

Harpers Ferry Community Newsletter



July 2013

Volume 10 Issue 7

A Message from the Mayor



I want you to know how honored and privileged I am to preside over the Town of Harpers Ferry. Our small village is one of the most famous and historically important small towns in the United States. Here is where Lewis and Clarke geared up for their trip west. Later, Union and Confederate Generals rode past many of our homes. President Lincoln scanned our rooftops from Maryland Heights. Other remarkable historical events took place on virtually every street in our town. Since moving to Harpers Ferry I have increasingly come to appreciate our beautiful town and its rich history, and I hope each of you shares my feelings. We are stewards of our town for a short time, and our goal should be to hand it to future generations in better shape than we found it.

Our town's government is assisted by the hard work and timeless dedication of a core group of volunteers. I ask each of you to consider volunteer service. Your willingness will be appreciated, and when we all team together, we can make a difference.

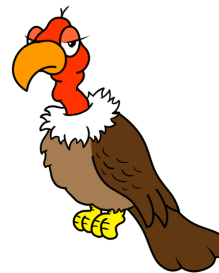
Mayor Greg Vaughn

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Turkey Vultures

Turkey vultures have been sighted in town this spring and summer. While they are a protected species, they can pose a health and safety risk in residential and commercial areas. The Mayor and the Council want to determine how extensive the problem is in order to determine a course of action.



If you see turkey vultures, please call the Town Hall at [304-535-2206](tel:304-535-2206) or send a message to the clerk's e-mail, clerk@harpersferrywv.us. Include your name and contact information, the date and time of the sighting, and the place where you have seen them.

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

Swearing-In of a New Mayor and Council

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Of the last of his official duties as Mayor of Harpers Ferry, Joe Anderson stands ready to swear-in the newly elected Mayor, Recorder, and Council.



Smiling, Mayor-Elect Greg Vaughn is ready to serve our Historic Town.



Mayor Greg Vaughn being sworn-in.



Councilwoman Betsy Bainbridge being sworn-in.



Recorder Kevin Carden being sworn-in.



Councilwoman Hap Becker being sworn-in.



Councilman Jerry Hutton being sworn-in.



Councilman Dan Riss being sworn-in.



Councilwoman Charlotte Thompson being sworn-in.

Photos by Kathryn Payne

Town Calendar

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All meetings at Town Hall, unless noted otherwise.

- July 18** **Water Commission meeting, 7-9pm**
- July 23** **Economic development and tourism opportunities forum, 6-8pm, Bolivar Community Center, see [page 7](#)**
- July 25** **Potomac Street Project Steering Committee Meeting, 1-3pm**
- July 25** **Tree Committee meeting , 7-9pm**
- July 29** **Historic Landmarks Commission Meeting, 7-8:30pm**
- Aug 6** **Planning Commission Meeting, 7-8:30pm**
- Aug 7** **Municipal Court, 7-9pm**
- Aug 12** **Town Council Meeting, 7-9pm**
- Aug 14** **Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, 6-7pm**
- Aug 15** **Water Commission Meeting, 7-9 pm**
- Aug 19** **Police Committee Meeting, 8-9:30am,**
Trail and Town Alliance Meeting, 5-7pm
- Aug 22** **Tree Committee Meeting, 7-9 pm**

Hot dogs and watermelon. Home-baked cookies. Rousing music by the Rohrsersville Band. This 4th of July tradition spells small town community in Harpers Ferry. The crowd that gathered at the Town Gazebo included townsfolk and visitors of all ages, as well as several well-behaved family pets. Our thanks go to the Harpers Ferry Women's Club for organizing and hosting this annual event.



Photo by Shaun Amos



Photo by Shaun Amos

The Park Service had their music event later in the day.



Council Meeting Report

At its June meeting, the Council:

[Town Website](#) *Click here*

1. Approved Council meeting minutes from previous meetings.
2. Approved a realignment of the Town Council's committee structure.
3. Approved permit applications for the following properties:
 - a. 800 E. Ridge (Hale): Demolition and construction
 - b. 991 Putnam Street (Bishop): Reconstruction
 - c. 180 High Street (Mitchell): Sign
4. Approved the Harpers Ferry/Bolivar Police Services Agreement
5. Approved WVDOH to paint lane markers along Washington Street
6. Discussed amendments to the 2007 Comprehensive Plan and set August 12th as a preliminary date for a public hearing on the amendments.
7. Approved expenses of up to \$800.00 for Josh Carter to attend the WV Rural Water Association Conference.
8. Approved recommendation to secure contractual engineering services for the Harpers Ferry Water Works Improvement Project.
9. Referred option to increase the PSD billing services agreement to the Budget/Finance Committee.
10. Received an update on the progress of the proposed Water Ordinance and one on the establishment of an upcoming Council work session.
11. As a refresher, discussed WV Open Government Proceedings Act requirements.
12. Acknowledged approval by CSX to allow relocation of the crossing gate for the Potomac Street Project.



