



Sharpsburg Town Crier

William and Melva Ryan Edition



Volume 31

January 2023

Number 1

Every year the Sharpsburg Town Crier devotes the entire annual Edition to the memory of people who served the town in the past. The 2023 Edition remembers William and Melva Ryan. Note the new banner, above, and on the Community Calendar. Look for a future Crier article about them.

- Editor

A Short History of Our Small Place

This month, we take a moment by the warm fire to recall the past.

In the records, one of the first people we know by name was Edmund Cartledge, whose livelihood was trading with the Native Americans. He is recorded as having surveyed a tract of land called “Hickory Tavern” in 1737.

This plot was between “Garrison Spring”, present day Big Spring and the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road. This road, beginning in Philadelphia, crossing into (then) Virginia at Williamsport, and eventually ending in Augusta, Georgia, was the area’s major thoroughfare.

Our first brush with major world history occurred during the Seven Years War, known in the colonies as the French and Indian War. The



Town Clerk Ms. Carrie Estell alongside the Braddock sign.

conflict was to decide if Britain or France were to control the central part of the continent. In May 1755, Major-General Edward Braddock passed through here as part of his disastrous operations against the French at Fort Duquesne (modern Pittsburgh). Braddock was responsible for British military operations in the colonies and was killed in this operation. Today, you can see a memorial plaque in town square recording these events.



Big Spring in the Past

In 1763, with British control established to the west, Joseph Chapline founded the town, naming it in honor of Maryland Governor Horatio Sharpe.

Its original settlers were mostly of British, German, and Swiss origin. You can see many family names in old town records from that time who are still here today.

The Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal was extended to Sharpsburg in 1836. This waterway made the transportation of heavy goods to, though, and from the area more affordable



than using draft animals. As a result, important local heavy industries were made economically attractive, such as iron smelting and cement/plaster production. In addition, the C&O Canal was a major local employer. Many folks still living remember people and whole families who worked all the countless jobs required to keep canal operations in service.

In the late summer of 1862, Confederate General Robert E. Lee, chose the high ground along Sharpsburg Ridge to confront Union General George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac. An unambiguous defeat of Union forces in the north was one of the aims of Richmond's strategy. Despite unprecedented carnage and destruction, it was not to be.

Our small place inadvertently hosted the bloodiest day in American history – our bloodiest on these shores and off. In a recently published book, “When Hell Came to Sharpsburg”, author Steven Cowie records the disaster that followed the battle. Much of the Army of the Potomac, the largest army in the USA, remained in and around the town for six weeks after the battle. In addition to battle damage, the Federal Army swept away fence rails, woodlots, livestock, crops, and food from town and a wide swath of the rural surroundings. It foreshadowed what was to follow in the next three years. Such is war.



**Old Lutheran Church
after the battle.**

These events gave Abraham Lincoln, who came to town after the battle, the opportunity he needed to issue his Emancipation Proclamation. This declared all slaves residing in Confederate territory in rebellion to be free.

For now, this short history ends with the Civil War. Of necessity, that war and this bat-

tle color every aspect of our existence, from town governance to water/sewer management, to traffic patterns, and more.

- Editor

From the Town Council

From Town Council: Planned Events Our 260th Sharpsburg Anniversary

1. Museum Closed for Revamping Museum – Work Project
2. Black History Month Exhibit with Tolson's and Sharpsburgh Museum of History (SMH) all month - Exhibit
3. March 11 Spring Metal Detecting Expo - Event
4. April 22 Youth Day at the Museum – Activity
5. May 13 2pm Tom Clemmens – Civil War –Event
6. May 27 Sharpsburg Memorial Day Parade & Wreath laying –Public relations
7. June 10 Women of Sharpsburg - Exhibit
8. July 8 Sharpsburg's 260th Anniversary Open House (Quilts, Weaving, Spinning) - Event
9. August 12 Antique Road Show – Activity
10. September 15-16 Antietam Anniversary Weekend Sharpsburg Citizens during Antietam Exhibit & Sharpsburg Rifle Reunion - Event
11. October 14 SMH 260th Anniversary – Exhibit for Public/ Celebration for volunteers
12. November 11 Veterans Day wreath laying – Public Relations
13. November 18 Native American Artifacts
14. November 18 Sharpsburg Rifle Reunion - Event

15. December 1 Sharpsburg Christmas tree
Lighting 7pm. - Public Relations

16. December? Wreaths Across Antietam Na-
tional Cemetery Public Relations

All events are subject to change! And most
will be 9AM to 4PM unless stated.

(Editor's Note: Above entries with specific
dates appear in the Community Calendar.)

- Mr. Ed Beeler, Councilman

About the Town

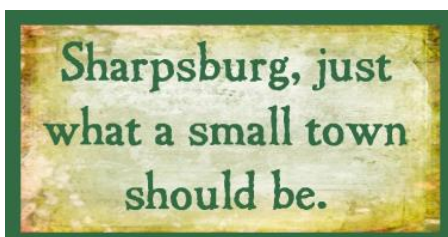
New Firefighting Equipment

Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company's Ap-
paratus Committee recently traveled to Pierce
Mfg for a final inspection of the new fire
truck, designated [E1-1](#). Delivery is expected
at the beginning of February. Look for an in-
depth article about E1-1 in a future edition of
the Crier.

- Editor



Left to Right: Ron Delauney (Treasurer), D.
Tommy Arnold (Chief), Jay Brandenburg
(President), and Matt Stevens (former Chief
and Firefighter)



An Evening with John W. Schildt

On January 17 the Editor and some of his
neighbors spent a pleasant evening at the li-
brary listening to author John W. Schildt. He
recounted his seventy years' experience with
Sharpsburg and the Antietam Battlefield. He



Author John W. Schildt with
Ms. Barbara Twigg, Librarian

visited Antie-
tam as a young
boy in the early
1950s and soon
after wrote his
first article on
the subject. It
was to be the
first step in his
authorship
journey.

He shared an
hour of memo-
ries, including
his days study-

ing at Shepherd College while living in
Sharpsburg, early experiences in providing
tours of the battlefield, and the remarkable
people he met. He shared the terrifying mo-
ment of witnessing a drowning near the New-
comer House during Hurricane Hazel in 1954.
Along the way he met ordinary battlefield vi-
sitors, international figures, and descendants of
officers and soldiers at the battle.

It serves a person well to take a moment and
listen to those who have journeyed nearby
pathways before us. We get a vivid snapshot
of our not-so-distant past. Many thanks to Ms.
Barbara Twigg and the Washington County
Free Library system for providing a place and
time for this and all the other learning oppor-
tunities they provide.

Mr. Schildt grew up in Walkersville, MD. He
attended Shepherd College in Shepherdstown,
WV, with plans to become a teacher. Later he
decided to join the ministry of the United
Methodist Church, training at Wesley Theo-
logical Seminary in Washington, DC. He
served as pastor of the Bethel United Method-
ist Church in Chewsville, MD, and in retire-

ment still preaches part-time. He is the author of "Drums Along the Antietam", "Hunter Holmes McGuire: Stonewall Jackson's Doctor", "Roads to Antietam", "Roads to Gettysburg", most recently "Maryland at Antietam", and many more.

- Editor

Ms. Margaret Goodrich: Antietam Unit 236, American Legion Auxiliary, Members Celebrate Oldest Unit Member's 104th Birthday

On Saturday, December 31, 2022, members of Antietam Unit 236 surprised oldest unit member Margaret Goodrich with a surprise birthday party for her 104th Birthday, at Somerford Place, 10116 Sharpsburg Pike, Hagerstown, Maryland., where she now resides.

She was born on New Year's Day, January 1st, 1919. "Family and good friends" was her response as to what she contributes her longevity. She made her world-renowned coconut cream pies for unit fundraisers until the age of 90. She has gained respect for her service to others, leadership and mentoring of unit members. She joined the American Legion Auxiliary thru the military service of her now deceased World War II veteran husband William "Bud" Goodrich. She has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary since the early 1950's.



Joining in the celebration was her daughter Mina Goodrich, son and daughter-in-law Wayne and Donna Goodrich and their son Mi-

chael. Her son and daughter-in-law Dexter and Murleen Goodrich who lives in Colorado was unable to attend. She has three grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

- Ms. Ava Gift, American Legion Auxiliary

And Finally...

