

Harpers Ferry, WV Community Newsletter



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September
2025



Remembering Ira Lindy Hale

Ira Hale, 96, retired Chief Master Sergeant, US Air Force, of East Ridge Street in Harpers Ferry, passed away peacefully on September 17, 2025, at the Veteran's Administration hospice in Martinsburg. He and his wife of 74 years, Jean, moved to Harpers Ferry from Chester, Virginia, in 1994 to be near their children. Before Chester, they lived in several locations around London and Suffolk, England, in various towns and cities in West Germany, near Paris in the 1950's, and in Arizona, Arkansas, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, and New Jersey. Lin also served in Korat, Thailand, during the Viet Nam years. During recent years, Ira could be spotted walking everyday from his home on East Ridge Street to their mailbox located on Washington Street. He will be missed by many.

Message from the Mayor

Fall is now upon us, schools are in session, and our gardening activities are beginning to wane. During Labor Day weekend I had the opportunity to speak to many business owners, and they all agreed that Labor Day 2025 was the busiest weekend in recent memory. On September 20th I joined many others in celebrating the grand opening of the Appalachian Snail. I encourage each of you to visit the "Snail" and witness the remarkable transformation of the old Eackles Funeral Home. At our recent Town council meeting Laurel Ziemianski reported that the Hilltop general contractors are in the process of finalizing project estimates for construction. Superintendent Gossett reported that the old gas station at the terminus of Washington Street will soon be demolished. She also reported that construction will shortly begin on the new bicycle ramp linking Harpers Ferry and the C&O Canal. The new official Town logo is being finalized and will soon be officially adopted. In an effort to keep our police officers fully and safely equipped, new updated tasers have been purchased along with upgrades to their body cameras. I am also pleased to acknowledge that our Public Works Administrator reported that last month's unaccounted water loss was 21%, the lowest in decades. Finally, I also want to extend condolences to the Hale family. Ira was a true gentleman, honorable in every way.

~ Greg Vaughn



Rainbow over lower town captured by L Vaughn on 9/23/25

Community Announcements

Notice From Harpers Ferry Police Department To Residents and Business Owners

The months of September and October present our town with the highest number of visitors, as many travel to the area to watch the beauty of the Mountain State explode in color. That presents increased motor vehicle traffic as well as increased foot traffic, particularly on Washington, High, and Potomac streets but also expands to interior streets that provide access to National Park Service properties and Town trails. We ask that our residents, business owners and contractors be mindful of parking restrictions including time limits for loading/unloading zones, not obstructing traffic, and not parking on or blocking access to sidewalks. Since contractors do not have access to our News-letter, we ask that residents and business owners ensure hired contractors are following the directives as set forth in the ordinance. The HFPD officers have been instructed to monitor parking to protect residents and business owners from having their properties, driveways, and restricted residential parking blocked by visitors as well as to prevent visitors from having difficulty safely maneuvering through the streets and sidewalks. As traffic and parking conditions are monitored, we will continue to use the option of closing Hog Alley and Potomac Street. As a reminder, parking complaints must be reported to the Jefferson County Emergency Communications Center by calling (304) 725-8484.

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS & BUSINESS OWNERS

Per Harpers Ferry Ordinance 545.10 (b), fireworks are prohibited within the Corporation of Harpers Ferry without prior permission granted by the State Fire Marshall and with the prior approval of the Harpers Ferry Police and Harpers Ferry Friendship Fire Departments.

This is for the safety, the prevention of hazards to property or to danger to any person. If you have any questions, please contact the Town Hall.

Thank you.

AUGUST 2025 POLICE REPORT

ACCIDENTS **3**

CALL OUTS **0**

ASSISTS **10**

CITATIONS **136**

Failure to Maintain Control	2
MVI	3
Parking	124
Registration	4
Speeding	3

INCIDENTS **268**

911 Hang-up	5
Alarm	1
Assist Other Departments	10
Attempt to Locate	1
Building Check	9
Capias Service	1
Citizen Assist	5
Directed Patrol	58
Disabled Vehicle	1
Disturbance	1
EMS Assist	1
Foot Patrol	3
Found Property	2
Hardcopy	1
Injured Animal	1
MVA - Injury	1
MVA - No Injury	2
Out of Car	6
Parking	19
Public Service	1
Road Patrol	121
Traffic Hazard	1
Traffic Stops	14
Welfare Check	3

Community Announcements



THE HARPERS FERRY POLICE DEPARTMENT IS A DROP-OFF LOCATION FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND FOR THE JCS SHOE AND COAT FUND

A donation box is located in the lobby for school supplies, shoes, coats, hats, gloves, and other essential clothing items. Items collected will be delivered to Harpers Ferry Middle School and C.W. Shipley Elementary School on a regular basis.

School staff noted that cotton gloves are appreciated for everyday use and insulated/waterproof gloves are needed for students to play in the snow or during extremely cold weather. Specific items requested at the middle school are hats, gloves, lightweight jackets, fleece jackets, and hoodies.

Information provided by the Jefferson County Board of Education:

Jefferson County Schools provide new clothing and shoes to students through the JCS Shoe and Coat Fund. Monetary donations to the Fund are gratefully accepted at any time of the year! The Jefferson High School JROTC cadets make this initiative a focus of their fundraising and community service efforts every fall and present the school system with a generous donation each year. All other donations should be submitted to:

SoMo Dept, Attn: Dr. Lee Ebersole
Jefferson County Schools
110 Mordington Avenue
Charles Town, WV 25414

Donations are accepted in check form and should be made payable to:

Jefferson County Schools Shoe and Coat Fund

For additional information regarding this program, visit:

<https://www.jcswv.org/page/jcs-shoe-coat-fund>



One of the Last Steam Locomotives by Garnet Jex, 1951.
Image courtesy of NPS.

OPEN HOUSE VIEWING

GARNET JEX PAINTINGS OF HARPERS FERRY

10 am – 4 pm ~ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

CAMP HILL-WESLEY UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

645 WASHINGTON STREET, HARPERS FERRY



HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH
CANAL TOWN PARTNERSHIP'S ART TRAIL

www.canaltrust.org/programs/canal-towns

Storer College History Tour

October 4, 2025 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
51 Mather Place, Harpers Ferry, WV

From John Brown to W.E.B. DuBois, Harpers Ferry has been a prominent stage in Black History. During the Jim Crow era, Storer College students referred to Camp Hill as the Hill of Hope, as it represented a place of refuge, equality, and inspiration. But was this campus always safe from the civil strife of the times? Meet author Lynn Pechuekonis for an engaging introduction to the college's history and one of its most remarkable figures: Professor Saunders. A Storer alumnus and its longest-serving Black teacher, Saunders was a resident of Harpers Ferry for 54 years, a spiritual leader, and well-known figure throughout the thriving African American community then living beyond Storer's campus. This walking tour will take you through significant locations on Camp Hill, highlighting places that shaped Saunders' life and legacy, including the college campus, Curtis Memorial Church, his home, and the surrounding neighborhood. The tour concludes with a book signing in the Storer Room at Mather Training Center, housed in the former Anthony Hall, which was once the center of campus life. Participants should meet at the Storer gates on Fillmore Street.

Scarecrows of Harpers Ferry & Bolivar 2025



Presented by
The Harpers Ferry and Bolivar
Parks & Recreation Commissions



**Do you want to build a scarecrow?!
Show off your creative side and enter the
Annual Scarecrow Contest!**



Only registered scarecrows will be
entered into the contest.
REGISTER TODAY using the QR code.

Scarecrows to be displayed anytime starting October 1st.

All entries should be up before judging on October 29th.

Winners will be announced on Thursday, October 30th

Entries from 2023 & 2024



A few rules:

All scarecrows should be made/displayed in good taste.
(Please no political or inappropriate themes)

Scarecrows should be homemade and visible from the
street/public walkway. Should not exceed 6 ft tall.

Scarecrows should be able to withstand outdoor weather
conditions.



WOMEN'S CLUB OF HARPERS FERRY Annual

FLEA MARKET

Join us for our annual fundraising sale and find
that special unique item!

Sale Dates:

Friday, October 17th.....9am to 4pm

Saturday, October 18th 9am to 4pm

Sunday, October 19th.....11am to 2pm



Location:

856 Washington Street
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425



Donations Needed!

The club is now accepting donations of clean, gently used
household and clothing items.

We will **NOT** accept: TVs, computer screens, large exercise
equipment, over-sized furniture, and non-working items.

Schedule a drop-off appointment:

Fran: 301-467-3467

OR

Marie: 904-849-5643

Donations accepted until October 14th.



St. John Lutheran Church Holy Holiday Bazaar

Silent Auction, Lunch, Bake Sale, and more.

Friday October 31 and Saturday November 1st, 2025

9:00 am—3:00 pm

950 Washington Street, Harpers Ferry, WV

301-467-3467

The Silent Auction



BAKE SALE

Sponsored by the
Harpers Ferry Parks
& Recreation Commission

ART IN THE PARK

An event for all ages!

OCTOBER 18TH

1:00 - 5:00 PM

Harpers Ferry Children's Park
877 Washington Street
(Across from the Woman's Club House)

PUMPKIN DECORATING
MAKE YOUR OWN TRICK OR TREAT BAG
& MORE

If you would like to carve a pumpkin, please bring
your own carving tools. Pumpkins will be provided.

Community Announcements

Reminder!

Tickets are available for the Women's Club Quilt Raffle

This beautiful handmade quilt was created by talented Club member Christine Perun and donated to the Women's Club to be raffled off as a fundraiser.

Persons wishing to buy a chance to win this twin-size quilt should mail a check made payable to the Women's Club of Harpers Ferry to 856 W. Washington Street, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425. Tickets are \$3.00 each or four for \$10.00. The Club will happily send you your tickets by return mail, so please include a return address with your donation. The drawing will take place in December during the Club's annual holiday gathering.

The Women's Club appreciates your support!



Harpers Ferry Tree Commission

On Saturday, September 13th, members of the Tree Commission along with several volunteers continued their ivy removal program removing vines from trees along Franklin and West Ridge Streets.



The group happy to be
done!

Back row Christian,
Zach, Alison, and Robert
Front row Christy, Dirt,
Rebecca

Photos provided by Christy
Huddle & Jesse Melton

Community Announcements



National Park Service News—Replacement of Existing Stairway at Byron Bridge

The stairway between the Byron Bridge and the C&O Canal towpath is **closed**.

The temporary stairway is **not active yet**.

The Byron Bridge is **closed at the spiral stairs**.

The shuttle is **activated**.

The National Park Service (NPS) plans to rehabilitate the existing metal stairway connecting the Goodloe Byron Memorial Footbridge (Byron Bridge) to the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park towpath (mile 60.6). The pedestrian walkway over the Potomac River connects Harpers Ferry National Historical Park with the C&O Canal NHP. The stairway and pedestrian walkway also carry the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trails, and other regional trail systems. Of note is that the pedestrian walkway also connects Harpers Ferry NHP to one of its primary trails at Maryland Heights. The Maryland side of the bridge features a steep spiral staircase approximately 30-feet high and 5-feet wide.

NPS anticipates mobilization for construction to begin on or about September 17, 2025. Construction will continue into Winter 2025/26. At the start of the project, the bridge and stairway will close for approximately two weeks beginning September 22, 2025 (weather dependent) while crews build a temporary stairwell. During that time, a shuttle will run between C&O Canal Lock 34 and Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Visitor Center. The shuttle will run during normal operating hours 9:00 am—6:30 pm—7 days a week. The shuttle will not operate during days of inclement weather (ex. Ice, snow, etc.).

