

Harpers Ferry Community Newsletter



November 2014

Volume 11 Issue 11

Woman's Club Play and Program on November 21

On Friday evening, November 21, from 6-8 pm at Camp Hill Wesley United Methodist Church, the Woman's Club offers a special historical monthly play and program. There is no cost to come see this play, although we will be taking up a collection for the needy children in our local school for Christmas presents.

The evening presents an opportunity for you to learn more about the Shenandoah Valley, Harpers Ferry and Bolivar: its exploration, establishment and development. From the discovery of the Valley in the 1700's to the development of many local businesses, our community is a place of wonder and loved by all who live and visit here. The program focuses on "thanking others" for the rewards we now reap - scenic wonders, historic buildings, a variety of services. The program is accompanied by music, inviting you to help sing several Thanksgiving songs and ends with special apple refreshments.

The theme, "If we didn't thank you then, we're thanking you now" is a vintage Thanksgiving play that will warm everyone's hearts.

There is limited parking in the church parking lot. However, parking is available along Washington Street.



Harpers Ferry Annual Tree Lighting

On Friday, December 5, 6pm at Gazebo Park

Come begin the season's celebration with your neighbors. Light refreshments will be offered by the Woman's Club and tree decorations by students from CW Shipley Elementary School. Old Tyme Christmas begins in Lower Town at 7pm.

Olde Tyme Christmas, schedule on [page 5](#).

Photo by Kathryn Payne

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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

All meetings at Town Hall, unless noted otherwise.

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- Nov 19 Harpers Ferry Foundation Board meeting, 5:30-7pm
- Nov 19 Water Commission meeting, 7-9pm
- Nov 21 Woman's Club Play, 6-8pm (page 1)**
- Nov 24 Historic Landmarks Commission meeting, 7-8:30pm
- Nov 26 Harpers Ferry Foundation Board meeting, 5:30-7:30pm
- Nov 27 Thanksgiving Day (Holiday)**
- Nov 28 Thanksgiving Holiday**
- Dec 2 Planning Commission meeting, 7-8:30pm
- Dec 3 Municipal Court, 7-9pm
- Dec 5 Tree Lighting, 6pm (page 1)**
- Dec 5 Olde Tyme Christmas (page 5)**
- Dec 6 Outdoor writer Karen Berger at ATC, 10am (below)**
- Dec 8 Town Council meeting, 7-9pm
- Dec 10 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, 6-8pm
- Dec 15 Police Committee meeting, 8:30-9:30am
- Dec 15 Trail & Town Alliance meeting, 5-7pm
- Dec 17 Harpers Ferry Foundation Board meeting, 5:30-7pm
- Dec 17 Water Commission meeting, 7-9pm
- Dec 24 Harpers Ferry Foundation Board meeting, 5:30-7:30pm
- Dec 24 Christmas Holiday - Office closes at noon**
- Dec 25 Christmas Holiday - Office closed**



Planning Commission Vacancy

The Town is accepting application for those willing to serve on the Harpers Ferry Planning Commission. Please forward your letter of interest and statement of qualifications or by [email](#) to the Town Hall by Dec. 12, 2014.

Outdoor Writer Karen Berger at ATC Open House, December 6

Celebrate the holiday season with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy on Saturday, Dec. 6 and meet Karen Berger, a noted outdoor writer and author of numerous hiking books. The ATC's Holiday Open House is free and will be held at its Visitor Center, located at 799 Washington Street.

During the event, Berger will sign copies of her latest book, "[America's Great Hiking Trails](#)," from 10 am to 3 pm. This illustrated work provides readers with an in-depth overview of America's 11 National Scenic Trails, including the AT. Each trail has its own chapter in the book, complete with a map and photo gallery, highlighting its history, scenic spots, and more.

Hot cider and coffee, as well as homemade refreshments, will also be available to the public until 5 pm. This event is also a perfect opportunity to shop for AT-themed merchandise for the hiker on your list. New items, such as the film "The Appalachian Trail: An American Legacy," will be available for purchase.

For more information about Karen Berger, visit www.hikerwriter.com. For more information about the Holiday Open House, visit www.appalachiantrail.org/events.

