

The WV INDEPENDENT Observer

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

APRIL 2021

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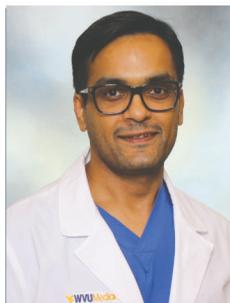


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To provide our patients the best care possible, we have recently recruited additional board certified cardiologists and interventional cardiologists to our WVU Medicine HVI Team. We also added new office locations in Hagerstown and Shepherdstown.



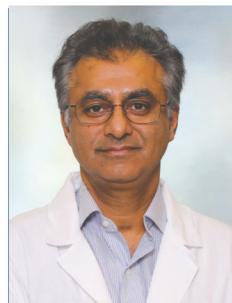
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THIS PAPER WANTS TO BE RECYCLED. 

WV PERSPECTIVES



At Moulton Park, on the bank of the Shenandoah River, looking downstream.

TO OUR READERS

Moulton Park (above) is a public park managed by the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission, consisting of 10 acres of riverfront land donated by the Moulton family in 1976. The family has now offered to sell the remaining 82 acres of their farm to the county to expand the park. The Parks and Recreation Commission will be discussing this offer on April 21 (a public hearing was held on March 17). Jefferson County has changed quite a bit over the intervening 45 years, but the family's devotion to the community has endured.

We also see a sense of community in the volunteers staffing the COVID-19 vaccination clinics being run by the Jefferson County Health Department (see page 6) – turning the basketball courts in the Ranson Civic Center into a well-run clinic serving hundreds each day. Dozens of community members have stood up and stepped in to work long hours to run this massive effort. You can see the energy in their faces, even with their masks on.

At the very edge of the County, overlooking the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, the collapsing walls of the Hill Top House reflect the passage of 133 years since its original construction. Yet as crumbly as the structure is, the legacy of its founder, Thomas Lovett, is poised for a rebirth under the vision of a local couple (see page 4) who have dedicated the past 13 years to rebuilding this community asset.

As spring unfurls in 2021, I'm sure all of us look forward to reuniting with our communities and harnessing this energy for a brighter future.

Steve Pearson
EDITOR IN CHIEF

// COMMUNITY

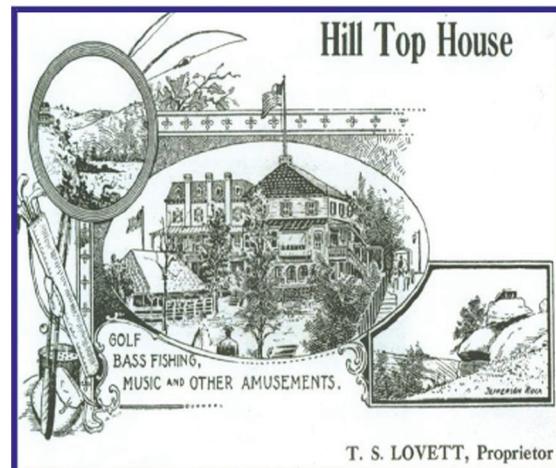
A VISION FOR HILL TOP HOUSE

Moving Ahead To Rebuild A Harpers Ferry Icon



Architect's rendering of the proposed Hill Top House.

THERE'S MUCH TO SEE from the hilltop of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. This vantage point offers unimpeded views of the wide sky and the tumbling cliffs above the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. Beauty and serenity permeate this place. Yet, from hilltop to lower town, reminders of conflict, tragedy, and reinvention are also omnipresent — evidence of the town's historical and ongoing role in the American narrative.



Vintage postcard reflects past grandeur.

A Family Tradition

Thomas Lovett, with his wife Lavinia and daughter Charlotte, operated a world-class hotel here on the hill above Harpers Ferry from 1888 to 1926. Mr. Lovett, born 1855, was the third generation of his mother's family to be free of the chains of formal slavery. His parents, Sarah (Weaver) and William Lovett came to Harpers Ferry in the 1860s to teach and work at Storer College, later operating a nearby boarding house which served students during the academic year and the public during the summer. Learning the hospitality trade as their hotel's first clerk, Lovett purchased the property on the promontory to build something bigger, commenting as he looked over the town below "here, where the martyrdom of John Brown took place, I will build my hotel."

As grand as the 19th century railroad hotels that were its contemporaries, but envisioned as more than just a destination to sell rail tickets, the Hill Top House stood as a testament to the dream of an individual nurtured by big ideas. Lovett's vision came to life and visitors did come to his hotel, including W.E.B. DuBois, Mark Twain, Pearl Buck, and several US Presidents. The Niagara Movement



(Above) A 1914 postcard of Hill Top House inspired the current reconstruction design shown to the left.

met here in the early 20th Century, advocating for political and civil rights for Black Americans. It was a place where all people would visit. The vintage promotional postcard (below) captures some sense of the grandeur of this bygone era. But trial and hardship also descended upon this place, with two fires in the 1910s. Rebuilt each time, the hotel was sold by the Lovett family in 1926 and continued to operate for another 80 years under various owners.

Worn Down By Time

By the time Fred and Karen Schaufeld first saw the Hill Top House in the early 1990s, it was still imposing, but definitely "shabby chic" as they described it — built to last, but worn down by time. They settled in Lovettesville, Virginia, but fell in love with Harpers Ferry. Getting to know the hotel owners at the time, they could see the continuing deterioration of the building and came to understand the financial difficulties of the business. When they eventually stepped in to purchase the property in 2007, the Schaufelds envisioned stabilizing the building and rebuilding the business. Fred noted, "we knew it would be major work, but we thought it would be a repair job. We hired an architect in 2008 and learned we would need to rebuild the foundation. And we realized that the additions were really crumbly. We also discovered the front wall had been painted to cover up the continuing structural sag."

It soon became clear that the building would need to be completely rebuilt. And rather than just aiming for a stable, low-key hotel business, the Schaufelds found themselves animated by a bigger vision. "We were inspired by the postcard image of the 1912 reconstruction, a shingle-style structure with unified architecture," Karen explained. "We also knew that this would be much more expensive, so we needed to be more expansive on the business side," added Fred. "It had to be a year-round destination to justify the investment." Drawing inspiration from the history of the Lovett family, the Schaufelds began to see the vision of a destination resort that could be life changing for individuals and a place where leaders could gather to change the world.



Over 80 years of neglect has not been kind to the existing building.

A Grand Rebirth

“It was as if the building was talking to us,” said Fred. “A destination hotel is riskier [than a standard chain hotel], but we felt we needed to rebuild it in a way that would make Thomas Lovett proud. We are approaching this business with a double-bottom line” — referring to a business model that rests on its social contribution to the community as well as

its financial return to investors. “It takes a little bit of craziness and a lot of resources,” admitted Fred. “You learn a lot of humility in a project like this, too.”

With the clarity of being designated a WV Tourism Development District, and the recent agreements with the town of Harpers Ferry, the Schaufelds are excited to be moving forward with the project. “Having a clean and



A timeless view from the Hill Top House.

predictable process helps us build momentum,” noted Karen. “We expect 200 plus construction jobs over the next couple of years and 130 plus permanent jobs once we open in 2024.” The Schaufelds also noted their hope that the project would help the area’s investment in human capital: “We see working with Shepherd University to train students in hotel and hospitality management; supporting local musicians, artists, and crafts people; helping expand an economy that allows people to live and work here in West Virginia.”

For the Schaufelds, Hill Top House is a living entity, “a building that can create joy, connection and ideas. And now that we know we can build it, we know the people will come again.”

BY: Steve Pearson



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// COMMUNITY

A SHOT IN THE ARM

Volunteers Boost Efforts to Vaccinate the Community



“WE COULD NOT DO THIS WITHOUT these volunteers,” says Dr. Terrence Reidy, head of the Jefferson County Health Department. This sentiment is echoed by everyone else working with the Jefferson County Health Department to roll out the COVID-19 vaccine clinic at the Ranson Civic Center. “The Mayor and the city staff, the police from around the County, the National Guard, all of these government organizations have pitched in,” said Gillian Beach of the Health Department. But she noted it has been the involvement of private organizations and individual volunteers that enabled the Health Department to scale up to provide hundreds of vaccines each day.

Planning Ahead

The Jefferson County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) has played a key role in bringing these pieces together to support the Health Department. Michele Goldman,

a registered nurse, helped organize the local COAD several years ago, building on her decade of experience running the Eastern Panhandle Clinic in Ranson. She describes the COAD as a collection of the many private and faith-based organizations that serve the community in very specific ways. She noted the COAD focuses on planning for emergency needs and identifying how each of these member organizations can plug in to fill specific needs in a coordinated manner when the need arises. “There is always a lot of effort, but it works much better if there is good communication between all of the groups and you can prioritize and avoid overlaps.”

“

You can see the weight lifting off their shoulders when people get the shot.

”

- Bob Devlin

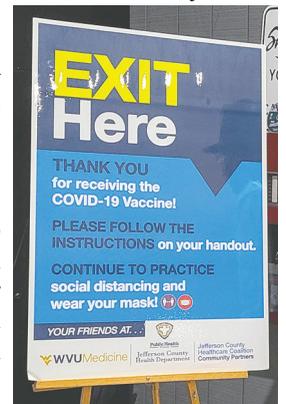
A Pivot to Process

Prior to the pandemic, the Jefferson County COAD had focused on natural disaster emergencies, like floods or tornadoes, that require localized relief and logistics. When the pandemic hit, Goldman was already participating in the regular Homeland Security conference calls with the County’s emergency management leaders. She observed “the chaos of COVID affected all the local community organizations and there was a real need to connect needs with resources. At

first we focused on PPE (personal protective equipment) and geared up a mask supply effort for the Eastern Panhandle. Then we focused on food distribution.” As the attention turned to the vaccine rollout, “we knew we would need lots of different talents, especially in logistics and administration.” Clearly the planning effort has paid off, as the public comments about how smoothly the process runs each day are overwhelmingly positive.

A Community Comes Together

In the Ranson Civic Center, each clinic day starts off with an all-hands meeting of volunteers and coordinators. Even though some of the volunteers have been serving for many weeks, each day’s team is different. While many of the volunteers are strangers to each other, there is a sense of community and common purpose that grows each day. The common refrain, voiced by Robyn Lance, Nurse Practitioner who is volunteering when she is not working her regular job — “if I can make a difference, I’m happy to do my part.”



WHAT’S AHEAD...

All WV residents age 16 and older are now eligible to receive a vaccine. For clinic scheduling and appointment information, visit the Jefferson County Health Department website at jchd.wv.org (or dial 2-1-1 if you don’t have computer access) to get the most current information. Additional resources are also available online at JeffersonCountyWVcoad.org.



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

THANK THE VOLUNTEERS!

The small staff of the Jefferson County Health Department is supported by the many volunteers who stepped forward to assist. *The Observer* spoke with just a few of the dozens of people who are serving, some multiple times each week.

(A) Community member **Sue Kemnitzer** helps to keep people on the schedule. “There is a great team spirit here and everyone is very thankful.”

(B) **Judy Jones** (left), a member of the Jefferson County Board of Health, and **Dr. John Aldis** (right), working at one of the 20 vaccine stations, each staffed by a volunteer professional qualified to inject the vaccine and a volunteer scribe to enter the patient’s information.

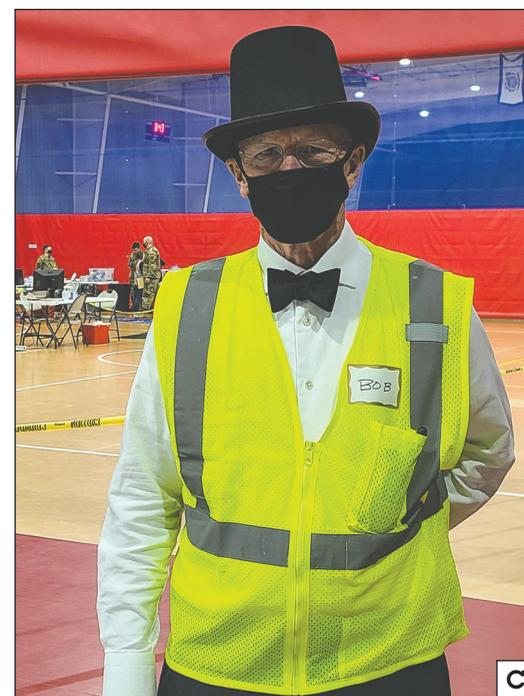
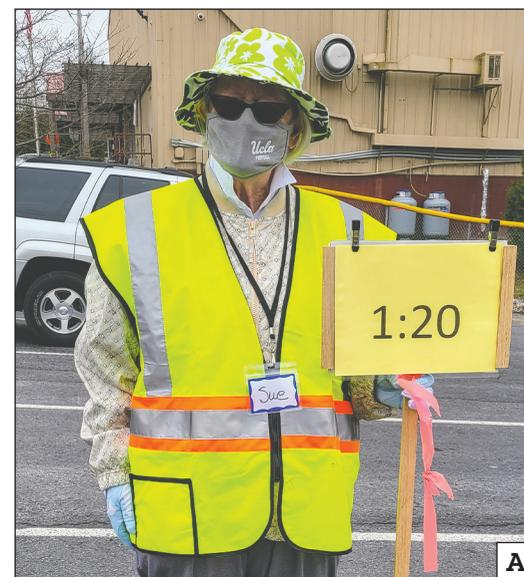
(C) Community member **Bob Devlin** lightens the mood and offers cheer to newly vaccinated individuals as they leave the clinic. “I see folks crying after the shot, not because it hurts, but because they are so happy.”

(D) **Technical Sergeant Dorsey** of the 167 Airlift Wing of the WV Air National Guard. Members of the 167 are providing administrative support and also helping with traffic flow outside, as part of the unit’s mission to provide emergency relief support.

(E) Community member **Beverly Bolger** assists with outreach and scheduling to fill the clinic’s vaccine slots. “I never thought I’d work this hard without being paid, but it’s making a difference.”

(F) **Rick Goldman** helps direct flow inside the Civic Center with a friendly smile, noticeable even behind the mask.

(Cover) **Robyn Lance** is a nurse practitioner who works at a local nursing home. Nurses, EMTs, doctors and other medical professionals are administering the vaccine injections. “I can see the impact COVID has had on my nursing home patients, so if I can help this along I’m happy to help.”



For current info on vaccine clinics, visit www.jchdvw.org · Dial 2-1-1 if you don’t have computer access

// LAW

UNLOCKING OPTIONS FOR RENTERS & LANDLORDS IN THE PANDEMIC

Local attorney Brenda Waugh brings broad-based conflict resolution to her practice. The Observer invited her to comment on this timely topic.



SINCE THE COVID-19 pandemic hit last spring, landlords and tenants have struggled to address challenges created by economic losses. Federal and local governments have set various

controls on evictions to curtail homelessness. A moratorium on eviction issued through the Centers for Disease Control as part of the first two federal COVID-19 relief bills (and extended by executive order) restricts evicting tenants who don't pay their rent. For the moratorium to apply, the tenant must provide written notice to the landlord that: 1) The tenant has experienced a loss in income or reduction in work hours and certifies that their income is less than \$99,000.00 per year (\$198,000.00 for couples filing jointly); 2) The tenant has sought governmental rental assistance; 3) The tenant may be able to pay a partial payment; and 4) If evicted, the tenant would be homeless.

The moratorium applies only in cases of evictions for unpaid rents. The unpaid rent continues to be due, and the landlord may begin the eviction process to regain possession when the moratorium expires. The current CDC moratorium is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2021 and has not been included in the 1.9 trillion dollar relief legislation signed by the President on March 11, 2021, but it may be extended by executive order. And while a federal court judge declared the moratorium unconstitutional in late February, this recent ruling's direct impact is limited to the Eastern District of Texas and does not impact evictions in Virginia or West Virginia.

If the moratorium expires, provisions enacted by cities and states may still restrict evictions. While West Virginia has not enacted any eviction restrictions, the state has received \$200 million for renter assistance to assist both tenants and landlords. The program, which opened for applications on March 18, will be administered through the Housing Development Fund (see info box).

The COVID relief bills passed by Congress assist many landlords suffering a loss of rental payments due to the pandemic

by providing landlords with federally backed single-family (1 to 4 unit) mortgages with a forbearance. Additionally, landlords may utilize many of the same foreclosure protections as other consumers in West Virginia.

When a renter no longer qualifies for the moratorium, a landlord regains the property only through an eviction procedure filed in the Magistrate Court. In March 2020, WV Attorney General Patrick Morrissey issued letters reminding landlords of the requirements imposed by state law regarding evictions.

While eviction litigation may be an option for landlords, many real estate investment experts recommend they consider mediation as an alternative. They cite concerns that litigation is costly, can be time-consuming, and creates an adversarial relationship that often results in a tenant being less likely to pay. Landlords may incur attorney fees when cases go to trial, and long delays can result from court processes. Mediation is a voluntary process involving a neutral facilitator who works with the parties to create a legally binding resolution. It does not carry the risks of trial. In one study, the average cost for evictions, including time expended in document preparation and being in court, ranged from \$3500-\$10,000.00. The average cost for mediation, on the other hand, was \$89.00.

Neighboring states such as Maryland and Virginia offer free mediation services to landlords and tenants seeking to avoid litigation costs. In West Virginia, free mediation is available only through a program in Monongalia

County. Some landlords retain a private mediator before or after filing suit when a tenant falls behind in rents. Mediation often results in a written, enforceable agreement to address arrears and grant possession of the property. Current federal or state restrictions do not preclude pre-suit mediation on the eviction.

For additional resources see the online version of this article:

WeAreTheObserver.com/unlocking-options-for-renters-and-landlords

Brenda Waugh, MA JD, is a lawyer/mediator with Waugh Law & Mediation, serving clients in the Blue Ridge region of Virginia and the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. Waugh earned degrees from the University of Virginia, West Virginia University, and Eastern Mennonite University. She has conducted workshops throughout the United States and in Canada and has published articles in periodicals and legal journals in the area of alternative dispute resolution. Web: BrendaWaugh.com; email: waugh@brendawaugh.com; phone 304-728-3660 or 540-501-5501.



MOUNTAINEER RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Do You Know Someone At Risk For Eviction or Homelessness?



The Mountaineer Rental Assistance Program is designed to assist West Virginia residential renters with annual income of no more than 80 percent of area median income (AMI) and who live in a household with one or more household members who have qualified for unemployment benefits, experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship due directly or indirectly to the coronavirus outbreak; and where one or more household members are at risk of homelessness or housing instability such as a past due utility or rent notice or an eviction notice.

For Jefferson County residents, the AMI limit for single adults is \$53,050; the AMI limit for a family of 4 is \$75,750. For Berkeley County residents, the AMI limit for single adults is \$41,650; the AMI limit for a family of 4 is \$59,450.

Information, qualification details, and applications on the web at: www.wvhdf.com

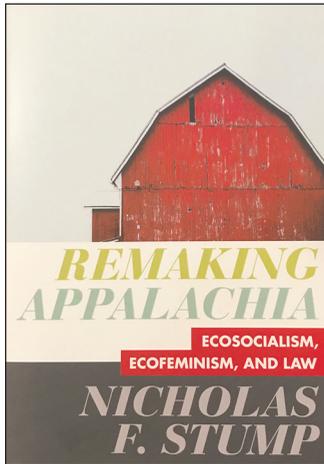
Questions: Dial 211

// BOOK REVIEW

Remaking Appalachia, by Nicholas F. Stump

Publisher: West Virginia University Press (2021)

Review by: Gonzalo Baeza — Born in Texas, raised in Chile, and currently living in Shepherdstown, Gonzalo is a fiction writer with books published in Spain, Italy, and Chile. His stories have appeared in *Boulevard*, *Goliad*, and *The Texas Review*.



EARLY IN MARCH, several million gallons of highly acidic water began discharging from the old T&T coal mine in Preston County, WV, into the Cheat River and Muddy Creek. Discharges peaked at nearly 6,200 gallons per minute. The West Virginia Department of

Environmental Protection operates an \$8 million acid mine drainage treatment facility in the area but it is capable of treating only 4,200 gallons per minute. The facility was built as a result of a 1994 accident when the mine owners used plastic piping to illegally plumb the mine site and avoid treating its water discharges.

