

# Harpers Ferry, WV Community Newsletter



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## February 2026



### Message from the Mayor

In 2016 I applied for a WV Department of Highways (DOH) streetscape grant for improvements to portions of High Street between Public Way and Hog Alley. Former Governor Tomblin subsequently approved and awarded \$80,000 to be used to fund a pre-engineering study focusing on improving pedestrian safety, ADA enhancements and accessibility, and drainage improvements. Progress on this initiative has languished for years. The principal delay involved DOH funding and considerable complexities involving the terrain and rights-of-way along High Street. However, focus on this project was recently reinvigorated. DOH developed conceptual renderings and public hearings were subsequently conducted. In October of 2025 the Hagerstown-Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization (HEPMPO) under the leadership of Executive Director Matt Mullenax developed and submitted a funding grant application on our behalf and in partnership with the National Park Service and WV Department of Transportation. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work closely with Matt framing the application. The grant was then submitted to the Eastern Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP). The FLAP program was established by Congress to improve state and local transportation facilities that provide access to and are located within/adjacent to federal lands for visitors and resource users.

I am pleased to report that HEPMPPO informed me that our submission was approved at the full-funded request level. There is no match and the project has been approved at 100% federal share. I might add that only five projects were approved in WV. Total approved construction costs and funding are estimated to be \$1.7 million. This is a major accomplishment, and I am excited that this long-standing project will finally move forward.

~ Greg Vaughn

## Community Announcements



### Remembering Al Alsdorf

Al Alsdorf, previous owner of the Harpers Ferry Guest House, passed away on January 19, 2026. Al participated in the community. He and his wife Allison hosted and entertained guests from around the world including many people through hiking the Appalachian Trail for 25 years. Al continued his civic involvement in Harpers Ferry serving on the Town Counsel, served on the Planning Commission, becoming a member of Virginia Lodge #1 of the Oddfellows and helping the community wherever he could.

To those who knew him, Al was truly a renaissance man. He was a master woodworker, electrician, plumber, and organic farmer. Long before sustainability became fashionable, Al lived a life of conservation—trekking to recycling centers, composting, and using rain barrels. Among his many hobbies, he made maple syrup and maple candy in his backyard gifting it to friends and family.

## Mark Your Calendar for

### Parks & Rec 's Upcoming Event

Harpers Ferry Parks and Rec is excited to announce the upcoming **3rd Annual Film Festival** being held at the Mather Training Center on Saturday, March 21st, from 5:00 pm —8:00 pm

This year's line up of exciting short films include drama, comedy, documentary and history by award winning local and regional film makers. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Tickets are available on Event Bright <https://tinyurl.com/HFFF3>



## Community Announcements

### JANUARY 2026 POLICE REPORT

ACCIDENTS 2

CALL OUTS 1

ASSISTS 2

CITATIONS 36

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Insurance         | 2  |
| One Way Violation | 1  |
| MVI               | 1  |
| Parking           | 18 |
| Registration      | 10 |
| Speeding          | 4  |

INCIDENTS 332

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 911 Hang-Up              | 1   |
| Assist Other Departments | 2   |
| Building Check           | 27  |
| Citizen Assist           | 4   |
| Custody Dispute          | 1   |
| Directed Patrol          | 86  |
| Disabled Vehicle         | 2   |
| Disturbance              | 1   |
| Domestic                 | 1   |
| EMS Assist               | 1   |
| Fire Assist              | 1   |
| Injured Animal           | 1   |
| MVA (Hit & Run)          | 1   |
| MVA (No Injury)          | 1   |
| Motorist Assist          | 1   |
| Nuisance                 | 1   |
| Out of Car               | 4   |
| Parking                  | 31  |
| Public Service           | 3   |
| Road Patrol              | 138 |
| Special Event            | 1   |
| Suspicious Activity      | 1   |
| Suspicious Vehicle       | 1   |
| Traffic Stops            | 20  |
| Walk-In                  | 1   |

### TIME TO RENEW YOUR ANNUAL HARPERS FERRY RESIDENTIAL PARKING DECAL



**Decals are available at the Police  
Department  
(9:00 AM-11:00 AM and 1:00 PM-4:00 PM)**

The permit fee is \$5.00 per decal/guest permit. You must complete the 2026 Application for Residential Parking Permit, which can be found on the Town's website under the "Police" tab. Hardcopies are available in the Police Department.

Be sure to bring your current driver's license, vehicle registration (for each vehicle), and payment with you (cash or check only). If your address on your driver's license is not Harpers Ferry, you must provide other proof of resident status such as a utility bill. Applications will not be processed until all documents are provided.

As an alternative, you may email your completed application along with the other documents to [policeclerk@harpersferrywv.us](mailto:policeclerk@harpersferrywv.us). You may also mail your completed application along with the other documents and your payment to:

Harpers Ferry Police Department  
P.O. Box 551

Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

You will be notified when the permits are ready for pickup, or they can be mailed.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Permits for short-term rentals/ lodging located in the residential district of town and permits for contractors will be processed separately. Applications are available online or at the Police Department.

**PLEASE  
PICK UP  
AFTER  
YOUR PET**

*Thank you!*



#### Be a good Neighbor!

This is a poor reflection on our town if not followed. It is unhealthy and unsightly not to do so.  
Thank you!

## Message from the Harpers Ferry Water Department

The water department is in the process of working with a new billing system. A new feature on the bill shows a 13 month usage history graph. Due to the January snow storm, the most recent billing is an estimate of use as the meters were buried under snow and ice and could not be accessed for reading. Please be patient as we work through the winter challenges.



## Poetry from The Hills

### *Early February*

What if it was our bad luck  
to have the snow stay forever,  
specifically, the long pile  
plowed up in front of my house  
that looks like mashed potatoes.

And what if the heap really was  
mashed potatoes and not snow.  
It would be the worst I've ever seen.  
No, the worst was in a diner near  
Muncie, and it had sausage gravy.

Also, what if I had a dog,  
and the only food was the mash potatoes.  
At supper he'd look at me with big eyes.  
We'd sit at a table in a cottage, waiting  
for a woodsman to knock on the door.

I'd have a simple wooden bowl and spoon.  
The dog would have a bowl.  
I'd say something like  
Let's pretend it's your favorite meatloaf.  
The dog would let out a sigh.

~ George Owens

## Ground Hog Day

Looks like Punxsutawney  
Phil got it right....saw his  
shadow on February 2nd.  
Six more weeks of winter!

Winter photos throughout newsletter  
provided by Zachary Morse.

Help take a bite out of hunger!

**Valentine's Food Drive**  
for the Blue Ridge Food Pantry

Sponsored by the  
**Women's Club of Harpers Ferry**

**February 17 – 28, 2026**

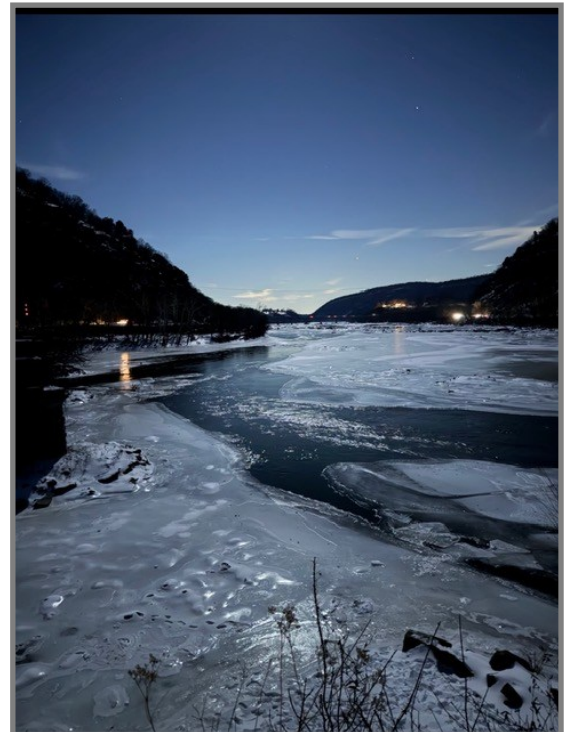
Canned and non-perishable food only. No bakery items. No soda.  
Please consider donating:

|                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Chicken noodle soup | Canned chili               |
| Canned ravioli      | Peanut butter              |
| Spam                | Jelly, grape or strawberry |
| Canned beef stew    | Vienna sausages            |

Drop donations off in the container in front of the Clubhouse at 856 W. Washington St., Harpers Ferry. Donations are for local families in need. You can also donate by making out a check to Blue Ridge Food Pantry, and mailing it to their address: PO Box 556, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

We will also have a donation box at the Bolivar- Harpers Ferry Public Library.

Rev. 02-08-2024



## 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  
4th Wednesday of every  
month at 5:00 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

#### Code Enforcement Officer:

Khamilton@harpersferrywv.us

## Court Date and Deadline Reminders for March

- The next Municipal court date is Wednesday, March 4, 2026.
- Agenda item requests for the March Town Council meeting are due by noon, Monday, March 2, 2026.
- The March Town Council Meeting date is Monday, March 9, 2026.
- Newsletter Submissions for the month of March must be received no later than noon on Monday, March 16, 2026. Please email your request to pmorse@harpersferrywv.us.
- The Town has opportunities to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals (3 alternate seats), Police Commission (1 seat) and The Human Rights Commission (2 seats). Send your letter of interest to clerk@harpersferrywv.us

### Looking forward to March

March 8th ~ Day Light Savings Time  
Begins

March 17th ~ St. Patrick's Day

March 20th ~ First Day of Spring

March 21st ~ Harpers Ferry Film Festival

March 29th—Palm Sunday



## 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](http://www.harpersferrywv.us), or keep in touch with the Town's Facebook page:

