

# The WV INDEPENDENT Observer

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

AUGUST 2024

## HOUSING

Demand For New  
Homes In Jefferson  
Keeps Growing

4

## COMMUNITY

Two General Stores  
With Fun Vibes  
In Shepherdstown

6

## PLANNING

Public Hearing For  
County Comp Plan  
On August 27

8

## COMMUNITY

Child Care Options  
Needed To Support  
Employment Growth

10

## NATURE

Animals Struggle With  
Hot Summer Weather

11

## ENGAGE & EXPLORE

12 Chamber Music Fest

13 September Beer Fests

14-15 Around Town

16 County Commission



*When a crowd of citizens show up to make comments, public officials take notice (story, page 8).*

FOR MORE FEATURES, COMMUNITY NEWS, AND LOCAL EVENTS, VISIT [OBSERVERWV.COM](http://OBSERVERWV.COM)

// LOCAL STORIES

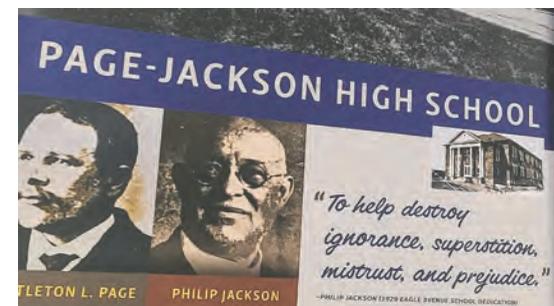
# TRIBUTE HALL DEDICATION

## Honoring Page-Jackson High School



**DELORES FOSTER, PRESIDENT** of the Page-Jackson Alumni Association, spoke to an enthusiastic crowd gathered at what is currently the administration building for Jefferson County Schools (JCS) to dedicate the newly redesigned Page-Jackson Tribute Hall. The building at 110 Mordington Avenue was built in 1951 as a new home for Page-Jackson High School, which had formerly occupied an annex at the Eagle Avenue School at the western edge of Charles Town on Harewood Avenue (now Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard).

The school name honored Littleton L. Page and Phillip Jackson, both leading educators of the local black community. Page was the first principal of the Charles Town District Colored School and later principal of the Eagle Avenue Colored School that opened in 1897. Jackson took on the role of principal of Eagle Avenue in 1914 upon the death of Mr. Page. Both the Eagle Avenue School and the Page-Jackson High School were segregated. The high school continued as a segregated facility until 1965, eleven years after the 1954 Supreme Court decision and the Eagle



Avenue School did not close until 1966.

Following after opening remarks from JCS administrators and a spirited rendition of “Lift Every Voice And Sing” by Tanya Dallas-Lewis, Ms. Foster remarked that the association “had a vision, but nothing that like it turned out today,” as she thanked the many people involved in making the tribute hall a reality. “Our team was the Spartans and our yearbook was *The Beacon*. A torch was lit and held high” she exclaimed as she explained why it’s important for a next generation to learn about this history. She continued, “This room will be a living legacy that never dies. This room speaks — it’s no longer just a classroom, it’s a tribute hall.”

*According to JCS officials, the tribute hall will be open to the public when the school offices are open, usually Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm (holiday and summer schedules may vary). Jefferson County Schools, 110 Mordington Ave, Charlestown. Tel: 304-725-9741.*

### WVU Medicine

#### RHEUMATOLOGY

- | Adult and Pediatric\* Rheumatology | Rheumatoid Arthritis
- | Systemic Lupus | Sjogren's Syndrome | Osteoarthritis
- | Psoriatic Arthritis | Fibromyalgia | Scleroderma
- | Vasculitis | Rheumatic Fever | Dermatomyositis
- | Juvenile\* Dermatomyositis | Juvenile\* Idiopathic Arthritis

*\*Pediatric Rheumatology available in Martinsburg clinic*

Rheumatology – Martinsburg | 2010 Doctor Oates Drive, Suite 101  
 Rheumatology – Shepherdstown | 60 Maclaine Way

## Now Accepting New Patients



Christopher Redmond, MD



Saadia Waheed, MD

CALL **304.596.5135** to schedule an appointment.

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.



The site preparation for the current phase of development in the Huntfield subdivision was completed by January 2023 (shown here). 18 months later, the buildings are finished and occupied (see image of same location on page 5).

**TO OUR READERS** — Crowded sidewalks, busy restaurants & shops, full theaters — that’s Shepherdstown in July when the Contemporary American Theater Festival draws in thousands of visitors and locals for its four week run. The 2024 festival appears to have been a success, judging not just from the crowds, but from the enthusiastic responses of the audiences.

Whether or not it stays as warm, August looks to be a busy time around the county as well. The Appalachian Chamber Music Festival will be playing music in multiple locations — the outdoor concert in Harpers Ferry promises to be a real treat (page 12). In Charles Town, the African American Heritage & Culture Festival will have a parade, and the car show will draw a crowd downtown at the end of the month (page 15). And you won’t want to miss the Jefferson County Fair, which runs from August 18 through August 24.

There have been several vocal crowds at county government meetings recently and there’s another public hearing coming up on Tuesday, August 27 that is likely to draw a crowd. The Planning Commission will host a hearing in the auditorium of Washington High School to take residents’ comments on the draft Comprehensive Plan that will guide the county over the next decade — choices of where farmland and open space will remain, where we’ll see houses, and where commercial development will be encouraged (page 8). There will be a Q&A session with the planning staff from 6 to 7 pm and the public hearing will begin at 7 pm.



