

August 2025

Shepherdstown
WEST VIRGINIA

TOWN HALL NEWSLETTER



Hello neighbors,

Sending our monthly update on happenings in town and at Town Hall. The lazy days of August have been chock-full of activities at Town Hall—including hiring our Town's first finance director, announcing plans to support more artistic benches in town, and more. I would like to draw your attention in particular to the September 9th Town Hall Forum on historic preservation. Read more about the forum and many more updates below.

Enjoy the Labor Day holiday and the final few weeks of summer!

— James Gatz |
jgatz@shepherdstown.gov

PARKING LOT A UPDATE



Welcome all Shepherd University students back to town and campus for the start of the fall semester! We extend our warmest wishes to all students for a successful and fulfilling academic year.

Parking Update: The town and Shepherd University are collaborating to install updated signage so folks know that Lot A (High Street) is available free of charge after 6pm weekdays and on weekends. Additionally, the town is going to install better signage on German and Princess Streets reminding shoppers about the free parking. Look for the new signs soon.



Reintroducing the Art Bench Initiative

Town is pleased to announce the revitalization of our Bench Initiative! Continuing Shepherdstown's legacy of art and community, we are working to reintroduce benches in town with a focus on creativity and public space.

The first installation is planned for late fall or early winter in front of the wall at McMurran Hall, with more to be added over time as the Public Works Committee identifies locations. These benches will not only provide seating but also showcase the artistic spirit of our community.



Tree Commission Update

As part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy tree canopy, Town will be undertaking important tree work in the coming weeks:

- **Tree Removals:** The Sugar Maple in front of Town Hall and the Hawthorne in front of Bistro 112 will be removed due to decline. Both sites will be prepared for replanting.
- **Routine Pruning:** Scheduled along Duke and German Streets, as well as New Street.
- **Tree Monitoring:** Following a resident's concern, an arborist serving on the Tree Commission assessed the Japanese Tree Lilac at the corner of German and Princess Streets. While a branch is in decline, the tree does not currently warrant treatment nor removal. The Commission will continue to monitor its condition.

Looking ahead, the Commission is developing a planting plan for this fall. In addition to replanting where removals are taking place, the group has identified gaps along West German Street in the approach into town. Adding trees in this corridor will provide much-needed shade and enhance the beauty of one of Shepherdstown's primary gateways.

The Commission is currently evaluating tree species best suited for these locations, with the aim of planting in October or November.

Town's First Finance Director



Town Hall welcomes Maged Kirolos as our first-ever director of finance.

Maged brings decades of experience in finance leadership, having worked in the hospitality and entertainment industries as both a director and regional director of finance.

His expertise lies in applying technology to make financial planning, budgeting, and reporting more efficient and effective—an approach that will help Town Hall make decisions grounded in accurate, timely data.

Originally from Egypt, Maged and his family have lived in Jefferson County for several years, with ties to Charles Town. Taking on this role in Shepherdstown is both a professional opportunity and a personal homecoming.

"It's important to me to be part of the community and to serve in a way that makes a real difference," he said.

Maged has already been struck by the historic charm and energy of Shepherdstown, and he looks forward to getting involved in town life.

Please join us in welcoming Maged to Town Hall and to the Shepherdstown community.

Welcoming New Businesses to Town

Shepherdstown is excited to welcome **Sand & Pine Co.**, a locally owned boutique offering thoughtfully curated home goods and unique gifts, bringing a fresh shopping experience to German Street. Several new additions are also on the way, including **Stoney's Whiskey, Wine & Raw Bar** in the former Devonshire space, **The Study Hall** in the old Tony's Pizza/Stonewalls location, and a brand-new restaurant planned for the former China Kitchen site—more details coming soon!



Celebrating Heritage, History, and Family

Mayor Gatz has signed three proclamations in partnership with the local chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution, each recognizing important observances for our community.

- **National Grandparents Day:** Shepherdstown will join the nation in celebrating Grandparents Day on Sunday, September 7, honoring the vital role grandparents play in strengthening families and supporting younger generations.
- **Constitution Week:** From September 17–23, Shepherdstown will commemorate the 238th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution.
- **National American Indian Heritage Month:** This November, Shepherdstown will recognize the history, culture, and contributions of American Indians and Indigenous peoples, celebrating their lasting impact on our nation through programs and activities.

(Pictured above: Mayor James Gatz and Susan Benson, Regent, Pack Horse Ford Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution)

Shepherdstown

HERITAGE EDUCATION

OPEN FORUM

HELP US SHAPE THE FUTURE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN SHEPHERDSTOWN

JOIN US FOR A PUBLIC MEETING TO LEARN ABOUT THE SHEPHERDSTOWN HERITAGE EDUCATION INITIATIVE AND SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON NEW GUIDANCE FOR OWNING AND CARING FOR HISTORIC HOMES AND BUILDINGS IN OUR TOWN

TUESDAY SEPT. 9TH, 5:30-7PM

WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING, 2ND FLOOR
102 EAST GERMAN STREET, AT THE CORNER OF KING AND GERMAN STREETS

METER PARKING ON NEARBY STREETS WILL BE FREE OF CHARGE AT THE TIME

Public Forum on Historic Preservation

The Shepherdstown Historic Landmarks Commission will host a public forum on Tuesday, September 9, from 5:30–7pm at the War Memorial Building (102 East German Street, 2nd Floor) to introduce the Shepherdstown Heritage Education Initiative, which will produce guides and education materials on owning and preserving historic buildings.

Area residents and real estate professionals are invited to attend to learn about the initiative, hear current plans, and provide suggestions and input on topics to be covered in new educational materials on caring for historic properties.

The public will also be invited to share feedback, suggest additional topics, ask questions, and offer input on how the Town can best support property owners in preserving these irreplaceable community assets.

All are welcome. We hope to see you there!

Did You Know?

The mission of the **Shepherdstown Grants Committee** is to actively seek grant funding from government agencies, and private foundations, to support the Town's priorities and advance the goals outlined in the [Comprehensive Plan](#).

The Committee recently set the following goals for fiscal year 2025:

1. Develop standard operating procedures and a policy guide.
2. Create a database of additional potential grant projects that align with Town priorities.

Help Shape the Future of Shepherdstown!

Town Hall is always looking for volunteers to serve on committees and get involved. Your voice and time can make a real difference! Don't hesitate to contact us:

304-876-2312 |
clerk@shepherdstown.us

Upcoming Events to Keep an Eye Out For

Shepherdstown is going to be full of events this fall. For more details on these and other events happening in town, visit [Experience Shepherdstown](#).

- **Friday, September 5** – First Friday: Town-sponsored event for the entire family with live music by Eldred Hill and Eddie Barney at McMurran Hall – as well as the opening reception of the Experience Appalachia art exhibit at the Welcome Center.
- **Fri-Sun, September 12-14** – Shepherd University's 29th-annual [Appalachian Heritage Festival](#): The festival concert and activities return to downtown, bringing music, art, and history to the community.
- **Saturday, September 20** – [Constitution Day Parade](#): Celebrate the Constitution with this special parade starting at 10am, marching along German Street – enhanced by additional on-theme activities that day.
- **Sunday, September 28** – [Shepherdstown Centennial Lions Club](#) Movie Night: The Lions Club will host a celebratory movie night at the [Opera House](#) to mark their anniversary.
- **Saturday, October 4** – [Freedom's Run](#): Runners will take to the streets and trails – be prepared for road closures and cheer on participants as they pass through this renowned course!
- **October 10-19** – [Shepherdstown Community Club Book Sale](#) & 80th Anniversary: A beloved tradition continues with the Community Club's book sale and anniversary celebration all week.
- **October** – BooFest & Storefront Halloween Decorating Contest planning is underway! A cash-prize contest will recognize the best spooky storefront décor. Decorations must be up by October 2nd to be judged in time for First Friday.

Upcoming Dates/Times for Town Council and Committee Meetings (Town Hall)

All meetings are typically convened in-person at Town Hall and broadcast via Zoom, with the exception of Age-Friendly Shepherdstown—which is held only via [Zoom here](#).

For all meetings, if a Zoom link is available for that meeting, it can be found [on this page](#) by clicking on the respective meeting and "2025"—and then the Video link within the "Resources" column that coincides with that date/time.

Meetings:

- Town Council: Wednesday, September 10, 6:30pm.
- Age-Friendly Shepherdstown: Wednesday, September 17, 12:30pm.
- Finance Committee: Wednesday, September 3, 6:30pm.
- Historic Landmarks Committee: Monday, September 8, 6pm.
- Parks and Recreation Committee: Tuesday, September 23, 6pm.
- Planning Commission: Monday, September 15, 6pm.
- Public Works Committee: Monday, September 22, 6pm.
- Town Grants Committee: Tuesday, September 2, 6:15pm.
- Tree Commission: Thursday, September 11, 6pm.
- Water & Sanitary Boards: Thursday, September 25, 6pm.



Mayor's Office Hours:

Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm, Town Hall.
Email jgatz@shepherdstown.gov with any questions.

Municipal Court hours: Third Wednesday of every month starting at 5:30pm, Town Hall.
[Click here](#) for more information.