A few days after the March incident, the West Virginia House of Delegates passed a bill to relax oversight of almost 900 oil and gas storage tanks located near public water intakes across the state. The bill exempts tanks from regulation under the Aboveground Storage Tank Act, which was passed in 2014, months after the Freedom Industries chemical leak that contaminated the water supply for 300,000 people in a nine-county area around Charleston.

One goal of legal scholar Nicholas F. Stump's *Remaking Appalachia* is to examine "the forces that exist above or behind the law" that create the conditions for the continued despoliation of Appalachia and the pro-industry legislation that has helped ravage the region for over a century. Stump, an academic at West Virginia University's College of Law, posits that environmental law has historically failed to remedy these situations given its role of merely regulating a production system premised on the extraction of non-renewable resources and perpetual economic growth. What Appalachia needs is "true systemic re-formations" of environmental law "based on meeting basic and authentic needs." This effort will have to be founded on mass political mobilization and be connected with national and international

initiatives given the scope of the global climate crisis.

While Stump's approach requires abstractions and speculating on the effects of proposed changes, the author also provides a thorough analysis of the evolution of environmental law, examining flagship case law. According to Stump, "industry and complicit lawmakers succeeded in embedding nascent environmental law with legislative "outs" through which industry could continue polluting" as well as administrative agencies that lack democratic accountability and are susceptible to "industry capture" (when industry co-opts the administrative bodies tasked with regulating them). This scheme results in situations such as largely-ceremonial public hearings where people are allowed to provide feedback on industrial projects but their testimony has no bearing on decisions made behind closed doors.

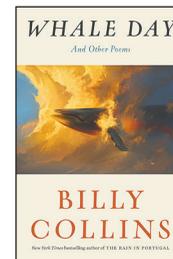
Remaking Appalachia also focuses on concrete, viable examples of economic transformation such as renewable energy-based cooperatives and multi-stakeholder food cooperatives across Appalachia. Stump proposes incorporating insights from different schools of socio-political and economic thought to replicate and repurpose these models, making them more accessible to marginalized communities as well as democratizing ownership.

Stump's ambitious and challenging work reimagines the commons – the cultural and natural assets accessible to all members of society – in innovative ways but also imbibes from previous intellectual frameworks and Appalachia's own robust activist tradition. Perhaps because Stump was writing before the November 2020 elections, some of his references to the WV teachers' strikes of 2018 and 2019 and what to expect from future labor struggles may contrast starkly with the current wave of retaliatory, anti-union and anti-teacher bills being passed by the WV legislature during the current session. Conversely, while the Mine Wars of the early 20th century are part of the activist tradition highlighted by *Remaking Appalachia*, it should be noted that they are virtually – and, most likely, deliberately – absent from the WV school curriculum. Then again, Stump's work examines a larger historical arc and its strength lies in its panoramic view and forward vision.

While not an easy read for the layperson given its academic prose and specialized terminology, *Remaking Appalachia* is an impressive and rewarding work. Considering West Virginia's current political climate, WVU Press should be commended for issuing an insightful volume advancing an urgent dialogue on Appalachia's future.

THE FRONT SHELF

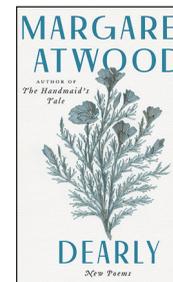
Whale Day: And Other Poems, by Billy Collins



Random House (2020), \$26.00

Billy Collins's new collection brings together more than fifty poems and showcases his deft mixing of the playful and the serious that has made him one of our country's most celebrated and widely read poets. Here are poems that leap with whimsy and imagination, yet stay grounded in the familiar, common things of everyday experience. Collins takes us for a walk with an impossibly ancient dog, discovers the original way to eat a banana, meets an Irish spider, and even invites us to his own funeral. Sensitive to the wonders of being alive as well as the thrill of mortality, *Whale Day* builds on and amplifies Collins's reputation as one of America's most interesting and durable poets.

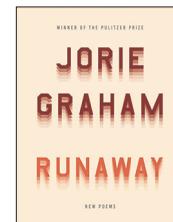
Dearlly: New Poems, by Margaret Atwood



Ecco Press (2020), \$27.99

In *Dearlly*, Margaret Atwood's first collection of poetry in over a decade, Atwood addresses themes such as love, loss, the passage of time, the nature of nature and zombies. Her new poetry is introspective and personal in tone, but wide-ranging in topic. In poem after poem, she casts her unique imagination and unyielding, observant eye over the landscape of a life carefully and intuitively lived.

Runaway: New Poems, by Jorie Graham



Ecco Press (2020), \$26.99

In this formidable and clairvoyant new collection of poems, Jorie Graham deepens her vision of our futurity. What of us will survive? Identity may be precarious, but perhaps love is not? Keeping pace with the desperate runaway of climate change, social disruption, our new mass migrations, she struggles to reimagine a habitable present – a now – in which we might endure, wary, undaunted, ever-inventive, "counting silently towards infinity." Graham's essential voice guides us fluently "as we pass here now into the next-on world," what future we have surging powerfully through these pages, where the poet implores us "to the last be human."

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// NATURE

RETURN THE FAVOR

Keep Your Feeders Clean For Healthy Birds

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.

FEEDING THE BIRDS has helped people young and old to get through this pandemic winter. For many home-bound Americans, this backyard hobby has helped lighten the loneliness and depression brought about by the isolation of the pandemic quarantine. Some nursing home residents I know consider watching the antics of birds and squirrels at the feeders outside their windows the high point of their day. Some of them had no interest in birds until I hung a feeder outside their window. Now they have learned to recognize different birds by species, and in some cases as individuals. One lady has even given "her" birds and squirrels individual names.

But in recent months, all these bird feeders may have brought the birds an epidemic of their own. Citizens across the country have been finding dead or dying birds in their yards. Experts have linked these deaths to diseases the birds picked up at backyard feeding stations.

If not properly maintained, bird feeders can create an environment that encourages the spread of disease and parasites. When bird

seed in feeders gets wet, it will soon grow fungus and bacteria, potentially spreading disease among any birds that visit there. The same thing happens when spilled seed accumulates under the feeders.

Jennifer Riley, DVM, is the chief veterinarian at Blue Ridge Wildlife Center in Millwood Virginia. In the winter 2021 edition of her organization's newsletter, *The Ridge Line*, Riley reports a recent dramatic increase in sick mourning doves and house finches brought to the center. Most of them, she believes, have picked up fungal, viral and parasitic infections at bird feeders. Riley reports many birds exhibit swollen eyelids with a crusty discharge. This highly contagious form of conjunctivitis progresses to temporary blindness. Infected birds have trouble finding food and escaping danger in the wild, but they soon recover if rescued and kept isolated from each other at the center. And doves and finches have come to the center with trichomoniasis and Avian parvovirus, two deadly and highly contagious illnesses. Certain other diseases birds get from unsanitary feeders are zoonotic, meaning they can be transmitted not just among the birds, but from birds to humans.