Steve Pearson  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

**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

// HOUSING



**KIDS LEARN TO CODE**  
~400 UNIT GLOBAL SUPPORT  
CSTA Aligned Curriculum

WV HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDER

PRICE MATCH ON CAMPS, 1hr & 2hr Programs WELL MATCHED

INVEST IN YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE  
**ENROLL TODAY!**  
**304-261-6194**

217 Oak Lee Drive, Suite 3B, Ranson, WV 25438



**codeninjas.com**  
WV LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED



Follow us on Facebook for Events  
**@WV OBSERVER**



**HAPPY RETREAT**

**CRAFT BEER & MUSIC Festival**

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2024**  
**11 AM-6 PM**

FOR TICKET INFORMATION GO TO  
**WWW.HAPPYRETREAT.ORG**



**HAPPY RETREAT**  
600 Mordington Ave. · Charles Town, WV

# BUILDING HOMES IN JEFFERSON

## Construction Continues On Fast Pace

By Steve Pearson

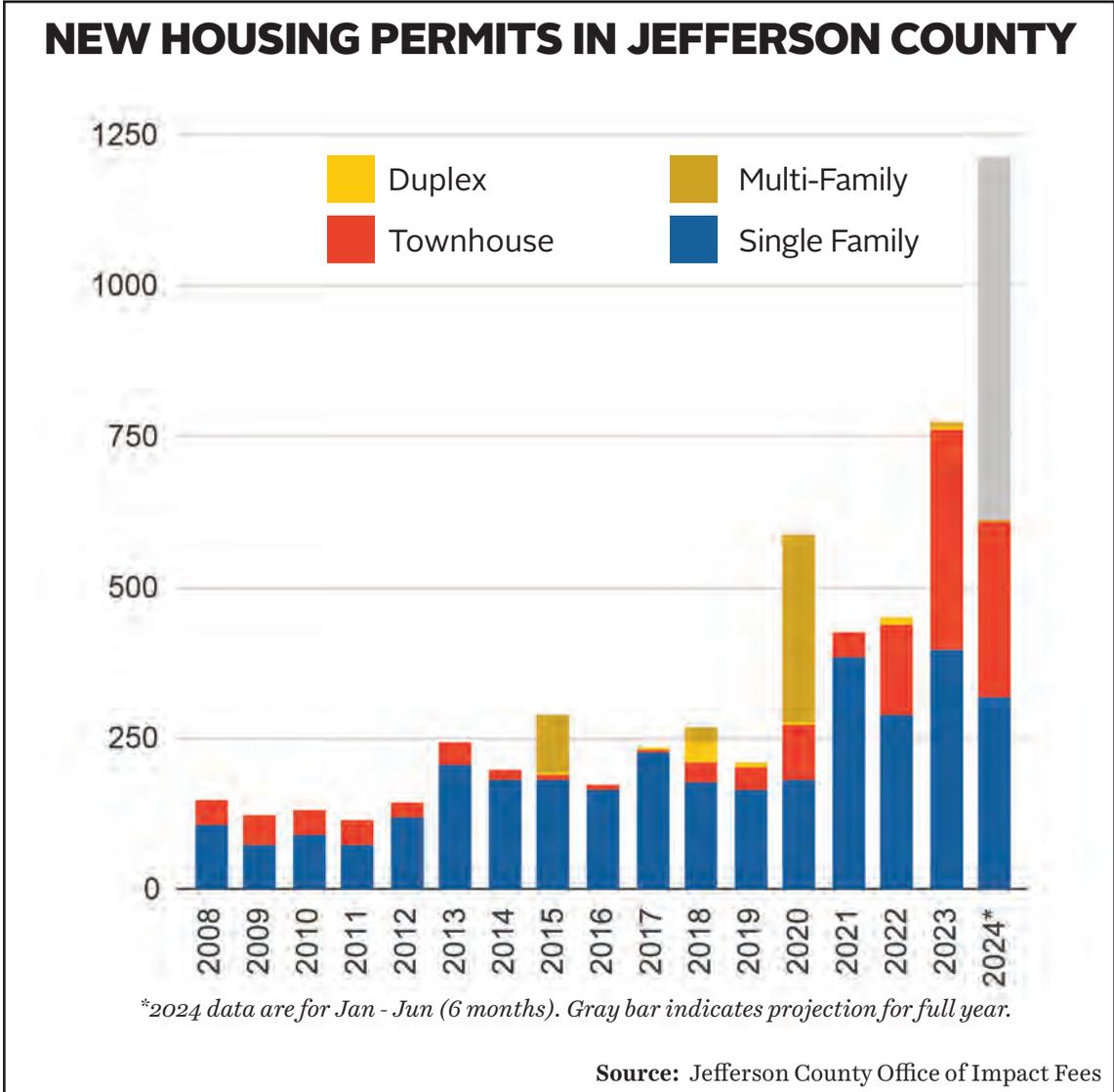
COUNTY-WIDE, INCLUDING CHARLES TOWN and Ranson, there were 612 permits issued to begin new home construction in the first half of 2024, according to data provided by the Jefferson County Office of Impact Fees (a part of the county's Department of Engineering). That number compares to 776 permits issued for all of 2023. Roger Goodwin, the Chief County Engineer, noted during a recent presentation to the County Commission that he expects the full year number for new permits issued in 2024 will exceed 1,200.

The chart at right shows the breakdown between single family homes, townhomes, duplexes, and multi-family housing (apartment units). The large bump in the number of townhome permits that started in 2023 has

continued in 2024, and the overall pace is close to doubling what was permitted last year.

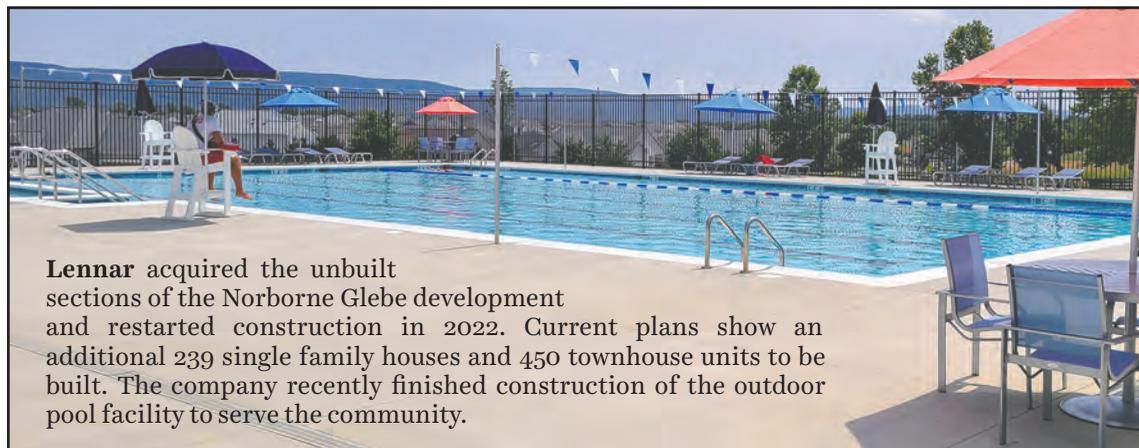
The county's Office of Planning and Zoning estimates that there are currently over 6,000 buildable lots in the county without structures. Not all of these fall within large subdivision developments, but that number suggests that there is a significant reserve of already approved building lots that are likely to be added to the permit numbers over the next few years.

