

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 16, NO. 11

"EXALTING THE IMPORTANCE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION" — EDWARD R. MURROW

NOVEMBER 2024

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Rocky Ridge VFC celebrates 75th anniversary

On the heels of last month's article about the closing of the Graceham Volunteer Fire Company, it's a pleasure this month to write an article about Rocky Ridge's Volunteer Fire Company, one of the few remaining all volunteer fire companies in the county, celebrating its 75-year anniversary. And they did it with flare, as they always do!

The months of planning by a small but dedicated force was evident in every detail of the celebration. Upon entering the immaculate fire building, guests were escorted to the food and drinks table, where you were held captive until you partook in all the offerings on the table — especially one of the hundreds of mouthwatering cupcakes!

From there, everyone was encouraged to visit all the stations set up around the hall, including those for the sheriff's office, the County's "Gear Up" program, Rocky Ridge's Auxiliary (who was selling their prized cookbook), and last but not least, the membership table, where the few residents of Rocky Ridge not already in the company were pro-

vided information on how they could join, or if unable to join, how they could support this awesome fire company.

But the highlight of the event, other than multiple returns to the cupcake table, were the keynote speeches. Dale Kline, president of the Company, recapped the history of the Company like only a life long member could - from the decision behind the need to form the Company, the purchase of its very first fire engine and the sounding of fire alarms in the days when there were only two working phones in the community to its sure but steady growth today.

Wayne Powell, the Vigilant Hose Company former president, spoke of the critical role Rocky Ridge has played over the years in protecting the citizens of the area and of its support of other community fire companies.

Chief Alan Hurley, a man of few words, only needed a few words to ensure everyone understood his appreciation for the selfless dedication of all the Company's past and present members and the support the community has shown the Company.



Where other companies count themselves lucky to have two or three juniors, Rocky Ridge boasts nine.

Betty Ann Mumma, president of the Company Auxiliary, brought her usual self-deprecating sense of humor as she recounted how she decided 50 years ago to serve "a few years" in the Auxiliary "to help where I could, but only upon the condition that I would not get a title or an office. Well, those few short years turned into 50 years and in spite of my best efforts, I have a title and an office. But I also have so many, many memories."

Kline, in commenting on Mumma's 50+ years of service,

noted that the Company has had eight presidents and seven chiefs, but only one Auxiliary president. "Betty Ann and the Auxiliary are the glue that holds us together."

Last but not least, the future of the Company, its junior members, were ever-present. Where other companies count themselves lucky to have two or three juniors, Rocky Ridge boasts nine. Not surprising for a company where everyone is treated as family and valued members. Bravo Zulu to the Rocky Ridge VFC, Bravo Zulu.

Rain fails to dampen turnout for 43rd Pippinfest

With summer finally at an end, the shorter, cooler days that autumn brings can now commence. Just as summertime brings the carnival season, autumn brings the season of fall festivals.

Fairfield's "Pippinfest" kicked off the fall festival season and for months its staff meticulously planned for the throngs of thousands who would be flocking to a plethora of yard sales, crafts, and food vendors from all over the region, but what they couldn't plan for was the remnants of Hurricane Helene that brought more than six inches of rain over the six days prior to the festival. Of course, this was better than last year, when Hurricane Ophelia brought over two inches of rain on the first day of the event.

As a result of the rain on Saturday morning, on the first day of the festival visitors were few and far between. The few festival enthusiasts that did attend in the morning were left with long walks between vendors through pools of storm water. But the clearing of the skies Saturday afternoon was all that was needed to draw out people who were tired of being cooped up from the incessant week of rain, and soon the streets

of the town were overflowing.

Vendors, visitors and volunteers remained cheerful, despite the stormy conditions, and were hopeful that Sunday, the second day of the event, would bring a reprieve. Unfortunately, it did not. The return of rainy weather on Sunday dampened turnout.

Those who did brave the weather wondered about the choice to have the festival, even though it is listed as a rain or shine event. But with no rain date, it came down to vendor choice as to whether to set up or stay home. One vendor who looked at the meager crowds on Sunday said, "It is unfortunate there isn't a rain date because this is a great event, when the weather is nice. While this week was not as bad as last year's, it's a far cry from the turnout in prior years when the weather was nice and sunny."

"We don't control the weather," said one event organizer, "it is what it is. We couldn't cancel the event or give vendors refunds, as everything had already been paid for and set up, from the signs to the Port-Johns. All the costs were paid by vendor fees. So even if we cancelled, we would still have to pay those bills. So we hoped for the best. Unfortunately, sometimes we get the worst."



The food vendors ran full tilt as visitors sought to get their last 'fair' food of the season.

While some vendors didn't do as well as they liked, the food vendors, especially the funnel cake vendor, was running a booming business, with 20 plus lined up to grab one. "Given that for many of the visitors, this will be the last time they have an opportunity to buy a funnel cake this year, few are missing the opportunity to buy one. So I'm doing

okay — much better than last year where my line, at the best of times, was two people. I've been coming here for years and will be back next year. A little rain can't dampen my enthusiasm for this great festival."

Planning for the 2025 Pippinfest will begin soon and hopefully the weather will cooperate and we'll see a bigger and better event next year!

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Council vexed on student housing

October's Town Council Workshop on a proposed town code amendment to allow student housing in the Village Zone District came to a quick end in front of a skeptical council.

The proposed amendment was a result of repeated violations received by David Ott for using his properties at 101 and 105 West Main Street, which are zoned as single family residential, but are instead rented to students. Under the Town's current code, student housing is not allowed in the village zone.

According to Town Attorney Leslie Powell, when Ott's contractor submitted the zoning permit application in 2022, it was "incorrectly filled out" to rent to single families without the intention of renting to students. That statement, however, met with mutters of "unbelievable" from members of the audience who had come to voice opposition to the proposed amendment.

After complaints about parking and excess trash caught Town staff's attention, Ott was warned to correct the violations or his permits would be revoked. Town staff also noted that Ott had moved students in prior to obtaining occupancy permits.

Ott was formally cited after he continued to rent to students after the warnings were issued. Ott's attorney met with Powell and Ott was told he could only rent to families. If he wished to rent to students, he was told the code

prohibiting renting to students needed to be amended.

Student housing differs from boarding and rooming houses because of the intended purpose and occupancy. Student housing requires special considerations because of the transient nature of students and the potential impact on surrounding properties due to parking issues, excess trash and noise complaints.

Ott's attorney pointed out that many homes have been rented to students in the village zone for years, however, this is just the first time there have been any complaints. "This has been going on for a long time, we're just the ones that got caught," Ott's attorney said.

Powell stated that the current use of Ott's two dwelling units allows for a single household group which carries the attributes of buying food together, cooking meals together, sharing expenses and having one lease. With student housing, each student is responsible for those things themselves.

The Town Council listened to the give and take between the Town staff and Ott's attorney, but when pressed to make a decision on the proposed amendment, the Council opted not to until they could gather more information.

Commissioner Valerie Turnquist shared a collection of police reports describing destruction of property, disorderly conduct, trash complaints, noise complaints and more that are all

linked to students. "I don't have a problem with students, but I think these are issues that need to be addressed by an ordinance," she said. "We need to determine, as a town, what we want Main Street to look like going forward."

Commissioner Amy Pollitt asked if Gettysburg could be used as an example for the creation of a rental agreement that would outline rules and regulations to protect neighbors, landlords and renters.

Former Commissioner Diane Walbrecker, an active participant in the Town's Comprehensive Plan, said this situation is the perfect opportunity to look at the Town's Housing Code and make sure it allows the kind of diverse housing that is needed in town. "I think our town needs to become more flexible in giving people the ability to create the kind of community that we want."

Pollitt agreed, stating, "Sometimes we realize the code needs to be updated through situations like this." At Pollitt's request, the Council voted unanimously to defer making a decision on the amendment.

The Council instead proposed holding another public workshop and to advertise more widely, in hopes of gaining a broader range of input from residents on the implications of formally allowing student housing in Emmitsburg's downtown.

"We need more residents to weigh in," said Pollitt and Turnquist.

Emmitsburg
NEWS-JOURNAL

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Three commissioners sworn in on Town Council

The Town election in September saw three commissioner seats open with four candidates in the running. Commissioners Cliff Sweeney and Jim Hoover, both currently serving, managed to keep their seats on the Council, with Sweeney receiving 124 votes and Hoover 116. Commissioner Kevin Hagan received 82 votes, winning over the last candidate by 22 votes.

New Commissioner Hagan joined the Council after serving as chair of the Planning Commission and will

serve until October of 2025. Commissioners Jim Hoover, Valerie Turnquist and Cliff Sweeney will all serve until October 2027, as will Mayor Frank Davis.

Commissioner Tim O'Donnell ended his time on the Council, however, he will be serving on the Parks and Recreation Committee until 2026 and the Planning Commission until 2027. He was honored with a proclamation for his work on the Council and specifically as a part of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Upon ending his term, O'Donnell told his fellow commissioners to "Support one another, collaborate, don't compete when you don't have to and always make each other look good." He had words for the community as well, stating "This board will look at water and sewer rates and you need to support them and give your feedback."

For O'Donnell, "growth is necessary" and it will occur whether they chose to see it happen or not. "It's in your best interest to prepare rig-

orously for it and dictate what we want to see growth wise in our community," he said. He specifically asked the community to pay attention to the North County regional park, an over 152-acre park on Motters Station Road. "I continue to harp on the need for pedestrian safety. Our young kids are bold and independent, and they will ride their bikes over [Route] 15 if we don't give them a path to that park," he said. He said it was imperative that a safe route is discovered and

committed to, and he asked for this to be a top priority.

After swearing in the new commissioners, the Council spent some time rearranging council duties. Commissioner Amy Pollitt will remain Council President, Hoover will remain Council Vice-President and Turnquist will remain treasurer. Sweeney volunteered to be the Parks and Recreation liaison and Hagan will work as Citizen Advisory Board liaison. Hoover will work alongside the Planning Commission.

Work on Comprehensive Plan continues

Town Planner Najila Ahsan introduced a new outline for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan, updated from the version discussed in July. The plan is designed to set forth the Town's policies in the areas of land use and community development, natural resources, trans-

portation, utilities, recreation and housing. It is reviewed and updated every ten years and will guide the Town through the year 2045.

The outline specifically talks about the purpose of the entire plan and establishes clear goals and visions for Emmitsburg's thriving

future. It contains maps and illustrations providing the basis for the regulations that are needed for land use, community development, natural resources, transportation, utilities, recreation and housing. Ahsan explained the reason for reorganizing the outline was that, "This was more organized than what we had before." There were also minor clerical changes made.

Besides sharing the new outline, the Commission reviewed the first two out of ten chapters of the plan. One goal in these chapters is to create a registry for vacant properties. Chairperson Mark Long asked how the registry would be created. Ahsan explained that Town staff was still exploring the strategy they wanted to use, but would likely use the SDAT (Real Property Data Search) program to find the registered owner of the vacant property to create an inventory. The

Town could also contact the property owner and request them to register the property.

Long also mentioned the importance of the rehabilitation section of the Plan. "We have so many rental units that need rehabilitating," he said. "Are we going to work with the owners to get grants or enforce codes?" Ahsan confirmed the intention to do both and mentioned that if a building is found to be hazardous the Town can take action. She mentioned grants that are available, including the Community Legacy Grant which funds the Facade Improvement program, allowing buildings in need of a "facelift" to get the work done with financial aid.

Another important comment made by Long was about how the Town could streamline the process of rehabilitating properties. Initially, the Plan stated a goal of two years

for making the process quick and efficient by reducing the amount of paperwork necessary. After discussing the depth of the Town's Codes and Laws, the Commission decided to remove the two-year timeline, making the goal more flexible.

In July, Diane Walbrecker, who was involved in the 1990s Comprehensive Plan, suggested creating a group of representatives from certain areas in town to meet once a month to discuss what changes and/or improvements they want to achieve with the Plan update. Although the group was created and has met, she was concerned over the lack of public involvement.

The Commission pointed out that the Plan itself is online and the Planning Commission and Town Council meetings are always public and online. Long also mentioned that anyone can email Town staff with questions and concerns. Workshops are also planned for October 30th and January 29th.

8th Annual Emmitsburg Holiday House & Business Decorating Contest



To participate, have the exterior of your home or business decorated by December 8. Judging will occur Dec. 9 thru Dec. 16.

Three categories:	1st Prize - \$75
Most Traditional	2nd Prize - \$50
Most Decorative	3rd Prize - \$25
Best Business	

Winners will be announced by December 20 on the Town's website and Facebook page.

FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Taxes possibly on the rise in Liberty Township

Liberty Township supervisors are learning towards a 2025 tax hike. During the annual budget workshop, supervisors voiced no opposition to Supervisor Walter "Mickey" Barlow's proposal for a half-mill increase.

The supervisors cited the need to rebuild the township's reserves while maintaining roads and keeping pace with increased costs.

"Some of the previous administrations were proud of the fact

that they never raised the taxes on anyone for 16 years," Supervisor Bobby Keilhotz said. "They got behind the eightball; they never kept up with expenses."

If approved, Barlow's proposal will cost Liberty Township residents about \$50 per \$100,000 of assessed property. The increase will allow the township to add \$84,173 to its reserve account.

The 2025 budget proposal totals about \$500,000. Barlow warned

that \$250,000 is left in the allocated reserve account, or about six months of township operating expenses. The township's unallocated reserve account, which covers unexpected expenses, will be down to \$50,000.

"We can't continue to pull money from reserve accounts," he said.

Supervisors also discussed the importance of continuing to maintain township roads. In 2024, the township spent about

\$225,000 on Bullfrog Road. Supervisors expect to finish the project in 2025 at an estimated cost of \$175,000. The township is completely reconstructing Bullfrog Road, Barlow said. In the past, crews used tar and chips for an inexpensive fix that had longterm financial implications.

"That road is one of most highly trafficked roads in the township," Barlow said.

Supervisor Chris Hill agreed.

"It's a lifeblood to the community, we need to make sure that road is open," Hill said.

Liberty Township supervisors plan to reconstruct one road every year, Barlow said. Pecher and Orchard roads are on the schedule after Bullfrog is complete. Supervisors lauded the township road crew's willingness to work for relatively low rates. Hill noted that the township needs to prepare to replace the staff at a higher rate when the current crew decides to resign.

Carroll Valley OKs lot sales, discusses next steps

A future Carroll Valley park received a financial boost in October due to the sale of borough-owned lots. The council unanimously approved the sale of four lots for a total of \$195,000.

Lots now in the hands of a new owner are: 4 Grouse Trail, sold to Jeryl Martin for \$49,600; 22 Sunshine Trail, sold to AHC New Homes for \$54,000; 2 Elm Trail, sold to Jansen Homes, LLC for \$47,251; and 39 Main Trail, sold to Jansen Homes, LLC for \$45,001. All lots were sold for at

least the appraised value through a public bidding process.

Four other lots received no bids and one received a bid less than the required minimum bid. The future of those lots led to much discussion amongst the council members.

Councilman Cody Gilbert said he believes the council is not obligated to sell the lots for at least the appraised value. Gilbert believes the council should sell the lots for the fair market value, an amount the council and the potential buyer agree is

equitable. Guillermo Ballesteros' bid \$32,000 for 49/51 Shirley Trail, despite the minimum bid being \$51,000. Council rejected his bid through a 5-2 vote, with Gilbert and Councilman Bruce Carr in opposition.

"We should not be accepting a bid for only \$32,000. There is no other property that comes even close to that low," Council President Richard Mathews said.

Solicitor Zachary Rice of Salzmans Hughes said the Pennsylvania Borough Code does not require council to use an

appraisal to determine a minimum bid. However, Rice said, Carroll Valley has traditionally used that method. Councilman David Lillard supported the traditional approach because he believes it avoids the perception of favoritism.

Rice said the council could privately negotiate with a potential buyer if a second public auction yields no bids. That agreed-upon price would need to be advertised before a meeting so the public has one final opportunity to share thoughts.

"We still want to make sure there is fundamental fairness and not some sort of insider trading," Rice said.

Mathews suggested the council delay the conversation until the beginning of 2025. Hazlett said that plan is possible but encouraged the members to update the appraisals, which were completed in May, to ensure they account for market fluctuations. A formal vote was not taken on the matter, but council appeared to favor revisiting the sales in 2025.

Carroll Valley chickens claim victory

The chickens residing on Fawn Trail in Carroll Valley can cluck sounds of joy. Borough Manager Dave Hazlett told the council during its October meeting that the borough's Zoning Hearing Board granted a variance for a chicken coop located at 8 Fawn Trail. Hazlett said the variance is attached to current property owners Katlyn Weimer and Adam Colson and will not transfer if the couple sells the land.

"I notified them verbally after the hearing that as far I was concerned, that issue was finished," Hazlett said. "I directed staff to issue the necessary permits the next morning."

The future of Weimer and Colson's chickens has been a hot topic at borough council meetings since the summer of 2023. Carroll Valley law states chickens must reside

in the backyard of a property. That's not possible for Weimer and Colson, whose house at 8 Fawn Trail aligns with the rear of their half-acre lot.

Fifteen of Weimer and Colson's neighbors expressed support for the couple's coop. Chicken fans claimed the bird bring joy, prevent ticks, and enhance the beauty of the neighborhood. However, well wishes do not

change government legislation.

The council directed its Planning Commission in September 2023 to craft an ordinance that a chicken coop can be placed anywhere on a property as long as it complies with the setback requirements of the land's zoning district.

The ordinance has yet to advance, so Hazlett in his role as the borough's zoning officer started enforcement actions in

the spring of this year. The topic once again dominated the public comment portion of meetings for months, with Hazlett stressing to the couple that he had no opinion on the foul's fate. He was just doing his job.

The Zoning Hearing Board is an appointed quasi-judicial body that has the power to overturn the zoning officer's actions. Weimer and Colson pleaded for their sup-

port, and the wheels of justice prevailed in their view.

Despite the apparent good news, one dark cloud remains over the Fawn Trail coop. Deed restrictions on Carroll Valley properties also outlaw chickens. However, Borough Solicitor Zachary Rice of Salzmans Hughes has said such restrictions can only be enforced by a judge if a neighbor files a civil action in the Adams County Court of Common Pleas. To date, no such action has been reported.

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THURMONT NEWS

Work on revitalizing the downtown begins

After the Planning and Zoning Commission discussed their primary goals for implementing the Town's master plan at August's meeting, the Commission had a public workshop in September to specifically discuss the revitalization of the Downtown area. Chair Meredith Wivell posed three questions to be discussed among the public and Commission members.

The first question asked, "What should Thurmont's downtown revitalization involve? What should it look like on a weekend or a workday?"

Lifetime resident Emily Hobbs described Thurmont as a Town 'where the old meets the new.' "We have great old foundations, a lot of historic buildings and events that have been going on for a long time," she said. She mentioned new resi-

dents and the continuation of sustainable growth according to the Master Plan.

Hobbs suggested the Town utilize grants such as the Strategic Demolition Fund, a program where rundown or derelict buildings can be rehabilitated into more useful purposes.

Mayor John Kinnaird voiced his support of the many small events that bring people into Town. "In the 60s the downtown was busy," he shared. "There were three clothing stores, three restaurants, two grocery stores, two doctors, a toy store, a drug store, two general stores, a movie theatre and more." He was saddened to say that the small businesses that make up a downtown district tend to come and go rapidly and are continually devastated by newer shopping centers drawing business away.

Randy Cabbage applauded Vicki Grinder, the Town's Main Street Manager, for keeping the Downtown buildings occupied instead of leaving them empty and abandoned. He explained his fear was of Thurmont becoming a 'Breakfast Community' where the family's that live there never visit their own Downtown area or take advantage of any of the activities in the Town.

Commission members discussed ideas to draw the public back to the downtown area. Vincent Cover suggested creating low-cost activities and events to draw people downtown "A lot of people do not have any surplus money," he pointed out. "We've got to find things that are low cost but still have a benefit to get the people out."

The second question posed by Wivell was, "What regulatory barriers would you change to make the

Downtown a better place to live, work or recreate in."

Kelly Duty suggested allowing the first floor of a downtown building be residential. Currently only a business may occupy a first floor, however, many buildings remain empty because of this rule. "By letting this [change] happen the buildings will always be inhabited but it will also increase foot traffic in town," she stated. Chief Administrative Officer Jim Humerick pointed out that the rule was instituted during a time when there were a lot of vacant buildings in the downtown area, and it may not be pertinent anymore.

Greg Goodhart toyed with looking into seeing if free parking would help bring visitors to the downtown area, but warned that if some type of time limit was not imposed the downtown area would become

a commuter parking lot leaving no place for customers to park.

The third question asked everyone was, to "Imagine that you are a future generation of Town resident and tell us what would impress you the most about downtown Thurmont today."

Hobbs said it was friendly and welcoming atmosphere in Thurmont. However, she wished there was a 'place to go to socialize and have hobbies.' "People miss that," she said. "A lot of these businesses are not just about buying a thing but coming to hang out and buy something while there."

Cover agreed, "The social aspect is missing." He suggested having a scavenger hunt or where's waldo type of activity to get people active in the downtown community.

The Commission is considering creating a survey to pass out to residents to see if more public interaction could be garnered.

ARPA funds reallocated to additional sewer line project

The Board of Commissioners voted to reallocate excess American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the repair of the sewer line that runs from the McDonald's to the pump station outside of the waste water plant. The ARPA funds are left over from the North Church Street water and sewer project, amounting to \$272,111 left in the contract.

The original contract for the North Church Street project was \$4,396,887 and entailed repairing the water and sewer lines on North Church Street from the

railroad bridge next to Mt. Carmel Church all the way up to Catoctin High School.

"Those savings are a result of several different field revisions that we made, but the biggest savings for us was we lined quite a few sewer lines rather than digging up and replacing them," Town Manager Jim Humerick said, "which is a much more cost-effective way to do this."

Town staff hopes to use this same method for the sewer lines from McDonald's to the waste water plant; the scope for the new

project includes lining the 2610 ft of sewer lines and replacing all seven manholes along that stretch. Humerick explained to the Board and residents that the current lines and manholes leak and are in a "dire" state.

Guyer Brothers, who worked on the Church Street project, provided a quote of \$258,070 for the scope. "I think this is a great concept and a great idea to commit some of the remaining ARPA funds to the McDonald's line. That's a line that fits right into our long-term projects," Mayor

John Kinnaird said, citing the Town's goal to continue completing inflow and infiltration (I&I) projects to ensure that its residents have clean, safe water.

This leaves \$14,041 for additional projects around Town that must be used before the end of the year. According to the National League of Cities website, "ARPA regulations require local governments to return grant funding that remains unobligated beyond the December 2024 end-of-year deadline to the U.S. Department of Treasury — making this

deadline one of the most important for cities, towns and villages." Humerick said that Thurmont would have to return the obligated funds if they are not used for their designated projects by the end of 2026.

As for the remaining funds, the Board authorized Town staff to use up to \$20,000 for additional I&I projects around town at their discretion. The Board purposefully authorized more than what is left in the ARPA fund to allow the Town staff a "buffer" for these projects.

Commission members sworn in to posts

Mayor John Kinnaird has sworn in several members to the Ethics Commission and the

Police Commission over the past few meetings.

Pat Rhodes and Carol Robert-

son were sworn in as members of the Thurmont Ethics Commission at the October 1 meeting. The Ethics Committee consists of three regular and one alternate member appointed by the mayor, with the advice and consent of the Board of Commissioners. Teresa Bean currently serves as the third member of the Commission.

In 2010, Maryland municipalities were required to adopt local ethics laws that included conflicts of interest and financial disclosures that were equivalent to the state provisions. Thurmont adopted its ethics ordinance law and the Ethics Commission approved the law as being in compliance with the Mary-

land Public Ethics Law in 2014.

The Town's Ethics Commission was established in 2014 as part of the effort to come into compliance with the Maryland Public Ethics Law. The Commission is tasked with investigating complaints about Thurmont officials, while also serving as a consulting team to advise town officials and staff on the application of the Town's ethics code to their day-to-day duties, specifically with regards to issues of potential conflict of interest and prohibited activities, such as use of office for personal gain. Commission members serve for four years.

John Bern and Mitch Delph were sworn into the Police Com-

mission at the same meeting. The appointment of Bern and Delph came on the heels of the appointment of Matt Westbrook and the reappointment of Jim Robbins at the August 27th Town Council meeting. Westbrook was sworn in at the September 3rd meeting and Robbins at the September 17th meeting. "We have some very hard-working men and women in our department and I enjoy the camaraderie and working with them," Robbins said. "I thank you for approving me for another term."

The Police Commission is an advisory body to the Thurmont Board of Commissioners on matters relating to the Thurmont Police Department. The Commission is currently chaired by Ed Hutson and in addition to the four individuals named, includes Greg Seymoire, Shawn Martyak, and Cathy Maddox. Commissioner Bill Blakeslee serves as the Town Council's liaison to the Commission.

"Thanks to our volunteers for serving on our commissions," Kinnaird said after the swearing in ceremonies. "You make our town run better and take care of a lot of issues and discussions behind the scenes on behalf of our residents and the Board of Commissioners, so thank you very much for volunteering."

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TANEYTOWN NEWS

Curaleaf seeks OK to grow marijuana next to park

Operations Manager of Taneytown's Curaleaf dispensary location, Chris Loveridge, introduced a plan to expand their marijuana growing business into an outdoor growing space. This concept would not be the first in the state, as Loveridge described the outdoor growing of marijuana currently succeeding at multiple sites in Maryland.

Six years ago, when Curaleaf opened its 55,000 square foot location, they had six rooms for processing. Since then, they have added an additional eight more rooms for growing indoors. With the recreational legalization of marijuana in July, Loveridge explained, "We don't have a big enough building to keep up with the current market. We are one of

the smallest growers in the state."

Loveridge said, "We have a lot of our packing materials and other stuff stored in the hallways because there isn't enough space inside the building anymore." Although the additional growing space will help with keeping their product in stock, the warehouse will not see an increase in size.

The outdoor area for the growing of 5,000 legalized marijuana plants will be located on a ten-acre piece of property that backs up to the City's athletic fields at Memorial Park.

Loveridge said that the company would be running the first year as minimally as possible and will reassess for next year. If successful, they may add greenhouses to further extend the growing season. Loveri-

dige said a ten-foot security fence with privacy barriers and a 24-hour surveillance system with night vision will be installed around the outdoor growing area, which will help to minimize the need for bright lighting at night, preventing any light nuisance to neighbors.

Loveridge said the company intends on growing two different types of marijuana plants: "Autoflowering," which will be used at the beginning of the growth cycle because they essentially start growing automatically, and "Photoperiod," which will be used in the second half, as they require specific light conditions to flower. Photoperiod plants are considered to be more potent than Autoflowering. The plants will be either grown by seed or be cloned for

three to four months before they can be harvested. Once harvested, the plants are dried and then frozen until they are processed.

Two 15,000-gallon tanks were installed to water the plants via an above ground irrigation system that is manually operated. Loveridge explained they would not be recycling the irrigation water, but would be looking into recycling the condensation off the HVAC system, condensation runoff from windows, rainwater collection, tapping into the City's water and getting water delivered. He said they are currently unsure how much water they will use each month, causing concern amongst Council members about the option of utilizing the City's water. "We are limited on

the amount of water we can dish out," said City Council Liaison Chris Tillman. "That will be an important issue for you to have an answer to."

Resident and neighbor Bernie Knox questioned Loveridge on how Curaleaf intends on alleviating the odor naturally produced by the plants. Loveridge explained they would be using a system that creates a eucalyptus scented mist to "minimize the odor." Curaleaf Vice President George Schidlovsky pointed out that the plants' natural odor does not emit active elements of the plant.

Loveridge pointed out that without the Planning Commission's approval, they would not get the State's approval to continue.

Comprehensive Plan begins to take shape

The Planning Commission held a workshop in September to discuss the City's Comprehensive Plan, a project that is expected to take months to complete. The document reviews the current condition of the City and discusses future goals and aspirations.

Senior planner of Arro Consulting, Craig Kologie, and Assistant Project Designer Emily Yatron have been integral in the creation of the Plan. The Commission is currently in phase one, where research and analysis are done, which includes the City Survey. With the survey, the Commission will have an idea what the residents want to see in their city for the next ten years. This phase is estimated to take around three months.

The survey has already proven

successful. City staff have made an online version and a hard copy available at City Hall and the various festivals throughout the City since its development in August. Kologie said that the survey is to be available for a total of eight weeks, putting the end of October as its possible final date.

As for the prominent in-person interviews, which are more substantial and directed at key City personnel, City staff have been able to narrow it down to 15 interviewees. The smaller number will allow the same interviewer to interview all of the key persons, allowing consistency and better control of the questions and an

At first, Kologie expected to do some of the interviews over Zoom, however, the majority of the Commission felt more hon-

est answers would be received if done face-to-face. Kologie did point out that a benefit to Zoom is the ability to record the meeting for future revisitation. The final decision was to pick a few dates to do the majority of the interviews in person and if anyone isn't able to make it in person, they can do their interview via Zoom.

Kologie described the traffic issues that Taneytown faces as "pretty eye opening" while driving around earlier in the day. "I do not know where everyone is coming from or where they're going!"

He mentioned the high density and seclusion of Carroll Vista and how that surprised him. He asked if there was a lot of interaction between the development's residents and the City itself. City Council Liaison Chris Tillman

said that although there is a lot of interaction with the Commercial District in the City, he felt their interaction with the Downtown District was limited. He did not limit this belief to Carroll Vista residents, stating that most of the developments in the City had limited interactions with the Main Street area. "There isn't a whole lot up here for them to do and I think they would probably come up if there was more geared to their interests," he said. City resident and business owner Paul Kluth, who has been an active participant in city government, agreed with Tillman, saying that although the Carroll Vista residents do frequent some downtown stores, they are "hungry for the downtown to revitalize and they want to see more."

Yatron reviewed the changes she had made so far with the Plan's physical attributes. "We are trying to make it more visually appealing and to invite the reader to be interested," she said. So far, the Plan has the title page, acknowledgments, table of contents, and goals finished. Kologie said all of the pictures in the Plan have and will be sourced from Taneytown itself. "The intent is to use all local pictures that community members have taken so they can take some ownership in the document," he said. Tillman suggested they have a photo contest. "Maybe we can have people submit photographs of what they think really emulates Taneytown," he said. The suggestion was well received by the Commission, with Yatron suggesting the Parks and Recreation Commission to hold the competition.

City looks for additional water sources

The City is always looking for potential properties that qualify as "recharge acreage." This is something all municipalities must have, as it allows water to naturally seep into the ground and fill the City's aquifer.

City Manager Jim Wieprecht explained that Frederick County has recently secured "recharge easements" (currently in agriculture preservation) that legally protect water recharge areas from development. Some of these potential properties already sit within Taneytown's Piney Creek and Town Creek aquifers.

Wieprecht said there is enough land to offset what the State says is the City's current deficiency, however the City will need to acquire more in order to have more development. "This will balance it," he said.

Years ago, the County dedicated a property on Bark Hill Road near Francis Scott Key High School which allowed the City to increase their water allocation for wells 15 and 16 in the Carroll Vista development.

Another option to increase the City's recharge acreage is for private properties to join in on agriculture preservation. Besides

adding to the recharge acreage, they can still develop, if desired. Wieprecht explained that if a property has an "off conveyance" (the ability to construct housing for anyone necessary for the operation of a farm), a recharge easement would ensure that a certain percent (typically 75-80%) of the property be usable for recharge purposes. "For example, for a 50-acre farm with a couple of 'off conveyances,' if we take 75% or 80% of the recharge, they will what?"

When the City buys recharge acreage,

the cost is passed on to the builders and developers, including an increase in impact fees which cover the public services and infrastructure needs, such as new schools, parks, and roads.

Wieprecht explained that years ago, the City required the developer to cover 100% of the costs associated with finding, developing, and making the land available. With Meades Crossing, the City Code required the developer to provide a well that produced a certain number of gallons a minute. The concern here was that once

that number was reached, if the City asked them to drill deeper, then who was responsible for the additional cost?

However, the City "swung the other way" and made itself 100% responsible for their water sources. This meant that all cost was paid up front and once in demand, the cost was then sold to the developer.

As of now, the City does not have enough required recharge acreage for the entire proposed Mountain Brook development. According to Wieprecht, phase one of the development would be cov-

ered but no other phases. In order to legally "own" the rights to the water on the properties, the County will need to sign a "memorandum of understanding," which is an agreement signaling the intent by the County to dedicate the land to the City.

The next hurdle is to finalize the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the County. An MOU in this case is an agreement signaling the intent to dedicate the land to the city. Property owners that interested in signing their farms up for agriculture preservation and potentially as recharge acreage can contact the City for more information.

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FROM THE DESK OF...

Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird

It's hard to believe that Colorfest has come and gone! We had beautiful weather both days with nice crowds. I am certain that our local organizations did very well and the funds they raised will benefit our community. Colorfest is the largest fund raising opportunity of the year for many local non-profits and civic groups, the money the thousands of guests spend during Colorfest help support the programs and services they provide.

As every knows the infrastructure work on North Church Street is now complete. Over \$4,000,000.00 in American Recovery Act funds have been invested in the infrastructure improvements to upgrade services for residents along the street. Since

this is a State Road, the repaving of North Church will be completed by the State Highway Administration. Unfortunately we were just notified that the repaving will not be done this fall as originally planned. The work will now be done in March or April. Due to this delay our contractor will be adjusting the manhole and water valve covers to remove some of the bumps we are all experiencing while driving on North Church Street. I encourage everyone to drive a little slower until the road is repaved, this will lessen the concerns with the uneven driving surfaces.

We have been working to improve roads in several neighborhoods. The Town Of Thurmont receives Highway User Revenue

directly from the State of Maryland to help with the upkeep and repairs to our streets. These funds come from the fuel taxes we all pay at the pump and from licensing and registration fees. We typically receive around \$400,000 yearly to fund this work. About 15 years ago the state cut HUR funding by almost 90%, dropping our allotment to about \$35,000 yearly. It has taken several years for the State to bring the funds close to the previous levels. Because of this drop in HUR funds we have lost almost \$3 million of funding to invest in our streets.

The work we are currently undertaking will cost nearly half of the funds we are getting this year, the balance will be used to target

improvements on other streets. Due to the loss of HUR funds we have not been able to keep up with all the street repairs needed. I am pleased to announce that we are receiving \$1,000,000.00 through the efforts of our Federal Elected officials. These funds will be used to make much needed improvements to Carroll Street. These improvements will include infrastructure work to the water, wastewater and storm water systems and repaving.

The replacement of the Tennis Courts at Community Park are nearing completion. The contractor will be finishing the installation of fencing, nets and painting of the courts and lines in the coming months. This has been a long time getting done, but it will provide new tennis and pickleball playing surfaces with new lights for nighttime play.

The weather is rapidly changing bringing cold days and the possibility of snow or ice on our roads. When it snows or we get icing please keep your vehicles off the streets until our crew can treat the ice or plow the snow. Our streets crews are very responsive and get the streets cleared as soon as possible, with your help the work can go much smoother.

With cold weather coming be sure to donate to the Thurmont Food Bank and Clothes Closet. Healthy and nutritious food and warm clothing will be greatly appreciated by all those in need in our community. Cold weather brings additional hardship to many families, and our generosity can help bring comfort to young and old. As always I can be reached by phone at 301-606-9458 or by email at jkinnaird@thurmont.com.

Emmitsburg Mayor Frank Davis

Time flies when you are having fun, and it is hard to believe I have just completed my first year in office. So, this month I want to share some of our accomplishments, and of course our challenges too.

We have added two new staff positions to our workforce, one in the office and the other in the water/sewer department. Both positions are vital to the town's success as we continue to grow and expand services and activities for our citizens.

New parking meters are now operational, and we have received many compliments for advancing to the new optional pay system. While you can still use coins, you now have the option for credit card or the Park Mobile App.

We have expanded our offices to better serve our citizens. The office is now open from 7:00am – 5:00pm for your convenience.

With the challenging work of staff, we saw an increase in interest income of 75%. This

allowed us to complete projects that were long overdue but had to be delayed because of funding. Unfortunately, this fiscal year might not be quite as good, due to investment interest rates already dropping.

Our new youth soccer league, "Catocin Mountain Futbol Club" is up and running at full speed. We have approximately eighty youths participating in this great program. Thank you to the organizers, Andy Crone, Jesse Ensor, Carlos Valerio and David Ventura for your hard work and dedication.

Several new businesses are at various stages of operations, and more are in the pipeline. I will give more details in an upcoming article.

I want to update you on a major challenge that we continue to work through.

Approximately two years ago our water fund was on the brink of operating in the red. There were several factors that contributed to the funding decline and most have been identified and corrected. But we still have a ways to go. Unfortunately, you have endured a cost increase on your quarterly utility bills. I take this increase seriously and understand the last thing any of us need is higher bills. While the town will take some of the blame for the increase, we continue to be bombarded by State and Federal unfunded mandates. While some may be necessary, I am not convinced that some are worth the paper they are written on. These are the same people that several years ago told us that paper bags were going to ruin our environment, and we must go plastic. Well guess what paper bags are back. We are exploring options and looking to cut costs and will continue to keep you updated.

As always feel free to reach out to offer your suggestions. Please call the office to set up a time to meet or drop me a note.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

As November arrives, we look forward to the upcoming holiday season spent with friends, family, and neighbors. Let us not forget that this month includes a special holiday for honoring those who have served our nation with Veterans Day on November 11.

I am proud to highlight one of Frederick County's own traditions—the Brunswick Veterans Day Parade. Known as one of the oldest Veterans Day parades in the country, this event brings together people from Frederick County and beyond to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of those who served. I encourage all to attend this year's parade on Sunday, November 10 to honor our veterans and support one another in our community. The opening ceremony begins at 1 PM and the parade begins at 2 pm.

While we take this time to honor our veterans, it is also important to reflect on how we can continue to build a strong, vibrant community. I recently had the opportunity to share our progress and outline future goals in my annual State of the County Address. I am proud to report that the state of the County is strong.

It isn't enough, though, to say that the County is strong. We must measure

ourselves against the vision laid out in the Livable Frederick Master Plan. We want—and are working towards—a community where people live, work, and thrive while enjoying a strong sense of place and belonging.

We are the fastest growing County in the state, which creates opportunities. People want to live and invest here. Young families want to raise their kids, and older residents want to enjoy their golden years here. Entrepreneurs want to create things here.

Growth also creates challenges, which we are meeting head-on with practical solutions to protect the things that make this community so attractive to so many people.

Our public schools are one of our greatest strengths. The Frederick County Public Schools' team works tirelessly to provide a diverse and inclusive learning environment, and our educators are committed to meeting the needs of every child, every day.

From making historic investments in K-12 education, to working with the school system to reduce overcrowding, to preparing students to enter the workforce, Frederick County is making investments in education that will transform lives.

I am excited to announce a commitment to upgrade Frederick County Public Schools career and technical education. A steering committee has been formed to examine the existing facilities and offerings, and then make recommendations. The resulting Career and Technical Education Strategic Master Plan will outline what would be required to provide a world-class career and technical education program.

As we help new workers prepare to enter the workforce, we are making our economy more inclusive for all residents. We do this by creating transit solutions, expanding access to childcare, investing in entrepreneurs, improving access to technology in underserved communities, and lifting up our Main Street businesses. Our economy thrives on innovation. Our manufacturing and technology sectors are thriving, making new investments and creating good jobs in our community.

As we continue to attract business investment and create high quality jobs, we will never lose sight of our agricultural heritage or our obligation to grow responsibly and sustainably. We are committed to preserving our land, preserving our history, and using technology to make Frederick County more sustainable and resilient.

At the State of the County Address, I announced plans to double the number of preserved acres of agricultural and forested land. This new goal of protecting

160,000 acres will ensure that Frederick County maintains its rural character for future generations.

As part of becoming more sustainable and resilient, Frederick County has been working on a comprehensive housing needs study which will be used to develop a countywide housing strategy. We continue to leverage County real estate assets to create more affordable housing while fighting against housing discrimination.

The way we deliver health and social services is improving as well. This year, we pioneered a new model for helping vulnerable seniors age in place, our first responders and public health officials worked collaboratively to help people battling addiction, and we implemented new ways to help people in crisis.

The people in our workforce are our most important asset, and I am committed to making Frederick County an employer of choice and a place where the

best people come to work. In addition, partnerships are an incredibly important asset to solving the problems our residents face. Frederick County Government is building partnership with local nonprofits, businesses, schools, and healthcare organizations to better serve our residents.

This is a thriving community, where people can feel a strong sense of place and belonging. We embrace our community's diversity and vibrance. Each one of us is unique and worth celebrating. And we know that being intentional about including everyone is meaningful.

Looking back at the things we've accomplished this year is humbling. By working together with people throughout the county—elected officials, community leaders, and dedicated public servants alike—our community is thriving, and I can say with confidence that the state of Frederick County is strong.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 3, at 2 a.m. On Saturday night, the clock is set back 1 hour to "fall back." So, the sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour earlier on November 3 than the day before. There will be more light in the morning. I get confused. Will I gain an hour of sleep, which I need, or will I lose an hour of sleep I need? There is a straightforward expression to remember when answering this question: "Spring forward. Fall back." Are you saying you knew? Well, I don't remember learning it. This old age is catching up to me. So, does that mean I can hold on to my extra hour of sleep? Just thinking about the answer to that question will keep me up. As you can see, I have a problem sleeping. This is an excellent time to check your smoke alarms. At the same time, you should replace the batteries in your smoke alarm and the batteries in your carbon monoxide alarm.

All the presidential political campaign commercials should be over after Tuesday, November 5. November 5 is Elec-

tion Day, from 7 in the morning to 8 in the evening, Adams County Election Resources such as Absentee and Mail-In Voting, Register to Vote, Sample Ballots, Military and Overseas Voters, and Secure Ballot Drop Box can be found by going to www.adamscountypa.gov. All the voting is done in the Carroll Valley Borough Office Building. The Borough is divided into two districts, 1 and 2. There is a map located in the lobby. If you forgot your district, use the map as a guide. For election questions, contact the Adam County Election Office at 717-337-9832. Please vote!

Veterans Day will be celebrated on November 11. It is a day to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with the clothing giveaway on October 19. NHN couldn't make it happen without all of them! Also, thanks to those who donated items and came out to

shop! Thank you, Liberty Worship Center, for allowing us to use the room, tables, and clothing racks for the clothing giveaway and for the lovely ladies from the church who made some very nice breakfast goodies!! Earl Connelly, as always, is amazing. He opened the church Friday evening to set up and all day on Saturday tearing down tables and setting up the church for their event! Always happy to help in any way. NHN reported they had two carloads full of clothing to donate to the Clothing Closet and Catocin Pregnancy Center in Emmitsburg. During the clothing giveaway, NHN also passed out 49 medical folders.

The red medical folder is used to organize all of your essential healthcare documents. Emergency responders will look for this folder when responding to a medical emergency. You can include all of the following paperwork in this folder, such as Advance Directive Paperwork, including (1) Medical Power of Attorney, (2) Appointment of Healthcare Agent, and (3) Healthcare

Instructions. You can leave your Medical Orders for life-saving Treatment in the filing folder. If you fill it out, there is an Emergency Information form that lists all the medications you are taking, medical conditions you are experiencing, any allergies, and, most importantly, emergency contact information. This folder is made possible by the generous support of the NHN, the Adams Regional Emergency Medical Services (AREMS), Wellspan Health, and many Fairfield residents and businesses. For NHN questions, contact Robin Dicken at 717-642-6578.

Around this time of year, the question always comes up whether someone can hunt in Carroll Valley. Although Carroll Valley land is open for passive recreation, hunting is prohibited. To clarify the rules, Carroll Valley cannot, by law, change state law regarding hunting; however, current state rules make legal hunting in Carroll Valley difficult. Pennsylvania has what is called "Safety Zones." In a safety zone, it is unlawful to hunt for, shoot at, trap, take, chase, or disturb wildlife within 150 yards of any occupied residence, camp, industrial

or commercial building, farmhouse or farm building, or school or playground without the occupants' permission. Shooting into a safety zone is unlawful, even if you are outside of the zone. Driving a game without a firearm or bow within a safety zone without permission is unlawful. Consider a safety zone about one and a half of a football field for comparison.

The safety zone for archery hunters statewide, including those using crossbows, is 50 yards. Archery hunters carrying muzzleloaders during any muzzleloader season must abide by the 150-yard safety zone regulation. Around playgrounds, schools, or day-care centers, the safety zone remains 150 yards. For further information, refer to <https://www.pgc.state.pa.us>. If you think someone is hunting too close to a residence, call the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Dispatch Center in Huntingdon at 814-643-1831, and an officer will check for violations. If you see persons hunting from vehicles or after dark, call Adams County Dispatch at 717-334-8101 or 9-1-1 to get the quickest response." Call my cell at 301-606-2021 if you have any questions.

Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

October was a busy month for the Liberty Township Board of Supervisors. In addition to the regular monthly meeting, the board worked together to prepare a draft 2025 Budget at the Public Budget Meeting on October 17. We wel-

comed a new police officer, Kenny Hassinger who was hired and sworn in at our October 1 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Officer Hassinger recently retired from the State Police Barracks in Carlisle. We now have six officers

working in Liberty Township. Our Police Department participated in two Halloween events during the last weekend of October. We appreciate their community presence. Our Police Officers will be participating and enforcing DUI Roving Patrol and Aggressive Driving programs. Please be mindful of drinking and driving during the holiday season. We thank our officers for their dedication and their willingness to put forth the effort to make our township and our contracted neighboring townships a safe place for us all to live.

We adopted a new peddling and solicitation ordinance this past month. The ordinance requires that all peddlers/solicitors obtain a per-

mit from the Liberty Township Police Department. We have seen an increase of solicitation in the area and crimes associated with that activity. A monthly list of registered peddlers will be posted to our website and available upon request at the township. Please verify that anyone soliciting at your home has obtained a permit from the township police department. The Board removed the March/April weight restrictions for Bullfrog Road. The recent road work completed on Bullfrog Road now allows continuous truck movement without restrictions year-round.

The bridge on Bullfrog Road sits in Hamiltonban Township and is still subject to travel and weight restrictions. It is a county ordinance,

not a township ordinance, so it still applies. Line painting is scheduled for Pecher Road, Topper Road, Steelman Marker Road, Sanders Road, and Gladhill Road in November. We have been replacing faded and missing signs throughout the township. We replaced several road signs on Pecher Road. We plan to post 35 MPH speed limit signs on Gladhill and Bullfrog Road that are currently missing. Additionally, we plan to replace street signs that have become weathered this fall. The township signage along the roadways is property of Liberty Township. Theft or vandalism of signs is a crime and Anyone that removes or destroys signs is in violation of the PA Second Class Township Code and subject to fines between \$200-\$500. The cost of

continued on next page

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32 Walnut Tr., Carroll Valley, PA
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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Marty Qually

I recently had the pleasure of volunteering at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve. About twelve volunteers partnered with staff from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Strawberry Hill to plant a riparian buffer along Swamp Creek. A riparian buffer, or stream buffer, is an area immediately alongside a waterway, which shades and partially protects the stream from the impacts of adjacent land. The benefits of healthy riparian buffers are multi-fold and have huge significance here and downstream. As I have learned about the importance of our local waterways, I have decided to take the plunge and begin studying to become a Penn State Extension certified Master Watershed Steward. At 51 years old I know I have done my fair share of harm to the planet and our county environment, so I figure it is time for me to pay it back. Read on to learn more.

Strawberry Hill is dedicated to educating the public on nature and in preserving their entry point to the Michaux forest. There is no better local place than Strawberry Hill to learn about clean water. On October 24th the Chesapeake Bay Foundation delivered 125 trees to Strawberry Hill and gave volunteers instructions in how to plant these trees along Swamp Creek. These trees serve many purposes beyond helping to absorb phosphorus and nitrogen from the soil. Nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment are the largest pollutants to the Bay, which is why the Chesapeake Bay Foundation donated the trees. Beyond this benefit, these trees will provide food and habitat for local wildlife. Locally, perhaps the most obvious benefit from these trees

is flood mitigation. As rainstorms have tended to be larger and more intense, surface run-off into waterways is increasing faster than the land can absorb. This results in flooded roads and property damage. While these few trees will not stop flooding on Mt Hope Rd, it is a step forward.

As I mentioned, there are other benefits to intentional tree plantings, many benefits are local and some reach much further downstream. I believe that the local and downstream benefit are not only good for the environment, but also good for our wallets. Riparian buffers provide improved water quality, stabilization to stream banks, reduced risk of flooding, improved wildlife habitat, increased biodiversity, and improved aesthetics. Not all of these seem to have economic benefit, but let's get a clearer picture.

Improved water quality. Trees absorb excess nitrogen and sediment. This is most important near farms and construction sites. Nitrogen and sediment are both causing negative impacts to our local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. Excess nitrogen creates an environment which encourages algae growth, which in turn causes a decrease in oxygen in our water. This decreasing oxygen level harms aquatic life and in the worst cases cause algae blooms, which cause large fish kills downstream. Sediment, likewise, impacts aquatic

life. Sediment physically clogs fish gills, covers streambed habitat, and can carry other toxic materials. That is not to say that nitrogen and sediment are intrinsically bad. In fact, they are both critical for healthy food production, so long as the sediment and nitrogen stay on the farm. When soil is healthy, farmers can use less fertilizer, thus reducing their costs. Another cost of nitrogen and sediment is at our water treatment facilities. Sediment in drinking water is mostly harmless to people, but ask a plumber how sediment impacts your water lines, appliances, and hot water heaters. On the other hand, too much nitrogen in drinking water is harmful to humans. Just as in the waterway, nitrogen makes it harder for our blood to hold oxygen. Our water treatment spend your money to filter out these impurities to make our water safe to drink.

Stabilizing streambanks and reduced flooding. The roots of the trees in riparian buffers literally stabilize the soil next to the creek. This prevents erosion, which reduces sediment, but also physically slows down the water coming into the creek. When too much water ends up in a waterway, the waterway will flood its banks. In many cases the stream floods, then the road floods, and then the basement floods. This basic and natural means of flood prevention, reduces both local

municipal expenses and property owner costs.

Improved wildlife habitat and increased biodiversity. As we continue to build along waterways and increase the amount of land for housing and commerce, we reduce opportunities for other animals. A simple way to tip the scales back to normal, we can intentionally plant trees along waterways that improve habitat and food for wildlife. At the Strawberry Hill planting, we planted one of my favorite local wild food trees, paw paws. When the Chesapeake Bay Foundation worked with Strawberry Hill naturalists, they developed a list of trees, which would provide the most benefit to nature. Planting trees isn't just a willy nilly process, they analyze each location to maximize tree survival and local benefits. While these benefits don't reflect the fiscal savings of other benefits, improving wildlife habitat and biodiversity is important to anyone who enjoys the outdoors.

Improved aesthetic. Ok, fine, this one has very little economic benefit. Improved aesthetic isn't just about making a stream pretty. Sometimes the "ugly" sections of

creeks are because invasive plants have taken over or because a tree species grew in an unsustainable area for that species. In both cases this can be improved by determining which tree species will flourish along that waterway and give nature a push in a better direction.

In the end, I believe that we have a responsibility to clean up after ourselves. If you share this belief and want to find ways that you can help, just contact me. Or trust the experts at the Adams County Conservation District, Penn State Extension, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

I have only scratched the surface of this topic, but I want to learn more. To the end, I am attending the Penn State Extension information session on becoming a Master Watershed Steward. The session will be held on December 10th at 6:30 at 670 Old Harrisburg Rd Gettysburg, 17325. The actual classes will be held on Thursday from February 20th through May 29th. For more information about this topic or these classes do not hesitate to reach out to Karen Kaslow at Penn State Extension at 717-398-3849 or kek5913@psu.edu.

continued from previous page replacing the stolen signs is a cost to all taxpayers.

The Tax Collector would like to remind you that the 10% penalty phase for school taxes begins on November 1. Municipal and county taxes are currently in the penalty phase and can only be collected until December 31 and second notices were sent out this week.

We encourage you to vote and participate in electing the President of the United States and other local and state representative positions on November 5 at the township building. Polls will be open from 7 in the morning to 8 in the evening. The lighting system around the township building was recently upgraded with LED lighting to provide better visibility. Please be aware of the limited parking and the traffic entering and exiting the township building during election day. The township office will be closed on Election Day. The Township business office will be closed on November 7, and our monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 6 at 6 pm.

Happy Thanksgiving! As we enter the holiday season, may you find it a joyful and thankful season.

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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

Are we there yet?

Shannon Bohrer

We have a national election on November 5th. The country seems divided and yet overconfident. Divided over politics, with each side believing they are the answer to our problems and issues, and overconfident, with each believing the other side would be destructive for the country. There are times when two things can be true simultaneously, but this is not one of them. Under normal times, the answer may be different, but these are not normal times. Another question could be what constitutes normal times in a democracy.

As a country, we have experienced some difficult and trying periods, beginning with our revolution for independence. The country was created with a rebellion against England. The citizenry was not happy being ruled by a King, so we fought and created a democracy with ambitious ideas. Our democracy has endured two hundred forty-eight years—and hopefully many more.

To announce our intentions to the King of England, we put forth a Declaration of Independence that said, “We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are recreated equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are the

pursuit of happiness.” Our history tells us that we have not always held up to our stated ideals; our democracy has had rough patches, but we generally moved forward. Slowly, but forward. The ideals could be viewed as aspirational.

In a democracy, people have the freedom to vote, making each of us equal in the eyes of the government. However, in our early elections, each state sets its own voting requirements. Generally, white male property owners had the right to vote. A few states allowed free Black men to vote, and New Jersey allowed widowed and unmarried women to vote, but only if they owned property.

In 1791, Vermont, a new state, allowed all men to vote, even men who did not own property, including men of color. In 1792, New Hampshire removed property ownership as a requirement to vote. Kentucky, another new state, allowed all men “regardless of color or property ownership” to vote. Abruptly, Kentucky then removed the right to vote for free Black men. Property ownership was also removed from other states, but the color of your skin and your sex primarily determined your individual right to vote.

In the 1828 presidential election, most states allowed white males who were non-property owners to vote, which was considered very progressive. That same year, the State of Maryland enacted a law that allowed

Jews to vote. Maryland previously had the moniker of the Free State because, as a colony, it allowed Catholics to practice. The allowance was codified in Maryland Law in 1649 and was known as the Maryland Toleration Act. Tolerance of religion apparently did not include Judaism.

Between the 1828 election and the Civil War, voting rights for free Black men in Pennsylvania were rescinded. Women in Kentucky were allowed to vote, but only in school elections. Rhode Island drafted a new state constitution allowing non-property owners to vote, provided they paid a pole tax. In 1856, North Carolina, the last state to do so, abolished the requirement of property ownership to vote.

The fledgling democracy, which began with a revolution, had taken a few steps in the direction of equality. Nonetheless, democracy continued and often resembled other fledgling democracies in Europe. But the central idea, “...that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these is the pursuit of happiness,” was not yet self-evident.

From 1861 to 1865, we had a civil war. The conflict between the southern and northern states was fought over slavery. We often hear that the war was over states’ rights and economics. Owning slaves was a state’s right that was an engine of economics in slave states. The fact is that the confederacy declared session and war against the United States of Amer-

ica because they wanted to maintain their right to own slaves.

After the Civil War, when the slaves were freed, that was considered a significant step in the direction of equality. Of course, the period when people of color were free and could vote was brief. The Jim Crow laws that existed expanded with the 1876 presidential election. Reconstruction was over, and the southern states created the doctrine of “separate but equal” for African Americans. Jim Crow laws included literary tests for African Americans to vote and segregation of schools, transportation, and public places. There were separate restrooms, drinking fountains, and laws prohibiting interracial marriages. Many of the freedoms gained at the end of the Civil War for Black men were withdrawn and revoked. Jim Crow laws continued into the 1960s.

In August 1920, the 19th Amendment was ratified, giving women the right to vote. One hundred forty-two years after becoming a country, women were given the legal status to vote. Prior to the 19th Amendment, there were decades of protests, marches, and civil disobedience by protesters. Women were beaten and often incarcerated for protesting. The amendment to allow women to vote was first introduced in Congress in 1878, forty-two years before being ratified.

In the 1960s, laws were enacted, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The act prohibited discrimination, eliminating the separate but equal Jim Crow laws. Before the

Civil Rights Act, it was legal to discriminate against people and groups in restaurants, hotels, and other public places. That was a large step in the right direction.

In 1965, the Voting Rights Act was signed into law, “outlawing discriminatory voting practices adopted in many southern states after the civil war...” The Voting Rights Act enforced the 15th Amendment, granting African American men the right to vote. Passed in 1869 and ratified in 1870, the act was unenforced for 95 years. Every citizen is given the right to vote one hundred and eighty-nine years after becoming a country, at least on paper.

As a country, we have periods of moving forward two steps and then taking one step back. We are in that position with the November 5th election. Will we go forward or backward? Will we keep our democracy and continue to move forward, or will we create an autocracy?

“Many forms of Government have been tried and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government, except for all other forms that have been tried from time to time.”

- Winston Churchill

To read prior editions of Words From Winterbilt, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

The Bulwark

A permission structure to vote for Kamala Harris

Michael Cohen

Why did Joe Biden win in 2020? By and large, it was because he significantly increased his support in suburban communities. From Pew Research’s 2020 post-mortem ... “In 2020, Biden improved upon Clinton’s vote share with suburban voters: 45% supported Clinton in 2016 vs. 54% for Biden in 2020.”

The bigger shift toward the Democrats in 2020 came in the inner suburbs around those cities. Biden won Michigan’s Oakland County by roughly twice as large a margin (108,000 votes) as Clinton did in 2016, or as Obama did in 2012; Biden also made significant gains in well-educated Kent County, around Grand Rapids, and Washtenaw County, which encompasses the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

Similarly, Biden won the big four suburban counties outside Philadelphia by a breathtaking combined margin of about 293,000 votes, roughly 115,000 more than Clinton’s four years earlier. In Wisconsin, Biden won booming Dane County, centered on Madison, by about 35,000 more votes than Clinton got in 2016, and he cut her deficit in Waukesha, a historically Republican-leaning suburb outside Milwau-

kee, by about 10,000 votes. (Harris appeared with Cheney in Waukesha yesterday.)

If Harris gets the same kind of support from these inner suburbs as Biden did, it’s tough to see how she loses ... barring a historic drop-off in Black support. These suburban voters used to vote Republican consistently, but the double whammy of Trump’s divisive politics and the abortion issue has switched their allegiance. These voters (both men and women), many of whom voted for Nikki Haley in the GOP presidential primary, are the key to Harris prevailing in November.

This brings me to two news stories that I think deserve greater attention.

The mayor of Waukesha, the seat of a reliably Republican county outside Milwaukee, Wisconsin, endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris for president on Wednesday — the first time the formerly Republican city leader is supporting a Democrat for commander in chief, the campaign said.

“It would be easier for me to stay quiet and vote my conscience privately, but the stakes of this election are so important that I feel compelled to share publicly that I am voting for Vice President Kamala Harris and I encourage other Wisconsinites who care about our country to do the same,” (Shawn) Reilly said in a statement circulated by the Harris campaign.

There is also this from Michigan. GOP former Michigan Rep. Fred

Upton also endorsed Harris, saying in a statement that he has never voted for a Democrat for president “until now.”

Trump is “unfit to serve as commander in chief again,” Upton said.

It’s great for her campaign that Harris has the support of Liz Cheney, Adam Kinzinger, and other Republicans, but Reilly and Upton are politicians well-known by the Republican voters in their district. They might have previously cast a ballot for them — and may even know them personally. Their endorsement creates a permission structure for on-the-fence Republican voters to cross the aisle and support Harris. Keep in mind that every Republican who votes for Harris rather than Trump is not a one-vote swing — it’s a two-vote swing because it takes a GOP voter away from Trump.

There’s a reason Harris has organized so many political events with former Republicans this fall. If Harris can take enough GOP voters away from Trump, it could make it impossible for him to beat her. My theory of this race (which I know I’ve repeated ad nauseum) is that Trump is a high-floor, low-ceiling candidate. He needs every Republican vote and needs just enough Democratic voters to switch sides or stay home.

Harris stealing Republican voters from Trump decidedly lowers his ceiling. She already has a much higher ceiling than Trump ... basically, Biden’s 51 percent of the popular vote in 2020. If we find out on the evening of November 8 that

Harris is the next president, it will likely be because she dominated in the inner suburbs around Philadelphia, Detroit, and Milwaukee, as well as Atlanta, Phoenix, Charlotte, and Las Vegas — and did so by winning the support of a crucial number of former Republicans.

For Harris to win, she needs to mobilize women voters and exploit the considerable gender gap in the electorate.

To be sure, the gender gap in American politics has been evident for some time and is part of the reason Democrats have done so well over the last three election cycles. But based on the polling, the Democrats’ advantage with female voters this year might be bigger than ever—and women angry over the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade* are a big part of the reason why. An ad like this, which is truly devastating, should help in that effort.

Do I Think Harris Will Win?

The bottom line is that I think so ... but I can’t make a data-driven argument as to why she will. Here at Truth and Consequences, I’m a big believer in data-based arguments. Too much political analysis relies on anecdotes and hunches rather than empirical evidence.

The thing is, I’ve been writing on politics long enough that I tend to trust some of my hunches — and in 2022, my hunch that Democrats would overperform in the midterm election (even though the polling didn’t necessarily support that view) played out pretty well. That year, I think I nailed pretty much

every close Senate race — and just to show that my ideological biases didn’t overwhelm my analysis, I correctly predicted that Democrats would lose close Senate races in Wisconsin and Ohio.

So, with that in mind, I want to drill down a bit to why I think Harris prevails.

Quite simply, Harris has more ways to get to 270 than Trump. The most straightforward path for her is Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin. If she takes all three, it’s nearly impossible for Trump to win.

But here’s the thing: even if Harris were not to win all three, she could still capture the White House. She could emerge victorious in Pennsylvania and win Georgia and Arizona — two states that, demographically, are trending Democratic. Or she could win PA, MI, and AZ and lose GA, WI, NV, and NC — and still win. The math on this is clear. Harris’s path to 270 is more straightforward. That’s a huge advantage.

The other factor is the one I raised above — women. If there’s one truism of American politics since 2016, women have moved decisively toward the Democratic Party. That’s particularly true since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. Women voters are energized and angry.

Does this mean Harris is going to win? I don’t know. But the bottom line is that I’d rather be in Harris’s place than Trump’s.

To read other articles from the Bulwark, visit www.thebulwark.com.

The Liberal Patriot

The idiots guide to dominating American politics

Yascha Mounk

It has now been over three decades since either Democrats or Republicans were able to build a broad electoral coalition that could dominate a political era, it's easy to assume that close-run elections are the natural state of American politics. The United States is a massive and deeply variegated country. The contrasts between urban and rural, between industrial and agricultural, between native and immigrant, and between white and black remain significant. Perhaps it's unsurprising that a country so vast would make it virtually impossible for any one political party to win the stable support of a clear majority of the population.

History suggests otherwise. Most periods in American history have been marked by the clear dominance of one political force. It was the Republicans who dominated in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; the Democrats who set the tone between the Great Depression and the decades of America's postwar prosperity; and the Republicans who once again came to dominate in the late 1960s.

This raises an obvious question: Has something in America changed, such that it is no longer possible to build broad and stable majorities? Or could one of the two parties, perhaps taking inspiration from the leaders that set previous partisan realignments into motion, succeed in putting together such a dominant coalition?

There are non-trivial reasons to believe that this time is different. The country is much more ethnically

diverse than at any previous point in its history. The rise of the internet and social media has fragmented the public sphere, leading many voters to take uncompromising positions on their hugely varied pet issues. The tone of public life has become relentlessly nasty and negative, eating away at the popularity of virtually all politicians and institutions.

And yet, I believe it is possible for either Democrats or Republicans to bring about a genuine realignment of American politics. At the moment, each party has placed itself well outside the political and cultural mainstream on many important issues. Indeed, each party is able to persist with doubling down on deeply unpopular stances only because it is protected by the similarly self-sabotaging positioning of the other party. If either party managed to put forward an optimistic vision of the future that is firmly rooted in positions and values shared by at least three fifths of the population, they could reap huge rewards for themselves—and perhaps even alleviate the dire state of America's democracy while they're at it.

There is now a clear majority for a tolerant and inclusive politics in America, one that resolutely stands up for the equal treatment of all people, and even takes energetic action against forms of social exclusion and racial discrimination that persist in the country.

