



Sharpensburg Town Crier



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Number 10

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Tuesday, November 17th

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



Happening Around Town

Annual Sharpensburg Veterans Day Ceremony

Sharpensburg's Annual Veterans Day Ceremony will be held Wednesday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m., on the Square of Sharpensburg (*intersection of Main and Mechanic Streets*).

Hosted by Antietam Unit 236 American Legion Auxiliary and will feature saxophone soloist Mike Lushbaugh and Boonsboro High School Chorus under the direction of Stephen Pompa, Superintendent Andrew Barnasik of the Antietam National Park Service and Clopper Michael Post 10 American Legion Honor Guard.

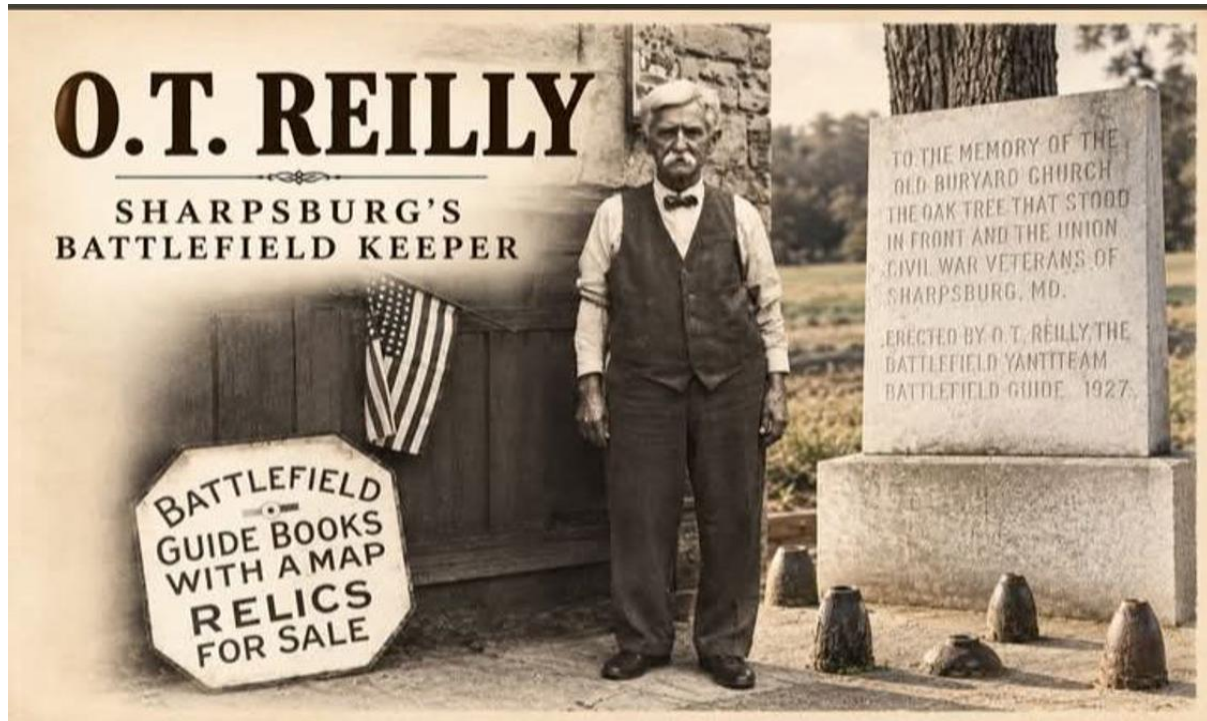
Veterans in attendance will receive a small token of appreciation. The public is invited to come out and honor the veterans!



HOMETOWN HERO BANNERS

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

O.T. Reilly's Monument: A History That Continues



The National Park Service (NPS) recently published an announcement "PARTIAL CLOSURE ALERT: ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD, October 27 and 28". In the small print we discover, "*Specialists will remove unexploded projectiles from the base of the O.T. Reilly Monument.*"

Those enchanted by Sharpsburg history will know exactly what's going on! If you've ever tramped around the Antietam Battlefield, you came across a monument which was most unlike the others. First, it was in somebody's front yard! Second, a local fellow erected it. Third, it had artillery projectiles of many different kinds embedded in its base, some with fuse mechanisms still in place! So yes, NPS, having recently acquired the property, is keen to render these projectiles safe. By the way, these Civil War projectiles still injure and occasionally kill people who mishandle them.

But, as usual, I digress before I've properly begun.

Who was this O.T. Reilly? What's all this about his monument?

O.T. Reilly belonged to the first generation of people who interpreted Antietam for visitors while the battle was still a living memory. He was known personally and as character in Sharpsburg by the generations just before us.

Oliver Thomas (O. T.) "Pop" Reilly was born in Keedysville in 1857.

The future "Pop" Reilly, at age five, witnessed through the eyes of a child, the Maryland Campaign and Battle of Antietam from Keedysville, including from the Union signal station on Red Hill. Whatever could a little kid have made of all that?

At about fifteen years, he began guiding battlefield visitors. He guided returning veterans, including officers who had fought at Antietam. This was nearly unique among Civil War guides, first-hand experience and that of veterans he met. Later in the nineteenth century, he lived in Sharpsburg, eventually operating a Main Street shop selling antiques, souvenirs, guidebooks, and battlefield relics. If you're from here and of a certain age you know that his shop is how he's remembered. Many of us have copies of his guidebook.

In 1927, he placed a monument commemorating the original Dunker Church, its nearby oak tree, and Sharpsburg's Union veterans.

He died in 1945 after more than seventy years guiding and interpreting on the battlefield.

His monument sits along the old Hagerstown Pike opposite the NPS Visitors Center on land donated by the Poffenberger family. It is a granite stele-type memorial which reads:

*To the memory of the
Old Dunkard Church*

*The oak tree that stood
in front and the Union
Civil War Veterans of
Sharpsburg, Maryland*

*Erected by O. T. Reilly the
Half-Century Antietam
Battlefield Guide 1927*

Beneath the monument, embedded in the concrete, is a fascinating collection of artillery projectiles. If you knew old folks hereabouts, you saw unexploded artillery rounds everywhere, common as “fleas on the barn dog”, mostly as doorstops! The Reporter is no expert in identifying such things in the particular; the photo attached may provide information to experts.

We are too ready to consign history to the past. “Pop” Reilly reminds us that it has not yet done with us.

The Reporter

The life of a leaf

- *Pete Waters*
- *October 15, 2026, printed in 'Voices', Localnews1.org*



Photo by Wanda Poffenberger

As I watch each season of life pass me by, I am enamored by their personalities.

Spring flowers, in all their glory and magic, burst from nature's womb and brighten the world. It is a glorious beginning and paints a canvass of fresh colors for all to see; the smells are most fragrant.

The arrival of the buds in the trees soon grow into beautiful mature leaves too and deliver a greenness to that canvass like no other. Those same leaves provide a canopy and shade beneath them from the bright distant sun during the season of summer.

Love birds begin to dance and chirp from those nests of spring into the warmth of summer.

And that life of a leaf is a mystery. It lives, breathes and exists solely as minute food factories for nature.

Have you ever thought about the life of a leaf?

It begins from its birth as a tiny shoot, grows and expands collectively into a valuable member of the earth's kingdom, and so may each of us in this big world.

I suspect a human life might be compared to that very same process, from a tiny seed, a baby grows inside a womb and bursts from a dark room into a most promising place of light.

That tiny shoot grows and prospers in the sunlight much like you and I.

Each leaf has a story to tell from spring and summer.

We live our lives; each filled with a lifetime of events. Tears and smiles, joy and sadness, love and sorrow and more to come. The years go by, stories are told, generations are made, as life proceeds from a grand beginning.

“And all at once, summer collapsed into fall” said the poet, Oscar Wilde.

And John Burroughs, a naturalist, added another view: *“How beautifully leaves grow old. How full of light and color are their last days.”*

Autumn is a time of reflection. A time to pause and think of those special moments of your living as those leaves fall gently from those trees that surround you.

As I think of the *life of a leaf*, I think about a classic old song by Nat King Cole. Remember him?

In 1953, he sang these lyrics (*“Autumn Leaves”*) in his sweet soft baritone voice:

*The falling leaves drift by the window
The autumn leaves of red and gold
I see your lips, the summer kisses
The sun-burned hands I used to hold*

The leaves of autumn can cause one to just sit and look out the window as those leaves of gold pass slowly by and you reminisce.

