



Harpers Ferry Community Newsletter

April 2011 Volume 8 Issue 4



As many of you know that the 2010 census shows that the population of Harpers Ferry has decreased from 307 to 286 people. This represents a serious hit to the Town's finances. Video and the table game revenues are based on town population. Additionally the municipalities of Ranson, Shepherdstown, and Charles Town have large increases in population. Thus the "pie" in which Harpers Ferry shares is larger for others and smaller for Harpers Ferry.

On pages 1 and 4 of the newsletter, we have printed the census data and the distribution of revenue from gambling to the governmental agencies. Projections for fiscal year 2010-2011 for Town income is of concern. Obviously, the proverbial wolf is at the door.

Serious financial issues face the Town as we look to the financial viability of the Corporation of Harpers Ferry in the years ahead. Let us be prepared for difficult decisions, but hope that improving financial conditions will occur.

Sincerely,
Jim Addy

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2010 Census Report

| Subject | Total | | 18 years and over | |
|--|--------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| POPULATION | | | | |
| Total population | 286 | 100.0 | 237 | 100.0 |
| RACE | | | | |
| One race | 283 | 99.0 | 236 | 99.6 |
| White | 268 | 93.7 | 222 | 93.7 |
| Black or African American | 12 | 4.2 | 11 | 4.6 |
| American Indian and Alaska Native | 2 | 0.7 | 2 | 0.8 |
| Asian | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Some Other Race | 1 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.4 |
| Two or More Races | 3 | 1.0 | 1 | 0.4 |
| HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE | | | | |
| Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 3 | 1.0 | 3 | 1.3 |
| Not Hispanic or Latino | 283 | 99.0 | 234 | 98.7 |
| One race | 280 | 97.9 | 233 | 98.3 |
| White | 266 | 93.0 | 220 | 92.8 |
| Black or African American | 12 | 4.2 | 11 | 4.6 |
| American Indian and Alaska Native | 2 | 0.7 | 2 | 0.8 |
| Asian | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Some Other Race | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Two or More Races | 3 | 1.0 | 1 | 0.4 |
| HOUSING UNITS | | | | |
| Total housing units | 175 | 100.0 | | |
| OCCUPANCY STATUS | | | | |
| Occupied housing units | 131 | 74.9 | | |
| Vacant housing units | 44 | 25.1 | | |

(X) Not applicable

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

Census History

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| 2000 census | 307 |
| 2001 est. | 307 |
| 2002 est. | 306 |
| 2003 est. | 305 |
| 2004 est. | 304 |
| 2005 est. | 309 |
| 2006 est. | 313 |
| 2007 est. | 312 |
| 2008 est. | 309 |

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The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place at the Town Gazebo on Saturday, April 23 at 1:00PM Children ages 1-12 are welcome to come and find approximately 300 candy filled eggs

This event will be held rain or shine.

Calendar of Events

All meetings in Town Hall are held in meeting room, unless noted.

- April 25-Landmarks 7PM
- April 27– H.F. Foundation Board meeting 5:30 PM
- April 28– Tree Committee 7PM
- May 3– Planning 7PM
- May 4-Court 7PM
- May 5– Elks Run Study Committee 7PM (Bolivar Community Center)
- May 7-Woman’s Club Herb/Bake sale 9-4 (at Gazebo)
- May 9-Council 7PM



On Monday April 4th 2011 there was a good turnout of Harpers Ferry residents and Bolivar residents for a workshop lead by David Beniamino Town Planner from Middleburg Va. The focus of the meeting was building consensus on long term vision for our Town. There were many positive comments and question during the 2 hour session. The Town council organized the event and will be scheduling the next work shop in the near future.

Harpers Ferry’s Sophomore Sensation

The Jefferson County Journal has named Keegan Simmons the 2011 Boys Swimmer of the year! Keegan was Jefferson’s highest scoring boys swimmer at the state meet. Congratulations Keegan, the Town of Harpers Ferry is proud of your accomplishments.



Picture Of David Beniamino Town Planner/Zoning Administrator for the Town Of Middleburg Va.

Police General Orders and Procedures, 11 Oct 2010

8.03.03 Complaints from the Public

- a. General complaints from the Public shall be received either orally or in writing. Oral complaints will be written down by the department member receiving the complaint.
- b. Specific complaints from the Public regarding a specific member of the Police Department shall be received only in writing, signed and sworn as true.
- c. In either case, a log shall be kept of such complaints. The log shall record for each complaint: a tracking number, the date of log entry, the date of the event complained about, the name and address and phone number of the complainant, a summary of the complaint, and disposition.
- d. A file of each complaint shall be kept which contains a record of the complaint, the results of any investigation, and the disposition.
- e. No complaint shall be used in disciplinary proceedings against an officer unless received in writing and the complainant signs and attests that the text is correct..

8.03.04 Preliminary investigation

Upon observing or becoming aware of a violation of Departmental regulations, the Chief shall initiate an immediate preliminary investigation. The investigated officer shall continue to perform the duties and assume the obligations of his or her rank during the investigation and shall cooperate fully with any other member of the Department conducting such investigation.

*Harpers Ferry Police Dept.
March 2011 Monthly Report*

CITATIONS: 191

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| No evidence of registration 48 | Improper/defective equipment 17 |
| Expired/ No MVI 25 | Possession 4 |
| Speeding 60 | Flr. Stop at sign 1 |
| No Insurance 22 | Hazardous driving 2 |
| No Operators 1 | Public Intoxication 1 |
| Driving suspended 4 | Reckless driving 1 |
| Improper registration 1 | Left of center 1 |
| Obstructing officer 1 | Improper backing 1 |
| Following too closely 1 | |

Bolivar citations: 98

Harpers Ferry citations: 93

Complaints: 42

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Driving susp. 4 | Destruction property 1 | Possession 6 | Harassment 1 |
| Disturbance 3 | Public Intox. 1 | Welfare check 1 | Theft 1 |
| Petit larceny 1 | Nuisance 1 | MVA 2 | Burglary 2 |
| Reckless dr. 1 | Suspicious act. 1 | Funeral 1 | DUI 1 |
| Alarm 1 | Calls for service 1 | Fleeing officer 1 | |
| MVV 1 | Obstructing officer 1 | Domestic 3 | |

Bolivar complaints: 26

Harpers Ferry complaints: 10

Assisted with other departments: 6

Order of The Ballot

Mayor

Joe Anderson
Bob Johnson

Recorder

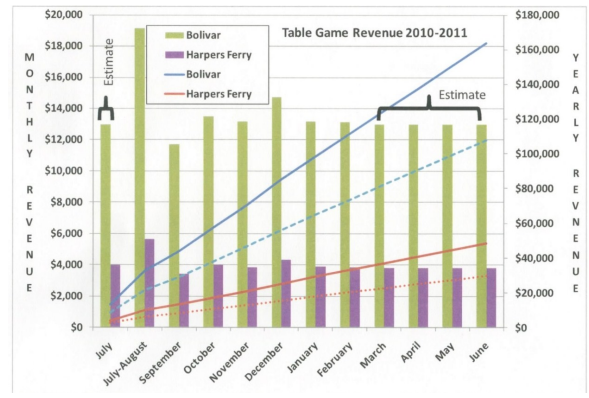
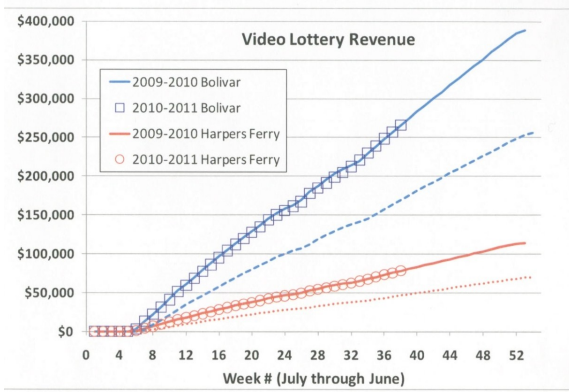
1. Kevin Carden

Council

1. Jeremy Hutton
2. Charlotte Thompson
3. Patricia Morse
4. Dan Riss
5. Jim Jenkins
6. Elayne Edel
7. Theresa Burns
8. Greg Vaughn
9. Betsy Bainbridge

Legal Issues

Greg Bailey the Town's attorney reported on several law cases that impact the Town's finances. One case brought by Mr. Ralph Taylor, concerning access to his property, has cost us \$24,000. Presently the case is on appeal to the West Virginia Supreme Court. The other case is a directive by the Circuit Court to issue a permit to reconstruct the Auvil House on Fillmore Street. The Town had denied the permit because of size and impact of the structure on the street scape. The Town's attorney is preparing a brief for the Council as to our options. So far the cost is \$47,000.



Gambling Revenue

Gambling revenue in Jefferson County is divided 50/50 (after a threshold) between the county and the towns. It is then divided among the five towns in the county on a per capita basis. The appropriate section of the WV Code says

“ The municipalities of the county shall receive fifty percent of the excess amount, said fifty percent to be divided among the municipalities on a per capita basis as determined by the most recent decennial United States census of population.”

The 2010 Census figures have just been released, and should be compared to the previous Census. See <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

During the last 10 years, Charles Town, Ranson, and Shepherdstown have each grown 40-80% due to new subdivisions and annexation. On the other hand, the population in Bolivar has remained flat, and in Harpers Ferry, it has declined.

Currently, Bolivar and Harpers Ferry receive 12.42% and 3.65% of the gaming revenue, respectively, based on the population of the towns in the 2000 Census. The official 2010 Census populations of Bolivar and Harpers Ferry are now significantly smaller: 8.19% and 2.24% respectively, or 34% and 39% less. Based on the new Census, Bolivar and Harpers Ferry’s pieces of the gambling pie will decline.

See figures on page 1 for current Video Lottery and Table Game revenues.

Last year Bolivar received about \$389,000 from Video Lottery revenue and appears to be on the same pace this year. To date, Bolivar has received about \$112,000 from Table Game revenues and appears to be on track for about \$164,000 for 2010-2011. For Bolivar, the total revenue from both Video Lottery and Table Games for this year will be about \$553,000.

Last year Harpers Ferry received about \$114,000 from Video Lottery revenue and appears to be on the same pace this year. To date, Harpers Ferry has received about \$33,000 from Table Game revenues and is on track for about \$48,000 for 2010-2011. For Harpers Ferry, the total revenue from both Video Lottery and Table Games for this year will be about \$162,000.

| TOWNS | 2000 Census | Percent of Total | 2010 Census | Percent of Total | Population Growth | Percent Rel. Growth |
|----------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Charles Town | 2,907 | 34.56% | 5,259 | 41.20% | 81% | 19% |
| Ranson | 2,951 | 35.08% | 4,440 | 34.79% | 50% | -1% |
| Shepherdstown | 1,202 | 14.29% | 1,734 | 13.59% | 44% | -5% |
| Bolivar | 1,045 | 12.42% | 1,045 | 8.19% | 0% | -34% |
| Harpers Ferry | 307 | 3.65% | 286 | 2.24% | -7% | -39% |
| TOTALS | 8,412 | 100.00% | 12,764 | 100.00% | 52% | 0% |

The total yearly gambling revenues for Bolivar and Harpers Ferry of about \$553,000 and \$162,000 are based on their 2000 Census populations with divisions of the municipal pie of 12.42% and 3.65%, respectively. If the shares are readjusted to 8.19% and 2.24%, Bolivar and Harpers Ferrys total gambling revenue will drop to about \$364,000 and \$100,000, respectively. A \$189,000 drop in revenue for Bolivar and a \$62,000 drop in revenue for Harpers Ferry relative to current gambling revenue streams seems likely.

Department of Environmental Protection Report

The Harpers Ferry/Bolivar PSD was rated after extensive evaluations of the plant, treatment of affluent and personnel, “as a well operated and maintained facility”. Congratulations to Jimmy Williams and Ed Tennant, Operations Manager and Plant Operator.

Respectively Harpers Ferry/ Bolivar PSD Board

James A. Addy, Chairman

Robert Hardy, Treasurer

Frank Donadio, Secretary

Town Council Meeting April 11,2011

Town Council Approved

- Minutes for March 14,2011 with correction, Frank Buckles was the last surviving veteran of World War I not World War II.
- Minutes for Special Council meeting for March 29,2011 with discussion of increased expenses for Police Department amounting to \$30,000 because of state pension and health care assessments
- Financial reports with comment that \$70,000 in potential costs for law suits must appear as a budgeted item required by state auditor.
- Placement of Private Luke Quinn memorial on land donated by Rich Schaffer. Questions were raised concerning weight of monument near drainage pipe. David Cummings will investigate.
- Sign Permit: Wayne Bishop– 597 East Ridge Street– Historic marker for accessory building
- Building Permit: for Ed Wheelless and Chris Craig-844 East Ridge Street– Deer resistant fence

Town Council Heard

- Reports by Jerry Hutton, Chair of Planning Commission on Parking, CSX Potomac Street Railroad crossing and a revision of ordinance to address neglected business and collapsing structures.
- Citizens questions concerning a letter read by Councilwoman Elayne Edel at the March 29,2011 Council meeting that mentioned the Harpers Ferry Historic Town foundation was under a tax review by the IRS. Al Alsdorf, president of the Foundation stated it was untrue. Many present wanted to know who wrote the letter and where is the letter. No one on Council could provide that information. Foundation had requested through FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) a copy of the letter, a transcript of Council March 29th meeting, an apology from the Town for reading of an unattributed letter.
- After much discussion Council agreed to a letter of apology to be crafted by the Town's attorney and signed by Mayor James A. Addy
- RFP published addressing fire hydrants on Bolivar Heights
- Water pressure in lower town to be resolved as soon as part arrives for repair
- Legal Issues– see page 3
- Census report– see page 1
- Revenue distribution—see page 4
- Police report– see page 3
- Request by Wayne Bishop for funds to hold a Music on the Ridge Concert deferred until May 9,2011 Council meeting, pending written request
- Other agenda items deferred to special Council meeting April 19,2011
- Council entered executive session 8:15 P.M.
- Council ended executive session and adjourned at 9:20 P.M.
- Next regular Council meeting, May 9,2011
- Special Council meeting minutes for March 29,2011 are available at the Town Office if you wish to view them

GFWC Herb Fair and Bake Sale



The 26th Annual Herb Fair and Bake Sale sponsored by GFWC Woman's Club of Harpers Ferry will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2011, from 9 am until 2 pm at the Harpers Ferry Town Gazebo on Washington Street in Harpers Ferry.

This event is an annual club fundraiser and features all kinds of herbs, flowering plants, vegetable plants, and baked goods. New this year – a selection of garden books, new and used, will be on sale. (PS We hear from the herb vendor that the scented geraniums will be extra nice!)

Hope to see you at the Herb Fair this year. Please call Carole Carter (304-535-6566) if you can volunteer to help with the Herb Fair. Call Gerry Smith (304-876-2354) or Alden Addy (304-535-2619) if you can provide a baked good or can help sell baked goods!

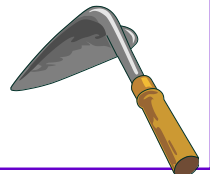
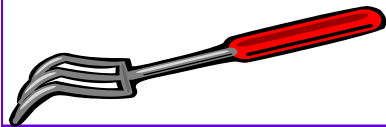


Mark Your Calendars – The 56th Annual Shenandoah-Potomac Garden Council House and Garden Tour

is Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1, 2011 from 10 am until 5 pm. Seven homes throughout Jefferson and Berkeley Counties are on this year's tour. The GFWC Woman's Club of Harpers Ferry is hosting a home located on Bakerton Road – Stony Meadows – rich in gardens and art. Proceeds from tour sales provide funds for local garden projects such as the Harpers Ferry Town Garden and the landscaping at the Charles Town Library. For more information, please visit www.shenandoah-potomacgardencouncil.org. To order advance, discounted tickets for single admission or for the complete tour, please call Cathy Burcham at 304-535-6900. Tickets are also available at each home on the tour days.

Harpers Ferry Town Garden Weeding and Mulching –

If you can spare some time, join club members throughout the day on Tuesday, April 19, 9 am – 5 pm, to help weed, replenish soil, spread mulch, and plant flowers at the Town Garden located next to the Town Hall/Post Office. Come at any time, for any amount of time, come alone, or make a date with friends and neighbors. Bring digging tools, shovels, and rakes. The Woman's Club can use you! Rain date is Wednesday, April 20.



HARPERS FERRY TO CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY ON 30 APRIL 2011

Everyone is invited to come celebrate Arbor Day at 12:00 noon on Saturday, 30 April 2011. The festivities begin adjacent to the Anthol Shewbridge House along Washington Street, where two flowering trees will be planted. In addition, there will be a self-guided walking tour of the town's Landmark Trees. Brochures describing the Landmark Tree program will be distributed at the tree planting, along with a map showing the locations of the five trees that have been so designated. The Landmark Tree program was established to recognize the most notable specimens in our community. For more information, please visit the Tree Committee's website at www.hftrees.org. We hope you will join us for this special celebration!



An old U.S. Army airplane picture given to us by Rich Schaffer.

Together, the towns of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar, West Virginia along with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy cordially invite you to celebrate the official designation as an Appalachian Trail Community™



May 2, 2011 - 12:15 p.m.

Appalachian Trail Conservancy Headquarters
799 Washington St., Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
Speakers, Snacks and Commemoration

Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and town leaders from Harpers Ferry and Bolivar will host a ceremony celebrating the designation as the newest Appalachian Trail Community™ with a proclamation signing, speakers including David Startzell, ATC Executive Director and Pamela Underhill, Superintendent, Appalachian National Scenic Trail, National Park Service, and other state and local dignitaries.

Address questions to:

Julie Judkins, ATC Community Program Manager jjudkins@appalachiantrail.org 828-254-3708

Laurie Potteiger, ATC Information Services Manager 304-535-6331 x128

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's mission is to preserve and manage the Appalachian Trail – ensuring that its vast natural beauty and priceless cultural heritage can be shared and enjoyed today, tomorrow, and for centuries to come.

www.appalachiantrail.org



**HARPERS FERRY
CANDIDATES FORUM 2011
SPONSORED BY GFWC WOMAN'S CLUB OF HARPERS
FERRY**

GFWC Woman's Club of Harpers Ferry proudly sponsors the 2011 Harpers Ferry Candidates Forum. The Forum is open to candidates for Mayor, Town Recorder, and Town Council for the town of Harpers Ferry for the June election.

The Forum will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 22, from 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, at Camp Hill United Methodist Church Reception Hall in Harpers Ferry. There will be a 'Meet and Greet the Candidates' following the Forum from 5:30 – 6:30 pm.

Candidate questions are being accepted from the general public. Please submit questions via email to cburcham@frontier.com or via mail at GFWC Woman's Club of Harpers Ferry P.O. Box 843, Harpers Ferry 25425.

GFWC Woman's Club of Harpers Ferry is affiliated with the International General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), headquartered in Washington D.C. The mission of the club is 'Dedicated to Community Improvement by Enhancing the Lives of Others through Community Service.' The club has a long history of sponsorship of non-partisan community political forums, and involvement and interest in local issues including education, conservation, health, and history. For more information on the Forum, or to learn about GFWC Woman's Club of Harpers Ferry, please call 304-535-6900.