When you look at a ton of polling data and listen to dozens of focus groups and talk to as many voters as you can, it becomes clear that the views and preferences of most Americans are much less polarized than the conventional wisdom would suggest. The loudest Democratic and Repub-

lican activists live on different planets from each other; but neither comes close to representing the majority of American voters. There is now a clear—and reasonable—majority for the taking.

On economic issues, that majority skew moderate or slightly left. Most Americans believe in capitalism and value the free market. They abhor the intrusion of the state through needless regulation and want small businesses to thrive. At the same time, they want the state to take a more active role in making sure that the fruits of economic growth benefit the many, not the few. Proposals for the government to negotiate drug prices, facilitate access to high-quality health care or help parents defray the costs of child-rearing poll very well. Conversely, tax cuts and loopholes and handouts that benefit the rich and big corporations are deeply unpopular.

On cultural issues, the majority skew moderate or slightly right. Most Americans want to live in a fair country and lament that many of their compatriots continue to suffer from serious forms of discrimination. They believe that immigration has been a net benefit to the country and have a positive view of diversity. They want the rights and duties of Americans to depend on their individual achievements rather than the group into which they were born. They want their government to have control over its own borders and expect their politicians to know the difference between well-founded requests for inclusion and policies pushed by activists that violate common sense.

Either party could in theory seize this middle-ground of American politics and build an electoral coalition that could potentially become dominant for decades. But both parties face serious internal obstacles in getting there.



For Republicans to seize the middle, they would need to turn themselves into the genuine party of the multi-racial working-class. Over the last years, some influential voices within the party have been trying to spell out what such an economic agenda would look like; progressives who dismiss these voices as absurd do so at their own peril. But the theoretical groundwork that some conservative intellectuals and electeds are laying has so far led to little action. When Republicans are in power, whether at the federal or at the state level, they largely default back to policies which favor big business or give handouts to the richest Americans.

Democrats also face significant obstacles to seizing the middle ground. The gulf between them and the median voter is comparatively small in the realm of economic policy. Democrats often fail to convey their admiration for the entrepreneurial spirit that pervades many of the communities whose votes they long took for granted. Like Republicans, they are widely seen as representing the interests of the core interest groups that have traditionally supported the party. When Democrats focus on bread-and-butter issues like raising wages or defraying the cost of childcare, they are able to build credibility.

It is more difficult to imagine Democrats changing course in the cultural realm. In a sense, that is surprising. Unlike in the 1970s, the silent majority in American politics is now committed to basic values of tolerance and inclusion. Though progressives always claim that anyone who wants Democrats to distance themselves from the most unpopular planks of their program is selling out minority voters, it is perfectly possible for the party to broaden its electoral coalition while standing by its most fundamental moral commitments. As it happens, many of the policies whose abandonment would supposedly sell out minority groups in any case turn out to be more popular among the highly educated white voters who now make up the bulk of the Democratic Party's activists and staffers than among nonwhite voters.

But that is precisely the problem: For Democrats to broaden their coalition, they would need to make a clean break with the narrow cultural milieu that has completely come to dominate the party. And since personnel is policy, this might ultimately prove all but impossible.

To read other articles from the Liberal Patriot, visit www.liberalpatriot.com.

Good Day Neighbor

First impressions, rational judgements

Dorothea Mordan

Robert Roberson is an autistic man who was to be executed a couple of weeks ago in Texas. That's a sentence meant to get your attention. "What's that story?" my scrolling brain wants to know.

Twenty two years ago, Robert Roberson brought his infant daughter to the emergency room. She soon died. The symptoms she presented, appeared to align with "shaken baby syndrome". Robert Roberson was reported to have a neutral demeanor, and behave with little emotion. First impressions are powerful. This was perceived as his being indifferent, perhaps callous, perhaps a killer.

A trial was held. Robert Roberson was found guilty of killing his own child by reason of shaken baby syndrome. After twenty two years in prison, he was to be executed.

There's more to the story. His daughter, Nikki, had a history of chronic illness. An autopsy showed that her death was due to an "undiagnosed case of double pneumonia". Shaken baby syndrome lost credibil-

ity as a determinable cause of death, giving this case legal reason for review according to a 2013 Texas' law, Article 11.073, sometimes called the "junk science statute". In 2018 Robert Roberson was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Over the course of twenty-two years medical professionals found and corrected mistakes. The detective in the original case found and tried to correct mistakes. Legal teams found and corrected mistakes. The accused, Robert Roberson, was found to have a condition, which any parent of an autistic child, or teachers in Special Education can tell you, is a condition that challenges basic communication, including body language. An autistic person can have degrees of difficulty with social cues. Still, after decades, Robert Roberson lived on one side of communication barriers, stayed in prison, and on death row. The Texas agencies and officials who could have addressed this, including the Governor of Texas, all refused stay of execution.

It is not rare that a guilty verdict is reached, a years long sentence delivered, and then new information is found that exonerates the prisoner. It is also not rare that the innocent person stays locked up for more years. The job

of making these calls is given to elected officials by us, the voters. Who we vote for matters.

These are not the wheels of justice. They are the wheels of intelligence and ego. Intelligence that should be used to further understanding, rather than make things harder. Ego that keeps prosecutors and judges from admitting mistakes and misunderstandings.

Robert Roberson has just been given a 30 day reprieve.

Voting decisions start with our own best interests. Flight attendants' instruction to put the oxygen mask on your own face before helping others is good advice. Life has lots of situations that call for personal responsibility before helping others. But once we take care of ourselves, we maintain what we have by helping all of society stay on solid ground. Many people with a variety of issues that make it challenging to function in our "normal" society will achieve independence. Few of them do it without support of any kind. In the tension around this election, and time we are living in, where is the support for those in need? This question is not directed at the candidates, but their supporters. Constantly living in a state panic over what the other side might do, leaves little attention for the people who are forgotten when societies turn to hysteria for guidance.

We have policies about physical and

mental health conditions because they can affect any of us, our families, friends and neighbors. Many situations in life end up in the judicial system. The best outcomes start from where we start our children—the education system. Who we vote for matters there too.

Our school system hopefully gives each of us a chance at a well rounded education. This includes our neurodivergent kids. A well rounded education for our neurotypical kids includes learning that we are unique individuals. Diagnosis and therapies to address the nuances of our children's needs are expanding every year. At the same time our sense of community is diminishing. Teaching our neurodivergent kids how to fit into "normal" society teaches our neurotypical kids how to miss half of a conversation. When we focus solely on how to make a neurodivergent person communicate with us, we teach how to ignore half of what is really going on. Robert Roberson's behavior when his daughter died was treated as a set of abnormal events with obvious meaning.

Who we vote for in our upcoming election matters. The Frederick County Board of Education members need to be mangers of the resources in the school system. They also need to be good listeners. Candidates with teaching, and special education experience, have participated in bridging commu-

nication gaps for our kids. With good teaching, kids can grow up learning to take a breath in a tense situation. As adults, they will be more able to look at a situation from multiple perspectives, and use critical thinking to find solutions. Each of us with neurodivergent family members want them to grow up to be independent and met with patience. No one wants their child to grow up to be poorly treated due to miscommunication.

Why repeat Robert Roberson's whole name where Mr. Roberson will do? Because we are each whole persons with whole names. Whole lives get thrown aside when "some people" get emotional, reactionary, and call out "other people", or "that person" who did "that thing" to "fill in the blank". Politicians, their supporters, the people accused of "eating pets in Springfield, Ohio"—accusers and accused—have whole names and whole lives. The one precious vote each of us gets to cast, serves our interests while it impacts our fellow Americans. Our whole lives.

The real threat to democracy? Not voting.

2024 is the year of the vote. Please make yours count.

To read prior editions of Good Day Neighbor, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net, or visit her website: ChandlerDesignsLimited.com

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Thankful

Pastor Jay Petrella
Graceham Moravian Church

The march of time waits for no one. As we finish off the remaining pieces of Halloween candy and commit our jack-o'-lanterns to the compost heap, we dive headlong into the season of Thanksgiving. I love a good Thanksgiving dinner. Turkey, gravy and stuffing, without oysters thank you. Green bean casserole, sweet potatoes with golden brown marshmallows on top. And who can forget the cranberry sauce? Now, I hope I don't lose this publication any readers when I say that the cranberry sauce ideally should be gelatinous, can shaped, and served in circular slices. Sure, the fancy cranberry sauce lovingly made

with real cranberries, orange peel and all those tiny, fibrous pieces that get stuck in your teeth is fine. But in my book, nothing beats the stuff from a can that makes slurping sounds as it flops out onto a serving platter.

Then, beyond the bountiful meal, and the inevitable late afternoon naps, you have the deeper meaning of Thanksgiving. There is a lot of lore around the origins of the holiday. I'm sure some of what I've heard over the years is historical fact while other aspects may be a bit apocryphal. For instance, I don't think the pilgrims actually ate green bean casserole, because where on Earth would they have bought knockoff brand cream of mushroom soup? Since I'm obviously not any kind of authority on that subject allow me instead to write a bit about the act of giving thanks.

I imagine Thanksgiving to be cen-

tered around the closing out of the agricultural year. For months farmers toiled over, fretted over and did battle with the elements, the soil, their own equipment and even their own bodies. After months and months of that stress and worry, the harvest has been gathered, sold, stored in barns, and preserved in jars. After all that hard work the family can finally breathe a sigh of relief. They made it through another year and there's enough in their stores to get them through another winter. So as the family or even the community gathers around a table filled with the literal fruits, vegetables and grains their labor, they give thanks.

I'm not talking about any sort of hollow gestures of giving thanks here. I think there's a difference between genuine, heartfelt thanksgiving and the barely audible, mumbled-to-onself, thanks. Like the customary usage of the phrase, "how are you doing" as a greeting. The cultural norm is for the recipient of that greeting to smile, nod and say, "fine" or perhaps, "good" before both parties move along. That, as opposed to a genuine concern for the other person's well-being and an invitation into a time of heartfelt sharing. Genuine thanksgiving can be profound, powerful and beneficial, much like a heartfelt, "so, how you really doing."

Our world and our lives can be so filled with reasons to be upset. First you have personal struggles of every kind. Then you have family, workplace and cultural struggles. Add in community concerns of local, national and global varieties. Everything from politics, to culture, to religion. There is struggle and disharmony just about wherever you look it seems. Then you add in television and



Internet into the mix. These medias are tremendous pieces of technology we've invented as a means of communication and education. But one of the downsides is that instead of being on your own to notice all of the problems going on around you, you get the help of billions of people across the globe bringing to your attention all of the anger and grief inducing matters you would otherwise be unaware of. And because the television and Internet doesn't have business hours like a bank or pharmacy, we can allow ourselves to be bombarded with disaster, trauma and outrage around the clock.

This is not healthy for us in any way. Mentally, emotionally, spiritually it can distort our view of reality and destroy us. More and more scientists and doctors are finding connections between our inner mental/emotional health, and our physical health. The one inexorably impacting the other, for better or worse.

Of course, barring any mental health issues that require professional, medical intervention, sometimes just the constant barrage of anxiety, fear, panic and

anger can devastate us individually. It can devastate whole families and communities. Perhaps you yourself have been feeling a bit tense, a bit down, a bit doom and gloom lately. Perhaps you have a family member, a friend, or colleague whose personality has drastically changed over the past number of years, as they spiraled down into a perpetual state of outrage.

Now there are legitimate concerns out there in the world and within our personal lives. I'm not trying to delegitimize those things. There is serious injustice in this world that needs to be corrected. There are people out there with malicious intent who must be stopped. God himself has asked us to do justice and love mercy. We are told to see to it the poor have food to eat and have clothes to wear. We've been instructed by the the Messiah himself to care for those who are sick and welcome the strangers and aliens among us. We followers of Christ indeed have a lot of work to do, and many things to be concerned about.

But there's also a lot of good in the world to celebrate and be thankful for. Yes, there's darkness but there is a whole lot of light, light that we cannot see if we lock ourselves away in the dark. In John 14:27 Jesus says, "My peace I give to you. So do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." We squander the peace Christ gives to us, we allow ourselves to be robbed of that peace when we surround ourselves, day in and day out, by dark thoughts.

Thanksgiving is more than a Thursday in November. It is more than turkey and can-shaped cranberry sauce. It should be a way of life. A means of grounding ourselves in reality. A means of reminding ourselves, mind, body and spirit, that despite all the things going wrong, there's a whole lot of things going right. And even barring nothing else going right, the fact that we are loved by God, that we have been freed of the condemnation of the Law, that we stand to inherit eternal life, if truly appreciated, ought to be enough light to resist all the darkness of this world.

Later this month by all means eat your turkey with gusto and nap like you've never napped before. But if you're feeling a bit worn, a bit down, spread a bit too thin, don't forget to give thanks. Reflect on the things you have to be thankful for, no matter how big or small. Turn off cable news for a while, ignore social media in all its iterations and be genuinely thankful. As you do so, watch your peace be restored. Watch as the light returns to the world.

To learn more about Graceham Moravian Church, visit them at www.graceham-moravian.org, or better yet, join them for Sunday service.

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A Big Thank You to all of our wonderful sponsors for the 2024 Gateway to the Cure Golf Tournament! Thanks to all the golfers who played and made this a sold out event weeks before the tournament. Without each of you, we couldn't do what we do!



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A big round of applause to all of our 2024 Gateway to the Cure businesses who participated in our annual October business promotion month. The following businesses made a donation and/or ran a promotion all month long and donated to the cause. Thank you for caring and affecting lives right here in Frederick County.

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**Hurwitz Breast
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Thanks to all the participating businesses, residents and those who support the businesses, Gateway to the Cure events and merchandise! Thanks to you, Thurmont has donated an impressive \$167,000 (via Gateway to the Cure) to the Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund in the last 10 years.

For more information on the Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund go to: www.pinkribbonfrederick.org

ECOLOGY

The joy of a colorful yard

Anne Gageby
 Director of Environmental Education
 Strawberry Hill Foundation

There's nothing quite like the splendor of fall leaves as they put their colors on full display. Driving around our area right now I'm reminded of why I love autumn. Don't get me wrong, I'm still very much a summer person. Give me sunshine and a 90-degree day over any other type of weather. But even my love of summer can be gently swayed as autumn makes her grand debut.

What makes leaves change their color anyway? And why do trees produce a rainbow of colors, sometimes within the same tree? It's all about chemistry. As autumn approaches and nights grow longer, chlorophyll breaks down, allowing other pigments to shine through. Chlorophyll dominates trees' cells and makes leaves green. This extraordinary chemical turns every leaf into a production factory that produces trees' energy by converting carbon dioxide and water into carbohydrates such as sugars. These sugars, in turn, feed other pigments present within the chloroplasts of leaf cells.

Carotenoids are a class of pigments responsible for the orange, yellow, and brown colors in a variety of plants including common veggies we consume such as carrots, bananas, and so on. They're housed within trees' leaves year-round though they're only uncovered during the fall color shift as chlorophyll dissipates.

Anthocyanins on the other hand are a group of water-soluble pigments found within the watery liquid in leaf cells and are mostly made in the fall. Anthocyanins give a variety of foods their distinc-

tive hues such as cranberries, blueberries, strawberries, and so on. These pigments are responsible for the same red-blue-purple hues in fall leaves. The leaf colors we see are combinations of these pigments interacting and competing for dominance.

Some tree species are known for their specific fall colors. Beeches, for example, are well-known for their light tan leaves which remain on the tree through winter via a process called marcescence. Oaks predominately display reds and browns in their leaves. Maples produce the widest variety of fall colors – orange, yellow, burgundy and everything in between. Which colors display depends on the species. Sugar maples have a distinct orange-red that can appear almost pink at times. Red maples can produce a stunning scarlet that rivals any other tree at its peak color.

These colors are brought out by changes in the length of daylight and temperature shifts. Sugar produced by leaves becomes trapped within the cells and feeds the pigments that are present. Dry, sunny days followed by cool (but not freezing) nights produce the most brilliant colors. Anthocyanins depend on low nighttime temperatures, but frost will dull the red color produced by this pigment.

As fall slides toward winter the pigments further break down as trees' energy production factory comes to a complete halt. Trees drop their now useless appendages and settle in for a long winter nap. Ok, maybe not a nap per se, but definitely a period of dormancy. Dropping leaves actually helps protect trees by eliminating potential surface area for ice and snow to accumulate and

create a physical burden on branches.

The process by which trees drop their leaves is called abscission. It starts when hormones within the tree close off the vessels that carry water to leaves. A layer of cells called the abscission layer begins to grow between leaves' stalks and the twigs they're connected to. This allows trees to sever their own appendages without leaving open wounds that could become infected and risk trees' health.

Once on the ground, leaves become a winter haven for creatures looking for a protective place to overwinter. Native bees and fireflies create burrows underground or hide under leaf litter. Butterflies and moths similarly spend their winter in chrysalises under fallen leaves. It's not just insects that depend on fallen leaves. Snakes, turtles, salamanders, and frogs take shelter and hibernate under leaves.

Too often we glance out our windows and only see the macro image. We see our backyards covered in leaves and rue the afternoons we'll spend raking up the mess raining down in a colorful blanket. We should try to take a step back and consider the micro-environment thriving within our little slice of Heaven. How many lightning bugs, butterflies, and other wonderful creatures are snuggled up enjoying our shared home?

Having said that, mosquitos are also nestled up under the fallen leaves and almost nobody enjoys their presence during warmer weather. But I guess we have to take the bad with the good. Because when we rake our yards and toss the leaves into bags for disposal, we're tossing out beneficial and loved insects along with the mosquitos.

This year, consider leaving at least some of the leaves in inconspicuous places around your yard. Inside a garden and in mulch rings around trees is a great place to start. Allowing leaves to decompose in a garden and around the base of trees provides a protected space for insects to hibernate while simultaneously allowing leaves to decompose. This decomposition returns nutrients to the soil, enriching your garden in the spring and providing a wealth of benefits to trees.

Leaf rings create what's called a duff litter layer which decomposes and helps maintain healthy pH levels in the soil. It also aids tree roots' reabsorption of water and nutrients. Some trees continue to grow roots during the winter as long as the soil doesn't freeze. So, providing a duff litter layer around the base of a tree



Leaves change color in the fall due to a breakdown of chlorophyll and the development of other pigments. Chlorophyll is a substance that plants use to make food and give leaves their green color. As the days get shorter in the fall, chlorophyll production slows and eventually stops.

will allow that tree to continue to grow healthy and strong. Having said that, if the tree is fighting a fungus or other disease on its leaves, it's best to gather those leaves and bag them for disposal. Otherwise, you run the risk of the fungus continuing to grow and spread come spring.

All of this information is good but not everyone can and should leave their leaves. Lots of homeowners' associations have strict regulations on leaf removal as do many townships and boroughs. And of course, there are neighbors to consider. Houses that are close enough to share leaves might want to have a discussion about leaf removal ahead of time. Not everyone shares the same sentiments about fallen leaves and that's okay.

Fortunately, at Strawberry Hill our front, back, and side yards are all forested so there's no discussion to be had. The leaves settle where they fall and that's the end of that. As I look around at the shifting season, I'm amazed at how much of an impact leaves have this time of year. Their bold colors are visually striking and bring people joy. They're fun to play in and toss in the air. They enrich soil and give back to the trees that made them. And they provide much-needed shelter and protection for a vast number of insects and animals. A colorful yard of fallen leaves is quite a gift.

To read past editions of Ecology, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.com

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Let's talk turkey

Tim Iverson, Naturalist

The North American Turkey may not be the national bird, but it has earned its spot in heart of the nation. It's the cornerstone of the Thanksgiving meal, and a veritable symbol of the early pilgrims and settlers of the nation. The status it's achieved has surrounded it in myth and misinformation. Benjamin Franklin did have opinions on the turkey, but are not likely what is commonly accepted as truth. A few fowls may even be so lucky as to earn themselves a pardon from the President himself. Just how did a bird of humble beginnings achieve such storied status?

Wild turkeys, contrary to their domesticated brethren, are actually quite adept at survival. Farmed turkeys have been bred to have enlarged breasts, which make them more appealing for the dinner table, but makes them awkward and clumsy. Wild turkeys can fly and are actually quite agile. Their feathering and plumage make for great camouflage hiding them from potential predators like fox, coyotes, bobcats, and more. Once young hatch from the eggs they spend just a few days with their mother learning how to forage for food. After a few days they will begin to fend for themselves and may separate. The females will either form or join a brood of hens. Males will go off on their own to try to father the next generation.

While their range is widespread, spanning across much of United States and into parts of Mexico, they may not even have been part of the original Thanksgiving dinner table. The Smithsonian Institution researchers have delved into the contemporary historical documents detailing the original meal, and have found no direct evidence that turkey was definitively on the menu - or much of what is considered traditional Thanksgiving fare these days. The very first celebration was held just after the fall harvest in 1621, and was shared between the colonists and the Wampanoag tribe in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Turkeys are mentioned in passing and only as a secondary meal choice in primary source accounts from the time. In fact, much of what we have available today as part of a "traditional" Thanksgiving spread would not have been available to the early English settlers. Cranberry sauce, potatoes, bread stuffing, pies, and more were noticeably absent. The only definites for

the meal according to researchers were venison, corn, and wildfowl. The wildfowl likely being duck, goose, or passenger pigeons because of their abundance at the time. Again, turkeys are only mentioned separately as an aside in original texts referencing the meal.

It's up for debate about whether or not turkey was served during the first Thanksgiving meal, but the verdict is in on Benjamin Franklin's opinion of the bird. Common folk wisdom has it that he was a champion of the bird over that of the Bald Eagle as a symbol of the newly founded nation. That is not exactly the case, however. The misconception comes from an excerpt of a letter between his daughter and himself. The misconception arises in an exchange between the two where he questions the selection of the eagle as the symbol, and redirects to the turkey as a bird of superior moral character. While he does not necessarily advocate for the turkey becoming a national symbol he does try to take the wind out of the sails for the eagle. He writes:

"For my own part I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen the Representative of our Country. He is a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his Living honestly. You may have seen him perched on some dead Tree near the River, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the Labour of the Fishing Hawk; and when that diligent Bird has at length taken a Fish, and is bearing it to his Nest for the Support of his Mate and young Ones, the Bald Eagle pursues him and takes it from him.

With all this injustice, he is never in good case but like those among men who live by sharpening & robbing he is generally poor and often very lousy. Besides he is a rank coward: The little King Bird not bigger than a Sparrow attacks him boldly and drives him out of the district. He is therefore by no means a proper emblem for the brave and honest Cincinnati of America who have driven all the King birds from our country...

"I am on this account not displeased that the Figure is not known as a Bald Eagle, but looks more like a Turkey. For the Truth the Turkey is in Comparison a much more respectable Bird, and withal a true original Native of America... He is besides, though a little vain & silly, a Bird of Courage, and would not hesitate to attack a Grenadier of the British Guards who should presume to invade his Farm Yard with a red Coat on."

Frankly, Franklin might have been a little harsh on the Bald Eagle. He never publicly advocated for the turkey to begin the national symbol, or publicly derided the selection of the bald eagle. His high esteem of turkeys isn't without merit though, because he isn't the only one who gives the turkey a pass.

Presidents, for the better part of a century now, have been issuing pardons to a lucky turkey or two every year. While the pardon is one of the more unique presidential duties and Thanksgiving traditions its origination is as vague as the tradition itself. There are conflicting reports as to the first pardoning, but the earliest claimed account dates to President Lincoln in 1865. The White House Historical Association provides recorded gifts of turkeys from various poultry farmers all the way back to 1870, and continuing through present day. When President Truman was gifted a pair of turkeys in 1948 he is alleged to have said that they would "come in handy" for Christmas dinner, clearly these turkeys were not slated for a pardon. It wasn't until the Washington Post coined the pardon term in 1963 when President Kennedy purportedly said, in reference to a gifted turkey, "Let's keep him going." By the time President George H.W. Bush was in office in 1989 the routine had pretty much solidified into the formal tradition we see today.

Presidents aren't the only ones who value turkeys. The North American Turkey was important and considered sacred by many Native American tribes. Feathers were used in head dresses, traditional dances were created to celebrate the bird, and folk lore surrounds the origin stories. Despite the revered status it held turkeys were nearly hunted to extinction in the early part of the 20th century. Due to extensive efforts by wildlife officials through encouraged reproduction and repopulation to new areas the population rebounded. Continental populations dropped to as low as 30,000 in 1940, but rebounded to approximately 7 million by current estimates.

The North American Turkey may not be as illustrious as commonly held belief holds, but the fact surrounding the bird is better than a fictional fowl. As Thanksgiving approaches be thankful that this bird has such a storied past and will be able to be gobbled up from your table while you talk turkey with family and friends.

To read other articles by Tim Iverson, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



Benjamin Franklin may have been unsuccessful in making the turkey our national bird, but it has earned its spot in the hearts of the Nation.

Adams County Land Conservancy

Dave Salisbury

Happy Fall!! The cooler climes and colors have finally arrived. And, as you likely know, it's a busy time of year around fundraising for your favorite organization. The Road Rally is right around the corner and the number of teams and sponsorships are impressive. Thanks to all of you who make this wonderful event the fundraising and fun-raising success it has become. There's no better way to appreciate the preserved lands we love than to cruise about Adams County while taking in breathtaking views of the natural open spaces and places we have worked so hard to keep that way forever.

As yet another reminder, the Adams County Community Foundation Giving Spree is approaching rapidly. On November 7th, this awesome one day of giving (one of our country's largest!!) will help nonprofits throughout the county advance their causes. We'd be so grateful for your continued support of our land conservancy.

The monies raised do two things of your choosing. First, the "Today" funds we raise go directly toward our annual preservation activities and costs. Remember we must, on average, contribute \$500 per acre

to ensure our other funding partners help us make our easements a reality. From survey costs to attorney fees at closing to the land purchases themselves, we couldn't do it without these "Today" funds.

Choosing to give to our "Forever" funds contributes to our endowed account that supports ongoing activities forever via annual distributions! This fund continues to grow and provide a consistent stream of monies in perpetuity... just like our easements.

Seeing just how critical these donations are to execute our mission, we have set a goal to raise \$130,000 in total this year at the Spree. It is ambitious, but so doable especially given that several donors have stepped up to create a \$50,000 matching fund pool that can be unlocked by your additional contributions. Let's rally around this as we've successfully done in past years and retain our position as one of the top fundraisers at the Spree!

I hope you remain well and enjoy this beautiful season of color and giving. We have accomplished so much together, with so much more to do. Thanks to you and your loyal and generous support, we will forge ahead with vigor and continue making Adams County the gem it is.

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SCIENCE MATTERS

Climate disaster is upon us

Boyce Rensberger

An international team of climate scientists has published one of the most alarming reports on the subject that I've read. It is well written, and I think you would appreciate the actual wording of their (long) summary. So here it is, shorn of bibliographic references, which you may find in the original, cited below:

"We are on the brink of an irreversible climate disaster. This is a global emergency beyond any doubt. Much of the very fabric of life on Earth is imperiled. We are stepping into a critical and unpredictable new phase of the climate crisis.

"For many years, scientists, including a group of more than 15,000, have sounded the alarm about the impending dangers of climate change driven by increasing greenhouse gas emissions and ecosystem change. For half a century, global warming has been correctly predicted even before it was observed—and not only by independent academic scientists but also by fossil fuel companies.

"Despite these warnings, we are still moving in the wrong direction; fossil fuel emissions have increased to an all-time high, the 3 hottest days ever occurred in July of 2024, and current policies have us on track for approximately 2.7 degrees Celsius [4.8 degrees Fahrenheit] peak warming by 2100.

"Tragically, we are failing to avoid serious impacts, and we can now only hope to limit the extent of the damage. We are witnessing the grim reality of the forecasts as climate impacts escalate, bringing forth scenes of unprecedented disasters around the world and human and nonhuman suffering. We find ourselves amid an abrupt climate upheaval, a dire situation never before encountered in the annals of human existence. We have now

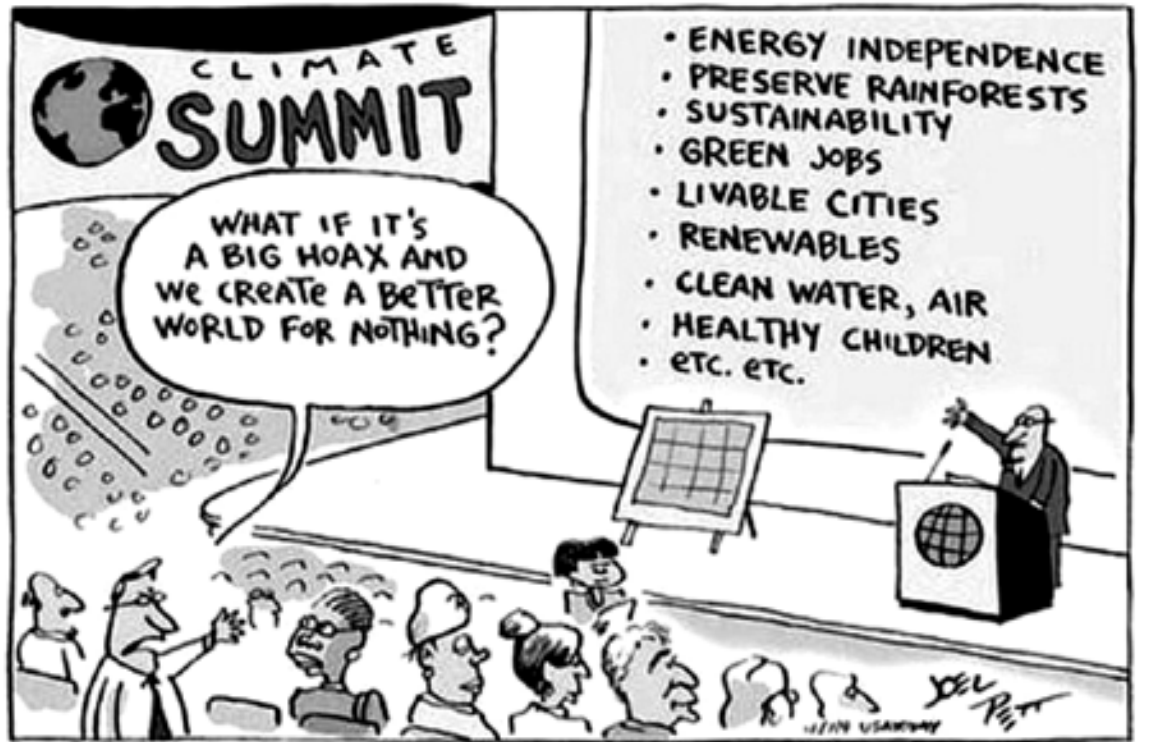
brought the planet into climatic conditions never witnessed by us or our prehistoric relatives within our genus, *Homo*.

"Last year, we witnessed record-breaking sea surface temperatures, the hottest Northern Hemisphere extratropical summer in 2000 years, and the breaking of many other climate records. Moreover, we will see much more extreme weather in the coming years.

"Human-caused carbon dioxide emissions and other greenhouse gases are the primary drivers of climate change. As of 2022, global fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes account for approximately 90 percent of these emissions, whereas land-use change, primarily deforestation, accounts for approximately 10 percent.

"Our aim in the present article is to communicate directly to researchers, policymakers, and the public. As scientists and academics, we feel it is our moral duty and that of our institutions to alert humanity to the growing threats that we face as clearly as possible and to show leadership in addressing them. In this report, we analyze the latest trends in a wide array of planetary vital signs. We also review notable recent climate-related disasters, spotlight important climate-related topics, and discuss needed policy interventions. This report is part of our series of concise annual updates on the state of the climate."

The 14 authors are at major research universities in eight countries—United States, Germany, United Kingdom, Australia, China, Denmark, Brazil, and Switzerland. The full report was published in the October 8 issue of the journal *BioScience*. It includes graphs displaying data from 35 planetary "vital signs" that the group tracks annually. Of those, 25 are now at record levels. The other ten are at bad levels but not breaking records at the moment.



One of the record highs is the burning of fossil fuels. We are burning more fossil fuels than ever. Think about that; the world has not cut back even the tiniest bit.

If you would like to read the whole article, it's on the web. The easiest way to find it is by searching for "the 2024 state of the climate report."

