

The WV INDEPENDENT Observer

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

MAY 2022

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FOR MORE FEATURES, COMMUNITY NEWS, AND LOCAL EVENTS, VISIT WEARETHEOBSERVER.COM

3D Mammography CLINIC

During the month of May, WVU Medicine Berkeley Medical Center and Jefferson Medical Center are offering 3D Tomo Digital Mammogram Screening Clinics to women age 40 and older.

This special discounted fee was designed to help patients who haven't met their deductible or have a high deductible, whose insurance doesn't include a mammogram with an annual exam and for those with no insurance.



Spring Mills Women's Imaging Center

A Department of Berkeley Medical Center
Spring Mills Medical Office Building
61 Campus Drive, Martinsburg

MAY 6: 7am – 3:30pm
MAY 24: 8am – 4:30pm



Jefferson Women's Imaging Center

Located across from Jefferson Medical Center
207 S Preston Street
Ranson, WV

MAY 24: 12noon – 3pm
MAY 31: 12noon – 4pm

**Early
Detection
IS THE KEY!** 
\$60

Discounted Screening Fee
Cash, Check, Credit Card

*A physician's order is not required,
but patients must register by phone.
Any patient without a physician will be
assigned one to receive test results.*

Call 1.844.802.2734, opt #2 to schedule your appointment at the Women's Imaging Center

WVUMedicine.org

STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF

STEVE PEARSON

MANAGING EDITOR

CATHERINE PEZZARO

PUBLISHER

HARRIET PEARSON

BUSINESS MANAGER

LESLIE DAVISSON

FOR ADVERTISING

Email: [SALES@](mailto:SALES@WeAreTheObserver.com)

WeAreTheObserver.com

Phone: 304-249-8968

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THIS PAPER WANTS TO BE RECYCLED.



Looking at the beginning of spring on German Street in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

TO OUR READERS — Like the seasons, some topics of conversation seem to come around again and again. And, just like early spring, we're never quite sure if we're getting warmer or cooler with some of these conversations. Last month saw some heated discussion about reorganizing the ambulance services in Jefferson County. Two of the County Commissioners have been meeting with several leaders of the volunteer fire companies in the county, resulting in some new options for further discussion (summarized on pages 6-7). The Commission has also been speaking with the county's mayors and has directed county staff to look into details related to some of these options. There is no specific timetable yet, but it appears that the Commissioners would like to adopt a plan to begin implementing in the next fiscal year beginning July 1.

Election season is also truly upon us, judging by the many yard signs blooming along the sides of our roads. The May 10 election features the deciding vote for the Board of Education candidates (7 are running, 3 will win a seat). Voters also get to select Democratic and Republican candidates for the November ballot — with independent voters getting a choice of which party's candidates they want to weigh in on. Given that the 2nd Congressional district leans strongly Republican, voting in the May primary election is the only realistic option for independent voters who want to express a preference for a specific candidate.

Now that we're in late spring, the weather is definitely warmer and we can see that summer is almost here. It looks like the event calendar is filling up and music is playing again — a great time to stick around, take a breath, and enjoy some fun right here at home.

Steve Pearson
EDITOR IN CHIEF



Andrew Skinner

Stephen Skinner

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REPRESENTING CONSUMERS AND INJURED PEOPLE

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

// ELECTIONS

ELECTION DAY IS MAY 10

Everyone Can Vote For School Board & Party Primary Candidates

IT'S TIME TO VOTE for Jefferson County Board of Education candidates, along with a family court judge and a conservation district supervisor in non-partisan races. Voters also get to select Democratic and Republican candidates in primary elections to decide who will be on the general election ballot in November (the school board race is final after the May election). To vote absentee, you must deliver your application to the County Clerk's office by 5 pm on May 4.

Independent Voters Get A Choice
Voters registered as Democrats or Republicans will be given a party-specific ballot. Voters with no party affiliation ("independents") will need to tell the poll worker which ballot they want — a choice of the non-partisan ballot only or a Democratic or Republican ballot (which also includes the school board race) that allows independents a choice in picking who gets on the November ballot.

Early Voting
Early voting is available until May 7, from 9 am to 5 pm at Charles Washington Hall, 100 West Washington St, Charles Town. Voting is on the 2nd floor – use the side door on N George Street marked "Suite 201" across from the County Courthouse. The early voting location is open Monday through Friday and also on Saturdays (Apr 30 & May 7). This voting location is not open on May 9 or May 10 (Election Day). 🗳️

WHEN?	WHERE?	BRING ID!
<p style="text-align: center;">MAY 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30 am until 7:30 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Your Polling Place May Have Changed With Redistricting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Check Your Location at: GoVoteWV.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Look for the Button:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Online Voter Tools</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>	<p>Voters are required to show identification.</p> <p>A driver's license, voter registration card, medicare card, student ID, and US passport are all acceptable (must be valid and unexpired).</p> <p>Additional ID options at GoVoteWV.com:</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Voter Information</p> </div>

REGISTERED AS AN INDEPENDENT (NO PARTY AFFILIATION)? You Get To Pick A Ballot — But You Need To Ask:

Democratic Ballot	Non-Partisan Ballot	Republican Ballot																																				
<p style="text-align: center;">OFFICIAL BALLOT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY</p> <p>Jefferson County, WV Primary Election May 10, 2022</p> <p>INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER To vote you must darken the oval (●) completely next to the candidate or issue choice.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>NATIONAL TICKET</th> <th>NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS</th> <th>COUNTY TICKET</th> </tr> <tr> <td> FOR U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (Vote For ONE) NIGELA J. DWYER (Marion Co.) HARRY LEE WENDELL (Marion Co.) </td> <td> NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF FAMILY COURT JUDGE - 24TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - DIVISION 3 - UNEXPIRED (Vote For ONE) RICHARD D. STEPHENS (Berkeley Co.) Write, if Any </td> <td> FOR SENATORIAL DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 15TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT (Male) (Vote For ONE) LEIGH KOONCE (Barren Dist.) 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The non-partisan ballot includes the school board, family court and conservation district candidates only. Both the Democratic and Republican ballots include these non-partisan races at the end, after the various primary election choices.

MANY CONTESTED RACES ON MAY 10

THE MAY 10 ELECTION is a combination of a final election for School Board and primary elections for US Congress, WV Senate, WV Delegate, and Jefferson County Commission.

An Early Decision In May

While many candidates on the Democratic and Republican ballots are running unopposed in their races, the outcome of many of the contested Republican primary races will likely determine who will win in the November election, given the expected partisan lean of the Congressional and West Virginia legislature districts.

Chose A Ballot

All ballots will include the School Board race. Voters who are registered as Democrats or Republicans will automatically be given a party-specific ballot. Voters who have not registered with a party affiliation (“independents”) can request either of the party-specific ballots if they are interested in any of the contested primary races. The choice of a primary ballot does not have any effect on a voter’s registration or how they can vote in November.

School Board

All voters can select up to 3 candidates on their ballot. The three candidates with the most votes will serve four year terms starting July 1. The candidates for school board are (in ballot order):

Andrea Elliot, Kathryn Skinner, Barbara Fuller, Tiffani Sheppard, Joyce E. Smith, Carmen Taylor-Bratton, and Laurie Ogden. You can view bios and information from all these candidates online at WeAreTheObserver.com/2022-elections.

WV Senate

There are two Republican candidates running for Senate District 16. **Jason Barrett** is currently serving in the House of Delegates. **Rene Wibly** is president of the Berkeley County Republican Club. There is no Democratic candidate running in the primary for this district.

US Congress

West Virginia lost one of its seats in Congress after the 2020 Census and there are two incumbents running in the newly drawn 2nd District which stretches across the northern half of the state.

David McKinley founded an engineering business and has been active in West Virginia politics since 1980, as a Delegate for 14 years and as Chair of the state Republican party for 4 years. He was elected to Congress in 2011. McKinley is endorsed by Governor Jim Justice.

Alexander Mooney worked as a Congressional staffer and for a DC-based political organization. He also served for 12 years in the Maryland Senate before moving to West Virginia in 2014 to run for the House seat that opened up when Shelley Moore Capito ran for US Senate.

Mooney is endorsed by Donald Trump.

There are three non-incumbents running for Congress on the Republican ballot: **Rhonda Hercules, Susan Buchser-Lochocki, and Mike Seckman.** On the Democratic ballot, there are two candidates running for Congress: **Angela Dwyer and Barry Lee Wendell.**

WV House of Delegates (District 97)

There are two Republican candidates running for this district: **John Hardy** is currently serving in the House of Delegates. **Alonzo Perry II** is a challenger. **Philip Wenner**, the Democratic candidate, is unopposed in the primary.

WV House of Delegates (District 100)

There are three Republican candidates running for this district: **Steve Harris, Bill Ridenour, and Pasha Majdi.** **Susan Benzinger**, the Democratic candidate, is unopposed in the primary.

County Commission

There are two seats on the County Commission up for election in 2022. **Clare Anne Ath** and **David Tabb** are running for the Republican nomination from the “Charles Town” district and **Glenn Gargan** and **Jennifer Krouse** are running for the Republican nomination from the “Shepherdstown” district. **John Doyle** and **Dale Manuel** are the Democratic candidates, both running unopposed in the primary election. 🗳️

JCS Parents & Citizens for Informed Candidates
Supports these THREE BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES
(Each candidate is running independently)



Qualified • Experienced • Invested



Kathy Skinner
 Current BOE President
 8 years on BOE • 19 year Jefferson County resident • Current JCS parent
 CPA and MBA • Accounting degree



Laurie Ogden
 8 years on BOE • 16 year Jefferson County resident • Current JCS parent
 Degrees in education & sports/health sciences • Served as VP for Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce



Carmen Taylor-Bratton
 Lifelong Jefferson County resident
 Current JCS parent • JCS substitute teacher & DC Public Schools teacher aide
 22 year federal employee • JCS and Volunteer Community Board Experience

Paid for by JCS Parents & Citizens for Informed Candidates, Mary Anne Hitt, Treasurer.

“Public Education is Worth Uniting Over”

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// COMMUNITY

FIRE & RESCUE VOLUNTEERS PROPOSE EMS ALTERNATIVES

Multiple Options for Ambulance Deployment & Staffing On The Table

By Steve Pearson

AS PART OF ONGOING discussions between the Jefferson County Commission and representatives from several of the county's volunteer fire companies, the Jefferson County Fire & Rescue Association (the coordinating organization for the seven volunteer companies) has assembled several proposals for further consideration. A starting point for all of the options is an assumption that the current fire station locations (home to the existing fleet of 14 ambulances) are pretty much in the right locations to provide optimal service throughout the county.

Counting Vehicles, Counting Staff

Between them, the seven volunteer fire companies have 14 ambulances available for use, but normally only 12 are active in the dispatch system. The number of ambulances available to respond as a "first due" unit is determined by the staffing available. During the day, the County's Emergency Services Agency (ESA) has 10 paid staff on duty in 5 stations available for "first due" dispatch; at night, there are 8 paid

staff on duty in 4 stations. An additional station (Middleway) has an EMT staff person paid by the volunteer company to augment the County staff. Other companies provide volunteers to further augment the paid staff of the ambulances for both initial EMS response and other calls. While this hybrid system currently appears to be providing appropriate levels of service, many individuals on the front lines say that additional resources are needed to maintain safety and service levels as demand increases. However, the County Commission has noted that the current trend of rising expenses is not sustainable within the current funding model.

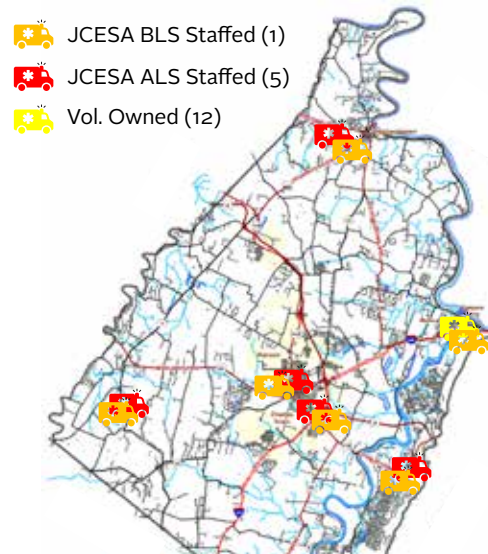
All of the options presented by the FRA include three common elements: a switch to a centralized billing system for ambulance transport fees, an adjustment in the ambulance fee, and a new fee or levy to support fire services. A fourth element, regarding the ownership of ambulances, varies with each option:

Ambulances Owned by Volunteers

Designated "Option C" in the presentation, this model is most similar to the existing system. This option changes how transport billing

receipts are shared between the County and the volunteer companies. Additionally, this option maintains the existing fleet of ambulances and expands County staffing to cover the Middleway station (a total of 6 day/5 night stations).

AMBULANCES OWNED BY VOLUNTEERS



EARLY VOTING
APR 27 TO MAY 7

VISIT GOVOTEWV.COM
FOR MORE ELECTION INFO

ELECTION DAY
MAY 10

JEFFERSON COUNTY VISION *Support THESE CANDIDATES for a clean and green Jefferson County!!*

Jefferson County Board of Education

Carmen Taylor-Bratton
 Carmen Taylor Bratton (Charles Town) is a lifelong Jefferson County resident. As a BOE member, she will work to expand opportunities for community input and ensure that children have access to important resources, such as free tutoring.

Kathryn Skinner
 Kathryn Skinner (Kabletown) has served on the BOE since 2014 and is currently serving as President. As a board member, she has prioritized staff retention and recruitment. She believes that finding and keeping great staff is the key to academic achievement.

Laurie Ogden
 Laurie Ogden (Charles Town) has served as a BOE member since 2014. As a BOE member, she will continue to prioritize retention and recruitment of staff, increased support for parents and staff, and better special education services.

US House of Representatives

David McKinley
 David McKinley (R; 2nd District) has represented the 1st District since 2011. He is an engineer and influential member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. David is a fierce champion of West Virginians and believes that energy jobs don't have to come at the expense of the environment.

WV House of Delegates

Pasha Majdi
 Pasha Majdi (R; 100th District) moved to Harpers Ferry with his family four years ago. He currently leads U.S. policy work for Conservation International. As a Delegate, he will focus on creating sustainable economic growth for current and future generations.

Jefferson County Commission

David Tabb
 David Tabb (R; Charles Town District) is a lifelong Jefferson County resident and has a decades long history of promoting transparency, accountability, and integrity within the County Commission.

Important Dates

Early Voting
April 27 - May 7

Absentee Ballot Application Deadline
May 4

Primary Election Day
May 10

Paid for by Jefferson County Vision

Mix of Ambulance Ownership

Designated “Option B” in the presentation, this model would have the County purchase seven of the existing ambulances from the volunteer companies (6 to operate as staffed units and 1 as a spare) while volunteers continue to own and operate six ambulances. In this model the County-staffed ambulances would be designated as the “first due” units and the volunteers would be on alert for “second due” calls. A specific request in this model was for the County to continue to allow volunteers to drive and provide services in the County-owned ambulance as needed — noted as essential for the volunteer companies to recruit and retain sufficient volunteers to maintain fire response coverage (many of the “fire” volunteers are career EMS staff elsewhere and the volunteer work is helpful for their professional training requirements). Likewise, this model requests that the County staff continue in their current dual capacity to provide both medical services and fire response services as needed. A key benefit noted in this option is that the volunteers would continue to provide standby coverage for community events (sports games, the county fair, and other public events).





County Ownership of All Ambulances

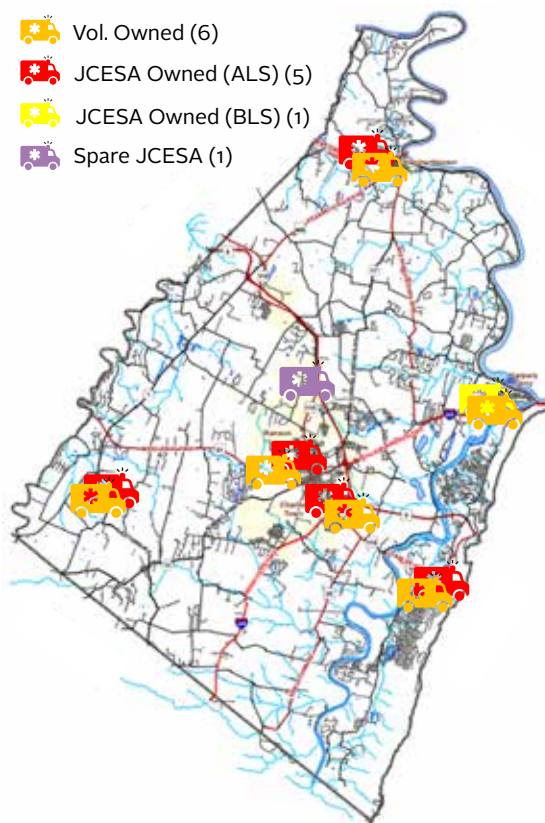
Designated “Option A” in the presentation, this model would have the County purchase ten of the existing ambulances from the volunteer companies (6 to operate as staffed units and 4 as spares). This model also includes the requests for the County to continue to allow volunteers to drive and provide services in the County-owned ambulance as needed and for the County staff to continue in their current dual capacity to provide both medical services and fire response services as needed. With the assumption of volunteer participation, the “spare” ambulances could be staffed by volunteers as needed for “second due” calls. The County would assume 100 percent of the costs for EMS service under this model — which would include payment of rent to the volunteers for use of the ambulance bays and staff facilities.

Fire Staffing Model




The Fire & Rescue Association presentation picks up where the Fitch report ends, to address the future of the fire response services (consideration #7 in that report). A key component of the FRA proposal is the application for federal grant money to gradually expand County staffing by hiring personnel designated for fire response as well as medical response. While the ambulance proposals could implement a transition over the next twelve months, the fire services proposal envisions a six year transition to add up to 35 additional County staff by 2029.

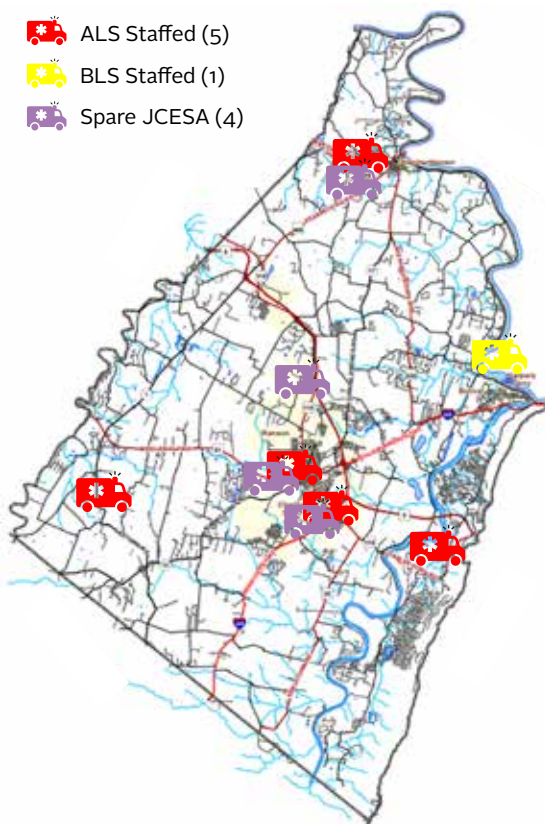
MIX OF AMBULANCE OWNERSHIP

-  Vol. Owned (6)
-  JCESA Owned (ALS) (5)
-  JCESA Owned (BLS) (1)
-  Spare JCESA (1)



COUNTY OWNERSHIP OF ALL AMBULANCES

-  ALS Staffed (5)
-  BLS Staffed (1)
-  Spare JCESA (4)



EVENTS CALENDAR

>>> PAGE 14 & 15 <<<

The Eastern Panhandle
Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
EPAC-DST

**Golf
Tournament**

**Friday, May 27 at
Locust Hill Golf Course**

Registration and breakfast
begin at 9:00am
Shotgun start at 10:30

Early bird registration
(until April 30th)
\$90/person or \$340/foursome
Regular fee (May 1-20)
\$100/person or \$380/foursome

Registration fee covers green fees,
cart, driving range, breakfast, lunch,
awards and prizes.

Mulligans, raffles, and contests will
be offered.

For more information contact:
epacdstinfo@gmail.com or
304-707-2020 (call or text)

Rain Date June 10, 2022

The event is to raise money for the
Chapter's scholarships, youth/mentoring
programming, and public service activities.

Follow this story at
WeAreTheObserver.com/EMS-2022

// COMMUNITY

DIP YOUR TOES IN THE WATER

Local Access To The Potomac & Shenandoah Rivers



The Shepherdstown boat ramp and nearby Riverside Park offer easy access to the Potomac River.

TWO MAJOR RIVERS RUN through Jefferson County, and there are many ways for locals and visitors alike to enjoy the water. If tubing is your way to float, there are three companies offering full-service via private facilities in the vicinity of



Tubing is popular on the Shenandoah River

Harpers Ferry — River & Trail Outfitters, River Riders, and Harpers Ferry Adventure Center. During the warm months these outfitters get busy and the rivers get crowded, so book ahead. If you're in the mood for a quieter adventure, head up to Shepherdstown. The team at *Pedal & Paddle* (115 W German St, online at ThePedalPaddle.com) can hook you up with tubes, kayaks and various options for full or self service adventures on the upper Potomac.

Jefferson County Parks & Recreation maintains **Moulton Park** on the banks of the Shenandoah River (716 Millville Rd, Charles Town) for public boating and fishing access. There is a small parking lot near the camping/picnic areas of the park and a larger parking lot for boat trailers near the ramp. The park is open daily year-round, with portable restrooms



and camping available June to September (or later depending on the weather). The park is designated trash-free (no receptacles provided), so visitors should carry out their own trash.

The West Virginia Department of Natural Resources maintains river access points below the Millville dam on the Shenandoah River (2428 Bloomery Rd, Charles Town) and in Shepherdstown on the Potomac River (at the end of N. Princess St). The Millville location is marked by a small "fishing access sign" across from the Potomac Edison substation. WVDNR just renewed its lease on the Shepherdstown boat ramp and parking lot for another ten years, but parking is currently limited due to the construction at the nearby water treatment plant (this construction is expected to continue through the summer). The WVDNR.gov website provides rules for use of these facilities (look for "stream access points").

Water quality on the upper Potomac River (above Harpers Ferry) is generally considered acceptable for swimming. Potomac Riverkeeper Network is a resource for information for this river. On the Shenandoah, the water quality varies. Friends of the Shenandoah River posts updates and report cards on its website (FOSR.org). 📍

SHEPHERDSTOWN
Street Fest

JUNE 25, 2022 | RAIN OR SHINE
FREE Admission | Parking | Shuttle Services

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Sponsorships Still Available | Contact SSFsponsors@protonmail.com

TIME AWAY IN A SMALL TOWN

Enjoy A Local Vacation To Shepherdstown



The new owners of the Thomas Shepherd Inn have renovated and updated all of the rooms.

JEFFERSON COUNTY IS HOME to many popular vacation destinations, both for local residents as well as out-of-town tourists. Shepherdstown, at the northern end of the county, is enough off the beaten path to retain the sleepy charm of a small village that makes it easy to quickly relax with a weekend or midweek get-away. The nearby

Clarion Hotel and Quality Inn both closed due to the pandemic, but there are still many options to stay close to town.

The Bavarian Inn Resort, overlooking the Potomac River, offers multiple dining options on site with expansive patio seating under tents during the warmer months. Guests

have access to the infinity pool (opening mid-May) and the nearby golf course. Summer weekends book fast, but midweek rooms are still available. If you want to bring your dog for a getaway adventure, Sundogs Bed & Breakfast offers canine-friendly accommodation in a country setting a few minutes outside of town.

Staying Right In Town

In town, the Thomas Shepherd Inn has reopened this spring under new owners Melissa Anderson and Joe Muscatello. For Anderson, the connection to the town was a great-grandfather who fought at Antietam. Muscatello is a graduate of WVU with family roots in the coalfields of southern West Virginia. They were looking for a place to live and decided to keep the 38-year tradition of the Inn alive by welcoming guests to their new home. Muscatello is a retired city manager and appreciates the walkability of Shepherdstown. "You can park your car when you arrive and walk all weekend," he remarked. "I see a town that has a young vibe and also has a lot of history. Our guests seem to enjoy the slower pace here." 📍



Patio at the Bavarian Inn

Ranson Festival & Car Show

JUNE 4, 2022

10AM-4PM

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TAKE A BREATH & GAIN NEW PERSPECTIVES



By Chrissy Lewin

A science teacher by training, Chrissy Levin turned to her yoga practice to help work through the stress of job change and the pandemic. She still teaches science to middle schoolers and has launched herself as a yoga teacher as well, offering classes for both kids & adults through Moving Mountains Yoga (info & registration at MovingMtnsYoga.com). Additional info on the web: AutumnTeacher.com & FB: Autumn Teacher. The Yogi Science Teacher.