Harpers Ferry Parks & Rec Fundraiser

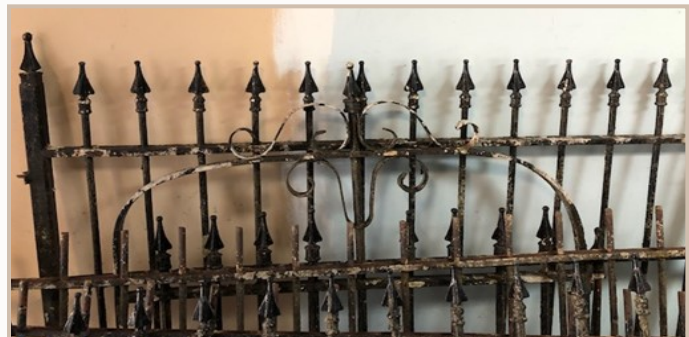
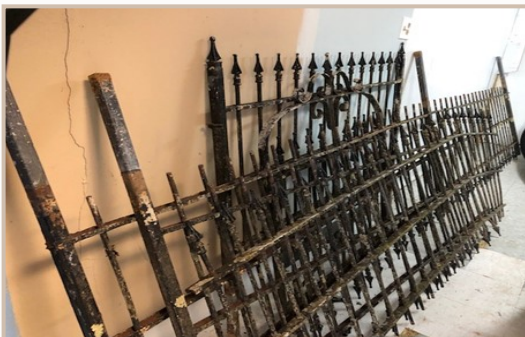
The Parks & Rec Commission is accepting closed bids for the purchase of the iron fencing that was removed during the Children's Park Revitalization Project. The fence consists of 4 sections and includes 2 gates. Sealed bids must include the bidders name, contact information and the amount of their bid. All bids must be delivered to the Town Hall by 3:00 pm November 1st. Minimum starting bid is \$500.00. The money raised will go toward the restoration of the fountain located in the Town's Union Square Park on the corner of Franklin and Washington Streets. The fence can be viewed prior to making an offer by contacting Pat Morse at the Town Hall 304-535-2206 ext. 4.

Measurements—2 Gates—3 feet wide, 40 inches tall

Sides—2 pieces measure 93 inches long; 33 inches tall

1 piece measures 14 feet long; 33 inches tall

1 piece measures 55 inches long; 33 inches tall



Poetry from The Hills

Letter To My Sons

The tallest treetops are no place to sit.
But, by looking up, one can run a hand
across the blue and clouds.
The blue felt like a favorite old shirt.

A roof man arriving next-door was a reminder:
visiting would be good. Then there is
driving or the airport.
I'm anchored by a red-capped bird at a bowl.

We have one moment at a time that stays.
My pointer swings and stays and swings.
Memory is a compass.
I am forgetting and exploring still. Bear with me.

~ George Owens

Quote of the Month

Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is
the little voice at the end of the day that says I'll try
again tomorrow.

- Winston Churchill



'Buck' enjoying the sunshine on Fillmore Street.

The Armony Canal Trail, or the old Potomac Street extended between the train station and the town boundary, had deteriorated after the storms and rain of spring and early summer. Once alerted, the National Park staff made quick work of removing two fallen trees that totally blocked the trail. And six volunteers from the Trail and Town Alliance spent a chunk of their Labor Day weekend clearing stilt-grass and other weeds that had formed bottlenecks at several places on the trail. Once again, the Armony Canal Trail provides a quiet and safe place for residents and visitors to hike, run, or—if they're prepared for some rough gravel—bicycle along this beautiful and historical route.



Pictured above L to R: Alexis Grant, Chris Craig, Ed Wheelless, Storm DiCostanzo, Carol Carter, Jacob Stettes.

Submitted by Chris Craig

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 October.

- The next Municipal court date is Wednesday, October 1, 2025.
- Agenda item request for the August Town Council meeting are due by Noon, Monday, October 6, 2025.
- The October Town Council Meeting date is Monday, October 13, 2025.
- October Newsletter Submissions must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, October 15, 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 Parking Committee (1 seat) and The Human Rights Committee (3 seats). Send your letter of interest to clerk@harpersferrywv.us.

October Office Closure

The Town Hall and Police
Department Offices will be
closed on Monday, October
13th in recognition of
Indigenous Peoples Day.

The offices will reopen on
Tuesday, October 14th at
9:00 am.

Although the office is closed,
the Town Council meeting
scheduled for Monday, October
13th will be held at 7:00 pm in
the Town Hall conference room.

Looking forward to October

October 1st—Scarecrow Contest
begins

October 1—Yom Kipur Begins at
Sunset

October 13th—Indigenous
Peoples Day.

October 17-19—Women's Club
Flea Market

October 18th—Art in the Park

October 31st—Halloween



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:

