



Town of Sharpsburg Town Crier



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Number 1

Happy New Year!

I hope that you and your family are having a wonderful 2013 so far. This year has brought some changes to the town staff and as you can see, changes to the crier.

Effective immediately, Kimberly Fulk, Town Clerk, will be assuming the duties as Tax Collector. Any questions or concerns relating to your taxes can now be handled at town hall, during normal business hours. If you are unable to make it during business hours, please call and arrange an appointment so that I can be present to answer your questions.

A Little Piece of History

This year, the town turns 250 years old. Joseph Chapline chose Sharpsburg as a place to settle, mainly because of the "Great Spring", located in the alley behind East Main Street. He called the town Sharps Burgh, in honor of his friend, Governor Horatio Sharpe. One hundred and eighty three lots, measuring 103' x 206' were laid out throughout the town, along with smaller lots in the "town square." The lots were sold for two pounds (or \$10.00.)

Sharpsburg and Hagerstown were both very interesting to new settlers, both competing to "win them over." The battle continued until 1776 when Hagerstown won the County Seat to Sharpsburg by one vote.

Today, Sharpsburg still looks much like it did in the 1800's when 1650 people called Sharpsburg "home." The residents take great pride in preserving its rich heritage and history. We are proud of this small town and are content with our way of living.

With the Birthday of the founding of Sharpsburg approaching (July 9th), the town and community members are working hard on commemorating this special event. We hope that you will be as enthusiastic as we are in celebrating this special piece of history.

Council Minutes

The minutes of the Mayor and Council meeting are an abbreviated version of the official minutes. The official minutes are available at the office of the town clerk.

January 7, 2013

Prior to the meeting, Dennis Weaver, Clerk of the Circuit Court, swore in new councilpersons Brenda Gabriel and Russ Weaver. Hal Spielman was also sworn in as Mayor.

Members Present: Mayor Hal Spielman, Vice Mayor Bryan Gabriel; Councilpersons Brenda Gabriel, Darryl Benner, Russ Weaver, Cathy Hull and Brandon Smith. Kimberly Fulk, Town Clerk/Treasurer was also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm by Mayor Hal Spielman. The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved unanimously. The November and December treasurer's reports were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dale Settle would like the minutes and reports available at the meetings. Darryl moved to place copies out for audience members and Russ seconded the motion.

JP Phillips of Apple Valley Waste presented an incentive program that Apple Valley is starting. This program includes a key tag that can be presented at local businesses to receive 10% off of certain goods and services. This would help promote local businesses and also is a "thank you" to customers of Apple Valley Waste. This service has been extended to include business and municipality accounts. Russ moved to approve the town participating in this program and Darryl seconded the motion. The motion carried. Kimberly will get a list of town residents over to JP at Apple Valley so that they can mail out the key tags.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Railroad Station: The Railroad Station added a new gutter system to the building. This was done without the approval of the Maryland Historical Trust. The Trust reported that they understood why the upgrade was needed and in the future to remember to get approval for all additions and upgrades through them first.

Building: Kimberly reported that Simplex Grinnell was here in November to test our fire panel. The building passed, however; the inspector suggested reconfiguring some ducts. After discussion it was suggested by Darryl to wait on this and to put it into the budget for the next fiscal year.

Streets: High Street by the ball fields was discussed once again. We continue to have a problem with flooding. Darryl had his neighbor take a look at the area and he is suggesting forcing the water across the street and have it go into a drain. Kimberly will talk to Ralph Weaver of the county roads to see what his recommendations are.

Darryl also mentioned some pot holes in alleys that are becoming worse. Mayor Spielman will check into the possibility of having someone with extra black top from a job stop by to patch this up. The iron bridge at the alley that leads behind Bender's is in rough shape. It needs to have the iron rails redone and repaired. Brandon stated that he could get Clint's Welding to take a look and give an estimate to repair this.

Darryl mentioned the bridge from 34 to East Chapline Street is in rough shape as well and the guard rails are bent and deteriorating. Mayor Spielman stated that the State has told him that this is not their responsibility and it would be up to the town to repair. After much discussion, Mayor Spielman stated that he would contact the state again to see if they will not do something about this.

Planning and Zoning: The Comprehensive Plan is with the Planning and Zoning Committee and they will be presenting it to the Mayor and Council in February.

Battlefield Advisory Committee: Mr. Jamieson was not present at the meeting, but spoke with Kimberly beforehand. He stated that he would not be in attendance at the meeting, but he has informed Superintendent Trail to email Kimberly if there were significant items discussed to be placed in the crier.

Public Safety: Nothing to report.

Mayor's Report: Sharpsburg is hosting the MML Dinner for January. It will be January 28th at Shepherd's spring. The details were passed around for the members to sign up.

Old Business: The Town's 250th Commemoration was discussed. Vernell Doyle is leading a committee that is planning some activities for a town celebration on Sunday, July 7th. She stated that they would like to join forces with the town to sponsor these events, with the hope that the event could be covered under town insurance. Mayor Spielman stated that this would be discussed by the council and he would notify them of the decision. They are having a meeting January 15th to further plan events. Everyone is welcome to attend and be a part of this event. So far they have been working on a raffle, signage for the Great Spring, an ice cream social, a book signing and possibly a ceremony at the Chapline plot in Mountain View Cemetery.

There is a community meeting being held on Tuesday, January 8th. This meeting is open to everyone and it will focus on items that people feel are needed/wanted within the town so that grants can be applied for to possibly get these items.

Mr. Weaver mentioned election correspondence that was distributed to the town by candidates running for council. He wanted to make it clear as to why the townspeople at one time received a \$60.00 rebate for water and sewer and now that is no longer being distributed. The town at one time received monies from the State and the County for repairs, highway revenue, etc. Now, the state has cut these funds by about \$40,000. There is no longer the money available to refund the townspeople for the water and sewer, but this was done when the funds were available. Mayor Spielman also noted that he sent the candidate a two-page letter responding to that and many other questions the candidate had.

Darryl stated that he wanted to thank the Christmas Committee for all of their time and efforts. Next year the town will need to make other arrangements for trees for the school if they plan to participate.

New Business: The Fishing Rodeo is usually the first Saturday in May. This year it would be May 4th. We need someone to Chair this event.

The meeting was motioned by Cathy to enter into a closed session to obtain legal advice at 8:10pm and seconded by Brandon. The members went to closed session. At 9:35pm, Russ moved to return the meeting to open session and Cathy seconded the motion. The motion carried. At 9:36pm, Cathy moved to adjourn the meeting and Russ seconded with all eyes for approval.

Upcoming Events

Sons of Confederate Veterans Meeting

Battle of Sharpsburg Camp #1582, Sons of Confederate Veterans will meet Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at 7pm in the town hall. Guest speaker will be Mr. Stephen Bockmiller who will be presenting his movie, "Divided Valor: Hagerstonians in The Civil War." The meeting is free and is open to the public. Contact Camp Commander Michael Wasiljov at mike24745@aol.com, or 301-992-3122 for more information.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Pancake Supper

St. Paul's Episcopal Church will be having their annual Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 from 5-7pm. This event is free and open to everyone. Donations will be accepted and appreciated and will be used towards the church's outreach activities

250th Committee Meeting

The 250th committee of the Sharpsburg Commemoration celebration will be meeting on February 28th at 7pm in Town Hall. So far, the events being discussed are:

- Wreath laying at the Chapline Plot in Mt. View Cemetery
- Old fashioned Ice Cream Social
- Signage placed at the Great Spring with a ceremony to commemorate the placement
- Raffle to raise money for the Historical Society
- T-Shirt sales to benefit the Historical Society
- Book Signing at the library
- A register book and information area

These events are still in the early stages of planning and volunteers and ideas are always welcome! Come out to the meeting and be a part of this historical event!

Community News

Another Blue Star Service Banner Presented



Antietam Unit 236, Sharpsburg American Legion Auxiliary Unit Chaplain Darlene Hoffman and President Ava Gift on Friday, December 7th, made a visit to the home of Carl and Melanie Heron, Harpers Ferry Road, Sharpsburg, Maryland, to present to them a Blue Star Service Banner. Their banner, having two blue stars instead of one, represents they have two children in the residence serving in the military.

Daughter Sabrina is a 2nd Lt. with the 351st, Martinsburg, WV Army Reserves, ordinance/ammunition division. She is a 2006 graduate of Boonsboro High School.

Son Matt is a SPC Specialist with the 443rd MD Army Reserves, Military Police, located at Owings Mills, MD. He recently returned after being deployed to Afghanistan. He graduated from Boonsboro High School in 2009.

Another son Chris is a Staff Sgt with the 101st Airborne stationed at Fort Campbell. In 2003, while with the 3rd Infantry, Fort Steward, Georgia, he was deployed to Iraq and deployed again in 2005 with the 3rd Armored Cavalry, Fort Carson, Colorado. He now resides in Clarksville, Tennessee. He graduated from Poolesville High School in 1996.

Gift asked Sabrina why she chose to join the military and she said because of her mother and older brother. Melanie than said that she was a 6 year army veteran. She said that expression "your mother wears combat boots" really was true for her children.

During the presentation Hoffman thanked them for their family's service to our Country. The Heron family stated they were proud to accept the banner in honor of their children's service.

-Ava Gift

Legion Auxiliary Hosts Senior Citizen Dinner

Antietam Unit 236, American Legion Auxiliary, hosted the annual Sharpsburg Senior Citizens Christmas dinner December 9 at Potomac Valley Fire Hall in Dargan.

Guests enjoyed a ham and turkey dinner "with all the trimmings", received homemade table favors, a gift and orange.

Unit Chaplain Darlene Hoffman offered grace before the meal.

Master of ceremonies, Legionnaire Pete Waters, entertained guests with jokes and stories. Veterans were recognized and applauded for their service. Adding that as families gather together to celebrate Christmas, keep in thought, prayer and deed those military families who have someone serving in the armed forces who will not be home for Christmas to celebrate with their families. The oldest senior attending was 93 year old Pansie Davis. Those in attendance enjoyed music and singing by the one-armed guitar player, the Rev. Kenny Johnson, and banjo player Dennis McKinney.

-Ava Gift

Unit Member Presents Blue Star Service Banner to Family Members



Antietam Unit 236, Sharpsburg American Legion Auxiliary member Judy Mason presented her son and daughter-in-law, Chris and Sabrina Fraley of Inwood, WV, with a two Blue Star Service Banner at the December 11, 2012, monthly meeting. The banner is in honor of their two daughters who are both studying to be nurses. Erica Merson stationed with the 35th Medical Unit MISAWA-SHI Air Force Base in Admori, Japan and McKenzie Fraley stationed at Travis Air Force base in California. Both daughters graduated from Musselman High School and both are studying to be nurses.

Upon receiving the banner the Fraley's stated that they would be proudly displaying their banner in their window as soon as they arrive home.

The banner is displayed in the home of a member of the armed forces. The American tradition started during World War I, but was not observed during the Korean or Viet Nam war. The program was revived at the start of the war on terrorism. Anyone who has a child or spouse serving in the military and wish to receive a Blue Star Service Banner may call Ava at 301-432-6658.

-Ava Gift

Christmas at the Senior Center



Christmas brought a lot of joy to the Southeastern Senior Center at Keedysville. A party was enjoyed by all. Santa couldn't make it that day, but he left presents for an exchange, snowflakes that changed colors and stockings filled with candy and money (play money that is) and one poor man did get coal and sticks in his stocking as he was warned...but a bag of candy was also waiting for him, since he may have learned a lesson about not teasing the girls...

-Darlene Hoffman

Announcements

Planning for the Parade is Underway!

The Sharpsburg Memorial Day parade committee is working on the details for this year's parade. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings to assist with ideas and the planning of this special yearly event. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at 7pm in the town hall.

Annual Fishing Rodeo in need of a Leader

The annual fishing rodeo is slated to be held on Saturday, May 4th at the town pond off of South Church Street. This event is a free event open to the local children. The children enjoy this activity and it gives them a chance to learn about fish and fishing while having fun. If you would like to chair this event, or help with the planning of the event, please contact Kimberly Fulk at the town office at 301-432-4428 or at townofsharpsburg@comcast.net