



Sharpsburg Town Crier

Ernie Wetterer

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Emergency Medical Services Update

(The Editor sat down recently with Sharpsburg EMS Chief of Operations, Ms. Priscilla Morgan, to get an update on the Emergency Services status. We met specifically to follow up on recent conversations in local social media concerning emergency services availability.)

As any leader will tell you, one of their biggest challenges is to keep everyone “on the same page”.

The conversation that developed on social media was concerned over the immediate availability of emergency services and perceptions of delays. Indeed, there have been changes and challenges in local emergency services. Chief Morgan and colleagues have accommodated these changes as this article will set out.

Even a brief visit to our county EMS headquarters will show you that there is moment-by-moment coordination between other EMS units and fire/rescue services. It’s the biggest screen in the room and sounds alerts when updates arrive. Coordination and communication are a big part of their task. (During the interview, Chief Morgan’s eye was constantly drawn to the status console.) Inter-unit coordination extends within the county and into adjacent counties, including Jefferson County, WV.

Much of the recent challenge is due to significant changes in Jefferson County EMS management. Jefferson County Commission took over management of the county’s EMS providers and ambulances. There are now only six ambulance units operating around the clock in Jefferson County, following a reduction in the total number of available units by half. Subsequently and significantly, the Jefferson Commission imposed a rule that when two of their units are already on a “run”, Jefferson County will not assist Washington County.

Regarding the issue of cooperation, there is discussion between County Administrators from both Jefferson County and Washington County to develop a Memorandum of Mutual Aid. Chief Morgan is in communication with her colleagues in Jefferson County for updates. The mutual aid status will be communicated to you once the plans are established.



The other issue is perception. The idea that an emergency response would be delayed is alarming to all of us.



A Sharpsburg EMS unit at the Shepherdstown station

Don’t miss the Dargan Boy’s article on Page 2.

As previously noted, the emergency status in the county is known throughout all county EMS stations in real-time. There is constant cooperation between other Washington County EMS units and Sharpsburg's. The same applies to cooperation with Jefferson County, within their current restrictions. Our closest cooperating units are Boonsboro and Rohrersville, but every county unit is part of a dynamically interacting system acting in real-time.

EMS cooperation also extends out to Frederick County, MD. Recently a major incident occurred in Washington County, requiring deployment of all the EMS units here in the south county area. Even as the local units responded, an ambulance from Middletown, MD was quickly dispatched and was sitting on-site in Sharpsburg. In fact, this unit responded within moments to a call right here in town.

Chief Morgan was adamant, "There's always an ambulance coming! There's always a first responder coming!" She added that in rare cases the first responder might be fire and rescue personnel, fully trained in emergency response. She reminds us that the issue with Jefferson County is at the county administration level and not the fault of their EMS services or their responders.

The Town Crier salutes the efforts of Chief Priscilla Morgan. She is one of the unsung heroes of this town, managing all aspects of our EMS service as a volunteer. Her "paying" job is Paramedic, currently at the Boonsboro EMS station. The Crier issued feature article about Chief Morgan in the 2021 edition (see link below)

Editor

<https://sharpsburgmd.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Crier-September-2021.pdf>

A Good Shepherd Always Tends the Flock

I was having a recent chat along this highway of life, when I heard a sad story. It was a story of an aging woman preparing for surgery for a common malady that often affects women.

She was a good woman, and for many years worked diligently for the government, but now her medical crisis and current politics to reduce the federal work force, have put her life and job in jeopardy.

What would she do, if her job was abolished along with her medical insurance for necessary surgery and cancer treatments? She was living alone.

A health dilemma and financial ruin would knock on her door.

When I think of people who suffer, I ponder those shepherds who strive to protect their flock from wolves.

In High School and throughout my life, I have embraced those leaders who cared about people.

Who are your heroes?

Mahatma Ghandhi and Franklin Roosevelt are two of mine.

Ghandhi was a small man in stature who became the leader of India in 1924, a country that



would grow to 361 million by 1951. He was a key figure in securing India's independence from British rule through non-violence protests.

He once famously 'fasted' for 21 days on small quantities of water and nourishment to protest the treatment of his people by British rule in regard to 'caste' discrimination and to promote Hindu-Muslim unity.

Gandhi believed that 'fasting' could be used to 'promote political change through moral persuasion.' He wanted to 'appeal to the conscience of the British government and Indian people in searching for ways to make conditions better.

He enjoyed reading the Sermon on the Mount which influenced his life.

Gandhi, a tiny man in stature, was a giant among world leaders. A favorite motto of his was 'Be the change you wish to see in the world'; He also believed, 'An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.'

But my favorite line from this famous leader suggests that one should ~ 'Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.'

As the leader of India, Gandhi secured his country's independence from Britain on August 15, 1947. He was assassinated on January 30, 1948 by a Hindu nationalist who disagreed with his political ideology.

Franklin Roosevelt was another fine leader from history who was the only American President to be elected to four terms.

As a wealthy politician who suffered from polio, he became humbled as America's leader. Few Presidents faced the serious problems of Roosevelt. He served from March 4, 1933 to April 12, 1945.

The country experienced one of the greatest weather predicaments in history with the 'dust bowl' of the early 1930's. The devastation of lives and farms affected the whole of American society; it was one of the 'most significant

environmental disasters in American history.