“OH, YOU’RE JUST IN THE HONEYMOON PHASE. Most people who quit their jobs feel great right after. Let’s check on you in a few months. You may not be feeling too well then.” My doctor said this with a smile but also with a firm tone, letting me know in a kind way that he was serious. He

was right. I did not feel too hot months later. The weight of my decision crashed down. It was a good decision. Just not executed correctly. I left with a dramatic flair because I was crashing inside, screaming inside while on the outside I looked like I had it all. Many people would call it a nervous breakdown. But at the time, I did not realize I had one.

When you are running life on extreme amounts of stress, whether it is from external circumstances, like events beyond your control, or internally-generated, your brain goes into survival mode. You become highly reactive and blow up at the tiniest things or you freeze and feel nothing. In some cases, you run like me and quit your job. This happened to me many years ago, and I had to work through a lot of “stuff.” I eventually got my master’s degree to become a schoolteacher and became a certified teacher for child and adult yoga.

I also started practicing yoga in a better way than before, with the focus on moving my body with my breath and getting out of my head where most of my anxiety thrives. To be alone with your own thoughts can be scary and overwhelming. Our society makes it easy to stay busy and it’s easier to stay busy than to deal with how we are really feeling.

When COVID first hit, society was on high alert. I was a 6th grade science teacher with four children of my own who suddenly was working from home and checking her kids’ schoolwork. My husband was working for UPS and his job got more demanding. I was on high alert while holding up everyone else’s energy. I am still working through that high alert mode. Most of us still are. Your brain can only handle so much pandemic stress and many of us started to develop “pandemic brain fog” where we became

unfocused, overwhelmed, and distracted. The whole feeling of doing so much and yet doing nothing at all mentality wrecked many of us and still does.

A simple technique has helped shift my mindset to enable calm focus. I started asking myself these two questions before making almost any decision. Try it: Ask yourself in the morning when your mind is most clear. Make sure to inhale through the nose and take a longer exhalation through your mouth to activate your parasympathetic nervous system. Breathe until you feel good and then ask yourself:

Are you making this decision because it’s something that you genuinely want to do or is it because you only want to tell people about it or share your accomplishment? The whole... “Hey, look over here! Aren’t I amazing?!” attitude.

Are you making a social media post, text, etc. as a knee-jerk reaction to someone else’s accomplishment because you feel jealous or inadequate?

I asked myself these simple but tough questions. Total transparency. I got some answers that I didn’t like, and I reevaluated what I chose to do in my work. I got out of the headspace that if I didn’t say yes to everything then I would be forgotten.

As we ease back into this world, ask yourself these questions. Have those hard conversations with yourself. Forgive yourself if you get answers that shock you. Step through it and take one step at a time. And, if you are like me, one of those steps might just bring you to your very first yoga practice.

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“The best political, social, and spiritual work we can do is to withdraw the projection of our shadow onto others.”

—C.G. Jung (CW 10: “Civilization in Transition”)

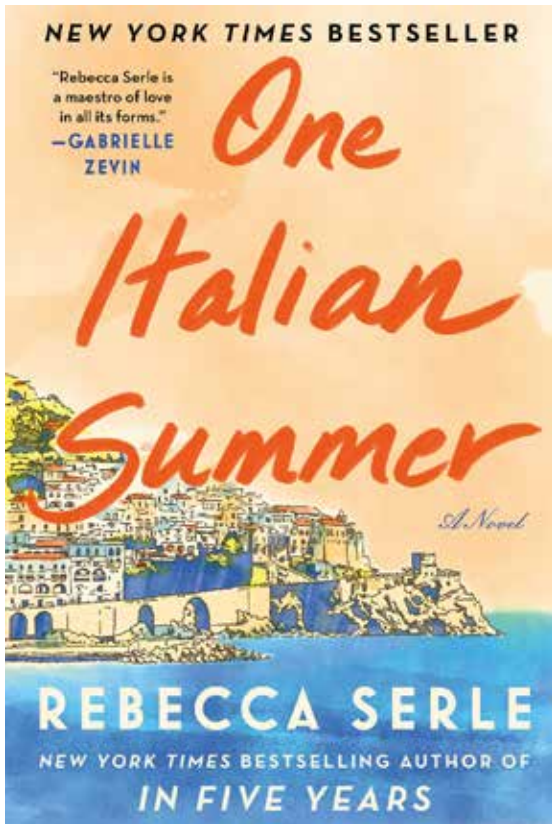
Cathryn Polonchak LCSW
Psychotherapist & Jungian Analyst

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PERSPECTIVE // BOOK REVIEW

A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY IN ITALY



One Italian Summer, by Rebecca Serle, Atria Books (2022)

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.

ONE ITALIAN SUMMER IS A LOVE LETTER to mothers, written through the lens of a grieving daughter. As the novel begins, thirty year-old Katy has just lost her mother, Carol, to cancer. Carol was the great “love of her life,” and Katy does not know who she is without her. Doubting everything, she leaves her marriage and heads to Positano, on Italy’s Amalfi Coast. It was a trip she had planned to take with Carol, for whom Positano was “a special Mecca where she played before she became a wife and mother.” Now, Katy wants to see for herself what her mother loved “before she loved me.” But what Katy does not know yet is that this magical town will give Carol back to her, in the flesh — only, a thirty-year old version of her that Katy will befriend. By transforming what she thinks she knows about the woman who

became her mother, Katy herself will get her life back.

Carol was the “best person alive” who (unlike Katy) seemed to know everything. But Katy is also angry, because “she made me in her image, but she forgot the most important part. She forgot that one day she’d leave, that she already had, and then I’d be left with nothing. When you’re just a reflection, what happens when the image vanishes?”

The novel is ultimately about how Katy’s friendship with her mother’s younger self forces a reckoning with her lack of agency in her own life. Thirty year-old Carol in Positano is quite unlike the older woman Katy knew. This Carol is free-spirited, playful, a woman dreaming of getting a job designing the interior of one of Positano’s most famous hotels. As Katy says, “I look at Carol now, a crisp white linen dress on, her sandals tied, ready to have the meeting of her dreams — and I don’t see my mother. I see a woman. A woman fresh into a new decade who wants a life of her own. Who has interests and desires and passions beyond my father and me. Who is very real, exactly as she is right here and now.” In recognizing her mother’s humanity — her fallibility and her individuality — Katy learns to forgive herself.

Even if Katy’s transformation does not move you, the descriptions of Positano and the surrounding Amalfi coast — not to mention the lavish food and wine descriptions — will make you want to pack up and head to Italy immediately. All is forgiven in this place. Lateness, unexpected kisses, tipsiness from too much wine and sun — all are chalked up to one phrase and a shrug of the shoulders: “It’s Italy.” The setting is like a character in itself, prodding the others into more authentic versions of themselves. It feels like a place out of time, which, as it turns out, it truly is. Much of the story is set in and around the Hotel Poseidon, a real place where the author herself stayed. It made such an impression on her that she decided to feature it in her book, alongside more well-known stops such as La Sireneuse, the Path of the Gods, La Tagliata, Chez Black, and San Pietro.

The setting lights up this novel despite some of its heavier themes. At the end, you will still feel sad — Katy does not, after all, escape the magnitude or the finality of her loss. You can feel her grief, how daunting and demanding it is. And yet, Katy finds herself ready to reconcile herself to the experience rather than flee it entirely, choosing to live the love and the loss rather than hide from that which cannot be ignored.

IN THE GARDEN

Garden Allies, by Frederique Lavoipierre

Timber Press (2021) \$24.95



Garden Allies is an engaging, illustrated introduction to the beneficial insects, birds, and other animals that help a garden thrive. The creatures that inhabit our yards and gardens are overwhelmingly on our side — they are our allies. They pollinate our flowers and vegetable crops, and they keep pests in check. Lavoipierre shows how these valuable creatures keep the garden’s ecology in balance and includes helpful information on how to nurture and welcome them into your garden.

The Heirloom Gardener, by John Forti

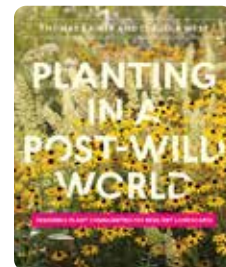
Timber Press (2021) \$27.50



An A-to-Z compilation of traditional gardening skills and heirloom plants, nostalgically illustrated with wood block art. Modern life is a cornucopia of technological wonders. But is something precious being lost? A tangible bond with our natural world? The deep satisfaction of connecting to the earth that was enjoyed by previous generations? Forti celebrates gardening as a craft and shares the lore and traditional practices that link us with our environment and with each other.

Planting in a Post-Wild World, by Thomas Rainer & Claudia West

Timber Press (2015) \$39.95



This groundbreaking guide presents a powerful alternative to traditional horticulture: designed plantings that function like naturally occurring plant communities. Thomas Rainer and Claudia West, two leading voices in ecological landscape design, reveal how plants fit together in nature and how to use this knowledge to create landscapes that are resilient, beautiful, and diverse. As practical as it is inspiring, this book is an optimistic manifesto for the post-wild world of planting design.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY

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REELING IN BIG FISH — AND BIG TALES

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.

MY ONLY ENCOUNTER with a muskellunge happened long ago. Crossing a big beaver dam in Black Moshannon State Park in central Pennsylvania one early spring evening, I stopped short just as a long, dark shape shot away through a sunlit patch of water. The instant before it disappeared into the dark water beyond, I glimpsed its duck-billed head and sharply forked tail. It was the biggest fish I'd ever seen alive.

The largest member of the pike family, *Esox masquinongy* got the name muskellunge from an Ojibway expression meaning “big fish.” True to its name, a musky grows bigger than any other fish in its habitat. It's aggressively predatory and once it achieves adult size its only enemies are humans and large birds of prey, such as bald eagles. Once restricted to the lakes and inland waterways of eastern Canada and the states surrounding the Great Lakes, muskies (or muskie — when it comes to fish there are



Kyle Mullenix with his record Maryland catch. The fish did not survive the fight, but state biologists requested samples of its scales and bone from the fisherman's taxidermist, in order to determine the muskie's age (photo courtesy of Kyle Mullenix).

differing opinions about everything) have been widely introduced elsewhere and now range in lakes and rivers throughout the northeastern states, and in certain waters as far south as Tennessee and South Carolina.

Muskies are a sport fisher's favorite. One fishing guide's motto is, “Muskies — all other fish are just bait.” Known as “the fish of ten-thousand casts,” they're unpredictable and difficult to take on a lure. Once hooked, they put up a terrific fight. While many “fish stories” about big muskies are greatly exaggerated, truly big individuals approach five feet and weigh close to fifty pounds. Historically, muskies eight feet long have been reported but aren't verifiable. Even so, reports of even bigger ones keep coming in.

Two local fishermen have caught record-setting muskies this year. Kyle Mullenix, a 32-year-old lifelong angler from Hagerstown, said he's spent decades trying to catch a muskie. Using a 7-foot spinning rod and live bait on March 2, 2022, his luck changed. He caught a lunker muskie from the banks of the Upper Potomac River that weighed 33 pounds and was 49 inches long. The Maryland DNR confirmed it was a state record. The previous Maryland state record was a 32.5-pound Muskie caught by another Washington County resident, Tessa Cosens.

Then on March 19, 2022, Lucas King of Burnsville, West Virginia, caught a 51-pound muskie that was 55 inches long. Using a Hell Hound plastic lure with a 100-pound test braided line and a 175-pound test wire leader, King was fishing on a DNR public fishing area on the bank of Little Kanawha River in the tailwater section of Burnsville Dam. King released his muskie after it was officially measured and weighed by WVDNR assistant fisheries biologist Aaron Yeager. This beat the previous Mountain State record set by Chase Gibson's 54-inch muskie weighing 40.5 pounds.

At the time of this writing, Virginia's state record muskellunge is a 45-pound, 8-ounce muskie that fisherman Shannon Hill hauled out of the New River on June 1, 2007.

While it's honorable and good sportsmanship to release such big fish after they've been caught, this isn't always possible. And most fisheries biologists recommend removing those big muskies so that more fish of other species can survive.

I'm no diehard fisherman but I find it fascinating to think about the muskellunge I saw in Pennsylvania. By now it would be more than 20 years older and could be much bigger than anything ever caught before, lurking in some corner of that lake.

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PUBLIC FISHING SPOTS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

>>> PAGE 8 <<<

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PERSPECTIVE // HISTORY

BUILDING THE SHEPHERDSTOWN OPERA HOUSE



Shepherdstown Opera House circa 1910 with new sidewalk. Heating was by coal stoves and plumbing was “out back.” Telegraph lines running into the building were used to report on the 1912 election results.

AN “OPERA HOUSE” SOUNDS like a civilized place for entertainment — exactly what towns and cities across the United States were intending when they built these new types of venues to attract the itinerant performers who were criss-crossing the country after the Civil War. The term “vaudeville” would eventually stick as a general term for the popular performance of this era and between the 1870s and 1920s, citizens across the country could attend shows featuring a broad variety of acts — a one-man band, traveling repertoire troops, jugglers, magicians, singers, lecturers — and by the early 20th century, traveling silent film projectionists.

A Nationwide Entertainment Network

Author Anne Satterthwaite chronicles the rise and fall of the main street opera house from the 1870s through the 1920s in her book *Local Glories*. It was a good run, with some western gold/silver boom towns hosting palatial theaters seating thousands and regular circuits competing for the top performers such as Sara Bernhardt, Harry Houdini, John Philip Sousa, and Mark Twain. Opera houses brought a national culture of popular entertainment to

many small towns in an era when railroad travel coast to coast was easy, but getting one town over was still done by horse or on foot.

With the rollout of talking films at the end of the 1920s, opera houses gave way to “movie palaces,” many designed with exotic themes and lavish seating. Fast forward to the present and the number of functioning opera houses, once counted in the thousands, can now be compiled to fit on a single page.

Shepherdstown Gets Its Opera House

Upton Scott Martin purchased the property for Shepherdstown’s Opera House in December 1909; there was a small wood house which he had torn down and the Opera House was ready for shows by June of 1910. There was no plumbing or electricity provided, so construction was a bit simpler back then. Up the street, Jefferson Security Bank still occupied the Billmyer building (today’s Admiral Analog’s record store) and Licklider’s general store was next door (the current Press Room restaurant). Trains stopped at the Norfolk & Western train station and the Volunteer Fire Company still occupied the old market house in the center of King Street. The Entler Hotel was doing a thriving business (and not yet consumed by the 1912 fire).

The first few years saw a rotating cast of performers at the Opera House, including several of the town police officers who purchased a hand-cranked projector to show motion picture shows in the “family theater.” Various local organizations held “chaperoned dances” for youth upstairs. When Clifford S. Musser needed a space for the offices and printing equipment for his new *Independent* newspaper, he became the first permanent tenant of the Opera House in March 1914. All of his equipment was hand-operated (and hand-carried to the third floor). In May of that year Musser, with his wife Ada, took on the theater operations too. By April 1915, the Mussers had moved into a newly constructed apartment suite on the second floor, ultimately purchasing the entire building in 1926.

The Musser family ran the theater until May of 1957 and the newspaper until 1974 (which had by then expanded into the Licklider building next door). The theater sat, dark and untouched, into the late 1980s until it was refurbished and reopened in the early 1990s by Rusty and Pam Berry. The entire building is currently undergoing renovation with plans to open in the summer of 2022.

Learn more about the Shepherdstown Opera House past and present at the *Historic Shepherdstown Museum’s Speaker Series event on May 11 (see calendar page 14)*. 📍

Back Alley Tour & Tea
May 21 & 22, 2022

Enjoy a self-guided tour of Shepherdstown’s most beautiful gardens and high tea at the War Memorial Building

Purchase tickets at Four Seasons Books, Grapes and Grains Gourmet, German Street Marketplace Coffee & Candlerly, the Shepherdstown Sweet Shop, and online at BackAlleyGarden.org

B&Bs IN SHEPHERDSTOWN
>>> PAGE 9 <<<

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EXPLORE // EVENT CALENDAR

Visit WEARETHEOBSERVER.COM/EVENTS-ACTIVITIES for more events.

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

▶▶▶ LOOK FOR ADDITIONAL EVENT DETAILS IN SPOTLIGHTS AND ARTICLES

MAY EVENTS

MAY 1 (SAT) — MAY DAY CELEBRATION in Shepherdstown · Starts at noon on McMurrin Lawn (downtown Shepherdstown) · Traditional Maypole weaving, dancing & singing. Audience participation encouraged, colorful clothing suggested · FREE · Web: SMAD.us

MAY 6 (FRI) — PLANT SALE BY ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY of Jefferson County · 1 - 6 pm at Domino's Pizza parking lot, 8309 Martinsburg Pike, Shepherdstown · A variety of plants & AWS merchandise for sale to support the welfare society · Web: AWSJC.org

MAY 6 (FRI) — FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE IN CHARLES TOWN · 5 - 9 pm in downtown Charles Town · DJ, crafts, photo booth · FREE · FB: @CharlesTownNow

MAY 6 (FRI) — THE MINE WARS FILM at Shepherd University · 7 pm at Reynolds Hall (King St, Shepherdstown) · FREE ▶▶▶ SEE EVENT SPOTLIGHT ON PAGE 18

MAY 7 (SAT) — PLANT SALE BY POTOMAC-MECKLENBURG GARDEN CLUB · 9 - noon at Trinity Episcopal Church, Shepherdstown · Perennials, herbs, natives, deer-resistant plants. Proceeds to support community projects · FB: Potomac-Mecklenburg Garden

MAY 10 & 11 (TUE & WED) — SPEAK STORIES PRESENTS KUNIKO YAMAMOTO · 7:30 pm at Emma Ora Byrd Auditorium, 301 N King St, Shepherdstown (University) · Web: SpeakStorySeries.com ▶▶▶ SEE EVENT SPOTLIGHT ON PAGE 18

MAY 11 (WED) — HISTORIC SHEPHERDSTOWN MUSEUM SPEAKER SERIES · 7 pm at the Byrd Center auditorium, 213 N King St, Shepherdstown (University). Topic: The Shepherdstown Opera House · FREE · Web: HistoricShepherdstown.com

▶▶▶ SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 13

MAY 11 (WED) — SHEPHERDSTOWN FILM SOCIETY · 7 pm at Reynolds Hall, 109 N King St, Shepherdstown (University). Feature: "Blinded by the Light" (USA, 2019, 118 minutes, directed by Gurinder Chadha, PG), the story of what happens when a poor teenager brought up in a traditional Pakistani family in 1980's England encounters Bruce Springsteen for the first time.

MAY 13 (FRI) — MINE WARS CONCERT · 7:30 pm at the Old Opera House, Charles Town ▶▶▶ SEE EVENT SPOTLIGHT ON PAGE 18

MAY 13-15 (FRI-SUN) — FRIENDS OF SHEPHERDSTOWN LIBRARY ANNUAL BOOK SALE · Fri 6 - 8 pm, Sat 10 am - 4 pm, Sun 10 am - 2 pm · Admission \$15 on Friday, FREE Sat & Sun · Volunteers needed to help sort and set up · Web: FoslWV.org

▶▶▶ SEE EVENT SPOTLIGHT ON PAGE 19

MAY 14 (SAT) — GARDEN FEST & PLANT SALE · 10 am - 3 pm at WVU Extension office, 67 Apple Harvest Dr, Kearneysville WV · Local master gardeners group offering locally-propagated plants for sale · FB: @BJEMGA

MAY 14 (SAT) — KIDZFEST IN WINCHESTER · noon - 5 pm in downtown Winchester VA · A riot of activities for kids, including origami lessons, giant chess, Irish dancing, art & theater participation activities, clown shows · FREE · FB: @OldTownWinchesterVA

MAY 20 (FRI) — BLUEGRASS JAM hosted by Ben TownsendFriday · 7 - 10 pm at Inkwell's Tavern, 200 W Washington St, Charles Town · FB: @Inkwell'sTavern

MAY 20 (FRI) — SHEPHERDSTOWN FILM SOCIETY · 7 pm at Reynolds Hall, 109 N King St, Shepherdstown (University). Feature: "Snowpiercer" (USA, 2013, 130 minutes, R). Class struggles break out among the last survivors on earth as they ride around the globe on a train called Snowpiercer.

MAY 21 & 22 (SAT, SUN) — SHEPHERDSTOWN BACK ALLEY GARDEN TOUR & TEA · 10 am - 4 pm both days · Hosted by the Shepherdstown Community Club · Walking garden tours and high tea in the War Memorial Building ballroom (102 E German St, Shepherdstown). Proceeds to benefit Shepherdstown Community Club. Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 event day. Info: BackAlleyGarden.org



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EXPLORE // EVENT CALENDAR

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](https://supporting.afsp.org/campaign/Grapple4Life)

MAY 28 (SAT) — MARTINSBURG WINE FEST · 11 am - 6 pm in downtown Martinsburg (600 block S Queen St) · FB: [@MainStreetMartinsburgWV](https://www.facebook.com/MainStreetMartinsburgWV)

MAY 28 (SAT) — ORIGAMI IN THE GARDEN at Museum of the Shenandoah Valley · exhibition open daily through Nov 2022 (see web for hours & special events) · Admission \$15, \$10 youth & seniors, \$5 kids · Web: [TheMSV.org](https://www.themsv.org)

JUNE EVENTS

JUN 4 (SAT) — BARK IN THE PARK · 10 am - 2 pm at Jefferson Memorial Park (Forrest Ave, Charles Town) · Walk-a-thon with your dog to raise funds for Animal Welfare Society of Jefferson County (registration \$10/dog, at 9:30 am). Prizes, vendors & demonstrations · FREE · Web: [AWSJC.org](https://www.awsjc.org)

JUN 4 (SAT) — RANSON FEST & CAR SHOW · 10 am - 4 pm downtown Ranson · Music, craft vendors, food & drink, family friendly · FREE · FB: [@RansonCVB](https://www.facebook.com/RansonCVB)

JUN 4 (SAT) — WE ARE ALL PRIDE · 10 am - 4 pm downtown Martinsburg · All-inclusive community event with music, vendors, food & drink, family friendly · FREE · FB: [@EasternPanhandleWVPride](https://www.facebook.com/EasternPanhandleWVPride)

JUN 11 (SAT) — DOG FEST IN SHEPHERDSTOWN · noon - 6 pm in front of Town Hall (100 block King St) & Shepherd University campus · Rescue adoption pageant, dog skill & agility demonstrations, music, vendors, food & drink · FREE · FB: [@ShepherdstownDogFest](https://www.facebook.com/ShepherdstownDogFest)

JUN 18 (SAT) — WV FEST IN CHARLES TOWN · All Day in downtown Charles Town (streets closed to traffic) · Music, vendors, food, activities · FREE · FB: [@CharlesTownNow](https://www.facebook.com/CharlesTownNow)

JUN 25 (SAT) — STREET FEST IN SHEPHERDSTOWN · 9:30 am - 8:30 pm in downtown Shepherdstown (streets closed to traffic) · Music (2 stages), vendors, artisans, food, beer garden, kids activities, family-friendly · FREE · FB: [@ShepTownStreetFest](https://www.facebook.com/ShepTownStreetFest)

JUN 25 (SAT) — SUMMERTIME AT THE MILL · 10 am - 6 pm at Shenandoah Planing Mill, Charles town (471 Cold Storage Rd) · Music, artisan demonstrations, local artists, food & drink, kids activities, family-friendly · FREE · FB: [@SPMWV](https://www.facebook.com/SPMWV)

JULY EVENTS

JUL 3 (SUN) — ROCKIN' INDEPENDENCE EVE IN WINCHESTER · 2 pm - 11 pm in downtown Winchester VA · Family-friendly event with music & activities · FREE · FB: [@OldTownWinchesterVA](https://www.facebook.com/OldTownWinchesterVA)

JUL 4 (MON) — INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE & PICNIC IN SHEPHERDSTOWN · Parade starts at 11 am and marches down German Street (streets closed to traffic beginning at 8 am) · Free parking at University lots · Picnic noon - 3 pm at Morgan's Grove Park with live music, hot dogs, hamburgers & drinks for sale · FREE · Organized by Shepherdstown Rotary Club FB: [@Shepherdstown4thOfJulyParadeAndPicnic](https://www.facebook.com/Shepherdstown4thOfJulyParadeAndPicnic)

JUL 8 - JUL 31 — CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN THEATER FESTIVAL [SEE AD >>>](#)
 Previews Jul 3 - Jul 7, Opening weekend Jul 8 - 10 · Various locations in Shepherdstown & Shepherd University · Full schedule & tickets at [CATF.org](https://www.catf.org)

FARMERS MARKETS (WEEKLY)

SHEPHERDSTOWN, Sundays 9 am - 1 pm (from Mar 20), downtown (behind the old market house). FB [@ShepherdstownFarmersMarket](https://www.facebook.com/ShepherdstownFarmersMarket)

CHARLES TOWN, Saturdays 9 am - noon (from Apr 9), downtown (100 block of Samuel St). FB: [Charles Town Farmers Market WV](https://www.facebook.com/CharlesTownFarmersMarketWV)

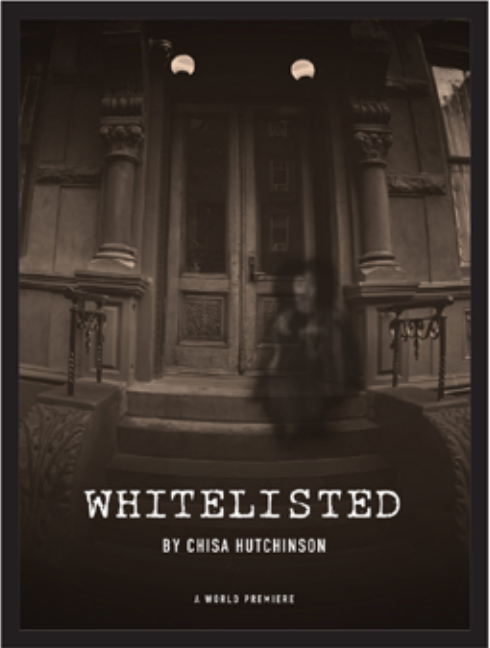
MARTINSBURG, Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm (from May 7, downtown (100 block West Martin St). FB: [@MartinsburgFarmersMarket](https://www.facebook.com/MartinsburgFarmersMarket)

MARTINSBURG, Sundays 9 am - 1 pm (from May 15), Martinsburg Plaza (605 Winchester Ave). FB: [Southside Farmers Market](https://www.facebook.com/SouthsideFarmersMarket)

A Haunting Comedy

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A WORLD PREMIERE BY CHISA HUTCHINSON



Rebecca Burgess moves into a brownstone, renovates it, and simultaneously refuses to embrace her neighbors. In all her gentrifying glory, Rebecca is just living her life when weird, supernatural sh*t starts happening, for no reason that she can think of. But, of course, the fact that she can't think of the reason is probably why it's happening. Chisa Hutchinson is serving up her usual quick-witted words and otherworldly images. So, get ready for a haunting - and hunting!

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2022 SEASON:
 JULY 8 - 31

CONVERSATIONS, COMMUNITY, CONNECTIONS

The Contemporary American Theater Festival is more than just the plays on stage. It's lectures, discussions, and events throughout Shepherdstown. It's also the conversations that spark up between the audience after the shows and over meals. The Festival creates its own community for a few short weeks, but lives on in the enduring community that calls itself Shepherdstown. Both look forward to the old and new friends who have a chance again to visit and add to these conversations.

EXPLORE // COMMUNITY EVENT SPOTLIGHTS

4TH OF JULY PARADE — CALL FOR MARCHERS

Mark your calendar for the return of the **Independence Day parade & picnic in Shepherdstown**. The parade starts at 11 am and marches down German Street (marchers will begin to assemble at 8 am). The picnic is noon to 3 pm at **Morgan's Grove Park** with live music, hot dogs, hamburgers & drinks for sale. Organized by Shepherdstown Rotary Club.

For updates and contact info: FB: @Shepherdstown4thOfJulyParadeAndPicnic.



VETERANS ON THE RIVER

Shepherd University's **Team River Runner** chapter is beginning its 10th season **supporting veterans' recovery** from combat, reintegration into post-combat life, and overall good health. All veterans are invited to participate in activities with a supportive community of local paddlers.



Upcoming events include **Sunday Family Days at Calleva Outdoors** (Poolesville, MD), beginning May 1, 2-5 pm, offering **flat and whitewater paddling**. **Basic kayaking lessons** the first Wednesday of each month from 6-8 pm in the Suzanne Shipley Wellness Center at Shepherd University pool beginning May 4.

See web & FB for other whitewater instruction, weekend paddle/camp trips, regional skill/leadership clinics, and kayak instruction courses.

Web: Shepherd.edu/veterans/trr-shepherd,
 FB: @TeamRiverRunnerShepherd,
 Email: Tracy Seffers (chapter coordinator) Shepherd@TeamRiverRunner.org.

POTOMAC VALLEY AUDUBON COUNTS THE BIRDS

A friendly, team competition to see who can count as many species as possible at **Cool Spring Preserve** in a one-week period. Participants register as a team (1-4 individuals). You pick a day and time (or multiple days and times) between May 1 and May 7 to meet up with your team to bird at Cool Spring Preserve. Keep track of all birds observed, both species and number. All lists matter and **contribute to our knowledge and record keeping of the birds of Cool Spring**. The team that observes the most bird species will win a watercolor or pencil artwork courtesy of Dana Wyatt Art.

Info/Register: PotomacAudubon.org (> events).



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**NEW Shepherdstown Public Library
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 Hosted by the Library's Garden Stewards

Saturday, May 21, 10 - 6
Sunday, May 22, 9 - 4

During the annual **Back Alley Tea and Tour**, learn about the oasis that is being created at the **new Shepherdstown Public Library**

Evolve Shepherdstown, 106 West German
 (next to the Sweet Shop)

EXPLORE // ART SPOTLIGHTS

BENITA KELLER AT BRIDGE GALLERY >>>

The Bridge Gallery (8566 Shepherdstown Pike, Shepherdstown) will present a **retrospective of the works of Benita Keller** April 30 - May 29. The exhibit, a curatorial collaboration by Kestrel Keller, Natoma Vargason and Kathryn Burns, will be an intimate look into the lifetime collection of images, themes and artistic explorations of this local artist and teacher. Works will include early landscapes as well as circus prints, dark room photos, digital prints, portraits, activist and collage work each grouped to create a narrative relating to chosen themes. Framed and unframed prints by the artist will be available for sale.

Attend the opening reception for the exhibit on April 30 from 4-7 pm. FB: @TheBridgeGallery.

DRAW ON THE STREET — CALL FOR ARTISTS

The City of Charles Town is organizing a temporary **street mural project** to provide a paid opportunity for local artists and celebrate events in June including **West Virginia Day, Juneteenth, and Pride**. The mural will consist of nine, 16-foot wide, 5-pointed stars running down the center of the 100 block of North Charles Street (downtown) in three groups of three stars. The mural will be on display through June and will be removed in July.

The application is open to all active professional and emerging visual artists, with preference will be given to those local to Jefferson County. Artist application at CharlesTownNow.com/street-mural. Questions: contact Julie Philabaum 304-224-3190, jphilabaum@charlestownwv.us.



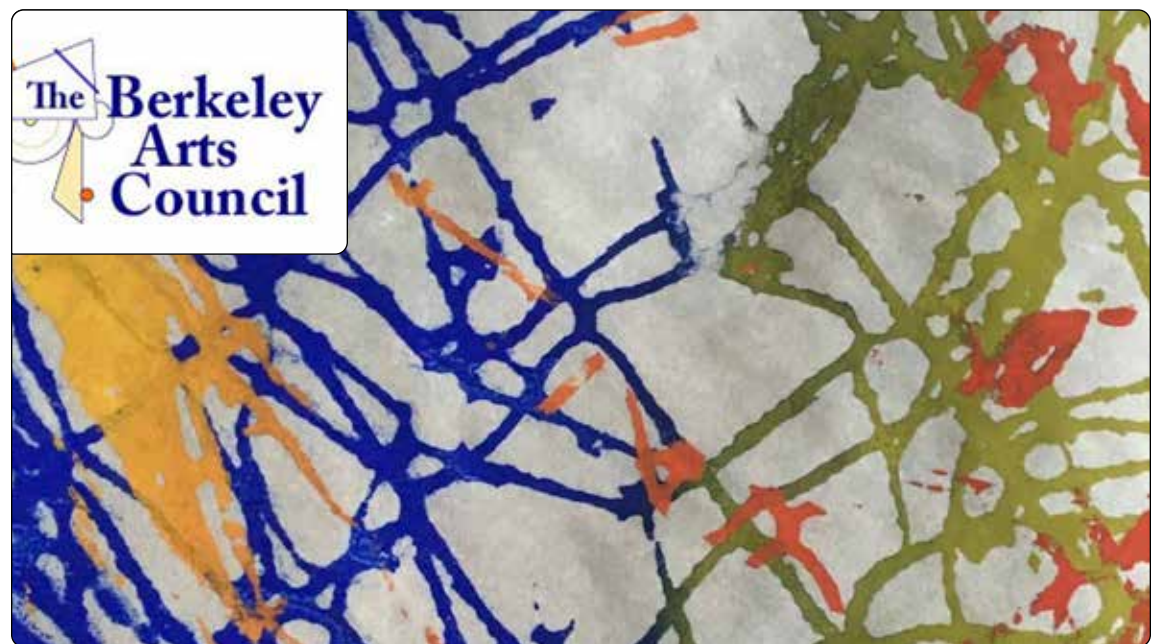
The Bridge Gallery
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Benita Keller
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April 30 - May 29

An intimate look into the lifetime collection of images, themes and artistic explorations of dedicated artist and teacher, Benita Keller.

8566 Shepherdstown Pike
Shepherdstown, West Virginia 25443

304-876-2300 | BridgeGalleryAndFraming.com



BERKELEY ARTS COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

Interested in learning new art techniques? The Berkeley Arts Council is offering a couple of workshops this month. **Let's Make a Japanese Stab Binding Journal** will construct a hinged journal to learn a technique called Japanese Stab Binding; May 13 (Fri), 10 am - 3 pm, tuition \$45. **Collage for Self Discovery** is a guided exercise in self-awareness, accessing your inner mind and innate wisdom, based on the "Soul Collage" technique; May 21 (Sat), 1 - 3 pm, tuition FREE.

Classes are held at the Berkeley Art Works, 116 N. Queen Street, Martinsburg. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination and masks required. Classes will be set up for distancing and space is limited. Pre-registration is required: BerkeleyArtsWV.org/instruction.

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ThePedalPaddle.com

MORE EVENTS >>> PAGE 18 & 19

EXPLORE // STORYTELLING AND HISTORY SPOTLIGHTS



In the spring of 1922, twenty-four coal miners were jailed and tried for treason against the State of West Virginia at the Jefferson County Courthouse after their attempts to unionize culminated in the **Battle of Blair Mountain** that took place over five days in August 1921.

That battle was a landmark event in United States history when coal mining families in southern West Virginia joined the United Mine Workers of America and rose up against a cruel system created and controlled by the mine owners. This system denied them civil rights enjoyed by citizens elsewhere in the country.

See *Calendar* (pages 14-15) for details about multiple events marking this historic anniversary. FB: *Shepherd University Lifelong Learning Program*.

MAGICAL STORIES FROM JAPAN

Speak Storytelling presents storyteller **Kuniko Yamamoto** in performance on May 10 & 11 (Tue & Wed), 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

The May 10 program will be both online and in person. The May 11 performance will be in-person only.

Yamamoto's program is entitled "**Magical Mask, Mime, and Music of Japan.**" A native of Japan, she came to the United States in 1985. Her stories promote cross-cultural communication and understanding. Japanese traditional folktales are combined with musical instruments, magical masks, origami and mime to create a spell-binding experience.

Tickets are \$15 (free for season ticket holders), available online at SpeakStorySeries.com.

Speak Stories performances are for adult audiences, mature youth allowed at guardian's discretion. Email info@speakstoryseries.com for more information.

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EXPLORE // COMMUNITY EVENT SPOTLIGHTS



GIANT BOOK SALE

The **Friends of Shepherdstown Library Annual Book Sale** Returns May 13-15, 2022. Browse thousands of books for sale at the War Memorial Building in Shepherdstown (102 E German Street).

This is your chance to find the book you've always meant to read – or the surprise find you never knew you needed. Find bargains galore on hard covers, soft covers, paper backs, children's books, special collections, and more, with all proceeds to support the Shepherdstown Public Library.

Volunteers are also needed to help unpack, sort and display the books on the days before the event. FB: Friends of Shepherdstown Library. See Calendar (pages 14-15) for event details.

BYRD CENTER LAWN CONCERT & BBQ FUNDRAISER

Two of West Virginia's most decorated pickers, Johnny Staats and Robert Shafer, will play at this event to support the **Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education**. Joining them on stage will be **State Poet Laureate Marc Harshman**.



This fundraising event will be held at the historic Patterson's Mill on June 11 (Sat), 6 - 8 pm. Proceeds to benefit the Byrd Center's civics education initiatives. Tickets are \$150/person (\$130 is a tax-deductible donation). Ticket & sponsor info: ByrdCenter.org/tickets-and-sponsorship.html



DOGFEST RETURNS TO SHEPHERDSTOWN

Get ready for lots of tail-wagging and pooh-smooching on **June 11 (Sat) in Shepherdstown**. DogFest will kick off with a red carpet parade of rescue animals at noon. **Music, vendors, food, adoption events** and other demonstration activities throughout the day on King Street in front of town hall and on the Shepherd University midway. Always a dog-friendly town, Shepherdstown's many restaurants and merchants will participate with their own unique treats and special offers for owners and dogs alike.

Volunteers welcome. FB: @ShepherdstownDogFest.



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LIVE MUSIC EVENTS >>> PAGE 20

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EXPLORE // LIVE MUSIC RETURNS



(Above) Jayne O'Hara will be a regular performer on Thursday and Friday nights at the Bavarian Inn's Rathskeller (details below). O'Hara had put aside her thoughts of a professional music career after college to become a teacher. Recently retired from teaching and working as a hostess in the main dining room at the Bavarian Inn, she made a pitch to play when she heard the Rathskeller was reopening. O'Hara has a broad repertoire and will challenge patrons to "name that tune" when she plays innovative covers of popular songs.

Each month brings more options for live music in and around Jefferson County. Email us at Connect@WeAreTheObserver.com to recommend a venue or an upcoming performance.

BARN OF HARPERS FERRY — IRISH & OLD TYME JAM SESSIONS · Wed, 6 - 9 pm, weekly · 1062 W Washington St, Harpers Ferry WV · FB: HFEEventBarn

BROAD AXE — WEEKLY JAZZ JAM · Thu, 8 - 10 pm, weekly · 28 W Franklin St, Hagerstown MD · FB: @BroadAxeLive

RATHSKELLER AT BAVARIAN INN RESORT — PIANO - a mix of classic, contemporary & original · Thu/Fri/Sat, 6:30 - 9:30 pm, weekly · 164 Shepherd Grade Rd, Shepherdstown WV · FB: @TheBavarianInn


BARN OF HARPERS FERRY — ROTATING PERFORMERS lineup posts on Facebook · Fri & Sat, 8 - 10 pm, weekly · 1062 W Washington St, Harpers Ferry WV · FB: HFEEventBarn

INKWELL'S TAVERN — BLUEGRASS, COUNTRY, ROCK · Fri & Sat, 7 - 10 pm, weekly · bluegrass, country, rock · FB: @InkwellsTavern

ORR'S FARM MARKET — BLUEGRASS · Sat, noon - 5 pm, weekly starting May 21 · 682 Orr Dr, Martinsburg WV · Web: OrrsFarmMarket.com

RAINBOW ROAD CLUB — ROCKABILLY & COUNTRY · Sat, 9 pm - 2 am, weekly, \$10 cover · 137 Berryville Pike (Rt 340), Charles Town WV · FB: RainbowRoad340

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