



Sharpsburg Town Crier

The Wetterer Edition



Volume 29

October 2021

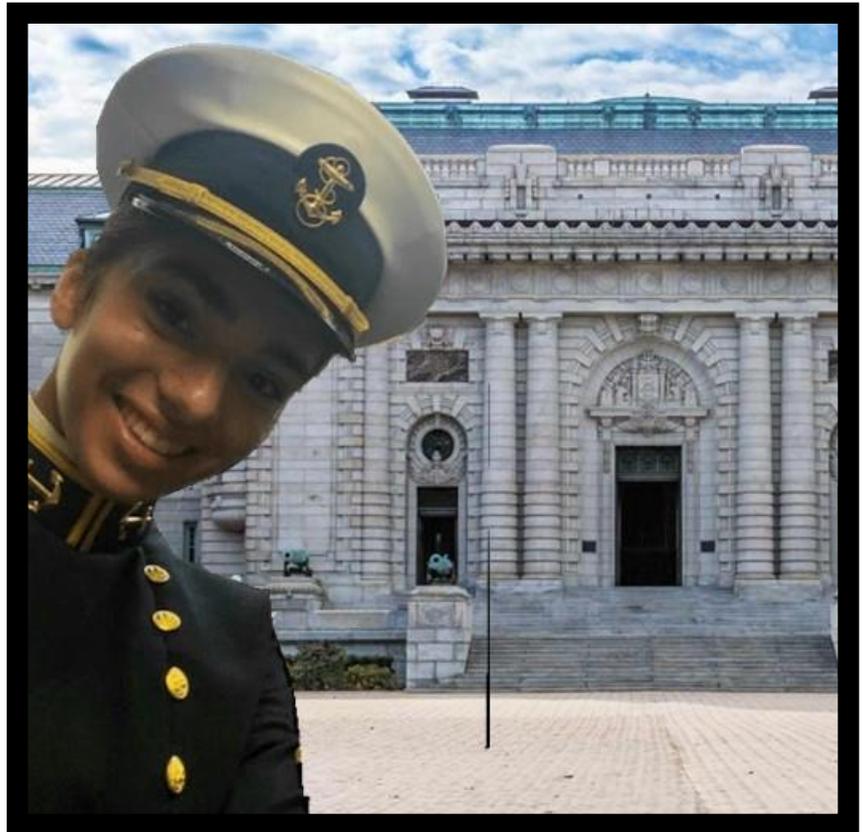
Number 9

Meet Your Neighbor: Katharine (Kate) Elizabeth Prenger

This is a young woman who knows where she's going! While a fourth-grade student at Sharpsburg Elementary School she took a school field trip to the US Naval Academy. She knew from that moment - the Academy was in her future.

Kate started training to meet the Academy's stringent physical requirements in middle school. At first, she couldn't do a single push-up. She trained for years every day after school, keeping a detailed workout log, until she built her strength up to Academy standards.

Please join our town in congratulating her for her appointment to the Academy where she is in her Plebe (first) Year. She received her nomination for the Academy from congressman David Trone and her's is the Navy Class of '25, Company 8, "The Best at the Academy."



She and her family moved to Sharpsburg, and she attended Sharpsburg Elementary, Boonsboro Middle, and Boonsboro High Schools. She and her family moved to Ethiopia from Sharpsburg before her senior year of high school where she graduated from the International Community School in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2021. The family currently resides in the Sharpsburg area.

Kate won an NROTC (Navy Reserve Officers Training Program) Marine Option scholarship but elected to attend the Naval Academy instead.

She has a strong desire to serve her country; as she says, "the greatest in the world" and stands up for and is an advocate and friend for the disabled. In her little free time, she likes drawing with pastels and writing poetry. She plans on majoring in English with a French minor and on graduation hopes to join the Marine Corps as an officer. She's keeping her options

open on that, though. She also teaches Sunday school to children at the chapel in Annapolis. She loves working with the kiddos.

She follows a proud military family history; her father is a former Marine, both her grandfathers served in the Navy, and several of her great-grandfathers served in the Marines during WWII and the Korean War. Her ancestors served in every war this country has faced. But she is the first woman in the family to serve.

As you might imagine, her parents are very proud of her. She has a drive, focus, and kindness that are remarkable, and these will propel her to do great things in this world. She is a force.

Status of the Visitor's Center renovation, Chris Vincent of the Rohrbach Inn updated the Town Council. See page 7.



Again, the town congratulates this remarkable young woman.

-Editor - with kind thanks to her folks, Sarah and Jeff, for providing the details.

Highlights from the Council Minutes

The “clean slate” lot on the corner of Main and Church Streets. Check out the status on page 8.



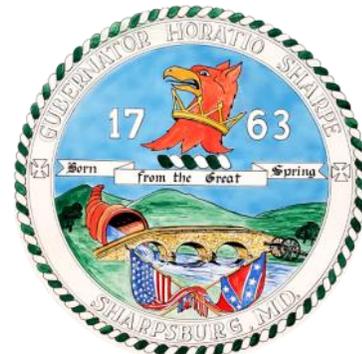
Master Gardeners Class

The Washington County Master Gardeners will offer a free online class on “lasagna gardens” on Thursday, October 28, from 1:00 PM. to 2:00 PM. Lasagna gardens use layers of organic materials – like the layers in lasagna – to create an easy, no-till garden that builds great soil.

Master Gardener Dusty Graham will teach participants how to layer materials such as leaves grass clippings, newspapers, compost and straw to make their own lasagna gardens. This technique is especially good in areas with poor soil. Pre-registration is required at

<https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJild-6gqDwvGNQk3HSdQQxYXXYGpHyYsidR>

For more information, contact Annette Cormany at acormany@umd.edu or 301-791-1604.





Fort Mchenry: Star Spangled Banner

National Anthem Sanctuary Town

At the Town Council meeting in September, Mayor Russ Weaver moved to establish Sharpsburg as a National Anthem Sanctuary Town. The Council voted unanimously to approve the motion. The Resolution is attached; read it on page 12.

-Editor

Sharpsburg Veterans Day Wreath Laying Ceremony

Antietam Unit 236 American Legion Auxiliary will hold their annual Veterans Day ceremony in the square of Sharpsburg at 11:00 a.m., November 11, 2021.



The ceremony will include keynote speaker Park Ranger, Chief of Interpretation, of the Antietam National Battlefield and Air Force Veteran Keith Snyder, Michael Clopper Post 10 American Legion Honor Guard, the Boonsboro High School chorus under the direction of Stephen Pompa, saxophone soloist Mike Lushbaugh, and Sharpsburg Elementary School 4th and 5th grade students. Veterans

in attendance will receive a small token of appreciation. The public is invited to come and support our veterans!

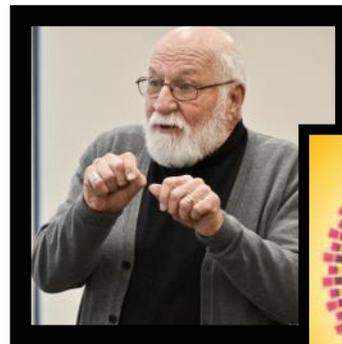
- Ms. Ava Gift, President ,Antietam Unit 236 American Legion Auxiliary

Meet Another Neighbor: Stas' Ziolkowski, Entertainer

Stas' Ziolkowski taught chemistry, science, and math for 40 years. He and his wife, Terry Lee, moved to Sharpsburgh in April of 2017 and he has been involved in many different areas of entertainment. He is a storyteller, and has been a community theater actor, director, and producer since 1985.

Since moving to Sharpsburgh, Stas' has held storytelling events at the library, in the Town Hall, at the Victory Garden Ranch before it closed, and put on two Liars contests at Bender's Tavern. Before the Covid pandemic, Stas' performed in all the Washington County libraries, as well as in Hagerstown, Shepherdstown, and several other events in West Virginia.

Stas' and Terry Lee are members of the Friends of Tolson's Chapel. They were docents there this past year and Stas' has performed in the Chapel several times, including at the Christmas concert in 2019.



