

Harpers Ferry Community Newsletter



May 2013

Volume 10 Issue 5

Harpers Ferry Elections: June 11

It's almost time to cast your ballot. Who is running and what are their goals for Harpers Ferry? We thought we would get those answers on what they thought were the most important issues facing the town. Cast your ballot on June 11 at **Camp Hill United Methodist Church**. Early voting days and hours are on the [Calendar](#).

For Mayor Greg Vaughn:



I believe there are five major issues confronting our town. 1. **Hilltop Hotel**. It is imperative that we re-engage the investment group in a cooperative and professional manner. Allowing this issue to remain dormant would be unconscionable. 2. **Degraded Properties**. It is simply unacceptable for our historic and nationally acclaimed town to be degraded by certain property owners who have chosen to allow their properties to decline. We have an obligation to the current and future generations of Harpers Ferry, as well as our visitors from all over the world, to preserve our unique neighborhood, and present ourselves in the best possible light. 3. **Infrastructure**. Our streets, sidewalks, curbs, and water system are falling increasingly into disrepair, in spite of some improvements in recent years. A 10-20 year plan needs to be fully developed on how to confront both current and projected needs. 4. **Potomac Street**. Although we are well into the design phase of the project, we need to be prepared for setbacks, delays, and funding constraints. We must remain aggressive, attentive, and reactive. 5. **Revenue**. We continue to face declining revenues. Even though we have undertaken aggressive action to collect delinquent water/sewer bills and business taxes, our principal economic decline lies with the vacant Hilltop Hotel. Efforts need to be broadened to address this issue.

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For Town Council Betsy Bainbridge:



Our new town Vision Statement points to the most important issues we face in the next two years. While it emphasizes our appreciation of the town's surrounding natural beauty and significant place in history, it also expresses our desire for a village that "thrives as a unique and independent jurisdiction." We are an independent municipality today, and to thrive I firmly believe that town government must now make significant strides toward: - Ordinances that are agreed to by town residents, legally supportable, and equitably enforced. - Sufficient staff to expertly support the volunteers and officials who conduct the town's business. - Increased revenues for capital improvements, revitalizing our housing stock, preserving our historic properties, and investing in tourism. A successful Hilltop Hotel is likely to bring the financial wherewithal to address all the issues I've mentioned. I pledge to make these my top priorities and ask for your vote if you agree.

Continued on next page

For Town Council Helen "Hap" Becker:



Our most compelling issue is sustaining an orderly and transparent process for conducting Town business. We are a small town with big ideas, so specific issues about which there are conflicting opinions will emerge. We cannot always anticipate these, but we can continue to adhere to open and mutually respectful decision-making that invites everyone's participation. Our second important issue is to institutionalize the habit of examining the extent to which town ordinances and practices reflect what the community feels is important. This process has resulted in great strides, by the Council and by many community volunteers, toward updating town ordinances. It is essential that our ordinances and our comprehensive plan align with State code and reflect a consensus about who we are as a community. It is vital to our sense of community that this process be continual and that one hallmark of this process be thoughtful and cordial debate.

For Town Council Jerry Hutton:



I have enjoyed serving with Mayor Anderson, the Council and dedicated volunteers, working together amicably to meet the challenges faced by a small Town in a difficult economy. When you compare the gridlock in Congress and vituperative atmosphere in some Jefferson County governments, that alone has been a significant accomplishment. I have led in efforts to significantly modernize our ordinances, particularly with regard to our taxing authority, zoning, public safety and human rights. We have formed new alliances to find grants vital to improving our infrastructure and attracting more tourists to Harpers Ferry. We are in the midst of creating new tools to more effectively regulate but constructively encourage development of the Hilltop

House property. We have overseen needed reforms in our water company and police departments to better and more efficiently serve the public. I hope that you will give me your vote of confidence to continue this work.

For Town Council Dan Riss:



The most important task for the next two years is to get our planning and zoning up to snuff. I am helping to review proposed changes to current procedures prior to placing the texts before the public in workshops and hearings this summer and fall. The elephant in the room is the task of trying to fit a viable hotel into the space available in the town so as not to overwhelm this historic town.

For Town Council Charlotte Thompson:



The four most important issues facing Harpers Ferry are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan. They are: **1. Comprehensive Plan:** Protect and Preserve Harpers Ferry's historic integrity. *Council task:* Completion of The Potomac Street beautification project. **2. Comprehensive Plan:** Expand the town's commercial development in a manner that complements the historic character of Harpers Ferry. *Council task:* Work to the reopen a compatible, community oriented and economically viable hotel on the Hilltop site. **3. Comprehensive Plan:** Ensure a sufficient supply of potable water to the Town's current and future residents. *Council task:* Support the Harpers Ferry Water Commission proposal to upgrade the treatment plant and distribution system. **4. Comprehensive Plan:** Complete street and sidewalk improvements in the Town. *Council task:* Submit grant

For Recorder Kevin Carden:



The relative calm we have enjoyed for the past two years must continue for the well-being of our town and its residents. We have accomplished quite a bit of great work, but we still have a long road ahead of us. Getting our ordinances up-to-date, in State compliance, and enforceable must be priorities, while maintaining the vision that we put in place this past year. I look forward to working with our new administration to achieve these goals.

Town Calendar

All meetings at Town Hall, unless noted otherwise.

- May 27** **Memorial Day Holiday, Offices Closed**
- May 27 Historic Landmarks Commission meeting, 7-8:30pm
- May 28 Bolivar and Harpers Ferry Council meeting, 7-8pm
- May 29-June 8** **Early Voting, 8:30-4:30pm**
- May 31** **Music in the Park, Bolivar Community Park, 6:30-8:30 (see page 4)**
- June 1** **Second Annual African American History Hike (see page 4)**
- June 1** **Music on the Ridge, Columbia paper street, 6pm (see below)**
- June 1** **BBQ on the Ridge, Columbia paper street, 5:30-7pm, (see below)**
- June 4 Planning Commission meeting, 7-8:30pm
- June 5 Municipal Court, 7-9pm
- June 8 & 9** **National Get Outdoors Day, 9-5pm (see page 4)**
- June 10 Town Council meeting, 7-9pm
- June 11** **Municipal Elections, Camp Hill-Wesley United Methodist, 6:30am - 7:30pm**
- June 12 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, 6-7pm
- June 14 & 15** **Harpers Ferry Outdoor Festival, [click here](#)**
- June 17 Police Committee meeting, Bolivar Community Center, 8-9:30am
- June 17 Trail and Town Alliance meeting, 5-7pm
- June 17 Board of Canvassers meeting, 7-8pm
- June 18 Potomac Street Project Steering Committee meeting, 1-3pm
- June 20** **West Virginia Day, Holiday, Offices Closed**
- June 22** **NPS 150th Anniversary of WV Statehood event, 11-4pm, [click here](#)**
- June 27** **Water Commission 6:30-7:30; Tree Committee 7:30-9pm**

Events!

MUSIC ON THE RIDGE
CONCERT 6PM
JUNE 1, 2013

THE HARPERS FERRY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION KICKS OFF THE 2013 SUMMER SEASON WITH MUSIC ON THE RIDGE - 6:00 PM UNTIL DUSK - SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST (A FREE CONCERT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (DONATIONS ACCEPTED) AT EAST RIDGE & COLUMBIA STREETS HARPERS FERRY, WEST VIRGINIA 25425)

FOLK COUNTRY BLUES

OUR SEVENTH CONCERT FESTIVAL FEATURES:
• LIVE MUSIC WITH A PANORAMIC RIVER VIEW
• FOOD VENDORS (VENDOR SET-UP 5PM)
• LOCAL ARTISANS (ARTISAN SET-UP 5PM)
• LOCAL OUTFITTERS
• LOCAL INFORMATION/ ORGANIZATIONS

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE HARPERS FERRY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AND THEIR CHOSEN CHARITIES. VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AND NEEDED. PLEASE CALL 240-729-5554 FOR INFORMATION. LAWN SEATING IS LIMITED - COME EARLY WITH BLANKET/LAWN CHAIR!

ROCKZYDECO SEE YOU JUNE 1ST

TOWN OF HARPERS FERRY

A volunteer appreciation event!

BBQ on the Ridge
Saturday, June 1st, 5:30 to 7:00 pm
East Ridge Street

Harpers Ferry Mayor and Town Council invite you to join us in recognizing the many volunteers who have generously shared their time and talents for the benefit of the community in the past year. Please come enjoy a BBQ dinner with all the fixin's accompanied by the annual concert, Music on the Ridge, sponsored by the Parks & Recreation Department.

