

The WV INDEPENDENT Observer

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

JULY 2021

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THIS PAPER WANTS TO BE RECYCLED.



Vernon Sheetz erected the first martin birdhouse behind his florist shop on West Liberty Street in Charles Town in 1925. The slightly smaller current birdhouse pictured here (one of several now in the yard) was built by William League after a storm knocked down Sheetz's original 48 room "martin hotel" in 1955.

TO OUR READERS — There has been a lot of talk about infrastructure over the past several months and the recent news from Washington DC suggests that there will be a lot of federal money spent on projects over the next several years. Our regional planning organization (page 6) has a long list of potential transit improvements affecting Jefferson County that could be considered for funding. Before anything gets built there will be a lot more discussion and public comment, so stay tuned.

The streets of Charles Town are already buzzing, even before the annual car show comes back this September. The City and its non-profit partner, Charles Town Now, have been working for over a decade with the Main Street America organization, which accepted the city into its program in late 2018. Recent recognition of the pandemic curbside dining program highlights the payoff from this planning and hard work (page 4).

In Shepherdstown, the Contemporary American Theater Festival decided to play outside this summer (page 11). It's a bit of necessity, but as they say, that leads to invention, which is part of CATF's DNA. There is something special about gathering in these downtown spaces. The faces and shops may change over time, but like the martins (above) who have been returning to the same spot for almost a century, there is a welcoming continuity and connection to be found here.

Steve Pearson
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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// COMMUNITY

DOWNTOWN CHARLES TOWN DRIVES FORWARD

Main Street America Recognizes City's Recovery Efforts



The mural on N Charles Street reflects the downtown vibe.

WHEN THE GOVERNOR ISSUED the stay-at-home order closing restaurants and retail shops in March 2020, the organizers of Charles Town Now (CTN) moved quickly to implement a curbside takeout and gift card program. One year later CTN noted the anniversary with the slogan “One Year, Still Here.” The group’s plucky attitude helped earn Charles Town a second place award nationally in the American Express “Order In, Help Out Innovation Challenge.” Entries were judged on strategy, innovation, engagement, feasibility, and results.

Moving Fast

Liz Cook, whose job as Downtown Coordinator for the City of Charles Town also includes the role of Program Director for CTN, described

how the curbside program came together: “Within 24 hours, the City approved the signs, and we had the cones and signs on the streets within 48 hours. Every day it was just a group of people asking how do we make it easy to shop and spend money downtown? We were live [on social media] every day, then we produced the music video [Rocking That Curbside] that took off. It just happened organically.” Cook noted that the results were particularly tangible: “We lost only one business directly related to the pandemic. And our second place award is impressive when you compare the size of Charles Town to the other cities who competed [all of the other winners have 4 to 30 times the population of Charles Town].” To paraphrase the song lyrics in the video, Charles Town rocked.

Starting with Kindness

Cook recalls getting involved with CTN as a volunteer with the 2017 “Be Kind” campaign organized by the Kiwanis Club. “I was talking with the business owners. Everyone wanted to work together, and the communication was there, but they said we need someone to pull this together.” At the same time, Charles Town was ready to take the final step to become accredited as a Main Street America (MSA) Community. The MSA program provides a framework for revitalizing downtowns, as well as a network of resources to assist communities to develop strategies tailored to their specific situations. Cook gave credit to CTN board member Ann Paonessa for starting the city on the pathway to the process in 2009, which resulted in the 2018 accreditation. “It took nine years — it’s



The cones and signs for the curbside program were in place two days after the Governor’s shut-down order for restaurants in March 2020.

about learning to use the toolkit, a process, and every year we submit plans and reports of our successes to keep the accreditation.” Daphne Wahl, the owner of Art Deco Dekor (114 E Liberty St) and president of the CTN board of directors described what the Main Street designation means for the city and how it works: “Our downtown is about small business. And we want to see these businesses grow and have opportunities to thrive. And we would not be able to do this without the City hiring Liz Cook to manage the program. We needed that dedicated person to make it work.”

Encouraging a Community

In her role as Downtown Coordinator, Cook focuses on marketing the downtown to businesses that might consider locating in the area. “Downtown is office-heavy already, so for now we focus on attracting restaurants and retail businesses. We’re looking for business owners who want to join a community. A lot of my work involves researching potential businesses and writing proposals.” For CTN, a private sector non-profit organization, Cook focuses on helping the marketing and promotion efforts of CTN’s Promotions Committee. “During the pandemic that group was organized by Karen Scott,” said Cook. “They built a team of 7 or 8 people who were really supportive and engaged.”

Cook noted that CTN really relies on local business involvement. “The [CTN] mission is to support businesses and it needs business buy-in to work. We’re always asking, ‘what’s your opinion’ about our program. There are about ten owners who are super involved. There are many others who help out too, even in the past year when life has been crazy.” Daphne Wahl echoed that observation: “It’s about the volunteers. We can’t do it without the people.”



CTN and the downtown merchants have worked together to create a festive atmosphere.

Looking Ahead

Wahl also noted that CTN has a long-term vision to expand the main street district. “Right now it’s mostly three blocks of West Washington Street, with a few places on Liberty and the cross streets between.” Cook works to help businesses grow and stay downtown — Fuzzy Dog Books & Music’s move to the Tate House at 201 East Washington Street is the most recent example of these relocations, which in the past year have included Sibling Coffee, Inkwells, Cape Cod Formals, Weant to Play, Studio M, and Effleurage Spa.

Cook described what she sees as important next steps: “People are looking for experiences, so we want to be more than just eating and shopping. We do need more dining. When you look at a place like Frederick in Maryland, there are a lot of different restaurant options downtown. The more restaurants, the more people will be here. We also want to attract more retail shops that offer experiences.” Summarizing her goal for downtown, Cook remarked, “I want this to be a place where we have businesses that offer the things that local residents need, to be a place where you can shop and eat without having to leave town.”

BY: Steve Pearson

For the latest information on restaurants, shopping, and events in downtown Charles Town, visit Charles Town Now on the web at CharlesTownNow.com and on Facebook @ CharlesTownNow.



(Top, right) *Needful Things Emporium (at 218 W Washington St.) held a grand opening of its newly remodeled space, home to 22 new merchants. (Middle, right)* *Karen Frail of Yarnability (at 130 W Washington St.) reports business is starting to come back and noted her appreciation for CTN’s “push to keep our small businesses alive during the pandemic.” (Bottom, left)* *Fuzzy Dog Books & Music co-owners Sara Anderson and Robert Wiles are moving their store from N Charles Street to 201 E Washington Street this month. (Bottom, right)* *Melissa Grant moved Cape Cod Formals into its own storefront (at 304 W Washington St) earlier this year. “Liz really helped me find the opportunity to stay downtown.”*

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LOCAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

>>> PAGES 12 TO 15 <<<

// TRANSPORTATION

RETHINKING OUR ROADS FOR SHARED USE

Regional Planning Organization Looks Ahead To Set Priorities

IT'S HARD TO MISS Interstate Highways 81 and 70, the most visible transportation projects in our area funded with Federal dollars. But our transportation infrastructure is much more than highways. Matt Mullenax, Executive Director of Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization (HEPMPO), points out that Federally-directed planning also includes the network of local highways, passenger and freight rail infrastructure, and even the two airports in the region. The 1962 Federal Highway Act designated a comprehensive transportation planning process for urban areas and HEPMPO is the planning organization for the three county region of Jefferson County, Berkeley County, and Washington County (MD).

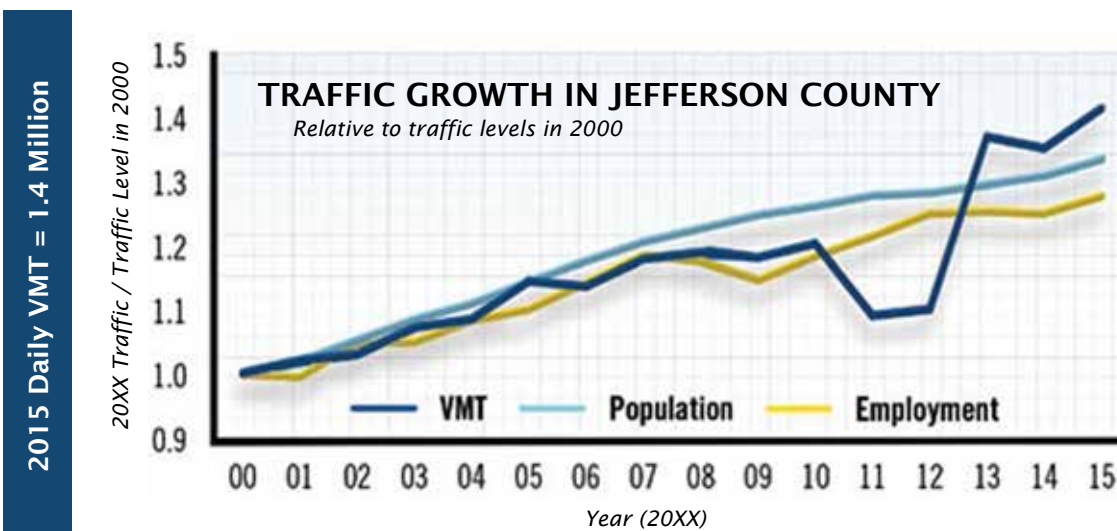
Earlier this spring HEPMPO conducted an online survey of residents as part of updating its long-range transportation plan through 2050. Mullenax describes the continuous cycle of planning: "The Long Range Transportation Plan looks ahead 25 years and we update it every 5 years. This is a high level analysis of the needs and resources that helps identify preferred options and priorities." To guide planning in the near-term, HEPMPO updates its Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) on a four year cycle. "The TIP represents our recommendations to West Virginia and Maryland on the prioritization of investments. These are not binding recommendations, but projects do need to be in the priority plan to be eligible for Federal funding [for design and construction]." Mullenax noted that not all of the projects included in the long range plan will be included in the near-term priority plan, and that both of these plans focus on



identifying feasibility and options rather than specific construction details. Once the state decides to propose a project for funding, there are still multiple rounds of engineering studies, environmental review, and public comment.

HEPMPO also conducts special studies as requested by state and local governments. The Regional Bicycle Plan (2016), the MARC Comparative Analysis (2018), and the Foxcroft Avenue Pedestrian Road Safety Assessment (2020) are examples of studies that incorporate the "Complete Streets" principles that encourage new or improved road facilities be designed to prioritize safety, comfort, and access to destinations for all people who use the roadway including non-motorized travel. Earlier this year, HEPMPO conducted two studies in Jefferson County using this Complete Streets approach (next page).

All current planning documents and special studies from the past ten years are available on the web at HEPMPO.net.



Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the region have continued to keep pace with population and employment growth.



Andrew Skinner

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Attorneys: Stephen Skinner, Andrew Skinner, Levi Pellegrin & Bryan Ogilvie | Stephen Skinner is responsible for the content of this ad.

A WESTERN GATEWAY FOR CHARLES TOWN

HEPMPO IS CURRENTLY PREPARING a feasibility study for proposed mobility improvements along the Route 51 corridor at the west side of Charles Town (the three-way intersection of West Washington Street, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, and Summit Point Road).



(Above, left) The WV-51 feasibility study is looking at vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle safety and mobility improvements in this vicinity, and evaluating the options of a roundabout, traffic signal, or other traffic control alternative at the intersection. Along with the traffic control and calming, the study is looking at accessible sidewalks and curb ramps, a bicycle lane, pedestrian crossings (including mid-block at Evitts Run park), street parking, utility relocation, and stormwater management along the study corridor.

This special study, undertaken in concert with the WV Department of Highways (WVDOH) and the City of Charles Town, kicked off with a field review in February 2021, followed by a workshop with residents, businesses, and landowners in the immediate vicinity in March, a public hearing in April open to all residents, and a second stakeholder workshop in May. The final report, incorporating the public comment received at these meetings, is expected to

be published on the HEPMPO website this summer.



(Above, right) The triangular intersection of WV-51 and CR-13 has a crash rate 2.6 times higher than the state average (based on traffic activity for 2015-2019). Looking west into the intersection, it's easy to see that the transition from the rectangular grid of the downtown streets into the tangle of turning options, driveways, and unusual sightlines can pose challenges for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

CONNECTING FOR GROWTH IN SHEPHERDSTOWN

HEPMPO IS DRAFTING a vision plan for Martinsburg Pike to the west of Shepherdstown. This area has been identified as a growth zone for Jefferson County in its comprehensive plan. HEPMPO's vision plan process is intended to identify options to improve accessibility between downtown Shepherdstown and the adjacent businesses, neighborhoods, and Shepherd University campus; to improve vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle safety; and to enhance economic development along the corridor. This vision plan kicked off with a field survey and stakeholder workshop in March 2021 to create inputs for an initial draft report. Approximately 30 individuals attended the public hearing held in Shepherdstown on June 15 (with an additional 15 individuals participating by phone conference) to review and comment on this draft report. The final version of the report is expected to be published later this summer.

The draft plan presented by HEPMPO envisions that the corridor improvements will take place within the existing state highway right-of-way. Most

of the individuals commenting at the public hearing were supportive of the elements presented in the draft plan, although there were concerns about fitting all of the proposed enhancements within the right-of-way, the difficulties of trucks negotiating a round-about at the Potomac Farms Drive intersection, and the need to maintain the full width of the roadway to accommodate the transport of oversized farm equipment in the area.



(Above) This corridor vision plan incorporates "Complete Streets / Corridor Management" principles — a comprehensive, integrated approach to designing, constructing, and operating roads, streets, and adjacent rights-of-way to support safe and convenient travel along and across streets for pedestrians and bicyclists along with automobiles, commercial vehicles, and public transportation.



The transportation corridor (above, in yellow) includes WV Route 45 between the town limits on the east (at the University Drive entrance to Shepherd University) and Potomac Farms Drive (Route 45 bypass) on the west. The study area (below, in red) for the vision plan is broader, encompassing the residential and commercial areas to the north and south, along with the existing and planned bike path routes connecting to the corridor.



GENERATIONS OF LOVE

Planning Ahead With Adult Children & Parents

By Brenda Waugh

Brenda Waugh, MA JD, is a lawyer/mediator specializing in alternative dispute resolution with Waugh Law & Mediation, serving clients in the Blue Ridge region of Virginia and the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. A graduate of the University of Virginia, West Virginia University, and Eastern Mennonite University. Email: waugh@brendawaugh.com.

FOR MANY OF US, the past year has shown how families can provide great comfort and resources when challenged with difficult times. This article looks at how families can approach the inevitable challenges as parents grow old and adult children assume very different, and often unexpected, roles. Proper thought and planning, with the family relationship being the focus of the plan, can maintain life-long relationships that will provide future generations with more than financial security.

The shifting roles and burdens of decision-making as parents age creates stressful situations for all involved. Parents can minimize conflict between adult children by involving them in the creation of a power of attorney and a medical directive. A durable power of attorney permits a designated person to sign checks, manage credit, and conduct business on behalf of another. An advanced directive (including a medical power of attorney and living will) provides guidance and creates authority to make medical decisions if the parent is unable to make them independently.

The power of attorney and advanced directives may help to keep the peace among siblings when the parents are unable to make legal or medical decisions. They usually prevent the necessity of going to court to have one child, or another person, appointed to make these

decisions. Families have a very difficult time maintaining unity when, during a time of crisis, they must involve the legal institutions to select which child is best situated to perform these roles.

Another way to lessen conflict between adult children is for parents to create a comprehensive estate plan to designate beneficiaries for investment or bank accounts, deed real property, draft a will, or create a trust. For many parents, the focus of their estate plan is to avoid paying taxes. This becomes more important and challenging as state and federal laws change from time to time.

However, simply creating the documents and working to minimize tax consequences is not enough. Too often parents of adult children make decisions in private meetings with their attorneys without informing their children until the documents are needed. Other parents may inform the family but fail to discuss plans in sufficient depth to determine how those decisions could impact harmony within the family.

There is a better way. To minimize the potential disagreement, many families engage a mediator trained in elder mediation. During family meetings, participants reach a consensus on who may best accept the duties of the legal and medical power of attorney. Parents may also outline the beneficiaries, wills, and trusts they are considering and consider input from their beneficiaries. By communicating this information in advance, these meetings prevent an additional shock following a parents' passing. It may also permit the parent to consider the adult children's concerns when constructing these essential documents.

With planning, parents' love can expand beyond their own life to create an opportunity for their children and grandchildren to enjoy not only a financial legacy, but also a legacy of healthy and sustaining relationships.

A QUICK TAKE

In working to maintain harmony within the family when creating an estate plan or power of attorney, a few dos and don'ts provide guidance:

--- DON'T ---

Don't ignore the necessity of executing a power of attorney, medical directive and an estate plan. Without these documents the family must go to court to establish guardianship or conservatorship, often increasing potential conflict among family members.

Don't rely on forms from the internet or an office supply store. Documents that do not meet the requirements of your state or the needs of your family may wind up being costly and damaging to your family.

Don't focus on taxes to the exclusion of relationships. Including your family in the decision making process and creating plans to meet everyone's needs will reduce the potential for conflict.

--- DO ---

Do retain authority over making decisions about your estate plan and power of attorney, but include anyone who is impacted in a collaborative and healthy way. Allow them to participate in discussions to address disagreements in a suitable environment.

Do consider working with a mediator, a family therapist, or a facilitator to help your family reach mutual understandings before having documents professionally prepared.

Do discuss long and short-term plans of each family member before deciding how to structure an inheritance, create a trust, or a will. Looking at each family member's long and short time desires and needs will minimize future conflict.

Do include provisions in all documents, as much as possible, to require beneficiaries to participate in mediation prior to engaging in legal action to resolve conflicts and provide for the costs to be paid by the estate, or equally between parties.



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PERSPECTIVE // BOOK REVIEW

THE TOIL AND THE GRIND

Of Work And War, by William Trent Pancoast

Publisher: Blazing Flowers Press (2021)

Review by: Gonzalo Baeza — Born in Texas, raised in Chile, and currently living in Shepherdstown, Gonzalo is a fiction writer with books published in Spain, Italy, and Chile. His stories have appeared in *Boulevard*, *Goliad*, and *The Texas Review*.



William Trent Pancoast

LITERARY CRITIC ANIS SHIVANI ONCE pointed out how “working-class writers writing about working-class people for working-class people is almost an impossibility.” When one surveys most of the major American writers of the last few decades, their concerns seem to reflect those of the middle class or sometimes the more affluent segments of society. This was not always the case — in the 1930s America saw a robust movement of so-called “proletarian writers” publishing novels, short stories, poetry, and even dramas about the workplace, union struggles, and the daily battle of those men and women whose toil is often overlooked in both the news and entertainment media. The end of World War II and the ensuing economic prosperity of America also saw working class writers like Michael Gold, John Dos Passos, and Grace Lumpkin disappear from bookshelves, as fictional stories about something as omnipresent in people’s lives as work became a rarity.

William Trent Pancoast (born 1949) is one of those rare authors who still writes about the workplace and, more specifically,

blue collar jobs like assembling auto parts at a General Motors plant or seeding a golf course. A former die maker and machinist, as well as the editor of a union newspaper for 20 years, Pancoast has published his short fiction in numerous print and online literary magazines, including *Night Train* and *Monkeybicycle*. He is also the author of the novels *Wildcat* (2010), about life in an auto stamping plant in Ohio, and *The Road to Matewan* (2017), which takes place during the West Virginia Mine Wars of 1912 to 1921.

Of Work and War is Pancoast’s first story collection. Through short fiction, blue-collar workday vignettes, and character sketches, he returns to familiar themes while also delving into another defining experience for the American working class: the scars and trauma left by war-time military service. In “Vietnam. Fucking Vietnam,” an autoworker reminisces on the derailed life of his father (an “Army Infantry grunt from the Battle of the Bulge who got through the rest of his life by consuming a hundred thousand dollars’ worth of alcohol”) as he drinks at the American Legion Hall with coworkers and veterans. In “New Hire,” the first women ever hired for factory work at an auto plant in the fictional town of Cranston, Ohio have to deal with everything from sexual harassment to the hostility of their reluctant colleagues. A different kind of workplace friction, this time fueled by racial tensions, sets the backdrop for “Oxford Town,” where a stressed-out college student splits his day between teaching and managing a commercial laundry as he tries to keep the peace between two of his employees.

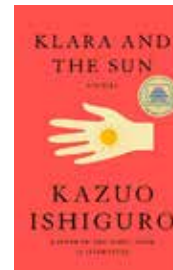
A COLLECTIVE VOICE

Discussing the work of renowned Italian working class writer Nanni Balestrini, British novelist Hari Kunzru once observed how Balestrini had the ability to “individualize the universal, and universalize the individual.” In his mostly first-person narratives, Pancoast does something similar when telling the tale of individuals whose personal experiences are representative of a collective story. While on the surface many of his characters are battling on their own, whether it is paying their way through college or simply trying to adjust to civilian life after war, theirs is a shared struggle. This is best exemplified in the story “Wildcat,” a vivid depiction of a so-called wildcat strike, a labor stoppage undertaken by workers without the consent of their union, let alone their employer. Written in a spare prose that matches the plain-spokenness of their characters, the stories in *Of Work and War* have an authenticity that can only come from the lived experience of a genuine blue-collar writer.

THE FRONT SHELF

Klara and the Sun, by Kazuo Ishiguro

Knopf Publishing Group (2021) \$28.00



Klara and the Sun tells the story of an “artificial friend” with outstanding observational qualities who, from her place in the store, carefully watches the behavior of those who come in to browse and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her. This book offers a look at our changing

world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator and explores the fundamental question: what does it mean to love?

The Plot, by Jean Hanff Korelitz

Celadon Books (2021) \$28.00



Jacob Finch Bonner was once a promising young novelist with a respectably published first book. Today, he's teaching in a third-rate MFA program and struggling to maintain what's left of his self-respect; he hasn't written — let alone published — anything decent in years. When Evan Parker, his most arrogant student, announces

he doesn't need Jake's help because the plot of his book-in-progress is a sure thing, Jake is prepared to dismiss the boast as typical amateur narcissism. But then . . . he hears the plot.

The House in the Cerulean Sea, by TJ Klune

Tor Books (2020) \$18.99



Linus Baker leads a quiet, solitary life. At forty, he lives in a tiny house with a devious cat and his old records. As a case worker at the Department in Charge of Magical Youth, he spends his days overseeing the well-being of children in government-sanctioned orphanages. Unexpectedly, Linus is summoned by Extremely

Upper Management and is given a curious and highly classified assignment that turns his quiet life upside-down: travel to Marsyas Island Orphanage, where six dangerous children reside.

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PERSPECTIVE // NATURE

SOUNDS OF SUMMER: THE WOOD PEWEE

By Doug Pifer

Doug Pifer is an artist, naturalist, and writer. He has a Master's Degree in Journalism from Penn State and has been an editor and art educator. His illustrations have appeared in various books and magazines and he has been a contributor to *The Observer* for several years. He lives with his wife and assorted animals on 5.7 acres in a historic farmhouse near Shepherdstown.

AS SPRING TURNS INTO SUMMER, I listen for a bird song I've loved since childhood. I remember hearing, as soon as school closed for the summer, a rather lazy, sentimental birdsong coming from the woods across the road. Whenever I hear it now, it invokes memories of long summer days.

A member of the flycatcher family, the wood pewee derives its common name from the English rendition of its distinctive song. I find it's always tricky to start putting bird sounds into words. Everyone hears something different. What I hear from a pewee sounds more like "pidy-you-wee," all run together with the last part slurred upward. The answering alternate song ends in a long, downward slurred note, "We-dooooo."

Wood pewees are late migrants that seldom show up around here before the first of May. They winter in Central and South America and seem to be in no hurry to leave the tropics until March or April. But as soon as they get here the males start singing. Their serenade begins at dawn and ends at dusk. Their song persists throughout the day even in July and August, as the nesting season winds down. Most birds go quiet around then, as they replace their old feathers with a new suit of fall plumage. But the wood pewee keeps on singing.

It's easier to see wood pewees at our place in August, when abundant insects in our fields and pastures tempt them to leave the treetops to perch on our fence. A scant five and a half inches long, a pewee is as plain as can be. A medium shade of gray on the back becomes slightly browner on the head, wings and tail. There are two white wing bars. The underside, from throat to tail, is creamy-white tinged with olive-gray up the sides. The only touch of color is an orange tinge on the lower half of its beak.

The eastern wood pewee is a denizen of woods, parks or wherever there are large shade trees. It perches in a characteristic upright posture, turning its head constantly seeking flying insects. Spotting an airborne arthropod, the bird flies off in pursuit and latches onto the insect with an audible "snap." Yesterday I saw a pewee return to its perch with a cicada in its mouth. Holding the

insect in its bill, the pewee bashed it against the branch repeatedly until the cicada's wings fell off, and then swallowed it whole.

I'm amazed how easily flycatchers capture insects. They have a wide mouth and flattened beak especially adapted for the job. I once examined the bill of a wood pewee that had killed itself flying into a window. Seen from the side, the beak looked slender and straight except for a slight hook at the tip. Seen from above or below, it was roughly triangular. From the pointed, hooked tip it widened towards the bird's mouth. Surrounding the mouth was a fine mustache of stiff bristle-like feathers, as if the bird had whiskers. As the bird overtakes a flying insect, these springy bristles act like a net to "bounce" a hapless insect towards the trap-like mouth.

By the middle of September, the pewees will be gone. But I'll remember that lazy-sounding song until next spring.



A wood pewee sits in its nest in the fork of a horizontal branch high in a shade tree, where it lays 3 to 5 brown-speckled eggs. Illustration by Doug Pifer, courtesy of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

STOP THIS BUG!

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

A NEW MENACE HAS ARRIVED in the county. Unlike the recent swarms of cicadas (or the more mysterious Mothman), the spotted lanternfly is an invasive species that will attack and kill many native trees, including black walnut, maple, peach, and apple trees. It will even attack grapevines. The first US sighting of this insect was near Philadelphia in 2014. Since then it has spread widely through the eastern half of Pennsylvania. Clusters have been identified in Mineral and Berkeley counties. The cluster in Jefferson County was spotted in May, just to the west of Kearneysville.

What to Look For

After hatching in early May, the nymphs are tiny (about the size of a pinkie fingernail) and have a black body with white spots. By June they are a little larger, with red markings on their backs. By the end of June and into July they molt into their adult form (see image) with wings and are similar in size to a cicada (about the size of the end of your thumb). The wings are whitish in color with black spots.

What to Do

Dr. Kristen Wickert of the WV Department of Agriculture (WVDA) had a simple request for anyone who spots this bug. "Take a photo first. It moves quickly so it's helpful to have a photo to confirm a sighting even if you miss killing it. Then kill it and send us the photo." Property owners can contact the WVDA for free treatment — The WVDA will work with the US Department of Agriculture to apply traps, sticky bands, and other targeted treatments that do

not harm native pollinators to stop outbreaks and there is no charge to the landowner.

"What we're trying to do is buy some time to understand how to control this bug. It's been six years since we first encountered it and we're working on targeted and effective solutions that are safe for our native species."

To send a photo or report a spotted lanternfly sighting, email BugBusters@wvda.us. You can also call 304-558-2212. More information is available at the Penn State Extension website (Extension.PSU.edu/spotted-lanternfly).



Photo: Kristen Wickert, WVDA

EXPLORE // EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

2 PLAYS, 2 PARTIES, 2 PODCAST SERIES

CATF Takes To The Street For 2021



CATF comes to downtown Shepherdstown in July with a hybrid of two audio plays and two street parties, plus a series of podcasts structured around the two plays. The decision to pursue a hybrid approach was pretty clear when CATF had to make the call in February about the summer season, said Peggy McKowen, CATF's Associate Producing Director. "For the regular six play repertoire productions we have over 150 people working in close proximity and moving

from one small group to another, plus another 30 to 40 local volunteers working the front of house. We knew that even when the rules would be relaxed for the general public it would take much longer for the union contracts to reflect a return to normal practices. So we were anticipating the complexities and restrictions of isolating and testing the entire company in our small town and decided that we couldn't produce the full in-person in-theater events at the level we wanted." McKowen reported that the theater industry is still working through the details for resident theater companies to return, so it was a good call.

It will be a different feeling this summer. The festival normally touches every corner of Shepherdstown and the Shepherd University campus for 6 to 8 weeks. This year's productions will bring just 2 actors to town for a night each and rely on fewer than a dozen volunteers. According to McKowen, the focus on downtown events was a conscious decision to "give the community an opportunity to gather again and to focus on supporting local businesses. We wanted to celebrate and renew the partnerships we've built up over the past decades with the University, the town, the artists."

What to Expect

The downtown events will take place on Friday evenings on King Street (behind the library), starting on July 9 with a street party featuring local musicians. The July 16 street party will be similar, but will feature artists bringing their global experiences to Shepherdstown. The first audio playcast on July 23 will be *Sheepdog* by Kevin Artique and the final audio playcast on July 30 will be *The House of the Negro Insane* by Terrence Anthony. Information about both plays can be found on the CATF website (CATF.org - under the 2021 season) and both will be available to stream on demand until August 27.

A Vocal Difference

McKowen described the changes in preparation and rehearsal with the audio-centric productions. "It changes the way you come to a scene. Theresa Davis, our dramaturg, worked with the playwrights to re-write specifically for the shift from a visual description. The actors also need to redirect their energy into the vocal quality. Even during rehearsals, the directors kept the actors separate in the studios. Without the physicality, we really focus on the storytelling. For the audience, the stage is in your head."



(Clockwise from top left) Director Terrence Anthony, director Kevin Artique, playwright Melissa Crespo, and playwright Tamilla Woodward.

A Resolution for 2022

Both of the 2021 plays will be in next year's festival repertoire, along with the other four plays originally slated for the 2020 festival. As McKowen pointed out, "they will be different plays when we recast them for the stage. Even if we are starting from the same script, there are always things to discover as you go through the process. That's what makes CATF so new every year."

For playcast tickets or street event reservations, call the box office (new number) at 681-240-2283 on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from noon to 5 pm. You can also order tickets by emailing BoxOffice@CATF.org. For additional information and updates, visit CATF.org on the web or @CATFatSU on Facebook.



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LOCAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

>>> PAGES 12 THROUGH 15 <<<

EXPLORE // EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



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 Email EXPLORE@WEARETHEOBSERVER.COM if you have an event or activity to include in our calendar.

WEEK OF JUNE 28

JULY 1 (THU) — LEVITT AMP SHENANDOAH JUNCTION MUSIC SERIES featuring Hillbilly Gypsies (bluegrass) · 7-9 pm at The AMP at Sam Michael's Park · FREE · Info: FB @TheAmpSamMichaels

JULY 3 (SAT) — BRAHMAN NOODLES (JUG FUNK) · 1-4 pm at Harpers Ferry Brewing · FREE · Info: FB @HarpersFerryBrewing

JULY 3 (SAT) — SHEEP AND THE WOOL THEY GIVE (SPINNING DEMO) · 11 am to 12 pm at the Shepherdstown Library · FREE · Info: ShepLibrary.org.

JULY 4 (SUN) — FERTILE SOIL BLUEGRASS · 1-4 pm at Big Cork Vineyards, Rohrsersville, MD · Tickets/Info: BigCorkVineyards.com

WEEK OF JULY 05

JULY 8 (THU) — LEVITT AMP SHENANDOAH JUNCTION MUSIC SERIES featuring Sierra Ferrell (alt/indie) · 7-9 pm at The AMP at Sam Michael's Park · FREE · Info: FB @TheAmpSamMichaels

JULY 9 (FRI) — LIVE! CATF STREET PARTY to kickoff Playcast PLUS season · 7 pm behind the Shepherdstown Library · FREE, registration required · Registration/Info: catf.org

JULY 9 (FRI) — PHILADELPHIA FREEDOM (ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE) · 8 pm at Tally Ho Theater, Leesburg, VA · \$20 · Tickets/Info: TallyHoTheater.com

JULY 9 (FRI) — THE SWEET LIFE AND MICHAEL PERDEW (JAM/FUNK/REGGAE) · 8 pm at Bright Box, Winchester, VA · FREE · Tickets/Info: BrightBoxWinchester.com

JULY 10 (SAT) — DUBS AND DAWGS (CAR SHOW & FUNDRAISER) · 9 am - 3 pm at Briggs Animal Adoption Center, Charles Town VA · Attendees free, Exhibitors \$10. Info: FB @DubsAndDawgs

JULY 10 (SAT) — JUNKFOOD (ROCK AND ROLL) · 8 pm at Bright Box, Winchester, VA · \$10 · Tickets/Info: BrightBoxWinchester.com

JULY 10 (SAT) — DC IMPROV (COMEDY) · 8 pm at Tally Ho Theater, Leesburg, VA · \$22 · Tickets/Info: TallyHoTheater.com

WEEK OF JULY 12

JULY 13 (TUE) — SPEAK STORY SERIES PRESENTS SKY BYRD · ONLINE · 7:30 pm · \$15 · Mature audience · Tickets/Info: SpeakStorySeries.com

JULY 13 (TUE) — SUMMER FAMILY MOVIE SERIES: The Fantastic Mr. Fox · 7-9 pm at the Barns of Rose Hill, Berryville, VA · FREE · Registration/Info: FB @BarnsofRoseHill

JULY 15 (THU) — LEVITT AMP SHENANDOAH JUNCTION MUSIC SERIES featuring Trio Caliente (latin fusion) · 7-9 pm at The AMP at Sam Michael's Park · FREE · Info: FB @TheAmpSamMichaels

JULY 16 (FRI) — LIVE! CATF STREET PARTY to kickoff Playcast PLUS season · 7 pm behind the Shepherdstown Library · FREE, registration required · Registration/Info: catf.org

JULY 17 (SAT) — MID SUMMER BIRD WALK · 7-10 am at USGS Eastern Ecological Science Center · Info: PVAS.org (under calendar)

JULY 17 (SAT) — SHEPHERDSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMUNITY PICNIC · 1:30 - 4 pm at Morgan's Grove Park · Info: ShepLibrary.org

JULY 17 (SAT) — MIKE ARONIN & MARK MATUSOF (COMEDY) · 7 pm at Bright Box, Winchester, VA · \$15 · Tickets/Info: BrightBoxWinchester.com

JULY 18 (SUN) — GINADA PINATA (FUNK & FUSION) · 2-6 pm at Harpers Ferry Brewing · FREE · Info: FB @HarpersFerryBrewing

JULY 18 (SUN) — ROOT TO TABLE SUMMER CELEBRATION · 5-9 pm at Bavarian Inn Resort, Shepherdstown · Advance tickets only · Info: FB @TheBavarianInn (under events)

MORE EVENT SPOTLIGHTS >>> PAGES 14 AND 15

EXPLORE // EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

WEEK OF JULY 19

JULY 21 (WED) — BIRD WALK · 7-10 am at Cool Springs Nature Preserve (Potomac Valley Audubon Society) · Info: PVAS.org (under calendar)

JULY 21 (SAT) — TAYLOR SCOTT BAND (ROCK) and Micah Howard (country) · 7 pm at Bright Box, Winchester, VA · \$10 · Tickets/Info: BrightBoxWinchester.com

JULY 21 (WED) — BARN OF ROSE HILL 10TH ANNIVERSARY Community Celebration featuring Cheick Hamala Diabaté · 5-9 pm at the Barns of Rose Hill, Berryville, VA · FREE · Info: FB @BarnsofRoseHill

JULY 22 (THU) — LEVITT AMP SHENANDOAH JUNCTION MUSIC SERIES featuring Kelly Bell Band (blues/hip-hop/funk) · 7-9 pm at The AMP at Sam Michael's Park · FREE · Info: FB @TheAmpSamMichaels

JULY 23 (FRI) — CATF PRESENTS: SHEEPDOG (AUDIO DRAMA) · In-person listening party · 7 pm behind the Shepherdstown Library · \$15 · Tickets/Info: catf.org

JULY 24 (SAT) — DAWG DAZE CONCERT SERIES · Starting at noon at Antietam Brewery, Hagerstown, MD. Feat. Brian Nichols, Jill Fulton, & Slippery When Wet · FREE · Info: FB @AntietamBreweryWesternMarylandPkwy

JULY 24 (SAT) — TRAILS LESS TRAVELED: History on the Rocks Guided Tour · 10-11 am at Harpers Ferry National Park · FREE (pre-registration only). Info: HarpersFerryHistory.org

JULY 24 (SAT) — SALUTE TO DIVAS DRAG SHOW · 7 pm and 10:30 pm at Bright Box, Winchester, VA · \$20 · Tickets/Info: BrightBoxWinchester.com

WEEK OF JULY 26

JULY 29 (THU) — LEVITT AMP SHENANDOAH JUNCTION MUSIC SERIES featuring The Flashbacks (show band) · 7-9 pm at The AMP at Sam Michael's Park · FREE · Info: FB @TheAmpSamMichaels

JULY 30 (FRI) — CATF PRESENTS: THE HOUSE OF THE NEGRO INSANE (AUDIO DRAMA) · In-person listening party · 7 pm behind the Shepherdstown Library · \$15 · Tickets/Info: catf.org

JULY 30 (FRI) — REBEKAH SPEER W/ DARREN BEACHLEY (BLUEGRASS/AMERICANA) · 7 pm at Bright Box, Winchester, VA · \$20 · Tickets/Info: BrightBoxWinchester.com

JULY 30 (FRI) — SPECIAL DELIVERY BAND (ROCK & ROLL) · 5-8 pm at Big Cork Vineyards, Rohrsersville, MD · Tickets/Info: BigCorkVineyards.com

JULY 30 (FRI) — THE BRIDGE (LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE) · 7 pm at Bright Box, Winchester, VA · \$12 · Tickets/Info: BrightBoxWinchester.com

JULY 31 (SAT) — REVEREND HORTON HEAT (ROCKABILLY/PSYCHOBILLY) · 8 pm at Tally Ho Theater, Leesburg, VA · \$25 · Tickets/Info: TallyHoTheater.com

JULY 31 (SAT) — COMEDY MURDER MYSTERY: The Final Rose · 7 pm and 10 pm at Bright Box, Winchester, VA · \$25 · Tickets/Info: BrightBoxWinchester.com

WEEKLY EVENTS

BARN AT HARPERS FERRY · Info/schedule: FB @HFEEventBarn

HARPERS FERRY BREWING · Info/schedule: FB @HarpersFerryBrewing

INKWELL'S TAVERN, CHARLES TOWN · Info/schedule: FB @InkwellTavern

LILAH RESTAURANT, SHEPHERDSTOWN · Info/schedule: FB @LilahRestaurant

MECKLENBURG INN, SHEPHERDSTOWN · Info/schedule: FB Mecklenburg-Inn

O'CONNELLS IRISH PUB, MARTINSBURG · Info/schedule: FB OConnells-Irish-Pub

CHARLES TOWN - FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE · Info/schedule: FB @CharlesTownNow

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EXPLORE // EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



ART EXHIBIT



CREATING ART IN COVID

The “Creating Art in COVID” exhibit at Evolve Shepherdstown this month will document the pandemic from the perspective of ten artists. Sonya Evanisko, Professor at Shepherd University Department of Contemporary Art and Theater, is assisting with the organization of the exhibit and will be participating as well. Professor Evanisko's work will include pieces that portray the magnitude of online purchasing during the pandemic (including "When Daylight Never Came", 2020, shown above). Evanisko remarked, “I have always

been fascinated, yet dismayed, by global shipping practices of consumer goods. The sight of large metal shipping containers on the waterside, mounds of wooden pallets and stacks of cardboard boxes broken down for potential recycling visually emphasize the overwhelming amount of products moved and packaging waste created. Increasingly, household shipping grew during the pandemic. Despite the waste, I found beauty in the stacks of boxes, colorful graphics and layers of detritus by my front door. The visual towers migrated into my art, swaying in the desolate and at times tumultuous landscapes.”

An integral part of the exhibit will be statements by the artists discussing their creative processes during the pandemic and the relationship between the crisis and the works created. The exhibit will also have examples of poetry and prose created after March 2020. Opening reception on July 22 (Thu), time TBD. Exhibit runs until August 1, open Thursday afternoons, Friday 11 to 7 and Sunday mornings at 106 West German St, Shepherdstown. More information on the web at EvolveShepherdstown.com and FB @EvolveShepherdstown19.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

DOORS ARE OPEN AGAIN

The libraries in Jefferson County have opened their doors to the public again. Specific day, time, and services info can be found on each library’s website:

- Charles Town – CityLibrary.org
- Harpers Ferry – BoliverHarpersFerryLibrary.com
- Shepherdstown – ShepLibrary.org
- South Jefferson – SoJeffersonLibrary.com

JOB FAIR



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Jefferson County Development Authority (JCDA), Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Chamber of Commerce, along with the county and municipal governments have teamed up to present a “Work Local” resource fair for local residents looking for new career opportunities. In addition to dozens of local employers conducting interviews, the event will offer a resume clinic and other resources to help individuals identify pathways into higher-skill jobs.

Dennis Jarvis, Executive Director of the JCDA, stressed that there are apprenticeship and learn-to-earn programs available through the local community as well as technical schools that can help individuals move into rewarding careers and noted, “we hope this event can provide a window into the opportunities and programs available to help gain certifications and skills.”

The job fair will take place on July 7 (Wed) from 10 am to 4 pm at the Ranson Civic Center (432 W 2nd Ave, Ranson WV). No pre-registration is required for individuals – just walk in.

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EXPLORE // EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY



NATURE PRESERVE CLEANUP

Potomac Valley Audubon Society (PVAS) welcomes volunteers to help with trail maintenance and cleanup at their nature preserves. Cool Spring Preserve trail maintenance dates are July 5, 12, 19 and 25 (all from 7-10 am). Yankauer Preserve trail maintenance dates are July 7, 14, 21 and 28 (all from 7-10 am). Yankaur workday (cleanup) on July 9, 3:30-6:30 pm. Stauffer's Marsh Preserve workday on July 14, 4-7 pm. Eidolon Preserve workday on July 22, 8-10 am. Pre-registration for each event required at PotomacAudubon.org (under calendar). No experience needed, just bring work gloves and a water bottle.

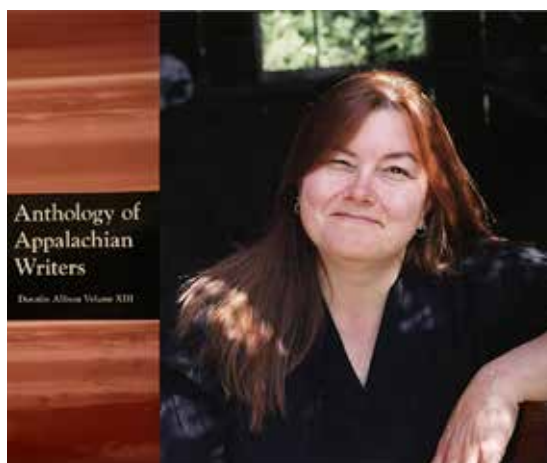
OUTDOOR ACTIVITY



WEED WARRIOR TRAINING

Potomac Valley Audubon Society (PVAS) is recruiting "Weed Warriors" to assist with controlling invasive species at their nature preserves. This is an opportunity to gain the knowledge and the tools needed to tackle invasive species and connect with others to volunteer at the preserves on your own schedule. Land & Conservation Manager KC Walters will lead this two-part training program. The first part is via Zoom, on July 27 (Tue) from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The second part is a one-hour outdoor session in small groups at either Cool Spring or Yankauer Preserve (dates TBD based on participant availability). After successful completion of both portions of the training, participants will become certified "Weed Warriors" and receive the official t-shirt with the "weed warrior" logo. Register at PotomacAudubon.org/event/weed-warrior-training-4 or email KC at katelyn@PotomacAudubon.org.

BOOK READING



ANTHOLOGY OF APPALACHIAN WRITERS

Shepherd University's Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities is holding a reading of several works published in the 2021 "Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Dorothy Allison, Volume XIII."

Rebecca Calloway, a graduate student in Shepherd's M.A. in Appalachian studies program, will read from her piece "Transforming Trauma on the Appalachian Trail" about the first woman to solo hike the entire Appalachian Trail; the anthology's editors will read several diversity and pandemic poems anthologized in the volume; and Pat Donohoe, a former teacher, Presbyterian minister, and writer living in Shepherdstown will close the program with her story about sisters, "Closet Wars."

The Dorothy Allison anthology volume centers on the themes of social justice and inclusion, as does Allison's writing. Allison's award-winning "Bastard Out of Carolina" and her 2020 One Book, One West Virginia Selection "Cavedweller" were both inspirations for the range of stories, poems, essays, and photography that went into the 2021 anthology. Free event. July 18 (Sun) at 5 pm at Four Seasons Books (116 West German St., Shepherdstown).



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MORE EVENTS >>> PAGES 12 AND 13

contemporaryamericantheaterfestival

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