

# The WV INDEPENDENT Observer

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

FEBRUARY 2021

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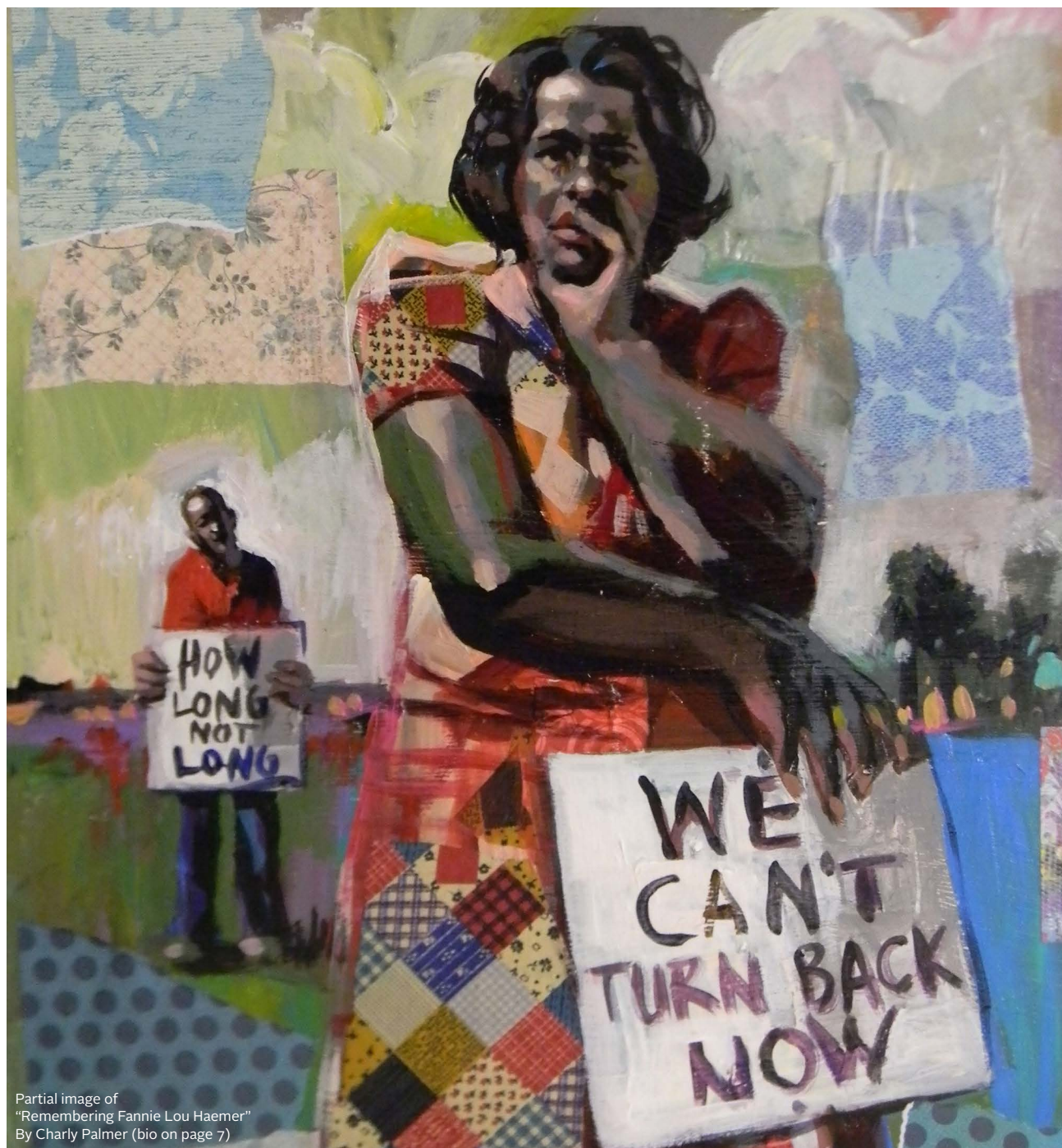
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Partial image of  
"Remembering Fannie Lou Haemer"  
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THIS PAPER WANTS TO BE RECYCLED. 

## WV PERSPECTIVES



The Mount Zion Freewill Baptist Church, built in 1898, stands near the Johnstown community which was established in 1848 as a free Black community organized by descendants of the Johnson family who first settled in the area in 1732 after departing Northampton County, Virginia.

## TO OUR READERS

**THE RAILROADS WE SEE** around Jefferson County never cease to fascinate me and Harriet (and our dogs). While there is a sense of permanence in these structures of steel, stone and wood, many of these buildings have evolved or been transformed through time. For example, the Harpers Ferry station (pictured on page 15) was moved, intact, several hundred yards from its original location and the Martinsburg hotel/station building (page 4) is a seamless blend of historic and modern. It reminds us of a rhythm that has existed for centuries — both enduring and changing.

I stumbled upon Mt. Zion church (above) when researching another article last year and noted the pre-Civil war date for the Johnstown community on the informational marker. When I did some further research, I was surprised to find a history of a small number of free Black settlers in Jefferson County dating to the early 1730s, concurrent with the earliest settlers of European descent — a fact that I hadn't seen before in the popular historical accounts.

I connected with Eileen Berger of Just Lookin' Gallery in a similarly accidental fashion, looking for artists whose work was affected by the events of 2020. Reading through their bios and statements, it struck me that “remembering” history also includes the deliberate act of preserving the present for the future.

As we proceed through the decade of the 2020s, our conversations about the balance we strike between permanence and change will determine what track our history takes.

  
**Steve Pearson**  
 EDITOR IN CHIEF

// ECONOMY

# TRANSPORTATION HUB FOR THE EASTERN PANHANDLE

## Martinsburg's Rail Connection to the Regional Economy



Both MARC and Amtrak trains serve Martinsburg's Caperton Station, which is also a hub for the EPTA local bus service serving Berkeley and Jefferson Counties.

**Long-term funding for the MARC rail service in the Eastern Panhandle remains an open issue as West Virginia's Governor and Legislature head into the budget process for 2021-2022. *The Observer* takes a look at the recent history of this discussion (next page) and how commuter rail fits into the economy (below).**

**THE QUESTION TO ASK** is, “do you want to take advantage of economic development opportunities?” said Shane Farthing, Director of Economic and Community Development for the City of Martinsburg. He suggested that if the city did not have a train station and “we did a study on how to improve the economy, we’d ask how great it would be to have a train station. Sometimes it’s hard to recognize the good things you already have. The train opens the doors to millions of possibilities.”

