



# Sharpsburg Town Crier

## *The Roger Moore Edition*



Volume 30

May 2022

Number 5

### Meet Your Neighbors: Sharpsburg's Public Librarians and a Little Library History

This month's Town Crier showcases our local Librarians, Ms. Barbara Twigg, Branch Manager (on the left) and Ms. Carrie Estell, Librarian (on the right), who also serves as Town Clerk. Sharpsburg's Library is part of the Washington County Free Library (WCFL) system. They are the most recent librarians in a long line of them in Our Town. Barbara specializes in the library's Adult Program and Carrie the Children's; they share duty with their Teen Program.

Ms. Twigg kindly offered this article about the history of the library here in Sharpsburg. Versions of it have appeared in the Maryland Cracker Barrel Magazine and presented at one of the library's recent evening presentations. You'll see the library has a deep history here and it

involved almost all of us in some way. The devotion of these people, past and present, to literacy in this place is remarkable.



### History of the Public Library in Sharpsburg

Washington County Free Library (WCFL), Sharpsburg Branch is listed as being established on January 9, 1902, with Bertha Mumma being in charge. "Miss Birdie" was a public county school teacher and served as the first Secretary-Treasurer to the Sharpsburg Library Association in 1936. From 1902-1913 two "deposit stations" were maintained in Sharpsburg.

*(Editor's Note: A "deposit station" is an informal supply of books, not organized as we're accustomed to in our time")*

*Continued, page 5*

## From the Town Council

### Memorial Day Reminders

*Reprinted from the April Town Crier*

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:

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

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 of 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!

Jacob Martz, Vice Mayor & Memorial Day Committee Chairman

---

### Paying It Forward: The Good Attracts the Good.

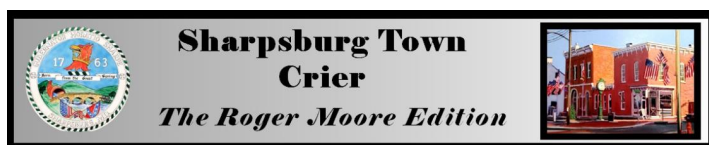
Recently the Mayor and Council took the decision to stop charging for the use of the pavilion at Sharpsburg Town Park. Local children's author, Ms. Heidi Vertrees, is using that venue to host five-day writers' workshops with members of [F.I.S.H.](http://www.fishhomeschool.com), a local homeschool organization. Instead of paying for the use of the pavilion, Heidi and her group raised \$300 and donated it to Compassion International to help children in poor countries overseas.



F.I.S.H is a Christian homeschool group, so along with her website, New Song Press (<https://www.newsongpress.net/>), children are learning ways to write with a Christian worldview.

If you would like to book the pavilion at Town Park, contact Sharpsburg Town Hall (301-432-4428, [townofsharpsburg@comcast.net](mailto:townofsharpsburg@comcast.net))

- Editor





## Auxiliary Kicks Off Poppy Campaign



Following with tradition, Antietam Unit 236, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 236, kicked off the annual poppy campaign by pinning a poppy on Sharpsburg Mayor Russ Weaver at the May town council meeting on Monday, May 2. Miss Poppy Carsyn Mills was out of town on a family vacation, so the Poppy Chairperson Darlene Eichelberger filled in for her giving a brief history of the poppy and the poem "In Flanders Field". Wearing of the poppy keeps the memories of our fallen heroes alive. National Poppy Day is May 28 this year.

- Ms. Ava Gift

---

## About the Town

### SVFC Receives Donated Computers

On May 6, 2022, the Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company received four newly refurbished laptop computers from KCI Technologies in Sparks, MD. This equipment will help with various aspects of the fire company operations including equipment maintenance, inventory, incident reporting, volunteer hour logging, preplanning, and mapping. This gift demonstrates how investments from a large

companies can positively impact small communities like Sharpsburg. Operational and administrative members from SVFC and the Washington County Division of Emergency



Services and County Commissioner Jeff Cline were on hand to accept the donation from Jeff Peluso of KCI. As the station strives to increase its computer equipment to meet new demands, two newer desktop computers and several large monitors or HDMI ready, flat screens are still needed. If you know of any possible donors for this equipment, please email the SVFC at [sharpburgvfc@gmail.com](mailto:sharpburgvfc@gmail.com)

---

## "Feed My Lambs"

Here's an opportunity to help our local hungry kids this summer. There are families nearby experiencing food insecurity. The need is here and now.

The Love for Children (LfC) program is managed by the congregants of St. Paul's Episco-



pal Church in partnership with Sharpsburg Elementary School, local businesses (Sharpsburg Pharmacy, Battleview Market, Nutter's Ice Cream Shop), and the people of our town and beyond. LfC takes over this ministry during the summer months, filling in

Pancake Mix, Syrup, Spaghetti noodles, Spaghetti Sauce, Oatmeal, Bread, and Juice boxes.

Volunteers will even come by your house and pick up food if you like. (Drop a message to [marant@comcast.net](mailto:marant@comcast.net) or call 410-804-7111)

(Full Disclosure: The Editor is a congregant at St. Paul's)

- Editor



**Sharpsburg Elementary School**

for Micah's Backpack whose volunteers provide weekend food during the school year. LfC's plan is to provide 30 kids with ten meals per week this summer, a huge goal in this small place!

Here's how you can help. Starting the second week in June, LfC will place bins at the three local business locations mentioned above. Consider dropping off non-perishable foods from off the list below. Really though, anything kids will eat would be fine.

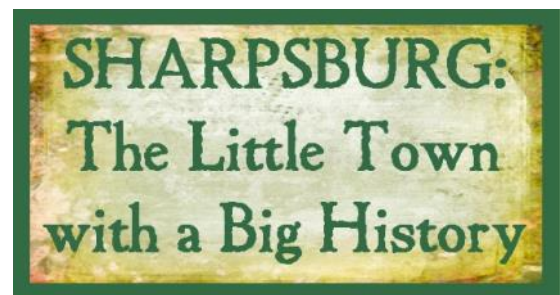


The List: Cereal, Apple Sauce cups, Mixed fruit cups, Pudding cups, Baked beans, Canned green beans, Ketchup, Mayo, Popcorn, Rice Krispies Treats, Canned chicken, Canned tuna, Peanut Butter Crackers, Cheese crackers, Jelly, Peanut Butter, Mac n Cheese,

## Challenge Coins for Sale



A limited number of the first challenge coins issued by the Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company are still available. These gold finish coins feature color images of the Company's patch on one side and Burnside Bridge on the reverse. The Company plans to produce another limited edition of coins later this year depicting another local landmark. Get the first coin while you still can, 300 were minted with less than 100 left. Coins cost only \$10 each, shipping out of the area can be arranged for \$3 additional. For inquiries, please email to [sharpsburgvfc@gmail.com](mailto:sharpsburgvfc@gmail.com)





## Twenty-Six Civil War Lectures!!

Become an expert on local Civil War History! This season is jam-packed with lectures provided by the Jacob Rohrbach Inn, Sharpsburg Lion's Club, and the Antietam Institute. Go to the Community Calendar to see what's offered. -Editor

---

### South County Water Supply Drill

Emergency responders from Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company and five neighboring companies participated in a South County Wa-



ter Supply drill during Easter weekend. This training exercise was designed to practice skills in obtaining, transporting, and dispersing the water needed combat structure fires in the rural environment. During the event, crews moved over 80,000 gallons of water in a variety of scenarios simulating actual response conditions. Thankfully we had perfect weather conditions. This drill was also used to compile data on the capacity and state of readiness of our local fire companies, in efforts to reduce insurance costs to residents.

## Meet Your Neighbors: Sharpsburg's Public Librarians and a Little Library History *Continued..*

No. 1 Station was maintained by either V.R. (Victor) Mumma or S. Mumma throughout this time. Victor was Bertha's brother and S. Mumma, Samuel, her father. "The History of Sharpsburg" by Barron states the early library was housed in the post office which makes sense since both Victor and Samuel were post masters. The 1922 Sanborn Map shows the post office was located at the address of 121 East Main in the western section of the building.



**121 East Main Street**



**Former Town Hotel**

No. 2 Station was maintained by W.J. Highbarger till 1907 when William passed away.



From 1908 until 1911 the Washington County Free Library annual report lists either Highbarger Hotel or Highbarger's as being in charge of the station. Mrs. Harriet Highbarger (William's wife) was listed as in charge in 1912. The Highbarger or City Hotel was located on the square at 101 East Main.

The Sharpsburg Stations housed a collection of books provided by the main branch. The Washington County Free Library paid for the transportation of the cases and the postage on all books ordered by individuals at the Stations. The Mumma Station housed 207 books the first year which circulated 334 times. The Highbarger station housed 256 books which circulated 439 times.

In 1913, both stations were discontinued and a "bookcase branch" was established in the "light and roomy store of M.L. Burgan in Sharpsburg (*Currently Captain Bender's Tavern*), and Miss Eyerly put in charge. Every Thursday she takes the 2:15 PM train on the B.&O.R.R. to Keedysville, drives the three miles to Sharpsburg remaining there till evening when she returns at 8:45 over the Norfolk & Western R.R." according to the 1913 WCFL annual report. The total circulation for the year was 4,296. Cases of books would go out and remain for 60 days. It is written in the "Story of the Washington County Free Library" that the usefulness of these collections depended upon whether the custodian was interested in books or if his ulterior motive was that it might bring customers to the store. Miss Eyerly wrote "Many thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Burgan and Mr. Gross the clerk at the store for their courtesy and interest". She also thanked Katherine Adams for taking over during her dinner hour.

About 1919 the library was moved to the Episcopal Church Parish House (*Currently St. Paul's "Edwards Room"*). On the 1922 Sanborn map of Sharpsburg the library is shown to the right just behind St Paul's Church. It was later moved to the "Smith" property at 131 West Main Street then to the



**Former St. Paul's Parish House, Currently the Edwards Room**

Nicodemus house on Main St ("where Dr. Gardner had his office"). From 1925 to 1937 the library was located in one of the public schools on Antietam Street. I was curious about the choice of locations for the library but several of the Mumma's were members at St. Paul's, Sallie Smith (131 property) was the sister of Victor Mumma's wife and of course Bertha was a teacher at Sharpsburg along with Charlotte Davis who later became a Sharpsburg Library board member and custodian of the "Sharpsburg deposit station" in 1941. In the 1937 WCFL's annual report it states that the "Sharpsburg station was closed for three months due to the lack of heat and was transferred from the old abandoned schoolhouse to the bright room on the second floor of the Community building. (*This location was upstairs in the same building as the current Library.*) With enlarged quarters remodeled for the purpose, this station is now more centrally located than it has been for some years". The community building was built by the International Order of the Red Men in 1911 and purchased by the town who agreed to set aside space for the library.

The library was incorporated September 14, 1936, as The Sharpsburg Library Association

of Washington County, Inc. The Board of Directors are listed as Katherine Adams (niece of Theresa Kretzer), Stella M. Lyne (daughter of Dr. Augustin Biggs), Bertha Mumma, Bessie Grove and Charlotte Davis. Soon after, the library received a gift of \$450 from the late Raleigh Sherman to be used in the support of the library. Mr. Sherman was an attorney in Washington D.C. who maintained a house in Sharpsburg.

The 1941 WCFL annual report lists the library as being under the supervision of Mrs. Charlotte R. Price. The library was open on Thursday afternoons only and had 1100 volumes on its shelves which were secured by gifts from friends and by purchase. A basket of books were received from the Washington County Free Library weekly which were books requested by patrons and new releases.

The Sharpsburg Library Association minutes listed that the Librarian received 25 cents an hour in 1946 and in May of that year, 700 pounds of coal was delivered to the library for \$3.15.

"Library Card Parties" were quite the thing in the 40's in Sharpsburg. People would pay to play cards (the game 500) and small prizes were given for high and low score. Usually there were four to a table. Refreshments were served and the library would receive the admission price. E.P. Earley of the Norfolk and Western Railway Co. paid \$1.70 to the Chairman of the Card Party Committee to pay postage for 170 "postals". Wednesday hours were added in 1955. The Library Association hosted "Silver Teas and Displays" from 1953 until 1963.

Mrs. Elta Hamilton retired in 1968 from her librarian duties at the Sharpsburg Library. In an article from the Hagerstown paper about her retirement she stated, "that mostly younger folks come in to browse and borrow. The 28 steps up to the library room discourages the older citizens" she believes. A newspaper article from November 1972 states that the

town of Sharpsburg agreed to allow the library to move from the second floor to the first otherwise they would need to install a fire escape. In 1975 the first floor was remodeled as a permanent home for the library with an Open House to celebrate the renovation on Sunday, May 4, 1975. Saturday hours were added that June and in 1979 Tuesday hours were added.

WCFL Sharpsburg Branch is at 106 East Main St, Sharpsburg, MD. Along with our regular collection we have over 350 titles on the Civil War with a concentration on the Battle of Antietam. We have a nice local collection along with some local artwork. We also offer programs for all ages including those about the Civil War and local history.

Written by Barbara Twigg, Branch Manager/  
Sharpsburg Library

Many thanks also to Carla Fournier Simmons who provided the "Old School House" photo. She and the Editor spent many terrifying summer afternoons exploring this property grown over with heaven trees, black snakes, and poison ivy, a place on which we were strictly forbidden to trespass. Carla adds, it was "Full of pigeons and old desks. That building on the right had been used as a mill of some sort and was full of old giant spools of thread and with buttons all over the floor."

---

## **Community Calendar**

May 28 Starting at 11AM: Memorial Day Commemoration, Wreath Laying, and Parade

Sharpsburg Town Hall

[townofsharpsburg@comcast.net](mailto:townofsharpsburg@comcast.net)

301-432-4428



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

Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Compa-  
ny

301-991-2230

<https://sharpsburgvfc.org/>

See poster in Attachments

June 1 at 7PM: M. Chris Bryan –  
“The XII Corps at Antietam: Tactical  
Details and Findings”

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

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

June 2 from 5:30PM-6:30PM: Gar-  
den and Grub: Edible Flowers

Sharpsburg Library

301-432-8825

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](mailto:info@sunnymeadows.net)

June 4 at 2PM: Jim Rosebrock, Bu-  
chanan’s Brigade

Pry House Field Hospital Muse-  
um, 18906 Shepherdstown Pike  
[Rachel.Moses@civilwarmed.org](mailto:Rachel.Moses@civilwarmed.org)

June 6 at 6 PM: Town Council Meet-  
ing

Sharpsburg Town Hall

[townofsharpsburg@comcast.net](mailto:townofsharpsburg@comcast.net)  
301-432-4428

June 8 at 7PM: Darin Wipperman –  
“A Damaged Friendship: McClellan  
and Burnside’s 1862 Correspond-  
ence”

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

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

June 9 at 7PM: Dinner Program “The  
Only Doubtful Ones: McClellan’s  
Least Favorite Corps During the An-  
tietam Campaign”

Sharpsburg Lions Club

RSVP by June 2nd  
to [sharpsburglions@gmail.com](mailto:sharpsburglions@gmail.com)

June 11 at 1PM: Unveiling of Nation-  
al Historical Landmark Plaque

Tolson’s Chapel

[tolsonschapel@gmail.com](mailto:tolsonschapel@gmail.com)

RSVP Requested, see poster in At-  
tachments

June 11: Sharpsburg Rifles Reunion

Sharpsburgh Museum of History

301-800-6877 or [Loveshisto-  
ry.1866@gmail.com](mailto:Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com)

June 14 at 2PM to 4PM: Science in  
the Library: Oceanography

Sharpsburg Library

301-432-8825

June 15 at 7PM: Brad Gottfried –  
“Brigades of Antietam”

Jacob Rohrbach Inn



<https://www.facebook.com/JacobRohrbachInn>

June 15 at 3pm: Science Guys from Baltimore For Ages 5 and Up

Sharpsburg Library

301-432-8825

June 16 at 2PM to 4PM: Science in the Library: Oceanography

Sharpsburg Library

301-432-8825

June 18 at 2PM: Gary Rohrer, Law's Brigade

Pry House Field Hospital Museum, 18906 Shepherdstown Pike

Rachel.Moses@civilwarmed.org

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

2202 Dargan School Rd

Sharpsburg, MD 21782

301-432-2130

<http://potomacvalleyfire.com/>

June 22 at 7PM: David Welker – "The Cornfield: Antietam's Bloody Turning Point"

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

<https://www.facebook.com/JacobRohrbachInn>

June 29 at 7PM: Joe Stahl & Matt Borders – "Union Faces of South Mountain and Harpers Ferry"

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

<https://www.facebook.com/JacobRohrbachInn>

June 30 at 6PM: Entomologist, Kenton Sumpter – Training Session: Identifying the Spotted Lantern Fly

Sharpsburg Library and Town Hall

301-432-8825

July 2 at 2PM: Kevin Pawlak, Hartsuff's Brigade

Pry House Field Hospital Museum, 18906 Shepherdstown Pike

Rachel.Moses@civilwarmed.org

July 6 at 7PM: Dr. Tom Clemens – "Veterans' Memories of Antietam"

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

<https://www.facebook.com/JacobRohrbachInn>

July 9: Sharpsburg Founder's Day

Sharpsburgh Museum of History

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

July 13 at 7PM: Mac Bryan – "The End of Compromise; Events That Led John Brown to Harpers Ferry"

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

<https://www.facebook.com/JacobRohrbachInn>

July 16 at 2PM: Tom Clemens, Phelp's Brigade

Pry House Field Hospital Museum, 18906 Shepherdstown Pike

Rachel.Moses@civilwarmed.org

July 20 at 7PM: Frank E Bell III –  
“Unused Reserves? McClellan’s Failure  
“To Destroy The Rebel Army”

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

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

July 27 at 7PM: Kevin Pawlak & Dan  
Welch – “Ohio at Antietam”

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

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

August 3 at 7PM: Aaron Holley –  
“Mapping the Antietam Battlefield in  
the 21st Century – the Cope Maps  
Revisited”

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

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

August 6 at 2PM: Joe Stahl Chris-  
tian’s Brigade

Pry House Field Hospital Muse-  
um,18906 Shepherdstown Pike

Rachel.Moses@civilwarmed.org

August 10 at 7PM: Dr. Emilie Amt –  
“An African American Family at the  
Battle of South Mountain”

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

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

August 17 at 7PM: Jim Rosebrock –  
“The Artillery at Antietam – New In-  
sights”

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

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

August 20 at 2PM: Laura Marfut,  
Caldwell’s Brigade

Pry House Field Hospital Muse-  
um,18906 Shepherdstown Pike

Rachel.Moses@civilwarmed.org

August 24 at 7PM: Steve Cowie –  
“When Hell Came to Sharpsburg:  
The Battle of Antietam and its Im-  
pact on the People Who Called it  
Home”

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

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

August 31 at 7PM: Troy Cool – “The  
Locust Spring Hospital and the far-  
reaching consequences of Antietam”

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

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

September 3 at 2PM: Jim Buchanan,  
Gorman’s Brigade

Pry House Field Hospital Muse-  
um,18906 Shepherdstown Pike

Rachel.Moses@civilwarmed.org

September 7 at 7PM: John Schildt –  
“Hunter Holmes McGuire: Doctor in  
Gray”

Jacob Rohrbach Inn

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

September 17 at 2PM: Marty Pritch-  
ett, Gordon’s Brigade

Pry House Field Hospital Muse-  
um,18906 Shepherdstown Pike

Rachel.Moses@civilwarmed.org

October 1 at 2PM: Jim Smith,  
Fairchild's Brigade

Pry House Field Hospital Museum,  
18906 Shepherdstown Pike  
Rachel.Moses@civilwarmed.org

October 15 at 2PM: Matt Borders,  
Ransom's Brigade

Pry House Field Hospital Museum,  
18906 Shepherdstown Pike  
Rachel.Moses@civilwarmed.org

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

June: Earth, Sun, and Moon Model  
Craft

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, Li-  
on'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, Keedys-  
ville, 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  
(Carrie Estell – Town Clerk)  
106 East Main Street  
PO Box 368  
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782

Phone: [301-432-4428](tel:301-432-4428)  
Fax: 301-432-8990  
[https://sharpsburgmd.com/  
townofsharpsburg@comcast.net](https://sharpsburgmd.com/townofsharpsburg@comcast.net)  
[https://www.facebook.com/  
TheTownOfSharpsburg](https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg)

Zoning Administrator-Tim Lung  
[Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com](mailto:Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com)



msa 5/26/22 Ver1.0

## ATTACHMENTS:

Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg

Meeting Minutes-DRAFTED

Monday, May 2, 2022

6 PM

I. Call meeting to order and pledge-Pledge led by Joe at 6:04 p.m.

Meeting minutes from April 2022 -approved unanimously

**In attendance:** Russ Weaver, Jacob Martz, Robbie Waters, Ed Beeler, John Hammond, Mia Parson, Joe Kudla, Carrie Estell, Tim Lung (via speaker phone), Charles Burkett, Greg Alton, Perry Jamieson, Seth Wilson, Jen Bruni, Ava Gift, Darlene Eichelberger and Laura Oates

**Darlene Eichelberger**-Pinned the Poppy on the Mayor and gave a brief history of the poppy and its symbolism to the veterans who lost their lives serving our county. Russ thanked Ms. Eichelberger and Ava along with Jake on all of their hard work on parade and ceremony preparations.

**Greg Alton Sheriff Candidate**-introductions to council and residents. Mr. Alton is running for sheriff as a republican and comes from a family of public servants and a life time resident of Washington County. His experiences include 25 years as sheriff, 18 years as detective and supervisor for the last eight years. He did not run in 2018 as he helped care for his parents. His main reasons for running are the lawlessness and rioting, the Annapolis issues that make their way to Washington County that do not apply to the county. He is the only candidate that is endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police. Russ asked what would be his first two issues he would tackle if elected; improving the detention center and assisting with pay scale, this will help with retaining officers. Starting satellite offices to assist the smaller communities would also be part of his start.

**Charles Burkett County Commissioner** -introductions to council and residents. Mr. Burkett was born and raised in Washington County. Mr. Burkett was appointed by the governor due to an opening on the county commissioners board and he stated that he's learned a lot from the time he has been involved in local government. He considers himself a fiscal conservative and uses his knowledge as an accomplished businessman to seek solutions to the county finance issues. His major issues are public safety; ensuring that sheriff, Fire and EMT are well-equipped. He was instrumental in increasing funding for the safety organizations. After leaving business, he started a ministry and does this at the detention center. He has seen first-hand the need for clean-up and overhaul of this service. Questions were asked about the large number of warehouses that are being built in the county, which in turn creates traffic and road issues. Mr. Burkett sees a need to diversify. The mayor gave a short history of the water and sewer issues that the town has experienced for over 50 years. The town is seeking solutions to alleviate the high cost of the residents' water/sewer costs.

**Seth Wilson Delegate 2A Candidate**- introductions to council and residents. He is lifelong resident of Washington County and is running on principles of accountability. He has degrees in economics, cyber security and experience in biotech. He is a volunteer firefighter and EMT. He asked how the town interacts with the state government and Joe Kudla explained the town's partnership with MDOT and Tony Crawford specifically. The partnership has been very positive as they have assisted with roadway issues and historic wall ownership. The 2A district is Allegany, Garret and Washington Counties along with some of Northern Frederick County.

## **Tim Lung Zoning Administrator**

Town Spring Acquisition-Ordinance was distributed and discussed, all were in favor of the ordinance and signed off. This was discussed at length in a previous meeting.

### **April Zoning Report**

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.

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. She is going through the process with obtaining all necessary approvals etc. Only Town approval will be a Zoning Certificate.

Continue to work on the conveyance of the Town Spring lot owned by the Hull's to the Town. Frederick, Seibert & Associates has revised the subdivision plat per comments and is ready for signature by the Planning Commission chair. I have completed the drafting of a resolution authorizing the acquisition of the property by the Town. The plat will need to be recorded and a deed of conveyance will need to be prepared most likely requiring involvement by the Town Attorney.

Will be preparing an Annexation Petition, Resolution and Annexation Report as required by State statute for the requested annexation of property at 143 East High St. The 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. Boundary adjustment annexation is not an option; will need to go through the standard process. Town and Property owner to split the cost of a boundary survey and preparation of a new Town boundary plat.

Processed a building permit application for an above ground swimming pool at 123 W. Antietam Street.

Mr. Steve Crampton has requested that the County renew his expired 2017 building permit for a single-family dwelling on his property located to the rear of West Antietam St. I notified the County that the Town will not sign off on a new permit due to ongoing issues with the title to the property and access issues. The Town attorney will most likely need to be involved.

Obtained copies of new/update Town Maps from Bud Gudmundson at the County GIS department.

Need to schedule a Planning Commission meeting to review and approve the Town's 2021 annual report to be submitted to the Maryland Department of Planning.

Request that any Council members notify me by email of any outstanding zoning violations/complaints that I may be unaware of that need follow-up.

Joe asked about 121 E Main and the high bricks that appear to be loose. County inspector came by and did not see an issue. Tim will draft a letter addressing the safety concern to the home owner.

## **Public Comments**

Mr. Jamieson praised the town's quick work on the alley issue that him and his neighbor are having and asked about a more permanent solution. Joe and Jake looked at the area and came up with a possible solution for larger stone to round out the corner and smaller stone for the alley way. The water flow is what is the main issue and to make that flow slower is the ideal solution. Milling that was put down are too smooth and at this time Robbie and Joe will go up



to the affected properties to come up with a solution.

### **Mayor's Report**

Budget/Finances -everyone received an April financial report, Russ reviewed, Ed motioned, Joe seconded and all were in favor of the expenditures/income .

COVID Cash update-Carrie presented the allocated funding for the Recovery Act funds as a report was due April 30, 2022. Funds need to be spent by the end of the calendar year of 2026; reporting happens on an annual basis. The monies granted should be used

Washington County Health Department truck visited the town Friday, April 15 vaccinations, 1 test and handed out a variety of healthy information. Hoping to have the WCHD visit and disseminate information twice a year or quarterly.

Council Room Use, (drafted set of guidelines). A drafted set of guidelines was presented to the mayor and council. All agreed that the list was appropriate

### **Council comments**

- **Joe Kudla**-streets, roads & culverts

- o Taylor's cleaned out Church/Antietam culvert, much improved
- o Bridge and guardrails have been repaired
- o Section of sidewalk off Antietam Street, (107/109) will be used as a test site.
- o Prisoner work crew was good, three inmates were picked up and they worked all day cleaning gutter pans, trash and coms culvert clean out. Ideally, Joe would like to do this program a few more times to get the gutter pans in the entire town cleaned out. Hoping for another crew to concentrate on Main Street before the parade. While the inmates collected trash, there was no evidence of drug use/abuse. However, there were about 400 empty miniature liquor bottles throughout the areas that trash was collected. Joe thinks that usage is from two women who tend to drink in a grove of pine trees on the west side of town near an alley way.
- o MDOT will sweep before the parade
- o 200 W Main no parking signs to go up, Joe will meet with Robbie to get them installed
- o **Robbie Waters**-parks, railroad station, town operations
- o Fishing Rodeo was a huge success! About 650kids and 35 adults enjoyed the event along with hotdogs, chips, sodas and prizes.
- o Robbie asked for 8-10 yards of mulch for the playground, especially in the swing area. Mats were discussed but it was the thought that older children would possibly throw them over the fence. Robbie motioned for the mulch expenditure, Joe seconded the motion and all were in favor.

- o **John Hammond**-Building and Infrastructure

- o Discussed the issue of Main Street parking during the parade. The outcome of this discussion was that signs would be posted and a citation may be issued. Carrie will call the sheriff department concerning the signs, ticket writing and assigned hours of the sheriffs.
- o Discussed the poor conditions of the Mt. View Cemetery and what the town can do. The cemetery is not in town or a town owned property. Carrie stated that since she's been here there have been quite a few calls concerning the conditions. Russ suggested that the people who have loved ones buried speak with the cemetery's board and/or Hal

Spielman as he's the person in charge of the cemetery.

- o **Ed Beeler**-Historical Planning, town archives, communications, grants
- o Attendance April 207, YTD 682
- o Monthly Exhibit: Native American Artifacts & Arrowhead – 32 in attendance.
- o May 14, will be our History of the Sharpsburg Fire and E.M.S. Exhibit from 9-4
- o June 11<sup>th</sup> is our Sharpsburg Rifle Reunion Exhibit, which I already meet with one formal member. As far as we know there is only four left?
- o Donations for the month of March:
  - ✦ Various files on town properties from Edie Wallace-*The Rural African American Experience*, 1865-2900, in the National Capital Area.
  - ✦ CVB for three display cases
  - ✦ **Jacob Martz**-Vice Mayor, communications, Memorial Day Parade, grants
- o Applied for additional \$2,000 grant from Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- o Received new traffic control devices
- o Received approval for Special Event permit from MDOT
- o Reserved law enforcement
- o Reserved catering
- o Parade book format to be completed this week
- ✦ Response from request for World War II photos: received 23 submissions, including pictures and biographies
- ✦ Received 66 Memorial/Sponsorship submissions
- ✦ Have already sold 47 books, 12 more reserved
- ✦ Application process for parade participation is complete-90 units confirmed for parade
- ✦ Next Memorial Day Committee meeting is tomorrow, May 3, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
- ✦ Mia Parsons-Planning-(Streetscape), grants
- o Tree replacement species and estimates are being gathered. Planting will be in the fall. Trying to get a short list of species that residents can chose from.
- o Will generate a veterans' banner request form. The cost would be \$150.00, banners will be from Mosco Banners.  
Creating a Christmas committee would be helpful for the holiday. Possibly have a request/interest in the Town Crier closer to the season.

### Community Partners

- Laura Oates, Laura Oates Design-show casing new website for mayor and council input

Mike Arant-Town Crier ([not in attendance](#))

- Chris Vincent-Antietam Institute (not in attendance)
- Officer Peyton-April report, electronically submitted

## Checks

Antietam Station-8, School-4, Park-10, Ballfield-6,

### Checks

- o 5 hours traffic-2 citations, 5 warnings and 3 parking violations
- o 3 hours foot patrol, 2 hours court, 1 hour training.

Assisted county with 4 calls, right outside of town: 2 intoxicated tests, and participated in parade for Rhett

### **Old Business/ACTIONS**

Town Wells-this will be discussed at the budget meeting that is scheduled for Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m.

### **New Business**

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:20, next meeting is scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup>**



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, 1:00-2:00pm

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**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: ½ Pig-Cut and Vacuum Sealed**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:sharpsburgvfc@gmail.com)**

**Meat packaged by Three Springs Meat Sharpsburg, MD**

**Thank you for your support of our local volunteer efforts.**