

Harpers Ferry Community Newsletter



March 2011

Volume 8 Issue 3



The old Hill Top House at Harpers Ferry, WV

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The Hill Top House and the Lovetts

The Historic Hill Top House is directly connected to the Harpers Ferry heritage of African-American people. Its first proprietor, Thomas S. Lovett was an African American. His parents were William and Sarah Lovett.

Prior to the building of Hill Top House, the Lovett family used the present Lockwood House as a hostelry. Before the buildings were used as Storer College, the structures on Camp Hill belonged to the United States Government.

After the Civil War, Harpers Ferry became a popular summer resort for people from Washington, Baltimore and other surrounding areas. African Americans visited Harpers Ferry because it was considered sacred ground. John Brown's Raid had led to the Civil War and the emancipation of those held in bondage. Thomas Lovett built the hotel. As he viewed the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, he commented, "here, where the martyrdom of John Brown took place, I will build my hotel."

The first Hill Top Hotel burned in December 1912 and the second in 1918. Despite these setbacks the hotel was rebuilt and is essentially the structure that remains today.

The meaning of Hill Top House for so many thousands of people throughout the United States and worldwide, was captured by Mr. A. Mercer Daniel, law librarian at Howard University, when he wrote; "Before the advent of the automobile and during the early history of the hotel business and before the coming of the great hotel chains, the Hill Top House was well known. During its most successful years, the American Automobile Association and the B&O Railroad recommended its services to its customers. During this time, Harpers Ferry was a progressive town and many of the industries of the town were dependent upon the hotel trade. If you were on train No. 5 of the B&O Railroad as it passed through the tunnel under Maryland Heights, over the bridge that spanned the Potomac River and stopped at the station at Harpers Ferry, you would glance to the West and see etched against the sunset sky the Hill Top House. Solid as the Rock of Gibraltar standing as a monument to Thomas S. Lovett."

Perhaps the Phoenix will rise again.

Sincerely,
Jim Addy



Amendment 1 to the United States Constitution

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Newsletter Submissions:

Please submit all articles via email by the first Friday of every month at harpersferry3@yahoo.com

- All articles are not guaranteed space
 - Pictures must be clear not blurry or fuzzy
- *Limited one article per group***

ELECTION

The Ballot order drawing will be held at 9AM on April 1, 2011 at the Town Hall.



Calendar of Events

All meetings in Town Hall are held in meeting room, unless noted.

- March 23-HF Foundation Board meeting 5:30PM
- March 24– Tree Committee 7PM
- March 28-Landmarks 7PM
- April 5– Planning 7PM
- April 6– Court 7PM
- April 11– Council meeting 7PM
- April 25-Landmarks 7PM
- April 27– H.F. Foundation Board meeting 5:30 PM
- April 28– Tree Committee 7PM

March Community Dinner at Charles Town Baptist Church

Enjoy a shared meal, fellowship and music at the potluck Community Dinners sponsored by the South Jefferson County Ministerial Association. On Tuesday, March 29 (the last Tuesday in the month) at 6 p.m. the community will gather at Charles Town Baptist Church . Please bring a 13” by 9” dish (or its equivalent volume) to share. The food designations are: Last name initials A-G, meat; H-M, vegetables; N-R, salads; S-Z desserts or breads. In April, the dinner will be at Charles Town Presbyterian Church.

For more information, call the Rev. Georgia DuBose at 304-535-2009.

Please pass this information on to people who would be interested, and kindly include it in your congregational bulletins next Sunday. Thank you.

**Harpers Ferry Police Dept.
February 2011 Monthly Report**

Citations: 104

No evidence of registration 33	Driving suspended 3
Expired/No MVI 12	Improper registration 1
Speeding 30	Improper/ defective equipment 7
No Insurance 12	Possession 2
Flr. Obtain WV operators 1	Flr stop at sign 3

Bolivar citations 40 Harpers Ferry citations 64

Complaints: 25

Driving susp. 3	Petit larceny 2	Suspicious act. 2	DUI 2
Burglary 1	Disturbance 2	Phone harass. 1	MVA 4
Civil 1	Nuisance 1	Possession 2	Fraud 1

Bolivar complaints 15 Harpers Ferry complaints 7

Assisted with other departments: 3

MEETING

The town is scheduling a follow up community meeting with David Beniamino, Zoning Administration to gather community input, concerns and suggestions to develop direction for future town collaboration and work sessions/ charettes.

April 4,2011 7PM at the Bolivar Community Center

Town Council Meeting March 14,2011

Town Council Approved or Heard

- Minutes of 14 February,2011, after discussion and clarification of wording as to fire hydrants functionality
- Minutes of 11 February approved as received
- Minutes 23 February,2011 carried over to next Town Council meeting. A motion for a list of expenditures by Town to be provided members of Town Council before Council meeting, was unanimously approved
- Financial reports approved as received
- Pending business licenses held over to next Council meeting for additional information
- Beth Haney calls for civil discussion of issues and problems, not confrontation, Mayor and Council agreed.
- Dixie Wiltshire with other members of the Bolivar/Harpers Ferry Veterans group request a site on Potomac Street to place a statue commemorating the death of Marine Private Luke Quinn, killed during the John Brown Raid, October 17,1859. Rich Shaffer will provide a site on his property facing Potomac Street, 200 to 250 feet from the John Brown's Fort where Quinn died.
- David Beniamino will speak on April 4,2011 at a Bolivar Community Center meeting 7:00 P.M. He will focus on gathering community input.
- Elks Run Study Committee report. See article on page 5
- Water Commission will seek a connection to a fire hydrant that accesses water from one of the existing water tanks, contractor will be employed after RFQ is published in the paper
- Harpers Ferry Historic Foundation seeks funding for operational and promotional funds from the Town. Mayor and foundation member will confer with Ms. Shauna Johnstone, Town Treasurer. Also \$350.00 approved for brochure by council
- Tree Committee Annual Report presented to Council. See minutes of meeting for additional information at Town Office funds requested \$2,486.
- A \$2,000 grant was from the State of West Virginia was approved
- Vacancy on Landmarks Commission was filled by Darlene Hassler Godwin, Town Council approved
- Planning Commission report by Jerry Hutton, Chairman concerning parking permits, Potomac Street Parking, Discussion on closed railroad crossing, March 15,2011 (See Planning Commission minutes for additional information).
- Committee formed to describe what is essential in selecting a permanent police chief. The Committee potentially would consist of two police chiefs, two mayors, a Park Service representative, a citizen with police experience, and a representative from the Merchants Association. These appointments would be reviewed by Town Council, subject to their approval. Upon determination of committee members a public hearing would be held to obtain citizen input.
- Council approved new police radar units and uniforms
- Merchants Association reported two new businesses in Town: Grovy Smoothies, Olde Tyme Candies. Stone Feather Farm has closed and the building purchased.
- Harpers Ferry National Historical Park will hold memorials on April 16 and 17 commemorating the burning of the Federal Arsenal in 1861 by the Union Army. Street closures will occur, traffic will be affected. Signage will provide directions.
- Items 22,23 and 24 deferred until special Council meeting on March 29 or April 11,2011 meetings
- Next regular Council meeting Monday, 11 April,2011.

Rain Barrel Workshop a Success

By Jennifer Garlesky, WVCA Conservation Specialist

Harpers Ferry and Bolivar homeowners learned various tips on water conservation at a rain barrel workshop on March 12 at the Bolivar Community Center.

The workshop, sponsored by the West Virginia Conservation Agency, the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District, and the Elks Run Study Committee, taught workshop participants about rain barrels, rain gardens and the impact storm water runoff has upon the Chesapeake Bay.

The workshop was offered to Harpers Ferry Water Works customers. Registered participants received a free rain barrel with fittings and a packet of educational information on how to maintain their rain barrel, how to install a rain garden and alternative lawn care procedures. Twenty-five homeowners signed-up for the workshop and eleven homeowners

audited the class. The barrels were donated to the West Virginia Conservation Agency from Pilgrims Pride of Moorefield. Lou Scavanicky, president of the Opequon Creek Watershed Association, assisted the project by cleaning, modifying the barrels and assisted with the presentation. Funding for the project was provided by the Chesapeake Bay Program.



The towns of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar, West Virginia along with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy cordially invite you to celebrate the official designation as an Appalachian Trail Community.

**May 2, 2011-12:15P.M.
Appalachian Trail
Conservancy Headquarters**



Mayor Addy, Matt Covell, and sales person stand by the new H.F. Water Works Pick up truck.