The authors name several actions they think societies and governments should be doing to minimize the harms to come. They conclude with this:

"The surge in yearly climate disasters shows we are in a major crisis with worse to come if we continue with business as usual. Today, more than ever, our actions matter for the stable climate system that has supported us for thousands of years. Humanity's future depends on our creativity, moral fiber, and perseverance. We must urgently reduce ecological overshoot and pursue immediate large-scale climate change mitigation and adaptation to limit near-term damage. Only through decisive action can we safeguard

the natural world, avert profound human suffering, and ensure that future generations inherit the livable world they deserve. The future of humanity hangs in the balance."

Some people will find this report alarming. It is alarming.

Here is what I feel is a non-alarmist note about research into one climate phenomenon, the surprisingly sudden increase in Earth's average temperature during 2023. It sent climatologists into puzzlement. On a global scale that was the hottest year ever recorded, a whopping increase of one half of a Fahrenheit degree over the year before. The more familiar pace of global warming is more like one-tenth of a degree per year.

James Hanson, the scientist who rang alarm bells about global warming in the 1980s, said our planet had entered a more ominous phase caused by the reduction in particulate air pollution that had been shading the ground. Others suggested their science had a "knowledge gap" about some unknown kind of feedback loop that was not

accounted for in computer climate models.

Now scientists have linked the sudden warming to a more familiar process—the shifting flows of surface waters in the tropical Pacific known as El Niño and La Niña. From 2020 through 2022, the Pacific was in La Niña phase, with strong trade winds pushing warm surface water westward from South America toward Indonesia. That pulled up masses of deep, cold water in the eastern Pacific, helping to cool the planet. During El Niño, the winds die down, and warm water sloshes back toward South America, shutting off the oceanic air conditioner.

Researchers from the University of Miami and Princeton University carried out computer simulations of what happens after La Niñas of varying duration. Their peer-reviewed report was published in the journal *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*.

Here's what they found: If they modeled one normal La Niña year, the likelihood of half-degree jumps in temperature the following year was a mere 1.6 percent of the time. But if the computer version of La Niña lasted three years, as the real one did, the chance of a half-degree warming the following year was 10.3 percent, high enough to make it plausible that the sudden jump seen last year could be explained by the knowledge already built into computer models. No unknown phenomenon is necessarily lurking beyond what scientists already know.

But, I note, that modeling left a 90 percent chance that the sudden warming was caused by something unknown.

Boyce Rensberger retired to Frederick County after some 40 years as a science writer and editor, primarily at The Washington Post and The New York Times. He welcomes feedback at boycerensberger@gmail.com.

To read other articles by Boyce Rensberger, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

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Jack Deatherage

The first board of commissioners meeting I attended was in October of 2016. Prior to that I had few interactions with elected officials or town staff, and those were generally unpleasant. I know Liz Buckman was sworn in as a first-time commissioner at that meeting. She convinced me to attend the ceremony as well as the Citizen Advisory Committee meetings she was assigned liaison duties to. Since then I've attended every meeting I could: Board of Commissioners, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation (P&R), and Board of Appeals in an attempt to understand how this town functions and why. I've yet to attend an Ethics Commission meeting because they are rare and the public is denied access to complaint hearings.

The first year of meetings I sat through were enlightening. Slow-coach ignoramus that I am, I still picked up on some important concepts. The primary one being the mayor and elected commissioners do not have the power I had previously believed they held. In fact, they are constrained by the town's codes, the county codes, the state of Maryland codes and federal law. Within those confines they are further constrained by the citizenry of the town!

"The citizenry of this place reeks of apathy" was the next large concept I observed. Somehow I've got it in my head there are around 1,200 registered voters in this place. If that's true, then the more than 1,000 votes not cast in the last election kinda proves the reek. This reek is further supported by asking Town Coordinator, Jess Housaman, how many people attended each recorded public meeting via Zoom- low single digits is not unusual. Which often matches the number of citizens sitting in the peanut gallery.

The CAC is made up of 10 members. According to the town's website, the committee is 2 members short and I don't think the current members have ever gathered in full at any meeting I've attended.

Parks & Rec is worse. Of the 9 seats, 2 are vacant and probably have been for years. I've attended

P&R meetings where only the liaison commissioner and I showed up and I'm not a member!

There have been public meetings I've walked into and was asked if I was lost- so rarely does anyone attend the meetings if they don't have business before the committees.

"They're all the same." "They don't listen to us." "It's a club and we aren't in it." Are oft heard remarks concerning our elected officials and town staff. I certainly understand the apathy. Been there, done that- still wallow in it occasionally.

Before the water rates were increased Mayor Davis pleaded with the few angry citizens who suddenly managed to find time to attend that meeting for any suggestions as to how the town could avoid the increases. As I recall, no one offered an actionable suggestion. A year later when a workshop was held to gather new information with the goal of eventually easing the burden on water users (the mayor and commissioners aren't happy about paying the increases either) not a single one of those angry people bothered to show up in person, though one may have listened in via Zoom, but offered nothing.

"I'm too busy." "I have a job." "I have a family." "I have more important things to do than attend town meetings."

Yeah, yeah, yeah. So do the town staffers and the elected and appointed commissioners. Some of the commissioners I've spoken to spend nearly as many hours chasing down information -held by county, state and federal agencies- that they need to make the best decisions for the town as they do with their full-time jobs, only they aren't being paid by the town to do so. Yet most citizens are too busy to drive across town to attend a one or two hour meeting that might affect the rest of their days in this place? Sure, they're too busy.

When I'm one of the few citizens that constantly attends the public meetings guess what happens. Staff and commissioners begin asking for my opinions. I've even been asked to formally join various committees. That should terrify those better educated and wiser than I who do not attend the meetings!

2025 is the year the state requires Emmitsburg to submit a new comprehensive plan. As I understand the plan it will be the town's guideline for growth until the year 2040. Guess how many people turned out for the citizen input part of the plan. Six or seven, and at least one of them lives out of state but has a business in town. Over 2,000 residents will have to deal with the decisions a small handful of people make. Seriously? Oh, the town's idiot of record was also in attendance, though I mostly just listened to everyone else speak their minds. So much for none of the staff or the elect and appointed listening to the people.

I've a Groucho Marx view of clubs, "I refuse to join any club that would have me as a member."

I'm not a guest in any commissioner's home. I'm in no way, shape or form "in the club". Still, I'm planning an expansion of the Cedar Avenue Community Garden now that the town has decided the state's farmers market program simply does not work for Emmitsburg- a fact I've mentioned to the mayor and commissioners several times this year. I doubt my thoughts did more than confirm their own research and observations, but listen to me they did.

I also mentioned a failed attempt by the former administration to bring tourists to town via Gary Casteel's National Civil War Memorial and his proposed statue of John Armstrong to Mayor Davis and commissioners Boeh-



Cliff Sweeney, Jim Hoover, and Kevin Hagan were sworn in at the October Town Council meeting after winning their seats at the September election in which less than 10% of the residents bothered to vote.

man-Pollitt and Turnquist who are now awaiting detailed plans on those projects. Would the mayor and commissioners have thought to approach Casteel about those projects? Possibly, but they've had more immediate issues to deal with and Casteel was unaware the town had a new mayor and several new commissioners. All I did was connect the parties. It's smaart enough to manage that.

I've tossed other ideas at past and current mayors and commissioners concerning the history of this place and how it can be used to make the town a tourist draw. Have those in positions to make things happen taken my suggestions seriously? I don't know. I'm not "in the club". What I do know is the current government does listen to me. Which is really messed up. I'm just an idiot trying to make this burg a better place

for the Offspring and his Chica, should they ever return.

I worry that after explaining how this town's idiot of record has helped make changes, small though they be, better educated, vastly more intelligent people than myself might show up at the various meetings and begin offering suggestions or making proposals that would cause the meetings to drag on past my bedtime. Worse! I'd have to try understanding what everyone is jabbering about and I struggle to follow what goes on at the meetings when almost no citizens are in attendance.

Then again, maybe nothing would change. The reek is strong in this place.

To read past editions of *The Village Idiot*, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

THE MASTER GARDENER

Christmas tree selection

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

I know, I know, it's only November. But, if you are like me and are already thinking about Christmas, this information is quite timely. When it comes to a Christmas tree, know the plan. What is best for your home and family schedule? Where do you plan on placing it?

Let's start with the length of time the tree stays in the house. If, for instance, you keep your tree up for more than three weeks, an artificial tree is for you! Many sizes, shapes, varieties and price points are available at your local retail stores or garden centers.

If you keep a tree in the house for less than three weeks, a fresh cut tree may be a great choice. Many times, especially during the holiday season, time is limited. Taking a day to cut your own tree may not be the way to spend valuable time. Although, it does make for a great family outing,

Even now that my kids are grown and out of the house, we make time to tromp through a field of trees and cut our own.

However, a fresh cut tree purchased from a tree lot may be the way to go. Many garden and retail centers sell cut trees. Scouts, civic clubs or school/church groups often sell trees as fundraisers for their organizations. This is a great way to support these groups.

In addition to the length of time the tree will spend in the house, also consider the environment. A cool house, under 68 degrees, makes for a better space for a cut tree. The moisture in the air makes a difference as well. Placing the tree by a heat source is a needle-drop disaster.

When choosing from a retail lot check the tree for freshness. Smell the tree for its fragrance and shake the tree to determine how many needles have dropped. If the weather is warm, and the tree has been cut for some time, many, many needles will drop - a good indication of a not-so-

fresh tree. Ask when the trees were cut. Many times, the folks selling the trees can tell you.

Another option is a live tree. This is a way the tree can live its life outside in the ground after the holiday. A living Christmas tree should be in the house for no more than 7 - 10 days. The cooler and moister the house, the longer it can be indoors. The warmer and drier the house, the shorter it can be indoors.

Before the tree comes inside, condition it first. Keep the tree in an unheated, protected location, like a garage, for a few days before bringing it inside. During this conditioning period, be sure the root ball is watered. If the ball dries out, roots will die, lessening the survival rate of that tree.

When bringing the tree indoors, place it in a large bucket or pan to prevent the soil and water from staining the floor. Again, keep the root ball always moistened. Locate the tree in the coolest room of your home, away from any heat sources, just as you would a cut tree. You don't want the tree to break its dormancy, which will cause tips to grow, and then die when exposed to the cold weather again.

After you are finished with the tree indoors re-condition it back to the outdoors. Place the tree in an unheated, protected location for a few days, and then it should be ready to plant.

Hopefully, the ground won't be frozen. To prepare for this possibility ahead of time, dig the hole before the holidays and store the soil in an unheated garage or storage shed. That way, when you're ready to plant, the hole is already dug, and the soil used for backfilling will not be frozen. If, however, the hole is not dug, and the ground is frozen, place the tree in a sheltered area and mulch the root ball heavily. Keep the soil ball moist until the ground is workable.

After planting the tree, water it well and mulch it. This will protect the root ball through the rest of the winter months. The tree should remain dor-



Notice the long needles on this white pine; it's a beautiful evergreen for the landscape.

mant until the spring when it will start growing with all other vegetation.

But what type of tree should be chosen? Tree selection becomes a bit easier if you know the difference between the tree types. Christmas trees can be broken down into three basic groupings: firs, spruce and pines. Firs and spruce needles are attached to twigs individually, while the pines have clusters of needles attached to the twigs. The following are some of the most commonly grown Christmas trees in our area.

The Fraser Fir is native to the high elevations of the southern Appalachian Mountains. It has adapted to our climate if you're considering a living tree. It has excellent needle retention with wonderful fragrance. It has dark green foliage with silver on the underside of the needles, and the twigs are relatively firm for an easy to decorate tree.

Douglas Fir is a very popular Christmas tree. This tree is native to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. As a living tree, it has some disease issues. However, as a fresh cut tree, it's a good choice. It has a natural pyramidal shape, fragrant, with somewhat drooping branches. The needles are a medium green color about 1 - 1 1/2" long. This tree has good needle retention and is relatively easy to

decorate. In the landscape, it serves as a great screen planting when mixed with other evergreen trees.

Concolor Fir has longer needles than the other common fir trees, getting up to 1 1/2" in length. It has a good fragrance and needle retention. The blue-green foliage makes it an interesting and attractive color for a Christmas tree. It is native to the west coast but can be grown here on the east coast.

Colorado Blue Spruce is a nicely shaped tree with silvery-blue color. The needles are pointy, making it rather prickly to decorate, but it does have good needle retention if kept watered. These trees are symmetrical by nature and have strong limbs for heavy ornaments. The blue spruce works well in the landscape as a screen planting but has disease and insect issues that cause dead lower branches and tree decline in the landscape.

Scotch Pine is a common Christmas tree in the US. It was imported from Europe by the early European settlers. It has longer needles, about 1"-3" in length. The needles are in clusters and a medium green color. It is a tree to consider if it's in the house for a short period of time, as the needle retention is less than great. It is, however, a good landscape tree, so an option if considering a living tree.

White Pine is a native evergreen. It has long, clustered needles and good needle retention. It is very soft to the touch and has flexible branches, making it a tree that cannot handle heavy ornaments. It's not the easiest of tree to decorate, but if looking for a living tree, a great one to plant outdoors.

After getting your cut tree home, proper care should be taken for a safe holiday. Make a fresh cut about one inch above the already cut base. Put your tree in water right away, even if you will not be bringing it into the house immediately. Don't let the tree dry out. Treat it as you would a fresh bouquet of flowers.

Locate the tree by a wall or corner where it's not going to be knocked over. Keep the tree away from heat sources, such as fireplaces, wood stoves and heat ducts.

Just purchasing a Christmas tree is full of decisions! Kids and adults can share in the fun of tree shopping! Don't stress, make educated decisions, and enjoy the holidays!

To read other gardening articles, visit the Gardening section of Emmitsburg.net.

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THE MASTER GARDENER

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All seminars are free unless otherwise stated. Seminars are held at the University of Maryland Extension office at 330 Montevue Lane, (off Rosemont Avenue) in Frederick.

For more information and sign-up links, visit the Events section of the Master Gardeners Frederick County Maryland website, or call the extension office at 301-600-1595.

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Small Town Gardener

Maintenance as stewardship: a new perspective

I'm not a fan of renaming something in order to change public perception. Language is powerful, minds are pliable and as any politician knows, we can quickly distance ourselves from the truth of the matter. However, every once and awhile a definition is beautifully expanded by rephrasing a term, and such is the case when it comes to considering the time we spend on our landscapes as 'stewardship' rather than 'maintenance.'

As we come to the end of the growing season, and sit with what we have done and have not done this summer, it's a good time to reflect upon how we approach the landscapes we care for: As Drudgery, or as Connection?

In my profession as a garden writer, I meet and talk to a lot of people who work as groundskeepers. Except I'm not talking about paid professionals. These are normal everyday people who feel forced to maintain a 'yard' with an uninspiring selection of basic foundation shrubs, a large lawn, and hundreds of linear feet of beds, paths and driveway to edge.

And they hate their job.

I hate it for them. But what I hate most is that they confuse this excruciatingly tedious work with what others rightly call "gardening." As a gardener, I experience my share of tedious jobs, certainly; but as such work is integral to the overall stewardship of the landscape, the sting of that tedium is lessened by its value. Thus, mowing is not mowing – it is a framing of paintings I have created with plants. Clearing invasive brambles is not clearing invasive brambles, it is thoughtful editing to allow desired saplings and spring ephemerals to carpet the woodland.

When you fail to cultivate connection to your outside space, you cheat yourself of experiencing a profound sense of purpose as steward and caretaker for your little part of planet Earth. You become enslaved to something that doesn't excite you.

Worse, it's something that never ever stops growing – yet never grows into something remotely inspiring. A landscape that doesn't pay you, doesn't look any different from year to year, and continues to take a toll on your back, your hands, and your life energy.

To dominate that landscape and make the hated job easier, unwilling groundskeepers tend to rely on pesticides and herbicides as weapons, not tools, and are likely to spend thousands on anything and everything that promises relief from never-ending toil. The herbicides end up in the Bay, the newest effort-saver ends up in the landfill, and they still end up staring at the same scene next year.

There is another way. Many years ago I attended The Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council's annual Turning a New Leaf Conference and had the pleasure of hearing Rick Darke, keynote speaker at the conference and author of numerous books on the aesthetics of living landscapes. He urged the audience to think in terms of 'creative dynamic stewardship' – challenging home owners to re-vitalize their landscapes by visualizing them as a haven for wildlife and the natural processes of decay and regeneration.

"When we see something is beautiful," he pointed out, "we are more likely to conserve it."

I would add, we are also more likely to become *connected* to it. His rephrasing of maintenance as stewardship has since had a profound effect on how I view my

own landscape, and urge others to view theirs.

But how do we make that shift? Perhaps it is as simple as surveying our property while pondering the words of Alexander Pope.

"Consult the genius of the place in all..."
"To build, to plant, whatever you intend,
To rear the column, or the arch to bend,
To swell the terrace, or to sink the grot;
In all, let Nature never be forgot..."

Here on my own property, I am exquisitely aware that I could do little but edit the woodland, mow around stately trees and shapely ones, keep the invasive brambles at bay and set up bird feeding stations and toad houses, I would have a landscape that invigorated and inspired me. The ornamental and vegetable gardens I obsessively tend are just gravy.

It feels good to be a caretaker of that land, just as it felt good twenty years ago to open the windows on a busy city street and tend to humble window boxes where spring-time songbirds would make nests. Whatever your landscape happens to be – patio or potager – stewardship of that landscape gives you *purpose*. It provides something constant within the fleeting gimmicks of a modern life. Thanksgiving is every day.

If your landscape isn't flipping that switch inside of you, it's time to change it.

This may be as easy as adding native berrying shrubs like winterberry or beautyberry, planting a small dogwood or Stewartia outside a kitchen window for nesting sites, or working with groundcovers and grasses to cut down on weeding. Planting living landscapes to which you feel united – landscapes that make you smile each time you tend them.

As Beth Ginter, Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Landscape Council said that day, "It's making maintenance sexy again." After all, what's sexier than an intimate connection?

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Marianne is a columnist for The American Gardener and GardenRant, and the author of Tropical Plants and How To Love Them and Big Dreams Small Garden. She writes from her home in Lovettsville, VA.

PETS

My baby Loki passed away



Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

His cancer came back and took him so fast. He died under my bed and I have been in a bit of a fog. I've been back and forth to the vet trying to figure out what was going on and I think part of me just didn't want to believe that the cancer had returned.

He was only 7. I wanted so many more years with him.

I've been looking back through pictures that I have on my phone and I can't get over how little he was when he first arrived in my life. I'm guessing he was probably only about three months. He was so tiny.

His first few days in the house, he was so very scared. He hid at the top of the basement steps for a while until one Sunday afternoon, I decided I was going to get him to trust me. I laid down on the kitchen floor and waited him out.

He would pop his little head above the top step to see if I was still there and I cooed at him and told him I wouldn't hurt him and eventually, he tentatively came up the stairs and between one blink and the next, he was rubbing all along my arms and purring and he's been my baby ever since.

He was a stinker, though. Loki did

things his way and nothing was going to change that.

He had to inspect everything that I brought into the house. He always wanted to know what was going on, outside or inside.

He was the kind of cat who would knock things over all the time. He had that specific twinkle in his eye – even from a young age – that made you realize he was only a breath away at any given moment of getting into some kind of mischief.

If he knew I didn't want him to do something, I swear he would make a concerted effort to do it.

When I would do laundry in the basement, he would watch from the top step.

He drank from the sink in the bathroom and always demanded I turn the faucet on.

He was a force to be reckoned with and I don't have adequate words to express how very, very much I miss him.

I feel like there's a hole in my life that I can't fill. I swear, some days I still look for him. I think to myself, I haven't seen Loki in a while, where is he?

And then I remember.

He's not coming back.

It's so bizarre to think so much character and personality and sparkle could

be packed into, really, what amounted to such a tiny, little package.

And it's overwhelming and poignant to know how much he figured into my life.

I saw him and talked to him every day. Every. Day. I can't even say that about my family members.

He was with me when I watched sad movies or got happy news about my nieces being born or even on those days I was just so tired after a long week.

My other cats know. They saw him – even though they were freaked out by him – before I took him to be cremated.

Grayson has been particularly interested in snuggles and I am more than happy to oblige. I adore him so very much and am so incredibly glad he's with me.

My other felines are far more standoffish, so they give me looks like they know something has happened, but they're not as solicitous as my Grayson.

I just can't get over how much I feel this loss.

Loki was a brat. He was obstinate. He was a turd when he wanted to be, but he saved me.

He came into my life exactly when I needed him and I hope with every cell in my body that somehow he knows how very, very much he meant to me.

I told him before he left me to wait for me at the Rainbow Bridge and that's where I picture him now – he's likely causing all kinds of havoc, but that's my boy.

I hope he's healthy and no longer in pain and is chasing plastic rings from bottles until his heart is content.

I don't know how to end this because I don't know how to truly say goodbye to him. I suspect he will be with me, in my heart, until I breathe my last breath on this planet, just like he did under my bed a few days ago.

I love you so, so much, Loki, and will miss you with every beat of my heart.

Jennifer Vanderau is the Director of Communications for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter and can be reached at 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. CVAS also operates thrift stores in Chambersburg and Shippensburg. Help support the animals at the shelter by donating to or shopping at the stores.



Patchwork is a 3-year-old tortoiseshell cat who came into the shelter as a stray. She's a really nice girl who actually loves belly rubs if you can believe it! Patchwork does not seem to care for the company of other cats and may do best as the only cat in the household.



Crumpet is a playful girl who came into the shelter as a stray. This unique looking 4-month-old, black and white kitten loves to play with teaser toys. She is going to make someone a wonderful companion. Could that be you?



Chugga came into the shelter as a stray, and he was so matted that he could not go potty. He had to be shaved down completely and did very well while being groomed! Chugga is a 3-year-old Pekingese mix who is a happy-go-lucky guy and loves going into the play yard and being with people. Chugga will need someone who can keep him groomed so that he does not get matted again. Do you have the right place for this cutie pie?



Citrus came into the shelter as a stray. She is a shy, but very sweet girl! She's about a year old and can be timid with new people or areas, but she does recover well -- she just needs someone who understands she will need time to adjust. Citrus loves attention and enjoys giving hugs and lots of kisses! Could you show her what a forever home is all about?



Simon is a happy, playful terrier mix about five months old. He came into the shelter as a stray and is a typical puppy—always looking for fun! He will need someone who understands the time and patience that goes into training a puppy. Simon must meet all family members who reside in the home. Are you ready for this guy to be a part of your life?

For more information about Patchwork, Crumpet, Chugga, Citrus, or Simon call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791, or visit them online at www.cvaspets.org or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter.



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Before humans die, they write their last Will & Testament, give their home & all they have, to those they leave behind. If, with my paws, I could do the same, this is what I'd ask...

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

- My happy home.
- My bowl & cozy bed, soft pillows and all my toys.
- The lap, which I loved so much.
- The hand that stroked my fur & the sweet voice which spoke my name.


I'd Will to the sad, scared shelter dog, the place I had in my human's loving heart, of which there seemed no bounds.

So, when I die, please do not say, "I will never have a pet again, for the loss and pain is more than I can stand."

Instead, go find an unloved dog, one whose life has held no joy or hope and give MY place to HIM.

This is the only thing I can give...
The love I left behind.

-- Author Unknown



Weighing in on pet care



Shawn Snyder
Frederick County Animal Shelter

At the Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center, we witness the result of pet owners who associate how much they love their pet with how much they feed them. However, overfeeding pets resulting in obesity is anything but loving. Unfortunately, obesity in pets is common and can lead to other significant health issues, such as diabetes, joint discomfort, and even immobility. In cats, obesity can lead to an inability to groom properly and difficulty traveling into, and navigating out of, a traditional litterbox. Dogs that are overweight can suffer unnecessary discomfort in movement, an increased risk of joint damage and cruciate tears, and undue cardiac stress.

Chappy Lemon is one of our Domestic Shorthair variety cats currently available for adoption. He was surrendered to the shelter because another resident cat

diet, which will help him lose some weight. Chappy Lemon is a bit shy when meeting new people or in new environments. Once you earn his trust, his glowing personality shines through. Chappy will need an adopter that is willing to continue measuring food, avoiding high-calorie snacks, and incorporating veterinary oversight to ensure diet efforts are not adversely affecting overall health.

Similar to humans, a quality diet for pets is just one component of maintaining a healthy weight. Chappy could use some gentle exercise in the form of stair climbing or cat tree options, or an adopter willing to spend time with a laser light-type toy. There are interactive food dispensers and puzzles for overweight cats available for purchase, or that can be made using instructions found on Pinterest. Canine companions that need to shed a few pounds, owners need to be willing to incorporate gentle walks, increasing in speed and distance over time and in conjunction with veterinary guidelines to protect heart and joints.

Interested in meeting Chappy? Please make a reservation at www.visitfcac.as.me or give us a call at 301-600-1546.

was picking on him. Chappy is a naturally big fellow; his current weight is 18.5 pounds. However, for his comfort, his ideal weight should be around 14 pounds. Currently, he is on a measured



Not quite a kitten but also not an adult, at only 8 months old Silas offers the best of both worlds. He loves to play with toys and explore his surroundings, while other times he is content watching the world go by or being petted. Shelter staff believes he will be a good match for families with kids of any age and/or homes that already have a resident cat.



Hyacinth is a sweet lady. She enjoys it when people stop by her cage for a visit and loves a good neck scratching. She was relinquished to the shelter, with several other cats, because her owner had too many to care for. Hyacinth's laid-back personality will help her transition to her new home with ease. She will likely be a good fit for households with kids of any age and/or other pets.



Need a little spice in your life? Taz will liven up your household with his exuberant personality. Taz's eagerness to please and love of treats makes him very trainable. He already knows sit but could use some help on loose leash walking and keeping all four paws on the floor. Taz hopes to find a family that can provide him with daily exercise and a willingness to help him with his manners!



At only one year old, Marnie is an active, friendly girl. When I say active, I don't mean one walk a day. Marnie needs a family that can provide her multiple daily activities to ensure her good mental and physical health. She is an English Shepherd Mix, which is not a common breed we see at the shelter, and they are known to be intelligent, kind, energetic and independent.

For more information about Silas, Hyacinth, Taz, or Marnie, call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac.

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FROM THE DESK OF ...

Janie Monier

As the general election approaches, Frederick County has many choices up and down the ballot. While most big races get more media attention, the decisions made by the local Board of Education will impact our children's future, making this bottom-of-the-ballot race at the top of my mind.

Frederick County is facing the state's most significant population growth rate. To navigate this unprecedented exponential growth and the evolving needs of our diverse student population, I believe I am the best candidate for the BOE. I bring a deep passion for fostering an inclusive environment, innovation, collaboration, and community engagement while remaining committed to the rich agricultural history that cre-

ated the County.

I understand the importance of quality education and the doors it opens. Growing up in a home with disabled parents, I saw education's impact on people—my vision centers on implementing programs that promote critical thinking, creativity, and emotional intelligence. I will advocate for a curriculum that is not only challenging but also relevant, integrating technology and recognizing its significance in preparing students for careers in an increasingly tech-driven economy. I will aim to expand access to advanced placement courses and vocational programs, ensuring all students have pathways to success, regardless of their career aspirations.

Frederick County is diverse - in recognizing that, I am committed

to creating an environment where every student feels included, valued, and supported. I will aim to empower all students to reach their full potential by investing in targeted support programs and mentorship initiatives. In addition, I hope to create a school culture that nurtures resilience, empathy, and student collaboration by incorporating social-emotional learning into the curriculum. By promoting SEL, I hope to foster a school culture that nurtures resilience, empathy, and student collaboration.

I understand that education is a community effort. I plan to include strengthening partnerships between schools, families, and local organizations to create a holistic student support system. As the parent of elementary school kids, I know firsthand the importance of communication

and collaboration between parents and teachers to support learning in and out of the classroom. I support the use of technology that allows parents to be involved in choosing what materials their child has access to without removing the materials for the general population. I believe in open communication between educators and parents, allowing all parents to participate actively in their students' success and gain ownership and pride in the school system.

I, along with Josh Bokee and Chad Wilson are educator-endorsed, and the teacher's and school support staff's union believes we are the best pick. I recognize that teachers are the cornerstone of any successful educational system and plan to prioritize professional development and support for educators. This

will allow Frederick County to recruit and maintain the best educators who are supported and encouraged to perform their best. I believe that our teachers are the experts—they know how to teach and how to help students learn. If elected to the BOE, I pledge to support teachers and allow them to excel.

I believe I have established for the future, an environment centered on academic excellence, inclusivity, and community engagement that embodies the qualities of a leader committed to the success of every student. On November 5th, I hope you will support my plan to impact Frederick County's educational landscape by casting your vote for me. Join me in this critical mission to create a brighter future for our students, schools, and community.

Josh Bokee

My name is Josh Bokee and I am a candidate for one of the three open seats on the Frederick County Board of Education. I am respectfully asking for your vote in the upcoming November election. Every student should attend a school that is safe, inclusive and has a positive learning

environment. We should expect success for all students and prepare each one for high academic achievement and life itself by the time they are ready to graduate. I am a parent of a blended family of three teenagers, the oldest of whom is now a junior at Frederick High School. He is receiving an excellent education. I am running for the school board because

every student throughout Frederick County should have an excellent education, helping to unlock future both college and career opportunities. I am ready to focus on the essentials, helping to bring partners together and do everything possible to see that all of our students are successful.

It is important to have highly qualified teachers and staff in our

classrooms; school buildings that are not overcrowded or are not falling apart; parents who are true partners and a community that is fully invested in the success of our students. We are one Frederick County in our shared desire to see our students do well; but our needs are varied. In the more rural areas of our county, we need to ensure students have access to AP and honors classes, engineering programs and to the Career Technology Center (CTC). We need to ensure that we have reliable bus transportation to and from school everyday. We need to engage our local businesses and skilled-trades organizations so more students have access to career building internships and apprenticeships.

I have spent the majority of my career in the technology sector and now get to support critical projects of bringing affordable high speed internet access to unserved homes and businesses. I helped to spearhead a local program with the United Way of Frederick County to help families and seniors obtain new laptop computers (5,000 in all); bringing digital access to communities of need including Emmitsburg, Thurmont, Bruns-

wick, Woodsboro and Frederick. All families need access to home technology (such as laptops and high speed internet). As a member of the school board, ensuring that students have access to technology and use it properly will be an important priority for me.

I also serve on our highschool PTSA (I help to organize restaurant fundraiser nights) and see how important it is that parents and guardians are partners in helping to determine the outcomes in our schools. We need to help ensure that PTSA's are treated as the valuable partners that they are at every school. Teachers and staff play a critical role as partners and I am proud to have their positive recommendation for this election.

There is much that unites us as Frederick County residents. We don't have time for national, extremist politics. I am ready to focus on the essentials, helping to bring partners together and do everything possible to see that all of our students are successful. I hope to earn your vote this November. Thank you. To learn more about me, please visit my website at www.JoshBokee.org.

Teacher Recommended



L to R: Wilson, Bokee, Monier

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Josh Bokee Janie Monier

Chad King Wilson

We believe every student deserves an environment that is safe and supportive for learning, every family deserves transparency to access needed resources for their child, and every school community in our county deserves equitable and accessible academic opportunities.

- Funding** for needed school construction to meet the needs of all facilities throughout the county
- Attracting** world-class educators and staff with compensation, autonomy, & respect
- Expanding** access to career preparation, apprenticeship, & academic programs
- Creating** learning environments that are safe & inclusive for all students, educators, & staff
- Ensuring** transparency of resources to address the needs of our special education students.



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Authorized by BMW & BOE Slate, Treasurer Joshua Pedersen





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... CANDIDATE FOR FREDERICK COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Chad Wilson

My name is Chad King Wilson Sr., and I am running for an open seat on the Frederick County Board of Education. I am a veteran educator beginning my 18th year of teaching. Over the years, I have enjoyed working in Special Education, Social Studies, and Alternative Education, inspiring and motivating my students to achieve their dreams. I humbly request your vote to ensure that the Board of Education makes decisions prioritizing improved academic achievement, expanded college and career opportunities, complete resources for special education programs, and the recruitment and retention of educators through fair wages, respect, and autonomy.

We are all products of those who came before us, reflections of their hopes and dreams, and stewards of their legacies. I come from Pittsburgh, where my grandfathers worked in steel mills and served as military vet-

erans. My grandmothers influenced me profoundly: one grew up on a farm in Birmingham, Alabama, and became a teacher's assistant after completing her 8th-grade education, while the other earned her bachelor's degree in her 70s as a lifelong learner. My family valued education as a path to a better future. I am running to ensure that every student, regardless of where they live, their circumstances, or their background, has access to an education that changes lives.

I decided to become an educator at a young age. My aunt, the Assistant Superintendent of Pittsburgh Public Schools, would take my cousin and me to various schools. I witnessed schools' impact on students and the communities they supported, turning dreams into reality. I also saw how educators influenced the trajectories of students' lives. As a Board of Education member, I want to ensure that every student attends a safe, inclusive,

and staffed school by world-class educators and administrators. I aim to bring my knowledge as an educator and advocacy background to elevate issues such as learning environments, special education services, the recruitment and retention of diverse educators, student rights and protections, and fair treatment and compensation for educators to the Frederick County Board of Education.

As educators, funding, resourcing, and staffing our schools is essential for their success. We must collaborate to recruit and retain world-class educators by enhancing compensation packages to align with those in surrounding counties. It is crucial to ensure that all educators, from teachers to educational support professionals, receive professional respect, dignity, autonomy, and a healthy work-life balance.

As a parent of two young children, I understand the importance of transparency, communication, and authentic collaboration for a

thriving school system. We must engage our community stakeholders in decision-making, seek feedback, and use that input to strengthen Frederick County Public Schools. Students benefit when they see themselves represented in the curriculum. The elementary school educators in Frederick work tirelessly to establish a strong foundation for students, an effort I witness daily with my children. We must ensure they are treated as professionals.

Together, we can ensure that Frederick County provides equal access to AP courses, STEM programs, and opportunities at our Career Technology Center (CTC). I also want to guarantee that every school features programs that provide families with access to excellent resources, whether their children choose college or a career, allowing their dreams to come true.

We can improve education by providing universal pre-K, enriching the elementary school curriculum, expanding educational offerings to meet 21st-cen-

tury learning goals, reducing class sizes, and fulfilling our objectives for children. Most importantly, we must enhance engagement, transparency, and communication between the school district and parents. As an educator, connecting with parents about student needs is vital not only to understand my students better but also to strengthen their abilities and address areas for improvement. Authentic collaboration, engagement, and respect are crucial to my vision for Frederick County Schools.

Let's work together to provide the students at Frederick County Public Schools with the support they need for their future and ensure we are supporting our excellent educators. By collaborating, we can create a brighter future for everyone. As an educator, parent, community volunteer, and someone dedicated to service, I hope to earn your vote and bring these skills and experiences to the Frederick Board of Education.

April McClain Delaney - Candidate for U.S. Congress

Maryland's 6th District deserves a Congressional representative who brings both deep experience and a true understanding of the challenges facing rural communities. Growing up the daughter of an Idaho potato farmer, I know firsthand the challenges faced by working families – particularly those in remote areas. One never knows the journey their life might take, but through loans and scholarship, I was able to attend Georgetown Law Center and while there met my husband John Delaney (the son of a union electrician). We have worked hard our whole lives and have raised our four daughters - ages 17 to 31- in Montgomery County. I ran for this seat because I care deeply about the future our children will inherit, and their future depends upon our country coming back together in unity ... and community. My campaign platform is "Common Sense, Common Ground" because we must turn the page on mistrust and division; we must again focus on creating real solutions for working families.

John and I subscribe to the philosophy that while life can be short, each of us, no matter our circumstances, has the unique ability to positively impact others through our heart, service to others, and a focus on community. This is why I left the private sector to help lead a national children's non-profit and then serve as a senior official at the Department of Commerce focused

on closing the digital divide through broadband grants, driving infrastructure investment in local communities and fortifying emergency communications for our first responders.

Too many in our rural areas, including Western Maryland, feel short-changed and left behind. I believe my unique skills and life experiences will allow me to bring hope, investment and much needed infrastructure to the people of Western Maryland. Given my varied legal, business and nonprofit background, I have a deep understanding of how technological innovation can drive economic growth and create high-paying jobs. That's

why I'll work to expand Maryland's broadband infrastructure, especially in underserved areas, and strengthen our local and national

networks. By investing in cutting-edge technology, we can empower businesses, boost our economy and drive much more needed infrastructure investment in roads, bridges, water facilities and green energy projects.

Education is the foundation of a thriving community, and Maryland has always prided itself on supporting a world-class public education system. I will work closely with public schools to ensure that every child has access to quality pre-K, we close

resource gaps in underfunded schools, and facilitate more investments in workforce development and school affordability that reflect the needs of today's economy.

Health care is an essential human right for all of us. One key focus is increasing our health care resources for our communities, and particularly with respect to mental health care, as we face unprecedented increases in depression, substance abuse and other afflictions. Additionally, as the mom of four daughters, I believe it essential we work to protect women's maternal health and their reproductive freedoms. This issue is personal for me as I

almost died over 20 years ago of an ectopic pregnancy – and most certainly would today if I still lived in Idaho.

Sadly, none of these things will come to fruition if we do not come together in a "common sense, common ground" way and intentionally focus on building trust and dialogue across our local communities. I will work to be a community builder and to show up continuously for my constituents. With a focus on the future, I will work towards creating a brighter, more inclusive and more prosperous future for all Marylanders.

April McClain
Delaney
COMMON SENSE, COMMON GROUND
FOR ECONOMIC STABILITY



Early Voting
Starts October 24
**Vote April
in November**

April McClain Delaney
Common Sense, Common Ground for
Maryland's 6th Congressional District

In Congress, April will:

- Address Inflation and Strengthen the Middle Class
- Fix I-270
- Protect Reproductive Rights
- Advocate for Comprehensive Immigration Reform
- Roll Out Rural Broadband
- Increase Bumpers and Safeguards for Big Tech

Paid for by April McClain Delaney for Congress.

april4congress.com

April McClain Delaney

For Congress Maryland's 6th District

Reject Extremism, Embrace Common Sense Leadership

In the 6th Congressional District, which encompasses all of Mountain Maryland and Northern Montgomery County, we pride ourselves in our ability to find common ground, work together, and solve problems as a community. Through his time in public service Neil Parrott has proven he does not share that desire to find compromise. Instead of reaching across the aisle, Parrott consistently placed extremism, division, and political posturing over the needs of his constituents. We encourage you to reject his campaign for Congress.

Parrott's time in the state legislature was ineffective at best - corrosive at worst. He took pride in casting votes against common sense legislation, often doing so alone. He was one of only four votes cast against legislation to protect Marylanders from spousal rape. He was the only vote to outlaw bingo for seniors. He tried unsuccessfully to put a "personhood amendment" without exceptions in the state constitution. He even thought it would be a funny joke to equate incest and marriage equality. These are not the actions of a serious legislator - they are the actions of an extremist who does not share our values. This certainly explains why he was named the least successful legislator for his inability to get anything done.

Washington needs common sense leaders who will work across the aisle to strengthen the economy, create jobs, and bring normalcy to a turbulent political climate. Please join us in rejecting politicians like Neil Parrott and help us bring common sense and normalcy to Washington, D.C. by voting for candidates like April Delaney.

Senator Brian Feldman, District 15
Senator Katie Fry Hester, District 9
Senator Cheryl Kagan, District 17
Senator Nancy King, District 39
Senator Karen Lewis Young, District 3
Senator Craig Zucker, District 14
Delegate Gabe Acevero, District 39
Delegate Kris Fair, District 3
Delegate Linda Foley, District 15
Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo, District 15
Delegate Anne Kaiser, District 14
Delegate Ken Kerr, District 3
Delegate Lesley Lopez, District 39
Delegate Bernice Mireku-North, District 14
Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr, District 17
Delegate Lily Qi, District 15
Delegate Pam Queen, District 14

Delegate Karen Simpson, District 3
Delegate Ryan Spiegel, District 17
Delegate Joe Vogel, District 17
Delegate Greg Wims, District 39
Delegate Chao Wu, District 9
Delegate Natalie Ziegler, District 9
Gabe Albornoz, Montgomery County Councilmember At-Large
Evan Glass, Montgomery County Councilmember At-Large
Laurie Ann Sayles, Montgomery County Councilmember At-Large
Marilyn Balcombe, Montgomery County Councilmember
Dawn Luedtke, Montgomery County Councilmember
Sidney Katz, Montgomery County Councilmember
Michael O'Connor, Mayor, City of Frederick
Robert Reckart, Mayor of Kitzmiller
Adam Van Grack, Gaithersburg City Council
Jerry Donald, Frederick County Councilmember



Vote April in November

Paid for by April McClain Delaney for Congress

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17th Annual Foothills Artists Studio Tour

The 17th annual Foothills Artists Studio Tour will be held November 23 and 24, the weekend before Thanksgiving, at various locations in and around the western Adams County communities of Fairfield, Orrtanna and Cashtown. Fourteen artists will be participating in a special pre-holiday show and sale from 10 to 5 both days.

Thirteen returning Foothills Artists are excited to welcome Erin Brown to the tour this year. Eight different studio locations will feature original paintings, pottery, sculpture, woodworking, photography, printmaking, fiber and textile arts, enamels, jewelry, illustration and book-binding. See first-hand where the artists create their work and have the opportunity to buy directly from them. For those interested in making purchases, checks and cash are welcome. Credit cards are accepted by most, but not all, of the artists.

This free tour is self-guided and may be completed in any order. The website, www.foothillsartists.net, includes a map of each studio's location and street address, as well as links to each artist's individual website. It also includes biographies and artwork examples for each artist. Several of the artists live and work in historic homes.

The Artists:

Erin Brown — 43 Water Street, Fairfield. Erin is an artist who has created whimsical drawings and paintings since graduating from Rhode Island School of Design in 1993. She uses her imagination and nature to inspire her use of color and imagery. She has also focused on capturing the essence of buildings which can be seen in her building portraits.

Daryl Despres — Mountain Woodworks, 59 Ringneck Trail,

Carroll Valley. Daryl is a woodworker who has turned his passion into his profession. He creates functional, non-traditional band-sawn boxes using different woods, almost all reclaimed. He prefers to use locally sourced wood or materials given to him by friends.

Andrea Finch — showing at Beech Springs Farm, 784 Mt. Carmel Road, Orrtanna. Andrea creates sculptural quilts of botanical subjects, from realistic to abstract, exploring textile textures. She comes to quilt-making from a different angle, while her botanical obsession began with photographing and creating an arboretum in her yard.

Anne Finucane — showing at Beech Springs Farm, 784 Mt. Carmel Road, Orrtanna. Anne works in a variety of printmaking and other fine art media, and will be showing her etchings and linocuts on the tour. A long-time organizer and advocate for the arts, her work is consistently accepted into juried exhibitions from DC to NYC.

Geoff Grant — Eden Farm, 378 Topper Road, Fairfield. Geoff is an award-winning fine art photographer who finds expression in "painterly" landscapes, graphic street scenes, and candid portraits of people of different cultures, particularly those from his travels in other countries.

Jack Handshaw — Hobbit House Pottery, 1575 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield. An award-winning artist for over 45 years, Jack is a potter working in all forms of clay, particularly reduction fired glazed porcelains, raku and redware. He is a juried member of the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen, and has been accepted into numerous juried shows.

Chris Herbert — Rocktop Bookshop and Bindery, 1229 Old Route 30, Cashtown. A graduate of the Clark University School



Pictured from left to right, front: Geoffrey Thulin, Jayne Shord, Geoff Grant, Andrea Finch, Sarah Maclay; center: Chris Herbert, Heidi Myers, Erin Brown, Debbie Westmoreland, Anne Finucane; rear: Jack Handshaw, Judy Pyle, Joh Ricci, Daryl Despres.

at the Worcester Art Museum, with 27 years of experience in Book Binding, Chris has the skills to help with any book project from restoring a cherished family Bible, to creating a custom gift book for a loved one.

Sarah Maclay — showing at Beech Springs Farm, 784 Mt. Carmel Road, Orrtanna. Sarah has been creating and exhibiting her work for more than 25 years, with a primary focus on landscape painting. Her work lives in collections across the country and reflects the sense of place she has found in south-central Pennsylvania.

Heidi Myers — Haywire Studio, 260 Orrtanna Road, Orrtanna. Heidi is a

ceramic artist who has been expressing herself with clay for over twenty

years. She enjoys sculpture, slab and hand-building. This year she has continued to explore sgraffito. Heidi's inspirations can be found in the nature that surrounds her

Haywire Studio.

Judy Pyle — showing at Beech Springs Farm, 784 Mt. Carmel Road, Orrtanna. Judy makes jewelry in hand-fabricated silver, torch-fired enamels on copper and fine silver. Her new enamel pieces are wearable sculptures. She has been a life-long art educator, as well as a practicing artist. Her most recent small sculptures — enameled items and other found objects — have been juried into national exhibits.

Joh Ricci — showing at Eden Farm, 378 Topper Road, Fairfield. Joh is a multi-media artist and instructor who is self-taught in a number of techniques & mediums. An award-winning artist and art educator, she is nationally recognized for her fiber art. Exhibiting in invitational & juried art shows, her work is included in several private collections, numerous magazines and book publications.

Jayne Shord — Beech Springs Farm, 784 Mt. Carmel Road,

Orrtanna. Jayne is a photographer, specializing in garden images from her Beech Springs Farm, as well as other locations around Adams County and from her extensive travel. Her work has received local and national recognition.

Geoffrey Thulin — Blue Orchard Studio, 1013 Old Route 30, Cashtown. Geoffrey is a painter specializing in bold animal imagery, landscapes and abstracts. He works primarily in watercolor and gouache. His award-winning work explores color, pattern and rhythm, and their connection to the spiritual aspect of nature.

Debbie Westmoreland — showing at Eden Farm, 378 Topper Road, Fairfield. Debbie, a fiber artist, creates needle felted, one-of-a kind scarves, and wall art. Silk becomes a canvas upon which wool fibers are combined with hand stitching and embellishments, giving her designs unique textures, color, and special effects.

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HISTORY

The Contralto

Rev. Charles Maloy, C. M.
St. Joseph's Parish, Emmitsburg
Published in 1912

Chapter 7
continued from last month

On his way to the office after luncheon the Professor read over his notes. He had prepared a series of questions and answers in a facetious vein which he hoped would call the attention of the paper's readers to the utter demoralization that prevailed in the passenger traffic of the Western Maryland Railroad, because it had been made subservient to the transportation of coal. One of these read: "Does the Western Maryland run on schedule? No, Dear Reader, the Western Maryland does not run on schedule and most of the time does not

run on the track as witnessed by the frequency of wrecks. The conductors have orders to stop at every wood to search for the schedule, hence train 9 on Tuesday evening ran away from Mr. Buffington and was compelled to back a mile to pick him up." This last was in reference to a recent occurrence which had much amused the few Emmitsburg passengers on board.

He also showed that the mail service despite the Federal regulations was in scandalous condition; that the recent wreck in which forty persons had lost their lives was likely to be duplicated at any point of the system, because of the dilapidated condition of the roadbed. He chuckled to himself on viewing the progress of his mind in the new phase of "muck-raking."

His next article would be on the

matter of a living wage, in which he would hint at evils nearer home. He was in the process of recalling the teachings of economists from Mill and Ricardo to George and Ely, and marshalling their arguments when he met up with Uncle Bennett. The old man was looking glum for one of such ordinary placidity and on being greeted, abruptly asked: "Got the right time, Professor?"

"I have some time, Uncle, but I shall not vouch for its correctness," showing his watch to the old fellow, neglecting to inform him that it had been set that very morning in accord with the town clock.

Bennett squinted at it then up at the clock exclaiming: 'I 'Knewed it! their darned old turnips can't keep the right time. Now I'll bet that watch is full jewelled, ain't it?"

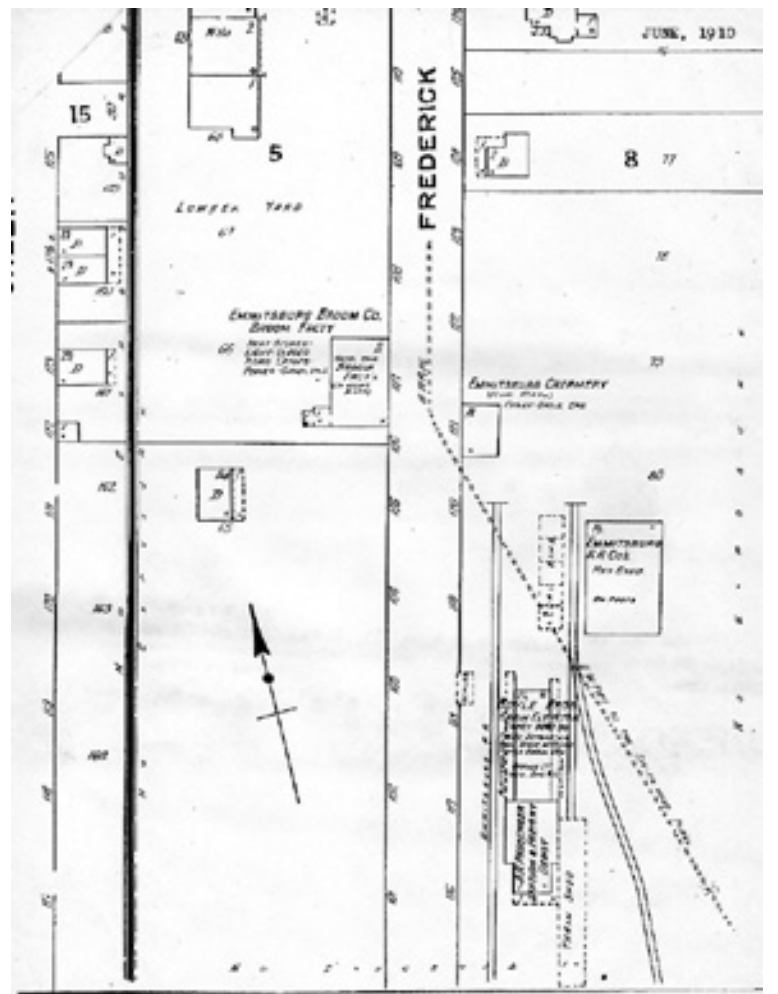
"I've never investigated," he declared, and observing the expectant look on his friend's face, unhooked the watch from the fob and handed it over. The works were examined in every detail, the time-piece returned with much praise as to its perfection, and many disparaging comments on the quality of the general run of chronometers in Emmitsburg.

"Are you busy just now, Professor?"

"Not particularly, is there anything I can do for you?"

"I got a Olmstead's Philosophy down to the house, I'd like you to come and see if I ain't right in my calculations."

Many years having elapsed since the Professor had looked into a text-book of physics, he was by no means certain he could follow the problems of time reckoning, so excused himself with an assurance that he would find opportunity to take up the question later. Moving away he was halted with:



Map showing location of Emmitsburg Railroad Station in Emmitsburg Station. The Broom Factory is the present-day Carriage House Inn.

"Hear you're getting up the- at'cals."

"Yes," with a note of surprise at the celerity with which news spread in the village.

"Why not use the church hall over there? that's a good place, all you need is to put in a stage and some scenery. I built that hall and there ain't been a nail drove since, that I didn't sup'intend."


"We shall see about it."

At the office, he was met by Sterling Galt who laughingly chid him on the tardiness of his appearance at the same time chaffing about the stronger attraction of a beautiful young woman and the morning sunshine versus newspaper work and the tobacco laden atmosphere of the editorial room. The reference to the physical charms of his friend brought a schoolboy blush to the Professor's face.

He was not left a victim of his

embarrassment for long, Mr. Galt handing him some copy for reading and approval. It contained a glowing account of the newly founded theatrical society, which would soon be presenting the highest expressions of the Thespian art for the amusement and enlightenment of the citizens of Emmitsburg and the surrounding country. Two public spirited gentlemen of Metropolitan experience had taken the matter in hand thereby guaranteeing the utmost perfection of artistic finish to the venture. The paper bespoke the heartiest co-operation of the young people in the various productions contemplated and the aid of one and all its readers by their liberal patronage. More detailed information was promised in subsequent issues.

While reading it a smile of amusement lighted up the Professor's countenance. At the finish



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HISTORY



Main Street 1909 - Looking East

he re-marked on the speed with which events rushed to consummation in the town. He assured the Editor the matter had been merely a topic of conversation between himself and Mr. Halm, he not having had an opportunity to consult the Pastor.

“Nevertheless it was a happy inspiration. Go ahead with it, it will help out our social regeneration immensely.”

“Run the copy then, we may as well plunge. I presume the Rector will approve and allow us to use his hall.”

“Of course he will approve, he is as anxious as we are for the resurrection of this town. The difficulty with him is he does not know how to go about it. He is not a fighting man, he has an exaggerated idea of a heavenly hereafter garnered in his years of devotion and self-sacrifice and cannot come down to the level of earthly things.”

“He is the truest friend I ever had,” declared Harry with emotion. “I knew him when he presided over one of the largest churches in the city, but was not politician enough to hold it. The

Governor, as I call him, has seen a great deal of the inherent smallness of humanity, and the wonder is that he retains so optimistic an outlook on life. Whenever I see or think of him I am inclined to make an act of faith in the Deus absconditus, the hidden God, who from behind the veil regulates the course of events.”

With this mutual eulogy of their friend the two turned to their respective writings. For half an hour there was silence in the sanctum, with outside the running off of sales-bills. Mr. Higbee laboriously paged “Fugitive Fancies,” a book of verse which had emanated from the brain of a local songster, and which an admiring wife was having printed, hoping thus to satisfy the clamors of an imaginary world. Stopping in his measurements, Higbee grinned irreverently, exclaiming: “It’s a shame to take the money.”

The silence in the editorial department was broken by the entrance of Father Flynn, President of the Mount. He was a man of large proportions with a flowing red beard which, though no ornament in itself, served to hide a weak mouth and very bad teeth. He and the Professor had met on several occasions at the parsonage, both, from an unfathomable antipathy, fighting shy of each other. One or two arguments precipitated by the Rector had tended to narrow the breach. He saluted Harry gruffly in his deep voice, which, from the first, had caused the latter to summarize him as *Vox et praeterea nihil*.

His address to the Editor was more diffuse, the congratulation he offered on the brightness and up-to-date appearance of the Chronicle, tinged with flattery. Everyone at the college was reading it, enjoying very much the

Harney VFW Veterans Day Observance

On November 9, the Monocacy Valley Memorial VFW Post 6918, located in Harney, will hold its annual Veterans Day Observance starting at 11.

Post Commander Katie Clothier stated, “Veterans Day is a time to pause, to reflect and recognize the challenges and sacrifices of veterans who have served, those who continued to serve and those who have given the ultimate sacrifice while serving their country in the United States Armed Forces”. “Veterans Day pays tribute to our living and deceased veterans who served their country.”

Our guest speaker will be a veteran of the Korean War, Sergeant Ron Twentey, a highly decorated, and a distinguishable disabled veteran. Sgt. Twentey will give a brief slide presentation on the 1950-1953 history of the forgotten war and the brave Americans soldiers who fought and died, so that the South Koreans could have their freedom.

In addition, we are proud to have members of the Maryland Patriot Guard Riders (PGR) as our guests. The Patriots Guard Riders are dedicated riders who supports veterans and first responders and their families. In addition, they show their respect to these American Heroes and their families by escorting the fallen American Heroes to their final resting place. In addition, we are pleased to have members of the Young Marines participate in the Veterans Day Observance program. At the conclusion of the program, there will be a wreath laying in memory of our fallen veterans.

The public and all veterans and their families are invited to attend the program and to participate in this special occasion. Light refreshments will be served after the program in the pavilion. For further information, contact Frank Rauschenberg at 240-367-6110 or call the post at 410-756-6866.

articles, especially those attacking the W. M. This was a move which had the hearty approval of the faculty as each member found it very inconvenient waiting for delayed trains to and from the city. Mr. Galt thanked the Doctor, offering the columns of the paper for the expression of any views the college might wish

“By the way, Doctor,” he continued, “a letter from you will help in our trouble with the Western Maryland”

“Oh no, sir, we make it a rule never to enter the public prints,” hastening to ask for some job-work which was the excuse for his call. While the Editor went in

search of Higbee, Flynn turned his attention to the Professor, who had taken no part in the conversation, endeavoring to act as a casual caller himself.

“Rather progressive paper for a country village, don’t you think?”

“Very, Mr. Galt has advanced views of journalism.”

“Quite Addisonian in certain lines, that essay on ‘Love and Humor, Wit and Hatred,’ for example?”

“His motto seems to be, ‘Lift the people to your level,’” looking Father Flynn straight in the eyes.

Continued next month

Happy Thanksgiving!
Food Carry-Out! 
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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## November 7

### Presidential Election Results

The election returns commenced coming in, in small installments, as early as 7:30, and from the outset, the indications were favorable to the Republicans, the latter returns merely adding to majorities. New York, Illinois, and Ohio were soon added to the Coolidge column, while the vote in Baltimore precincts indicated that the state would be Republican.

The far western states were necessarily later with their figures, but the trend a public sentiment was the same there as in the East, and by midnight, conceding of the election of Coolidge by Democrats was general from New York to Chicago.

Coolidge received 279 electoral votes, John Davis, 139, and Robert La Follette claimed Wisconsin's, his home state's 13.

North Dakota and New Mexico are still in the doubtful classes, owing to the closeness of the vote, but are likely to land in the Republican column.

Davis, a compromise candidate, triumphed on the 103rd ballot at the Democratic National Convention after a deadlock between supporters of William McAdoo and Al Smith.

President Coolidge made a practical demonstration of his inclination

towards economy, by mailing the votes of himself and his wife back to Massachusetts. This appears to us to be a very sensible law for all states – voting by mail.

The Ku Klux Klan may have had some influence on the results, but it seems to have been largely confined to a few states. There was also a conspicuous absence of organized labor mass voting, unless it was located in La Follette strongholds.

Rather contrary to most expectation, the La Follette vote appears to have been made up of more Democrats than Republican votes. An outstanding fact in the returns is, that Mr. Davis lost his home state, West Virginia, and his vice-presidential partner Charles Byron lost his home state of Nebraska, both by an un-mistakable plurality.

The total popular vote as given in the papers on Thursday, were: Coolidge - 15,224,688, Davis - 7,796,784, and La Follette's Progressive Party - 4,413,508.

The vote in the Taneytown District was 893, out of 1,055 registered, A shortage of 202 partially due to illness, and to some being too far from home to vote; but there must have been over 100 who where not interested enough to make the effort. There was never finer weather for Election Day, then that on Tuesday. Whatever excuses there may

have been for not voting, they were not due to disagreeable weather.

Republicans will have a clear working majority in the House, the standing being Republicans - 246, Democrats - 183, independents - 6.

Mr. Davis issued the following statement, after sending President Coolidge a telegram of congratulations:

"The results of the election speak for themselves, and the decisive character renders a comment or explanation unnecessary. I accept the outcome without any vain, regret or bitterness, and it is my earnest, hope that the administration of President Coolidge may prove successful and beneficial to our country.

"So far as I am personally concerned, I am not shaken in my faith in the principles and ideals, professed by the Democratic Party. They will never lack defenders. To those who supported me so loyally throughout the campaign I am more grateful than I can say, and I am glad to march with those towards the inevitable triumph of the principles in which we believe. Greater than any transient success, is the virtue of our common country; and to this is the duty and privilege of every citizen to contribute, whether in office or out of it."

The first election statement made by President Coolidge is as follows:

"It does not seem possible to me, to make an adequate expression concerning the Presidency of the United States. No other honor equals it, no other responsibility approaches it. When it is conferred by an overwhelming choice of the people and the vote of the Electoral College, these are made all the greater.

"I can only express my simple thanks to all those who have contributed to this result, and plainly acknowledge that it has been brought to pass through works of a divine providence, of which I am but one instrument.

"Such powers as I have I dedicate to the service of all my country, and of all my countrymen. In this performance of the duties of my office, I could not ask for anything more than the sympathetic considerations that my fellow Americans have always bestowed upon me.

"I have no other appeal except to the common sense of all the people. I have no pledge, except to serve them, have no object except to promote the general welfare of all Americans."

Coolidge enthusiast in Emmitsburg, Thumont, Taneytown, Woodsboro and Walkersville took to the streets on Wednesday morning and paraded through the

## LOOK. LOOK.

As our road is finished and opened up to the traffic, we will celebrate it by giving great bargains to our many friends for 10 days, beginning Thursday, Nov. 13, and ending Nov. 23, 1924.

In order to make room for our mammoth display of Christmas goods, we must sacrifice some of our present stock. These goods were not bought for special sale purpose, but our regular line of first-class goods.

| CLOTHING.                                                              | CLOTHING.                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
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| Men's \$15.00 Suits, \$9.98                                            | Men's Shippensburg Heavy Work Shirts, 79c      |
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| Men's \$35.00 Overcoats, \$22.98                                       | Men's \$2.00 Dress Shirts, \$1.69              |
| Boys' \$15.00 Overcoats, \$6.98                                        | Men's Dress Shirts, 79c                        |
| Men's \$4.00 Separate Coats, \$3.98                                    | Men's \$2.50 Caps, \$1.49                      |
| Men's \$5.00 Trousers, \$3.98                                          | Men's \$1.50 Underwear, 98c                    |
| Men's \$5.00 Trousers, \$2.98                                          | Men's \$6.00 Sweaters, \$4.49                  |
| Men's \$2.00 Trousers, \$1.49                                          | Men's \$4.50 Sweaters, \$3.59                  |
| Men's Kiaki Trousers, \$1.99                                           | Men's \$4.00 Sweaters, \$2.98                  |
| Men's Shippensburg Corduroy Trousers, regular price \$6.00, now \$4.98 | Boys' \$1.50 Sweaters, 89c                     |
|                                                                        | Men's Hose, 9c                                 |

### DRY GOODS DEPARTMENT.

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| 35c Dress Ginghams, 27c      | Hill Muslin, 19 1/2c                                 |
| 25c Dress Ginghams, 19c      | Fancy Outings, 14c                                   |
| 28c Dress Ginghams, 22c      | \$1.50 Serge Dress Goods, \$1.19                     |
| 20c Dress Percales, 16c      | Red and white, blue and white Table Damask, 59c      |
| A big lot of Percales, 19c   | \$1.00 Table Linen, 79c                              |
| 25c Chambrays, 19c           | Ladies, Men's and Children's Underwear, all reduced. |
| Lancaster Apron Gingham, 18c | Heavy 9-4 Sheetting was 65c, now 49c                 |
| Apron Gingham, 12 1/2c       |                                                      |
| Druid Muslin, 13c            |                                                      |
| Reliance Muslin, 14c         |                                                      |

This is a money saving and money giving sale. Come and be convinced. Sale to begin Thursday morning, Nov. 13, at 9 o'clock.

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towns with drums and horns, as well as raising some noisy vocal efforts.

### Local Broadcasting Of Election By Telephone A Failure

We regret that our efforts to broadcast radio election returns to homes by phone, on Tuesday night, was largely a failure. Between Friday night and Sunday afternoon last, something happened to the internals of our radio that materially reduce the volume of sound. To correct it we made a trip to a radio specialist in Gettysburg on Monday who failed to locate the troubles. The wiring was gone over, on Tuesday, but reception still continued below par. It was sufficient for those who gathered in our pressroom, but was not strong enough to carry to phone subscribers.

In talking to other owners of radios, we learned that our experiment was not very different from others. There was such a commotion on the ether caused by the activity of every broadcasting station in the country, and almost every individual radio station was adding its own little part to cause interference, that it is a wonder that reception was as clear as it was.

During the night we made use of 20 or more strong stations from Boston to Chicago, using the one which at the time was strongest, and out of the lot we had the best results from Chicago, Cleveland, Schenectady, Springfield, and Pittsburgh.

On the whole, it was a wonderful experience, and demonstration of radio. Every station had special attractions that were sandwiched in with the election returns – music of every description, vocal and instrumental, humorous sketches, and all sorts of announcement, comments, and at times three or four stations would come through on the same tuning at the same time.

### Youths Held For Stealing Auto

Sheldon Richardson and Andy Reese, both 18 and both of Fairfield, were committed to the Adams County jail on a charge of stealing a motor vehicle. The young men were remanded to the County jail to away trial at the January term of the court.

Richardson was held on three counts: larceny of a motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle without the owner's consent, and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor. Reese is charged with being an accessory to the above counts lodged against Richardson.

Richardson, who until his arrest was employed by Roy Zinn at his fruit farm in Fairfield, was acquitted in court here several months ago on a charge of setting fire to woodlands in the south mountains.

