



Sharpsburg Town Crier

Ernie Wetterer

Edition, 2025



Volume 33

June 2025

Number 6

Antietam's Trails

This month's Town Crier showcases one of the best kept secrets of our neighborhood, the extensive trail system right here on the Antietam National Park. Altogether, it forms fourteen miles (and expanding) of interconnected off-road trails. With little exception, it avoids busy, noisy, and frenetic highways, evading both park avenues and public roads. You can go for a walk and never hear a car, a blessed relief in our time of constant noise, Noise, NOISE! These trails weave through the landscape and take you to quiet, intimate spaces, vistas of distant landscape, sites of Civil War action, nature unfolding in front of you, opportunities for inner reflection and renewal, and a place for physical exercise. Continued on Page 2.



Final Attack Trail

57 Chevy Ken, Wellsboro and a Eulogy

Summer is almost here and, it was time just like the hibernating bear, for the Dargan Boy to rise from his restive, and take flight to the mountains of northern Pennsylvania.

My pal, 57 Chevy Ken (Leasure) was ready to take flight too and we headed to Wellsboro, PA for a short weekend adventure.

Oh, by the way, Ken will soon have to find a new 'call name' because after 19 years he sold his 1957 Chevy to an excited lady from northern PA. The lucky woman came down last week to pick up this most beautiful car; memories of his *classic vehicle* still remain.



Ken Leasure, Sheila Waters, 57 Chevy

The Editor invites you to go out and take advantage of this remarkable local resource. You can pick up maps at the Visitor's Center. Copies of some of the maps are in the Attachments as reference.

An Easy Get-Away

Our lives are filled with the overwhelming stress of this moment in history. Electronic media with its Prophets of Fear bombard us from every direction. It's easy to allow it to sow its Pernicious Anxiety and to reap its Dismal Harvest of resentment, hate, retribution, and worst of all, isolation. Aren't we all just tired of living like that?

Turn it off...Let it go...Take a walk...Ramble down another path, literally.

You can undertake epic hikes across the whole park, over hill and dale, past field and creek, by cliff and forest, with a friend or passing other hikers. However, some of the best trails are short, quiet, and intimate. Maybe you just need a 20-minute break, maybe a half mile walk out and back. Consider West Woods Trail (Yellow Star, Page 17) between Philadelphia Monument and Dunker Church. It invites you to walk slowly and enjoy the experience. If you see an old man on a big rock in the woods there, just sitting, looking, and listening, that's not Gandalf! Just this morning, "Gandalf" saw a Six-Spotted Tiger Beetle, a small, fast, stunning creature.



If the Editor had his way, there would be a side trail starting at Town Pond that connected to the park trail system at the Sherrick Farm trail head (Black Star, Page 18). That way, town's folk could leave home and walk directly to the trails without needing to walk on the ever more hazardous roads or even get in our cars. A day without getting into a car, it sounds like a dream. I know the Park Service is attending carefully to this suggestion...crickets.

Nature Right Here, Right Now!

You can walk the trails in all seasons and in all weathers. If you walk them long enough, you begin to transition from weather consciousness to climate consciousness. The seasons offer every facet of living in a Temperate Zone. A fun thing to do is visit the same remote spot many times every year and note the changes. Step off the path. A short diversion into a quiet, lonely part of the woods over the seasons is especially rewarding. Be prepared for heat, cold, dry, humid, bugs, and wind. I'll give the standard warning about guarding against ticks and Lyme Dis-

ease, but honestly friends, Social Media and cable news, all told, are probably more dangerous to your health than any damn bug.

One of the best features of the trail system is its access to plant life. Much of the prime arable Park acreage is taken over in industrial agriculture and you can mindlessly drive by all that on the avenues.

Once on the trails though, all that changes. Over the fourteen miles of trail, you'll encounter the Eastern Deciduous Forest in every state of ecological succession, from abandoned field, to juniper thicket, to mature oak. It's a centuries-long view.

The Park offers a close-up view of Cumberland Valley geology with its rolling hills and deep defiles leading everywhere down to Antietam Creek. Stand on an outcrop of that beautiful gray-blue Cambrian limestone, in some places going thousands of feet under you. It ties you to a half-billion years of the Planet's past. A closer look sometimes rewards you with a fragment of early life. Walk the Snavely Trail (Green Star, Page 18), note that, just like the textbook describes it, the outside of every bend is a cliff and the inside, a flood plain.

Go out today and witness the huge triangular prairie/meadow bounded by Hagerstown Turnpike, Cornfield Avenue, and Smoketown Road. The flowers are reaching peak color and the place is filled with insects. Stand a moment and look at the hundreds of species of bugs you may never have seen before. Go



back in the Fall and all through the Winter as the birds harvest the seeds. It's the first place birds go on their return north in the Spring.

If you walk the trails quietly, you'll encounter a cross section of Western Maryland animal life, all the old familiars. In East Woods (Orange Star, Page 17) you may see Fox Squirrels, big as cats. Down by the Antietam Creek, you can see Beaver and River Otters. Gandalf... er'...the Editor once saw a mink. If you get very lucky, you might see one of the reported Bobcats!

Civil War Reality

Every step of every trail reminds the walker of the sacrifice of those who fought here. One might also contemplate the folly, death, destruction, and wretched waste of war. Waste and destruction were especially poignant concerns for the citizens of our town.

For those familiar with the Battle, there are hundreds of significant places the trails pass.

Stand at the north side of North Woods (Pink Star, Page 17) and look over at the lawn on Poffenberger Farm. Think about the Iron Brigade on the night of the 16th and 17th when they bedded



Poffenberger Farm and Lawn

down there in the open, fully equipped, muskets at their side. Before daybreak, they could identify the southern accents of the enemy artillerists deploying on nearby Nicodemus Heights, soon to fire shot and shell into them.

Walk the Cornfield Trail and spend a moment at Blue Star, Page 17. Look north and imagine as Iron Brigade storms out of the corn, already torn to pieces, and go into an insanely bold attack on Confederates behind the fence on your left. Then, in terror, you spin around and witness the Texas counter attack that repulsed the Iron Brigade and many other units. Be grateful you were not on that spot, on that day.

Take a long clockwise walk on Snavely Trail (Blue Star, Page 18) then use the Connector Trail to access Final Attack Trail (Violet Star, Page 18). Think of General Rodman, whose division slogged its way down the far bank to Snavely Ford. There the Division crossed the ford and with others attacked the Confederate right massed on the heights along Harper's Ferry Road.

Imagine the hail of iron, lead, and sometimes steel the Federal units endured and could not prevail against. Contemplate, as others have, that with the failure to defeat Lee on this spot, the last chance to do so that day, Confederate forces survived and our national catastrophe continued for another two years and seven months. You must know that General Rodman did not survive the encounter.

Fitness

I'm old and grumpy, so I'll just say it. If you're a citizen of this town and are able to get out to the trails, there's no excuse for not being fit! According to many exercise physiologists, walking is the "sweet spot" of exercise. Low impact, high endurance benefit, psychological health improvement. If you only have a few hours per week, walking is your best fitness option. We now know that at a walking pace we burn more fat than carbohydrates! Apart from walking shoes and appropriate clothes, that you probably already have, there's not much else you need...bug repellent, sunscreen, water, a snack. For those for whom walking is not enough, you can also jog/run the trails. The Park doesn't allow bicycles on the trails, so you'll only encounter walkers, runners, and eccentric old Wizards.

Editor

57 Chevy Ken, Wellsboro and a Eulogy, continued.

Ken had a lot of fun with that car winning many trophies, but more importantly, he drove his 'antique on

wheels' out west down the old nostalgic Route 66 highway to reminisce of a by-gone era.

Ken made many friends on that trip and 'stood on the corner' in Winslow, Arizona with his arms draped around the Bronze Jackson Browne statue. As you may recall, Browne and Glen Frey wrote the most popular Eagles' song, 'Take it Easy'.

Do you remember the favorite verse of that Eagles hit?

"Well, I'm a-standin' on a corner in Winslow, Arizona, and such a fine sight to see. It's a girl, my Lord, in a flatbed Ford slowin' down to take a look at me."

I always enjoy singing that verse when it comes across the radio, or on my Eagles CD; I bet you do too!

Ken and I have been friends for many years and he has introduced me to Wellsboro, PA which is one of my favorite stops these days.

During many trips there over 50 years, Ken has made many good friends; Steve and Barb, Jim, Bobby and Diane and a slew of others. We often go to the *Crossroads Inn* for a good meal, libation, and local conversation about many of those friends. There are many laughs to be had and memories to be shared.

Steve's hunting pictures are hung on a back wall with his prize game moose taken on a Newfoundland hunting trip; another one where he is pictured with a large mountain lion. His wife Barb works at the Inn and makes 'fine' coffee. Ken's pal Jim was there too. Jim owns an an-

tique 1933 Chevy truck.

We stopped at a nearby winery near Wellsboro where Helga another old friend from southern Germany lives; a most pleasant lady with fond memories and a beautiful German accent. Ken and Helga have been friends for many years; Helga even drove Ken's Chevy once.

Bobby and Diane invited Ken and the Dargan boy over for breakfast before we left PA. They own a lovely wooded area prepared for a future home, and even have a wild large bear that stops by to visit them; they are a 'lovely and kind' couple.

Ken's son David and wife Julie was in a nearby camper and we shared a joyful evening around a campfire telling stories of past days and old friends; I mentioned giving several eulogies for some very dear friends.

Ken asked me what I might say if I had the opportunity to give his eulogy? I remained quiet.

What might I say you're thinking.

Ken was in Vietnam from 66 – 67 as a crewmember of a Navy 'Landing Ship, Tank' (LST). This ship delivered many supplies to include tanks to war zones.

He owned and operated a garage for many years in Greencastle, PA.

As he and my wife had medical appts at a local hospital years ago, they exchanged pleasantries and Sheila shared that she lived in Antietam near Dargan. He asked if she knew the Dargan Boy who wrote his favorite newspaper col-

umns; she replied I'm married to him and he is in the car right now and she came out to get me. Ken and I became instant friends on that day.

We have remained close pals ever since. We have traveled to Wellsboro, PA several times; shared a few libations and many talks about all sort of places and topics.

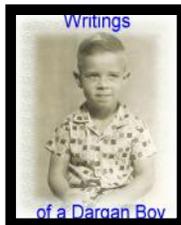
Ken was once a 'martial arts' instructor.

My daughter Amy and husband Bob fix Ken some delightful grub since he has no cook at home, and I have delivered my homemade Dargan pies to him.

Ken is an honest fellow, a generous tipper to all waitresses and waiters; a good dad to his sons David and Terry, and a trustworthy friend to all who know him.

What else could I say?

From the inkwell of the Dargan Boy ~ ... June 11, 2025



From the Mayor and Council

In addition to the Minutes of the June Town Council Meeting, the Attachments also include: Meeting and Public Agenda 7/14/25, Public Hearing Minutes 6/2/25, and Legal Notice of Public Hearing.

About the Town

News from Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company

Steak Feed

The Sharpsburg Vol. Fire Co. will be holding their 2nd annual steak feed on

July 26th at the Potomac Ridge Brewing on Shepherdstown Pike. Doors open at 3pm with dinner served at 5pm. Meal includes steak dinner and sides, beverages, and snacks. Alcohol and gaming are available on site. Tickets are only \$25. Limited seating and this event will surely sell out so get your tickets early. For tickets-Call 301-991-2230.

Crab Feed

The Sharpsburg Vol. Fire Company will be having another Crab Feed on October 18th, 2025 at Cochran's Auction Complex in Boonsboro. Admittance includes "All you can eat" Maryland Crabs, chicken dinner with sides, snacks, and of course "Fireman's Milk" and other beverages all afternoon. Doors open at noon with crabs served from 2-5pm. Gaming will be available throughout the event. Tickets are only \$50. For additional information or to get your tickets, see a member or call 443-398-4510. Enjoy a fun day sharing the Chesapeake's bounty with friends and neighbors while supporting our local emergency services.

Birds Over Antietam: 2025

Save the Date-Saturday September 27th, 2025—Preparations are being firmed up for the 2025 Birds over Antietam Clay Shoot conducted by the Sharpsburg Vol. Fire Co. in Keedysville. This is a unique opportunity for local sport enthusiasts, from novice to experts, to enjoy outdoor challenges in a beautiful and safe environment. Additional details are forthcoming but looking for addi-



tional shooters, individuals or teams of 4. If interested, please call 240-816-1824 or email to sharpsburgvfc@gmail.com.

Rural History Day: Early Church Seating and Worship Customs in 19th Century, Washington County

Saturday July 26th Noon -1:30 PM

Are you curious about a little known church tradition, rooted deep in Maryland's among some branches of Christianity (and others) but rarely practiced in its most conservative format? Find out by joining us on Saturday July 26th!

The Mount Tabor United Brethren Church was built in 1853 north of Huyetts Crossroads in Washington County Maryland. It is representative of many country churches that dot the Washington County Maryland landscape. Prior to it being donated to the Friends of the Washington County Rural Heritage Museum and moved to their Village at the Washington County Ag Education Center, it was listed on the Maryland Historic Sites Inventory.

Volunteers have worked over this past year to build a low dividing wall in the church. As was common for the Brethren and the Mennonites, women and men entered this church through separate front doors. In this building, they were also seated separately for worship, with a low wall dividing the interior



into men's and women's spaces.

You are invited to attend this special Rural History Day celebration and learn more about what it took to save this piece of county church history.

12:00pm - 12:45pm Special Worship Service in the Mount Tabor Church located in the Rural Heritage Village, pastor Steve Wagoner (retired) will lead the service.

1:00pm - 1:30pm Photo journey and history of the church to be presented by the David Resh family who were instrumental in saving the church and relocating it to its permanent home at the Rural Heritage Village. Refreshments served during the presentation.

Ms. Elizabeth Stefanik, Administrator and Programs Coordinator, Friends of the WCRHM

7313 Sharpsburg Pike
Boonsboro, MD 21713
Mobile: 301-788-6687

Community Calendar (June- October)

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 5 from 1PM to 3PM: **Ice Cream Social**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
(301) 432-7098



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

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 26 NOON to 1:30PM: **Rural History Day**

7313 Sharpsburg Pike
301-788-6687

July 26 from 3PM to 5PM: **Steak Feed**,
Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company
Potomac Ridge Brewing Company, Shepherdstown Pike
301-991-2230

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 9: **Candy and the Civil War**

Sharpsburgh Museum of History
301-800-6877
Ed.Beeler@sharpsburghmuseumofhistory.com

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 23: **Spud Fest** Saturday, Annual Heritage Potato Harvest Festival, Field Plowing, Draft Horses, Children's Potato Picking Contests, Meet a Civil War Horse and Union Soldier, Farmstead Hearth Cooking Food.

Friends of the WCRHM, 7313 Sharpsburg Pike
301-788-6687 /
www.ruralheritagemuseum.org

August 24: **Spud Fest Sunday**, Children's Potato Sack Races, Colonial Scavenger Hunt, 19th Century Village, Food.

Friends of the WCRHM, 7313 Sharpsburg Pike

301-788-6687 /
www.ruralheritagemuseum.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

September 27: **Birds Over Antietam**,
Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company
240-816-1824 / sharpsburgvfc@gmail.com

October 18 12Noon to 5PM: **Crab Feed**,
Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company
Cochran's Auction Complex, Boonsboro
443-398-4510

Recurring Events

Any Time the Library is Open this Summer: **Library Scavenger Hunt**
Ages 9 to 12, Drop in and find 5 books in a row described on the BOOKS BINGO card and win a small prize!
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

June 1 to August 13: **Tiny Art** (All county library branches)
Pick up a tiny art kit to take home.
Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

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 Battleview 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

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)

Mayor & Councilpersons

Russ Weaver – Mayor

Jacob Martz – Vice Mayor

Randy Short – Council

Heather Waters – Council

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/>

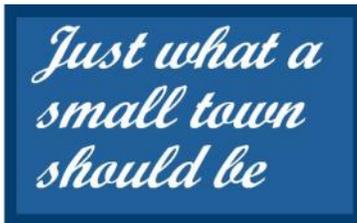
townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

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

TheTownOfSharpsburg

Zoning Administrator-Tim Lung

Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com



Ver. 1.0 6/26/25

Attachments:

**SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 2, 2025**

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 2, 2025 at 6:08 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, and Councilmember Ed Beeler. Councilmembers Joseph Kudla and Heather Waters attended via Zoom. Town Administrator Debra Smith was also present.

Regular meeting and call to order by Mayor Weaver with the pledge led by Councilmember Beeler.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - none.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion by Councilmember Beeler, second by Councilmember Waters to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 7, 2025 Public Hearing and Regular Minutes Motion by Councilmember Beeler, second by Vice-Mayor Martz to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.
- April 28, 2025 Work Session Minutes Motion by Vice-Mayor Martz, second by Councilmember Waters to approve the work session minutes as written. Motion carried.
- May 27, 2025 Work Session Minutes Motion by Councilmember Beeler, second by Councilmember Waters to approve the work session minutes as written. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

April/May 2025 Financial Report - Motion by Councilmember Beeler, second by Councilmember Waters to approve the financial report as presented. Motion carried.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT – Tim Lung was on vacation but submitted the following report.

- Reviewed and responded to various inquiries and questions regarding zoning and permitting requirements.
- Completed and submitted MDE Waterway Construction Permit application for Big Spring wall restoration project.
- Received and reviewed MDE “Acknowledgment letter” and forwarded application to Corps. of Engineers for review per letter.
- Contacted MDE representative for follow-up and timetable for approval. Waiting for response.
- Signed off on building/zoning permit application from AT&T for an antenna and equipment cabinet swap at the water tank site.
- Finalized permit for 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. Approved by Mayor & Council at April meeting following public hearing.
- Corresponded with MD Dept of Planning regarding completion of 2024 annual report.
- Investigated and issued notifications for tall weed/grass at several properties.
- Reviewed summary of recent MDP meeting with Western Maryland planners.

MAYORS COMMENTS – Mayor Weaver offered the following comments:

- **Historic Park** - A few last-minute details remain – installing flag pole, identification sign in front, placards, asphalt parking area.
- **Lutheran Cemetery** – Focal item for upcoming fiscal year.
- **Big Spring** – Permits wrapping up and begin date to be established.
- **Community Development/Sharpsburg Day** –Need follow up meeting after initial organization 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** - Issues resolved and we have been given new contacts

Well Drilling Project Closeout and Citizen Water Rebates– In 2020, then Councilman John Hammond recommended that the town pursue developing a water source that could be sold to the county to permanently offset our water costs. The basic idea was that we had the location where an existing well was producing nearly enough water to supply Sharpsburg and would require minimal treatment. We partnered with the county to share the well drilling costs with the county to then provide treatment. It was generally believed we could save quite a bit by reducing the man power needed to operate treatment. After drilling 300 feet and not obtaining potable water, we were told by Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) because of the (karst) rock formations where the well is located, the water it produced would be considered under the influence of surface water. We validated this by gathering information from the recent well brought online in Boonsboro. The Boonsboro well was over 800 feet deep and tested to be under the influence. Being under the influence requires treatment similar to surface water which is what we currently use. These plants are expensive, costing several million, labor intensive and require more space than we have at the park. We also have reason to believe MDE would not consider funding another surface water treatment plant since we already have one. It is a great disappointment to announce the suspension of activities related to developing a Sharpsburg water source. COVID Relief funds were utilized for the project with the towns share originally estimated to cost \$53,148.00 and closing out at \$22,697.57. The balance of \$30,450.43 and \$6,015.73 unable to be utilized for a proposed pond dock under the Covid project funding was voted by the Mayor and Council to be given to the residents of Sharpsburg as a second water rebate in the amount of \$130 each. An initial rebate was provided to residents under the same Covid Relief Funding totaling \$60,830.00 for a total of \$97,296.16 issues to the residents as rebates.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter of resignation received from former Councilmember Randy Short.
- Various PIA request being addressed.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Councilmember Kudla-

Met with MDOT on May 22. Summary in 5/27/25 work session minutes.

Vice-Mayor Martz - April 2025 Report

Interpretive Park:

-Attended meeting to discuss interpretive signage

-Attended meeting with Civil War Trails Representative tactics to discuss signage installation

Library:

-Attended meeting with library representatives to discuss funding and location options for library

Memorial Day:

-Continued Memorial Day preparations

-Held planning session to discuss communication strategies

-Planned and attended meeting with Fire Police and Potomac Ridge Brewing to discuss resolution of traffic issue at Canal Road during the Memorial Day parade.

May 2025 Report

-Attended Council work session

Interpretive Park:

-Site meeting with general contractor to establish location for concrete footer of park sign

-Site meeting with stone mason and sign contractor to discuss design and location of sign at park

-Site meeting with electrician to discuss location of electrical and lighting for flag pole

-Meeting with Chris to discuss topics for interpretive signage at park

Memorial Day:

-Continued Memorial Day preparations

-Meeting with citizen to discuss concerns regarding parade participant

-Meeting with Sheriff Albert to discuss traffic control and enforcement during parade

-Washed monuments in town square

-Post-parade meeting with fire police to debrief and discuss observations and recommendations for improvement

-Next Committee meeting is Tuesday, 6/3/25 at 6:00 pm

Councilmember Waters – Nothing to report.

Councilmember Ed Beeler-Town Archives/Museum Report for April/May 2025

- Attendance has been picking up, since a lot of the National Parks are either closing or layoffs.

- We had 237 visitors
- Museum was closed on Saturday, May 24th for our Memorial Day Activities and had a float in the parade.
- We are invited to attend Shepherdstown's 250th Anniversary of the Bee Line March on Saturday, June 14th from 10-4 at the Morgan Grove Park. We will have a booth set up with items telling the colonial part of Sharpsburg.
- Since the last month, I've answered 2 inquiries of family names, identified a native spear head. And started a program, Family Tree Maker that will hold all the names of Sharpsburg families and their history.
- We received three civil war pictures, and some items of the Sharpsburg Lions Club along with a donation of \$500 from the Sharpsburg Lions Club which at the end of May will be no more.
- A local man is going to take some courses in Museum Studies and ask if he could do his internship here and wants to volunteer in the museum.
- We had two youths graduate: one was Adam Oates, whom use to intern here and Daniel Gregg, who is still an intern. Plus, our college intern Jamie Senft.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

M. Deputy Watkins – Resident Deputy

Antietam Station - 5 checks. Total WCSO events for May - 95
 120 E Main St. - 5 checks. Disorderly - 2
 Park - 6 checks. Vehicle theft - 1 (occurred somewhere else).
 Little League - 4 checks.
 School - 2 checks.
 Traffic Enforcement - 2 hours.
 Calls for Service - 6.
 Special Event - 1 (Wreath and Parade).

Battlefield Advisory Board - Chris Vincent – next meeting of the Battlefield Advisory Board will be Wed., June 11th. Notice from Battlefield Superintendent Andrew Banasik stating that the park will be lowering the speed limit on Dunker Church Road from 35mph to 25mph.

Town Crier - Mike Arant – Stepping down in December. Still looking for someone to take over the Town Crier.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

FY25 Pothole Repair List Approval – consensus at the April 28th work session was to have Huntzberry Brothers repair Alley 10 @\$14,749.00 and the Chapline Street box culvert @ \$7,200.00. **Motion** by Vice-Mayor Martz, second by Councilmember Beeler to approve. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction/Passage of Ordinance 25-01; Adoption of the FY26 Budget and Tax Rates - **Motion** by Councilmember Waters, second by Vice-Mayor Martz to approve the introduction and passage of Ordinance 25-01; Adopting the FY26 Budget and Tax rates. Motion carried.

Sharpsburg Library Project(s) Funding – the Sharpsburg Library has received funding and has been approved to purchase the following item for the town; a handicapped swing for the Sharpsburg Park, sponsor an interpretive marker in the Historic Park and a bench for the pond (with a little library). If these projects are approved by the Mayor and Council, product information would have to be provided to the Hagerstown Main Library to do the purchasing with the Town would do the installation. They would like to do a program once the swing, bench and Little Library are installed. **Motion** by Vice-Mayor Martz, second by Councilmember Beeler to approve. Motion carried.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Martz, second by Councilmember Beeler to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Valentine-Smith
 Town Administrator



**SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
AND
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
JULY 14, 2025
6:00 PM**

PUBLIC HEARING – the Mayor and Council will be conducting a public hearing at 6:00 P.M. to receive public input on the following Proposed Charter and Code Amendments;

Resolution 25-01; Charter Amendment. Repeal and Reenact with Amendments Art.12 Entitled General Provisions, Sec 1203 Entitled “Conflicts Of Interests”

Resolution 25-02; Charter Amendment. To Amend Art. 6 Entitled “Purchasing and Contracts”

Ordinance 25-02; To Repeal Chapter 9 – Code of Ethics/Financial Disclosure in its Entirety

REGULAR MEETING, CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MDOT MD 34/65 Informational Update

GUESTS: 2025 Citizenship Award

PUBLIC COMMENTS (*comments are limited to 3 minutes*)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FY26 Budget Public Hearing Minutes – June 2, 2025

Regular Meeting Minutes - June 2, 2025

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

June 2025 Financial Report

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT – Tim Lung

MAYORS COMMENTS – Mayor Weaver

MML SUMMER CONFERENCE UPDATE - Vice Mayor Martz

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Councilmember Beeler

Vice Mayor Martz

Councilmember Waters

Councilmember Kudla

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

M. Deputy Watkins – Resident Deputy

Battlefield Advisory Board - Chris Vincent

Town Crier - Mike Arant

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 25-01; Charter Amendment. Repeal and Reenact with Amendments Art.12 Entitled General Provisions, Sec 1203 Entitled “Conflicts Of Interests”

Resolution 25-02; Charter Amendment. To Amend Art. 6 Entitled “Purchasing and Contracts

Ordinance 25-02; To Repeal Chapter 9 – Code of Ethics/Financial Disclosure in its Entirety

ADJOURNMENT

**SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
ORDINANCE 2025-01; FY26 GENERAL BUDGET
JUNE 2, 2025
6:00 PM**

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held a Public Hearing on Monday, June 2, 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, and Councilmember Ed Beeler. Councilmembers Joseph Kudla and Heather Waters attended via Zoom. Town Administrator Debra Smith was also present.

Mayor Weaver stated that the proposed budget was reviewed in public work sessions held on April 28th and May 27th.

Town Administrator Debra Valentine-Smith reviewed the highlights of the final draft.

Income:

Real Property Taxes (maintain the current tax rate of .35/\$100 of assessed value)	197,531
Personal Property Taxes	15,000
State Highway User Revenue	91,796
County Hotel/Motel	20,000
Local Income Taxes	80,000
Memorial Day Parade Grant/Funds	20,000
Interest/Dividends	16,500

Expenses:

Memorial Day Parade	35,000
Accounting and Legal	20,000
County Police Protection	25,331
Street Maintenance	30,000
Snow Removal (<i>Current contract expires 12/31/25</i>)	30,000
Mowing	20,000
Waste Collection	60,000
Park Operating	30,000
Special Events	10,000
Big Spring Restoration	15,622
Town Museum	9,000
Employee Payroll/Taxes	48,447
Total proposed income:	\$444,977
Total proposed expense:	\$444,977
Net Income:	(0)

Mayor Weaver opened the floor for public comments.

- William Turner of 16913 Sprecher Rd inquired about the variation between the FY 25 adopted budget, the FY25 YTD and the FY26 proposed budget for the park operating expense.
- Brian Yurek of 215 W. Main Street inquired about the removal of funding allotted for a grant writer. It was stated that the grant writing for the town is no longer out-sourced.

Motion by Vice Mayor Martz, second by Councilmember Beeler to close the public hearing at 6:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Valentine-Smith
Town Administrator

TOWN OF SHARPSBURG LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, July 14, 2025 the Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg will hold a Public Hearing at 6:00PM in the Town Hall Meeting Room (106 East Main Street, Sharpsburg, MD) to receive public input on two- (2) proposed Charter Amendments and one-(1) Code revision.

Resolution 25-001 amends the Charter of the Town of Sharpsburg by increasing the threshold amount of purchases and contracts which must be made in writing and upon competitive bidding from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Resolution 25-002 amends the Charter of the Town of Sharpsburg regarding conflicts of interest, permitting exemption from the conflicts of interest provisions of the Charter by a resolution of disinterested members of the council made upon certain findings.

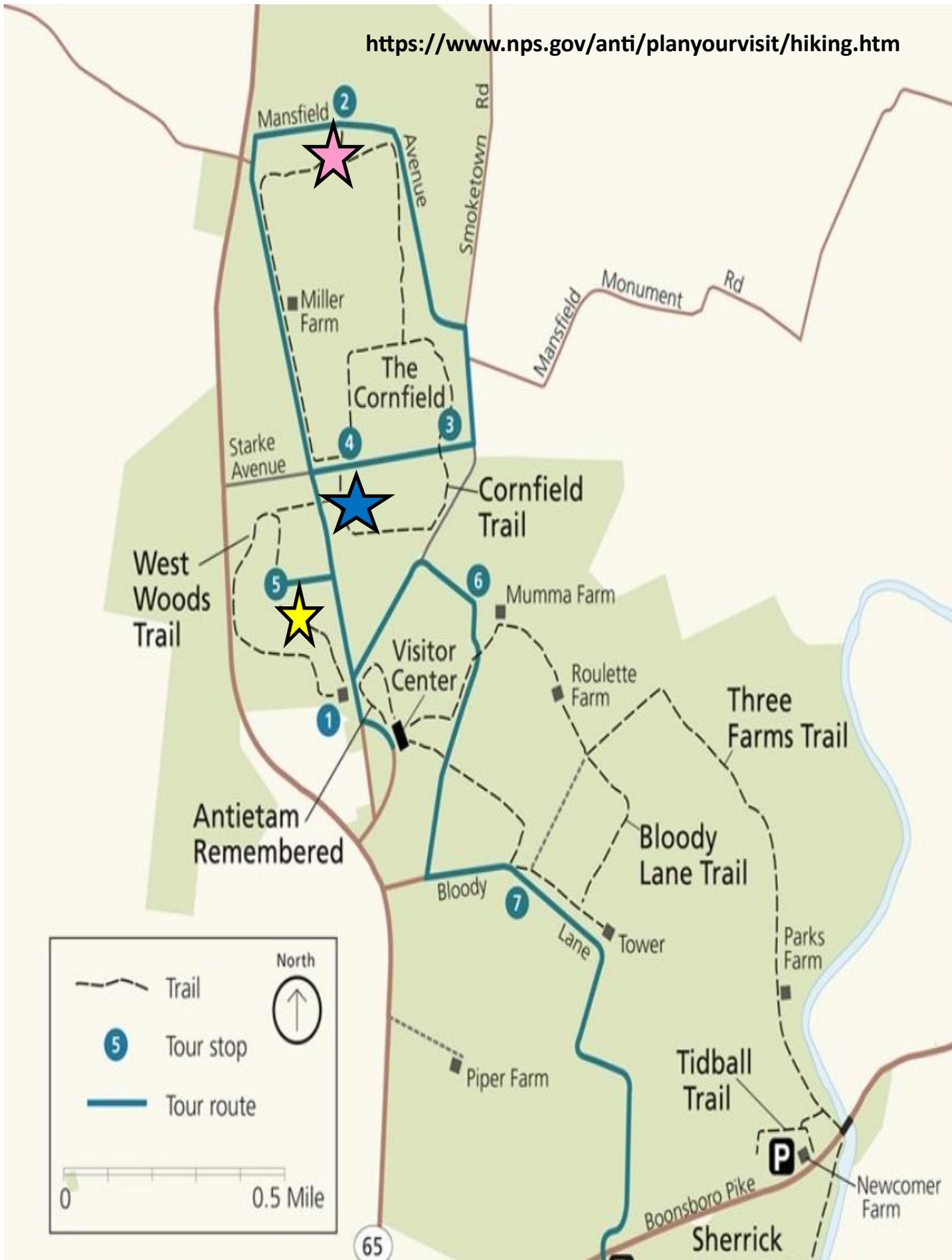
Ordinance 25-002 repeals Section 1. Chapter 9 – Code of Ethics/Financial Disclosure in its entirety without reenactment. The Council has determined that there is no need for a local ethics ordinance which would significantly reduce the availability of qualified persons for public service, particularly in light of Charter Amendment Resolution 25-002.

