

# The WV INDEPENDENT Observer

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

APRIL 2022

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THIS PAPER WANTS TO BE RECYCLED. 



*Sign promoting the Magnolia Springs housing development (just down the street from the Citizens Fire Company)*

**TO OUR READERS** — Doing more with less is a phrase that you hear often in Jefferson County. It’s what we heard from fans of the Shepherd University football team when they were marveling at the expansive (and expensive) facilities of the team’s playoff opponents. It’s what we hear from staff in the school system, who are figuring out a way every day to keep the buses running and the classrooms open. And it’s how the director of the county’s Emergency Services Agency described the local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system — “The people in the field make it happen. We figure out the equipment and personnel that’s available, and respond to take care of the patients.”

But doing more with less doesn’t mean that we should be rushing to take shortcuts — on safety, on service quality, on planning for the future (ours and our children’s). We may not be able to afford the “Cadillac” version of everything, but we do need to be honest about what locally-provided services cost and fair to those who provide them. We’d be poorer if the county government and schools spent with abandon, but we’d be poorer still without the teachers, firefighters, police officers, and others who show up every day to take care of our children, our parents, our neighbors — and who also live here as our neighbors, our parents, our children.

Like a family we may squabble, but we also need to work together and tackle these problems, listening to the advice of experts, but also listening to the expertise of experience right here at home.

**Steve Pearson**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF



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// COMMUNITY

# EMS PROPOSAL RAISES ALARMS

Consultant Report Focuses On Efficiency & Money — Volunteers Ask About Safety

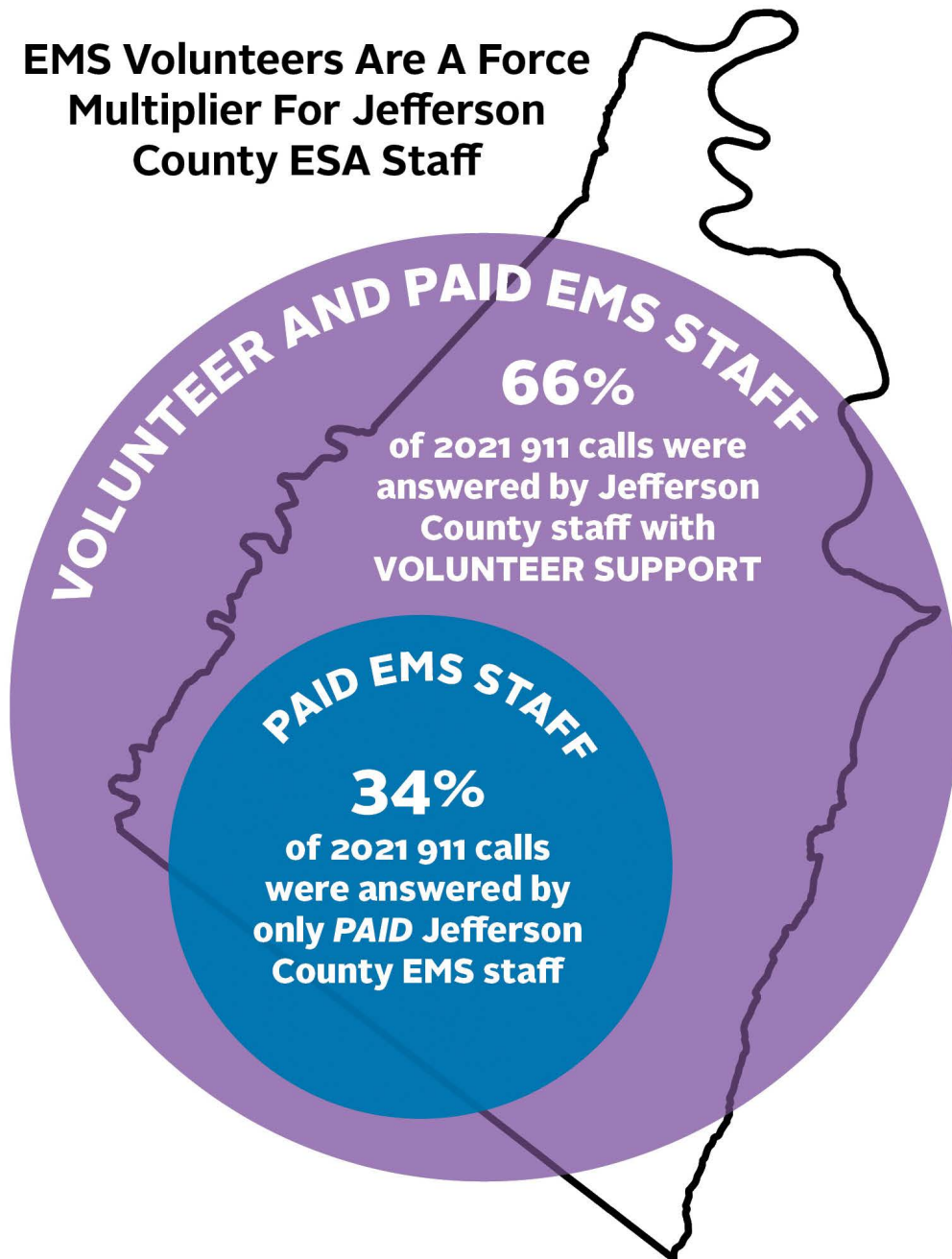
WHEN DOZENS OF FIRE ENGINES and ambulances show up it's either a parade or a disaster. The March 3 meeting of the Jefferson County Commission was definitely not a parade, except for the steady stream of volunteer firefighters and EMTs standing up to address the Commission. Most of the speakers asked a version of the same question — how does it make sense to pay a consulting company from

Missouri \$35,000 to analyze how to restructure the county ambulance system without even talking to anyone in any of the seven fire companies around the county?

Everyone involved has expressed a desire to continue the conversation, but in a more productive and collaborative manner. *The Observer will post updates at WeAreTheObserver.com/EMS-Study-2022.*

By: Steve Pearson

## EMS Volunteers Are A Force Multiplier For Jefferson County ESA Staff



Jefferson County operates a hybrid system for EMS and Fire Suppression, utilizing both paid staff (ESA) and volunteers from seven fire companies. The 2021 call data from Shepherdstown are typical of the county-wide activity – 34% of EMS calls were handled by crews of ESA staff only and 66% of calls were handled by a combination of ESA staff and volunteers.

## PROJECT TIMELINE

### 2021

**MAY 18** – County Commission receives proposal from Fitch & Associates

**MAY 20** – County Commission votes to approve contract with Fitch for \$35,000

**JUN 30** – Kickoff meeting (video call) between Fitch & County staff. Participants for the County include Stephanie Grove\* (County administrator), Michelle Gordon\* (County finance director), Nathan Cochran (attorney for the Commission)

**AUG 6** – County participants in project expanded to include data request to Jeff Polczynski (director of 911 communications)

**AUG 15** – County participants in project expanded to include data request to Todd Fagan\* (GIS manager)

### 2022

**JAN 6** – Fitch provides draft report to County officials

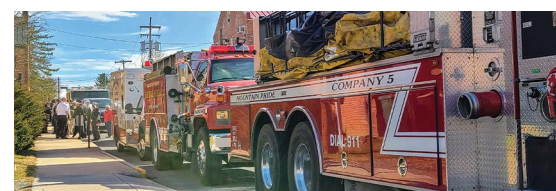
**FEB 7** – Nathan Cochran (attorney for County Commission) requests that Fitch not release the final version of its report until the presentation to the Commission, stating that “I am under the belief that the final report will look similar to the draft report that you provided to us initially. I think it would probably work best if we did not release the final report until such time as you make your public presentation. I think that might reduce confusion since your report might be misunderstood without you there to explain it.”

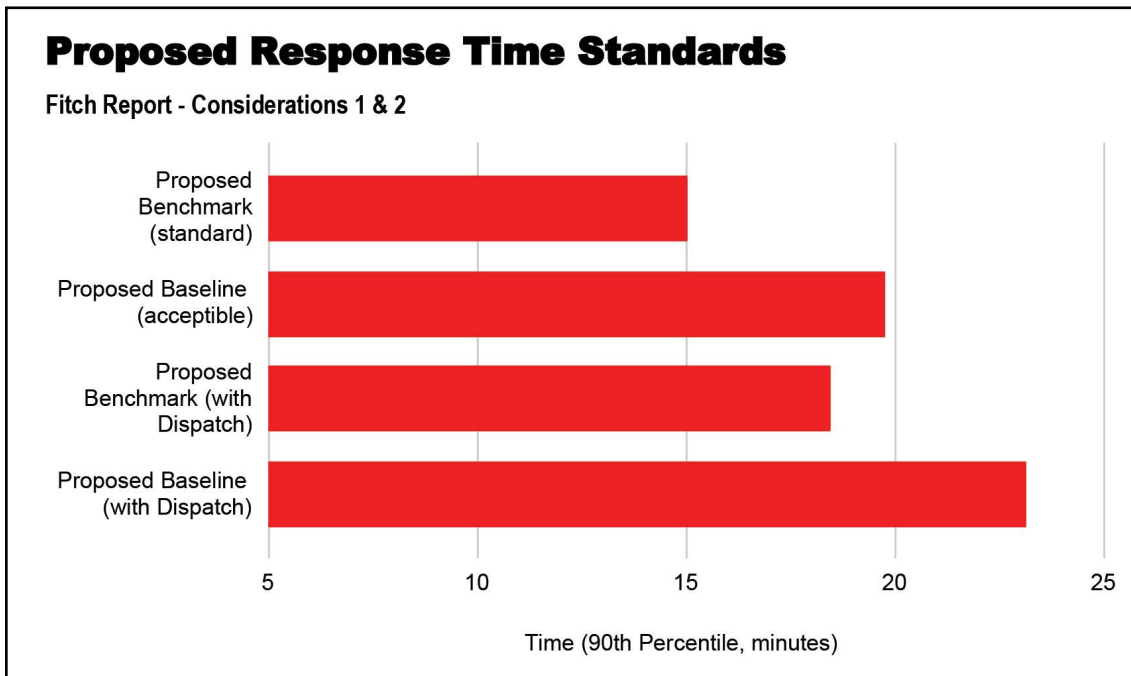
**FEB 14** – County Commission posts a notice of a special meeting to be held on Feb 17, with the purpose described as “presentation and consideration of report regarding analysis of public safety issues.”

**FEB 17** – County Commission special meeting (virtual format only) with presentation of report by Fitch

**MAR 3** – At County Commission regular meeting, multiple Fire & EMS chiefs speak during public comment to note that they had not been contacted by Fitch at any time during the preparation of the report.

\*No longer employed with the County

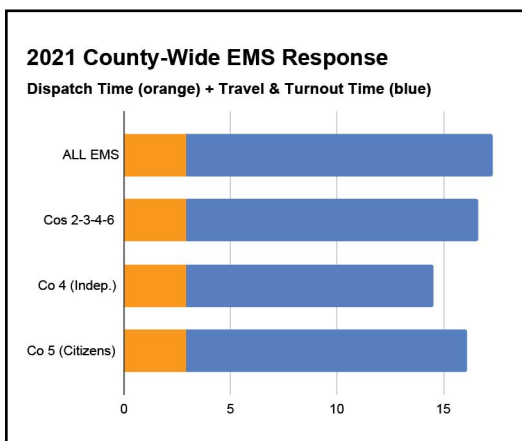




## EVERY SECOND COUNTS

Response time is calculated as a combination of Dispatch Time (answering the 911 call and assigning to a unit, shown in orange below), Turnout Time (getting the unit out the door), and Travel Time (driving to the incident). Combined Turnout Time and Travel Time shown in blue in the graph below.

➤ **PROPOSED RESPONSE TIMES** — The report from Fitch & Associates recommends the adoption of standards from CFAI (Commission on Fire Accreditation International). Following the “rural” standards, the report indicates that the benchmark for EMS unit response (turnout + travel, shown above in red) would be 15 minutes (the goal) with 19 minutes, 42 seconds as the acceptable response time at the 90th percentile. Adding the county’s current dispatch time to these to calculate the proposed total response time standards pushes the clock to 23 minutes and 6 seconds at the 90th percentile.



➤ **2021 EMS RESPONSE** — County-wide EMS call data from the centralized dispatch system (left, in blue) indicates that the turnout time plus travel time for EMS response is less than 14 minutes, 24 seconds for 9 out of 10 calls (the 90th percentile). The response time for the ambulances stationed at the Independent Fire Company in Charles Town is significantly faster (11 minutes, 36 seconds at the 90th percentile).

➤ **DISPATCH TIME DOESN'T MEET STANDARDS** — Jefferson County’s 911 dispatch time (left, in orange) is significantly above the 60 second and 90 second standards referenced in the Fitch report. The call data for 2020 indicate a dispatch time of 3 minutes, 24 seconds at the 90th percentile; for 2021 the corresponding time was 2 minutes, 54 seconds.

The Observer spoke with county staff and multiple fire company chiefs. They noted several issues of concern with how the consultants interpreted data from the local dispatch system:

- **Incomplete data** – The report notes that at least 37% of the time records for response call are incomplete.
- **Mischaracterized data** – The consultant’s report over 23,000 “distinct vehicle responses” in 2020. This appears to be a significant over-count, possibly due to the consultants counting Paramedic personnel as “vehicles” (due to a lack of familiarity with how the call data are coded).

The chiefs also noted unrealistic financial projections in the report, particularly the forecast of only a one percent increase in EMS call volume each year. This compares to an average 3.4 percent increase experienced each year since 2017 (before the recent uptick in housing development).

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A DIFFERENT TYPE OF (D.O.)CTOR >>> PAGE 10

// SPORTS

# TALENT & TEAMWORK ON & OFF THE FIELD

## An Extraordinary Year At Shepherd University



2021 WAS QUITE A YEAR for the Shepherd University football team. In case you missed the excitement at the end of the season, the Rams pushed through the post-season with back-to-back upset victories to make it to the semi-final round of the Division II national championship. After the season, the American Football Coaches Poll ranked the team at number 5, with the number one rank for offense in Division II.

As the Rams look to repeat last year's success, the entire team will be working hard in 2022. Fans will see two players in particular at the middle of the action — Tyson Bagent at quarterback and right in front of him, Adam Stilley at center. Bagent, who won the Harlon Hill award for the best Division II player in the nation in 2021, attracts a lot of attention, particularly from the opposing defensive linemen. Stilley's position calls for a lower profile — and a lot of concentrated effort pushing back on those defensive linemen.

Bagent and Stilley clearly work well together on the field — not surprisingly, since they both played together in the same positions at Martinsburg High School. It's not uncommon for Shepherdstown to recruit teammates, given Coach Ernie McCook's focus on local recruiting — of the 40 new players signed in February

2022, there are 3 pairs of teammates from high schools in the metro region. What makes Bagent and Stilley stand out is they first played together over 15 years ago and have roughly 11 seasons of playing time together as an offensive pair.

Bagent and Stilley started their football careers in the Jefferson County Youth League. Both started playing at age 6, but Stilley is a year older and had 1 year of playing time under his belt for the Razorbacks when Bagent joined the team. The team was sponsored by Mike and John Thomas of Jefferson Asphalt, both of whom also coached. The Razorbacks won several county championships over the next several years, and took the Tri-County trophy in their fourth year of playing together. Looking back at his time coaching, John Thomas remarked that Adam quickly fell into being a center and that Tyson was a natural quarterback — by his final youth league season the team was passing as often as it was running, which Thomas noted is very unusual for that level of play.

After playing apart during middle school, the pair joined forces again at Martinsburg High School, where the team won the West Virginia AAA State Championship in 2016, setting multiple school records by the end of the season. Stilley graduated in 2017 and left for WVU, and Bagent led the Martinsburg team to a repeat championship run in the 2017 season. The then-coach of WVU overlooked the obvious talent in his backyard and Bagent landed at Shepherd University. In 2020, Stilley decided to rejoin his former teammate and the results were visible in bright lights on the scoreboard every weekend during the season.

The success on the field has brought a lot of attention to the Shepherd football program. But it's the character of these two players that gets respect too, from teammates, coaches, and fans alike. "I see two young student athletes who



The football field is quiet during the early spring, but come fall the stands and pavilions will be packed with energetic fans.

are committed to their craft," said Lynn Carr, one of the organizers of the Shepherd Gridiron Club, a group of alumni focused on supporting the football program. "Their work ethic is second to none and they make the best of their talents and natural abilities, doing everything they can to make their team better."

Carr noted that it's also a "testament to the coaches and Shepherd University leadership that the team is able to compete at the national level. The funding for this program is far below most other Division II schools and this team knows how to do more with less." The disparity was eye-opening to many of the fans who traveled to cheer on the team during the 2021 post-season. Still, the players, coaches, and the entire community are looking forward to a 2022 season that is even more successful.👏

For information on supporting the Shepherd University football program, visit [SUAthleticClub.org](http://SUAthleticClub.org) (> menu option to give to a specific sport). The team is organizing a fundraising event for scholarships at the Martinsburg Roundhouse on April 15 featuring current and former players in arm-wrestling and tug-of-war contests. Contact Lori Stilley at [LStilley85@gmail.com](mailto:LStilley85@gmail.com) for event & donation details.



(Left) Tyson Bagent, Shepherd University Rams, courtesy photo. (Middle) Tyson Bagent (#9) and Adam Stilley (#72) were teammates on the Razorback team in the Jefferson County Youth League. (Above & right) On the field for the Shepherd Rams, Adam Stilley is ready to snap the ball to Tyson Bagent, courtesy photo.

// EDUCATION

# SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY ATTRACTS STUDENTS & FUNDING

Looking at the early numbers on Shepherd University’s enrollment picture for next year, undergraduate applications are at the highest level the University has seen in eight years (and up 39 percent compared to this time last year). Enrollment confirmations are up 24 percent compared to this time last year.

The University has also run up the score in attracting federal funding. The Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations omnibus package, approved by Congress and signed by the President on March 15, included almost \$7 million for the University (out of a total of \$241 million earmarked for projects across West Virginia).

Most of the federal funding will be used to enhance the campus infrastructure. The most visible projects receiving support will be the building of a new entrance to campus off of Duke Street/Route 480, the environmental remediation and demolition of two residential buildings on the East Loop of campus, and campus-wide security enhancements.

Student programs that will receive federal funding include new distance learning options for rural high school students (“Dual Enrollment Hub Sites”) and the ListenLearnEngage initiative, a program administered by the Stubblefield Institute for Civil Political Communications.

Both of West Virginia’s senators supported the new funding. “We are profoundly grateful to Senators Capito and Manchin for their extraordinary



support of Shepherd’s critical projects,” said University President Dr. Mary Hendrix. “Their advocacy on our behalf will allow us to provide outstanding services for our students, employees, and the community.”

## Building & Investing For Success

Results of incoming federal funding (see above) are planned to have a lasting effect on the University, students and the surrounding community.

**DUAL ENROLLMENT HUB SITES: \$111,000**

Creates distance learning options for rural high school students through dual enrollment courses; provides students and teachers a structured “safe to learn at home” environment; and promotes economic growth within West Virginia’s rural communities by educating the next generation of leaders.

**EAST LOOP PROJECTS: \$1,475,000 & \$936,000**

Environmental remediation and demolition of two obsolete residential buildings and the creation of a gateway entrance connecting to Route 480 will kick off the transformation of the northeast corner of the campus overlooking the Potomac and Rumsey Bridge.

**LISTENLEARNENGAGE INITIATIVE: \$70,000**

Supports an interdisciplinary program to prepare Shepherd students to shape and debate public policies and to fulfill community leadership roles. Initially targeting nursing, social work, and education majors, this project will be managed by The Bonnie and Bill Stubblefield Institute for Civil Political Communications at Shepherd University.

**TECHNOLOGY AND BROADBAND EQUIPMENT: \$135,000**

In coordination with nearby community colleges and universities, Shepherd University will identify the technology and equipment opportunities to connect to Internet2, a not-for-profit consortium devoted to building the next generation of internet based on fiber optics.

**CAMPUS SECURITY UPGRADES: \$4,000,000**

The University police department will purchase and install an integrated security camera system across campus and purchase additional vehicles, a communication system, an integrated locking system, and other improvements.

**ACCESSIBILITY TECHNOLOGY SERVICES: \$36,000**

Funding for new equipment, technology, and education software will assist a wide variety of students with everything from overcoming learning disabilities and visual impairments, to language skills for students whose first language is not English.



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

// ELECTIONS

# AGREEING & DISAGREEING ON THE SCHOOL BOARD

**LISTENING TO THE SCHOOL BOARD** candidates speak at recent events, there seems to be a lot of agreement on things that need improvement — more transparency, better communication, improving teacher retention, improving test scores, being fiscally responsible.

When people ask the candidates questions about specific plans and goals, you also start to get a sense of the limitations on how the school board can act, both in terms of funding, curriculum, testing requirements, and even course coding.



### A Very Specific Role

Kathy Skinner, who currently serves as the president of the Jefferson County Board of Education, stresses that “the most important aspect to understand about the School Board is that we are a board of five, not five individuals. We have no authority to act as individuals. As a board, our purpose is to hire the Superintendent

and set policy. There are many changes the board might like to make on a local level; however Charleston holds the power to make many of these changes.”

### Need to Compromise

Joe Spurgis, a local resident who spent 33 years at Harpers Ferry Middle School, first as a science teacher and later as the principal, noted what he’s seen over the years with the Board of Education. “There is an immense amount of knowledge that accumulates within the board over the years. They listen to a lot of wishes and concerns. But they need to be able to compromise to get anything done. You hope everyone is looking for the betterment of the students, but you can’t just look at one or two issues, you need to listen to the other board members, to the community.”

### Listening & Responding

On listening, Spurgis remarked, “there is a misperception that the board can respond directly to every question. Their job at meetings is to sit and listen. Even if they wanted to respond,

they don’t necessarily have the knowledge to respond at public comment. However, they can direct the Superintendent to follow up, review or respond to questions, and then take up issues on future agendas.”



At a recent candidate forum, Carmen Taylor-Bratton raised questions about why students can’t take textbooks home. As a parent and school volunteer, she devotes several hours a week to tutoring students in reading – and sees books as an indispensable tool for learning both in the classroom and at home.

## WHAT THE SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES ARE SAYING

**SEVEN CANDIDATES ARE RUNNING** for the 3 Board of Education seats up for election this spring. Two candidates are incumbents (both with 2 terms of experience each) and 5 are challengers. *The Observer* invited all candidates to explain their expectations of the Board of Education and what they hope to accomplish if elected. *Additional responses and information at WeAreTheObserver.com/2022-Elections.*

### ➤ LAURIE OGDEN (Incumbent)

Email: LOgden1@Comcast.net  
FB: Laurie Ogden for Jefferson County School Board



**ABOUT:** Resident in Jefferson County for 25+ years; 3 children who are graduates of Jefferson High School, 1 child currently attending JHS. Prior community service includes 2 terms on BOE (since 2014), member & vice president of Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce. Currently employed as a supply chain analyst. Prior work experience as a teacher, business owner, factory worker. Degrees in Early Childhood Education & Sports and Health Sciences.

**PERSPECTIVE:** The key question to ask always is: what are we going to do to make the system better? We know what the problems are; we don’t need a new plan or a new agenda. We have good leadership and we don’t want to lose them. The board needs to trust in a shared agenda and approach it as a team

to keep the train moving. It’s a choice of making things go or making things stop. About focusing on the good things and understanding how to fix the bad things. We need to be positive and teach our students by example.

### ➤ KATHY SKINNER (Incumbent)

Email: SkinnerBOE@gmail.com  
FB: Skinner for School Board



**ABOUT:** Resident of Jefferson county for 19 years. 2 children who are graduates of Washington High School, 2 currently attending WHS. Prior community service includes 2 terms on BOE (since 2014), currently serving as President. Also service on Jefferson County Read-A-Loud board, Charles Town Now board. Licensed CPA, Bachelor’s degree in accounting, Masters degree in business administration.

**PERSPECTIVE:** Experience matters. Running a school system with 1,200 employees and over 9,000 students spread across 17 different campuses is a complex endeavor. I am fortunate enough to be in a position of “been there, done that,” which means that when something new comes along, I am familiar enough with the machinery of the school system to help us adjust. We always want to leave an organization better when we leave than how we found it. I know that JCS is better today than it was eight years ago when I joined the board. Yet,

it is still not where I as a parent and community member want it to be. There is still room for growth and improvement.

### ➤ CARMEN TAYLOR-BRATTON (Challenger)

Email: Carmen-Taylor-Bratton4BOE@outlook.com  
FB: CarmenTaylorBratton

**ABOUT:** Grew up in Jefferson County, Alumna of Jefferson High School. 2 children attended JCS schools (1 currently enrolled). Prior community service includes classroom parent volunteer (reading, field trips, tutoring). Currently volunteering with JCS for elementary math and reading.



**PERSPECTIVE:** The board needs to take responsibility for building bridges to the community. That could be quarterly roundtable meetings with an independent moderator and members of the community with back-and-forth conversations. People deserve a response to their questions. We could be meeting with the local school councils [LISC] quarterly instead of just annually to look at issues and set milestones for improvement throughout the year. Testing is important, but we need to ask how it helps each individual child, in terms of placement and services. We live in a technology world, but our children need books and should be able to



bring them home, instead of the current policy of keeping them in the classrooms only.

➤ **ANDREA ELLIOT (Challenger)**  
 Email: CelebrateL10@aol.com  
 FB: Elliot4BOE



**ABOUT:** Resident in Jefferson County for 5 years. Currently a therapist providing outpatient mental health counseling in Frederick, Maryland. Masters degree in social work.

**PERSPECTIVE:** The pandemic showed the problem with kids' mental health issues getting more severe. Online learning doesn't work with biology. Kids need to be using their five senses. We need to turn off the computers in the classroom and get back to basics — the schools need to adjust to a healthier way of teaching. The board's role should be to engage in active listening and to review and change the policies and procedures to be more effective. Parents don't know what their kids are being taught and feel powerless. Parents are looking for solutions and they should have a choice — we'll see movement if schools don't adopt healthier methods of teaching.

➤ **BARBARA FULLER (Challenger)**  
 Email: Fuller4BoardOfEd@gmail.com  
 FB: @BarbaraFullerforJeffersonCounty  
 Web: Fuller4BoardOfEd.wixsite.com/bffjcboc

**ABOUT:** Resident in Jefferson County for 14 years. 4 children attended Jefferson public schools (2 graduated Jefferson High School). Prior community service includes sports photography for middle school sports teams. Currently a volunteer 'Search Angel' helping adoptees learn about their birth families. Prior work experience in brokering equipment leases and loan workouts. Previously a candidate for BOE in 2020.



**PERSPECTIVE:** We need to focus on teacher retention. Without that, we can't have student progress. We need to understand the reasons why teachers are leaving. Are they under-appreciated? Are they not listened to? We need to find the money, looking at waste in the board office, selling excess properties such as Ranson Elementary School when we build the new schools. There are grants available for high turnover positions — and they are all high turnover now. You have to ask why we didn't address this five years ago and are leaving it to a new board to clean up. I would have a roundtable with the superintendent and give her an ultimatum — make changes or you will not have a place here.

➤ **TIFFANI SHEPPARD (Challenger)**  
 Email: SheppardForBOE@gmail.com  
 FB: Tiffani Sheppard for JCSWV Board of Education

**ABOUT:** Multiple children who are/have attended Jefferson County Schools. Currently employed as a manager in the hospitality/food service industry. Degree in business administration and human resources management.



**PERSPECTIVE:** There needs to be a culture of accountability in the school system. I don't agree with the board's assessment of itself and the superintendent. The board is not doing a great job, especially with communicating to parents. As a parent it can be very frustrating, particularly if you are dealing with special education issues. We need to pay our teachers more, that's part of the retention problem. We also need to improve teacher effectiveness. Nothing happens overnight, but we can't wait four or five years to start fixing things.

➤ **JOYCE SMITH (Challenger)**  
 Email: J1Ellen@protonmail.com  
 FB: Joyce Smith for Jefferson County BOE



**ABOUT:** Resident in Jefferson County 30+ years. Prior community service: Elder (4 years) and youth group leader (10 years) at Presbyterian Church in Charles Town. Currently retired; previously employed at Jefferson County Schools in human resources (2005-2016); previously employed by Berkeley County Schools as substitute teacher and bus driver. Degree in organizational leadership and human resources.

**PERSPECTIVE:** People are truly confused about how public education works. It's so convoluted that even education professionals can't figure it out. The board's number one function is to create policy. Not all policies need to be updated, but every one needs to be looked at and it hasn't been done for years. There is an agenda in the schools, and a lot of division with CRT and sexual education that's not really educational. The local board should be a voice to the state legislature to pass legislation to make sure parents have education back in their hands and have a voice. There are a lot of small things we can do that will add up to a big difference. We need to give people hope.

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**A LOCAL HISTORY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL INTEGRATION**  
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## D.O. OR M.D.? WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



### By Rebecca Thompson, DO

*Dr. Rebecca Thompson earned a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine and recently established her practice in the Shepherdstown Medical Office Building.*

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THE INITIALS “D.O.” after a doctor’s name? In my experience, many people are curious — what exactly is an Osteopathic Doctor? How is this any different from an M.D.? What can I expect when I am being treated by a D.O. versus an M.D.? All of these are fair questions.

### The Difference between a D.O. & M.D.

People who hold a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine go to a four-year medical school after completing undergraduate studies, just like people who hold a Doctor of Medicine degree. Just like M.D.s, they complete formal training through programs called residencies and then must pass national board exams to become licensed and able to practice medicine. D.O.s can prescribe medicine and can practice in all 50 states in the United States, in a range of areas from primary care to surgical specialties. From a patient’s perspective, a key difference is that at Osteopathic schools, future D.O.s are trained in a more patient-centered, holistic approach to care.

### A Holistic Approach

The history of Osteopathic medicine starts with Dr. A.T. Still, a medical doctor in the 1800s who believed that 19th-century medicine was overutilizing medication that was potentially harmful. His approach was to focus on the body’s own ability to heal itself.

He created the four Osteopathic Tenets that provide the groundwork for training today’s D.O.s, including this one: “The body is a unit; the person is a unit of body, mind, and spirit.” Thus, Osteopathic physicians tend to use a well-rounded approach to patient care. They consider a patient’s lifestyle, environment, psychological components, spiritual well-being, as well as physical state.

### Patients As Partners In Care

Osteopathic physicians are trained to approach medical care as a partnership between themselves and the patient. Osteopathic schools have a stronger focus on communication skills; they introduce simulated patients early on in medical school to begin such training right away. In addition, these schools tend to place a higher level of importance on primary care such as family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics. Many D.O.s aim to provide care in rural or underserved areas and emphasize health education and prevention while still being able to diagnose and treat illness.

### Helping Hands

The final key difference one might notice about Osteopathic physicians is their more hands-on approach to patient care. During training, the physical exam portion of a patient encounter is of utmost importance, right after understanding the patient’s history. D.O.s are encouraged to “place hands” on every patient. Furthermore, they get approximately 200 additional hours of training in a technique called Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment. Another one of the four Osteopathic Tenets states, “The body is capable of self-regulation, self-healing, and health maintenance.” Osteopathic manipulation is a set of techniques individualized for a person after examination and includes treatments used to help the body regulate its own mechanisms for healing.

While there is currently a critical shortage of primary care doctors in America, we see more and more medical students choosing to enroll in Osteopathic schools which are well-known to produce a higher proportion of primary care physicians than traditional medical schools do. Over 25 percent of the medical students in the United States today are now training to be Osteopathic physicians.

It is important to take note that those who hold a D.O. are no less qualified to practice medicine than those that hold an M.D. Heck, they might just be the new doctor in town.

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**CHANGES TO JEFFERSON COUNTY FIRE & EMS >>> PAGE 4**

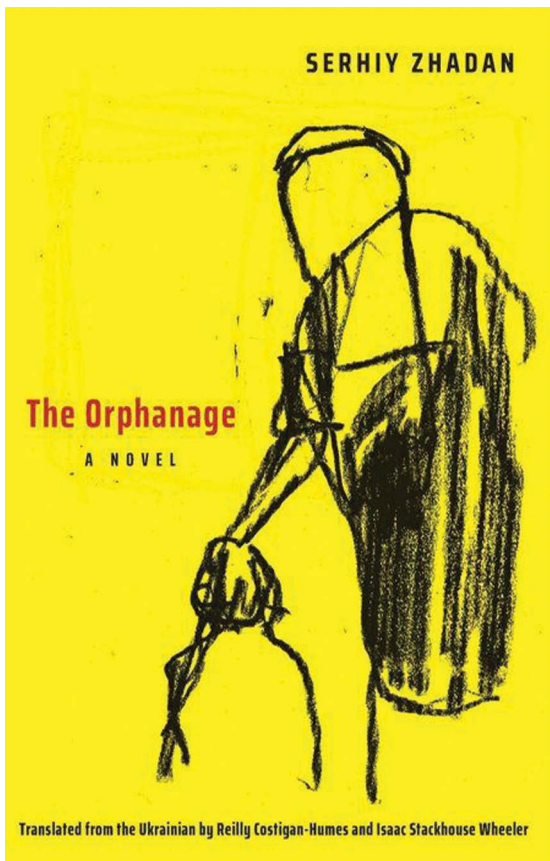
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## AN ORDINARY PERSON IN A WORLD TURNED TO WAR



**The Orphanage**, by Serhiy Zhadan, Yale University Press (2021). Translated by Reilly Costigan-Humes and Isaac Stackhouse Wheeler.

**Review by:** Danielle Johnson. Originally from New York, Danielle Johnson is a writer and political scientist who has lived all over the world. She has a PhD in Politics from Oxford University and is writing her first novel. She lives in Shepherdstown with her husband, kids, and dog.

AS VLADIMIR PUTIN continues to throw Russia and its people into an increasingly horrific war against Ukraine, the time is ripe for us in the Anglophone world to read more Ukrainian writers. Part of Putin’s (ironic) justification for the brutality in Ukraine is the idea that Russians and Ukrainians are one people, and that Ukraine’s heritage is not distinct from Russia’s. Highlighting Ukraine’s rich literature is a clear way to counter this false narrative, and Serhiy Zhadan is one of the best writers in translation with whom to start.

Zhadan is already well-known in his native country as a chronicler of life in post-independence Ukraine, and more recently — since the war in eastern Ukraine began in 2014 — of how violence and conflict is affecting ordinary citizens. His most recent

novel, *The Orphanage*, is no exception. This is the story of Pasha, an unexceptional man faced with exceptional circumstances in the outskirts of an unnamed eastern city (likely modeled on Kharkiv, Zhadan’s hometown). As this city becomes a frontline in the war and the situation worsens, Pasha sets out to pick up his nephew, Sasha, from the orphanage “for his week off.”

Pasha’s three-day journey there and back seems ridiculous, impossible even, as he navigates the devastation and carnage wrought by the shifting borders. He is a self-proclaimed “wimp,” a bumbling hero sometimes to the point of absurdity. He is a man who always “pays the full fare, goddammit, he always pays what they tell him to pay,” even when he knows he’s getting ripped off. When a soldier demands his papers at a railway station that has become an impromptu shelter for women and children hiding from the shelling, Pasha thinks, “Gotta ask who he is... don’t even think about handing him your papers.’ And then he reaches for his papers right away.”

Pasha’s ordinariness is what gives this novel its power. It forces us to ask, if war can happen to a man like Pasha, could it not happen to any one of us? What would I do in his situation? But it is also chilling to realize how minuscule any one person is against the backdrop of war. As Pasha enters the train-station-cum-shelter, he thinks, “they can all see how scared I am, how freaked out I am. They’re looking at me like I’m some sort of clown.” But he soon realizes, “with a certain degree of disappointment, that nobody, nobody at all, is paying any attention to him.” It is for this reason that Pasha’s ineptitude — and his unlikely survival in spite of it — is endearing, and a necessary antidote to a story that might otherwise be too bleak to finish.

Ultimately, the novel leaves us with the question of how ordinary people can recover from such brutal experiences. As Pasha approaches home with his nephew still safely beside him, he tries to convince himself that the boy will be able to forget and go on with his life as before: “There’s no need for him to remember all this, he has no need for the smell of sulfur and raw human flesh, he shouldn’t remember the dirt under fingernails. People aren’t meant to keep so much fear and anger in their memories. But how do you live with this?” Perhaps the answer is, simply, by taking sides, and by doing something, anything at all. This is what Pasha learns by the end of this beautiful, funny, desperate novel, and what the Anglophone world hopefully learns too as we bear witness to Ukrainians’ incredible bravery and resilience.

## POEMS FOR LIFE

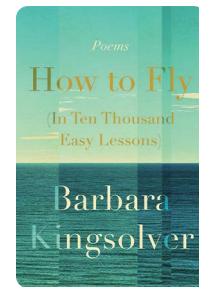
**How to Love the World: Poems of Gratitude and Hope**, by James Crews



Storey Publishing (2021) \$14.95

This beautifully curated selection of more than 100 uplifting poems of gratitude by well-known and emerging poets, including inaugural poet Amanda Gorman, Joy Harjo, Naomi Shihab Nye, Ross Gay, Tracy K. Smith, and more, invites gratefulness into daily life and includes opportunities for reflection and writing, topics for discussion, and reading group questions. The work of these poets captures the beauty, pleasure, and connection readers hunger for.

**How to Fly (In Ten Thousand Easy Lessons): Poems**, by Barbara Kingsolver



Harper (2020) \$24.99

In her second poetry collection, Kingsolver offers reflections on the practical, the spiritual, and the wild. She shares “how to” poems addressing everyday matters, poems about making peace (or not) with the most difficult parts of life, and poems that celebrate natural wonders. These are poems about transcendence: finding breath and lightness in life and the everyday acts of living. It’s all terribly easy and, as the title suggests, not entirely possible. Or at least, it is never quite finished.

**The Best American Poetry 2021**, by David Lehman, Tracy K. Smith

Scribner Book Company (2021) \$20.00



Since 1988, *The Best American Poetry* series has been “one of the mainstays of the poetry publication world.” Each volume presents a choice of the year’s most memorable poems, with comments from the poets themselves lending insight into their work. The 2021 guest editor, Tracy K. Smith, the former United

States Poet Laureate, has selected a distinguished array of works both vast and beautiful by such important voices as Louise Erdrich, Nobel laureate Louise Glück, Terrance Hayes, and Kevin Young.

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# WHERE ARE THE WOODCOCKS?

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, West Virginia.*

AS SOON AS MARCH ARRIVES, I step outside at dusk listening for the first singing woodcock. A series of loud “peent” calls, followed by the whistling twitter of wings, marks the true beginning of the natural year for me. When we bought this wonderful farmland property in West Virginia, my wife and I were excited to discover the variety of wildlife we have. However, after five years we haven’t heard or seen a single woodcock here.

We’re surrounded by what looks to me like excellent woodcock habitat. Open fields are bordered by brushy woods with lots of understory. A spring-fed stream runs along the edge of the woods. The soil stays moist there with ideal places where a woodcock could probe with its long beak to find earthworms to eat. Yet I see no telltale holes in the mud where this has happened.

Are they here and I’m just not hearing them? A friend, also a naturalist, once confessed to me as he approached age 60 that he could no longer hear the flight song of a woodcock. I’ve passed that age and my hearing isn’t terrific, yet I can easily hear a recording of a woodcock’s song. Perhaps the soil here is contaminated and has killed off the woodcock’s food supply. Yet I see plenty of earthworms whenever I plant a tree or shovel our garden.

Why write about a bird I haven’t even seen in five years? Because its spring sky dance is one of the most spectacular courtship displays in nature. Aldo Leopold, in his classic book, *A Sand County Almanac*, describes it perfectly:

*“Suddenly the peenting ceases and the bird flutters skyward in a series of wide spirals, emitting a musical twitter. Up and up he goes, the spirals steeper and smaller, the twittering louder and louder, until the performer is only a speck in the sky. Then, without warning, he tumbles like a crippled plane, giving voice in a soft liquid warble that a March bluebird might envy. At a few feet from the ground he levels off and returns to his peenting ground, usually to the exact spot where the performance began, and there resumes his peenting.”*

The rest of the year, the woodcock hides in its favorite habitat — young woods with lots of undergrowth and damp soil. Very few creatures are camouflaged as totally as a woodcock. Its color patterns, in dark brown, black, buff, gray, and pinkish tan, blend into the leaf litter of the forest floor.

The American woodcock’s numbers are declining. Experts believe the main reason is not climate change but habitat loss. Early successional forest habitat, in other words farmland that is slowly regenerating into woodland, is being lost each year to industrial and residential development.

Woodcock have been traditionally hunted in Europe and North America using pointing dogs and spaniels. In fact, the cocker spaniel’s name is derived from its original talent for hunting and retrieving woodcock. Many bird dogs didn’t like the woodcock’s



AMERICAN WOODCOCK BY DOUG PIFER. Illustration by D. Pifer

scent and refused to retrieve them after the shot, but cocker spaniels didn’t seem to mind. While some modern English and American cocker spaniels are keen hunters, most of them have become pets or show dogs and have never smelled a woodcock.

It may sound counterproductive to hunt a bird whose numbers are decreasing. But the woodcock’s game bird status may be its salvation. Many states, including Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia, highly value the woodcock as a game bird. Each of them has a management program in place to improve and increase its habitat and nesting opportunities.

Personally, I plan to keep listening on early spring evenings for the first singing woodcock.

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# LIVING MEMORIES OF SCHOOL DESEGREGATION IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

By Addison Reese

Addison Reese is one of five commissioners serving on the Jefferson County Historic Landmark Commission (JCHLC). The Commission plays a key role in highlighting the county's diverse history through preservation of structures and historic landscapes as well as documenting the oral history of the people who live in these places.

If you have any records, photographs, and/or stories you would like to share about historic sites throughout the county, you can contact Reese at AddisonReeseJCHLC@gmail.com.

**THE HISTORIC SHEPHERDSTOWN MUSEUM** will be opening a new exhibit this spring: a collection of oral histories, artifacts, and images focused on the education of black students before and after the 1954 *Brown vs. Board of Education* ruling from the US Supreme Court and the integration of the public schools in Jefferson County, West Virginia. At the time of the 1954 court ruling, there were several small school houses throughout the county, with separate facilities for white and black students. The schools for the black children often had inadequate buildings and received second-hand textbooks from the white students' schools.

Well into the twentieth century, there was not even a public high school available for black students in Jefferson County. The only option for these students was the high school equivalency program at Storer College in Harpers Ferry. When that program ended in 1938, the Jefferson County Black PTA asked the local school board for a high school. The board approved the program, but did not provide a new building or other additional resources. The Page Jackson High School program was initially housed within Eagle Avenue Elementary because it was the largest black school in the county. The first class graduated in 1942, under the leadership of Principal E.M. Dandridge. By 1951, Page Jackson High School had moved into a separate building on Mordington Avenue in Charles Town (currently the administrative offices of Jefferson County Schools and the Board of Education).

Following the 1954 court ruling, the West Virginia State Board of Education was organized and an elected school board was established in each county. The state board was given responsibility for creating a uniform educational policy for the entire state, while the county boards were assigned the responsibility to create plans for desegregation of their local schools. The governor of West Virginia, William C. Marland, wrote a letter to county superintendents with



The former Page Jackson High School building now houses the Jefferson County Schools administration offices.

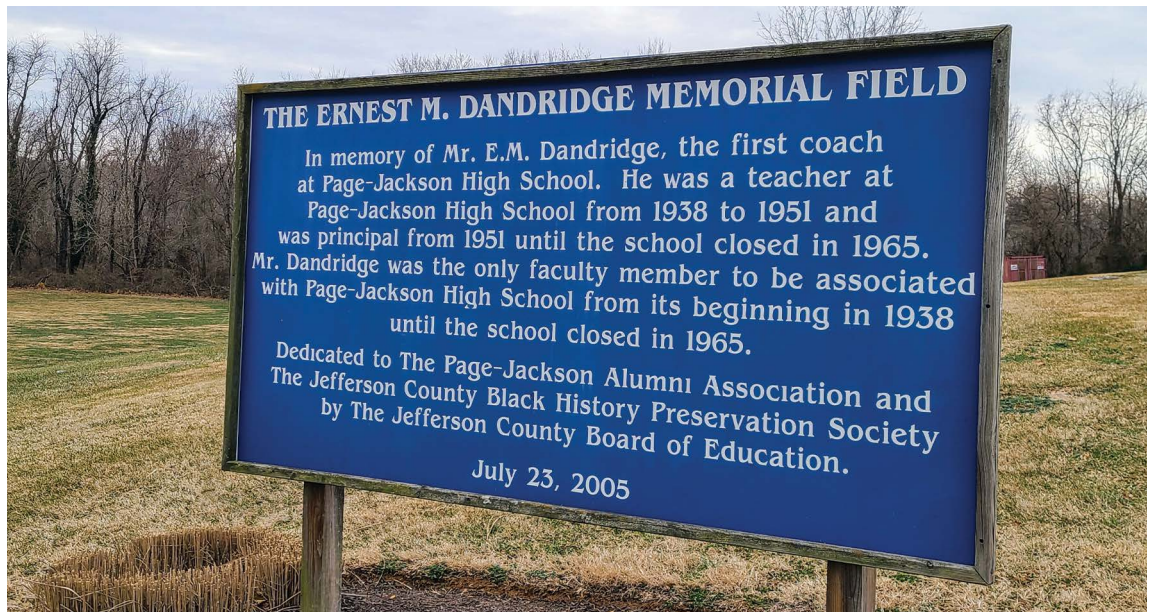
clear direction that schools should immediately begin to reorganize and adjust to comply with the Supreme Court's decision. By 1958, 47 out of 55 West Virginia counties were fully integrated. The counties in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle were slow to implement the changes to comply with the state regulations and it was not until the mid-1960s that schools in Jefferson County were fully integrated.

In 1963, the Jefferson County branch of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) petitioned the local school board to fully integrate the public schools. In 1965, an investigation was conducted and determined that Jefferson County's public school system was in violation of the Supreme Court decision. Page Jackson, one of the last remaining all-black high schools in the state, was closed and the Jefferson County school system

was integrated the following year.

*The new exhibit is a companion to the "Busy Sundays" exhibit that highlights the history of Shepherdstown's African American churches, the local Red Sox baseball team, and the Brothers of Harmony gospel choir. Opening day for the new exhibit is Sunday May 15, 2-4 PM.*

*The Historic Shepherdstown Museum is located in the restored Entler Hotel (129 East German St, Shepherdstown). The museum will reopen for visitors on April 23, Saturdays 12-4 pm and Sundays 1-3 pm. Additional information at [HistoricShepherdstown.com](http://HistoricShepherdstown.com) and on Facebook @ HSC1786. Admission to the museum is free, but a donation is suggested. Private tours are available and the museum welcomes volunteers who are interested in being docents.*



This sign on the former athletic field of Page Jackson High School remembers E. M. Dandridge - coach, teacher & principal to hundreds of students. Ed note: a photo of the school from the 1950s/60s shows a "Page Jackson High School" banner (with no hyphen) at a graduation ceremony.

EXPLORE // ANIMAL RESCUE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY



# CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF CARE

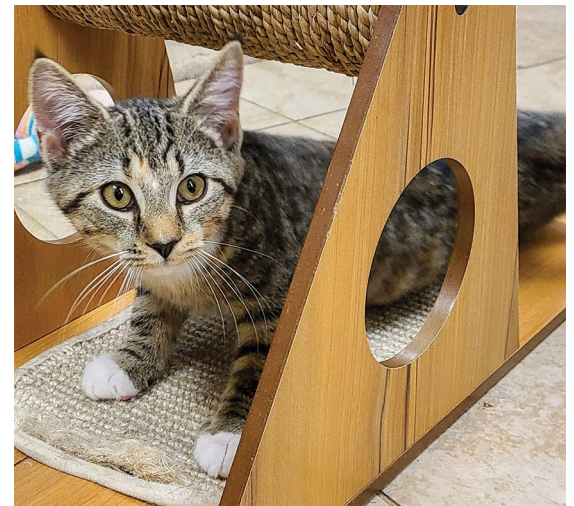
## Animal Welfare Society of Jefferson County

SEVENTY YEARS IS A LONG TIME — roughly 490 dog years by comparison and a whole lot more than 9 lives for a cat. By any metric, it's clear that the Animal Welfare Society of Jefferson County's seven decades of work has made an impact since the Society was established in February of 1952.

In 1985, The Animal Welfare Society of Jefferson County built the first facility in Jefferson County to provide care for cats, kittens, dogs and puppies awaiting adoption. The Jefferson County Commission deeded land for this facility, located on Old Leetown Pike in Kearneysville, to the Society in the early 1980s and funding from community donors supported construction efforts. The shelter welcomed its first occupants in October of that year.

The front of the original building was expanded slightly in 1999, following the surprise arrival of a car into the lobby, but the changes between 2010 and 2017 were much more extensive — adding cat and dog isolation areas, a laundry, and feeding stations. In the rear, the fenced area was expanded to allow more exercise for the dogs. The cat room was improved, with a playroom, new flooring, and cat-friendly 'condos' replacing the old stainless steel cages. The dog kennels were also improved with new epoxy flooring, improved drainage, new roofing over the outside kennels, new inside kennels and gates, and a new ceiling.

The current shelter is designed to accommodate 10 dogs/puppies and 30 cats/kittens, but the population often swells beyond this design capacity. In addition to housing animals awaiting adoption, the Society gives



out spay and neuter coupons to help defray costs and also helps cat rescue groups which trap and spay/neuter stray cats. The Society works with other rescue organizations to bring animals to the shelter for adoption and helps veterans and Jefferson County Community Ministries by providing temporary foster care for pets of those hospitalized, homeless or in rehabilitation.



Visit [AWSJC.org](http://AWSJC.org) for more information about adoptions, donating to the Society, and upcoming events — including the Easter flower sale (Apr 16, Shepherdstown), Mothers Day flower sale (May 8), Rabies clinic (Apr 30, Ranson), and the Bark in the Park event (Jun 4, Charles Town).



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EXPLORE // EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

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 Email [EXPLORE@WEARETHEOBSERVER.COM](mailto:EXPLORE@WEARETHEOBSERVER.COM) if you have an event or activity to include in our calendar.

FARMERS MARKETS (WEEKLY)

**SHEPHERDSTOWN**, Sundays 9:00 - 1:00 (from March 20), behind the library  
**CHARLES TOWN**, Saturdays 9:00 - noon (from April 9), 100 S Samuel St  
**MARTINSBURG**, Saturdays 9:00 - 1:00 (from May 7), 101 W Martin St

APRIL EVENTS

**APR 1 (FRI) — SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC CHORAL CONCERT** · \$15 · Tickets/Info: [Shepherd.edu/Music](http://Shepherd.edu/Music)

**APR 9 (SAT) — TAROT ART: OPEN STUDIO AND KICKSTARTER LAUNCH** (watercolor exhibit and artist presentation) · 4 - 6 pm at the Badgerhouse Studio and Gallery · FREE · Info: FB @BadgerHoundStudio

**APR 15 (FRI) — PULLING FOR THE RAMS: ARM WRESTLING AND TUG OF WAR** (football fundraiser) · 6 - 9:30 pm at The Roundhouse (100 E Liberty St, Martinsburg) · Info about event/donations: email [TravisBagent1@gmail.com](mailto:TravisBagent1@gmail.com) or [LStilly85@gmail.com](mailto:LStilly85@gmail.com)

**APR 16 (SAT) — EASTER EGG HUNT IN SHEPHERDSTOWN** · 2 pm on the McMurrin Hall lawn, organized by the Shepherdstown Easter Market (8:00 am - 6:00 pm), War Memorial Building, 102 East German St · Drop off Easter Egg donations at the Market before 1pm.

**APR 18 (MON) — “AMERICA’S CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY: Who Pays, Us or Our Children?”** a forum presented by the Stubblefield Institute · 7 - 8:30 pm in the Student Center Storer Ballroom at Shepherd University and online via Zoom/Facebook Live · FREE · Info: [Shepherd.edu/icpc-advisory-board](http://Shepherd.edu/icpc-advisory-board)

**APR 19 (TUE) — VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE** (new voter or update address) to be eligible to vote in May 10 School Board election. Forms & Info: [GoVoteWV.com](http://GoVoteWV.com)

**APR 23-34 (SAT-SUN) — FLIP FLOP FESTIVAL** in Harpers Ferry & Bolivar · Multiple events & workshops · FREE · Info: [FlipFlopFestival.org](http://FlipFlopFestival.org)

**APR 30 (SAT) — BIG SCREEN SERIES SPRING FILMS**, presented by the American Conservation Film Festival · 2 - 7 pm at the Weinberg Center for the Arts (20 W Patrick St, Frederick, MD) · \$13.75 · Info/tickets: [WeinbergCenter.org/shows/acff-big-screen-series-spring](http://WeinbergCenter.org/shows/acff-big-screen-series-spring)

MAY EVENTS

**MAY 1 (SUN) — MAY DAY CELEBRATION IN SHEPHERDSTOWN** · Noon · McMurrin Hall Lawn

**May 13-15 (Fri-Sun) — FOSL Fabulous Book Sale** in Shepherdstown · Info: [FoslWV.org](http://FoslWV.org)

**MAY 21 & 22 (SAT, SUN) — THE BACK ALLEY TEA AND TOUR RETURNS**, hosted by the Shepherdstown Community Club · Walking garden tours and high tea in the War Memorial Building ballroom, Shepherdstown · Info/tickets: [BackAlleyGarden.org](http://BackAlleyGarden.org)

**MAY 28 (SAT) — GRAPPLE; 4 LIFE (JIU-JITSU CHARITY SEMINAR)** · 10 am - 12 pm at Spectrum Jiu Jitsu in Kearneysville · \$50 donation to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention · Tickets/Info: [Supporting.afsp.org/campaign/Grapple4Life](http://Supporting.afsp.org/campaign/Grapple4Life)

JUNE EVENTS

**JUN 4 (SAT) — BARK IN THE PARK** · 10 am - 2 pm · Jefferson Memorial Park, Charles Town · FREE · Info: [AWSJC.org](http://AWSJC.org)

**JUN 18 (SAT) — WV FEST IN CHARLES TOWN** · All Day · North King Street · FREE · FB: @CharlesTownNow

**JUN 25 (SAT) — SHEPHERDSTOWN STREET FEST** · All Day · North King Street · FREE · Web: [ShepherdstownStreetFest.org](http://ShepherdstownStreetFest.org), FB: @ShepTownStreetFest

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EXPLORE // SHEPHERDSTOWN

# VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT GROW - BACK ALLEY GARDEN TOUR & TEA

“WE GET TO CELEBRATE SPRING for real this year, with the return of the Back Alley Garden Tour & Tea,” said Jennifer Wabnitz, president of the Shepherdstown Community Club. The Tour & Tea, which is returning after a two-year hiatus, will take place at multiple locations around Shepherdstown during the weekend of May 21 and 22. “This event is a fundraiser for the club,” according to Wabnitz, “and its success is rooted in the many enthusiastic volunteers — homeowners who open the gates to their yards, volunteers who bake and help serve tea, docents who guide visitors down the garden paths. The whole town is looking forward to this event!”


Mike Austin, a past-president of the club remarked on the history of the tour, noting that “for many it has become an important part of their legacy” to the community. Visitors (and fellow gardeners) are inspired to add to their own gardens by the creativity on display. Austin’s wife Bonnie, Martha Young, Mary Stanley, and Charlie Freeland are impressive examples of participants whose legacy with the Garden Tour lives on as ideas planted in one garden have germinated in other gardens, to create new paths for tour visitors to enjoy.

Visitors of all ages are welcome to explore Shepherdstown’s hidden gardens and



take home their own inspirations (but please don’t pick the flowers). For 2022 there are 21 gardens being groomed and manicured in preparation for this family-friendly event. In prior years, the tour has attracted over 500 visitors, but the tour is spread out over the entire town, so the experience is more like a leisurely and peaceful walk in a bucolic park. In addition to the walking tour of private gardens, the weekend festivities will include an art show and a tea party at the War Memorial Building (102 East German St, Shepherdstown).

*Tickets are \$20 for the tour, \$10 for the tea (seating is limited), or \$25 for both. Tour tickets are good for both days and visitors may visit the gardens in any order. Tickets may be purchased in advance at local Shepherdstown businesses including Four Seasons Books (116 W German St), the Shepherdstown Sweet Shop (100 W German St), Grapes and Grains (110 E German St), and the Coffee and Candlery (103 W German St) or online at BackAlleyGarden.org. Proceeds from this event support the upkeep of Morgan’s Grove Park and the community club building.*



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EXPLORE // HARPERS FERRY

# FLIP FLOP FESTIVAL RETURNS



THINKING OF HIKING THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL? Or perhaps you'd like to hear some great music or enjoy the community pancake breakfast. The Flip Flop Festival is back for 2022, ready to send off this year's flip-flop hikers. The traditional 2,200 Appalachian Trail thru-hike starts in Georgia and ends in Maine. A flip-flop hike starts at an intermediate point, then circles back to complete the remaining distance (in either direction). The earliest recorded flip-flop hike of the Appalachian Trail was in the early 1950s, but it has become increasingly popular in the last few years as the number of hikers along the route has grown. By jumping off ahead of the pack, flip-flopers can enjoy an experience closer to the solitary

perambulations of earlier generations of AT hikers. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy encourages flip-flop hikes to help conserve the trail as well.

*The 2022 Flip Flop Festival on April 23 & 24 (Sat & Sun) is a free event sponsored by the Trail & Town Alliance of Harpers Ferry & Bolivar, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and the towns of Bolivar and Harpers Ferry. The event celebrates the flip-flop hikers jumping off from Harpers Ferry, but the workshops, music, speakers, food and a send-off breakfast are open to all members of the community. Web: FlipFlopFestival.org (for schedule, event locations & parking info).*

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**LOCAL FOOTBALL >>> PAGE 6**

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“Mass-mindedness increases unconsciousness and then the evil swells like an avalanche, as contemporary events have shown. Even so, society can also work for good; it is even necessary ...”

—C.G. Jung  
 (CW Vol.14, *Mysterium Coniunctionis*, pub. in 1963)

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EXPLORE // EVENT SPOTLIGHTS



**STORYTELLING – ONLINE PERFORMANCE**

Speak Storytelling presents Sheila Arnold in an online performance on April 12, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. Arnold’s program is entitled “Oney Judge” – an interpretive performance based on the life of Oney Judge, an 18th century free woman who was a personal maidservant to Martha Washington during the time George Washington served in the Continental Congress through the end of his second term as President. She was one of those who “ran away.”

Through Arnold, the audience will meet Judge later in life when she tells about her life with the Washingtons, her upbringing, her run for freedom, her attempt to negotiate with President Washington, and her new life as a Free Negro.

Tickets are \$15 (free for season ticket holders), available online at [SpeakStorySeries.com](http://SpeakStorySeries.com). Speak Stories are for adult audiences, mature youth allowed at guardian’s discretion. Email [info@speakstoryseries.com](mailto:info@speakstoryseries.com) for more information about this event.



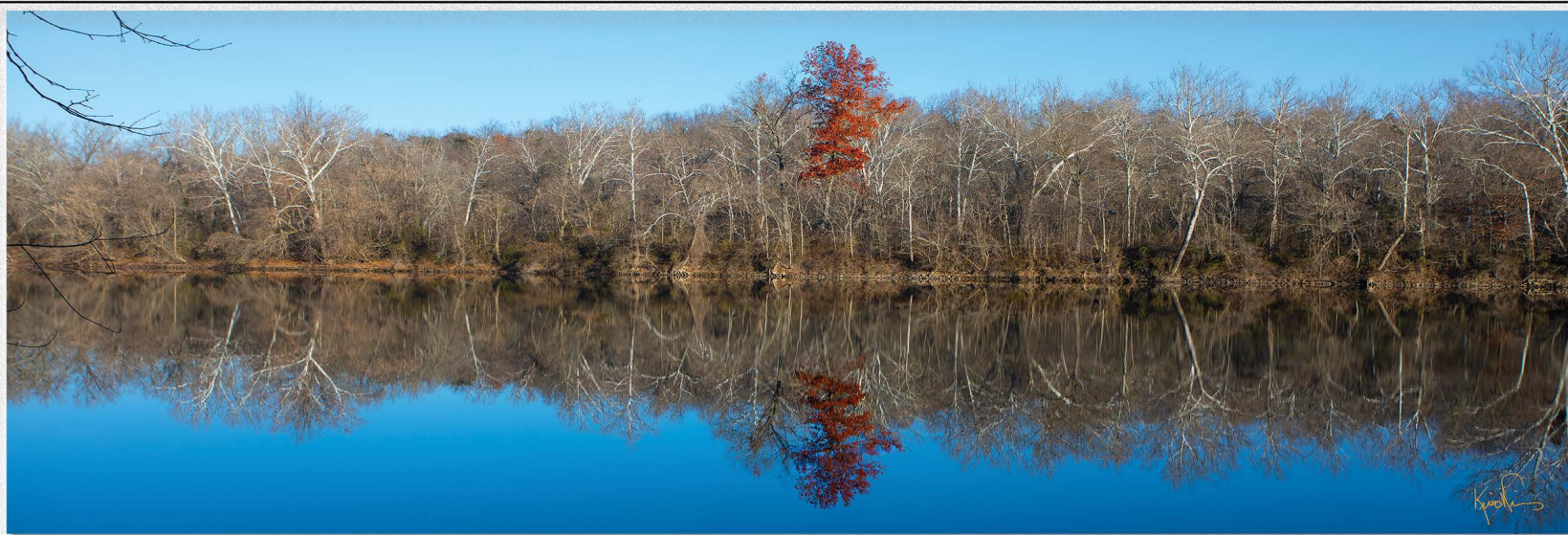
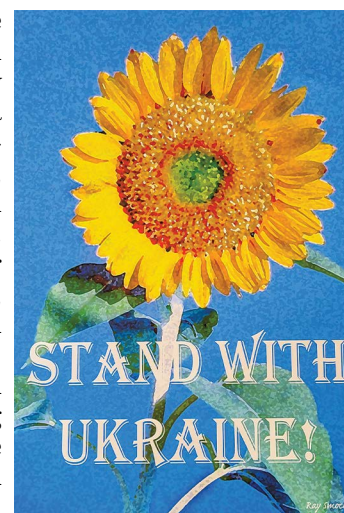
**EASTER EGG HUNT IN SHEPHERDSTOWN**

Bring your young kids for family-friendly fun in Shepherdstown on April 16 (Sat) at 2 pm on the McMurrin Hall Lawn. All are welcome at this community-organized event.

Decorated eggs for the hunt can be dropped off before 1pm at the Shepherdstown Easter Market in the War Memorial Building, 102 East German St – show off your flair and share the fun. FB: Shepherdstown Easter Egg Hunt

**STAND WITH UKRAINE EVENTS**

The community is rallying to the cause of humanitarian relief for Ukraine. On April 1 (Fri) at 6 pm, the Community Club in Shepherdstown will host a fundraising dinner. Donations and potluck contributions of Ukrainian, Polish, Hungarian and other eastern European dishes are encouraged. Contact Mark.Kohut@gmail.com for details. On Apr 2 (Sat) 10 - 6 and Apr 3 (Sun) 10 - 3, “Rummage for a Cause” at Evolve in Shepherdstown (106 W German St) features donated heirlooms, fine art, and collectibles for sale, with all proceeds going to three trusted relief organizations – Save the Children, World Central Kitchen, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.



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### AMERICA'S CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY: WHO PAYS, US OR OUR CHILDREN?

Monday, April 18 • 7:00 pm

In-person at the Shepherd University Student Center Storer Ballroom // Livestreamed

Panelists include:

**Craig McLean**, former Director of Research for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),

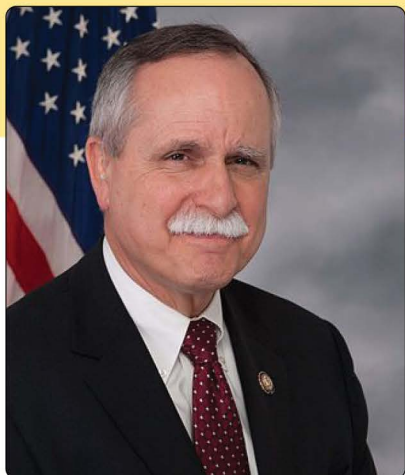
**Danny Richter**, Ph.D., Vice President of Government Affairs, Citizens' Climate Lobby, and

**Sean Kevelighan**, President & CEO, Insurance Information Institute



Moderated by CNN analyst  
Amanda Carpenter

### A TOWN HALL MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN DAVID MCKINLEY



Monday, April 25 • 7:00 p.m.

In-person at the Byrd Center Auditorium at Shepherd University // Livestreamed

A great opportunity for audience members to go one-on-one with **Congressman David McKinley** in advance of the May primary elections.



Moderated by Marsha 'Kavalek' Chwalik,  
News Director & Host of  
Panhandle Live on WEPM-1340

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~ Serve as a center for the study and promotion of civil political discourse ~ Inspire intelligent, authentic and constructive debate ~

~ Encourage positive civic engagement for both students and the public ~

EXPLORE // TIME AWAY IN...

**BERKELEY SPRINGS, WEST VIRGINIA**



EVERYBODY NEEDS A LITTLE TIME AWAY, goes the song — even from the people, places, and things we love. Fortunately, here in Jefferson County we have an abundance of nearby travel options in the surrounding region.

Before my recent weekend getaway to Berkeley Springs, it had been 25 years since my last overnight visit. I remember that long-ago trip like it was yesterday: it was just a few months after my second child’s birth and for a blessed 48 hours I stole away to The Country Inn where I indulged in a massage, a manicure, and mommy-only room-service. Thankfully, so much of what I loved about Berkeley Springs has not changed — or has changed for the better. Let’s start with self-care options, which after all, is what history suggests was the focus of George Washington and other noted figures who helped establish the Town of Bath (Berkeley Springs’ actual name) in the 1700s. The Country Inn and adjoining Renaissance Spa still welcome guests and spa-goers under the care of local owners the Omps family — who recently also purchased and are restoring Coolfont Resort just down the road.

At the heart of town, warm mineral waters continue to flow from sandstone formations at a constant rate of approximately 1000 gallons per minute — a fact I learned while attending (and helping to judge) this year’s Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting contest. The most authentic place to “take the waters” is at the refurbished and sparkling clean bath houses of Berkeley Springs State Park which offer private walk-in tubs and optional massage treatments. In the summer people splash and swim in the springs that run through the park and the public swimming pool. Don’t forget (like I did) to bring a jug to take home a free souvenir: mineral water from public taps located in the park.



Berkeley Springs’ arts and culture vibe is as strong as ever. During this recent trip, we stopped by the always-cool MAC Ice House art gallery and visited Mountain Laurel Artisans. And while we did not have time to see a movie at the historic Star Theater, we did stop by to chat with friendly new owners, Paul and Trey Johanson.

My time away in Berkeley Springs passed too quickly and I left with a list of things to do (see online) the next time we visit — which will be soon.

**By Harriet Pearson**

For details on the destinations mentioned in this article, visit [WeAreTheObserver.com/TimeAway/BerkeleySprings](http://WeAreTheObserver.com/TimeAway/BerkeleySprings). We welcome destination ideas for our next Time Away! Email: [Explore@WeAreTheObserver.com](mailto:Explore@WeAreTheObserver.com)

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