

The WV INDEPENDENT Observer

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

DECEMBER 2021

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THIS PAPER WANTS TO BE RECYCLED.



Along US Route 340, looking south towards Harpers Ferry.

TO OUR READERS — I enjoy driving south on Route 340 this time of year, when the leaves are off the trees and the low sun is glinting on the ripples of the Potomac River. The long view down the gorge to Harpers Ferry perched on the hill is always inspiring, even after the color has drained from the hillsides.


The traffic is not as enjoyable — but a reminder of the importance of this road, both to Jefferson County residents who commute to work, and to visitors who share their recreation dollars with us. The large rocks piled tight alongside are also a pressing reminder — that what we call “infrastructure” is never a “build it and forget about it” proposition.

The West Virginia Division of Highways is planning a multi-month construction project to stabilize the hillside and add rockfall protection along the road. The project, scheduled for the fall of 2022, proposes two options for detouring traffic, one of which would close the road completely for 3 months. **The deadline for public comment on this project is Dec 9** — there is a comment form and email address on the project website (US340HarpersFerry.com) along with details of the project and information from the recent public hearing. As they say in “Who-ville,” make your voice heard.

The *Observer* staff hopes our readers are able to enjoy this special time of year, particularly in our local downtowns as they come alive to celebrate and share the community spirit of the season.

 **Steve Pearson**
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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// COMMUNITY

HOME-TOWN CONNECTIONS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

What You Can Find Locally For Celebrating & Gift-Giving



“PEOPLE SEEM TO BE FOCUSING on entertaining at home — having family and friends get together seems like a special gift this year,” remarked Deb Luksa, owner of the German Street Marketplace in Shepherdstown. “I see a lot of younger people who are more minimalist — they don’t want a lot of stuff, but they do like to entertain and appreciate a useful gift.” Luksa noted a common holiday wish that she is hearing from her customers: “Treat yourself and your family well — and enjoy your time together.”

Larry Miller, co-owner of The Hobbies Shop in Charles Town with his wife Susan, pointed out the several advantages of local “mom & pop” retailers: “We make sure we stock quality items — for example, our hobby-grade RC models are repairable, not stuff that you need to throw away if a part breaks the day after Christmas. When you shop local, you know what you are buying and you have a person who can help you. We’re here every day to answer your questions and offer suggestions.” Shane Stoneberger of Feagans Jewelers, also in Charles Town, echoed that sentiment: “we treat our customers like family; we’ll help you pick things out and remember you when you come back.” At Engage!, a book, toy and comics shop in Martinsburg, co-owner Angie Leaton expressed a similar thought: “We listen to what our customers want and adjust what we sell. You can see it and touch it before you buy, and we can help you pick out the right gift.”

Leaton mentioned that she and her husband Kim had just opened Engage! last year when the pandemic hit, but were glad they did: “When you have a store downtown, you can see the things that people do to make this a community and build it up.” That’s a sentiment that *The Observer* heard up and down the various downtown streets in Charles Town, Harpers Ferry, Martinsburg, Ranson, and Shepherdstown. The images on the following pages present a small sample of the many delightful items available at our local downtown merchants — ready to take home and wrap. 📸



Stocking Stuffers and Treats for All

Cover: Hand-made ornaments from around the world at **Tenfold Fair Trade** (Harpers Ferry); **A:** The **German Street Marketplace** (Shepherdstown) has many delicious items to create a charcuterie board for entertaining – or gifting; **B:** Leave a special treat for “Santa” to enjoy after putting up the tree. At **Grapes & Grains** (Shepherdstown) along with a wide selection of wines, beers, and entertaining food & supplies; **C:** Mrs. Claus might enjoy a CBD bath bomb (At **Meditative Medicinals**, Shepherdstown); **D:** You can find holiday greeting cards at **Dickinson & Wait Craft Gallery**, **Four Seasons Books**, and **O’Hurley’s General Store** in Shepherdstown; **E:** Find whimsical stocking stuffers for imaginative tweens at **Creative Procrastinations** (Shepherdstown); **F:** A favorite local image can be a very personal gift. Take it off the wall at **Kimo Pics** (Shepherdstown) or ask for a tailor-made reprint.



SAY YOU
“SAW IT IN THE OBSERVER”

DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY EVENTS
>>> PAGES 14 & 15 <<<



// COMMUNITY — CONTINUED



G



H

**MORE GIFT IDEAS
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J



K

Stylish Gifts from Head to Toe

G: Feagans Jewelers (Charles Town) makes time for every customer; **H:** English driving caps at **Honor D Shoes & Hats** (Shepherdstown) are a stylish gift for men; **J:** These aren't the socks you got for Christmas as a kid – a whimsical and (mostly) practical gift for all ages. In Shepherdstown at **Creative Procrastinations**, **Dickinson & Wait Craft Gallery**, **The Good Shop**, **O'Hurley's General Store**, and **Pedal & Paddle**; **K:** **Dickinson & Wait Craft Gallery** (Shepherdstown) specializes in local and made-in-America products.

NEXT PAGE >>> Fun & Games for All

LOCAL GIVING NOTES

Opportunities To Help In The Community

*As we celebrate with family and friends this holiday season, we can also pause to lend support to the organizations and individuals who are helping those in need here in our own communities. The Observer welcomes suggestions on organizations to feature in our giving notes online — email “Connect@WeAreTheObserver.com” with your ideas. **Additional information online at WeAreTheObserver.com/local-giving-2021.***

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMUNITY MINISTRIES



JCCM in downtown Charles Town recently reported that the demand in their food pantry has nearly doubled over the past six months. They accept donations of food, hygiene products, and clothing, as well as cash to fund their efforts

to assist those in need. Volunteers are also welcome. *Web:* JCCM.us

SHEPHERDSTOWN SHARES FOOD PANTRY

The Shares pantry is open 3 days a week to serve the northern areas of Jefferson County. They accept donations of non-perishable food as well as cash to purchase meats, milk, and perishable items. They anticipate that both the demand and costs of these perishable items will continue to increase in the coming months. For December, Shares is collecting donations to fund holiday dinners for its clients (and to expand this program to additional families). \$35 dollars funds one dinner. *Facebook:* [@ShepherdstownShares](https://www.facebook.com/ShepherdstownShares)

FREE LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

The Free Little Food Pantry is a recent addition to the Two Rivers Treads' informal assistance program (the free coat rack in front of the store has

been available for several years). Sarah Hodder, the project organizer, described it as a way to serve folks who are in temporary or unexpected need, “who might not be inclined to sign up for a more formal assistance program.” The pantry is a small refurbished newspaper box; bread and pasta are popular items – typically taken within a day. Hodder has a small request board on the box and posts about needs on social media. Follow [@TwoRiversTreads](https://www.facebook.com/TwoRiversTreads) on FB & IG; stop by the store at 400 S Mildred Street in Ranson to drop off items.



Red Cross Blood Drive

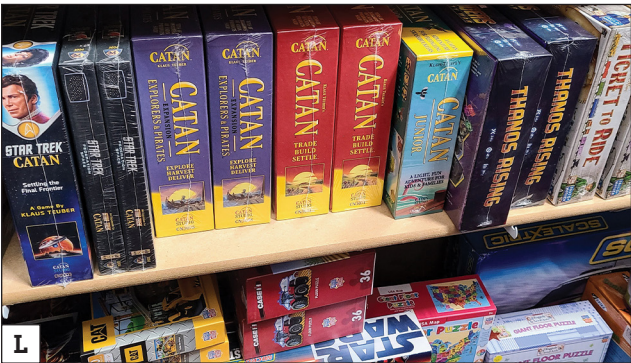
St. James Catholic Church (49 Crosswinds Dr, Charles Town) is hosting a blood drive organized by the American Red Cross on December 6. Donations by appointment only, between 1:30 and 7 pm. To schedule, visit RedCrossBlood.org – enter stjamescc in the “find a drive” box or call 800-733-2767.



*This month's Giving Note sponsors are **Brian Foss of First Home Mortgage**, NMLS ID 448083 (*web:* Firsthome.com/brian-foss, *email:* bfoss@firsthome.com, *tel:* 304-261-9240) & **Tara Sanders Lowe of Four State Real Estate** (*email:* TaraSandersLowe@gmail.com, *web:* TaraLowe.BrightMLShomes.com, *tel/txt:* 304-283-8300).*



// COMMUNITY — CONTINUED



Fun and Games

L: All ages can enjoy a board game. At **The Hobbies Shop** (Charles Town); **M:** Art supplies, cookbooks, puzzles, calendars, notecards – **Four Seasons Books** (Shepherdstown) can be a one-stop shop for gifts; **N:** The friendly clerks at **Engage!** (Martinsburg) and **Four Seasons Books** (Shepherdstown) can help you pick the appropriate toy, book, stuffed animal, and other delights for kids of any age; **O:** You can find shelves of puzzles at **The Hobbies Shop** (Charles Town) and **Four Season's Books** (Shepherdstown); **P:** **O'Hurley's General Store** (Shepherdstown) stocks an eclectic mix of local, handmade, vintage, and other unusual toys.



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PERSPECTIVE // LAW NOTES

HEALING WOUNDS AND ANSWERING QUESTIONS

Discussing Restorative Justice in West Virginia

By Brenda Waugh

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



"I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHY they did this... and for them to say that they are sorry." In the late 1990s victims of crimes often expressed these basic needs to me during my work as an assistant prosecutor. But while I could prosecute offenders and obtain convictions, I could

not give victims these two things.

Around the same time, I first learned about "restorative justice" — a different way to address criminal wrongdoing. For example, restorative justice facilitates meetings between criminal and victim. While this then-new approach appeared to provide greater potential for victims to have their needs met, I was skeptical at first. I was concerned that introducing such techniques might result in making things easier for the offender, or would not adequately protect the victim.

After watching "Meeting with a Killer" (a documentary easily found and freely available online), I began to understand the potential. In this moving film, a mother met with the man who murdered her daughter. The mother and her granddaughter requested the meeting and I was surprised to witness how much these survivors benefited from it. And having the meeting did not impact the murderer's sentence.

The victim-offender conference or dialogue is just one restorative justice technique. Another process often employed is the "talking circle." Based on processes used by Indigenous American peoples to structure discussions, the talking circle structures the conversation by restricting the speakers to speaking one at a time around the circle. Talking circles have been used in American and Canadian legal processes in situations involving the re-entry of offenders to a community, in sentencing, and in creating structure for meetings on child dependency matters and remedial action for

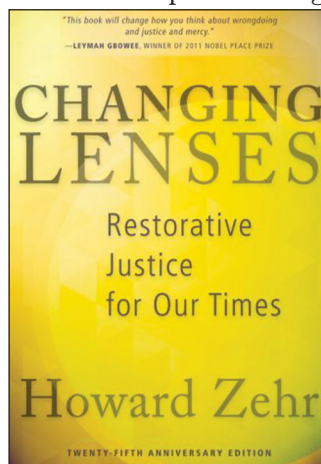
juvenile offenders.

Many states now include restorative justice processes in their statutory framework to address criminal and quasi-criminal wrongdoing. In child abuse and neglect matters, states such as Virginia, Colorado and Texas employ Family Group Decision Making where a collaborative team of family members, friends, and professionals participate to develop a plan to best meet the needs of the family. Hawaii and Vermont include restorative justice in the process when an offender is released from incarceration. States such as Massachusetts provide specific funding and guidance to permit a more restorative approach for juvenile offenders.

While West Virginia has only recently passed legislation authorizing restorative justice in some situations involving juveniles, restorative processes have been employed more broadly on a case-by-case basis. For example, I have facilitated victim-offender conferences in Morgan and Berkeley Counties and have worked with victims who participated in a conference in Jefferson County. Both victims and offenders report being satisfied by the process. In one situation, the offender apologized and voluntarily paid restitution in excess of what the victim requested.

While the victim-offender conference may not be successful in all situations, it can provide that opportunity for the victim to find out what happened and for the offender to seek forgiveness. Usually, this type of process is suitable only when the offender is accepting responsibility for the wrongdoing and the victim is willing to participate in the process.

To learn more about restorative justice, one starting point is the book *Changing Lenses* by Dr. Howard Zehr who is often called the "grandfather" of this field. Perhaps indicating the growing interest in this topic in the Mountain State, Dr. Zehr was among the experts and practitioners, myself included, who recently participated in Reimagining Justice in West Virginia, a conference focused on the potential for restorative justice in West Virginia.



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PERSPECTIVE // SPORTS

BACK ON THE COURT, READY TO WIN

Shepherd University Men's Basketball Eager to Play

By Rob Kuska

Shepherd University basketball is back after a one-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Jefferson County resident Rob Kuska is a career science writer and the author of three books on basketball. Kuska spoke with Justin Namolik, now entering his 14th season as head men's basketball coach, to get his thoughts on Shepherd's return to the hardwood and running a college basketball program during a pandemic.

Q: How's the program doing after last year's "lost season"?

Namolik: The program is in real good shape. But it's definitely been a long 18 months. When the pandemic hit, we were concerned about our players academically. Shepherd, like most universities, transitioned to online classes, and our student-athletes are used to receiving in-person instruction. You'd think online classes would be a snap for technologically savvy young people. That's not always the case. They're so bombarded with information on their devices, many skim text and miss out on the finer details presented in an online class. So, we spent a lot of extra time and effort monitoring their academic work.

Q: Their wellbeing was paramount?

Namolik: Absolutely. And also working with their families. We kept parents in the loop, letting them know the obstacles to holding the season. Logistically, these obstacles were profound, and I was prepared mentally for the season's cancellation. But I'm not sure our players were once the season was nixed.

Q: Could the players at least get into the gym last winter and practice?

Q: They could, with the necessary precautions. I'm so appreciative of Shepherd for that. The gym was our sanctuary. We got in 60 practices and three scrimmage games last year. Now, we're anxious to get back on the court and play real games. This year, the team will push the ball even more on offense, and we've got the athletes to make the added pace fun for fans to watch. As always, there's not going to be any quit in us. We'll compete tooth and nail.

Q: You had a relatively young nucleus before the pandemic. Is that still the case?

Namolik: We're still young on paper. We lost two upperclassmen to graduation during the off-year, and we're bringing in two incoming freshman classes (2020, 2021). That translates to six freshmen and three sophomores on our 12-man roster.

Q: But those returning sophomores are good ones.

Namolik: For sure. We're expecting breakout seasons from sophomore guards Daniel McClain-Corley (Clinton, MD, 8.4 ppg) and Phillip Jordan (Rockville, MD, 7.8 ppg). We also brought in sophomore Jordan Gibson (Bristow, VA), a D-I transfer from Presbyterian College. He's a promising addition. This trio joins senior forwards Kyle Daggett (Walkersville, MD, 11.5 ppg) Cam Stephens (Bunker Hill, WV, 3.9 ppg), and Noah Wimbush (Fairdale, WV, 2.4 ppg). Plus, we've got our outstanding junior guard Jon Preston (Brandywine, MD, 11.4 ppg). And don't forget the freshmen.

Q: How far will all this talent take Shepherd in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC)? The Rams were picked in the preseason coaches' poll to finish sixth in the PSAC's nine-school Eastern Division?



Justin Namolik, head coach for the Shepherd University Men's Basketball team

Namolik: Well, two things. First, I would think the other PSAC schools are in the same boat as us. It's been a long 18 months. Secondly, with such a young team at Shepherd, all that extra practice time last year has allowed our players to really grow. I believe in our guys, and I'm confident that we're ready to compete in the PSAC, one of the nation's toughest NCAA D-II conferences.

Q: What are the can't-miss games that readers should circle on their calendars?

Namolik: West Chester (Jan 8), East Stroudsburg (Jan 26), and Shippensburg (Feb 23).

Visit ShepherdRams.com online for current team, ticket and game information. Fans can follow the team on Facebook (@ShepherdHoops). For information about donations to support scholarship assistance and program enhancements, visit the Hardwood Club (web: SUAthleticClub.org/hardwood-club).

The basketball team plays its home games at the Butcher Center on the Shepherd University campus. The 2021-2022 season tips off against Frostburg State on November 17 and runs through February 2022. Season passes are \$100 (includes tickets to all men's and women's home basketball games); single game tickets are \$5. Purchase online at ShepherdRams.UniversityTickets.com.



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// LOCAL LEADERS

LOCAL RESIDENT JOINS BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Rod Snyder Appointed EPA Senior Advisor



Rod Snyder, of Shenandoah Junction, was recently appointed Senior Advisor for Agriculture to the Administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Observer spoke with Snyder about his new role and what inspired his career in public policy. The questions and responses in this article have been edited for length and clarity.

Q: What influenced you to focus your career on public policy, and specifically on agriculture and the environment?

Snyder: My family on both sides, most immediately on my mom's side, have been farming in Jefferson County for a long time. My mom grew up on a dairy farm. I saw a path to contribute to that legacy through the policy lens.

I was a political science major in college, inspired by my dad's public service. He was on the Jefferson County Commission when I was a kid and then went on to serve in the West Virginia State Senate for twenty years.

My whole career has been at the intersection of agriculture and public service.

Q: What are the duties and focus of your new position at the US EPA?

Snyder: This position of Agriculture Senior Advisor has been around for a couple of decades. It's been important for the farming and ranching communities to have a single point to express

issues and concerns or just generally engage with the EPA at a senior level. I report to the EPA Administrator and work across the entire agency. Day to day, a lot of my time is spent on stakeholder engagement. For example, today I met with all of the Farm Bureau state presidents. Other examples could include working on regional strategies to protect Chesapeake Bay water and engaging the EPA's pesticide office with the agriculture sector's perspective.

Focus areas for the EPA overall include environmental justice – understanding how the rules and regulations affect historically disadvantaged populations, and making sure they have a seat at the table. With respect to West Virginia, the state's history has many examples of rural communities that have had a decades-long struggle with environmental degradation. Another focus is the climate crisis, a challenge that cuts across all the program areas of the EPA. Farmers and the agricultural community have the most to lose in terms of the impacts of climate changes – with extreme climate changes, farming becomes more risky and less predictable. Our question is how we build more resilience and mitigate the effects.

Q: With climate change, you mentioned the need for both adaptation and mitigation. What do you mean?

Snyder: The whole sector has to adapt to changes: growing regions have shifted and there are new pest pressures and more frequent droughts and flooding. So, the ag sector has to turn to science and look to innovation to help manage that. On the mitigation side, President Biden has spoken about climate solutions, for example, carbon storage – this is not a regulatory issue, it's a technology-based approach that could be encouraged, not mandated.

Q: How will the work you are doing at EPA affect the future economic vitality of the state?

Snyder: West Virginia is at a bit of a crossroads, in terms of what comes next, in terms of building a 21st century economy rooted in green jobs in places like Appalachia. That is on EPA Administrator Regan's mind. We know demand for coal has been declining for a long time, and to suggest that the future looks like the past is burying our head in the sand. So the Administration's outlook for the future is exciting – it can be a real partner with WV through this transition – potentially providing new funding for cleanups, as an example.

An extended version of this interview is available online at WeAreTheObserver.com. 📄

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PERSPECTIVE // NATURE

THE SINGING FOXES

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.

Having lived in the country most of my seventy-odd years, I enjoy the night sounds made by various wild animals. I'm often surprised that so few people recognize or even notice them. This time of year, as the nights begin to turn cold, red foxes become more vocal. As I step outside on any given evening, I hear their harsh cries pierce the night.

Young foxes, newly on their own, are now exploring and traveling. Adult foxes are establishing and defending their territories against these young newcomers. Humans accustomed to being indoors after dark might find such vocal exchanges a bit scary. Over the past fifteen years, as foxes have moved into more suburban and urban habitats, their sounds are becoming increasingly more familiar.

I've come to recognize some cries foxes make as their love songs. Winter is their mating season and, like birds in the spring, foxes communicate by vocalizing. Late November and early December is when you're most likely to hear foxes sing.

Most often heard is the vixen call, a loud, harsh yell people often think is a woman's scream or a small child in distress. It's a jarring, harsh sound you might expect from a bird, possibly an owl. When folks tell me they heard a bobcat's scream I often wonder whether they've actually heard a fox. The vixen call can be heard any time of year and is made by both sexes. I frequently hear it played on the soundtracks of night-time country scenes on British TV detective shows. The film makers might like to use the vixen call because it is scary, and possibly because English countrymen are familiar with fox sounds.

During November foxes start barking. Usually it's a three-or-four-part series of yapping barks, like "ow-ow-ow!" Frequently it ends in a high-pitched squeal. Sometimes it's made alone and other times in response to a call from another fox. A fox's bark, like spring birdsong, is made to proclaim territory, or to respond or call to a mate.

A very different fox noise, called "geckering," is a chattering, screeching sound made by two or more foxes interacting, fighting, or chasing each other. It's also the sound fox cubs make while playing together at night during the summer. This sound can vary in volume and pitch with the excitement of the animals and is one of the most frequent sounds that make dogs bark at night.

Foxes also emit a high, wheezy screech, believed to be an alarm call to their cubs. All fox calls can sound surprisingly loud when they occur at night after other sounds quiet down.

I believe foxes are intelligent enough to use their voices to express a sense of humor. I'll never forget the night when I took a shortcut through a neighbor's field on my way home from an evening walk. Suddenly a loud "Yaaah" from behind a row of hedges made me almost jump out of my skin. As its small, dark shadow departed, I was convinced that a fox intended to startle me.

Like birds, foxes also seem to sing because they feel good. On that same farm, I heard a fox bark in the woods one bright winter day. A beautifully furred fox suddenly appeared at full gallop. Crossing the lane in front of me, he ran through a grove of cedar trees and continued up the hillside. Half-way up the hill he barked again, spun around three times, and then proceeded on his way.

To me his bark expressed total joy.



A red fox playing with its meal. D. Pifer artwork courtesy the PA Game Commission.

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EVENTS & ACTIVITIES
>>> PAGE 12 & 13 <<<

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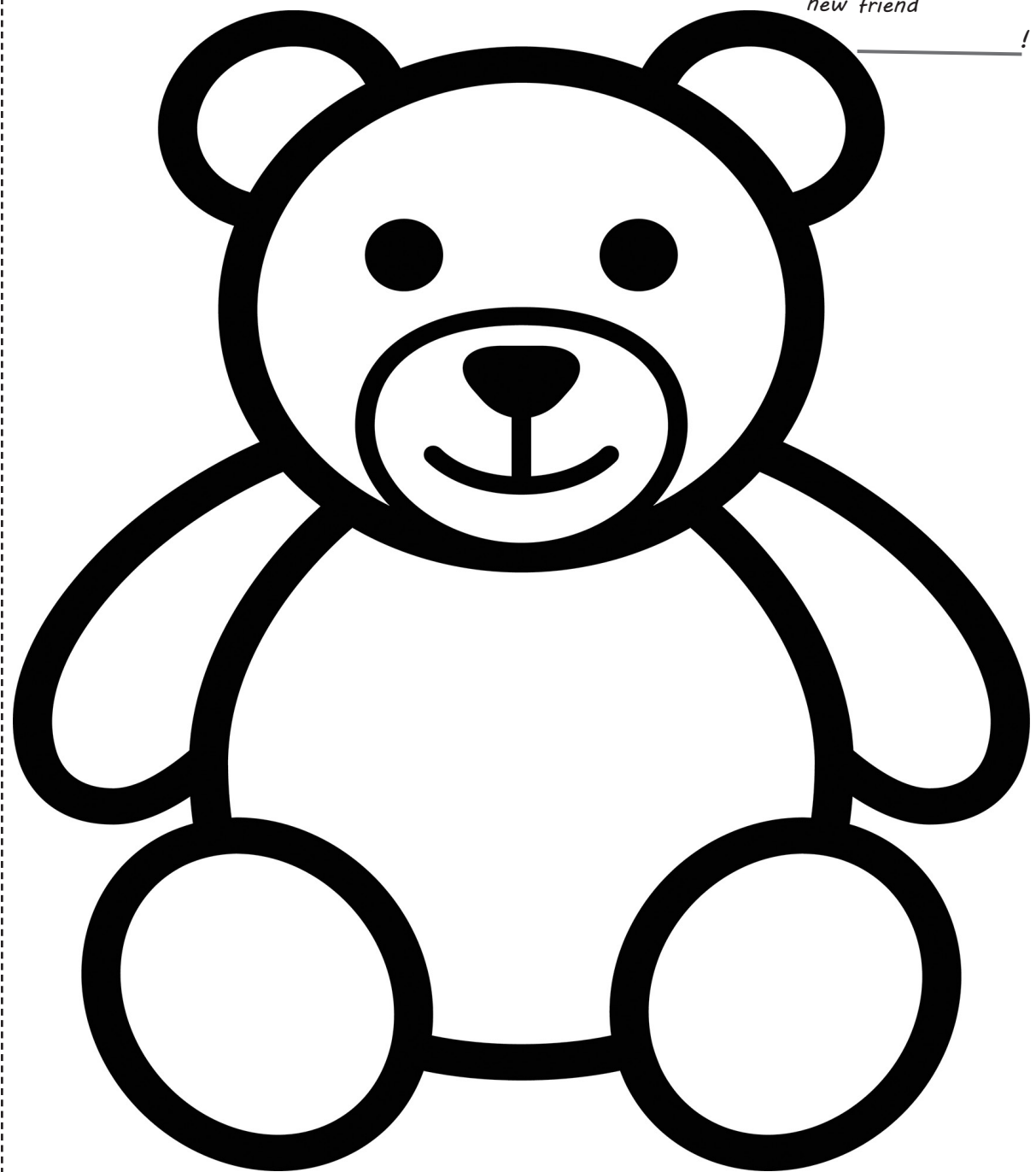
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// HOLIDAY BEAR FAIR

SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER WITH JEFFERSON THE BEAR!

Happy Holidays from Jefferson Security Bank and The Observer!
+ Jefferson the Bear's new friend



Name: _____

Contact info for prize raffle (email or phone): _____

*Bear Fair prize drawing open to individuals 18 years or older. Children may submit an entry with parent/guardian permission and must use their parent/guardian's contact information.

Drop off your bear by December 31st at participating JSB branches in Shepherdstown (105 E Washington St) or in Charles Town (873 E Washington St) OR upload a picture of your bear to our website at WeAreTheObserver.com/bear2021

JEFFERSON SECURITY BANK and *THE OBSERVER* are excited to invite you to join the 2nd Annual Holiday Bear Fair!

WHAT'S THE HOLIDAY BEAR FAIR?

The Bear Fair is a free, safe, and fun way to spread holiday cheer! Gather your kids (and the kid in you!) to decorate and share your own picture of Jefferson the Bear.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- 1. **DESIGN YOUR BEAR!** Use the outline provided or print a full size outline of Jefferson the Bear from our website at WeAreTheObserver.com/bear2021. Color, paint, decorate, and accessorize Jefferson however you'd like.
- 2. **Share Your Bear by December 31st!** Display your creation at home or share with the community by dropping it off in the lobby of a participating Jefferson Security Bank branch (look for the decorated box) by the end of December.

You can also upload a picture of your creation to our website at WeAreTheObserver.com/bear2021.
- 3. **Enter the Bear Fair Prize Raffle!*** Anyone who submits a decorated bear to a participating JSB branch or *The Observer's* website will be automatically entered to win a gift card to a local merchant. Include your name and contact information with your bear to enter. Prize drawing on Jan. 3. Winners will be notified using the contact info provided with their bear submission.



Holiday Bear Hunt Sponsored by:
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Wishing you and your family a safe and happy holiday season!

EXPLORE // EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



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DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY EVENTS >>> PAGE 14 & 15



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Visit **WEARETHEOBSERVER.COM/EVENTS-ACTIVITIES** for more events.
Email **EXPLORE@WEARETHEOBSERVER.COM** if you have an
event or activity to include in our calendar.

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 22

- Nov 26 to Dec 1 — Holiday Artisan Market · Evolve Shepherdstown (110 W German, next to the Sweet Shop) · FREE · Info/hours at EvolveShepherdstown.com
- Nov 27 (Sat) — Bluegrass and BBQ w/ The Plate Scrapers (bluegrass) · 7-9 pm at the Barns of Rose Hill, Berryville, VA · \$20 · Tickets/Info: BarnsOfRoseHill.org
- Nov 27 to Dec 19 (Fri/Sat/Sun) — Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!) · 6 pm (Fri & Sat) and 1 pm (Sun) at the Washington County Playhouse Dinner Theater (44 North Potomac Street Hagerstown, MD) · \$59 · Tickets/Info: WashingtonCountyPlayhouse.com.
- Nov 28 (Sun) — Keith Harkin (of Celtic Thunder) · 7 pm at Bright Box, Winchester, VA · \$35 · Tickets/Info: BrightBoxWinchester.com

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29

- Nov 29 (Mon) — Small Ensembles and Composition Recital · 7:30 pm at the W. H. Shipley Recital Hall · FREE · Info: Shepherd.edu/music/calendar-of-concerts
- Dec 3 (Fri) — Kids on the Ridge (outdoor educational event) · 10 am to 1 pm at Rolling Ridge Study Retreat (120 Jubilee Ln, Harpers Ferry) · \$20 · Register/Info: RollingRidge.net
- Dec 3 (Fri) — Santa & S'mores Sing-Along Storytime · 5-8:30 pm at The AMP at Sam Michaels Park · \$12, pre-registration required · Info: FB @TheAMPatSamMichaelsPark
- Dec 3 (Fri) — Christmas Concert presented by the Clark County Community Band · 7-9 pm at the Barns of Rose Hill, Berryville, VA · FREE, pre-registration encouraged · Info: BarnsOfRoseHill.org
- Dec 3 to 5 (Fri-Sun) — Anna McGrath (photography pop-up) · Evolve Shepherdstown (110 W German, next to the Sweet Shop) · FREE · Info/hours at EvolveShepherdstown.com
- Dec 4 (Sat) — Friction Fire Workshop · 10 am to 3 pm at Rolling Ridge Study Retreat (120 Jubilee Ln, Harpers Ferry) · Pre-registration requires, \$35 suggested donation · Info: RollingRidge.net
- Dec 4 (Sat) — Shepherdstown Christmas Parade w/ the Shepherd University Ram Band · 10 am to 4 pm on W German St · FREE · Info: Shepherdstown.info
- Dec 4 and 5 (Sat & Sun) — Olde Tyme Christmas in Harpers Ferry · 9 am to 9 pm · Entertainment, shopping, tours & more · Info: HarpersFerryOTC.com
- Dec 4 (Sat) — Trails Less Traveled: Olde Tyme Christmas Hike · 10 am to noon, meet at the Harpers Ferry Park Visitor Center (171 Shoreline Dr) · \$10 (pre-registration required) · Register/Info: harpersferryhistory.org
- Dec 4 & 5 (Sat, Sun) — Shepherd University Annual Holiday Concert · 7:30 (Sat) & 3 pm (Sun) at the Shepherd University Wellness Center Arena · \$15 · Info: Shepherd.edu/music/calendar-of-concerts

- Dec 4 (Sat) — A Charlie Brown Christmas (film & Concert) · 7-9 pm at the Barns of Rose Hill, Berryville, VA · FREE, pre-registration encouraged · Info: BarnsOfRoseHill.org

WEEK OF DECEMBER 6

- Dec 8 (Wed) — Shepherd University Orchestra and Shepherd Youth Chorus · 7:30 pm at the Frank Arts Center Theater · \$15 · Info: Shepherd.edu/music/calendar-of-concerts
- Dec 9-12 (Thu-Sat) — A Very Apollo Christmas (family-friendly, holiday comedy with preshow) · 6 pm (Dec 9, 12 & 11) and 2:30 (Dec 11th & 12) at the Historic Apollo Civic Theatre, 128 East Martin Street, Martinsburg · Tickets/Info: ApolloCivicTheatre.org

EXPLORE // EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Dec 10 to 12 (Fri-Sun) — Susan Loonsk (CRIT works pop-up) · Evolve Shepherdstown (110 W German, next to the Sweet Shop) · FREE · Info/hours at EvolveShepherdstown.com

Dec 11 (Sat) — Trails Less Traveled: Olde Tyme Christmas Hike · 10 am to noon, meet at the Harpers Ferry Park Visitor Center (171 Shoreline Dr) · \$10 (pre-registration required) · Register/Info: harpersferryhistory.org

Dec 11 and 12 (Sat & Sun) — Olde Tyme Christmas in Harpers Ferry · 9 am to 9 pm · Entertainment, shopping, tours & more · Info: HarpersFerryOTC.com

Dec 11 (Sat) — Hackensaw Boys w/ Jordan Trice (American roots) · 8 pm at Bright Box, Winchester, VA · \$15 · Tickets/Info: BrightBoxWinchester.com

Dec 11 (Sat) — Sensory Santa, a visit without crowds & noise, hosted by Jefferson County Schools Board of Education · 9 am to 3 pm · Reservation required, call Rachel Hardy (304-582-2760)

Dec 12 (Sun) — Abby The Spoon Lady: A Storytelling Show, with Dusty Whytis · 2 pm & 5 pm at Bright Box, Winchester, VA · \$15 · Tickets/Info: BrightBoxWinchester.com

Abby the Spoon Lady is a professional spoon player and internationally-known street performer. She has traveled throughout the United States by foot and rail performing folk music and collecting folk stories. Come ready to hear her tell her own story and stay for an evening performance by Abby and banjo player Dusty Whytis.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 13 AND BEYOND

Dec 14 (Tue) — Speak Story Series presents Adam Booth & Stas' Ziolkowski · 7:30 pm ONLINE · \$15 · Info: SpeakStorySeries.com

This event will open with a story told by Stas' Ziolkowski. Stas' uses storytelling to combine a love of teaching and knowledge with his enthusiasm for theater and communication. His stories focus on legends, fairy tales, and stories from his own life. Adam Booth will continue the evening with his original stories that blend traditional and contemporary Appalachia. Adam is a nationally recognized, nationally touring storyteller, four-time winner of the of the West Virginia Liars' Content, and past Storyteller-In-Residence at Shepherd University.

Dec 17-19 (Fri-Sun) — Kat Berkley (art show pop-up) · Evolve Shepherdstown (110 W German, next to the Sweet Shop) · FREE · Info/hours at EvolveShepherdstown.com

Dec 18 (Sat) — Caleb Nei Trio Holiday show (jazz & Christmas tunes) · 7-8:30 pm at the Barns of Rose Hill, Berryville, VA · FREE, pre-registration encouraged · Info: BarnsOfRoseHill.org

Dec 21 (Tue) — PVAS Winter Solstice Family Campfire Night · 5-7 pm at Cool Spring Preserve · \$15 per group, pre-registration required · Info: PotomacAudubon.org

Enjoy a night of family-friendly fun with the Potomac Valley Audubon Society at Cool Spring Nature Preserve. The night will begin with a moonlit hike that offers that chance to hear and see owls and other critters. Then relax and enjoy hot chocolate, s'mores and stories by the campfire to warm up.

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

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

POP-UPS AT EVOLVE · Info/schedule: FB @EvolveShepherdstown

HARPERS FERRY BREWING · Info/schedule: FB @HarpersFerryBrewing

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

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

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



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EXPLORE // DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

CHRISTMAS IN SHEPHERDSTOWN

Christmas in Shepherdstown is always a festive time, with the downtown stores open for extended hours. The decorated tree on the lawn in front of McMurrin Hall highlights the small town celebration with a big heart that welcomes everyone.

The season kicks off on the Friday after Thanksgiving (Nov 26) with a **Chili Cookoff** hosted by the Shepherdstown Kiwanis Club at the Community Club building (102 E German St) from 4 to 7 pm and a **bonfire** organized by the Shepherdstown Volunteer Fire Department starting at 4:30 pm in front of Town Hall. German Street will close just after 5 pm as the crowds gather to listen to **Mrs. Claus tell stories** before the **lighting of the decorated tree** around 6 pm. **Santa** will arrive courtesy of the Fire Department to visit with children until 9 pm. The next day (Saturday, Nov 27), the Community Club welcomes children for **face painting, magic shows and other fun activities** between noon and 3 pm.

The annual **Christmas Parade** organized by the Shepherdstown Rotary Club will march down German Street on Dec 4 (Sat), beginning at 10 am.



There is free parking every weekend (year-round) in the Shepherd University lot (Princess & High Sts) and the Jefferson Security Bank lots (Princess & Washington Sts), both just around the corner from the shops and restaurants on German Street. The street parking meters are always free on weekends and holidays – and free every day from Dec 10 through Jan 13.

Schedule & updates on Facebook: @ChristmasInShepherdstown



The **Shepherdstown Centennial Lions Club** will host a gift wrapping fundraiser on Dec 15 (Sat) from 9 am to 6 pm at **Evolve** (106 W German St, next to the Sweet Shop). Donations requested to support the Lions' programs.

CELEBRATE IN CHARLES TOWN & RANSON

The holiday season kicks off on **Small Business Saturday** (Nov 27) with an **ornament-making event** for kids in Charles Washington Hall (100 W Washington St) from 11 am to 4 pm and **musical performances** throughout downtown. Shops will be open late on the following Friday (Dec 3), with another ornament-making event from 4-5:30 pm to help **decorate the Charles Town Christmas tree** which will be lit at 6 pm.



The annual downtown **Charles Town & Ranson Christmas parade** will be on Dec 4 (Sat), with marching along Mildred and Washington Streets beginning at 2 pm. This year's theme is "A Very Buddy Holiday."

The **Cheer Booth** is back for 2021 – the City of Charles Town has rebuilt the iconic red trailer. Look for it on Washington Street, playing holiday tunes and staffed by non-profit groups each weekend.

Metered parking is available in parking lots on West Congress Street and North Charles Street. Metered parking along all downtown streets. Two-hour free parking along the central blocks of Washington Street during the week. Parking meters are free after 6pm and on weekends.

Schedule & updates on Facebook: @CharlesTownNow



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9 AM - 4 PM

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EXPLORE // DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

OLDE TYME CHRISTMAS IN HARPERS FERRY & BOLIVAR



Olde Tyme Christmas takes place on the first two Saturdays & Sundays in December (4 & 5 and 11 & 12), with family-friendly events in both lower and upper-town. The shops of lower-town will be open from 9 am to 9 pm on all four days. The traditional horse and wagon tour of lower town will be operating on both Saturdays (available for rides between 11 am and 2 pm). Santa will be at the Gazebo in upper-town to visit with children between 2 to 4 pm on both Sundays. The Train station (lower-town) will host programming for young children each day from noon to 2 pm and the Gazebo will host a puppet show each day from 4 to 5 pm. St. Peter's Church will present music and performance in the afternoons on all four days, including Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol at 4 pm on Saturday the 4th and Sunday the 12th.

Parking is available at the National Park's visitor center lot at the top of the hill (171 Shoreline Dr, Harpers Ferry) and shuttle buses to/from lower-town Harpers Ferry will run from 9 am to 6 pm each day.

Schedule & FAQ on the web: HarpersFerryOTC.com



CHRISTMAS ON MAIN IN MARTINSBURG

Christmas on Main in downtown Martinsburg on Dec 4 (Sat) will feature live music, food trucks, craft & artisan vendors, an ice skating rink, and horse carriage rides that run from 11 am to 7 pm. The community tree lighting is at 7 pm in the town square. Both the Belle Boyd and Adam Stephen historic houses will be decorated and open for tours. Flowers Unlimited will be hosting Santa (at their new location at 202 S Queen St) on Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays starting Nov 26 until Dec 22.

The annual Martinsburg Christmas parade will be on Dec 7 (Tue), with marching along Queen Street downtown beginning at 6 pm.

Metered parking is available in parking lots at 100 East Burke St, 100 West Burke St, 100 E Martin St, and 100 W Race St. Metered parking along all downtown streets. Parking meters are free after 5pm and on weekends.

Schedule & updates on Facebook: [@MainStreetMartinsburgWV](https://www.facebook.com/MainStreetMartinsburgWV)



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CHARLES TOWN | HARPERS FERRY | BOLIVAR | SHEPHERDSTOWN

There is nothing like the warm feeling ever present over the holidays in our historic Jefferson County towns. Reconnect with your friends and neighbors as you find those special gifts for your loved ones. Warm up with a cup of coffee or a hot chocolate as you stroll our historic sidewalks. Feel the holiday spirit during this special time of year.

This holiday season, it is more important than ever to find those extra special gifts at our local small businesses. Supporting local shops and restaurants keeps our small towns thriving and great places to live and work.

If you are still just shopping from home, order on-line from local shops and restaurants. Gift cards to local stores and restaurants are also a great gift that supports our communities. Help make the holidays special for everyone by shopping local in Jefferson County.

JEFFERSON COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

EXPLORE // HOLIDAY LIGHTS


JEFFERSON COUNTY, WV

CHARLES TOWN & RANSON LIGHTS

The neighborhoods of Charles Town & Ranson will be lit starting Dec 4, with residents competing for prizes for “people’s choice,” “best Griswold (lots of lights),” “best theme (lights and music)” and other categories. *Nightly, look for the signs (voting until Dec 24).* Info: Facebook @CharlesTownRansonLights.

HARPERS FERRY LIGHT TOUR

The light tour in Harpers Ferry and Bolivar returns for a 2nd year as a self-guided route through the streets of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar, with participating houses decorated in Victorian-era decor. *The official tour and voting for people’s favorite will take place on the same weekends as Olde Tyme Christmas (Dec 4&5, 11&12) between 6 and 8 pm. Info and map (to be posted): Facebook @ExperienceHarpersFerry (under events).*



VIRGINIA

BULL RUN

A 2.5 mile driving tour through Bull Run Regional Park with thousands of lights and displays. The Holiday Village & Carnival will reopen this year – enjoy a bonfire and holiday treats at the end of the tour. Nov 11 through Jan 2. Mon-Thu 5:30-9:30pm, Fri-Sat-Sun & Holidays (Dec 24, 25, 31) 5:30-10:00pm. Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville, VA. Tickets (timed entry) are \$30 (per passenger vehicle) + processing fee (online); \$40 (on site). Info: BullRunFestivalOfLights.com.

WINCHESTER

Clearbrook Park hosts the Walking in a Winter Wonderland tour for 2021. Thousands of lights in a computer-controlled display coordinated with music. Santa and his elves will also appear nightly. Nov 26 through Jan 1 (except Dec 24, 25 & 31). Entry times 5:30 / 7:00 / 8:30 every evening. Clearbrook Park, 3300 Martinsburg Pike, Clearbrook VA. See web for ticket (timed entry) options. Info: FCVA.us/departments/parks-recreation/special-events.



MARYLAND

HAGERSTOWN

City Park in Hagerstown will be lit Dec 3 through Jan 2. Visitors can drive through the park and listen to a music show broadcast on 90.3FM between 5 and 11 pm nightly. For 2021, features include a musical light show on the lake, new tree up-lighting, and new displays. *All day (ceremonial lighting at 7pm on Dec 3); City Park, 501 Virginia Ave, Hagerstown MD. FREE. Info: HagerstownMD.org/CPL.*

FREDERICK

Sailing Through the Winter Solstice returns to Carroll Creek Park for 2021 with 24 participating boats. Local businesses and individuals sponsor boats in a competition for charity – visitors are encouraged to vote for their favorite via a donation (see website). *From Nov 21 through Feb 2022; walking tour of Carroll Creek Linear Park, Frederick MD. FREE. Info: ColorOnTheCreek.com/vote-for-your-boat.*

B&O RAILROAD MUSEUM

The B&O Railroad Museum transforms into a wonderland of holiday fun during the Holiday Festival of Trains. *Event runs from Dec 6 to Jan 2 (closed Dec 24, 25 & Jan 1). Museum hours are 10am - 4pm. Admission \$20/adult, \$12/child. Web: BORail.org.*



Wishing Everyone a Very Merry Christmas!!!

THANK YOU for 25 Years of Patronage. Hope to see and work with you in 2022!

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—C.G. Jung
(Letter to Miguel Serrano, Letters, Vol II, p 592)

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