



Sharpsburg Town Crier



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Number 5

The Memorial Day Edition

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You can see the monthly edition of the Town Crier on the Town of Sharpsburg's Facebook page or request it by email at townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

HAPPENING AROUND TOWN

GOLD STAR SISTER PRESENTED WITH POPPY CORSAGE



On Saturday, May 23, at the staging area of the Sharpsburg's 159th Memorial Day Parade, Antietam Unit 236 American Legion Auxiliary presented Unit's Gold Star Sister Doris Shoemaker with a poppy corsage.

Antietam Unit 236 President Ava Gift stated, while making the presentation, "On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary I am honored and humbled to present this poppy corsage to you in remembrance of your brother, Orville Knight, who was killed in Viet Nam."

Standing shoulder to shoulder for the presentation was the Department of Maryland American Legion Auxiliary President Kyrese Johnson and Western Maryland District 7 President Tonya Rowe. Doris then participated in the parade riding in a 1952 Oldsmobile Super 88, driven by Betty Saylor, with signage representing Gold Star Families.



The 159th Sharpsburg Memorial Parade was held on Saturday, May 23, in spite of the rain. This year's theme was "America's 250th: Honoring the Sacrifices that Birthed Our Nation." - *Photos courtesy Markell DeLoatch Special to the Herald Mail*

Above photo: 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion

Seen to the right is Miss Sharpsburg 2026 Harlow Mason

Below is the Sharpsburg Elementary School



War letters and wish of a little girl

Article by Pete Waters

May 21, 2026, Printed in Localnews1.org

Memorial Day for me is a lifetime event that doesn't end with just one day of recognition and memory.

I have a diary.

Many Americans will pause, on this day, which is celebrated on the last Monday of May to offer *'thanks'* for those who have died in the military representing this country.

Sharpsburg has celebrated, with honor, this event for the last 159 years with a parade, wreath laying ceremony, patriotic speeches and flags that line main street.

The nearby Antietam battlefield is a *'humble'* reminder of wars and those many atrocities experienced by soldiers.

People don't often think of war these days or appreciate those who have served, fought and died for our country.

If you want to know what some soldiers have thought of wars, you should read *'War Letters'* by Andrew Carroll and consider:

At Antietam ~ Major William Child, a surgeon with the New Hampshire Volunteers who treated injured soldiers in a makeshift hospital at Smoketown near Keedysville wrote to his wife ~

'No one can begin to estimate the amount of agony after a great battle. We win the battle; the masses rejoice, but if all could see the thousands of poor sufferings, dying men their rejoicing would turn to weeping.'

A glimpse of war in our own backyard

World War I ~ Lt. Lewis Plush wrote home in 1919; *'Men fought to kill, to maim, to destroy, he wrote. Some return home, others remain behind forever on the fields of great sacrifice.'*

World War II ~ Pvt. Paul Curtis on May 28, 1944, describes the life of a soldier: *'Take a combination of fear, anger, hunger, thirst, exhaustion, disgust, loneliness, homesickness and wrap that all up in one reaction and you might approach the feelings of a soldier. 'Without faith, I don't see how anyone could stand this,' he wrote.*

Curtis was killed three days later. War dead in WW II numbered about 410,000, with 671,278 wounded. Maybe we should have a holiday for the wounded too.

Korea ~ some 36,000 of our military would be killed, with another 240,000 wounded. Leon wrote his lady friend, *'Dear Babe, you tried to let me down easy, 'Be careful you tell me, I almost laughed out loud.'*

Two days later, Leon was killed as he charged a North Korean machine gun nest.

Vietnam ~ Over 58,000 soldiers were killed in this war with another 150,000 or so wounded; few 'welcome home' signs were seen when this war ended on April 30, 1975. *Over 1,566 American soldiers are still 'unaccounted for' in Southeast Asia.*

Orville Lee Knight, a Dargan lad and childhood friend, wrote his wife Kathy a letter from Vietnam. He also sent her a black coat in the mail which probably summed up his predicament in this war:

"When I die, I'll go to heaven, because I've spent my time in hell." On April 8, 1969, the same day his daughter Samantha was being baptized at a local church, her father *stepped on a booby trap in Bien Hoa province and left hell for heaven.*

Orville Lee is buried in the Keedysville, Maryland, cemetery.