Stas' co-hosts "The Storytelling Hour" podcast along with his colleague Fanny Crawford at Talltales.enlightenradio.org

-Editor

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Presentation and Breakfast

Come join CAWAT (Come All Who Are Thirsty) for a free breakfast at Burnside First Church of God on Saturday, Nov 6, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM, 3904 Mills Rd, Sharpsburg. Following breakfast will be a presentation by former Tomb Guard Sergeant Major Rolf Ronken. If you are able, please email or message to Facebook to CAWAT in advance so we know to plan on you for breakfast, generously provided by the Burnside First Church of God.

Come All Who Are Thirsty Veterans Group (CAWAT) cawatveterans@gmail.com www.comeallwhoarethirsty.org



Bio: Sergeant Major Ronken was the Sergeant of the Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, during 9-11-01. SGM Ronken deployed in support of Desert Shield, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Among his many awards are the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Senior Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge and Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Identification Badge (# 496). He was inducted into the prestigious Audie Murphy Club for his superior leadership abilities in 1995. Sergeant Major Ronken retired as an infantry brigade level Operations Sergeant Major in 2011. Rolf is married to the former Maureen McMahan and has three grown daughters living across the globe.

- Beth and Dwayne Harris, CAWAT

Community Calendar

October 2021

October 28 at 3:30: **Halloween Costume Party!**

Sharpsburg Park
Craft and stories! Ghost Decorating Contest
301-432-8825

October 28, from 1PM to 2PM, **Free Online Class: Lasagna Gardens**

Washington County Master Gardeners
Pre-Register required at <https://umd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlId-6gqDwvGNQk3HSdQQxYXXYGpHyYsidRacormany@umd.edu> or 301-791-1604.

October 31 from 6PM to 8PM, **Trick-or-Treat in Sharpsburg**

November 2021

November 1 at 6PM: **Mayor and Council Meeting**

Sharpsburg Town Hall
townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

November 3 at 7PM, **Presentation: C&O Canal During the Civil War**

Sharpsburg Town Hall
Sons of Confederate Veterans
townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

November 6 at 9:30 AM **Presentation: Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Guard Sergeant Major Rolf Ronken**

Burnside First Church of God, 3904 Mills Rd, Sharpsburg
cawatveterans@gmail.com www.comeallwhoarethirsty.org

November 6 from 9:30AM to 3:30PM, **Design and Planning Workshop: Interpretive Park**

Sharpsburg Town Hall
townofsharpsburg@comcast.net

November 6: **FarmFest - Farm Festival and Poultry Swap**

Green Hill Farms
<https://www.ghfarm.org/>

November 7, **Set Your Clocks Back!**

November 11 at 11AM **Veterans Day Wreath Laying Ceremony**

Sharpsburg Square
Antietam Unit 236 American Legion
Auxiliary
301-432-6658

November 13 at 4PM, **2021 Fall Money Bonanza**

Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company
710 N. Main Street, Boonsboro
301-991-2230 for tickets

November 18 at 3:30, **Community Story Time** (Learn about the Post Office. Use one of our postcards to write a message then we will visit the post office to mail it!!)

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Recurring Events 2021

Any Time During Library Hours, Take Home Turkey Crafts for adults, teens and kids! While supplies last. Stop in the Sharpsburg Library and pick them up any time after November 2.

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

1st Wednesday of the month 1PM

Adults: Book Share

Sharpsburg Library
301-432-8825

Thursdays at 3:30PM: **Storytime**

Sharpsburg Library (Note: October 28 Storytime will be in Sharpsburg Park)
Masks are required for those 2 and up during Storytime in the library.
301-432-8825

Fridays 3PM to 8PM and Saturdays/
Sundays: 12Noon to 6PM Antietam Creek Vineyards

4835 Branch Ave, Sharpsburg, MD
21782
(240) 490-2851

Second Thursdays every month, Lion's Club 7PM, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 209 W. Main St, Sharpsburg, MD 21782

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 AM, Sunday School at 10:30AM
301-432-4944

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
209 West Main Street
Sharpsburg
301-432-7098
Sundays: 10AM

Burnside First Church of God
3904 Mills Rd, Sharpsburg

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



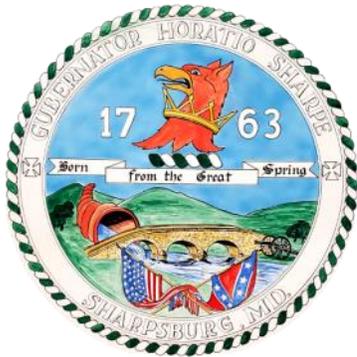
Mayor & Councilpersons

Russ Weaver – Mayor
Jacob Martz – Vice Mayor
Mia Parsons – Council
John Hammond – Council
Ed Beeler-Council
Robbie Waters – Council
Joe Kudla – Council

106 East Main Street
PO Box 368
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782

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Fax: 301-432-8990
<https://sharpsburgmd.com/>
townofsharpsburg@comcast.net
[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/TheTownOfSharpsburg)
TheTownOfSharpsburg

Zoning Administrator-Tim Lung
Sharpsburg.md.zoning@gmail.com



Alleyscape: Lee Weaver



ATTACHMENT:

Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg

Meeting Agenda-DRAFTED

October 4, 2021 6 pm Town Hall

Call meeting to order at 6:03, pledge was led by Winston Estell. After the pledge Winston played a National Anthem recording by the US Army Field Band. Jake Martz read the resolution establishing Sharpsburg as a National Anthem Sanctuary Town, (resolution 002-2021), resolution is attached.

Meeting minutes from August & September 2021 were approved, Ed motioned and Joe seconded, all were in favor of accepting the minutes.

Attendance: Russ Weaver, Jacob Martz, Joe Kudla, Mia Parsons, John Hammond, Ed Beeler, Winston Estell, Carrie Estell, Jamieson Perry, Jenn Bruni, and Chris Vincent

Security proposal from Atlantic Security, Rick Toms

Mr. Toms went over his company's proposals, (cameras in both parks, "Water Tower Park" & Mark A. Smith Park and a new/upgraded fire system). Questions from council were answered, with some questions needing investigation by Mr. Toms, (pull locations and if there is a light on park cameras to quickly and easily check for working order). He suggested that the building's duct work be cleaned, estimated a three day to one week install and all work and equipment would be under a one-year warranty. (Proposals are attached)

Chris Vincent

Next Advisory meeting is October 14th

Visitor Center's renovation project moving along, September 2022 still slated for opening Lay of the new center will allow for more information to be presented to visitors; displayed artifacts will on a rotating basis and some may be housed at the Landsdale site.

Russ wanted Chris to know some folks are upset with artifacts that are associated with the town may not be displayed.

Mayor's Report

Budget

September & FY-reviewed and explained

Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds-\$187,500.00

Russ tasked everyone as to what types of projects to think about funding. Wells-John to get a couple estimates on drilling, Mia to get some estimates on work suggested by Street Scape inventory. Sidewalk assistance would be a welcomed and needed project.

Carrie to send letter/email stating that the town was awarded the funding for the Coronavirus Recovery Funds to all council members.

Sustainable Community Application

Application to renew our standing as a sustainable community is due soon, this helps with home values and requires filling out an application. Volunteers needed to assist with application.

Carrie will send out email; she's meeting with two people on Tuesday, October 12th and will reach out with specific details

Triad Study-explanation and vote on what to do with land purchase

Russ reviewed emails he sent to council, Ordinance to purchase property, sales/purchase agreement and Triad engineer study.

Russ reviewed the first 11 pages of the 300+ document.

All five gas tanks were removed

There was contaminated soil, tons of soil were removed, hydrocarbons were detected, levels were monitored for many years, higher levels detected when it rained, overall, levels are very low now, last reading was in 2021 and MDE released the land portion and discontinued readings.

Recommendations were to not dig, however the purpose and function of the Project Open Space, (visitor park), would be ideal as there will not be any major building/digging/foundation work. Grading and fence post type work would be the needed work for the park.

Mia suggested that the lower portion of the park have a natural screen of native flowers/shrubs and trees to assist with aesthetics and natural barrier.

Every council member present wants to move forward with the purchase of the McGaw's properties for the park as the risk is very low and the price a very fair deal.

Zoning with Tim (via speaker phone)

BZA met last Thursday, October 28th the meeting went well. The meeting was in regard to 110 South Mechanic Street. The board was in favor and approved the special exception for a short-term rental unit in TR Zoning with conditions. There was no opposition and the conditions are that the owner or representative reside in town and have 24 hours a day and 7 days a week access to someone if there are any issues. Parking permission was obtained by both neighbors and the owner is responsible for obtaining a formal easement within 90 days of the approval of the request.

Town rules of procedures for BZA meetings are needed so meetings can be streamlined and have a more formalized standard of procedures. These are in draft form, Tim took ideas from Hagerstown and the county and revised to reflect the town codes. Tim will meet with Russ to review and will present to the BZA.

The poultry ordinance zoning amendment will be formalized at the November meeting.

Property on 121 E Main Street, there were complaints due to tall grass and weeds. Tim went to take a look and it appears that there maybe some structural issues. Tim will reach out to the county building inspector. He will write up a violation letter to the owner.

There was an issue with a resident using a POD or truck container as a storage building off Chapline. Carrie and Jake went there to see the container used as a storage unit. Carrie drafted a letter giving the owners until November 5th to remove the unit. Officer Peyton was not able to ticket the storage unit as the alley it is blocking an alley, but the alley is not being utilized.

MOU-all alley names have been rejected by the county, Russ tasked Tim to push these names through, (Bluebird Alley, Old Mill Alley and Garrison Alley). The main reason for the naming is to give a resident who has a house an address.

Council comments

Robbie Waters-parks, railroad station, town operations-not present

Jacob Martz-Vice Mayor, communications, Memorial Day Parade, grants

Security/Peyton report

4 checks at train station, 4 checks at school, 8 checks at park

5 ½ hrs. foot patrol, 2 hrs. radar on Main St and on Church St.

2 tickets 7 warnings

1 call for service for harassment

2 assist calls with county on King Rd and Trego Mtn Rd

request from town at 213 W Chapline for storage container

Brush Pick Up

4 cubic yards per household, this was met with some disagreements; the exact wording will be further discussed when Robbie is able to speak

Date time frame-Russ suggested it get done by Thanksgiving

Sound system and equipment for council chambers-three estimates will come in, two have already been here to take a look and offer suggestions. Hoping to report on their findings next meeting.

Town's website-as it is now, the price will go up to almost 1000/year with no upgrades, however this will allow the town's council members to have an email address to conduct town business. Jake and Ed will be meeting Laura Oates to see what her company can provide in terms of a website.

Interpretive Open Space Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, November 6th from 930-330; nine people have signed up already.

Memorial Day Parade Committee will be meeting Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 6 pm at Town Hall.

Mia Parsons-Planning-(Streetscape), grants

After walking Main Street, the Planning Commission came up with five main projects that can be planned/tasked/estimated

Tree and Maintenance Plan

Using the Street Tree Survey as a guide, prune and/or remove trees suggested in report, and create new areas for plantings of both old and new species, flowering and low shrubs-estimates for initial suggestions by the Tree Survey for next month's meeting

Storm Water Management Plan

During heavy rains, water fills drain on the corner of Mechanic & Main. Fencing be installed for safety purposes. Estimates/pictures of what a railing or guardrail would look like for next month's meeting

Streets & Sidewalks Plan

Water meters appear not on grade on the streets and should be addressed with county, many uneven sidewalks are also a hazard.

Poles and Banners Plan

The town would look and feel more welcoming if we were to place banners/signs along Main Street to Church to recognize events/seasons. Carrie will contact Potomac Edison to see if brackets can be used on the street lights/telephone poles.

Square Beautification Plan

Idea of a fountain and bench seating in front of the JSB area off Main Street was discussed, not only adding a nice focal point but a welcoming seating area.

Ed Beeler-Historical Planning, town archives, communications, grants

Attendance: September-218, attendance from May is 867

Artifact Loans: 1 & 2 gifts-Loan a Daniel Marker Rifles made in Sharpsburg during the 1700's, Gift - Bayonet found four houses down, Gift – Page from the Chapline Family Bible last date recorded was 1760

Saturday is the reopening from 9-5-with lots of things to do, demonstrations, living historians, speaker, music, and food truck. The Museum will be fully staffed for the event, (two staff members, four docents and the living Historians) There will be three door prizes.

The Museum will sponsor Miss Sharpsburg starting in 2022. The first Miss Sharpsburg will be Lucy Baker daughter of Gary & Sarah Baker and Great Granddaughter of Ernie Wetterer. She attends Sharpsburg Elementary. Future Miss Sharpsburgs will be required to attend Sharpsburg Elementary school, live in the Sharpsburg town or district.

Hoping the museum will become officially a non profit and incorporated by spring, 2022.

Joe Kudla-streets, roads & culverts

High Street Signs-these are up and look good, two four way stop signs are still needed. Joe gave Carrie the invoice for work completed.

Hole in road at East Antietam needs repair, Joe took a look and will get some estimates as to the repair.

Historic Wall Call results-Russ reported that Edie Wallace will add an addendum to the 2008 historic survey and this will have a record of the walls' historic significance. When this is completed, Russ would like to have some type of press release. The wall estimates for repair and repointing will be emailed to Senator Corderman and Delegate Wivele, as Russ spoke with them last week and both agreed that the walls need to be repaired and that they will assist as best as they can for funding either on a state and/or federal level.

Joe reached out to MDOT official to get a definitive answer as to the ownership of bridges in town. Having this information will assist when repairs and maintenance issues arise.

Jake will resend his information to Joe in regards to county road work. This is a fee schedule that promises the lowest charge for road maintenance.

Tree in alley that is a safety hazard will be removed, the cost is 1k and the removal is on the company's schedule.

A resident has complained about cars blocking her garage. Her neighbors use their garage more as a storage unit; she uses hers for two cars. Councilmember Joe will frequently take pictures to investigate the parking complaints. Results will reflect if a sign and/or painting of curbs is

necessary.

Joe has smelled fumes that appear to be burning plastic. It appears that the resident who is doing the burning does so on a weekly basis. He asked all council members if they smell this to contact the fire department.

John Hammond-Building and Infrastructure

Will contact well drillers for estimates for promised funding.

Will speak with Ronnie to get an okay about a possible light on his wall to help with parking lot safety.

Light in stairwell at the back of town hall is on all the time and blasts a lot of light into a resident's backyard. John and Carrie will try to figure out the switch that turns on and off these lights.

New Business-councilmembers to please think about the funding we will be receiving and think about capital planning projects.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36

Executive Meeting held to discuss employee performance

ATTACHMENT:



**Town of Sharpsburg
Resolution 002-2021**

Resolution to Establish Sharpsburg as a National Anthem Sanctuary Town

Whereas the Star Spangled Banner is a poem written by Francis Scott Key during the bombardment of Ft. McHenry in 1814, a battle which occurred during the War of 1812;

Whereas the War of 1812 effectively established the United States unquestionably as a sovereign nation;

Whereas the Star Spangled Banner was originally intended to recognize the perseverance, dedication and indomitability of the American spirit;

Whereas the Star Spangled Banner was adopted for use as the National Anthem of the United States on March 3, 1931; and

Whereas despite its overarching unifying theme, the Star Spangled Banner now exists as a point of controversy for some, and continual attempts have been recently made by divisive and unpatriotic individuals to deter its use; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, unanimously, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Sharpsburg that the Star Spangled Banner shall, irrespective of any attempts by State or Federal Governments to change or assuage its use, or compel recognition of any other poem, hymn, melody or song as our Nation's Anthem, henceforth be recognized by the Town of Sharpsburg as the National Anthem of the United States.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Star Spangled Banner shall be played in the Town of Sharpsburg no less than twice per year, during the commemorations of Memorial Day and Veterans Day, and at such other times as may be deemed appropriate, during any eligible officially sanctioned town event or function, and at such events shall henceforth be recognized in perpetuity as the National Anthem of the United States, and, as such, shall be afforded all proper respects and observances occurring thereto.