

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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EXULTING THE IMPORTANCE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION — EDWARD R. MURROW

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## Planners give Thurmont annexation 'green light'

The Thurmont Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z) recommended at their February 25 public hearing that the mayor and Board of Commissioners approve a proposal to annex more than 16-acres of land to Thurmont.

The annexation is a first step towards the establishment of a proposed residential development which will contain more than 200 residential units. The 16-acres of land located outside the town boundaries would be merged with an additional 7.79 acres in the town to produce the required amount of land needed for the development.

Comments and conditions attached to P&Z's recommended approval include:

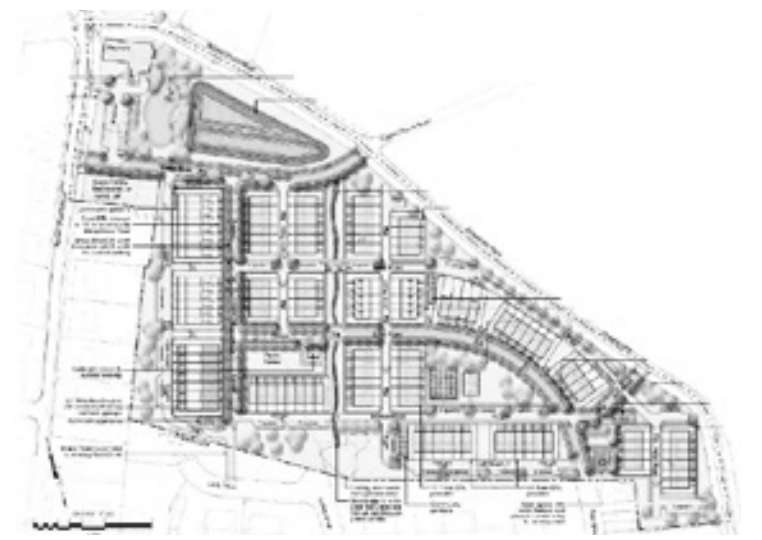
- 1) The P&Z board determined that the conceptual development plan is "generally favorable" and consistent with the Thurmont Master Plan, including aspects of the adequate public facilities.
- 2) The proposal poses no adverse impact on the planning and timing of existing infrastructure.
- 3) It is recommended that the R-5 zone be applied to the newly annexed portion of the development.
- 4) P&Z noted the complexity of the conceptual proposal and the likely need and requirement to apply ... in detail - the provisions of the

zoning ordinance at the time of site plan consideration.

The town Board of Commissioners officially accepted an annexation petition at their January 4 meeting in which Daniel Cross, owner, Cross & Company presented the proposed plan in which a 24.48-acre in-town development-site would be generated for future development if the 16-acre annexation was to be ultimately approved.

The residential development that would be sited on the 24.48-acre tract would include 31 townhouses, 7 studio-apartments and 172 condominiums. The co-joined property – created by the annexation - would be bound by a condominium development (spanning Easy Street, Luther Drive and Cody Drive) to the south side, Apples Church Road on the west and north sides, and Graceham Road on the east side.

The land developer, Cross, previously stated that the current 'vision' for the development consists of a combination of affordable, mixed-use, intergenerational-community residential units, including townhouses and 2-over-2 style, four-story, condominium townhouses. Plans also would provide for senior independent-living, a child daycare-center, as well as open spaces, "victory



Artist rendition of the proposed development plans for a 24-acre lot of land on Apple Church Road that has applied for annexation into Thurmont.

gardens," pedestrian-friendly streetscapes, tot-lots, a dog park, and a food-truck parking site.

Cross also stated, regarding the concept, "I'm a strong advocate of Mayberry. I don't quite understand why we ... as a society ... have developed exclusive-age 55-plus communities and we've segregated-out our old population and have said, 'You go live by yourself and we'll do regular neighborhoods for other people here.'"

The land to be annexed as well as the portion already located in-town are both zoned for agricultural use ... and would have to be re-zoned in order to permit residential devel-

opment (R-5 was recommended in this case). The developers have previously submitted a request for the necessary re-zoning.

The county government also has to approve re-zoning the portion of the proposed development site located outside of Thurmont, but the county Council cannot rule until Thurmont approves.

Town Planner Chris Jakubiak had also previously stated that the proposed annexation was the first annexation that the town has seen since having adopted a new zoning-ordinance in October 2019, which contains new procedures for reviewing annexations.

## Fairfield schools return to in-class instructions

Parents were informed by the Fairfield Area School District (FASD) in a letter dated March 24 that all grades, kindergarten through 12th grade, will return to in-person classes beginning April 12.

District Superintendent Michael Adamek wrote that the district will remain "under the guidance of the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Pennsylvania Department of Education for quarantine and building closures for positive COVID cases. If a student or staff member has a positive result from a COVID-19 test, the district has to report it to the DOH. The DOH will give guidance/actions that the school must follow."

Prior to the district's decision, more than 150 FASD students, parents and other family members had signed a petition that has been circulating since February 27 - calling for the district to re-institute in-person classes five days per-week.

Some involved among the protestors had suggested that parents should have the option of having their student or students take classes virtually, but that it should not be mandated.

Due to fluctuating numbers of reports of confirmed cases of COVID-19 among students and school-staff among the middle-school and high-school grades, the school has experienced various attendance formats from hybrid (a mix of in-person and virtual classes) to solely virtual.

According to the most recent COVID-19 related data posted by the district, there were no positive cases of COVID-19 among the district's circa-585 students and staff, while five individuals in the elementary school and 12 individuals in the middle and high schools remain quarantined.

Petition organizer Rich Phillip stated that the challenges faced by district community members "has been unprecedented, to say the least," adding, "The hardest impact has been and continues to be to our children. The FASD administration and members of the (school) board (need) to stop making excuses and put FASD children back in school." He said that neither the district-superintendent, Michael Adamek, nor the school board had responded to the petitions that have thus far been submitted.



For the past 2 months protestors have gathered outside of the Fairfield schools demanding the return to in-class instructions.

Parents have expressed concern over a number of issues related to virtual, at-home learning, including having to have an adult or family member at home to oversee the virtual experience, as well as the potential negative impact on student grades, and last but not least, the psychological impacts on students who cannot socialize with their

school -friends and teachers or are not physically or mentally equipped to handle virtual learning.

Kelly Campbell Wivell has one student attending classes in the district high school. She said she is not concerned about her student's grade-level "because she is a great student," but has heard from other parents having difficulties.

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# EMMITSBURG NEWS

## Water & sewer work moves forward

The town commissioners were briefed at their March meeting regarding the status of water and sewer infrastructure-related projects that are currently underway, or soon will be.

Town Manager Cathy Willets reported the status of two significant infrastructure projects, beginning with the acquisition of a new water-clarifier for the Crystal Fountain Road Water Plant.

The purpose of the water clarifier is to treat and improve the raw water quality flowing into the wastewater treatment plant, with the main objectives being to reduce the damage to the plant's equipment, as well for reducing the millions of gallons of reservoir water being wasted by backwashing the system.

"There's been a lot of different things in print in the newspaper and other places, so basically - this is the main purpose of the clarifier," she stated.

The cost of the new clarifier is estimated at \$1.4 million, \$1 million of which is in the state's capital budget, meaning the state will provide the funds when the budget goes into effect June 1.

As for the remaining \$400,000 needed for the clarifier, Willets told the commissioners that it would be up to town to find those funds. "The mayor is in discussions with two banks to possibly get 'gap (shortfall) finding' loan, if not, it would be funded through the town," she said.

Willets stated that the estimated date of completion of the acquisition and installation of the new clarifier would be July 2022.

Willets also briefed the commissioners on the status of the Creamery Road pump station replacement. The need for the construction of a new pump station resulted from several raw sewage spills that had occurred over the course of the last three years,

and that had resulted in spillages amounting to 125,000 gallons, of which the largest was 68,500 gallons lost in September 2018. The September spill made its way into Flat Run Creek - caused by a "failing pump station which had been built in 1964 with no bypass capabilities," Willets stated.

The estimated cost for the new pumping station is \$3,657,000, of which the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be providing a grant for \$833,000 and a loan for \$1,987,000, and the town will be responsible for securing the funding for the remaining \$807,000.

Willets stated that the design for the new facility is presently 65-percent complete. Upon completion, the USDA must then approve the design. Upon approval, the project will then go out to bid for construction, with the hope that construction could begin by the end of this year.

## Myers Park improvements proposed

At their March meeting the Emmitsburg commissioners approved two improvement projects proposed to be constructed in the Myers Community Park.

Town Manager Willets asked the board to consider approving the construction of two small picnic pavilions to be constructed in concrete slabs.

Willets stated, "The goal will be to construct one 16 x 20-foot and one 12 x 12-foot small picnic pavilions," adding that one would be ADA-compliant. The town manager said that staff plans on having

the two pavilions completed by no later than May 15.

The cost of the pavilions has been established at \$41,000 and will be paid utilizing a \$30,750 Program Open Space Grant, with the balance of \$10,250 to be paid by the town.

From among the five bidders who submitted quotes, Willets recommended awarding the contract to Green Sites of Elkridge, for \$40,507, which included a connecting-side-walk between the pavilions, in addition to constructing the pavilions.

Willets also requested the board to

approve a plan to renovate the existing bandstand.

The proposed work would include replacing roofing boards, demolition of walls, enclosing the back-half of the bandstand, electrical work, painting, and adding cultured stone to the backwall and columns. The staff expects the work to be completed by May 1.

New electrical outlets having a higher amperage for modern sound equipment will replace the existing ones, since the current outlets have been known to blow



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## News Briefs . . .

### North Seton-DePaul waterline update

Willets reported the status of North Seton Avenue and DePaul Street waterline replacement at the commissioners' March meeting.

Willets reported that the project was necessitated due to the existing pipes having been found as being aged and undersized, especially regarding the need of appropriately sized pipes for fire protection.

Specifically, the pipeline replacement would take place on North Seton Avenue from North Avenue to 17349 North Seton, and on

DePaul Street from North Seton Avenue to the dead-end. The pipes presently being used consist of cast-iron and were installed some time before 1952.

Willets further stated at the March meeting that the USDA would not be willing to provide any funding for this project "until the water (user) rates are raised to support the infrastructure and funding requests."

### Town to hold two April meetings

The Town council decided at their March meeting to hold two town meetings in April at the request of

Town Manager Cathy Willets.

Willets stated that she was recommending that the board hold the first of the April meetings on April 5, and the second on April 19, attributing the necessity to the fact no meetings could not be held in February due to inclement weather, along with the backlog of town business resulting from that.

Emmitsburg was besieged by heavy snow that spanned three days from February 1st to 3rd, and a second storm involving freezing rain, wintery-mix and snow that lasted from February 15 through the 20th. The February 1-3 snowstorm produced eight inches of snow in the Emmits-

burg area during that three-day event.

After town staff canceled the regular meeting that had been scheduled for February 1, the meeting was rescheduled for February 15, but this too was subsequently cancelled.

The commissioners unanimously approved Willets' park improvement requests as well as to

award the contracts to the companies she recommended.

In other business, the commissioners approved a number of appointments at their March meeting. Former Commissioner Glenn Blanchard was appointed to the Planning Commission, with his term beginning on March 1 and end in March 2026; Deborah Hobbs was appointed to the Ethics Commission; and Carolyn and Martin Miller were re-appointed to the Parks Committee. Their terms will end in March 2023.

ers at their March meeting.

In addition to making the town meetings available live on You Tube, the town normally relies also on broadcasting the meetings on Cable Channel 99. However, broadcasting the meetings via cable necessitates that having staff must be present to operate the equipment. Two attempts at holding the town meeting in February were thwarted by winter weather which prevented staff from reaching the town hall.

Holding meetings by Zoom in-lieu-of cable would permit the meetings to continue to be held using that streaming-service as a backup, since it can be managed remotely.

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# FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

## Liberty Township awards road work

The Liberty Township supervisors awarded Kinsley Construction a road improvement package at their March meeting that will address issues involving four township roads.

The township received bids from three companies - Kinsley Construction, Russell Standard, and AAA Paving & Excavating - but not all of the contractors bid on all of the work proposed, or bid different amounts on different specific aspects of the proposed work.

Rather than award the different aspects of the proposed road work to more than one company, the super-

visors decided to award the contract for all the work to one bidder - that being Kinsley Construction at \$114,420, which was about \$21,000 over the initial cost estimate.

The township roads which will be the subject of improvements include Brent, McGlaughlin, Irishtown and Bullfrog roads.

According to the bid specifications, work which will be taking place on Brent, McGlaughlin, and Irishtown will include the placement of an aggregate (coarse-to-medium-grained gravel) surface which will then be sealed with a coating of

asphalt emulsion. Bullfrog is to receive the same treatment ... less the coating of asphalt emulsion.

Regarding dropping one or more aspects of the proposed road improvements to avert the \$21,000 overage, Board of Supervisors' Vice-chairman Bob Jackson affirmed, "We put a lot of time and effort in studying this, figuring out what we want to do. For \$20,000 ... in my opinion, we may well go ahead with what we planned," adding, "I think our reserves can stand that."

Supervisors Bobby Keilholtz stated, "I hate to see us kick-the-

can down the road (by excluding some of the proposed roadwork) ... they're getting worse by the day. I think our citizens need better roads than we've been providing in some cases."

In other township business, Police Chief Sherri Hansen told the supervisors that she would like to hear from other municipalities in the area who might be interested in having the Liberty Township Police provide police services for their respective communities.

The township police began providing police coverage for Freedom

Township in January as the result of an agreement wherein Freedom is paying Liberty \$16,500 annually for 25-hours per month in police-coverage.

Some municipalities that do not have their own police force, such as Hamiltonban Township, rely on State Police to provide police coverage. Others, such as Fairfield Borough, enter into contracts with neighboring police forces to acquire police services.

Hansen has made an offer to Hamilton to provide police coverage, but as yet ... the Hamiltonban Township supervisors have not acted on the offer.

## Grant sought for Community Park

The Hamiltonban supervisors voted at their March meeting to pursue funding through a state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant for proposed Phase III improvements for the Community Park.

The DCNR grant would be a matching grant, meaning the township would have to match the money provided by the state on a 50-50 basis. The total estimated cost of the Phase III improvements will range between \$185,000 and \$200,000 - amassed through grants and

donations - and the completion of the proposed Phase III work at the park is to occur by spring 2022.

The proposed park improvements include adding paving and lines to the parking areas; constructing a small pavilion area by the natural-play area; adding a pickleball court; establishing a second loop of approximately 1,300 feet (1/4 mile) to the existing walking path; restoring the small, front raingarden; erecting a permanent park sign on Bullfrog Road; adding a bench and landscaping around the parking

area; and adding a pergola extension to the pavilion.

Other improvements are to include distance-markers along the entire walking path, a covered restroom pavilion that will house portable restrooms, a waterline extension for handwashing at the restroom location, a waterline extension to service the main pavilion, and a pergola extension to the main pavilion, a walking bridge over the pond spillway, and restoration of the raingarden along Bullfrog Road.

Those interested in donating towards this effort may send their

tax-deductible contributions to: Hamiltonban Community Park, P.O. Box 526, Fairfield, 17320.

Phase I of the improvement plans for the park was completed sufficiently enough towards the end of 2017 to permit the township to officially open the park to visitors. Projects completed under Phase I included a new play structure, a pavilion, part of the walking path, fencing, and preparatory work for future parts of this project. Phase 1 was completely funded by two grants received from DCNR, and Wellspan Health.

Phase II was initiated in the summer of 2018 and included the completion of a quarter-mile walking-path, five ADA-accessible, adult fitness stations - containing a chest press, lat pull down, balance steps, dual leg-press and a dual ski-walker - a "natural play area" and a swing set, an approximately 11,000 square-foot pollinator meadow, and interpretive signs that denote the importance of the Adams County area culturally, naturally, economically and historically.

All of the phases have been kicked-off with numerous tree-plantings on the park-grounds.

## Liberty Township adopts new regulations

The Liberty Township supervisors adopted a new ordinance addressing dangerous trees, and two ordinance amendments addressing driveways and junk at their March meeting.

The board first adopted a Tree Removal Ordinance, which provides the township with the power to remove and bill a prop-

erty-owner for dead or dying roadside trees on their property more than six inches in diameter, if, after warnings, the property-owner does not comply with voluntary removal. Failure to pay any township-incurred expenses will constitute a criminal offense.

Secondly, the supervisors adopted a Driveway Ordinance

amendment which corrected existing conflicts with the township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) and provides that any culvert pipe installed be fifteen inches in diameter at the minimum. Additional changes that the driveway ordinance amendment would entail are that driveways should be

paved four-feet back from the roadway, that the entranceway to a driveway should be a minimum of 25-feet in width, and that two driveways per-property would be permitted without having to apply for a waiver.

Thirdly, the board adopted a Junkyard Ordinance amendment, implementing revisions which

included stating that a junkyard permit is good for one-year from the date that it was issued, and that if the applicant has not properly filled-out a junkyard permit application form, the application permit will be denied, and if an applicant is found to have been in the non-compliance of the ordinance during the preceding term of the issuance of the current permit, a renewal may be denied.

## Resident seeks to preserve spring

The Carroll Valley Borough Council mulled over a number of potential ways and means of aiding a local activist seeking to preserve a noteworthy spring located, not coincidentally, along Spring Trail.

The spring not only provided water to a one-time dairy farm and loaned its name to that of the adjacent roadway, but the pure mountain spring waters emanate from cracks in a bed of ancient lava that had once flowed from a volcano hundreds of millions of years in the region's past. The spring's water ultimately flows into Toms Creek, a well-recognized trout stream.

Bruce Rowland, a resident of Spring Trail, said his concern regarding the preservation of the spring stems from what he has observed occurring on neighboring properties involving "timbering."

The spring is located on a small parcel of land owned by Tim Light,

who is interested in selling the parcel for \$15,000. The circa half-acre tract, Rowland said, was too small to attract the attention and support of preservation organizations, while Borough Manager David Hazlett noted that at \$15,000, the parcel is substantially over-priced.

Without any organizational monies available, Rowland appeared before the council to see what ideas they might have for acquiring the tract to preserve the spring.

A number of ideas were floated,

from having the borough trade one of the borough-owned parcels to the owner for the parcel with the spring, or to having the neighbors form a coalition to purchase the property and possibly donate it to the borough for protection, to establishing a GoFundMe page to raise the money to buy the land.

The council members did express support for the preservation effort, and Hazlett stated he will try and work with the property's owner to arrive at a solution that could result in securing the parcel.

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# THURMONT NEWS

## Economic development report

Thurmont Economic Development Manager Vickie Grinder briefed the commissioners at the board's March 9 meeting on some of the highlights for the town's economic development for 2020.

Regarding her office's assistance to local businesses in general, Grinder stated that she had spent April 2020 and up to the present time assisting local entrepreneurs with guidance regarding accessing funding-sources to help alleviate them of the duress under which they have been subjected during the COVID pandemic.

Different agencies offered various forms of financial assistance, including the Small Business Association's Payroll Protection program and Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, the state's COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund, and a variety of county grants by business sector.

Applying for any of those, she said, "was not fun for any business and information changed daily during the initial roll out of the Payroll Protection Program." adding that Mayor John Kinnaird had referred to the myriad of aid-programs as a "moving target," due to the confusion on the criteria for applicants and conditions that had to be met in order to qualify to apply.

Grinder said she also helped businesses with applying for assistance from the Frederick County Jump Start Program, and the Restaurant and Food Service Relief Grant Program - whose staff responded quickly to her inquiries - and her department was also successful delivering town restaurants with KN-95 masks for their front-line employees thanks to Frederick County.

She was grateful that the Town of Thurmont established the Thur-

mont Emergency Micro Grant, which contributed \$1,000 to needful businesses. Grinder said when various businesses were presented with the money from the town, or any of the monetary aid she was able to secure from other sources, "People cried ... I was listening to people literally in tears for their gratitude and appreciation ... these businesses have been through a lot and should be commended."

Grinder reported she was successful with securing county use and occupancy permits for two businesses, in spite of the county office that processes the applications being closed due to COVID and all permitting had to be done through their portal. Despite a pandemic, Thurmont managed to hold several ribbon-cuttings at the opening of new businesses, including Blacks Funeral Home, Tracie's House of Hair, and

Thurmont Veterinary Clinic.

The manager also discussed how her program handled advertising local tourist attractions, also as part of aiding local businesses, in which she stressed that Thurmont was a safe place to visit, especially with all the parks, sights and resources. She also created a tagline for those ads, "We've Been Socially Distancing for Decades"

Mayor Kinnaird stated, "I was totally astounded and impressed by how successful our restaurants have been, and a lot of it is due to your actions ... we have not seen the loss of small business like a lot of other communities have, and I credit you with a lot of that - and I thank you for that."

### Thurmont 'Y Without Walls' to begin

Thurmont Economic Development Manager Vickie Grinder briefed the commissioners at that

board's March 23 meeting on the efforts to establish local YMCA programs, which could commence in May or June.

Three main areas of focus for the Thurmont 'Y Without Walls' program will be arts and humanities, a teen program, and health and wellness.

The arts and humanities program would be launched with a child and parent art program, wherein children four-years-of-age and up could work on art projects with their parents, according to *Anthony Brock*, director of Arts & Humanities, Frederick YMCA.

Evan Bates, teen coordinator, Frederick YMCA, said surveys indicated that residents in the North County region want programs that are more engaging for teenagers, noting that the YMCA already commenced with a Thurmont Leaders Club for teens in January.

## Internet pilot program moves forward

The Thurmont commissioners continued their discussion at the board's March 9 meeting, for over an hour, regarding the possibility of establishing a municipally owned and operated highspeed internet service for the community.

The discussions were continued from the board's February 9 presentation by the Thurmont Internet Commission. The commission was established by resident-volunteer Elliot Jones after the idea had been spearheaded by Commissioner Martin Burns.

The internet commission had previously proposed that a pilot-program comprised of some 235 residential and business-users be established to test the system upon its launch. Jones told the commissioners that the pilot program would serve as a "proof-of-concept ... showing to our residents and to our town that this is feasible ... and this is effective ... and is affordable to our residents."

The number of participants in the pilot program was based on the number needed in order to at least break-even on the start-up and service costs

of \$235,000 over a less-than-three-year period. Previously discussed preliminary user-rates would run from \$50 to \$80 per-month for residents, and \$75 to \$180 per-month for businesses, based on the number of megabits provided.

It was also previously recommended that the initial service be a wireless system, and as the customer-base grew, to gradually convert the service to a fiber-optics network, which could take several years to complete.

The town already has three tall water-towers which could dou-

ble as wireless transmission-towers, although Internet Commission member Dan Kosek stated at the board's March 9 meeting that the town may need to erect a fourth transmission-tower to reach all of the residents within the future service area. The pilot program would be launched utilizing only one of the water-towers.

Kosek suggested that, once the pilot program has been launched, the first 90 days should prove as being sufficient for providing enough user-data to serve as a basis upon which to make further decisions regarding the

service, such as employing the other water-towers.

Mayor Kinnaird said, "Once you offer doing it, a lot of people will be interested. I have no doubt about that at all. I have no doubt that it will be successful."

Chief Administrative Officer James Humerick noted that, as the result of a survey already taken among the residents, "quite a few people said that if they could get better service at a cheaper price, they certainly would participate."

The board took no formal action regarding the proposal but did assured that the discussions will continue.

## Future tree plantings planned

The Thurmont commissioners discussed at their March 9 meeting future tree plantings that would help the town comply with state-mandated stormwater runoff-prevention and/or reduction.

According to the Center for Watershed Protection, trees help reduce stormwater runoff "by capturing and storing rainfall in the canopy and releasing water into the atmosphere through evapotranspiration."

Andrew Tuleya, with Arro Consulting, who serves as the town's MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Sys-

tem) consultant, provided the town with a presentation addressing the benefits of tree-plantings, otherwise known as reforestation ... as well as other information relevant to controlling runoff.

The idea behind MS4 is to create stormwater 'traps' to the degree that the amount of water captured - offsets the amount of runoff being generated by impervious surfaces within a municipality ... impervious surfaces being anything that is resistant to allowing stormwater to be freely and naturally absorbed by the ground.

There are a variety of measures by which municipalities can implement to achieve fulfilling a stormwater runoff baseline that must be attained in order to comply with the state laws. Each successful measure taken produces a score (referred to as "credits") which cumulatively should equal - at the least - the baseline ... baseline being the final-credit total of 69.12 acres needed to achieve compliance.

For example, when it comes to tree-plantings, if 100 native (to Maryland) trees are planted on an acre of

land, and at least half of them are at or more than two-inches in diameter, and they are all above a mature height of four and a half feet, then that acre multiplied by .38 generates .38 of an acre credit toward achieving the state-established baseline.

In citing some possible properties that may prove as being suitable for additional tree plantings, Tuleya suggested using two acres of land at East End Park, 32 acres at Eyer Park, and 6 acres at NCR, Inc.

Town staff could be used to carry out the plantings, thereby reducing the costs of labor. Further, some of the tree nurseries in the area may be willing to

reduce the price on trees intended for municipal use, Tuleya said. He also noted that areas subject to concentrations of re-forestation could also have walking or nature-trails established amongst them.

Chief Administrative Officer James Humerick noted that trees previously purchased by the town have cost from \$30 to \$50 each. Mayor John Kinnaird also suggested that citizen-volunteers could be considered as a source of labor when it comes to planting the trees as well.

The town has until 2025 to complete the current round of MS4 requirements.

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# TANEYTOWN NEWS

## Park vandalism to be monitored

Taneytown Parks and Recreation Director Lorena Vaccare reported at the March meeting of the city's Athletic Association meeting that vandalism is already picking up at the municipal parks, and that police will be looking for suspects.

Vaccare stated, "The warmer weather and the warming months coming up of course means an increase in vandalism. We've got the graffiti artists out there already, active."

The director asked that incidents be reported to the town and reiterated that the Parks and Recreation Department will get the police involved, and that staff will do whatever they can to try and rectify the problems. "The police are increasing their presence in our parks now because of all of this going on."

Mark Carder, representing Taneytown Lions Baseball, stated

that someone did a painting of a walrus in one of the dugouts. He said, "It was a pretty well-painted walrus," but noted that Field #3 was about to be painted in the upcoming weeks anyway.

Vaccare said, "At least it was a walrus. That's a little more creative than what's usually sprayed out there."

In other Parks and Recreation-related business, the director reported that staff is still working on a Memorial Day parade. "I'm still working on the route and the time," she said, adding that anyone or any group interested in participating should let her know so that she can calculate the amount of time it would be necessary for the parade to complete its route - because roadway-use permits have to be obtained from the State Highway Administration.

She said the Parks and Recreation Department is also working

with the American Legion on what they're going to do so they can tie-in with them. Additionally, she noted that Westminster is not planning to have a Memorial Day parade this year, but that if they change their minds, the Taneytown parade would be scheduled so that it would not conflict with Westminster's parade.

Regarding sports teams' reports, Taneytown Lions Baseball representative Mark Carder reported, "We have 188 kids registered this spring with 19 teams," also noting that Taneytown Lions Baseball has recently merged with West Carroll Baseball, "and are currently working on an agreement between ourselves and the West County Recreation Council."

Carder noted that Taneytown Lions Baseball decided not to actually join the West County Recreation Council, "but we are going to work with them and were going



On March 4, Wantz Chevrolet said goodbye to their service manager Bob Kennedy who retired after after 35 years as Service Manager at GM stores in Carroll County. Bob retired from Wantz after 9 years of award winning service. Bob received the Mark of Excellence award multiple times for outstanding customer service, as well as numerous other awards from General Motors in his previous positions. Bob brought a true sense of customer care to making sure all his customers received personal attention and was a man of high integrity who earned the respect of all of his co-workers.

to be the only baseball source in the rec council." The agreement would result in the home-team

having access to a total of seven fields between Taneytown and Union Bridge.

## Backyard sheds to be permitted

The consensus of the Taneytown City Council rendered at their March workshop was to pursue regulatory changes that would allow sheds in Community Village developments, specifically for Meade's Crossing, under certain circumstances.

Community Village design regulations are a set of rules specific to a development designated as a Community Village which would be in addition to the zoning regulations applicable to a typical, specific development.

An additional governing entity that has the power to impose fur-

ther rules and restrictions is a development's Homeowners Association (HOA). However, while an HOA can create regulations which are stricter than that of town regulations, an HOA cannot generate rules that are less strict than the town's, or which contradict a municipal regulation.

With that said, the council decided at their meeting to find a means of allowing sheds in a Community Village, as a resulting from a request presented by Steve Smith, representing Meade's Crossing, who was seeking a means that would allow sheds to be constructed

on single-family home-properties within the development.

The Village Community design, as having been created by the to City Council, does not allow sheds. Smith noted that, while the HOA provides for lawn care for the town-homes present, it does not provide the same for the single-family home, resulting in those in single-family homes having to store their lawn care and other outdoor accessories out-of-doors.

"As a result," he stated, "what we're finding is, if you look at somebody's backyard, they may have a pile of hoses and a grill there - it's

not the best look," adding, "Technically, we could probably do some enforcement but, if they're putting both cars in the garage, there's not a lot of room."

Smith said the HOA is interested in seeking "some sort of relief" that would allow single-family homes to be able to have sheds, with an understanding that the types of sheds that would be allowed would be governed by the HOA. "We don't really want the old Montgomery Ward's metal sheds that we all grew up with, there are some very attractive alternatives," he stated.

After considerable discussions, the council decided the solution would be to amend the development's

Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreement (DRRA) to allow sheds and to designate the HOA as having the regulatory power to govern the specifications, which they determine to be allowable.

In addition, it was decided to amend city coding to include wording that defers to the DRRAs which, in turn could allow HOAs to govern sheds where sheds would make sense, such as for single-family homes.

Changing Meade's Crossing's DRRA would be subject to the review and public hearing by the Planning Commission, while changes to the code would necessitate a public hearing before the council.

## News-Briefs . . .

### City election to be held

Taneytown will be filling three four-year, full-term council seats on that board in the upcoming May 3 town election. The council seats that will be up for election or re-election are those presently held by Diane Foster, Judith Fuller and Joe Vigliotti.

Voting will take place on May 3 at the Taneytown Police Station from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Absentee ballots may be obtained from the City Clerk following a written request for an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots shall be available beginning at noon on April 12, and all completed absentee ballots must be received by the city no later than 4 p.m. on May 3.

### Status of park projects provided

Taneytown Parks and Recreation Director Vaccare briefed the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board at their March meeting on the status of work proposed to be implemented at Roberts Mill Park.

Vaccare stated that the requests for proposal (RFPs) for improvements to be implemented at Roberts Mill Park were posted on March 5, with the deadline for potential contractors to file proposals set for April 9.

Proposed improvements include re-surfacing and repairing the park's walking trail and the basketball court, as well as installing rip-rap (loose stone) along the pond

to prevent erosion of the embankment. The basketball court will be repaired and will receive a new fabric overlay, and then a fresh coating of asphalt will be applied, and new lines painted.

Regarding Bollinger Park improve-

ments, the director stated that the Vista Overlook #2 portion of the park trail has been determined to be in a flood plain, and the work that had been proposed would be subject

to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approval. As a result, Vaccare said, the concept for improvements there will be altered to avoid triggering a FEMA study.

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## FROM THE DESK OF...

## County Council Notes. . .

Edison Hatter

As redistricting time approaches again on the federal level, states are experiencing issues as a result of the 2020 Census results delay caused by COVID-19. Generally, Census results are available by April 1 and are often provided to individual states even earlier than this. However, this year it has been announced that the Census Bureau is now targeting September 30 to release the data. While this will impact the state of Maryland and their process of redistricting for state and federal legislative districts, it will also have an impact on local Frederick County politics. Per the Frederick County Charter, County Council members are tasked with creating a commission to redraw the county's five council districts.

The commission must create five districts that are "compact, contiguous, substantially equal in population, and have common interests as a result of geography, occupation, history, or existing political boundaries." The expectation is that the committee will be comprised of nine members: three members each appointed by both the Democratic and Republican Central Committees and an additional three unaffiliated voters nominated by the County Council.

The commission will have until November 15, 2021 to present the County Council with the proposed new districts. A public hearing will be held a month after the original proposal is made and it will be come law an additional few months after the public hearing. With 2022 election season just

around the corner- in fact, some candidates have already filed campaigns for the next elections- this creates a very tight time window for the entire process to be completed in time for the 2022 mid-term elections.

In other news this month, Councilmember Steve McKay (R) is introducing a bill to offer property tax credits to veterans who have a permanent service-related disability of at least 50% and who make less than \$100,000 in federal adjusted gross income per year. While initial estimates showed the financial impact to the county to be around \$1.6 million, it now appears that the actual number could be lower. The introduction of the bill was delayed initially as there was concern that the tax credit could be seen as a

tax decrease by the federal government and put the county in violation of federal laws. However, the county received the clarification they desired and the bill received a first reading late last month.

A bill currently in committee could affect future vacancies on the Frederick County Board of Education. The bill is working through the process at the state level, but if passed, it would allow for regularly scheduled elections to be used to fill a future vacancy on the Board of Education if the vacancy falls within an appropriate timeframe. Specifically, this would mean the vacancy would have to fall within the first year of one's term to allow for candidates to have enough time to file for the next election cycle.

With regards to COVID-19 restrictions, Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner stated last

month that the county intends to follow all new state-level guidance. This will include allowing restaurants and stores to open at 100% capacity, provided that all relevant social distancing guidelines can be adhered to. A lot of business likely will not experience much change due to the difficulty of having enough space for customers to properly social distance if there is 100% capacity.

It is important for County residents to note that existing restrictions issued by the Frederick County Board of Health remain in effect. This includes a 50% limit capacity on wedding venues, a 25% limit capacity for gyms and associated businesses, and a 25-person limit on indoor or outdoor personal gatherings. It is possible that the Board of Health could meet in the near future to discuss and/or amend these current restrictions.

## Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

With the first glimpse of spring, Commissioner Davis and I visited the Brunswick Regional Park. It is spectacular. Lite turf field for multi-sports use. Large all accessible kid's lot. Lighting for evening events. Lite baseball field with seating, separate softball field with seating. Multiple fields for lacrosse, football, soccer, ample parking, walking and biking paths and oh yeah, equestrian trails. Very impressive. From all reports the timetable for our regional park lies three to five years out. It will give us time to plan around its opening.

Our town tribute to Earth Day will be in the fall this year. A COVID re-related scheduling.

On to Green New Deal: The City of Frederick is "ginning up" its commitment to sustainability. Frederick City has entered into an agreement with the EPA to be a part of a Green Initiative program. Frederick City will buy 'green energy credits' to offset its carbon emission attributed to the operation of its facilities. Frederick City does not have the land to build a solar field (unlike Emmitsburg where solar fields were added in 2014-15) to offset the City's emissions. The emissions effect will still be felt in Frederick, but some entity, somewhere will be able to build a wind or solar field to offset their create carbon emis-

sions. Emmitsburg solar fields create its own renewable energy for 95% of our town energy needs that directly offset town produced greenhouse emissions. Frederick City will also replace street-light bulbs with LED lighting like Emmitsburg did 2013-14.

The closing of Sabillasville Elementary School may soon be a charter school with a tailored environmental and agricultural science focused curriculum. What a befitting outcome for that part of the county and the iconic setting.

Congratulations to The Mount women and men basketball teams on winning NEC league Championships and winning automatic

bids into the March Madness NCAA tournament.

Ryan Homes has sold fourteen new homes in Brookfield. On a recent visit to the neighborhood four homes were framed in, enclosed, and under roof, two more home foundations were poured. I spoke with neighbors who deeply appreciated the builder's sweeping the streets most every night.

The Catocin High Cougars football team is moving on with its spring schedule of games with the heavy burden of an injury to teammate, Colan Droneburg, sustained in the season opening scrimmage with Middletown/reports he is recovering and doing very well. Congratulations to the team on its win over Thomas Johnson.

County reports that 25% of the residents have now been inoculated for COVID. Vigilant Hose Company is still waiting to hear from the County if their facility on Creamery Road can serve as a vaccination site.

In March Pope Francis, as a part of his Lenten experience, visited Iraq. He ventured into parts of the country that were for the most part almost destroyed by 20 years of international and sectarian wars. He met with and shared prayers with Muslim and Kurd leaders alike and conducted two Christian services attended by all Christian denomination leaders in the country. The 84-year-old with his gentle stuttered gait certainly attests to that anything is possible with Divine Providence.

## Thurmont Mayor John Kinnard

With the arrival of spring, I invite everyone to visit the Thurmont Main Street Farmers Market at their new indoor location! The Farmers Market is open Saturday mornings from 9 until noon at the Thurmont Plaza Shopping Center at 224 North Church Street. Guests are required to wear a facemask and observe social distancing guidelines. The vendors offer a

wide range of produce and baked goods. Stop and check out the selection, you will not be disappointed! After May 1st the Farmers Market will return to the Municipal Parking Lot on South Center Street.

Thurmont residents are encouraged to follow the Planning and Zoning Commission as they work to update the Thurmont Master Plan. This includes reviewing land use,

comprehensive rezoning, updates to the Zoning Regulations, improving the Growth Map, and other items. The meetings are open to the public and there will be public hearings and open houses to get community input. The Thurmont Planning and Zoning Commission meets on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.

Thurmont Main Street will be sponsoring Main Street Sweeps

on Saturday, June 5th from 9 - 11 a.m. The Thurmont Green YTeam, Thurmont Lions Club, YMCA Thurmont Teen Program, and other volunteers will be joining forces to clean help the Downtown Streets. The clean-up will start on East Main Street From Thurmont Barber & Styling to the corner at PNC and South Center Street, then onto South Center around to Water Street and back up to the Mechanicstown Square Park. The Thurmont Lions Club will be supplying

brooms for the Sweep! Contact Karen Schildt at kschildt@thurmontstaff.com or call her at 240-285-8076 if you like to help.

I am sure many residents are aware of the issues we have been trying to address at the Recycling drop-off site on Moser Road next to the Regional Library. The recycling facility is located on Town of Thurmont property as a courtesy to Frederick County. The County reimburses the Town for the majority of the cost

continued on next page



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## GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

## County Executive Jan Gardner

It's Spring! Warm temperatures and sunshine bring a renewed sense of hope. Adding to the hope-filled spirit is an increasing supply of vaccine, which will allow us to return to a sense of normalcy in the coming months.

Vaccinating people against COVID-19 is Job One in Frederick County. It is an all-hands-on-deck effort. Staff from the Frederick County Health Department and nearly every division of Frederick County Government have stepped up to help deliver this critical service.

About 30% of all county residents had received their first vaccine by the end of March. Tens of thousands of people have come through one of our clinic locations. For some living in senior communities, our clinics came to them. We are coordinating the vaccination effort with Frederick Health Hospital and other community partners.

My mission has been to increase the number of doses coming into Frederick County so that our community receive its fair share of vaccine. We are now expecting a much larger supply in April, which will allow us to ramp up our vaccination efforts. By the end of this month, all Marylanders over the age of 16 will be eligible for the vaccine. You can pre-register now. Fill out a Vaccination Interest Form at the Health Department's website, [FrederickCountyMD.gov/CovidVax](http://FrederickCountyMD.gov/CovidVax). You can also sign up for one of the State-run mass vaccination clinics, including one in Hagerstown, at [CovidVax.maryland.gov](http://CovidVax.maryland.gov). If you prefer, you can call Frederick County's Vaccine Appointment Center at 301-600-7900 to set up your appointment.

Getting vaccinated is how we will win this battle against the virus. We all need to do our part and be smart. Continue wearing your mask, washing your hands frequently, and watching your distance when you are around people outside of your household. And when it is your turn, please get vaccinated. Together we will get past this pandemic!

**continued from the previous page**  
of dumping the recycling by funding one emptying per week. Any additional emptying is paid for by the Town of Thurmont. In recent months it seems that almost every weekend people are dropping off recycling when the bin is full. Rather than take the recycling back when there is room in the roll-off they are throwing it on the ground and making a big mess. The cardboard, paper, and other items blow all over the place and our staff has to spend several hours on Monday mornings cleaning up the area.

What's worse is they are dropping off many items that are not recyclable including styrofoam, trash, construction debris, and plastic bags full of cans-bottles-containers. These items are considered to be contaminants and are refused at the recycling facility. Any load with a noticeable amount of contaminants is refused and sent to the landfill, costing the County additional money. Last week the Town decided to start having the recycling roll-off dumped a second time each week in an effort

**Detox Services**

The virus has made life difficult for everyone, especially for those who were already struggling with addictions. Last year, Frederick County reported 275 opioid-related overdoses and 59 deaths as a result. Recovery is a long and difficult journey. We can help those on that journey by making treatment and services available in our community. For years, detox was a missing piece of the treatment puzzle in Frederick County. I am pleased to announce that medically supervised detox services are now available locally to provide treatment and hope.

I set aside \$500,000 in the County's budget as an incentive to bring withdrawal management services to our community. At the suggestion of Sheriff Jenkins, I also offered unused space on the second floor of the Work Release Center as a possible location. Maryland Treatment Centers was awarded the grant after a competitive process. First, they expanded the level of service and number of patients that could be treated at Mountain Manor in Emmitsburg. Now they are about to open a second site, Mountain Manor at Marcies Choice Lane. There are now 46 beds available for detox services in Frederick County.

I'm pleased that the incentive offered by the County's grant and use of our space had the desired result - to bring much-needed detox services to Frederick County. To find help with an addiction, call the Health Department's Behavioral Health Services staff at 301-600-1755, visit <http://health.frederick-countymd.gov/BHS>, or email [BHS@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:BHS@FrederickCountyMD.gov).

**Mobile Crisis Response**

Frederick County is helping people with substance misuse in other ways, too. When someone is facing a crisis because of alcohol, drugs, or other behavioral health issue, people around them often don't know who to call. It is important to connect people immediately to the services they need. We

know that law enforcement alone does not have all the resources that may be needed in these delicate situations.

That is why we recently expanded Frederick County's mobile crisis response services. The program is designed to reach people where they are and when they need it. Through a partnership with the Health Department and Sheppard Pratt's Way Station, trained counselors can respond to the scene to help during a crisis. Social workers, peer counselors, and others can be summoned by a call to 2-1-1's hotline or 9-1-1. Eventually, services will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

My goal is to ensure better outcomes and provide the best possible care for the people of Frederick County.

**Capital Improvement Projects**

Each year on April 15, I release my proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Preparing the county budget is the most important responsibility I have as County Executive and the most significant task we do together as a community. As I write this, some critical budget information remains uncertain. For instance, the State Legislature is in session until April 12 and often makes decisions that impact our budget, including new mandates or cost shifts to the counties. I can tell you that my budget will be based on the existing property and income tax rates. We will continue to live within our means.

There is good news in capital budget for the northern part of Frederick County. The six-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes renovations to Thurmont Elementary School. This project is designed to extend the life of the school and improve the "open concept" design. Most of the work will occur while students are out of the building during summer breaks. Renovations will include addressing security needs, upgrading systems, and improving the interior.

The CIP also includes design work for the new Richard W. Kanode Farm

**Fitzwater & Hagen start runs for County Executive**

Just when you thought it was safe to come out again, the local election cycle has officially begun ... sigh ...

With Incumbent Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner facing a term limit when her current term expires in November 2022, there is expected to be a crowded Democratic Primary field that will attempt to succeed her. The first two candidates threw their hats in ring late last month: Kai Hagen and Jessica Fitzwater. Both Hagen and Fitzwater currently serve on the County Council. Hagen is an at-large member who was elected in 2018 and previously served on the Frederick County Board of County Commissioners from 2006 to 2010. Fitzwater has represented District 4, which covers the East side of Frederick and parts of Lake Linganore, for two terms since 2014.

Hagen is a self-proclaimed organizer and elected leader for the past twenty years in Frederick County. He believes that Frederick County is a special place and he is dedicated to preserving and enhancing it. He hopes to effectively meet the big issues the county is currently facing, including economic challenges, systematic racism, affordable housing, public education, and climate change. Hagen says his vision for Frederick County is to "use our community's gifts -

our beautiful natural resources and increasingly diverse community - to ensure that Frederick County continues to be a vibrant and sustainable place to live."

Fitzwater says that she is committed and invested in Frederick County and wants to continue her approaches she has used on the County Council if given the chance to be County Executive. She has said that Livable Frederick is a valuable tool to handle many important issues, including affordable housing, public health, and the economy. "I am focusing on making sure that we are a community where there is opportunity for all," Fitzwater has said. "For me, that means strengthening our schools, supporting a robust economy, building climate resilience, and making sure that everyone has the opportunity to live, work and thrive here."

Hagen, Fitzwater, and any other Democratic challengers will face off in the primary on June 28, 2022. Candidates still have over half a year to declare their intent to run for the position and the expectation is that several more candidates will file in that time frame on both sides of the aisle. Currently, no Republicans have filed to run at this time, however current Maryland Commerce Secretary Kelly Shultz and Justin Kiska are considered the most electable in the now 'purple' county.

Park. This farm was gifted to the county by Mr. Kanode. Plans are for a unique park that will reflect on our rich agricultural heritage and include more passive activities like trails, camping, fishing, and more. The park also could include demonstration projects related to agriculture. We will form a citizen committee to develop a master plan for the park, and a public process will follow.

Design for the Thurmont-to-Catoclin Furnace Trail, also referred to as the H & F Trolley Trail, is planned in year two of the CIP. The capital budget also includes plans for an expansion of the Animal Control Center, new fire stations, schools, and park expansions.

We are working hard to ensure a bright future for everyone in Frederick County!

to reduce the amount of recycling being tossed on the ground. We are funding this and have reached out to the County for financial support for the additional cost involved. We are also posting the property with 'No Littering' signs, any items dropped

off on the ground at the recycling bin will be considered littering and those doing so will be fined. It is our hope that the second emptying per week and the 'No Littering' signs will help resolve the situation. The Recycling Drop Off is a valuable asset to the

Thurmont Community and the surrounding County residents, we want to do what we can to keep it here for everyone to use.

I hope everyone has a joyful Easter and a pleasant April. As always I can be reached at [jkinnaid@thurmont.com](mailto:jkinnaid@thurmont.com) or by phone at 301-606-9458.



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## FROM THE DESK OF...

## Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

It also has been a year and a month since we first heard the words coronavirus, COVID-19, and in March 2020, the word pandemic by the World Health Organization in reference to COVID-19. The question is, when will we return to some normality? And what form will that normality take? Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said, "If 75 percent to 80 percent of Americans are vaccinated, then by the end of 2021, we can reach a degree of normality." This new norm is yet to be defined.

To assist with the COVID-19 vaccination effort, Adams County has partnered with WellSpan Health to administer the COVID-19 vaccine at the Adams County Department of Emergency Services building at 230 Greenamyer Lane in Straban Township. WellSpan's appointment scheduling has been activated on a rolling basis through MyWellSpan. You do not have to be a member of WellSpan to make an appointment. As more vaccine supplies become available and you are eligible, please consider getting vaccinated.

To schedule an appointment, call 855-851-3641. If you need a free ride

to a COVID vaccination site, you should contact rabbittransit at 800-632-9036 no later than noon the business day before your appointment. At the time of this writing, WellSpan has already administered over 12,000 doses in the county and is currently administering over 2,000 doses per week. I also understand that WellSpan is planning to add a waitlist option to their scheduling appointment website. Thank you, Commissioners, for designating the Adams County Department of Emergency Services building as an Adams County Massive Vaccination Site.

From the PA Department of Health, the following changes take effect on Sunday, April 4th; restaurants may resume bar service; alcohol service will be allowed without the purchase of food; curfew for removing alcoholic drinks from tables will be lifted; indoor dining capacity will be raised to 75% for those restaurants currently self-certified and those that undergo the self-certification process. This involves agreeing to strictly comply with all public health and safety guidelines and orders, including the cleaning and mitigation protocols and other operational

requirements; occupancy limits for other businesses also will be increased, including moving personal services facilities, gyms, and entertainment facilities such as theatres, malls to 75%; occupancy limits for indoor events will increase to 25% of capacity and outdoor events to 50% with the 6-foot physical distancing requirement. The requirement such as mask-wearing and social distancing are unchanged.

On March 11th, a Blood Drive was held in the Carroll Valley Borough meeting room. The Blood Bank reported 35 donors, and 27 pints of blood were collected, which will result in saving 81 local lives. Thanks to all who took the time to help others. Your precious blood gives another new life. The next Blood Drive will be held on June 10th. April is the month we pay our taxes. Not so this year. On March 18th, the PA Department of Revenue announced the deadline for taxpayers to file their 2020 Pennsylvania personal income tax returns and make final 2020 income tax payments is extended to May 17. This means taxpayers will have an additional month to file from the original deadline of April 15. The Internal Revenue Ser-

vice also announced it would extend the federal filing deadline to May 17. Please note property tax dates are not affected by this extension.

The April Carroll Valley Library Program consists of the following: April 7th @ 11 a.m. – Virtual Yoga. Join our yoga enthusiast, Elizabeth, for virtual yoga; April 21st @ 11 a.m. – Galaxy Jars. Make a fabulous Galaxy Jar with the Library's friend, Brookelynn, and pick up the supplies at the Carroll Valley Library. And on April 28th @ 11 a.m. – Flying Gliders. Teen pilot Ross Clements teaches you the basics about flying gliders. The dates shown are the date the video will premiere on the Carroll Valley Library Facebook page and the Adams County Library's YouTube channel. These videos will be available to watch any time after the premiere date. If you have any questions, call 717-642-6009.

Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors will be donating flowers to the local nursing homes and Meals on Wheels for Easter, thanks to some local individuals and churches. We will be having a Spring Clothing and Sports Equipment Donation and Giveaway Day on Saturday, April 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Carroll Valley Borough Pavilion at 5685

Fairfield Road, Fairfield. If you would like to volunteer to help that day, please let Robin Dicken know so she can sign you up! Robin can be reached by phone at 717-324-1613 or by email at dicken-robin@gmail.com.

The 2021 Electronic Recycling Schedule will kick-off on April 17th. This year Carroll Valley Borough will be the host. You will be able to drop off your electronic stuff from 8 - 11 a.m. at the Carroll Valley Municipal Service Building located in the Ranch Section, 14 Ranch Trail. This event is for current Park's Garbage Service customers in Carroll Valley Borough, Fairfield Borough, Freedom Township, Hamiltonban Township, Highland Township, and Liberty Township. Items to drop off include computers, monitors, laptops, peripherals, TVs (they must be removed from any cabinetry in which they were contained), printers, keyboards, copiers, scanners, and cell phones, stereo equipment, telephones, modems, and routers. For further information, contact Carroll Valley Borough at 717-642-8269 or check the website at carrollvalley.org. Mark your calendar; the Fairfield Opening Day Baseball Parade will be held on April 24th at 9 a.m.

## Walter Barlow, Liberty Township Supervisor

Happy Spring! It seems that the snow has moved on and we do not anticipate any further snow removal. We are looking forward to focusing on removing the dangerous trees that we have marked along the roadways. Last month, the township adopted a tree ordinance, and it is now in effect for any diseased or damaged trees in the township. Some residents have already received notification requesting the removal of dangerous trees on their property. We thank everyone who promptly addressed those issues. We will continue to monitor and notify property owners of these hazards. If you see a tree that has the potential of falling onto the road, please contact the township with the location.

Kinsley Construction was awarded the bid for our road projects this year. As soon as the work is scheduled, residents on the affected roads will be notified. The project includes a proposed 17,155 square yards of double application tar-

chip, 15,600 square yards of fog seal, and 605 square yards of base repair on five township roads. Old Waynesboro Road is also scheduled for repair in April. We plan to tear up the old asphalt, re-gravel, roll the road and apply a base spray.

Ditching work continues along the roadways to keep the water flowing down the correct path in the township. We encourage our residents to maintain their driveway culvert pipes and keep them clear. Mike Crum on Pecher Road was gracious enough to help us address a water issue at his property. We were able to install a pipe to direct the water away from the roadway and down to the creek bed. Again, we greatly appreciate all who are working with us on keeping our roadways safe.

We would like to thank Hamiltonban Township and Ray Herr for assisting with getting our roads cut and mowed back with their boom mower. We are grateful to have such friendly cooperation

from our neighboring municipalities.

During the months of April-July you will see us out along the roads replacing outdated signage. A friendly reminder that during the end of April thru May the State will be working on Tract Road pipe replacement. They propose to shut down the roadway at the intersection of Boyle Road and Tract Road. A traffic sign diversion plan will be in place prior to the work start date. Please be vigilant of the road crew working along the roads.

During the March Board of Supervisors meeting, we adopted a driveway ordinance amendment to better explain what needs to transpire when putting in a new driveway. Details include the width of the driveway, the size of the pipe, and the overall appearance of the driveway. Additionally, we passed the Junkyard ordinance amendment. Adams County is currently assisting the township with negotiating a new municipal waste collection contract. The heating and air conditioning units have been successfully installed in the township municipal building.

Pick Up Pennsylvania is part of the national Great American Cleanup from March 1st through May 31st, but you can help keep our township litter free at any time of the year. We encour-

age you to grab a trash bag and pick up some trash while walking along township roads. Any trash that you collect may be placed in the township dumpster, or you can set it to the side of the road and notify the township for pick up.

We have our new police cruiser in service, and we are pleased to have a second vehicle for our Police Department. The police service agreement with Freedom Township is going very well. We would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wenschhof for their generous donation to servicing the ENRADD that recently needed reconditioned. The Liberty Township Police Department is doing a phenomenal job under the leadership of Chief Sherri Hansen. We have received positive feedback regarding the Police Department from the residents in the township. We continue to support and encourage our police department.

We have been discussing ambulance services for the township with Adams Regional Emergency Services. They have proposed a price reduction in the annual subscription if we sign up the entire township for services. The service would be funded by an EMS tax at about \$50 a household. In return, all ambulance services would be provided to everyone

in your household with no additional charges. I am asking homeowners to consider this proposal and give feedback by mail, email, telephone, or by dropping a note in the township drop box. If we get a positive response, we will consider implementing this annual service that runs from July to June.

The American Red Cross is in need of blood supply, so if you have an opportunity to donate blood, we encourage you to do so. I am also considering having a blood drive at the township building in the future.

Primary Election Day is May 18th. There are three positions open in Liberty Township and several candidates hoping to fill those spots. Our current tax collector, Jessica Ilko is running for the tax collector position. We have one open position for Township Supervisor. Lifetime resident and graduate of Fairfield High School Brandon Lowe has put in his petition to be on the ballot. Sue Hek has completed one term and is running for reelection for Elected Auditor. The Adams County Republican Committee has four positions for our township open and currently there are only three candidates running for those positions. If you see any candidates out campaigning, please reach out to them with any questions you may have.

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# GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

## County Commissioner Randy Phiel

In striving to meet the needs of Adams County a Community Vaccination Center (CVC) opened on March 18, at the Adams County Department of Emergency Services (911 Center) 230 Greenamayer Lane, Gettysburg. The highly anticipated Center came to fruition because of the critical need for vaccinations, vision, planning and collaboration between Adams County and Wellspan Health. This County owned facility is an excellent venue for the CVC. Using a County owned facility made the logistics of creating the Center and partnership seamless and expeditious while awaiting Wellspan supply to trigger the opening.

Initially, the CVC will be open Thursday, Saturday & Sunday from 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Currently approximately 350 vaccinations are being administered per day. Wellspan estimates that when supply allows an increase in operations, approximately 4,000 vaccinations will be administered each week. Adams County is supplying the venue, maintenance, security, and parking control. Wellspan is making the appointments, supplying the vaccine, registering patients, providing qualified staff to administer the vaccine and monitoring recipient's after they receive the vaccine.

This is a shining example of a valuable community partnership. It is important to note that vaccinations at the CVC are by appointment only. There will be no walk-in service and coming with another individual that has an appointment will not result in vaccination. Appointments can be made on My Wellspan [www.wellspan.org](http://www.wellspan.org) or by calling the Wellspan Covid-19 Hotline at 855-851-3641.

Our community transportation entity rabbittransit, has partnered with area organizations to offer free shared ride transportation service to any community member who needs transportation to and from their scheduled COVID-19 vaccination appointment. Rabbittransit is ensuring that transportation is not a barrier in getting vaccinated and is ready to assist the community with transportation to reach vaccine appointments.

Reservations for rides are required. When scheduling a shared ride trip to a vaccination site, riders must have a confirmed COVID-19 vaccine appointment at the location they are requesting transportation. Residents will need to call rabbittransit no later than noon the business day prior to their appointment. Transit staff will assist individuals through the reservation process. If you are in need of transportation to a COVID vaccination site, contact the rabbittransit Call Center at 1-800-632-9063 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 and 5.

Adams County applied for and received funding that will provide our community with active stimulus resources. You may have heard about Governor Wolf's announcement establishing \$145 million in financial aid for Pennsylvania's hospitality industry. The Adams County Economic Development Corporation will be administering and offering this much-needed grant program to Adams County's hospitality industry. Adams County's portion of the funding is \$1.16 million. The purpose of the grant is to reimburse eligible applicants for reduction of revenues.

To be eligible for the grant the appli-

cant must have a NAICS code beginning with 721 or 722 and demonstrate that gross receipts for the first, second, third and fourth quarter in 2020 were reduced at least 25% from 2019. If the applicant was not in business during the first or second quarter of calendar year 2019, but was in business during the third and fourth quarters of calendar year 2019 and the applicant had gross receipts during the first, second, third or fourth quarter of calendar year 2020 that demonstrate at least a 25% reduction from the applicant's gross receipts during the third or fourth quarter of calendar year 2019.

The applicant must employ less than 300 people, have a maximum tangible net worth of not more than \$15 million, and was in operation on February 15, 2020 and remains in operation and does not intend to permanently cease operations within one year of the date of application. The minimum grant award is \$5,000, and the maximum award is \$50,000. This program began accepting applications on Monday, March 15, 2021. For further information and online application see the Adams County Economic Alliance website [www.adamsalliance.org/chirp/](http://www.adamsalliance.org/chirp/) or by calling 717-334-0042.

Adams County also applied for and received \$6,774,933 in Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funds from the Federal Government and State. Adams County has appointed South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) as the administrator of the funds. Assistance is for individuals and families under 80% of the median income (details on SCCAP's website). ERAP monies are for use in Fiscal Year (FY)

2020-2021. ERAP will provide families and individuals financial assistance for rent including: rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs, utility and home energy costs arrears, and other expenses related to housing incurred due directly or indirectly to COVID-19, and housing stability services to eligible households. For those who are eligible, they can receive assistance for up to 12 months of arrearages. The program will remain open until December 31, unless all the funding is expended before that time. For additional information about the program along with all needed documents please go to [www.sccap.org](http://www.sccap.org) or call 717-334-7634.

We are pleased to announce that the Mercy House Recovery House project is near completion and will be ready to serve individuals from our community that need these essential recovery services. The Ribbon Cutting & Open House will be held on May 14, from noon to 4. The 1st floor will be a community walk-in center. The 2nd floor will provide residential accommodations for seven male residents enrolled in the treatment program and working full-time day jobs. Weekend and evening participation in treatment and counseling programs are required to be a resident.

This once deteriorating and vacant county owned property, formerly a part of St Francis Xavier, that was historically occupied by The Sisters of Mercy, was completely renovated, in a large part through \$1.2M in grant funding and generous donations from the community. The renovations include an elevator that will serve that venue and could later serve the former St Francis Xavier School Build-

ing if appropriate. Mercy House will be administered by the RASE Project, who successfully administer similar programs in Lancaster, Harrisburg & York. Adams County will receive rental reimbursement by terms of a lease between the RASE Project and Adams County. The ribbon cutting for this facility will mark a significant step for our community in acknowledging and addressing addiction recovery!

An important milestone for Adams County history was achieved on March 7, with the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Adams County Historical Society complex. The former Adams County Prison site was donated to the ACHS from Adams County several decades ago. Adams County recently contributed \$1M in Pillow Tax funds toward the \$5.5M project. We are happy to report that the ACHS Capital Campaign is rapidly approaching the Building Campaign goal of \$5.5M.

The new headquarters will enable the ACHS to preserve, catalog, store, display and interpret Adams County History. There will be a focus on student education - especially geared toward Adams County Youth. The building will have an events center on the 2nd floor that will increase events space for the community while creating additional revenue opportunities for the Society. Construction of the first building to alleviate current storage limitations is expected to commence this spring and be completed by early fall. It is hoped that the remainder of the project will be completed in 2022. To participate in the Capital Campaign, contact the Adams County Historical Society, PO Box 4325, Gettysburg, PA 17325 PH: 717-334-4273, or visit [www.achs-pa.org/join-us/donate.html](http://www.achs-pa.org/join-us/donate.html).

## County Notes...

### Prepare Now, Trout Season Opening Day April 3

For anglers, it's time to buy fishing licenses and permits and get your gear organized. Get your copy of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's (PFBC) 2021 trout stocking schedule and the PA Fishing and Boating Handbook at my Gettysburg office, online and on the FishBoatPA mobile app. This year, the PFBC began trout stocking in mid-February to ensure most waters would be stocked in advance of the single, statewide Mentored Youth Trout Fishing Day on Saturday, March 27, and the single, statewide Opening Day of Trout Season on Saturday, April 3. For more information about stocking, fishing and licensing, click here. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) announced it will open 16 additional state parks on April 2 to accommodate overnight fishermen. This will bring to 34 the number of parks that will be open statewide.

### Area Entrepreneurs Invited to FREE Startup 'Boot Camp'

Ben Franklin's TechCelerator@South Central PA is inviting entrepreneurs from Adams and seven other central PA counties to participate in a virtual 10-week Business Startup Boot Camp. The boot camp is comprised of a weekly,

three-hour group session with content experts, and a weekly one-hour session with your startup business mentor to discuss individual needs and development opportunities.

The program provides a framework that will enable you to determine if it's the right time to start your tech business. If you want to expand your network, engage with serial entrepreneurs and experts in marketing, sales and finance, to help shape your business and develop a pitch presentation, apply now as space is limited. Application deadline is March 23. Questions? Contact Joe Hackett at 717-858-3046 or [JoeHackett@cnp.benfranklin.org](mailto:JoeHackett@cnp.benfranklin.org).

### Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program

The 2021 round of Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants to aid rural areas or communities with populations under 10,000 people opened on March 15, and will close on May 13. Administered through the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the program is geared to organizing, training and equipping local forces to prevent, control and suppress fires, which threaten human life, livestock, wildlife, crops, pastures, orchards, woodlands and farmsteads.

The key objectives of this program are to save lives and protect property in unprotected or inadequately protected

rural areas. The selection of the participating agencies must be based on vulnerability and the adequacy of existing

fire protection. The maximum grant is \$10,000. Applications will be made through the DCNR Grant portal here.

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## COMMENTARY

# Words From Winterbilt

## Police reform

Shannon Bohrer

Last year, we saw the news reports and the film about George Floyd's death, it shocked the country. We understood that bigotry exists in many police departments, but a death that appeared intentional and included torture challenged our national consciousness. This crime started nationwide discussions and demonstrations for police reform. Conversely, we also heard from many police supporters that 'Blue Lives Matter.' Often, both sides' voices would lead one to believe that — you should choose as if choosing one side was your only choice. The real choice is to support justice for all. The idea is simple; if everyone is not treated equitably, then reform is needed.

The words 'police reform' often have a negative connotation, as if every officer requires some change. The fact is that while we have officers that violate our rights, specifically minority rights, we also have officers that uphold the constitution while ensuring our rights and our safety. With over 900,000 police officers, it should not surprise anyone that some are not up to the job.

Police are generally good people, interested in public service and pub-

lic safety, but they also have problems like other professions. In 2015, a former Philadelphia police officer testified that his former colleagues lied on police reports and lied in court. The lies were to cover the drug money they stole and the evidence they planted. The former officer was sworn for almost 24 years before being arrested. He admitted stealing while still in uniform and even padding overtime. He said the illicit drug money was added "gravy." Over 160 former convictions related to the involved officers were overturned.

On August 27, Mr. Ronnie Long was released from a state prison in South Carolina. Mr. Long was incarcerated for 44 years after being convicted of rape and burglary in 1976. After Judge Stephanie Thacker wrote that "a trickle of post-trial disclosures has unearthed a troubling and striking pattern of deliberate police suppression of material evidence," she vacated his conviction. The Judge was referring to evidence that was collected at the crime scene which included, 40 fingerprints, a rape kit, and hair. NONE of which matched Mr. Long.

In 2014, Roger Logan was released from prison in New York. Mr. Logan was incarcerated for 17 years after being found guilty of murder. The District Attorney Kenneth Thompson asked the Judge to

release Roger Logan based on new evidence. The Judge agreed and dismissed the case from the 1997 fatal shooting. The only witness that testified against Mr. Logan; was herself incarcerated when the crime occurred. It was reported that the witness had been coached by a New York City Police Detective.

Roger Logan was the seventh defendant released that year after reexamination of old cases. "Most of them stem from concerns about the investigative tactics of now-retired police detective Louis Scarcella." It was reported in July 2018 that fourteen people had their convictions reversed in cases re-examined involving the retired detective. These were all murder cases.

The examples with the above cases are not uncommon. A study funded by the National Institute of Justice, and conducted by Bowling Green State University, found that police officers are arrested about 1,000 times each year. The study found that 5,545 officers were arrested between 2005 and 2011. Over 40 percent of the arrest were for crimes committed while on duty. The research was reported in national news outlets in 2016. One could argue that 1000 arrests for over 900,000 officers are a low number. Conversely, the study also con-

cluded that many officers accused of minor crimes are not charged.

The reality is that police are humans; they make mistakes, and sometimes they commit crimes. You would be hard-pressed, with over 900,000 officers not to find problems, including criminal behavior. When we examine other professions, we see issues. There have been firefighters that have been guilty of setting fires. We know that there are poor teachers and untrustworthy accountants. We know that clergy members have been charged with child abuse, but that does not reflect every minister or priest. There are dishonest plumbers, electricians, and home repair companies. We all understand this, which is why we "check-out" persons and companies before we hire them. I worked with an attorney who jokingly told me that half of all attorneys give the rest of them a bad name.

Bigotry, racism, and dishonesty exist in corporate boardrooms and every level in society, including police departments. So, why would we think that police are immune from making errors or mistreating people? While there are many examples of police being dishonest and displaying overt bigotry, most police officers are good people, interested in public service and public safety.

As a retired officer, I hear a lot about supporting and standing with the police. I do; I support the police that

show up and enforces the laws equitably. I support the officers that believe in the oath they took and do not lie. I do not support officers that kneel on someone's neck for almost nine minutes, nearly three of which when the person had no pulse. I also support the Black Lives Matter movement. If black lives do not matter, then all lives do not matter. I also support peaceful protests; however, I do not support looting and rioting. Supporting justice for everyone is an easy choice.

On January 6, an attempted insurrection occurred at our National Capital. During the insurrection, a retired police officer assaulted an officer defending the capital. There were also reports of off-duty officers — being part of the insurrection. At the same time, the U.S. National Capital Police, and the Metropolitan Police Department, fought for over two hours to defend our capital. In protecting the capital, these officers may have saved our democracy.

When it becomes apparent that we are not all treated equally and we witness outrageous and even criminal behavior by some officers, we should be angry and enraged. The police are part of our government, our government that is supposed to be working for us, all of us.

*To read past editions of Words From Winterbilt, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.*

# American Mind

## Justice nuanced

Mark Greathouse

Merriam-Webster defines nuance as a subtle distinction or variation, a subtle quality, or sensibility to, awareness of, or ability to express delicate shadings. Little wonder justice is nuanced. Justice? Yours, mine, or theirs?

Bumper-sticker slogans are banded about like confetti. Social justice! Criminal justice! Racial justice! LBGTQ justice! Poetic justice! I threw in that last one to be sure you were paying attention.

I wrote a free-verse poem back in 2017 titled "Justice Enslaved" that expressed my lament over how our world seems enslaved to justice. It's as though justice is the Rx for society's ills. Guess what? It's far more nuanced. Enjoy the poem:

To what...to whom are we enslaved? Who forged our chains? Is enslavement just? Where is the justice? Who decides what is justice? Slavery justified from the Hammurabi's Code to Bible scrolls. Neolithic times segue to Sumer, ancient Egyptian pyramids, Greece, To China and Hebrew kingdoms, to the ancient Levant...even to the West; Slavery as punishment, debt repayment, spoils of war, or birth-right. Christian, Hindu, Islam; all find justice enslaved to the law.

Is there justice in slavery? From slavery? Be it medieval Europe, Vikings, Tartars, or Barbary Pirates; Slaves were as booty, a mercantile undertaking, a way of life. Justified in economics essential to the culture, a fact of life! Whether issued by

Dum Diversas, Romanus Pontieux, or Sublimus Dei, Pope or Imam, King or Sultan...made no matter; misanthropes all! Justice stood as mute sacrifice to some larger, greater need.

Where then is justice? What indeed is the justice? Reparation, rehabilitation, retribution...mere slogans. From Aztecs to Cortez', Incas of Peru, Comanches of our plains; To southern cotton fields and tobacco barns enslavement flourished, justice died. Despite Wilberforce, Newton, and Lincoln, slavery forever prevails. EBT cards replace chains, urban plantations defy any escape; Khartoum, Delhi, Jakarta, or Detroit; enslavement abounds.

We cry out for justice. Cry to end enslavement. Yet its pervasive tentacles imprison all nations, all people; Justice seems such a shallow game, a losing default setting for life. What is justice to the enslaved? What then is justice to the enslavers? And what is justice for those who would end slavery? Such optimistic fools. Only our souls offer protest, unshackled by iron chains; Yet justice rings hollow as payment for our past enslavements.

Dare we dwell on justice for past and present sins? Can money or lives truly compensate for injustice perceived or real? For justice remains an elusive charade, be it divine or natural, Be it distributive, egalitarian, social, fair, or utopian. Retributive and restorative justice stand as inherently unjust; We find ourselves mired in justice, mine or yours, the red pill or the blue pill; God forgives, and in the end only "the truth will set you free."

Variations? Shadings? It seems that the distinctions are more raw than nuanced. It begs the question of how justice is to be attained if there is no agreement as to what constitutes true justice. Whether folks are on the political left or right, there seems little hope for common ground. Much of the "nuance" is spawned by misinformation, disinformation, and lack of information emanating from social media, news media, academia, big-tech, and politicians. Regrettably, both political sides are prone to fall into a trap of unsubstantiated argument as expressed by Thomas Sowell, "One of the painful signs of dumb-down education is how many people are unable to make a coherent argument. They can vent their emotions, question other people's motives, make bold assertions, repeat slogans — anything except reason."

I contend that many of society's ills might be more readily resolved, if folks simply knew how to argue reasonably. While extreme positions do exist, there's much that is nuanced. Learning how to argue would go a long way to healing divisiveness in our nation. I can say that it isn't done by loose, often-unsubstantiated snippets fired back and forth on Facebook posts or Twitter tweets. I was blessed to have taught my sons the "Socratic Method." Socratic method is a technique by which questions are used to examine values, principles, and beliefs with the goal of achieving some level of elenchus or logical refutation. How to argue based in the Socratic method should be taught in every school in America, as it fundamentally teaches how to argue. Frankly, I don't practice it so

much as I should. It's seems easier to simply sloganeer simplistic opinions. But wait! That implies a lack of forethought, of reason, a dumbing down as it were.

Consider justice as Socrates (470-379 BC) might have done. Warning: we'll barely scratch the surface. Justice covers a broad spectrum, as I alluded to early in this op-ed. For argument's sake, let's narrow our issue to "social justice" and whether it can be achieved. An interlocutor might first ask, what is social justice? Now, you are placed in the position of defining it. Is it a balance between individual and societal wealth distribution, a balance between personal liberties and fair privilege opportunities, an assurance of receiving your due from society, or the breaking of barriers to social mobility with associated safety nets and economic justice? Wow, that's a load. So, which social justice do you ascribe to assuming you believe in social justice? Can we establish that your definition of social justice exists? If it can, what is the nature of that social justice? Can you see where this is headed? The answers depend upon you as an individual human being, not some herd-instinct emotion-laden slogan. Every human is different and potentially so is every definition of social justice. We have equal opportunity to have our very own view of it.

I'm partial to a definition by Luigi Taparelli back around 1840, as he saw social justice as a natural law principle that equated to the biblical principle of brotherly love and thereby placed responsibility squarely upon the individual in society. Barack Obama was fond of paraphrasing from a speech by Rev

Martin Luther King saying how social justice rides on "the arc of the moral universe and bends toward justice." King's quote actually was condensed from a quote by 19th century abolitionist and preacher Theodore Parker. "I do not pretend to understand the moral universe... And from what I see I am sure it (the 'arc') bends toward justice." Progressives like Louis Brandeis and Roscoe Pound purloined the social justice arc in the 20th century for their socio-political causes. Good for them and all who followed their quite nuanced political views.

Justice is much maligned and oft-stolen, used to the advantage of one side of an issue versus another. Parker's arc has been bending leftward politically for decades and has been preempted by media, mega-corporations, entertainment, education, and politicians such as to lose sight of social justice's original meaning and intent. Yet by most accounts, it seems fair to say that social justice is an ideal inherited from Christianity (sorry all you atheists out there). Can we achieve Socrates' elenchus? I suggest that reasoned argument is required; nay, it's an absolute must if we are to survive as a nation. Perhaps, cooler heads and reasoned outcomes can be achieved. We might even strive to influence our own homes, churches, and communities by praying, thinking, and talking on the nuances of social justice.

Might truth set us free? Just sayin'.

*To read past editions of American Mind, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.*

# The Bulwark

## Three futures for the non-Trump right

Thomas Firey

For Never Trumpers and others on the political right who have grown weary of Donald Trump, the last few months have been a nightmare. Despite ample political, ideological, and moral grounds for the Republican party to block him from ever again having a role in party politics, most GOP officeholders, apparatchiks, and the base continue to embrace him.

This has non-Trumpers, many of whom have long been Republicans in good standing, arguing among themselves over where their political future lies. Some want to continue fighting against Trumpism from within the GOP. Others are considering joining the Democratic party. Still others want to form a third party dedicated to small-government conservatism. Underlying these arguments is the fear that committed non-Trumpers are ultimately doomed to permanent exile in the political wilderness.

The short-term future of the non-Trump right is, indeed, grim. Exactly what form that future will take depends on whether a Trumpist Republican party can be a successful major party—and there's reason to think it can't. Regardless, non-Trumpers do not need to agree now on a strategy for their future; if their political movement is viable—and there's reason to think it is—the dynamics of politics will ultimately lead them to the right strategy.

In a two-party system, major party status isn't permanent. If one major party makes a series of critical mistakes—if it fails to take positions and advance candidates that make it electorally competitive with its rival—then

it can be replaced by a different party. That's how the Federalists gave way to the Whigs early in the 19th century and how the Whigs gave way to the Republicans a few decades later. Likewise, if Trumpism proves electorally unsuccessful, it will either lose control of the Republican party to a rival intraparty faction or else the Trump Republican party will give way to a new major party.

Non-Trumpers' reasons for rejecting Trump are clear: Ethically, he is immoral and his administration was corrupt. As a leader, he attracted political allies who are sycophantic, untalented, and even delusional, while repelling the high-minded, accomplished, and the sensible. As a policymaker, he was ambivalent about—and sometimes was openly hostile to—core principles of American conservatism and Republicanism.

Trumpists would reject that: after all, a record 74 million voters cast their ballots for him in 2020. Nonetheless, a likewise-record 84 million voters cast ballots for someone other than Trump, including 81 million—another record—for Biden. A large portion of those 81 million were de facto votes against Trump more than they were for Biden. This suggests Trumpism faces a significant ballot box deficit to recapturing the White House or Congress.

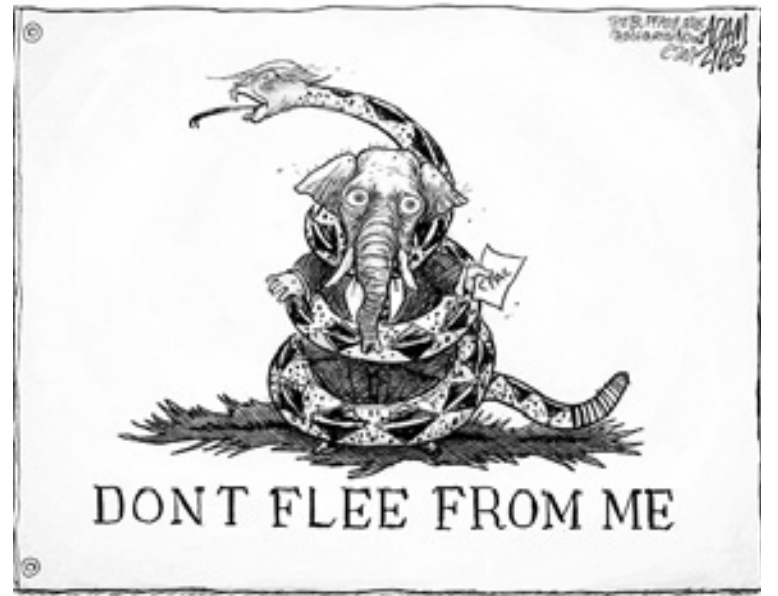
Trump boosters (and others) would deny this, saying that the quirks of the Electoral College give Republicans election advantage. But the shift away from Trumpism in the American suburbs and the electoral losses of Arizona, Georgia, and Nevada show that advantage is fading. Those losses are unlikely to be reversed given Trumpism's meager core message of performance patriotism and George Costanza-like grievances against

Democrats, non-Trump Republicans, 'elites,' big business, tech companies, the media, government workers (except some members of the military and law enforcement), and immigrants. Indeed, the sheer number of people whom Trumpism is against makes it hard to win in swing states and districts.

Never Trumpers and other Trump critics on the right, as well as portions of the Democratic party, are unified by classical liberalism, which values individual freedom, the rule of law, a dynamic marketplace, and a government limited to addressing public problems. Though there is important disagreement over exactly what those limits should be, this philosophy underlies political outlooks ranging from civil libertarians on the left, to Jimmy Carter centrists, to Ronald Reagan conservatives and neoconservatives, to libertarians. This potential political coalition, alone, suggests the viability of at least one major party.

Another reason to believe that such a party would be successful is that, in the highly diverse United States, liberal governance will help to secure social peace and economic flourishing. By elevating individual freedom, liberalism protects people's right to privacy, private ordering, and private agreement. That, in turn, allows people with different values and beliefs to live together peaceably and prosperously while following and espousing their beliefs, so long as they do not harm others. This contrasts with Trumpism on the political right and some elements of the political left, which would use government to force people to adhere to specific values and beliefs they personally reject, resulting in social upheaval.

If Trumpism is not viable, then either fighting him from within the GOP or creating a rival party to replace the GOP would be the successful strategy. If Trumpism somehow suddenly



collapses, non-Trumpers could seize control of the Republican party and maintain its major-party status, but if the Trumpist GOP persists as a regional rump party, a new party could replace it as one of the two major national parties. Neither alternative would be easy: Trumpism will forever taint the Republican brand, even if Trump and his acolytes are deposed. As for a third party, such parties face immense political, financial, and legal obstacles. Nonetheless, if Trumpism fails, something will replace it, either from within or outside the GOP.

On the other hand, if Trumpist Republicanism does endure as a major party, non-Trumpers should join the Democrats or, again, form a third party. A "Red Dog" faction inside the Democratic party would shift the median Democratic voter's policy preferences slightly rightward. That, in turn, could frustrate the party's progressives, who might depart to form their own party, allowing the party to move even further to the right. Or, the progressives could seize control of the Democratic party and push out the moderate, "Third Way"

Democrats, who could then be attracted to a non-Trump, third party. That could elevate the new party to major-party status while weakening the Democratic party's status as a major party and, perhaps, forcing it and the Trump GOP to merge as an illiberal major party.

Given those possibilities, non-Trumpers should not fixate on uniting around one strategy. Pursuing different approaches affords more opportunities for an ultimately successful, liberal, non-Trump party to emerge. Just as an economic invisible hand moves actors in the marketplace, so a political invisible hand will move active non-Trumpers in the world of politics.

What non-Trumpers do need to do is be politically flexible so they can ultimately adopt whichever strategy appears to be finding success. And they should continue working for the defeat of Trump and his followers, as well as other illiberals, whenever they are on the ballot. That is how to overcome Trumpism in the long-term.

To read past editions of *The Bulwark*, visit the Author's section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

# Down Under

## The strength to succeed

Submitted by Lindsay  
Melbourne, Australia

*Friendship is not always the sequel  
of obligation.*

—Johnson, Lives of the  
English poets

Australia has welcomed the election of Joe Biden with sighs of relief and dancing in the streets. Most of you have too, but we have a reason to be joyous that is unique. For the very first time, an American president has told China, in no uncertain terms, to lay off Australia, to stop the nonsense about trade embargos simply because they supported Trump.

'We are not going to leave Australia alone on the field', he told them, according to the president's Indo-Pacific coordinator, Kurt Campbell, 'we've indicated both to Australia and China at the highest levels that we are fully aware of what's going on.' This was reported by one of Australia's leading writers, Stephen Bartholomew, in the Sydney Morning Herald on March 18, writing on the 'Quad' meeting between America, India, Japan and Australia. He also quoted Peter Hartcher's interview with him when he said

the US would not improve relations with China unless it stopped its economic coercion of Australia.

In doing this, the new administration acknowledges the importance of Australia to not only America's ability to monitor terrorists around the world, but to play a vital role in maintaining world peace.

This is almost certainly news to you, because the popular image you have of us is of a great country that produces wonderful movie actors - but we have some secrets that no other nation on earth has, something so valuable that it was first exploited by Britain in 1952, then by you in 1970. It is this: Space.

Australia is pretty much empty. Twenty-five million people live in an area of over seven and a half million square kilometres, and they live around the edge. There are no settlements more than a couple of hundred kilometres from the coast, meaning the interior is empty. Deserts, large pastoral holding and mining is all there is.

And it's in a well-developed nation, among the top twenty in power and influence, very high standards of education and per capita income, so that space like ours has proved to be valuable to people wanting wide open

spaces for -well, their own use.

Back in 1952 the nuclear race was on, with the US and Russia vying for top spot, with the British and French determined to have bombs of their own. The British saw our emptiness as a great place to test their bombs, so at a place called Maralinga they set up facilities and went ahead. That they left a thousand square miles of radioactive land behind them is still a point of sour contention between us, so when America approached us in 1970 asking to lease a small part of the desert so they could establish a vital part of their world-wide telecommunications network we jumped at the opportunity. In 1951 we had entered into a treaty between you and New Zealand called ANZUS, which had proved to be the basis of close cooperation between us, and the base was duly built.

It proved vital in space exploration - the moon landing would not have been possible without it - and the publicity was enough to cement our togetherness. But its use was not confined to space. Officially unknown to the government, it became a part of your world-wide surveillance program, supplying information about anything that was considered necessary. Three more bases were built. You were happy, we were allies, so we puffed up our feathers, shaking them in the face of the nay-sayers.

Disquiet grew as the secrecy became

tighter, and anxiety grew until in 1974 there was a push by a couple of left-wing polities to close them down. This produced a vitriolic response from Kissinger et.al., but it soon became clear that it was impossible to even visit them, let alone close them, because that land was American. (As an aside, the prime minister who voiced the idea was removed in a fascinating and clandestine coup.)

Over the years America used this willingness to make us toe the line; the Free Trade Agreements went through our parliament with only a few voices urging caution, (which garnered you some 50 billion in the first year to our one and a bit), and was the line you took with whoever was sucker enough to see the positives and not the negatives; our excuse was that we needed your support against the bogey-man of the day.

So, when it was politely suggested (ordered) we should make areas of land available for joint military exercises, we replied, 'how many?' Military sales? Why, is 130 billion in Aircraft enough, sir? Tariffs? No problem.

We had no backbone in standing up to your coercion; support for the Iraq invasion was reprehensible, Afghanistan was even worse, and we have landed ourselves in the wedge of Trade with China by echoing Trump and his idiocies.

This has all been changed in an

instant by Biden's statement above. It, and his other statements about foreign affairs, has already made him a statesman in our eyes. We are no more a nation to be taken advantage of, but one who is a valuable ally and friend.

Friendship means there is a closeness, a degree of trust between two nations who have similar values and mores. It usually does not apply to countries, even when it is trumpeted as a reason to work together, but this has been a genuine statement of unity.

The world was about to fall off a cliff, but has now edged back. The view we saw of the bottom was terrifying, and domestically it must have been horrible for most of your citizens who were bound for Covid hell. It is difficult, from this distance and with travel restrictions, to get a real sense the nation's feeling; the responsible press has gone quiet, even the New Yorker seems gobsmacked. And it's too early and unwise for the non-Murdoch press to give his team outright plaudits, but knowing we have a friendly leader of the greatest nation on earth who is determined to fight the real enemy has brought a sense of purpose to the free world.

Believe me, you have our full support.

To read past editions of *the Down Under*, visit the Author's section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

## THE PASTOR'S DESK

# Looking for Jesus

Pastor John Talcott  
Christ Community Church

As we celebrate Easter, I want to share with you an event that was the catalyst for the most powerful global movement in the history of the world. The individuals involved in this incident were not superheroes, but everyday men and women like you and me. What distinguishes these first followers of Jesus Christ from us is that they spent three years walking with him, learning from him, and witnessing great miracles; but even though Jesus repeatedly told his disciples why he had come they didn't get it. He warned them that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, but they didn't get it (Matthew 16:21).

In fact, he was so descriptive of his suffering that the only thing he left out was the names of those involved. He told them that he would be condemned to death before being turned over to the Romans to be mocked, flogged, and crucified, and on the third day he would be raised to life (Matthew 20:18-19). He even went as far as promising them that after he'd risen, he would go ahead of them into Galilee where he would meet them, but even after having been told this repeatedly his followers did not expect his resurrection (Matthew 26:32).

In spite of the fact that he told them very clearly that these things would happen, somehow Jesus' arrest and crucifixion came as a shock to

his followers. When the crucifixion actually took place, it shattered the disciples hopes and dreams, causing them to flee and go into hiding. And yet, Jesus sought them out regardless of their doubts and fears, and he revealed himself to them, giving them many convincing proofs that he was alive. And so, Jesus appeared to them over a period of 40 days, restoring them and recommissioning them to share the good news that he was alive. It was these first believers testimony to the resurrection that has echoed throughout the centuries, changing the world, and making it possible for the good news of Jesus Christ to reach you and I now 2000 years later.

However, if we rewind, going back to the cross, going back to that first Easter weekend, we must recognize that everything happened just as Jesus said it would. But for the disciples, when he was executed their hearts were broken, their dreams were crushed, and it seemed as if their hope of the Kingdom was dead. Jesus was gone and they were left alone, shocked, and grieving in disbelief. Now they were fearing for their own lives, shocked and grieving in disbelief, but all of that changed at dawn on the first day of the week when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb (Matthew 28:1). These same women who had been there at the cross, weeping as Jesus hung there, gasping for breath, bruised and bleeding before giving up his spirit.

And it was these same women who came early Sunday morning to

the tomb bringing spices to anoint his body. And so, they were on their way to the tomb where they saw Jesus' dead body laid when strange things began to happen. The Bible says, "There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men" (Matthew 28:2-4).

These Roman soldiers that had been hired to stand guard at the tomb came back into the city shortly after dawn on Sunday trembling in terror. The religious leaders were shook up because no one could deny the eyewitness report of the guards who had been quite frightened by this supernatural occurrence. As this was going on, the women arrived at the tomb which had now been abandoned and they too encountered this angel who said to them, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He's not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead...'" (Matthew 28:5-7). After seeing the grave clothes lying there in the place where Jesus had been laid, the cloth still neatly wrapped yet deflated like an empty cocoon, "The women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples."

Suddenly, Jesus met them, "Greetings," he said... "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see



me" (Matthew 28:8-10). The apostle John testifies that Mary came running to the disciples crying out, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb" (John 20:2). And so, he tells us that both he and Peter took off running for the tomb, when he got to the tomb, he bent over and looked in confirming what they said. The apostle Peter went into the tomb and he saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen (John 20:5-7). The disciples recognized that Jesus' body wasn't there, that he was very much alive, and he had left his grave clothes behind as he walked out of the tomb in his glorified body.

Today, we must never underestimate the importance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. While much of the world is looking for the body in disbelief, we know that he is risen because of the faithful testimony of those first eyewitnesses. They refused to recant their testimony of the resurrection or deny that Jesus is Lord in spite of the taunting of unbelievers, floggings, imprisonment and death. Because of their witness the Church has withstood the hatred of Jesus' enemies and the rejection of many, standing firm on the testimony that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time. Then he appeared to James and

to all the apostles" (1 Corinthians 15:4-7). The evidence for the resurrection is weighty, because the body is missing and no one can deny the eyewitness reports. When the early dawn darkness was broken by those first rays of sunlight, the angel's words resounded across the expanse of eternity, "He's not here; he is risen, just as he said" (Matthew 28:6).

The Church stands as a witness to the power of the resurrection and Jesus triumph over the grave. Even today Jesus longs to fill empty hearts with himself, that was the testimony of the apostle Paul who said, "I've been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me..." (Galatians 2:20). And so, the question we must ask ourselves is, "Am I looking for a body, or am I looking for Jesus? Am I looking for excuses, or am I looking for hope?" Because the Bible promises that, "He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who lives in you" (Romans 8:11). Won't you call upon the name of Jesus right now, surrendering your doubts to God, so that the risen Lord Jesus might fill you with himself? We have a Living Hope and the Bible promises, "To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

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He humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!  
-Philippians 2:8

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# THE BOOK OF DAYS

## Turnspit dogs



A few months ago the writer happened to be at an auction of what are technically termed fixtures; in this instance, the last moveable furnishings of an ancient country-house, about to be pulled down to make room for a railway station. Amongst the many lots arranged for sale, was a large wooden wheel enclosed in a kind of circular box, which gave rise to many speculations respecting the use it had been put to. At last, an old man, the blacksmith of the neighbouring village, made his appearance, and solved the puzzle, by stating that it was a 'dog-wheel,'—a machine used to turn a spit by the labour of a dog; a very common practice down to a not distant period, though now scarcely within the memory of living men.

Besides the blacksmith, the writer has met with only one other person who can remember seeing a turnspit dog employed in its peculiar vocation; but no better authority can be cited than that of Mr. Jesse, the well-known writer on rural subjects, who thus relates his experiences:

"How well do I recollect in the days of my youth watching the operations of a turnspit at the house of a worthy old Welsh clergyman in Worcestershire, who taught me to read! He was a good man, wore a bushy wig, black worsted stockings, and large plated buckles in his shoes. As he had several boarders as well as day scholars, his two turnspits had plenty to do. They were long-bodied, crook-legged, and ugly dogs, with a suspicious, unhappy look about them, as if they were weary of the task they had to do, and expected every moment to be seized upon to perform it.

Cooks in those days, as they are said to be at present, were very cross; and if the poor animal, wearied with having a larger joint than usual to turn, stopped for a moment, the voice of the cook might be heard rating him in no very gentle terms. When we consider that a large solid piece of beef would take at least three hours before it was properly roasted, we may form some idea of the task a dog had to perform in turning a

wheel during that time.

A pointer has pleasure in finding game, the terrier worries rats with eagerness and delight, and the bulldog even attacks bulls with the greatest energy, while the poor turnspit performs his task with compulsion, like a culprit on a tread-wheel. Subject to scolding or beating if he stops a moment to rest his weary limbs, and is then kicked about the kitchen when the task is over."

The services of the turnspit date from an early period. Doctor Caius, founder of the college at Cambridge which bears his name, and the first English writer on dogs, says:

"There is comprehended under the curs of the coarsest kind a certain dog in kitchen service excellent. For when any meat is to be roasted, they go into a wheel, which they turning about with the weight of their bodies, so diligently look to their business, that no drudge nor scullion can do the feat more cunningly, whom the popular sort hereupon term turnspits."

The annexed illustration, taken from Remarks on a Tour to North and South Wales, published in 1800, clearly exhibits how the dog was enabled to perform his curious and uncongenial task. The letterpress in reference to it says:

'Newcastle, near Carmarthen, is

a pleasant village; at a decent inn here a dog is employed as turnspit; great care is taken that this animal does not observe the cook approach the larder; if he does, he immediately hides himself for the remainder of the day, and the guest must be contented with more humble fare than intended.'

One dog being insufficient to do all the roasting for a large establishment, two or more were kept, working alternately; and each animal well knowing and noting its regular turn of duty, great difficulty was experienced in compelling it to work out of the recognised system of rotation. Buffon relates that two turnspits were employed in the kitchen of the Duc de Lianfort at Paris, taking their turns every other day to go into the wheel. One of them, in a fit of laziness, hid itself on a day that it should have worked, so the other was forced to go into the wheel instead. When the meat was roasted, the one that had been compelled to work out of its turn began to bark and wag its tail till it induced the scullions to follow it; then leading them to a garret, and dislodging the skulker from beneath a bed, it attacked and killed its too lazy fellow-worker.

A somewhat similar circumstance occurred at the Jesuits' College of La Flèche. One day, the cook, having prepared the meat for roasting, looked for the dog whose turn it was to work the wheel for that day; but not being able to find it, he attempted to employ the one whose turn it was to be off duty. The dog resisted, bit the cook, and ran away. The man, with whom the dog was a particular favourite, was much astonished at its ferocity; and the wound being severe and bleeding profusely, he went to the surgeon of the College to have it dressed. In the meantime the dog ran into the garden, found the one whose turn it was to work the spit for that day, and drove it into the kitchen; where the deserter, seeing no opportunity of shirking its day's labour, went into the wheel of its own accord, and began to work.

Turnspits frequently figure in the old collections of anecdotes. For

instance, it is said that the captain of a ship of war, stationed in the port of Bristol for its protection in the last century, found that, on account of some political bias, the inhabitants did not receive him with their accustomed hospitality. So, to punish them, he sent his men ashore one night, with orders to steal all the turnspit dogs they could lay their hands upon. The dogs being conveyed on board the ship, and snugly stowed away in the hold, consternation reigned in the kitchens and dining-rooms of the Bristol merchants; and roast meat rose to a premium during the few days the dogs were confined in their floating prison. The release of the turnspits was duly celebrated by many dinners to the captain and his officers.

A curious political satire, published in 1705, and entitled The Dog in the Wheel, shews, under the figure of a turnspit dog, how a noisy demagogue can become a very quiet placeman. The poem commences thus:

*'Once in a certain family,  
Where idleness was disesteemed;  
For ancient hospitality,  
Great plenty and frugality,  
'Bove others famous deemed.  
No useless thing was kept for show,  
Unless a paroquet or so;  
Some poor relation in an age,  
The chaplain, or my lady's page:  
All creatures else about the house  
Were put to some convenient use.  
Nay, ev'n the cook had learned the knack  
With cur to save the charge of jack;  
So trained 'em to her purpose fit,*

*And made them earn each bit they ate.  
Her ready servants knew the wheel,  
Or stood in awe of whip and bell;  
Each had its task, and did it well.'*

The poem as it proceeds describes the dogs in office lying by the kitchen fire, and discussing some savoury bones, the well-earned rewards of the day's exertions. The demagogic cur, entering, calls them mean, paltry wretches, to submit to such shameful servitude; unpatriotic vermin to chew the bitter bones of tyranny. For his part, he would rather starve a thousand times over than do so. Woe be to the tyrannic hand that would attempt to make him a slave, while he had teeth to defend his lawful liberty—and so forth. At this instant, however, the cook happens to enter:

*And seeing him (the demagogue) among the rest,  
She called him very gently to her,  
And stroked the smooth, submissive cur:  
Who soon was hushed, forgot to rail,  
He licked his lips, and wagged his tail,  
Was overjoyed he should prevail  
Such favour to obtain.  
Among the rest he went to play,  
Was put into the wheel next day,  
He turned and ate as well as they,  
And never speeched again.'*

To read more selections from Robert Chamber's *The Book of Days* visit [www.thebookofdays.com](http://www.thebookofdays.com).

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# ECOLOGY

## Trees, trees everywhere



**Kara Ferraro**  
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

Spring is bursting all around us. The grass is growing; the trees are budding; and flowers are breaking through the once frozen ground. It's good to see nature coming to life again. Can you imagine living in an area with no trees? Prior to the 1800s the plains of Nebraska were treeless. This is what led to the founding of Arbor Day (from the Latin word arbor, meaning tree).

In 1854, a 23-year-old gentleman named Julius Sterling Morton was among the pioneers making their way to the Nebraska Territory. The lack of trees was unappealing to Morton and his wife, Caroline, who were nature lovers. Soon they planted shrubs, flowers, and trees. As a journalist, he became the editor of Nebras-

ka's first newspaper which enabled him to touch other nature lovers with his enthusiasm for trees. The pioneers sensed the importance of planting saplings not only because they missed the trees from their native lands, but also because of the need for wind breaks, orchards, and shade trees. Trees were also needed to be used as building materials for homes, fencing, and farm buildings.

Impassioned by his value of trees, in 1872 Morton suggested to the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture a tree-planting holiday known as "Arbor Day". Favorably the idea 'took root' (pun definitely intended) and the date was set for April 10, 1872. Many individuals and counties participated as prizes were offered to whomever properly planted the largest number of trees that day. It is estimated that Nebraska had more than one

million trees planted on that first Arbor Day.

Arbor Day had not yet become an annual event. The second tree-planting celebration was in 1884 and by 1885 the state of Nebraska proclaimed it a legal holiday to be observed yearly. It was planned April 22nd to coincide with J. Sterling Morton's birthday. Not to be outdone, other states such as Kansas, Tennessee, Minnesota, and Ohio announced their own Arbor Days. Today the holiday is celebrated in each of the 50 states, but the dates may vary according to the climate of the individual state.

President Richard Nixon proclaimed, at the federal level, the last Friday of April as National Arbor Day. It is also recognized in other countries including Australia. There are even variations of the observance: Japan has "Greening Week"; Israel celebrates "The New Year's Days of Trees"; Korea observes "The Tree-Loving Week"; Yugoslavia has "The Reforestation Week"; Iceland acclaims "The Students' Afforestation Day"; and India enjoys "The National Festival of Tree Planting".

Morton was pleased with the success of Arbor Day. Imagine the pride he would feel today! He preferred to use trees as memorials to persons or events as opposed to erected marble statues. "How much more enduring are the animate trees of our own planting," he noted. After his death in 1902 there was a memorial set up for him at his home, Arbor Lodge. This memorial was dedicated by President Grover Cleveland in 1905 and is adorned with Morton's quote, "Other holidays repose upon the past. Arbor Day proposes for the future."

Two states in whose future we are directly intrigued with is Maryland and Pennsylvania. Arbor Day in Maryland is celebrated on the first Wednesday of April. The state tree is the white oak (*Quercus alba*) which is a

### The Land Conservancy of Adams County

In 2020 the Land Conservancy of Adams County worked with four local landowners to preserve 173 acres of Adams County farmland, woodland, open spaces, and freshwater streams. Since its founding in 1995, the conservancy has partnered with Adams County landowners to preserve nearly 12,000 acres.

These landowners worked with the Land Conservancy to protect their land by crafting conservation easements, which are voluntary legal agreements attached to the property deed that spell out the kind and amount of development the landowner wishes to allow on his or her property now and in the future.

For the past several years, the Adams County Commissioners have proclaimed the period between the Land Conservancy's Annual Meeting and its Annual Art Auction as Land Conservancy Month.

Events marking Land Conservancy Month this year include an Art Auction opening artists' reception on Friday, April 2,

from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Adams County Arts Council, 125 South Washington St., Gettysburg (conditions permitting). The reception will showcase a wide variety of original art created by local and regional artists and donated to the conservancy's Annual Art Auction, which will be held as a virtual event from April 2 through 25 at BiddingOwl.com.

The Land Conservancy of Adams County is an accredited, member-supported nonprofit land trust that works to preserve the rural lands and character of Adams County. For more information about the Land Conservancy, its Annual Meeting, and the other events surrounding Land Conservancy Month, visit [PreserveAdams.org](http://PreserveAdams.org) or call the Land Conservancy office at 717-334-2828.

Members and anyone interested in learning more about the LCAC and rural land conservation in Adams County are welcome to join this free event by registering through the conservancy's website, [PreserveAdams.org](http://PreserveAdams.org).

sturdy, handsome tree named for its whitish bark and grey twigs. White Oaks are large, long-lived trees that are slow-growing. They can reach the height of 60 – 150 feet with diameters between 3 to 4 feet. Sometime around its fiftieth year, it begins to produce acorns and may produce 10,000 annually. These seeds are beneficial and are the dietary mainstay for over 80 species of birds and mammals. Native Americans ground them into flour and taught the early settlers the process.

The last Friday in April marks Arbor Day in Pennsylvania. Here the state tree has been the eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) since 1931. Also known as the Canada hemlock or hemlock spruce it has been used by early

settlers to build log cabins and for a source of tannic acid to tan leather. It has been considered the most picturesque and beautiful of the world's evergreens by A. J. Downing, the father of landscape gardening in America. This slow-growing, long-lived tree can take up to 250 – 300 years to reach maturity. A healthy hemlock may live for 800 years or more. However it is being threatened and killed by the woolly adelgid aphid-like insect that is attacking the hemlock trees in our region.

Arbor Day is a perfect opportunity for the home owner to take stock of trees on his or her property. Planning for the future of your plants allows the chance to view the future of your environment. It is also a great way to learn about disease and insect infestation that you can "nip in the bud." (OK, another pun!) Planting trees cannot only improve the appearance of your home; it can also help with heating and cooling, or provide wind protection.

As Arbor Day approaches this year, consider planting a tree at your home or in your community. Research will show many suggestions about how to plant and care for trees, shrubs, and flowers. It is never too late to invest in the future of your community, your home, and your environment. Plant a tree!

Kara Ferraro is the executive director of the Strawberry Hill Foundation in Fairfield, Pennsylvania. Strawberry Hill's mission is to inspire stewardship of our natural world by connecting the community with educational opportunities. Visit us online at [StrawberryHill.org](http://StrawberryHill.org).

To read past Ecology articles, visit [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).



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## IN THE COUNTRY

# B is for Big Cypress

Tim Iverson, Naturalist

**E** Pluribus Unum, the motto of the United States, means “out of many, one.” The south Florida ecosystem is comprised of many different state, tribal, federal, and private partnerships that come together to form the greater Everglades ecosystem. Commonly called the West Everglades, Big Cypress National Preserve is a first of its kind national park that honors the E Pluribus Unum idea by bringing together the interests of multiple aspects of land management, recreational activities, and cultural heritage.

Protecting nearly 730,000 acres, Big Cypress Swamp is critical to the health of neighboring Everglades National Park and Ten Thousand Island National Wildlife Refuge. Big Cypress National Preserve contains a diverse mixture of habitats that are home to tropical and temperate plants and an array of wildlife, serving as the primary home to the endangered Florida Panther.

The water cycle reigns supreme here. Fed by the torrential rains throughout the spring, summer, and fall freshwater makes its way through four different ecosystems starting at the high point in hardwood forests flowing downhill to the ocean.

Known as a “hammock,” these elevated hardwood forests generally stand at 17 feet above sea level, which is the highest point around. Tall and stately southern Live Oak trees with branches arching across the sky alongside Sabal Palm trees sporting broad palm crowns shield the forest floor from direct sunlight and rain keeping them cooler and drier than the surrounding landscape. This is where all the large mammals, like the Florida Panther make their homes as they move throughout their range. Because of the dense canopy, a lack of sunlight keeps the forest floor free and clear of vegetation making the hammocks easy to explore.

The Florida panther is the only known population of cougars in eastern North America, and it is regarded as critically endangered. By 1995 it was estimated that only a total of 20 to 30 remained in the wild. As a result, eight cougars from west Texas were introduced to Big Cypress National Preserve. By bolstering the population and introducing genetic diversity a much healthier panther population has rebounded and continues to grow. Today there are an estimated 130 panthers in southern Florida. While still critically low, the population remains stable. The Florida Panther still faces threats mainly from habitat loss via land development and vehicular strikes. Big Cypress National Preserve is the largest intact habitat for the panther and within the park is the best place to see a Florida Panther in the wild.

As the elevation descends

slightly the habitat transitions to pine forest. Here the canopy opens up allowing for light and wind to penetrate through the canopy. The forest floor is dense with grasses and shrubs. Throughout the rainy season the ground here may be covered by shallow pools of water that recede as the seasons change. Regular naturally occurring wildfires help keep this habitat renewed and clear. Black scorch marks along tree trunks are like scars, evidence of past fires. These pine trees are highly resistant to flame and come through unscathed. As wildfires, typically started by lightning strikes, move through the forests, they clear the grasses and shrubs. Pinecones produced by the trees can only open with the high heat created by fires, releasing their seeds into the clear and nutrient rich soil. This fire cycle paves the way for the next generation of the forest.

As the elevation drops a little lower, the pine forests give way to the open prairie. These prairies are generally wet, as they are submerged under water for about half the year. Despite the fact they are wet most of the time, the water is not very deep - rarely exceeding eight inches. Periphyton, an amazing and integral thick green mat of vegetation, blankets the ground here. Periphyton is a mixture of algae, microbes, and plant debris. It provides a valuable food and nesting source for animals at the base of the food chain. Flies, snails, tadpoles, fish, and more utilize this mat as both nursery and farm. Larger reptiles, amphibians, and wading birds search through the periphyton while on the hunt. During the dry season, fires clear these prairies of woody debris and other plants ensuring these productive ecosystems can continue. The last stop before passing into the ocean is the cypress swamp, called a dome or strand.

These strands have an elevation lower than the surrounding communities, which creates a creek that flows south. Venturing into the swamps of Big Cypress feels like stepping back into a prehistoric time or a remote jungle in some far off land. Towering verdant cypress trees shroud a dense canopy. In the forest understory, closer to ground level a slow moving flow of water covers the forest floor. Here you can watch an alligator effortlessly glide through the crystal clear water. Their stealthy tail serpentine silently back and forth propelling them forward. Growing on branches, knots, and the trunks of the cypress trees are epiphytes or air plants. Instead of growing in soil these plants attach themselves to other plants wrapping their roots around to secure themselves in place. Epiphytes like the flashy red Cardinal Flower bromeliads, ethereal white Ghost Orchids, and the wiry tangle of Spanish moss pull their nutrients from the moisture in the air like humidity, fog, and rain.

Over thousands of years Big Cypress has been home to the native Calusa, Miccosukee, and Seminole people. By the 16th century, European explorers found their way to North America and began to settle the coastal areas nearby. As the centuries marched on, more and more of the wilderness was lost to growth and urbanization. Then, in the 1960s plans for the largest airport in the world were unveiled. In anticipation of the growth of Miami and south Florida, this airport was planned for what is now the eastern side of the national preserve to meet the needs of the booming population. With the exception of land developers, this plan was met with great derision and opposition.

When Everglades National Park was established in December 1947, Big Cypress was originally slated to be part of it. At the time many people were opposed to the idea because of the restric-



Established in 1974, Big Cypress National Preserve protects 730,000 acres, an area larger than Rhode Island. It is critical to the health of neighboring Everglades National Park and Ten Thousand Island National Wildlife Refuge.

tions that come with a national park so the land was not included. However, when the rush of progress and urbanization threatened encroachment and destruction of this place, various parties and stakeholders came together for the unified purpose of preserving the land. A new idea in federal land management was born to meet and balance the needs of those involved. Big Cypress became the very first national preserve. Differing from a national park in that it still protects the land, plants, animals, and environmental processes; however also allowing for hunting, private land ownership, traditional usage by indigenous people, some mineral and resource extraction, cattle grazing, and expanded recreational use and opportunities. Big Cypress National Preserve found a way to strike a successful balance of envi-

ronmental preservation and sustainably managed land use, while protecting neighboring Everglades National Park and Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

Established in October 1974 Big Cypress National preserve protects 730,000 acres, an area larger than Rhode Island. In that space is the largest contiguous habitat for the endangered Florida Panther. The efforts of conservationists, sportsmen, local descendants of European and indigenous people who have lived there for generations came together to form a new unified national park unit that protects the rich cultural history and diverse communities of tropical and temperate plants and animals that form the greater Everglades ecosystem.

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## REAL SCIENCE

# Power of the wind

Michael Rosenthal

I have always been a proponent of wind power. I believe in having a variety of sources of energy production, considering that some of them are more suitable to the environment in which they work than others. Of course some sources are trouble to the environment no matter where they are sited, such as coal.

The current administration in Washington has a much more progressive attitude toward energy production than the previous administration. The Biden administration in March moved toward approval of the building of a wind farm about 12 nautical miles offshore from the coast of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. Such a source would be friendly to the environment and would be a powerful tool in combating climate change.

This proposed 2.8 billion dollar project has been under consideration for some two decades, and it has been opposed by a well-organized and well-funded opposition effort from waterfront property owners, including the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy and the billionaire industrialist William I. Koch. The current approved project will be a bit south of the original site, out of sight from the Kennedy Hyannis Compound.

I believe that we must cooperate to move toward the production of clean energy, and if this means revising one's view of the surrounding environment, then that should be done. Such opinions are subjective. I personally like the view of a wind turbine, but others do not.

Technological advances have been made, costs of construction have declined, and the increasing sensitivity to protecting the environment all make this project a good idea. The project will consist of up to 84 turbines and will generate some 800 megawatts of electricity – enough to power some 400,000 homes. The generated power would be carried by buried cables that will carry the electricity to Cape Cod, where the power will feed into the New England power grid. There is now a small wind power project now operating off Block Island, Rhode Island, that began operation in 2016.

Wind power is a good fit to the area in question along the coast. Seven states along the east coast have expressed commitments to buy offshore generated electricity – New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Maryland, to buy 24,000 megawatts of this electricity by 2035. Power generated by this method is “clean power” – no emissions and thus no damage to the environment, especially producing no greenhouse gases.

There have been some worries about impact on the fishing industry. The current plan proposes that the turbines be spaced a mile or so apart to allow fishing to continue without interference. I believe concern for the support of the fishing industry is a legitimate concern, but proper spacing of the turbines and other construction considerations can successfully address that issue. Another advantage of the project is job creation for the construction.

There is no way to produce energy without some environmental impact,

but we can choose our methods of energy production and techniques of siting and construction to obtain maximum efficiency with minimal negative impact. This consideration was not a priority with the Trump administration, but it appears to be one with the Biden administration.

One of the frustrations that environmentally conscious people felt during the previous federal administration was the seeming willingness to overlook environmental impact in favor of short-term economic gain. Our new administration has begun the march back to environmental protective measures in a variety of situations.

The newly confirmed administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Michael Regan is already expressing a new approach to environmental protection than that of the last four years. Reagan has expressed a commitment to hasten the nation's shift to cleaner energy production, to invest in community projects in areas battered by years of such pollution, and to improve air and water quality throughout the United States.

Among his projects is one to bring back staff members who left EPA during the previous administration in frustration over program cuts and lack of commitment to environmental protection. Reagan was one of those former EPA employees who left. Among the topics the EPA will consider is the previous administration's rollback of tailpipe emission rules for new cars and trucks, and its opposition to California's tighter than federal regulations on this matter. He expressed this as a major topic in his commitment to greenhouse gas emission. He



A proposed 84-wind turbine farm off the coast of Martha's Vineyard will generate 800 megawatts of electricity – enough to power some 400,000 homes.

also favors an increase in regulation of ozone and other dangerous pollutants that had been weakened in the past four years. Under President Obama a more rigorous Clean Power Plan had been put into place, but the Trump administration weakened these standards. Regan has expressed serious concern over the use of polyfluoroalkyl and perfluoroalkyl substances that have health impacts and promises a close look at the level of regulation.

What we are witnessing is the significant difference in approach to environmental protection from the Trump Era to the Biden Era. I believe that environmental policy should try to divorce itself from Republican versus Democrat, and try to look at science (hence my title Real Science!) and consider impact on our planet and on the health of our citizens that our policies have.

Compromises need to be made. I don't suggest we go back to horse and buggies to replace automobiles, but we need to consider short term and long term environmental impacts along with economic impacts.

I try to avoid be too political in Real Science, but that has become almost impossible with the conflicting attitudes between President Trump's science policy and that of President Obama and now President Biden. It will be very interesting to see what changes occur in the next four years. Among the environmental protections that were weakened in the last

four years is the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Endangered Species Act, and severely weakened protections in hunting regulations. In 2019 a United Nations panel determined that 1 million species face possible extinction, more than during any other period in human history. It was reported that 3 billion birds have vanished in North America over the last fifty years. There is however now reason to be optimistic. President Biden has an 83 percent lifetime score with the League of Conservation Voters dating to 1973.

President Trump rolled back at least 125 environmental regulations, with an especially strong negative attitude toward protection of wildlife. The core of the issue is the desire of the parts of the business world not to be limited by environmental regulation. The Endangered Species Act was one of their worst enemies. The Trump administration denied protection to more than 199 species and only 35 were given protection. The Clinton Administration protected 523 species.

One of the most controversial of these situations is the protection of polar bears in the search for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. President Biden is enormously more sympathetic to such issues than was President Trump. A better balance needs to be found. The upcoming years will be very interesting to watch.

To read past articles by Michael Rosenthal visit the Authors Section of Emmitsburg.net.



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## THE VILLAGE IDIOT

## The state mandates (second verse)

Jack Deatherage

And the peasantry toils to comply. According to the town website 3,640 linear feet of new sidewalk has been poured in town since 2013. Hurrah! If my knees and hip could take it I could walk, mostly safely, through the developments, up and down Seton Ave and the length of Main Street on sidewalks that weren't connected until recently- recently, if you lived in town before the 1990s. With a coupla fingers of Makers Mark in me, I probably could manage such a walk today, but those sipping days are sadly over.

Anyhow, it came as a small surprise three years after we got new concrete poured on our street to find everything is going to be ripped back up and a differently designed street is going to front our house! The Emmitsburg North Seton Ave Green Street Concept Plan (NS Green Plan) is to be debated by the commissioners, eventually. The meetings have been postponed due to weather and more pressing issues.

I suppose the surprise would have been greater had I not heard, at one of the last town meetings I could attend, that something had to be done about the storm water that rushes down our street adding to Flat Run's flow as it begins its trickle through town. I couldn't see how the storm stream flowing down our street could be tamed, but I ain't a hydrologist, or an engineer.

The DW took a look at the design drawings and growled, "Gods! Not again. The new sidewalk instillation was such an inconvenience. This will be even worse. Where we will park? How will we get in and out of the house while the street is torn up?"

I shrugged. "Same as we did last time. Besides I like the design."

Glaring at the illustrations the DW muttered, "That does look a lot better than what's out there now. And we do have four parking spaces behind the house. The new neighbors and the college kids can have the spots left out front after the construction is over. But I'm not looking forward to the noise, dirt and inconvenience this is going to cause!"

Shrugging again, I tried to cheer her up. "Given the way projects move through the various governments, we'll likely be dead before the first concrete saw screams."

That brought a smile to her face. "And this pandemic would be over by then and you could visit the offspring in Florida until the worst of the construction was over."

She glared at me. "And leave you and the ugly dog in the house by yourselves? Would I have a house to come back to?"

"We can discuss that when the time comes, if it comes. Meanwhile I'll check with Zack and see if anything has changed since I got the plan.

Zachary R. Gulden (Town Planner & Zoning Administrator) responded to my inquiry, in part:

"Most importantly - Safety. It greatly reduces the chance of flooding at the Northgate residential development entrance/exit. As you know, large rain events cause significant flooding, which entrap Northgate residents. Currently storm water sheet flows down the asphalt swales and road directly into Flat Run Stream at Northgate. 14,449 sq. ft. of impervious is being removed, which is significant! Other safety features included in the plan include - 5 existing crosswalks enhanced with new striping/materials, 3 new crosswalks added, & bicycle safety increased with shared lane markings.

Beautification. 27 street trees added, 17,000 sq.ft. of native plantings added, new crosswalks added. More green & less gray!

MS4 Credit - as you know we are an MS4 permitted community (municipal separate storm sewer system), which means we are required by state and federal law to improve storm water management conditions in our Town to improve the health of local bodies of water and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. Instead of pollutants sheet flowing down into Flat Run Stream, local bodies of water, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay, the water will be "treated" in the green infrastructure additions. For example, water will flow into one of the bioretention planters, soak through the various layers of filters, which removes the vast majority of the pollutants."

I knew the goal was to reduce pollutants reaching the Bay, but I hadn't considered our street to be much of a flood concern. Then I dropped a pond liner in one of the leaking 150-gallon stock tanks we have in the backyard. I had planned to drag the things around front, set one either side of the

bow window and plant flowering vines in them that might grow up the brick faced front of the house to cool it a bit in the summer. But the NS Green Plan put the kibosh to that brilliant idea. Anyhow, I set the tank at the back roof downspout, set a rain gauge nearby and waited for the next rain.

Less than an inch of rain overflowed the 150-gallon tank. Which did not surprise me given a home owner on Irishtown Court once told me a 30 minute storm, falling on the backside of his roof, filled the 1,200 or 1,500 gallons of tanks he had under his deck. Which has me wondering how much water overflowed my little tank and ran down through the yard to Creekside Drive and on to Flat Run?

Our house is one of 23 houses along the street preventing rain from soaking into the ground. The gods know, and perhaps a hydrologist, how much water flows down that blacktopped stretch as it runs off of roofs and sidewalks! I can't capture anything that reaches the street in front of the house. And obviously, several hundred gallons of captured water at the back of the house, from a measly drizzle, isn't a big deal in the scheme of things. So what can I do to at least slow the water streaming off the property?



With the concrete from sidewalk repairs on North Seton only recently completed, neighbors can look forward to the noise of it being torn up, albeit this time, for a nice greenway.

Rain garden! which would help flatten the flood curve by slowing the rate of flow to the rill beyond Creekside Drive. (Hmm... where have I heard an expression similar to 'flatten the flood curve'? Oh, well.) The problem with the rain gardens I've looked at online is - I'm more interested in experimenting with growing something to eat than I am in growing flowers that prosper in such a setup. Though creating a native carnivorous plant bog that might reduce some of the yard's insect population appeals to me and definitely appeals to the DW who is plagued by "no-see-ums" (some variant of Ceratopogonidae) every time she ventures into the yard during the summer. (There is a price to pay

for being sweeter than me.)

I'm thinking a shallow trench filled with straw bales inoculated with oyster mushroom spawn stretching across the lower part of the yard would act to slow the run off and give me something tasty to eat occasionally.

"Again with the mushrooms!" The DW grumbles. "How many times are you going to trial them without producing anything?"

Making sure I've something valuable between me and her warming up the Balor of the evil eye thing, I shrug. "Until I grow some 'shrooms."

To read past articles by Jack Deatherage, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Riparian buffers

Mary Ann Ryan  
Adams County Master Gardener

As we become more engaged and educated about our environment, a few words are repeated in our reading and discussions. One of those words is Riparian Buffer.

A riparian buffer is simply an area, or buffer, along a stream or waterway. This buffer is made up of a variety of plants. The best buffers will have trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. These plants serve a multitude of important purposes. For example, plants slow down water. As water runs across open land in a heavy rain, it will pick up speed on a surface of open soil, low turf, herbaceous vegetation, or hard surfaces like parking lots and roads. As this water hits larger plants like shrubs and trees, it slows down, allowing that water to filter through the soils prior to hitting the stream.

You may wonder why that matters. As water moves from hard surfaces, like roads, roofs, and open crop land, it picks up sediment, chemicals, oil and other pollutants. Without that buffer zone, all those pollutants will enter the stream, reducing fish life, amphibians and ultimately polluting our food and water sources. The plants in a buffer will filter those pollutants, keeping the streams clean for our wildlife.

Trees also shade the water in the stream. The shade provides the water a lower temperature that will support the life that lives in the stream. The warmer the water, the less that can survive in that water. The shade of the trees helps to control water temperature by reducing the fluctuation of that water temperature.

The roots of the plants, trees in particular, help to reduce the amount of erosion that occurs. Water is very powerful, as we all know. As water runs through the twists and turns of a stream, the power of that water will cause stream banks to erode. Imagine in a heavy rainstorm, water running across an open field or grassy area, with nothing to slow it down, and entering the stream. The more water that enters the stream, the faster it will flow. The faster it flows, the more power it hits against the banks of the twists and turns of the banks. This is why our streams and rivers turn a darker, mucky color after a rainstorm. That water has picked up sediment.

Tree roots help to hold that stream bank in place. The wider the buffer, the better. And the bigger the plants, the better, and of course, diversity of plant life never hurts.

We have a riparian buffer on our property. We've been planting trees and shrubs ever since we bought the property in the 90's.



Riparian buffers have played key role in increasing water quality in associated streams, rivers, and lakes, thus providing environmental benefits. Buffers are placed near a stream, usually forested, which helps shade and partially protect the stream from the impact of adjacent land uses.

We have river birch and sycamore, maples and willows, oaks, button bush, shrub dogwoods as well as a few chokeberry speckle the understory. Viburnums, winterberry hollies, spicebush, blackgum and, our latest plant introduction on the property, sweetbay magnolia. These are just some of the species in our riparian buffer. This diversity of plant life supports a multitude of insects, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals while continuing to filter water, control erosion, and maintain water temperatures.

Types of plants that may be chosen for a riparian buffer are

dependent on the types of soil that exist. Do a little research to find out what the soil texture is (clay, loam, sandy) as well as the soil pH. Plants are particular about these things and may or may not survive the existing environment. Proper plant selection will guarantee success when starting new plants and plant communities. And, choices of plants can determine what types of insects you may have visiting your plant community. For instance, it's likely you will see spicebush swallowtails if you have spicebush and sassafras living there, as they are a food source for the caterpil-

lars. Therefore, knowing what a food source is for a particular critter may also help in determining what is planted.

Riparian buffers may already exist, or a landowner may be starting from scratch. If a stream has no trees or shrubs growing along thier banks, then enhancement would be extremely beneficial to the water quality, fish life and wildlife depending on it.

Begin by planting trees. Contacting your local Conservation District to enquire about tree seedling sales is a good start. The Conservation District may also know of some programs that will supply you with free tree seedlings to support your efforts. Tree seedlings are inexpensive and have a pretty good survival rate, if planted and managed correctly.

One of the most feasible ways to begin this project is to get bare-root plants. These plants have no soil on the roots, making shipping easier and cheaper. Bare-root plants can be purchased in late winter through early spring, which is also when they need to be planted. When they arrive, whether you have them shipped, or get them from a local supplier, keep the roots wet until you plant them. Keep them wrapped in wet newspaper in a cool location.

When planting them, be sure the hole wide and deep enough to lay the roots out without curling them. Mound the soil in the center of the hole and rest the center of the tree on top of that mound of soil. Lay the roots downward and backfill with the existing soil. Be sure the root flair of the tree is not buried. Only the roots should be underground, not the tree trunk. Tap the soil in and around the roots, filling the hole. Water after planting.

A good next step is to use a tree shelter. Tree shelters will protect the trees from wildlife, like rabbits and deer, until the trees are established. Many types are available, and typically the source that is supplying you with the bare-root trees will have tree shelters for sale as well. When we plant

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

seedlings, we always have tree shelters on them. There's nothing worse than putting the research and labor into a planting just to have a critter decide that it tastes good! Tree shelters not only provide a physical barrier, but also provides an almost greenhouse environment, allowing the trees to establish quickly.

Once trees are established, little maintenance is needed, but for the first few years, there are some common things that can be done to improve the survival rate of your trees. Check on the trees. Be sure that the tree shelters have not blown off. If they have, just re-install them. You may want to keep weeds and grass pulled away from the base of the trees, and out of the tree shelters. Although the tree shelters, for the most part, protect the seedlings, they also can pro-

vide a great habitat for small critters like mice and other rodents. Its warm and there's a food source, so keeping the weeds out of the shelter will help to reduce the number of critters that may make it their home.

The next time you hear the term riparian buffer, you will know what it is and what it does to support our food and water supply. Know that it plays an important role in our lives. If you have an opportunity to support a riparian buffer project, either in research or labor, consider it. Enjoy what's around you and know that everything you do impacts our environment. Help to keep it clean and healthy!

*To read other gardening articles, visit the gardening section of emmitsburg.net.*

## Small Town Gardener

The bees are dead...

Marianne Willburn

After a long yesterday assessing the winter garden hangover – the deer-nibbled evergreens, the chicken-uprooted polygonatum, the muddy mess that will someday house new garden beds, but currently looks like the Somme in 1916 – this news hit me the hardest.

It became that broken thorn just under the glove that shifts and pricks as you grip the pruners, and which you won't locate until you commit to the act of finding your reading glasses. Which then pricks you further, as you now need reading glasses and when did that happen anyway?

I smother the feeling and move on (or so I believe), until it pricks again and I have to stop and question why I am snapping at the dogs. The goldfish are happy, successfully overwintered, and thriving; but instead of rejoicing, my mind turns to how long it will be until the heron finds them.

What is my problem? Where the heck is that thorn?

Oh that's right, the bees are dead. I failed. Everything is not ticking away as it should be. I have to put on my reading glasses, dig it out, and move on.

In a warm winter it is upsetting to lose a hive in the eleventh hour that I went to a great deal of trouble to obtain as a swarm last spring. But then it's upsetting to lose two 'Silver Queen' and one 'Butterscotch' euonymus that I went to a great deal of trouble to obtain, site and dream of future passive pairings with; and it's upsetting to find expensive polygonatum rhizomes scratched out of the ground because two of the hens found a way out of what is rapidly becoming a minimum security prison.

Gardening IS upsetting. It has some seriously dead-in-a-ditch moments (Plant explorer Dan Hinkley's phrase, not mine). And as GardenRant columnist Scott Beuerlein discussed in a recent article – it's the long game

we're after. Long stretches of process, with glimpses of result mixed in to keep you hungry.

Reading such confessions is fantastically rejuvenating when you're still smack in the middle of a young garden. It creates camaraderie across the miles, reminds you that you're not alone, shatters the fantasy, and deftly removes that thorn. Thank you Dan. Thank you Scott.

It's harder to find that thorn in an age of Instagram. Though it borders on heresy to be critical of an era that [theoretically] keeps us ever-connected, and über-informed, I cannot help being thankful that I didn't have the opportunity to start my journey with plants by daily weighing myself against the feeds of 5,634 smiling social media influencers, 95% of which apparently live in a close-up, filtered world of endless happiness and endless summer. For me, the thorn is easier to recognize, locate and dig out.

But what about a newer generation of first-time gardeners understandably addicted to heavily edited fantasy? Or unable to pursue the magic of what Deep Work author Cal Newport terms the 'super power' of undistracted, focused thinking, and in time, use it to become extremely skilled at the art and science of gardening? Will they have a harder time coming to grips with the realities of a gardening life? Or will they feel inadequate in the face of a Gardening Life™ and give up?

Last week I attended a lecture by an author on how to take and process better photos for Instagram. Her tips were excellent and her delivery, engaging.

But I left the Zoom feeling vaguely unsettled by the level of fantasy peddled to an unsuspecting (?) public. Ugly compost bins and weedy patches in soft, far-away focus, specific filters used to create continuity across snaps, post-processing beyond the reach (or dreams!) of Ansel Adams. Yes, fantasy has existed as long as we've had media vehicles from which to peddle it, but we didn't keep those vehicles in our back pockets to tempt us and taunt us 24/7.

I think that many of us (pre-social media) also developed a certain amount of cynicism when it came to these images and stories, offered as they were from marketing teams on high. You just assumed the whole thing was groomed/airbrushed/produced. You appreciated it for the aspirational art it was, and the way it made your fingers itch to create something amaz-

ing outside. And then you closed the magazine/book/newspaper and got back to the garden – not to be interrupted for the next eight hours, deep work on your mind.

It's harder to keep that healthy sense of skepticism when your very ordinary next-door neighbor is streaming endless premium content with attached soundtrack and slo-mo moments. If she's doing life and garden that well, there must be something wrong with you.

Except no, there isn't. The daily reality of my garden is very different from the photos that adorn my website. No I have not doctored them and yes those moments exist, but not all the time and not all together. From the right angle and with the right framing, variations of them exist in all gardens. The plants are just different.

So be aware. That's all I'm saying. Recognize that the dead-in-a-ditch moments are real and they're coming for you as you expand the scope of your garden. One day the bees will be dead, the euonymus stripped and it will feel debilitating. You can stop there, or you can move on to the next day when you realize that it was going to be a major pain in the butt to move them while you renovated the kitchen garden and, hmmm, you've still got last year's honey in the pantry, and hey, that's 40,000 less lives to worry about in August. And did you really want a Silver Queen euonymus when there are Silver Lining pyracanthas in the world anyway?

Dead-in-a-ditch is something you're going to have to deal with more than you won't. Yes the garden is therapeutic. It nurtures your spirit, feeds your family, impresses your friends, and provides a backdrop for some of the best moments in your life. But it can also weigh heavy some days.

*Marianne is a Master Gardener and the author of Big Dreams, Small Garden. Read more at [www.smalltowngardener.com](http://www.smalltowngardener.com) or follow @smalltowngardener on Facebook and Instagram.*

*Marianne writes from Lovettsville, VA. You can read more at [www.smalltowngardener.com](http://www.smalltowngardener.com), [www.gardenant.com](http://www.gardenant.com)*

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## PETS

# I don't want to do this anymore

Jennifer Vanderau  
Cumberland Valley  
Animal Shelter

I really don't. I'm just a cat and I've been outside since mom had me five years ago. Mom is long gone and so are my siblings. We were separated.

Mom went out one night, probably to find some food, and never came back. I still have no idea what happened to her.

My sister got picked up by a woman who saw us under the porch. My sister was small, way smaller than my brother and me and when the woman showed up, she just froze. Didn't move a muscle.

The woman picked her up and took her to a car and came back to try to get me and my brother, but we were too fast for her.

Just last year my brother crossed the street because we heard someone had just thrown out some fresh garbage. He didn't make it. The truck came out of nowhere.

I stayed to say goodbye to him. Not long, though. It wasn't safe.

I've been on my own ever since. I've had to figure out how to get food. I've had to stay away from animals that I know mean me harm.

And I keep far, far away from the worst one: humans.

I've been screamed at, kicked at, had all kinds of rocks thrown at me. One lady chased me with a broom and there was that one time when those kids came at me with something. I don't know if it was a toy or a weapon or what, but I didn't stay around long enough to find out.

Running is pretty much second nature to me at this point.

Some nights when I can find a safe place, far away from people and other animals, I think back to the early days. When mom and brother and sister were here with me and sometimes we had food and shelter and would snuggle up together and...

It wasn't all bad.

It's funny, you know? When you have a family, you don't really think you'll ever lose them. When you have someone to be with and be around and play with and talk to and share this thing called life with, it's not in your mind that one day you might not have them anymore.

I don't know that I would have done anything any differently had I known – maybe appreciated it more – but it sure doesn't hurt any less.

But, I'm alone now. No one to be with me in this day-to-day battle and there's no real reason to get upset about it. Nothing I can do to change it.

It's just some nights, the memories of better times really get me.

The day that I smell the tuna, I hadn't eaten for two straight nights. My stomach actually gave a physical pang when I caught a whiff of it. Didn't take me long to find it, either. I hesitated. It was way too easy – no one and nothing around.

I was just too hungry. I walked up to the plate – had to go down this odd, tunnel like thing covered in a towel or something, and the second I heard the door shut behind me, I knew I was in serious trouble.

I fought. Like crazy. I banged myself against the sides of the metal cage over and over but I couldn't get free – all I ended up doing was making a mess of the tuna.

When a woman came and picked up the trap, I figured this was it. At least I'd probably get to see my brother again.

She took me to a building that smelled funny and someone gave me a shot that made me super sleepy. I fought it, but couldn't resist.

When I woke up, I was groggy and felt really weird. The woman came back and picked up the trap and I just couldn't figure out what was going on.

Something strange happened when she put me in her car. She started talking to me. I have no

idea what she was saying because I never bothered to learn the human words, but she sounded weird. She sounded nice – something I'd never heard from a human before and that made it bizarre.

There was something – I'm sure it was just the effects of the shot – there was something familiar about her. When she stopped the car, she came around to get the trap and set me and it down in the grass. She opened the door.

I can't explain it, I really can't, but for some reason, I didn't move at first, even though every instinct from the last five years was screaming at me to run as fast as I could.

Instead, I watched her. We made eye contact. And there was something there. I saw something in the brown of her eyes. I felt something.

A connection. A kinship, almost. I wondered if she was missing someone, too.

"You can stay if you want," she whispered. "You'll be safe with me. I promise."

A long-ago feeling expanded in my chest and I know it defies any kind of rational explanation, but for the first time, in the face of a human, I wondered if I could finally get back what I had lost.

I took a few steps out of the trap and skirted around her and headed for the bushes. I heard her whisper, "Be careful, little guy."

That night, I didn't go too far from her house. I watched her inside, surrounded by the warm glow of the lights in her home and I considered whether or not I could trust her.

Maybe the best way to figure it out is to stick around... and so he did.

**Part 2 next month**

*Jennifer Vanderau is the Director of Communications for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter in Chambersburg, Pa., and can be reached at [cvascomm@cvas-pets.org](mailto:cvascomm@cvas-pets.org). The shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit the website [www.cvas-pets.org](http://www.cvas-pets.org).*



Batman was surrendered to the shelter because his owner was moving and could not take him along. He's a 2-year-old orange-and-white boy who loves treats and his cat tree. Do you have the right spot for Batman?



Cheeto came into the shelter because her owner was moving and couldn't take her along. She's a 3-year-old orange tabby girl who thinks she is a dog. She loves attention and will even give you kisses! Cheeto does not seem to enjoy the company of other cats however, so a home without other cats may be best for her. Those gorgeous golden eyes could be yours if you can give her a loving home!



Chyna came into the shelter in a trap, but boy, what a nice girl she is. Because she's a stray, we don't have a lot of information about her and at first she was a little shy. We put her in the back bathroom to give her some room and attention and she has really come out of her shell. This 4-year-old brown tabby girl will make someone a great friend. Could you help Chyna out?



Flufferduster is a 2-year-old, spayed Rex rabbit who is a sweet girl. She was adopted from the shelter about a year ago, but came back to us because the owners were no longer able to care for her. Flufferduster loves attention and loves her veggies! Do you have the right spot for her?

For more information about Batman, Cheeto, Chyna, and Flufferduster call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit them online at [www.cvaspets.org](http://www.cvaspets.org) or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter.

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# How to feed your dog/cat

**Dr. Jon Branson**  
**Catoctin Veterinary Hospital**

“Let thy food be thy medicine, and thy medicine be thy food.”  
 Hippocrates

True confession: In trying to advise clients how to feed their pets, I feel like I need a PhD in nutrition to sort through what’s out there. While I don’t have one of those, I do have a veterinary medical degree. That allows me access to many resources regarding pet foods and nutrition. There are thousands of choices of pet foods available. These are made by more than 200 pet food manufacturers in the United States. Do they all have nutritional expertise and quality control? No. Which ones do? That can be difficult to answer. One has to do their research. The WSAVA (World Small Animal Veterinary Association) Nutrition Toolkit [www.wsava.org/nutrition-toolkit](http://www.wsava.org/nutrition-toolkit) has a set of questions that everyone should ask their pet food manufacturer.

- Does the company have a full-time nutritionist or board certified vet nutritionist on staff?

- Who formulates the food and what are their credentials? I often wonder about this for diets like Rachel Ray and Dick Van Patten’s Natural Balance
- Are the diets tested using feeding trials or formulated to meet AAFCO nutrient profiles? Do they meet the nutrient profiles by formulation or by analysis of the finished product?
- Where is the food produced and manufactured?
- What quality control measures are used to maintain consistency and quality of ingredients?
- Will they provide complete nutrient analysis for the food and for any specific ingredient that is asked for?
- What are the calories per measurement (gram, cup, or can) of food?
- What product research is done? Are the results published in peer-reviewed journals?

If answers to the questions are hard to get or not provided, that is a warning about whether you really

should be feeding that food. The bottom line is to make sure the food is made by a reputable and knowledgeable company with strict quality control measures.

Hills, Purina, and Royal Canin are companies that are able to answer all of these questions and take all of these actions. They have over-the-counter lines of food like Hill’s Science Diet and Purina Pro Plan. They have prescription diets for specific medical conditions and diseases such as Hill’s Prescription Diet, Purina Pro Plan Veterinary Diets, and Royal Canin Veterinary Diets.

### Reading pet food labels

The ingredient list is not a useful way to select a pet diet. Many consumers believe that this is the way to select the best food for their pets. There are websites that rank the quality of pet foods based on this faulty list. The list is not based on science or an independent group of experts with expertise or knowledge giving guidance. The ingredient list is a list of contents in order based on the weight, which has a lot to do

with water content. Meat is listed first because it is 70% water, not because it has the most nutrients. There are many dry nutrients listed further down. This list is not meant to state or imply nutrient adequacy. The more important factor is the nutrients that are provided not the ingredients that provide them.

The more important information is the AAFCO (Association of American Feed Control Officers) statement or Nutritional Adequacy Statement. The statement on over-the-counter foods is to see 1) whether the food meets all dog nutrient requirements—is it complete and balanced or for intermittent or supplemental use only (i.e. treats or a therapeutic diet for a specific purpose), 2) how that was determined—either by formulation to meet AAFCO nutritional levels checked by analysis of food or feeding trial evaluation, and 3) what life stage the food is intended for.

AAFCO does create feed definitions; give guidance and best practices related to regulation of pet food. It does not regulate, test, approve or certify pet foods.

### Cost of therapeutic diets

Therapeutic Diets can help manage and possibly cure many diseases and medical conditions. Quality control has to be stricter than for over-the-counter foods. The manufacturing process has to check the specifications for their raw materials (before) and for the finished product (after) for every batch of food made. The consumer needs to be able to trust that the diet is consistent and doesn’t vary in nutrients. For example, low levels of phosphorous would be needed for a kidney diet and higher levels of fiber are needed for diabetic diet. Hypoallergenic diets need special care taken to avoid contamination from other proteins by using separate facilities or equipment.

There is so much science and research in these diets to ensure that they are balanced and nutritionally complete. Even many over-the-counter foods are made that way too. Therefore, supplements are generally not needed.

This is part 1 in a series of several articles. Stay tuned...

To read other Pet articles visit [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

# Finicky or preference?

**Linda Shea**  
**Frederick County Animal Shelter**

Amala is one of several kittens that have made their debut at the Frederick County Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center in the past couple of weeks. Amala (we named her) is a stray that arrived from the Knoxville area on February 17th. She is a sleek, black Domestic Shorthair approximately 5 months old. We’ve provided her the basic preventatives of vaccines and topicals to keep her healthy. We’ve established that she is energetic and loving and tolerates being picked up and cuddled. We’ve also noted that, despite her young age, she has definite preferences regarding food and kitty litter.

Amala’s prefers a specific type of brand and flavor of both dry and canned cat foods. Her choices are not on the extreme high end of quality, nor outrageously priced, but she makes it clear that she likes what she likes. Her preference of cat litter is a brand called

“World’s Best.” Stray animals of any species come with a unique challenge in that we don’t know anything about them when they first arrive, other than basic and general information of where they were found. We don’t know their medical history, their experience with other pets or children, what living accommodations they are used to, what allergies they may have, and what they prefer to eat. Fortunately for Amala, she has made her food and litter preferences very clear and we are glad to be able to share that information

with potential adopters.

If you are considering adopting a kitten, there are a couple of things you need to know. First off, kittens turn into cats. On average, cats live to 15 years of age—with good nutrition, consistent veterinary care, and sound genetics they can live much longer. Consistent veterinary care means at least an annual visit to the vet and follow through on preventatives and diagnostics as needed. Kittens often demonstrate an enthusiastic level of interest in the world, so be prepared to “kitten proof” anything valuable or dangerous.

Felines are sometimes referred to as being finicky about a variety of things, from food to litter to furniture arrangement. However, there is something to be said about the confidence conveyed by knowing what you want or what you prefer. Confidence in animals often translates into stability. A confident, stable animal usually transitions well into new environments... say, for example, transitioning Amala from the shelter environment to a forever home.





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# YOUNG EQUESTRIANS

## Schoolmasters: The horse money can't buy

Michael Hillman

If I had a nickel for every time I was asked if my old 3-Day horse Lt. Worf was for sale, I'd have enough money for a new horse plus a night on the town with my wife. But the question always receives the same reply: "Sorry, he's not for sale . . . at any price . . ."

From a purely business perspective, this answer makes no sense at all. I rarely ride him - at most four or five times a year. With two other horses going, I'm not going to be getting on his back more anytime soon. Fortunately for Worf, I'm not in the Equine Business, so he doesn't need to earn his keep anymore. As far as I'm concerned, he's already earned it. I'll freely admit: Worf spoiled me. He was as honest as they come. Point him to a fence and he would give his all to clear it, ignoring the flurry of cross signals being sent by the out-of-balance rider on his back. With the help of a great coach who made sure Worf understood the classical language of his combined tasks, I slowly began to understand mine, and soon communication became a two-way street. Riding couldn't have been more fun.

Six years back, we were getting ready for Radnor International horse trails, and everything was going great. He had blown away his competition by winning his last event on his dressage score of 25, but the next morning however, he came up hobbling lame.

On the day I was supposed to be presenting him for the vet's inspection at Radnor, instead, I was watching the surgeons take chips out of his knee. Six months later they had to go in again, and six months after that again. While the first two surgeries were done with the hopes of full recovery, the last was done in hopes of only making him comfortable. Worf couldn't have been happier. He was in the prime of his life and on full disability. In his competition days, we struggled to keep weight on him; now we struggled to keep it off of him. By mid-summer, he looks like a mare in foal.

Five years of rest did wonders for Worf, and had he not started to jump out of the pastures, he'd probably still be in retirement today. But a Schoolmaster isn't a schoolmaster until the other part of the equation is introduced: the rider, and in Worf's case, his charge's name is Jamie.

I first saw Jamie at unrecognized lower level even. Unbeknownst to me, I was standing next to her father as he watched dejectedly as her horse steadfastly refused to jump the ditch. Her face clearly reflected the disappointment of being told she was eliminated. Later, her father sought me out and asked if I knew anyplace they could go to school ditches. To make a long story short, I invited them to my farm. As my current competition horse - Riker - had just finished his season, I got on Worf to give her a lead over the ditch. Worf jumped

it so big I almost fell off. Unfortunately for Jamie, her horse refused to follow suit. It took us a while, but we eventually did get her horse to jump the ditch. I meanwhile was having a blast riding my old friend again.

For some reason that still escapes me, Jamie was sufficiently impressed with that day's events to want to return for more lessons. Over the ensuing months, she told me her tale of woe. She had hand-raised her horse and loved him dearly, but he had failed at everything she had tried to do with him. He would jump the moon at home but refused an X in the ring.

I figured the problem could be with Jamie, not the horse. That maybe, just maybe, when she went into the ring, she was freezing, and her horse, sensing her freezing, was taking advantage of the situation. Taking a page from my own life book, I worked the pair over ever increasingly difficult fence in the hopes that once back in the ring, everything would seem so small that the panic that brings freezing would not occur. Unfortunately, I failed to explain this theory to Jamie's horse, and watched in awe as he refused a simple pre-novice stadium fence at a competition, the day after jumping around a course two-foot higher at my house.

No matter what we did, or how hard Jamie worked, her horse always performed flawlessly at home, and like a cow at an event. In desperation, I asked



The author and Lt. Worf competing at the Essex International 3-Day Horse Trials. This was the peak of Lt. Worf's career. He broke down the following year and upon recovery began a long and happy retirement.

another one of my students, now turning heads at the preliminary level, to try to get Jamie's horse around a course. While it wasn't easy, Becca was nevertheless successful. Figuring I had licked the issue, I had Jamie run the next weekend, naively expecting everything to go well. I couldn't have been more wrong.

Jamie almost got eliminated when her horse refused to even enter the Dressage ring. This setback took the winds out of Jamie's sails, from which she never fully recovered. While stadium started off well, her horse slid to a stop at the third fence and wouldn't go near it again.

As she left the ring our eyes meet, and while she wasn't crying, but you could tell she wanted to. She had done everything I had asked, had worked as hard as she could, all for naught. As I followed her back to the trailer, I couldn't help but wonder what all the setbacks were doing to her self-confidence, not just in riding, but in general. How long I wondered could someone devote their heart and soul to an effort, any effort, only to have their hopes crushed again and again? One didn't need to be a psychologist to know it has to have an effect. It was then that I made up my mind to give her what she needed to get that reward.

"As of now, you are through with showing your horse." I proclaimed back at the trailer.

"But I don't have anything else to ride," she meekly replied.

"Yes you do. You're going to ride

Worf." You would have been hard pressed not to see her smile a mile away.

The relationship between classically trained riders and horses is one of a symbiotic nature. While any classically trained rider can get on classically trained horse and perform because they both 'speak' the same language, it takes a skilled, classically trained rider to classically train a horse, and a classically trained horse to train the rider.