From the Crier's "Put This Into Production Immediately! Files."

A patent applied for by a local resident.

(Editor's Note: I have SO many questions for Mr. Highbarger about this!)

Many thanks to...

- Ms. Vernell Doyle, Sharpsburg Historical Society



Baby Power

"The credit of this invention—the application of baby power to washing machines—in the unique manner illustrated in the annexed engraving, belongs to John Highbarger, of Sharpsburg, Md., who not long ago secured the patent. A tank with ribbed sides is intended to hold the clothing, the water and the soap. The clothes are washed by the oscillation of a rocking chair, the rocking being effected by the hands of the operator, which grasp a hand bar, as shown. This plan of utilizing baby power is certainly novel, and would be, no doubt, amusing to the operator."

There were almost 2,000 patents for hand-cranked washing machines in the U.S. by 1875.



Community Calendar

February 6 at 6PM: **Town Council Meeting**

Sharpsburg Town Hall
106 E Main St, Sharpsburg, MD
21782
301-432-4428

February 7,8 & 9 anytime we are open: **Jigsaw Puzzle Swap/Share**

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

(Bring a couple of puzzles and take a couple. All leftover puzzles will be donated to local churches and non-profit organizations.)

February 9 at 7PM, **Dinner Program, "Antietam Paintings of James Hope"**

Lion's Club
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main Street
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1279151202222449/>
See flyer on page 12.

February 16 at 3:30PM: **Valentine's Party at Story Time!**

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

February 21 at 3PM: **Homeschool Program,**

See and learn about some 1800th Century Artifacts and reproductions from Peter Burr House in WV with Deborah Rochefort
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

March 11: **Spring Metal Detecting Expo**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main Street

Sharpsburg Museum of History
301-800-6877 / Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com

April 22: **Youth Day at the Museum**

Sharpsburg Museum of History
Sharpsburg Town Hall
301-800-6877 / Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com

April 23: **Antietam Institute Spring Symposium "Commanders, Civilians, and Casualties: New Research on the Maryland Campaign"**

(See also the above article in this month's Crier.)
<https://antietaminstitute.org/2023-spring-symposium/>

April 29 9AM to 2PM: **Maryland Poultry Swap and Farmer's Market**

Green Hill Farm
5329 Mondell Rd, Sharpsburg, MD
21782
240-329-6732
<https://www.ghfarm.org/>

May 13 at 2PM: **Tom Clemmens, Civil War Author**

Sharpsburg Museum of History
Sharpsburg Town Hall
301-800-6877 / Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com

May 27: **Sharpsburg Memorial Day Parade & Wreath Laying**

contact/Sharpsburg Museum of History
Sharpsburg Town Hall
301-800-6877 / Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com

June 10: **Women of Sharpsburg, Exhibit**

Sharpsburg Museum of History
Sharpsburg Town Hall
301-800-6877 / Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com

July 8: **Sharpsburg's 260th Anniversary Open House Event**

Sharpsburg Museum of History
Sharpsburg Town Hall
301-800-6877 / Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com

August 12: **Antique Road Show Exhibit**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main Street
Sharpsburg Museum of History
301-800-6877 / Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com

September 15-16: **Antietam Anniversary Weekend Exhibits and Sharpsburg Rifle Reunion**

Sharpsburg Museum of History
Sharpsburg Town Hall
301-800-6877 / Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com

October 14: **Museum's Sixth Anniversary** – Exhibit/Public

Celebration for Volunteers
Sharpsburg Museum of History
Sharpsburg Town Hall
301-800-6877 / Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com

November 11 at the Eleventh Hour: **Veterans Day Wreath Laying**

Town Square
Town of Sharpsburg
<https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg>
<https://sharpsburgmd.com/>
301-432-4428

November 18: **Native American Artifacts**

Location to be determined...
Sharpsburg Museum of History
Sharpsburg Town Hall
301-800-6877 / Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com

November 18 – **Sharpsburg Rifle Reunion**

Sharpsburg Museum of History
Sharpsburg Town Hall
301-800-6877 / Loveshistory.1866@gmail.com

December 1 at 7PM: **Sharpsburg Christmas Tree Lighting**

Town Square
Town of Sharpsburg
<https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg>
<https://sharpsburgmd.com/>
301-432-4428

December (date to be determined): **Wreaths Across Antietam National Cemetery**

Town of Sharpsburg
<https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg>
<https://sharpsburgmd.com/>
301-432-4428

Recurring Events 2022

Any Time the Library's Open: **Winter Spice Club**, February is Annatto (Each month, come by and one pick up.) You get the history and info about the spice and recipes that use the spice.

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Any Time the Library's Open: **Art of the Month**, January is Rug Hooking (Each month a different art form will be displayed along with books pertaining to that art.)
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

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 [*See special event February 9*]

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

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

Fax: 301-432-8990

<https://sharpsburgmd.com/>

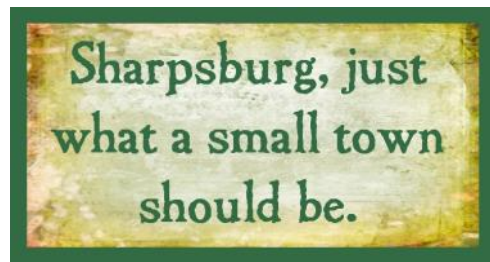
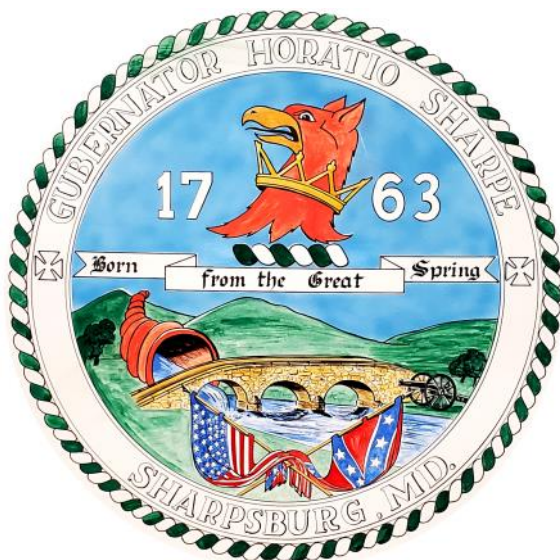
townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

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

TheTownOfSharpsburg

Zoning Administrator-Tim Lung

Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com



msa 1/26/23 Ver1.0

ATTACHMENTS:

*Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg
Meeting Agenda
Monday, December 5, 2022
6 PM*

**Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg
Meeting Agenda
Monday, January 9, 2023
6 PM DRAFT**

In attendance: Russ Weaver, Jacob Martz, Mia Parsons, Ed Beeler, John Hammond, Chris Vincent, Jen Bruni, Al from DSL, Perry Jamieson and Carrie Estell

Call meeting to order and pledge, Carrie Led the pledge a moment of silence was given for the passing of Pete Callas.

Minutes and December expenses approval-Jake motioned, Ed seconded, all were in favor.

Mayor comments

Wells-County has committed to sharing the costs of digging a new well and we will be obligated to bring our existing well online. Contract negotiation will begin this week with county. We have estimates from at least one well driller. You can view the exchange between commissioners and Town on BOCC website

Town Hall-Sound and camera system installed; desks need to be wired for power waiting on CR Electric

Community Park-Cameras added to provide better coverage of park, Trees and landscape plan pending, Pickle ball and basketball court painting to be completed in spring, bid for replacing fence along high street obtained

Historic Park-Construction estimates provided, bid documentation due, Completed grant proposal for Project Open Space POS

Historic Walls-Working with MDOT to make sure walls are part of their 2023 plan

Big Spring-Seeking contractor to perform prime contracting tasks with Gruber Lattimer as subcontractor. Difficult finding someone experienced and willing to work with Maryland Department of Environment (MDE). Fence proposal obtained

Boyer House-Further action pending engineering review. SHAF has applied for a county grant to purchase house

Streets & General Maintenance-List of projects for rest of FY2022 provided by Joe to be worked off before 7/1/2023, Received estimates to replace fencing along High Street at LL Field. Streets cleaned thanks to Williamsport and RW Properties. Managed our first winter storm event

AVW-AVW has been put on notice for failure to pick up trash on Antietam and Chapline Streets, Carrie will reach out to AVW to get good contact number.