The solution, Riley concludes, is to clean bird feeders regularly with soap and water, followed by a one part bleach and 9 parts water solution, then rinsed and allowed to dry thoroughly before refilling. Feeders made of non-porous material — metal or plastic — are much easier to sanitize than wood. Clean bird feeders every two weeks. In summer, wash hummingbird feeders with soap and water every three days.

Should you find a sick or dead bird near your bird feeders, stop feeding the birds for three weeks while you disinfect and clean all feeders and bird baths. Make a habit of raking up and discarding any spilled food under your feeders, using a dog poop scooper.

To learn more about how to maintain clean bird feeders, waterers, and housing, check out Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology's website:

AllAboutBirds.org

FAMILY HIKE

Spring Peepers At Cool Spring



One of the telltale sounds of early spring is the high-pitched peeping chorus of Spring Peepers, 1.5 inch long frogs that make a big sound. Bring your family for an evening guided hike at Cool Spring Preserve and learn about these wondrous amphibians and listen for their unique symphony! Please dress for the weather, wear appropriate footwear for hiking, bring a refillable water bottle and a flashlight or headlamp. Open to all ages. April 1, 7pm (1 hour). FEE: \$15 per family (\$10 per family for PVAS member). Pre-register at PotomacAudubon.org (>calendar).

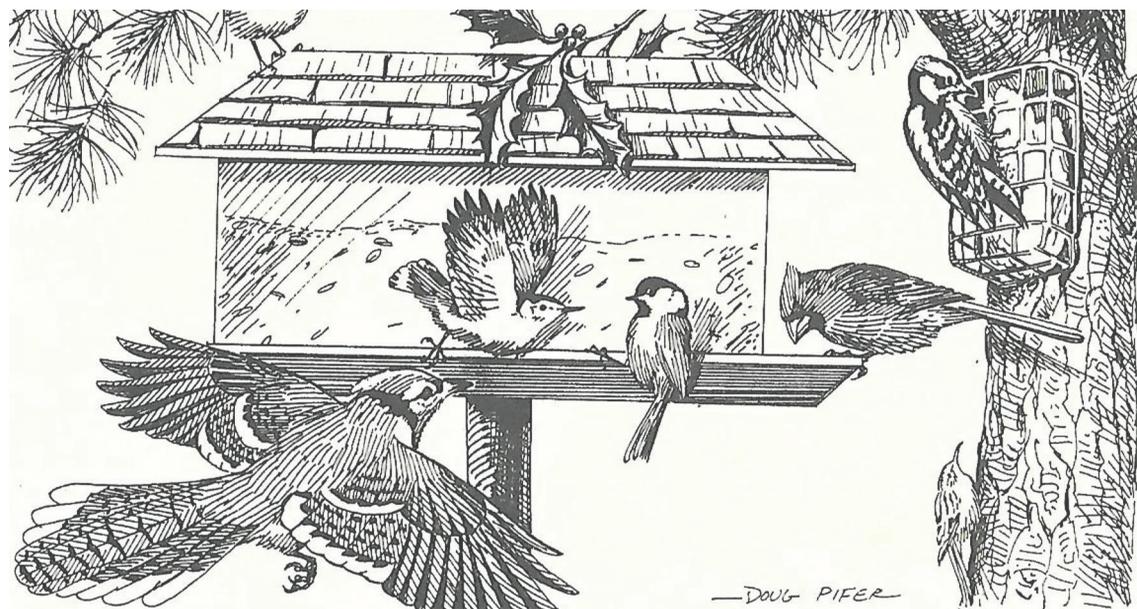
RUN IN THE WOODS

Race For The Birds

For 2021, Potomac Valley Audubon Society's annual event has both online and in-person options. The virtual options include a 5K, 10K, and Kids 1 mile Fun event. Virtual participants can choose between running, walking, biking, horseback riding or another way to complete the distances. Virtual participants will email their results and will then be entered into a drawing for prizes. Kids will be emailed a certificate of completion.

The traditional "in person" 5K and 10K event will take place on the trails at Broomgrass on April 17, 2021. There will be a limited number of participants, and there will be staggered start times. In person participants can use the Strava segment to record their 10K and 5K times, or self time and email their results. Sign up for these events and enjoy the adventure of running or walking on non-technical cross country trails that wind through fields and woods of Broomgrass Farm and along beautiful Back Creek.

Info and registration at PotomacAudubon.org/race



—DOUG PIFER

EXPLORE // AROUND JEFFERSON COUNTY



REBUILDING A SHOPPING DESTINATION IN DOWNTOWN CHARLES TOWN



Melissa Glascock (above, with her son) is rebuilding the family business with an expanded vision.



Melissa Glascock has long been a supporter of the downtown retail experience. With the end of the pandemic in sight, Glascock sees this as the perfect time to revitalize shopping in Charles Town though a reimagining of Needful Things. Glascock's parents moved Needful Things into the former Newberry's department store in 1991 and her vision for the renovated space will invite 19 vendors to set up individual boutiques within a renamed Needful Things Emporium. She sees the opportunity to host a variety of eclectic shops under her roof as a way to build a shopping experience that will entice customers to choose

Charles Town as an intentional destination.

Glascock watched her parents, Alice and Dwayne Masemer, expand the business they started in 1981 for many years. She took over the business herself starting in 2007. What began as a thrift shop evolved into a business of buying storage unit foreclosures. "You never know what you might find," said Glascock, "sometimes it's just trash, but sometimes it's rare items. One of the lots we purchased years ago included a key to the City of Charles Town given by the Mayor to the King of Togo. He wasn't really a King, but he fooled a lot of people at the time. We still have

the key as a reminder."

"We will keep the resale business open in the Needful Things 2 storefront which is open now," continued Glascock. "We expect to have a grand reopening of the Emporium shops in April. The lunch counter will continue to be a part of the new store too, but it will be run by Cocina Plantosaurus and they will likely be open in May or June."

Needful Things 2 and Needful Things Emporium are at 214 and 218 W Washington St, Charles Town WV. Phone 304-725-6315. Facebook: Needful-Things-LLC for hours and updates.

CLIMBING NEW HEIGHTS

- Indoor Rock Climbing Gym
- Outdoor Guide Services
- Training & Technique Classes
- All Ages & Abilities Welcome

LET'S TALK!
304-240-0587 | ClimbingNewHeightsWV.com
54 General Motors Access Road, Martinsburg

Two Rivers Treads

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EXPLORE // AROUND JEFFERSON COUNTY



STEPPING UP & STEPPING OUT TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

With spring in the air, and their steps, the volunteers of the Shepherdstown Community Club are turning their eyes to Morgan’s Grove Park, where even during the pandemic it was lively in the fields, along the stream, and under the magnificent trees. First steps are a cut (of the grass) by a mowing contractor and a trim (of the trees) by Viking Tree Service, who donated many hours last year to remove many potential hazards from the canopy above. This year’s project will be to remove several dead Maple Trees by the lower parking lot. The trunks will remain, as “snags” to provide shelter for the wildlife that also calls the park home. After these big steps, it’s a parade of many helping hands with the **March 27 “Cleanup Day”** at the park — a chance for all willing volunteers to pitch in and help out (contact info below).

The final step into Spring (date to be announced) will be a grand opening to recognize Henry Willard, who passed away two years ago and willed the club a generous gift. One of his passions was watching trains, so the club thought it would be nice to “name” the crossing at the park in his honor and will unveil the sign honoring his contributions to the community in coordination with Norfolk Southern Railroad. Also, mark your calendars for the May 1 Movie



Night (showing of *McFarland*) with music provided by local musician Sam Jannotta and food from Ortega’s Taco of Charles Town. 📺

The non-profit Shepherdstown Community Club supports various activities and events in and

around Shepherdstown. The Club maintains Morgan’s Grove Park (open for public use) and operates the War Memorial Building (available for rentals) in downtown Shepherdstown. Info on the website (ShepherdstownCC.org); phone 304-876-3323 or 304-995-6689.



Heavy metal exposure impairs neurological function in children

If your child lives in Jefferson or Berkeley Counties in WV, they are eligible for free, non-invasive testing of heavy metal levels as determined by hair testing.

MEASUREMENTS OF HEAVY METALS SURROUNDING A PROPOSED MINERAL WOOL FACILITY

Materials used in industrial processes may result in the release of heavy metals in areas near the factory. A WVU School of Public Health study aims to determine if heavy metal levels increase in children who live or attend school in the area around the mineral wool factory once it begins operation.

TO PARTICIPATE:

- Bring your child to Sam Michaels Park on Saturday, 5/15 or Sunday, 5/16 from 10 am - 5 pm
- Due to COVID-19, samples will be collected safely via drive-through sampling
- A small amount of your child’s hair will be clipped by a physician
- Your child’s heavy metal levels will be made available to you

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT:

Dr. Michael McCawley at 304-293-8042
mamccawley@hsc.wvu.edu

or

Dr. Catherine Feaga at 301-790-9246
Catherine.Feaga@MeritusHealth.com

EXPLORE // SHOPS AND GALLERIES

The locally-owned shops and restaurants across Jefferson County offer a personal touch and small town ambiance. Visit our website WeAreTheObserver.com/shop-local for addresses and other details.

SHEPHERDSTOWN

ADMIRAL ANALOG
Vintage & new vinyl

AZAD'S ORIENTAL RUG EMPORIUM
Handmade rugs

BADGERHOUND STUDIO & GALLERY

BRIDGE GALLERY
Showcase of local artists

COOPER CAPTURES
(Currently online only)

CREATIVE PROCRASTINATIONS
Whimsical art emporium

DICKINSON & WAIT CRAFT GALLERY
American craft products

EVOLVE GALLERY
Pop-up art gallery

FLOWER HAUS
Floral designs for events

FOUR SEASONS BOOKS
New & resale books

GALLERY AT 105
(Currently online only)

GERMAN STREET MARKET
Gifts & delicacies

THE GOOD SHOP
Women's clothing

THE HIVE HOUSE
Beekeeping supply

HONOR D FINE SHOES & HATS
Stylish shoes, hats for all

KIMOPICS GALLERY
Local photographer

MEDITATIVE MEDICINALS
CBD, health & beauty

MOUNTAINEER POPCORN
Sweet & savory treats

O'HURLEY'S GENERAL STORE
Novelties & gifts

ON THE WINGS OF DREAMS
Gifts for spiritual journeyers

REVERSA ROSE
Natural skin-care products

RICCO GALLERY
Artistic jewelry

THREADS
Fun t-shirts & gifts

TONIC HERB SHOP
Holistic health products

THE VILLAGE FLORIST
Flower arrangements

CHARLES TOWN & RANSON

ART DECO DEKOR
20th century vintage

B.VINTAGE
Modern farmhouse vintage

BUSHEL & PECK
Specialty grocery store

FAST CASH PAWN
Jewelry, electronics, etc.

FEAGANS JEWELERS
Custom jewelry & repair

FUZZY DOG BOOKS & MUSIC
Used books & vinyl

THE HOBBIES SHOP
Models, RC, kites, etc.

LITTLE POTTERY HOUSE
Make & paint pottery

MITIELDA LATINA
Convenience store

NEEDFUL THINGS
Vintage & new items

OP-SHOP
Curated resale clothing

TRADEWINDS FLOORS
Carpet & flooring

TWO CROWS ANTIQUE
50+ antique dealers

TWO RIVERS TREADS
Active & outdoor footwear

WEANT TO PLAY
Sporting equipment

WEAR IT AGAIN KID
Consignment boutique

THE WILLIAMS STORE
Convenience store

THE WOODEN SHOE
Vintage lighting, glass

WASHINGTON STREET ARTISTS COOP
Gallery & exhibits

YARNABILITY
Arts & crafts

HARPERS FERRY & BOLIVAR

THE GILDED FLEA
Antique & vintage wares

HARPERS FERRY PARK ASSOCIATION BOOKSHOP

THE HODGE PODGE
Gifts, souvenirs & antiques

MAGPIE POTTERY
Ceramics by local artisans

MARY ADAMS ACCESSORIES
Eclectic jewelry

NATURE'S HEALTH & BODY
Health & wellness products

HARPERS FERRY OUTFITTERS
Outdoor gear & bike shop

RIVERS STUDIO & GALLERY
Functional & sculptural art

HB SNALLYGASTER GENERAL STORE
Whimsical goods & cafe

TENFOLD FAIR TRADE COLLECTION
Hand-crafted wares

TESSOTERICA
Hand-crafted bath items

TRUE TREATS HISTORIC CANDY
Retro candy & fun treats

THE VILLAGE SHOP
Souvenirs & novelties

THE VINTAGE LADY
Jewelry & local WV goods

WASHINGTON STREET STUDIOS
Ceramic studio and classes

LIBRARY

The **Shepherdstown Library** website has a new look and a new address – ShepLibrary.org.

Any resident of Jefferson, Berkeley and Morgan counties can obtain a library card and register to use the many library services offered online (and in person).

Beyond the books, audio books, and videos, the library offers wi-fi access, notary services, and assistance with registering for various public programs – *including help with registering for a COVID-19 vaccine.*



DISCOVER HISTORY

The **Jefferson County Museum** is now open by appointment, Mondays through Saturdays, 11 am to 4 pm. Call 304-725-8628 (24 hour advance notice requested) to reserve.



Up to six visitors are permitted at a time. Visitors must wear masks and follow social distance guidelines. The admission fee of \$4 for adults is waived (donations appreciated). No public restrooms are available. Visit JeffCoMuseumWV.org for information on current exhibits. Address: 200 E Washington St, Charles Town WV.

FARMERS MARKET DIRECTORY
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112 West Burke Street, Martinsburg, WV 25401
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“The body cannot tolerate an outlook that denies the body in the name of the spirit.”
—C.G. Jung
(Modern Man in Search of a Soul, 218-220)



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EXPLORE // FOOD & DRINK



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KEARNEYSVILLE, WV 25430

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Chad R. Lawyer, CPA
1105 Winchester Avenue
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P 304-263-9447
P 304-263-8150
F 304-263-8204

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

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

oll-cpas.com

FEED THE BIRDS
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- SHEPHERDSTOWN**
- BAVARIAN INN & BREWPUB**
Fine & casual dining
 - BETTY'S RESTAURANT**
Casual diner, open early
 - BLUE MOON CAFÉ**
Inventive American fare
 - CHINA KITCHEN**
Traditional Chinese
 - COMMUNITY GARDEN MARKET**
Organic & natural grocery
 - DEVONSHIRE ARMS CAFÉ & PUB**
English-style pub
 - FARMER'S MARKET**
Sunday morning market
 - GRAPES & GRAINS GOURMET**
Wines & craft beers
 - GREEN PINEAPPLE**
Poke, ramen, & bubble tea
 - KING'S NY PIZZA**
Pizza, subs & Italian
 - KOME THAI & SUSHI BISTRO**
Creative Asian fusion
 - LELLYBELLE CAFÉ**
Vegetarian & vegan fare
 - LILAH RESTAURANT**
New American
 - LOST DOG COFFEE**
Coffee, tea & beans
 - MARIA'S TAQUERIA**
Mex/SoCal cuisine
 - MECKLENBURG INN**
English-style pub & garden
 - PRESS ROOM**
Regional cuisine, fine dining
 - SHEPHERDSTOWN LIQUORS**
 - SHEPHERDSTOWN SWEET SHOP**
Baked goods & sandwiches
 - TOMMY'S PIZZA**
Pizzas & subs to go
- CHARLES TOWN & RANSON**
- A LA MODE CAFÉ ICE CREAM & DESSERTS**
 - ABOLITIONIST ALE WORKS**
Craft beer & pub dining
 - ALFREDO'S MEDITERRANEAN GRILL**
Quaint & homey bistro
 - ALMOST HEAVEN PUB & GRILL**
Pub food & drinks

- ANDY'S PIZZA**
Pizza, Rolls & Subs
 - GINZA**
Hibachi & sushi
 - GRANDMA'S DINER**
American & Spanish
 - INKWELL'S TAVERN**
Cocktails, craft beer, food
 - MAD MONKS BAKERY**
Coffee and baked goods
 - MI DEGOLLADO**
Traditional Mexican
 - MOUNTAIN VIEW DINER**
Classic family restaurant
 - ORTEGA'S TACO SHOP**
Homemade Mexican cuisine
 - PADDY'S IRISH PUB**
Irish-theme sports bar
 - ROSSY'S PLACE**
American restaurant
 - SIBLING COFFEE ROASTERS**
 - SUMITTRA**
Innovative Thai & Asian
 - TEE DAWGS BBQ**
TX style smoked meats
- HARPERS FERRY & BOLIVAR**
- A LA MODE CAFÉ ICE CREAM & DESSERTS**
 - ALMOST HEAVEN PUB & GRILL**
Pub food & drinks
 - THE ANVIL RESTAURANT**
Casual dining, rustic space
 - THE BARN OF HARPERS FERRY**
Bar & events venue
 - BATTLE GROUNDS BAKERY & COFFEE**
Pastries & sandwiches
 - THE CANAL HOUSE CAFÉ**
Local ingredients
 - CANNONBALL DELI**
Sandwiches, Snacks, Drinks
 - COACH HOUSE GRILL N' BAR**
Full service dining
 - THE COFFEE MILL**
Coffee shop
 - COUNTRY CAFÉ**
Breakfast & lunch, casual
 - CREAMY CREATIONS**
Ice cream shop

- HAMILTON'S TAVERN 1840**
Inventive craft menu
- HARPERS FERRY BREWING**
Craft brews
- HARPERS FERRY ICE CREAM SHOP**
Ice cream & milkshakes
- KELLEY FARM KITCHEN**
Vegetarian & vegan

- LES & ALI'S SEAFOOD**
Fresh catch fish market
- MOUNTAIN HOUSE CAFE**
Cozy family inn, takeout
- THE RABBIT HOLE**
Casual American & drinks
- WHITE HORSE TAVERN**
Burgers, brews & bourbons

STORYTELLING



SPEAK STORIES HOSTS LEN CABRAL

Storyteller Len Cabral is the guest of the Speak Story Series on April 13 at 7:30 pm (online).

Len, a great grandson of a whaler from Cape Verde who traveled the world and then emigrated to America in the early 1900's, has been engaging listeners of all ages with stories, songs, poetry and movement for over forty years and around the world, performing at festivals in Ireland, England, Belgium, Holland, and Singapore. Tickets are \$15 (free for season ticket holders). Speak is for adult audiences. Mature youth allowed at guardian's discretion.

For info & tickets, visit SpeakStorySeries.com or email info@SpeakStorySeries.com.

ONLINE ART CLASSES

SPRING CLASSES IN WATERCOLOR PENCIL

The Berkeley Arts Council is offering multiple online classes in watercolor pencil this spring for both beginners and individuals with some experience. Instructor Judith Becker is a professional artist with degrees in design and education.



Pre-registration is required. Details & registration on the web at BerkeleyArtsWV.org/instruction/#zoom.

Email: BerkeleyArtsWV@gmail.com
Phone: 304-620-7277.

EXPLORE // LOCAL AGRICULTURE

BUILDING AN ORGANIC FARM FROM THE GROUND UP



Covered beds at Red Hawk Rise Organics help regulate temperature in both winter and summer.

When Katie Brownell and Michael Herbst started Red Hawk Rise Organics four years ago, they had already collected years of hands-on experience in small-scale organic farming. Both had managed farms and also worked on the retail side with farmers markets. Mike spent time as a produce manager for a co-op grocery store and Katie took time to get certified in organic farming at Michigan State University. By 2017 they were ready to start their own farm, which led them to Jefferson County. They wanted to be near family in DC and Jefferson offered good soil and the right price for land.

Brownell described the attraction of working on a small plot farm: “With the small scale, you have a lot of control. By keeping hands-on we keep our sellable percentage high. We are with the crops every day and can manually

control weeds and pests. The cost of land is a big barrier for a new farmer, so being small helps on the way in and also means less equipment and smaller equipment. We have a walk-behind tractor, but mostly we use hand tools, so we can keep our rows tight, so we are growing on more of our land.”

Herbst recalled the amount of work it took to get up and running: “We got the place in July 2017 and it was completely overgrown, but we were producing by March 2018. Basically we cleaned it up and put it together over the winter. For the first several years I was nervous about everything. By now, we feel more capable and are more relaxed. You start to understand the seasonality and it’s more of a routine. You still need ingenuity to deal with the details, but we don’t stress about it.”

