



Sharpensburg Town Crier



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Number 8

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SHARPSBURG DAY

Saturday, September 19th

9AM - 5 PM

*Located off town square on Mechanic Street
Rain or shine*

- Food Vendors
- Craft Vendors
- Music
- W.C. Master Gardeners
- Free Bounce House for Kids
- Free Popcorn

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

*For more information; contact Heather Waters
240.469.8660*

Town of Sharpensburg
250th Anniversary
Commemorative Coins
Available at Town Hall



A visit to the pearly gates and trial

- By LLOYD "PETE" WATERS
- Printed in Herald-Mail on Jan 2, 2020



I was listening to the old John Prine tune "Please Don't Bury Me" the other evening as he sang about getting up from bed one night, walking in the kitchen, slipping on the floor, hitting his head and dying.

He then went on up to heaven, or so the song goes. I wondered to myself what that trip might be like. Here is how it went in my imagination as St. Peter greeted me at the pearly gates:

"Pete, are you that boy from Dargan whom folks have been talking about?" St. Peter asked. "Yes, sir, I am," I replied. "Well, you're going to need a good lawyer," St. Peter said. My knees began to shake.

"You may choose from these three: Daniel Webster, Perry Mason and Billy 'Black Bottom' Knight," he said.

I couldn't believe that my wife's Uncle Bill, a real character on earth, had made it to heaven. He was my choice hands down. Bill and I proceeded to the biggest courtroom I ever saw, and there behind this elevated white oak desk sat this powerful fellow everyone used to talk about on earth. No, it wasn't Donald Trump; it was God himself!

"Welcome to heaven, Dargan Boy," the Judge said. "How do you plead?" "I plead guilty, your Honor. I'm not going to lie." My feet started to itch, goose bumps rose upon my arms, and a chill raced down my spine. "Guilty with stipulation, your Honor," added Billy Black Bottom, my attorney.

The Judge instructed the counselor to proceed. "Well, your Honor, my client grew up in Dargan and he missed a few important lessons of life like most of us," Billy Black Bottom said. "This Dargan Boy only went to church one time when his neighbor Marie Johnson took him."

The Judge frowned. "But he's learnt a lot of lessons since then," Billy Black Bottom said.

The Judge smiled. "He went to war and realized that war was no good," offered my attorney. "He lost his good friend Orville Lee and many others in Vietnam. He soon learned that love should always trump hate. "This lad then came home, started a family and found that loving was a much better pastime than hating. "He went to college, got a job in a prison and saw many things.

Most of those inmates he encountered never spoke of love, and he believes that was a major problem in their lives. He saw the damage that evil can do. Pete tried to make a difference while spending 34 years in prison and even became a warden.

“He remembered that story of those desperate starfish lying abandoned on the beach without water. He was intent on throwing a few of them back into the sea where they might survive. He likened those prison inmates to the stranded starfish.

“But admittedly, your Honor, my client did some pretty dumb things. “Judge, I would ask you to consider Moses (a murderer), King David (an adulterer), the Apostle Paul (a blasphemer and greatest sinner) and many others from the Good Book who also did some pretty dumb things.”

“Do you have anything else to add, counselor?” asked God. “Well, your Honor, I might add that this Dargan Boy did have an occasional drink or two at the Mad Dog Saloon, and he also had the occasion to bet on a few horses at the Charles Town racetrack,” my attorney said. “When your Honor created that fork in the road with two possible choices, the Dargan Boy, like many others, often chose the wrong path.

“Your mercy and grace represent his only protection from that villain Satan. “And that’s what my client is seeking here today, a little mercy and grace,” concluded Billy Black Bottom. “I rest my case, your Honor.”

The Judge looked down at the Dargan Boy and prepared to render his verdict. I swallowed really hard because I heard about that deep, fiery furnace of hell. I began to sweat profusely in heaven’s air-conditioned courtroom while awaiting my fate.

Then God spoke: “Dargan Boy, I find you guilty of sin and in need of rehabilitation. However, I am granting you mercy and grace. “If my Bible friends can correct their mistakes, I am quite certain that a Dargan Boy or anyone else can do the very same thing.

“Therefore, I am sending you back down to earth for another go at it. You may catch a ride in Krishna’s chariot for your return trip.

“And I want you to make your first stop at the ocean’s edge, to toss as many of those stranded starfish on the shore as you can back into the sea to save them. This will remind you of your responsibility to help others.”

Billy Black Bottom gave me a big celebration hug, and as we left the courtroom, he asked me to say hello to all his friends at the Dead-End Tavern and to remind Melanie, his daughter, that he and Ashlie were doing quite well upstairs.

I don’t remember much more except for the large knot on the back of my head; I must have slipped on that kitchen floor myself.

ANTIETAM UNIT 236 AWARDED CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT

At the annual Department of Maryland American Legion Auxiliary convention in Ocean City, Maryland, Antietam Unit 236 was awarded many Certificates of Achievement.

The Unit won first place for the programs of Americanism, Cancer Control, Chaplain, Children and Youth, Community Service, Gold Star, Best Field Service, Best All-Around Juniors, Legislative, Poppy and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and Second Place for Home Service and Public Relations. Out of 107 units the Juniors won the department trophy for best Junior Unit.

At the District Level, the Unit won first place for Americanism, Cancer Control, Chaplain, Children and Youth, Community Service, Education, Gold Star, Juniors, Legislative, National Security, Poppy, Public Relations, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Best All-Around Report, and Best Work in Veterans Affairs.

Unit President Ava Gift humbly accepted the trophy and awards on behalf of the Unit and stated that being a unit without a post home makes it difficult to raise money to support the programs and projects, but that the citizens in the local community supported the programs and projects when they learned of a need and how they could donate or help.

Members themselves have opened up their own purse strings to meet the needs. The members continue to step up doing the networking and provide the man power to make these programs and projects happen.

The number of unit members have dwindled in recent years due to death of members and aging of others that can no longer physically do what they once had done.

The Unit wants to thank the community for their assistance and for their trust, knowing the funds raised and donated would be put back into the community supporting veterans, active military, children, and community service for citizens of Sharpsburg.

The Unit's participation in the many worthwhile programs and projects of the American Legion Auxiliary was not done for recognition but truly believed in the motto of the auxiliary "*serving others not self*" which could not have been accomplished without the help of others.

This article is being written as a thank you to those in the community for their support that allowed the unit to be of service to others.



Museum News

As many of you recall, the Sharpsburgh Museum of History was closed several months ago for restructuring. Around November of 2025, Mayor Russ Weaver approached the museum's board of directors and asked when it could reopen. To answer his question, the board came together in January to assess the situation and was decided July 4th, 2026, was a reasonable goal. The task turned out to be an impressive effort by all involved.

As a team, everyone focused on cleaning the office and display areas. First, all unnecessary clutter was removed from the storage and office sections and disposed of or taken to the storage shed. Tabletop exhibit cases temporarily located in the main display area were put back into Town Hall's meeting room. All broken or weak particle board shelving in the office were replaced with new metal units to better house books and binders. Additional acid free supplies were purchased for artifact storage. All files (including museum object registration files) were reviewed, organized, and prepared for processing. The contents of all display cases and clothing on manikins were improved for cohesiveness and all interpretive labels were rewritten.

Bottom line – the July 4th deadline was met, and the museum experienced a 'soft opening' from 9am – 4pm that day. A second opening was scheduled for Founders Day on July 11th.

Since then, museum management computer programs have been researched and recommended. The reference and library books have been cataloged and properly housed. Files associated with Sharpsburg history and families have been identified, organized, and refiled.

The museum applied for membership with the American Alliance of Museums and renewed the membership of the American Association for State and Local History to access various museum resources and training opportunities.

Contents of boxes in storage were identified and labeled although more sorting is still necessary. Museum Accession files are being developed in a working copy format; purpose is to strengthen proof of ownership, source information, and acquisition type. Basic office supplies have been purchased including a new phone system with two handsets and a speaker phone for conferencing.

Additional objects, delicate papers, books, and clothing still in storage are to be sorted, identified, and evaluated (this project is pending). Scanning of rare and delicate photos and documents continues with the help of a volunteer.

****The boards of the Sharpsburgh Museum of History and the Sharpsburg Historical Society recently voted to merge the two organizations into a single historical entity, *The Sharpsburg Research Center and Museum.***

The **SRC&M** will work to better preserve and present the stories and material culture of Sharpsburg to residents and visitors. The collections and resources of the two organizations will merge into one, more complete and stronger source of information and preservation.

Watch for updates on the merger, and for information on new programs and opportunities for volunteers to contribute to telling and preserving the history of our town.

Update provided by Acting Curator Sylvia Frye

***Addendum provided by Gary Candelaria*

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

SHARPSBURG... *Just what a small town should be*

HOLIDAY NOTICES:

Trash collection will be delayed 1-day the week of Labor Day.

Collection will be on Thursday, September 10th.



- Town Hall is Closed for Labor Day
- Due to the Labor Day holiday, the Mayor and Council will be meeting on Monday, September 14th @ 6PM

Upcoming Events

September 19th: Sharpsburg Day (9-5)
October 12th-16th: Fall Brush Collection
October 31st: Trick or Treat (6-8PM)
November 17th: Town Election
December 4th: Christmas On the Square

HOMETOWN HERO BANNERS



If you would like to recognize a Sharpsburg Community Veteran/Service member with a Hometown Hero Banner, contact Town Hall for more information.

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

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

**change of date due to a holiday*



TOWN OF SHARPSBURG 2026 TOWN ELECTION

WHEN: Tuesday, November 17, 2026 – 9 A.M. until 7 P.M.

WHERE: Town Hall (106 E. Main Street 2nd floor)

WHO: Voters shall elect a vice-mayor and three- Councilmembers

ARE YOU AN ELIGIBLE VOTER?

If you are a registered voter, 18 years of age and have resided in the Town of Sharpsburg for 30-days preceding the election, you may vote.

INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR AN ELECTED OFFICE?

In order to run for an open position, you must:

- be 25 years or older
- be a qualified voter in the Town of Sharpsburg
- lived in the town limits for at least one year prior to the election
- be a US citizen

CERTIFICATE OF NOMINATION APPLICATIONS will be available at Town Hall beginning Tuesday, September 1st and **MUST** be filed with the Town Administrator/Clerk no later than 3:30 P.M. on Monday, November 2nd.

Debra A. Valentine-Smith
Town Administrator/Clerk
townofsharpsburg@comcast.net
301.432.4428

SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 3, 2026

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held their monthly meeting on Monday, August 3, 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, and Councilmembers Anne Marie McCullough, Heather Waters and Robbie Waters. Councilmember Joe Kudla and Zoning Administrator Tim Lung were in attendance via Zoom. Town Administrator Debra Valentine-Smith was absent.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA - MOTION by Councilmember R. Waters, second by H. Waters to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Gary Candelaria provided an update on the status of the museum stating that the Sharpsburg Museum of History and the Sharpsburg Historical Society have merged their efforts and are now known as the Sharpsburg Research Center and Museum. While becoming one organization, artifacts and documents will be held at 2 locations. The museum had two soft openings on July 4th and 11th and Acting Curator Sylvia Frye, will continue to work in the museum with volunteers on Thursday afternoons.
- Brandon Thompson of 205 S. Church Street stated that he had a concern regarding the town's security camera located on the storage building at the Memorial Park located at 206 S. Church Street, adding that it may be detecting or monitoring his assets. Vice-Mayor Martz stated that the camera operates on a closed circuit and re-records every 2-weeks.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Public Hearing Minutes – June 8, 2026. **MOTION** by Councilmember R. Waters, second by Vice Mayor Martz to approve. Motion carried.

Regular Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2026 **MOTION** by Councilmember R. Waters, second by Councilmember McCullough to approve. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JUNE AND JULY 2026. MOTION by Councilmember R. Waters, second by Councilmember H. Waters. Motion carried.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT – Tim Lung

- Researched and responded to multiple inquiries and questions regarding zoning, permitting, and code requirements.
- Attended a field meeting with Wash. County Soil Conservation District to consider a stream restoration/ planting buffer project and possible grant funding options.
- Reviewed and processed Board of Zoning Appeals application for a Special Exception to establish a Short-Term Rental at 215 W. High St. Hearing scheduled for Aug 6 at 7 pm.
- Reviewed and issued a zoning permit for a fence on property at W. Main St.
- Reviewed and signed off on a building permit application for roof mounted solar panels at E. Main st.
- Reviewed and completed MDP survey/questionnaire regarding the Towns permitting processes.
- Attended follow-up zoom meeting with SCD, DNR and Catocin Land Trust regarding possible grant funding for stream buffer tree planting project. Field meeting scheduled for Sept 2. Possible Mayor & Council action at September meeting.

- Reviewed agenda and coordinated meeting date for “Washington County & Town Listening Session” to be presented by Maryland Dept of Natural Resources, Watershed & Climate Service regarding, “challenges related to changing environmental conditions and extreme weather events”. Meeting to be held at Town Hall on Aug 6 at 1:30pm.
- Continue to monitor Board of County Commissioners meeting agendas for matters relevant to the Town.

MAYORS COMMENT(S) – Mayor Weaver thanked everyone who worked on the Founders Day event. Stated that he was approached by someone who questioned the towns focus on weed removal at the curbs. He stated Community Development is a priority and that means maintaining the towns appearance as well as community events.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Council Member McCullough -asked if the town has any restrictions on types of plantings; i.e. around the Big Spring. To be further discussed at the next meeting scheduled for September 2nd at 3:30 at the Historic Park.

Council Member Kudla – nothing to report

Vice Mayor Martz- Founders Day event and the firework were a great success.

Council Member H. Waters- preparing for Sharpsburg Day event to be held on Saturday, September 19th.

Council Member R. Waters – removed a downed tree at the pond. Russ asked Robbie to contact DNR to obtain guidance on the algae growth at the pond.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community Deputy - M. Deputy Watkins

Antietam Station - 4 checks.	Total WCSO events - 53.
Park - 2 checks.	Accidents - 1
Little league - 2 checks.	Malicious destruction of property - 1
120 E Main St. - 2 checks.	Disorderly - 1
Calls for Service - 4	Noise complaint - 2
Traffic Enf. - 2.5 hrs.	
Special Events - 1 (Fireworks).	

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chapline Street Culvert and Retaining Wall Repair Update and Proposed Road Repairs– FSA presented a survey and repair plan to address the issues requested for the culvert and retaining wall, but an estimated cost is still needed. The Huntzberry Brothers patch repair quote dated June 5, 2026 included 25 areas totaling \$109,492.00. Councilmember Kudla has asked Huntzberry Brothers to further prioritize the repair areas into 2-categories known as Tier1 and Tier 2 based on need. (*the priority listing was not available for the meeting*). Once the additional information is obtained, a request for bids will be obtained.

Big Spring Restoration Project Update – The MDE permit is due to expire at the end of September and an extension will be requested, Gruber-Latimer has stated that they will attempt to do this project prior to the end of September.

Lutheran Cemetery Restoration Project – the imaging work may me done in September but the stone repairs will not be able to be done until spring. Mayor Weaver asked Councilmembers R. Waters

and McCullough to organize a clean-up meeting in March or April with the Historical Society and volunteers.

Historic Park Security Camera Installation Project Update – Vice-Mayor Martz was unable to find a company to do an underground directional bore, therefore a trench will need to be dug for the wiring to the PE pole. The permit from PE has already been obtained.

Stepping Stone/Slave Block Plan- Once information is gathered on the history of the stone, Council agreed to have a descriptive plaque made and have it placed back in the Historic Park.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposal for Comprehensive Plan Planning Services – Brianna Candelaria clarified the scope, rate and purpose involved in her proposal to update the towns Comprehensive Plan. The total cost to update the plan is \$11,220.00 with a total of 561 hours at \$20/hr. and is being done in 3-phases with an anticipated completion date of May 2027. Discussion on state required updates compared to citizens stating keep Sharpsburg the way it is. **Motion** by Councilmember R. Water, second by Councilmember McCullough to approve the completion of the plan update. Motion carried. Mayor Weaver stated that the final draft of the plan is subject to the approval of the Mayor and Council.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thank you from the Sharpsburg Elementary School Destination Imagination Team for the donation from the Mayor and Council.