The autumn season of one's life can rekindle an old flame and memory of love. *The life of a leaf* is likened *to the life of each one of us.*

As we live out our seasons, special memories are made just for autumn.

The life of a leaf from its bud's arrival, to the many summers of joy and all the happenings along the way *is just a little like the path that you and I have travelled from our very own beginning.*

And some special seasons *may include that lasting "love" of one's life.* Autumn is a time for memories and all the people who have made your life special.

I think that's what Nat King Cole was thinking as he sang this song;

*Since you went away, the days grow long
And soon, I'll hear old winter's song
But I miss you most of all, my darling
When autumn leaves start to fall.*

Each autumn leaf has a life of its own just like yours and mine. and as this special time of the year arrives, let us enjoy those leaves that fall from the trees and brighten our path with those chapters of love.

And I would leave you with this one final thought shared by Dodinsky from his work, *"In the Garden of thoughts."*

"I hope I can be an autumn leaf, who looked at the sky and lived. And when it was time to leave, gracefully it knew life was a gift."

That is my wish too!

Make sure to take a ride or walk along Main Street while the beautiful foliage is still on the trees



106 East Main Street
PO Box 368
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782
Phone: 301-432-4428
After Hrs Emergency: 240-816-1449



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

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

HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION

No change in collection days for any of the upcoming holidays. Please set trash out on Tuesday evenings for early Wednesday morning collection.

STREET LIGHTS

Notice a street light out? Email or call the nearest address or pole number to town hall.

PROPERTY TAXES

Beginning October 1st, all unpaid property taxes will be assessed a penalty of 2% per month.

SECTION OF ALLEY 12 TO OPEN

Residents living in the 200 block of W. Chapline Street will be able to access the rear of their properties with the clearing/opening of a section of Alley 12.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 31st: Trick or Treat (6-8PM)
Leave your porch lights on to participate

November 17th: Town Election
9AM - 7PM
Town Hall - 2nd Floor

December 4th 6PM Christmas In the Square
Lighting of the Town Tree
Santa, Music, Cookies

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>



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.

- **Applications for Absentee Ballot must be obtained, signed and returned to the town office no later than November 3, 2026.**

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 are available at Town Hall 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 AGENDA- *DRAFT***
November 2, 2026
6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

GUESTS –

FY26 Annual Audit Review – SEK

CITIZEN COMMENTS – *(citizens comments are limited to 3 minutes per person)*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2026

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT - October 2026

ZONING ADMINISTATORS REPORT – Tim Lung

MAYORS COMMENT(S) – Mayor Weaver

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Council Member Kudla

Vice Mayor Martz

Council Member H. Waters

Council Member R. Waters

Council Member McCullough

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community Deputy - *M. Deputy Watkins*

Battlefield Advisory Committee/Antietam Institute - *Chris Vincent*

Sharpsburgh Museum of History – *Sylvia Frye*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

State Required ADU Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment Discussion

Town Hall Exterior Railing Replacement

NEW BUSINESS

FY26 Annual Audit Approval

Meetings of the Council Amendment Proposal

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Miss Sharpsburg 2027 – Interviews Sat. Nov. 14th

Town Election – Tuesday, November 17th – 9AM – 7PM

Christmas in the Square – Friday, December 4th @ 6PM

ADJOURNMENT

SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - October 5, 2026 - DRAFT

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held their monthly meeting on Monday, October 5, 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, Councilmembers Heather Waters, Robbie Waters, Anne Marie McCullough and Joe Kudla. Vice Mayor Jacob Martz was absent. Town Administrator Debra Valentine-Smith was in attendance and Zoning Administrator Tim Lung was in attendance via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER by Mayor Weaver and pledge offered by Councilmember McCullough.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS – Rev. Rick Bishop thanked the Mayor and Council for last months donation to the South Washington County CROP Walk for Church World Service. Mayor Weaver asked Rev. Bishop if the Reformed Church has programs established to assist area children in need. He said they do help South County schools with various needs of food, clothing and supplies.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Regular Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2026. **MOTION** by Councilmember McCullough to approve, second by Councilmember Kudla. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT - September 2026. **MOTION** by Councilmember R. Waters to approve, 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.
- Continued work regarding the Antietam Watershed Afforestation Program with DNR and attended a field meeting to review sites and planting plan.
 - Stakes have been placed in the Historic Park for approved tree plantings and Councilmember R. Waters stated that he will continue to clear around the town pond and treating the invasive trees.
- Reviewed Maryland Dept of Planning 2025 Annual report form and submitted to the Planning Commission for review and comment.
- Issued Code violation notice for tall grass/weeds on a property along W. Main St.
- Met with the County Fire Marshal/Code Official regarding a potential fire safety issue at a residential property on N. Church St. Fire Marshal to issue a letter to the property owner.
- Monitored progress on the Big Spring wall restoration project related to compliance with MDE and Corps of Engineers permit.
- Researched and responded to questions regarding possible use of the former church at the corner of E. Main St. and Church St.
- Searched files and provided documentation related to an MPIA request.
- Continue to monitor Board of County Commissioners meeting agendas for matters relevant to the Town.

