



Sharpsburg Town Crier

Ernie Wetterer

Edition, 2025



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April 2025

Number 4

Preserving Our Past: A Brief History of the Sharpsburg Memorial Day Parade

Sharpsburg's annual observance of Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, has occurred every year since the dedication of Antietam National Cemetery on September 17, 1867, on the 5-year anniversary of America's bloodiest day, and the event that led to its dedication, the Battle of Antietam. The annual Memorial Day parade and commemoration is a defining event in the Town of Sharpsburg, and one of our most sacred traditions of which we are immensely proud.



At its peak in the 1880s, Memorial Day would attract as many as 15,000-20,000 people to Sharpsburg, many of whom would arrive by train to Antietam Station, located on the west side of town, and would then walk the entire 1.5 mile distance up Main Street through town to Antietam National Cemetery, located on the east side of town, to pay their respects to those interred there; the current parade route follows, and pays homage to, this traditional path traversed by so many, including families of those killed during the Civil War and Civil War Veterans themselves. The immense popularity and attendance of the (Continued on Page 3)

Springtime and *'Here comes the sun'*

I think it was about 1969 when I first heard the Beatles song, and George Harrison's lyrics, *'Here comes the sun'*. Do you remember the song?

*"Here comes the sun'
Here comes the sun
And I say it's all right
Little darling*

*It's been a long, cold, lonely winter
Little darling
It feels like years since it's been here
Here comes the sun
Here comes the sun*

*And I say, it's all right
Little darling
The smiles returning to many faces*

When I first heard that song so many years ago, it was like a wake-up call of Spring. The cold days, snow and winds of winter made their exit and the warmth of the sun had '*returned the smiles to many faces*'; mine included.

Another gospel song '*That's Heaven to Me*' by Sam Cooke from 1960, had another intriguing thought of spring:

*"A little flower that blooms in May
A lovely sunset at the end of the day,
Someone helping a stranger along the way
That's Heaven to me."*

Spring represents 'hope' or a 'renewal' to those who embrace it. It is a time for planting, a time for flowers and gardens that bring forth a bounty of nourishment and beauty.

Many years ago, as a youth growing up in the little hill of Dargan surrounded by the budding trees, I can remember the joy of my Grandfather Reno as he celebrated spring with a newly plowed field.

Carlos Jamison lived at the bottom of Lock Hill near a river bend and he was a man most important to those folk of Dargan who planted gardens.

Why? you must be wondering of Carlos importance.

He was important because he had the only horse and plow to cultivate the fields in Dargan. Carlos would bring his big horse to our little log-built home, with a heavy plow spade and cultivate our garden and turn the earth into fresh rows of dirt where the many vegetables would be planted and grow.

The earth's smell as Carlos turned the soil was pleasing.

Grandpa Reno would have the potatoes cut and he, Grandma Gen, my cousin Pee Wee and yours truly would set out dropping the potatoes and a little lime in the neat rows. Green beans were planted, later the tomatoes, some squash, and a row or two of corn.

Welcoming spring with the budding trees, freshly turned dirt, and vegetable plants represented the 'rights of spring', the return of the warm sun and the growing plants of the garden.

It was a happy time where families worked together and rains of the season visited to return all things to wonder. It represented '*Heaven*' to Sam Cooke and a happy time for George Harrison too as he strummed his guitar and sang '*Here Comes the Sun*'

You surely have to agree that spring is a most special time of the year.

And there is more happiness to be had, as the morels were popping in the nearby hills. Nothing like grabbing a paper bag, and maybe a sandwich, while heading for the nearby hills to find some of these black and white delicacies.



What do they look like? Some might answer 'honeycombed with pitted caps and hollow stems, often found in woods under ash trees.'

What do they taste like when fried up in butter? 'Something most exquisite fit for a King and Queen' may be the only answer.

What do they cost? If you can find a seller, \$100 a gallon would be cheap!

How do I get some? Good Luck would be my answer.

The thoughts of spring are many:

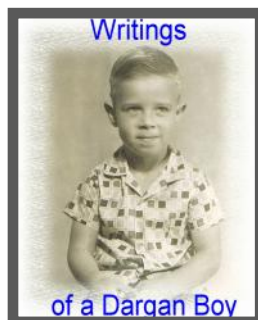
"The man who has planted a garden feels that he has done something for the good of the world (Charles Warner);

"Happiness is to hold flowers in both hands";

And an old Russian proverb suggests, "A kind word is like a spring day".

May kind words embrace you this beautiful spring!!!!

- Writings of a Dargan Boy



Preserving Our Past: A Brief History of the Sharpsburg Memorial Day Parade... (Continued)

...event would eventually compel the United States War Department to assume responsibility for improving the roadway leading from the train station to the cemetery. A walkway was constructed flanked with Maple trees to provide shade, and the road was graded and Macadamized. Large stone walls would be built in 1888 just west of the entrance to the cemetery along Main Street - which would eventually become known to the War Department as McComas Avenue in 1906 - to create an attractive visage for approaching visitors.

By the late 19th century until the cessation of operations in 1928, the War Department maintained the entire 9,300 ft length of the roadway from the train station to Antietam National Cemetery.

Over the years, the event has featured a number of prominent individuals, including President Andrew Johnson, who delivered the very first address at the dedication of Antietam Cemetery, actors Mary Tyler Moore and Buddy Ebsen, and CIA officer Tony Mendez of Argo fame, along with countless high-ranking military officers and dignitaries, as well as notable service members and other officials.

