

Harpers Ferry Community Newsletter



June 2013

Volume 10 Issue 6

Thank You – and It Does Take a Village!

Election Results: Everyone won!

It takes a village of many citizens willing to give their time, effort and talents to the many essential tasks of running our small Town. My thanks to all those individuals who have stepped up and served the Town in so many ways. Without the teamwork of the Council, our Commissions, various Committees, and individuals dedicated to projects - we could not accomplish all that we do together. Your contributions are too numerous to single out but truly too essential to do without.

My thanks as well to our dedicated Town staff, who though limited in number and resources, capably handle a broad array of municipal responsibilities. For Kathryn's tireless efforts in improving transparency, discipline and compliance in our financial management. For Josh's accomplishments in improving Water Works efficiency, integrity and competency. For Chief Brown's success in implementing community policing while maintaining our safety and security. And thanks to all their staff for supporting their missions. We rely on you all to keep our house in order and things running smoothly.



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My thanks and appreciation also go to agencies and organizations here in Harpers Ferry. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Historic Town Foundation, the Merchants Association, the National Park Service and the Women's Club have been so helpful and cooperative and a pleasure to work with. They have all contributed in so many ways to the benefit of the Town.

All together, looking back at the challenges, accomplishments and ongoing efforts initiated in the past two years, it has been my honor working with all of you and serving as your Mayor.

Much has been accomplished and as is always the case, much remains to be done. Please join me in giving Greg your support as our new Mayor, and my best wishes to you all.

Mayor Joe Anderson

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

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All meetings at Town Hall, unless noted otherwise.

- June 21** **Rick Garland tours celebrating WV 150th anniversary, see [page 3](#)**
Police Agreement Review Committee meeting, 3-5pm
- June 22** Public Hearing on Comp Plan amendments, 3-5pm
NPS 150th Anniversary of WV Statehood event, 11-4pm, [click here](#)
- June 24** Historic Landmarks Commission meeting, 7-8:30pm
- June 26** Harpers Ferry Foundation Board meeting, 5:30-7:30 pm
- June 27** Water Commission 6:30-7:30; Tree Committee 7:30-9pm
- June 29** **Annual Don Redman concert, see [page 3](#)**
- July 2** Planning Committee meeting, 7-8:30pm
- July 3** Municipal Court, 7-9pm
- July 4** **Independence Day celebration, noon, Gazebo Park, see page 3 (Town Hall closed)**
- July 8** Town Council meeting, 7-9pm
- July 10** Parks and Recreation Community meeting, 6-7pm
- July 16** Potomac Street Project Steering Committee meeting, 1-3pm
- July 18** Water Commission meeting, 7-9pm
- July 23** **Economic development and tourism opportunities forum, 6-8pm, see [page 5](#)**
- July 25** Tree Committee meeting , 7-9pm



by Christy Huddle, using the panorama feature on her iPhone

Kiosk Unveiled!

On June 1, folks gathered to unveil an informational kiosk between John Brown's Fort and the pedestrian pathway to the C&O Canal. In addition to Park panels, the kiosk includes a town panel that orients visitors arriving in Harpers Ferry by foot or bicycle to services and information sources available.

Pictured here during the unveiling are Javier Folgar, Director of Marketing, Appalachian Trail Conservancy; Chris Craig, Chair of Trail and Town Alliance of Bolivar and Harpers Ferry; Wendy Janssen, Superintendent of Appalachian Trail National Scenic Trail; Rebecca Harriett, Superintendent of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park; Kevin Brandt, Superintendent of the C&O Canal National Historical Park; and Lois Turco, board member of the Canal Town Partnership Program.



Celebrate WV's 150th Anniversary!

June 20, 11 am: You're invited to attend the Naturalization Program hosted by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Lower Town area. Approximately twenty new citizens will take the oath of citizenship.



June 21: Attend these exciting tours by Rick Garland in Lower Town:

- 11 am** Harpers Ferry History Tour
- 4 pm** Historical Songs and Stories Concert Show
- 8 pm** The Harpers Ferry Ghost Tour

June 23: Attend the many events taking place in the National Historical Park. For more information, click [here](#).

Don Redman Concert, June 29 (in Shepherdstown!)

The 12th annual Don Redman Heritage Awards & Concert will be held June 29 at 6 pm. This year's concert will take place at the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center Ballroom 233 Lowe Drive, in Shepherdstown. Featured guests are jazz legends Buster Cooper and Eddie Gomez, with the Howard Burns Quartet. This event is sponsored by the Harpers Ferry Historical Association and the Jefferson County NAACP in cooperation with the Don Redman Heritage Society of Piedmont, WV.

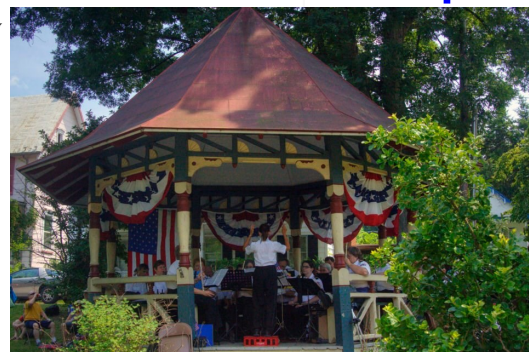
Buster Cooper is an extroverted trombone stylist best-known for his association with Duke Ellington. His witty style is always a joy to hear. Legendary bassist Eddie Gomez has been on the cutting edge of music for over four decades. The two time Latin Grammy award-winner's impressive resume includes performances with jazz giants Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Bill Evans, Gerry Mulligan and Benny Goodman.



Harpers Ferry Celebrates the Fourth at Gazebo Park

Following tradition, the Town 4th of July celebration will be held in the Gazebo Park. Food will be served by the Harpers Ferry Women's Club starting at noon. The Rohrsersville Cornet Band will play starting at 1 pm.

Bring your folding chairs and blankets to gather for a fun time!



Council Meeting Report

[Town Website](#) *Click here*

At its June meeting, the Council:

1. Approved final revisions to the General Fund budget for FY 2012-13.
2. Approved funding for repainting the interior of the Gazebo in the current fiscal year.
3. Assigned Betsy Bainbridge and Charlotte Thompson to represent Harpers Ferry on a Harpers Ferry/ Bolivar Council Committee tasked with developing a cost sharing proposal for police operations. between the two towns.
4. Adopted a resolution in support of the Jefferson County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan.
5. Approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Jefferson County to allow the County to assume Harpers Ferry's floodplain management responsibilities.
6. Referred drafting of a trash collection ordinance for businesses to the Ordinance Review Committee and requested a letter be sent to businesses concerning the removal and prohibition of dumpsters expected in the fall in anticipation of the Potomac Street project construction.
7. Passed amendment to Article 1104- Tree Conservation, adding and classifying certain definitions, further detailing causes for tree removal, and specifying ivy as a pestilence.
8. Passed amendment to 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.
9. Passed amendment to Article 311- Safety and Equipment, making not wearing safety belts a primary offense.
10. Passed amendment to Article 313- Miscellaneous Rules, making use of handheld electronic communication devices while driving a primary offense.
11. Passed amendment to Article 1109- Nuisances, expanding the definition of nuisances to include derelict and hazardous structures.
12. Passed amendment to Article 1715- Satellite Dish Antennas, setting criteria for satellite dish antennas.
13. Supported submittal of a grant application to establish and promote a recycling program.



The Board of Canvassers meets to affirm the election results

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.

How Removing Trees Can Kill You

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This is an excerpt from [an article by Jason Kane](#), reported and producer for the PBS News-Hour.

The trees died first. One hundred million of them in the eastern and midwestern United States. The culprit: the emerald ash borer, a beetle that entered the U.S. through Detroit in 2002 and quickly spread to Iowa, New York, Virginia and nearly every state between. The bug attacks all 22 species of North American ash and kills nearly every tree it infests.

Then came the humans. In the 15 states infected with the bug starting, an additional 15,000 people died from cardiovascular disease and 6,000 more from lower respiratory disease compared with uninfected areas of the country.

A team of researchers with the U.S. Forest Service looked at data from 1,296 counties, accounted for the influence of other variables -- things like income, race, and education -- and came to a simple conclusion: Having fewer trees around may be bad for your health. Their findings, [published recently in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine](#), suggest an associative rather than a direct, causal link between the death of trees and the death of humans.

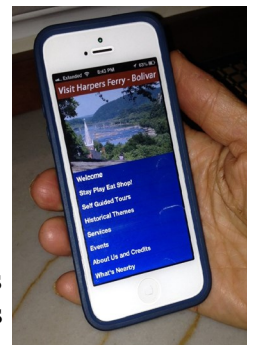


The town of Harpers Ferry has one of the highest percentages of tree canopy in the USA (69%), thanks in part to the surrounding National Park land. The Harpers Ferry Tree Committee, chaired by Kevin Carden, is responsible for overseeing trees in the public right of way and for reviewing tree plans for commercial projects. The Committee hopes to do its part in maintaining our high tree canopy coverage and, by extension, your good health!

Foundation News

The “Visit Harpers Ferry and Bolivar” app for the smartphone is now available! Android users can find it at the Google Play Store, and iPhone and iPad users can find it at the App Store. The Foundation needs volunteers to help review the app content and assist with edits. Contact harpersferryfoundation@gmail.com if you are interested in helping perfect this app.

Residents of and visitors to Harpers Ferry/Bolivar can find information for many historical sites and check out the self-guided tours which gives mini-histories of various houses in town. Yours may be listed! There are written descriptions, photos, website/address/phone number info on our local businesses and services. The GPS feature allows you to see simultaneously your location and the location of the site or business you are looking for.



Another project initiated by the Foundation is an *Economic/Tourism study*. McCollom Development Strategies will undertake this study which is aimed at developing plans for revitalization through general economic development and by better promoting our heritage, cultural, and natural resources.

Join the consultants for a **discussion about heritage and tourism** and how each can contribute to the local economy on **July 23, 6-8 pm**. The public meeting will be at the **Bolivar Community Center**. After an introduction to economic development and tourism opportunities from the consultants, the floor will be opened up for discussion.

Both the Visit Harpers Ferry/Bolivar app and the Economic/Tourism study have been funded by a West Virginia Development Grant and by matching funds from the Towns of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar.

submitted by Laurel Drake, president, Harpers Ferry Foundation

Planning Commission Update

The Commission continues its work on amendments to the zoning ordinance. Following nearly a year of working group effort, the Planning and Landmarks Commissions have been reviewing and developing the proposals since December of 2012. This has included two public workshops. We welcome participation in our meetings as well as comments and questions via email to planning@harpersferrywv.us.

A second formal public hearing will be held at Town Hall on Saturday, June 22, at 6 pm to consider amendment proposals to the 2007 Comprehensive Plan. The Commission aims to present a final draft set of recommended Comprehensive Plan amendments to Council thereafter.

A full set of proposed zoning ordinance 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 to include at least two readings and several opportunities for comment. No change in the zoning of any properties is under consideration.

The proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments, Frequently Asked Questions, and other relevant materials have been posted on the Planning Commission page of the Town website: <http://www.harpersferrywv.us/planning.htm>.



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

Collected by Dan Riss; original spellings left intact.

1 Oct 1891 - Approved the creation of a 10 foot right-of-way, to be known as Park Street, be formed on the south side of the Town Park. [AKA Park Row]

15 Feb 1892 - Approved 20 arc lights. Grant Harpers Ferry Pulp & Paper Company right to put electric light wires underground or overhead.

12 June 1900 - "At a Special Joint meeting of the Councils of the Towns of Harpers Ferry & Bolivar held on the above date at Jonadab Hall There was a resolution adopted to quarantine against the Town of Charlestown on account of Several cases of Smallpox prevailing There at the present time and that there be a guard of 4 Special Officers 2 at day and 2 at night Stationed at points named by Said meeting to enforce Said quarantine & 2 guards one by day and one by night by the Town of Bolivar for the Same purpose and that Such Special Officers be paid at the rate of \$1.25 per day."

29 Jan 1946 - "Motion...that a letter be written Lee Bushong, Lawyer, requesting information as to how the Council would go about establishing a zoning ordinance in the town."

Projects Underway

If you are used to **parking on Washington Street**, take note of the short white lines that been painted by the Department of Highways along the edges of Washington Street from Columbia Street to Franklin Street. These white lines indicate where a solid white line will be located if the Council decides to go forward with the project. Cars would be required to park outside the lines, so let us know if you have any comment or concern. Keep in mind that parking on the sidewalk is illegal - unless permission has been granted for short term parking as in the case of the church on Camp Hill. When Washington Street needs resurfacing in the future, the Department of Highways will be asked to consider relocating the yellow center line if this can provide more space to accommodate parking.

Rebuilding of the **Wager Alley Town Steps** connecting the train station to Washington Street has been completed – try them out!

The **Gazebo facelift** continues as new railings are being installed (thank you John Van Vliet!). We are soliciting bids to paint the interior. Let us know if you can recommend a painter!

The Water Commission will be interviewing four engineering firms who met the first cut in the selection process. The winning firm, which will be chosen by the Council, will be designing a project to **upgrade the water treatment plant and distribution system**. Meanwhile the water works staff is busy finishing up the **system wide meter retesting program**.

The Trail and Tour Alliance has scheduled a meeting with CSX and the Park Service to discuss a project to **improve access between the C&O Canal towpath and the bridge across the Potomac River**.

The **Potomac Street Project** design prepared by KCI Technologies, our design consultants, is under review by the State Department of Highways.

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 fdrfdr@comcast.net
 Charlotte Thompson charlotte.thompson@harpersferrywv.us
 Greg Vaughn olvaughn@frontiernet.net
Town Hall Phone: 304-535-2206



George Owen on still another project in his yard.

Changes starting July 1st!

Mayor Greg Vaughn olvaughn@frontiernet.net
Council Hap Becker

Problems with vultures? Call Town Hall 304-535-2206.