Wars like Vietnam should be avoided by our political friends. It is a tragedy to see such good and honorable young men and women patriots sent to their slaughter and grave for a *'foolhardy'* decision.

Iraq War (2003-2011) ~ In Iraq we lost over 4,000 American soldiers, and one writer suggested that 4,000 caskets laid end to end would stretch for five miles, that distance from my home in Antietam Furnace to the town of Sharpsburg; *a peculiar method for measuring our dead soldiers.*

Many other skirmishes and conflicts have resulted in American deaths.

On this Memorial Day, my diary is full of memories; perhaps yours is too.

In closing I would like to share a section of Carl Sandburg's poem 'The People, Yes' as follows:

'The little girl saw her first troop parade and asked,

What are those?

Soldiers (replied the old man)

What are soldiers? (she asked)

They are for war. They fight and each tries to kill as many of the other side as he can.

The girl held still and studied.

'Do you know....I know something (she said)

Yes, what do you know (asked the old man)

'Sometimes they'll give a war and nobody will come, she replied.

And I too would offer up this closing prayer ~

Dear God, 'Sometimes they'll give a war and nobody will come.

'All gave some, some gave all.'

Amen. RIP. We love you!



Orville Lee Knight

Orville Lee Knight
Dec. 19, 1948 ~ Apr. 8, 1969
Panel 27W, Line 41, Vietnam Memorial
39

Citizens Worthy of Their Sacrifice

I look forward to the 250th celebrations—the parades and picnics, and fireworks. But I also hope that all Americans will spend some time reflecting on what holds this immense, diverse, and dynamic Republic together?

The easy answer is our founding documents: the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. But is it that simple? There have been other countries with constitutions that have failed. For example, over decades, the Venezuelan democratic framework buckled to institutional decay resulting in a consolidated autocracy.

Madison anguished in Federalist No. 48 about a reliable way to check power that would depend not on words on parchment, but on incentive structures and robust institutional mechanisms. He feared that constitutions could become words on parchment without institutional mechanisms to prevent an authoritarian president or parliament from appealing to transient majorities.

What are some of these robust institutional mechanisms? The Constitution explicitly requires all judicial officers—both at the federal and state levels—to be bound by an oath to uphold the Constitution. Law enforcement officers, members of state legislatures and local governments are required to take an oath to uphold the Constitution.

But maybe unique among the institutional mechanism is found in the US military. For 250 years, millions of men and women have stepped forward, raised their right hands, and bound their lives to a sacred pledge.

To truly understand the importance of this oath, we must recognize what makes this pledge entirely unique in human history.

American service members do not swear allegiance to a person, a political party. They swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. Our founders realized ideals enshrined in our Constitution—liberty, equality, self-governance and the rule of law—are eternal. By anchoring the military oath to the Constitution, we ensure that the most powerful lethal force on earth remains the ultimate guardian of democracy, rather than its master.

The words of the oath have evolved slightly since the days of the Continental Army, but its soul has never wavered. Through every generation, the oath is the invisible thread connecting the past, the present, and the future.

What makes this pledge unique is that to the member of the military, the oath is a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount up to and including their very lives.

The oath transforms us both individually and collectively to look past our differences and stand shoulder-to-shoulder to defend the rights of all Americans. The responsibility of the oath cannot rest solely on the shoulders of those in uniform. It demands a reciprocal promise from us, the citizens who sleep safely under the blanket of freedom they provide.

We must honor their sacrifice by being citizens worth fighting for. We must respect the democratic institutions they sacrificed to protect. We must care for our veterans when they return, and fiercely protect the freedoms they have so bravely secured.

Today, as to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice may we also ask ourselves are we ***citizens worthy of their sacrifice?***

To all the veterans and active-duty members: Thank you for keeping your oath. Because you raised your right hand and set the standard by keeping your pledge, our Constitution still stands.

God bless you for doing that and God bless the United States of America.

~Mayor Russ Weaver

NEWS FROM TOWN HALL

106 East Main Street
PO Box 368
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782
Phone: 301-432-4428



Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
8:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Closed Fridays

We are planning a new event so mark your calendars for the evening of Saturday, July 11th!

A **Founders Day Celebration** is being planned with fireworks by Schaefer Fireworks to be displayed from the property of Lynn Flook outside of town.

While we are still in the event planning stages, we are planning to set up the Community Park for everyone to gather prior to the event with food, etc.

Please follow our Facebook page and our website for further details as they become available.

Follow us for Updates...

Town meetings, events, cancellations and changes are all posted on the Town's

Facebook page

www.facebook.com/TheTownofSharpsburg

and the towns website

<https://sharpsburgmd.com>

The Mayor and Council meet the 1st Monday of the month @ 6PM in the meeting room located on the 2nd floor of Town Hall

Town Administration

Debra Valentine-Smith

Town Administrator

301.432.4428

townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

Tim Lung

Zoning Administrator/Permits

Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com

Town Cell: 240.816.1230



Mayor and Council

Russ Weaver – Mayor

r.weaver@sharpsburgmd.com

Jacob Martz – Vice Mayor

jacob.martz@sharpsburgmd.com

Town Council

Joe Kudla

j.kudla@sharpsburgmd.com

Anne Marie McCullough

Am.mccullough@sharpsburgmd.com

Heather Waters

h.waters@sharpsburgmd.com

Robbie Waters

r.waters@sharpsburgmd.com

**SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 4, 2026**

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held their monthly meeting on Monday, May 4, 2026 at 6:00 PM 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 Anne Marie McCullough, Joe Kudla and Heather Waters. Councilmember Robbie Waters was absent. Town Administrator Debra Valentine-Smith was also present.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE led by Downsville Scout Troop #58.

GUESTS:

- Mr. Ed Beaver and Downsville Scout Troop #58 were in attendance to observe the meeting of the Mayor and Council as part of their citizenship badge requirement.
- Ava Gift and Darlene Eichelberger representing the Antietam Unit #236 introduced Miss Poppy 2026 Ella Hineman (and little sister Abby).

All guests received a certificate for free ice cream at Nutter's and a 250th Commemorative coin from the town.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA MOTION by Councilmember McCullough to approve the agenda, second by Councilmember Kudla. Motion carried.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – none were received.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes –MOTION by Councilmember H. Waters to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2026, second by Councilmember Kudla. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT - MOTION by Councilmember McCullough to approve the April 2026 Financial Report, second by Councilmember Kudla. Motion carried.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT – Tim Lung submitted his monthly report for April in writing.

- Responded to inquiries and questions regarding zoning and permitting requirements.
- Reviewed an application and issued a Zoning Permit for a vinyl privacy fence on residential property at N. Potomac St.
- Continued correspondence with Dee Price at the County Soil Conservation District regarding scheduling a field visit to consider a stream restoration project and possible grant funding. Meeting scheduled for May 27 at 10am.
- HB 239/SB 36 regarding the State overriding local zoning failed to pass in the State legislature.
- Reviewed and issued a Zoning Permit for a shed on residential property at E. High Street.
- Reviewed and signed off on a County building permit application for a deck on residential property at W. Antietam St.
- Received and reviewed MDE approval of modification request for the Town's Waterway Construction Permit associated with the Big Spring wall restoration project. The modification will allow dewatering to occur during the restricted period of March 1 to May 30.
- Corresponded with the contractor regarding a start date. Work likely will not begin until mid summer due to prior commitments.

- Reviewed an e-mail from the County's consultant for the MDE required update to the County's Water & Sewerage Plan and request for information from the Town. Need to schedule a meeting with the Town Administrator to discuss.
- Received notification from the County that the HDC approved a request for a Historic Resources Tax Credit for a roof replacement at property on E. Main St.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community Deputy - *M. Deputy Watkins*

Antietam Station - 4 checks.	Total WCSO events - 71.
Park - 4 checks.	Accidents - 1.
Little League - 5 checks.	Disorderly - 2.
120 E Main St. - 2 checks.	Suspicious person - 2.
Traffic Enf. - 7.5 hrs.	Parking Enf. - .5 hr.
Training - 1 day.	Calls for Service - 3.

Battlefield Advisory Committee/Antietam Institute - *Chris Vincent*

Patio work to be completed by the end of the month. Next meeting is scheduled for July 8th.

Sharpsburgh Museum of History- work continues on a weekly basis to restructure and reorganize the museum.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Founders Day Event scheduled for July 11th with fireworks at 9PM. Further details forthcoming.
- Hancock to host the May MML on Monday, May 18th.
- Town has been awarded FY27 Community Parks & Playgrounds Grant in the amount of \$156,781.00.

NEW BUSINESS

FY27 Renewal of Apple Valley Waste Trash Collection Contract - to increase 5% from \$60,048.00 to \$63,050.00 per year for the second year. **MOTION** by Councilmember H. Waters to approve the renewal of the AVW contract for FY27 at \$63,050.00, second by Councilmember Kudla. Motion carried.

FY27 Budget Review – the Mayor and Council discussed the proposed budget for FY27. **MOTION** by Councilmember H. Waters to approve the budget as proposed and to schedule the public hearing for June 1, second by Councilmember McCullough. Motion carried.

Motion by Councilmember H. Waters to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 P.M., second by Councilmember McCullough. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Valentine-Smith
Town Administrator

Sharpsburg Community Calendar

June 1 at 6PM: **Town Council Meeting**
Town Hall- 106 E Main St - 301-432-4428

June 1 at 7PM: **Jim McLean 14th New York State Militia in the Civil War**
St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

June 8 at 7PM: **Keith Snyder The Marines Land in Sharpsburg**
St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

June 9 at 6 PM: **Among the Mountains: The Lovetts and their Hill Top House -**
Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

June 10 at 2 PM: **Homeschool Agriculture Science -** Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

June 13 from 10am -2 pm. **Pollinator Palooza**
W.C. Ag Center - 7303 Sharpsburg Pike
To learn more call 301.226.7526

June 15 at 7PM: **Michael Hardy "we were almost starved" The Confederate Soldier, Food, and the Maryland Campaign**
St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

June 18 at 3:30 PM: **Summer Reading Club Kick Off Story Time (SRC)**
Books, activities and crafts about all things underground
Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

June 22 at 7PM: **Darin Wiperman "A Brain the Size of a Hickory Nut:" Joe Hooker's views about Ambrose Burnside**
St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

June 23 & 24 from 2-4 PM: *attend both days.*
Science in the Library (SRC)
Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

June 25 at 3:30 PM: **Puppet Show (SRC)**
Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

June 29 at 7PM: **Dr. Brad Gottfried Grant and Meade: An uneasy Alliance**
St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

July 6 at 7PM: **Cory M. Pfarr Full View of the Enemy's Lines: Reassessing Intelligence, Command, and the Federal Signal Service at Antietam**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

July 9 at 3:30 PM: **Authentic Community Theater Story Telling Performance (SRC)**
Sharpsburg Community Park, W. High Street
Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

July 11 - **Founders Day Celebration**
106 E Main St - 301-432-4428
<https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg>

July 13 at 7PM: **Jen Murray "Your Golden Opportunity Is Gone?" General Meade & The Pursuit from Gettysburg**
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

July 20 at 7PM: **Jim Hessler Custer in the Maryland Campaign**
St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

July 22 at 7 PM: **Gardening Know How - Now (250th)** Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

July 23 at 3:30 PM: **Adventures in Fun Reptile Show (SRC)**

Sharpsburg Community Park, W. High Street
Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

July 27 at 7PM: **Timothy R. Snyder The Most Terrible Experience during the War: Stonewall Jackson's Winter Campaign to Bath, Hancock, and Romney**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

August 1: **Ice Cream Social** (Time TBA)
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 West Main Street - 301-432-7098

August 3 at 7PM: **Benjamin L. Cwayna Slaughter along a Stone Wall: Gregg's South Carolina Brigade during the Maryland Campaign**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

