

Harpers Ferry Community Newsletter



June 2012

Volume 9 Issue 6



Mosi Kitwana and son

African American History Hike

On National Trails Day, 80 people discovered that if you walk a mile along the Appalachian Trail with Harpers Ferry National Historical Park rangers, you'll find yourself on a profound journey.



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A diverse group gathered at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy on June 2 to take a walk to learn about African American history through inspired interpretation about Storer College, the Niagara Movement, and John Brown's raid. Visitors from nearby cities and Harpers Ferry residents alike learned powerful human stories behind places and events that formed our nation's evolving identity. Ranger David Fox brought history alive with his re-creation of heart-pounding moments that had taken place in the Lockwood House, opened specially for this event, and inside John Brown's fort. In the sanctuary of Curtis Freewill Baptist Church, Ranger Guinevere Roper recounted the day-to-day lives of students at the nation's first institution of higher learning to accept African Americans.



AT Ambassador and Harpers Ferry resident Kweli Kitwana explained why it was critical to introduce non-traditional audiences to our country's most famous footpath. Marcia Fairweather capped the event with her presentation. She had been inspired to undertake a 15-year section-hike of the entire AT after stopping by ATC's visitor center on her own very first hike of the AT.

The Town's official website has useful information including important notices, ordinances, meeting minutes, official applications, and events calendar. Visit us at www.harpersferrywv.us.

Town Calendar

[Town Website](#) *Click here*

At Town Hall, unless noted otherwise:



- June 20 West Virginia Day Holiday (Town office closed).
- June 21 Water Commission meeting 7:30 to 9 p.m.
- June 25 Historic Landmarks Commission meeting 7 p.m.
- June 26 **Bike Virginia concert, Lower Town at The Point, 6-8 pm, see page 5, May Newsletter.**
- June 27 Harpers Ferry Foundation 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- June 28 Tree Committee meeting 7 p.m.
- June 30 **Summer Reading Program kick-off party, see page 6.**
- June 30 **Don Redmund Concert, 6 pm, Storer College grounds, see Page 7.**
- July 2 Deer management public meeting 7 pm, Mather Training Center, 2nd floor, see Page 8.
- July 3 Potomac Street Project Steering Committee meeting 1 p.m.
- July 3 Planning Commission meeting 7 p.m.
- July 4 **Town Picnic and Concert, Gazebo Park, noon , see Page 7.**
- July 4 Independence Day (Town Office closed).
- July 5 Elks Run Study Committee 7 p.m.
- July 9 Town Council 7 p.m.
- July 11 Municipal Court 7 p.m.
- July 16 Police Committee at Bolivar Center 8 a.m.
- July 18 Canal Towns Partnership 9 a.m. (Location TBA)
- July 19 Water Commission Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- July 25 Harpers Ferry Foundation 5:30 p.m.
- July 26 Tree Committee meeting 7 p.m.
- July 30 Historic Landmarks Commission 7 p.m.
- August 1 Municipal Court 7 p.m.
- August 7 Potomac Street Project Steering Committee meeting 1 p.m.
- August 7 Planning Commission 7 p.m.
- August 13 Town Council 7 p.m.

Town Hall Hours

Monday– 8:30-12 & 1-4:30

Tuesday– 2-4:30

Wednesday– 8:30-12 & 1-4:30

Thursday– 8:30-12

Friday– 8:30-12 and 1-4:30



*Town Treasurer
Kathryn Payne's
other job.*



*Memorial Day Parade
Photo by: Bryan of BK PhotoDesign*



Vision Facilitator Follow Up Meeting

The Council will have a public meeting June 27 at 7 pm at Town Hall with visioning facilitator, David Beniamino. He will give his ideas and recommendations on achieving our long term visions. The Executive Summary, Baseline Report, and Vision statement can be viewed on the [Town website](#).

Signing of the Annual Police Agreement

At their annual joint meeting in May, the Bolivar and Harpers Ferry Councils reviewed and agreed on the Police Department budget for the next year. (To view the Agreement, [click here](#) and then select Item # 6.a.i in the June folder.)

Treasurer Kathryn Payne conducted a more rigorous review and evaluation for the police budget this year, including a more accurate accounting of citation revenues. Her analysis revealed that Harpers Ferry's cost of operations is significantly lower then reported in prior years.



Both Councils expressed their support and appreciation for the high level of service delivered during the year. Some highlights of progress made over the past year noted at the meeting:

- Continued emphasis on a community policing approach by Chief Brown.
- Establishment of a Police Committee (including the two Mayors, a representative from each Council and the Chief) to improve communications and management.
- Police office renovations and installation of a security payment window.
- Purchase of a new police cruiser and submission of a grant request for another cruiser as a State match.
- Significant citation revenue increases from the implementation of broader application of court fees (consistent with practice in other municipalities).
- Processing a significant backlog of reports to the Crime Reporting System.
- Clean out and processing of long-accumulated evidence room materials.

In the new budget the Councils agreed to adopt a new capital equipment replacement program. Each town will pay into the new fund which will accumulate and be restricted to fund future equipment replacement.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!!

Water Commission: one opening

If you are interested, please [click here](#) or check the bulletin board (inside Town Hall). Send letter of interest with qualifications by July 2, 2012, to Mayor, PO Box 217, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425.

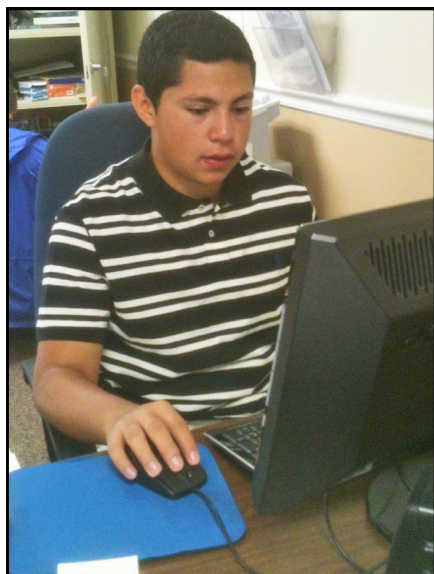
Communicating with the Mayor and Council

Mayor	Joe Anderson 304-582-2377 mayor@harpersferrywv.us
Recorder	Kevin Carden 304-535-2206 kevin.carden@live.com
Council	Betsy Bainbridge betsybainbridge@yahoo.com
members	Jerry Hutton jerwar@frontiernet.net
	Dan Riss fdrfdr@comcast.net
	Charlotte Thompson charlotte.thompson@harpersferrywv.us
	Greg Vaughn olvaughn@frontiernet.net
Town Hall	Phone: 304-535-2206

Council Meeting Report

At its business meeting in June, the Council:

1. Approved the revised FY 2011-12 Budget, finishing the year with a surplus of over \$20,000. Because part of Town Hall's air conditioning system needs replacement, Council asked that efforts be made to commit part of the surplus to repairs in the few weeks remaining in the fiscal year.
2. Approved the final revisions to the FY 2011-12 Water Works budget; a favorable year end budget allowed advance purchase of new equipment including a complete upgrading of the fluoridation system as reported by the Water Commission.
3. Appointed Jim Addy to the Board of Appeals.
4. Adopted a resolution for continued participation in the Eastern Panhandle Consortium of West Virginia.
5. Approved expenditure of up to \$3,000 for repair and repaving of portions of Marion Street between W. Ridge and Putnam Streets.
6. Approved a building removal permit for a shed at 490 Fillmore Street.
7. Approved a building permit for installation of roof ventilation at 163 Public Way
8. Signed the annual Harpers Ferry–Bolivar Police Services Agreement for FY 2012-13; more rigorous and accurate accounting revealed significantly lower costs for Harpers Ferry than reported in previous years. See Page 3.
9. Approved a job description for the Senior Maintenance Specialist position.
10. Authorized a B&O tax collection and enforcement letter for improving compliance.
11. Selected the evening of July 2 for holding a public informational meeting on the Deer Study and deer management program to address deer over population. See Page 8.
12. Appointed Kathryn Payne, acting Treasurer, to the position of Treasurer.
13. Approved a salary adjustment for Josh Carter, Water Works manager effective in FY 2012-13.
14. Authorized hiring Alex Garcia as summer intern.
15. Approved a \$1,200 expenditure under a cooperative services agreement with the USDA Wildlife Services for a turkey vulture deterrence program.
16. Set the evening of June 27 for a meeting to hear a wrap-up report from visioning facilitator, David Beniamino.



The formal **Council packet** is now available through the town website: minutes, financial reports, contracts, agreement, draft policy documents, resolutions, etc.

To access this information, [click here](#) and select the desired month of the Council meeting. For the June meeting there are over 25 documents which will remain here for future reference. (Bookmark the Council packet Folder page.)

A paper copy of each packet is kept in the Town Hall and it is available for anyone who wishes to review it in the office. The packet is put together by the close of business the Friday before the regular monthly meeting.

Summer Intern, Alex Garcia hard at work on the Town newsletter. Alex will be in his Senior year at Brunswick High School this fall. Come in and practice your Spanish!

Planning Commission Update and Call for Comments on Parking Policy

The **parking policy** is in the formative stage of study and evaluation, so feedback is welcome: planning@harpersferrywv.us. The draft policy has been posted [here](#) for that purpose. Proposed policies under consideration include parking on only one side of the street. The Planning Commission will hold yet-to-be-announced public meetings to address public questions, comments and concerns.



At its June 5th meeting, Jefferson County Planning Commission staff member Seth Rivard updated the Harpers Ferry Planning Commission on the Rt 340 Corridor Gateway Plan. He gave highlights from the land use map and report developed after receiving public input that was presented to the Jefferson County Planning Commission on June 12. The County Planning Commission forwarded a recommendation of approval to the County Commission.

Christy Huddle gave an update on the draft East Ridge Promontory overlay zoning district, created to provide a method for reviewing a hotel proposal for the old Hilltop Hotel properties. The Planning Commission set up a subcommittee to meet with Christy on this proposal.

The Planning Commission recommended approval on proposed edits to the Historic Landmarks Ordinance as proposed by Chairman Ed Wheelless.

Ongoing ordinance, policy and subcommittee reports:

Potomac Street Project The 90% construction documents were submitted to the town for review and comment and the Commission discussed a number of items that still require further clarification.

Stormwater Ordinance The subcommittee met to discuss administrative policy options and questions regarding draft ordinance language. Before the Town can adopt a stormwater ordinance, it must have an agreement with a site plan review engineer. The subcommittee recommended the Town use the Region 9 engineer. The subcommittee also recommended a fee policy for consideration. Further discussion on this will occur at 7 pm on June 27, at the Bolivar Town Hall.

Harpers Ferry Foundation Update

Kiosk Upgrade – David Cummings, Town Maintenance Super, is now redoing the kiosks.* Once updated, each kiosk will have a 28" x 40" display area. Once ready, the Foundation will post kiosk access and use guidelines to the town website. The Foundation is working with a local graphic artist with hopes to improve kiosk appearance with unique artwork.

Website Upgrade - We are redesigning our visitor's information website to allow selected folks to add and delete event information and to enable the website to work with smart phone applications.

Advertising Events – The Foundation will be advertising the NPS Don Redman Heritage Awards Concert with a banner on Rt. 340 and Union Street, and with advertising on WYPR, the public radio station out of Baltimore and Frederick that has some of the best jazz programs in the area.

Volunteers - The Foundation would appreciate having more volunteers to work on projects that benefit the town, including someone to serve on our board of directors and fill the treasurer's position. Interested individuals should email harpersferryfoundation@gmail.com.

Submitted by Al Alsdorf for the Harpers Ferry Foundation

*Editor's Note: Al Alsdorf has done a masterful job on the new doors for the kiosks.

11th Annual Don Redman Heritage Awards and Concert

On Saturday, June 30, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park will host the Eleventh Annual Don Redman Heritage Awards & Concert. This year's event features master jazz alto saxophonist Lou Donaldson and legendary bassist Ben Tucker. The two men will be joined by the Howard Burns Quartet.

The Don Redman Heritage Award is presented annually by the Harpers Ferry Historical Association, the Jefferson County NAACP and the Don Redman Heritage Society to legends of jazz whose musicianship, humanity and dignity serve as an asset to jazz in the tradition of Don Redman, and whose work in music and education illuminate his spirit.



This free open air concert will begin at 6 pm on the lawn behind the Mather Training Center, on the former Storer College campus.

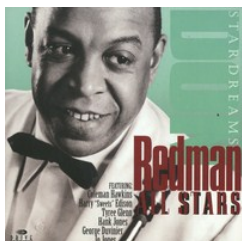
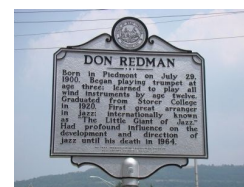
For more information about the concert:

<http://historicharpersferry.com/articles/Don-Redman-concert2012.pdf>

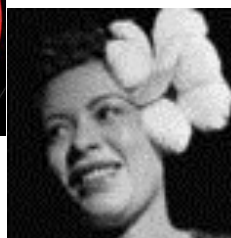
For more information about the "Little Giant of Jazz" Don Redman:

<http://www.nps.gov/hafe/historyculture/don-redman.htm>

<http://www.nps.gov/hafe/historyculture/don-redman-the-little-giant-of-jazz.htm>



Click on the album or photo to hear Don Redman songs on youtube.com



Billie Holliday singing a song by Don Redman and Andy Razaf



Ice Cream!! June 30 and July 1

Make ice cream the old fashioned way at the NPS workshop. Carol Anderson, Historic Foodways expert will be at Roeder's Confectionery on High Street and is in need of apprentices willing to learn the art of making ices. The workshop fee is \$5. Children under 6 are free when accompanied by a registered adult. Sign up now - maximum class size is 15. Classes are at 11 am and 2 pm, lasting 2 hours.

Even More Events!

Please see <http://historicharpersferry.com/> for a list of the many upcoming historical, cultural, and recreational events in Harpers Ferry - Bolivar, in the nearby National Parks, in the Eastern Panhandle, and in neighboring areas in VA, MD, PA.



Fourth of July!

The traditional Harpers Ferry July 4th celebration will take place at noon in the Gazebo park. The Rohrersville Community Band will entertain us. It is the 175 anniversary for this band so be there to enjoy the music!

Drinks, hot dogs, and cookies. All for one dollar!

Volunteer help appreciated! For information, call Women's Club President, Sue Schmidt at 304-535-2241.



Music On the Ridge



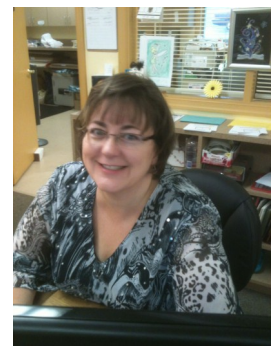
The Music on the Ridge concert on June 9 was a huge success. As always! The second and final concert for the season will be September 29. Mark your calendar!



Summer Reading Program for All Ages!

Kick-Off Party will be June 30 from 10 am to noon in the library parking lot. Free fun for all the family!

From July 2 to 28, kids returning books can choose a prize from the treasure chest. Our young reader to the left is admiring the prizes he will be able to choose from if he is a lucky winner.



