

Harpers Ferry Community Newsletter



December 2012

Volume 9 Issue 12

Join us for the Harpers Ferry Holiday Party



Wednesday, December 19, 2012 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Harpers Ferry Train Station

*"Christmas comes but once a year..."
a time for sharing and reconnecting with family
and friends.*

*Join us this year as we gather to celebrate and
socialize in the Town's room at the Train Station.
A perfect opportunity to get to know one another
better, make new acquaintances and enjoy some
seasonal treats.*

You might even win a door prize!

*If you'd like you may sign up and bring your
favorite finger food to share, follow this link
<http://www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/HFHolidayParty>.*

*Happy Holidays and
we look forward to seeing you at the Train
Station,*

-- Mayor and Town Council --

Inside this issue:

Water Works news	2
Calendar	3
Council Meeting Report	4
Women's Club news	
Work about town	5
Tree news	
Planning Commission	6
Foundation update	
Municipal Elections	7
More Pictures	
Blast from the past	8
Contacts info	

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

Water Works Float Brings Good Cheer

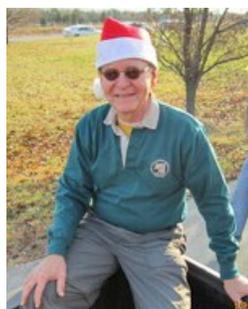
The Harpers Ferry Water Works entered a magnificent float in the Christmas Parade sponsored by the Friendship Fire Company on December 8. Credit goes to Josh Carter, manager of the Harpers Ferry Water works, and members of his staff Brandon Chualas and Chris Styer who planned and decorated the animated float featuring a Santa snow globe and huge wrapped presents. Riding in the float were Mayor Joe Anderson and members of the Water Commission including Barbara Humes, Ray Balut, and Christy Huddle. Christy provided a rousing medley of Christmas songs on her saxophone while Chris and Brandon handed out candy canes to all the children gathered along the parade route. Barbara reminded all parade watchers along the route to drink plenty of water because the Harpers Ferry Water Works provides the best water around. Pulling the float was the Harpers Ferry Water Works truck driven by Josh. A big Merry Christmas from the Water Works staff!



L to R: Ray Balut, Barb Humes, Chris Styer, Mayor Anderson, Brandon Chualas, Christy Huddle, and Josh Carter



Moving down Washington Street in full glory



Santa Mayor



Chris and Brandon inspect the Water Works float before getting underway



Christy Huddle

Small Water Rate Increase

The Harpers Ferry Water Works has found it necessary to raise water rates to cover an increase in operational costs, salaries, and basic maintenance. The rates will rise by 4 percent and is effective in late January 2013. A typical homeowner with a 5/8 inch meter can expect to see his basic monthly bill increase by 83 cents. The use of the first 5,000 gallons of water will increase by 42 cents per 1,000 gallons. For a complete explanation of the rates that have been adopted please see the [official tariff](#) posted on the [town website](#), Water Commission page. Water rates were last increased in 2009 when they rose 30 percent.

Articles submitted by Barbara Humes, Water Commission

Town Calendar

All meetings at Town Hall, unless noted otherwise.

- Dec 18 Souper Tuesday, Canal House, Washington & Gilbert Streets, 6pm**
- Dec 19 Town Christmas Party, Harpers Ferry Train Station, 7-9pm (see page 1)
- Dec 19 Special Town Council meeting, year end budget adjustments and parking ordinance, 5pm
- Dec 20 Water Commission meeting, 7:30-9pm
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Holiday, 12pm-4:30pm, Office Closed**
- Dec 25 Christmas Holiday, Office Closed**
- Dec 26 Harpers Ferry Foundation Board meeting, 5:30-7:30pm
- Dec 27 Tree Committee meeting, 7-9pm
- Dec 31 New Years Eve Holiday, 12pm-4:30pm, Office Closed**
- Jan 1 New Years Holiday, Office Closed**
- Jan 1 Planning Commission meeting, 7-8:30pm
- Jan 2 Absentee ballot applications - military / overseas
- Jan 2 Municipal Court, 7-9pm
- Jan 3 Historic Landmarks Commission meeting, 7-9pm
- Jan 5 Planning Commission worksession on new Zoning Ordinance, 8:30am-12pm
- Jan 7 Police Committee meeting, Bolivar Community Center, 8-9:30am
- Jan 8 Potomac Street Project Steering Committee meeting, 2pm
- Jan 14-25 Candidate filing for Town elections
- Jan 17 Water Commission meeting, 7:30-9pm
- Jan 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday, Office Closed
- Jan 22 Planning Commission Public Hearing, 6:30-8:30pm
- Jan 23 Harpers Ferry Foundation Board meeting, 5:30-7:30pm
- Jan 24 Tree Committee meeting, 7-9pm
- Jan 28 Historic Landmarks Commission meeting, 7-8:30pm



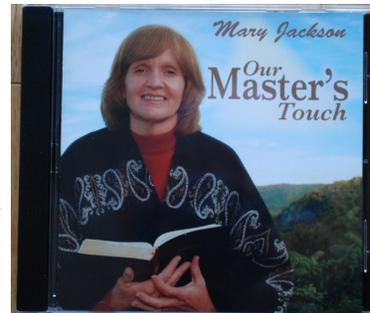
Zan Fleming about to hang evergreen garlands, wearing his Christmas shorts - temperature was 44 degrees. Now that's Christmas spirit!



Need a great gift idea? Gretchen Fry, Bolivar-Harpers Ferry librarian, has plenty of books for sale.

Local Singer Cuts First CD

Mary Jackson, lead singer of The Angel Band at Camp Hill -Wesley United Methodist Church in Harpers Ferry, has just released her first CD called *Our Master's Touch*.



Barbara Osment, the church's music director, and Doug Craze, bass player in The Angel Band, began formulating a plan in 2011 to share Mary's soulful voice and the messages found within the songs. Some fifteen months later, after securing copyright releases and numerous taping sessions, the CD is now released. Doug Craze directed and produced the CD. Copies are available from local vendors or by contacting the church office at 304-535-3060.

Council Meeting Report

At its December meeting, the Council:

[Town Website](#) *Click here*

1. Adopted an ordinance prohibiting text messaging while operating a vehicle.
2. Approved annual vacation leave carryover into 2013 for police officers unable to take leave due to work schedule needs.
3. Confirmed re-appointments as follows: Historic Landmarks Commission - Steve Sherry; Planning Commission - Dick Cunningham and Bob Dawson; and Tree Committee- Kevin Carden, Christy Huddle, and Mike Kennedy.
4. Approved Sargent Burkholder attending a Property Room Management training seminar.
5. Received a presentation on a draft Stormwater Management Ordinance recommended by the Planning Commission and referred it for legal review (pending award of a Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant).
6. Received a presentation on the Tree Committee's 2012 accomplishments and approved the Committee's 2013 Community Tree Plan.
7. Approved a 4% increase in water rates.
8. Adopted a new ordinance (Article 740- Reciprocal Information Exchange) allowing the town to exchange and compare B&O tax payment information with the state.
9. Discussed adoption of a new Traffic Code recommended by the Planning Commission and tabled action pending further subcommittee review.
10. Approved a first reading of an ordinance change to add sexual orientation as a class protected from discrimination (Article 137- Human Relations Commission).

Anyone wishing to review any of the documents or information considered by the Council (the Council "packet") for past (or pending) meetings can find them on the town website (www.harpersferrywv.us) under "Council Docs". The documents are posted to the website the Friday before regular Council meetings. A paper copy is also available in a public meeting notebook available at Town Hall.

Harpers Ferry Woman's Club Holiday Activities

The Harpers Ferry Woman's Club had a good turnout for the annual Christmas decorating of the clubhouse at 856 Washington Street. They also decorated the town garden fountain for the holidays.



Chris Perun, left, and Su Schmidt.



Front: L to R: Fran Syzmanski, Suzanne Koenig, Marianne Bayer and Su Schmidt
Back: Carole Carter, Gerry Smith, Terry Alexander, Fran Curtin, Chris Perun and Jean Hale.



Gazebo to Get New Bannisters

John Van Vliet (right) is rebuilding the gazebo railing. Note the rotten end pieces (left) in the existing railing. John has donated his time and the Women's Club donated \$1,000 towards materials. The town thanks you!!!



Work About Town

Jay and Carrie, who recently bought the Spy House, are busy fixing things up.



Local stone and steel man Carl Stohl getting ready to replace the Womens' Club Chimney.

Tree Work, Now and in January

Potomac Energy has had its crew moving through town trimming trees in the public rights of way so they don't touch the power lines. Their goal is to do this work every five years and in accordance with required standards. The purpose is to reduce the damage done during high wind storm events or heavy snow and ice storms, as well as to ensure that young children (and adults!) who like to climb trees are unable to come close to the power lines.

In January, the Tree Committee's contractor will be cutting dead branches out of trees that could drop into the public right of way and trimming smaller street trees for form. The Tree Committee will be putting a video of the latter work on its website for home owners. The Committee has a list of appropriate street trees for the public right of way, with only smaller trees allowed under the power lines. [Click here](#) to view the tree list.



Tree Committee from left to right: Steve Malstedt, Mike Kennedy, Kevin Carden (chair), Christy Huddle, Shelly Cox

Planning Commission Report

At its regular meeting on Tuesday, December 4, the Planning Commission completed a review of the proposed Stormwater Management Ordinance and forwarded it to the Council for legal review and Council consideration.

The Commission also began its review of a revised Zoning Ordinance. See the October issue of the Town newsletter for more information on this project. The Commission will continue its review at its next two regular meetings (January 8 and February 5). A public hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 22 at 6:30 pm. A copy of the draft revised Zoning Ordinance will be posted on the Town website (Planning Commission page) in advance of the hearing. Your comments are welcome either at the hearing or via email and in writing. Please join us at any of our regular meetings while the proposal is being reviewed and discussed.



Foundation Update

The Foundation has a lot to be thankful for this holiday season. We are ready to start the New Year with many interesting projects. Thanks to our successful fall fundraiser and donations from Harpers Ferry, Bolivar and the Merchants, we can cover the required matching funds for a pair of grants to help pay for the projects.

At our yearly business meeting, we elected new resident Bill Lowenbach and new ATC Executive Director Mark Wenger to be members of our board of directors. They will bring some broad experience, new views and new ideas to the table. Two new officers were also elected: Laurel Drake from Bolivar as President and Dick Cunningham as VP.

We have just printed the first run of our new “tear sheet” style of the Harpers Ferry / Bolivar visitors guide. We will be testing it from now thru early spring at local merchants, the new border patrol training center and on the front desks of our local hotels and other hotels in Charles Town and Shepherdstown. So far it has been well received.

We are about to send out an RFP to hire a professional to do an assessment of economics, housing, available resources and the heritage tourism market. We expect it to provide some recommendations and guidance to the Foundation and the Town Council.

We will start work on the first phase of developing a smart phone app that directs visitors to places to stay, eat, shop and play as well as provide self-guided tours of historical, cultural, and natural points of interest.

On another note, we very much miss our late friend and colleague Don Alexander.

Al Alsdorf for The Board of Directors, Harpers Ferry Foundation

Harpers Ferry 2013 Municipal Election

Harpers Ferry will hold its municipal elections for Mayor, Recorder and all five Council members on Tuesday, June 11, 2013. All residents who plan to seek office are required to file with the Town Recorder, Kevin Carden, during the period beginning January 14, 2013, and ending January 25, 2013. Forms will be available at Town Hall during the filing period.

For more information regarding the election, contact Kevin Carden, Town Recorder or Dee Anderson, Town Clerk, 304 535-2206 ext. 2.



Jared Kline and Noah Simmons help light the Gazebo Christmas tree at the November 23 lighting ceremonies .



Town Clerk Dee was going to be in the Inwood Christmas parade, but her horse decided to roll in the mud the night before the parade. Here's her friend BriAnna's horse instead.



Harpers Ferry Post Office getting a new roof

Blast from the Past: Notes from 120 Years of Council Minutes
Collected by Dan Riss with original spellings left intact

5 apr 1923 "It is moved...that the Thear [Thayer] Brothers is granted permission to put in an additional gass Tank in line with the one they have now in operation at their garage at the old Jonadab Hall on Camp Hill."

6 apr 1923 Mayor advised by W H Savery of the Shennandoah Pulp Co that their Board of Directors decided to permit the use of a section of "our Island of Virginus...as a camping ground for Auto parties during the coming summer."

16 apr 1945 "Motion...rhat rate of pay for labor working for the Corporation be raised from 30¢ to 40¢ per hour. Passed unan."

8 may 1945 "In accordance with a proclamation of the President of the United states, Harry S Truman, proclaiming this day, the 8th day of May 1945, Victory-in-Europe Day. Therefore, I, Lewis D Nichols, Mayor of the town of Harpers Ferry, do hereby request, all stores and places of business, close from 12:00 o'clock, noon, for the remainder of the day. "



Communicating with the Mayor and Council

Mayor	Joe Anderson 304-582-2377 joewa2@juno.com
Recorder	Kevin Carden 304-535-2206 kevin.carden@live.com
Council members	Betsy Bainbridge betsybainbridge@yahoo.com
	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