Council Meeting

At its November meeting the Council:

1. Gave approval to the Mayor to sign land swap and easement agreements for the Potomac Street Project.
2. Adopted the Historic Landmarks Commission's local Historic District inventory and gave the Commission responsibility and authority to maintain the inventory.
3. Heard from Region 9's Chesapeake Bay Program coordinator, Matt Pennington, on the need for, and federal timelines to, stormwater management, including a municipal Stormwater Management Ordinance.
4. Approved removal of an isolated section of sidewalk adjacent to Laurel Lodge, 844 E. Ridge Street
5. Awarded a contract for painting the Town Gazebo to E&H Talley Enterprises.
6. Awarded a contract for snow plowing of the Town streets during winter 2014-2015 to Uvilla Small Engine Repair, and snow plowing the Town Hall/ Post Office parking lots to R. S. Excavating.

Message from the Mayor

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As we approach our winter season, I want to take this opportunity to remind each of you of your responsibility for snow removal on public sidewalks that are adjacent to your property. It is very important that our sidewalks are kept open and passable because of the many tourists and residents that walk up and down our streets during the snow season. Unfortunately, last year there were two falling accidents that were suffered by pedestrians slipping on uncleared sidewalks. One of the injuries was quite substantial. For your information I have included below the appropriate regulations concerning snow removal. Thanks to each of you for your cooperation and hopefully we will have limited snowfall this year.

Codified Ordinance 909.04: Snow removal.

All owners or occupants of property within the Town shall remove, or cause to be removed, the snow from the sidewalks adjacent to their property within four hours after the snow has ceased to fall; provided, however, that should the snow fall during the night or on a Sunday, it shall be removed, within four hours after sunrise on the following day. (Ord. 86-1. Reinstated 1-11-1999.)

Codified Ordinance 101.99: General penalty.

Whenever in the Codified Ordinances or in any ordinance of the Municipality, any act is prohibited or is made or declared to be unlawful or an offense, of whenever the doing of any act is required or the failure to do any act is declared to be unlawful, where no specific penalty is otherwise provided, whoever violates any such provision shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or imprisoned thirty days, or both. Each day any such violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

[Town Website](#) *Click here*

Newsletter Information:

Editor: Christy Huddle

Layout: Leslie Stout

Next deadline:

December 12, 2014

[Email](#) for submittal rules and deadline or to be added to the notification list.

Planning Commission Update on Ordinance Amendments

The Planning Commission and Historic Landmarks Commission are working with the Mayor and Council in consideration of amendments to the zoning ordinance and related ordinances. All property owners within Harpers Ferry recently received a letter to inform them about the creation of an Historic District Overlay Zone. The letters require no action on the part of property owners. The creation of this overlay district, along with other changes, will allow the Town to continue its designation as an historic district, comply with State Code and make the building permit processes clearer and perhaps simpler for all applicants, especially for small projects. Once these amendments are enacted in early 2015, the Planning Commission will return to its review of the Promontory Overlay District with further opportunities for public dialog and input. The current versions of proposed amendments can be found [here](#).

You may subscribe there to receive email notices whenever that site is updated. For the most recent Planning Commission announcements, documents, and pending agendas, please check [here](#).

Feel free to contact any member of the Planning Commission to learn more about a particular topic, meeting or agenda item.

Communicating with the Mayor or 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 |
| | Helen "Hap" Becker | hap.becker@harpersferrywv.us |
| Town Hall | Phone: 304-535-2206 | clerk@harpersferrywv.us |



Sylvie shows Maya the most important sites around Harpers Ferry

Parks and Rec News



The Parks and Recreation Commission held a Halloween celebration in the Town Square Gazebo Park. The trick or treaters enjoyed toasting marshmallows on the fire, apple cider and a number of delicious sweet treats. We had a large turnout of kids and their parents and a good time was had by all. Parks and Recreation is already planning the event for next year. A big thank you to the volunteers who helped out.

It was a beautiful fall day for the **Harpers Ferry/Bolivar Veterans Day Parade**. Though folks didn't start to line the street until the last minute, the parade and wreath laying drew a crowd of 150 to 200 spectators and residence who came to remember and honor our Veterans.

Photos by: Kathryn Payne



Blast from the Past

123 years of Harpers Ferry Council Minutes

Curated by Dan Riss

27 june 1913 "It is moved...that the Sanitary Committee look after the Condition of Fillmore Ave in front of the Storer Collage and that they notify Said Storer Collage people to quit letting their filth run into Said Fillmore ave."

12 feb 1920 "Be it enacted by the Mayor and Council of Harpers Ferry on this date, Feby 12th, 1920 that all unnecessary loitering or loafing at or near the B. & O. Station in this town, shall be considered a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than one nor more than five dollars. To take affect immediately."

4 aug 1938 "Motion by Comm. Riley, seconded by Comm. Walsh that Town give any citizen right to shoot blackbird or starling when they become a nuisance to property owned by Public, but only when absolutely necessary."

28 apr 1950 "The Esso Gas Co wished to have a water line run out to Cavaliers Filling Station. It was decided that Esso put the line in and pay cost not exceed the amount of \$500 and the Water Co agrees to serve them water at the rate of \$5.00 per month until the \$500 is paid. Thus giving us an extended line to get John Newcomer's Cabins added to our lines under the same basis at an approximate rate of \$15.00 per month to Newcomer." "Motion by H Lloyd seconded by Smallwood and carried."

Ordinance Compliance Officer Vacancy

Harpers Ferry is seeking an Ordinance Compliance Officer. Send your resume and qualifications to <http://hfcorp.wikispaces.com>

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 OLDE TYME CHRISTMAS 2014 HIGHLIGHTS:

December 5-Friday Evening

- 6:30 Reception - Shenandoah Street Tent
 7 Opening ceremony-Yule Log Celebration Shenandoah Street caroling up High St.
 7:45 Archangels Choir @ St. Peter's Church; Christmas tree lighting following the concert; A Soldier's Christmas poem "Pickets Christmas" by Paul Martz
 8:15 Living nativity @ St. Peter's Church

December 6-Saturday

- 8-11 Breakfast with Santa @ Towns Inn
 9-5 Appalachia Trail Visitor Center Open House: cookies, hot cider, coffee
 9-5 All day bake sale & soup sale @ Thomas Hall in back of St. Peter's Church
 11-12 Orange Pomerander Craft @ Westwind Potters
 11-6 Chestnut Roasting @ 189 High St.
 12-2 Elf Susie Balloon Sculptures @ Train Station
 1 Barbra Bailey Bradley, Harpist @ St Peter's
 1 North Hagerstown High School Choir Caroling @ High & Potomac Streets
 2-3 Story Time @ Train Station
 2-4 Sit with Santa @ Pavilion
 2:30 "One December Night" Polly Baldrige & Walter Edmonds @ St. Peter's
 3:30 Wonderment Puppets @ Train Station
 4 O' Be Joyful Rick Garland @ St. Peter's
 5-7 HF Woman's Club Open House
 6 Living Nativity @ St. Peter's; Luminaries lit at dusk

December 7-Sunday

- TBA Horse & Wagon rides on Shenandoah St.
 1 Tuba Christmas @ The Pavilion
 1 Main Line Gravy Soppers @ St. Peter's
 2:30 Susanna Holstein & Jeff Seager: Stories & Songs of Holiday Season @ St. Peter's
 3:30 Wonderment Puppets @ Train Station
 4 Merlins Beards @ St. Peter's

December 13-Saturday

- 1 Rolling Coyotes Americana Music @ St. Peter's Church
 2 Mountaineer Twirlers Square Dancing @ The Pavilion
 2:30 Washington High School Camerata Chamber Choir @ St. Peter's
 4:30 Angel Band @ St. Peter's Church
 6-8 Appalachian Lessons & Carols Program, @ St. John's Episcopal Church

December 14-Sunday

- 2 Charles Town Middle School Chorus @ St. Peter's Church
 3:30 Mike Miller Band Students @ St. Peter's Church