ordinance. Patty stated that it was the intent of the STR regulation to define a block as the property from both sides of a street within the same address sequence. I. E. 100 block of West Main Street, 200 block, etc. There was a discussion and the members agreed that this was the intent. Tim stated that he would work up some language for a definition and report back to the Planning Commission. There was an additional discussion regarding the number of existing STRs in Town and developing a method of tracking them. Tim stated that this could possibly be handled as a GIS layer in the Town's mapping.

Status of un-improved alleys. Tim stated that the mayor had requested the Commission's input on the possibility of disposing of some of the

un-improved public alleys in Town and offering the property to the adjoining property owners. Some of these alleys may not be currently serving any use to the public in general. There was a discussion about the location of the alleys in question, how they are currently being used, who is using them, maintenance issues, blockages, and how they may be useful to the Town and its citizens in the future. There was a consensus of the Planning Commission that the alleys should be kept by the Town. Mia suggested taking a walking tour to evaluate the alleys and possibly make further recommendations as to possible future uses and improvements.

Storage pods/sea containers. Tim stated that there had been previous discussion by the Mayor and Council and the Planning Commission regarding the use of sea containers and "PODS" as both permanent and temporary storage buildings. Currently such containers would be treated the same in the Zoning Ordinance as any other storage building. Use of containers for temporary storage is not currently addressed. Tim stated that some other Towns have adopted regulations. There was a discussion by the Commission, with some members expressing concern about the aesthetics of these containers and the negative influence on the charm of the Town. The commission asked Tim to provide some samples of other Town's regulation for further discussion.

Town spring acquisition. Tim stated that for some time, the Town has been discussing the possibility of acquiring the historic town spring from its current owners the Hall's, located along the south side of the alley between E. Main St. and E. Antietam St. A subdivision plat has been prepared for the Town by Frederick Seibert & Associates to divide off a 4,254 sq ft parcel from the Hall's property for the purpose of conveyance to the Town. This would be done under the provisions of the Subdivision Ordinance Simplified Plat process which allows the Planning Commission to approve "other uses" such as this. Tim instructed the Commission that a motion to approve the use of the Simplified Plat process for this use and approve the subdivision plat would be in order. It was motioned by Vernell and seconded by Gary to approve the use of the Simplified plat process and to approve the plat. So, moved.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Russ presented to the Commission a review of the state's "Sustainable Communities" programs including the possible availability of grants to make improvements to the Town including façade improvements, street scape renewal, retiring in place, etc. There was a discussion by the Planning Commission. Mia stated that work must be approached in a balanced way regarding aesthetics. Russ stated that he will send out information to the Commission for review. Patty asked about how many members have taken the Planning Commission training required by the State. Vernell stated that she had done the training, Gary said that he would need to do it. Tim stated that he would check with the State Department of Planning for a list of who needs to take the training.

Council comments

- **Mia Parsons**-Planning-(Streetscape), grants-Not in attendance/Carrie reported
 - Getting estimates for tree replacements for the trees that were removed
 - Meeting with the state for a walk through to see what they can assist with street scape
- **Joe Kudla**-streets, roads & culverts
 - Walls are now officially part of MDOT's inventory and the repair will be their responsibility. Traffic lines by the walls should assist with traffic and hopefully will
 - 221 NO parking signs-will talk to Robbie about installing
 - Street Sweep/clean the 3rd week of May
 - At the MML dinner, Joe reminded all in attendance about the town's Memorial Day ceremony and parade.
 - Taylor's was contacted and they will be cleaning out the culvert, due to needing two trucks the scheduling has become tricky. The wet waste will be placed by the water tower and moved to the dump when dried.
 - Sidewalks/Bridges/Culverts-Cody of No Mow Worries provided the town with an estimate and Joe will have him start on the anchor of the guardrails and culvert/bridge repair off Antietam Street. Joe will get a more detailed estimate for the sidewalk work. Since there's a lot of sidewalks that are in need of repair, we could have him work small sections at a time.
 - Inmate Crew to start at the end of the month of the beginning of May. A van with a hitch will be rented, tools and equipment to purchase for town use and a trailer to borrow or rent. The work they will be performing will be mainly cleaning up gutter pans, cleaning out the large culvert near the Fire Station and picking up trash. Joe motioned for the cost of the inmate project, (van rental, trailer and tools lunch for workers), Joe put for the the motion, Jake seconded and all were in favor.
- **Robbie Waters**-parks, railroad station, town operations (not present)
- **John Hammond**-Building and Infrastructure
 - County meeting with lawyer on wells was productive.
- **Ed Beeler**-Historical Planning, town archives, communications, grants

- March Attendance: 274-Year to date Attendance: 486
- Metal Detecting Exhibit
- ✦ Six vendors displaying artifacts found around Sharpsburg & Washington County
- ✦ Attendance: 65-could become an annual event
- ✦ Three Student Interns and I were invited to the Army Heritage Center Museum in Carlisle, Pa, for a tour
- ✦ Saturday, April 9th Spring Native American Artifact and Arrowhead Exhibit is 9-4
- ✦ May the 14th History of Sharpsburg's Fire & EMS Exhibit
- ✦ The Sharpsburg Museum of History is now a 501© (3) non-profit organization
- ✦ Donations for the month of March: Two leather flag pole carries that belonged to the Sharpsburg rifles, a file full of letters, books and bulletins from the Church of the Brethren, a large file full of items from the Lutheran Church, Items from two people about the EMS of Sharpsburg, display case from the Alsashia Club of Hagerstown & several pieces of slag from the Iron Furnace back at Antietam
- ✦ **Jacob Martz**-Vice Mayor, communications, Memorial Day Parade, grants
- Memorial Day
- ✦ Received \$5,000 check from Hotel Rental Tax Fund Grant
- ✦ Ordered new signage
- ✦ Met and coordinated with fire police regarding traffic control for the parade
- ✦ Assessed and selected new traffic control devices for purchase to replace old and broken equipment, waiting on confirmation from company for tax-exempt status
- ✦ Distributed applications for parade book sponsorships
- ✦ Parade book is in the process of being formatted, Sharpsburgh Museum of History, in conjunction with the Sharpsburg Historical Society, have prepared and submitted a "History of the Parade" narrative to be included in this year's parade book.
- ✦ We have received approval from the FAA for an Air Force flyover and submitted the request to the National Guard for approval
- ✦ Communicated with the Hagerstown Aviation Museum regarding PT-19 flyover, who stated that they would participate as long as their aircraft are serviceable
- ✦ Currently have 37 returned applications, but expecting 15-20 more within the coming week
- ✦ DSL
- ✦ Reviewed their proposal and from others it looks very fair and they are including a training session once all equipment is in hand. Total package is \$17,830.00 and they're offering us a 10% discount and total would be \$16,083.00. Jake put forth the motion for the expense, Ed seconded the motion and all were in favor. There will be about 3-6 months for complete installation and equipment to be in stock.
- ✦ John suggested to look into new furniture to go with the new meeting audio equipment.

Community Partners

- **Chris Vincent**-advisory board (not present)
- **Mike Arant**-Town Crier
- About 190 electronic subscriptions for the Town Crier, finding the Community Calendar portion is most popular. The library continues to offer free colored copies of the paper.
- Mike will meet with Carrie to discuss how to provide the information residents should know concerning feral cats.
- Mike will also have a portion of the Crier to let residents who had trees removed that their input will be considered.
- **Officer Peyton**-March report, electronically submitted

Checks

- ✦ Antietam Stat -14, park-11, ballfield-7, school-11,
 - ✦ 3 hours of foot patrol
 - ✦ Traffic 5 hrs.-yielding 7 citations & 4 warnings
- 2hrs training and assistance to county with disturbance calls and intoximeter tests

Old Business/ACTIONS

Discussion on out of tow resident who cuts through town property to get to his home, residents who do not mow their grass and the hazard of a hole in an alley.

New Business

Carrie to schedule BULK TRASH before the Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade, signage to be posted on town hall door, Post Office and Facebook page.

Meeting adjourned at 830 pm, next meeting scheduled for Monday, May 2nd