



JULY 2026

Shepherdstown  
WEST VIRGINIA



# TOWN HALL NEWSLETTER

**Hello neighbors,**

Here's a "warm" welcome to July.

We're coming up on an event-filled weekend with an amazing First Friday event on July 3 and our best-ever Independence Day parade and picnic on Saturday, July 4. This is going to be an unforgettable few days for our little town. See below for all the details.

This newsletter also highlights several other happenings:



- The Town's plan to purchase the Shepherdstown Elementary School.
- The latest activities at Town Hall—the new Town Council gets going with its first regular monthly meeting on July 8. Please stop by to learn more.
- Openings on Town Committees, Commissions, and Boards. Please help shape our community's future by volunteering.
- There's still time to add your name to our petition that sends State officials the important message to FINISH THE PATH TO MORGAN'S GROVE PARK!

One more item: the Contemporary American Theater Festival starts in about a week. As I'm sure you've noticed, many actors, directors, and technical and production staff are in town prepping for the festival. Be sure to give them a warm welcome when you see them. They are amazing.

Stay cool, stay safe, and enjoy this important holiday. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the parade!

— James Gatz | [jgatz@shepherdstown.gov](mailto:jgatz@shepherdstown.gov)



## Come Out for First Friday Music, July 3rd, at the Train Station

Shepherdstown's First Friday "Shepherdstown LIVE" music series will continue Friday, July 3, from 5-7pm, with free music inside the Shepherdstown Train Station (111 Audrey Egle Dr) by Ginada Pinata.

Held monthly from May through October, First Friday events invite residents and visitors to gather in downtown Shepherdstown for live music, local shopping, dining, and community connection.

The July event is co-sponsored by the Town of Shepherdstown and Jefferson Security Bank, and is brought to you by Experience Shepherdstown. For more information or to sign up for the town events newsletter, please visit [www.Shepherdstown.info](http://www.Shepherdstown.info).

# Celebrate Independence Day 2026 in Shepherdstown This Saturday!



In a month spilling over with noteworthy events, this year's 4th of July celebration stands tall among them. Join friends, neighbors, and our entire Shepherdstown community on Saturday, July 4, as we celebrate Independence Day—and our nation's 250th birthday—with a day of community, patriotism, music, and family fun.

## Independence Day Parade

The annual Independence Day Parade, sponsored by [The Rotary Club of Shepherdstown](#), with assistance and support of our town, begins at 11am, traveling along German Street from the intersection of Church and German Streets to Princess and German Streets.

At approximately 10:50am, before the parade begins, attendees are invited to enjoy a special choral performance by the community choir at the intersection of German and King Streets.

Spectators are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and find a spot along German Street to enjoy this beloved Shepherdstown tradition. Bring sun umbrellas to protect from the sun and high temperatures. Following the parade, please enjoy beautiful downtown Shepherdstown and stop in our shops and restaurants, get some ice cream and treats, and have a wonderful July 4th celebration.

## Can't make it downtown?

The Town will livestream the parade on "Facebook Live," via the [Town's Facebook page](#), allowing everyone to enjoy the celebration from wherever they are. (Logging in to Facebook is optional when using the link.)

Even folks attending in person can use their phones to tune into the Facebook live broadcast to bring and share patriotic music with friends and family to accompany the parade.

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## Parking Information

To help make your visit to downtown Shepherdstown as convenient as possible, attendees are encouraged to park in designated public parking areas, including:

- St. Agnes Catholic Church parking lot (near the intersection of New Street and Duke Street in town)
- Shepherd University parking lots, including Parking Lot A at White Hall (corner of Princess and High Streets) | SU is not enforcing parking on their lots, with the exception of disabled parking
- Other available public parking throughout town/side streets

Please allow extra travel time, as traffic and road closures associated with the parade may affect access to downtown before and during the event.

## Continue the Town's America 250 Celebration

Following the parade, everyone is invited to the [19th-Annual Fourth of July Parade & Picnic](#), hosted by the Rotary Club at Morgan's Grove Park from 12-3pm.

Admission is free, and the family-friendly celebration will feature live music from two local bands, a waterslide and children's activities, along with hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, ice cream, and non-alcoholic beverages available for purchase. Proceeds from food sales help support the event.

Whether you're cheering on the parade, gathering with friends and neighbors downtown, or spending the afternoon at Morgan's Grove Park, we hope you'll join us as Shepherdstown celebrates Independence Day and our nation's 250th anniversary together!

— **See you there!**



# Welcome Banner Contest Winner



We are pleased to announce that Danielle Corsetto is the winner of the Shepherdstown Welcome Banner Contest.

The contest invited community members to create a banner design that reflects the spirit, character, and welcoming nature of Shepherdstown. After reviewing submissions, judges selected Danielle's design for its creativity and representation of some of the Town's unique attributes.

"There are so many things that are unique about Shepherdstown, that it's hard to choose what to put on a banner," said Mayor Gatz, "but I think people will be very pleased with the welcoming nature of Danielle's design."

The winning banner design will be revealed in early August and displayed on light poles throughout Historic Shepherdstown, rotating alongside seasonal and event-based banners.

Thanks to all participants who submitted designs to help celebrate Shepherdstown's creativity and community spirit.



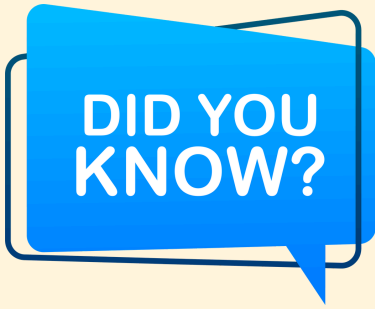
## Shepherdstown Welcomes New Town Council

In the small-but-mighty event category, the Town of Shepherdstown officially welcomed its newly elected municipal leadership during a swearing-in ceremony held Monday, June 29, marking the beginning of new two-year terms for Town Council, Town Recorder, and Mayor.