August 10 at 7PM: **Jack Dempsey "No Further Record" – POWs of the 7th Michigan Infantry**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

August 11,12&13/library hours. **Dinosaur Stations (SRC)**

Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

August 17 at 7PM: **Steven Eden Battlefield Calculus: Tactics, Technology, and the Battle of Antietam**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

August 24 at 7PM: **Jim Rosebrock and Aaron Holley "Make me a Map" The Creation of the Artillery Atlas of Antietam**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

August 31 at 7PM: **John Schildt A Farmer, a Physician, and a General: Henry Rohrbach, Nathan Mayer, and Isaac P. Rodman**
St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

September 19: **Sharpsburg Day**

106 E Main St - 301-432-4428

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

October 10 at 5:50PM: **Community Music Night**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

209 West Main Street - 301-432-7098

Recurring Events

Wednesdays from 5:30PM to 6:30PM

Open for Quiet Prayer

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

209 West Main Street

admin@stpaulssharpburg.com

Second Wednesdays from 12Noon to 1:30PM:

Lunch and Fellowship at the Brethren Church

123 E Main St.

301-432-4944 / sharpburgcob@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 - 301-432-7098
Sundays: 10AM

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



Tolsons Chapel

111 East High Street

Open Houses

First Saturday of every month

April – October

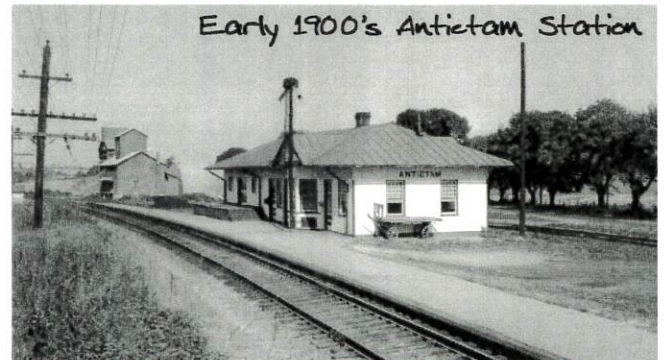
Hours 10AM – 2 PM

Juneteenth Celebration

Friday, June 19th 11AM – 1 PM

Christmas by Candlelight

Saturday, December 12th 4: - 5:30 PM



Hagerstown Model Railroad Museum

At Antietam Station

17230 Shepherdstown Pike

Open House

3rd Saturday of every month

May – September

Hours 11AM – 3 PM

TOWN OF SHARPSBURG, MD

106 E. Main Street
Sharpsburg, MD 21782
301.432.4428

townofsharpsburg@comcast.net



HOMETOWN HERO BANNER REVISED ORDER FORM

The Hometown Heroes Banner Program proudly recognizes active duty and veteran service members of our community both serving and those who have served and sacrificed in defense of our nation.

If you would like to recognize a Sharpsburg Community* Veteran/Service member with a Hometown Hero Banner, please complete the information below and return it to Town Hall.

VETERAN/SERVICE MEMBER NAME: _____

VETERAN/SERVICE MEMBER ADDRESS : _____

HOW IS VETERAN RELATED TO SHARPSBURG: _____

BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____

YEARS SERVED: (EX.1954-1960) _____

PHOTO: Please bring a quality military photo to be scanned (and returned)

PAYMENT in the amount of \$160.00 is due with the application in the form of cash or a check made payable to the Town of Sharpsburg.

CONTACT PERSON NAME/PHONE/EMAIL: _____

**The Sharpsburg Community area is limited to the Sharpsburg Elementary school district. Banners are hung throughout the town from Memorial Day (after the Memorial Day Parade) through Veterans Day. Once removed from the poles, they are cleaned and placed on display in the town hall.*

2026 SHARPSBURG DAYS FREE EVENT



SEPTEMBER 19TH

**TOWN OF SHARPSBURG
9AM-5PM**

FREE EVENT

- LIVE MUSIC
- FOOD VENDERS
- CRAFT VENDERS
- MEET TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS
- AND MUCH MORE!



FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT:

HEATHER WATERS
(240)-469-8660

H.WATERS@SHARPSBURGMD.COM