Librarian Miss Lisa



White Tailed Deer Management Community Meeting

A community meeting will be held at Mather Training Center, 2nd floor, on July 2 at 7 pm, to discuss the proposed deer management plan. The results of the Wildlife Camera Survey and the Community Survey will also be discussed. A big thanks to all who participated in the surveys. The information you provided is essential in determining what our needs are in the management plan.

To review the draft ordinance that will allow participation in the State Urban White Tailed Deer Archery Program, [click here](#). Please bring your comments to the meeting, or if you are unable to attend, please forward them on to Mayor Anderson at mayor@harpersferrywv.us or Laura Clark (AKA Wright) at outfitter1996@yahoo.com.

Submitted by Laura Clark, Master Naturalist

West Ridge Street browsers



Special thanks to Roger Harris, archery expert, who helped the Town with drafting the proposed ordinance and regs.



What Tree is that?

The Tree ID Walk was a great success. Robert Hanna from the State Division of Forestry led the walk, accompanied by Jessica Wise, the State representative on the Town's Tree Committee.



Shown on this page are Robert Hanna with a stem from a locust tree and pointing out how to identify a tree species. Lori Kennedy is also shown reaching for a sample leaf.



Hackberry leaf

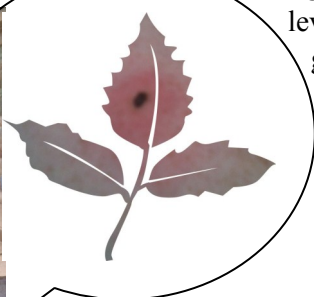


Poison Ivy Breakout!

With global warming and carbon dioxide levels rising, the nasty weed is growing more vigorously and producing more of the evil oil that makes people itch.



Resident Bruce displays how he has become the latest victim.



Long-time resident, Ruth Craven, meeting newcomer Sylvia Cunningham.



Water Works Report



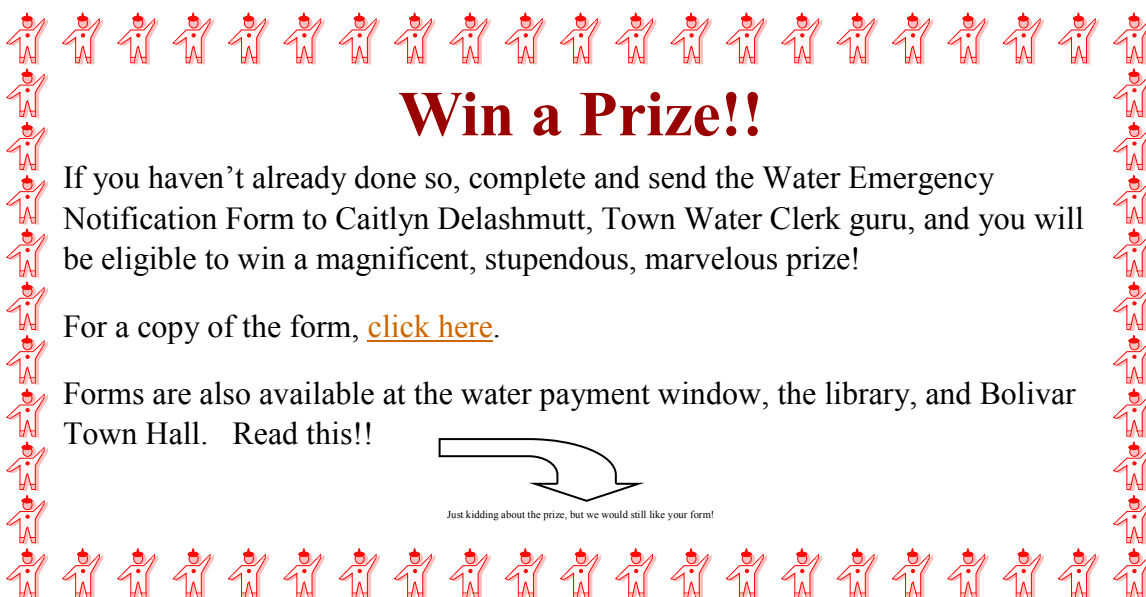
The Water Works has experienced a sound financial year this past fiscal year. By fixing leaks in the system, we have saved in other areas, allowing us to purchase some much needed equipment for both the plant and the distribution system.

Distribution: We purchased new tools and power equipment to make our job more cost effective. The new line locator will allow us to track service lines and main lines above ground, eliminating the time-consuming search process used in the past.

Plant: New digital scales have replaced old rusted ones and an entirely new and more efficient fluoride system has been installed. New monitoring equipment, purchased to replace obsolete equipment, will aid in the plant running more efficiently as well.

The Water Works' mission is to provide its customers with the best service possible, and we thank you for your continued support in our efforts.

Submitted by Josh Carter, Water Systems Manager



Win a Prize!!

If you haven't already done so, complete and send the Water Emergency Notification Form to Caitlyn Delashmutt, Town Water Clerk guru, and you will be eligible to win a magnificent, stupendous, marvelous prize!

For a copy of the form, [click here](#).

Forms are also available at the water payment window, the library, and Bolivar Town Hall. Read this!!



Just kidding about the prize, but we would still like your form!

York Street Guardrail Nixed...for Now

A project to install a safety guardrail at the bottom of York Street was requested by residents concerned about drivers coming down the steep York Street road from Fillmore Street to Henry Clay Street.

After getting the project identified, budgeted, and under contract, it was discovered that it could not be installed due to the combined factors of the location of a water line adjacent to the road and the steepness of the shoulder area along Henry Clay Street. So, as they say, back to the drawing board.

THE GILDED FLEA

ANTIQUES & MATHOMS

The Gilded Flea is a new business in the old Temperance Hall / Funeral Home at 970 Washington Street in Harpers Ferry. It opened this past April and folks are noticing the unusual items displayed outside. The large, bright red horn from an old Victrola is a real eye-catcher.

The friendly owner and proprietor is Dwayne Brooke, who refers to himself as "Number 1 Fry Cook and Head Potato Salter." He says his lovely wife Krista "helps to discover, arrange, design, and find chemistry between items...and basically classes up the joint."

The name of the business comes from the concept of combining the great deals and never-know-what-you're-gonna-find aspects of a flea market with the quality and nostalgia of a nice antique shop. The word 'mathom' (Old English: *maðm*) was supposedly current sometime around 1000 A.D. and means "a valuable treasure or precious gift." Dwayne says: "We got the word from Tolkien whose Hobbits used the word. Their fashion of giving others gifts on their own birthdays eventually caused their dwellings to become crowded with mathoms. They even created community 'mathom houses' to store them after time. Sound familiar, eh?"



Here you'll find a little of everything: 19th century Pie Safes, Jelly Cupboards, and Curio Cabinets, Persian Rugs, Original Oil Paintings, Musical Instruments, Vintage Hats and Shoes, Vinyl Records and Players, Bowls, Dishes, Cups, Mugs, Plates, Bottles, Toys, etc. And several reclaimed furniture items made of old Barn Doors, Victorian Corbels, old Industrial Tool Cabinets, and whatnot. And of course an interesting bunch of random mathoms to explore.



When asked what's unusual or popular, Dwayne responds: "The Pickle Grinder is a really interesting item. I can't even find one of these on the Internet...so if you're looking for something unique for the mantle...we've got it. Otherwise, folks seem to really dig the hats and records."

The Gilded Flea is open Thursday through Sunday, 11am-6pm, and by appointment. Folks can get in touch by cell: 304.268.0763, email: mail@gildedflea.com, or by calling the shop during business hours: 304.571.7119. For the web site or Facebook go to: www.gildedflea.com and www.facebook.com/gildedflea



If you're still not yet eager to check out all their mathoms - how about your own mathoms? Dwayne has a real kicker to get you in the door: "We buy as well as sell, so if you have something ideal to contribute, let's talk business."

- Submitted by Rene Fecteau renefec@juno.com