

# TOWN HALL NEWSLETTER

**Hello neighbors,**



What an amazing past couple weeks we've experienced right here in Shepherdstown! And summer is just getting started.

The Back Alley Garden Tour was a tremendous success, with hundreds of residents and visitors experiencing some of the most beautiful yards and green spaces our town has to offer. The creativity and care our gardeners bring to our town never ceases to amaze me.

The June 1st Pride Parade filled our streets with color, music, and joy. Seeing so many neighbors come together to celebrate who we are—in all our diversity—reminded me why I am so proud to serve this special community.

Looking ahead, the June First Friday event is happening soon, and Street Fest is right around the corner. Expect great food, live entertainment, local vendors, and the kind of good-spirited fun that only our town can deliver. Come downtown for these two awesome events and bring the whole family—and some neighbors, as well!

That said, none of this happens without the incredible volunteers who give their time, energy, and heart to make these events come alive. To every volunteer who showed up, set up, and stayed late—thank you. You are the backbone of everything we celebrate together.

Also, just wanted to give a shout out to cast and crew from the Contemporary American Theater Festival, who begin arriving in town this week in preparation for the festival in July. Please give the entire CATF ensemble a warm welcome, show them around, and help them feel at home right here.

Here's to a wonderful summer ahead!

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



## Results of the Shepherdstown Municipal Election

On June 2, Shepherdstown voters headed to the polls to elect municipal leadership for two-year terms. Mayor James Gatz was re-elected while voters also elected a Town Recorder and five members of the Town Council.

Total voters: 132

### Results:

- Mayor: **James Gatz** — votes received: 114
- Recorder: **Harriet Pearson** — votes received: 117
- Town Council Members:
  - Ashleigh Sanders** — votes received: 94
  - Jim Auxer** — votes received: 86
  - Marcy Barlett** — votes received: 111
  - Joe Yates** — votes received: 96
  - Cheryl Roberts** — votes received: 111

Thank you to everyone who participated in the election process, including voters, poll workers, and volunteers who helped make Election Day 2026 a success!



## Come Out for First Friday Community Music, June 5

Shepherdstown's First Friday series will continue Friday, June 5, at 7pm, with a free outdoor performance by [Tony M. Music](#) on the lawn of McMurran Hall.

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.

Tony M. is a former elementary school teacher who transitioned to full-time music in 2014 and now performs more than 175 shows annually at schools, libraries, and family events. Known for blending music, storytelling, and literature into interactive performances, Tony's programs focus on creativity, positive mental health, and growth mindset themes.

Shepherdstown LIVE is co-sponsored by the Town of Shepherdstown, Jefferson Security Bank, Stoney's Pub, Nikki Visions Vol. 1, and Wind Gap Music, and is presented by [Experience Shepherdstown](#) (image credit above).

## Intern Spotlight: Asher Rudolph



When Asher Rudolph graduated from Shepherd University in May with a degree in Applied Mathematics and Data Science and a minor in Economics, he wasn't necessarily planning on a future in government.

Today, however, he's spending part of his summer at Shepherdstown Town Hall as a paid intern, where he's using his skills in statistics, and data modeling to help establish procedures for data-driven decision making around Town budgeting, programs and initiatives.

He's also helping ensure that Town data is more accessible and useful for residents and elected leaders alike.

"You're taking information that already exists and helping tell the story behind it," he explained. "The data is there, but it's important to present it in a way that's meaningful and accessible."

For Asher, who also played four years of basketball at Shepherd, the internship has provided a firsthand look at how local government operates and how communities plan for the future. His growing interest in economic development and larger-scale planning helped draw him to the opportunity.

"I thought it would be a good experience to see how towns work and how decisions get made," he said.

This fall, Asher will continue his education at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, where he will pursue a Master of Science degree in Applied Economics. Before then, he'll continue supporting a variety of Town projects through the end of July.

"I think you can preserve what makes a place special while still finding new ways to improve how information is organized and shared," he said.

# The Story Within the Story

Documenting Shepherdstown's history, and safeguarding its future.

Behind nearly every historic building in Shepherdstown is a story. There is also a growing effort underway to ensure those stories—and the buildings themselves—are carefully documented, understood, and preserved for future generations.

That effort is taking shape through a partnership involving the Town of Shepherdstown, the Town's Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC), and Shepherd University's Historic Preservation program.

At the center of the work is what Shepherd University senior and Historic Preservation Intern Tabatha Delphi jokingly calls "the big scary Excel sheet"—a comprehensive database tied to decades of historic surveys documenting buildings throughout Shepherdstown.

The records date back to the town's original National Register nomination in 1987 and have been expanded over the years through professional studies, Town initiatives, and student-led preservation projects.

Today, the effort is being guided by Karl Musser, the Town's Program Manager and Planning & Zoning Specialist, alongside Delphi. Much of the recent work has focused on organizing, digitizing, and verifying historic records.

Musser has compared historic surveys against current addresses, identified properties that were missed over the years, corrected inconsistencies, and worked to ensure that survey information accurately matches the buildings being documented.

"There were a handful of properties that had been misaddressed over the years," he said. "So part of this became a quality-control effort—making sure the data accurately matched the buildings being discussed."

Delphi's work has focused on compiling and reviewing years of surveys completed through Shepherd University's Historic Preservation program, comparing them against National Register records, historic maps, and updated standards established by the State Historic Preservation Office.

"Not every town has the resources to revisit and update surveys every decade," she pointed out. "So even with a few missing streets or inconsistencies, Shepherdstown is still ahead of the game."

... cont.



## Active Stewards

The resulting database serves a practical purpose for both the Town and the Town's HLC, providing valuable historical context when property owners propose exterior changes within the historic district while also preserving an evolving record of Shepherdstown's architectural heritage.

At the same time, Town officials and preservation leaders are working to make historic preservation itself more accessible and easier to understand.

Through a Heritage Education Grant awarded by the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, the Town contracted with a local architectural firm, the Mills Group, to create a series of educational resources designed to help residents better understand the preservation process and the benefits of living within Shepherdstown's historic district.

According to HLC Chair and Shepherd history professor Dr. Keith Alexander, the project produced new brochures, a step-by-step guide explaining the HLC review process, and educational presentations focused on historic masonry, historic windows, and general preservation concepts.



"One of the things we see on the Historic Landmarks Commission is that people often come before us without fully understanding that a review process exists or what that process actually involves," he said. "There's a lot of confusion, misinformation, or sometimes simply no information at all."

The new materials are intended to help address those challenges while highlighting the broader benefits of preservation. Beyond protecting historic buildings, preservation helps support property values, strengthen community character, and sustain the walkable, historically rich environment that makes Shepherdstown unique.

Mayor Gatz added that the effort reflects the Town's commitment to both preservation and public engagement.

"Historic preservation is one of Shepherdstown's greatest assets," he noted. "These projects help us better document our history, share it with residents, and provide residents with the tools and information they need to be active stewards of the community."

## Technical Assistance and Resources for Residents

The brochures and educational materials are only one part of a larger effort to strengthen historic preservation in Shepherdstown.

...cont.

Alexander noted that many residents are unaware of the technical assistance, training opportunities, and preservation resources available through Shepherdstown's historic district designation and the Town's status as a Certified Local Government for historic preservation. The new materials are intended to help bridge that gap while making preservation information more visible and accessible to property owners.

The effort is further strengthened through the Town's longstanding partnership with Shepherd University's Historic Preservation program. Through coursework, service-learning projects, and ongoing collaboration with the HLC, students continue to contribute to the documentation and understanding of Shepherdstown's historic resources while gaining valuable real-world experience.

## Strengthening the Town's Sense of Identity

For Alexander, however, preservation is ultimately about much more. "Historic preservation is one of those things we can sometimes take for granted because we're surrounded by it every day. But Shepherdstown's historic character is one of the primary reasons people choose to live here, visit here, and invest here."

That character contributes not only to the Town's economy and quality of life, but also to its sense of identity. Historic buildings, streetscapes, and public spaces provide a tangible connection to the people, events, and stories that shaped the community over generations.

By helping residents better understand that history, Alexander believes communities become more invested in protecting it. "Historic buildings tell stories. Part of historic preservation is helping people look up, look around, and reconnect with the history that's been hiding in plain sight all along."

Gatz agreed, noting that preservation is ultimately an investment in Shepherdstown's future as much as its past.

"One of the things that makes Shepherdstown special is that our history isn't confined to museums or books—it's woven into the places where we live, work, and gather every day. By helping residents better see that history and by providing tools to help preserve it, we're ensuring that future generations will inherit the same sense of place and community that continues to make our town so unique."

---

The HLC plans to continue expanding public education efforts moving forward, including outreach during this year's **Street Fest (June 6)**, where residents and visitors will be able to learn more and access resources available through the Town.





## Learn More About Your Drinking Water

The headline from Shepherdstown's 2025 Consumer Confidence Report is good news: the Town's water system remained in full compliance with all state and federal drinking water regulations throughout the year.

In fact, the report notes that the Shepherdstown Water Department recorded no drinking water violations and issued no required health effect or violation notices during 2025.

The report also provides information about the sources of Shepherdstown's water and how it complies with standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state regulatory agencies. Just released this week, it reflects monitoring conducted between January 1 and December 31, 2025.

Providing safe, reliable drinking water is one of the Town's most important responsibilities, and we believe residents should have easy access to information about the system that serves them. We encourage community members to review the report and learn more about the quality of their drinking water.

Residents who would like to learn more, ask questions, or observe the decision-making process related to the Town's water system are welcome to attend regularly scheduled Water Board meetings, held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30pm at Town Hall.

To view the full 2025 Consumer Confidence Report, [CLICK HERE](#). For additional information, please contact Water Plant Superintendent Charles "Woody" Coe at 304-876-2394.

## Street Fest Returns Saturday, June 6

One of Shepherdstown's most anticipated annual traditions returns on Saturday, June 6, as Shepherdstown Street Fest fills downtown with a full day of music, food, shopping, art, and family-friendly activities.

Running from 10am–8:30pm, visitors can enjoy live music on two stages, browse a wide variety of artisan and craft vendors, sample local food and beverages, and explore the many shops, restaurants, and businesses that help define the town's character.

Since its founding in 2005, Street Fest has grown into one of the region's premier arts and craft festivals while remaining true to its community-focused roots. Organized by volunteers, the event supports local and regional non-profit organizations and showcases the creativity, hospitality, and small-town charm that continue to draw visitors to Shepherdstown year after year.

This year, Street Fest has chosen to support [West Virginia Rivers Coalition](#) and the [ACLU of West Virginia](#). Organizers determine how much to donate after funds are calculated. In 2025, the event was able to donate \$14,000—split between two non-profits.

For schedules, music lineups, parking information, and up-to-the-minute event updates, follow [Street Fest on Facebook](#) or visit [Shepherdstown Street Fest](#).





## Volunteers Help Launch Tree Well Planting Project at Sage Place

On the morning of May 10, members of the Shepherdstown Tree Commission joined residents and volunteers at Sage Place for a community planting event aimed at improving the health and sustainability of the neighborhood's tree wells.

The project introduced *Carex woodii*, commonly known as Pretty Sedge, as a potential alternative to traditional mulch.

The native perennial provides ground cover that helps retain moisture, suppress weeds, and create a healthier microclimate around trees while reducing long-term maintenance needs.

Over time, the plants are expected to spread naturally and form a dense, attractive covering around the tree bases.

Approximately 14 volunteers from Sage Place and Shepherd Village worked alongside Tree Commissioners Charlotte Baker-Shenk, Robin McGrorty, and Terry Hadley to install the plants.

The effort was completed quickly thanks to strong community participation and support from residents.

---

**Update: Tree Commission Meeting Time Change** – Tree Commission meetings will now begin at 6:30pm, rather than 6pm.



## Community Planning Workshop

Wednesday,  
June 24th

104 N King St  
Town Hall

Drop In  
4:30 - 6:30 PM

The statewide plan will identify needs, programs, and policies to make it easier for West Virginians to walk and bike.

Community members are encouraged to share their experiences, local expertise, and their vision for statewide active transportation.

## Help Shape the Conversation

WVDOH Hosting Community Planning Workshops for Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

The West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) will host a community planning workshop in Shepherdstown on Wednesday, June 24, from 4:30–6:30pm at Town Hall (104 N. King St.) as part of its Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

Residents are encouraged to attend and share their experiences, local knowledge, and ideas related to walking, biking, and active transportation in their communities.

Whether you walk through town every day, ride recreationally, commute by bike, or simply have thoughts about how people move through our communities, have your voice heard as the State develops its long-term plan.

Community participation is an important—all interested residents are welcome.

Visit the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan webpage, learn about the plan, and take the survey [right here](#).



## From Waste to Resource—an Update on the Composting Pilot

Shepherdstown is preparing to launch a new initiative to help residents transform household food scraps and yard waste into valuable compost and mulch for the community.

The program will begin with a pilot this summer involving 30 volunteer households. Participating residents will receive a container for collecting their food waste, which will be picked up by Public Works staff or delivered to a center collection center weekly.

Rather than ending up in a landfill, materials such as fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, tea bags, and eggshells will be composted and turned into nutrient-rich soil. The pilot will also demonstrate converting yard waste—leaves, branches and other debris—to mulch for use in our yards.

The Town is collaborating with Shepherd University's Tabler Farm in this effort. Residents will provide the materials while Tabler Farm will manage the composting process.

A recently acquired tub grinder at the farm will help process woody materials into mulch, creating benefits for both the Town and the university. The resulting compost and mulch can support trees, gardens, landscaping projects, and other community plantings.

Residents interested in helping shape the program or participating in the pilot are encouraged to **complete the online survey and sign-up form**.

For more information, stop by Town Hall or email [kmusser@shepherdstown.us](mailto:kmusser@shepherdstown.us).



The Town of  
**SHEPHERDSTOWN**

# STREET FEST ROAD CLOSURES & PARKING NOTICE

The Town of Shepherdstown would like to remind residents and visitors that Street Fest will take place on **Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 8:30 PM** in the downtown area.



## ROAD CLOSURES

- German Street from Princess Street to Church Street
- King Street from New Street to High Street



## IMPORTANT TIMES

- Parking restrictions on portions of King Street begin Friday, June 5 at 12:00 PM
- German Street must be cleared of all vehicles by 5:00 AM on Saturday, June 6
- Vehicles remaining in restricted areas after posted times may be towed
- Barricades will be placed beginning at 5:30 AM on June 6



## OPEN TRAFFIC ROUTES

- West High Street to Princess Street
- Duke Street to Washington Street

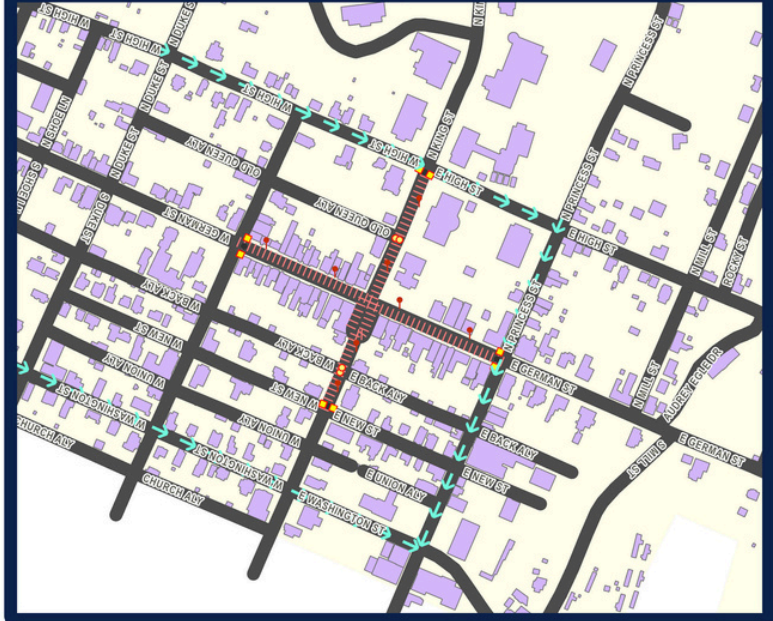


## PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Flyers and advance notice will be distributed to vehicles parked in affected areas prior to the event. Please observe all posted signage and temporary no parking notices.



We appreciate everyone's cooperation as we prepare for another safe and successful Street Fest in downtown Shepherdstown. We look forward to seeing everyone there!



- Closed Roads
- Alternative Routes
- Soft Barricades
- Hard Barricades

### NO PARKING ZONES & ENFORCEMENT

#### NO PARKING ZONES (JUNE 5-6)

- North King Street to West High Street (Starting at Noon on June 8th)
- South King Street to New Street
- German Street from Church Street to Princess Street

#### ENFORCEMENT DETAILS

- Flyer Distribution: Wed., June 3 – Fri., June 5 on vehicles parked on German Street (Princess to Church)
- Tow Warning: Any vehicles remaining on German Street (Princess to Church) at 5:00 AM on June 6th will be towed.
- Barricades placed on June 6 at 5:30 AM (streets officially close at 10:00 AM)



Shepherdstown.gov

# Know Where to Go During Street Fest!



# 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, June 10, 6:30pm.
- Age-Friendly Shepherdstown: Wednesday, June 17, 1:30pm.
- Finance Committee: Wednesday, June 3, 6:30pm.
- Planning Commission: Monday, June 15, 6pm.
- Public Works Committee Monday, June 22, 6:30pm.
- Parks & Rec Committee Tuesday, June 23, 6pm.
- Special Grants Committee: Thursday, June 4, 6:15pm.
- Special Town Council to Canvas the June 2 Municipal Election: Monday, June 8, 6:30pm.
- Town Council Workshop on Municipal Bonds - Zoom only: Tuesday, June 9, 6:30pm.
- Tree Commission: Thursday, June 11, 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.

---