

The WV INDEPENDENT Observer

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

JUNE 2024

COMMUNITY

Jefferson County Fair Offers Many Options To Participate & Help
4

ARTS & CULTURE

Contemporary American Theater Festival Shows New Plays In July
5

PLANNING

Residents Voice Strong Concerns About Land Use Map Changes
6

PLANNING

Shepherdstown Cuts Across Boundaries To Create Community
8

PLANNING

Study Looks At Future Transmission Line Paths
9

ENGAGE & EXPLORE

Street Festivals • Pride Events • Summer Reading • On Stage • Local Government



Mark June 29 on your calendar for Street Fest, which always draws a crowd to downtown Shepherdstown for music and fun

FOR MORE FEATURES, COMMUNITY NEWS, AND LOCAL EVENTS, VISIT [OBSERVERWV.COM](https://www.observerwv.com)

WVUMedicine
WELCOME



WVUMedicine.org

WVU Medicine is pleased to introduce 10 new providers who have joined University Health Associates-East and our medical staffs at Berkeley Medical Center and Jefferson Medical Center.

FRANK COLLINS MD



General Surgery
*General Surgery –
 Martinsburg*
 304.596.2150

RILEY CRAIG PA-C



Emergency Medicine
*Emergency Medicine –
 Martinsburg*
 304.264.1000

SARAH CROSS PA-C



Plastic Surgery
*Plastic & Reconstructive Sur-
 gery – Martinsburg*
 304.350.3274

TAMEKA DAWKINS PMHNP



Behavioral Medicine & Psychiatry
*Behavioral Medicine &
 Psychiatry – Martinsburg*
 304.596.5780

JEREMY HENSLEY MD



Family Medicine
Primary Care – Pendleton
 304.596.6343

KEVIN HURTT MD



General Surgery
*General Surgery –
 Martinsburg*
 304.596.2150

GREGORY JARANKO NP



Urgent Care
Urgent Care - Spring Mills
 304.274.2273

ANGELA SEVERANCE CRNA



Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
Berkeley Medical Center
 304.264.1000

STEPHANIE SHERWOOD DNP



Endocrinology
*Endocrinology –
 Martinsburg*
 304.596.5038

IHOUMA UDEAGHA PMHNP



Behavioral Medicine & Psychiatry
*Behavioral Medicine &
 Psychiatry – Martinsburg*
 304.596.5780

STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF

STEVE PEARSON

Editor@WeAreTheObserver.com

MANAGING EDITOR

CATHERINE PEZZARO

PUBLISHER

HARRIET PEARSON

BUSINESS MANAGER

LESLIE DAVISSON

FOR ADVERTISING

Email: SALES@

WeAreTheObserver.com

Phone: 304-249-8968

Ad deadline is 15th of each month

CONTACT US

Share your photos, story ideas, questions, and comments.

Email: CONNECT@

WeAreTheObserver.com

THE OBSERVER ONLINE

Web: ObserverWV.com

Facebook: @WVObserver

Copyright © 2024

WV Independent Observer LLC

131 West German Street

PO Box 3088

Shepherdstown WV 25443

Printed by FNP Printing,

Frederick, MD.

THIS PAPER WANTS TO BE RECYCLED. 



Vintage tractors on display at the 2022 Jefferson County Fair

TO OUR READERS — It’s definitely summertime when you see people dancing in the streets. Charles Town celebrates with WV Fest on June 15 and Shepherdstown has its Streetfest on June 29. Both draw large crowds, which just adds to the energy and excitement.

The crowd at Jefferson High School on May 13 was pretty energetic too. The Planning Commission was hoping to hear comments about the draft Future Land Use Map from the public and the 250 residents in attendance certainly obliged (page 4). A petition circulated during and after the meeting garnered over 400 signatures opposing the late addition of a proposed Planned Growth Area around the future Shepherdstown Elementary School — an area surrounded by farmland that has little likelihood of being served by public water and sewer any time soon.

Throughout the process of updating the Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan, there’s been a lot of discussion about preserving the rural character of the county. Early on, the Planning Commission decided to drop a meeting dedicated to the discussion of agriculture, a choice they later reversed in the face of strong concern from the farming community. Turns out there is a lot of interest in preserving the rural character of Jefferson County — not just for the nostalgia and vistas, but as a working productive economy.

The Comprehensive Plan update process is nearing it the end, but there is still time to send in comments. You can find more information about the proposed revisions and how to comment on the draft Future Land Use Map and Comprehensive Plan at ObserverWV.com/Jefferson-Comp-Plan-2024.



Steve Pearson
EDITOR IN CHIEF



PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY SINCE 1969

SKINNER

ACCIDENT & INJURY LAWYERS

CHARLES TOWN • MARTINSBURG • WINCHESTER

304.725.7029 SKINNERWINS.COM



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

// COMMUNITY

JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIR WELCOME ALL

Kids & Adults Can Try Competitions, Contests & Volunteering



THE NIGHTLY CARNIVAL at the Jefferson County Fair is a popular draw, with a mix of rides for both the thrill-seekers and the sedate. For kids who've never set foot on a farm, the show barns are an opportunity to get up close to a variety of goats, sheep, cows, and other animals. If your child participates in 4H or FFA (Future Farmers of America), you no doubt know about the competitions at the fair — important opportunities for local youth to showcase their proficiency in animal husbandry and other agricultural skills.

The animals are hard to miss as you walk in the gates, but if you wander past the display barns to the exhibit buildings, you'll see that the fair has a seemingly endless array of competitions open to any resident of Jefferson County. The list includes baking, vegetables, crafts, and quilting (what used to be essential skills for rural living) along with more artistic pursuits, such as decorative flowers, art, and photography. Most categories are divided into multiple age divisions (with some open to participants as young as 2 years old. All in all, there are plenty of ribbons to be won every year.

If you're not ready to make or grow something to enter into one of the judged categories, you can show up during the fair and enter one of the many fun contests — pudding eating, milk drinking, bubble gum blowing, hay bale tossing, balloon tossing — there's a whole list on the website. No specific expertise needed, just a good attitude and a willingness to get messy. Who knows, you might even set a record, such



The carnival opens each evening with a variety of rides for kids and thrill-seekers, plus lots of skill games and fun food.



There are several categories home gardeners can enter to win a ribbon.

as Mark Kable & Jim Wysong's 111-foot Egg Toss record, which hasn't been beaten since 1994!

The Jefferson County Fair Association is an organization of many volunteers and welcomes help during the August fair as well as year-round. There are a lot of hands-on jobs like ticket-taking and parking assistance and just as many behind the scenes like checking in contestants and helping with office work. It's 2024 so the fair even needs volunteers to help with online marketing and social media. 🗣️

If you're interested in volunteering or exhibiting, visit JeffersonCountyFairWV.org and click "get involved" (top menu). The 2024 fair opens Sunday, Aug 18 and runs through Saturday, Aug 24. Entry drop off day is Saturday, Aug 17. Location: 1707 Old Leetown Pike, Kearneysville, WV.

FRESH, WILD CAUGHT U.S. SEAFOOD

LES & ALP'S JUMBO SEAFOOD

Fridays 9:30am-6:00pm

Saturdays 9:30am until SOLD OUT

aliblu@aol.com
540-931-8050

1422 BLAIR RD / AT THE EZ MART (RT.340 & BLAIR RD)

[Facebook.com/LesAlisJumboSeafood](https://www.facebook.com/LesAlisJumboSeafood)

Email aliblu@aol.com for product availability

Shepherdstown Pedal & Paddle

Book Your Group Adventure Now for Spring & Summer

Kayak the Potomac • Bike the C&O
Pedal & Paddle is a full service outfitter!

Serving groups up to 30 people
Boy Scouts • Girl Scouts • Company Team Building

304-876-3000 | ThePedalPaddle.com
115 West German Street, Shepherdstown

SHEPHERD'S FORD PRODUCTIONS 20TH ANNUAL WATERMELON PICKERS FEST

SEPTEMBER 6TH-7TH 2024
BERRYVILLE VIRGINIA

FEATURING **Peter Rowan Bluegrass Band** AND MANY MORE!

WATERMELONPICKERSFEST.COM

// ARTS & CULTURE

THEATER FESTIVAL IN SHEPHERDSTOWN

Four Plays, A Musical Collaboration & TalkTheater Events

THE 2024 CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN Theater Festival (CATF) will run from July 5 through 28. CATF’s Artistic Directory, Peggy McKowen, highlighted the word “love” to link the four plays to be presented this year. “When I think about this season, I really think that it is about different types of love. In these four scripts, I read stories about loving each other amidst incredible challenges and how that love is healing, noble, and hopeful,” she says. *What to expect at the festival:*

Tornado Tastes Like Aluminum Sting by playwright Harmon dot aut is set in rural Kansas against the backdrop of a looming tornado. Audiences are introduced to Chantal, a non-binary tween/teen with synesthesia. Chantal dreams of becoming a filmmaker and their loving parents offer support and guidance along this poignant, humorous journey. The presentation at Studio 112 will be the play’s world premiere.

What Will Happen to All That Beauty? by playwright Donja R. Love was written as an offering to the community of Black individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The play follows the couple Max and J.R. during a trying time in their relationship. As the relationship unfolds, Max dedicates so

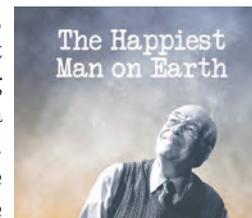
much time fighting for her husband’s life, that she suddenly discovers she must soon fight for her son. *What Will Happen to All That Beauty?* will be performed in two parts at the Frank Center. Patrons will have options to purchase dinner at selected performances (see schedule on website).



Enough to Let the Light In by playwright Paloma Nozicka is both a love story that twists and surprises, and a psychological thriller that will leave the audience with more questions than answers. When a couple spends the evening together, they slowly start to reveal secrets about themselves that ultimately test their relationship. Presented at the Marinoff Theater.

The Happiest Man on Earth by playwright Mark St. Germain recently had its world premiere at Barrington Stage in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Based on the memoir by Eddie Jaku, the play recounts the true-life story of a Holocaust survivor. The tale references his escape from terrifying experiences and ends with the

joy of love, marriage, and fatherhood. It is both challenging and uplifting — a reaffirmation of life. This small, intimate play balances the season’s more epic productions. The play will be presented at the Shepherdstown Opera House.



During the festival, CATF will partner with the Appalachian Chamber Music Festival to produce *A Mother’s Voice*, featuring Music Ireland. This multidisciplinary production is a commemorative dedication to women affected by the mother and baby homes in Ireland during the 1900s.

The festival will also host special events led by industry experts and artists, including lectures, post-show conversations, and discussions that surround the themes explored in the plays. Individual tickets to the CATF 2024 July season range from \$40 to \$70. Packages of three or five mainstage performances range from \$174 to \$300. Purchased online at CATF.org or call the box office at 681-240-2283.

BAVARIAN INN
RESORT & BREWING COMPANY

**THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE:
CHEF JEFFREY AULT
NEW EXECUTIVE CHEF &
DIRECTOR OF CULINARY OPERATIONS**

**FOR FUN DINING OR FINE DINING
WE ARE YOUR DESTINATION!
BREAKFAST * LUNCH * DINNER
OUTDOOR DINING * BAR & LOUNGE**

Shepherdstown WV www.bavarianinnwv.com 304-876-2551

Are you sick or have pain?
Have you exhausted your medical options?
IT'S TIME TO HEAL
Check out the **ENERGY ENHANCEMENT SYSTEM® (EESystem)**

Memorial Day Sale thru June 9
Get 50% off any EESystem Session

BOOK NOW www.gotohealing.com

ENERGY ENHANCEMENT SYSTEM
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO HEAL THE WORLD
UNIFYD healing

Results speak for themselves: go to testimonials at <https://www.unifydhealing.com/testimonials>

// PLANNING

COMMENTS ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

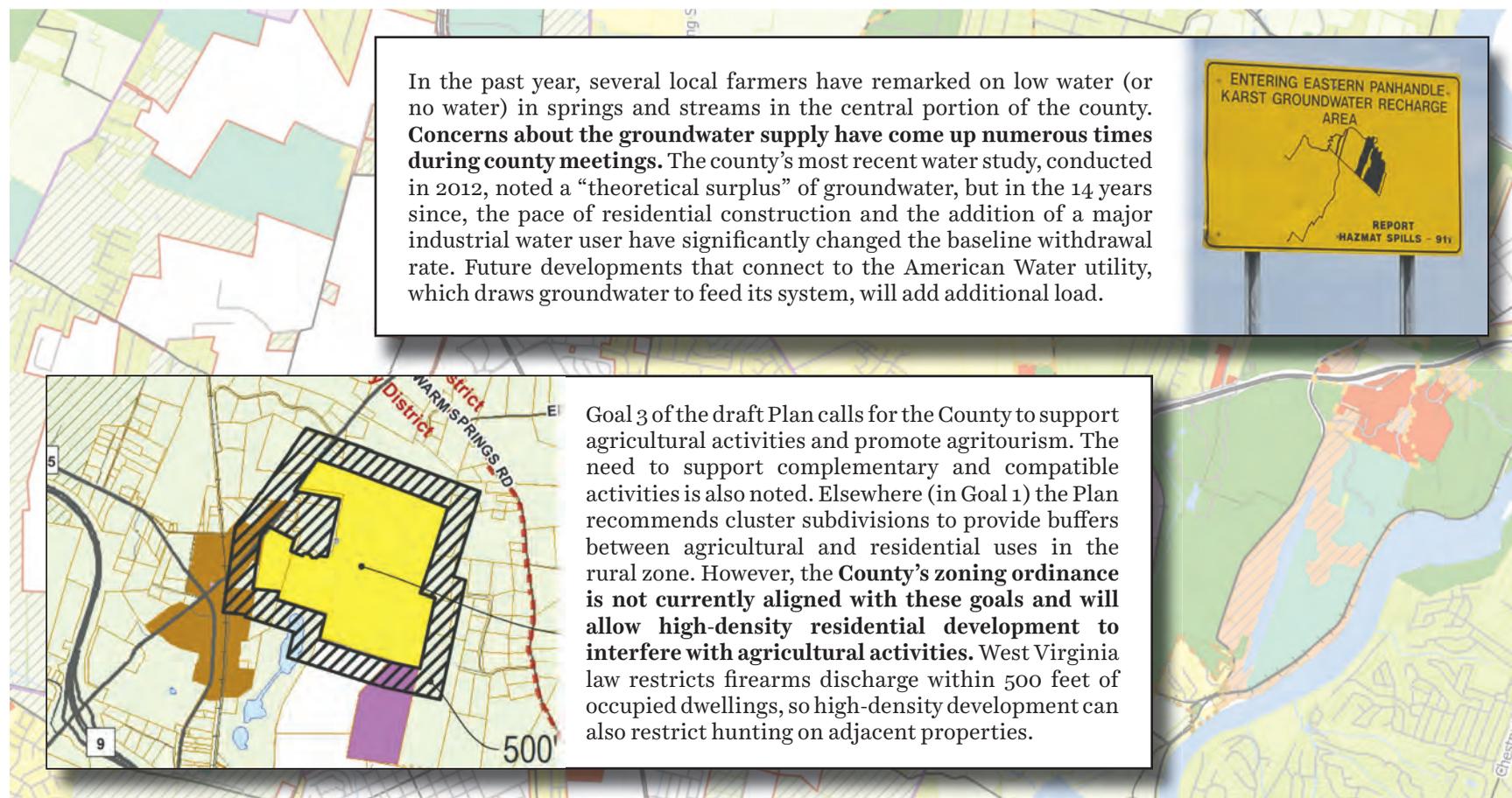
Residents Pack Meeting At High School, Voice Concerns

By Steve Pearson

THE JEFFERSON COUNTY Planning Commission will meet on June 11 at 5:30 pm in the Charles Town Library basement meeting room to review

feedback on the draft Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map. The Commission heard many concerns about the draft map at a May 13 public input session and has received dozens of written comments since then — many of them focused on the last-minute addition of a

preferred growth area around the location of the future Shepherdstown Elementary School (box below). There will be no in-person public comment at the June 11 work session, but comments can be emailed to Complan2045@JeffersonCountyWV.org (note spelling).



d Darnell & Company A.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING

DAVID E. DARNELL, CPA
By Appointment Only
304-725-5712

Personal and Business Tax Preparation including
Multi-State Returns and Tax Planning

Accounting, Bookkeeping and Payroll Services

59 RULAND ROAD, SUITE F, KEARNEYSVILLE, WV 25430
conveniently located off of Route 9, behind the Jefferson County DMV

Hello SUMMER SAVINGS!

4.84% APY*

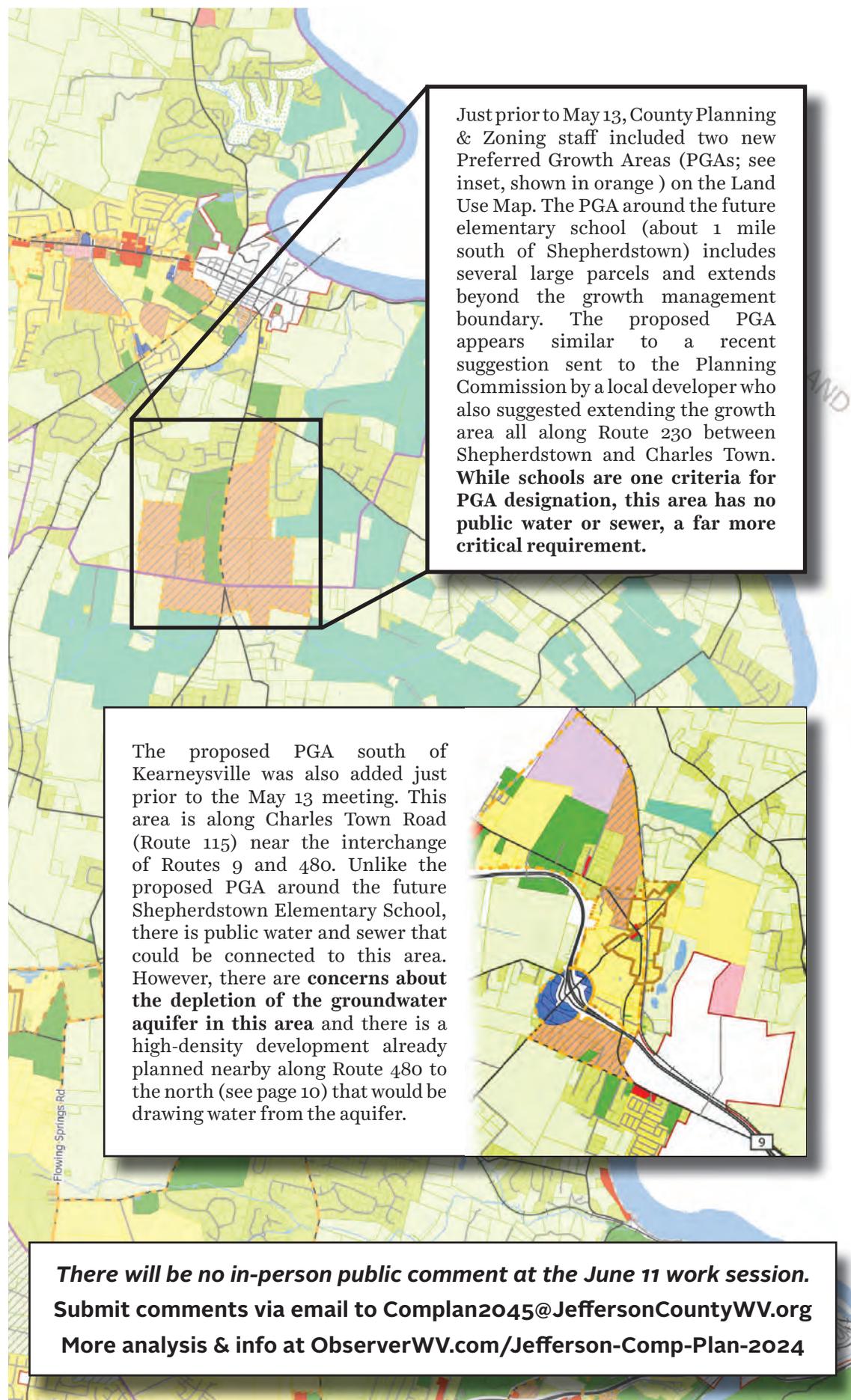
12-MONTH CD SPECIAL

JEFFERSON SECURITY BANK
JSB
BUILDING COMMUNITY

www.jsb.bank

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is current as of 4/3/2024. Interest rates may change at any time without prior notice before the account is opened. Minimum balance to open and obtain stated APY is \$500.00. 12-month term required; penalties may be imposed for early withdrawal which may reduce earnings. At maturity, the 12-month CD will automatically renew into a 12-month CD at the prevailing interest rate. Interest is accrued daily and compounded quarterly.

Member **FDIC** EQUAL HOUSING LENDER



Just prior to May 13, County Planning & Zoning staff included two new Preferred Growth Areas (PGAs; see inset, shown in orange) on the Land Use Map. The PGA around the future elementary school (about 1 mile south of Shepherdstown) includes several large parcels and extends beyond the growth management boundary. The proposed PGA appears similar to a recent suggestion sent to the Planning Commission by a local developer who also suggested extending the growth area all along Route 230 between Shepherdstown and Charles Town. **While schools are one criteria for PGA designation, this area has no public water or sewer, a far more critical requirement.**

The proposed PGA south of Kearneysville was also added just prior to the May 13 meeting. This area is along Charles Town Road (Route 115) near the interchange of Routes 9 and 480. Unlike the proposed PGA around the future Shepherdstown Elementary School, there is public water and sewer that could be connected to this area. However, there are **concerns about the depletion of the groundwater aquifer in this area** and there is a high-density development already planned nearby along Route 480 to the north (see page 10) that would be drawing water from the aquifer.

There will be no in-person public comment at the June 11 work session. Submit comments via email to Complan2045@JeffersonCountyWV.org More analysis & info at ObserverWV.com/Jefferson-Comp-Plan-2024



HOXTON
PLANNING & MANAGEMENT

- (304) 876-2619
- 8530 SHEPHERDSTOWN PIKE
SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV 25443
- HOXTONPM.COM

Nothing contained herein should be construed as a solicitation to buy or sell any security or as an offer to provide investment advice. Hoxton Planning & Management LLC is a registered investment adviser. For additional information about Hoxton Planning & Management LLC, including its services and fees, send for the firm's disclosure brochure using the contact information contained herein or visit adviserinfo.sec.gov.



VIKING
TREE SERVICE, LLC
SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV

**THE EASTERN PANHANDLE'S
FIRST CHOICE FOR PRECISION TREE CARE**

Viking Tree Service LLC offers
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Tree Removal	Tree Cabling
Expert Tree Pruning	Tree Risk Assessment
Tree Trimming	Crane Services
Stump Removal	Emergency Services

**OUR SERVICE AREA COVERS
WEST VIRGINIA'S EASTERN PANHANDLE INCLUDING
SHEPHERDSTOWN, MARTINSBURG, HARPERS FERRY & BEYOND!**

LICENSED • INSURED • VETERAN OWNED • FREE ESTIMATES
304-988-5557 • VikingTreeWV.com

 @VikingTreeWV | Erik@VikingTreeWV.com

 Follow us on Facebook for Events
@WVOBSERVER

// PLANNING

MANY CONNECTIONS TO SHEPHERDSTOWN

Local Community Extends Far Beyond Municipal Boundary

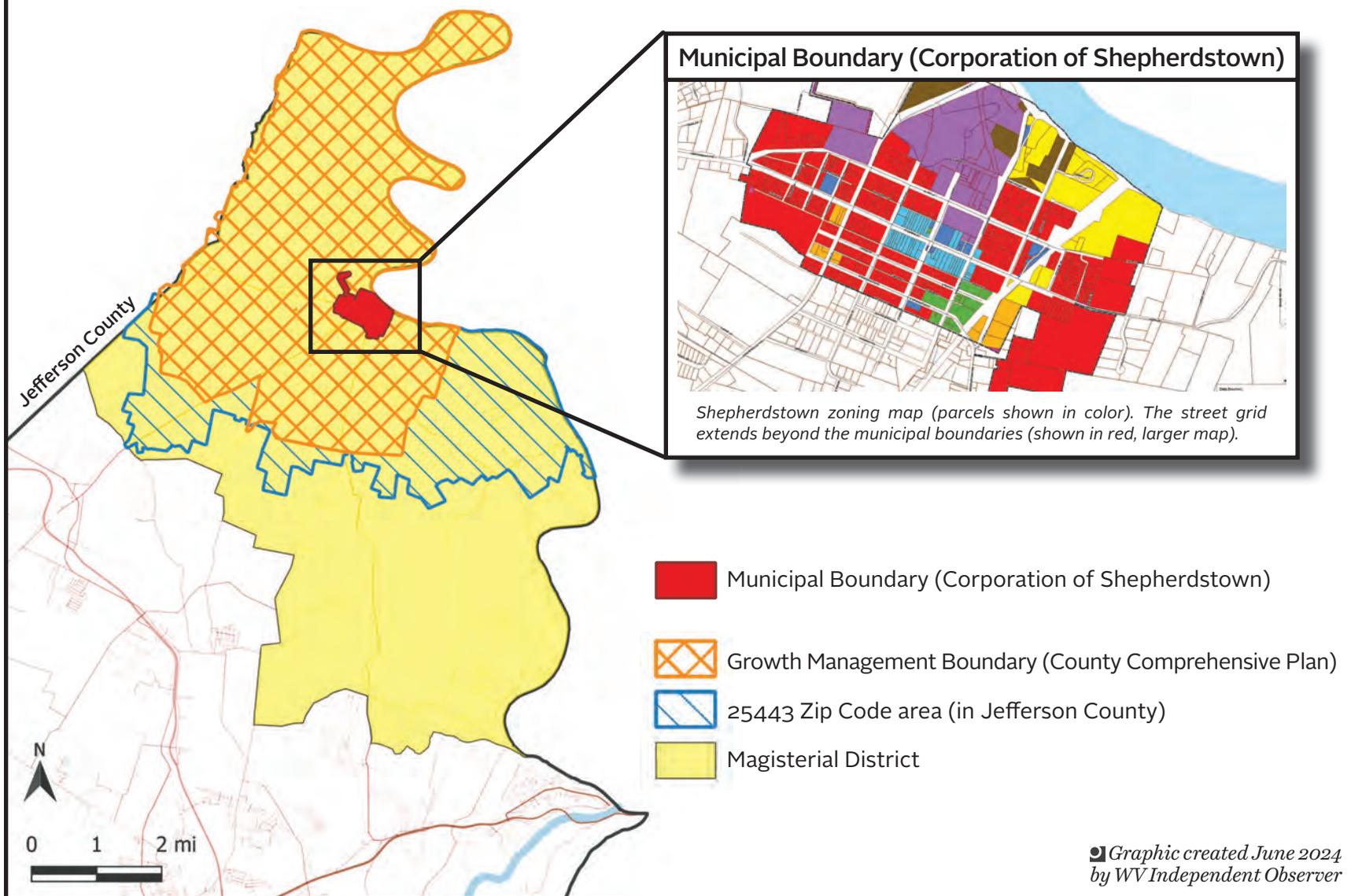
THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS indicate that Shepherdstown is a pretty small town — just under half a square mile with about 1,500 residents (not much changed from 1850). However, if you were to spend some time here and ask folks where they live, you’d quickly find out that there are many more than 1,500 people who call Shepherdstown home. Likewise, if you walk around the village, you could easily find yourself stepping outside of the town limits on a street that looks as if it’s been part of town for more than a century.

From its early history in the 1700s, Shepherdstown was a “market town,” a place where local farmers would bring their harvest to process, sell, and ship. The circa 1800 market house sits at the center of downtown, but the grain elevator by the railroad tracks is long gone. Farmers would come to town but there was no reason for the town to come to them. Even as “new” houses sprung up during the late 19th and early 20th century in the “boom” south of downtown, the Town didn’t see a need to expand its official boundaries.

Recently, the concept of “greater Shepherdstown” was discussed in the Town’s comprehensive plan review committee meetings. It also came up during an April forum organized by *The Observer*, prompting the Jefferson County Planning & Zoning staff to include the concept in the discussion of the County’s own comprehensive plan update. The concept captures the sense that Shepherdstown’s downtown is the hub of a community that extends well beyond the municipal boundary and that many key elements of the community, including the schools, library, volunteer fire company, and Morgan’s Grove Park lie outside of the Town. 🏡

Read more at ObserverWV.com/Shepherdstown-Comp-Plan-2024

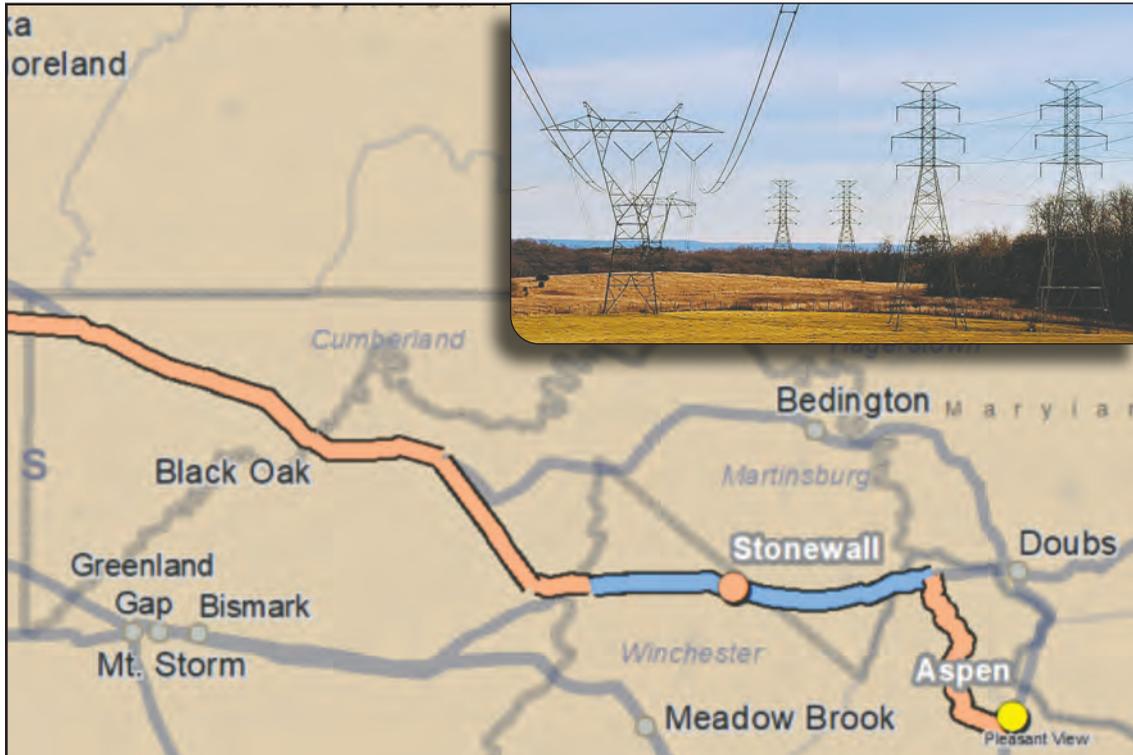
A PLACE CALLED SHEPHERDSTOWN



// PLANNING

EXPANDING THE POWER GRID

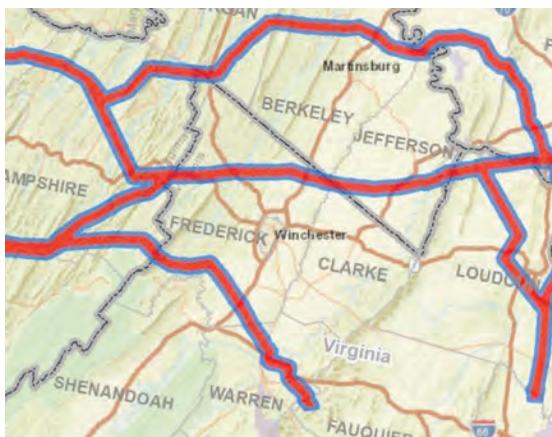
Public Comment Closes June 24



IN DECEMBER 2023, the regional electric grid operator, PJM Interconnection, approved plans to add an additional high voltage transmission line running through Jefferson County to supply power to Loudoun County. The stated need is to meet the growth in data center facilities. This new 500 kilovolt line (above, shown in blue), designated as the Mid Atlantic Resiliency Link (MARL) would roughly follow the path of an existing 138 kilovolt line that runs through southern Jefferson County. The project plan calls for new towers that would carry both the new and existing lines, likely requiring an expansion of the existing right of way. The path of the new line may also deviate from the existing right of way depending on the terrain and engineering

requirements. A private company, NextEra, was awarded a contract to build the MARL project.

According to the Piedmont Environmental Council, NexEra nominated the project to be included in a proposed National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC) for the mid-Atlantic region. The NIETC designation process is overseen by the US Department of Energy, which is currently taking public comment until June 24 on 10 corridors across the country. Two segments of the proposed mid-Atlantic corridor traverse Jefferson County (below left, shown in red), following the path of existing 500 kilovolt lines. According to DOE documents, the study area for these corridors extends a mile on either side of these existing lines. As with MARL, additional transmission lines may require expansion of the existing right of way or detours around terrain or other areas of concern. 🗣️



The DOE is accepting public comment until June 24 on potential impacts to environmental, community, and other resources within the proposed corridors. Examples of potential impacts noted by the DOE include wetlands, species habitat, recreation areas, historic properties, cropland, and residential housing. Information about submitting comments and other reference links are available at ObserverWV.com/NIETC-2024.

HEATING & AIR SOLUTIONS

304-850-3018
HeatingandAirSolutionsWV.com
 Serving Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan Counties

Providing Fresh Air and Comfort to Your Home or Business
 Installation – Maintenance – Repair

Sound Bowl Healing Event

Join us on June 7th at 7pm
\$25.00 per ticket

at Marigold Healing Center
 in the heart of downtown Charles Town
 performed by Dr. Marie Rodriguez

LET'S HEAL together

www.gotohealing.com

BOOK NOW

limited space-buy your ticket here

Follow us on Facebook for Events
@WVSERVER

// PLANNING

DENSE SUBDIVISION PLAN PROPOSED

Kearneysville Neighbors Have Many Concerns



Traffic along Route 480 south, waiting for the light at the intersection with Route 115.

A LARGE NUMBER OF KEARNEYSVILLE residents raised objections at the Jefferson County Planning Commission on May 7 by written comment and in person about the plan for the Birdhill subdivision (map). This subdivision proposes 720 new houses on just under 200 acres situated along Route 480 just north of the intersection with Charles Town Road (Route 115). The neighboring properties are a mix of low density residential housing and small farms.

In 2021, the property owner, Jefferson Orchards, Inc., obtained a rezoning for this 200 acre parcel from Rural to Residential Growth, along with a rezoning of Light Industrial for an adjacent 40 acre parcel. The 2021 rezoning plan showed a 9 acre buffer park between the residential and industrial parcels, as well as an extension of Northport Drive to connect the residential neighborhood to Route 115. The plan presented in May 2024 shows the

buffer park, but the road connection was noted as a potential future development, leaving Route 480 as the only access to the housing development.

What concerns neighbors the most about the subdivision plan is the density and lack of buffers to the adjacent properties. Planning Commissioner Cara Keys, who was the only vote against the subdivision plan, questioned the loss of property that could be imposed on neighbors to the north and south along Route 480 if the state decides to widen the road to accommodate anticipated traffic. Several residents also raised concerns about the potential depletion of the underground water supply (the project will be served by American Water, which draws from the underground aquifer).

The developer did agree to negotiate with neighbors over fencing, which will be included in the plan that will be presented at a public hearing expected to be held sometime in the fall of 2024. 



I WANT TO SAVE YOU MONEY

Contact me today to switch
(304) 876-0822

INSURANCE OUTFITTERS®
Locally Inspired Insurance® Since March 3, 1989

Call Michele in Shepherdstown!




7866 MARTINSBURG PIKE SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV 25443 · INSURANCEOUTFITTERS.COM



NEED A FINANCIAL ADVISOR?

MISSION:ADVICE

CALL ME TODAY!
TOM MAIDEN MBA, CFP®

304-870-4200
MissionAdvice.com

Mission:Advice LLC (DBA Mission:Advice) is a West Virginia Registered Investment Advisor.

7866 MARTINSBURG PIKE SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV 25443 · MISSIONADVICE.COM.COM

PERSPECTIVE // NATURE

BATTLES ALL AROUND

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.

ONE WARM EVENING IN EARLY MAY, I was watching several purple martins as they circled and landed on our four-tiered aluminum martin house. Seconds later, a big Cooper's hawk charged by, barely missing a martin perched on the porch of its nest compartment. The martin flew off and the hawk continued into the far woods without missing a wingbeat.

A few days later I was haying the animals and looked up to see a big pair of wildly flailing wings on the far side of the martin house. The Cooper's hawk was clinging to the house while martins fled the scene. Seconds later the hawk flew off, talons empty. I couldn't see what happened. I imagined the hawk had just grabbed one of the martins as it retreated into its nest compartment and then tried, without success, to pull it out.

For the past eight years we've had a resident martin colony return to nest in the martin house and gourds. During that same span of years, Cooper's hawks have nested and raised their young in our neighbors' woods. Our martins have experienced numerous hawk attacks. Last year I saw a hawk snag a female martin off the top of the house and fly off with her in its talons.

Purple martins and Cooper's hawks have coexisted as natural enemies for millennia. Cooper's hawks are bold and aggressive and use a strategy of speed, ambush, and surprise to capture their winged prey. Fast as they are, they can't outfly a healthy purple martin in the open sky.

Struggles for survival remind us that spring, the season of new life and new growth, also brings lightning, thunder, pillage, and plunder. I encountered spring's harshness this morning when I nearly stepped on the delicate, fractured shell of a speckled egg. Traces of fresh yolk and a visible puncture told me this egg had been stolen from the nest, possibly by a gray squirrel or a blue jay.



A hairy woodpecker dodges around a tree trunk to evade an attacking Cooper's hawk. Illustration by Doug Pifer courtesy PA Game Commission.

Our dead Kentucky coffee tree was selected as a nest site by a pair of red-bellied woodpeckers. The male and female woodpecker chiseled and drilled a deep cavity with a round entrance hole near the top of the dead trunk. After the woodpeckers finished their work, a pair of European starlings commandeered the nest hole and evicted the woodpeckers. The starlings are currently feeding a second brood of youngsters there. A woodpecker sometimes returns to peer inside but is quickly shooed away by the protective starlings.

A black rat snake has also claimed this dead tree as its headquarters. Last month, our dog discovered a newly shed snakeskin among the fallen shards of bark at the base of the trunk. As the young starlings grow bigger and ready to fledge, the flickering tongue of the snake will pick up their scent. I thought the snake would climb up the tree and into the nest hole to swallow the baby birds, which it did last year. But yesterday, the cries of newly fledged starlings in the adjacent tulip tree proved me wrong. The nestlings survived this time.

A delicate dance between predator and prey keeps the prey strong and the predator on top of its game. Such drama is the centerpiece of nature.

THE DESIGN CENTER
SUE MARKS ~ OWNER & DESIGNER

Contact Sue Marks 304-676-7785 for:

Interior Design Services,
House-Fluffing, Staging,
Custom Paint Plans, and more!

Upholstery, Fabrics, Window Treatments
and Blinds, Shades and Shutters

THEDESIGNCENTERLLC.COM
CALL SUE TO CHAT ABOUT YOUR RESIDENTIAL
OR COMMERCIAL DESIGN NEEDS!

OLL CPAS
TAX+ACCOUNTING+CONSULTING

Martinsburg
Chad R. Lawyer, CPA
224 West King Street
Martinsburg, WV 25401
P 304-263-9447
F 304-263-8204

Charles Town
Eric J. Lewis, CPA
205 West Liberty Street
Charles Town, WV 25414
P 304-728-6877
F 304-728-6807

Shepherdstown
Thomas C. Ours, CPA
130 E German Street, Suite 100
Shepherdstown, WV 25443
P 304-263-9447 ext.4

oll-cpas.com

Follow us on Facebook for Events
@WVOBSERVER

EXPLORE // STREET FESTIVALS

WV FEST IN CHARLES TOWN – JUNE 15



WV FEST WILL TAKE OVER DOWNTOWN Charles Town on June 15 for a day-long, family-friendly festival. The festivities start at 10 am with the **“Are YOU smarter than an 8th Grader”** competition. The event is modeled after West Virginia’s Golden Horseshoe competition that tests 8th graders’ knowledge of American history and civics. This year’s competition will feature two “celebrity” teams attempting to match wits against two teams of local 8th graders from Harpers Ferry Middle School. One celebrity team will feature four of WVU’s Mountaineer mascots and the other celebrity team will feature local Charles Town leaders and business people. The members of the 8th grade Team 1 will be Emily Gorham, Macy McCabe, Brooklyn Busch, and Alaina

Williams. Team 2 will be Sophia Slimp, Lennon Schiffer, Carys Schiffer, and Charli Arrington. Two other teams will be announced at the event.

Local musicians Matt Metz & Matt Kline will take the stage to play at 1 pm, followed by Nashville band **Wild Bill and the Bruisers**, who will play from 2:30 to 5 pm. The **kidz zone, vendors, food trucks, and beer gardens** will be open throughout the entire day.

The event opens at 10 am and runs until 5 pm. Admission is free. The event is organized by the City of Charles Town and the Charles Town Now business association, with the support of Skinner Accident & Injury Lawyers. More info at FB: CharlesTownNow.

STREET FEST IN SHEPHERDSTOWN – JUNE 29

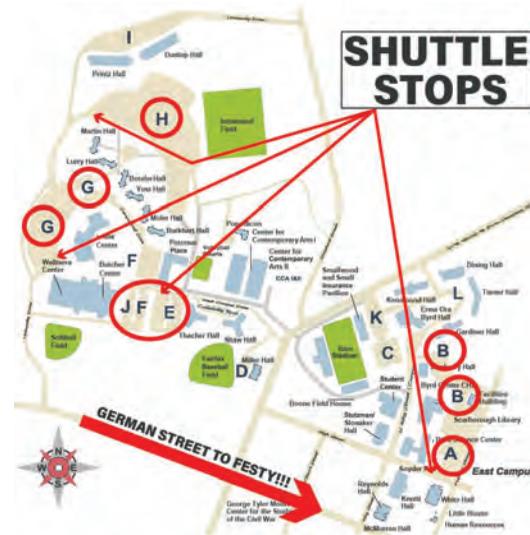
SHEPHERDSTOWN STREET FEST celebrates creativity, culture, and community in Shepherdstown. The day-long festival will occupy the entire downtown. At the center of town there will be **two stages surrounded by a beer garden**. The lineup for the main stage (in front of town hall) will be **Black Masala, The Seymores, X of the Potomac, The Bob Keel Experience, and the Charles Washington Orchestra**. The lineup for the market house stage (South King Street) will be **Lynn Routzan and Friends, The Hokums, Lady Hatchet, and The Living Fossils**.

Family-friendly activities will take place throughout the day and there will be two blocks of **local artisans and craftsmen** exhibiting and selling their work. **Food options** will include all of the downtown restaurants as well as several food trucks. Parking will

be available at multiple lots on the Shepherd University campus and shuttle buses will run throughout the day.



The event opens at 11:00 am and runs until 9:00 pm. Admission is free. More info at ShepherdstownStreetfest.org. Volunteers are always welcome (see website for info).



THE HOT BUTTON

GALLERY
Art Infused with Social Consciousness

Saturdays 11am to 5pm
Sundays 11am to 4pm (ish)
Tuesday-Friday By Appointment

www.hotbuttongallery.com
129 East German Street, Shepherdstown, WV

Two Rivers Treads
RUN · WALK · HEALTH

- Foot Health & Wellness
- Gait Analysis
- Running & Hiking Gear
- Group Runs & Walks

400 S. Mildred St.
Ranson, WV 25438
304.885.8843

Shop with us online at:
TwoRiversTreads.com

“The wise man who is not heeded is counted a fool and the fool who proclaims the general folly first and loudest passes for a prophet and Führer, and sometimes it is luckily the other way round as well, or else mankind would long since have perished of stupidity.”

— C.G. Jung
(Collected Works, Vol.14, “Mysterium Coniunctionis”, p. 549)

Cathryn Polonchak LCSW
Psychotherapist & Jungian Analyst

INDIVIDUALS · COUPLES · ADULTS · ADOLESCENTS
Harpers Ferry · 304.261.2771 · Shepherdstown

EXPLORE // PRIDE EVENTS

PRIDE NIGHT AT LILAH RESTAURANT – JUNE 8

A FABULOUS DRAG SHOW to celebrate the Pride season. Abbreviated dinner menu from 8 to 9:30 pm. Drink specials all night long. Show starts at 9:30 pm. Advance tickets only \$7.50 (plus Eventbrite fees) with code: prideparty. Ages 18 & up. Location: Lilah Restaurant, 115 East German St, Shepherdstown. More info at FB: Lilah Restaurant.

TWO TWISTED VINES PRIDE CELEBRATION – JUNE 15

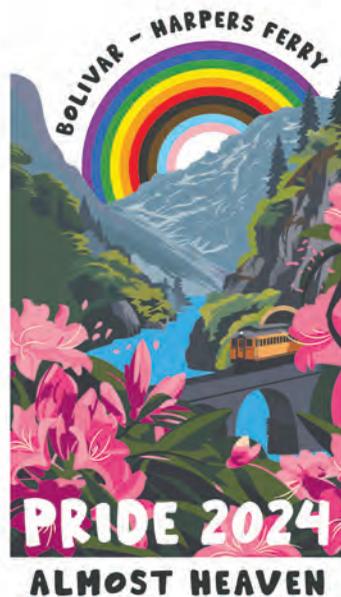


DJ, DANCING, DRAG SHOW, & DELICIOUS WINE Surrounded by beautiful vineyards. Taco Town Food Truck will be on site. 2 to 5 pm. Advance tickets recommended, \$5 (plus Eventbrite fees). Ages 21 & up. Location: Two Twisted Vines Winery, 12944 Harpers Ferry Rd, Purcellville, VA. More info at FB: Two Twisted Posts.

BOLIVAR-HARPERS FERRY PRIDE EVENT – JUNE 25

A PANEL DISCUSSION and dialog with residents of Bolivar and Harpers Ferry together with organizers and advocates for LGBTIQ rights in WV. This panel discussion will focus on celebrating local Pride victories and reflect on the experiences of our community members. The panelists will share and discuss the state of LGBTIQ rights in WV and how the fight for equality starts at the grassroots level. Panelists will include Chris Craig (Harpers Ferry), Jeremy Hutton (Harpers Ferry), Megan Mullins (Bolivar), Darren Kidwell (Jefferson County), and Andrew Schneider (Fairness WV).

Event starts at 6 pm. FREE, no reservation required. Location: The Barn of Harpers Ferry, 1062 West Washington St, Harpers Ferry WV. See online article at ObserverWV.com for links to FB event.

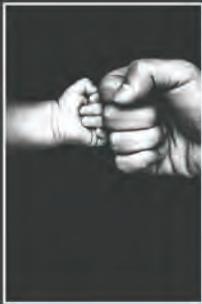


contemporaryamericantheaterfestival
AT SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY

THE HAPPIEST MAN ON EARTH

By Mark St. Germain





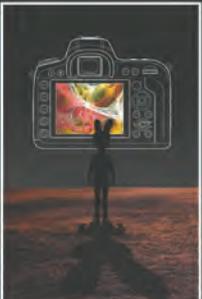
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ALL THAT BEAUTY?

By Donja R. Love

BOLD. NEW. THEATER. JULY 5 - 28, 2024

TORNADO TASTES LIKE ALUMINUM STING

A World Premiere
By Harmon dot out





ENOUGH TO LET THE LIGHT IN

By Paloma Nozicka



CATF.ORG TICKETS START AT \$40



FOLLOW @WVObserver ON FACEBOOK FOR EVENT INFO

EXPLORE // SUMMER ACTIVITIES

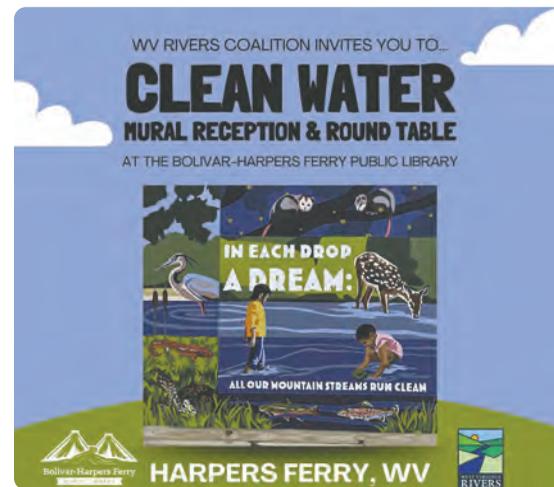
BOLIVAR-HARPERS FERRY LIBRARY

THE BOLIVAR-HARPERS FERRY Public Library summer reading program, “Adventures in Reading,” runs through July 26th. The official kickoff party will be a free concert at the library on June 7th featuring Billy and the Curley Brothers. Music starts at 6 pm. A food truck will be available for dinner purchases during the concert. The reading program is open to children, teens, and adults. Participants will earn tickets that can be entered into prize drawings by completing the reading and adventure challenges on their reading logs.

Children and teen programming highlights include: Jenn’s Uncommon Critters,

cake decorating, a running book club, NASA’s Star Lab, Crystal book, DIY, and two-story walks. Adult programming highlights include: a lesson on essential oil DIY, a glass sun catcher craft, tie-dyeing DIY, and the always popular adult BINGO night. The library will also be sponsoring a family movie night showing of Lyle Lyle Crocodile (rated G) at the Amp at Sam Michael’s Park on July 26 (showtime is 7:30 pm). See website for full calendar of events.

Bolivar-Harpers Ferry Public Library, 151 Polk St, Harpers Ferry WV. Web: BolivarHarpersFerryLibrary.com.



CHARLES TOWN LIBRARY

THIS CHARLES TOWN LIBRARY’S

summer program “Adventure Is In Your Library,” runs through August 3. The focus of the program is to help the young readers of Jefferson County lessen what has been called the “Summer Slide,” which is a reference to the lowering of reading skills during the summer break. “By creating a stress-free way for kids to keep up their skills will help them hit the ground running when school starts again,” said Brian Christopher, the library’s Community Engagement Coordinator. Families can register for the program at CTLibrary.beanstack.org. The library also has a full schedule of programming for kids throughout the summer (see website for full calendar).



Charles Town Library, 200 East Washington St, Charles Town WV. More program details online at CTLibrary.org.



The Shepherdstown Public Library kicked off its summer reading program “Adventure Begins at the Library,” with an activity fair on June 1. Rob Sisk, president of the Friends of Shepherdstown Library and volunteer Suzie Patrick (above) were busy signing up kids as soon as the event started. Library Director Cristy Hagarty reported that there were almost 100 kids signed up in the first hour. She also said that kids can sign up anytime during the program, which runs until mid-August. In addition to the kids activities, the library has a challenge for adults too, featuring a “summer reading BINGO card” to complete and enter into a raffle (one of the squares is “read a local newspaper;” so if you’re reading this, you’ve got one you can mark already). Shepherdstown Public Library, 145 Higbee Ln, Shepherdstown WV. Web: ShepLibrary.org.

MARIGOLD HEALING PRESENTS

Marigold Kids Summer Camp Sessions

LIMITED SPACES

JOIN US FOR SUMMER CLASS SESSIONS IN THE CALMING HEALING ENERGY OF THE EESYSTEM ROOM FOR KIDS TO EXPERIENCE MIND & BODY COHERENCE WITH YOGA, QIGONG, ART & JOURNALING

To sign up or learn more, go to
www.gotohealing.com/classes-appointments-events
 & see all kids class sessions. Membership required \$20.00 annually.

AGES 6-10
AGES 11-17

Healing Center www.gotohealing.com
Your journey to Wellness

EXPLORE BALANCING YOUR MIND WITH CREATIVE & MINDFULNESS CLASSES EACH WEEK

in the heart of Charles Town
301 W. Washington St.

EXPLORE // ON STAGE



NEW VOICES IN CHARLES TOWN

THE NEW VOICE PLAY FESTIVAL at the Old Opera House Theater Company in Charles Town presents four one-act plays in a combined performance, with the audience members voting afterwards for their favorite. *The 2024 lineup is:*

Afterlife, a drama written by John Nicholas Schweitzer. If you could see how your life would change by making a single decision, would you? That is the question Eddie faces when he awakens in a strange empty space after a fatal car crash. Guided by the androgynous Astral, a being of unearthly origin, he faces down his biggest regret. This adult drama addresses school violence and a mass shooting.

Mean to Me, a drama written by Carl Williams. A young woman must determine her destiny by choosing between two very different suitors.

Temporary Affection Order, a comedy written by L.D. Potter. When two divorce lawyers begin to take their case a bit too personally and tension rises, the Judge calls for a recess. The Judge demands that the lawyers reflect on their own relationship, leading them to uncover their true feelings for one another.

We are Doing Some Work in Your Neighborhood, a comedy written by Jennifer Hart. Every neighborhood comes with that one person who knows everyone else's business. Meet Helen.



She knows everyone in her neighborhood and whether their hedges are too high or if they have too many cars parked around their house. She takes the rules of the neighborhood association to the extreme.

Three performances only: Fri Jun 21 & Sat Jun 22 at 8:00 pm, Sun Jun 23 at 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$20 (\$15 senior/youth/military). Charles Town Old Opera House, 204 North George St, Charles Town WV. Web: OldOperaHouse.org.

24 HOURS IN SHEPHERDSTOWN



THE BLACK BOX YOUTH THEATER in Shepherdstown will stage three, one-act plays that didn't exist 24 hours before showtime!

The event kicks off on **Friday, June 14 at 7 pm** with auditions at the theater (open to adults and youth age 10 and up; reading material provided, just bring your energy). **Everyone who auditions will be included in the cast.** After auditions, the team of playwrights will create scripts for the plays based on the auditions. Cast members will reassemble at 8

am on Saturday June 15 to meet the creative team and rehearse (all day, bring snacks, food & drink). Curtain time for the one-and-only performance will be at 7:00 on Saturday.

Location: 113 South Princess St, Shepherdstown WV. Audience tickets for the performance on Saturday, Jun 15 are \$10 (see FB event for ticket link). FB: Black Box Youth Playhouse

FOLLOW @WVObserver ON FACEBOOK FOR MORE INFO ABOUT LOCAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



Benjamin Moore®

have summer color year-round!



Panhandle Paints

FINEST PAINT - EXPERT ADVICE

304-728-6656

99 CARY LU CIRCLE

HARPERS FERRY, WV 25425

WWW.BENJAMINMOORE.COM

Petti

PEST CONTROL

(304)725-9997

SAME DAY SERVICE

FREE INSPECTIONS

Local. Trusted. Professional.

ENGAGE // LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

TWO NEW COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

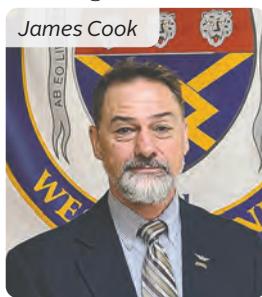
Temporary Appointments Fill Vacancies

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Jennifer Krouse and Tricia Jackson were removed from office on May 1 for “official misconduct and neglect of duty” by a special judicial panel appointed by the West Virginia Supreme Court. The court ruling started a 30 day window for the remaining three County Commissioners (Jane Tabb, Steve Stolipher, and Pasha Majdi) to make appointments to fill the vacant seats. The Commission scheduled interviews for candidates on May 30 and appointed Kelvin Upson to fill the Harpers Ferry seat and James Cook to fill the Shepherdstown seat.

Krouse and Jackson filed a notice of appeal with the Supreme Court on May 31. Under the state code (6-6-7) that governs both the removal and appeal process, Upson and Cook’s appointments to the County Commission are considered temporary, to run until the appeal is resolved. According to advice provided by the West Virginia Secretary of State’s office during a May 13 special meeting of the Commission, the “removal order



Kelvin Upson



James Cook

stands” unless the special judicial panel decides to stay its decision pending the resolution of the appeal, and the County Commission is expected to notify the County Clerk that these two seats will be on the ballot in November 2024.

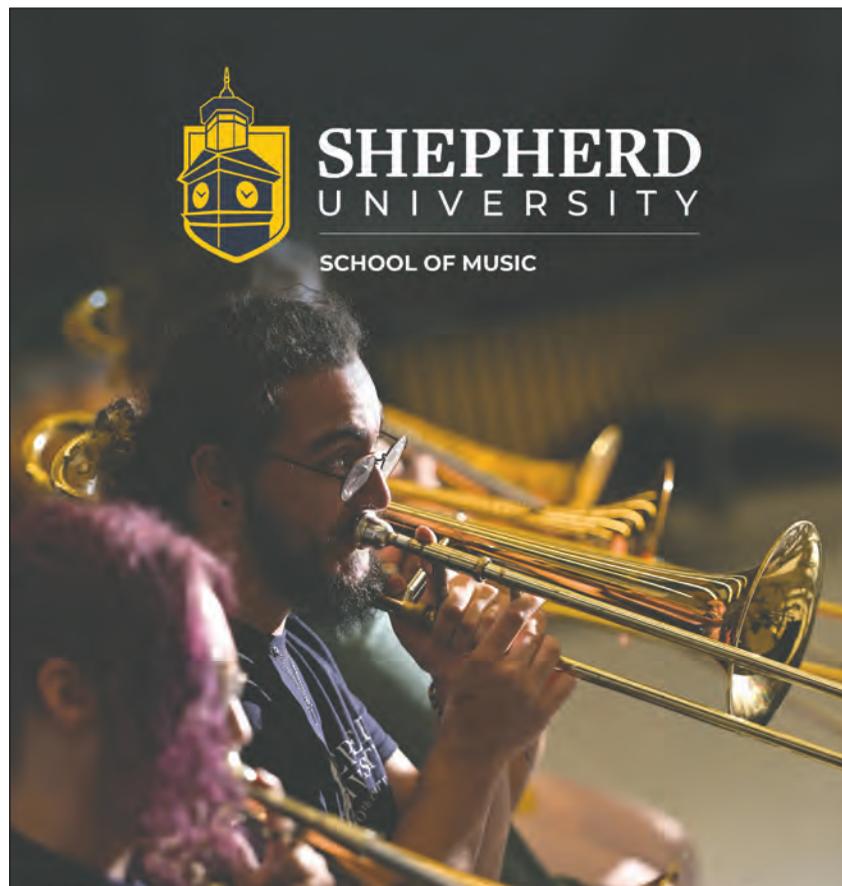
CHARLES TOWN COUNCIL HAS VACANCY

RIKKI TWYFORD, WHO CURRENTLY SERVES on the Charles Town City Council, won a seat on the Jefferson County Board of Education in the May election. The Council is currently seeking applicants to consider for an appointment to fill the remainder of her term which runs until June 2025. Applicants must be registered to vote and reside in Ward 4 of the City. Letters of interest and resumes must be submitted by June 21. More information at CharlesTownWV.us.

SHEPHERDSTOWN ELECTS MAYOR & COUNCIL

ACCORDING TO TOWN RECORDER Lori Robertson, 343 residents voted in the 2024 Shepherdstown municipal election (45% of the 768 registered voters). This number includes early voting and absentee ballots received as of Election Day on June 4. According to Town Clerk Amy Boyd, the previous high mark for participation was 243 voters in 2020. This year’s ballot included 2 candidates for mayor, 1 candidate for recorder, and 7 candidates running for 5 at-large council seats. All of the offices have a two year term.

In the tally for the mayoral race, James Gatz received 222 votes and Jim Auxer received 127 votes. Chris Stroech received 251 votes for recorder. For the at-large seats on the council, the successful candidates are: Marty Americaner, (232 votes), Shannon Thomas (208), Linus Bicker (204), Cheryl Roberts (197), and Marcy Bartlett (182). Lori Robertson (161) and Jenny Haynes (121) were not elected. The results are preliminary until the Town Council meets for the official canvass on June 10.



SHEPHERD
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Find **your** place
on the stage.

Broadway star, sound
engineer, recording artist,
or educator - we’ll carry your
passion into the workforce.

THE **FUTURE** OF *Music*
THE **FUTURE** OF **YOU**

www.shepherd.edu/admissions



The **WV Independent Observer** writes about community news, local events, and feature stories of interest to the people who live, work, and visit Jefferson County, West Virginia. For more of our stories, visit **OBSERVERWV.COM**