He and Reese where under the influence of intoxicating liquors, it is charged, and took Mr. Zinn's truck and wrecked it Friday night.



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May your yams be delicious  
and your pecan pie too...  
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## 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## Nov 14

**Women Of Keymar Put Out Fire**

Last Saturday evening there was quite an excitement in Keymar among the ladies. West Marion was cleaning up around his home burning the leaves, and thought he put the fire out.

At 10 o'clock at night the fire began to blaze up, and some of the ladies, gossiping over the party line, saw the fire, and called other ladies, and they took their little gallon buckets and carried water and put the fire out. All were glad that the fire company did not have to come, as the ladies with their little gallon buckets did the work.

**Real Estate For Sale**

In order to settle an estate, we are offering the going business of the Kaufman Motor Company together with the real estate, on the state highway in Emmitsburg. The latter consist of a fine garage, sized 50 x 150 feet, and the property formally known as the public school, which is immediately opposite the garage, the latter containing about one acre of land. Both buildings are in fine physical condition. This business is a prosperous one and carries with it the Ford agency.

In order to settle the estate of Robert Black and Lillian Black, his wife, trading as the Thurmont Motor Company, creditors are notified to file their claims, with the circuit court before March 21st or otherwise they may be prohibited from participating in the distribution of the trust funds in the case.

**Emmitsburg Farmer Held In Liquor Case**

William Oyster, of Emmitsburg, is being held on \$3,000 bail on a charge of conspiracy against the government to defeat the National Prohibition Law. He was arrested by Deputy Marshals on his farm, where a 150 gallon still was found in a tenant house which he had rented to George Cramer of Woodsboro.

Oyster was charged after receipts, bearing his signature for rent was found on Cramer. The receipt showed that the man paid Oyster and extravagant rental for a small building, and other information, which the officers would not reveal, but which is claimed, will implicate Oyster on the charges.

If convicted, Oyster could serve up to 10 years imprisonment, or a \$10,000 fine, or both, at the discretion of the court.

## Nov 21

**Two Of Three Escaped Prisoners Give Up**

Andy Reese and Sheldon Richardson two of the three prisoners who escape from the Adams County jail early last Thursday morning, were brought back to the jail by their fathers. Robert Bingaman, the third member of the trio, is still at large.

Following their sensational escape from their cell in the jail the trio hid in a barn on the unattended farm of Robert Watson, in Hamiltonban Township. Suffering from lack of food, and, fearing capture, brought the two young men to the decision that they would give themselves up.

Reese was the first to give himself up. He left his hiding place on the Watson farm and went to the home of his father, about a mile away. "It sure was great to get home and get a good square meal," said Reese in a cell in the jail this morning. "We have been living on apples alone and we're getting pretty tired of them."

Reese remained at his father's home until Friday evening, during that time, his father got him a pair of new shoes and another pair of trousers. At 7 o'clock, Reese returned to the barn on the Watson farm where Richardson and Bingaman were still in hiding. He said he tried his best to persuade Bingaman to accompany him and Richardson back to the jail, but to no avail.

Saturday morning the two boys were brought back to Gettysburg on the 8:41 eastbound Western Maryland train, accompany by Mr. Reese and Edward Richardson, father of Sheldon.

They were taken at once to the jail and turned over to the authorities, who once more put them back behind bars. From the corridor in the jail, this morning, Reese told the whole story of the escape.

"Richardson and I didn't know anything about Bingaman's effort to get out until early Thursday morning, when he woke us up and asked us if we wanted to go along. We asked him where he was going, and he said he didn't know exactly. At first we were undecided, but he finally persuaded us to accompany him.

"He had a hole in the floor and had removed a number of stones from the wall, so that it was only a few minutes worked to remove the rest of the stones and slip out into the courtyard. It was about 4:30 in the morning when we left.

"Bingaman dug out the stones in the wall with an improvised saw. It was Bingaman, also, who came up with the method of scaling the jail yard wall. It was very easy to get out after we were in the jail yard.

"After we got over the wall, Bingaman left us for a few minutes, saying he had some business to attend to. He mailed three letters while he was gone, I think.

The three of us, then started out the Fairfield Road, and on up to the mountains to the Watson farm, which Richardson and I knew was not tentative."

According to Reese, neither he nor Richardson realize the seriousness of their escape, until after they had been away for several hours, and they began to speculate on their chances of making good their escape, which was a deciding factor in their surrender, first to their parents, and then to the authorities. They had had nothing substantial to eat from the time they left jail except apples.

After he turned his son over to the Sheriff, Ephraim Reese went out and brought two packs of cigarettes for his boy. "I'm glad he is back in jail", the father declared, "now I know where he is. If he had gone on with that man, Bingaman, he might have come to an untimely death. Now I know where he is."

Additional charges of breaking jail will be laid against Reese and Richardson by the district attorney. The pair had been arrested for operating a motor vehicle, while under the influence of liquor, and without the consent of the owner as well as the forcible entry into a home in the mountains last week.

Bingaman is said to have told Reese and Richardson that he was going to head to Harrisburg, where his wife and child are now living. Police in that city have been notified to be on the lookout for the escape prisoner. Apparently Bingaman only took the other two along because they were in the same cell with him on the night he left.

**Emmitsburg Doctor Fined For Intoxicating Driving**

Dr. Posey, of Emmitsburg, who is arrested in Fairfield on July 6 on

the charge of driving his car while under the influence of intoxicating liquors, pleaded guilty and was fine \$200 and cost.

**Steelman Marker To Be Dedicated At Zora**

Roads from Emmitsburg and Fairfield, leading to the scene of the John Hanson Steelman marker in Liberty Township, near Zora, will be plainly mark Saturday for the dedication of this monument.

The unveiling of the marker to the first white settler in Adams County will take place Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, and the Swedish Colonial Society - Hanson, having been a native of Sweden.

Recounting of the historical facts in connection with Hanson coming to this county from Maryland will be made as part of the dedication of the marker to which the general public is invited. Indications are that it will be one of the largest attended historical events held here in recent years.

## Nov 28

**Escaped Bootlegger Caught**

Henry Hewitt, 32, of Creagerstown, who on October 9 was sentence to the House of Corrections for six months on a charge of selling liquor, and escaped on October 26, was captured November 24 by Pennsylvania State Troopers. He was held in the Franklin County jail until Tuesday when the Maryland authorities took him back.

Hewitt was sentence on one of four charges against him at the last term of the court. The remaining three charges were put on hold dependent upon his good behavior, but will now be reinstated as a result of his attempt to escape from the state prison.

Only 17 days of his sentence had lapsed when, while working on a road crew near the prison, he succeeded in invading the guards and disappeared. Nothing was heard of him until we appeared near Glen Burney.

A man named Patterson, who was with him when Hewitt was arrested in the Pennsylvania town, is being held by the Franklin County authorities under \$500 bond for interfering with the officers in making the arrest, and for harboring escaped prisoner.

An officer at the Maryland House of Corrections stated that Hewitt's term will be increased to nine months. He also stated that Hewitt was picked up along the Maryland Road in an automobile driven by Patterson's daughter. Officers arrested Hewitt at the Patterson's home.

**Accidents & Deaths**

On Tuesday afternoon, William Fair, employed with Raymond Ohler in placing a metal roof on Albert Ohler's barn, met with a narrow escape from serious injury, or perhaps death. He was engaged in seeming the sheets of metal, when the ladder on which he was working became unfastened and slid down the roof. William grabbed a upstanding seam, and partially broke his fall, but slid off the house roof to a porch roof, and from there to the concrete walk. No bones are broken, but it was a close call.

George Stavelly, age 63, was severely injured when he fell headfirst from a barn on which he was working last Saturday, at the home of Mrs. James Kelly. In the fall Mr. Stavelly struck a nail protruding from an upright, which cut a gash on his forehead and nearly tore his nose from his face. Deep gashes were also cut on his forehead, lips and chin.

Stavelly was given first aid by Dr. Crouse, after which he was rushed to the Gettysburg hospital, where physicians and nurses said Mr. Stavelly's injuries were the most unusual they have ever seen. Although it will be several days before it will be definitively known whether the operation of sewing together the torn edges of his nose is successful, it is believe that the nose can be saved, and that he will not be disfigured permanently. Mr. Stavelly has been employed as a carpenter for many years and this is his first serious accident. He was brought home last Saturday evening, and at this writing is getting along as good as can be expected.

Robert Annan, 44, son of Isaac Annan, and a prominent businessman of Emmitsburg, died Saturday afternoon, following an operation for appendicitis. His remains were brought to the home of his brother, Isaac Annan, with whom he lived, and was also in partnership in the business with him.

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

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# TEACHER TALK!

## A thank-you note to my first two months

Claire Doll  
MSMU Class of 2024

In honor of Thanksgiving, and of my first two months of teaching, I wanted to reflect on all the positive experiences I have had so far as a middle school ELA teacher. On the good and the bad, the tears, and the laughter.

Since September, the majority of my waking hours have been spent in my classroom. It has transformed from drab, blank walls to posters filling up every corner. Pieces of myself hang from the ceiling, on my bulletin board: string lights from my dorm at the Mount, Taylor Swift decorations, Polaroids, and grammar posters I got last Christmas. It has grown into a second home to me. A space of comfort, where I can leave the lights off and watch the daylight paint the walls, watch the sun rise and peak over the school building. In my classroom there's a spare wardrobe for my extra sweaters, and shelves filled with novels I used to read. Since September, my classroom has collected memories from all 138 students I teach. It echoes with laughter and learning, and for that I am forever thankful. Finally, one of my dreams, one of my hopes has been reached.

But the past two months have been far from perfect. I promised myself that I would be the kind of teacher who only stayed within her contract hours—the kind of teacher who enjoyed her life outside of school, who wasn't perpetually exhausted, who could balance it all. And, for a bit, this worked. I planned exciting, extravagant things over the weekends to keep my life fulfilling: wine festivals and dinner with friends and sleepovers. But after a while, this caught up to me. I would feel tired—

beyond tired—at the end of any weekend, and I'd resent my job. Why did I need to be there so early? Why was my commute so far? Why were my other friends working remotely, or making so much more money?

I would also feel another layer of emptiness, one that cut deep. I got to watch all my peers from the Mount begin another year of college. As I woke up at 4:45 a.m. every morning, worked out before the sun rose, and drove to work, my friends at the Mount would just be waking up. They'd wear sweatpants to class, and pick up morning coffee, and eat lunch and dinner every day with their friends. I found myself mourning that free-spirited, colorful time in my life. Four beautiful years where it seemed that nothing mattered, where I could actively pursue my dreams and envision life after college—but, ironically, four years that I wished would never stop so I'd never actually have to pursue those dreams.

For the first two months, it felt hard to find the motivation to teach. I quickly learned, however, that whether or not you have the motivation, you have to do your job. These children need to learn. I think back to how I felt in middle school; what did I look forward to the most? My mind returns to memories of class discussions and working with my friends. Of my teachers smiling, radiating positivity. Losing track of time while talking. Writing stories, coloring, and just being creative. This is what I looked forward to—and now I have the opportunity, every single day, to make my students' days. To make them smile, to make them look forward to coming to school and learning.

I am grateful for a job that grants me so much freedom to bring light

and color to learning. In today's lesson, my students learned about the effect of setting on a story's mood. Instead of reading a story and writing about it, I designed an exciting, creative lesson. My students absolutely love "Story Starter Activities," which entail a group of three students responding to three different creative prompts. They write the beginning to a story, and once the timer goes off, they switch and must continue someone else's story. The game continues until each student has written a part of each story. Today, I gave my students spooky story prompts to celebrate Halloween and emphasize a dark and frightening mood. They absolutely loved working with their friends and being creative; in fact, my students begged to present their works, and they wrote full pages of stories!

Although it takes extensive planning and lots of grading, it's so worth it to make the day of even 1 of 138 students. Each day is special and worthy and full of opportunity. For 50 minutes, I have the power to make or break the rest of a school day, and it is the best feeling to see my student smile on their way out of my classroom—my classroom adorned in college dorm string lights and Taylor Swift posters; the classroom I have dreamed about for so long.

So, yes, it has been tough. Yes, I spend my nights wishing I had more hours of sleep, and I look forward to every weekend, and I spend way too much money on Starbucks. I cry in front of other teachers because it becomes too much, the entrapment of the days, how it feels like I can never escape the constant cycle of wake, teach, sleep. I miss college, I miss the Mount, I miss my friends.

But I also wouldn't change a thing. I am so lucky to have such amazing students and to teach in such an



amazing school. I am thankful for the other teachers in my building, for their positivity, support, and wisdom. I am thankful for the friends I catch up with on the weekends, over a cup of coffee or on a long, fall drive. I am thankful for my new routine, for stability in my schedule, and I am thankful that I am able to miss such a great college.

There is a quote from an unknown author that says, "But the thing is, even if I could go back, I wouldn't belong there anymore." All I can do is look forward and bring light to the students who enter the classroom I've dreamed of for years.

To read other Teacher Talk articles, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.

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# COOKING

## No turkey, no problem November

Sonya Verlaque  
FCC Culinary Program

In November, the real holiday feasting begins and many people have their favorite recipes to share. Which are usually “heavier” meals like turkey, potatoes, and gravy. Sometimes, in our house, we are eating like bears ready to hibernate and need something lighter for the menu. So here are a few ideas when you are done with the leftovers and bear to have another turkey sandwich.

### Honey Glazed Salmon Bowls

This is a nice blend of savory and sweet, and can come with a kick that you can adjust to your level of heat. They come together in just 30 minutes, and you can make a little extra salmon for a lunch wrap or salad the next day. It is also naturally gluten free.

#### Ingredients

#### For the Honey Glazed Salmon

- 4 4-6 ounce skinless salmon filets cut into cubes
- 2 tbs avocado oil (or olive oil)
- 3 tbs honey
- 1 tbs soy sauce or tamari
- 1 tbs sriracha

#### For Bowl Base

- 2 cups cooked brown rice
- 1 medium avocado cubed
- 1 cup diced cucumber
- 1 tbs olive oil
- 1/2 cup finely chopped cilantro
- 1 tbs fresh lime juice
- 2 tsp honey

#### For Paprika Mayo Topping

- 1/3 cup light mayo
- 1 tbs lime juice
- 1/2 tsp paprika smoked or regular
- 1/4 tsp cumin
- 1 tsp honey

Preparation instructions: Preheat the oven to 425 Fahrenheit. In a bowl, mix together the avocado oil, honey, soy sauce and sriracha. Toss the cubed salmon in the bowl to coat. Place the cubed salmon on a baking sheet in a single layer and roast for 10 minutes. Then switch the oven to broil and broil for just 2-3 minutes for it to get crispy. Meanwhile whisk together the mayo, lime juice, paprika, cumin and honey to make the Paprika Mayo topping. Combine the avocado, cucumber, olive oil, cilantro, lime juice, and honey and toss to coat. Then assemble the bowls with a base of rice, the cucumber and avocado salad and

top with the topping. When the salmon is done, assemble your bowls with a base of rice, then layer on the salmon, and cucumber salad and drizzle with the paprika mayo sauce.

### Maple Mustard Glazed Carrots

Sometimes, I feel like other than carrot sticks I don't know what to do with carrots. But this tangy maple mustard carrots are roasted in the oven until tender and make a great side dish

#### Ingredients

- 1 lb. carrots, washed & peeled
- 2 tbs maple syrup, divided
- 1 tbs whole grain mustard, divided
- 1 tbs olive oil
- 2 tsp dijon mustard, divided
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 tsp dried thyme (plus fresh thyme sprigs for serving)
- 1/4 tsp salt
- Cracked black pepper
- Goat cheese, crumbled

Preparation instructions: Preheat the oven to 425 degrees and line a baking pan with parchment paper. To prepare the carrots, rinse and pat dry, peel and cut off ends. Cut the carrots diagonally into thirds, roughly around 1 1/2 inch pieces, and add them to a large bowl. Larger ones may need to be cut in half again lengthwise, so they are all about the same size. Whisk the oil with 1 tablespoon of maple syrup + 1/2 tablespoon of whole grain mustard + 1 tsp Dijon mustard and pour it over the carrots. Add the garlic, dried thyme and salt and season with cracked black pepper to taste. Toss until the carrots are fully coated.

Using a slotted spoon, remove the carrots from the bowl and transfer them to the prepared pan spreading them out in an even layer. (Reserve the liquid in your bowl to brush over the



Maple Mustard Glazed Carrots

carrots later.) Place the pan in the oven and roast for 20-25 minutes or until the carrots are tender. During the last 5-10 minutes, brush the reserved liquid over the carrots and let them continue cooking until done. Serve. Once done, whisk the remaining 1 tablespoon of maple syrup + 1/2 tablespoon of whole grain mustard + 1 tsp Dijon mustard together and drizzle the sauce over the carrots. Toss and serve with fresh thyme sprigs and crumbled goat cheese sprinkled over the top (if desired).

### Knock-Off Red Lobster Biscuits

I had to make something for a bake sale and talked to the other families, and everyone was making cookies, brownies and rice krispie treats. So, I thought maybe we should have something savory, in case someone may not be interested in sweets.

#### Ingredients

- 2 cups all purpose flour 240 grams
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 tsp garlic powder (not garlic salt)
- 1/2 tsp table salt
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter 113 grams (room temperature and cut into 1 inch pieces)
- 1 cup mild or medium cheddar

- cheese 113 grams (shredded)
- 1 cup buttermilk 236.59 ml (read above on how to make buttermilk)
- Butter Topping
- 3 tbs unsalted butter 42.4 grams (melted)
- 1 garlic clove minced
- 1 tsp dried parsley
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder

Preparation instructions: Preheat your oven to 450 degrees Fahrenheit. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, sugar, garlic powder, and salt. Using a fork or pastry cutter, cut the butter into the flour mixture. It will be crumbly. Add in the cheese and buttermilk. Stir together until just combined. Using a 3 tablespoon cookie scoop or a large spoon, scoop out the biscuits and place them approximately 2 inches apart on the prepared baking sheet. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown. While the biscuits are baking whisk together the ingredients for the butter topping. As soon as the biscuits come out of the oven, brush them with the butter topping. Best served warm, but always pretty good.

To read other cooking articles, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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# MOMS' TIME OUT

## A child is not an easy endeavor

Mary Angel

The other day some of my mom friends and I were talking, and I came to a realization that maybe I am not alone. It seems that each of us has a child that likes to push their boundaries a little more than the others. This child is an amazing joy, and then suddenly you are looking haggard by the end of the day, wondering if you would pull your own hair out.

For me this was my daughter. From the minute she was born she was a spit fire. She was independent, spunky, and a bit sassy. We chalked it up to her being the first girl in a household of boys. As a toddler she had no fear and would jump into the deep end of any pool, ride her tricycle as fast as she could down the driveway, and she would even try and get her older, larger brothers to wrestle with her any chance she could. She was a wild child from the word go!

When she was in elementary school she was bullied to the point of depression, although I have discussed that in a previous story, so we decided to homeschool her. She was in fourth grade, and this is when I started spending day in and day out with her. She was very behind and after some evaluations from the school system, we were told she had a learning disorder

and teaching her English/language arts was going to be slow going and challenging. She challenged me every step of the way. Whether she was hiding her schoolwork, or not studying for a test, or trying to convince me why she shouldn't have to take a quiz, she was always testing me.

As she entered middle school, she started dating what I thought was a sweet, innocent boy. I later found out he was not good for her and had many issues of his own. He would manipulate her and then explain how horrible his home life was, and she would feel sorry for him and cave. Soon after this relationship began, I suspected she had a savior complex and wanted to help those she felt needed help. This led to teenage years of conflict, bad choices and arguments. They broke up and got back together several times, and each time she would find out what a liar and manipulative person he was, and she would break up with him.

From here she moved onto another user and began sneaking around. This is when I discovered the fine art of biting my tongue, she was a high school graduate after all. There is a fine line between discipline and driving your child away. Some might not agree with this, as I have some friends who believe in "it's my way or the highway" parenting. In this case, I knew

my daughter had too much of her dad's hard-headedness. When my husband was young his parents drove away and left him sitting on a statue at a national park because he refused to leave, and his dad was convinced he would jump down as they drove away and drive after them. Much to their surprise he called their bluff and stayed right where he was. My daughter, at that age, would easily leave home and end up in a very bad situation because she is too head strong.

We had a short break from the roller coaster when she started dating a guy with whom she had a very rocky start. During their first year of dating, he would lose his temper when they had an argument and fly off the handle, saying some of the nastiest rudest things you could imagine. This was not what we thought her relationships would be like, but sad to say, it was still a huge improvement. This is when she began therapy to work through all the hurt and turmoil she had encountered and caused. Just after the first year he started seeing a therapist and things began to change. He stopped yelling and became much more caring and communicative. It isn't that we thought some miracle had happened, but more importantly, she was in love and if this was going to continue, we loved seeing a step in the right direction.

The best part of this phase was that we noticed a change in our daughter. She started talking to us about everything. Se was happier, calmer, and so much less wild, for lack of a better word. When she would go out, it was always, "I am going here" and "I will be back at this time". This wasn't an overnight flip of a switch, but it



was a noticeable and continual improvement from the age of 18 on. It was so magical that it also included a boat load of apologies and thank yous. I am sorry I didn't listen, and I am sorry I lied, and I am sorry I was sneaky and defiant. She said she didn't think we would ever be able to forgive her behavior, which I immediately said, "All is forgiven". After all, being a child is not an easy endeavor, especially when you are the wild child of the family. She may have caused a lot of sleepless nights and tears, but she was working so hard to better herself and there were noticeable changes, so forgiveness was easy to find in our hearts.

As we talked about our kids, as theirs are much younger than mine and they are only just beginning, it was a comfort to each of us to know we were not alone. Whether you have a child who just doesn't listen, one who no consequence you hand out seems to motivate them, or one

that lies or sneaks, you are not alone. There is always someone going through something similar, or maybe even worse. As mom's we are all in this together and sometimes, we just need a reminder that is the case. We all have that group of moms that we can share the good, the bad, and the ugly with and know that it is a judge free zone. We know when we share our struggles, we will receive encouragement, a hug, and maybe even a glass of wine! If you do not have that group, find it and embrace it. Lastly, if I can in any way be an encouragement, please know we all try so hard to be the best mom we can, but our children have to choose their own path, whether we like it or not. Just know that path can change at any moment and they can turn back to you, so be ready to forgive and embrace them.

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

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# FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

*This month we asked our Four Year's At The Mount writers to reflect on the sacrifices made by the Veterans' other half. We permitted writers to either do research or interview the spouses of veterans to get their perspective on what life was like without their spouse.*

## Freshman

### Life at home

Cameron Madden  
MSMU Class of 2028

A lot of the focus on modern conversation on warfare goes towards the poor souls that are directly a part of the fighting, and are actively thrown into combat, or in the logistics operations and high-ranking military staff that make the war happen. Besides the conclusion however, where these soldiers are finally able to return to civilian life, little is noted outside of the civilian side of military personnel.

You are probably familiar with stories of veterans suffering after a war from either physical or mental alterations that they caught from fighting. Along with these stories, you get common tales of veterans being dissociated with civilian life, leading to depression and disparagement from who they were; not to mention all the hardships suffered from either disrespect or lack of assistance from their government.

If one were to think back on a specifically bad time for veterans, then

most Americans would point to the Vietnam era, where soldiers fought in a losing war suffering horrific casualties only to come home to people who hated them for fighting a war they didn't want to be a part of. Before this time, veterans were highly esteemed for their services to their country and freedom, but due to contested politics that flipped during the late 60s-70s, those who came back from Vietnam were not treated as such.

During the Vietnam War, a more personal story was brewing, one, which like many today, is still ignored. As my grandpa went into the military (thankfully not deployed but still stationed,) he had to leave his fiancée, my grandma, at home, waiting for his return. My grandma's story shares a similar sentiment to millions of other stories underrepresented in the media today: the hardships faced by military spouses or loved ones while their loved one is deployed.

It might seem odd to some people out there; after all the hardships of being under gunfire and being surrounded by death seems to be one of the worst things someone can be subjected to. Yet having to live with the possibility that your loved one is in that situation every day, or even worse

that they have perished from it, is certainly its own kind of torment. My Grandma, tough as she is, had a very hard time worrying about my Granddad during this time. Even though he wasn't deployed, there was always the possibility that one day he could be dragged to the jungles of Vietnam, and all it would take is a single decision to send him there.

The dread, as she had told me, was on some days too much for her to handle; she says however, that once a cigarette was in her hands at the time then she would not feel so bad, so there is that at least! You see, the two of them had been dating since they were thirteen years old, meaning that they had years of life experience together, and have pretty much been the only ones for one another at this point. So when he had to leave and be stationed away, it was like she was missing part of herself while he was gone. The worry that he would be deployed into Vietnam made it so that any letter he would send back would entail a sense of tragedy, as any notice could be an indicator that he would be off to war, and worse that it could be the last of his letters to her.

Growing up as a young adult now out of high school, and with the love

of her life off hundreds of miles away with the potential to be sent further, my Grandma had to step up and live for herself in the meantime, preparing to one day reunite with my Grandfather. As it turns out, it was a lot more different than how one might have hoped it would have gone. She had to work as a waitress or whatever jobs would accept her during that time so that she can have some money on her own, while also living with her parents for most of the time; spending whatever nights that she was not with her parents at friends houses. It turns out that living for an extended period of time in a household that she was never to fond of made my Grandma extremely busy and tired, seeing as she would work hard at work and come home to a stressful family environment, all the while worrying about the love of her life and wondering what he is up to during the time.

While waiting for my Grandpa to return, every one of her friends were getting married to the love of their lives, and moving into homes together and starting families. My Grandma recounts that about a year in of my Grandpa being in the military, her best friend had gotten married, bought a house, and was even

pregnant, all the while she was working a 9-5 at a diner living at her parents house hoping her fiancée wouldn't be sent to the frontlines. This odd reality was something she would have to live with for two and a half years, and everyday she says that she had missed him.

I think that it is important to discuss what my Grandma had to go through, since she had to give up a lot of progress in her life, watch everyone else around her move on, and worry everyday about the person she had to do all this for. Seeing that her story, of a woman waiting for her husband or soon-to-be in war is one repeated in every decade, by millions of people not only in the United States, but across the world, is something to admire and appreciate. How grateful it is to have someone care so much that they will halt their life to wait for you, even if you might not come back. Maybe we can appreciate veterans more by giving praise to their wonderful spouses that not only encouraged them to push on, but to come back!

*To read other articles by Cameron Madden, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*

## Sophomore

### Love and war

Gracie Smith  
MSMU Class of 2027

As someone who has studied the art of war for years now, one thing that I can confirm is that always being taken for granted, misunderstood, and often neglected, is the truth about all of those who fought. Historians, teachers, students, and history enthusiasts alike often focus on the aspects of soldiers. Their lives, operations, plans, treaties, you name it, and it was studied. However, what about those who were left behind? What about those fighting the same battle, but on the home front? Supporting each other from different ends of the Earth whilst not knowing the condition, situation, or health of the other. That is a whole different kind of war.

I had the privilege of speaking with locals in the area about their experiences during war and what impacts they had on their relationship. I hope their experiences will expand your horizons when it comes to our history. I hope you appreciate everything this strong couple went through as much as I do. Perhaps, more appealing to my younger audience, you will gain a sense of what it is truly like to be in a long-distance relationship, more specifically one where you don't know if you'll see your other half again. That being said, allow me to share their story.

Mrs. Davis, of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, had been married to her husband, Mr. Davis, for 3 years when he was drafted to fight in Vietnam. Out of respect and for privacy reasons,

I will not release their first names. When asked what their initial reaction to Mr. Davis being drafted was, they both replied rather dimly, saying that "it was a shock, even though we'd both expected it". Mrs. Davis had been prepared to provide for herself, however, she'd not been prepared to live by herself. She recounts that it was hard, when Mr. Davis first left for boot camp. She calls this their "trial run" even though they didn't have a choice in how they continued. She said their "trial run" went smoothly, but what differentiated it from Mr. Davis' actual employment was that she didn't know if he'd come back. Imagine having to go through your day not knowing what was going on. Not having a clue where your spouse was—whether they were still alive or not.

Mrs. Davis wrote several letters to him, first daily then weekly. She began by updating him on the small things: when she went to the market, what was going on in town, how her parents were doing. Then, as time progressed, her letters became shorter, more composed of her affections towards him, motivating him to keep pushing forward. She admits that not all of her letters were able to be sent and would come back to her in big bold letters saying, "RETURN TO SENDER". This scared her greatly as she thought something had happened to her husband. During that time, it would take several weeks to be able to communicate with one another. She admits that there was one instance where she thought something had in fact happened to him when all her letters in one week had been sent back to her. Mrs. Davis smiled when she said it was because she had filled out the envelope incorrectly. She said that writing

letters was a way to help herself know "he wasn't that far away", and it was a way for her to cope with him being gone. When I asked what Mr. Davis thought of the letters he responded simply, "I kept every one".

When asked what her biggest hardship was, Mrs. Davis replied rather comically, "I didn't have anyone to help with the housework. Changing the lights, repainting the wall in the parlor, hanging the new curtains," her expressions got lighter as she reminisced, "I had to learn to be my own husband for a period of time". This is something that a lot of people take for granted, the fact that the gender roles between men and women were so distinguished, no one really thought of who would take the place of the man in the household until it was a present problem. As a historian in the making, I can confirm that Mrs. Davis was not the only wife to experience this. Thousands of wives across the country were having to take on multiple, foreign, tasks that were typically done by the male in the house. Not only did wives have to adjust to this, but the eldest sons were also commonly molded to take these positions in the household and care for the mother and younger siblings.

Sacrifices were made by everyone during times of war, even if we don't acknowledge it, Mrs. Davis claims that she sacrificed very little in comparison to her husband who came back from the war with substantial, but survivable injuries. Admittedly a very stubborn person, Mrs. Davis affirmed that she had hardly any efforts to do in the war. However, as a writer I want to make it known that her efforts were just as great as her husband's. Staying strong for him, supporting herself and taking care of her house whilst working a job

to pay the bills was, and still is, such an accomplishment. Mrs. Davis, please give yourself more credit, it is much deserved!

All of this to say, through Mrs. Davis' experiences, we get just a glance at what thousands of wives, girlfriends, fiancés, and mothers had to go through when war broke out. Not only were our brave soldiers off fighting for our nation, but the women in the homeland were supporting from within; support-

ing our small towns and businesses, supporting children and their education, supporting the household and the homes our soldiers came back to, and more importantly each other. Mr. and Mrs. Davis are just one couple who had to adapt new skills for the sake of the other. Their relationship was stretched nearly 9,000 miles, but it never broke.

*To read other articles by Gracie Smith, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*

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# REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED ON THE HOME FRONT

## Junior

The other half of the hero

Devin Owen  
MSMU Class of 2026

We often do not take into consideration the other half of the lives in which veterans live. We hear the stories and honor the hard work, dedication, and lives lost through battles and wars, but what about those left behind at home? We honor veterans also for the sacrifices they had to make, but they were not the only ones making sacrifices for the good of their country. The wives and children of veterans also made certain sacrifices.

During Mount's Fall Break, I had the opportunity to go home and talk with my family about their own experiences. If you have been a reader of my articles prior to this one, you may know that my grandfather served in the Vietnam war. He recently passed in December 2022. As many good things as I have to say about my grandfather, I can unfortunately also say that he and I did not have as close of a relationship as I do with my grandmother.

When I brought up the topic of what sacrifices had to be made during Grandpop's time away to my grand-

mother, she said that this is a topic that is incredibly hard to talk about, and that it was also a time that she doesn't like to look back on. Nobody talks about the hardships that the families of veterans have to face once they leave. Sometimes the distance tears you apart and sometimes you don't know who will be returning to you. In part, it's a portion of your heart walking away and you're unsure of when, or if, they will be coming back. It is also your partner leaving for long periods of time, putting one in the position of taking on the reality of life's hardships alone.

It's important to note that war changes people; the person who left may not be who returns to you. Not only were lives lost, but so were limbs, mobility and other areas of physical health that took a huge blow. Not to mention the toll it takes on mental health. My grandfather spent the rest of his life living with his PTSD and while it was manageable, it wasn't ever 'pretty.' So, when I say that you don't always know the person returning to you, it's because war fundamentally changes people in numerous ways.

In a discussion with my mother over Fall Break I had asked her, "What was your childhood like when Grandpop was gone during

the war?" It was a hard question for her to even answer. She had looked at me for a moment, in thought, and then responded, "Honestly Dev, I couldn't tell you. I don't remember much about that time. I didn't see Grandpop or really even know him for a good portion of my childhood." Frankly, I was completely taken aback—what did she mean that she didn't know him? She speaks of Grandpop in such a loving and revered way that I couldn't fathom how she couldn't have known him. It makes sense though when you think about it; my mom was born in 1969, and the war was still a few years prior to being over. Between my grandfather's tours as a paratrooper and his job as a tugboat captain, he sacrificed a lot of time with his kids and wife, and he lost out on the opportunity to create a strong bond with them.

Consider the concept of 'skin-to-skin contact,' it's a form of bonding between mother and child. In recent years, it has also become more common upon fathers and their newborns. Given that my grandpop served numerous tours as a paratrooper in Vietnam, he wasn't home to have these kinds of bonding experiences. As my mother said, "I spent the whole first year of my

life without my father. We didn't get to have that bonding experience and form that comfort with one another. When he came back, he was essentially a stranger to me and that period of adjustment was hard for everybody." Not only was he gone so much because of the war, but he was also a tugboat captain, so he'd be gone from home due to this as well. So, once he was home from the war, it was still difficult to form a relationship with him because "once I started to get to know him, he'd be gone again for work."

My mom and my uncle were Irish twins, meaning they were born not even a year apart. So, within the time that my mom was an infant, my grandfather had come home for a period for "R&R" and then when he left again for another tour, my grandmother was pregnant with my uncle. My grandmother spent years as a single mother essentially. Given the circumstances, she relied heavily on her own parents to help her take care of things. She took on the brunt of the work at home, as a mother, and in her field of work, as a nurse with Beebe Hospital. As we have learned in today's society, it is okay to ask for help, but during this period it felt as if it was harder to do so.

It is no easy feat taking on the role of both parents and the breadwinner of the household. My grandmother made numerous sacrifices in order to take care of her children and support the lifestyle in which they had. She raised two wonderful children who have gone on to raise their own children. In the midst of all of the chaos of their lives, she sacrificed her own happiness and time in order to give her kids the life she believed they deserved. She has shown immense strength, determination, and perseverance all through her life. I'm beyond proud to know her and call her family. It takes a certain kind of fortitude to stay standing after all of this, and she has done so with a gracefulness I envy.

This November, take time to honor the veterans who have made sacrifices for love of country. But also, take a moment to honor the spouses and children still at home who have made sacrifices for love of country AND for love of their partner. It takes a special kind of resilience to be able to make the sacrifices my grandmother—and many other military spouses—have made over the years.

To read other articles by Devin Owen, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

## Senior

Holding down the home front

Dolores Hans  
MSMU Class of 2025

Where graceful adaptability and loyalty meet the inevitability of despondency and tribulation is a woman. This woman has looked into the future and without fear has consented to its unpredictable nature. You may ask why a woman would make this choice, and to this question I respond: love. And what is a woman if not love? In the name of this love, this woman has decided to live a life that faces nothing less than the most extreme ebbs and flows that can be offered in this world. Love is a communion, an unbreakable bond, expressed through self-sacrifice, understanding, and affection. How is love sustainable when there are thousands of miles between the two, or when every good moment can be interrupted by one being called away to face danger. This is the life of a veteran's wife.

"As a girl I always planned what my marriage would look like. Beginning and ending our day together, taking the kids to church, being able to count on my husband's presence each day. When I met [my husband] those plans were uprooted and new plans had to be made. But I wouldn't want it any different because sharing a love with him makes it all worth it".

There is a weight that comes with having a husband who has served, and therefore could serve again, that impacts every aspect of your being. Physically, being

alone for an extended period of time, and knowing that the possibility of going through pregnancy or raising a child mostly without that constant presence of a partner can be daunting. Emotionally, it is often up to the wife to support her husband's mental health and social wellbeing. Being a rock for someone else takes a toll on your own psychological health.

"I often have to prompt him to share his feelings with me, as he is not used to someone else being dependent on his state of mind as a wife is to her husband".

Being a military wife is having a lot of stuff thrown at you and having to just take it. There is no other option. Every family struggles in some type of way. Great or small, no trial can be overlooked. One of the struggles that takes place is the unpredictability of it all. Deployments, trainings, random jobs and duties, all remove your spouse from your reach.

"When we were dating, he would be away for maybe one to two weeks of each month, or sometimes even longer. I remember my friends thinking it was adorable when they saw me writing letters to him, how romantic and movie-like it was. But it wasn't like it is in the movies. It is a lot of hardship."

The hardest part of being the wife of a soldier is the good-byes. Sometimes they were long and sad, and sometimes they were so quick that it wasn't even fully processed. You really learn to cherish your spouse and take advantage of time. It is the memories that keep you going. In the average marriage, there are many certainties. Falling asleep in the same bed, sharing meals together,

going on dates and adventures, celebrating anniversaries and birthdays and holidays, and communication. When you have a husband in the military, quite often you fall asleep alone, eat alone or experience the struggle of preparing and cleaning a meal with no support, you miss out on certain events because you don't want to attend without your spouse, and so many special days are left uncelebrated. There are no certainties except that hope and faith are important, and there are no expectations except the unexpected.

"All of these struggles take a toll, but there is no better feeling in the world than when he returned home to me and we embraced like we were able to breathe again, and I became whole again."

While our veterans have sacrificed so much for us, let's not forget those who have sacrificed as well to support them and give them a life worthy of coming home to. Those who serve dream of home, and those who love them dream of their home coming back to them.

"My dad was my hero when I was young because he served in the army for quite some time. But now that I am older, and I am a military wife, my mom is my hero. She saved my childhood, she saved my home, and she saved my dad. And I will never forget that."

This month, take the time to honor the veterans you know, and in the same breath, honor their wives. The ones who hold down the home front. The ones who give their husbands something worth fighting for. The ones whose goodness keep them going and keeps them in comfort as they

face the terror of war. The ones who hold them when they return, provide them with a feeling of safety, allow them to really live as opposed to just surviving. Veterans' wives are advocates. Veterans' wives are nurturers. Veterans'

wives are soldiers fighting a battle to make the most of a life that is working against them, and going it with their hearts wide open.

To read other articles by Dolores Hans, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).



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# LIBRARY

**Blue Ridge Summit Free Library**  
Mondays – Children’s Story Time from 4 to 5. Children and parents can join us for a weekly story, craft or coloring sheet, or play time. We will be running two identical 30 to minute sessions in an attempt to accommodate busy schedules.

Wednesdays – Coffee Club from 3 to 4, mingle with the gang for coffee, tea, puzzles, board games, coloring books, &c.

Thursdays – Teen’s Night. The community room is reserved for teen use from 4:30 to 6, just hang out or play Wii, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

Saturdays to Join us at 10:30 for an hour of Story Time and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book and a fun craft?

The Summit Stitchers Quilt Club meets at 5:30 on November 19. If you have always wanted to learn how to quilt, now is the perfect time to start! The group is currently working on this year’s gorgeous raffle quilt.

For more information on the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library visit [www.felspa.org](http://www.felspa.org) or call 717-792-2240.

**Frederick County Library**  
Did you know the Emmitsburg Library lends out movies, TV Shows, WiFi Hotspots, Tablets for Children, along with books and so much more? Did you know library cards are FREE? Stop in this month, make a card and bring home entertainment and learning for the entire family.

Adults are invited to a Learning Cafe: A Legacy of Memories, Creating your personal legacy projects on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 11. We will brew the coffee and participants will embark on a meaningful journey to preserve and share their life’s most cherished moments. This workshop is designed to guide you through the possibilities of crafting personal legacy projects that capture your unique experiences, values, and stories for future generations. Our presenter is Tina Workman, Human Resources Manager for Shepherd’s Staff In-Home Care.

Kids will find fun at Kindness Rocks!! Art Activity on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 to Celebrate World Kindness Day by creating colorful kindness rocks to share with friends or your com-

munity. We also will entertain kids when school is out on Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> with Schools Out Movie Matinee and LEGO Time from 1-3. Dive into our big bucket of LEGO’s to create a masterpiece while watching a movie with your friends.

Visit the library website at [FCPL.org](http://FCPL.org) to discover so much more. Any questions, call Emmitsburg Library at 301 600-6329 or Thurmont Regional Library at 301 600-7212.

**Emmitsburg Branch Library:**  
Mondays, Family Storytime at 10:30. And Little Adventurers at 11.

Saturday, Nov. 9: Learning Cafe: A Legacy of Memories, Creating your personal legacy projects at 11.

Wednesday, Nov. 13: Kindness Rocks!! Art Activity at 3:30.

Thursday, Nov. 14: Tween Fiber Arts Workshop, Crochet at 5:30.

Thursday, Nov. 21: Maryland Writer’s Association Teen Writer Club from 5:30 to 7.

Wednesday, Nov. 27: Schools Out Movie Matinee and LEGO Time from 1 to 3.

## My Father's Footsteps welcomes Amy Eichelberger



My Father’s Footsteps, 121 N. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, is proud to welcome Amy Eichelberger as a new stylist to our shop.

Amy is a native of Thurmont, a recent graduate of Catoclin High School and The Frederick Career and Technology Center with a license in Cosmetology. She is pres-

ently enrolled in FCC working toward a degree in Business Administration.

She will begin her career with Master Barber and shop owner, Kerry Shorb on November 5, 2024, offering cuts, colors, highlights, perms, roller sets, hairstyling and up-dos. In the future, Amy will offer manicures and pedicures to her list of services.

At present Amy’s hours will be Tuesday and Wednesday, 2 to 5 and Thursday 10 to 4. To make an appointment, please call 301-447-6600.

Amy is looking forward to meeting new clients, their families and developing relationships with the community.

## Thurmont Regional Library

Mondays, Baby Storytime at 10:30.

Tuesdays, Preschool Storytime at 10:30.

Tuesdays, Let’s Get Ready for Kindergarten at 11:15.

Wednesdays, Toddler Storytime at 10:30.

Thursdays, Musical Storytime at 10:30.

Thursdays, Elementary Explorer at 4.

Saturdays, Family Storytime at 11.

Monday, Nov. 4, 18: Tween/Teen Intro to Crochet Series with Liz! at 6.

Tuesdays, Nov. 5, 19: Open Chess Play for Elementary and Teens at 3.

Thursdays, Nov. 7, 14: Elementary Explorers at 4.

Friday, Nov. 8: Tyke Hike at Catoclin Mountain Park at 10:30.

Saturday, Nov. 9: Puzzle and Game Exchange from 1 to 3.

Tuesday, Nov. 12: Family who Stone the Turkey? Event at 6.

Wednesday, Nov. 13: A Conversation on International Affairs with Shaun Donnelly at 7.

Thursday, Nov. 14: Digital Learning at the Library from 10 to noon.

Wednesday, Nov. 20: Preparing the Heart: Understanding Anticipatory Grief at 6.

Monday, Nov. 25: Teen Pie Garland Making at 5:30.

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## LIBRARY &amp; SCHOOL NEWS

## Frederick County School System

Rae Gallagher  
Vice President, Board of Education  
Frederick County Public Schools

On April 25, Governor Wes Moore approved the Frederick County Delegation Bill HB1016, passed by the Maryland General Assembly. This bill establishes the Frederick County School Construction Master Plan Workgroup, focusing on the development and implementation of the master plan for school construction in Frederick County.

This group is comprised of Senator William Folden, Senator Karen Lewis-Young, Delegate April Miller, Delegate Ken Kerr, County Council

President Brad Young, County Council Member Steve McKay, Board of Education Present Karen Yoho, Board of Education Vice President Rae Gallagher, Janice Spiegel, Special Projects Manager, Frederick County Government and Michael Darenberg, Commissioner, Interagency Commission on School Construction. The group began meeting during the summer to discuss the challenges and opportunities to address the needs for school construction to address growth across Frederick County as well as aging infrastructure.

The workgroup examined historic efforts and previous recommendations to address school construction needs; invited representatives from

municipalities to discuss their unique perspectives and challenges; and considered alternative funding sources such as P3 (Public-Private Partnership) for school construction. The workgroup will meet two times in November prior to completing their recommendations. On or before December 31, the Workgroup will report its findings and recommendations to the County Executive of Frederick County, the Frederick County Council, the Frederick County Board of Education, the Interagency Commission on School Construction and the Frederick County House and Senate Delegations.

During the October 23rd Board of Education meeting, the Board

and Superintendent highlighted the upcoming budget roadmap as we prepare for the development of the fiscal year 2026 budget. In the upcoming year, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future legislation will continue to guide funding for education across Maryland, and we anticipate that funding will be tied closely to Blueprint goals. As Frederick County continues to grow faster than any other educational district in the state, our education dollars must stretch further to ensure that we are meeting all of our student's needs. The following dates will be opportunities for the community to engage with the Board and the Superintendent around the budget:

November 18 – Community Budget Listening Session (virtual)  
December 3 – Community Bud-

get Listening Session (virtual)  
December 16 – Community Budget Listening Session (virtual)  
January 6 – Public release of superintendent's recommended budget  
January 8 – Board meeting – budget discussion at 6 p.m. in the Board room (in-person)  
January 15 – Board budget work session from 9a.m. – 3p.m. – at the Board room (in-person)  
January 22 – Board meeting, Board budget discussions – 6p.m. in the Board room (in-person)  
January 29 – Board public hearing on the budget@TuscaroraHS (in-person)  
February 12 – Board meeting approval of operating budget request – 6p.m. in the Board room (in-person)  
April-June – Ongoing Board budget discussions, as needed

## FASD reexamines facility fee schedule

Almost 20 years ago, the Fairfield Area School District Board of Directors adopted a facility use schedule. The current administration is unsure why it was shelved or if it was ever actually used. However, it will likely soon be resurrected.

During the board's October meeting, Superintendent Thomas Haupt said a special committee favors the 2006 plan over other proposals. The committee was convened after the board expressed concerns about a proposal Haupt presented in September.

The plan does not charge programs that directly support the district's program of education for most items. It also includes tiered rates for Fairfield youth sports, travel teams, and organizations not based in Fairfield or operating on a for-profit basis. Haupt said the committee was mostly concerned about the financial implications fees would have on Fairfield area youth sports.

"This should be what is in place currently," Haupt said.

Haupt said that even though the board approved the fee schedule 18 years ago, he will be asking the current board to revote on it since it sat idle. He emphasized that the administration wishes to recoup costs for staff time and equipment wear and tear, not raise money through leagues and teams.

"I am not up here saying we should overcharge sports in Fairfield," Haupt said. "It's our job administratively to bring these things to you as a board for you to consider and work through."

He added that he values athletics and wants them to succeed in Fairfield. The district has worked to improve its facilities in recent years and Haupt believes it must have the funds to maintain them in the future.

"Lots of studies show that kids who are involved tend to score higher and get in less trouble," Haupt said.

Board Vice President Jack Liller said the proposal allows teams and leagues to customize their rental package based on financial ability.

"If you don't want to pay to use the scoreboard, you can bring your own flip-a-number thing," he said.

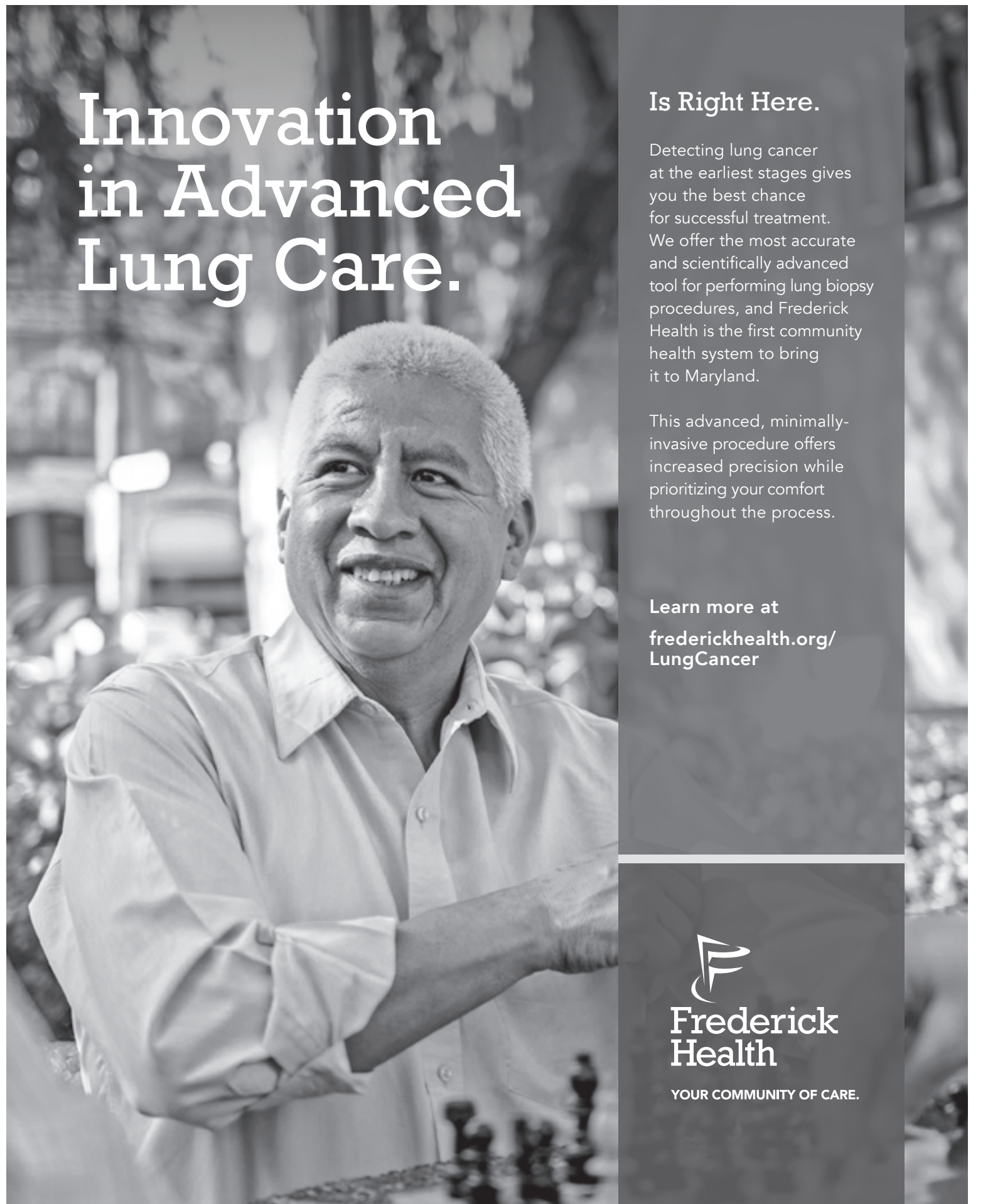
The board concurred that travel teams and organizations that are not based in Fairfield would need

to have at least 80% of their team comprised of Fairfield residents to qualify for the district rate.

Groups wishing to use the stadium or gymnasium concession stands must work through Fair-

field Athletes Stand Together, a booster organization.

Haupt's proposal is similar to others in place in Adams County school districts.



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# ARTS

## Gettysburg Choral Society's Christmas concerts

The Gettysburg Choral Society will present a series of three Christmas concerts entitled "Sing We Noel." The first two concerts will be held in the Church of the Abiding Presence on the campus of the United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg—on Friday, December 6th, at 7 and on Saturday, December 7th, at 3. The seminary is located at 61 Seminary Ridge in Gettysburg. The third and final concert in this year's Christmas series will be held on Saturday, December 14th, at 3, in the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, 339 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg.

The thirty-voice chorus, under the direction of co-founder and artistic director John McKay, will celebrate the season with some of the most beloved Christmas selections. Each concert will end with a popular sing-along of favorite carols, accompanied by organ.

The two Gettysburg concerts will feature guest organist Peggy Haas Howell. In addition to accompanying the chorus on several selections, she will give a mini-recital of Christmas organ favorites, demonstrating the power and majesty of the seminary's magnificent Andover pipe organ. Ms. Howell is a consummate organist

who has given recitals throughout America and Europe. Ms. Howell was recently elected as national Vice President/Councillor for Competitions and New Music for The American Guild of Organists.

Julie Reaver, the chorus' newly appointed accompanist, will also be the featured organist at the Basilica concert, as she accompanies on piano and on the M.P. Moller pipe organ.

As always, the concerts are free and open to the public. Tax-deductible contributions will be received to help defray expenses. For more info, visit [www.gettysburgchoralsociety.org](http://www.gettysburgchoralsociety.org)



## Majestic Theater's live performances to warm up 2025

The Majestic Theater in Gettysburg is please to announce the following series of live performances to warm up its 2025 season:

**Nat Myers: Blues Poet** - February 6. A poet with a staggering and true voice, Korean-American troubadour Nat Myers' folksy blues and remarkable pickin' are authentic, timeless, and enduring. His delivery harkens to traditional blues giants, but it's his unique blend of modern roots and Americana that continues to make

crowds drop their jaws.

**NYChillharmonic** - March 1. The NYChillharmonic is a Brooklyn-based, 18-piece, progressive-rock orchestra led by Sara McDonald. The music fuses multiple genres including rock, pop, classical—ultimately creating an ensemble sound like nothing you've ever heard before.

Experience intimate performances highlighting women in music in the Majestic's 136-seat flexible theater. Each show in the series will be performed mul-

tiiple times and include an opportunity to purchase a pre-show meal served in the Majestic's Patron's Lounge.

**The Other Mozart** - February 13-15. The Other Mozart is the forgotten story of Mozart's genius older sister—Nannerl Mozart. A prodigy, keyboard virtuoso and composer who performed throughout Europe with her brother to equal acclaim, her story and work are lost to history. A powerful, one-woman work of music theatre, created, written,

and performed by Sylvia Milo.

**Josephine: A Burlesque Cabaret Dream Play** - March 20-23. Experience this one-woman biographical musical that combines cabaret, theatre, and dance to tell the story of the iconic Josephine Baker, the first African-American international superstar and one of the most remarkable figures of the 20th century.

**Isabel Hagen** - April 11-12. Isabel Hagen is a stand-up comedian and Juilliard-trained violist. As a comic, she has

been featured twice on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon and was a New Face of Comedy at the Just For Laughs Festival in Montreal.

Hagen will host and headline an evening showcase of local musical and comedy talent.

You can buy tickets for all these events online by visiting [gettysburgmajestic.org](http://gettysburgmajestic.org) or calling the Box Office at 717-337-8200, or visit in person at 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg.

## Adams County Arts Council's 2024 People Project

The Adams County Arts Council's 2024 People Project asks what "at home" means to participants.

Lisa Cadigan remembers working in the Midwest years ago after earning her master's degree, wishing she had a similar yet more arts-related career closer to her native New Jersey.

Today, she has fulfilled those dreams. Lisa is the executive director of the Adams County Arts Council (ACAC), living in Gettysburg and doing her part to pro-

mote the arts. "It's been a really serendipitous journey," she says, citing her roles in marketing, graphic design and as a theater instructor in various capacities before landing at ACAC, initially as a board member in 2013, then continuing as a volunteer before joining the staff, then becoming the organization's leader in 2022.

It was through that journey that she conceptualized The People Project, loosely based on a syndicated show called

"Listen to Your Mother" in which individuals perform staged readings of their essays on the topic of motherhood.

Gettysburg College accepted Lisa's initial pitch in 2017. The first People Project consisted of 10 students sharing stories of empathy and compassion, and, because of its successful debut, the college invited the project back for another performance year in 2018 and again in 2020.

The 2024 People Project will include 10 storytellers, two dance groups, three musicians and a five-panel public art installation to be featured on the outside of ACAC's Art Education Center. A visual arts component will also accompany

the event with artwork displayed in the ACAC's Reception Hall gallery during the month of November. Like previous years, the 2024 theme of "At Home in Adams County," can be interpreted literally or metaphorically.

"There's no experience required to be part of this project," Lisa says. "It's all people who are living and working in Adams County and what home means to them."

ACAC commissioned Gettysburg artist Sarah Jacobs to create the art panels. She worked with students from Lincoln Intermediate Unit 12's Migrant Education Program for one panel and a group of senior women

for another to capture their idea of "at home." With her guidance participants painted small sections of a larger concept, and Sarah pieced together those elements while adding her own interpretation based on their conversations. She used stories collected from the community as inspiration for the final three panels.

"The idea of placemaking, particularly with public art, is important," says Sarah. "And it's important to making the community feel proud of their environment. Similar to the way that music elicits feelings, the visual arts do that as well."

The Art Exhibit opens November 1 at the Arts Education Center.

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# The Mount puts on Freud's Last Session

Emelie Beckman  
MSMU Class of 2026

## Freud's Last Session

On the nights of Friday October 26th and Saturday October 27th, the Mount's Horning Theatre housed a stunning performance of Freud's Last Session. Leading actor and Mount student, Nick Ramer, portrayed the famous psychologist Sigmund Freud as he encounters another famous name; the writer C.S. Lewis, who was portrayed by Alec Ramer. Fellow students Cody Tellez and Maggie Murry contributed with some impressive voice acting for the pretend radio broadcasting of Nevill Chamberlin, King George, and a BBC announcer, which was used in the show. All of them, together with student director Robert Prender, gave the audience a glimpse into an age of war and intellectual questioning.

Set on September 3rd, 1939, the play is originally a fictional book written by Armand Nicholi discussing the existence and nature of God. Nicholi uses both Freud and Lewis to illustrate the two commonly found poles of the question. Throughout the play, the audience follows Freud and Lewis through a morning in Freud's study, where they argue back and forth, having Freud take on the role of the skeptical scientist and Lewis the faithful, romantic writer. Although the book is a work of fiction, and the meeting depicted never occurred, there was evidence hinting at Freud being visited by an Oxford don before his death. This don could very much have been C.S. Lewis.

Although it was grounded in a serious epistemological nature, the delivery of some witty lines brought much of the audience to laugh, while also sparking questions for further discussion after leaving the play. The clashing of two of the world's greatest intellectuals left the audience to, for a full hour and a half, question their previous beliefs of God, innate versus learned morality, parental relations and child development, the religious morality of Christianity compared to other religions and so much more! However, we were left with no answers by the end when Freud himself declares

that it was foolish of them to think, even despite their titles and renowned works, that they could solve one of mankind's biggest mysteries in just one morning. Hence, the play leaves its audience with a spark of questioning and the responsibility to themselves try to find the answer.

Not only was the play a beautiful story, but the set design was stunning. The stage was filled with antique-looking mats, furniture, paintings and knickknacks transporting one into the time of the early 20th century.

Director Robert Prender expressed profound appreciation for his performers and crew stating in his director's note that: "It's often said that if you cast a show well, 80% of the work is done. That's exactly how I feel. Alec, Nick, Cody, and Maggie not only brought my vision to life, but they elevated it to a level I couldn't have even imagined. They put so much heart and effort into their performances, and they've truly made this show what it is. I am beyond grateful to have had such an incredible cast."

The crew further included: Production Concept and Technical Director Anthony Brooks, Stage Manager Audrey Russell, Lighting by Ashley Taylor and Anya Bhasin, Sound by Douglas Segura, Rigging by Malachi Nicholas and Sophie Shanks, the Deck Crew consisting of Deshawn Brown and Roni Alvarez and lastly, the Front of House crew which included Vance Nguyen, Joseph Maher and Cecilia Hemling.

In an email, Prender outlines his choice of play, "The reason I chose to direct this show is because I knew it

would be challenging due to the nature of the themes explored and I wanted to push myself. Additionally, I felt that the Mount campus would really enjoy it." Like Prender says, the nature of the play is indeed challenging as a creative mind trying to find the best way to bring the vision to life. What choices does one make to ensure that the proper messages and meanings are coming across? How does one proceed to make those difficult choices? Only a true director can know that I suppose.

Additionally, as mentioned by Prender, the nature and questions of the play seem like something that belongs at the Mount. As a Catholic university, the questions of God, life, epistemology and morality are ones commonly discussed within the institution's core classes. After chatting fellow students following the play, I was enlightened to the different perspectives from the audience as we spoke about their own thoughts and opinions. One student said, "I really enjoyed the play. I really liked how one historical figure and event was presented in an interesting way and how I learned more about Freud's opinions and thoughts. Even though it's fictional I feel that I became more familiar with both him and Lewis, and I think this is also an interesting and effective way of learning." Once asked about the play's take on religious topics, specifically coming from the perspective of Freud, the student said, "So even though our school is Catholic and religious I think that all of us, including the school staff and professors, should take into account other

opinions, even the one that God doesn't exist. In such an environment maybe it's a hot topic but, I think conflict of opinion and debate about it can be very useful and will reveal new knowledge to us and maybe even change our thinking."

## Freud and his colleagues' impact on art

While widely known as the "father of psychoanalysis," the Austrian Neurologist has had a great impact on how we understand the inner workings of our inner psyche, but also has had immense impact of the way that we see and understand art.

Besides famously writing about and analyzing famous artists' lives, (specifically those from the Renaissance period) Freud himself was an avid art collector, and throughout his lifetime he collected and preserved a vast number of antiques left behind by ancient civilizations. His collection was so vast that 47 years after his death in 1939, his London home was transformed into the Freud Museum, which puts his collec-

tion items on display for curious visitors.

While Freud himself preferred the art of ancient times, his work and theories were groundbreaking enough to have influenced most artists of the 20th century, and in some respects continue to influence artistic movements to this day. He had a particular impact on the "Surrealist Movement" of art. Surrealism is mostly concerned with the ideas of abstraction, expression and symbolism, pulling on Freudian theories of the unconscious mind's desires and actions. Some famous artists who can be considered part of the surrealist movement include Salvador Dalí, Max Ernst, and Frida Kahlo.

Similar to Freud, many psychologists and their studies have come to shape and influence the art world throughout history. In many ways, the two have come to go hand-in-hand due to the fact that artistic self-expression is related, and directly correlated to, the cognitive functions of the human mind.

To read other articles by Emelie Beckman visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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# CATOCTIN SPORTS

## The end of fall sports

Richelle Zheng  
CHS Class of 2025

As we wait for Mother Nature to figure out whether or not she wants to stay hot or cold, Catoclin's fall sports team is hitting off with numerous wins. Catoclin's golf, unified tennis, volleyball, boys soccer, and girls field hockey teams have put in lots of their time and hard work into practice, and they have surely been paying off.

### Golf

Catoclin's astonishing golf team has finished their 2024 season with a bang! On October 2, the team played at Maple Run Golf Course. They celebrated their seniors during this game with a win against Tuscarora High School, 168-185! The team leader was Jordan Moore who shot an even par of 36. Aiding the team's success were: Jackson Savage who scored a career-best of 43, Bryont Green with 44 points, Dallas Baker following close behind with 45, and Justin Mehall and Keagan Savage who each scored 46 points, totaling the team score.

The Cougar's next game was held in Hagerstown at Black Rock Golf Course where they played the district tournament. Mehall showed up ready to take on the other schools and carded 78 points, qualifying him for the state tournament! His diligence and determination have allowed him to be able to compete individually at College Park.

The following day on October 9, the team played a make-up match against Brunswick High School at Musket Ridge Golf Club. Green carded a career-low of two over par 38 at this match, leading the team with the lowest score! Additionally, Moore scored 40 points, Mehall 46, and Keagan Savage and Baker both added 47 points each to finalize the team's total of 171 points which defeated Brunswick's score of 182.

On October 17, the team played their last game of the season at Maple Run Golf Course against Oakdale High School. The team finished off their season strong with a victory over Oakdale 164-166! The low medalist for the third match in a row was Green who scored 38 points. Following behind are Moore with 39, Mehall with 42, and Keagan Savage with 45. The seniors Baker and Jackson Savage finish off their high school careers with a 47 and 48. The golf team has shown outstanding skills this season, Catoclin cannot wait for what they will bring next year!

### Unified Tennis

The unified tennis team has also seen quite a bit of action this season with some wins from the doubles team consisting of seniors Chad Zimmerman and Darrin Frey. On October 14, the team played against Walkersville High School. Zimmerman and Frey played a close match against the Walkersville Lions, ending with a tiebreaker match. During the tie-



Catoclin's unified tennis team is excited to head off to their district tournament!

breaker, both teams had great rallies, but the Lions fell short to the Cougars 5-7, ending in Cougar victory!

On October 21, the team headed off to districts at Baker Park. Doubles team: Zimmerman and Frey won 2-0 allowing them to continue onto counties! Moreover, Darrin Frey was also chosen as the student of the month for Catoclin High School. Students and staff described him as an optimistic and outgoing student who is always ready to help others. Furthermore, the Learning for Life program shared their appreciation for Frey as they revealed, "Darin has been amazing in the Learning for Life class. Outside of the learning for life class, he makes sure everyone is included, and nobody is left out." Catoclin is proud to have such amazing students roaming their halls!

### Volleyball

After a rough beginning to the season, Catoclin's volleyball team has begun to round up some wins. On September 26, the girls varsity team went head-to-head against Walkersville High School. The girls won their first game of the season 3-2 thanks to the help of sophomore Jayla Harris who led the team with 17 kills. Sophomore Aubrey Calhoun also contributed to the win by successfully completing two blocks and scoring 18 assists.

Harris and senior Alex Potter had two aces each and junior Tatiana Owens demonstrated 20 out of 22 perfect serve receives!

The junior varsity Cougars stepped up their game as well on October 2, against Oakdale High School. The girls defeated the Oakdale Bears in just two sets!

The varsity Cougars continued to show off their strength on October 7, against Brunswick High School. Once again, Harris led the team with 14 kills and Potter with 9. In addition, the team all had amazing serves with almost each of them contributing an ace, rounding up a total of 19 aces this match. Owens aided the team by making 12 digs, resulting in the Lady Cougars' massive 3-0 win!

The junior varsity team later played against Frederick High School on October 22. During this match, the team leaders were Abbey Sparkman and Abbey Lawrence with the most kills. Sparkman also contributed seven aces. Gabby Defriece and Skylar Barnes also aided the team, each with six aces, resulting in the game ending in a win for the Lady Cougars!

### Soccer

The boys soccer teams continue to be a solid teams as they have racked up a few more wins. On September 23, the boys played against Clear Spring High

School and won 2-1. Highlights from the game include two goals made by senior Michael Metz, one of which was an assist and the other being the game-winning point during overtime. Lucciano Lopez made a goal during the first half of the game with an assist from Metz and Trey Glass set up a goal for Metz's corner kick goal during overtime!

Once more, the boys took on another victory on September 30 against Smithsburg High School for their senior night. The boys won 2-1 with Brayden Zentz and Zack Kerr scoring the goals and goalie Blake Smith keeping the goal on lockdown with nine saves.

### Field Hockey

The girls' field hockey team has also had some ups and downs, but they have continued to work hard and show up as their best on the field. On September 26, the Lady Cougars had a match against Tuscarora High School. The girls defeated the Tuscarora Titans 4-2, with two goals made by freshman Josey Shaffer and one goal by Lily Grable and Mallory Clark. Additionally, Shaffer had one assist as well as Annie Abruzzese. Goalie Vivian Lewis prevented seven goals as she made seven saves in the cage.

They later played again on October 15, against Governor Thomas Jefferson High School. Clark, Weaver, and Maddie Myers all contributed to the team by scoring goals, Myers with two. Shaffer made three assists and Lewis had one save, allowing victory for the Lady Cougars 4-0.

The field hockey Lady Cougars continued onto their first round of regional playoffs on October 24 against Brunswick High School. The ladies had an outstanding performance with both the offense and defense locked into the game, allowing a 4-0 victory!

To read past Catoclin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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# MOUNT SPORTS

## Rugby at the Mount, a long and storied tradition

Steve Morano  
MSMU Class of 2024

On most fall Saturdays across the United States, college football is found being played at almost every level of the game. From NCAA Division 1 FBS powerhouse schools like Alabama or LSU to the lowest levels of Junior College Football such as at Feather River College in Quincy, California. The game has become a true staple of American culture whenever the leaves change colors. But in Emmitsburg, the loud clashing of pads and the groans of tackled opponents have been absent since the mid 1950's, ever since the university prioritized basketball over America's proverbial favorite sport. With an absence so great as compared to the rest of the country's college towns, another full contact sport has grown in the embers of the missing time on Echo Field. A sport born across the Atlantic at English public schools, for gentleman and gentry, but with no remnants in account of the way that it is played. It is Rugby.

The origins of the game that would go on to birth other sports such as American Football, Australian Rules Football, Gaelic Football, and arguably the most popular of them all across the globe, Association Football or as we know it in America, Soccer, began as a mixture of games. Each English boarding or public school had their own version of "football" which had been birthed from the centuries-long tradition of medieval football in which whole towns would gather on two teams and try to get an inflated pig's bladder to a certain point in the town while defending it from the other team. But at Rugby School in Rugby, Warwickshire, the game took off with naturally gained popularity for its organization, as opposed to chaos, and its fast-paced nature. A schism in 1895 between Rugby clubs in the North and South of England resulted in the creation of "Rugby League," a totally different game than the traditional form. "Rugby Union," as it would become widely known as, became the preferred form of the game and its popularity has ensued across the world.

Nearly 20 years had elapsed since the Mount had anything like American Football and the grass of Echo Field had become more accustomed to the spring sports of Soccer, Baseball, Lacrosse, and Field Hockey rather than the rough and tumble of American Football. But in 1974, Rugby was brought into the forefront of new sports added to the Mount's storied sporting legacy. In the public sphere, records are spacy to the details pertaining to the "Rugby Football Club" at Mount St. Mary's, but the Pridwin, the Mount's yearbook that ceased publication in 2013, offers an insight into the team's early years.

"Violent is the very last adjective any rucker would use to describe the game. As signified by the white collar on their shirts, rugby is a gentleman's game played by gentle-

men. Throughout the course of a rugby game, not a single derogatory remark is directed to the referee on the part of any rucker," the Pridwin read in 1978. This superlative given to the men of the club is a set cornerstone within the sport of Rugby, with some leagues having mandated players being ejected for using a curse word on the field at all.

The 1982 edition of the Pridwin includes many photo compilations of the men's team, but later in the publication, the headline of "A proud beginning for a daring few" loudly announced the formation of Women's Rugby Club at the Mount. Later in 1994, the NCAA elevated Women's Rugby to a varsity status as part of the Emerging Sports for Women initiative along with Acrobatics & Tumbling, Equestrian, Stunt, Triathlon, and Wrestling. This status is something that the women's game has over the men, as Men's Rugby has never been recognized as a varsity, sponsored sport.

Within the men's collegiate rugby sphere of existence, both Rugby Union and Rugby Sevens serve as the formats, with union being played in the fall and sevens being played in the springtime. USA Rugby's Division 1-A governs over the respective rugby union competitions followed by the single elimination cup, the National Collegiate Rugby XV's Champions Cup. Rugby Sevens, which is a shortened version of the game condensed into seven players on the field and a shortened game time, is governed by the Collegiate Rugby Championship.

Not only do the men partici-

pate in these respective competitions year-round, but they have the accolades to talk. In 2016, the Mount defeated Claremont College from California to claim their first piece of silverware in the NCR XV's Champions Cup. But, in the post Covid-19 era, the Mount came out victorious again.

In the 2023 edition of the CRC 7's season, the Mount came out on top in their conference and were slated to face Michigan in the first round of the National Tournament. Handily defeating the Wolverines 41-0, they then went onto Adrian College from Michigan 21-7 and Wheeling 7-5 in the Second Round and Quarterfinals respectively. They then went on to beat Belmont Abbey in the semi-finals winning 22-5, setting up a date with destiny against Indiana to battle it out for the National Championship title. On April 30, 2023, the Mount St. Mary's Mountaineers defeated the Indiana Hoosiers 19-5 to claim the programs first National Championship and the university's second outside of the 1962 Basketball College Division National Championship.

No matter what absences there may be in Emmitsburg or this part of Maryland, there is always some kind of push and give that comes with it. If college football does not exist, then rugby exists, and that rugby is played at Mount St. Mary's. A school that has existed for almost as long as the United States and comes with all the legacy and legend that an institution of its age retains. And Rugby is an integral part of that legacy, especially in the later half of the 20th century and



Rugby has been an ingrained part of the Mount for the better part of the last half-century.

the early parts of this century where success has looked kindly on the members and fans of Mount Rugby. To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

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# COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

## Giving thanks

Jefferson Breland

Please note, I am not doing my annual rant about pumpkin spice. You are welcome.

For the last several months, I have written about unnecessary suffering, body scan visualization, how to use the information of your body scan, paying attention to the messages (symptoms) our body sends us, the effect our emotions have on our health, the body delivering the mail, and that everything happens for a reason.

Okay, okay, okay, I have been writing about this same stuff for years. Why? It is important, very important. It is a means for us to improve the quality of our health as well as all our relationships, and enjoy life more. That's all.

This month, I am going to write about something simple, like a holiday. In fact, I am going to use the name of this month's big holiday as the subject of this article, sort of.

One of the instant ways to improve the quality of your life is to be grateful. For what, you ask?

The short answer is everything. The long answer is everything.

Gratitude is an acknowledgment of what is so and recognizing your interrelationship with everything around you.

Gratitude is a gateway, a path to inner peace. It is not simply a formality, a way of being polite to others, of being nice, or being a good person. It is a necessary action for being fully present in the world. When you start looking for things to be grateful for, you will discover more and more opportunities to say thank you.

At it's simplest, we may say, "Thank you" to someone who holds a door open for us to walk through at a convenience store.

If we want go bigger, we can be grateful for what might have been take for granted: a smile, a beautiful bird and its song, the color of the changing trees, a gorgeous sky, a gentle rain, walking on crunchy fall leaves, really observing the miracle your children or grandchildren a

At its most profound, gratitude is a statement that we are all in this life together and we that we are not alone.

Last month, I was at a gathering of friends and family the night before the wedding of my nephew. I met a a very nice couple named Pat and Dave. I spent much of my time at the gathering talking with them. As it happened Pat and Dave were not a part of the "wedding party." They were simply having a date night at the same venue.

Over the course of our conversation, not sure how the topic arose, I mentioned I write a column for a monthly, small town newspaper. Pat wanted to know which one, I began to tell her and she handed me her phone and said you better write it out, I have dyslexia. She asked what the subject of my next column was. I told her, "I've already started, it's about gratitude." And what she offered me comes under my heading of "There are no accidents."

Pat told me the following quote from Michael J. Fox. "With gratitude, optimism is sustainable. If you find something to be grateful for, then you can find something to look forward to, and you carry on."

For Michael, his statement is not about niceties. It is about quality of life. It is about survival. It is about life itself.

For context, Michael has been dancing with the progressively debilitating symptoms of Parkinson's Disease since 1991. He received the diagnosis at the age of 29. In 2000, he created the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

He has been living with his diagnosis, his symptoms, the inevitability of his physical decline for 33 years, over half his life. In his dance of life, Michael has chosen to have faith that practicing gratitude, being grateful for everything, will offer him possibilities and therefore opportunities to live life as fully as possible.

Michael has transformed this potentially crushing life situation into a gift for himself as well as anyone else who pays attention.

Life happens. What we do next is everything. Gratitude is a great first step.

Gratitude is most powerful when we offer thanks for the "bad stuff." This not about being in denial. It is actually the opposite. It is a declaration that what has happened has actually happened. It gives us a moment to pause before we move forward.

Let me clarify this point with an example.

When my mother passed in April, 2021, I cried when I got the call from my brother. I was 2,500 miles from her when she exhaled the last time.

While taking in the news, I began to think, "Now she is no longer in chronic pain." "My brother was holding her hand when she passed." "My brother had to be there or he would not have forgiven himself." "Mom and I had a great talk three days ago." "She



Neeko is a sweet 10-month-old German Shepherd who arrived at the shelter as a stray, and no one came forward to claim him. He seems to do okay with dogs his size or larger, but not with smaller dogs. Experience with the German Shepherd breed is a plus for potential adopters. A dog introduction will be required with any dogs that reside in the home. Neeko may be too much for small children that are not used to large, active dogs. He loves attention and is a very loyal boy.

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

talked to her granddaughter two days ago." "I am so glad she didn't die in a hospital." (She was in hospice care in a small, elder care home.) "I am so glad she had kind people caring for her."

Each of these thoughts is a form of gratitude. I began to look for the gifts of the circumstances of my mother's death.

My relative peacefulness of mind then allowed me to begin the process of taking next steps for getting the family together and taking care of the legal nuts and bolts.

Later, the more formal gratefulness arrived. Thank you for being a great mom. Thank you for showing me what unconditional love is and looks like. Thank you for my life. Thank you for loving me even when you didn't understand what I was doing. Thank you for, well, everything.

When life is going smoothly, we don't notice how many things there are to be grateful for.

When stuff doesn't work like our car not starting, the electric power going out, or the water in the tap is brownish from the utility work down the street, we usually complain and blame.

Life circumstances can be considered breakdowns or opportunities for breakthroughs. Inconveniences possibly, and we get to think differently. Necessity is the mother of invention, of creativity. One way to grease the wheels of creativity is to thank the situation for our chance to wake up to doing life differently.

It takes practice to thank the car for working up till now and the opportunity to walk places or call friends to help you. It takes practice to thank the power company for the opportunity to read by candle-light or see the stars more clearly. It takes practice to be thankful that we usually have safe drinking water and there is beer in the refrigerator.

Earlier I mentioned Pat and Dave. Toward the end of our conversation, Pat Wadors (I searched the book title to get her last name) shared with me that she has a book soon to be released: "Unlock your Leadership Story, How to Build Understanding and Motivate Teams Using Fables and Folktales".

As I mentioned, Pat told me she experiences dyslexia. What has she chosen to do in the presence of her challenge? She helps people. She writes books, gives lectures, and offers ways of understanding life on a deeper level.

As Meister Eckhart, a member of the Dominican order of the 13th & 14th centuries wrote, "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough."

Thank you for your reading. May it serve.

Jefferson Breland is a board-certified acupuncturist licensed in Pennsylvania and Maryland with offices in Gettysburg. He can be reached at 410-336-5876.



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# HEALTH AND FITNESS

## Thanksgiving Day should be happy & healthy!

**Linda Stultz**  
**Certified Fitness Trainer**

A great way to start your Thanksgiving Day is to participate in the town's turkey trot. Each year families and friends gather to enjoy a run and time together. Starting the day in the great outdoors, enjoying great company makes you feel refreshed and ready for the day.

Have you thought about this year's biggest family gathering? The menu for this meal usually remains the same from year to year. This year make a few little changes to make the meal healthier. Of course, the turkey is the main attraction. Make sure you get a lean turkey that is low in fat. Most of the fat in poultry is in the skin. You need the skin while roasting for a juicy, tender bird, but before you slice it, remove the skin. That will take the temptation away from those folks who tend to tear off a piece when they slip into the kitchen to see how things are going.

Dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, warm bread and dessert are also part of the traditional meal. I'm not saying don't have them, just alter the way they are prepared. Mashed potatoes are another mainstay for the meal but maybe this year you could try mashed sweet potatoes or mashed cauliflower. Try whole grain bread for the dressing. Whole grains are much healthier than processed white bread and supply added fiber. Gravy is one of the most important parts of this meal. Let your broth set for a while till it forms a solid skim on top. Remove this and you will have broth with much less fat. The gravy still tastes the same, without the fat. The warm bread can be a variety of different whole grain

buns. This way, everybody gets their favorite kind. Add a big salad to this year's menu. People usually think of salad as a summertime dish with burgers and a cookout. One half of your plate should be filled with veggies. Raw vegetables give you great nutritional value, have them on the table or the kitchen counter for your family and guests to nibble while the main meal is being prepared. They will fill up on these and maybe not eat as much later. Supply a variety of vegetables to pick from. Hopefully, you will have at least one kind that the kids like.

Desseert! Some people live for the Thanksgiving Desert Table. That's OK. Give yourself a treat. Just look over everything carefully, and decide what you really want. Maybe even sample a few different kinds. Try cutting the slices in half. That way you can try a bigger variety. Watch out for the pumpkin pie, you know who you are! Preparing a small plate of dessert for your guests to take home is also a thoughtful way to let them sample everything, just not all at one time. They can take a little piece of Thanksgiving home to remember for the rest of the holiday weekend. This way you do not have all of that dessert left-over tempting you. Your waistline will thank you later. Check into some small changes in the recipe that will make a big difference in the fat and sugar content of the dessert. Tofu is a great way to add that creamy texture to your pies, cakes and cookies, while lowering the fat and raising the protein. Applesauce in place of oil is another helpful, healthy hint. Sugar is a big ingredient that packs on the pounds. Try cutting the amount of sugar in the recipe, people usually don't notice.

Finally, start a new Thanksgiving Tradition. Take a walk after your meal. I know how everybody feels after eating a big meal, all the more reason to get moving. Take the whole family for a walk in the brisk, fall air. See the beautiful sights of the brightly colored leaves. Share this time and walk off some of those extra pounds you

just consumed. If you can't get the whole family involved, pick a friend or family member that you would like to spend a little extra time with. Share conversation, ideas and just time with them. These tips are not just for Thanksgiving. They work well for Christmas or any holiday gathering.

Think about giving the gift of

health this year. Gift certificates to an exercise program may get a person into a lifetime of health. Get yourself and someone you love into exercising. That is the best thing you can do for yourself and your loved ones. Call me to explore the benefits of an exercise program designed just for you. 717-334-6009.

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# ASTRONOMY

## The night sky of November

Professor Wayne Wooten

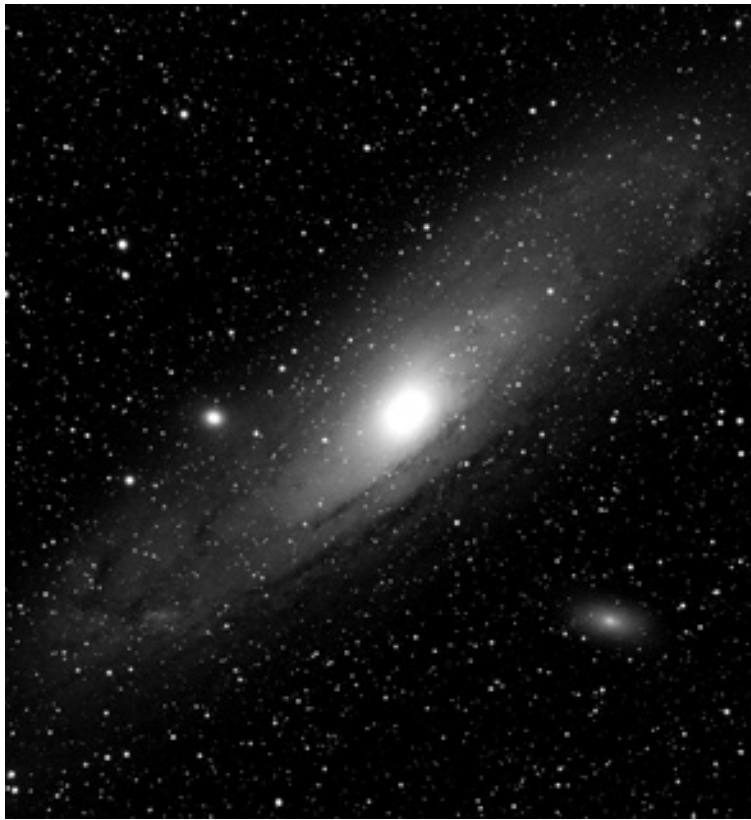
The new moon is on November 1, 2024. On November 3rd, we fall back to central standard time; that same evening, look for the slender crescent moon two degrees south of Mercury in dusk. The Moon catches up with Venus on November 5th, passing 3.5 degrees south of the brilliant “evening star”. The first quarter moon is on November 9th. The waxing gibbous moon is just south of Saturn about sunset on November 10th, a great photo op.

Much of the world will witness an occultation, but for us, a close miss! The Full or Beaver Moon is on November 15th. Mercury is highest east of the sun on the evening of November 16th, 23 degrees behind it. On the outer fringe of the solar system, Uranus is at opposition on November 17th, the same day that much closer Jupiter has the moon passing 5.6 degrees north of Jupiter.

Much closer to home, the Moon passes by Mars on November 20th some two degrees north of it. The Moon is last quarter on November 23, and back to new on November 1st, the passing of the phase based synodic month. Jupiter will come to opposition on December 7th, rising in the east at sunset.

Mercury is well placed in the SW evening skies the first two weeks of November, but is lost in its glare by Thanksgiving. Venus dominates the SW sky, getting closer and brighter but also shrinking in phase to approach half lit by Christmas.

Mars is still in the morning sky, in Gemini. Jupiter, the larg-



The Andromeda Galaxy is a barred spiral galaxy and is the nearest major galaxy to the Milky Way. Andromeda is approximately 2.5 million light-years away from Earth. The galaxy's name stems from the area of Earth's sky in which it appears, the constellation of Andromeda, which itself is named after the princess who was the wife of Perseus in Greek mythology. The Milky Way and Andromeda galaxies are expected to collide with each other in around 4-5 billion years, merging to potentially form a giant elliptical galaxy.

est planet, will reach opposition on December 7th. Saturn will be in the south in Aquarius in the evening sky, with his rings seen almost edge on this year.

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 October 31st visit the [www.sky-maps.com](http://www.sky-maps.com) website and download

the map for November 2024; 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. Sky & Telescope has: [www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts/](http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts/).

Setting in the southwest is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way

Galaxy, with Saturn just above the lid of its teapot. The best view of our Galaxy lies overhead now. The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the sky in the northwest. To the northeast of Vega is Deneb, the brightest star of Cygnus the Swan. To the south is Altair, the brightest star of Aquila the Eagle, the third member of the three bright stars that make the Summer Triangle so obvious in the NE these clear autumn evenings. Use binocs and your sky map to spot many clusters here, using the SkyMap download to locate some of the best ones plotted and described on the back.

Overhead the square of Pegasus is a beacon of fall. South of it is the only bright star of Fall, Fomalhaut. If the southern skies of Fall look sparse, it is because we are looking away from our Galaxy into the depths of intergalactic space. The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W, rising in the NE as the Big Dipper sets in the NW. Polaris lies about midway between them. She contains many fine star clusters and nebulae. Much more distant in her daughter Andromeda is the closest large spiral galaxy comparable to our own Milky Way, M-31. This photo of it with two smaller companion galaxies, M-32 (below the nucleus) and M-110 (to upper left) was taken with the new Dwarf 3 digital telescope, now available for \$400, with the ability to take telephotos like this as well as wide angle photos of the constellations.

To the northeast, Andromeda's

hero, Perseus, rises. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth. south. Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster to rise, a sure sign of bright winter stars to come. This is probably the best sight in the sky with binoculars, with hundreds of fainter stars joining the famed “Seven Sisters” with 10x50 binocs.

In addition to the stars, we see this cluster passing through a nearby cloud of dust and gas and the stars having their blue light reflected by the dust particles, in the same way our sky in daytime is turned blue by tiny molecules in our atmosphere that in “Rayleigh Scattering” selectively scatter the shorter blue waves, while allowing the reds of sunset and total lunar eclipses to pass through our atmosphere.

To the NE, yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, rises at 7 as November begins along the northeastern horizon. It is the fifth brightest star in the sky, and a beacon of the colorful and bright winter stars to come in December. South of the pentagon of Auriga, we find bright Jupiter, near orange Aldebaran, the eye of Taurus the Bull, rising in the NE about 7 by mid November.

## Farmers' Almanac

*The thinnest yellow light of November is more warming and exhilarating than any wine they tell of.*  
—Henry David Thoreau (1817-1872)

**Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:** Seasonable with occasional Showers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); 6-10: dry and turning very warm (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); rain and gusty winds followed by cooler temperatures (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); brisk and chilly with snow showers west and sprinkles east (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); seasonably cool with rain showers (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); dry and seasonable (26, 27, 28, 29, 30).

**Severe Weather Watch:** The Almanack sees heavy rain with flooding in the Mid-Atlantic Region (10, 11, 12). Full Moon: The Full Moon in November will occur on Friday, November 15th. Many Native American tribes called it Big Wind Moon because of the high winds that would sweep across the Plains during the month. Other tribes called it Falling Leaf Moon and Dying Grass because of all the leaves falling and grasses dying off.

**Special Notes:** Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 3rd. Remember to “fall

back” an hour! Election Day falls on Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> in 2024. This year, we are casting our ballots for President of the United States and we must all participate in this great privilege no matter which candidate is support. If voting by mail, be sure to complete your ballot immediately upon receipt and place the properly-completed ballot into a legitimate drop box in your area or mail as early as possible.

**Holidays:** In 2024, Veteran's Day falls on Monday, November 11th. Honor our military service branches and those who have served and who continue to serve and protect us today and remember them in our prayers. Thanksgiving is celebrated on Thursday, November 28th. Enjoy time with family and friends and reflect on all the things we have to be thankful for and make an effort to carry that appreciation not only throughout the holiday season, but for always!

**The Garden:** Even though lawns rest in winter, they still need all the winter sunlight they can get so don't put away the rake until all of the leaves and pine needles have fallen and you can remove them. If you do have to do that one last mow, don't bag those grass clippings. Instead, recycle them back onto the lawn.

Take the time to organize, clean, and sharpen your garden tools. Keep them from underfoot, cleaned, and sharpened and they will be ready to go come Spring. Feed the birds in a fun, unique way by making a pinecone bird feeder. Just roll a large pinecone in peanut butter and birdseed. Hang the finished ‘ornament’ with rustic twine or ribbon on a tree limb close to a window for easy observation. Remember that once you start feeding them, don't stop until natural food becomes available for them again next spring.

**The Farm:** Best for planting root crops (25, 26, 27); planting above-ground crops (1, 2); weeding and stirring the soil (21, 22); harvesting all crops (8, 9, 12, 13); the best days for setting hens and incubators (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8); transplanting (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8); the weaning of small animals and livestock (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 30); the harvesting and storing grains (22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30).

### John Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

*“Pay heed to what one promises when seeking your vote or friendship; it sometimes bears little resemblance to what you receive after the goal that was sought has been attained.”*



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# COMPUTER Q&A

## Choosing the right word processor

Aysë Stenabaugh

Several options are available to users who would like to create and edit documents and spreadsheets etc. While Microsoft Office might be the most obvious choice, it's not the only choice. There are a few free and paid options for both online and offline use. Let's get into what some of these choices are and what some of the differences are between them.

Microsoft Office has a little-known limited free option that is available in addition to the Office 365 Subscription and one-time purchase of Office suites. If you'd like to use the Free web version of Office, you'll need to visit [www.office.com](http://www.office.com) and log in with a free Microsoft account. From there you will be able to access limited web versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook. All Microsoft accounts receive 5GB of free OneDrive (cloud storage) while new accounts may receive an additional storage bonus that will eventually expire. If you're using the free web version of Office, you are always using the OneDrive cloud storage, but you do have the ability to download the document either in an editable office format or in a PDF.

Office 365 is offered as a monthly or yearly subscription and provides a single user with access to the latest version of the entire offline Office suite which includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, Outlook, Publisher, and Access on up to 5 devices simultaneously. In addition to several other perks, 365 subscribers get access to 1 TB of OneDrive cloud storage which can be configured to backup files on your computer's Desktop, Pictures, and Documents folders, and even automatically backup photos on your Cell phone. Single users can expect to pay \$7 a month or \$70 a year. For those with multiple family members that can use Office 365, the Family plan may be an excellent option to provide up to six different users with each user having their own individual Microsoft account and separate 1 TB OneDrive storage. Office 365 Family plans are currently \$10 a month or \$100 yearly.

If you'd prefer a standalone offline version of the Microsoft Office suite, then Office Home and Student 2021 or Office Home and Business 2021 might better suit your needs. Home and Student offers the offline 2021 versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint whereas Home and Business also includes Outlook 2021. Office 2021 is only good for ONE single device and costs \$150 for Home and Student and \$250 for Home and Business.

Corel's WordPerfect Office Standard 2021 is an alternative offline word processing suite that includes WordPerfect, Quattro Pro (for spreadsheets), Presentations, and WordPerfect Lightning

(like Publisher). Unlike Microsoft Office, Word Perfect is compatible with both Microsoft Office file types and WPS (WordPerfect) documents which makes this a good option for users who already have Word Perfect files saved. The regular price for WordPerfect Office is \$250 but can often be found on sale for less from Corel's website.

LibreOffice and OpenOffice are 100% open-source (free) offline Office suite alternatives that include Writer, Calc (for spreadsheets), Impress (for presentations), Draw (to create 2D and 3D diagrams and illustrations), Base (for databases), and Math (for creating mathematical equations). LibreOffice also includes a program called Charts. Libre Office and Open Office are compatible with Microsoft Office file types and will open both new and old office file formats. However, OpenOffice has an older look and feel and will only save new files in the old Microsoft Office file formats or open document (.ODF file) formats. LibreOffice and OpenOffice are easy to use and are the

best recommendations for users who want to save money and don't have any special software requirements or specific compatibility needs.

Google has its own free Online Word Processing Suite which includes Google Docs, Slides, and Sheets. With a free Google account users can visit [docs.google.com](http://docs.google.com) to create and edit new Word documents. Like Microsoft's web office, Google Docs utilizes cloud storage. Free users receive 15GB of cloud storage which is also shared storage with Google Photos and your email. Google Docs is a great free option for users who already have a Google account with easy mobile access, especially on Android mobile devices.

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**CHRISTMAS FOR COMMUNITY KIDS**



**ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF  
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CLOTHING  
AND  
NONPERISHABLE  
FOODS**




**CHRISTMAS FOR  
COMMUNITY KIDS**



**Feeding the  
Community**

**Our annual "Christmas for Community Kids" is in full swing!**

Please stop by and drop off a new, unused, unwrapped toy or new items of clothing for school age children up to age 18. We will also be a collection site for Non-Perishable foods through the holidays.

Help us to brighten Christmas for those in our community who can use a little Help!

**Donations will be accepted now through December 12th at the following locations:  
Wantz Chevrolet, Taneytown Bowl & Grill, Taneytown Liquor Barn, Kennies Market  
and Carroll Vista Club House.**



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# Christmas In Thurmont Events

## Shop Small Saturday! - November 30

Shopping small is about preserving your community continually by supporting your locally owned businesses. Make purchases in your town on Small Business Saturday! Main Street specials & Pop-up shops inside some of our businesses.

**5th Annual  
Main Street Holiday Train Display**  
Nov. 30, Dec. 1, Dec. 7, Dec. 14 & 15  
Dec. 20 & 21 - Noon to 4

224 North Church Street beside the Dirty Dawg



Train display is back again this year and brought to you by the Frederick County Society of Model Engineers and the Thurmont Main Street. A Bonus! Vernon and his family who make those delicious crepes will also be on hand in the same building and with the same schedule as the train display!

**Tree Lighting on Main Street**  
Saturday, November 30 at 6  
Mechanics Square Park

Join us for the annual Town of Thurmont Christmas Tree Lighting.

After the tree lighting stop in at Woodsboro Craftmen's open house for hot chocolate and cookies!



## Annual Map Stamping

Friday, November 22

Stamping begins



Pick your map up at Cousins Ace Hardware, The Dirty Dawg & Studio 24E.

Return completed maps to the Guardian Hose Company on December 7 between 10 a.m. & 2 p.m. Prize drawings for Kids at 2 p.m. & then prize drawing for adult maps. Must be present to receive prize if called.

**21st Annual  
Christmas in Thurmont**  
Saturday, December 7  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Enter children up to age 17 for prize drawings.

Free photos with Santa 10-1 & 2-3 p.m.  
Christmas Craft tables & make and take a craft from 10 a.m. to noon.

**Horse & Carriage Rides**  
Saturday, December 7  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Make your reservations by November 30. All carriage rides

**\$10**

To make reservations call 301-271-7313 and press 0,



## Enjoy a Main Street Christmas!

Visit our local shops &

Pop-Up Shops along the way.

Shop for unique & special gifts from our shops and local vendors. Beer, Wine, Hot Chocolate!

*Wear your "Bestest, Ugliest" Holiday Sweater!*

Enter the contest at 10 Tavern for a prize! Ladies & men categories.

Horse & Carriage Rides 5 to 8 p.m.





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### Visit Grant

This four-year recurring grant will be awarded to high school seniors who attend a qualifying admissions event and apply by Dec. 1. Schedule your visit experience today!

**\$2,500**

### Catholic H.S. Scholarship

This four-year recurring scholarship is available to high school seniors who graduate from a Catholic high school or complete a Catholic-based home school curriculum and apply by Dec. 1.



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