MAYORS COMMENT(S) – Mayor Weaver stated that he had three items of focus; the list of trees along Main Street proposed to be trimmed (completed by Councilmember McCullough and Vice-Mayor Martz and submitted to the Town Administrator); a welcome letter for new residents and a list of non-working street lights to be sent to the Town Administrator.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

- Council Member McCullough – Mayor Weaver asked Councilmember McCullough if she could assist with the onset of work to begin in the Lutheran Cemetery on the 14th.
- Council Member Kudla – town street cleaning has been conducted.
- Council Member H. Waters – Sharpsburg Day was a great success.
- Council Member R. Waters – Contacted DNR regarding the fish rodeo. The pond has been treated for algae. Curb painting will continue next week. Mayor Weaver asked for priority of street signage and also stated that he is looking at the possibility of clearing and opening Alley 12 adding that there is a stone wall along the alley that is one of the nicest ones in the town.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community Deputy - *M. Deputy Watkins*

Antietam Station - 1 check. Park - 3 checks. Little League - 3 checks. 120 E Main St. - 1 check. Traffic Enf. - 2 hours. Calls for Service - 3. Training - 2 days. Special Events - 1 (Sharpsburg Days). Total WCSO Events – 42 Accidents – 2 Malicious Destruction of Property - 1

Battlefield Advisory Committee/Antietam Institute - *Chris Vincent*

- Antietam Advisory Committee - no update since last month. The next meeting will be Dec. 9.
- Antietam Institute events - The Antietam Institute invites the community, history enthusiasts, and families alike to celebrate the season at our Holiday Open House. This special festive gathering will bring together holiday cheer, local history, and a very special appearance by Civil War Santa. The event will be on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 2:00 - 4:00 at the Education Center, 101W Main Street.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Brush Collection – October 12-16, Canal Town Meeting – October 14th from 10AM to noon, Trick or Treat – Saturday, October 31st from 6-8 P.M., Miss Sharpsburg 2027 Contest

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chapline Street Drainage Project Bid Review- the project was advertised for bid with two bids received on October 1st. Rowland & Co. @ \$42,810.25 and EXCOUSA, LLC @ \$35,400.00. Both bids well exceeded the engineers estimated project cost of \$21,670.60. **MOTION** by Councilmember Kudla to reject both bids, consider whether there may be additional components involved in the project and make contact with W.C. for additional consultation, second by Councilmember R. Waters. Motion carried.

- The road patch proposal prepared by Huntzberry Brothers was approved to be placed out for bid with the Community Park parking lot project in the September meeting. The parking lot project is being funded through POS and will be done in conjunction with the Community Park Inclusive Play area which is funded through CP&P, both to be done in the spring.
- Recommendation to revise the number of road patch repairs by Huntzberry Brothers to include as many as the \$21, 670.00 originally allotted for the culvert project will cover. **MOTION** by Councilmember R. Waters to have Huntzberry Brothers submit a revised proposal with Tier I repairs to include the additional funding, second by Councilmember Kudla. Motion carried.

MOTION by Councilmember R. Waters to adjourn at 7:52 PM, second by Councilmember Kudla. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted -Debra A. Valentine-Smith, Town Administrator

Sharpsburg Community Calendar

OCTOBER THROUGH NOVEMBER

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

October 29 from 3:30PM: **Halloween Party**

Scary (but not too scary!)