MOTION by Councilmember H. Waters, second by Councilmember R. Waters to adjourn at 7:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Valentine-Smith

Town Administrator

Sharpsburg Community Calendar

AUGUST THROUGH NOVEMBER 2026

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 Ch-209 W. Main St.
executivedirector@antietaminstitute.org

September 9 from 5:30PM to 6:45PM:
Makerspace
Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

September 14: Mayor and Council Meeting
6PM in Town Hall

September 16 from 3:30PM to 4:30PM:
Homeschool, What State Am I?
Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

September 16 from 6PM to 7PM: **Gardening Know-How with Master Gardener Trica**
Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

September 17 from 3:30PM to 4:15PM: **Story Time at Burkholder's Donuts and More**
Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

September 19: **Sharpsburg Day**
9AM - 5PM in the town square
<https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg> <https://sharpsburgmd.com>

September 19 from 11AM to 12Noon:
Ghosts of Antietam
Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

September 23 from 2:30PM to 3:30PM:
Homeschool Book Club
Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

September 24 from 5PM to 6:30PM:
Appalachian Save a Life Day/ Narcan Training - Sharpsburg Library

October 7 from 5:30PM to 6:45PM:
Halloween Makerspace
Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

October 10 at 5:50PM:
Community Music Night
St. Paul's Episcopal Ch-209 W Main St
301-432-7098

October 12th - 16th - **Fall Brush Collection**
301-432-4428
<https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg> <https://sharpsburgmd.com>

October 21 from 2:30PM to 3:30PM:
Homeschool Book Club
Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

October 28 from 6PM to 7PM: **Gardening Know-How with Master Gardener Trica**
Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

October 29 from 3:30PM: **Halloween Party**
Scary (but not too scary!)
Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

October 31st from 6-8PM
Trick or Treat

November 3 thru 5 from 1:30PM to 6:30PM:
Maryland STEM Fest at Sharpsburg
Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

November 4 from 5:30PM to 6:45PM:
Makerspace
Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

November 5 from 3:30PM to 4:15PM:
STEM Story Time
Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

November 10 from 6PM to 7PM: **All Things Sourdough**
Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

Recurring Events

Wednesdays from 5:30PM to 6:30PM

Open for Quiet Prayer

St. Paul's Episcopal Ch-209 W Main St
admin@stpaulssharpburg.com

Second Wednesdays from 12Noon to 1:30PM:

Lunch & Fellowship at the Brethren Church

123 E Main St.

301-432-4944 / sharpburgcob@outlook.com

Sharpsburg Library - 301-432-8825

1st Wed of ea month @ 1PM **Adult Book Share**

Thursdays at 3:30PM: **Storytime (Ages 3 Up)**

1st Saturday of ea month @ 10AM: **Lego Club**

Area Churches

Christ Reformed Church

117 West Main Street, Sharpsburg

301-432-6182

Sundays: 9AM

United Christian Fellowship

18823 Shepherdstown Pike, Keedysville

301-432-0110

Sundays: 8:45AM Fellowship, 9AM Sunday School, 10AM Worship & Children's Church

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

Sharpsburg Church of the Brethren

123 E. Main St, Sharpsburg

Sunday Worship at 10 AM



Tolsons Chapel

111 East High Street

Open Houses

1st Saturday of each month

April – October

Hours 10AM – 2 PM

160th Anniversary Singalong

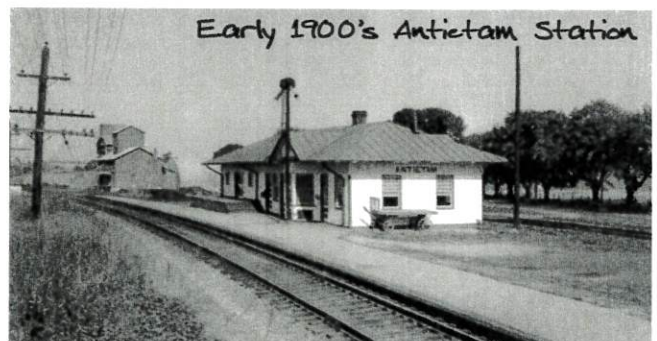
Saturday, October 24th

1 PM – 2:15 PM

Christmas by Candlelight

Saturday, December 12th

4:30 PM – 5:30PM



Hagerstown Model Railroad Museum

At Antietam Station

17230 Shepherdstown Pike

Open House

3rd Saturday of every month

Thru September

Hours 11AM – 3 PM

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