Most recently, for this year's 157th event, we dedicated our commemoration as an official "welcome home" for our local Viet Nam era veterans. Featured were keynote speakers Captain James Warner, a former POW who was imprisoned with Senator John McCain, and Colonel Richard Hembrock, along with 23 other Viet Nam Veterans who were honored as Grand Marshals in a parade which included a flyover by an original Viet Nam era Huey Helicopter. As we are now approaching the semiquincentennial, the theme of this year's event will be entitled "250 Years of Sacrifice and Service," and will recognize the 250th Anniversary of the birth of the United States Armed Forces, along with all of the sacrifices made by America's heroes since her founding.

A notable milestone in our parade's history occurred only a few short years ago. Due to concerns and precautions which arose during the COVID scare in 2020, and much to the dismay of our residents, just as had occurred to many other public events and gatherings which fell prey to such cancellations throughout the country, the Mayor and Council then in office voted to cancel the annual parade for the first time in its history, which would have ended a then-153-year-old tradition. Sensing the discontent in the community, and in an ef-

fort to preserve our tradition, I began to personally lobby the Mayor and Council in an attempt to convince them to reverse their decision, but to no avail.



Following the failure of these efforts, I took it upon myself to attempt to organize a citizens' parade through town following the traditional parade route. A call for participants was put out, and responded to with great alacrity by townspeople eager to preserve Sharpsburg's most cherished and time-honored tradition, and the "Rogue Parade," as it came to be known, would prove to be a great success, and boasted more participants than the official parade the year prior. Upon being elected to office by a grateful community later that year, I immediately introduced a resolution to recognize the citizens' parade of 2020 as the Town's official parade for that year, which was unanimously passed by our newly-elected Administration. As a result of the quick actions and dedication of our citizens, our sacred history and tradition of honoring our fallen heroes was preserved, and I am now proud and honored to act as the current Chairman of Sharpsburg's Memorial Day Committee, a position in which I have officially served since 2021.

My research conducted subsequent to the 2020 parade indicated that all other public Memorial Day parades for that season were canceled, their host towns and cities opting instead for virtual commemorations and private ceremonies, absent the public. This included the two public parades hosted by the cities of Waterloo, NY - regarded by the federal government as the birthplace of Memorial Day - and Rochester, WI which, according to my research, are the only two events that antedate the Sharpsburg commemoration. While these two observances are technically older from a chronological perspective, as their historical start date precedes ours, their public

events were canceled out of an abundance of caution in 2020, meaning that no public parade was conducted at those locations, and the longevity of their respective traditions was interrupted. As such, and due to the efforts and dedication of our own citizens, we are extremely proud to proclaim that Sharpsburg now holds the title of hosting the longest continuously-held Memorial Day Parade in the United States!

I hope this is not too much info, but there is just so much history behind our Memorial Day parade, it's difficult to condense into a few short lines! For me and many others in our town Memorial Day means more than just an annual parade, and I can truly say that I consider it an honor to play a small role in preserving our Town's most sacred tradition, and being a part of its history.

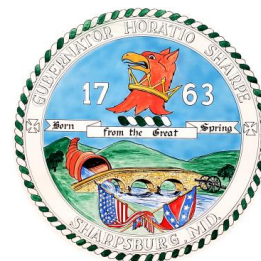
(See Community Calendar
- Jacob Martz, Vice Mayor



From the Mayor and Council

Former Councilman Robbie Waters Recognized

Former Councilman Robbie Waters was recognized by the Mayor and Council last night for his many years of service to the Town of Sharpsburg. A winner in this year's Best of the Tri-state business awards, Robbie will be focusing on his growing business. Congratulations!



In addition to the April Town Council Meeting Minutes, Page 12, see also the March Council Work Session Meeting Minutes, starting on Page 10.

About the Town

Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company (SVFC) News

SVFC Fund Drive Continues

The Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company would like to thank the community for their generous support of our 2024 annual fund-drive, started in December of 2024. To date we have raised \$29,800 from 368 homes. This sum lags \$2,500 below last year's total by \$2,500. Our annual fund-drive is the only direct request we have for our 2173

residents. We seek support from 25% of our homes, but so far, we are only at 16.9%.

The SVFC faces some large expenses in the coming years to provide the best possible service to our community. All proceeds from our fund drive go directly into the purchase

of fire and rescue equipment, staying in our community to help our friends, families, and neighbors for decades to come. The cost of emergency equipment continues to rise,

and increased support is needed even more than ever. If you still would like to donate, please do. Donations can be made by mail (Box 297) or PayPal online. If you need assistance in donating, please reach out by email to sharpsburgvfc@gmail.com

Once again thank you for your support.

- Jay Brandenburg, SVFC President.



Fire Company Home School Open House, 2025

Another successful "Home School Open House" Did you know there are over 2000 kids being home schooled in Washington County? We also had kids from Jefferson and Berkeley Counties in West Virginia as well as kids from Pennsylvania and Virginia. Thank you to all who attended. See you next year!



Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company Pork Raffle

Do not miss out on our upcoming pork raffle - 1st prize: 1/2 processed hog and 10 cubic foot chest freezer!

- 2nd prize: 1/2 processed hog and 10 cubic foot chest freezer

- 3rd prize: 10 lbs of Kuntzler Bacon.

To purchase tickets please call 301-991-2230
See Poster, Page 19

American Legion Auxiliary News

Sharpsburg American Legion Auxiliary Presents American Flag to Veteran

On behalf of Antietam Unit 236 American Legion Auxiliary, Virginia Wagner (left) and her granddaughter Adeline Wagner (right), a Junior member of the Sharpsburg American Legion Auxiliary presented an outdoor American Flag kit to Frank Diolosa, III (center), a veteran who recently became a homeowner in Sharpsburg.



Diolosa is a United States Marine Veteran. He served two tours in Iraq and one tour in Africa.

- Ms. Ava Gift

*Just what a
small town
should be*

Sharpsburg American Legion Auxiliary to Collect Worn Flags

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

The Sharpsburg American Legion Auxiliary will place a collection barrel in front of the Sharpsburg Town Hall from April 20 to May 23, where the community may place their worn American flags for proper disposal.

The unit members remind all Americans that every day is a good day to display an American flag in good condition.

"The flag does not fly because the wind moves it, it flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it".

(Pictured in photo: Unit 236 ALA Member Darlene Eichelberger)

- Ms. Ava Gift



Community Calendar (April- August)

April 26 from 7AM to 10AM: **Annual Fishing Rodeo**
at Town Pond
106 E Main St
301-432-4428

April 26: **Women of Sharpsburg Exhibit**
In the Sharpsburgh Museum of History
301-800-6877
Ed.Beeler@sharpsburghmuseumofhistory.com

May 1 from 1:30PM to 6:30PM: **May Day Plant/Seed Swap and Share**
(in front of the library)
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

May 3 from 9:15AM to 1PM: **Free Comic Book Day**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

May 3 at 10AM; **Lego Club**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

May 5 at 6PM: **Town Council Meeting**
Sharpsburg Town Hall
106 E Main St, Sharpsburg, MD 21782
301-432-4428

May 7 at 1PM; **Book Share for Adults**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

May 14 at 1:30PM: **Home School Book Club, "Oscar about Town"**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

May 14: **Curbside Bulk Clean-Up**
106 E Main St
301-432-4428

May 24: **Memorial Day Events**
Ceremony at 11AM
Parade at 2 PM
106 E Main St
301-432-4428

May 28 at 6PM: **Gardening Know How with Master Gardener-Trica/Our Local Birds of Prey**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

May 29 at 3:30PM: **Community Story Time/Sharpsburg Park**
Meet at the Sharpsburg Park on West High Street/at the library if inclement weather
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

June 2 at 7PM: **Robert M. Dunkerly, The Final Attack at Antietam**
Civil War Lecture Series
Antietam Institute at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

June 4 at 1PM; **Book Share for Adults**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

June 5 from 2PM to 6PM: **Colors of Boba Tea**

try different flavors of Boba tea
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

June 7 from 10AM to 4PM: **Community Market**

To benefit Sharpsburg Emergency Medical Services

110 1/2 W Chapline St.
(301) 432-5348

June 7 at 10AM; Lego Club
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

June 9 at 7PM: **Joe Stahl and Matt Borders, Soldiers from the 29th Massachusetts, the Forgotten Irish Brigade Regiment**

Civil War Lecture Series
Antietam Institute at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

June 12 at 3:30PM: **Color our World Summer Reading Club Kickoff**
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

June 16 – **Sarah Kay Bierle, "Directed to Take Command": Winfield S. Hancock & Antietam's Sunken Road**

Civil War Lecture Series
Antietam Institute at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

June 23 at 7PM: **Michael S. Lang, From The Brazos To The Antietam & Beyond: The Story of the Fifth Texas Volunteer Infantry Regiment**

Civil War Lecture Series
Antietam Institute at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

June 30 at 7PM: **Darin Wipperman, "I Am Bullet Proof:" The Last Four Months of a Fifth Corps Soldier**

Civil War Lecture Series
Antietam Institute at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

July 7 at 7PM: **Dr. Alex Rossino, Before September: The Origin of the 1862 Maryland Campaign**

Civil War Lecture Series
Antietam Institute at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

July 14 at 7PM: **Dr. Brad Gottfried, Texas Brigade at Antietam**

Civil War Lecture Series
Antietam Institute at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

July 21 at 7PM: **Tom McMillan, "Little-Known Antietam: Henry Winters and 'Mystery and Murder at the Lodge'"**

Civil War Lecture Series
Antietam Institute at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

July 28 at 7PM: **Jim Rosebrock, Organization of the Federal Artillery in the Civil War**

Civil War Lecture Series
Antietam Institute at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

August 4 at 7PM: **Tracey McIntire, The Fate of Antietam's Wounded**

Civil War Lecture Series
Antietam Institute at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

August 11 at 7PM: **Steve Stotelmyer, Little Mac at the Front**

Civil War Lecture Series
Antietam Institute at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

August 18 at 7PM: **Dr. Jen Murray, Meade at War: General George Meade and the Army of the Potomac, 1861-1865**

Civil War Lecture Series
Antietam Institute at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

August 25 at 7PM: **John Schildt, Frederick, the Crossroads of the Civil War**
Civil War Lecture Series
Antietam Institute at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

September 20 from 10AM to 5PM: **Sharpsburg Days**
Sharpsburgh Museum of History
(301) 800-6877
Ed.Beeler@sharpsburghmuseumofhistory.com

August 9: **Candy and the Civil War**
Sharpsburgh Museum of History
301-800-6877
Ed.Beeler@sharpsburghmuseumofhistory.com

Recurring Events

Sharpsburg Market: April 6, April 27, May 4, May 18, June 1, June 22, July 6, July 20, August 3, August 17, September 7, September 21, October 5, October 19
Behind Battlevue Market
SharpsburgFM@gmail.com