Harpers Ferry Mayor and Council 2013-2015

Photo by Kathryn Payne

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.

Warrior Hikers Honored

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On June 24, 2013, a very special group of thru-hikers on the Appalachian Trail were honored in Harpers Ferry. Each of these hikers is a military service combat veteran currently on one of the most important missions of their life.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) in Harpers Ferry partnered with Warrior Hike to establish the "Walk Off The War" program. Marine Corps Captains Mark Silvers and Sean Gobin founded Warrior Hike in 2011 and hiked all 2186 miles of the Appalachian Trail while raising \$50,000 to purchase adapted vehicles for seriously wounded veterans.

The "Walk Off The War" Program veterans honored in Harpers Ferry were Sean Gobin (Program Director Capt., U.S. Marine Corps), Adam Bautz (U.S. Marine Corps, Infantry Machine Gunner), Robert Carmel (U.S. Army Field Artillery), Carl Steven Clendenning (U.S. Marine Corps, Light Armored Vehicle Crewman), Stephanie Cutts (U.S. Navy, Hull Maintenance Technician), Thomas Gathman (U.S. Marines, Infantry Rifleman), William Guill (U.S. Navy/U.S. Army, Public Affairs Specialist, Unit Armorer), Kevin Reed (U.S. Marine Corps, Infantry Mortarman), and Sharon Smith (U.S. Air Force, Medic).



These veteran thru-hikers have made it their goal to traverse the entire length of the Appalachian Trail, from Springer Mountain, Georgia, to Mount Katahdin in Maine. They are decorated combat veterans of the Afghanistan and/or Iraq wars, seeking to transition from military life to civilian life. With each step taken along the trail they are striving to shed the vicissitudes of their first-hand experiences of war and assimilate back into a productive and rewarding civilian life.

To honor the Warrior Hikers, the ATC (Rich Daileader and Laurie Potteiger) partnered with the Teahorse Hostel (Laurel Drake), the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Virginia Lodge #1, Harpers Ferry, the Harpers Ferry/Bolivar District Veterans Association, pastor John Unger and members of St. John's Lutheran Church, and Chris Craig and Steve Paradis of the Harpers Ferry/Bolivar Trail & Town Alliance. Approximately 60 people attended the reception and cookout for the hikers which was held on the grounds of the Odd Fellows lodge.

Doug Craze, Secretary, Virginia Lodge #1

Step into Autumn!

Trail and Town Alliance of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar invites you to *Step Into Autumn* September 21-22 at a town festival that will provide unique opportunities to tour historic sites in and around Harpers Ferry by bicycle and on foot. On Saturday, sign up for a 41-mile guided "[Pedal Through the Past](#)" cycling event



(pre-registration required) through Jefferson County, Antietam Battlefield, and along the C&O Towpath. On Sunday, take part in a self-guided 3-mile "Hike through History" highlighting historic sites from the Bolivar Heights Battlefield to the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers.

Interpreters will be on location to reveal little-known stories of historic churches, cemeteries, and other sites--including the colorful history of the building that houses the ATC headquarters and visitor center. Music will be offered on Saturday evening. More information will be found soon at

www.historicharpersferry.org and at www.appalachiantrail.org/events. For more information on the Trail and Town Alliance, contact Chris Craig at 304-535-2886 or ccraig@laurellodge.com.

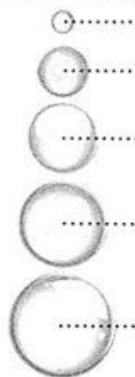


Telling the Hole Story

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A hole in a water pipe that's merely one-eighth of an inch in diameter – about the size of the average nail hole – can lead to a water loss of more than 3,800 gallons a day.

A Leak This Size



Water Loss in Gallons		Annual Loss in Dollars
Per Day	Per Month	At \$6.49 per 1,000 gal.
1,655	49,650	3,866.74
11,770	353,100	27,499.43
26,485	794,550	61,879.55
36,050	1,081,500	84,227.22
47,090	1,412,700	110,021.08

This chart shows how much water – and money – can be lost as a result of even the tiniest ruptures. Most water utilities sponsor leak-detection programs, and ours here in Harpers Ferry is no exception. Josh Carter, Harpers Ferry Water Works Supervisor, told us that our town has “An active leak detection program.” As to going about and dealing with leaks, he commented, “Once a leak is identified, it is then forwarded to Miss Utility to mark the lines and fixed shortly after, based on its severity.”

Blast from the Past: Notes from 120 years of Council Minutes

Collected by Dan Riss; original spellings left intact.

10 Aug. 1899 "Ordered that the Mayor & Town Sargeant be authorized to take such steps as may be necessary to get rid of the three-card monte & confidence men that are infesting our town."

28 Apr. 1904 smallpox in town. Close public schools and colored collage, request Bolivar to close school there. Ask Dr Albin of CT to vaccinate who are willing. Two guards for house w/ smallpox. \$2.00/day each. Town will furnish necessities of life at Town Expense.

6 Feb. 1918 "It was moved ...that the business men of Harpers Ferry be requested to close their places of business during the hours of the funeral of Private Daniel B Newcomer, the first soldier in this war from Jefferson County to die for his Country. Carried."

1 Apr. 1942 "Cigars were distributed to councilmen by Chas Riley, loser of a wager made previously, who paid up good naturedly."

New Executive Director Selected for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy

The [Appalachian Trail Conservancy's](#) (ATC) board of directors has appointed Ronald J. Tipton as the new executive director/CEO who will lead the organization beginning in late August.

Tipton has spent most of the past 30+ years as an advocate for public land preservation and national park protection. A graduate of The George Washington University with an undergraduate degree in American Studies and a law degree from GW's National Law Center, Tipton first worked as a program officer at the National Academy of Sciences and on the oversight/investigative staff of the House Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee.

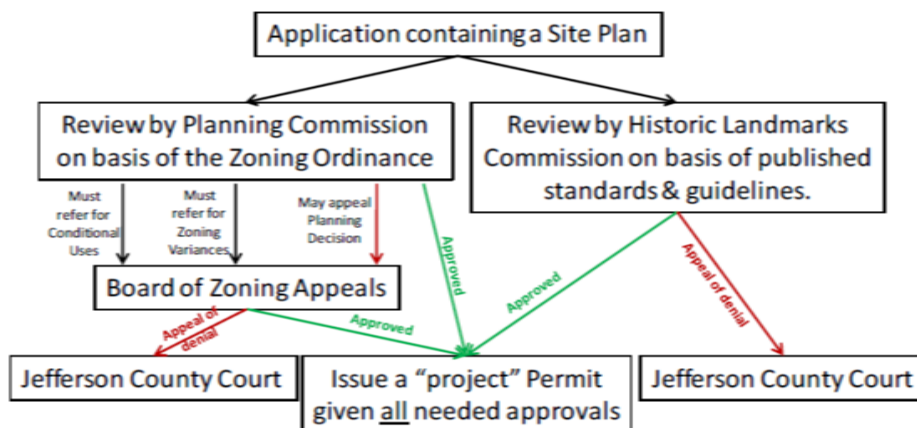
Tipton has been married for 34 years to Rita Molyneaux and has a son who is a firefighter. In 1978 he walked the entire length of the Trail.



Planning Commission Wraps Up Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments

The Commission is completing its work on proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance. A final draft will soon be forwarded to Council. Following nearly a year of working group effort, the Planning and Landmarks Commissions have been reviewing and developing the proposals since December of 2012.

As a result of aligning with WV Code, the approval process for construction, improvement, and demolition projects will be as follows:



By the time this newsletter is published, the 3rd public workshop since March will have been held to foster a dialog on the proposals and to improve them. These workshops have led to a series of Frequently-Asked-Questions (FAQs) which are posted on the [Town website](#) along with all of the draft materials for the 3rd public workshop.

The Foundation would like to announce a public meeting on July 23 at the Bolivar Community Center from 6-8 pm. Please join us for a discussion about heritage and recreational tourism and how each can contribute to the local economy. We'll hear about economic development and tourism opportunities from McCollom Development Strategies and then open the floor for discussion.

Please join us as we determine next steps in marketing our communities to visitors and potential new residents. A follow-up meeting will be held on October 10.



Who's Responsible for Removing?

If a tree whose trunk is on private property falls onto the public right of way, it is the property owner's responsibility to remove the tree. The power company will only remove trees when power lines have been affected (as was the case in the Derecho Storm in late June 2012).

A huge thanks to summer intern Alex Garcia, who put the newsletter together while our chief editor, Christy Huddle, is gone on a summer road trip. Great job, Alex!

Parking on Sidewalk Prohibited!!

Please note that the Town Ordinance (see below) does not allow stopping or standing of a vehicle on a sidewalk and other areas where pedestrians may be passing. Be considerate!

320.03 Prohibited stopping, standing, or parking places.

(a) No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with law or the direction of a police officer or traffic control device, in any of the following places:

(1) On a sidewalk;

(5) On a crosswalk [marked or unmarked];

(6) Within twenty feet of a crosswalk at an intersection;



Photos by Christy Huddle

Communicating with the Mayor and Council

Mayor	Greg Vaughn	hfmayor@frontier.com
Recorder	Kevin Carden	kevin.carden@harpersferrywv.us
Council	Betsy Bainbridge	betsybainbridge@yahoo.com
Members	Jerry Hutton	jerwar@frontiernet.net
	Dan Riss	fdrfdr@comcast.net
	Charlotte Thompson	charlotte.thompson@harpersferrywv.us
	Hap Becker	hap.becker@harpersferrywv.us
Town Hall	Telephone 304-535-2206	



This charming young lady came to Harpers Ferry for a photo shoot (of her). There is no better town to have as a backdrop!



Photo by Christy Huddle

June 22 in front of the ATC: Sylvie meeting thru-hiker Mazy and her owner from the Greyson Highlands area of Virginia. She's been on the AT since March 18.