

Harpers Ferry, WV Community Newsletter



March 2026

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Message from the Mayor

Women's History Month. March is Women's History Month, a time to recognize and honor the many, many contributions women have made to our well-being here in Harpers Ferry. We are very fortunate that we

have such a wide diversity of talented women serving in various capacities throughout our Town. We have numerous women serving in leadership roles at Town Hall, the Women's Club, our local places of worship, businesses, and our Town commissions and committees. I honor their achievements and the lasting impact they continue to have on our small historic town.

High Street Project. Very productive discussions and planning continue regarding the much-needed High Street improvement project. Meetings were recently held with the WV Department of Highways contract engineering firm. The entire focus of the project is to greatly improve pedestrian safety, ADA accessibility, and improved storm water run-off. As you may recall, the construction costs for this project are being funded through a grant that is being coordinated by the Hagerstown and Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization. You will continue to be updated as we receive additional information.

Code Enforcement Officer. Finally, I want to begin recognizing the hard-working and committed members of the Town staff. This month I want to focus on and highlight the dedicated efforts of Kevin Hamilton, the Town's Code Enforcement Officer. Kevin has one of the most challenging jobs. He serves as the approving official for building permits issued to property owners. This not only includes minor property repairs and modifications but new construction. Currently, there are numerous new homes under construction which are being regularly monitored by Kevin to ensure that the contractors are adhering to the approved building plans. One of the most difficult tasks that Kevin undertakes is meeting with property owners whose properties are not being maintained according to the minimum standards listed in our ordinances. Kevin has a very special skill set in dealing with people in a professional and respectful manner. He obtains compliance through his caring and fair demeanor. Thank you, Kevin.

~ Greg Vaughn



Community Announcements



HARPERS FERRY FILM FESTIVAL

Saturday
March 21 2026
5PM-9PM
**JOIN US FOR
OVER 15
INDEPENDENT
FILMS**

Sponsored by
Harpers Ferry
Parks and Rec



Tickets available
through eventbrite

LOCATION
Stephen T. Mather Training Center
51 Mather Pl, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

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>

Or click on the QR code above.

This is a fun, family friendly event for all.



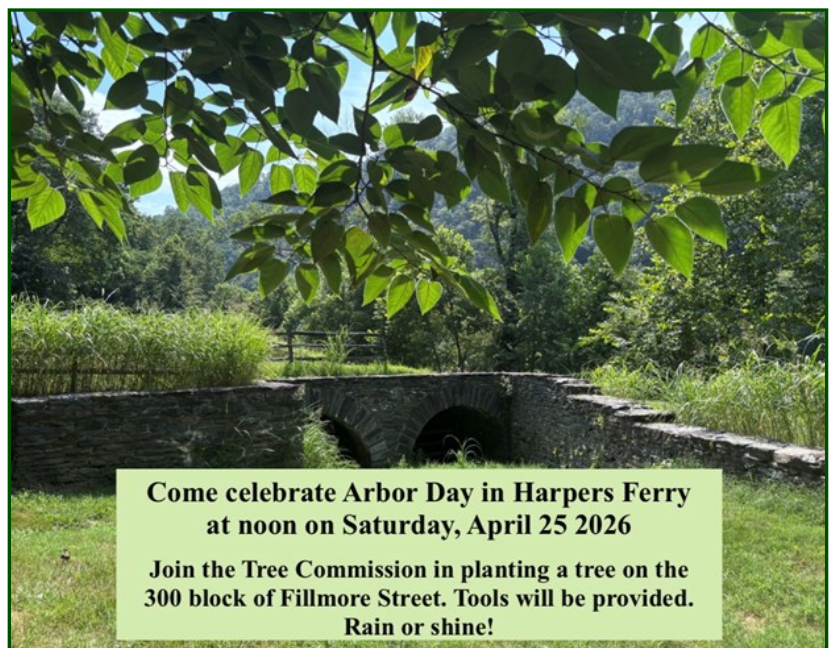
Harpers Ferry Parks & Recreation Annual Egg Hunt

Bring your basket to the annual egg hunt, open to children 12 years of age and younger. The event will take place on Saturday, April 4th at 11:00 am. Please meet at the gazebo located at 575 Washington Street.



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Please join in the non denominational Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at the Harper Cemetery on Fillmore Street on Sunday, April 5th at 6: 30 am.
All are Welcomed!



**Come celebrate Arbor Day in Harpers Ferry
at noon on Saturday, April 25 2026**

Join the Tree Commission in planting a tree on the 300 block of Fillmore Street. Tools will be provided.
Rain or shine!

Community Announcements

Foundation Honors 2026 Historic Preservation Project and Presents New Award

The Harpers Ferry – Bolivar Historic Town Foundation has announced the 2026 recipient of its annual Excellence in Preservation Award. Eddie and Mary Love are recognized for their rehabilitation work at 970 Washington Street, now home of The Appalachian Snail. The award highlights restoration and adaptive reuse of historic structures as an essential ingredient for community revitalization.

The Loves purchased the former Eackles funeral home building in 2024 with a vision of realizing its potential for serving the community. “I believed that the building could be a huge asset for our residents,” Eddie said. His preservation work has returned the earliest 1906 center section of the building to its original look, including uncovering windows obscured by a newer porch.

The Foundation has also awarded a new category this year, recognizing new construction that is appropriately sensitive to its historic neighborhood. The inaugural award goes to Laurel Ziemianski for her new home at 1150 West Ridge Street.

The Foundation will present both awards at its annual meeting on April 21 at 6 pm at The Appalachian Snail. Local residents are invited to attend. The keynote speaker will be Tanya Gossett, Superintendent of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

Flip Flop Festival

The Appalachian Trail Communities of Harpers Ferry-Bolivar and Brunswick, MD are once again hosting the Flip Flop Kickoff on April 24-26. Since 2014 the Trail and Town Alliance has partnered with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to promote Flip Flop thruhikes on the AT*, host and train hikers before their 2200-mile journeys, and send them off with a festive farewell. This year's Kickoff will feature an ATC reception, a foot tour of historic Harpers Ferry, hiker workshops, music, a Brunswick-sponsored picnic, and a Sunday morning pancake breakfast and send-off. Community residents are welcome to attend or volunteer at several of these functions but are especially urged to join us at the 7-9 am Flip Flop Flapjack breakfast on Sunday, April 26, at Camp Hill-Wesley United Methodist Church. Learn more and keep up with the latest details at www.flipflopkickoff.org. Photos below are from last year's event.

**Rather than start at the north or south end of the AT and hike to the opposite end, Flip Flop thruhikers start somewhere between (like Harpers Ferry!), hike to one end, come back, and hike to the other. This alleviates some of the stress on the trail and towns imposed by the large population of "Northbounders."*



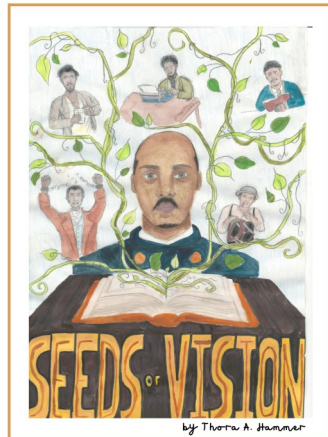
Community Announcements

Seeds of Vision: the story of Jefferson County's Heroes is celebrated at Black History Event

On February 28th, 2026, The Jefferson County NAACP and local nonprofit Innovative Community Solutions, in collaboration with the Green-Copeland American Legion Post 63 Auxiliary, presented a powerful celebration of history and culture at St Philip's Episcopal Church in Charles Town. After heartfelt welcomes by community leaders, members of the Auxiliary recounted the lives of John Brown's fellow abolitionists, reading from first-hand and contemporary accounts – compelling narratives that brought them to life.

The poignant retellings were followed by a presentation by Mr. Tim Hodge, whose reenactment introduced the audience to the remarkable historical figure of Jefferson County's own Major Martin Robison Delany. A native of Charles Town, Maj. Delany was (among other things) one of the highest-ranking Black officers during the Civil War, as well as an educator, abolitionist and medical doctor. Mr. Hodge is a well-known performer, historian and reenactor, and he presented Maj. Delany's life and works with insight and poignancy.

Emphasizing the multi-generational vision that these organizations foster, Demi Breeden (descendent of George "Buck" Weaver, and Miss West Virginia's Teen 2024) read a poem featuring an ode to the freedom fighters of Harpers Ferry. Thora Hammer, daughter of Harpers Ferry resident Guy Hammer, designed and drew the cover image for the event program. Her image captures the key figures of the presentation – the vignette portraits of John Brown's fellow abolitionists and the larger-than-life presence of Maj. Delany are vividly imagined, showcasing not only the remarkable stories but also Ms. Hammer's own emerging talent as an artist.



Article submitted by Caitlin McAteer

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. 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.

Poetry from The Hills

Outdoor Writer

My carpenter shoveled every walk of mine,
so I stepped outside to use them
on our thirteenth frozen afternoon.

A bird or maybe two rang bells.
The cypress greeted me,
so did the juniper where the shovel
exposed a bit of bed.

And when I looked up from there
at the heap of ice and snow
along the length of my walks,
I saw work
frozen as it had been thrown.

There's a place where rough drafts go.
Our conversations with ourselves
are saved somewhere and not dulled.
This is what it looks like.

What grains of sifted snow
are syllables and seconds.
What splintered ice
are words and days.
What a sheet of ice
are the cold chapter and month
of someone
who works winter by hand.

~ George Ownes

On the evening of March 7th, an eagle was seen was flying over Fillmore Street. A few minutes later, the Eagle reappeared with a large branch in its talons followed by a paragon falcon. *A special site to see!*

~ Photos taken by Zachary Morse.



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 April

- The next Municipal court date is Wednesday, April 1, 2026.
- Agenda item requests for the April Town Council meeting are due by noon, Monday, April 6, 2026.
- The April Town Council Meeting date is Monday, April 13, 2026.
- Newsletter Submissions for the month of April must be received no later than noon on Wednesday, April 15, 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 April

April 1st ~ Passover Begins at Sunset
April 3rd ~ Good Friday
April 4th ~ Town Egg Hunt
April 5th ~ Easter Sunday
April 15th ~ Tax Day
April 21st ~ Foundation Honors
April 22nd ~ Earth Day
April 24-26th ~ Flip Flop Festival
April 25th ~ Arbor Day Celebration



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:

