



# Sharpburg Town Crier

## *The Roger Moore Edition*



Volume 30

November 2022

Number 11

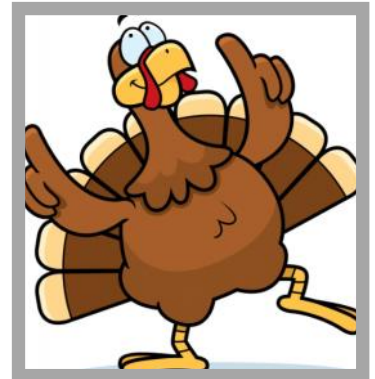
### Thanksgiving Greetings from the Editor

First, thank you all for your positive support for the Sharpburg Town Crier. It has been a pleasant experience and an opportunity for me to catch up with my hometown after 47 years away. The experience of returning reminds me that there is much here to be thankful for. I'll list a few.

At the top of the list, we live a peaceful life here, making Sharpburg a great place in which to be with neighbors and friends. It's a place do good in.

From any window in town, we can watch the turning of the seasons and the passing of the decades. We have escaped the trend, present most everywhere, of sprawl and associated traffic, noise, and stress. We are a small place and barring major changes will remain small.

The Crier experience has shown me hundreds of ways in which people are quietly and effectively doing good for their neighbor and improving our community. There are many people hard at work caring for their families. People look out for and help their neighbor. Related to this, the local fire and rescue crews are dedicated to our safety, far and above their pay grades. Disparate groups and individual get together to address difficult local issues, such as food insecurity.



Sharpburg Elementary School soldiers on decade after decade getting our kids ready for the next steps in their lives and partnering with our people and organizations to support community needs, such as weekend and holiday food distribution.

Speaking of organizations, Sharpburg is filled with groups devoted to subjects of local interest. We live in an historic place and there are many groups active in learning and informing us about our past. Our churches' doors are open every week and offer worship, learning, and ministries supporting community needs.

The list of people volunteering their time, talent, and effort is something the Crier has yet to fully explore.

After an absence of nearly five decades, I see that we're still a small place. Yet, there is no escaping change; time imposes a harsh reality. We are still small, but in different ways.

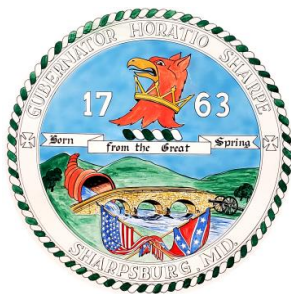
We live in a remarkable and lovely place, but there is much to do to keep what we have.

- Editor

## **From the Town Council**

### **Town Wells and Rebates**

The Town of Sharpsburg is pleased to announce that the Washington County Commissioners and the Town Council of Sharpsburg have come to an agreement to drill wells for use as an alternative water source to the Potomac River surface water currently being used. Surface water has always been expensive to treat, costs continually increase as federal and state regulations increase, and is the leading cost driver in our current rates. By drilling these wells, we will be able to sell water back to the county making the current rebates permanent.



Residents were rebated \$210 (3 quarters) against their water bill in 2021 and will get a \$280 rebate (4 quarters) on their January 2023 bill. The rebates were done all at one time in January as part of our ongoing

negotiations with the county. If you use 6,000 gallons of water per quarter this is a 65% savings, for 12,000 gallons it is a 39% savings on your water bill and 27% overall savings on 12,000-gallon water and sewer bill. We will enact through an ordinance, which we intend to do so soon as possible, these rebates as permanent law of the Town of Sharpsburg, and they will be included in all future quarterly water bills. These new rates will bring us in line with water rates for Boonsboro, Keedysville and Williamsport who all have independent water systems (not county).

I would like to thank the current council and the Vice Mayor, Jacob Martz for their support and a special thanks to John Hammond for taking a leadership role on getting this done. Ever since joining the council in 1987, my focus has been water and sewer rates for the residents of Sharpsburg. Over the years other councils have worked diligently on the issues and built a good working rela-

tionship with the county, avoiding many rate increases.

We would like to thank all of the County Commissioners, and other County officials, for their cooperation, support and assistance in helping to bring this necessary change to the people of our Town; but most of all, thanks to all of our citizens for your patience as we continue to work towards a better Sharpsburg. We assure you this commitment and focus will continue.

Thank You,

Russ Weaver, Mayor

### **The Sharpsburgh Museum of History Needs You!**

Here at the Sharpsburg Museum of History as we grow, we are in need of volunteers to help us continue to service Sharpsburg its town and its community. With this we need volunteers to help in many ways.



#### **Museum Docent**

The Sharpsburgh Museum of History's hours of operations are: Monday thru Saturday 9-4 Docents are asked to work one three hour shift, either 10-1 or 1-4. Docents will be trained in the duties of their position and the history of the town.

#### **Youth Programs**

Sharpsburg Brick Club

Student Intern

#### **Future Programs**

History Camp

Youth Day at the Museum

## Volunteer Opportunities within the Museum

Welcome Table

Video & Pictures

Genealogy/Research

### Event Committee

Artifact Processing

Docent

Gift Shop

Fundraiser

Grant Writer

Event Volunteer

Do you have other ideas about how you could contribute? Let us know!

Please call Ed Beeler at 301-800-6877 or email [Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com](mailto:Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com) at our website: [sharpsburghmuseumofhistory.com](http://sharpsburghmuseumofhistory.com) for any information on volunteer help you would like to offer.

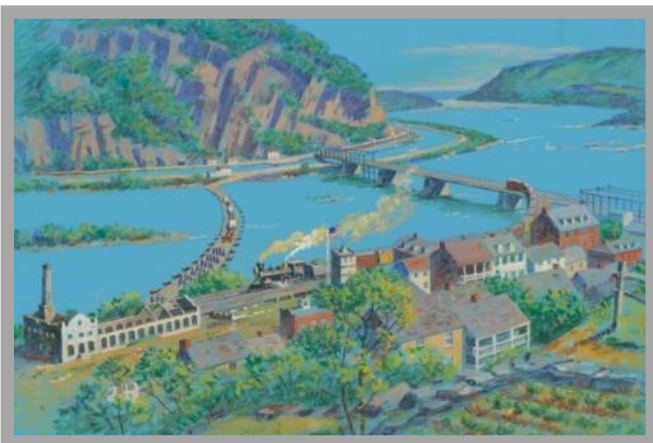
- Mr. Ed Beeler, Executive Director, Sharpsburgh Museum of History

---

## About the Town

### Painting Exhibit: Garnet Jex

The Sharpsburg Historical Society (SHS) will present a program on Saturday, December 10, at 2:30PM at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (McKinley Hall behind the church), 209 West Main Street, Sharpsburg, about Garnet Jex's paintings of *The Upper Potomac in the Civil*



*War*. SHS will display 50 of the original 51 paintings. (SHS knows which painting is missing from the series but does not know its whereabouts.) These paintings, owned by the historical society, have not been displayed publicly since 2012 as part of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam.

There will be a short lecture about Jex and the paintings that were created for the Washington, D.C. Civil War centennial observation.

The program is free and open to all.

Contact [VernellD@aol.com](mailto:VernellD@aol.com) or call 301-992-9767.

- Ms. Vernell Doyle

---

## Join the Master Gardeners to Learn, Give, and Grow!

Is your green thumb itching to try something new? Do you love to learn and share what you know? Is giving back important to you? Then you could be a Master Gardener.

Applications are now being accepted for the Master Gardener Class of 2023.

Volunteer educators with the University of Maryland Extension, Master Gardeners teach people safe, effective, sustainable gardening techniques through classes, events, talks, demonstration gardens and more.

Trained by University of Maryland experts, Master Gardeners grow their gardening know-how with 40 hours of classroom training. They learn about everything from botany to bugs and pruning to propagation through hands-on lessons, lectures, and small group work.

The 2023 Master Gardener training will be held every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. from February 2 to April 13 at the Wash-





ington County Agricultural Education Center in Boonsboro.

Then the giving starts. Master Gardeners answer gardening questions at events, teach kids about pollinators, plant native and heirloom plants, offer horticulture therapy, lead workshops, and offer Bay-Wise<sup>1</sup> landscape consultations. Sixteen projects reach every corner of the county.

“It’s our mission to help build healthier gardens and communities,” said Master Gardener coordinator Annette Cormany.

Class size is limited. To learn more or request an application, contact Annette at [acormany@umd.edu](mailto:acormany@umd.edu) or 301-791-1604.

- Ms. Annette Cormany, Horticulture Educator, University of Maryland Extension, Washington County, MD

<sup>1</sup>Bay-Wise. The University of Maryland Extension (UME) Bay-Wise Program is a homeowner education program conducted by Maryland Master Gardeners in several counties. Bay-Wise focuses on water quality. It comprises a comprehensive set of environmental topics that affect the quality and quantity of water here in Maryland.

### **Community Calendar**

November 27 at 9:20AM: Free Community Breakfast.

Everyone is Welcome!

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

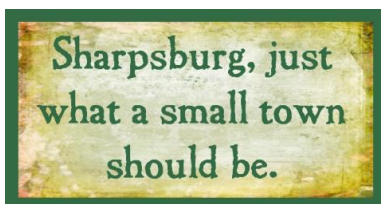
209 West Main Street

[stpaulssharpburg.com](http://stpaulssharpburg.com); [facebook.com/stpaulssharpburg](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulssharpburg);

[loveforchil-](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulssharpburg)

[dren@stpaulssharpburg.com](mailto:dren@stpaulssharpburg.com) / 301-

-432-7098



December 1 at 7PM: Annual Holiday Jazz Concert

Sharpsburg Library

301-432-8825

December 2 at 7PM: Christmas Tree Lighting

Sharpsburg Town Hall, Sponsor

106 E Main St, Sharpsburg, MD

21782

301-432-4428

December 5 at 6PM: Town Council Meeting

Sharpsburg Town Hall

106 E Main St, Sharpsburg, MD

21782

301-432-4428

December 10 at 4PM: Christmas by Candlelight

Tolson's Chapel, 111 E. High St.,

Sharpsburg

(Will be live streamed on Facebook

"Tolson's Chapel and

School" ([https://](https://www.facebook.com/tolsons.chapel/)

[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/tolsons.chapel/)

[tolsons.chapel/](https://www.facebook.com/tolsons.chapel/))

Sponsored by the Friends of

Tolson's Chapel

[tolsons.chpale@gmail.com](mailto:tolsons.chpale@gmail.com)

Dec. 10 at 2:30PM: Garnet Jex paintings of The Upper Potomac in the Civil War

Sharpsburg Historical Society

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209

West Main Street, Sharpsburg

[VernellD@aol.com](mailto:VernellD@aol.com) / 301-992-9767

December 22 at 3:30PM: Santa at the Library!

Sharpsburg Library

301-432-8825

## Recurring Events 2022

Thursdays 9AM to 3PM, February 2 to April 13:

Master Gardener Training Classes 2023

Washington County Agricultural Education Center  
7313 Sharpsburg Pike, Boonsboro, MD 21713  
acormany@umd.edu / 301-791-1604

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 Make a Mini Zen Garden! For tweens and teens!  
301-432-8825

Thursdays at 3:30PM: Storytime  
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

First Saturdays at 10AM: Lego Club  
Sharpsburg Library  
301-432-8825

## 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, Sunday School (Second and Fourth Sundays starting September 25)

Burnside First Church of God

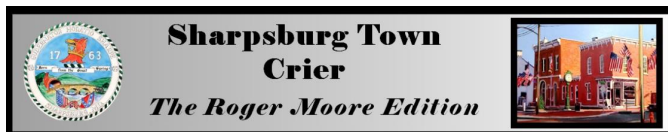
3904 Mills Rd, Sharpsburg

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





## Memories of Veteran's Day: 2022



Sharpsburg, just  
what a small town  
should be.

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

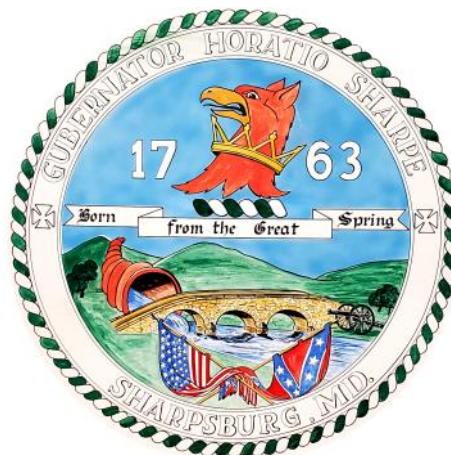
<https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg>

Zoning Administrator-Tim Lung

[Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com](mailto:Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com)

msa 11/28/22 Ver1.1

**ATTACHMENT:**



Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg  
Meeting Minutes DRAFTED  
Monday, November 7, 2022  
6 PM

In attendance: Russ Weaver, Robbie Waters, Jacob Martz, Ed Beeler, John Hammond, Joe Kudla (via speaker phone), Perry Jamieson, Chris Vincent, Erin Clark, Ron Twentey, Trish Twentey, Bryan Gabriel, William Turner, Carrie Estell and Beatrix Gregg

Call meeting to order and pledge-Robbie led the pledge and meeting was called to order.

**Public Comments**

**Erin Clark-FY 2022 Audit** Ms. Clark summarized the findings of the annual audit, she provided electronic copies that were emailed to all councilmembers and discussed major outcomes of audit. Russ reiterated of the checks and balances he has in place for spending.

**Ron Twentey-Commander, Korean War Veterans Association Antietam Chapter 312-** Mr. Twentey thanked the mayor and council for the donation that went to the Korean War exhibit at Ft. Ritchie. He provided the residents and council with background on the Korean War Exhibit that will be housed at Ft. Ritchie. He shared photos along with descriptions of the projects that will encompass the exhibit. Some of the exhibit will include: A timeline of battles, an area or areas for book signing and lectures, model airplanes specific to the Korean War, a jeep for the campus that will be utilized in parades and he encouraged all to research the Ritchie Boys and distributed a fact sheet on the Korean War.

**SNOW Removal Bids-**Were opened, copied and distributed to the council members and mayor. Council members read through the bids, there was some discussion of price of salt and purchasing salt through the county and storage of salt. Russ noted that the prices were very similar however, the price of salt was much higher in one bid. Robbie motioned to have B&B continue as they have the experience and their price of salt, Ed seconded the motion, John was in favor and B&B was awarded the snow removal contract.

Minutes and October expenses approval-Russ discussed the budget and the monthly expense/income report; Ed motioned and Robbie seconded for approval of October meeting minutes along with financials, all were in favor.

**Zoning-Tim Lung (only critical items)**

Board of Zoning Appeals on Oct 17, heard the zoning variance application from Jenna Smith who is interested in purchasing the vacant lot along South Hall Street behind 120 W. Antietam Street, for the purpose of locating a single-family dwelling. The variance request was for a reduction of the minimum 8' side yard setback along the alley to 6'-8". Thanks to Randy, Lauren, and Matt for stepping up to hear this case. The Planning Commission held a meeting and forwarded its recommendation to the BZA. The BZA approved the variance without any conditions. The written Opinion of the BZA has been written and will be sent to the applicant. A building permit will be required and must be reviewed by the Planning Commission.

Have not heard back from Antietam broad band regarding my request for more information concerning their plans for fiber cable infrastructure upgrades in the Town and the requirements for a Utility Permit to be issued by the Town. The Town does not have a Utility Permit application form or permit. I will create them.

Received a request for information from another individual interested in occupying the vacant commercial space at the corner of E. Main and S. Mechanic Street in front of Nutters.

All outstanding tall grass/weed violation notices have been corrected without the need for further action.

Finalizing the minutes of the last Planning Commission meeting for the Chairpersons signature. Continue to research several items of concern requested by the Planning Commission for follow up and discussion at a future meeting.

Received a request for information regarding a Special Exception granted by the BZA for commercial use on a property located at 311 W. Chaplin St. Have located and reviewed the file but may need to obtain guidance from the Town Attorney regarding the BZA's action since this occurred prior to my employment as the Zoning Administrator.

Looking into what appears to be commercial activity (I.E. commercial sales) occurring at property located along E. High Street near the Town pond parking lot, Zoned TR. Will need a written complaint before I can take any formal action.

Received a phone call from Verizon Wireless regarding the placement of a cell antenna on the County Water Tank. A permit will be required. Since this is co-location on an existing support structure no BZA action warranted, however a building permit will be required. Verizon is not currently located on the tower.

Working with the Board of Education, the County and the complainant regarding a drainage issue from the Sharpsburg Elementary school property. Trying to set up a field meeting

**Council reports (written reports only)**

**Robbie Waters**

Fishing Rodeo is scheduled for April 29, 2023, 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., prizes and food will be similar to last year's event, DNR application was filled out

There was some discussion on the roads (Antietam and Church), Joe and Russ met with Keith Moore from FSA and they'll be issuing a drawing with potential fixes to the water problem of that area. Carrie called FSA a week ago and Keith admitted that he forgot about the drawing. Russ shared with the council that one suggestion would be for a special type of milling, areas of the roads in question would be milled at different depths. This is a very expensive process. Milling and paving the roads were also brought up by John. Alley use is only for residents to access the



back of their homes. Chris Vincent mentioned that some alleys are not used much. Other alleys are used as a street with many cars driving in the alleys to avoid traffic and make short cuts, parking in the cemetery during a church service was reported and Russ will reach out to the church to mentioned that some parishioners are using the cemetery for a parking lot.