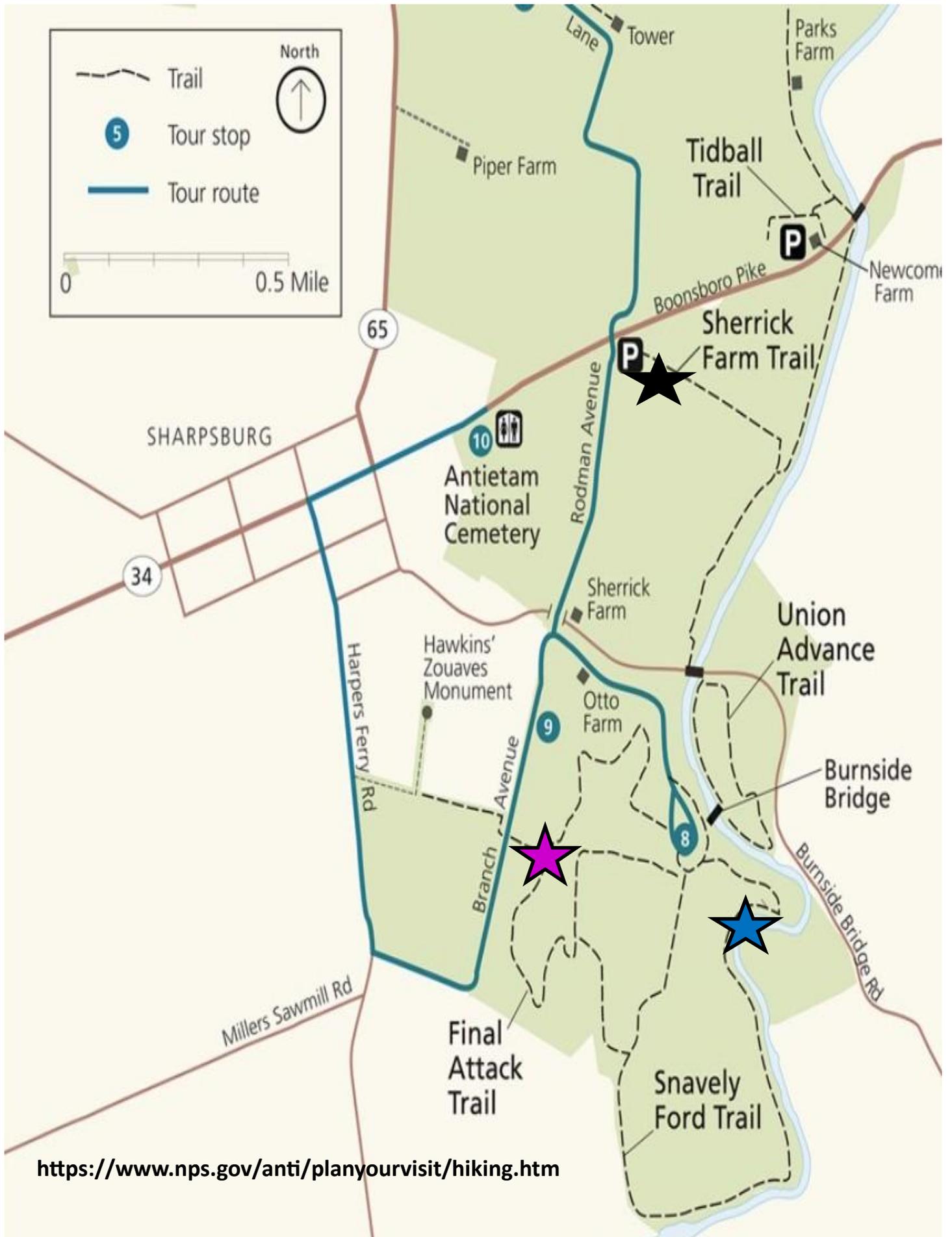
The Ordinance and Resolutions may be reviewed in their entirety during regular business hours at the Sharpsburg Town Hall or are available online at www.sharpsburgmd.com

By Authority

Debra Valentine-Smith, Town Administrator
Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg







<https://www.nps.gov/anti/planyourvisit/hiking.htm>

2025 SHARPSBURG DAYS



FREE EVENT

FOOD & CRAFT VENDORS • LIVE MUSIC

SEPT. | Town of
20 | Sharpsburg
10 AM - 5 PM



- Live Music: by New Way Drive
- Food Vendors
- Craft Vendors
- Explore the Sharpsburg Museum of History
- Meet your Town Council
- Meet members of the Community
- And Much More!

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT:
Heather Waters • 240-469-8660
H.waters@sharpsburgmd.com