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Herbst also noted that “running a farm is not just about growing vegetables. We had to set up the marketing and selling too. That’s what led us to the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) model.” In a CSA, customers buy a share of the crop up front. The farmer gets funds to plant and the customer gets a box of fresh produce each week over the course of the spring, summer and fall. Herbst tries to keep his program flexible, offering different options for how many weeks and a couple of vacation weeks too. 📺

For 2021, in addition to the CSA program, Red Hawk Rise Organics is selling at the Shepherdstown Farmers Market. For details on their CSA program, growing methods, and what they grow, visit RedHawkRiseOrganics.com.



Michael Herbst uses the walk-behind tractor at the start of the season to break up the cover crop.



(Above) Katie Brownell takes a break outside of the high tunnel, used year round. (Below) Garlic is a favorite crop at Red Hawk Rising Organics.



OPENING DAY

Sunday, March 28th
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Facebook.com/ShepherdstownFarmersMarket

Masks Required - Covid Guidelines - No Dogs



**FARMERS MARKET DIRECTORY
NEXT PAGE >>>>**

GUIDE // FARMS AND FARMERS MARKETS



SPRING MARKETS OPEN

The Observer's annual guide highlights some of the many local-food options available in and around Jefferson County.

Many of these vendors offer online ordering and most are at one of the weekly markets for walk-up sales as well as pre-order pickups (as of our print deadline, only the Shepherdstown Market had finalized its vendor lineup – visit the market websites for complete lists and special events).

Email Explore@WeAreTheObserver.com if you have a farm or vendor you would like to recommend.

RETAIL SHOPS & STANDS

Bushel & Peck

Locally/regionally sourced grocery store
100 W Washington St, Charles Town, WV
FB: @BushelAndPeckWV
304-885-8133

Community Garden Market

Organic and natural grocery store
207 S Princess St, Shepherdstown, WV
FB: @CGMShepherdstown
(304) 870-4230

Good Natured Collective

Grocery store, cafe
209 S. Raleigh St, Martinsburg, WV
GoodNaturedLLC.com
304-262-9978

Orr's Farm Market

Fruit & vegetable (in season)
682 Orr Dr, Martinsburg, W
OrrsFarmMarket.com
304-263-1168

Smith's Market

Roadside stand for vegetables, fruit
3782 Berryville Pike, Charles Town, WV
FB: @SmithsFarmersMarket
Robinson.Artwork@gmail.com

Smith Meadows

Grass-fed beef, pork, lamb, eggs
660 Smithfield Ln, Berryville, VA
SmithMeadows.com
540-955-4389

Town & Country Nursery

Fruit, vegetables (year-round greenhouse)
1885 Darke Ln, Kearneysville, WV
FB: @TownAndCountryWV
304-725-1252

WEEKLY MARKETS

Shepherdstown

Opens March 28
Every Sunday
Morning 9 am to 1 pm
100 East German St
(behind the library) Shepherdstown

Masks are required · No pets please
[S] indicates participating vendor >>

FB: @ShepherdstownFarmersMarket



Martinsburg

Friday Evenings
(dates & hours TBD)
Downtown Martinsburg (see web)

MartinsburgFarmersMarket.com
FB: @MartinsburgFarmersMarket
buylocal@martinsburgfarmersmarket.com



Charles Town

Opens April 10
Saturday Mornings 9 am to noon
100 S Samuel St Charles Town
[C] indicates participating vendor >>

ctfm.JeffersonGAP.org
304-579-0924
CharlesTownFamersMarket@gmail.com



Berkeley Springs

Opens April 14
Every Sunday morning
10 am to 2 pm
129 Fairfax St, Berkeley Springs

BerkeleySpringsFarmersMarket.org
304-258-8400
BSFMmanager@gmail.com



Ash Creek Farm

Pies, eggs, vegetables [C]
304-268-1188
FB: @AshCreekFarm

Back Creek Bend Farm

Grass-fed beef, eggs
Web: GrassFedBeefWV.com
304-867-4368

Blue Mountain Farm

Produce & eggs [S,C]
FB: @BlueMountainWV
304-820-2233

The Cottage of Herbs

Gourmet herb mixes, dips, teas [S,C]
CottageOfHerbs.com
717-880-0886

LOCAL FOOD & PRODUCTS

Cutler Tigh Farm

Goat milk products [S,C]
FB: @CutlerTighFarm
CutlerTighFarm@gmail.com

Cultured Leaf Kombucha

Raw, living kombucha [S]
CulturedLeaf.com
301-465-0108

Farmer's Daughter Market & Butcher

Local-raised meats, dairy [S]
FarmersDaughterWV.com
304-856-2550

Geezer Ridge

Raw honey, beeswax [C]
304-702-3848
FB: @GeezerRidgeFarm

Hills Farm Fresh Produce

Produce, flowers [C]
FB: @fvwagon
304-725-7774

Kristof's Garden

Organic produce [C]
FB: @KristofsGarden
304-620-2556

Megan Webber Flowers

Organically-grown flowers [S]
FB: @MeganWebberFlowers
webr3@myactv.net

Middleway Farm

Herbs, flowers, produce [S,C]
MiddlewayFarmWV.com
304-279-5846

Peace in the Valley Herb Farm

Culinary & medicinal herbs [S]
FB: @Peace-in-the-Valley-Herb-Farm
304-702-1182

Red Hawk Rise Organics

Certified organic vegetables [S]
RedHawkRiseOrganics.com
Info@RedHawkRiseOrganics.com

Red House Farm

Chickens, eggs, vegetables [S,C]
RedHouseFarmWV.com
240-285-8745

Rivas Salsas de Mexico

Home-made salsas [S,C]
Rivas.Salsas
LatinSinger16@hotmail.com

Rooster Dirt Farm

Mushrooms, eggs [S]
RoosterDirtFarm.com
717-860-1568

Shade's Farm

Honey, produce, mushrooms [S]
FB: @ShadesFarm
ShadesFarmCSA@gmail.com

Shepherds Whey Creamery

Dairy/creamery, goats milk [S,C]
ShepherdsWheyCreamery.com
304-283-5203

Sistermoon Farm

Organic produce [C]
540-383-3995
SistermoonFarm.wv@gmail.com

Stone Hearth Bakery

Organic bakery, pastries [S,C]
StoneHearthBakeryLLC.com
301-662-2338

Stoney Lane Farm

Beef, mushrooms, produce [C]
304-886-9718
FamilyFarm2@frontier.com

Teyta's Treats

Middle Eastern food, vegan [S,C]
FB: Teytas-Treats
571-258-8637

Tudor Hall Farm

Beef, pork, eggs, produce [S,C]
TudorHallFarmWV.com
304-279-2471

Twin Ridge Orchard

Peaches, Cherries [S,C]
FB: @TWOOrchardMarket
TwinRidgeOrchardWV@gmail.com

Vale of the Blue Ridge Maple Farm

Natural maple syrup [S]
FB: @ValeOfTheBlueRidgeMaple
571-384-9357