Mayor James Gatz administered oaths of office to Harriet Pearson (Town Recorder) and Town Council members Jim Auxer, Marcy Bartlett, Cheryl Roberts, Ashleigh Sanders, and Joe Yates. Our Town Clerk, Amy Boyd, administered the oath of office to the Mayor.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who participated in the municipal election process, including voters, poll workers, volunteers, and staff whose efforts ensured a successful election.

The new Council will convene for the first time at the regular council meeting date/time on Wednesday, July 8, at 6:30pm in Town Hall.



## Town Plans to Purchase Shepherdstown Elementary School Property

The Town of Shepherdstown and the Jefferson County Board of Education (JCBOE) announced on June 9th that an agreement had been approved under which the Town will purchase the former Shepherdstown Elementary School and associated property for \$1.57 million.

The agreement will transfer the longstanding school building and more than eight acres of associated property to Town ownership. The Town intends to finance the purchase through a bond issuance, allowing the acquisition to move forward without disrupting current Town operations or services.

The acquisition is, above all, an investment in Shepherdstown's future. By bringing the property under local control, the Town aims to preserve the character that defines the historic community, ensure that any future development of the property is guided by local decision-making rather than left to outside parties, and to protect the Town Run—the iconic and environmentally important creek that runs alongside the property.

“This is a rare opportunity to shape the future of a significant property in that it has been at the heart of Shepherdstown for generations,” said Mayor Gatz. “By stepping forward now, we keep decisions about the future of the property where they belong—with our residents—and we protect the things that make this town special, including the Town Run.”

The Town will take the time needed over the coming months to study the property carefully and weigh a range of options for its future uses—including such options as adaptive reuse and redevelopment of the building, co-development with one or more partners or a future sale subject to restrictions that reflect the community's priorities.



# Sign the Petition to Support the Morgan's Grove Pedestrian Path



We are asking all residents and community members to help us advocate for the completion of the long-planned pedestrian path connecting Shepherdstown Middle School and Morgan's Grove Park.

To help communicate that message, please add your name to the petition that will be sent to the West Virginia Division of Highways – with a “signatures deadline” of July 6.

To date, we have more than 400 signatures, with a goal of at least 500.

## How to Participate

Residents may add their name to the petition by completing either the [online petition form here](#)—just click on the link, fill out the form, and click “submit.”

OR: [the fillable PDF version is here](#), which can be downloaded, filled out, and then emailed to [comments@shepherdstown.gov](mailto:comments@shepherdstown.gov).

Additionally, the PDF can be printed out and delivered to Town Hall at 104 N. King St., Shepherdstown, or mailed to Shepherdstown Town Hall at P.O. Box 248, Shepherdstown, WV 25443 / attention: Shepherdstown pedestrian path.

Please submit only one petition per person, but we encourage each person in a household to sign the petition. All petition forms must be submitted to Town Hall by July 6 (2026).

Town staff will compile the responses and present them to the Department of Transportation in mid-July.

## A Brief Background

Because the path is expected to provide a safe and accessible connection between Shepherdstown Middle School, Morgan's Grove Park, and surrounding areas, many residents have expressed a strong desire to see the project completed as soon as possible.

For more than a decade, the Town has worked with the West Virginia Division of Highways and other partners to advance this important project. Funding has already been secured through grants, matching funds have been committed, required easements have been obtained from property owners, and the State has completed both the environmental review and engineering work. Earlier this year, the State also executed a construction contract for the project.

The Town was originally informed that construction would be completed by November 2026. More recently, however, the anticipated completion date was pushed back to July 2027.

— Thank you for taking the time to share your perspective and support this important community project!





## Volunteer Opportunities with the Town of Shepherdstown

The Town of Shepherdstown is seeking qualified individuals to serve on the Town Board of Zoning Appeals, Planning Commission, Tree Commission, Age-Friendly Shepherdstown Committee, Grants Committee, Historic Landmarks

Commission, and Parks & Recreation Committee.

Serving on Town Commissions and Boards is an excellent opportunity to contribute to the future of Shepherdstown. Find out more about each group above by [clicking here](#).

Additionally, DOWNLOAD AND COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM for any of the Board or Commission positions above by: [Clicking Here](#).

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

– Please contact Amy L. Boyd, Town Clerk, at 304-876-2398 or by email ([aboyn@shepherdstown.gov](mailto:aboyn@shepherdstown.gov)) with any questions.



Happy  
4<sup>th</sup> of July



# 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 "2026"—and then the Video link within the "Resources" column that coincides with that date/time.

## Meetings:

- Town Council: Wednesday, July 8, 6:30pm.
- Age-Friendly Shepherdstown: Tuesday, July 14, 1pm.
- Finance Committee: Wednesday, July 1, 6:30pm.
- Grants Committee: Tuesday, July 7, 6:15pm.
- Historic Landmarks Commission: Monday, July 6, 6pm.
- Joint Meeting of the Water & Sanitary Boards: Thursday, July 23, 6:30pm.
- Planning Commission: Monday, July 20, 6pm.
- Public Works Committee: Monday, July 27, 6:30pm.
- Parks & Rec Committee: Tuesday, July 28, 6pm.
- Tree Commission: Thursday, July 9, 6:30pm.



## Mayor's Office Hours:

Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm, Town Hall.  
Email [jgatz@shepherdstown.gov](mailto: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.

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