Now the mark of a good schoolmaster is not that they will do everything they are asked, but they'll only do it when asked correctly. In other words, schoolmasters know what they are supposed to do; all the rider needs to know is how to ask them to do it - which is where Worf is the best!

I couldn't help but laugh at Jamie's frustration at accomplishing even the most basic of flat work when she first started to ride Worf. Having spent years hand riding a horse that went around in a false frame, Worf refused to go forward unless encouraged by Jamie's leg. For what seemed like weeks, lessons consisted of nothing more than me shouting "leg, leg, leg!" The minute she took her leg off, Worf would drop into a poky walk. As expected, Worf's near instantaneous feedback had its effects, and soon Jamie's legs were part of her riding equation.

Next Worf and I turned our attention to Jamie's hands, which had only two modes: death grip or drunken county hack. The first time she attempted to

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# YOUNG EQUESTRIANS



Lt. Worf always put in a flawless dressage test, putting Jamie in the enviable position of defending a first place standing in the cross country & stadium phases of an Event.

After 6 years of retirement, Worf carried Jamie, whose riding career had been nothing but disappointment, to win after win, and in doing so, gave her the greatest gift anyone could give: the gift of confidence.

take a 'feel' of his mouth, Worf came to a screeching halt - informing her in no uncertain terms that if she wanted the contact, she had better coordinate it with her legs. In many ways, watching Worf teach Jamie was like watching someone learn to drive a car with a clutch. As a bewildered Jamie tried to balance her hands and legs, Worf alternately bolted forward and backed down. And yes, it was Worf who was doing the teaching, patently, day after day, he continued to give honest responses to her hand and leg aids until she was able to master their coordination.

Once she had sufficiently mastered the basics, I introduced the effect of various leg positions. I'm not sure if her smile on her first successful leg yield on Worf was because she was finally doing a movement she had always wanted to do, or because she understood that Worf was doing it because she was signaling him correctly. In any case, it was time to finally turn our attention to jumping.

Having ridden a stopper for years, Jamie had understandably developed a defense-jumping seat. The very idea of keeping a slight contact over a fence was as foreign to her as an iceberg would be in the Caribbean. Jamie's thrill at successfully clearing their first fence was only equaled by the look on Worf's face which clearly asked, "What in the world

are you doing up there?"

I couldn't help but smile for both of them. "Jamie, Worf's not going to stop on you, so you don't need to throw yourself forward or brace with your hands, just trust him and try to stay with him, let him do the jumping, don't you do it." To Jamie's credit, she followed my advice, and soon the pair was jumping around like a bunch of old pros without a concern in the world. It was finally time to put their teamwork to the test.

Jamie was clearly nervous as she prepared to enter the dressage ring. The last time she had attempted to do this, her horse has a rearing fit. But today was different. While she was remembering the worst, Worf was reliving his glory days and put in a test that even made me drop my jaw. Jamie finally took a breath as Worf came to square halt and bowed his head to the judge; while Jamie had forgotten everything, he had forgotten nothing. It was the same story in stadium and cross-country. Ghost of past performances griped Jamie like a vice, but Worf ignored her goblins and carried on like pro. In doing so, he gave her what she needed most: her first completion and her first blue ribbon ever.

As we drove home from the event, we talked about the event. "Understand Jamie, Worf carried you around today, and that's ok, you were riding on bad memories, but now you have

good memories. Next time, ride the horse you're on, not the nightmare horse you were on."

After a summer of hard work and drilling, Jamie's and Worf's fall season was one every coach dreams of; every event was finished on their dressage score. Gone were the blank, lost-in-space dressage performances, replaced by thoughtful and systematic tests that always landed them in the top three. Worf obviously preferred Jamie's style over fences to mine, and never even so much as touched a rail all season. On cross-country, they were like newlyweds on a honeymoon; they couldn't have gotten along better.

At the last event of the season, I watched in pride as the little girl, who less than a year earlier had been eliminated from an unrecognized event, galloped out of the woods down to a big table jump, cleared it, wheel him about, and gallop away; all the while, both sported grins from ear to ear. I really can't tell you who was having more fun, Worf or Jamie. As the pair raced away, all I could think about was "this is what eventing is supposed to be all about"

The row of blue and red ribbons that now sport Jamie's bedroom wall offer testimony of Worf's and her success. To me, the true measure of Worf's effectiveness as a schoolmaster came this spring when Jamie mounted my current competition horse, who only I and my coach had ever ridden, and without even so much as a second thought, Jamie successfully put him through his paces.

As we walked back to the barn, I ask her if she realized what she had just accomplished. "Yes, I know, I was able to communicate with him, he understood everything I asked him to do." "Do you know why he understood your aids," I asked. "Yes, because I have a great teacher who taught me how to ride correctly." Turning around, she headed back out to the field and headed for Worf and over her shoulder said, "And I'm going to give him a big kiss and carrot for it..."

### Epilogue

The following year, under Worf's guidance, Jamie would go on to be leading junior rider on the east coast. At the championships, I fondly remembers

walking back to the trailer with Jamie after walking cross country, and over-hearing another coach point out Jamie to their student, saying: "That's the girl you have to beat ... she's really good."

I glanced at Jamie, who did her best to pretend that she had not heard the comment, but the smile on her face revealed what she really felt. Yes, Jamie went on to win that day. For years she had been laughed at barns, now she was envied for her riding skills. But Jamie, never once forgot who had got her there - Worf.

Now full of confidence, Jamie went on the following year to prove herself on of my other horse, giving Worf a long deserved time off. Then it was off to collage. While there, Worf came down with Crones disease, which decimated him. In a matter of months he went from the picture of health to death's door. I called Jamie to let her know. She flew down to see him, and the next day he died.

As I like to say, Worf liked me, but he loved Jamie. He needed to say goodbye to her before he was ready to say goodbye to us.

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# HEALTH NOTES

## The New FrederickHealth.org

Heidi Kelsey  
Frederick Memorial Hospital

Health and wellness can be confusing, even a little intimidating. But it shouldn't be. That's why Frederick Health has made it easier to find the care you need, when you need it.

The new FrederickHealth.org is a simpler, friendlier, better approach to healthcare.

Just as Frederick Health brought all its services, providers, and locations under one name, the redesigned website provides everything needed for quick and easy access to healthcare in one convenient location.

These are just some of the highlighted improvements:

Connecting with a doctor – Easily access any provider's profile, which contains everything from their medical interests to office locations. Frederick Health Medical Group Primary

Care patients may also fill out our helpful online form to request an appointment with a Primary Care provider.

Maintaining health and wellness – Resources on wellness topics, health conditions, signs and symptoms, and treatment options make it easier to focus on better health. Online toolkits that dive deeper into raising awareness and help prevent certain conditions are available for breast cancer, colorectal cancer, lung cancer, and more.

Better access to all Frederick Health services – Click on or hover over the "Services" tab within the top navigation to quickly access all our services, including Cancer Care, Surgical Care, Nutrition & Weight Management, Orthopedics & Sports Medicine, Primary Care, and more.

The latest COVID-19 updates – COVID-19 guidelines, vaccination interest form, and testing details at Frederick Health are now front and

center with helpful alert banners and easier-to-read information—updated in real time.

Finding a location – Frederick Health has many locations across Frederick, Mt. Airy, Myersville, Urbana, and Walkersville. Find addresses and directions to each as you plan upcoming appointments.

Accessing the Patient Portal – The Frederick Health Patient Portal allows patients to engage in their healthcare through a secure, confidential web-based tool for obtaining personal health information and direct sharing with their providers. When logged in to their account, patients may review their lab and radiology results; schedule and attend telehealth visits; and view upcoming appointments, review medication and allergy lists, medical history, discharge information, and more.

Engaging in wellness activities and programs – Frederick Health continues to hold certain health events through-



out the pandemic (following all health and safety guidelines). These include support groups, training courses, and more. Click on the "Events" button at the bottom of the site to see a full list of upcoming events.

Be seen faster at Urgent Care – Urgent Care is available for anyone in need of non-emergency medical attention. The option to be seen faster for Urgent Care is a new feature from Frederick Health and gives patients who are on their way to one of Frederick Health's two Urgent

Care locations in Frederick and Urbana the option to complete their paperwork online before they arrive. This allows patients to skip the wait of registration.

Pre-registering as a patient – Located at the top of the homepage is an option to "Pre-Register." The online pre-registration form includes a series of questions about services, preferred appointment dates, and other information for new Frederick Health patients. This allows Frederick Health to collect demographic information, including personal and contact details, needed before seeing first-time patients.

Donating or volunteering with Frederick Health – Philanthropy plays a vital role in Frederick Health's ability to meet the growing needs of the community. The "Donate" page allows visitors to invest in the future of healthcare. Similarly, anyone may help Frederick Health serve the community, support fundraising activities, and promote goodwill by joining the Frederick Health Auxiliary by clicking the "Volunteering" tab at the top of the homepage. Auxiliary members give hundreds of thousands of hours of their time to guide visitors, transport patients, and support patients' family members.

Viewing the latest job openings – Frederick Health is always looking for caring, compassionate individuals to join its team. Click on the "Careers" tab at the top of the homepage to review details on the various Frederick Health opportunities, the hiring process, job shadowing, benefits, and more.

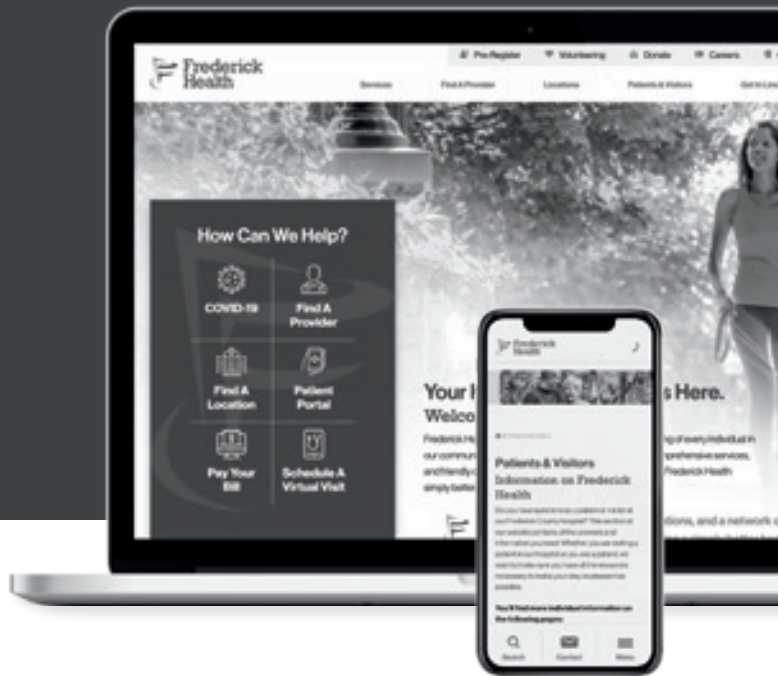
Billing and financial assistance – Paying your medical bills online is now easier than ever. A Financial Assistance Program is also available for patients who cannot pay all or part of their medical bills.

The latest Frederick Health news and articles – From heart-healthy nutrition tips to press releases highlighting major donations, Frederick Health's blog is an information hub that keeps patients and community members engaged in their health. The blog may be found by clicking the "News" button at the bottom of the homepage or accessing the "Stay Informed" section on the homepage.

FrederickHealth.org has been designed to meet all the community's health and wellness needs, today and in the future. No matter where patients are in their health journey, the website is right here with them every step of the way and growing to meet their health and wellness needs.

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## Vigilant Hose Co. recognizes award winners

The Vigilant Hose Company 137th Annual Banquet – normally held in January of each year to recognize and present awards to department members for the previous year – was cancelled this year due to COVID and the social distancing requirements. The Officers of the department decided to recognize those individuals who would have been recognized at the January banquet. Awards were presented at the monthly department meeting in March.

Chief Chad Umbel selected and presented the 2020 Chief's Award to the DFRS Career staff who are currently working at Station 6. Chief Umbel selected the DFRS staff in deep appreciation for their individual talents and concerned dedication so generously given to the success of the Vigilant Hose Company. These DFRS staff included: Scott Johnson, Brian Hames; Matt Hughes; Chad Owens; Mitch Krysiak, and Alex Carnathan.

President Tom Ward selected and presented the 2020 President's Award to Scott Maly. President Ward's sub-

mission for this award included the following: "To call this year's President's Award recipient a "go getter" would be a major understatement. Joining the VHC in 1998 after relocating to the Emmitsburg community with family, he quickly became involved with the VHC family and never turned back. With the drastic change in how we were able to operate this past year this member kept his commitment to his duties and elected office and never let the pandemic stop him. While still maintaining his active operational role as a firefighter he became a go-to guy for countless fundraising operations. When our in-person fundraising efforts were halted (twice) he got busy to figure out ways to keep much needed flow of cash into our reserves while still participating in any event or sale he could. He can be found in the station several times a week unclipping cash from ticket entries in what has become one of the most popular fundraising events anywhere around the area—the "6 of Hearts". He is

respected by all members across the organization. For his commitment and contributions to the VHC I am pleased to present the 2020 Presidents Award to Scott Maly."

Both Chief Umbel and President Ward selected and presented the Member of the Year Award for 2020 to Steven Hollinger. The submission for this award included the following: "As 2020 began nobody thought of the immense changes our operations and fundraising efforts would see. What was set to be a standout year with growth in fundraising and the purchase of a new tower ladder we quickly, along with everyone else in the fire service, realized that we would have to drastically change the way we operate. 2020's member of the year is somebody who is seen mostly behind the scenes but has one of the greatest impacts on the Vigilant Hose Company. He could regularly be seen in his office tending to invoices, bills and banking inquiries or perhaps playing a game of solitaire. He spent a great deal of time figuring out an

entire year's worth of anticipated revenue losses to submit to the county treasurer's office. Also maintaining communication with the county government and submitting invoices and requests for reimbursement every month. His devotion to the Vigilant Hose Company makes him stand out even without a pandemic, but his extra effort and behind the scenes work make him a true candidate for this well-deserved recognition. The 2020 Member of the Year is Steve "Little Man" Hollinger."

The Hall of Fame Award – which is the highest award for the Vigilant Hose Company was presented to Guy A. "Gabe" Baker, III. His nomination included the following: "This individual joined the fire department January 11, 1983, at the age of 19. He was presented with Life Membership at the January banquet in 2009. He was an active firefighter and first responder until just a few years ago. Early on in his years with the department, he held the offices of Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer.

This individual participates in just about every fundraising activity of the fire department and most Auxiliary events. He is a "regular" in the kitchen for the Friday evening Bingos – assisting even when it is not his scheduled week. He has served as the Co-Chairman of the Annual Spring Fling and is again Co-Chairing this event this year as it is being conducted virtually. He usually serves as the applicant for the Special One Day Licenses required by the Frederick County Liquor Board when serving alcohol at events. In addition, he has completed the Alcohol Awareness and Crowd Manager Training – all which is required when having fundraising events where alcohol is served. This individual is often called upon to place orders at Jubilee to assure that the fire department and Auxiliary have all the necessary supplies needed to make their fundraisers successful. It is for these reasons that Gabe Baker was selected as the Hall of Fame inductee for 2020.

The 2020 Training Award for the most formal training was presented to Elizabeth Beaton. Training for the most in-house training drills was presented to Josh Kehne.



L-R: President Tom Ward presenting Scott Maly with the 2020 President's Award.



L-R: President Tom Ward; 2020 Member of the Year Recipient Steve Hollinger; Chief Chad Umbel



President Tom Ward presenting Gabe Baker with the Hall of Fame Award.



Training Award recipients: L-R: Elizabeth Beaton; Josh Kehne



The individuals above were presented with their Years of Service Awards. L-R: Josh Brotherton (10 years); Tom Ward (10 years); Mike Working (25 years and with 25 years you get life membership into the department); Bill Boyd (30 years); Ed Little (30 years); Carl White (35 years); and Wayne Powell (40 years). Missing from the picture were: Brandon Murdorff and Dave Zentz (both 5 years); Jennifer Stahley (10 years); John Damskey and Tom Vaughn (both 25 years); Monroe Hewitt (50 years)



The Ten Top Fire Responders for 2020 included. L-R: Matt Boyd (10th); Alex McKenna (9th); Josh Brotherton (8th); Charlie Rustigian (7th); Josh Kehne (5th); Cliff Shriner (4th); Frank Davis (2nd); and Jim Click (Top Responder). Not shown: Matt LeGare (6th) and Dave Zentz (3rd)

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# HISTORY

## Gateway to the Mountains

George Wireman

### Chapter 33: The Presidential Retreat (Camp David)

Located in the beautiful Catocin Mountains just west of Thurmont, is Catocin Mountain Park, established in 1935 by the Federal Government. The purpose of this park, known as the Catocin Recreation Demonstration Area, was to show how submarginal farm lands and poorly managed forest lands could be converted into a valuable recreational resource. Organized camping facilities were built for low-cost use by accredited character-and-health-building groups. During the first few years the area was used almost exclusively by these groups.

Then came December 7, 1941, and with it the bombing of Pearl Harbor. America was at war. It was the feeling of Michael Reilly, wartime supervising agent of the White House Secret Service detail, that with a war on and enemy agents about, no steps taken to protect the life of the President would be too many. The danger of railroad travel to Hyde Park, plus Mr. Roosevelt's own desire for seclusion led to a search for a

near-by hideaway. Mr. Roosevelt wanted it private and within two hours of Washington by way of automobile. The President's doctor, Ross McIntire, felt that he should have altitude — a minimum of 2,000 feet, and coolness.

A circle was drawn around Washington and several locations were investigated, and the area chosen was the Catocin Recreation Demonstration Area, which had recently been developed by the National Park Service.

With the start of the war, one of the campsites was turned over to the Marine Corps for use as a rest station. Another campsite was used by the Office of Strategic Services for training purposes. The third camp became the presidential retreat, known as "Shangri-La," President Roosevelt's favorite designation for anything secret.

"Shangri-La" remained a deep secret until after the death of Roosevelt in April of 1945. The citizens of Thurmont, however, knew of the goings-on, but could say nothing for security reasons. A number of local citizens helped with the work in making it into a very attractive site, which today is known the world over.

The President's own quarters, was made by moving three log cabins together. The result was a rather uninteresting cottage with a kitchen, butler's pantry, combination living room and dining room and four bedrooms. There were two baths — one for the President and one for the other three bedrooms.

The general atmosphere of "Shangri-La" at the end of the war was that of a place hastily slapped together in an emergency. No attempt was made to beautify the grounds, but through the years many changes have been made.

To give you an idea of the important part that "Shangri-La" must have played during World War II, a government official once stated that this secluded little mountain retreat not only had the data on the fighting fronts, and the potential fighting fronts, but it was actively in touch with them all. It was nothing for the citizens of Thurmont to see General George Marshall, Admiral Ernest King and General "Hap" Arnold come tearing up that twisting mountain road at 12 or 1 o'clock at night with their aides and secretaries. Then there would be a conference with the President lasting for about an hour or more and off they would go again. Just what historic decisions in the conduct of World War II were made at "Shangri-La" have thus far not been disclosed. However, as one official recently stated, "they were momentous."

Princess Martha of Norway and Princess Juliana of the Netherlands were guests at "Shangri-La," coming once during the Roosevelt administration. French leader, Charles De Gaulle, has been a guest at the retreat on several occasions. During World War 11 Prime Minister Winston Churchill visited the site a number of times and greeted the citizens of Thurmont with his famous Victory sign as he drove through the streets. On one of Churchill's visits to the mountain retreat, he could not resist making a trip into Thurmont. Being a very inquisitive man, he wanted to see all of the

### \$1000 Scholarships Offered

The Emmitsburg High School Association is accepting scholarship applications. Four one thousand dollar scholarships will be awarded in May to deserving students. Any Catocin High School senior or graduate who is enrolled in an institution of higher learning including trade schools is eligible if he/she resides in the Emmitsburg School District. This includes Emmitsburg, Rocky Ridge, and Taneytown (Taneytown boundary is determined by Bridgeport on route 140). Applicants may apply each year as long as they are enrolled in an institution.

Selection is based academics, being a full time student, presenting two letters of recommendation, their community and school activities, and pursuing higher education (technical school, four-year college, or community college).

Applications may be obtained by calling Phyllis Kelly at 717-642-6963 or e-mailing her at kellyphy82547@gmail.com. All applications must be received by May 14. Applications are also available through the Catocin High School Scholarship line and Counseling Department.



Camp David has served as the official presidential retreat since President Roosevelt, who called it Shangri-La. Over that time it has played host to many world leaders and facilitated events that even today shape world events.



town, including Thurmont's one social attraction, Cozy Restaurant. Here he enjoyed a cold one and allegedly gave the waitress some coins to play the jukebox.

At the end of one year in office, Mr. Truman had made only one or two visits to the retreat, but it was his intention to use it occa-

sionally in the summers. Mrs. Truman visited the site during a rainy afternoon in the fall of 1945 and found it pretty dull. It is believed because she cared little for it, President Truman too, lost interest.

When Mr. Eisenhower became President, the citizens of Thurmont

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# HISTORY

began to wonder if he would show an interest in the site, since he had purchased a farm near Gettysburg. In May 1953, President Eisenhower paid his first visit to "Shangri-La." He immediately expressed his desire to use it. He liked the location and its coolness during the hot summer months. However, he decided to change the name "Shangri-La" to "Camp David," naming it after his grandson.

President Eisenhower made good use of the retreat during his administration, dividing his week-ends between his farm in nearby Gettysburg and Camp David in the beautiful Catoctin Mountains.

In 1955, while convalescing from his heart attack, President Eisenhower chose Camp David as the site for one of his cabinet meetings.

Most of the high-ranking Government officials who attended were flown up from Washington by helicopter. The members assembled in the living room of Laurel Lodge, the main building at Camp David.

The day before this Cabinet meeting, the President had been driven by car from his farm in Gettysburg to Camp David for a conference with the National Security Council, the nation's top strategy board.

In March, 1959, President Eisenhower invited the British Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan to Camp David to confer on ways to thaw out the Cold War between the East and West. It was here in this same mountain retreat that President Eisenhower entertained Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev in September, 1959. Out of this meeting came the phrase "spirit of Camp David," to denote what was then thought to be a more amicable attitude toward world problems by the Soviet dictator.

President Kennedy was a frequent visitor to Camp David, but he preferred the seashore to the mountains. However, Mr. Kennedy made Camp David available to his Cabinet members and their families as well as to White House aides for week-end relaxation.

President Johnson and his family have spent many week-ends at Camp David, bringing with them many distinguished guests.

## Joseph Dineley



Deb Blizzard of Hanover, PA a daughter, Natasha L. Dineley of Biglerville, seven grandchildren, Kevin, Joseph, Corrinne, Rebecca, Dominique, Samantha and Gage, seven great grandchildren, Luke, Noah, Meadow, Trip, Mackenzie, Payton and Paisley, seven siblings, Rose, Rita, Robert, Johnnie, David, Mary Rose and Gary and many nieces and nephews.

Joseph was predeceased by a son, Paul C. Dineley who died in 2010, two sisters, Valerie and Cindy and a sister-in-law Lucy. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at March 4 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 45 West High St. Gettysburg, with Fr. Andrew St. Hilaire, Celebrant. Interment was in St. Francis Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be sent to the American Cancer Society, 314 Good Drive, Lancaster, PA 17603. The Monahan Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements, online tributes and condolences can be made at monahanfuneralhome.com.

Joseph Albert Dineley, 75 of Biglerville, Pa. passed away at Wellspan York Hospital on February 26.

Born February 8, 1946 in England, he was the son of the late Joseph F. & Rose C. (Lambourne) Dineley. Joseph is survived by his wife of 53 years, Lillian V. (Forskin) Dineley.

He was a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Gettysburg. Joseph worked for many years at Mott's Processing Plant in Aspers, Pa.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Joseph A. Dineley and his companion,

Just recently Mr. Johnson entertained the Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt and Mrs. Holt. at Camp David for a week-end of talks and relaxation. On Sunday morning the President and his guests motored to Catoctin to attend church services at Harriet Chapel.

Over the years, the camp site has been expanded and modernized and transformed into a private summer retreat. There are two main lodges — Laurel and Aspen — each with its own modern kitchen. The view over the valley from this mountain retreat is quite spectacular.

Camp David is maintained and serviced by detachments from the United States Navy. The size of this detail is a well-guarded secret. Navy cooks and stewards look after the guests and a detachment of Seabees is on hand to keep the camp in trim.

Just as Thurmont today is

known as the "Gateway To The Mountains," it may some day be referred to as the "Gateway to History." Many of the world's leaders have gathered at this little mountain retreat, just a few miles west of Thurmont in the Catoctin Mountains for discussions on national and international affairs. Just what historic decisions have been made at this presidential retreat have thus far not been disclosed, but it is an established fact that they have been momentous and have been important factors in shaping the history of this nation and of the world.

What the future holds for Camp David, no one knows, but one thing is certain, it will always be regarded by the citizens of Thurmont as a historic shrine, of which we are mighty proud to have at our back door.

continued next month

## Harold Craig



and German. He was an avid genealogist and spent the better part of the last 30 years proving that he was related to just about anyone he meet. He took great pride in telling people he was great, great, great, great, great, great, great, grand-nephew of the England's George 3<sup>rd</sup>.

When not researching his roots, Harold would sit outside his house on west main street and watch traffic go by, greeting the occasional walker with a friendly hello and invite then to sit and stay awhile.

Harold was a dog person, and in his earlier years he was seldom seen without a faithful dog by his side.

Harold was one of those rare citizens who took interest in the workings of government. He frequently attended the town council meetings, where he shared his opinion on just about everything on the agenda. Harold was a curmudgeon, but curmudgeon that had a smile a mile wide. For those who knew him, they were forever blessed.

Harold donated his body to science; however, a service will be held at a later date where his remains will be laid to rest at Emmitsburg Presbyterian Cemetery.

Harold C. Craig, Jr., 90 years of Emmitsburg, passed from this life on Saturday, March 6. He was born October 5, 1930 in Washington, D.C. to the Harold and Margaret Craig.

Harold served in the U.S. Army, Company B, 759th Military Police Battalion stationed in Germany. After his military service, Harold graduated from The American University with a Bachelor of Arts and went on to George Washington University Law School where he obtained his law degree. He worked for the Internal Revenue Service for 42 years until his retirement.

Harold was often found with friends at local restaurants discussing local and world events. He loved music, playing the piano and singing along in both English

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# TANEYTOWN HISTORY

## Taneytown & the revolution

David Buie

The previous two parts of this series examined the establishment of Taneytown. Let's now follow its participation as Maryland and the other colonies organized to engage the British during the American Revolution and establish independence.

Taneytown began by providing support to the Continental Army in a unique way. One of its small factories, originally built to produce nails, tongs, shovels, and hoes, quickly shifted its production to firearms at the beginning of the Revolution. The facility, according to records, was located in Bunker Hill (In the original plan of Taneytown it was intended that a public square should be placed at the intersection of York Street and the Emmitsburg pike, and became to be known as Bunker Hill.) and operated by Mathias Stroyer (1752-1826). It continued locally until 1799, when it was destroyed by fire, and relocated to Harpers Ferry.

Records also indicate that a Mr. Knight made military implements in Taneytown. Although Knight's first name is not known, he was the father of Dr. James Knight who was born in Taneytown in 1818 and is credited with discovering orthopedic surgery.

Taneytown also supplied a significant portion of its male population to aid the Continental Army. On November 29, 1775, the Taneytown militia company consisted of the following:

Jacob Good, captain; John Kleinoff - first lieutenant; Samuel Wilson - second lieutenant; Hugh Kerr - ensign; William Wilson - sergeant; William Pebbles -

sergeant, John Jones - sergeant,

Jess Jacobs - sergeant, Malcour Wichout - corporal, Charles Fare - corporal, Isaac Runion - corporal, John Crawford - corpora, Richard Slack - fifer, George Rice - drummer, and 68 privates

(Note that the number of privates was constantly changing. On November 29, 1775, the number was 68 by October 6, 1776 the number had decreased to 62.)

Initially, officers were elected, later appointed, and they changed from time to time for a variety of reasons. Along with other companies from the surrounding countryside, it made up the 4th Regiment of Maryland Militia with Normand Bruce, of Bruceville, eventually appointed colonel and Joseph McKellip, of Taneytown, as quartermaster.

The Taneytown troops saw only two periods of extended service which was not unusual for men from communities on the edges of America's frontier. In 1776, a portion of them went as volunteers for six months as part of a Flying Camp to aid Washington's hard-pressed army. Jacob Good was among that number. Marching during the hot summer months by way of Head of Elk at the northern tip of the Chesapeake Bay and Philadelphia, they joined Washington in the brutal fighting in New York and New Jersey that summer and fall. Perhaps it was there that Good's health became impaired, causing his early death at the end of the war. The other occasion for long service was in 1781 when a portion of the brigade, chosen by lot, hastened to the Chesapeake's defense but saw no fighting.

For the couple articles will provide

biographies of the men from Taneytown who fought during the American Revolution, the first individual featured will be Jacob Good.

It is unclear where Jacob Good (1748-1783) lived in Taneytown. Still, the nature of some of his business activities and the references to him "of Taneytown" suggest that from about 1769 he did live in the town, most likely at Lot 1 on the Square, the site of the Central Hotel that is now office space/apartments.

Jacob, although only about 21 years of age, acted as the local agent for the selling of the town's original 90 lots on behalf of Edward Diggs and Raphael Taney who lived in St. Mary's County. In 1772 he bought all the unsold lots, the ground rents, and almost all the unsold portion of the "Resurvey of Brothers Agreement" tract which surrounded the town — approximately 368 acres. Between that purchase and his 1783 death, he acquired an additional ten lots.

Because Taneytown was relatively isolated from Frederick Town, it was hard to get news about the rest of the colony. The only way citizens could communicate with each other was at public meetings, usually in taverns, churches, and mills. Maryland's colonial government sponsored the creation of several taverns along main roads for use by the public. Communities used these taverns to gather information from travelers or to publicly post new laws enacted in Annapolis. Many taverns would later serve as assembly points for the militia. Although there is no documenta-

tion to show that Taneytown's taverns had been supported by the government, we know that brothers Jacob and Adam Good were active in the political arena, and both were tavern owners.

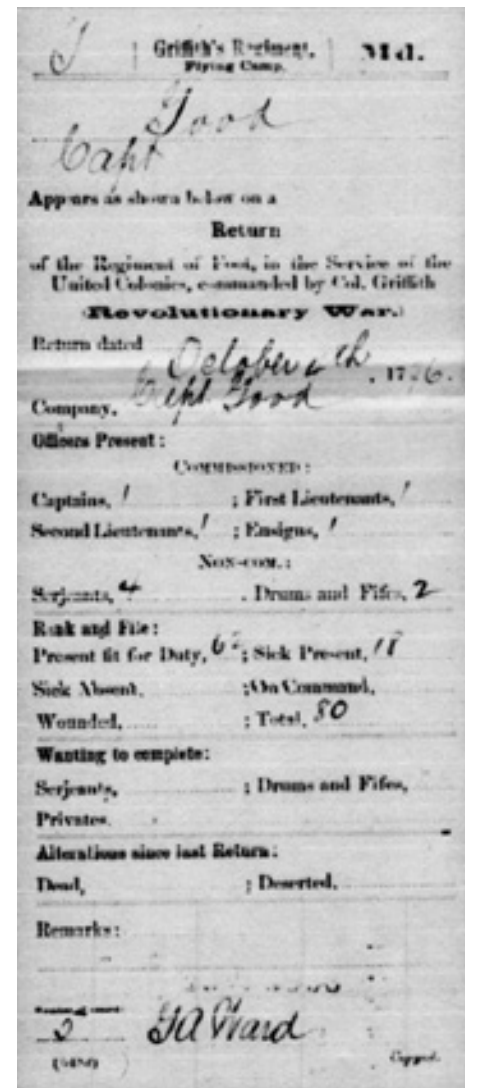
In January 1775, Jacob was appointed to Frederick County's "Committee of Observation" for the Middle District. He, John McCallister, Samuel McFarren, and Abraham Key were instructed to raise money from residents in Piney Creek Hundred to buy ammunition and to list those who failed to contribute. They immediately began soliciting money. Over the following years, Jacob's patriotic commitment increased dramatically as Maryland raised troops to support the war.

By November 1775, Good was serving as captain of a sizable militia group in his area. Under him were two lieutenants, one ensign, four sergeants, a fifer, a drummer, and 70 privates — all told, 80 men, including Good.

Frederick County's Committee of Observation for the Middle District must have had confidence in this 27-year-old man, but the leadership of local troops grew complicated. Normand Bruce, slightly older than Good, and with important connections among Maryland's landed gentry, was also a potential military leader. For a short while in early 1776, Good held the colonel's rank in Frederick County's 3rd Battalion while Bruce served under him. Their roles were quickly reversed, however, with the reason a matter for speculation. Good, though a prosperous businessman, was new to Frederick County's political life, while the Bruce family was related to the Keys and Scotts who held positions of power in Annapolis.

Following the British evacuation of Boston in March 1776, Gen. George Washington met with the Continental Congress to determine his future military strategy. Faced with defending a considerable amount of territory from potential British operations, Washington recommended forming "Flying Camps" which, in the military terminology of the day, referred to mobile, strategic reserves of troops. Congress agreed, and on June 3, 1776, passed a resolution "that a Flying camp is immediately established in the middle colonies and that it consists of 10,000 men ...." Frederick County began recruiting men to serve in Maryland's flying camps.

A month later, Jacob Good was commissioned as a captain in the "Company of Militia for the Flying Camp of Col. Charles Greenbury Griffith's Battalion." This was one of several camps organized in the county. The American military during the war would evolve and adopt a ranking system with insignias based on the British model, which consisted of privates, sergeants, lieutenants, captains, colonels, generals, and several now-obsolete ranks like a coronet, subaltern, and ensign. Service in a flying camp lasted six months — until Dec-



Roster showing Capt. Jacob Good assigned to Griffith's Regiment, Flying Camp

1, 1776. The recruits were paid and fed like regular troops.

During that summer of 1776, George Washington and his small army occupied New York City, realizing the British troops recently chased out of Boston would likely make that their next target. Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania responded to the army's desperate needs by sending flying camps to join him. It must have taken long, brutal marches for the troops to reach New York by late August. As summer turned to fall, the resulting New York battles were a series of defeats for the Continental Army — Long Island, Harlem Heights, White Plains.

How much action Captain Jacob Good saw is unclear, but a court-martial held in Harlem Heights in October 1776 puts him in the New York area during the right period. Good was one of nine witnesses in the trial of a New York militiaman accused of plunder and mutiny during September. Good could only have been a witness if he and his men had been fighting there.

He was probably home by December 1776, although his involvement with the local militia continued. Jacob's life and the Revolution in which he played so many beneficial roles ended about the same time, raising the possibility that his health may have suffered in the New York campaign. He left behind a wife and daughter when he died at age 35 in March 1783. Rev. Daniel Schroeter conducted the funeral service.

Although his life was short, Jacob Good's contributions to Taneytown as a businessman, tavern owner, and soldier deserve more recognition.

Next month's article will feature stories of the men who fought beside Good.

David Buie is a Taneytown Resident who has a passion for Carroll County and its place in history. For more information on the history of Taneytown, visit [Downtown Taneytown on Facebook](#).

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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## April 1

### Fruit Trees Damage by Freezing Cold

The abnormal March heat continued over on Sunday, with the temperature up to the 80s, bringing nearly all peaches, plums, apricots, pears and cherry trees into full bloom. Monday followed with another warm one, until mid afternoon when a heavy gust, with hail, cooled the air greatly, followed by a freeze at night. Ice forming to the thickness of a half-inch. Tuesday was cool, warming up in the afternoon, followed by a killing frost at night.

The early fruit is likely all killed. The rain of Monday afternoon soaked the buds, causing them to freeze easily. The hopeful ones think they may be a scattering crop of fruit, but the hope seems forlorn considering the drop of over 60° within a few hours. This will be a great misfortune to many who depend largely on small fruits for reducing the cost of living. Whether the apple crop has been hurt is not known, as their buds were not so far advanced. The light snow of Thursday night no doubt help to finish up any remaining live fruit buds of the early varieties and "what next?" is now the question.

### Women's Course

The Former-Former Boozers Association has been handing out circulars promoting their upcoming series of women's courses. Topics the Boozers plan to cover include: Ludlum, quieting a nagging wife; how to disconnect a party line so housework gets done; what makes a man happier - a woman or a faithful dog?; and, getting your woman to stop complaining about the out-house's smell. Each course will be followed by a question and drinking session. The courses will be held throughout the summer at the Boozers' secret still behind the Annan barn.

## April 8

### Auto Hits Wagon

Charles Beard was cut above the eye during an accident on the Emmitsburg Road. Mr. Beard was riding

along the right hand side of the road on a spring wagon containing milk cans. Close to the spring wagon were walking a man and a girl. Charles Murray driving, in a touring car, met the pedestrians and spring wagon at a culvert. Trying to avoid hitting the pedestrians, the driver struck both the man and the wagon, knocking down the former and upsetting the latter. Milk cans flew in all directions. The car then veered sharply to the side of the road and ran through a fence. Mr. Murray left his address with Mr. Beard and stated that he would pay for the damages to the wagon. The unidentified man and girl continued on their way un-injured.

### New Milk Dealer

John Lewis of Thurmont has embarked in the milk business and has been delivering milk since April 1. It is reported that Mr. Lewis has purchased the Charles Little property on Water Street and will in the course of time, conduct a business at that place. Mr. Lewis is selling milk at eight cents per quart - two cents lower than other dealers in Thurmont.

### Martin Return

A family of Black Martens that have been residing during past summers in Mr. Brinings palatial martin home, arrived last week, and although their home had been moved to the McKellip property, the birds found it and have started up housekeeping, as usual.

## April 15

### Roller Runs Over Child

Harold Detter, two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Detter, was seriously injured when a runaway team of horses hitched to a steel roller, dashed through a field and across the farmyard, where the child was playing. The roller passed over the child, injuring him internally, and inflicting bruises and abrasions of the head and shoulder. The horse dashed on and where only stopped when they came to in contact with the dwelling.

The tongue of the roller plunge through the window of the house, tearing the entire frame out, and tearing part of the weather boarding and

wall of the house out. Mr. Detter, who is driving the team, was operating the roller in the field adjoining the buildings. The horses are young and became frightened at the noise of the roller, tearing the lines out of Mr. Detter's hands in their panic.

### Another Cold Snap

After several days of damp, cloudy rainy weather, a changed to cooler came Saturday after heavy local rains. Sunday was very cold and disagreeable. Monday morning ice about a quarter of an inch thick was found on water that was out all night. There is no doubt it hit the fruit again and probably injured the fruit that had escaped the cold of the previous week.

## April 22

### Harney Boy Commits Suicide

Fourteen-year-old Earl Munshour of Harney, took his life, when he sat on the edge of a rafter, slipped a noose over his head and fired a shot into his heart with a gun. His body dropped into space where he was found dangling a half hour later by his mother. There was evidence that he had taken poison before he used the other two methods to kill himself. There is no known cause for the act. The suicide took place after the noon meal, at which he had been unusually quiet.

The shotgun had been lent him by his father, but instead of going into the field to shoot chicken hawks, he quietly went to the barn, climbed into the hay mow, and planned the suicide so that if the shot did not kill him he would be strangled to death by the rope. His mother summoned help from a nearby mill, but death had been almost instantaneous.

### Barn Raising

One Hundred and fourteen persons were present at the barn raising on the farm of Emanuel Cluck, near Fairfield, Thursday. Women of the community serve dinner to the workers at noon.

## April 29

### Thurmont Denies Women Vote

Women of Thurmont, eligible under the provisions of the 19th



The Western Maryland railroad station in Thurmont - home to the great chase of April 24, 1921.

amendment, have been denied the right to participate in the annual town election by a clause in the Town charter, which designates all eligible voters as males. It is said that the women who made an effort to vote, accepted the interpretation of the town charter without demonstration.

### Burglar Gives Hard Chase

Tuesday afternoon around 4:15 a Carroll County Sheriff came rolling into Thurmont and stopped at the square. He said a burglar was being chased along the western Maryland Railroad towards Thurmont 2 miles west of Rocky Ridge.

The burglar was first seen in Taneytown, with a bullet wound in his right shoulder. The bullet having entered under the shoulder blade and came out above the collarbone. The wound was dressed by Dr. Brenner, after which the man boarded the 9:40 towards Keymar. A passenger on the train gave information as to a shooting affair in Hanover, and just south of the town the conductor stop the train for the purpose of putting the man off, but he did not wait for developments, but jumped off and took to the fields.

The man was wanted for the robbery of Frey's store in Hanover, where he smashed a window in which was displayed a lot of one dollar bills, advertising a One Dollar Day sale. He was interrupted in the act by the police who fired about 10 shots as he ran away, at least one of which took effect.

Around 6:30, Sheriff Deputies and a crowd of citizens located the burglar half a mile north of Thurmont. A Deputy shot at the man

as he cross the state road. The shot went wild and only hastened the speed of the fugitive. He eluded his pursuers, hiding along the Western Maryland track until the 6:52 west-bound came along. At the approach of the train the man came from his hiding place, deliberately walked across the track in front of the train and caused the engineer to slow down. He then made two attempts to board the train, but the doors being closed, he could not make a landing on the steps of the coaches. As the train pulled away, the fugitive made a break for the bushes. Though the deputies and citizens came within 100 feet of him, he eluded capture.

It is stated that the Carroll County deputies watched the man wade the Monocacy River. When the sheriff shot at him as he went through a wire fence, he practically lost his pants. Others said that he was barefoot and was wearing only a long sweater. Officers and citizens remained along the railroad until darkness came on and then came back to town.

So far as we know the man may yet be running or he may be enjoying the sights along the western Maryland through the great Harbaugh Valley. The probability is that a capture will be made, as the wound in his shoulder is so serious as to compel attention. The Remarkable fact is that he was able to travel so rapidly, and so far with such a wound as the average man would have been unable to withstand the pain and the exertion.

To read past editions of 100 Year Ago this Month, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.

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## COOKING

### Spring greening

April is the awakening month for me. The dreariness of the gray winter days begins to dissipate, as daylight lengthens, temperatures warm, and life returns. When it comes to my garden, things still look quite barren in April. The ground needs to warm up a bit before planting. However, there are two vegetables that I do think of when April arrives – spring onions and asparagus. The name, spring onion, is based upon their harvest time. They are planted in the fall and harvested in the spring. They have a small bulb, and both the onion bulb and the greens are edible. I'm not a fan of strong onion flavor, and I find the sweeter, mellow taste of spring onions to be perfect. The terms scallion, green onion, and spring onion are often used interchangeably, and they all are onions of the same genus, *Allium*.

The difference among them is based upon their level of maturity. Scallions are the youngest and have the mildest flavor and least developed bulb, often appearing the same width as the stem. Green onions are a little older and may have an oval bulb. Spring onions are older than green onions and may have a bulb that is more rounded, but still much smaller than a typical onion. If a recipe specifically calls for one type of onion, it is best to try to use that type. For example, if you use a scallion in place of a spring onion, you may want to use it uncooked, as cooking it may render its mild flavor undetectable.

Asparagus is a vegetable that I have come to appreciate and enjoy as I've grown older. It has been cultivated for at least 2,000 years and owes its name to the Greek word, *asparag*, which means

shoot. In 1700s England, it was called sparrow grass, and about 200 years later, the name asparagus came into use. Asparagus is actually part of the lily family. It is a perennial plant that, if left alone, will grow 4-5 feet and have leaves that give it a feathery appearance. Asparagus is packed with vitamins and micro-nutrients and is low in cholesterol, fat, and calories. This is one springtime delicacy that I look forward to every year.

#### Spring Soup

##### Ingredients

- ¼ cup butter
- 1 pound leeks, chopped
- 3-4 spring onions, chopped
- 2 quarts water
- 3 large potatoes, chopped
- 2 large carrots, chopped
- 1 bunch fresh asparagus, trimmed and cut into 1 inch pieces
- ½ cup uncooked long-grain white rice
- 4 tsp salt
- ½ pound fresh spinach
- 1 cup heavy cream

Preparation directions: Melt the butter in a large pot over medium heat. Stir in leeks, onions, and cook until tender. Pour water into pot and mix in potatoes, carrots, asparagus, and rice. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer for 30 minutes, until vegetables and rice are tender. Stir in spinach and heavy cream and continue cooking for 5 minutes before serving.

#### Rosemary Roasted Potatoes and Asparagus

##### Ingredients

- ½ pound fingerling potatoes, cut

- into 1-inch pieces
- ½ cup olive oil, divided
- 2 tbsp. minced fresh rosemary or 2 tsp dried rosemary, crushed
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 pound fresh asparagus, trimmed
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. freshly ground pepper

Preparation directions: In a small bowl, combine potatoes, 2 tbsp. olive oil, rosemary, and garlic. Toss to coat and transfer to a greased 15/10/1 inch-baking pan. Roast at 400 degrees Fahrenheit for 20 minutes, stirring once. Drizzle asparagus with remaining olive oil and add to pan. Roast an additional 15-20 minutes or until vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.

#### Asparagus, Spring Onion, and Feta Quiche

##### Ingredients

- 1 14.1-oz package of refrigerated pie crusts (or make your own from scratch)
- 2 tbsp. salted butter
- 2 cups thinly sliced spring onions
- 1 bunch fresh asparagus, trimmed and cut into 1-inch pieces
- ¾ tsp. black pepper, divided
- 2 tsp salt, divided
- 8 large eggs
- 2 tbsp. thinly sliced chives
- 2 tbsp. chopped flat-leaf parsley
- 1/8 tsp. ground nutmeg
- ¾ cup crumbled feta cheese, divided

Preparation directions: Piecrust - Pre-heat oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit. Unroll piecrusts and stack on a lightly floured surface. Roll stacked piecrust into a 12-inch circle and fit into a 10-inch deep-dish, lightly greased tart pan with removable bottom. Press into fluted edges and trim off excess piecrust along the edges. Line piecrust with aluminum foil or parchment paper and fill to rim with pie weights. You can also use dried beans.

Place pan on a baking sheet and bake for 14 minutes. Remove weights and foil and back until a golden brown, about 10-12 more minutes. Cool piecrust completely, about 15 minutes.

Filling - Turn oven down to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Melt butter in a



Roasted fresh asparagus with fresh rosemary, garlic and baby potatoes is fantastic!

medium skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion, and cook, stirring occasionally, until tender and lightly browned, about 10 minutes. Stir in asparagus and sprinkle with ½ tsp. salt and ¼ tsp. pepper. Remove from heat and cool 5 minutes. Whisk together cream, eggs, chives, parsley, nutmeg, 1 ½ tsp. salt, and ½ tsp. pepper.

Place half of onion/asparagus mixture (about 1 cup) in tart shell and sprinkle with ¼ cup feta. Spoon half of cream mixture (about 1 ½ cups) over feta. Repeat layers once and sprinkle top with remaining ¼ cup feta. Bake in preheated oven until set, about 1 hour. Cool 20 minutes before serving.

#### Asparagus Spring Onion Dip

##### Ingredients

- 1 8-ounce package of cream cheese, softened
- 14 ounces of asparagus
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp. spring onions, minced
- 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese, grated

Preparation directions: Boil a pot of water. While it is heating, trim the ends of the asparagus and then boil them for 3 minutes. Drain the asparagus and put it into a cold water bath. In a blender, mix the Parmesan cheese, garlic cloves,

onion, and softened cream cheese until blended. Add the asparagus and pulse a few times to mix. Put the asparagus dip into a heat proof dish and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes, or until mixture is hot and bubbly and the top is slightly browned. Serve and enjoy!

#### Upcoming Events

Hop Along the Bunny Trail – April 3, 10 - 1. Cost \$8 per child. Pre-registration required. The price of admission includes: An Easter egg hunt in the orchard, scheduled every 20 minutes, broken into three age groups. Photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. An Easter-themed scavenger hunt. Wagon Rides. Lots of spring specials in the market: Easter plants, gift items, baked goods, quiches, coconut cakes, fresh produce and more! New this year – a free kids' ice cream!

Family Cooking Class: Mozzarella Spring Onion Rolls – April 10, 1:30 - 3. Join us for a fun culinary adventure regardless of age. These classes are open to ALL ages! To participate without a grownup, you must be at least 8 years old and up. We hope to see everyone: moms with preschoolers; dads connecting with daughters; teens with their friends; and adults looking to not make a mess in their kitchen! If you register by yourself you may be paired up with a new friend! Cost \$45 for a table (up to 5 people). Pre-registration required.

Earth Day Make 'n Take Kids Event – April 24th, 10 - Noon. Come celebrate Earth Day with us and learn about one of Earth's most amazing animals – birds! Each child will get a chance to see if they can complete a bird migration journey as well as make a bird craft and a treat for the birds. Cost \$10. Pre-registration required.

Earth Day Pollinator Planter Event – April 25th, 1 - 2:30. Find out more about European honeybees and how we use bees on our farm. The program will begin with a short informational session, followed by a walking tour of the farm. You will then have the opportunity to create your own pollinator planter with either herbs or annuals to take home with you. Cost \$35. Pre-registration required.

For more information about these events, call Hollabaugh Bros at 717-677-8412 or visit our website at [www.hollabaughbros.com](http://www.hollabaughbros.com).



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# MOM'S TIME OUT

## Some decisions are obvious ...

Mary Angel

... but still difficult. Last month, I revisited the idea of which career path was the more difficult one: returning to work after having a baby or becoming a stay-at-home mom. I decided to revisit that idea for many reasons, one being that with the current situation the world is in, many moms are being forced to change careers due to no fault of their own. ...I was one of them. This made the decision easier and harder at the same time.

A few years ago, I decided to go back to work part-time. It was a way for me to bring in a little extra money for field trips and fun with the kids while still remaining a stay-at-home mom. It also allowed me the opportunity to get my feet wet in the working world I had been separated from for so very long. I had read so many articles about how no one wants to hire a mom who has been out of the workforce for 20 years and I thought in the not-so-distant future my babies would all be in school or off living on their own and now was the time to dabble. So, I took a job as a file clerk/scanning clerk/organizer/girl Friday for a local company. I usually worked no more than 10 hours a week and usually closer to 6. My hours were extremely flexible, and the work was relaxing for me.

Fast forward to April of 2020 and I get a letter in the mail explaining that I was being let go because of the pandemic. The letter went on to explain that it was a matter of head count in the building and blah blah blah. It all made sense and was completely understand-

able and of no surprise to me. Jump 2 weeks ahead and my husband gets a phone call (did I mention we worked for the same company, him just a full-time employee?). He was informed that he was being furloughed by his company. Although we were caught off guard, this announcement was also very understandable. Let's face it: the world was in a pandemic and companies were shutting down right and left. Every month or so after that, he would get a phone call telling him the furlough was extended. That is until the phone call that brought our world crashing down. One day when the girls and I were out riding around my husband called and asked us to come home. My husband's company had called to say that corporate was terminating his position across the country. This is when we knew it was time for a change.

My husband had graduated from seminary about six years ago and had wanted to go into full-time ministry, but that wasn't in the cards financially until the kids went back to school and I returned to work full-time. With no one having a job in the house (except for the kids) my husband and I both started job-searching. As I was looking on "Indeed" for my daily influx of potential job sites, I received a text from a friend of mine who asked if I would by any chance like to work with her. She was getting a promotion and her job was available. I jumped at the chance (jumped through a couple interview hoops) and finally got the job. This was a true answer to prayers, but also somehow sad and scary at the same time.

As I began a new chapter in my life as

a working mom I struggled frequently with sadness and guilt and excitement and sometimes all at the same time. All the while my husband continued to look for a new job to replace an over 30-year career in the food industry. Then one day I noticed a pastor position on the "Indeed" website and told him about it. Very quickly they had him do an interview and within a couple months there were more interviews and then he was asked to preach for the congregation so they could vote on him for the position. He was offered the job and was finally able to put his degree into practice the way he had wanted for so many years. Again, our family was blessed. However, as much as I was feeling blessed for my husband, I was still struggling with the decision to return to work full-time.

This was obviously an easy decision for me. ...go back to work...or don't pay your mortgage. A no brainer is what some people would call this. Then, to have a job dropped in my lap, how lucky can I be. Yet, that isn't how I felt. Sometimes the decision to be a working mom or a stay-at-home mom is an obvious one, but maybe not always the one we want. For example, when I became a stay-at-home mom it was soon after I gave birth to my second son and we realized we were putting almost my entire salary towards daycare. This was a no brainer, but luckily for me it was exactly what I wanted, and I have loved every minute of it (well, almost every minute). Every time I would start to get a little more comfortable with the decision and the job, we would shut down and work from home. I loved being home and seeing my family more, but



when it was time to return to the office, I struggled all over again.

Fast forward to March when I am once again starting to get with the swing of things and my family (the ones accused of being too careful during Covid) contracts, you guessed it, Covid. So once again, I am working from home and as the days go by, I find it more and more difficult to return to this wonderful blessing of a job I have been given. That kind of emotional roller coaster can take its toll on you no matter who

you are. I know I will return when I am able, and I know as time goes by, I will once again get into the swing of things at my work. Being a mom is always amazing, but rarely easy so hang in there and try to find joy in what ever situation you find yourself in during these crazy times. I know it can be challenging, but you are not alone.

To read past editions of *Moms Time Out*, visit the *Authors* section of *Emmitsburg.net*.

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# APRIL

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## SCHOOL NEWS

# Sabillasville Elementary to remain open

Edison Hatter

In December, it was announced that Sabillasville Elementary School would be closed at the end of the 2020-21 school year. At the time, Board Member Brad Young explained that the decision was very difficult for the board to make and that every option was considered before the final vote. Steeply declining enrollment numbers and concerns about the age of the building were two specific reasons for the closure cited. At the time, both board members and community members were optimistic that a charter school would open a new school at the locations.

Soon after the decision was made, there were rumblings within the local community that the decision was poorly made and did not allow for a sufficient public hearing. These concerns finally

reached the board last month and the board held a special meeting on March 26. In the brief meeting, the board voted unanimously to revoke the decision to close Sabillasville Elementary at the end of the year. While the school could still be closed at the end of the year, this will give the public the chance to give comments at a public hearing before a final decision is made.

The public hearing is scheduled for April 14, while a board meeting to make a final decision is scheduled for April 21. At this time, a community push to bring a charter school to the location via a charter school application will continue despite the recent decision.

In other FCPS news...

The final term of the 2020-21 school year will begin on April 13. Last month, students and their families

were offered the chance to switch from in-person hybrid model learning or whether to continue learning in a remote online mode. Switches in both directions were offered: students learning in-person were given the chance to switch to the online model and students learning via the online model were given the chance to participate in the in-person hybrid learning model. While the deadline to indicate interest in switching learning models for the fourth term was March 12, Catoctin High School has announced that they will continue to attempt to honor requests for as long as possible.

With the unusual circumstances of this school year, the Board of Education was firm in their belief that state-wide assessments and tests should not be administered this year. On March 3, the Board issued a statement from the

entire board to the State Board of Education that made this stance clear. "This is not the time for State assessments," the statement read in part "we look forward to collaborating on services and supports that will help our students as we continue to move through and recover from the pandemic."

The letter was partially in response to State Superintendent Karen Salmon indicating that she supported administering state-wide tests this spring. However, Salmon experienced a shift in thinking after reading and consulting with guidance from the U.S. Department of Education. She said she realized that states had the option of delaying testing until the fall. With Salmon supporting the idea of delaying testing, the Board ultimately voted to delay testing until the fall.

With the last term of the school

year upon us now, graduation season is just around the corner. Last spring was quiet without the usual pomp and circumstance of graduations at Mount St. Mary's University. Instead, each high school had to be creative in organizing a virtual ceremony to recognize the Class of 2020. This year, there is optimism that students will be able to participate in a more standard graduation ceremony.

The County is currently working on a plan to allow for outdoor graduation ceremonies at each high school's home stadium. The plan is still being worked on in accordance with guidance from the state and public health officials. Frederick County Public Schools hopes to follow the standard graduation schedule for each school, but a final schedule will be announced in the near future and may even need to be amended close to the graduation dates due to weather concerns.

# FCPS School Board update

Karen Yoho

Frederick County School Board

As the April edition goes to publication, the students of FCPS have now been in school for six weeks. We have a dashboard on our website that shows the numbers of Covid cases and which schools have been affected. Fortunately, we have not had to close any school building. Contact tracing and quarantining/isolating have mitigated the spread. Additionally, surveys show that the majority of our employees who want a vaccine have received at least one and will soon be fully vaccinated. Understandably, this has gone a long

way to improving the comfort level of teachers in their classrooms.

The teachers are still working harder than ever and showing great creativity as they rethink how to present lessons to a group at home and simultaneously a group in the class. I watched a high school chemistry class do an experiment with one partner handling the equipment and chemicals in person while communicating on the Chromebook with their lab partner at home. The teacher would then have the students switch places on another day so that everyone gets the hands-on learning that is so necessary.

I saw a middle school band teacher

conduct stringed instrument players in the class as well as at home with a time delay. I think juggling would probably be an easier skill. I've heard from multiple teachers that the ability to have students go to break-out rooms in Google Meets has made all the difference in successfully meeting student needs.

New technology, such as Boxlight, has also been pointed to as helping to facilitate learning. It's encouraging to see all of the good things happening in our schools. The Board has added an agenda item to discuss our next steps as we move towards the future and what might be considered more normal. But we also plan to keep the good things we've learned about virtual learning. It has proven to be highly successful for some students and we want to be able to build on that success.

No sooner did the students return to class than planning for graduation began. The Board members have signed up for which graduation speeches each of us will prepare and deliver. At this time, FCPS is plan-

ning on outdoor graduations. The main obstacle is that the state still has a 250-person limit on public gatherings. For our larger high schools that would mean there would be room for the graduates with no audience. Even the smallest schools would only be allowed one guest. We know that would be unacceptable to our graduates and their families. We remain hopeful that the governor will make an exception for events such as graduations. Our ten high schools worked hard last year to create special virtual ceremonies for their students, but we don't want that to become the norm.

April 12 will be the final day of the legislative session in Annapolis. It's called Sine Die which means literally "without day". It's often referred to as a day without an end since the legislators have to keep going until all business is finished. Unless they call for a special session, which is only done on rare occasions, they will not meet again until the second week of January 2022. The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) Director of Governmental Affairs has been tracking nearly 500 bills that would have some effect on pub-

lic schools. And that doesn't include legislation such as House Bill 1013 which is "For the purpose of altering the standard time in the State to be Eastern Daylight Time year-round."

Some school systems have concerns about young students waiting for the bus in the dark during the winter months. At this writing, that bill has crossed over to the Senate. If you want to follow specific bills, look up particular legislators, check on committee hearings, etc. [www.mgaleg.maryland.gov](http://www.mgaleg.maryland.gov) is a great website. You can even sign up to track specific bills by clicking on the My MGA button at the top right of the screen. Between the American Rescue Act Plan of 2021 that was recently signed into law by the president, revisions of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, and the many other bills that will become law, there will be necessary modifications and changes that local school systems will have to make.

Each FCPS department must stay up to date on the legislative changes and how it affects the way we do business. But until Sine Die, those specifics remain unknown and will have to wait for a future column.

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# LIBRARY NEWS

## Libraries offer outdoor wifi

Frederick County Public Libraries (FCPL) now offers free public wifi outside of its nine public branches and two bookmobiles. This new service joins an ever-growing number of benefits the library has instituted since the start of the pandemic, including Virtual Programming, Curbside Pickup, Personalized Picks, Wireless Curbside Printing, Learning from Home, and Book Club Bundles.

internet is a critical need in our community and the disparity of access has only increased since the pandemic began," said Jason Marshall, Manager of Computer Systems for FCPL. "With outdoor wifi, customers will be able to once again use the library to conduct research, apply for jobs, or join video calls."

The wifi signal reaches up to 150 to 200 feet outside of the library buildings. The placement of the wifi

units is tailored to each branch so that the public will have the broadest access possible outside of the walls of the library. This includes the parking lots of all branches except for C. Burr Artz which has its strongest signal coverage along Carroll Creek and the amphitheater. No login is required for use and users can search for "FCPL" on their device.

This service is a broadband connection, offering extremely fast and

reliable streaming and downloading for all users. The enhanced wifi will allow those with poor or no home internet connection to download many of FCPL's digital materials to their compatible devices so they can enjoy them offline.

FCPL's Bookmobiles will be outfitted with new public-access wifi systems. This will provide Bookmobile users wifi access that is comparable to the services offered at FCPL branches. Users who bring their own wifi-capable devices to a Book-

mobile stop while the Bookmobile is present will be able to connect their device to the "FCPL" network and use the Bookmobile's 4G LTE mobile data service.

FCPL began this project in May 2020, when it was clear that the pandemic would have long-term effects on their operations. As numerous businesses and libraries nationwide looked to expand outdoor wifi many service providers were inundated with requests which delayed the installation of the units.

## Libraries events

### Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

While the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library's doors are open, they have less hours but may be available to bring out materials to your car during closed hours. Please call to make arrangements. The library's new hours are Tuesdays & Thursdays 3-6 p.m., Wednesday 4-7 p.m., 2nd & 4 Saturday of the month 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Library is closed on Monday and Friday.

While the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library will only be hosting its Saturday Story and Craft Hour, where members can listen to a good book and make a really fun craft, and then spend some quality time with Wee Build Imagineering, other virtual events will be taking place across the library system that members can join in on live on the systems Facebook page. These include:

Adult Story Time with Joan - Mondays and Wednesdays starting at 7 p.m. Joan will be sharing short stories from several books virtually.

In the Kitchen - Wednesday, 1 p.m.

Weekly program of recipes that are delicious and easy to prepare. Prior programs are also available.

Musical Thursday with Dave - Thursdays, 3 p.m.. Join Dave and his friends and listen to music from many different styles and genres.

Family Friendly Friday Night Fun - Friday, starting at 7 p.m.. Family Friendly Friday Night Fun can be a little bit of everything. Poetry, Music, or something else.

Saturday Story & Craft - starting at 11 a.m. Listen to a good book and make a really fun craft. Then spend some quality time with Wee Build Imagineering, there are no limits to your creativity!

To join these events live, on line, or learn more about them, visit the Franklin County Library System's website at [www.fcslpa.org/events](http://www.fcslpa.org/events), or you can call the library at 717-74-2240.

### Frederick County Public Library

Welcome Spring, warmer weather, and longer days! This time of year is filled

with new beginnings, growth and hope. Although we are still in the midst of a global pandemic, there is much promise of better things to come with vaccine rates increasing and the opportunity to reconnect again safely outdoors with the change of season. Staff at the Emmitsburg Branch Library and Thurmont Regional Library are also ready to reconnect with our communities! Although no reopening date has been determined, we are diligently working behind the scenes to prepare for a safe, and phased reopening. Curbside pick-up, Personalized Picks, and free, wireless printing of 20 pages a day (not available at Emmitsburg Branch Library) continue at all FCPL branches. Wifi has been expanded and can reach as far as 150-200 feet with fast download and streaming times. Curbside pick up remains Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. at Thurmont Regional Library, and Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at the Emmitsburg Branch Library. Staff are answering phones 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on curbside pick-up days. Please visit [FCPL.org](http://FCPL.org) or

call any FCPL branch for the most up to date information.

While we are just beginning the spring season, we are also looking forward to summer and our annual summer reading challenge. The challenge will run from June 1 - August 31; be on the lookout for more details in the upcoming weeks. All programming remains virtual, and April is blooming with fun and robust events, which include:

April 1, How to Play (and safe) April Fool's Day Pranks, 10 a.m.; Teen Library Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

April 2, April 9, April 16, April 23, April 30, Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m.

April 5, The Dark Sky: Celebrating Dark Sky Week, 1 p.m.; Teen Yoga, 4 p.m.; Author Event: Targeted Tracks: The Cumberland Valley Railroad in the Civil War, 1861-1865, 7 p.m.

April 6, American Sign Language for Beginners, 4 p.m.

April 7, Cherry Blossom Art, 1 p.m.; Tiny Terrariums, 4 p.m.

April 8, Seed Starting, 1-1:30 p.m., Author Event: Viva Latino: Own Voices

Writers in Conversation, 7 p.m.

April 9, April, 16, April 23, April 30, Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m.

April 12, Tulip Fork Painting (Grades K-3), 1 p.m.; Teen Art-a-Long, 4 p.m.

April 13, Poetry Reading and Q&A with Cameron Barnett, 6 p.m.

April 14, Healthy Meals on a Budget, 7 p.m.

April 19, Earthworm Investigation, 1 p.m.

April 20, Grow A Sprout, 1 p.m.; Teen Game Night-Among Us 4 p.m.; Babysitting Certification with 4H Ag Extension (1 of 3 series), 4 p.m.

April 21, Forest Therapy, 1-1:30 p.m.; Babysitting Certification with 4H Ag Extension (2 of 3 series) 4 p.m.

April 22, Babysitting Certification with 4H Ag Extension 3 of 3 series), 4 p.m.; Life Hacks Series: Dollars & Sense, 4:430 p.m.

April 27, Dungeon & Dragons: Let's Play (ages 13-18), 4 p.m.

April 28, DIY Clay Wall Hanging, 1 p.m.

April 29, Legal Planning for Living Fully with Dementia, 1 p.m.

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## FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

*This month, we asked our writers to create a ludicrous story in honor of April Fool's day! We hope they either bring a smile to your face or a loud groan!*

### Freshman

#### The point

McKenna Snow  
MSMU Class of 2024

Dear reader, this article is especially and particularly crafted exactly and most directly to you as an individual. In it, I intend to persuade you. I feel very strongly about that which I intend to persuade you of, so read very carefully.

My reasons for this persuasion are numerous. First, they are important for showing to you that I have done my research on this particular topic, so that you take my argument seriously. Second, I list my reasons because people pay attention better when there are bullet points in a paragraph to follow. They like seeing first, second, and third points, so that when they're reading, they can underline the most important clauses, so as to organize and pinpoint their thoughts on the subject better. Third, they help make the article feel more structured, organized, and well-thought out. The reader can follow it better this way. After all, if my argument was all over the place, and it never went anywhere,

wouldn't reading my article just feel like a huge waste of time?

I would certainly think so. Thus, the three reasons I have included above give you a good indication of why I feel the need to argue my point so precisely.

It is now imperative to stress that my point MUST be heard totally and clearly. If I did not tell you the point I was trying to get across, you would try to comb through the whole article looking for the actual argument I swore I was trying to make, and then you would never find it. Therefore, perfect clarity on the subject on which I stand and defend must be absolutely in the spotlight of this article at all times.

Moreover, it is important to note that this argument stands on the FIRM foundations of my emotions and subjective beliefs about this subject. Emotions are incredibly dependable when it comes to arguing your case. Further, emotions are really helpful in using your opponent's empathy against them, so as to strengthen your cause. So please, take my argument to heart. If you do not, and you tell me that you're not persuaded, I must confess that I will cry for several hours after our debate has ended.

Subjectivity is also crucial in my standpoint. Who needs objective facts

when making their case for an argument, anyway? I don't think Google fact-checks itself to ensure that every single source is 100% accurate; therefore, why bother citing "scientifically backed" sources, when your subjective opinion is worth just as much? And if this argument of mine wasn't scientific-centered, Google could claim it was still a "professionally-reviewed" article in the field of whatever I was advocating for—but it wouldn't make any difference. Professionals in an area compare just as validly to those with strong enough feelings about the subject, so fact-checking me is useless. My subjective opinion is basically fact, and if you say it is not and you are not persuaded because of my argument, then again, I will cry. It always makes me sad when people don't agree with me on things—like literally, I cannot function if one of my peers disagrees with a belief of mine.

That is why you, my reader, my fellow peer, MUST believe that which I am stressing to you. And I cannot stress this enough. If you are not convinced yet, go re-read my bullet points up top. They really solidify my clarity and organization on the subject.

I also think it's really important to never get off topic when arguing a

point you feel strongly about—that is why I firmly stand here, on this topic, and I will not stray from it. I argue here and now, and implore you to read carefully what I am about to say, for my belief in—did you watch the Mount basketball games last week? They were so interesting! The Mount men's AND women's teams both won their NEC championship games. They were intense, interesting, and very uplifting. As a Mount student, I was proud when the teams of my school carved more victories into our University legacy. I watched the games at the student center on campus—there was a great turnout, and it was almost like being at the game in person, just without the actual teams playing in the building. So yes, the Mount sports games last week and this week were so entertaining, and our athletes work really hard.

Getting off topic is an absolute NO when writing a persuasive piece. You, the reader, must be locked in to my argument 100%, and I don't want a single word of my piece to distract from that. And, I know exactly what I'm writing, and I don't want my editor to change anything about this piece, so I've let him know that he's not allowed to remove or delete any unhelpful or off-topic paragraphs in this essay.

Finally, a thesis statement usually provides a lot of clarity in an argu-

mentative piece. As you can see in this essay, I definitely hit the nail on the head. This argument is so rock solid; it is untouchable. It's so good it's almost intangible in every way. It's almost like if you looked hard enough, you couldn't find it. That's what makes it so rock-solid undefeatable. Not to mention, it's grounded on subjectivity and my personal emotions. How do you retort to something founded on that? That's right, you can't. Good luck making a counter-argument to this piece.

In conclusion, this argument is so important. I hope by now you are on my side. It is important to remind you that if you are not on my side by now, I will be very sad. The stability of my emotions depends strongly on feeling validated and 100% supported in this argument of mine. Another point raised is that it is crucial to stay totally on-topic at all times in a persuasive argument as important as this one. Never, ever get off topic—and April Fools is here, so I was tasked with writing a ridiculous, wacky article for this edition of the Emmitsburg News-Journal. Thus, I argued just for the sake of arguing, and I hope you see my point now.

To read other articles by McKenna Snow, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

### Sophomore

#### Orange you glad

Emmy Jansen  
MSMU Class of 2023

A church pew. A red velvet throw pillow missing one of its golden tassels. A shelf that held only miniature figurines of U.S. presidents. A wall covered in postcards and photographs from decades, eras, and places far from here. Chandeliers of stained glass reminiscent of English pubs. A standing lamp made of a mermaid's teal body with the lampshade being a pink shag fabric found in a teenage girl's bedroom. A statue of a frog hugging its stomach sitting between the doorframe and the corner of the wall.

The odds and ends made up the perfect antique store, a haven where treasure hunters and collectors could spend hours sifting for the one item that would be the competition of their obsession. Decades of history, dust, and memories packed into these small rooms, almost suffocating the passersby. An emporium of lost treasures and found objects.

Except it was a house. It was my house. Here I lived for eighteen years, surrounded by discarded objects that original owners hadn't wanted that my parents graciously decided they did. They weren't hoarders; our house was always tidy, and no object was ever out of place, even if out of place it looked. Bringing friends over was always embarrassing though, so I rarely ever did it. At first, I thought everything was normal. I soon came to realize that most other kids didn't grow up surrounded by new objects constantly being added with nothing ever being removed.

But the worst part about the house was not the church pew sitting in our

living room. It wasn't the lamp whose base was a chicken statue. It wasn't the framed portrait of George Washington above the fireplace, where a family photo should have been. It was the kitchen cabinets. Sickeningly orange. Bright enough to be neon, dark enough that it was a debate whether it was more of a red, and deep enough to make every other color in the room dull: this was the color of our kitchen cabinets.

Comparatively, the rest of the house was, dare I say, normal. The mishmash of Persian and Navajo rugs that covered the hardwood floor of every room seemed like a modern trend if your eyes ever wandered to the hue of the kitchen. And your eyes couldn't help but wander. The room radiated a glow throughout the house, escaping from the doorway and casting a warm hue onto the dining room. It was an elephant that wasn't even in the room but made its presence known from down the hall.

I did not go in the kitchen. In fact, I avoided it vehemently and loudly. Complaint after complaint I hurled at my mother from across the dining room table, which was a solid oak even though the chairs were anywhere from Victorian throne to tan wicker. Can we please paint the cabinets? Any color. Yellow. Pink. Green. But not the fluorescent papaya that was splashed all over our kitchen. In my adolescent stubbornness, I set foot in the room as little as possible.

When I moved out on my own for the first time, it was exhilarating. Freedom and independence, yes, but more importantly, an escape from the eclectic—and orange—style that my parents had always adopted. After bouncing between apartment complexes during my collegiate years, I had finally saved up enough to move into a house. It was

a rancher in the suburbs, on a very small plot of land. It needed work, quite a bit, but it was necessary for my price range. I was up for the challenge; nothing, in my mind, could be worse than what I had been raised in.

Days of ripping up carpets, caulking tile, and repairing rotted siding would all be worth it. At the end, I had a house, all my own, with things that were only owned by me. No church pew. No chicken lamps. No Navajo rugs.

Fixing up the house was a slow but steady process, mostly done after I came home from work. But in no time, the house took shape and became a home. The last thing on my list was the kitchen, my pièce de résistance. Some tiles needed to be replaced but the countertops were in great condition for the cheap laminate they'd been made from. To please the inner child that had been, I splurged and bought new cabinet doors. Part of me felt that by doing so, I would reverse the nightmare that I had lived with and bring about the culmination of the story. To put that part of the past behind me. I ordered the cabinets and waited anxiously for confirmation that they had arrived at the store.

I received a call from the saleswoman who'd sold them to me early in the week, but the town had been blanketed in a snowstorm after that and my Honda did not have a close relationship with icy roads. It wasn't until early the next Saturday morning that I was able to drive to the store, tires sloshing every mile, to pick up the new doors. When I placed the order, I could have paid extra to have them professionally painted but I left them unfinished. Maybe it's over the top, but I wanted the personal satisfaction of painting them myself, any color I wanted. I was still debating on

what color I should paint them. White seemed too dull. Black was too deep. A wood finish, perhaps? I hoped the right color would make itself obvious and the scarlet hue from the past would dissolve into this new shade.

The doorbell chimed as I walked into the store, being instantly greeted by the familiar saleswoman. After I loaded the new doors into the back of my Honda, I asked her where I could

browse the paints, exhilaration flowing through my veins.

"So, unfortunately because of the snowstorm, the truck that delivers our shipments has been delayed. The only paint we have in stock is orange, will that be okay?"

To read other articles by Emmy Jansen, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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## Junior

### Emmitsburg's oft-forgotten story

Harry Scherer  
MSMU Class of 2022

“All aboard!” shouts the streetcar conductor. His scream could hardly be heard above the noise of the bustling Main Street. Mothers and children rush in and out of shops in preparation for their Sunday meal. Men sit quietly smoking their pipes on small metal chairs outside of the local diner. This is the look and sound of Emmitsburg in 1885.

The Civil War still resides in the memory of many; for those who still remember it, everyone is happy that 20 years divides their current existence from the horrible time gone by. Now, they are content with the trappings of living in a major metropolitan city like Emmitsburg. There was significant material development in the town after the conclusion of the war. Men from Pennsylvania made the journey across the Mason-Dixon Line into Emmitsburg for easier procurement of hard liquor; the Quaker-inspired attitude toward spirits present during the commonwealth's founding were as alive

during the late 19th century as they are today. The mothers of Maryland found the produce in southern Pennsylvania to be less expensive and better quality, so their weekly trips often included a stop in Emmitsburg.

Some modern historians consider this boom in population and commerce to be a result of the interstate goodwill that was palpable after the war; other historians eagerly contest this theory. Some consider Emmitsburg's growth came about because of the mountain tourism that was increasing at the time; few dispute this but many wonder whether the growth is only attributable to the increase in tourist fascination. The new theory that has begun cropping up in the circles that study Emmitsburg history is related to the story of America's first bourbon distillery.

Few know this, but the town of Emmitsburg has quietly boasted its place as the motherland of American bourbon. Emmitsburgers have long been aware of Kentucky's fallacious claim; start a conversation on this topic with a native of Emmitsburg and expect a long evening with a survey of creative profanities. The Emmitsburg boom after the war was to be expected by all those who were bourbon drinkers of the time; people had more money

than they did before the war with which they could take advantage of Emmitsburg's long-held supply of sweet corn nectar. But the story of bourbon's roots goes back a century before this growth in alcoholic popularity.

Many remember the mayor of Emmitsburg from the late 18th century named John L. Boone. Mayor Boone was good friends with Maze Blanche, informal town leader of the then underdeveloped land of On-the-Bourb, Iowa; the eccentric name of the town came from a simple people who lived near a humble stream they called the Bourb. Shortly after his successful election, Blanche sent Mayor Boone a few oak buckets filled with ears of delicious Iowa corn; a skilled politician, sending a gift like this was a common occurrence for Blanche in order to extend diplomatic well-wishes and to indicate an air of cooperation.

The people of Emmitsburg were not particularly interested in eating the corn as it was; it was not an essential part of the quirky diet of northern Maryland. Mayor Boone started a task force. The first of its kind since his election, he was motivated and enthusiastic to see this task force produce forceful results. They needed to find a way to consume the corn and not insult the rising star of Iowa politics. Boone knew deep down

that Iowa held deep political sway over national affairs, so he found the work of this task force to bear long-lasting ramifications over the state of the nation.

The men who made up the task force spoke with their wives and the answer was clear: distill the corn! They had seen rye whiskey made before, so they knew well how it was done. They were rarely impressed by the taste and texture of the rye and were convinced that they could produce a better product than the swill produced at the local stills. The task force was certain that they could create a mash made up of mostly corn, throw in some grain that they couldn't use from the harvest and create a liquor that would become the envy of the Mason-Dixon line.

The task force offered clear recommendations to the mayor and, by extension, the members of the watchful town of Emmitsburg. They suggested that the town open a distillery at which they would create the mash, ferment it and after a few other steps age the liquid in charred oak barrels. The energetic men of the town were already in the habit of going up to the mountain and cutting down the tall oak trees for general use by the townies for firewood and other essential uses. The task force found it both economically and socially expedient to create some extra jobs for

the time-rich members of the town to mold oak barrels for use in this process.

Mayor Boone and the town's budding whiskey sommeliers were pleasantly surprised by the finished product. The liquid was sweet and sophisticated, rich in color and pleasant to the nose. It was good to drink with ice (not frozen from the Emmitsburg water supply, of course) or neat. The task force was proud of the spirit and the town that made it.

One night, with the people of Emmitsburg crowded on Main Street, Mayor Boone said with his typical eloquence, “You all have done this town a great service. With our time, we have realized our talents. With our talents, we have found our treasures. Now, it is time to share these treasures with the world! What will we call this treasure that has just met our lips?” A thoughtful people, filled with gratitude, shouted out in a loud and unified voice, “Bourbon, we will call it! Bourbon! To thank Maze and his people On-the-Bourb, we will name this spirit in their honor.”

In these words, we find the rarely told story of Emmitsburg and bourbon to be passed along from generation to generation.

To read other articles by Harry, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

## Senior

### The truth behind the twinkie

Angela Guiao  
MSMU Class of 2021

“Did you buy twinkies?” I groaned. This couldn't be real. I was dreaming. Though why I was dreaming of him... I roll over in my bed and pull my pillow over my head.

I felt someone tug the covers off my body. Great. Now my feet are cold.

“Hey, did you buy twinkies?”

I take a deep breath. I open my eyes slowly. Everything is blurry. I need my glasses. I can make out the general shape of my college roommate/best friend's angular face. His bright red hair glittering from the sunlight seeping in through the window. His face a blob of pale ivory, light brown and blue. I grab my glasses. His freckles come into focus, and I can see his bright blue eyes staring back at me.

“What do you want?” I snap.

“The twinkies. Did you buy the twinkies?”

I glance at my alarm clock. It's 5 in the morning. My blood begins to boil.

“We aren't supposed to leave until late this afternoon,” I growl.

“I know. But I just want to make sure you don't forget to buy the twinkies. I can't survive a day without twinkies,” he jumps onto the end of my bed and starts picking at his nails.

I groan. I guess it's time to get up. My back hurts. I stretch.

“Also, don't forget to bring water. And pillows. You should also bring a blanket just in case it gets cold. Do you think we should bring more food? We could probably stop by somewhere to eat.” He continues to ramble. He loves rambling. I block him out. I drag myself out of bed and to our shared mini fridge. I need some water. It'll wake me up.

I open the fridge door, and it's empty. I huff.

“What happened to all the food I bought?” I grumble. He doesn't hear me.

“Can we stop by the Grand Canyon? How about the Empire State Building? I hear Arizona is really close to New York.” He is standing now, trailing behind me as I make my way to the bathroom.

I take a step on the cold tile floor. I shiver. I make my way back to my room, and I search my drawers for a pair of socks. I finally find some, but they don't match. Whatever.

“I don't think travel should take more than half a day.”

I sigh. “We're going to Washington. We won't pass any of those places.”

“Starbucks was created in Washington, I think. So was Amazon. At least that is what that girl in our business class said.” He never stops talking.

I quickly pull on my socks and hurry my way to the bathroom. He keeps pace. Once I'm inside, I swiftly turn around, my arms blocking the entrance.

He knocks into me.

“Ouch,” he says, rubbing his forehead.

I roll my eyes and shut the door in his face.

“Don't forget the twinkies,” he calls a few minutes later. After some shuffling, I hear the door to our room shut close.

I sigh a big breath of relief.

He's been obsessed with taking a road trip to Washington. I didn't want to go. Finals week was coming up, and I really didn't want to be stuck in the same car as him. He wouldn't shut up about it though. He kept talking about it and talking about it, until I finally agreed. I don't know why I thought he'd stop talking about it after I agreed because he just started talking about it even more, if that was possible.

I love him, but gosh he is annoying. He was my Freshman roommate. We were randomly put

together and got along great, school wise. He kind of balances me out. He is bright and sparkly, and I never see him upset. He is one of those talented kids, the ones that get good grades without really trying.

I am the opposite. My hair is dull and black. My eyes are black. My skin is pale from never going outside. I get annoyed at everything, especially at him. But it doesn't faze him. He still likes to spend time with me. Sometimes, I think he's my best friend because I don't have any other friends. But that's not true. I just don't have any friends that I regularly talk to or see.

I finish cleaning up and decide it's time to start packing. I pull out the duffel bag I used to pack my clothes in when we moved in. As I sort through my clothes, I get really hungry. He ate all my food. He's unbelievable.

I walk around a bit, trying to relax then I head over to the campus store and stock up on the things we need.

When I get back, I finally finish packing everything, and plop down on my bed. Maybe a few minutes of sleep before it's time to leave.

Suddenly the door bangs open, and he comes striding in.

“It's time to go!” he yells, running around the room, throwing his clothes into a plastic bag he found under his bed.

I take a deep breath.

“Come on,” he calls, darting out of the room, “It's time to go!”

I groan and grab my things. I follow him through the hallways and out of our building. We make our way to the parking lot, and he stops suddenly in his tracks.

“What's wrong now?” I ask, puffing. He walks really fast.

“I forgot we don't have a car,” he said quietly.

“Are you kidding me?” I yell exasperatedly, plopping onto the ground. I am starting to get a little lightheaded.

“Hey, are you okay,” it's the girl from

our business class. I forget her name.

“Yeah, I'm fine,” I say, waving her away.

I turn to him, “You forget everything. You depend on me for everything,” I spat.

“Who are you talking to?” It's the girl again. She still hasn't walked away.

“My roommate,” I say.

She looks confused.

“There's no one here but us,” she says.

I look around. He's standing

right there. He shrugs.

“Here,” she says, walking closer to me, “You're probably just need something to eat. Does your head hurt?”

I nod.

She sits down beside me. “Eat this,” she says.

She reaches into her bag and pulls out... a twinkie.

To read other articles by Angela, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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# HOME DECOR

## Reflecting spring inside your home

Jessica Crawford, Owner  
Cotton & Co Vintage Boutique

It's Spring! I know that I am not the only one to welcome an end to Winter. I love watching a few romantic snowfalls out of the windows of our old farmhouse. Sipping hot cocoa on chilly winter evenings and concocting hearty chilis and soups for supper. But at some point, enough is enough. And I personally got my fill of snow this year. We are truly fortunate that where we live, we experience all four seasons. So it's time to put Old Man Winter to rest until next year, and usher in the next season, which is arguably my favorite.

For me, Spring symbolizes rebirth and growth; a time to refresh and rejuvenate. It's good for the soul. A breath of fresh air in the literal and figural meanings. A time to open all the windows in the house, and let the warm, fresh air fill all the corners it hasn't reached in months. Feel the sunshine on your face as it washes away all the stagnancy of winter. It's a time for planning and preparing for the longer, brighter days ahead leading into Summer and Fall.

We've been gleefully watching all the purple crocus and yellow daf-

fodils pop up in our gardens. Our neighbor's cherry tree is blushing and blooming with a pale, soft pink. Our hens have certainly enjoyed the longer days and warmer nights too, as they gear up for their laying season. The grass is starting to brighten and pop, as it does every Spring, fighting its way through the matted remnants of last season. Spring offers us a brand new opportunity for hope and recharge and fresh perspective. Which is even more symbolic this year, as we emerge out of Winter and a year-long dark season, with new hope for promise in the coming year.

Many of us are excited to get our hands in the dirt and play in our gardens. Or looking forward to being outside and getting chores done around the yard. But what about indoors? What can we do inside our homes to reflect Spring indoors?

A first great step is to de-clutter and re-evaluate. It's a great opportunity to go room by room and find all of that stuff that's possibly still lingering from fall and the holidays and pack all of it away. Having a clean slate to work with will make it easier to imagine the space and the styles you are drawn to. Is that minimalism, mid-century, farmhouse, boho, rustic, traditional, retro?

No matter what style you typically decorate your home with, reflecting the outdoors, by bringing some of it indoors is a great way to quickly brighten a space and break free of winter. Unearth your favorite vintage budvase. And if you don't have one, stop by the shop, we have so many vintage vessels and vases, ready to display Spring's offerings. If you have little ones, have them help snip some daffodils to bring inside, and place them somewhere the whole household gets to enjoy them as they go about their day. Soon the forsythia will be blooming, and a few wild, unruly branches in a tall vessel will be sure to bring Spring to any room in your home.

Reflecting nature indoors is honestly a great rule of thumb year-round. However Spring time is a great excuse to bring something fresh and green to your home. We have recently added a vendor to the shop that supplies us with her home propagated and grown succulents and house plants. She tends to use unique or vintage containers and planters as well. Adding houseplants to your home is beneficial emotionally and mentally, as they boost moods and spirits. But also physically, as they improve the air quality in your home too. And from experience, you can never, ever have too many houseplants.

As the daughter to two horticulturists, I grew up with my parents trimming and rooting this, snipping and planting that. Teaching us how to propagate plants for fun, and also their landscape design company that they owned when I was a child. I remember my dad paying me a nickel for every Privet cutting I planted that took root. And to a seven year old with one hundred cuttings, that seemed like easy money. And it makes me smile, because all of these years later, propagating is suddenly on-trend. We are working on getting propagation stations into the shop currently, as a collaboration between vendors. A pretty way to functionally display your cuttings as they root and grow. Watching a cutting take root is unreasonably exciting and rewarding, and an effective way to grow your indoor plant col-



No matter what style you typically decorate your home with, reflecting the outdoors by bringing some of it indoors is a great way to quickly brighten a space and break free of winter.

lection in a budget-friendly way. It's also a great way to involve kids and make a little science lesson out of it.

Another easy, fast way to transform a space for Spring is to update or switch out some textiles around the house. Freshen things up with a new set of throw pillows on the couch, fresh curtains, a light or bright colored throw over the back of your favorite chair. Textiles are such an easy update, and with so many styles readily available, you'll never get bored. Plus, I find they're easy to store and put away and rotate in and out over the course of the year, based on the seasons.

If you ever need help or guidance with a design project that you're working on in your home, feel free to ask any of our staff members. We all love helping others see a vision come to life, and sometimes a little outside perspective is just what you need. Our friendly staff is more than willing to offer guidance and advice. We're open weekly, Fridays through Sundays, just down the road in Keymar. Cotton & Co Vintage Boutique, 900 Francis Scott Key Hwy.

To read past Home Decor articles, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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## COMMUNITY NOTES

# USDA extends signup for Conservation Reserve Program



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is extending the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Signup period, which had previously been announced as ending on Feb. 12. USDA will continue to accept offers as it takes this opportunity for the incoming Administration to evaluate ways to increase enrollment. Under the previous Administration, incentives and rental payment rates were reduced resulting in an enrollment shortfall of over 4 million acres. The program, administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides annual rental payments for 10 to 15 years for land devoted to conservation purposes, as well as other types of payments.

Before the General CRP signup period ends, producers will have the opportunity to adjust or resubmit their offers to take advantage of planned improvements to the program.

"The Conservation Reserve Program provides a tremendous opportunity to address climate change both by retiring marginal cropland and by restoring grasslands, wetlands, and forests," said Robert Bonnie, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary. "CRP has a 35-year track record of success beyond just climate benefits, by providing income to producers, improving water quality, reducing erosion, and supporting wildlife habitat and the hunting and fishing opportunities that go along with it. By extending this signup period, we'll have time to evaluate and implement

changes to get this neglected program back on track."

As one of the largest private-lands conservation programs in the United States, CRP provides both economic and conservation benefits by taking land out of agricultural production. Program successes include:

- Sequestering in soils and plants over 12 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e), or about the same amount that the entire state of Delaware emits annually.

- Preventing more than 2 billion tons of soil from being blown away by wind erosion over the life of currently enrolled acres.

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- Establishing over a half million acres of dedicated pollinator habitat and nearly 15 million more acres of diverse plantings that provide forage for pollinators.

This signup for CRP gives producers an opportunity to enroll land for the first time or re-enroll land under existing contracts that will be expiring Sept. 30. All interested producers, including those on Indian reser-

uations and with trust lands, are encouraged to contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including those that restrict in-person visits or require appointments. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment.

Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors are also required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Our program delivery staff will continue to work with our producers by phone, email, and using online tools. More information can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

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# LOCAL ARTS

## Theatre . . . one year later



Chad-Alan Carr

Gettysburg Community Theatre, the non-profit 501c3 organization in historic downtown Gettysburg has been closed to the public since March 16, 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Last Spring, GCT pivoted completely to virtual programming rather than in person camps, classes, rehearsals and performances. GCT produced over 10 different online

classes and over 20 different virtual remote performances last year.

GCT usually hosts an annual Gala Dinner Concert with Auction, which is their one major fundraiser event of the year. Due to the pandemic, GCT will not be having a Gala this Spring, and instead opted to do a fundraiser online in March. Due to the pandemic, it has been 12 months since an actor or audience member stepped foot inside GCT. The little theatre is

trying to continue to adapt as best it can during this unprecedented time, and hopes that it will still be here when the pandemic finally ends.

Board Member of GCT, Sue Fehringer begs everyone, "Please don't let GCT be another casualty of this pandemic."

As the only year-round community theatre in all of Adams County, Gettysburg Community Theatre fills a void in the community. Many of the children and adults that have participated in GCT might never have had such opportunities to thrive through theatre arts were it not for the support of donors like you. In addition to being able to audition for, volunteer with, or attend our many productions each year (100 performances in 2019), participants at GCT also have educational opportunities such as after school programs, summer camps, Broadway guest artist master classes, and workshops. GCT also has outreach programs such as a senior citizen theatre group, an improv troupe, and a Special Needs Youth Group called The Penguin Project.

"The Gettysburg Community Theatre deserves our support", says Board Member, Dave Crowner, "because it is a community treasure."

### Majestic Theater's spring curbside popcorn sales

Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater will offer "majestically" delicious popcorn for purchase under the marquee at 25 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg on First Fridays this spring.

"Our curbside popcorn stand was so popular last fall that customers have been clamoring for a re-run. And you know why? Scientific research shows good movie popcorn is the third most basic human need after love and home-cooked food," said Jeffrey Gabel, Majestic Theater Founding Executive Director. "The Majestic serves THE best popcorn in town because we only use Orville Redenbacher's 'no old-maid' popping corn, and

Matt Moon's secret popping oil. Melted butter is optional but highly recommended."

The perfect treat after a long week is a bag of fresh-popped Majestic Theater buttered popcorn. Theater staff will be selling fresh popcorn in front of the theater, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, on April 2 and May 7, 5:30-7 p.m. Stop by, say hello, and take home your own bag of "majestically" delicious popcorn, safely packaged and served by masked and gloved theater staff. Prices are \$4 and \$5. Cash and charge accepted. Popcorn is free to members of the Majestic's Popcorn Club.

Now in its 13th season, Gettysburg Community Theatre has produced over 100 different productions of plays, musicals, and concerts for the public, and has offered educational and volunteer opportunities for all ages and abilities. GCT had over a 70% loss in ticket income in 2020 due to the pandemic. The non-profit is currently making plans and preparations to reopen to the public ASAP when safer to do so, but GCT needs

donations immediately in order to get through this unprecedented time.

Jane Patrono, Board Member of GCT, says "GCT is a second family for many of us. We need to keep the theatre going during these hard times."

More information about upcoming streamed performances, fundraisers, and donation information can be found online at [www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org](http://www.GettysburgCommunityTheatre.org).

## Way Off Broadway to bring ruthless!

Coming this spring, The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre will lovely skewer musical theatre, stage mothers, and ambitious child stars in its production of Ruthless! The Musical. As pre-

viously announced by the theatre's producers, due to current health and safety protocols in place limiting cast sizes, Ruthless! The Musical has taken the place of Oliver!, which had originally been

announced for the 2021 Season.

In Ruthless! The Musical, eight-year-old Tina Denmark knows she was born to play Pippi Longstocking in her school musical. As she discovers her talent's origin, she proves she's will to do anything to win the starring role . . . including murdering the leading lady! Ruthless! The Musical lovingly spoofs Broadway musicals from Gypsy to Mame and iconic

Hollywood films including All About Eve and The Bad Seed. A hilarious romp through the world of Broadway, child acting, parenthood, and unbridled ambition, this campy cult favorite will leave audiences in stitches.

The original Off-Broadway production of Ruthless! performed at the Players Theatre from March 1992 through January of the following year, running for 342 per-

formances. The role of Tina was played by Laura Bell Bundy who would later go on to originate the roles of Amber von Tussel in Hair-spray and Elle Woods in Legally Blonde - The Musical. During the run, Bundy's understudies included Natalie Portman and Britney Spears.

The production won the 1993 Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Off-Broadway Musical.

Following Los Angeles and London productions, as well as a number of regional stagings, Ruthless! returned to New York City in an Off-Broadway revival in 2015 at St. Luke's Theatre.

Reuniting for Way Off Broadway's production of the Off-Broadway favorite are Jessica Billones and Shawn Nakia Law reprising their roles of Judy Denmark and Sylvia St. Croix, respectively. The two previously appeared in the roles in a production opposite one another in 2018 at the Old Opera House in Charlestown. Joining them on stage will be Jordyn Morgan as Tina Denmark, Megan E. West as Miss Thorn, Betsey Brannen as Lita Encore, and Becca Sears as Louise Lerman and Eve Allabout.

Ruthless!, which has a book and lyrics by Joel Paley and music by Marvin Laird, is directed by Bill Kiska with music direction by Megan E. West. The show will run March 26th through May 29th with performances every Friday and Saturday evenings and matinees on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of each month. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Box Office at 301-662-6600.

To learn more about Ruthless!, or any of Way Off Broadway's productions, visit [www.wayoffbroadway.com](http://www.wayoffbroadway.com).

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# MOUNT ARTS

## Art is more than just a word

Tristan Anderson  
MSMU Class of 2024

Art is a serious thing. It is such a serious activity, with such a serious crowd of enthusiasts, that somehow the very word conjures up pictures of stuffiness, superiority complexes, and elitism. Some would say that such ideas are natural, and that man is inclined to think them. Others would hold that stereotypes such as these are ridiculous and founded on the ideas of nothing more than closed-minded busybodies. Who knows? I'm just a guy that happens to enjoy looking at pretty things and writing an article on them for a newspaper that you happen to be reading. I'd be lying if I said I ever put much thought into the matter.

I can remember one experience that made me put a little thought into the subject, however. It was quite a while ago, long before all this insanity with the pandemic happened. I used to browse through brochures to pass the time back in my junior year study halls in high school, a habit that became the origin of this experience. It was late in a hazy March afternoon, the exact kind that makes a man want to take a break from his work and stare out a metal framed window. In the process of downing an entire water bottle and taking my twelfth break that hour, I spotted a brochure on top of a bookcase. It was a large picture of a banana with tape on it, captioned Better than Picasso: The Future of Art. Now, you would think my first thought was that a lousy banana with tape could never match Picasso, right? Well, then you'd be wrong. Picasso was kidding himself if he thought his art was decent. What kind of guy gets the idea that some random blocks and circles equal up to something pretty just because he slaps them on a canvas? I have cousins that aren't even in elementary school yet that can do better. You may as well patronize them, help a local, and save yourself some money, if you catch my drift.

Regardless, I digress. It's a nasty old habit of mine. Anyways, I saw that there was a date and time for it, that being April 1st at 1:30, and that the brochure itself was for an exhibit at a museum. It was scheduled for the weekend and given the options of spending the day mowing the lawn or traveling an hour or so, the choice wasn't hard. After whiling away the rest of Friday like any usual day, I found myself traveling the distance to Nowhere, Pennsylvania. It's a pretty little city, with more than just a statue on a hill. After spending twenty minutes or so in that curse laid upon man ever since the invention of the automobile, commonly referred to as "lunch rush traffic," I finally arrived at my destination in the middle of the bustling city. It was a warm weekend,

just the kind you would expect people to be out enjoying. Nonetheless, between the tall buildings whose metal structures gleamed in the sunlight and the sweltering heat that cooks up that smell that all cities appear to have, it was the perfect time to try something new. I managed to park my car in a garage and walked down onto the streets below.

The distance to the art museum wasn't very far, probably a brisk walk of some ten or fifteen minutes. Arriving outside the front lobby of the museum, I could only stand in surprise and look up at the thing. You see, that was just the word to describe it: a thing. One would think that an art museum would reflect the beauty inside it on the outside, but the reality is the unexpected opposite. This palace of art was nothing more than a massive trapezoid, made up of disproportionate metal panels and glass inserts between them. The only redeeming parts were the banners draped on the sides of it announcing the new exhibit, almost like tarps thrown over an old, rusty sedan. Shocking right? Not really. I'm sure your senses have already been abused into insensitivity by this sort of metal chicken coop all the new architects love these days. I know mine have, so I'll just spare you the details. Once I walked through the painfully triangular door and bought my tickets, I ascended the spiral staircase straight to the third floor

and to the exhibit I came to the museum for.

At first, I was intrigued. The employees really had put all their effort into the display. Everything was so smooth and modern. Each case around a sculpture was the same dull metallic color, each pane of glass it supported the same opaque shade. Every picture frame was a familiar patterned wood, and every pin that supported them a gaudy plastic. All the displays were on flat, white surfaces and scattered across with no order to them, not even in the relation of the subjects to their neighbors. Walking under the sloped cardboard archway that labeled the exhibit, I could only think about how beautifully modern everything looked. It had no order, except for the fact that everything worked so hard to not have order that disorder became the very order of the display. The ugliness produced by it was part of such a grand attempt to be ugly that it was incredibly beautiful, so much so that my heart felt moved.

That would be a moving sentiment, right? I agree. Regrettably for us both, however, it wasn't a true one. If art in modernity is good at really anything, it's not in possessing beauty. From the exhibit itself, I would have assumed that the greatest skill of modern art was tasting good, and not in the sense of the culinary arts. Nailed and taped to walls were all sorts of fruits and vegetables. Copycats are something that



Ask anyone over 70 who they think was the best standup comedian of all time, and odds are that Red Skelton will be in their top three. You only have to watch him once to understand why. He made humor an art!

not a soul can prevent, especially in art. Someone does something, no matter how strange or shocking, and everyone loves the attention they get so dearly that they attempt to recreate it for themselves. The catch is that you can't shock people the same way more than once, but nobody ever seems to figure that out. After spending enough time looking at the variety of fruits, I moved on to the section of sculptures contained in small display cases. They were interesting enough, in the same way that a toddler finds a broken toy interesting. Regardless, jumbled pieces of metal put together with screws can't possibly be considered art. I would have compared it more to a construction project gone wrong.

Dissatisfied, I went to the café on the rooftop for a snack and a drink. Seeing all of that fruit

posted to the wall and made me more than a little hungry. As I sat on a vinyl stool and waited to place my order, an older gentleman took the seat next to me and leaned back. "You enjoying the exhibit, kid?" he asked.

"Not really, to be frank. It's not like I expected." I replied.

The man chuckled. "See, that's the thing. It's all about the unexpected. I mean, it's April for crying out loud. None of this is supposed to be expected. The unexpected is humor in art."

"Really?" I asked, struggling to see the reasoning behind his idea. I remember my next words exactly as I said them. "Humor. It's a funny thing."

To read other articles by Tristan Anderson, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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## CATOCTIN SPORTS

### The delayed fall season

Mia Ferraro  
CHS Class of 2022

Immediately following the pre-season of February 13th through March 4th, the long-awaited season of Catocotin High School fall sports has begun. The season started on March 5th and will conclude on April 17th when spring sports commence. After many unprecedented events and conditions due to the pandemic, our athletes, coaches, and community alike have remained patient and cooperative for nearly six months. Though this season is quite shorter than usual, the teams are optimistic and prepared nonetheless.

Catocotin's varsity football team has started this season off on a high note with a victory of 41-20 at their first game, March 19th, against Governor Thomas Johnson High School. Although delayed, the team expects another successful season this year, sending off several seniors onto their next chapter of their athletic career. "Officially today, my senior season starts. It's not the way I wanted it to go but still grateful to be having one," senior running back Carson Sickeri expressed on Twitter on the first official day of fall sports. Sickeri and his teammate, senior quarterback Ryan Orr, have both committed to furthering their academic studies and football careers at Division II Clarion University of Pennsylvania. "A huge thank you to everyone at Catocotin High School for giving me the opportunity to succeed on and off the field,"

Orr's Twitter announcement of commitment to the university reads. The two are sure to make a promising addition to Clarion's Golden Eagles football team, especially after greatly contributing to the Cougars' state championship victory last fall season.

After an incident at a scrimmage on March 5th resulting in a serious head injury, the Frederick County community rallied behind junior varsity football lineman Colan Droneburg during his recovery. Droneburg was immediately given medical attention upon suffering the injury and was quickly airlifted to University of Maryland Shock Trauma, where he was diagnosed with substantial bleeding on the brain and a severe concussion. A GoFundMe account was created the next day and has raised over \$28,000, significantly exceeding the goal of \$15,000. At this time, Droneburg is up and moving, and attending physical therapy. The Droneburg family and the Frederick community is very hopeful for his recovery ahead.

Catocotin's junior varsity football team looks forward to the season ahead after kicking it off with two victories. The team won their first game on March 13th, with a strong come from behind. The team scored 15-14 against Frederick High School, holding their opponents without a chance to score over the rest of the three quarters. They then dominated their next game on March 20th against Governor Thomas Johnson High School with a score of 20-0, supported particularly by their strong



Catocotin Unified Tennis team

defense. The team expects to build on this momentum throughout the rest of the season, with their next game scheduled for March 31st. The team is quite experienced, as most of the players have played youth football at the Catocotin Youth Association and are familiar with the high school football system.

The team also welcomed sophomore Krystal Lane this year, making her the first female football player in CHS history. Lane was immediately accepted by the rest of the team, and is widely supported by the Frederick County community. Unfortunately, Lane was starting the season when she was injured, causing her to have to sit out for the remainder of games. Coach McCallion hopes to see her return next season.

At the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, the Catocotin unified tennis team welcomed three members participating in the five week conditioning sessions. With three more members joining in February, the team of six was able to play doubles. Junior Destiny Weisgerber has returned for another year as team captain, partnered

with sophomore Ana Morlier. "With much discernment, she gives practical tips and techniques to improve individual performance," unified tennis coach Charmane Nesbitt expressed. New to the team this year is sophomore Dallas Hassel, partnered with sophomore Ava Morlier on the court. "This dynamic duo is quick, smart, and a relentless force of power," Nesbitt stated. Also new to the team is freshman Jonny Wastler. "Partnered with sophomore Siddah Robbins, he is acquiring tennis skills and knowledge necessary to confidently compete," said Nesbitt. The team played against Brunswick High School and winning team Walkersville High School on March 15th, with partners Weisgerber and Ana Morlier leading the team with strong smash returns and hustling moves. Following this was a match on March 22nd against Brunswick and winning team Oakdale High School. Robbins' precise serves won a game during the second set, along with Wastler's backhand skills. The team looks forward to their final match on April 12th against Oakdale and Walkersville. "We remain Cougar strong even during this unprecedented year," Nesbitt expressed. "We will meet whatever challenges come our way with perseverance and purpose."

The Catocotin varsity volleyball team won 3-0 against Frederick High School at their home Senior Night match on March 23rd. Senior Chayney Barnhart had 16 kills, six digs, and one ace; senior Mee Rae Harding had 21 assists; junior Paige Romeril had 14 kills, 14 digs, and two aces; junior Paige Smith had 14 assists; and sophomore Sheridan Chaney had six digs and one ace. Barnhart, middle hitter, and Harding, setter, were con-

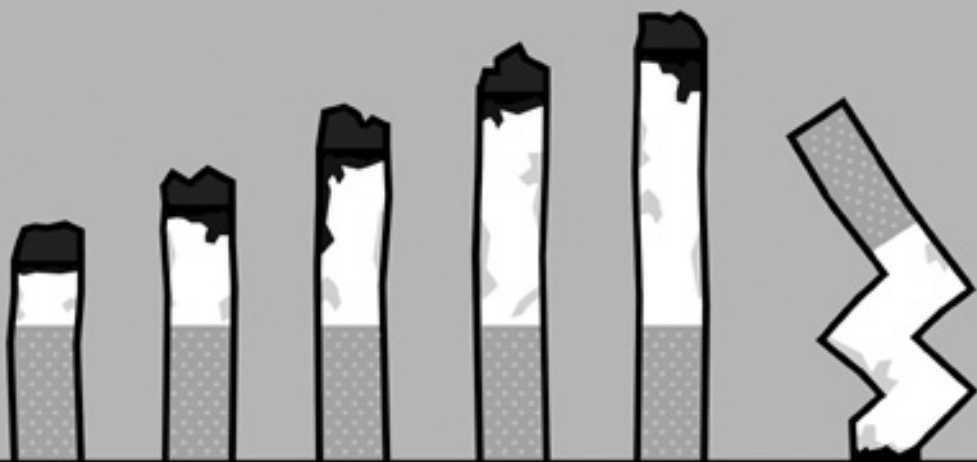
gratulated and honored at this event as the two seniors of the team. "They are both doing very well and are really in sync. Mee Rae has given Chayney great sets," volleyball Coach Wesley Fream stated. He expects Barnhart to make 1st team All County this season. She is first on the team in amount of kills, followed by the other middle hitter, Romeril. The match on Senior Night was the team's second victory of the season, after having won their previous match against Walkersville on March 16th with a score of 3-1. Barnhart had 19 kills and Mee Rae had 26 assists. Following this game was another victory of 3-0 against Middletown High School on March 25th, bringing the team to an overall record of 3-2 at this time with four scheduled matches left in the season.

This season, Frederick County Public Schools' new policy regarding spectators during the pandemic was introduced, allowing two guests per student athlete at all athletic events. This policy acknowledges that some athletic competitions are held off-campus, and calls for the community to respect and abide by the guidelines in place of any venues or organizations hosting the events—including those that do not allow spectators. All spectators are to properly wear face coverings and socially distance at all athletic events to ensure a safe environment. Catocotin, along with all Frederick County Schools have also given the community the opportunity to watch events online by live-streaming competitions. You can find all past and current live athletic events on the Athletics page of the FCPS website.

To read past Catocotin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of [emmitsburg.net](http://emmitsburg.net).

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## MOUNT SPORTS

# Women's cross-country best finish in NEC since 1997

Samuel Barber  
MSMU Class of 2022

When it comes to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, it may be difficult to find an upside moment; however, through all the crazy twists and turns, there appears to be a light at the end of the tunnel. Although scores of athletes across the wide variety of sports that Mount St. Mary's offers have been affected by the postponements and cancellations, no team has had to overcome more challenges than the women's cross-country team.

Traditionally, the cross-country season takes place during the fall season. However, due to COVID-19, the Northeast Conference (NEC) moved fall sports to the spring season. The Mount traveled to Massachusetts for the 2021 NEC Cross-Country Championships on February 28, and it did not disappoint. The Mountaineers led by sophomore Theresa Long had three all-conference selections, as the team scored 64 points to finish runner-ups to Central Connecticut State's 33 points. Long, who finished third overall in an 18:00, set the tempo for the Mount from the beginning while snagging the first position on multiple occasions throughout the five-kilometer race. The Virginia native has become a rising star within the conference, as she improved her positioning by 22 spots from a year ago.

Senior Alexandra Kay brought a sentimental moment to the championships, as the event served as a homecoming for the Massachusetts native. A ninth-place finish, in 18:33, marked the best finish. Kay played a crucial role in the team's success during the race, as she served as a displacement runner to a plethora of runners from third-place Sacred Heart. Although the first and second runners play a pivotal role in determining a team's placing, the displacement runners, which are athletes that disrupt other teams, are vital.

Fellow senior Adria Pirozzi ultimately proved to be the most improved performer out of the entire team. Pirozzi made a monumental jump by 41 places, as she went from a middle to near back of the pack runner, to becoming one of the must-see athletes in the conference. Head coach Christopher FitzSimons, who is in his fourth season at the helm of the Mount's men's and women's cross-country program had plenty to say when interviewed about his athlete's stellar performances. FitzSimons was particularly excited about the top-three, "all three had lifetime performances that weekend at NEC's. It's hopefully the start to a successful spring season. I'm a big believer that running is running, we will keep the ball rolling".

Rounding out the top-five for the Mountaineers were senior Destiny Boone and freshman Mary Campbell. The former continued the theme of the team being a senior-laden one, as she narrowly missed being an all-conference selection by five spots. The time differential between 14th and Boone's

19th place finish was a mere 10 seconds. A senior out of Chesapeake, VA improved dramatically by 49 seconds compared to her outing at the 2019 championships. Campbell became the fifth freshman to cross the line and the first for Mount St. Mary's. Making her championship debut for the team, she was able to put together an upstanding 22nd place finish in a 19:07.

Despite virtually all of the teams in the 32 NCAA Division-I conferences having no fall cross-country season, that did not mean that the work and preparation stopped. FitzSimons and newly hired assistant coach Catie Jaskowak implemented a virtual fall cross-country season which was in conjunction with the NEC. During this modified season, the athletes competed in intrasquad races ranging from a half-mile to six-kilometers while the virtual championship event was a five-kilometer race. According to the coaches, this virtual season played a vital role in overall preparation. "Our administration was amazing with allowing us to pay a time to set up some real race scenarios. It's a different atmosphere when there is FAT (Fully Automatic Time) rather than the coaches holding a stopwatch".

Historically, successful teams are measured in the amount of championship hardware they bring back to their respective program, and rightfully so. However, there is an intangible prize that some of the greatest teams foster: perseverance. This success was not a mere overnight experiment. No, it took years of hard work

through many ups and downs. "This performance has been a long time coming. Five years ago, we did not have enough women to field the team at the beginning of the season. This group was one of my first classes that I brought in it was a slow process but it was great to see it all come together in one weekend." There is a lot to be said about the overall improvement of this team, as the real test will be maintaining this newfound success.

On paper, cross-country, indoor, and outdoor track & field are commonly looked at as being three separate sports. That is not the case for distance runners, as each season serves as a catalyst and a steppingstone for the following season. Since there was no indoor season in the conference this year, the cross-country season has given the women a huge kickstart to have an incredible outdoor track season. Long is one of the most versatile players on the team, as she will have the range from the 1500-meter run to the 5k. Kay has become the true distance outlet for the team while she will be a sole 10k runner. FitzSimons and Jaskowak are thrilled to see the jumps the various athletes are expected to make. "That day a lot of these ladies performed in ways that we as a coaching staff knew was possible, but it was yet to be seen. Then seeing it for themselves I feel will give them confidence going into this outdoor season".

As mentioned before, this is a senior-laden team and the longevity will be determined by how they can overcome replacing two of their top-five runners. The Mount will lose



Boone and Pirozzi to graduation, which replacing an all-conference selection and a near all-conference selection will be a tall task. However, Kay will be returning for a sixth season in Emmitsburg, which is an immense move. The coaching staff remains optimistic that the team can take the next step to winning a conference title. FitzSimons was quite blunt about his expectations for next year. "I think winning is always the goal, but obviously in reality I think we can show up to the conference meet with a chance of winning every time we toe the line, that is when the program has changed forever. We have steadily improved from tenth to second over the last five seasons. Now we look to stabilize at the top

with always having a shot to win on that day".

Central Connecticut junior Ashley Dana narrowly edged out her teammate, Angelina Rafer, by a tenth of a second for the individual title. With the win, Dana punched her ticket to the NCAA Division I Cross Country Championships in Stillwater, OK.

For Mount St. Mary's, the team will begin the transition to the outdoor track season. Their first meet in the month of April will be in Fairfax, VA for the George Mason Spring Invitational, which is hosted by George Mason University.

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of [emmitsburg.net](http://emmitsburg.net).



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## COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

# Being health-accountable

Renee Lehman  
Part 2

In part one of Being Health-Accountable, I addressed issues with how much money is spent per person/year on health care and different perspectives on how our genetic code plays a role in our health. Part two is focused on the Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) perspective of our genetic code and practical applications of TCM to enhance your health accountability.

Let us begin by reviewing the fact that the American healthcare system is a 'disease care' model. You go to the doctor or seek medical advice when you are sick. It is a great system for acute illness and trauma. However, this model does not promote wellness and prevention of disease. Eighty percent of our chronic illnesses (diabetes, heart disease, and obesity to name a few) are not effectively addressed by our current "Disease care" model of healthcare, because many of these chronic illnesses are related to poor health-related behaviors/lifestyles.

Dean Ornish, MD has stated, "Treatment of these and other chronic diseases account for 75% of our healthcare costs, and yet they are preventable or even reversible!!!" Yes, our genetic code does play a role in disease. However, the more that is learned about the genetic code and the 'epigenome,' a layer of biochemical reactions that turns your genes on and off (like a light

switch), the less it appears that your genes look like destiny. The epigenome seems to play a bigger part in your health.

In fact, Dr. Ornish has stated, "It's not all in your genes. Your genes are not your fate. If you change your lifestyle, you can change the way that your genes are expressed.... You can turn on your disease preventing genes and turn off your disease promoting genes."

Interesting: disease preventing genes and disease promoting genes. This sounds like the TCM concept of the Yin and Yang energies in the Universe. Remember the discussion about the TCM perspective of our genetic code from the first part of this article? Based on the principle of Yin and Yang, if our genes have the genetic code for disease (Disease promoting genes), then it also has the genetic code for no-disease (disease preventing genes).

So, by focusing on ways to stimulate the no-disease genes, then you can be preventing disease and promoting health. As it is written in the ancient TCM text, the Nei Jing (475-221 B.C.), "The best doctor concentrates on prevention instead of fixing disease." How can you go about focusing and promoting health using the TCM perspective? Let us begin by discussing the role of Kidney Qi with health.

### Kidney Qi

In TCM, the Kidneys have many functions on the body, mind, and

spirit levels. The Kidneys are at the root of all our physical functioning. They are the source of primordial Yin and Yang; therefore, the Kidneys are the root of our genetic code. The Kidneys are the source of our potential/our life source (they are our 'battery pack'). The energy from our 'battery pack' activates our metabolism and motivates us to live. They provide the basic impulse toward the ability to grow and reproduce. On an emotional and mental level, the Kidneys are responsible for mental strength (adaptable thinking), long term memory, concentration, cleverness, and the ability to be "still". On a spirit level, the Kidneys are responsible for our inherent constitution, resiliency (which includes inner power and courage in times of difficulty), the ability to fulfill our potential and manifest ourselves in the world and having the faith for a 'future harvest'.

Kidney: The Root of Genetic Wisdom - Your entire life depends on healthy Kidneys (and their partner, the Bladder). They are considered as the "congenital constitution" and origin of life. Therefore, the body's life source is stored in the Kidneys and contains all your genetic wisdom. Yes, wisdom is buried in your genetic code. When your Kidney qi is strong, you can use this wisdom to create a better life. As Grand Master Nan Lu, OMD stated, "Every cell in the body is looking for health. This kind of GPS is encoded in your DNA. Your cells are not born looking for disease or illness."

TCM reminds us that the wisdom of how to maintain balance, harmony, and health flows through us. "One of the fundamental tenets of TCM is that it believes we are all born with the ability to heal ourselves. We are born with this wisdom encoded in our DNA. That is why its goal is to help a person return to balance and not just treat symptoms.

When that happens, a person can heal themselves. More than 2,000 years ago, the Nei Jing, an ancient medical text, stated that when a person is in balance and Qi (or energy) flows freely in the body, there is no place for disease or illness." Grand Master Nan Lu, OMD.

The question is how can we turn on/tap into this wisdom? First, we need to focus on Prevention. Prevention is the true area of expertise of TCM. One of my goals as a TCM practitioner is to educate my clients and the community about the benefits of natural healing techniques and balance lifestyle choices so that people can support and maintain their health. The techniques that can tap into this healing wisdom include Eating for Healing, Qigong practices, and Lifestyle changes.

### Eating for Healing

TCM looks at foods in terms of their healing essence. Foods that support Kidney qi functioning (and therefore, your genetic wisdom) include: any seafood: fish and shellfish, including crab, lobster, shrimp, oysters, and clams. Seafood comes from salt water. The salty taste is associated with the Kidneys in TCM's Five Element Framework. So, seafood carries a salty essence to support the Kidneys. Also supporting the Kidney qi are walnuts, pine nuts, pecans, black sesame seeds, bone broths, and beans (think black beans and kidney beans).

### Qigong Practice

Exercise supports your body/mind/spirit. However, certain exercise regimes can be energy depleting while other forms of exercise can be energy building. Energy-building (Qi-building) exercise supports your body. One of the best ways to build your energy is through Qigong. Qi is translated to mean the vital life

force that flows through all things in the universe. Gong, means accomplishment, or skill that is cultivated through steady practice.

Qigong is an ancient energy practice that breaks down energy blockages in the meridians, the invisible pathways through which Qi flows throughout the body. Qigong is the key to discovering your very special inheritance that is locked away inside of yourself. You discover your unlimited potential!

### Lifestyle

Over the years we have been taught to 'be tough,' to ignore, override, and eliminate the sensations of our body until, out of desperation, they become a disease. We often ignore our body's wisdom of how to live well and in harmony with natural laws.

Listen to your body's wisdom, learn from your body's wisdom, and adjust your ways of living. Quiet-ing the body/mind/spirit with the simple, low-tech techniques do not cost a lot of money. Simple lifestyle changes can make a big impact on our lives.

If any of the above information interests you and you would like to learn more, please send me an email at rlehman7@gmail.com. Later this year I will be conducting programs to support you in your efforts to tap into the wisdom of your genetic code and reach your highest potential. Be accountable for what is yours; your precious life is full of potential! Don't ignore your body's wisdom. There are plenty of opportunities to learn how to listen to your body's wisdom. Empower yourself!

*Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist, physical therapist, with over 34 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.*

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# HEALTH AND FITNESS

## Keeping muscles moving

**Linda Stultz**  
Certified Fitness Trainer

Muscles are wonderful, mysterious, and necessary but sometimes demanding things. Having good muscle tone is what helps us stand tall, lift our children and carry life's daily demands. This has been a challenging year and especially this past winter. The weather has been very cold with more snow than we have had in several years. Because of the conditions outside many people were not able to get out for their daily walks or go jogging. I have written much of the things in this article before but I really feel they are important enough to mention again.

As children grow they develop strong muscles just by running around, playing and doing everyday activities. Today we need to be sure they are getting enough movement and activity to keep those muscles strong since videos games, texting and watching TV have become a bigger part of our children's lifestyle. Many children are doing on line school this year and are not having a regular gym class or recess time. It may be a challenge but they need to get daily exercise.

Chest muscles can become very tight and cause symptoms that may make you think there is a heart problem. Tight muscles in the chest can cause pain and inflammation that is uncomfortable. You should always check with your doctor. In some cases a good massage may be all you need to relieve pain and soreness of tight muscles. Today's lifestyle has brought about health problems that just ten to twenty years ago we never experienced. In the old days children were riding their bikes, playing ball with the neighbor kids and swinging on the playground. Our whole level

of activity has slowed down to a rate that we are seeing more obesity, diabetes and overall fatigue in our children, which in turn carries over into adulthood.

Nutrition has also become a matter of concern. More and more children, as well as adults are eating fast food or processed food from a box on a regular basis because of the busy demands of work, sports practice and other activities in our lives. I know you have heard this many times but as adults and especially as parents we need to take a little time out of our busy schedules to show our children how to take care of themselves so they can keep up with the things they need to accomplish in life and so they can do the things they enjoy as well. Nutrition and exercise are things we need to plan ahead for.

Make it a family activity on one day of the week to plan the meals for the week, go shopping for the groceries and prepare as much as you can ahead of time. Chop and package the veggies and fruit in baggies so they can be grabbed and taken along easily. Cook enough for two nights and have the extra warmed up a few days later. Give the kids one day a week that they can choose what is for dinner and they can help prepare it. I know all of this takes extra time that we think we do not have but believe me, once you incorporate this into your schedule you will not only benefit from the healthier food and feel better but you will develop a closer family relationship with you children.

Now that the nutrition has been taken care of the exercise will fall into place if you include the family the same way. Let the kids pick an activity they enjoy and make it a family event. Once or twice a week is all it will take to develop a good habit that will improve the health and well

being of the whole family. Everyone will enjoy being together and hopefully you will all want to add another day or two so you can spend more time together. Your muscles will thank you, after they get finished telling you that you haven't used them in a while. By that I mean, they may get a little sore and achy for a week or so but after that they will be stronger and leaner.

Start slow and work your way up to a level that is challenging but not too strenuous that you cause an injury. Stretching, soaking in warm water and massaging the achy muscles will help them relax and take away some of the aches if you overdo it a little. The more you work your muscles the more they will become lean and strong and soon you will not have any aches after a good workout.

Make sure your children are doing light to moderate exer-



cise because lifting too heavy or doing too much exercise can cause more harm than good for growing children. Their muscles need to be used, but not abused since they are still growing. Children should never lift heavy weights in an exercise program, they are better lifting their own weight with pull ups, push ups or playing ball that will give them cardio as well as muscle strength.

Our muscles are a vitally important part of our body and even though they may ache at

times we need to keep them in the best shape that we can so they are lean and strong as we age. Strong muscle tone can keep us going for years instead of finding ourselves sitting in the chair and having trouble getting up. Teach by example and you will benefit and enjoy, as much as your children will from a strong core and muscle tone. Call me at 717-334-6009 if you need help getting started or have any questions. Remember to keep moving, your muscles will thank you down the road.



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# ASTRONOMY

## The night sky of April

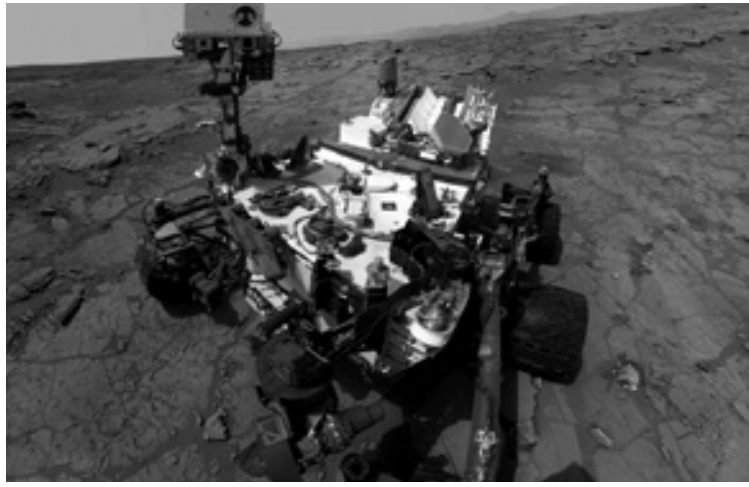
Professor Wayne Wooten

For April, the last quarter moon is on April 4th. The waning crescent passes below Saturn in the dawn on April 6th, then below brighter Jupiter on April 7th. It is new on April 11th. The waxing crescent passes below Mars in the evening sky on April 15th. First quarter moon is April 19th, and The full moon, the Egg Moon, is on April 26th.

Mercury is visible just below the Pleiades cluster in the NW at the very end of the month in the evening sky. You will start to see much brighter Venus emerge into the evening sky in early May. Mars is the only easy planet to spot in the evening sky, moving well up in the NW from the horns of Taurus into the feet of Gemini. Both Jupiter and Saturn are well placed for morning viewing in Capricornus.

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away from any bright lights, is a wonderful instrument to stare up into deep space, far beyond our own Milky Way, binoculars are better for spotting specific deep sky objects. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about March 30th, visit [www.skymaps.com](http://www.skymaps.com) and download the map for April 2021; it will have a more extensive calendar, and list of best objects for the naked eyes, binoculars, and scopes on the back of the map.

Yellow Capella, a giant star the



Now this is what a good 'selfie' should look like! NASA Curiosity rover, which landed on Mars 4 years ago, is still working exploring the surface of Mars.

same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the northwestern sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini. South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the southern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. The bright diamond of four stars that light it up are the trapezium cluster, one of the finest sights in a telescope.

In the east are the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye from West Florida.

To the northeast, look for the Big Dipper rising, with the top two stars of the bowl, the pointers, giving you a line to find Polaris, the Pole Star. Look for Mizar-Alcor, a nice naked eye double star, in the bend of the big dipper's handle. It is just north of the end of the handle of the Big Dipper that we find our featured object for April, the Pinwheel Galaxy. Under dark skies, binoculars will reveal it in an equilateral triangle with Mizar and Alkaid, the end star of the handle.

Now is the best time of year for us in the northern hemisphere to see such external galaxies, since

the dust, gas, and stars of our own Milky Way are largely out of view now. All around the horizon, the winter Milky Way is setting in the west, and the brighter summer arms are still to rise in the south east. To the south, the bright Centaurus-Crux arm lies just below our southern horizon. So we now look straight overhead into the depths of intergalactic space, with little dust obscuring our visible light views. The Pinwheel lies about 20 million light years distant, and is about twice the size and mass of our own Galaxy. Our solar system would be located about 2/3 the way out in the spiral arms of this great spiral for comparison. And there are literally millions of solar type stars very similar to our Sun in this galaxy as well. Is anyone listening?

Take the pointers at the front of the dipper's bowl south instead to the head of Leo, looking much like the profile of the famed Sphinx. The bright star at the Lion's heart is Regulus, the "regal star". Now take the curved handle of the Big Dipper, and follow the arc SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of the spring sky. Recent studies of its motion link it to the Sagittarius Dwarf Galaxy, a companion of our Milky Way being tidally disrupted and spilling its stars above and below the plane of the Milky Way, much like dust falling away from a decomposing comet nucleus. So this brightest star of Bootes the Bear Driver is apparently a refugee from another galaxy!

Out at the edge of our Galaxy are hundreds of globular

star clusters, and one of the finest lies just east of Arcturus. It is the third entry in Messier's listing of smudges in the sky that did not move and thus were not his beloved comets. M-3 is visible as a compact blur in binoculars, and resolves itself into thousands of stars at about 100X in scopes six inches or larger. Many more globulars will join it in the eastern sky in the next few hours, with over 100 in range of amateur scopes.

Now spike south to Spica, the blue-white gem in Virgo rising in the SE. Virgo is home to many galaxies, as we look away from the obscuring gas and dust in the plane of the Milky Way into deep space. To the southwest of Spica is the four sided Crow, Corvus. To the ancient Greeks, Spica was associated with Persephone, daughter of Ceres, goddess of the harvest. She was abducted by her suitor Pluto, carried down to Hades (going to Hell for a honeymoon!) and when Jupiter worked out a compromise between the newlyweds and the angry mother-in-law, the agreement dictated Persephone come back to the earth's surface for six months of the year, and Mama Ceres was again placated, and the crops could grow again. As you see Spica rising in the SE, it is time to "plant your peas", and six months from now, when Spica again disappears in the sun's glare in the southwest, you need to "get your corn in the crib"....so was set our calendar of planting and harvesting in antiquity.

To read past editions of the Sky at Night, visit [emmitsburg.net](http://emmitsburg.net)

## Farmers' Almanac

*"The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year"*  
—Mark Twain (1835-1910)

### Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Fair and mild (1, 2, 3, 4); periods of rain (5, 6, 7), fair and very warm (8, 9, 10). Periods of rain, breezy (11, 12, 13, 14); breezy, cooler with morning freeze (15, 16); occasional showers, severe thunderstorms (17, 18, 19) then turning fair and very warm (20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26); more showers and thunderstorms (27, 28, 29, 30).

**Full Moon:** April's Full Moon will occur on Monday, April 26th. Because of the many pretty flowers blooming during the month, it has been called Pink Moon. It has been also referred to as Fish Moon because fishing typically improves due to the warming weather,

**Special Notes:** April Fool's Day falls on April 1st. Keep an eye out for practical jokes and pranks that may be coming your way from family, co-workers, and friends. To learn more about this unofficial holiday of jokes, hoaxes and pranks, go to [www.history.com/topics/holidays/april-fools-day](http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/april-fools-day). Tax Day is April

15th. Earth Day is observed on April 22nd. Put a call into the Earth Day Network at 202-518-0044 or check out [www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net) for some interesting, fun, and easy activities that you and your family can do that will help promote a healthier relationship with Mother Earth! Arbor Day falls on April 30th. The Arbor Day Foundation's vision is to help others understand and use trees as a solution to many of the global issues we face today, including air quality, water quality, a changing climate, deforestation, poverty, and hunger. Check out more at [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).

**Holidays:** In 2021, Easter is on Sunday, April 4th. Celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, by attending the church of your choice. Ramadan begins at sunset on April 12th.

**The Garden:** Now is the time to do some serious Spring 'cleaning' in the garden. Trim back dead foliage and gather up winter's detritus, such as small branches and excess leaves. Trees and shrubs like Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Spiraea, and Viburnums, if planted now, will provide some beautiful late Spring color. To keep your Easter

lilies blooming longer, place them in indirect sunlight in a cool room. When the flowers open up, pinch off the yellow anthers. Once your blooms have faded and all danger of frost has passed, remove the lily from its pot and plant it in a sunny spot in the garden. Easter Lilies like lots of water and good drainage. Be sure to mulch the roots of the plants over winter and remove the mulch again in spring. You'll enjoy your Easter Lilies for years to come.

**The Farm:** Best days for planting root crops (7, 8); weeding and stirring the soil (25, 26, 27); planting above-ground crops (1, 2); planting root crops (7, 8, 9) 21, 22); harvesting all crops (11, 12); planting above the ground crops (28, 29); to set hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15); slaughter and butcher meat (22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29); transplanting (22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29); harvesting and storing of grain (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21); weaning of animals and livestock (11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19).

### J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

*"Covering the mistakes of others is not necessarily doing them a favor."*

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# COMPUTER Q&A

## Scammers finding new ways to trick you

**Aysë Stenabaugh**  
**Jester's Computer Repair**

Unfortunately, scammers are finding new and clever ways to trick unsuspecting users into providing access to sensitive personal information. The most common methods continue to be via emails, phone calls, and sometimes text messages. It can sometimes be difficult to determine which ones to take seriously and which ones to ignore. At Jester's Computer Services we hear of just about every new scam that comes along. Read on to learn a few tips to help you spot a few common scams, how to protect yourself and what to do if you do find yourself involved with one.

Amazon has become a frequent target – scammers know how many people use the retail giant and their using it to their advantage. The most common Amazon scams typically involve an emailed purchase confirmation for an item that you clearly did not purchase which will also be addressed to a physical delivery address that is not yours. This is an example of phishing and emails like these, as well as similar emails from Amazon (and other businesses and online retailers) that warn you of “fraudulent activity” or other account concerns should be investigated but with caution.

If you receive a notice for a purchase that you don't recognize or if you are ever asked to click a link including verifying your account security, pause and be on alert for the following indicators of a scammer. First, check the email address that the email is from, not just the name itself. Be sure to check on the full @xyz.com address and pay extra CLOSE attention for subtle misspellings. An email from Amazon or any other big organization is not going to be coming from a public domain like Gmail or Yahoo, they should come from amazon.com for example.

Second, if the email contains an attachment, you can almost bet it's a scam, definitely don't open any attachments! Third you can check the “reply-to” email address and ensure that it matches the 'From' address. If all three check out you can still visit the website in question directly rather than via any links within the email. If the notification is legitimate, you should be able to locate the notice from within your account on their website.

The same concept applies if you were to receive a phone call from Amazon or any other individual who calls that wishes for you to provide personal information including but not limited to; your address, date of birth, social security number or a code obtained from a website or software in order to provide remote access to your device. Instead hang up the phone, do not provide the caller with any information or engage in conversation with them.

If you are concerned that the call is potentially legitimate the caller should understand if you tell them that you will call them back at a

more convenient time. Do not call the number back that called you or any phone number that the caller may have provided. Instead, find a verified phone number to reach the company by using a billing statement, by using a quality search engine such as Google or, by finding the contact information on their website. Even if a caller comes up with a legitimate name and or phone number, they could be a scammer.

Comcast users have been a huge target for scammers as of late. Their latest trick once they gain access to your email account via a compromised password, is to forward all of your emails to a new email address with the same username but a different domain, usually outlook.com. For example, if your email address was abc@comcast.net the email address the scammer would create to forward your emails to would be abc@outlook.com. In addition to doing this, the scammers are creating a filter rule, which redirects any new emails to your correct email address into the inbox and is deleted. As a user you may notice that you stop receiving emails all together or you might notice that only your usual

contacts aren't responding to your emails at all.

What the scammers are actually doing is emailing your contacts in an attempt to extort them for money. They don't do so in an obvious way. They might for example, request that the email recipient send a gift card to them as a favor since you're out of town and need to get a birthday gift for a family member. If you notice this happening to you change your email password right away and notify your contacts NOT to respond to the email. If they have already, ask them to change their password and inform them that they too should notify their contacts.

To be clear none of the above indicate that any security breach to your device has occurred unless you have given someone access to your device, clicked on a link or if you opened a malicious attachment. Anyone can access your email account from anywhere if they have the email address and password, as is the case in the Comcast scam mentioned above. Comcast users should also note that any emails received from a comcast.net email account are NEVER cor-



respondence from Comcast themselves. All emails from Comcast the company will come from a comcast.com email address.

If you have been the victim of a scam, Jesters Computers can help; whether

you require a cleanup of your device, advice or one-on-one support. Contact Jester's Computers located in Fairfield by calling 717-642-6611, emailing customerservice@jesterscomputers.com or by visiting us on the web at www.jesterscomputers.com.

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# HUMOR

Let's see how good you are on "Common Knowledge". No cheating! No looking around; no using anything on or in your desk. Can you beat 18? (The average.) Write down your answers and check the answers (which are on the bottom of e-mail) after completing all the questions. And remember ... No Cheating!

1. On a standard traffic light, is the green on the top or bottom?
2. How many states are there? (Don't laugh, some people don't know)
3. In which hand is the Statue of Liberty's torch?
4. What 6 colors are on the classic Campbell's soup label?
5. What 2 letters don't appear on the telephone dial? (No cheating!)
6. What 2 numbers on the telephone dial don't have letters by them?
7. When you walk does your left arm swing w/your right or left leg?

8. How many matches are in a standard pack [card-board flip top]?
9. On the United States flag is the top stripe red or white?
10. What is the lowest number on the FM dial?
11. Which way does water go down the drain in the US, counter or clockwise?
12. Which way does a "no smoking" sign's slash run?
13. How many channels on a VHF TV dial?
14. Which side of a women's blouse are the buttons on?
15. On a NY license plate, is New York on the top or bottom?
16. Which way do fans rotate?
17. Whose face is on a dime?
18. How many sides does a stop sign have?
19. Do books have even-numbered pages on the right or left side?
20. How many lug nuts are on a standard car wheel?
21. How many sides are there on a standard pencil?
22. Sleepy, Happy, Sneezzy, Grumpy, Dopey, Doc. Who's missing?
23. How many hot dog buns are in a standard package?
25. On which playing card is the cardmaker's trademark?
26. On which side of a Venetian blind is the cord that adjusts the opening between the slats?
27. On the back of a \$1 bill, what is in the center?
28. There are 12 buttons on a touch tone phone. What 2 symbols bear no digits?
29. How many curves are there in the standard paper clip?
30. Does a merry-go-round turn counter or clockwise?

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Answers:   | Left                        |
| Bottom   | Top                         |
| 50 (please tell me you at least got this one!)         | Clockwise as you look at it |
| Right  | Roosevelt                   |
| Blue, red, white, yellow, black, and gold              | 8                           |
| Q Z*   | 5                           |
| 1 and 0  | 6                           |
| Right  | Bashful                     |
| 20   | 8                           |
| Red  | There wasn't one?           |
| 88   | Ace of spades               |
| Counter (unless you happen to be south of the equator) | Left                        |
| Towards bottom right                                   | ONE                         |
| 12 (no #1)   | *, #                        |
|  | 3                           |
|  | Counter                     |

### One Hundred Years Ago

The average life expectancy in the United States was forty-seven.

Only 14 percent of the homes in the United States had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone. A three minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars.

There were only 8,000 cars in the US and only 144 miles of paved roads. The maximum speed limit in most cities was ten mph.

Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California. With a mere 1.4 million residents, California was only the twenty-first most populous state in the Union.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.

The average wage in the US was twenty-two cents an hour. The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1500 and \$4000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births in the United States took place at home.

Ninety percent of all US allopathic physicians had no college education. Instead, they attended medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as "substandard."

Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee cost fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law prohibiting poor people from entering the country for any reason, either as travelers or immigrants.

Far more homeopathic physicians than allopathic physicians were in practice. The five leading causes of death in the US were:

- Pneumonia and influenza
- Tuberculosis
- Diarrhea
- Heart Disease
- Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet.

Drive-by-shootings -- in which teenage boys galloped down the street on horses and started randomly shooting at houses, carriages, or anything else that caught their fancy -- were an ongoing problem in Denver and other cities in the West.

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was thirty. The remote desert community was inhabited by only a handful of ranchers and their families.

Plutonium, insulin, and antibiotics hadn't been discovered yet. Scotch tape, crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented.

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

One in ten U.S. adults couldn't read or write. Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Some medical authorities warned that professional seamstresses were apt to become sexually aroused by the steady rhythm, hour after hour, of the sewing machine's foot pedals. They recommended slipping bromide -- which was thought to diminish sexual desire -- into the women's drinking water.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at corner drugstores. According to one pharmacist, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and the bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health."

Coca-Cola contained cocaine instead of caffeine.

Punch card data processing had recently been developed, and early predecessors of the modern computer were used for the first time by the government to help compile the 1900 census.

Eighteen percent of households in the United States had at least one full-time servant or domestic.

There were about 230 reported murders in the U.S. annually.

## Coach Bag & Money

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## April 25



**Doors Open 11 a.m.**  
**Bingo Starts 1 p.m.**

28 Games Total    12 Games at \$100  
Half Time Game \$500    Final Game \$1000

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2 - \$500	18 - \$500	34 - \$500	30 - \$1000
3 - \$500	19 - \$500	35 - \$1000	51 - \$2000
4 - \$500	20 - \$1000	36 - \$500	52 - \$500
5 - \$1000	21 - \$2000	37 - \$500	53 - \$500
6 - \$500	22 - \$500	38 - \$500	54 - \$500
7 - \$500	23 - \$500	39 - \$500	55 - \$1000
8 - \$500	24 - \$500	40 - \$1000	56 - \$500
9 - \$500	25 - \$1000	41 - \$5000	57 - \$500
10 - \$1000	26 - \$500	42 - \$500	58 - \$500
11 - \$2000	27 - \$500	43 - \$500	59 - \$500
12 - \$500	28 - \$500	44 - \$500	60 - \$1000
13 - \$500	29 - \$500	45 - \$1000	61 - \$1000
14 - \$500	30 - \$1000	46 - \$500	62 - \$2000
15 - \$1000	31 - \$5000	47 - \$500	63 - \$1000
16 - \$500	32 - \$500	48 - \$500	64 - \$2000

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Your ticket stub will be mailed to you

# HUMOR

## Things Said in 1959

"I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it's going to be impossible to buy a weeks groceries for \$20."  
 "Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won't be long when \$5000 will only buy a used one."  
 "If cigarettes keep going up in price, I'm going to quit. A quarter a pack is ridiculous."  
 "Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?"  
 "The Government is wanting to get its hands on everything. Pretty soon it's going to be impossible to run a family business or farm."  
 "If they raise the minimum wage to \$1, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store."  
 "When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 50 cents a gallon. Guess we'd be better off leaving the car in the garage."  
 "Kids today are impossible. Those duck tail hair cuts make it impossible to stay groomed. Next thing you know, boys will be wearing their hair as long as the girls."  
 "Also, their music drives me wild. This 'Rock Around The Clock' thing is nothing but racket."  
 "I'm afraid to send my kids to the movies any more. Ever since they let Clark Gable get by with saying 'damn' in 'Gone With The Wind,' it seems every movie has a 'hell' or a 'damn' in it."  
 "Also, it won't be long until couples are sleeping in the same bed in the movies. What is this world coming to?"  
 "Marilyn Monroe is now showing her bra and panties, so apparently there are no standards anymore."  
 "Pretty soon you won't be able to buy a good 10 cent cigar."  
 "I read the other day where some scientist thinks it's possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the of the century. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it down in Texas."  
 "Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$75,000 a year just to play ball? It wouldn't surprise me if someday they'll be making more than the president."  
 "Do you suppose television will ever reach our part of the country?"

"I never thought I'd see the day all our kitchen appliances would be electric. They are even making electric typewriters now."  
 "It's too bad things are so tough nowadays. I see where a few married women are having to work to make ends meet."  
 "It won't be long before young couples are going to have to hire someone to watch their kids so they can both work."  
 "Marriage doesn't mean a thing anymore, Those Hollywood stars seem to be getting divorced at the drop of a hat."  
 "I'll tell you one thing. If my kid ever talks back to me, they won't be able to sit down for a week."  
 "Did you know the new church in town is allowing women to wear slacks to their service?"  
 "Next thing you know is, the government will start paying us not to grow crops."  
 "I'm just afraid the Volkswagen car is going to open the door to a whole lot of foreign business."  
 "Thank goodness I won't live to see the day when the Government takes half our income in taxes. I sometimes wonder if we are electing the best people to congress."  
 "Why in the world would you want to send your daughter to college? Isn't she going to get married? It would be different if she could be a doctor or a lawyer."  
 "I just hate to see the young people smoking. As I tell my kids, "Don't take a cigarette from ANYONE. You never know what might be in it."  
 The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on."  
 "There is no sense going to Lincoln or Omaha anymore for a weekend. It costs nearly \$15 a night to stay in a hotel."  
 "Anymore no one can afford to be sick, \$35 a day in the hospital is too rich for my blood."  
 "If a few idiots want to risk their necks flying across the country that's fine, but nothing will ever replace trains."  
 "I don't know about you but if they raise the price of coffee to 15 cents, I'll just have to drink mine at home."  
 "If they think I'll pay 50 cents for a hair cut, forget it. I'll have my wife learn to cut hair."  
 "We won't be going out much anymore. Our baby sitter informed us she wants 50 cents an hour. Kids think

money grows on trees."  
 "Cars which dim their lights by sensors, automatic transmissions, and who knows what else? Pretty soon they will drive themselves."  
 No it wasn't so long ago!!!  
**More totally useless facts for you to impress your friends with**  
 The symbol on the "pound" key (#) is called an octothorpe.  
 The dot over the letter 'i' is called a tittle.  
 The word "set" has more definitions than any other word in the English language.  
 "Underground" is the only word in the English language that begins and ends with the letters "und."  
 There are only four words in the English language which end in "-dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.  
 The longest word in the English language, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, is pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis.  
 The only other word with the same number of letters is pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconioses, its plural.  
 The longest place-name still in use is Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateaturipukakapikimaungahoronukupokaiwenuakitanatahu, a New Zealand hill.  
 Donald Duck's middle name is Fauntleroy.  
 Steely Dan got their name from a sexual device depicted in the book 'The Naked Lunch.'  
 A pregnant goldfish is called a twit.  
 The Ramses brand condom is named after the great pharaoh Ramses II, who fathered over 160 children.  
 There is a seven-letter word in the English language that contains ten words without rearranging any of its letters. This word is "therein," and the words within it are: the, there, he, in, rein, her, here, ere, therein, herein.  
 The letters KGB stand for Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti.  
 To "testify" was based on men in the Roman court swearing to a statement made by swearing on their testicles.

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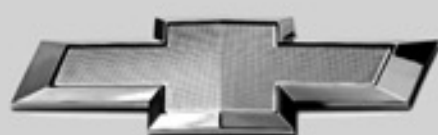


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