Second Wednesdays from 12Noon to 1:30PM: **Lunch and Fellowship at the Brethren Church**
123 E Main St.
301-432-4944 / sharpsburgcob@outlook.com

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

Thursdays at 3:30PM: **Storytime** (Ages 3 and Up)
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
sharpsburglions@gmail.com

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

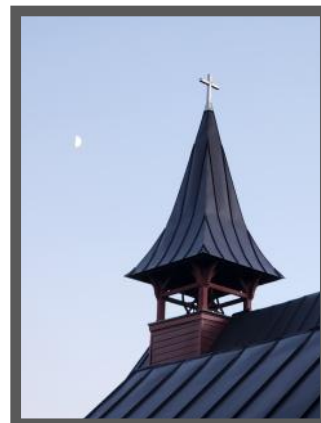
United Christian Fellowship
18823 Shepherdstown Pike, Keedysville, MD 21756
301-432-0110
Sundays: 8:45AM Fellowship, 9AM Sunday School, 10AM Worship & Children's Church

Sharpsburg Church of the Brethren
123 E Main St, Sharpsburg
Sundays at 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
Sunday Worship - 9:00am, Sunday School - 10:15am

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

Randy Short – Council (elect)

Heather Waters – Council (elect)

Ed Beeler-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/>

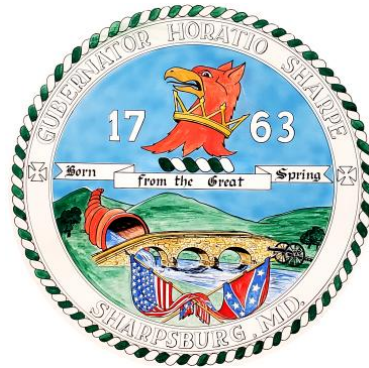
townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

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

TheTownOfSharpsburg

Zoning Administrator-Tim Lung

Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com



Ver. 1.0 4/23/255

Attachments:

**SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 31, 2025**

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held a closed session meeting on Monday, March 31, 2025 in the Council meeting room of Town Hall located at 106 E. Main Street in Sharpsburg. **Motion** by Councilmember Beeler, second by Councilmember Short to close the meeting at 5:10 PM under Maryland Annotated Code General Provisions Article §3-305(b): (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice. Motion carried unanimously.

In closed session the Mayor and Council obtained legal advice from the town Attorney and reached a consensus to review the Towns Charter and various Ordinances and provide him with any and all revisions deemed necessary to be incorporated into revisions and Charter Amendments.

Present during the closed session were Mayor Russell Weaver, Vice Mayor Jacob Martz, Councilmembers Ed Beeler, Joseph Kudla, Heather Waters and Randy Short. Also present were Town Administrator Debra Smith and Town Attorney Brian Kane.

Reconvene in Open session

Motion by Councilmember Waters, second by Councilmember Kudla to reconvene in open session at 6:25PM. Motion carried unanimously. In attendance were Mayor Russell Weaver, Vice Mayor Jacob Martz, Councilmembers Ed Beeler, Joseph Kudla, Heather Waters and Randy Short. Town Administrator Debra Smith and Zoning Administrator Tim Lung were also in attendance.

1. Request For Permit To Block Sidewalk For Roof Replacement Project – Zoning Administrator

Zoning Administrator Tim Lung stated that a request for an application for a permit to block a portion of the sidewalk to erect scaffolding in order to complete a roofing job at 107 East Main Street was submitted and will be in place for approximately two weeks and would also require a lift to move materials up to the roof, which will be in place for approximately one month. Tim stated that Town Code requires that a pedestrian walk-way of 36" wide must be maintained. Property owner Brien Poffenberger stated that the ROW will be maintained and he also understands that the issue of having the scaffolding off the street during the Memorial Day Parade is also a requirement. **A Public Hearing will be scheduled prior to the regular meeting on Monday, April 7th at 6PM.**

2. Request To Use Sidewalks/Parking Area For Grand Opening/Special Event –Town Administrator

Town Administrator Smith stated that Kayla Crigger, owner of 4065Florals and Events is renting 100 E. Main on the corner by Nutter's, and is planning a grand opening on Saturday, May 10th from 12-4pm. Ms. Crigger is requesting the use the sidewalk/parking spaces on the corner for a food truck/specialty drink vendor, permanent jewelry vendor, a "Build Your Own Bouquet" booth outside the store to attract customers. **Consensus to place on the regular meeting agenda to allow 4 trucks (no alcohol) and block Mechanic Street and 2 vendors on the sidewalk and she must provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the Town as the additional insured.**

3. Review of Mowing Bids For 2025 Season – Town Administrator

Three-(3) bids were received and the scope of work consists of providing all labor, materials, equipment and incidentals for the weekly mowing and trimming of several town-owned property parcels during the 2025 mowing season, which shall begin no earlier than April 15th of each year and end no later than October 15th of each year. The contract period will be for one (1) year and may be extended for two (2) 1-year terms, not to exceed three years from the date of the award.

	R.W. Property Services	Grand Lawn Services, LLC	Murray's Lawn & Property Care
YEAR 1 (2025)	\$725.00	\$745.00	\$1,100.00
YEAR 2 (2026)	\$725.00	\$745.00	\$1,100.00
YEAR 3 (2027)	\$750.00	\$775.00	\$1,250.00

Consensus to award the contract to the low bidder at the regular meeting.

4. Chapline Street Culvert Cleaning Proposal – Mayor Weaver

Huntzberry Brothers provided a quote of \$13,500.00 back in November 2024 to remove sediment from the Chapline Street Culvert with a Hydro-Vac Excavation. They gave completed as much as they can remove at an estimated \$8,000.00. The remaining portion consists of debris caught up in roots that will have to be manually removed. Huntzberry Brothers

can do it for the remaining \$5,500.00 or R.W. Property Services has provided a quote to remove the remaining debris for \$2,000.00. Consensus to approve R.W. Property Services for \$2,000.00.

5. FY25 Pothole Repair Proposal– Mayor Weaver

Huntzberry Brothers presented a street repair analysis and estimate in September 2024. Council was asked to review the repair proposal and make any additions at the regular meeting.

6. Review of MDOT Response RE: Church & Main Street Safety Priorities – Council Member Kudla

Councilmember Kudla read the following response received by MDOT this afternoon via email.

In response to our discussion with you on February 25, 2025, the State Highway Administration (SHA) is providing a written response on the traffic control revision requests from the Town and/or its residents. The requests were for the installation of a traffic signal or a four-way stop at the intersection of Main and Church Streets in Sharpsburg. The SHA is bound by the nationally accepted Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for installation of any traffic control device along a State -maintained roadway, including traffic signals. Since signals naturally introduce delay at intersections and may increase certain crash types (i.e., rear-end and angle collisions), installation of this type of controls must be carefully weighed for both its potential benefits and drawbacks. The MUTCD include several signal warrants which either support or deny the installation of a traffic light. The signal warrants look at traffic volume, conflict between movements, and the number of hours such conflict exists. Other signal warrants consider items such as the presence of an at-grade rail crossing or a high-volume pedestrian generator nearby. At least one of these warrants must be met to proceed. An engineering study of traffic conditions, pedestrian characteristics, and physical characteristics of the intersection was performed by SHA to determine whether the installation of a traffic control signal is warranted. The study was based on recent traffic data, including peak volume hours, and revealed that no traffic signal warrants are currently met. The SHA's evaluation of a multi-way stop condition yielded the same finding. While the MUTCD warrants for stop controls are not as rigid as for signals, there are several important factors to consider. It was determined that a change in intersection control from its current configuration is unlikely to improve traffic operations. Roadway geometry and stopping sight distance are limiting factors on the westbound approach of Main Street. Queued traffic waiting at a stop condition are at risk of being rear-ended by traffic coming over the crest near the Mount Calvary Lutheran Cemetery. Additionally, as was noted in our discussion last month, requiring all vehicles to stop often increases noise levels, which is likely an undesirable result for this area.

Sharpsburg has been selected to be a participant of this year's Complete Streets Academy. Through the Smart Growth America Complete Streets Leadership Academy, the Maryland State Highway Administration and Sharpsburg will have access to a series of workshops and other resources to guide in the installation of temporary safety measures (like the 5 Joe mentioned).

1. Paint or mark off the intersection.
2. Attach speed device to speed sign
3. Add scalloped rumble strip before speed change to alert drivers
4. Put white line on N. side of Main/SHA proposed distances (185 ft to east & to 133 E Main from intersection)
5. Add a large dangerous or congested intersection sign on MD65 at 25mph speed sign.

Respectfully submitted;

Debra Valentine-Smith
Town Administrator

**SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
AND
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 7, 2025**

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held a Public Hearing on Monday, April 7, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. 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, Randy Short and Heather Waters. Town Administrator Debra Smith was also present and Zoning Administrator Tim Lung was present via zoom.

PUBLIC HEARING - Pursuant to Town Code, Chapter 7, Section 1. Request to occupy a part of street (sidewalk). Frontage of 107 E. Main Street. Applicant: Chad Wolbert, Catocin Valley Roofing.

Zoning Administrator Tim Lung stated the March 31, 2025 work session that a request for an application for a permit to block a portion of the sidewalk to erect scaffolding in order to complete a roofing job at 107 East Main Street was submitted and will be in place for approximately two weeks and would also require a lift to move materials up to the roof, which will be in place for approximately one month. Tim stated that Town Code requires that a pedestrian walk-way of 36" wide must be maintained. Property owner Brien Poffenberger stated that the ROW will be maintained and he also understands that the issue of having the scaffolding off the street during the Memorial Day Parade is also a requirement.

No comments were received. **Motion** by Councilmember Short and a second by Councilmember Kudla to close the public hearing at 6:03 P.M. and move into the regular meeting session with the pledge of allegiance. Motion carried.

REGULAR SESSION

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Mayor Weaver requested to amend the agenda by moving the first item under New Business to the first item under Guests. **MOTION** by Councilmember Short, second by Councilmember Kudla to approve. Motion carried.

GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Resignation/Recognition of Council Member Robbie Waters - Councilman Robbie Waters was recognized by the Mayor and Council his many years of service to the Town of Sharpsburg. A winner in this year's Best of the Tristate business awards, Robbie stepped aside from his elected position to focus on his growing business.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church - Mike Arant, Ann-Marie McCullough and Robbie Shaw; came before the Mayor and Council to describe their Love for Children Project, which is in its sixth year. The Love for Children Team members seek to partner with town leadership to promote community volunteerism in hope that the Council could help to identify unmet kid's needs and that this effort can serve as the model for a wider effort to increase community volunteerism.

Community Development – Mayor Weaver presented a concept of what he envisions community development to be which included a list of activities such as block parties and agencies (local churches and organizations) that contribute to the success of the town.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes - March 3, 2025 – **MOTION** by Councilmember Short, second by Vice Mayor Jacob Martz to approve. Motion carried.