Finance and Budget-focus and execution of projects that are backed by grants, we need to get things accomplished this calendar year.

Public Comments

Chris Vincent asked what type of business will be coming to 100 East Main, (the shop will sell candles and soaps)

Zoning-Tim Lung (only critical items)

Have contacted the other Municipalities in the County regarding any regulations that they may have for, 5g small cell facilities, sea containers as storage buildings, and yard sales. Have received some responses and working on a compilation of responses.

Have reached out to the Planning Commission chair to schedule a meeting to discuss various ordinance revision items.

Continue to compile information regarding local regulation/permitting of small cell 5g facilities, sea containers for storage buildings and yard sales.

Field meeting held in December with Washington County Public Schools (WCPS) facilities department, the County Storm Water inspector and the complainant regarding the drainage issue from the Sharpsburg Elementary school property. County says the matter is between WCPS and the Town/complainant. WCPS to review the original plans, recalculate the runoff and report back.

Meet with representatives from Antietam Broadband regarding their project to provide fiber cable service to Town residents. All work will be done above ground with cabling and equipment to be located on existing utility poles. No Town utility permit required.

Investigated and responded to a complaint regarding work being done to a dwelling along West Chapline Street without permits. County building inspector issued a correction notice and property owner is in the process of applying for the required permits.

Working with a prospective tenant for the vacant commercial space at 100 E. Main Street in front of Nutter's Ice Cream; Zoning certificate and sign permit required. Tenant hopes to occupy by Feb 1.

Followed up on a complaint regarding open burning of scrap building materials at a property along E. Main Street. Open burning is regulated by the Maryland Dept of the Environment with delegated authority to the Washington County Health Dept. Open burning is prohibited closer than 200 ft from a structure. Town Code also prohibits the burning of scrap material. Health Dept to investigate.

Corresponded with The Maryland Dept of Planning, regional Planner concerning the schedule for the required 10yr update of the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The Plan update is scheduled to be completed and adopted by 2025; however, MDP is flexible. Some items that will need particular attention in the next update will be the "municipal growth element", and the "water resources element". These elements involve some detailed technical analysis. The regional Planner is available to assist, and the Town may want to consider having a consultant prepare these elements.

Council reporting

Mia Parsons-phase two of the tree planting for Main Street will be coming soon. Russ asked about lights on the square and flower boxes like Mercersburg has in their downtown/square area. Railings along culverts near the square were also discussed. There was discussion on if this was allowed, it and Mia will reach out to possible vendors. Half a dozen to a dozen street lights, solar lights with flower baskets. Safety grates and railings for culverts. MDOT stated that the culverts can have railings installed. Joe stated that the railings need to stay on the curb. Gas look alike lamps could be a nice touch.

Joe Kudla-street cleaning was successful and the partnership with Williamsport is a great partner, and this allows the town to get the street cleaned once or two times each year. Joe spoke with Linda to remind that the historic walls be included in their 2023 budget. Update on streetscape refresh.

Jacob Martz-met with a Preservation Maryland and SHAF on estimates for preservation. Still waiting on estimated costs for preservation. SHAF will assist with management if the town needs this service. SHAF requested a letter of support that Jake wrote for a grant from the county; this grant is to pay off the price of the house, it is for \$100,000.00. Robbie winterized the house. January's Memorial Day Parade meeting was cancelled, but the next meeting is set for February 7th at 6 p.m.

Ed Beeler

Attendance for 2022 – 2380; last year 2021 – 1639; an increase of 741 visitors.

Ed announced that Dr. Robert Brooks is part of the museum board, he's the secretary and brings lots of knowledge to the group.

Starting in January SMH volunteers will be cataloging artifacts in SMH

SMH staff will begin to design new displays, our goal is to reopen in March with new displays

SMH handed over Miss Sharpsburg and Sharpsburg Days to the newly formed events Committee so they can concentrate on museum related matters. I sent a letter out requesting any ideas from the other groups in Sharpsburg about activities they would have in celebration of our 260th so far only one answered.

SMH 2023 Schedule of Events/260th Anniversary of Sharpsburg

January-Closed for Revamping of Museum – Work Project

February-Black History Month Exhibit with Tolson's and SMH all month – Exhibit

March 11th Spring Metal Detecting Expo Event

April 22nd Youth Day at the Museum –Activity

May 13th 2 p.m. Tom Clemmons – Civil War –Event & May 27th Sharpsburg Memorial Day Parade & Wreath laying –Public relations

June 10th Women of Sharpsburg Exhibit

July 8th Sharpsburg's 260th Anniversary Open House, (quilts, weaving, spinning event)

August 12th Antique Road Show – Activity

September 15th & 16th Antietam Anniversary Weekend-Sharpsburg Citizens during Antietam Exhibit

October 14th SMH 6th Anniversary – Exhibit for Public/ Celebration for volunteers

November 11th Veterans Day wreath laying – Public Relations, November (Date to be determined) Native American Artifacts Exhibit and November 18th Sharpsburg Rifle Reunion Event

December 1st Sharpsburg Christmas tree Lighting 7pm. December (Date to be determined) Wreaths Across Antietam National Cemetery Public Relations

All events are subject to change; most will run 9-4 unless otherwise stated.

The museum needs a memorandum of understanding as to who owns the artifacts.

Community Partners

Officer Tracey Peyton (submitted electronically)

Checks Park-7, Antietam Train Museum-7, school-5, LL field-2

1 hour traffic enforcement & 1 hour foot patrol

In town for tree lighting and celebration

Assisted county shifts by running intoximeter test on DUI arrest, handled vehicle crash on Mt Lock Hill during ice event, and check well-being on vulnerable adult.

When cyber event disabled county computers, the units in the cruisers were also affected by being unable to access the network. Time spent at patrol having the IT dept. apply temp fixes.

Short schedule in Dec for "use or lose" time.

Fees on shed damage are still needed from the two youngsters. Carrie will work with the parents and call each month; she will reach out to Officer Peyton to make a call when he's in town.

Chris Vincent-Antietam Advisory board

The committee met on Wednesday, December 14, 2022.

Superintendent Trail commented that the 160th Battle Anniversary went well, and events were well attended. The Memorial Illumination had to be cancelled due to the wind and rain expected in the weather forecast.

The rehabilitation project of the Visitor's Center continues moving forward. Of course, the completion date has delayed due to sidewalk grades being off. Most likely the opening will be in the spring. The interior work is being completed in the store, lobby and theater. Exhibits will be going in in January and the solar panels getting installed.

Filming for the new orientation film, which will be approximately 23 minutes is done. Filming took place throughout the battlefield, in Sharpsburg, and on a farm outside Keedysville. The film is expected to be completed by the end of 2023 with a possible premier showing at the Maryland Theater.

Other Projects: HPTC continues to work on the preservation project at the Piper farm. The house is done, and they are working on the exterior of the outbuildings. Work has begun at the David R. Miller house on the windows and porch. The trace road at the Burnside Bridge will be resurfaced to make it more accessible for handicap visitors.

Two major projects this year will be the resurfacing of all the park roads and the National Cemetery rehabilitation which includes tree removal, pruning, and new planting as well as monument cleaning and repair work.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8th, 2023.

Russ has requested that Chris to research the driving force of who is responsible for the cancellation of the July 4th celebration at the Antietam Battlefield. Biggest concern is the security as the event gets about 10,000 attendees.

Old Business/ACTIONS:

FSA survey/drawings of Church and Antietam for possible resolutions-pros and cons were discussed to get drawings-This would be a drawing of the area with possible fixes to this water problem. The cost of the drawings will be \$3,500.00. Execute/fix the problem will be a very costly project. The drawings are not something that will expire. John spoke about citizens wanting better roads as opposed to a pocket park. Joe discussed the importance of having drawings in hand to assist with projects and have the information for bidding. John suggested grant writer to find monies for the road fix. Specifics on the drawings were discussed. Joe motioned to spend the money for the drawings, Ed seconded, all were in favor. Motion passed

Fire Station donation-\$2,000 has been the basic donated amount for the fire station and EMT, John motioned, Joe seconded, all voted in favor.