Beatrix Gregg asked who was responsible for cleaning out storm drains and culverts. Any culvert or storm drain on Main Street is the responsibility of the state. There have been occasions that the town clean out culverts and storm drains.

#### **Jacob Martz**

Security at Shed & Playground Port a Pot-discussion was focused on the camera location; Carrie will call to see the price of an additional camera that would provide a better view of the port of pot. Discussion on having the teen who did damage to have his parents pay for the damage and for him to serve some type of community service.

Memorial Day Parade Committee-theme is The Korean War, taking a look at more bands, next meeting is scheduled for December 6th

#### **Ed Beeler**

Museum Attendance: 180, Sharpsburg Days weekend: 319

Sharpsburg Days were enjoyed by all who attended, but due to the demands of the museum, the board decided to give the activities over to a newly reformed Community Events Committee – Chaired by Beatrix Greg

No donations this month

Received four new stand-up display cases to improved our museum's visitors experience.

#### **Community Partners**

**Officer Tracey Peyton- (submitted electronically)** Short month with my scheduled vacation & day of instruction at the academy.

2 hours foot patrol, 3 hours traffic, 2 checks Antietam Station, 3 checks at school

Assisted county with crash investigation that became a DUI arrest with multiple victims of property damage and struck vehicle.

Came into town two days outside of my scheduled days to view video with Vice Mayor Martz of the damage to the shed at the park.

He can brief on the results further, but the 2 male juveniles are 10 years old and cannot be charged because of the juvenile justice reform passed in Annapolis

#### **Chris Vincent-Battlefield Advisory Committee**

The committee met on Wednesday, September 14, 2022. The following members were in attendance: Supt. Susan Trail, Chris Vincent, Justin Mayhue, Mike Barnhart, John Schildt and Vernell Doyle. We introduced and welcomed our three new members: George Franks, Miriam Cunningham, and Gerard Kendle.

Superintendent Trail discussed the upcoming 160<sup>th</sup> Battle Anniversary schedule. There will be real-time hikes and living history programs. The following weekend will focus on the aftermath of the battle, focusing on the civilian experience, photography and medical care/hospitals. Also, during the anniversary weekend, the American Battlefield Trust will be hosting the Liberty Rifles at the Reel Farm and conducting living history program.

The ANBP in partnership with the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War at Shepherd University had a symposium at Hood College on Sept.10. Five speakers spoke on each of the five themes of the new Visitor Center.

The rehabilitation project of the Visitor's Center continues moving forward. The completion date has shifted to mid-November. Work continues indoors with some drywall, flooring, the ceiling, and systems. Outside, the trestle and glass front is being installed and the sidewalk going in. The museum exhibits will be installed the second week of October.

The film company has started work on the new orientation film which will be approximately 23 minutes. Filming will be conducted in October. Most of the filming will be off site, near the park except for some filming at the Sunken Road and the Burnside Bridge. The film is expected to be completed at the end of 2023. Part of the film will be used on the video screen that will be in the Visitor Center lobby.

The public review of the Land Use Management Plan / Environmental Assessment has ended, and the final document should be made public by the end of the year.

Other Projects: HPTC continues to work on the preservation project at the Piper house. Focusing now on the exterior of the outbuildings. In FY 2023, work will begin at the David R. Miller house, the Pry house and the Roulette house. The trace road at the Burnside Bridge will be resurfaced to make it more accessible for handicap visitors.

The next major project will be the National Cemetery rehabilitation with some tree removal, pruning, and new planting.

The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area at the Newcomer House has turned the one room into an 19<sup>th</sup> century parlor with carpet and furniture.

Before adjourning the meeting, the members agreed to a schedule for next year. Meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of March, June, September, and December.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 14th, 2022.

#### **Old Business/ACTIONS:**

Electrical estimates-both were reviewed and council noted that the JS Electrical bid was out dated and CR Electric included from the grinder pump circuit breaker to be removed from Nutter's basement and be included on one of our panels.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm, next meeting Monday, December 5, 2022