It was a most difficult time for Roosevelt's American 'flock' during his political tenure.

And if the 'dust bowl' wasn't enough tragedy, can you imagine the 'Great Depression' of the 1930s when banks were locked and poverty soon arrived at the doorsteps of most Americans.

A desperate time for those 'sheep in the fields': jobs were mighty scarce; the future, darkly bleak. What could Roosevelt possibly say to the worried Americans?

After winning the election of 1932, Roosevelt offered this message to his flock ~ 'The 'Only thing we have to fear is fear itself.'

Roosevelt had arrived to take America out of its deepest economic hole of the century. And it was soon obvious too, after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in December, 1941, this man weakened by Polio would be fighting a world war.

Roosevelt would play a crucial role in the world's victory over Germany and Japan.

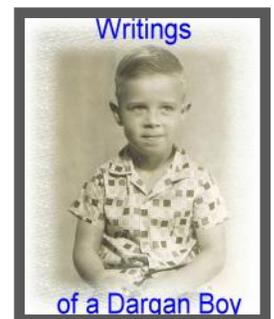
Good Shepherds are hard to come by these days; just ask the lonely woman with the medical malady and potential loss of her job.

Gandhi and Roosevelt were two caring Shepherds who looked after their flocks and remembered;

"Whatever you do for the least among us, you do for me"

Let's remember those lessons of a Good Shepherd.

- The Dargan Boy



*Just what a
small town
should be*

From the Mayor and Council

Water Infrastructure Improvement Project

(Forwarded by Town Hall) The Washington County Department of Water Quality announces that, beginning



September 8, 2025, water customers in the Town of Sharpsburg will be contacted by Huntzberry Brothers, Inc., the contractor selected to complete a significant water infrastructure improvement project.

Over the coming months, the contractor will work with residents to schedule the replacement of water meter vaults and associated components. This initiative is part of an ongoing effort by the Department of Water Quality to upgrade water service infrastructure to meet current Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) standards for public drinking water systems.

This project will be completed at no cost to Sharpsburg residents.

All work will be conducted with careful attention to minimizing disruption. Any areas disturbed during the project will be restored to their original condition as quickly and efficiently as possible. Efforts will also be made to minimize interruptions to water service during installation.

Residents with questions about the project are encouraged to contact the Washington County Department of Water Quality at 240-313-2600.

Snow Removal Contractor Bids: 2026

The Town of Sharpsburg, Maryland, is accepting sealed bids from qualified contractors to provide snow removal services of town owned streets for the

2026 season.

Qualified Contractors may obtain the bid documents online at RFP's – Town of Sharpsburg, Maryland or in person at the Town Hall during regular business hours; Monday – Thursday from 8:30 AM until 3:30 PM or by contacting Town Hall at 301.432.4428.

Sealed Bids must be received either by mail or hand delivered, no later than 11:00 A.M on Thursday, October 2, 2025 at the Town Hall located on the 2nd floor at 106 E. Main Street, Sharpsburg, MD 21782.

Bid proposals will be presented to the Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg for review and consideration and final contract award. The Mayor and Council reserve the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive any informality or irregularity in any Bid received and/or to accept the Bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Sharpsburg.

Fall Brush Pick Up / Trick or Treat

Mark your calendars for the following October town events; the fall brush collection will take place the week of October 13th and Trick or Treat will be held on Friday, October 31st from 6-8 pm.



Community Calendar (October)

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

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

October 13: **Fall Brush Collection**

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

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

October 25 at 5:30PM: **Grill & Guess / Free BBQ and Trivia Night**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 West Main Street (Community Hall)
Tickets Required (You can pick them up at the door.)
marant@comcast.net
sandyminer@myactv.net
eldoub@aol.com

October 31 from 6PM to 8PM: **Trick-or-Treat**

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

Recurring Events

Sharpsburg Market: 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

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

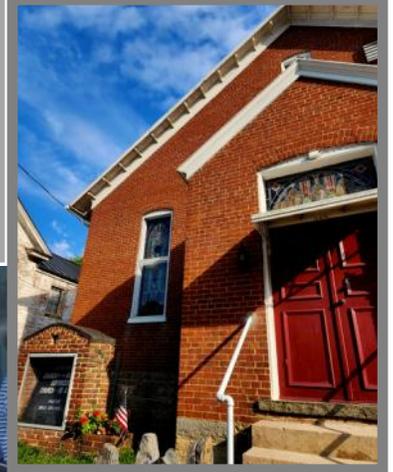
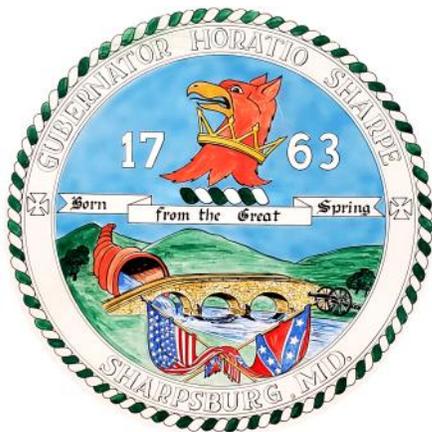
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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)
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TheTownOfSharpsburg
Zoning Administrator-Tim Lung
Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com



Just what a small town should be