Executive Session Minutes – March 31, 2025 - **MOTION** by Councilmember Short, second by Vice Mayor Jacob Martz to approve. Motion carried.

Work Session Minutes – March 31, 2025 - **MOTION** by Councilmember Short, second by Councilmember Kudla to approve. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT - March 2025– **MOTION** by Councilmember Short, second by Councilmember Kudla to approve. Motion carried.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT – Tim Lung

- Responded to inquiries and questions regarding zoning and permitting requirements.
- Continue to work on Big Spring wall restoration MDE Permit application. Meet in the field with Gruber-Latimer, obtained mapping from FSA.
- Received, reviewed and issued a Zoning Permit for the Antietam Institute to occupy space in a building owned by Jefferson Security Bank at 101 W. main Street.
- Received, reviewed and responded to an inquiry from AT&T regarding replacement of an antenna on the water tank. A permit will be required, application pending payment of taxes.
- Received, reviewed and responded to an application to occupy a portion of the street (sidewalk) for the purpose of placement of scaffolding for a roofing project at 107 E. Main Street. Per Town Code. Public Hearing required.
- Received, reviewed and issued a Zoning Certificate for a florist business to be located in a space at 100 E. main Street.
- Received, reviewed and signed off on a building/zoning permit application for a deck at 203 W. Antietam St.
- Attended March 31 Council work session meeting.

MAYORS COMMENT(S) – Mayor Weaver

- Historic Park - Construction completion targeted for first week in May. Wayside exhibits and main park sign being designed.
- Lutheran Cemetery – Focal item for this fiscal year.
- Big Spring – Permits wrapping up and new proposal being prepared.
- Community Development/Sharpsburg Day – Community Development Committee kickoff at April council meeting.
- Sign at Elementary School – No progress. We have preliminary permission to place a sign in front of school for Sharpsburg
- Main Street beautification campaign kickoff (street scape) - No progress. Discuss with council and get feedback from community
- Apple Valley Waste - We are having some issues with missed collections

CORRESPONDENCE

Donation Request – Sharpsburg Elementary School Destination Imagination Team request for global competition financial support. MOTION by Councilmember Short, second by Councilmember Kudla to approve a financial donation in the amount given in 2024. Motion carried.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Vice-Mayor Martz Report – (*Memorial Day Parade/Historical Park*)

- Investigated incident of vandalism at playground
- Recommend installation of new dog bag dispenser at Town Park
- Attended monthly Council work session

Memorial Day

- Attended reenactor weekend in Gettysburg to recruit units for parade
- Received approval for use of SES for Memorial Day
- Confirmed flyover for Memorial Day parade
- Informed catering from benders tavern for parade
- Confirmed soloist for National anthem
- Purchased additional traffic control signage

Interpretive Park

- Requested quote for interpretive signage at interpretive park
- Attended site meeting with Huntzberry to discuss stone walls
- Attended Park planning meeting to discuss options for historical markers
- Attended second site visit at park with Huntzberry Bros.

Councilmember Short – (*Planning Liaison, Streetscape, Communications*)

Nothing to report

Councilmember Waters Report – (Community Development, T.Hall Maint)

Fishing Rodeo

- A high-school student wants to help volunteer to get their student service-learning hours.
- Need to purchase prizes and food supplies (hot dog holders, napkins) RW Property Services will provide the hotdogs and drinks.
- Richard Burgan donated \$50 to purchase fishing bait for those who forget to bring some.

Sharpsburg Days

- I have been getting emails daily about people being interested in participating as a vendor. I have received about 12 vendors applications so far that have been approved.
- I will be contacting Breeze Benner this week about getting the fire truck the day of the event for children to learn about it.
- Once my ankle heals, we will be having a meeting about Sharpsburg Day with the members of the community to figure out what/who will need to do what on that day.

Councilmember Beeler – (Museum/Archives)

- Attendance is starting to pick up with 225, the last couple of weekends are busy.
- Next Saturday April 5th, which is Antietam Institute's open house and ribbon cutting for their Heritage Center across the street and during the break they will be sending people over all day.
- We have received a very large and valuable donations of artifacts from the Swain family that will help us show visitors what the citizens of Sharpsburg went through during and after Antietam. Jesse Rogers our Vice President will be in charge of all this type of exhibits. This donation includes: artifacts found for three generations of metal detecting at the Reel Farm across from Battleview Market, C. & O. Canal items most belonging to Charles H. Swain Boat Captain, pictures, books and photos of Family members from the Swain, Fisher, Delauney and Wilson Families of Sharpsburg.
- We have some possible donations of Sharpsburg Bluebird jacket and items from the 1950's from the Cordell Family and A Boy Scout uniform of the first Eagle Scout of Sharpsburg from the Combs family.
- On March 15th, we had at our 4th annual Metal Detecting Exhibit and had 165 people attend with last year's total of 122, we have decided to call this annual event The Ron Wolford Metal Detecting Expo, Ron and his wife Joanne gave a lot of artifacts after he pass last year.
- The Diorama is almost finished be taken apart to start re- making smaller more manageable dioramas in order to help with our Mission and goal.
- On April 26, Women of Sharpsburg from 10-4, Butter and cheese making demo and a talk about Nancy Michael and Mary Ann Chapline.

Councilmember Kudla – (Streets, MDOT/SHA)

- Signs made for Trading Post Alley. Contract Robbie to put up.
- Plat maps forwarded to partially satisfy MOU requested. Need working session with Mayor and council.
- Waiting to have remaining wall at cemetery hill assessed. Linda indicated she would have reviewed.
- MDOT replied to have Sharpsburg representative at workshops. Joe requested meeting again w public.
- Huntzberry to do street repair. Remaining streets budget to be utilized.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Officer Watkins – Resident Deputy

Park - 5 checks.	Total WCSO events for March - 54
Little League - 2 checks.	Burglary - 0
120 E Main St. - 3 checks.	Theft - 1
School - 3 checks.	Theft From Motor Vehicle - 0
Antietam Station - 3 checks.	Vandalism - 1
Traffic Enforcement - 3 hours.	Undesirable - 0
Calls For Service - 4.	Disorderly - 1
Training - 2 days.	Suspicious Person - 0

Chris Vincent –Antietam Battlefield Advisory Board

June 11th is the next meeting for the Antietam Battlefield Advisory Board. Staffing: 2 retired and seasonal hiring has been placed on hold.

Mike Arant – Town Crier

Mike stated that December will be his last issue.

Robbie Waters – Town Maintenance

- Placing new mulch in the park to prepare for spring
- Updating street signage around town
- Will be installing the new fountain in the town pond
- Will be re-painting the red curbs

OLD BUSINESS

Historic Park Project Update – Town Administrator Valentine-Smith provided an update on the construction of the Historic park. The total project is currently 46% complete. (The Exposed aggregate sidewalk is at 80%, the brick paver sidewalk is at 26%, the stone wall is at 54% and the concrete stairs are at 75%). The first pay request has been submitted and will be sent to POS for reimbursement in the amount of \$192,885.00.

MDOT MD 34/65 Update – Councilmember Kudla provided an update at the March work session meeting which consisted of an email response and letter from MDOT which notes that stopping vehicles on the hill is likely an undesirable result for this area. MDOT has selected Sharpsburg to be a participant of this Smart Growth America Complete Streets Leadership Academy, the Maryland State Highway Administration and Sharpsburg will have access to a series of workshops and other resources to guide in the installation of temporary safety measures such as the five-5* being reviewed for the town. Joe has volunteered to be the towns representative.

** 1. Paint or mark off the intersection. 2. Attach speed device to speed sign 3. Add scalloped rumble strip before speed change to alert drivers 4. Put white line on N. side of Main/SHA proposed distances (185 ft to east & to 133 E Main from intersection) 5. Add a large dangerous or congested intersection sign on MD65 at 25mph speed sign.*

MOTION by Councilmember Kudla, second by Councilmember Short to propose to MDOT the intersection marking and road lining (which will further restrict parking close to the intersection) and to request a proposed design/schematic for the Mayor and Council to see what is being proposed. Motion carried.

Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Project Closeout - Town Administrator Valentine-Smith stated that of the towns \$187,500.00 Covid Funds, approximately 154,1,034.00 has been spent on the allocated projects. The well drilling project was ear-marked for \$59,163.73 for the towns portion, but only incurred \$22,697.57 because the project did not come to fruition. The remaining \$36,466.16 can either be applied to customer water rebates or allocated to another project. **MOTION** by Councilmember Kudla, second by Councilmember Waters to apply the remaining funds to customer water rebates. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Resignation/Recognition of Council Member Robbie Waters -moved to Guests.

Request For Permit To Block Sidewalk For Roof Replacement Project - A Public Hearing was held prior to this regular meeting to request the semi closure of the sidewalk at 107 E. Main Street for a roofing project. **MOTION** by Councilmember Short, second by Councilmember Kudla to approve. Motion carried.

Request To Use Sidewalks/Parking Area For Grand Opening/Special Event -Kayla Crigger, owner of 4065Florals and Events is renting 100 E. Main on the corner by Nutter's, and is planning a grand opening on Saturday, May 10th from 12-4pm. Ms. Crigger is requesting the use the sidewalk/parking spaces on the corner for a food truck/specialty drink vendor, permanent jewelry vendor, a "Build Your Own Bouquet" booth outside the store to attract customers. Consensus at the work session to allow 4 trucks (no alcohol) and block Mechanic Street and 2 vendors on the sidewalk and to provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the Town as the additional insured. Kayla was in attendance and stated that she will now only have one food truck and is requesting to close the alley beside Town Hall and place vendors on the sidewalk. **MOTION** by Councilmember Waters, second by Councilmember Kudla to approve. Motion carried.

2025 Mowing Bid Award - Town Administrator Valentine-Smith stated that the three-(3) bids were received and reviewed at the March work session with consensus to award the contract to the low bidder of R.W. Property Services at the weekly mowing amounts for a 3-year contract as follows; YEAR 1 (2025)- \$725.00, YEAR 2 (2026)- \$725.00 and YEAR 3 (2027)- \$750.00. **MOTION** by Vice Mayor Martz, second by Councilmember Short to approve. Motion carried with Councilmember Heather Waters abstaining.

Chapline Street Culvert Cleaning Proposal – Reviewed at the March work session was a November 2024 quote obtained from Huntzberry Brothers to clean the Chapline St Culvert in the amount of \$13,500.00. \$8,000.00 has been expended to date with the remaining portion of debris caught up in roots will have to be manually removed. Huntzberry Brothers can do it for the remaining \$5,500.00 or R.W. Property Services has provided a quote to remove the remaining debris for \$2,000.00. **MOTION** by Councilmember Short, second by Councilmember Kudla to approve the quote by R.W. Waters. Motion carried.

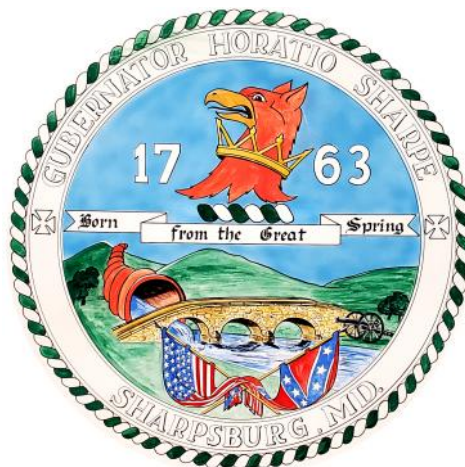
FY25 Pothole Repairs – Mayor Weaver requested that the Council review the Huntzberry Brothers street repair analysis and estimate prepared in September 2024 and prioritize repairs that can be done for \$30,000.00 to be discussed at the April work session.

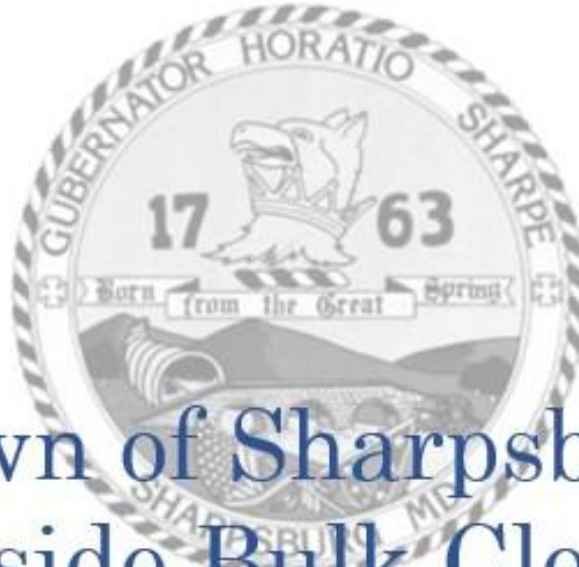
MML Summer Conference - Town Administrator Valentine-Smith informed the Mayor and Council that one town official is eligible for a grant to attend the 2025 MML Summer Training Conference in Ocean City from June 22-25. The grant offers \$300 off of the 3-day \$725 conference fee and discounted hotel rates and offers several beneficial work sessions. Mayor Weaver recommended that the Town Administrator attend the conference and report back on the various training sessions. **MOTION** by Councilmember Beeler, second by Councilmember Waters to approve. Motion carried.

MOTION by Councilmember Waters, second by Councilmember Kudla to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Valentine-Smith
Town Administrator/Clerk





Town of Sharpsburg Curb-side Bulk Clean-Up Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Your items should be placed at the curb or the location of your regular trash collection on Tuesday evening for early Wednesday morning collection.

- **Acceptable Items:** Metal appliances (washing machines, clothes dryers, dishwashers, ovens, stove, microwave ovens, and other appliances), furniture (wood, metal & plastic), carpet (rolled & tied), mattresses & box springs, computers and miscellaneous junk.
- **empty paint containers.** To properly dispose of paint cans, paint must be completely hardened within the can and the lid must be off
- **Unacceptable Items:** any item with Freon gas (air conditioning units, refrigerators and dehumidifiers), car batteries and automotive parts, tires, toxic materials, construction & remodeling items (including drywall, counter-tops, toilets & sinks, bathtubs, lumber, shingles, siding, concrete block & bricks) and yard waste (grass, sticks, plants, and trees)

Any items not collected are deemed unacceptable and shall be the responsibility of the owner to remove by the end of the day on Wednesday, May 14, 2025.

Questions can be directed to Robbie Waters at 240.382.4561

TOWN OF SHARPSBURG/106 E. MAIN STREET/SHARPSBURG, MD 21782
townofsharpsburg@comcast.net
301.432.4428

An Evening of Free Music and Dinner, May 3

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

St. Paul's invites you to an evening of music and dinner at no charge on May 3. There will be two seatings: 5PM and 6PM. Tickets are required, but again, free.

The music is provided by a local professional jazz artist, Ms. Meya Collings. She is also our Music Director and Organist.

Dinner will feature Chicken and Pasta in Cream Sauce, Tossed Salad, Bread, and Dessert.

This is a great opportunity to get out of the house and participate in community life. You will meet our congregation as they serve and enjoy the evening along with you. As always, we offer a tour of our beautiful church showcasing its constancy of faith and remarkable history.

For a ticket, please contact Elyssa Doub (eldoub@aol.com) or Michael Arant (marant@comcast.net)

We are providing 80 tickets (40 for the 5PM seating / 40 for the 6PM seating). If you request a ticket, please be certain that you'll attend so as not to deny someone else a seat.



Ms. Meya Collings, Musician

St. Pauls Episcopal Church
The Rev. Connor Newlun
209 W. Main St.
Sharpsburg, MD 21782





SHARPSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY



PORK RAFFLE



\$10
TICKETS

\$10
TICKETS

APRIL 30, 2025

**1ST PRIZE: 1/2 PROCESSED HOG & 10 CUBIC FT. CHEST FREEZER
2ND PRIZE: 1/2 PROCESSED HOG & 10 CUBIC FT. CHEST FREEZER
3RD BRIZE: 10 LBS OF KUNZLER BACON**

CALL 301-991-2230 FOR TICKETS