Sharpsburg Library

October 31 From 9AM to Noon:

Costume Crawl 5K Fun Run

4065 Florals - 100 East Main St.

<http://4065floralsandevents.com/>

October 31st from 6-8PM* **TRICK OR TREAT**

November 2 6PM: Mayor & Council Meeting

Sharpsburg Town Hall – 2nd Floor

106 E. Main Street * 301.432.4428

November 3rd thru 5th * 1:30PM to 6:30PM:

Maryland STEM Fest - Sharpsburg Library

November 4 from 5:30PM to 6:45PM:

Makerspace - Sharpsburg Library

November 5 from 3:30PM to 4:15PM:

STEM Story Time - Sharpsburg Library

November 10 from 6PM to 7PM:

All Things Sourdough -Sharpsburg Library

November 11 at the Eleventh Hour:

Veterans Day Ceremony in the Square

Hosted by Antietam Unit 236 American Legion Auxiliary. Featuring saxophone soloist Mike Lushbaugh and Boonsboro High School Chorus under the direction of Stephen Pompa, Superintendent Andrew Barnasik of the Antietam National Park Service and Clopper Michael Post 10 American Legion Honor Guard. Veterans in attendance will receive a small token of appreciation. The public is invited to come out and honor the veterans!

November 13th and 14th from 9A – 2P

Sharpsburg Church of the Brethren

Christmas Bazaar – 123 E. Main St.

Have picture taken with Santa and/or the grinchies, Christmas items, crafts and food

November 17th from 9AM – 7PM

TOWN ELECTION

Town Hall – 2nd Floor

106 E. Main Street * 301.432.4428

November 18 from 2:30PM to 3:30PM

Homeschool Book Club

Sharpsburg Library

November 19 From 3:30PM to 4:15PM

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Story Time

Sharpsburg Library

Date: **Saturday, November 21, 2026**

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Holiday Open House at the Antietam Institute

Features Special Visit by Civil War Santa

Location: Antietam Institute Education Center

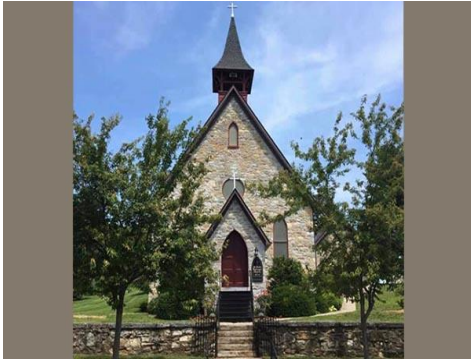
(101 W Main St, Sharpsburg)

The Antietam Institute invites the community, history enthusiasts, and families alike to celebrate the season at our Holiday Open House. This special festive gathering will bring together holiday cheer, local history, and a very special appearance by Civil War Santa.

The event offers a unique opportunity to explore the Institute's latest historical research, browse a curated selection of Civil War literature, and meet prominent local authors. Guests can enjoy complimentary holiday refreshments, hot cocoa, and seasonal treats while mingling with fellow members and neighbors.

A highlight of the event will be Santa Claus's arrival (@ 2:15), dressed in authentic 1860s period attire. Inspired by the famous wartime illustrations of Thomas Nast, Civil War Santa will greet children and adults alike, listen to holiday wishes, and pose for festive family photos throughout the afternoon.

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
• Wednesdays from 5:30PM to 6:30PM
Open for Quiet Prayer

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
• Second Wednesdays from 12Noon to 1:30PM: **Lunch & Fellowship at the Brethren Church** 301-432-4944 / sharpsburgcob@outlook.com

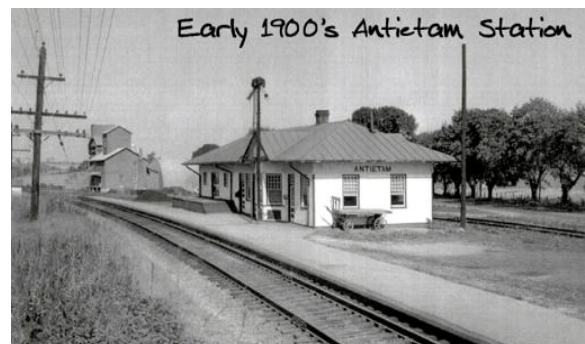


Tolsons Chapel

111 East High Street

Christmas by Candlelight

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



Hagerstown Model Railroad Museum at Antietam Station

17230 Shepherdstown Pike

Train Show

Saturday, November 28th
9:00 AM – 1:30 PM
W.C. Ag Center