



Sharpensburg Town Crier



Volume 35

September 2026

Number 9

Featured in this Edition

Happening Around Town

Sharpensburg Day Success

Stories of the Month

*Last Call * Ralph Hammond*

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LIGHTSOME is a gentle word to embrace

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



Happening Around Town

Sharpensburg Day was a great success and the weather was perfect!

Thank you to all thirty-six vendors, the volunteers and big shout out to Councilmember Heather Waters for making this another successful event!



LAST CALL



On July 24, 2026, Ralph Hammond closed Pete's Tavern for the last time after over 50 years of service. The business had been in Ralph's family for over 80 years and he felt it was time to stop. The Town of Sharpsburg and the Washington County Commissioners recognized Ralph's service not only as a business person but as former councilman and community leader. The certificates of recognition pointed out that we "extended our sincerest appreciation to Ralph for his contributions as a council member, business leader and believer in Sharpsburg."

His dedication to good governance and support for community activities has made a tangible difference in the community. His contributions have shaped not only the projects he has touched but also the lives of those who worked alongside him."

Thanks to Ralph for helping make

SHARPSBURG

"Just what a small town should be."

THE REST OF THE STORY.....



Ralph's parents, Frances and Ralph Hammond purchased the building from Fred Mose and his wife Caroline in 1945. At that time, it likely housed a court room in that Mr. Mose was a Justice of the peace and it is believed prior to that it may have housed some form of manufacturing. The early use of the building saw it housing fraternal organizations, The Magnolia Lodge No. 64, Knights of Pythias (whose crest can still be seen in front of tavern) and Antietam Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars. The original transfer to the trustees of Good Templars was made by Dr. A.A. Biggs. Interestingly enough, The Independent Order of Good Templars (IOGT) was a fraternal temperance society founded in 1851 in Utica, New York, promoting **total abstinence from alcohol**.

The rest of the story.....

Sharpsburg Museum of History and Sharpsburg Historical Society: A Promising Union

You know, some marriages just make you wonder what took so long! Can I just say? *“It’s about time!!”* Let me be among the first to present **The Sharpsburg Research Center and Museum.**

The Reporter recently had the great good fortune to sit down with some of the folks who are making this marriage a reality.

The faithful reader will have noted their debut in the August 2026 edition of the Crier. That is the official “nuts and bolts” of the process. The Reporter would like to use these pages to take a closer, more informal, look at what’s taking place, more importantly what it means for all of us “townies”.

Just think, Our Small Place has an outsized history for such a tiny town. Our story is much-much bigger than ‘That Little Dust-Up’ in 1862. Every day, The Reporter encounters an object, a photo, a story, an architectural detail, a memory, or just a view that remembers where we’ve been and informs us where we’re going. The Research Center and Museum exists to note, to document, and to present these for all of us and for our descendants.

The merger combines the two major focuses of the former organizations. The Sharpsburg Museum of History focused

on physical artifacts and was so successful that their safe storage is a current challenge. Sharpsburg Historical Society focused on documentary items and the keen eye will now note new stacks of archival-quality storage materials awaiting time, skill, and volunteers to fill them.

Think of the Sharpsburg Research Center and Museum as doing the difficult work of preserving your, our, story. Did your grandmother tell you something that nobody ever wrote down? You have an important piece of Sharpsburg history that needs to live on in our memory. Do you have a family history? Do you have photos, records, or other documents that help tell our story? Contact the Center, or The Reporter, so they don't get lost in the depths time. Donations of materials/objects are great, but physical copies and a record of their source are welcome. As mentioned, large physical historical objects are currently a storage challenge. (Although, if you happen to have a sword that Major-General Edward Braddock dropped when he passed this way, I'm sure the Center would make an exception!)

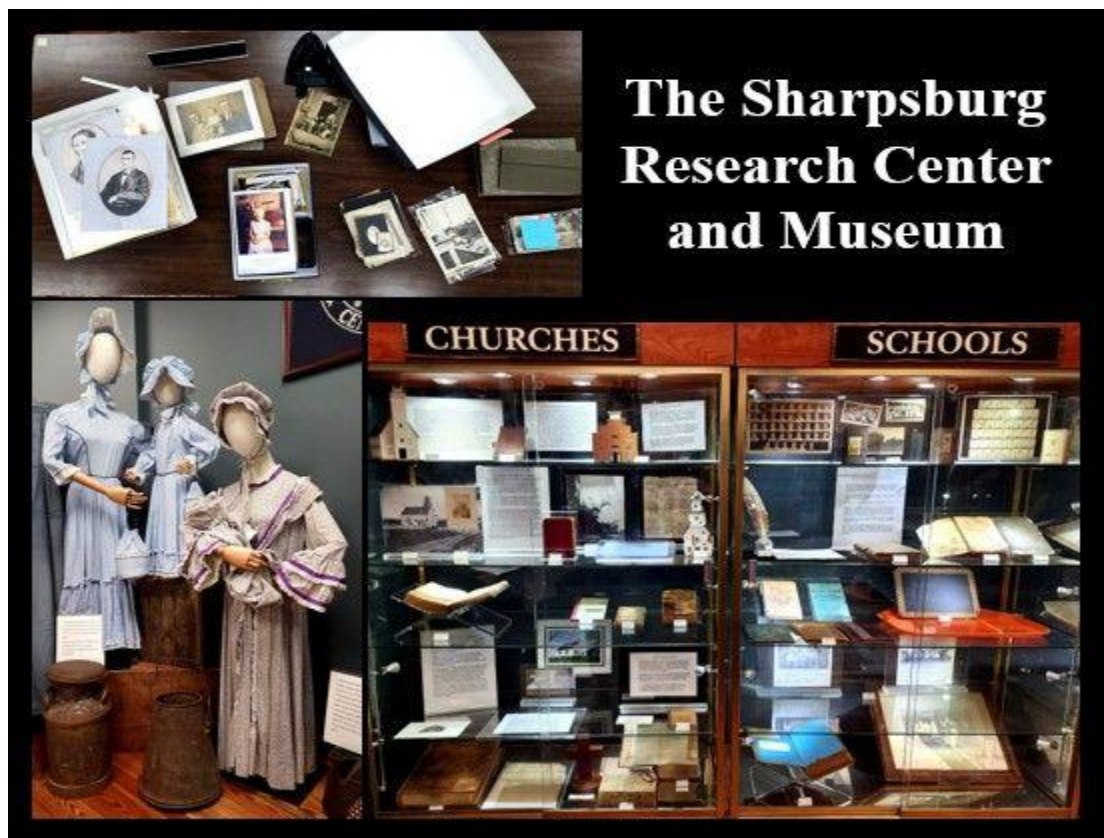
The Center's merger simplifies the sometimes-confusing swirl of other organizations active here like Antietam Institute (focusing on the Battle of Antietam) and Save Historic Antietam Foundation (focusing on preserving and protecting historic properties/sites related to the Battle of Antietam and Civil War). Together, they form an overlapping and synergistic alliance dedicated to our history.

We have an important story to tell about every part of our time here. The Center has a monumental task ahead of it. There's collecting, recording, displaying, archiving. That's the easy part. There's the heroic task of making these resources discoverable and usable: cataloging, indexing, digitization, and online access.

Many thanks to the folks who made time to chat about these things at Town Hall: Ms. Sylvia Frye, Museum Director; Mr. Gary Candelaria, Vice Chair Historical Society; Mr. John DiCarlo, Chair Museum Committee; and Mr. Robert Brooks, Secretary Museum Board.

Thanks also to Mayor Weaver, Vice Mayor Martz, and Town Council for their energy, direction, and support.

~The Reporter~





The town proudly honors and remembers those who are still unaccounted for and their families who are waiting for them to come home.

The Missing Man Table is an empty place setting meant to remind viewers of the fallen who are absent and can no longer share meals because they are missing.

****approximately 1,260 Marylanders from WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam are still missing****



What does a Missing Man Table consist of?

While it may be set inside or outside, the basics setting includes a white tablecloth, a single place setting, a bread plate (with a slice of lemon and sprinkle of salt), a candle, a vase with a single rose and a yellow ribbon tied around it, and an inverted glass. Many "Missing Man Tables" also include a Bible to show faith.

A special “thank you” to Vice-Mayor Jacob Martz for setting up the Missing Man Table for the Town of Sharpsburg.

‘Lightsome’ is a gentle word to **‘embrace’**



Tim, Molly & Maddy
Lightsome Café ~ Opened 9/24/26

‘If you light a candle for someone else, it will also brighten your own path.’

‘*Lightsome*’ is a word that means **‘happy, cheerful and lighthearted.’** It is also the name of a new coffee cafe situated near Saint James in that small shopping center next to the Goodwill store.

May I share a story with you about this **‘elegant and serene’** little café sure to make your acquaintance someday very soon?

'You may actually enter as guests here and leave as friends'

I first came to know Molly and Maddy McCook while they worked at the Little Brick Coffee Shop near the Shepherdstown bridge just on the Maryland side of the river.

Both girls were '**Baristas**' in training while also attending the nearby Shepherd College. The two were most friendly and kind to this aging kid from Dargan, **as we have formed a deep lasting 'friendship'**.

We had many early morning discussions over a cup of hot java. Molly has a knack for **Business** and that was her major; Maddy too was very interested in business, but she had a special vein for '**creativity**' and **design**; her served cups of coffee and **beautiful latte art** of **dainty hearts** and **Rosetta designs were most stunning**. She even helped paint some walls recently in their new café!

It was '**magical**' for guests to receive a cup of Maddy's java with the **most unique works** of art appealing to the eyes.

Molly and Maddy are the daughters of Ernie and Beth McCook. Ernie is the Coach of the Shepherd College Rams football team which is 3-0 this year, and helped groom **Tyson Bagent** who is the backup quarterback today for the NFL Chicago Bears.

The girls' mom Beth has been a Maryland science school teacher for some 40 years and recently retired to take a noble place in this '**Lightsome**' endeavor.

Michael, the brother of Molly and Maddy is an important family member too and works with the Ram's athletics' team and recently married his wife Tori who is a nurse.

Tim Townsend, also, is a Shepherd college grad and is betrothed to Molly; the two were recently engaged at Bar Harbor, Maine. Molly and Tim have been close friends for some seven years. A wedding date is forthcoming.

Tim, too, has learned the many facets of being a Barista and has taken on many roles to help make this a growing enterprise

He will take the lead in supervising the kitchen with unique offerings and comfort foods to accompany your java delights upon each visit.

Tim is an invaluable third spoke of this dynamic trio.

Molly, Maddy and Tim have worked tirelessly as they began their own little coffee venue from a camping trailer they called '**Sunny**' near their current café.

The new **Lightsome Café** opened on **September 24th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**, and regular hours later will be from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Their new location is a most **spacious and beautiful little corner of Java heaven** and will for certain be a delight and treat for you when you stop by.

I have already sampled the cheese, egg and bacon sandwich; bagels with cream cheese; waffles with honey, the '**sunny delight**', a sorbet filled cup covered with berries, bananas, coconut and peanut butter, and many other tasty treats.

The Lightsome café will be a most pleasant experience for you to begin your day, or stop for a refreshing touch of cheer and happiness on your way home.

I am most proud to call Molly, Maddy and Tim **my good friends** and I will enjoy meeting with you at the Lightsome coffee shop sometime.

And I'll give you this Dargan guarantee:

***You will for certain enter the Lightsome café as guests,
But assuredly will leave there as friends.***

Come have a cup of coffee with me and let's chat.

Congratulations Molly, Maddy and Tim.....
you rock the coffee world!



Pete Waters, Columnist

Printed in Localnews1.org, Thursday, 9/24/26

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*

PROPERTY TAXES

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 12th-16th: Fall Brush Collection

- *Nothing larger than 6" in diameter*

- *Loads no larger than the sz of a small truck bed*

For information, call Robbie Waters @
240.769.8930

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

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



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.

SHARPSBURG MAYOR AND COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

September 14, 2026

The Mayor and Council of Sharpsburg, MD held their monthly meeting on Monday, September 14, 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 and Joe Kudla. Councilmembers Heather Waters and Robbie Waters were absent. Town Administrator Debra Valentine-Smith was in attendance and Zoning Administrator Tim Lung as in attendance via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER by Mayor Weaver and pledge offered by Councilmember Kudla followed by a moment of silence for the victims of 9-11.

GUESTS –

Recognition for Ralph Hammond- Ralph Hammond was recognized by the town and County Commissioners Randy Leatherman and Jeff Cline for serving our community for 80 years as both a Council Member and a business leader.

Rev. Rick Bishop; Christ Reformed Church- Rev. Rick Bishop provided information to the Mayor and Council about this year's South Washington County CROP Walk for Church World Service. The event will be held on Sunday, October 11th @ 2PM at Taylor Park in Keedysville. 25% of the money raised will be returned to S. Washington County Ministerium for Emergency Relief or Micah's Backpacks. Request for a donation will be done under New Business.

Antietam Watershed Afforestation Program Planting Proposal - Anna Twigg, MD DNR, Forestry Program

presented PowerPoint information/recommendations about tree planting opportunities as a follow-up to onsite meetings with staff and Council, focusing on 3-areas in town; the Historic Park, the Big Spring and the Town pond.

- The Historic Park is proposed for 12 trees (Liberty and Tulip Poplar) within a 15x15 staggered grid with four trees proposed to border the adjoining neighbor's fence.
- The Big Spring (alley 10 springhead) is proposed for 2 non-aggressive tall shade trees at each end of the spring to provide shade for better water quality.
- The Town Fishing Pond is proposed for a multi phased restoration to include Forest restoration, Trail clearing and larger landscape shade trees.

Also discussed was the private property tree program known as AnTREEtam.

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Program- Mark Kendle, Wash Co Soil Conservation

District presented information regarding the Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Program and how the program focuses on the strategic installation of habitat structures, such as, nesting boxes, pollinator hotels, and specialized shelters to provide essential resources for local wildlife and pollinators. The Soil Conservation District is offering municipalities a no-cost habitat installation and educational sign for a local park or school. This initiative enhances local ecosystem health and provides residents with immersive environmental education. While the first site is fully funded, the sponsorship of additional habitats to maximize local impact is encouraged. Site assessments will help determine the most effective placement for various habitat types.

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

Brandon Thompson of 205 S. Church Street thanked the Town Administrator for addressing his additional questions in an email regarding the town's security camera located at the Mark Smith Memorial Park.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Regular Meeting Minutes – August 3, 2026. **MOTION** by Councilmember McCullough to approve, second by Councilmember Kudla. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT - August 2026. **MOTION** by Councilmember Kudla to approve, second by Councilmember McCullough. Motion carried.

ZONING ADMINISTATORS REPORT – Tim Lung

- Researched and responded to multiple inquiries and questions regarding zoning, permitting, and code requirements.
- Continued to review and process information regarding the Antietam Watershed Afforestation Program with DNR and SCD.
- Attended and coordinated Board of Zoning Appeals Hearing for a Special Exception to establish a Short-Term Rental at 215 W. High St. (BZA26-001). Application was approved.
- Prepared draft Order/Opinion for BZA Hearing (BZA26-001).
- Reviewed and issued Zoning Permit for Short Term Rental at 215 W. High St.
- Reviewed and issued a Zoning Permit for a shed on property at N. Mechanic St.
- Investigated and issued Code violation notices for tall grass/weed on two properties.
- Corresponded with MDE and Corps of Engineers regarding pre-notification requirements for start of work on the Big Spring wall restoration project.
- Continue to monitor Board of County Commissioners meeting agendas for matters relevant to the Town.

MAYORS COMMENT(S) – Mayor Weaver

Stated that the storm at the end of August brought over 3-inches of rain. Thanked Robbie Waters for clearing the Chapline Street culvert prior to the storm which helped divert the water.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Council Member Kudla- Trying to schedule the street sweeper prior to Sharpsburg Day on Saturday.

Vice Mayor Martz- Coordinating the new security cameras at the Historic Park. Wiring is expected to be completed this week.

Council Member McCullough- attended the DNR Tree Planting meeting and discussed proposal shared by Anna Twigg earlier in the meeting.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community Deputy - *M. Deputy Watkins*

Antietam Station - 6 checks.	Total WCSO events - 104.
Park - 8 checks.	Accidents - 2 (none at intersection of E Main / Church St.)
Little League - 7 checks.	Disorderly - 1.
120 E Main St. - 4 checks.	Training - 1 day.
Traffic Enf. - 3 hours.	Calls for Service - 5.

Battlefield Advisory Committee/Antietam Institute - *Chris Vincent*

The quarterly meeting had was canceled due to a power outage and will be rescheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Road Repair Tier 1 Proposal- of the 25 areas proposed for patch repairs in the 2026 proposal from Huntzberry Brothers, 3 are deemed as priority repairs. Patch #12 at the intersection of N. Church and E. Chapline Streets, patch #18 at the intersection of E. Antietam and S Church Streets, and patch #19 at Alley #10 behind 234 W. Main Street. **MOTION** by Councilmember Kudla to place an RFP to repair the priority areas now, second by Vice Mayor Martz. Motion carried.

- Town Administrator Valentine-Smith stated that the town was approved for a \$71,500.00 POS grant to expand and resurface the Community Park parking lot. Because this is also an asphalt related project, the RFP for the road repairs could be amended to include the parking lot project. **MOTION** by Councilmember Kudla to amend the vote to place an RFP to repair the priority areas and include the park parking lot project, second by Vice Mayor Martz. Motion carried.

Chapline Street Culvert and Retaining Wall Repair - Invitation for Bid-Frederick Seibert and Associates (FSA) prepared bid documents for the drainage improvements at the culvert near 112 W. Chapline Street. **MOTION** by Vice-Mayor Martz to approve the project bid documents as prepared and to have FSA proceed to advertise, second by Councilmember Kudla. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

FY27 Community Parks & Playgrounds and Program Open Space Grant Projects- Town Administrator Valentine-Smith updated the Mayor and Council on the two-(2) grant applications stating that both have been awarded and the POS Community Park parking lot project was previous discussed. The CP&P Grant in the amount of \$156,781.00 will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

Main Street Tree Trimming Proposal- Mayor Weaver asked a few members of the Council to walk Main Street and establish which trees need to be trimmed and contact an arborist to trim them in increments.

Vietnam MIA- a MIA flag flies at the Mark Smith Memorial Park and the missing man's table is placed there as well.

New Resident Welcome Program- an email was received regarding complimentary welcome programs for new residents, but appeared to be more of a business paid and sponsored flyer.

Antietam Watershed Afforestation Program Planting Proposal/Action- *(discussed under guests)*

1. The Historic Park is proposed for 12 trees (Liberty and Tulip Poplar) within a 15x15 staggered grid with four trees proposed to border the adjoining neighbor's fence. **MOTION** by Councilmember Kudla to approve the recommended proposal for the Historic Park and to include the adjoining neighbor in the process, second by Councilmember McCullough. Motion carried.
2. The Big Spring (alley 10 springhead) is proposed for 2 non-aggressive tall shade trees at each end of the spring to provide shade for better water quality. **MOTION** by Vice Mayor Martz to not include the Big Spring in the program, second by Councilmember Kudla. Motion carried.
3. The Town Fishing Pond is proposed for a multi phased restoration to include Forest restoration, trail clearing, and larger landscape shade trees. **MOTION** by Councilmember McCullough to approve the clearing of the east side portion/trail of the pond and to schedule an on-site work session regarding the remainder of the proposed items, second by Councilmember Kudla. Motion carried.

South Washington County CROP Walk for Church World Service Donation - MOTION by Vice Mayor Martz to approve a donation of \$250, second by Councilmember Kudla. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting with W.C. Commissioners - Tuesday, September 29th @ 6PM

MML Meeting – Monday, September 28th @ 6PM in Keedysville

MOTION by Vice Mayor Martz to adjourn at 7:38 PM, second by Councilmember Kudla. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Valentine-Smith
Town Administrator

Sharpsburg Community Calendar

OCTOBER THROUGH NOVEMBER

October 5 at 6PM: **Mayor & Council Meeting**
Sharpsburg Town Hall - 2nd Floor
106 E. Main Street * 301.432.4428

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 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 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

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 - 301-432-8825

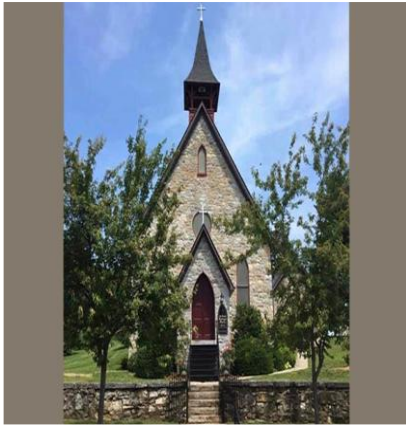
Recurring Events

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 / sharpsburgcob@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

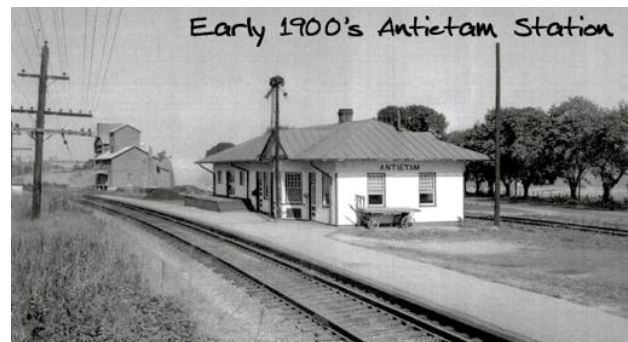
1st Saturday of each month
April – October
Hours 10AM – 2 PM

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