The size of new developments presented for concept plan reviews continues to grow as well. The most recently approved request, the Birdhill subdivision between Kearneysville and Shepherdstown, proposed 720 residential units. The larger numbers are in part due to an increase in the density, with a shift to more townhome units in these new developments.



// HOUSING — CONTINUED

**Dan Ryan Builders** purchased the unbuilt parcels of the Huntfield development in 2021 and has built approximately 100 units in the past 18 months with another 374 planned. The company has also already started selling homes in Kings Crossing (near the St. James Church on Charles Town Road), a development that will have 225 townhomes and 175 single family homes.



**Lennar** acquired the unbuilt sections of the Norborne Glebe development and restarted construction in 2022. Current plans show an additional 239 single family houses and 450 townhouse units to be built. The company recently finished construction of the outdoor pool facility to serve the community.



**Stanley Martin** is developing the Presidents Pointe subdivision in Ranson. The company has built approximately 400 units so far and plans for a total of 1,000 townhomes and 200 single family homes when the project is completed. The company will soon begin construction of an additional 300 to 400 units at Stone Springs (the recently prepared site just east of where 340 and 9 run together).



**DR Horton** purchased the unbuilt Toll House Woods development south of Shepherdstown and began construction in 2022. About half of the 69 single family houses have started or finished construction and several are already occupied.



**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



**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**

// COMMUNITY

# GENERAL STORES IN SHEPHERDSTOWN

## Slow Down And Enjoy Some Old Style Shopping

**THE WORD “SHOP”** in various European languages originally referred to a porch or shed. A place to store and display things and also to sit and relax. It seems like a good description of Shepherdstown, so no surprise that both O’Hurley’s and Dogwood have found a home and a base of customers here.

### O’Hurley’s Built (And Rebuilt) on Tradition

The “O’Hurley’s clan” is how Genevieve O’Loughlin refers to herself and the other new owners of the general store that Jay Hurley created and ran for four and a half decades. All of them worked with Jay for many years and plan to continue the traditions that he built up over the years, including the enormous decorated Christmas tree in the great room (which goes up in early November) and the annual Halloween display (which will be up all during October).

O’Loughlin and her partners have taken over the great room on the side of the building for the past few weeks while their regular room in the front of the store gets rebuilt from the unwelcome intrusion of a speeding car on June 28. The repair work is proceeding well and O’Loughlin hopes to move back into the front room and resume business as usual sometime in

August. O’Loughlin says the store sells a little bit of everything. “We’re on the road between Harpers Ferry and Antietam, so we see a lot of people on vacation who stop in. We sell a lot of hats, candy, and jams.”



O’Hurley’s has a corner full of whimsical items.

### Dogwood General Builds On History

Mary Ball, the proprietor of Dogwood General, describes her vision for a general store as “a community service, with tangible goods and a place to gather. This building works for that — it invites people in.” Not surprising, as the building started out as a general store in 1804.

Ball describes her customers as a mix of locals — gardeners, homesteaders, pet owners, folks looking for gifts — and tourists, especially on the weekends. She’s been open about a year and a half and continues to expand her stock with all sorts of home and kitchen essentials, including a line of natural cleaning supplies.

Ball notes the business is seasonal, but even in the winter months she saw a steady business with gardeners preparing for spring planting. She expects to be adding toys and puzzles this fall and plans to continue expanding what she offers based on feedback and requests from customers.

**O’HURLEY’S GENERAL STORE**, 205 East Washington Street, Shepherdstown. Open every day (except Easter, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day, and one day in November when they put up the Christmas decorations). Until the repairs are complete, the store is open 10 to 5. Once things get back to normal, the hours will be 10 am - 7 pm Tuesday through Saturday and 10 am - 5 pm Sunday and Monday. Web: [OHurleys.com](http://OHurleys.com), tel: 304-876-6907.

**DOGWOOD GENERAL STORE**, 109 West German Street, Shepherdstown. Open Monday 10 am - 5 pm, closed Tuesday, open Wednesday & Thursday 11 am - 5 pm, Friday 10 am - 5 pm, Saturday 10 am - 6 pm and Sunday 11 am - 5 pm. Web: [DogwoodGeneralStore.com](http://DogwoodGeneralStore.com), tel: 304-876-0919.

**JEFFERSON SECURITY BANK**  
 155 Years of Service  
 CELEBRATE WITH US AT OUR  
**Community Festival**  
 Saturday, August 17, 2024  
 2:00 - 5:00 PM at Morgan’s Grove Park  
 Free event! FOOD • MUSIC • FUN!

**European Elegance and Cuisine**

Overlooking the scenic Potomac River, the Bavarian Inn Resort & Brewing Company offers a memorable culinary experience for every taste and style. From the traditional elegance of a 4-Diamond meal in the Potomac Room, comfortable cuisine and craft beers in the brew pub, to cocktails and treats on the patio, we are redefining European elegance and cuisine.

**BAVARIAN INN**  
 RESORT & BREWING COMPANY

[BAVARIANINN WV.COM](http://BAVARIANINN WV.COM) 304.876.2551

// COMMUNITY — CONTINUED



Repairs to O'Hurley's front wall are moving quickly.



Dogwood General has fun with its window display.



Hats are a big seller at O'Hurley's.



Mary Ball greets customers at Dogwood General.

“Non-ambiguity and non-contradiction are one-sided and thus unsuited to express the incomprehensible”

— C.G. Jung  
(Collected Works "Psychology and Alchemy", Vol. 12, par. 18)



Cathryn Polonchak, L.C.S.W.  
Psychotherapist & Jungian Analyst

INDIVIDUALS • COUPLES • ADULTS • ADOLESCENTS

Harpers Ferry • 304.261.2771 • Shepherdstown



TAX+ACCOUNTING+CONSULTING

**Martinsburg**

Chad R. Lawyer, CPA

224 West King Street  
Martinsburg, WV 25401

☎ 304-263-9447

📞 304-263-8204

**Charles Town**

Eric J. Lewis, CPA

205 West Liberty Street  
Charles Town, WV 25414

☎ 304-728-6877

📞 304-728-6807

**Shepherdstown**

Thomas C. Ours, CPA

130 E German Street, Suite 100  
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

☎ 304-263-9447 ext.4

oll-cpas.com



Follow us on Facebook for Events

@WVOBSERVER

// PLANNING

# HEARING SCHEDULED FOR COUNTY COMP PLAN

## Public Invited To Comment On Draft Document

By Steve Pearson

THE JEFFERSON COUNTY PLANNING Commission met twice in July to discuss the draft of the Comprehensive Plan that will guide

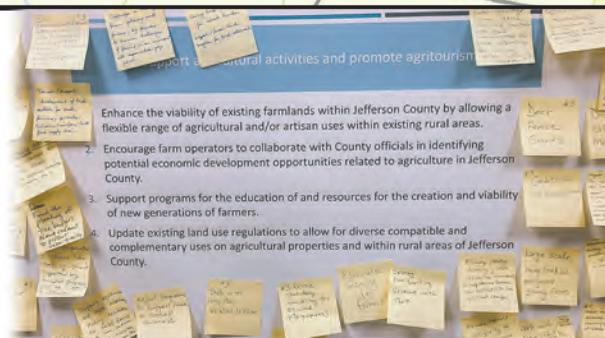
development in the county over the next decade. Much of the commissioners' discussion focused on formatting and organization of the document. There have been several "input" sessions over the past year to get comments from the public, but the hearing scheduled

for August 27 will be the first opportunity for residents to review the contents of the plan in context rather than in parts. If you can't attend the hearing, written comments will be accepted until 5 pm on September 6 (email to [Complan2045@JeffersonCountyWV.org](mailto:Complan2045@JeffersonCountyWV.org)).



The attendance at the May 13 Comprehensive Plan public input session was significantly larger than any of the previous sessions and the commissioners certainly took note of the citizens' interest. The Planning Commission is scheduled to meet on September 17 to review the public comments from the August public hearing. At the September meeting the Planning Commission is scheduled to vote on any revisions and then send the final draft to the County Commission.

Several broad issues have been noted in public comments over the past year of input sessions. At the top of this list, many citizens have expressed concerns that the draft Comprehensive Plan includes many references to conservation and supporting agriculture, but the overall priority is to support development, as expressed in Goal 1. Related to that concern, references to "by right" development for commercial and institutional uses in all zoning districts (Objectives 1.4 and 1.5) raised concerns at one of the July meetings, but the commissioners moved on without making changes after a brief discussion.



PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY SINCE 1969

Andrew Skinner

Stephen Skinner

# 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.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY  
PLANNING COMMISSION'S  
2045 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
PUBLIC HEARING**

**WASHINGTON HIGH  
SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
AUGUST 27, 2024  
7:00 PM**

*Open House for Q&A  
begins at 6:00 PM and  
ends at 7:00 PM*

At our Open House, Staff will be available to answer questions about the 2045 Comprehensive Plan.

300 Washington Patriots Dr,  
Charles Town, WV, 25414

Join our Public Hearing and let your voice be heard!



The rapid depletion of underground aquifers due to residential growth has become a pressing concern in many other areas of the country. Here in Jefferson County, the current drought conditions have also highlighted the uncertain availability of groundwater. The most recent study of the county's water supply dates from 2012 and that analysis was completed in the context of a much slower rate of growth (see chart on page 4). The draft Comp Plan notes that access to public utilities, including water, are essential to support for both residential and commercial development and calls for the County Commission to find funding for an updated water study, but stops short of anything more specific than a request.



*Elks Run is barely a trickle as it crosses south of Job Corps Road.*

Submit comments via email to [Complan2045@JeffersonCountyWV.org](mailto:Complan2045@JeffersonCountyWV.org)  
**More analysis & info at [ObserverWV.com/Jefferson-Comp-Plan-2024](http://ObserverWV.com/Jefferson-Comp-Plan-2024)**

**Assessor's Office**  
Jefferson County  
West Virginia

**NOTICE OF FILINGS DUE**

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION as of JULY 1, 2024

**DATES TO FILE:**

**JEFFERSON COUNTY DOG TAGS**  
File by July 1st

**FARM USE FORMS & FARM STATISTICS**  
File by September 1

**COMMERCIAL BUSINESS REPORT**  
Due by September 1st  
(Corporation & Business Forms)

**PERSONAL PROPERTY REPORT\***  
Due by October 1st  
*\*Online filing available!*

**HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION**  
Apply by December 1st

Located in the  
Charles Town Courthouse 100  
East Washington Street  
(304) 728-3224  
Monday - Friday | 9am - 5pm

Accessible entrance located at  
108 East Washington Street  
[jefferson.wvassessor.com](http://jefferson.wvassessor.com)

 Follow us on Facebook for Events  
@WVOBSERVER

// COMMUNITY

# CONCERNS ABOUT LOCAL CHILD CARE SERVICES

## Stubblefield Institute Hosts Discussion Of Key Issues



SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY HOSTED a panel discussion titled “A 360 View of Child Care in Jefferson County” on July 24. The event was organized by the University’s Stubblefield Institute as part of its Community Engagement Conversations program that works to bring state and local leaders together for civil conversations about complex issues that affect the local community.

The panelists for this event (left to right in the image) were Eddie Benites-LM, the Executive Director of the Jefferson County Development Authority (JCDA), Kelly Chaney from the WVU Medicine Jefferson Medical Center, Wayne Clark, WV Delegate for the 99th District, and Nickie Haines, Director of the Children’s Tree House, a local non-profit child care center.

Benites-LM started the discussion with a description of the local economy, emphasizing the link between the expected employment growth in the Eastern Panhandle over the next decade with an expanding need for childcare services to enable parents to participate in

the workforce to fill these jobs. She shared a summary of recent research done by the JCDA that compared the available child care capacity in Jefferson County with the capacity available in surrounding counties, reporting that the average wait time for a child care slot in Jefferson is over 13 months, compared to 6 months in Berkeley County and 3 months in Frederick County (MD).

Chaney spoke of the difficulties she sees at WVU Medicine with attracting and scheduling staff, drawing a direct connection with the difficulties in finding child care. She noted that a lack of child care services forces many of the center’s younger staff to keep to a part-time schedule.

Haines highlighted the issue of staff compensation. She noted the societal value of early childhood development programs and noted that her staff needs to have education and training that is similar to that of public school teachers — but are compensated at a much lower rate. Delegate Clark supported that observation

as well, noting that the hourly wage at local fast-food restaurants are higher than the state average wage for day care workers.

Haines also mentioned Mountain Heart, the state’s program to assist with child care expenses for qualifying households. During the pandemic, the program reimbursed centers a fixed amount for each enrolled child, but is scheduled to switch back to the prior payment rules where centers are reimbursed only for “days in attendance.” She pointed out the fundamental concern with this fluctuating reimbursement model — her costs to staff a classroom for 5 children with 1 teacher are fixed regardless of how many of the kids call out sick and she can’t just call up a list of parents to offer an empty spot for a day.

Delegate Clark echoed this concern about how Mountain Heart works and circled back to the connection between enabling a pool of local workers to show up for work and the interest of companies to set up shop and create jobs in the state. He noted that in the past, the Republican-led state legislature has been philosophically opposed to getting involved with child care. However, he noted that his fellow Republican legislators do seem to be more supportive of funding education. He offered some optimism that his colleagues might note the success that neighboring states have had with investing in early childhood education to attract employers and boost workforce participation. 🗣️

*A recording of the panel discussion will be available online at [YouTube.com/@StubblefieldInstitute](https://www.youtube.com/@StubblefieldInstitute) later in August. Information about the institute is at [StubblefieldInstitute.org](https://www.stubblefieldinstitute.org).*

Register today!

## Freedom's Run Race Series

Marathon | Half Marathon | 10k | 5k | Kids 1 Mile Fun Run

Register today!





October 12th, 2024

[www.freedomrun.org](http://www.freedomrun.org)

# HEAT TROUBLES FOR WILDLIFE

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.*



*Bluebirds have nested successfully in this nest box twice this year and are now on their third attempt. Such nest boxes offer less protection from the heat than natural cavities in dead trees. Photo by Doug Pifer.*

**ONE OF MY EDITORS SUGGESTED** I write about how wildlife copes with extended hot, dry weather. My first thought was that wildlife is much better than we are at adapting to such weather extremes. But after reading several articles, I soon discovered how wrong I was. Plants and animals are well adapted to survive short periods of heat and drought. But over the past several years, extended bouts of intense heat are becoming more frequent and more severe. The earth's climate warms by small increments, but minor temperature changes can bring major results. Trees die at an increasingly rapid rate, and the ever-warming temperatures make summer droughts more deadly.

We see worrisome changes all around us locally. Bees, wasps, butterflies, and other insects normally flock to the ox-eye, bergamot, black-eyed Susan, and purple coneflowers now blooming in our pollinator garden. Yet I see

very few red admirals, red spotted purples, and hackberry butterflies — three species that were abundant when we moved here a few years ago. During the hottest part of the summer, voracious catalpa sphinx caterpillars normally appear and nearly strip all the leaves of our catalpa tree. But not a single caterpillar showed up this year.

Bluebirds, purple martins, and other native birds have nested and fledged successfully in our nest boxes and gourds. But with temperatures remaining far above average during the day, these birds have less insulation in these man-made nesting places than they would if they nested in natural tree cavities. In sustained extreme weather these birds face more pressure to keep cool while raising their young. Some people use a garden hose to sprinkle water gently on nest boxes during the heat of the day. I hesitate to do that, for fear it will startle the young birds into jumping the nest prematurely, something they are more likely to do in extremely hot weather.

After nesting season is over, migratory songbirds move south and sustain themselves on abundant insects and ripening fall fruit. They arrive in tropical climes just as summer starts in that part of the world. But in recent years, as the weather here begins to warm earlier each spring, migratory songbirds must adjust the time they head back north. Otherwise, they miss the all-important leafing-out of the trees that sustains tiny caterpillars that emerge by the thousands to eat the unfolding, tender leaves. These caterpillars are the main high-protein snack that songbirds depend on to sustain them during their northbound travels. Ongoing satellite studies of bird migration dates show that birds do seem to be adjusting their departure times.

We can't single-handedly stop the globe from warming, but **here are some small things that can help wildlife to cope with extended hot, dry weather:**

- A bird bath in your garden, even a shallow pan of water with a rock in the middle, refreshed daily, helps not only birds but insects, amphibians, and other creatures escape the heat.
- Plant trees or shrubs in groups to create shady areas that mitigate the drying effect of direct sun.
- Plant native flowers, trees and shrubs that are better adapted to the local climate (which now includes winters that are a few degrees warmer on average along with the extended summer heat and dryness).
- Stop using pesticides and herbicides that contaminate natural water sources.

**FRESH, WILD CAUGHT U.S. SEAFOOD**

**Fridays**  
9:30am-6:00pm

**Saturdays**  
9:30am until  
**SOLD OUT**

Closed on  
August 16, 17, 23, & 24

**aliblu@aol.com**  
**540-931-8050**

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

Facebook.com/LesAlisJumboSeafood

Email aliblu@aol.com for product availability

THE  
**SOUND OF WAVES**  
HEALING EVENT

Sound Healer Anika

**A SOUND HEALING EVENT**  
**WITH CRYSTAL BOWLS**

....HEAL YOUR PAST....HEAL YOUR PAIN  
....HEAL YOUR MIND, BODY....RELEASE YOUR PAIN

**AUG 23, 2024 AT 7PM**

Limited seats - Purchase your ticket at  
**WWW.GOTOHEALING.COM/EVENTS**

Questions? Call 304-500-4325/Located at  
301 W. Washington St., Charles Town, WV

**Follow us on Facebook for Events**  
**@WVSERVER**

EXPLORE // MUSIC

# 2024 APPALACHIAN CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

## Debut Performance of “The Niagara Movement Suite”



Rufus Reid. Photo by John Abbott

THE APPALACHIAN CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL (ACMF) returns to Jefferson County this month to perform multiple concerts. The 2024 season’s theme is “Our Different Voices” and the festival has commissioned a new work from composer Rufus Reid, titled “The Niagara Movement Suite,” which it will perform during a free concert on Sunday August 11 at the Mather Campus in Harpers Ferry.

Reid is well known as a jazz performer, having recorded over 500 albums since the 1970s. He is also a well-respected educator. He added composition to his repertoire two decades ago and calls himself the “evolving bassist” as he continues to explore, create and perform on an active schedule.

ACMF premiered Reid’s “Wind and Sail” composition at last summer’s festival. According to Katie Tertell, ACMF Artistic Director, “It was just magical to work with Rufus. He really got the vibe of what the festival was about, and I knew I wanted to find a way to collaborate with him further. I was overjoyed when he said yes to writing a work about the Niagara movement for us, part of a project we’ve had in the pipeline for years.”

Reid offers a similar sentiment about Tertell and ACMF, commenting that “These are world-class musicians. I was blown away by the musicianship of the ensemble. It was a delight to hear my work performed last year. I was in London earlier this year and Katie arranged to meet. When she asked if I would write a new composition, I immediately said yes.”

Reid continued, “When I got home, I thought, ‘what did I agree to?’ I was generally familiar with the Niagara Movement as the precursor to the NAACP, but researching it to create this work was an education for me as well. With this music, I hope to convey an image in the audience’s minds of the circumstances and the activist climate during that period. It’s a pretty heavy subject matter and many of the issues continue today, even if we don’t always want to talk about it openly.”

Reid says he is eager to hear the work for the first time. “I compose on paper and I’ll play it on the piano and my double bass, but you’ll hear it at the same time as I’m hearing it performed for the first time. I’m looking forward to what happens when the music hits the air.”



The ACMF musicians will perform several of their concerts outdoors, including the finale on August 18 at Happy Retreat in Charles Town. Photo by Brian Christopher.

The 2024 Appalachian Chamber Music Festival runs from August 10 through 18 with 11 public concerts, each with a different program. Tickets for individual performances and the Festival Pass (granting admission to 10 ACMF-hosted concerts) are now on sale. Complete schedule and detailed information about each concert is available on the ACMF website at [AppalachianChamber.org](http://AppalachianChamber.org).



## HEATING & AIR SOLUTIONS

**304-850-3018**

[HeatingandAirSolutionsWV.com](http://HeatingandAirSolutionsWV.com)

Serving Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan Counties

---

Providing Fresh Air and Comfort to Your Home or Business

Installation — Maintenance — Repair

## 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 [advisorinfo.sec.gov](http://advisorinfo.sec.gov).

**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](http://THEDESIGNCENTERLLC.COM)

**CALL SUE TO CHAT ABOUT YOUR RESIDENTIAL  
OR COMMERCIAL DESIGN NEEDS!**

EXPLORE // SEPTEMBER BEER FESTIVALS

# FESTIVAL AT HAPPY RETREAT



THE 2024 HAPPY RETREAT CRAFT BEER & Music Festival will be on Saturday, September 7, from 11 am - 6 pm. The event will be held on the historic grounds of Happy Retreat, former home of Charles Town founder Charles Washington. The music lineup for this year's event is New Way Drive (bluegrass), 1 - 12:30 pm; Bobby D & The Truck Stop Burritos (current & old school country), 1 - 2:30 pm; Cramer & Ivy (local duo), 3 - 4:30 pm; and Brickyard Road (Skynyrd tribute band), 5 - 6 pm.

The beer lineup will include local brewers Rippon Brewing, Bavarian Brothers Brewing, and Abolitionist Ale Works, along with brews from Champion, VooDoo, Flying Dog, Screech Owl, High Ground, Bridge Brew works, Hawk Knob, Smoke Town, Big Timber, Great Lakes, Lagunita, Antietam, Parkersburg, and Parkway, plus ciders from Winchester Ciderworks and Angry Orchard. Food providers will be Ortega's Taco Shop, BC Catering Co, Fried Rite, and Flor & Galleano.

General admission tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door (age 21 and up) and include a 6.5 oz. tasting glass and 8 free tasting tickets. Additional tasting tickets may be purchased. Tickets for

designated drivers (no alcohol consumption) and ages 13-20 are \$20; children under 12 are free. General parking is available at the site and on nearby streets. The historic Happy Retreat house will be open to visitors during the festival.

All proceeds from the event will go to Friends of Happy Retreat which is a 501(c)3 non-profit whose mission is to restore historic Happy Retreat to serve as a vibrant center of cultural life and community gatherings. Website for information & ticket purchase: [HappyRetreat.org](http://HappyRetreat.org).



# SHEPHERDSTOWN ROTARY BEER FEST



THE ROTARY CLUB of Shepherdstown will be hosting its 3rd annual Beer & Food Fest on Saturday, September 28 in Morgan's Grove Park in Shepherdstown. The event runs from 4 - 8 pm and will feature music by The Reflex, a high-energy 80s cover band that will transport you back in time (no DeLorean needed) with its full-on retro concert of the best 80s party songs.

Tickets are available for purchase online at [ShepherdstownRotary.org/beerfest](http://ShepherdstownRotary.org/beerfest) (last year's event sold out in advance).

The proceeds of this event will benefit youth in the Eastern Panhandle through various Title 1 school partnerships, special needs program support, pediatric trauma survivors along with Interact & Rotaract club support, mentorships, and scholarship opportunities for youth.



**MARIGOLD HEALING**

## SUMMER SALE

**SALE STARTS AUG 2 THRU AUG 23**

What if I told you, you don't have to be sick or in pain? That you don't have feel hopeless. We offer new technology, new ways of thinking and ancient practices that cause the body to connect and heal itself. Join us for a session and start a new way of thinking to your best health. What have you got to lose?

**BOOK NOW** [www.gotohealing.com](http://www.gotohealing.com)

Book a session now using coupon **SUMMERSALE20** and receive 20% off for any EESystem Session

**SPECIAL OFFER**

QUESTIONS? HOW DOES IT WORK? GIVE US A CALL AT 304-500-4325 (HEAL)

*Marigold*  
Healing Center

301 West Washington Street  
Charles Town, WV 25414  
[www.gotohealing.com](http://www.gotohealing.com)

Follow us on Facebook for Events @WVOBSERVER

EXPLORE // SHEPHERDSTOWN EVENTS



**SHEPHERDSTOWN COMMUNITY CLUB invites you to join**

**COMMUNITY BOOT SALE!**



SCAN HERE

**\$25/Space**

**MONDAY SEPT 2, 2024**

During the Annual Labor Day Picnic at Morgan's Grove Park!!

Picnic: 12 to 3  
Boot Sale: 9 to 2

Concessions will be available! Live Music, & Kids Activities!

All proceeds will benefit the Shepherdstown Community Club in the care of the War Memorial Building & Morgan's Grove Park!

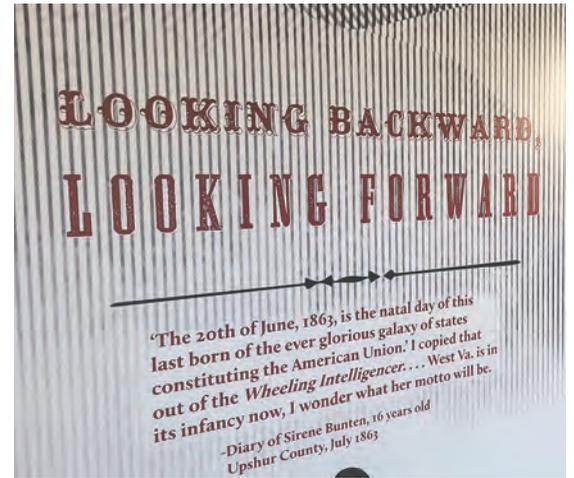
**Jefferson County**  
WHERE ALMOST HEAVEN BEGINS™




For more information, email: [info@shepherdstowncc.org](mailto:info@shepherdstowncc.org)

# THE BIRTH OF WEST VIRGINIA

A TRAVELING HISTORY EXHIBIT developed by the West Virginia Humanities Council has arrived in Shepherdstown. The Born of Rebellion exhibit uses excerpts from diaries, quotes and recollected experiences of civilians and soldiers during the Civil War to recount the story of West Virginia's origin as a new state. Shepherd University's George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War will host the exhibit in the rotunda of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education (213 North King Street, Shepherdstown). *The exhibit is free and open to the public weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm until the end of August. For more information visit [Shepherd.edu/civilwar](http://Shepherd.edu/civilwar). Full tour information can be found at [WVhumanities.org](http://WVhumanities.org).*



## THE STORY OF AN ACTIVIST

**SPEAK STORY SERIES** is hosting Ilene Evans at the War Memorial Building (102 East German St, Shepherdstown) on Tuesday, April 9 at 7:30 pm. Evans is a storyteller, performer and scholar who weaves music, poetry, dance and drama to bring history alive. For this program, Evans will portray Coralie Franklin Cook, an activist in the early 20th century women's suffrage movement. Cook graduated from Storer College in Harpers Ferry, the first descendent of a Monticello enslaved person to graduate from college. *Tickets are \$20, available at the door or online at [SpeakStorySeries.com](http://SpeakStorySeries.com). Recommended for age 13 and older.*



## MORGAN'S GROVE PARK EVENTS

**THE SHEPHERDSTOWN COMMUNITY CLUB** is hosting several upcoming events at Morgan's Grove Park (4198 Kearneysville Pike). On August 9, from 8:30 to 11 pm the Tri-State Astronomers will be on hand with telescopes for a family-friendly "Star Party" to explore the night sky. On August 10, the club will screen the movie NOPE (2022, rated R for language and some violence) starting at 8:45 pm; Oakwood Barbeque Company will be selling food & drinks from 6:30 or you can bring your own picnic. On September 2, the annual Labor Day picnic will run from noon to 3 pm, with live music and games. A community "boot sale" in the parking lot will start at 9 am.

More info at [ShepherdstownCC.org](http://ShepherdstownCC.org).

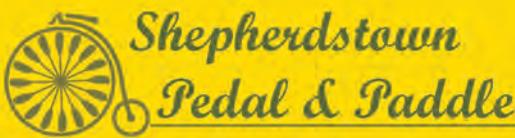


**Two Rivers Treads**  
RUN · WALK · HEALTH

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

400 S. Mildred St.  
Ranson, WV 25438  
304.895.8843

Shop with us online at:  
[TwoRiversTreads.com](http://TwoRiversTreads.com)



**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](http://ThePedalPaddle.com)  
115 West German Street, Shepherdstown



**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](http://www.hotbuttongallery.com)  
129 East German Street, Shepherdstown, WV

EXPLORE // CHARLES TOWN EVENTS

# PARADE & HERITAGE FESTIVAL

THE 2024 JEFFERSON COUNTY AFRICAN AMERICAN Cultural & Heritage Festival (AACHF) will kick off on August 16 with a “Gospel Extravaganza” from 6 to 8 pm in the Betty Roper auditorium at Wright Denny Intermediate School (209 West Congress St, Charles Town) celebrating the 70-year anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court ruling. The festivities will continue on August 17 with a parade through downtown Charles Town that begins at noon followed by an afternoon of music and family-friendly entertainment including food and merchandise vendors. The Saturday afternoon events will take place on South Lawrence Street and the featured performer will be Geno Marriott. *Free admission.*



*The community drum circle at the 2023 festival welcomed everyone to participate.*

# LOCAL FOOD SURVEY

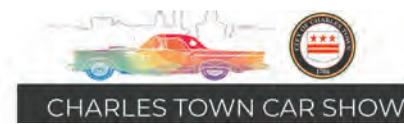
THE JEFFERSON GROWERS ARTISANS & PRODUCERS COALITION (G.A.P.) is surveying the local community to understand residents’ interest in local produce, grocery delivery, bulk purchasing, and nutrition education. The survey will help guide the potential expansion of the Bushel & Peck services. Survey participants will have a chance to win a basket of local goods courtesy of the Charles Town Farmers Market and the Bushel & Peck grocery store. *The survey is online at [tinyurl.com/BPfoodhub](https://tinyurl.com/BPfoodhub) or scan the QR code.*



# CHARLES TOWN CAR SHOW ON AUG. 31

DOWNTOWN CHARLES TOWN will host hundreds of cars of all makes and years competing for awards on August 31, from 10 am to 3 pm. The family-friendly event will include food trucks,

vendors, and a kids zone run by Jefferson County Parks and Recreation. Free admission for spectators. \$25 if you are displaying a car in the show.



**Jefferson County Fair — August 18 to 24. Info & tickets at [JeffersonCountyFair.org](https://JeffersonCountyFair.org)**

SAME DAY SERVICE



**Petti**  
PEST CONTROL

Local. Trusted. Professional.