Advance tickets sold at Town Hall until May 20th: \$12
Limited number of tickets at the door: \$15

In case of rain, the event will take place at Camp Hill Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Second Annual African American History Hike, June 1

The ATC, in partnership with the National Park, will host the second annual African American History Hike in celebration of National Trails Day on Saturday, June 1 from 10 to 2. The one mile guided hike takes participants back in time as they learn about the rich African American history in Harpers Ferry along the AT. This event is free and open to the public.

The guided hike starts at 10 am in the ATC's Visitor Center, 799 Washington Street. It will be led by Park Service rangers and historians. Lunch will be provided at the end of the hike and there will also be a special craft session for children in the ATC Visitor Center courtyard by Kweli Kitwana, owner of the craft store, Art Shack, Baby! in Harpers Ferry's Lower Town. Space is limited for this event and pre-registration is required; e-mail Claire Hobbs at chobbs@appalachiantrail.org by May 30th to RSVP. For more information about this event, [click here](#).

Bolivar

Music in the Park

Series



Performance by:
Mike Gellar Jazz Trio

Date: Friday, May 31, 2013
Location: Bolivar Community Park
Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm

*Bring your chairs and enjoy our
Summer kick-off concert!*

Rain or Shine!

(If it rains, concert will be moved to the Bolivar Community Center.)

For more info, please contact Bolivar Town Hall
Phone: 304-535-2886 • Email: info@bolivarva.com
Website: <http://www.bolivarva.org/>

Kiosk unveiling, June 1

Our new kiosk at *The Point* will serve to orient guests to our towns, especially those arriving on foot or by bicycle. It is a project of the Trail and Town Alliance of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar, in cooperation with Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and funded in part by a grant from CSX.

4 p.m., Saturday, June 1
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
near the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers.
Refreshments will be served afterward at the Harpers Ferry Train Station.

Free parking and shuttle will be available at Cavalier Heights Visitors Center after 3 pm for those carrying this invitation. Very limited handicapped parking is available at the train station. For more information call Chris Craig at 304-535-2886.

National Get Outdoors Day, Saturday June 8, 9 am – 5 pm

Celebrate National Get Outdoors Day with your family at ATC's Visitor Center. Expert information from our staff about local hikes on the AT and other area trails and get the chance to meet an AT thru-hiker. Appalachian Trail Junior Ranger booklets will be available free of charge. After your hike, bring your child back to the visitor center to receive their Junior Ranger badge and certificate and get their photo taken in front of the ATC sign. For more information about the campaign, visit www.nationalgetoutdoorsday.org.

Notice of Public Hearing

by the Planning Commission on proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment

On Saturday, June 22 at 3 pm, the Harpers Ferry Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan at the Town Hall. The recommended amendments would add four new objectives to the Plan which would allow for future consideration of:

1. The use of preservation easements to improve the economic feasibility of historic preservation.
2. Establishing an overlay zone category for the Hilltop Hotel site to better balance creative re-use of the site with neighborhood compatibility.
3. Restriction on residential building density (one structure per lot, even after subdivision) and,
4. Establishing a process requiring Historic Landmarks Commission issuance of Certificates of Appropriateness prior to approval of renovation and new construction projects.

Interested parties may appear and be heard in regard to the proposals which testimony will be considered by the Planning Commission in drafting a final proposal for consideration by the Town Council. Copies of the proposed amendments are available from the Clerk at Town Hall, 1000 Washington Street, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, or at www.harpersferrywv.us. Written comments may also be mailed to The Corporation of Harpers Ferry, Planning Commission, PO Box 217, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425.

Planning Commission Report

The Commission continues its work on amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and the zoning ordinance. We welcome participation in our meetings as well as comments and questions: planning@harpersferrywv.us. The Commission has recorded its appreciation to the many individuals who have worked on the proposed amendments, but singled out the contributions of Christy Huddle and Don Burgess who volunteered as experts, not as Members of either Commission.

A second formal public hearing will be held on Saturday, June 22 at 3 pm to consider amendment proposals to the 2007 Comprehensive Plan. See notice in box above. The Commission aims to present a final draft set of recommended Comprehensive Plan amendments to Council thereafter.

A full set of proposed zoning amendments will follow at a later date, together with a document reflecting the Commission's studies and findings in support of the recommendations. These will be posted when available so that you are informed ahead of the Council deliberation process that will include at least two readings and several opportunities for comment. Meanwhile, twelve Frequently Asked Questions about the proposals and other relevant material (including future updates before commission meetings) can be found on the [Planning Commission page](#) of the Town website.



Our Mayor in India

Communicating with the Mayor and Council

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

Arbor Day and Ivy Day!

The Tree Committee was busy with two events. These photos tell it all.



Arbor day planting of Kousa dogwood donated by the State Division of Forestry. In front: Shelly Cox standing and Mike Kennedy kneeling. Back row L to R: Paul Mayhew, Kevin Carden, Finn Mayhew, Jessica Wise, Mayor Anderson, Terry Alexander (wife of the late Don Alexander whose photo she is holding) and Sue Myers (friend of Terry's).



Jessica Wise, from the state Division of Forestry, gives us a lesson on the proper way to plant a tree. She must know stuff - the Kousa dogwood is looking very happy now!



Barbara Humes and Steve Mahlstedt tackling one of 10 trees in the Harpers Ferry cemetery this Spring.



Kevin Carden and Steve take on the ivy, both English and poison, on this tree.

Betsy Bainbridge dwarfed by the ivy entangled tree. This amount of ivy can make a tree top-heavy and more likely to fall during a windstorm.



Your editor gets to enjoy her tulips for the first time in a decade, thanks to the Urban Archery program conducted last fall.



Resident Steve Ramberg, when asked what he's doing: "I have been putting lime on my lawn for 30+ years and haven't seen any difference. But it makes me feel better."

Photos by Christy Huddle, who also removed ivy!

Blast from the past: Notes from 120 years of Council minutes.

Collected by Dan Riss; original spellings left intact.

7

16 mar 1893 Accept proposal from J W Kloman to light the town with electric light. The electric plant to be free of taxation for 5 years from establishment.

18 jul 99 "Permission was granted J F Cassell to lay a water pipe from the Hill Top to his residence & from there down Filmore Ave to Chas H Trails, with the understanding that he leave the roads & streets in as good condition as he finds them."

3 july 1941 "Motion ...that the council employ L C Staubs to use the town truck to collect garbage in the corporation of Harpers Ferry on eash Saturday and that he (Staubs) accept donations for same & keep a record of such. Council to pay Staubs a salary of \$3.00 each Saturday that he works & supply gas & oil for the operation of truck: Carried unanimously."

2 aug 1949 "Motion...[that a] building permit be issued to Donald Eackles to build an additional 1 story building next to the Old Morge with a frontal change in architecture for the purpose of Funeral Chapel, office"

Opportunities to Get Involved

If interested in serving on any of the organizations below, please send a letter of interest, including your background, to the Mayor by June 15.

Water Commission: The Water Commission serves in an advisory capacity to assist the Town Council in carrying out its responsibilities in administering, operating and maintaining the Water Works. For more information [click here](#).

Parks and Recreation Commission: The Parks and Recreation Commission is responsible for establishing, improving, developing, administering, operating and maintaining the town's parks and recreational activities.

ATC Visitor Center Volunteer Opportunity

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is looking for volunteers to assist in their visitor center. If you enjoy meeting people from all over the world and are eager to help them enjoy and explore the town and trails of Harpers Ferry, than you'll find this a rewarding opportunity. Volunteers are needed on weekends and weekdays. More information is available [here](#).



Your editor really likes resident Georgia DuBose's willingness to be photographed in curlers. She's the greatest!



Newsletter Info

Editor: Christy Huddle

Next Deadline for articles: June 14

Submittal email: HarpersFerryNewsletter@yahoo.com

To get on submittal notification list, [click here](#).

Projects Underway

Rebuilding of the **Wager Alley town steps** from Potomac Street to Washington Street is actively under construction.

An **information kiosk** including a panel designed by the Town and Trail Alliance will be unveiled June 1 at the Point in lower town.

The Department of Highways (DOH) will paint some temporary dots on sections of Washington Street to help assess the implications of installing edge lines or demarcating parking spaces. They are also evaluating the relocation of the guardrail on Shenandoah Street at US340 at the request of the Police Department.



Photo by Kathryn Payne

The **Gazebo's metal roof** has been repainted and replacement perimeter **railing** is being painted prior to installation.

The Water Commission and Water Works are evaluating engineering companies for selection of a company to prepare engineering for a comprehensive system upgrade.



Photo by Kathryn Payne

Sequester Impact

The Town: As the Town Treasurer, I was asked what impact the federal sequester would have on our Town. Currently, the main impact is a 5% chargeback (we had to return) in funding the Town receives from the National Park Service that helps pay for Police services. While 5% may seem small, we were informed late in the budget year, (which ends in June), allowing only three months to make the necessary adjustments to the Police Department budget. In addition, it is unclear what reductions we may face in this funding in the fiscal year that begins July 1. Nevertheless, I want to emphasize that we will do our best to minimize the effects this funding reduction has, so as to maintain a safe and secure community.

Submitted by Kathryn Payne, Treasurer

The Park: Harpers Ferry National Historical Park has reduced its operating budget by \$333,000 as part of the 2013 "sequestration", a series of automatic, across-the-board spending cuts enacted by Congress to help reduce the federal deficit. The park has reduced programs, bus hours, maintenance of facilities & grounds, travel/training, overtime, supplies/materials and reduced the number of seasonal and permanent positions. While we have taken the necessary actions to comply with sequestration, the park does remain open, welcoming visitors and continuing to protect the resources entrusted to our care.

Special events were particularly targeted since they are expensive to plan, implement and staff. The Don Redman Heritage Awards & Jazz Concert has been moved to the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center Ballroom in Shepherdstown. This event on June 29 is being funded by the Harpers Ferry Historical Association and the Jefferson County NAACP. On June 22-23 the park will sponsor a two-day event celebrating the 150th anniversary of WV Statehood and Harpers Ferry's role in the Gettysburg Campaign. The park did receive youth project funding that will help implement the summer history programs.

Rebecca L. Harriett Superintendent

News from the Water Works

Water Works staff has so far completed testing of 75 percent of the water meters in the system. When done, it will be the first time all the meters will have been completely tested.

The Water Works staff has also fixed multiple leaks occurring in the service lines between water mains and customer meters. This leak detection program is ongoing. Both these programs have resulted in positive outcomes.

First, fixing faulty water meters means that all customers are paying fairly for the water that is used and this helps to keep water rates down. The revenue that is generated when all meters are working properly covers operational costs to keep our water system in good condition.

Second, the water loss in the system has been reduced from 50% loss to only 26% loss. We will be at the EPA recommended 15% loss threshold when we completely fix the rest of the leaks.

Third, fixing these leaks has greatly reduced the time it takes to produce sufficient clean water at the plant and has resulted in a savings in electricity, chemical use, maintenance, and other operational costs.

Submitted by Barbara Humes and Josh Carter

A Wet Spring Brings Lots of Mosquitos

Homemade Mosquito Trap (Works on Gnats, Too)

1 cup of hot water
1/4 cup of brown sugar

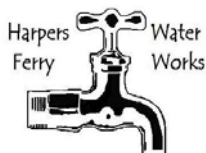
1 gram of yeast
2-liter plastic bottle

Cut plastic bottle in half. Mix sugar and water and let cool. Then pour into bottom half of bottle. Add yeast. No need to mix. Place funnel part upside down into other half of bottle, taping together if desired. Wrap bottle with something black, leaving top uncovered. Place outside in an area *away* from your normal gathering area. Change solution every two weeks for continuous control.

How it works: Mosquitoes are drawn to black and white. The yeast mixture creates carbon dioxide which also attracts mosquitoes.



Water Commission Update



The Water Department is renewing its contract with the Message911 robo-calling program. This program notifies each water service customer by phone and email or text message of emergencies that could affect customer health and safety, including pending water shut-offs affecting homes and businesses. This service is provided at no additional cost to customers, but every customer wanting to receive notification must register preferred contact information with the Water Department. Only a third of all water customers have signed up to take advantage of this service. Registration forms are

available at the Harpers Ferry Town Hall and can be downloaded [here](#).

The Water Commission voted to conduct a study to determine if it would be reasonable and practical to alter the water rate structure. The Harpers Ferry Water Works uses the traditional “declining rate structure” which means that the more gallons of water used, the lower the rate per gallon. The Commission is interested in determining if a flat rate (same cost per gallon regardless of amount used) would be more equitable. The Water Commission's findings will be shared with the public and public comment will be sought.

Submitted by Barbara Humes

Wayside Exhibit for IOOF Lodge on Fillmore Street



On May 18, Virginia Lodge #1, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, located on Fillmore Street in Harpers Ferry, celebrated its 180th anniversary with the dedication of a new wayside exhibit depicting the history of the Odd Fellows in America. On May 18, 1833, Grand Sire Thomas Wildey oversaw the establishment of the first Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodge in what was then Virginia. The IOOF's mission is to "visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead and educate the orphan." It supports many programs, including its Educational Foundation, with both

a revolving loan fund for qualified students and scholarships to deserving students; a home for orphaned children in Cambodia; vision care and research through the Wilmer Eye Institute; United Nations Pilgrimage for Youth; the Arthritis Foundation; Living Legacy which focuses on planting trees and enhancing the environment; and relief projects.

Women's Club Events a Success



The damp spring day of Saturday, May 11 did not stop the Woman's Club of Harpers Ferry from celebrating its 25th Annual Herb Fair in the Town Park on Washington Street. Shoppers enjoyed selecting plants for their spring gardens from a wide selection of herbs, flowers and vegetables, as well as homemade baked goods. A celebration cake was cut by Linda Rago who was instrumental in starting the herb fair tradition 25 years ago.



The last week in April the Woman's Club of Harpers Ferry assisted in the annual Historic House and Garden Tour by showing the Armory House on Washington Street, which held many family antiques and one-of-a-kind artifacts. Over 600 people toured the house during the weekend, as well as the gardens, planted by the owners, that were in full bloom and included a rain garden to handle water runoff.

Foundation Update

The "Visit Harpers Ferry and Bolivar" app for the smartphone is in trial phase now. The app will allow residents of Harpers Ferry/Bolivar and visitors to find historical information for many sites and info on all businesses and services. When it is finished, the iPhone/iPad version will be found on iTunes and the Android version will be found at the Google Play Store.

Two proposals for the Economic/Tourism study for Harpers Ferry/Bolivar have been received and are being reviewed by Board members.

Submitted by Laurel Drake, president



Senator Unger presents Town Hall roof grants totaling \$22,000 to Mayor Joe Anderson



Art Walk 2013

Photos by Kathryn Payne

Council Meeting Report

[Town Website](#) *Click here*

At its May meeting the Council:

1. Accepted a grant presented by Senator John Unger II of \$20,000 for repair and replacement of the Town Hall roof and \$2500 to support a music festival event.
2. Approved recommending Karen Townsend and John Maxey to the County Commission as candidates for serving on the Jefferson County Development Authority.
3. Approved a sign permit for West Ridge Hollow Bed and Breakfast at 1250 West Ridge Street.
4. Approved a building permit for façade repairs to 152 High Street, recommending replacement of stucco on the front elevation and requiring repair/replacement on the rear elevation.
5. Approved a draft FY2013-14 Police Budget for discussion and negotiation with Bolivar.
6. Approved revisions to the FY2012-13 Water Works Budget.
7. Approved \$2100 expenditure of Park and Recreation Commission funds for the Music on the Ridge event and directed that funds collected at the event in donation and food sale proceeds be allocated to the Commission to support future community events.
8. Accepted a proposal by the National Park Service to install speed reduction strips on Shenandoah Street (between the bus pavilion and Blacksmith Shop).
9. Approved expenditure of \$600 for participation in a USDA Wildlife Service, vulture deterrence and removal program to cover Bolivar/Harpers Ferry; Bolivar will be asked to pay one half the USDA contract fee.
10. Discussed community concerns over neighborhood cut through traffic on Mason Way and Boundary Street and requested that the Chief of Police work with the Bolivar and Harpers Ferry Planning Commissions to evaluate and make recommendations on possible enforcement and/or traffic restrictions.
11. Approved first reading of Ordinance 2013-14, amending Ordinance Article 1104 Tree Conservation, adding and clarifying certain definitions, further detailing causes for tree removal and specifying ivy as a pestilence.
12. Approved first reading of Ordinance 2013-05, amending Ordinance Article 505 Animals and Fowl, expanding animal nuisance vocalizations to include all animals and fowl, and restricting certain animals and fowl from running at large.
13. Approved first reading of Ordinance 2013-06, amending Ordinance Section 311.35 Operation of vehicle with safety belts, making failure to wear safety belts a primary offense.
14. Approved first reading of Ordinance 2013-07, amending Ordinance Section 313.25 use of an electronic communications device without handheld features while driving, making it a primary offense.
15. Approved first reading of Ordinance 2013-08, amending Ordinance Article 1109 Nuisances, expanding the definition of “nuisance” to include structure that are derelict or a safety hazard.
16. Approved first reading of Ordinance 2013-09, amending Ordinance Article 1715 Satellite Dish Antennas, allowing Earth-station satellite dish antennas of less than certain diameters.

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](#) 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 at Town Hall.



Resident Maddie Vidmar poses with her running shoes, still dirty, despite several washings, after participating in the grueling Tough Mudder event in Glengary WV



Maddie with her fellow Tough Mudderites (all three are military medics!), L to R, Jonathan Zorn (VA), Maddie Vidmar, Gabe Cisneros (MD), Pete Taylor (VA)



Just one lick, please???. Resident Rip Gautier eyes with envy the ice cream cones of the Gautier children.

Photos above by Christy Huddle



Wild and Wonderful Harpers Ferry - Bear!

We are fortunate to be cohabitating with native wildlife, including bear, in our community. There were three bear sightings here in April: on Union Street at the Women's Club, and at the RR crossing on Potomac Street. Black bear in our region den over the winter in a semi hibernation state called torpor, enabling them to overwinter easily when food is scarce. In March and April the bears are out looking for food. Over the last five years, bear have been seen in our region in the spring moving across Route 340 by the Quality Inn.

The most likely reason for bear here is from our own behavior with things bear view as food: trash cans, accessible compost piles, dirty BBQ grills, pet food left out, bird feeders, fruit trees....

A bear that becomes habituated to our food will be a problem for the community. Hang bird feeders at least 10 feet high above the ground and away from a tree trunk. Put trash in secure cans and put out on the morning of trash pickup (*Editor: hard to do with pickups at 4 am!*). It is exciting to see wildlife especially from the safety of your car or inside your home. It is tragic to see bear in our trash or being fed and habituated to humans. If this occurs, they become aggressive and fearless of people and the chances for the bear living a healthy life are minimal at best. If you see a bear please call the mayor's office so we can track activity. Talk to your neighbors about using best practices in cohabitating with wildlife.

Bear are sensitive, solitary creatures; they avoid contact with humans, and are rarely aggressive. Most communities in the Appalachians have bear living in close proximity to people with no problems. If you see a bear stand still, give it space and do not make eye contact which is considered threatening behavior to a bear. A bear will grunt and stamp its feet if threatened. Hold your ground and slowly back away. Don't run. Bears run at 35 miles an hour - you don't! A bear on hind legs is trying to get a better smell of the situation. Remember: if you are not aggressive, the bear will not respond aggressively. If you are hiking or walking around town, just have a whistle handy.

The bear seen here in April were likely just moving through. If you are lucky enough to see one, I hope you are endeared, knowing they are living happy and healthy lives free of human conflict.

Submitted by Laura Clark, now pursuing a Masters Degree in Environmental Science at American Public University.

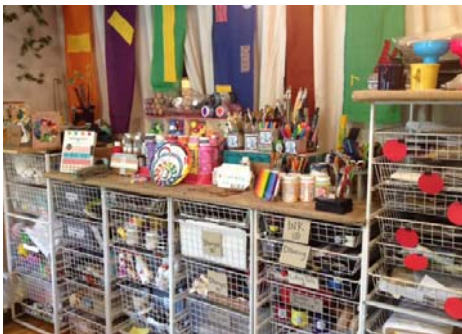
Art Shack, Baby!

A Very Special Arts & Crafts Shop



Art Shack, Baby! opened for business in January at 180 High Street. This truly unique shop specializes in promoting recycled projects, using creativity and expression. You can create anything from the basic to the sophisticated using a variety of recycled materials and your imagination. The “Sip and Craft” on the first and third Fridays of the month allows customers 21 and over to BYOB and craft.

Owners (and Harpers Ferry residents) Kweli (above) and Mosi Kitwana say they got the name for their business from The B-52s’ song, Love Shack, Baby! They liked the upbeat and funky expression and thought it would help customers to remember their name.



Art Shack, Baby!, provides a community space for creating while promoting recycling by local businesses and residents. It is a walk-in studio, open six days a week, Tuesday thru Sunday from 11-5pm, and by appointment. Saturday’s are their busiest time. They offer a one hour walk-in studio session for \$15 (\$10 for children).

Check in with them by calling 304-885-0730 or "like" them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/artshackbaby. Visit their website at

Stop in, say hello, partake in some funky crafts, and get to know Art Shack Baby!

www.artshackbaby.com.



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