

RELIEF AND RECOVERY INFORMATION

HARPERS FERRY FIRE • JULY 23, 2015

UPDATE #1

STATUS: **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

SUMMARY FOR JULY 28, 2015

- The historic Harpers Ferry Commercial Business District suffered a significant loss by fire on July 23, 2015 affecting four privately owned properties, nine businesses, two tenants, and 45 displaced employees.
- Town merchants and the adjacent National Park are open for business and visitors are welcome. No lodging businesses were affected by the fire. Potomac Street and Hog Alley are open to vehicular traffic.
- Town officials met with directly-affected parties, local merchants, and community members in a closed meeting on Monday, July 27 to identify issues and concerns. Town officials will meet with Local, State and Federal agencies later this week to coordinate immediate relief efforts and the rebuilding and renewal of the commercial district.
- The public's generous offers of assistance are being coordinated by the Harpers Ferry-Bolivar Historic Town Foundation, a registered 501(c)3 charity. Individuals may inquire about current volunteer opportunities or make offers of assistance to recovery_volunteers@harpersferrywv.us, or consider the Foundation's official response site www.gofundme.com/renewharpersferry for monetary contributions. Donations by check can be mailed to the Harpers Ferry-Bolivar Historic Foundation, PO Box 1427, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425 (please designate "Renew Harpers Ferry" on your check).

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE

The Corporation of Harpers Ferry has started a recovery web page at <http://harpersferrywv.us/recovery>. Look there to find the latest information from the Town on the relief and recovery process.



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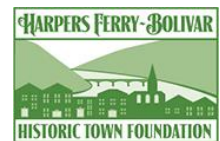
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE – CONTINUED

The Town of Harpers Ferry deeply appreciates the exceptional services rendered by emergency response teams. Twenty two fire units responded to the crisis which started with a first call at 3:15 AM and would continue for the next 12 hours. The Friendship Fire Company received the dispatch at 3:18 AM and was first on the scene within nine minutes. Our grateful thanks go out to:

Jefferson County, WV: Friendship Fire Company, Citizens Fire Company, Shepherdstown Fire Company, Independent Fire Company, Blue Ridge Mountain Fire Department, Bakerton Fire Department. **Loudoun County, VA:** Neersville Fire Company, Round Hill Fire Company, Lovettsville Fire Company, Battalion Chief 602. **Washington County, MD:** Dargan Fire Company, Rohrersville Fire Company. **Frederick County, MD:** Jefferson Fire Company, Carroll Manor Fire Company, New Market Fire Company, Braddock Heights Fire Company, United Fire Company (Frederick City), Vigilant Hose Company. **Frederick County, Virginia:** Clearbrook Fire Company, Millwood Station. **Clarke County, VA:** John Enders Fire Company. **Berkeley County, WV:** VA Medical Center.

Please direct inquiries for town information to the Town Clerk: (304) 535-2206 (ext. 1), clerk@harpersferrywv.us.

HARPERS FERRY-BOLIVAR HISTORIC TOWN FOUNDATION UPDATE



RECOVERY PROGRAM DETAILS

The Harpers Ferry-Bolivar Historic Town Foundation met on Sunday July 26, and will continue to meet this week to construct a recovery plan that will guide the disbursement of public donations. The Foundation has a fundraising goal of \$150,000 for relief, repair and renewal of the Town. It has received \$9,035 in contributions from 134 people in 4 days, representing 6% of our goal.

Please direct Foundation inquiries to harpersferryfoundation@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

The Rev. Sen. John Unger (pastorunder@frontier.com) has offered Chaplaincy and counselling service to any community member affected by the crisis.



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COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS – CONTINUED

THANK YOUS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The residents of Harpers Ferry thank the following who stood on the street with us that difficult day:

Mary Jo Brown	Eastern Panhandle Rep. for Sen. Manchin
Joy Lewis	Eastern Panhandle Rep. for Gov. Tomlin
Stephen Smoot	Eastern Panhandle Rep. for Congressman Mooney
Rev. Sen John Unger	WV State Senator
Del. Stephen Skinner	WV Delegate
Eric Bell	Jefferson Co. Commissioner
Jimmy Gianato	Director, Homeland Security Advisor, WV
Barbara Miller	Director, Homeland Security, Jefferson County
Annette Gavin	Director, Jefferson County Convention and Visitors Bureau

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Front Page Live is looking for volunteers to assist with stage production, promotion, flyer and poster design, silent auction donations and with live entertainment at a charity event on August 8th (see community events below). Inquire to StevenRamberg99@gmail.com .

ASSISTANCE FOR DISPLACED RESTAURANT EMPLOYEES

- Maria's Taqueria, 111 W German St, Shepherdstown WV: "Anyone who lost their jobs in the restaurants affected due to the fires. We would love to offer you guys some hours even if it's temporarily. It may just be washing dishes but it's something."
- Subway Sandwich Shops, Ranson and Martinsburg WV: "We would like to extend Sandwich Artist job opportunities to those affected. We would be willing to hire 1-2 individuals in our Ranson location, and 2-3 individuals in our Martinsburg location."

BENEFIT EVENTS CALENDAR

- Glory Days
190 Oak Lee Dr, Ranson WV
10% of sales this week's will be donated.

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COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS – CONTINUED

- Mena's Pizza
914 Washington St, Harpers Ferry WV
10% of August sales will be donated.
- Help Harpers Ferry Fun Run
August 1, 8:00 AM to start at the gazebo next to the NPS shuttle bus stop on Shenandoah Street. The Harpers Ferry train station parking lot will be open, but parking is limited; carpooling is strongly encouraged. Bring water to drink but no cups; this is a green event.
- SYNERGY - A Harpers Ferry Fire Benefit Concert and silent auction will be held on Saturday, August 8 at Longshots Billiards, 76 Wolfcraft Way, Charles Town WV. Bands and further details will be announced at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1596214750643711/>

Benefit event planners! Please share your event with the harpersferryfoundation@gmail.com to have your activity announced.

Information about community-sponsored relief and recovery activities are included as submitted for public benefit. Please check with each sponsor directly to confirm activity details. Neither the Corporation of Harpers Ferry nor the Harpers Ferry-Bolivar Historic Town Foundation are responsible for event accuracy.

Founded in 1733, the Corporation of Harpers Ferry (<http://www.harpersferrywv.us>) has been a devoted handmaiden to American history for over three centuries. The town helped open the Shenandoah Valley to settlement in the 18th century, while in the 19th century it developed manufacturing techniques for the Industrial Revolution, exposed a Nation to the horrors of slavery, and was considered a prize of war during the Civil War. Partially destroyed by floods in the early 20th century, the Town recovered and endeavors to preserve a stage and story of American history in collaboration with the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

The Harpers Ferry-Bolivar Historic Town Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with the mission to preserve historic resources and promote community. The Foundation serves the towns of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar. The Foundation may be contacted at harpersferryfoundation@gmail.com, or via mail at Harpers Ferry-Bolivar Foundation, PO Box 1427. Harpers Ferry, WV 25425. The Foundation's website is <http://www.historicharpersferry.com>.

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