Electric car charging station vote (possible area: ballpark Council discussed possible areas for the charging station, members agreed that the limited parking in town and at the ballfield would not be feasible. Each council person voted to not accept the project proposal. The council gave a few highlights of the project, not a lot of parking to be able to feasibly give three spaces away. Near the water tower is we could carve out three spaces. All of council voted against the charging station. John motioned to skip, Joe seconded, all were not in favor of the charging station. Carrie will contact Marc with a thanks but no thanks for the charging station.

Fence bids (Horst Fencing Little League facing Street-\$22,500.00, legally obligated Big Spring \$7,500.00)

Horst was the only company to get back with Carrie

Big Spring fence-we are legally obligated to fence off the area the town owns. Ed motioned, Jake seconded, all is favor.

MDOT-met via Teams mid-December and was presented pictures and alternatives to parking and reducing speeding on Main Street. Joe summarized the solutions for helping the town to increase parking spots, reduce the risk of pedestrian crossing and the traffic off Main to/from Church and onto and off Sharpsburg Pike. Joe also reviewed the state parking violation/requirements. Legal parking was discussed and the markings that MDOT could stripe for the town, there were four different town square solutions to slow traffic and allow pedestrians. There are 128 legal parking spots on Main. Joe reviewed the stipulations of the state road; John mentioned that some parts of Main are not as wide in parts. Lots of discussion on the parking on Main Street. Mia brought up at a previous meeting that alley paving was voted against. Russ asked about an alley, alley discussion needs to be brought up. Survey was going to be done; John said he brought an alley survey. Companies and churches use alleys, John suggested that only residents can use the alley ways and that tickets should be issued for violations. Russ thought that Peyton would not be able to enforce. Russ suggested a public debate/public discussion to get an idea of what the residents would like. Russ missed John's alley report, so he requested it to be resubmitted. Someone to take the initiative to get a proposal together to address the alley issues.

Joe showcased three different options for the cross walk to slow traffic and keep pedestrians safe from oncoming cars. Two crosswalk options were also discussed. Slow traffic down and bring pedestrians are more visible, lower curbing and extending the four corners of the square. Joe suggested to have council look at the drawings; Russ suggested to discuss tonight.

The culture of Shepherdstown is different; that town has signs that makes law more prominent. Officer Peyton will be asked to monitor, enforce the crosswalk issue. Failure to yield right of way and concentrate on crosswalk and enforce all state road/parking laws.

Latest Project Open Space application for the pocket park-the estimated cost of the park was close to over \$900,00.00 after teasing out some expense Russ was able to get the final cost to \$400,000.00 which is still a very high cost. Pocket Park is on hold for now, not in

favor of spending that kind money. The design is great, but we are not the park service and as a small town cannot put in that kind of money for a park. Russ hopes to get some money from the grant application and once he knows the outcome of the grant application, he will let council know. We may wind up going with the original version of a few benches, a sign, flagpole and maintain the area's landscaping.

New Business

US 250th Anniversary Planning Summit on January 31st Joe and Jake will attend; Carrie will RSVP.

MML January Dinner RSVP-Hagerstown, needed by the Friday

Carrie asked everyone to send in pics as we are hoting

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50, Next meeting will be Monday, February 6th



Sharpsburg Lions Club

Dinner Programs

The Sharpsburg Lions Club is hosting
a dinner program for only \$10.00.

February 9

The Antietam Paintings of James Hope

Most everyone who has visited the original Antietam Visitors Center and ventured downstairs has seen James Hope's five panoramic paintings of the battle of Antietam. Brad and Linda Gottfried have recently written a book that describes the paintings in detail. In this presentation, you will learn more about how the paintings were crafted, how they were almost destroyed, and get a close-up analysis of the various portions of each painting. You will see aspects of the painting you may never have seen before.

Brad is an Antietam Battlefield Guide, has written 17 books on the Civil War, and retired after serving 40 years in higher education. Linda is an award-winning artist who worked as a development officers and graphic designer before she retired.
Brad and Linda have five children and seven grandchildren.

Dinner Menu: Pork and Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes, Salad and desert.

The dinner program will start at 7:00pm and is held at St Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main Street in the parish hall at the back of the church.

Please **RSVP** by February 2nd to sharpsburglions@gmail.com