

Harpers Ferry, WV Community Newsletter



July
2025

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The Harpers Ferry Brewery surprised the residents in lower town with a fire works display over the Potomac River on Saturday, July 12th. *Photos provide by Zachary Morse*

Message from the Mayor

Dear Residents and Friends: On July 1 the new governing body of Harpers Ferry began its 2-year term. I was very encouraged by the collegial climate that was on display at the first Town Council meeting on July 14. I sensed a strong current of cooperativeness and a willingness to compromise, even on sensitive and complex issues. The Town's three "standing committees" were filled and immediately began fulfilling their responsibilities.

Also, I want to thank Rebecca Wolf and Zach Morse for their willingness to serve on the Tree Commission and the willingness of Eddie Love to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

The 4th of July picnic, at the gazebo, attracted a large gathering of residents and visitors. Many thanks to the Women's Club volunteers and all those that made the day very special. I want to particularly thank David Simmons for his expertise at the grill and the generosity of Larry and Susan Waters, Chris and Anousheh Riley, and Karan Townsend. I was also particularly gratified to welcome Mayor Emeritus Jim Addy.

Finally, let's all continue to seek cooperativeness and goodwill as was on display at the July 14 Town Council meeting. If you have a concern about any issue or you just want to recognize a particular member of the governing body or any of our commissions, please feel free to reach out to me or any member of the Town Council. We can't fix something or thank someone if we are not made aware. Thank you and enjoy the summer.

~ Greg Vaughn

Music on the Ridge

Approximately 175 people braved the extreme heat on Saturday, June 21st to attend Harpers Ferry Parks & Rec's annual Music on the Ridge event which was held on the Storer College lawn on Fillmore Street. Section 20, a group from Frederick, MD, started the show with a brief break for a few songs performed at the first Music on the Ridge Event. The Bill Pappas Project from Washington, DC, played for the remainder of the show. Thank you to all who attended the event.



Photos provided by Pat Morse.

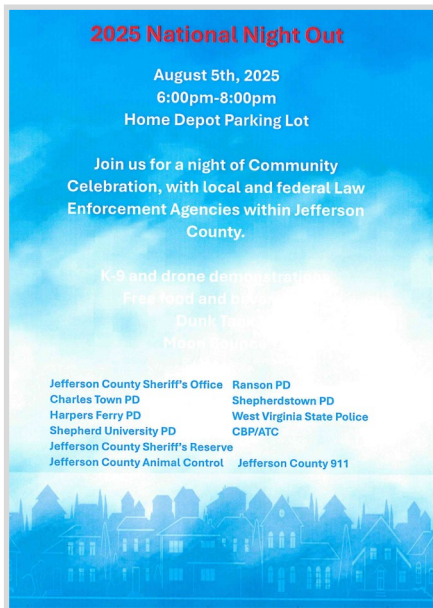
Harpers Ferry's 4th of July Celebration

The Rohrsersville Band once again took the stage for Harpers Ferry's annual 4th of July celebration at the Town Park on Washington Street. Members of the Woman's Club and volunteers served up the traditional hot dog luncheon, cookies and watermelon.



Photos provided by David Guiney.

Community Announcements



Message from the Harpers Ferry Police Department

With warm weather comes more activity around our town. The Harpers Ferry Police Department would like to remind residents that the administrative office does not have clerical staff available outside of normal business hours, nor do we have the capability or authority to dispatch officers from our office at any time.

If you are experiencing an emergency, always call 911.

If you need an officer dispatched for a non-emergency, please call the Jefferson County Emergency Communications Center at 304-725-8484.

This includes noise and traffic complaints.

JUNE 2025 POLICE REPORT

ACCIDENTS 2
CALL OUTS 0
ASSISTS 1

CITATIONS 131

Driving Suspended	1
Insurance	1
MVI	1
Parking	112
Possession	2
Registration	7
Speeding	7

INCIDENTS 292

911 Hang-Up	5
Alarm	2
Assist Other Departments	1
Building Check	9
Citizen Assist	6
Directed Patrol	81
Disabled Vehicle	1
Disturbance	1
Drug Activity	2
Follow-Up	2
Foot Patrol	5
Found Property	1
Harassment	1
Indecent Act	1
Injured Animal	1
Missing Child	1
MVA - No Injury	2
Noise Complaint	1
Out of Car	14
Parking	28
Public Service	1
River Rescue	1
Road Patrol	96
Special Event	1
Traffic Stops	18
Walk-In	2
Welfare Check	8

Community Announcements

The Appalachian Chamber Music Festival, based in Harpers Ferry, celebrates their fifth season this August with an array of programming at venues across the region.

“We’ve pulled out all the stops this season,” said ACMF artistic director Katie Tertell. This is evident considering the 14 different concerts and educational programming scheduled between August 2 and 17. A total of 16 festival musicians (strings, woodwinds, and piano) will grace the stage, sharing their love of chamber music with audiences.

The concert series will kick off with:

The Music of Don Redman (free outdoor event!)

Friday, August 8, 2025 7:00 pm-8:00 pm– Historic Storer College Lawn.

Featuring the Howard Burns Quartet in partnership with the Harpers Ferry Park Association and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and with support from the Corporation of Harpers Ferry and the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation. This evening event will take place on the lawn at the historic site of Storer College, featuring arrangements of works by Storer College alum Don Redman (August 8).

There are two more concerts in Harpers Ferry.

Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 12:00 pm

John Brown's Fort, Shenandoah Street, Harpers Ferry, WV, USA. A special pop-up event in historic downtown Harpers Ferry (Time and exact location TBD; Informal event, approximately 20 mins, no seating / no tickets or RSVPs). Inspired by the story of John Brown, composer Ailbhe McDonagh wrote her first string quartet, “Appalachian” as a commission for the first ever season of ACMF back in 2021. Concert is free and open to the public.

Saturday, August 16, 2025 at 7:00 pm

Camp Hill-Wesley United Methodist Church, Washington Street, Harpers Ferry, WV, USA. \$25 General Admission / \$10 Student / Free kids under 18. Come experience some musical highlights of the festival in Historic Harpers Ferry! This celebratory program is a real tour-de force of chamber music repertoire, starting off with the virtuosic double bass and baritone showcase by Mozart, “Per questa Bella” featuring Sam Suggs and Thomas Coltman.

More information about all the concerts in the region at <https://www.appalachianchamber.org/2025-festival-schedule>

Submitted by Paul Tertell, Volunteer Appalachian Chamber Music Festival

Harpers Ferry Black Heritage Guided Walking Tour

Learn about the Black community that thrived in Harpers Ferry for a full century after the Civil War through this annual guided walking tour on **Saturday, September 17**, at 10 a.m.

Presenters at tour stops will include current and former Harpers Ferry residents. The tour begins and ends at First Zion Baptist Church, 1030 West Ridge St, Harpers Ferry. An ice cream social at the church property will follow the tour. Proceeds from ticket sales will support the rehabilitation of the historic First Zion Baptist Church as a community and culture center. Tour will be limited to 40 adults. Advance ticket purchase encouraged. Children under 15 receive free admission. Free street parking will be available by the church. Purchase tickets at <https://historicharpersferry.org/event/guidedheritagetour/> For more information, call 304-535-8235.

The Harpers Ferry-Bolivar Historic Town Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that unites two towns with a vision of inspiring citizens and visitors alike with our history, beauty, diversity and hospitality. The Foundation’s initiatives focus on the historic preservation, promotion, and beautification of our towns for the enjoyment and benefit of all. The Foundation seeks to preserve the rich history of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar, learn from its people, and build upon their legacies.

Submitted by The Harpers Ferry-Bolivar Historic Town Foundation

Poetry from The Hills

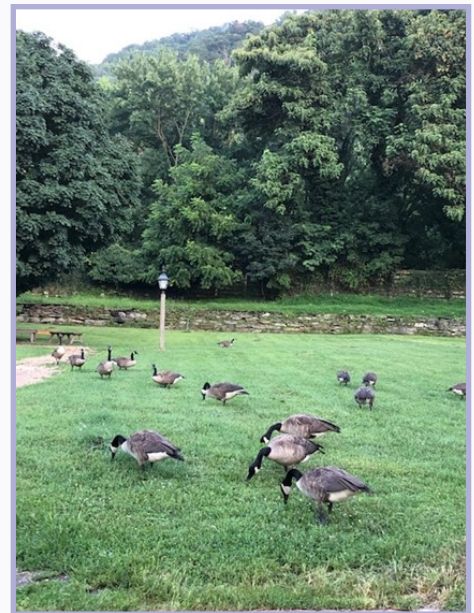
9 p.m.

Barely light on a June evening and a warbler
declaring the purest nonsense true,
notes heard by a worried man walking below
that scratch his mind, that he translates into smile.
Headlights or something snap their fingers,
and the man wears sad thoughts down the walk.
The wings of the day are folded down.
The warbler does not keep sun on his feathers.
Pools wash up against the shadow cliffs
of boxwood hedges in a row. A tide of chimes
from insects rises in whitecaps and falls.
Some who hear in the deep are predators, some spin,
dream and are different, some are and dream and are.

~ *George Owens*

Harpers Ferry Business Licenses

As a reminder, if you hire a contractor perform work at your home, the contractor *MUST* have a current Harpers Ferry Business License. This includes plumbers, lawn care services, electricians, ac/heating service, roofers, cleaning services to name a few. The license application can be found on the Town's website or visit the Town Hall.



Quote of the Month

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.

- Kobe Bryant

Regular Monthly Meetings

Meetings are held at the Town Hall conference room, 2nd floor, 1000 Washington Street, Harpers Ferry, WV.

Seating is limited to 35.

Town Council - The 2nd Monday of every month at 7pm.

Historic Landmarks

Commission - The 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7pm.

Planning Commission

- The Tuesday immediately following the TC meeting or 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

Water Commission - The 3rd Wednesday of every month at 4:45 pm.

Tree Commission - The 4th Thursday of every month at 7pm.

Parks and Recreation

Commission - The 3rd Monday of every month.



Contact Us:

Harpers Ferry
Town Hall
1000 Washington St.
PO Box 217
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
Town Hall

Business Hours:

Monday - Thursday
9:00am - 12:00pm
1:00pm - 3:00 pm
Friday—Closed to the Public

Town Hall Phone:

304-535-2206

Clerk Email:

clerk@harpersferrywv.us

Ordinance Compliance Officer:

khamilton@harpersferrywv.us

Court Date and Deadline Reminders for August

- The next municipal court date is Wednesday, August 6, 2025.
- Agenda item request for the August Town Council meeting are due by 12 noon, Monday, August 4, 2025.
- The August Town Council Meeting date is Monday, August 11, 2025.
- August Newsletter Submissions must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, August 13, 2025. Please email your request to pmorse@harpersferrywv.us.
- The Town has opportunities to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals (3 alternate seats), the Human Rights Committee (3 seats) and the Water Commission (1 seat). Send your letter of interest to clerk@harpersferrywv.us .



The 2025-2027 Harpers Ferry Council

Left to Right: Councilman Chris Craig, Recorder Kevin Carden, Mayor Gregory Vaughn, Councilmen Storm DiCostanzo, Christian Pechuekonis, Jesse Melton, David Simmons.

Photo provide by Lynn Vaughn

Looking forward to August



August 1st—Whole Foods
Talk/BHF Library
August 5th— National Night
Out
August 8th, 12th & 16th—
Appalachian Chamber Music
Concerts

Harpers Ferry Current Administration:

Mayor: Greg Vaughn (gvaughn@harpersferrywv.us)

Recorder: Kevin Carden (kevin.carden@harpersferrywv.us)

Councilmembers:

Chris Craig (ccraig@harpersferrywv.us)

Jesse Z. Melton (jmelton@harpersferrywv.us)

David Simmons (dsimmons@harpersferrywv.us)

Greg 'Storm' DiCostanzo

(stormdicostanzo@harpersferrywv.us)

Christian Pechuekonis (cpechuekonis@harpersferrywv.us)



Visit us on the web at www.harpersferrywv.us, or keep in touch with the Town's Facebook page:

