



Sharpensburg Town Crier

William and Melva Ryan Edition



Volume 31

December 2023

Number 12

Meet Your Neighbor: Ms. Susan Videtti, Librarian

(This is the second Sharpensburg Town Crier edition devoted to our Library's staff. We already met Meses. Barbara Twigg and Carrie Estell in the May 2022 Crier along with a short history of the public libraries in town.)

Every one of us, or our families, have a story about how we came to be in this small place. For some of us, we were fleeing something; for others pursuing something. It's a story of movement and migration old as human time.

So it happened that the Editor sat down in the town library this month for a conversation with Ms. Susan Videtti. Her easy laugh and quick smile made it a delightful hour. The first thing one notices is the interesting contrast between her last name and her speech. Yes, listening, one at once deduces that she's from England; she's specifically from another little place. It's right in the name, Little Chesterford in Essex, U.K. Yes, "Videtti" is her married name, but more on that later. Her maiden name, Bowen, is Welsh.



Ms. Susan Videtti, Librarian/Landscape Architect



Her Grandfather's Place

To describe her journey to Sharpensburg as "circuitous" is to undervalue the meaning of the word. Her parents¹ are both Veterinarians who spent much of their lives in the US, instructing and conducting research at various universities. Susan grew up in a family in which frequent moving was the norm. The list includes Colorado, Texas, Florida, Canada, and even several trips home to the UK. As we say, she's from everywhere. Along the way, she earned a degree in Landscape Architecture.

On one of her trips "home" to England, she lived on her grandfather's farm. This gave her the opportunity to have a riding pony on the strict restriction that it was fed and the stall mucked out before school. In this she had the help of her sister.

In the course of our conversation, Susan shared that her Veterinarian “mum” was part of an RCVS² team that provided veterinary services for the Queens Corgis, the queen mum’s Corgis, and Princess Margaret’s King Charles Cavaliers³.

Her favorite musicians are George Harrison and Lenny Kravitz. (Can I just say? She rose even higher in my appreciation upon hearing the latter!)

Susan met her husband Jon in the course of her Landscape Architecture studies at Virginia Tech. Yes, he’s Italian. Their journey together with their children Isabella, Pippa, and Luca took them to Hagerstown. While there they took the notion of having more land and “a little village to raise our children in”. They moved to nearby Antietam where they were immediately accepted and became part of the community. “It was so lovely how they embraced us and still today they are some of my closest friends.”

We are fortunate to have her several days per week at our town library. I’ll go one step further. If you walk into the library and meet her, you’ll walk out in a more cheerful mood. The Editor guarantees it.

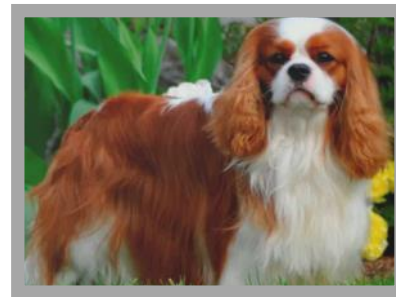
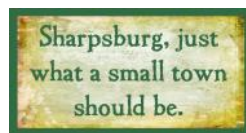
- Editor

¹ Drs. J. M. and M. J. Bowen, but they go by Jim & Jill.

² Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. The regulatory body for veterinary surgeons in the United Kingdom, established in 1844 by royal charter. It is responsible for monitoring the educational, ethical, and clinical standards of the veterinary profession. Anyone wishing to practice as a vet in the United Kingdom must be registered with the RCVS.

³ King Charles Cavaliers are a British breed of toy dog of spaniel type. Four colors are recognized: Blenheim (chestnut and white), tricolour (black/white/tan), black and tan, and ruby; the coat is smooth and silky. The lifespan is

usually between eight and twelve years. No, the Editor never heard of these either.



King Charles Cavaliers

Mayor and Council

Save Our History: Volunteer at the Town Museum



The Sharpsburgh Museum of History offers the opportunity to contribute your time and talent to save and showcase the history of Our Small Place.

The Executive Director provides this List of Volunteer Opportunities, but you may have ideas of your own to contribute and get involved.

- Person needed to work with the Executive Director in reorganizing the office area which includes the processing, volunteer, storage and filing area. one to two days a week,
- Person needed to work with the Executive Director or Museum President in the collection area and help with exhibits. One volunteer as needed.
- Docents. You’ll be trained and used as needed. No certain number.

- Person needed to be a Greeter during events, help with tour groups and as needed.
- Fundraiser/grant writer.
- Social media person (Facebook, website, etc.)

- Ed Beeler, Executive Director Sharpsburgh Museum of History

About the Town

SVFC Fund Drive

The Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Department (SVFC) is conducting its fund drive for 2024. See Pages ## and ## for their promotional flyer. It updates you on SVFC's status and plans for the year ahead. It tells you why your help is needed and how you can contribute.

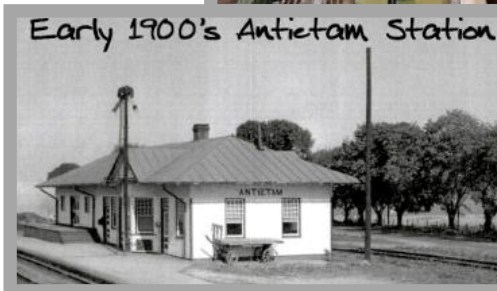


Historic Antietam Station Open House: Model Railroad Display

Hagerstown Model Railroad museum, Inc. is opening its doors on Sunday afternoons from 12Noon to 4PM all January 2024. See their flyer on Page # and separate entries on the Community Calendar.



Early 1900's Antietam Station



Community Calendar

January 4 at 2PM: **Homeschool Programs, New Year's STEM**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

January 6 from 9:30AM to 11:30AM: **Come All Who Are Thirsty (CAWAT) Veterans Group, Quarterly Breakfast & Meeting**
Burnside First Church of God
3904 Mills Road, Sharpsburg
comeallwhoarethirsty.org (or go to their Facebook page)

January 7 from 12Noon to 4PM: **Antietam Station Model Railroad Museum Open House**
17230 Shepherdstown Pike
301-800-9829 / hmrrm@myactv.net

January 8 at 6PM: **Town Council Meeting**
Town Hall, 106 East Main Street, PO Box 368
301-432-4428

January 14 from 12Noon to 4PM: **Antietam Station Model Railroad Museum Open House**
17230 Shepherdstown Pike
301-800-9829 / hmrrm@myactv.net

January 18 at 1:30PM: **Book Club, "Wizard of Oz"**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

January 21 from 12Noon to 4PM: **Antietam Station Model Railroad Museum Open House**
17230 Shepherdstown Pike
301-800-9829 / hmrrm@myactv.net

January 28 from 12Noon to 4PM:
**Antietam Station Model Railroad
Museum Open House**
17230 Shepherdstown Pike
301-800-9829 / hmrrm@myactv.net

(Each month a different art form will
be displayed along with books per-
taining to that art.)
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

February 6, 7, and 8: Anytime Li-
brary is Open: **Jigsaw Puzzle
Swap/Share**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

First Wednesdays of the month at
1PM Adults: **Book Share**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

February 7 at 2PM: **"Freddy the
Fish"** by Department of Agriculture.
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

February 15 at 3:30PM: **Valentine's
Story Time**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Thursdays at 3:30PM: **Storytime**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Recurring Events

Anytime the Library is Open: Special
Events: **Winter Spice Club** (Pick Up
a Sample, History, Recipes
January is Fenugreek
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Second Thursdays every month, **Li-
on's Club** 7PM, St. Paul's Episcopal
Church, 209 W. Main St, Sharps-
burg, MD 21782
sharpsburglions@gmail.com

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

February 1 Through April 11 from
9:00AM to 3:00PM: **Master Gar-
deners** Registration Required
Contact: acormany@umd.edu / 301-
791-1604

Thursdays @ 3:30PM: **Themed Sto-
ry Time**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Any Time the Library's Open: **Art of
the Month**

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 10AM, Sunday School at 10:30AM
301-432-4944

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

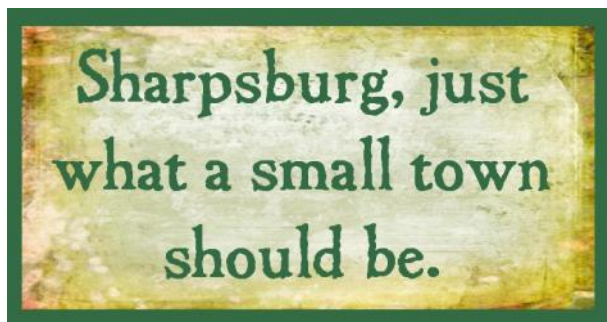
209 West Main Street
Sharpsburg
301-432-7098
Sundays: 10AM, Sunday School
(Second and Fourth Sundays starting September 25)

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

(Debbie Smith – Town Clerk)

106 East Main Street

PO Box 368

Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782

Phone: 301-432-4428

Fax: 301-432-8990

<https://sharpsburgmd.com/>

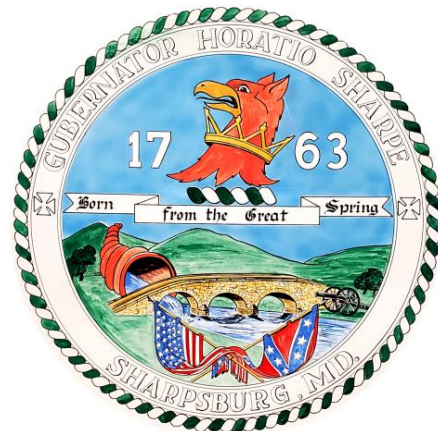
townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

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

Zoning Administrator-Tim Lung

Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com

msa 12/28/23 Ver1.0



ATACHHMENTS:

**SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 4, 2023**

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held their monthly meeting on Monday, December 4, 2023 in the Council meeting room of Town Hall located at 106 E. Main Street in Sharpsburg. In attendance were Mayor Russell Weaver, Vice Mayor Jacob Martz, Councilmembers Ed Beeler, Joseph Kudla and Robbie Waters. Absent were and Councilmembers John Hammond and Mia Parsons. Town Clerk Debra Smith was also in attendance and Zoning Administrator Tim Lung was in attendance via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE: Mayor Weaver called the meeting of the Mayor and Council to order at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for Councilmember John Hammond and his wife Councilmember Mia Parsons.

GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chris Vincent from the Antietam Institute presented the Mayor and Council with a second installment donation of \$2,000 for the Interpretive Plaza project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Councilmember Beeler, second by Councilmember Kudla to approve the October 2, 2023 and the November 6, 2023 minutes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER/NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT: Motion by Councilmember Waters, second by Councilmember Kudla to approve the October 2, 2023 and the November 6, 2023 financial reports. Motion carried.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT – Tim Lung

- The Board of Zoning Appeals held a public hearing on Wednesday, Nov 8 to consider the re-application for a Special Exception to establish a short-term rental use at 201 W. Main Street, zoned TR. The Board denied the application due to the owner having two principal residences according to State Assessment and Taxation records.
- Reviewed and signed off on a permit application to demolish an existing out building on property at 111 W. Main Street to be reviewed and issued by the County.
- Reviewed and commented on a building permit application for remodel, addition and garage on property at 316 W. Main Street.
- Responded to questions from a consultant regarding an environment assessment of the post office property on E. Chapline St.
- Responded to questions regarding possible annexation of property south of E. High Street.
- Responded to questions regarding property in the County that fronts on the alley behind W. Chapline Street.
- Responded to an inquiry regarding the possible placement of a new wireless communication tower at various locations in the Town. Such facilities require approval of a Special Exception by the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- Issued a notice of violation an un-permitted auto repair business operating at the rear of property along the south side of E. Main Street.
- Waiting for a response from State Highway Administration regarding the sight distance issue at the corner on Church St (MD 65) and E. Main St. (MD34).

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL AUDIT: Erin Clark and Kayla Alsahouri from SEK presented the results of the FY23 financial audit. Highlights included;

- Operating grants decreased in FY23 resulting in the current years expenses exceeding total revenues by \$35,835.

- Total actual revenues of \$495,786 and expenditures of \$611,814 left a budget balance of (116,028)
- FY23 year end fund balance of \$399,693 is made up of \$32,759 for hotel/motel tax and \$24,637 for Highway user revenue (both restricted uses) and \$311,402 unassigned revenue.
- The town has \$1,108,236 in total assets and no long-term debt.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Officer Watkins – Resident Deputy report for November 2023

Antietam Station - 5 checks.

Sharpsburg Elementary School - 3 checks.

Little League field - 5 checks.

Park - 6 checks.

Bank parking lot - 2 nights.

Traffic Enforcement - 3.5 hours.

Parking Enforcement - .5 hour.

Calls For Service - 7.

Special Events - 1 (Veterans Day).

Total WCSO events - 68

Burglary - 0

Disorderly - 1

MDOP - 1

TFMV - 0

Theft - 0

Undesirable - 0

Chris Vincent – Park Advisory Board/Antietam Institute: 1,100 volunteers for the Annual Christmas lighting of the Antietam Battlefield.

MAYORS REPORT – Mayor Weaver

- **Wells** –Bid document is complete and available for your review. Bidders conference complete and now open for bid.
- **Historic Park** –Frederick Seibert and Associates are finishing detailed design.
- **Big Spring** –We were not selected for a grant and have this project on hold.
- **Boyer House** –Negotiations are ongoing and will happen this week.
- **Streets & General Maintenance**–Moving electronic sign from fire hall to route 65 will be discussed in executive session during December council meeting.
- **Audit** –Results will be presented during December Council meeting

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Councilmember Beeler:

Museum Attendance: 182 - YTD: 1637 YT 2022 – 1639

- The total of Boyer Artifacts is at: 680 now we received a box from the Boyer house.
- We received a donation of a drawing of the piper farm house as a log house and a photo of two Sharpsburg Bluebirds ball players
- SMH end of year fundraiser
- The Antietam Diorama restoration
- Sharpsburg's Artifact Collection, is to finish it between Christmas and New Years and start 2024 with the whole collection done and start to put in on the museum program we have.
- The End of the Year Report will be out soon to each board member and the Mayor and Council.

Councilmember Kudla:

- MDOT looking for funding for additional streetscape work
- Discussion on the culvert located at 133 E. Main St. Councilmember Kudla will contact MDOT again for further discussions and a possible resolution
- Discussion on naming and placing signage on allies. **(ACTION ITEM)** to be placed on January's agenda for further discussion.

Councilmember Waters:

- Missing playground parts has caused several delays in the installation process. If all the remaining parts are delivered soon, the installation could be completed in the next 3-weeks. Mayor Weaver asked Councilmember Waters to provide Town Clerk Smith with details regarding the delay with the manufacturer so they can be relayed back to the Andrew Eshelman at the County Parks & Rec. **(ACTION ITEM)**
- The Veterans Banners will be removed this week and placed in town hall for display and the Christmas banners will go up.

Vice Mayor Martz:

- Received requested Memorial Day grant funding from Hotel Rental Tax Funding and Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau. The total amount received was \$15,000 combined.
- Ordered additional "No Parking" signage for Main Street to replace signage that was legally unenforceable.
- Submitted donations, which included original photographs and records, from the Boyer House to the Sharpsburgh Museum of History.

OLD BUSINESS

Council Review of Town Safety Priorities: Council agreed that Officer Watkins is doing a great job and this item can be removed from the agenda.

E. Antietam Street Drainage Project Update: **(ACTION ITEM)** to be placed on January's agenda for further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Water Rebates: tabled for further discussion in the second billing quarter.

Town Hall Security Proposals: Somerset Fire Alarm and Security and Atlantic Security Systems, Inc. were contacted to provide quotes for the upgrade to the town's current security camera system and add new additional security features. Discussion on the quotes with the majority agreeing that they are satisfied with the service currently provided by Atlantic Security at the town's parks and feel it would be easier to maintain the same system throughout the town. **Motion** by Councilmember Martz, second by Councilmember Waters to approve the lower bid by Atlantic Security at \$5,695.00. Motion carried.

Replacement of Door Handles in Town Office/Museum: Councilmember Martz proposed the replacement of commercial door handle and locks on the town office and museum doors. **Motion** by Councilmember Martz, second by Councilmember Kudla to approve the change. Motion carried.

Verizon Antenna Installation Request at Ballfield: A Verizon representative has proposed the placement of a new wireless communications tower located at the town's ballfield at an approximate height of 120'. This would require application to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a Special Exemption.

FY23 Annual Audit: Motion by Councilmember Waters, second by Councilmember Beeler to approve the FY23 Financial Audit as presented earlier in the meeting by Smith, Elliott and Kearns. Motion carried.

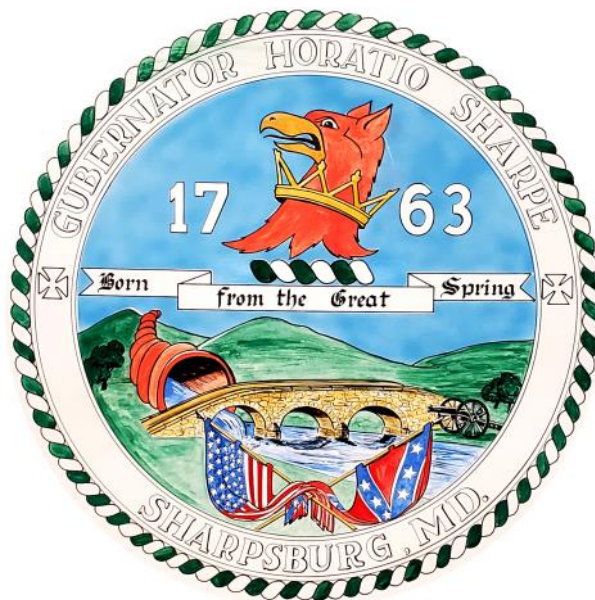
Motion by Councilmember Martz, second by Councilmember Kudla to closed the Regular meeting at 8:00 PM and move into Executive Session under Maryland Annotated Code General Provisions Article §3-305(b):
(8) consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation. Motion carried.

January 8, 2024 Meeting Action/Agenda Items

- Discussion on naming and placing signage on allies.
- E. Antietam Street Drainage Project Update
- Councilmember Waters to provide Town Clerk Smith with details regarding the delay with the manufacturer so they can be relayed back to the Andrew Eshelman at the County Parks & Rec.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Smith|
Town Clerk



SHARPSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.

2023 FUND DRIVE



Happy Holidays from the Sharpshurg Volunteer Fire Company! As volunteers of SVFC, we are dedicated to making our community the best possible place to live, visit, play, and work, providing over 22,800 hours of service in 2023. The SVFC continues to adapt and grow, standing ready to protect and help the community in times of need, but we need your help. Since 1943, the SVFC has been responsible for protecting approximately 6,800 residents spread across 40 square miles. In the year 2023, we responded to around 700 emergency calls for fire, rescue, and advanced life support. We have a team of around 50 active responders, consisting of highly trained volunteers and career staff. Our main goals are to save lives, minimize losses, and ensure the safety of our community. As the regional response center for Southern Washington County, our station is staffed 24 hours a day, providing emergency responses not only to our community but also to neighboring areas, which increases our coverage to 60,000 residents.

In order to maintain our level of service delivery, we need \$286,000 for the fiscal year 2024. The Washington County Government provides \$201,000 of support, but we still need to raise \$85,000 from our local community. We rely on various sources of funding such as this fund-drive, fundraising events, grants, donations, and gaming proceeds. The annual fund-drive is our biggest and most dependable source of local funding, covering 30% of our needs. Unfortunately, over the past 3 years, only 18.4% of residents have made donations. **We kindly request that each individual residence donate at least \$50, and families donate \$75 if possible.** Your contribution will go a long way in saving lives and improving the quality of life in our community.

2023 UPDATES

In 2023, the SVFC had a busy year. We acquired a new fire engine; first one we've added in 20 years. We also added a new duty vehicle. Thanks to several grants, we were able to improve the protective gear for our responders and upgrade our collection of fire and rescue tools. Our staff spent over 6,400 hours training in fire and rescue techniques, and we implemented new procedures and methods to enhance our effectiveness. We are dedicated to nurturing the next generation of responders through our cadet program. Additionally, we underwent a thorough evaluation by a third-party to assess our capabilities, with the goal of reducing insurance costs for residents.



COMING IN 2024

SVFC is anticipating a busy year ahead in 2024. In the beginning of the year, we will be making improvements to our old brush truck and adding a new pitched roof to the annex building. We also plan to replace more personal protective equipment and make significant upgrades to our radio system. Throughout the year, there will be a lot of training and deployment of newer operational equipment.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

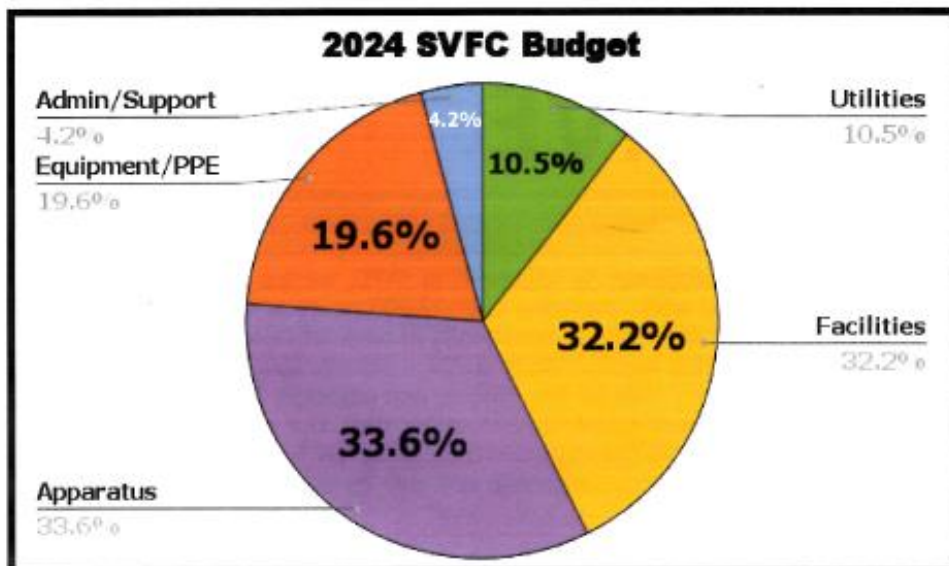
You can help our community's emergency services in many different ways. If you want to be an active responder, you can receive free training. We also need volunteers to support us with fundraising, administration, facility maintenance, public education, and more. Financially, we rely on funding from the community, which directly improves public safety. It is crucial for everyone to participate in our fund-drive, so please make an effort to contribute. Please support and spread the word about our fundraising events throughout the year. Also, consider us for business donations and grants, and let your local politicians know that you support our efforts to keep the community safe.



email: sharpshurgvfc@gmail.com

website: sharpshurgvfc.org

FB: www.facebook.com/sharpshurgvfc1



WHY IS YOUR HELP NEEDED?

This message is created, distributed, and handled entirely by SVFC volunteers. No donations will leave our community. Please be aware that any other requests for donations are not authorized by or supportive of the SVFC. 100% of the funds we collect will be used to provide emergency apparatus and equipment, which will benefit our community for many years to come.

The rising costs in the fire and rescue field pose a significant challenge for small communities like ours. In addition to the projects mentioned in 2024, SVFC is currently saving money to replace our 1998 engine tanker and make further improvements to the fire station. The funds raised through our fundraising efforts will be directly allocated to these projects.

To maximize the impact of your donations, SVFC is actively seeking competitive grants and engaging in local fundraising activities. Your generous support is crucial in providing the necessary equipment to save lives and protect property.



If you would like to make an ONLINE donation follow these PayPal directions.

1. Login to your personal Paypal Account and click SEND & REQUEST at the top of the page.
2. Enter this email address in the send money box: sharpsburgvfc@gmail.com
3. Type the AMOUNT you would like to donate and click ADD A NOTE to enter your full name and indicate that it is for your 2023 donation.
4. Click CONTINUE and select your address and payment type then click SEND PAYMENT now.
5. You will have a record for your taxes by printing your receipt from paypal.
6. All electronic transfer fees are deducted from the amount received by the SVFC.

email: sharpsburgvfc@gmail.com

website: sharpsburgvfc.org

FB: www.facebook.com/sharpsburgvfc1

Come Discover Historic Antietam Station

See the Model Trains rolling along!

OPEN HOUSE



Sunday Afternoons
12 – 4 PM
January 7, 14 ,21,& 28th, 2024

Free Admission !
Donations Gratefully Accepted

Inclimate Weather??
We will be CLOSED

Here we are:
17230 Shepherdstown Pike
Sharpsburg, MD



Hosted by: Hagerstown Model Railroad Museum, Inc

A Maryland Non-profit 501(c)(3) Corporation Your donations are Tax Deductible

PO Box 301 Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782 email: hmrrm@myactv.net

<http://www.antietamstation.com> 301-800-9829