Farthing observed that, “train service is not a city topic, typically it’s a state-level conversation.” He suggested looking at the larger context of long-term infrastructure investment, noting that, “It’s a question of where you want to put the traffic. For transit, ticket sales never cover expenses — if you get 30% coverage from fares, you’re lucky. But every road system loses money, too. Did we widen Interstate 81 because of toll revenue? No, we did it to attract businesses and jobs.”

“  
**The train station  
 is a portal  
 to 5 million people**  
 ”

**Promoting Business & Tourism**  
 In announcing the funding agreement for the current fiscal year (see article on page 5) in a December 2019 press conference at the Martinsburg train station, the West Virginia Governor’s office specifically noted the importance of train service to support both business and tourism opportunities. Farthing echoed that sentiment, saying, “being a “rail-served” place encourages travel in both directions, travelers going to meetings in DC, and tourists from DC. We have an opportunity to continue tourism development. There are many folks from DC who depend on Metro and train to get around. We want to promote the types of businesses that enable tourism, so you can eat, shop, and stay by the train station. There are a limited number of places that are on a train line.

Good things want to be near transit and you can create better economic value around it.”

Farthing pointed out that “Martinsburg’s connection to the fifth largest economy bolsters the local economy in the country [Baltimore-Washington region]. In the Eastern Panhandle, we’re a collection of small cities that are affordable places to live and proximate to DC. We can participate in the full economic entity of the region, if we are connected. We have a hub zone and an opportunity zone designation, but we need the physical connection. It’s an alignment of positive features, and transit is a multiplier of all other incentives.”

He also noted the opportunities from remote working trends for individuals who move out from DC as well as the benefit to local businesses. “We need the investment and the people who will move out from DC, who will live in Martinsburg and work in DC. If someone travels once a month or every two weeks to DC, they are still spending ninety percent of their time locally. Places like WeWork and the ability to commute by train add value and makes it easier to split working here and in DC for people in white collar and high-paying jobs. The money they spend locally adds up for our businesses.”

**Investing in Opportunity**  
 Farthing explained the value that comes from long-term planning, noting that ticket revenue is helpful, but that the significant value “is with the investment in land, the value of the parcels close to the station.” He estimated that across the country, property values are typically 40% higher within a half mile of walkable transit stations. “Commercial lenders look at the value to decide what to invest. But we need a long range agreement to get to stable funding solutions. Properties have 30 year mortgages, redevelopment is a long term investment decision, and you can’t attract rational investors and get results without certainty in the infrastructure.”

“It’s a calculation of the economic value,” Farthing concluded. “Martinsburg has 17,000 people. The train station is a portal to 5 million people — that’s a huge spending capacity and employment opportunities. The rail service is crucial and significant to our economy.”

**BY: Steve Pearson**



# Tracking the Train in West Virginia's 2021 Budget Debates



MARC passenger train on the Brunswick line.

COMMUTER RAIL SERVICE between West Virginia and Washington DC dates to the 1950s. The MARC Brunswick Line service operated by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) currently serves three stations in the Eastern Panhandle — Harpers Ferry, Duffields (Jefferson County) and Martinsburg. Terminating at Union Station in downtown Washington, the line also stops at Germantown, Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Silver Spring, with connections to bus routes,

Metro, and Amtrak at various stations along the route.

The pandemic has both strained the MTA's workforce and put a dent in ridership. In the spring of 2020, the MTA reduced rail service throughout the system, scheduling a single train a day each way on the Brunswick line. The MTA resumed regular service of three trains a day on the Brunswick line in July. In September 2020, the MTA reported that summer ridership continued to lag throughout the system — reporting drops of 51% in local bus rider counts, 87% in commuter bus rider counts, and 89% in MARC train rider counts compared to prior year usage patterns. In November, the MTA reverted to a single train a day schedule for the Brunswick line. An MTA spokesperson stated that this schedule allowed MTA “to preserve MARC train slots with CSX and Amtrak and will allow the agency to respond nimbly as Maryland's economy recovers and more riders cease teleworking or return to transit.” For December 2020, the MTA reports that ridership on the MARC Brunswick line was down 96% compared to pre-COVID-19 levels.

In 2018, MTA and the West Virginia Rail Authority signed a five-year contract for service for MTA to continue to provide MARC Train service in West Virginia. Under this agreement, the MTA requests West Virginia to



fund the expense of operating trains for the 25 miles between Brunswick (Maryland) and Martinsburg, with the costs calculated on a per-mile basis and offset by any fare revenue generated by passengers arriving or departing from the three West Virginia stations.

For the fiscal year that runs from July 2020 to June 2021, West Virginia agreed to pay approximately \$3.4 million to support the three trains/day service. This funding agreement was announced in December 2019, and followed public hearings that raised the possibility of eliminating the MARC train service in West Virginia, which in turn led to discussions between the Governor's office, the State Auditor's office, and all of the local governments in Berkeley and Jefferson counties. The current year's funding included \$300,000 contributed by these local governments. Discussions about West Virginia's rail funding for the next fiscal year (from July 2021) will begin when the state Legislature receives the Governor's budget proposal in early February. 📺



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// COMMUNITY

# TAKING WATERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS

## Local Residents' Group Organizes Water Tests in Advance of Industrial Operations

**CONCERNED THAT** West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) oversight is insufficient to protect the water underlying their property from the threat of pollutants from the planned nearby Rockwool factory, a group of local residents is hiring experts to test their water to establish a record to use in possible future legal action.

Jefferson County Foundation (JCF), a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, has designed and is administering the well testing program, which will focus on the area surrounding the planned Rockwool factory in Ranson. The Foundation consulted with multiple experts to design the program, including geologists, hydrogeologists, biologists, water sampling experts, and lawyers.

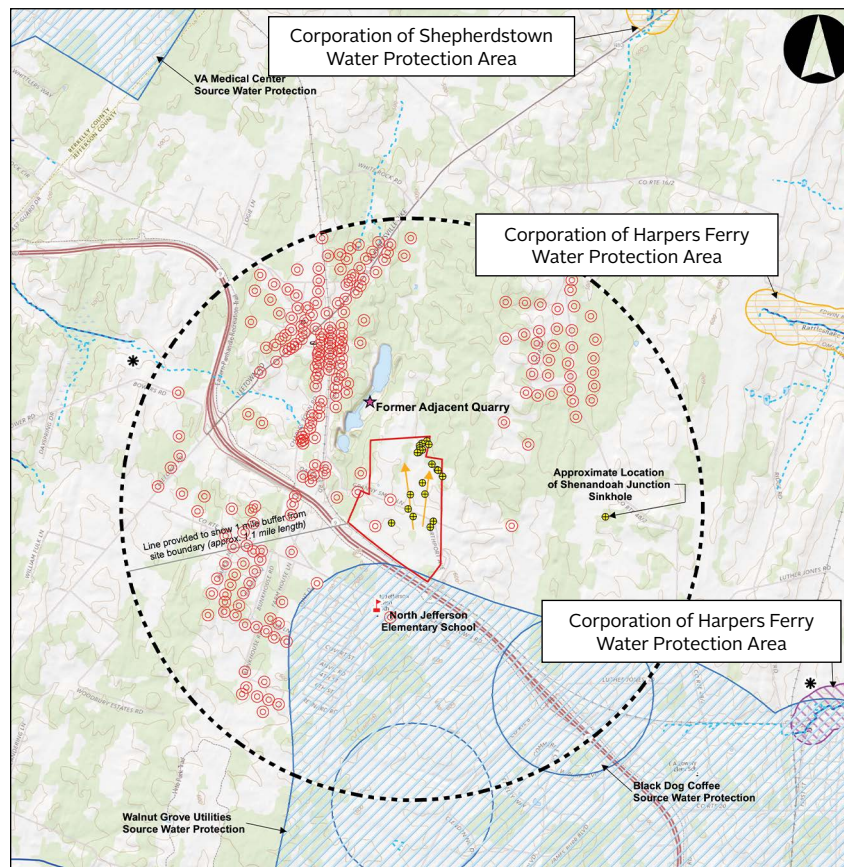
What will the tests look for? “We will test for over 100 substances that are, to the extent possible, specific to what we expect to be released by Rockwool,” said Foundation President Dr. Christine Wimer. “These well tests, in combination with the other portions of the testing program, are designed to monitor for pollution and provide evidence that can withstand the scrutiny required to use in court, if necessary” she continued.

The program is using a laboratory that performed water testing for area residents of Flint, Michigan who experienced firsthand the devastating consequences of water contamination. Wimer noted that while the cost to participate in the program is significant, it covers not only an array of customized laboratory testing but also the services of a separate environmental consulting company to collect the samples using a forensically-sound approach. “It’s unfortunate that private citizens need to foot the bill to monitor their own drinking water source to provide a basic health safety assurance that by WV and Federal law should be provided by the WVDEP,” said Wimer.

In parallel to the testing program, the foundation has filed legal challenges to the stormwater permits issued to Rockwool by the WVDEP, alleging that the agency acted in an “arbitrary and capricious” way in approving general permits for the facility without requiring specific plans to mitigate pollution risk when constructing an industrial facility in the karst topography of Jefferson County (see related article [WeAreTheObserver.com/counting-on-the-well-water](http://WeAreTheObserver.com/counting-on-the-well-water)). The Foundation is requesting that the WVDEP require Rockwool to change its stormwater handling process to

better protect the groundwater. The conclusion of a multi-day evidentiary hearing in one of the proceedings is expected to be held in February before the WV Environmental Quality Board. 📺

Information about the well testing program and how to participate is available at the Foundation’s website ([JeffersonCountyFoundation.org/our-work/clean-water/well-testing-program](http://JeffersonCountyFoundation.org/our-work/clean-water/well-testing-program)).



There are hundreds of wells and several municipal water source protection areas in the Jefferson County karst area (the dash-line circle indicates a one mile radius around the new factory).



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// ART

# PERSPECTIVES ON AMERICA IN 2020

## Just Lookin' Gallery Showcases Black American Artists



From left to right: Charly Palmer, Eileen Berger, and Michael Gibson.

**THE JUST LOOKIN' GALLERY** in Hagerstown Maryland reflects the passion of Eileen Berger. She remembers exactly when her fascination with art started. "My father took me to a faculty art show at Howard University in the late 1960s. There was a piece that came off the wall and grabbed me. I wanted to know more about Black artists, but there was so little information available back then." Her interest stuck with her as she followed a career in commercial photography. Her travels took her across the country, giving her the opportunity to attend street shows, meet Black artists, and develop her own expertise in art collecting.

The move to Hagerstown in the 1990s was a compromise with her husband to find a mix of country living within commuting distance of DC. It was only later that the idea of the gallery bloomed, encouraged by the stories she heard of how difficult it was for Black artists to get their work shown in galleries. Open since 1995, Just Lookin' now represents dozens of Black American, African and West Indian artists. An art lover at heart, Berger's ongoing goal for the gallery is to maintain a space "where the artists are respected." She also notes that she wants to dispel the notion "that only rich people can collect art. I want people to feel comfortable with asking questions, even if it's their first time in a gallery. I feel it's my responsibility to pass along the knowledge I have about the art and the artists." 📍

*The Observer asked Berger to recommend some artists who have been addressing the issues that have riveted our collective attention over the past year. The artists, along with a few of their recent works, are presented below and on the next pages.*

### Charly Palmer

Palmer considers himself as documenting history, particularly that part of American history which is so often overlooked. Over his 25-year career, Palmer has focused on social, political, and often on African American historical subjects. He starts with the Middle passage and continues through slavery, the Jim Crow and civil rights eras, the Negro Sports League and musical history. His focus is not limited to the African American experience but also includes Native Americans and the Jewish Holocaust.

Palmer describes his art in a recent interview with Artwork Archive (ArtworkArchive.com) as having "always been about telling the story about being Black in America. It is the awareness of who I am. If you would pull works from 20 or 30 years ago of mine, you would see that it was still there. It's altered, it's changed, it's become more subtle, but that story has always become part of the narrative."

### Michael C. Gibson

Gibson's drawings are often confused with photographs until the viewer looks more closely and discovers the blending and strokes that are his hallmark. He doesn't think of himself strictly as a photorealist, believing what he leaves out is as important as what he chooses to express. Gibson says, "making art is how I cope and work through my thoughts, emotions, and connect with and encourage others. I hope that this work leads to constructive, open and honest dialogue about racism/white supremacy on local, national and global levels."

The inverted flag threads through several of Gibson's recent works. "Flying an American or any flag upside down is not always meant as political protest. It is considered to be international code and an official signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property. In many ways I do think that is where we are now." He says he created these works to symbolize "how people can see the problem of racism/white supremacy differently. One version of the flag for each month of the year. Every month will be my response to how black bodies are being treated. There are 36 names in the work that represent 45 lives. The fact is that I could easily produce thousands of flags. What about all the names that we don't know throughout the history of America and the world? How many flags would those unknown names produce"?

### Robin Holder

Holder considers herself a storyteller and describes her art as "my visual language rooted in layering, painting, printmaking, digital image manipulation, and drawing. I pay a lot of attention to color, composition and forms. Many



of my works begin with a composition that is based on carefully delineated silhouettes, shapes and forms. I use a distinct combination of techniques and tools for each series with the intention of expressing each concept with the most appropriate materials. I usually initiate a series with a specific theme and selection of media. I often include a material, technique or procedure that I am not familiar with."

Her recent work highlights our dependence "on our first responders and healthcare workers to keep our society functioning during COVID. Yet many of these heroes, many of whom are people of color, do not receive adequate wages, healthcare, child care, benefits or pension plans."

### Michael Escoffery



Born in Jamaica to parents who were also artists, Escoffery has traveled extensively across North America, Europe and Asia. Both the human form and the American flag are prominent in many of Michael Escoffery's works. He remarks that

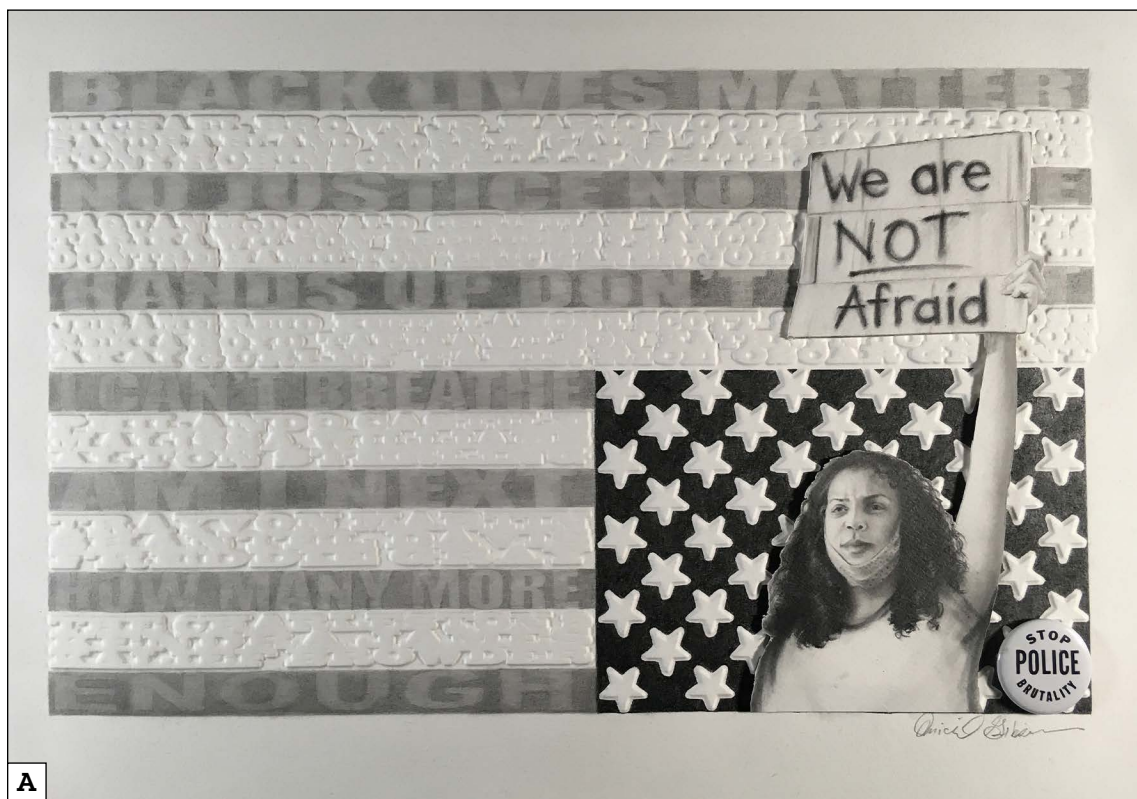
"as a Jamaican-born American, the flag is very important to me. I like to paint people scantily or un-clothed to show their vulnerability." His works also often hold up women as the symbol of courage and strength in the Black society. In "Purification" (image on next page) Escoffery presents the young woman as central to cleaning and purifying the American flag.

*Detailed biographies of each artist and examples of their works for sale are presented on the Just Lookin' Gallery website (JustLookin.com). The gallery is currently open regular hours every day except Monday, with pandemic restrictions, at 40 Summit Ave, Hagerstown, MD 21740. Phone: 301-714-2278.*

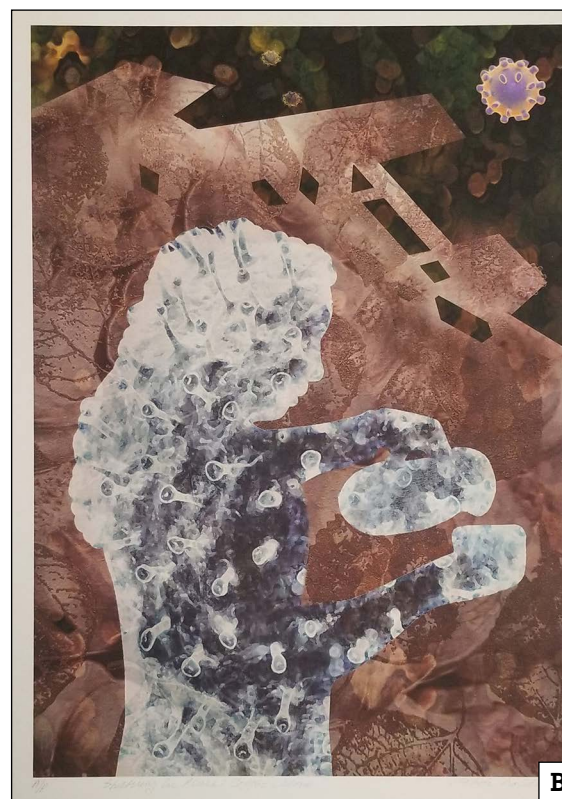
## A GLIMPSE AT THE ART



// ART



A



B



D



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American Perspectives

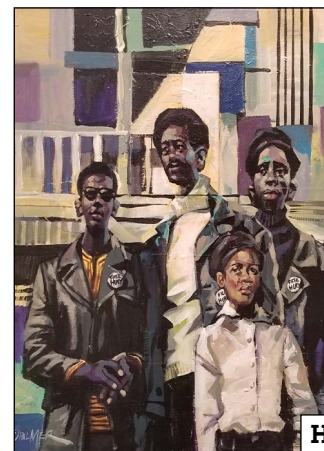


The artwork presented on these pages, representing a small sample of the dozens of artists showcased at Just Lookin' Gallery, reflects the weighty issues that continue to be front and center in the American experience. **Cover:** Charly Palmer, "Remembering Fannie Lou Hamer," Mixed media on wood (acrylic, fabric, wallpaper), 24x18"; **A:** Michael C. Gibson, "Stand Up - Be Heard," Pencil, 13.5x18"; **B:** Robin Holder, "Sheltering in Place: Coffee," Digital Print (artists proof), 20x16"; **C:** Robin Holder, "First Responders - We're In It Together," Digital Print, 20x16"; **D:** Charly Palmer, "Vote Any Way," Mixed media on canvas, 24x36"; **E:** Michael C. Gibson, "Resistance," Pencil, 6.25x9.5"; **F:** Robin Holder, "First Responders: We're In It," Digital Print, 20x16"; **G:** Charly Palmer, "My Choice," Mixed media on canvas 24x12"; **H:** Charly Palmer, "Young Panthers." Acrylic on Canvas, 30x24"; **I:** Michael Escoffery, "Defiant," Oil on Canvas, 8.75x11.17"

Visit Just Lookin' Gallery at 40 Summit Ave, Hagerstown MD 27140. Tel: 301-714-2278. Web: JustLookin.com.

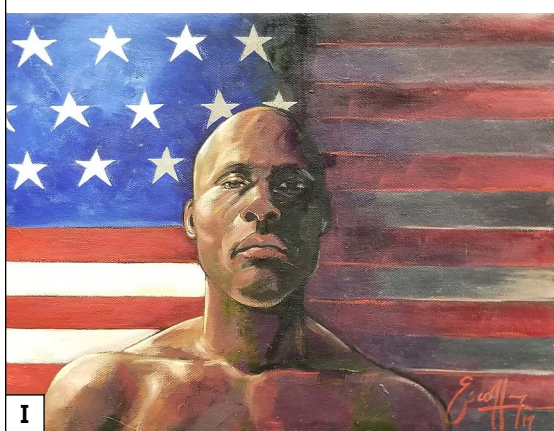
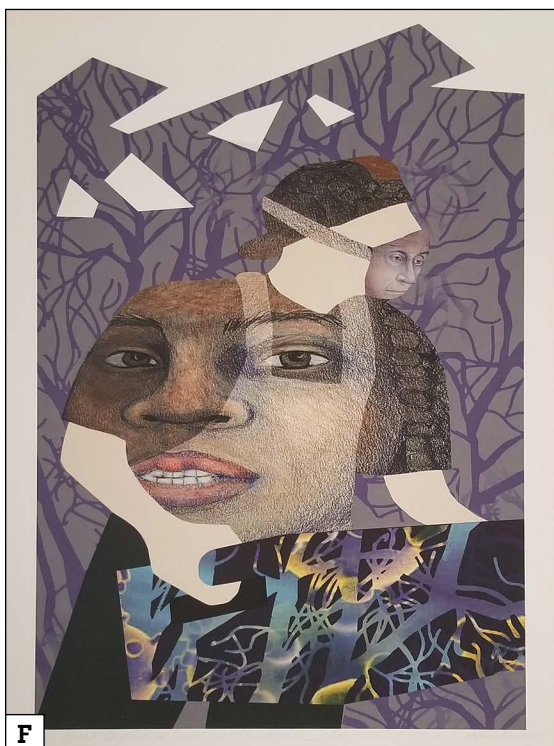


G



H





// NATURE

# THE FLOW GOES ON

## US Survey Adopts High-Tech to Battle Beavers

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.

**NO CREATURES ON EARTH** can change their environment more drastically than humans and beavers. In the natural world, beaver dams create new wetland habitat for a variety of wildlife. Fishermen, hunters, bird watchers, hikers, and outdoor recreationists love to visit beaver dams. But when beavers cut down trees, obstruct and divert waterways, and flood fields, septic systems and basements, their “damming” activities place beavers in direct conflict with humans.

Such a beaver-human conflict happened recently on Scrabble Road near Shepherdstown. Over the past six months, a colony of beavers has been building a series of dams which have destroyed private property. The resulting high water has disrupted several months of data the United States Geological Survey (USGS) collects at one of its stream gaging\* stations. The gaging station stands along the bank near the bridge over Rocky Marsh Run. The USGS has been aware of the disruption at the bridge and has removed beaver dams from this stretch of the creek several times.

Meanwhile, a local trapper removed several beavers. Then during heavy rains Christmas eve, the beavers tried to keep their dam under the bridge from flooding. We discovered they had cut down and removed two of our neighbor's large shrubs to make their dam

repairs. Days later another beaver was trapped and the dam under the bridge was again torn down.

I had always been curious about the USGS stream gaging stations I've seen at various spots along local waterways. To learn more about how they operate, I contacted Mark Gress, Field Office Chief Supervisory Hydrologic Technician of the USGS in Leetown, WV. He gave me an overview of how the federal agency monitors its nearly 8,000 stream gages nationwide.

The USGS provides continuous information to water managers, scientists, engineers and the public on the stage and discharge of the rivers and streams in the United States. “Stage” is the measurement of water level. River stage used to be measured with a simple float and a paper tape installed inside a roofed cylinder (called a stilling well). This system was expensive, time-consuming, and labor intensive.

Gage houses like the one near Scrabble Road are a more recent innovation. Such stations use a pressure sensor attached to a gas line in the water to measure stage data. The pressure transmitted through the gas line and into the sensor is directly proportional to the height of the water. Data is recorded and transmitted via satellite radio antenna.

Stage monitors using radar are the latest innovation. These new sensors use radar technology to measure the height of the river without ever touching the water surface. They can be mounted some place above the river, such as on the side of a bridge, where they're less likely to be washed away or destroyed by floating debris during floods.

“Discharge,” a measurement of how much water flows through a given spot in a river channel, can be calculated in several ways. For many years measuring discharge simply involved a hydrographer wading into the water and carrying a rod attached to a current meter. Sometimes the current meter was suspended in the water using a weight cable system.

Nowadays the USGS uses hydroacoustic meters that measure water velocity with doppler

radar. Pulses of sound from a transducer are reflected back when they bounce off solid particles in the water. The shift in the sound frequency is proportional to how fast the solid particles move in the water, thus measuring the water velocity. To measure low flow with more accuracy, acoustic doppler velocimeters can be mounted on a wading rod and carried into the water by a technician. Hydroacoustic instrumentation to calculate discharge has been adapted in a variety of ways for use by manned, remotely controlled or stationary watercraft.

Water courses all fluctuate naturally over time and change because of low or highwater during floods, drought, debris from storms, or obstructive beaver dams. So, measurements are collected and tabulated at 15-minute intervals and transmitted electronically each hour. Discharge and stage data are plotted immediately and are available to the public within minutes. Additional measurements are made by the USGS at intervals of 6 to 8 weeks or during significant weather events. This information is vital to the National Weather Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, climatologists and a host of private and government agencies.

Now it's possible to follow the depth and rate of flow of our waterways minute by minute. And we can monitor droughts and floods, detect blockages by debris, and measure the results of natural events all from a distance and in real time. But sometimes beavers can still mess things up!

*\*For the story behind the USGS's unusual spelling of “gage” see the online version of this article at [WeAreTheObserver.com/usgs-versus-beavers](http://WeAreTheObserver.com/usgs-versus-beavers).*

### SCIENCE IN YOUR BACKYARD

#### Great Backyard Bird Count

Every February people from around the world spend time watching and counting birds for the **Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)**, sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Audubon, and Birds Canada. Join the count running from February 12-15, to celebrate the birds near you while contributing to science! Learn more and register at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

### HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE

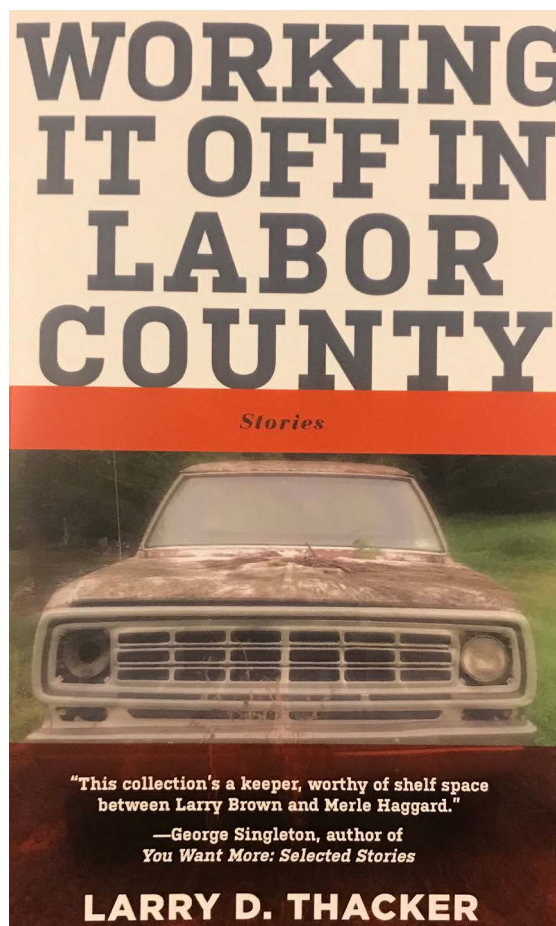
#### Learning About Climate Change

Potomac Valley Audubon Society (PVAS) is hosting the “**Our Changing Climate**” program on February 19. Designed for children ages 8 to 14, students will learn about our changing world and how to make a positive difference. PVAS volunteers will explore not only what's happening on the whole planet but also what changes we are seeing right here at Cool Spring Preserve. Register at [PotomacAudubon.org](http://PotomacAudubon.org).



Credit: Doug Pifer for Pennsylvania Game Commission

// BOOK REVIEW



**Working It Off in Labor County,**  
by Larry D. Thacker

**Publisher:** West Virginia University 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.

Like an old school country album by Billy Joe Shaver or Merle Haggard, Larry D. Thacker's debut collection *Working It Off in Labor County* tells stories about small town life full of quirky characters, humor that can be folksy and innocent but also dark, and heartfelt tales of day-to-day struggle.

Normally, the opening story sets the tone for what is to come in a collection, but in this case the title story strikes a light-hearted note with the tale of a community college teacher serving time after stealing a Civil War collection of artifacts he had previously donated to the Labor County History Society. In "Hot Ticket," an arsonist sees the light after winning the lottery and opens up the Church of the Holy Fire of God, where he serves as a pastor to atone for all the buildings he burnt down in his previous sinful life.

Other stories can set a darker mood

even if all of them are set in the fictional (and yet familiar) Labor County in southeastern Kentucky. Fire as a cleansing symbol returns in "The Hard Thing," a reflection on becoming a man, whether it is the cliché about grinding one's teeth and meeting life's challenges stoically or living up to a different set of expectations irrespective of anyone's notion of toughness. The recently divorced protagonist, Alder, wonders about his "self-destruct button" and the fact that he'll never gain the respect he seeks from his father.

"When you gonna finally be a man about things, son?" asks Adler's father in allusion to his lack of a supposedly "real" job as opposed to an office position. "A man is not a man until he believes himself one," Addler reflects. "The sudden wakefulness of maturity can't be legislated. Or taught, or beaten into someone. Men don't just wake up on an eighteenth birthday willing to vote and change their country."

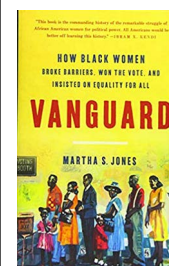
The author of three poetry collections and a book on Appalachian supernatural lore, Kentuckian writer Larry D. Thacker straddles these different registers with ease, crafting the precise turns of phrase that depict an introspective moment or harkens to a front porch tall tale.

One of the collection's strongest offerings, "Brotherhood of the Mystic Hand," embodies this amalgam in a yarn about a gang of grizzled Vietnam veterans who meet every year for a weekend of debauchery. The symbol that unites them is the preserved hand that one of their members, Earl, supposedly lost in combat and shipped to America while recovering from combat wounds.

Thacker opts for a more whimsical and comedic approach in a series of stories about the eccentric owner of a roadside museum of curiosities. "Uncle Archie's Acquisition" introduces the establishment, Archie's Travelling Odditorium, where the manager, Archie Parker, has just bought a cryotube said to contain human remains. In "Uncle Archie's Underground Reunion," a Nashville photographer promises to shoot a photo essay about the Odditorium for a regional magazine. When he fails to keep his promise, Archie's family pays him a visit. In "Uncle Archie Goes One for Three," Archie inaugurates the Deadly Den of the Mountain Chupacabra, a new museum room dedicated to the legendary goal-sucking creature from Latin American lore. The new attraction proves to be a money maker but it also brings trouble when Archie is sued by a woman claiming that his chupacabra is actually her dog.

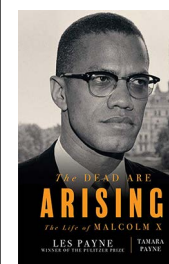
*Working It Off in Labor County* is a testament to Thacker's solid storytelling in a lively mix that brings to mind the humor of George Singleton and the hardscrabble stories of Larry Brown.

THE FRONT SHELF



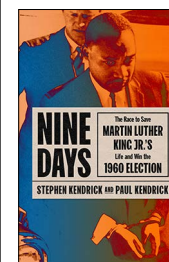
**Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All,**  
by Martha S. Jones  
Basic Books (2020)  
\$30.00

In *Vanguard*, acclaimed historian Martha S. Jones offers a new history of black women's political lives in America. From the earliest days of the republic to the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and beyond, Jones excavates the lives and work of black women to recount how they defied both racism and sexism to fight for the ballot and how they wielded political power to secure the equality and dignity of all persons.



**The Dead Are Arising,** by Les Payne and Tamara Payne  
Liveright Publishing Corporation (2020)  
\$35.00

Les Payne, renowned Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist, embarked on a nearly thirty-year-long quest in 1990 to interview anyone he could find who had actually known Malcolm X. His goal was ambitious, to transform what would become over a hundred hours of interviews into an unprecedented portrait of Malcolm X. *The Dead Are Arising* is a riveting work that affirms the centrality of Malcolm X to the Black freedom struggle.



**Nine Days: The Race to Save Martin Luther King Jr.'s Life and Win the 1960 Election,** by Paul Kendrick and Stephen Kendrick  
Farrar, Straus, and Giroux (2021)  
\$28.00

Less than three weeks before the 1960 presidential election, the 31 year-old Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was arrested at a sit-in at Rich's Department Store in Atlanta. Based on fresh interviews, newspaper accounts, and extensive archival research, *Nine Days* is the first full recounting of an event that changed the course of one of the closest elections in American history. Much more than a political thriller, it is also the story of the first time King refused bail and came to terms with the dangerous course of his mission to change a nation. At once a story of electoral machinations, moral courage, and, ultimately, the triumph of a future president's better angels, *Nine Days* is a gripping tale with important lessons for our own time.

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EXPLORE THE C&O - PAGE 16

CONCERT SERIES

SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY MUSIC VIRTUAL CONCERT

The 2020-2021 Shepherd University Music Salon Series, showcasing School of Music faculty and sponsored by Jefferson Security Bank, presents a free virtual concert by Candice Mowbray and Friends in concert. Guitar professor Dr. Candice Mowbray teams up with guitarist Danny Webber, multi-instrumentalist Anita Thomas, Shepherd faculty singer Dr. Rob Tudor, and singer/pianist Dr. Bobb Robinson. The program will include classical as well as jazz-influenced music with works ranging from Duke Ellington's "African Flower" and Ralph Towner's "Icarus," to classical guitar works and an original composition by Thomas.

*Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions on live in-person concerts, the Salon Series performances are being recorded on the Frank Center stage to be broadcast on target dates. The recordings include bonus information about the pieces in the recitals. The performances will be available for viewing on the Shepherd Music YouTube channel for free after the initial broadcast dates.*



**Date/Time:** Friday, February 5, 7:30 pm  
**Watch (Facebook):** [Facebook.com/ShepherdUniversityMusic](https://www.facebook.com/ShepherdUniversityMusic)  
**Watch (YouTube):** [Youtube.com/user/ShepherdUMusic](https://www.youtube.com/user/ShepherdUMusic)  
**More info (website):** [Shepherd.edu/music](http://Shepherd.edu/music)

ONLINE EVENT



SPEAK STORY SERIES PRESENTS  
JASMIN CARDENAS

Cardenas is a Colombian-American award winning bilingual storyteller, actress, educator and social activist. She enjoys exploring the uncomfortable truths found when you grow up between cultures. Jasmin has always lived between worlds being told she's not fully American in the US and a gringa in South America. Cardenas was awarded a 2020-2022 LAB Fellowship from Georgetown University's Laboratory for Global Performance & Politics for her work harnessing the power of art into action. In 2018, Cardenas was recognized by the Alliance of Latinx Theater Artists of Chicago as winner of the ALTA's annual Outstanding Storyteller Award. Tickets are \$15, free for season ticket holders. Speak is for adult audiences. Mature youth allowed at guardian's discretion.

**Date/Time:** February 9, 7:30 pm  
**Tickets:** \$15, pre-register at [SpeakStorySeries.com](http://SpeakStorySeries.com) — season ticket packages also available

VIRTUAL AUCTION

ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

Animal Welfare Society of Jefferson County

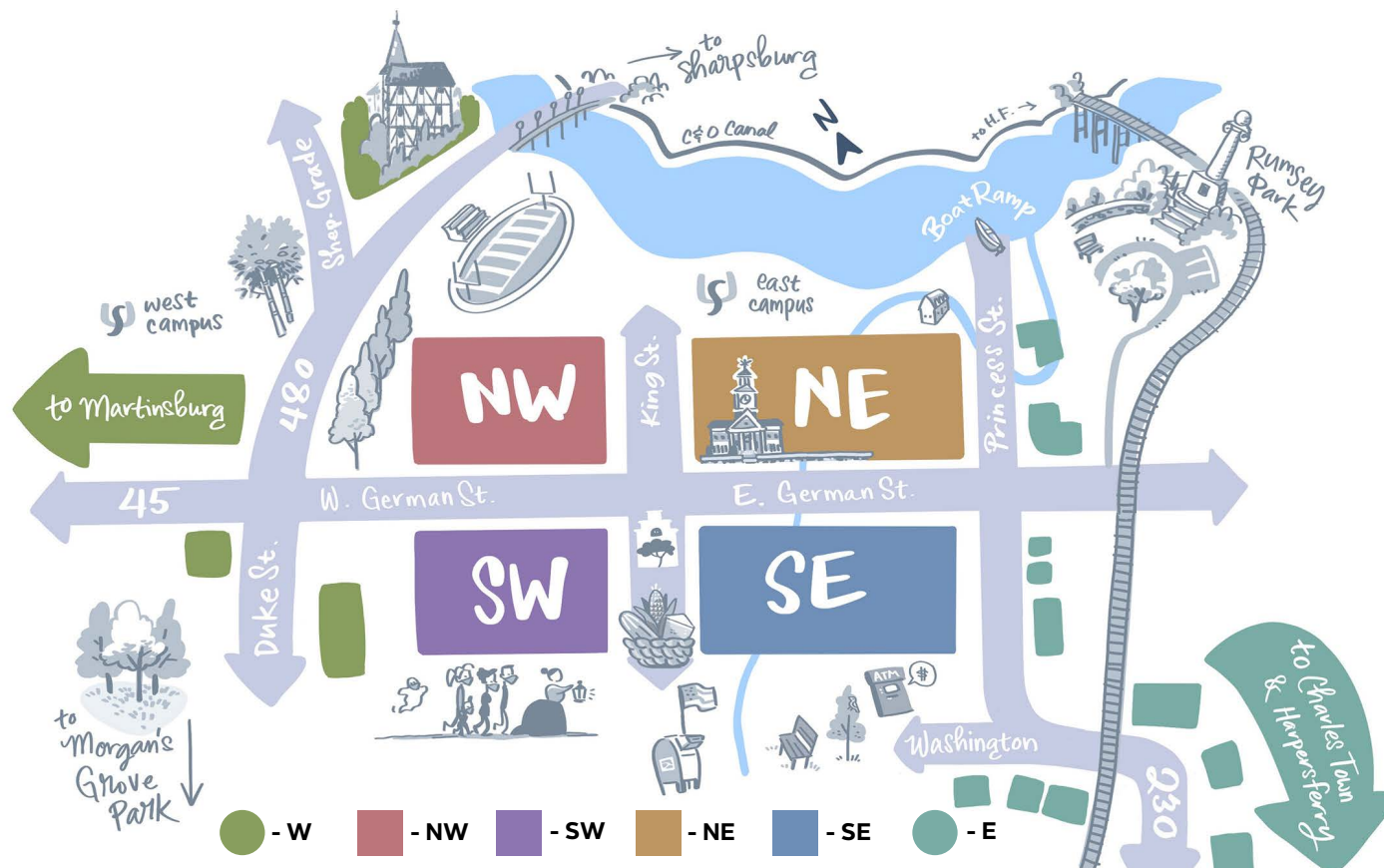
**VALENTINE "PURR" FECT ONLINE AUCTION FUNDRAISER**  
February 6-13, 2021 | [Biddingowl.com](http://Biddingowl.com)

VALENTINE VIRTUAL AUCTION

The Animal Welfare Society of Jefferson County is hosting a Valentine Virtual online auction fundraiser from February 6th - 13th as a pandemic replacement of its regular "Purr"fect Valentine Dinner and Auction held annually at the Hollywood Casino. The dozens of items donated by local individuals and merchants can be seen on the Society's page at [Biddingowl.com](http://Biddingowl.com) (see link below). The Society welcomes additional event sponsors, auction item donations, and ticket donations (\$55 per person) in lieu of attending the annual event. Proceeds from this fundraising event will help support the Society's mission to provide housing and adoption services for abandoned, surrendered, neglected, abused, and unwanted dogs and cats. The Society also promotes education about the care of pets to residents in our county and surrounding communities.

**Website (Welfare Society):** [awsjc.org](http://awsjc.org)  
**Facebook:** @AWSJC  
**Website (auction):** [www.biddingowl.com/Auction/index.cfm?auctionID=23413](http://www.biddingowl.com/Auction/index.cfm?auctionID=23413)  
**Auction Preview & Bidding Dates:** Feb. 6 through 13

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“The true history of the spirit is not preserved in learned volumes but in the living psychic organism of every individual.”

—C.G. Jung  
(Collected Works, Volume 11, page 35)



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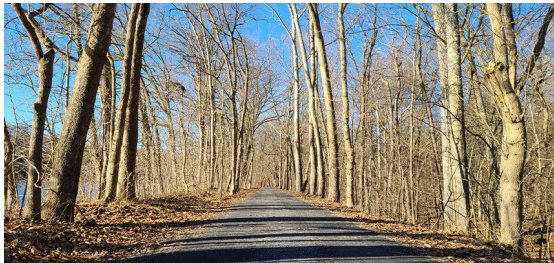
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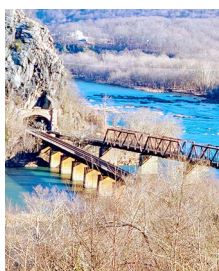
EXPLORE // C&O CANAL

CHESAPEAKE & OHIO CANAL PARK CELEBRATES 50 YEARS



The C&O Canal opened for business in 1831. Connecting to the Potomac River in Georgetown, it eventually extended 185 miles west to terminate in Cumberland Maryland by 1850. Operating in competition with the nearby B&O Railroad that also connected to Cumberland, the Canal was acquired by the railroad after 1889 and continued to be used to transport coal and other bulk items into the 1920s. During the Great Depression, the railroad transferred the entire canal property to the United States as part of a loan. The Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historic Park was established in January of 1971.

The National Park, the C&O Canal Trust (the non-profit partner of the park), and the Canal Towns Partnership representing the ten nearby towns along its western path (Poolesville, Point of Rocks, Brunswick, Sharpsburg, Williamsport, Hancock and Cumberland in Maryland, Harpers Ferry, Bolivar and Shepherdstown in West Virginia) are organizing various events and activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the park in 2021. Planned activities include a beer trail along the many breweries close to the park, themed event-days across the nearby canal towns, and events tailored for kids (event details will be published on the Canal Towns website when the schedule is finalized)



The towpath between Edward Ferry, MD (mile 30) and Shepherdstown (mile 73) has recently been resurfaced with a natural stone mixture designed to provide a smooth surface suitable for hiking, biking and horse riding.

The B&O Railroad first crossed paths with the C&O Canal on the 1839 bridge across the Potomac River to Harpers Ferry (Virginia). The 1894 bridge (left) roughly follows the original bridge and a pedestrian path built onto the 1931 bridge (right) provides easy access between the C&O park and Harpers Ferry, WV.



The Rumsey Bridge offers a view of the Norfolk and Southern Railroad bridge across the Potomac River and provides a pedestrian and bike-friendly connection between the C&O Canal and Shepherdstown, WV.



Dam 4 on the Potomac River was built to provide water for the section of the canal downstream to Harpers Ferry. The dam was rebuilt as a hydro-electric dam with the power generation station in 1914. Modified again in 1994, Dam 4 has been a functional component of the nation's infrastructure for almost two centuries.

The Bavarian Inn, overlooking the Potomac River and C&O Canal at Shepherdstown, is a convenient stop for visitors with extensive outdoor patio seating (now open year-round with heaters and firepits).



PHOTO CONTEST

The C&O Canal Trust invites you to submit photos you take along the canal (or in the nearby towns) for its monthly contest. Entries are posted on the Trust's Facebook page and voting for the contest winners is by "Likes." Each month's winner will be the cover photo on the Trust's Facebook page and will appear in its print and email newsletters. For details visit [CanalTrust.org/news/photo-contest](http://CanalTrust.org/news/photo-contest).

VISITOR RESOURCES

The towpath trail offers an easy path for 185 miles for hiking, biking and horseback riding. The park is open 365 days a year, from sunrise to sunset (check the park website for visitor center facility hours and parking locations). There is no entrance fee to access the park.

C&O Canal National Historic Park website: [NPS.gov/choh/index.htm](http://NPS.gov/choh/index.htm) (official park website)

Canal Trust website: [Canaltrust.org](http://Canaltrust.org) (maps, trip planners & event news for the park)

Canal Towns website: [CanalTrust.org/programs/canal-towns](http://CanalTrust.org/programs/canal-towns) (a guide to the ten "canal towns" between Poolesville and Cumberland). Facebook: @CanalTowns.

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SPRING ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

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