**(304)725-9997**

**ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!**

*Call today to schedule a MOSQUITO TREATMENT!*

FREE INSPECTIONS

54<sup>th</sup> Annual

# BLUEMONT FAIR

**Sept. 21-22, 2024 • 10am-5pm**

SNICKERSVILLE TURNPIKE, BLUEMONT, VIRGINIA

**ADMISSION: \$10 • CHILDREN 9 & UNDER: FREE • FREE PARKING**

Children’s Fair & Petting Zoo 🦄 Arts & Crafts 🎨 Explore History  
Market Vendors 🍷 Local Beer & Wine 🎵 Live Music & Performers  
...and Many Family Fun Activities!

[BluemontFair.org](https://BluemontFair.org)

ENGAGE // COUNTY COMMISSION

## COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS

### Discussions About Office Space & Solar

THE PREVIOUS TWO REGULAR MEETINGS of the Jefferson County Commission, on June 27 and July 11, were lengthy sessions, clocking in at over 5 hours for the June meeting and over 4 hours for the early July meeting. The Commission canceled the second regular meeting in July (scheduled for the 18th). The next regular meeting for the Commission is scheduled for August 1.

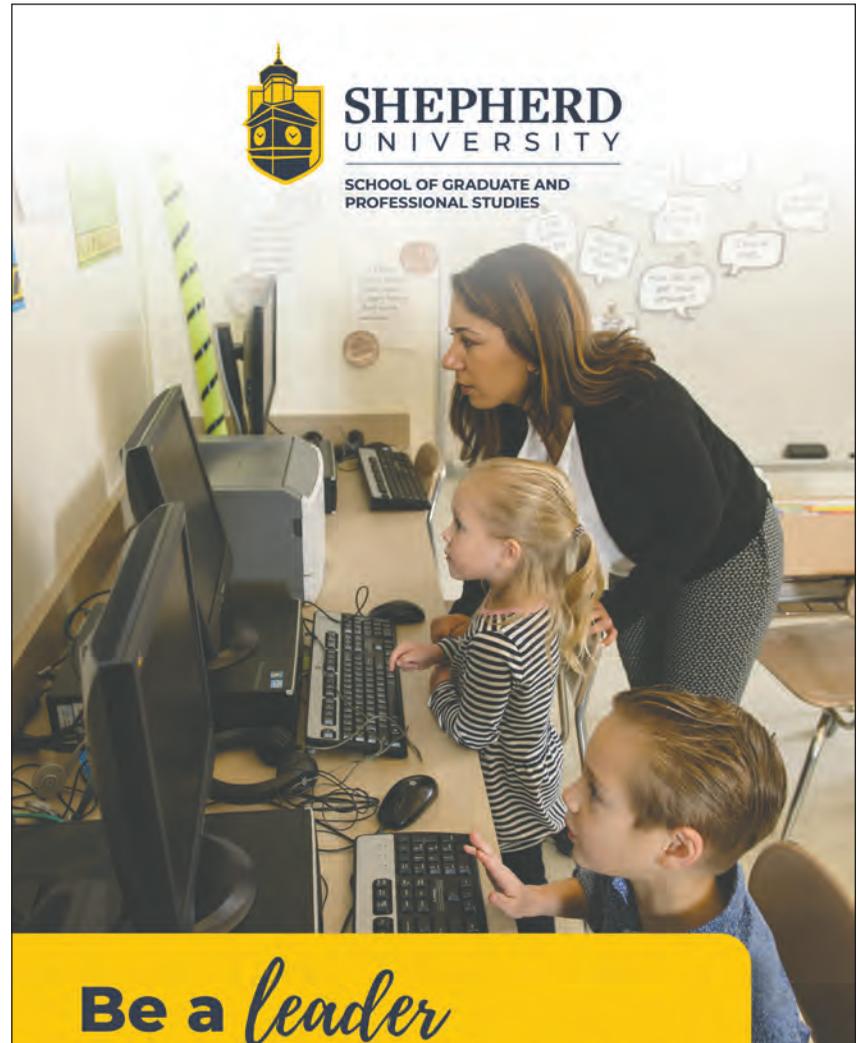
During the June 27 meeting, Laura Kuhn, who oversees the maintenance of the county’s buildings and vehicles, provided a comprehensive review of all of the county facilities, including the many buildings that occupy the center of downtown Charles Town. As Kuhn worked her way through the list, the cost of maintenance and inefficient working conditions were recurring themes for many of the buildings. She also highlighted the pressing need for additional courtroom space in the magistrate court building, which currently houses the Sheriff’s tax office on the ground floor. Kuhn pointed out that putting the tax office in the court building has made it cumbersome for residents to access that office, but that the county currently lacks any other place for that office in its current inventory of buildings. The Commission has not publicly announced any plans for reconfiguring or acquiring new office space, but there has been an recurring item under the legal issues on the Commission’s agendas for the past several months that is described as “matters involving or affecting the construction, planning, purchase, sale, or lease of property for county office and/or courthouse space.”

Also during the June 27 meeting, representatives from EDF Renewables, a French company that has been planning to develop the Wild Hill solar facility on 800 acres spanning several parcels off Kabletown Road, presented a request for the Commission to enter into a sale and leaseback agreement that would entail the company making fixed payments to the county and the school system for the next four decades instead of paying the regular taxes during that same period. This type of arrangement is described as a PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes).

The company requested a quick decision on its request, referencing a deadline they had to make additional investments in the project to satisfy the requirements of the electric grid operator (PJM Interconnection). Several of the commissioners expressed concern about the timeline.

Following the June 27 meeting, commissioners James Cook and Kelvin Upson (both serving temporary appointments on the Commission pending a final resolution of the judicial process that removed commissioners Tricia Jackson and Jennifer Krouse on May 1) announced they would be holding a town hall meeting on July 1 to hear what residents had to say about the PILOT agreement. That meeting drew a large crowd. Other than representatives for the company and one of the landowners who had agreed to lease a portion of his property for the project, every speaker was against granting the PILOT agreement.

At the July 11 meeting, the Commission had a further discussion of EDF’s PILOT request and voted unanimously to reject it. The company representatives who spoke at the meetings had previously indicated that a “no” vote would mean that the company would not be proceeding with the project, but the company has not yet responded to *The Observer’s* requests for a specific confirmation of their plans for the proposed project. 🗨️



Be a leader  
in the classroom.

Apply for our new **Master of Education**  
in educational leadership program:

- Fully online
- 30 credit hours over 10 classes
- Half-semester courses

LEARN MORE

[www.shepherd.edu/graduate-studies](http://www.shepherd.edu/graduate-studies)



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**

