

# Woodsboro - Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 3, NO. 11

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

NOVEMBER 2023

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## Walkersville turns out for Community show

**Brittany Sanders**  
Glade Valley Community Show Chair

Blue and Gold Champion ribbons were earned by many in the Walkersville Feeder School District at the 78th Glade Valley Community Show, which took place on September 26–28 at Walker's Overlook. There were 1,578 entries in all, ranging from baked goods, knitted items, photography, crafts, agricultural farm products, and garden products, all displayed by 197 exhibitors, of which over 50 were new exhibitors.

The first night was full of excitement as the show kicked off the annual cake and baked goods auction under the watchful eye of Jimmy Summers. The Junior Grand Champion Cake was sold in memory of Mr. Meryl McLeaf, per the request of the McLeaf family. The proceeds from the sale split three ways, supporting the Walkersville FFA Chapter National Convention Trip, the Clayton Lenhart Memorial Scholarship, & the Maryland State Grange Scholarship.

The Junior Grand Champion

Cake was a Blueberry Layer Cake baked by Eva O'Hara that was purchased for \$375 by longtime supporters, the Mountain Gate Family Restaurant. The Open Grand Champion Cake, a German Chocolate Cake baked by Jichaela Cutshall, was sold to JJ&P Plumbing for \$1,900. This year's cake auction brought in \$30,010, of which \$13,015 was given back to various funds and organizations within the Walkersville Community.

Kids Day was on Thursday, with 125 5th grade students from Walkersville Elementary School learning about Agriculture and touring the show. FFA members and Leo Club members taught various lessons to the 5th graders - from learning how to make butter, to how to make a garden in a glove, to 'egg-ology' - to show how much of the earth's soil is agriculture. Students with entries in the show had the opportunity to show their friends and teachers how they did.

New to the show on Thursday was a mini carnival for families to come enjoy. There were various carnival games, face painting and a

petting zoo with cows, alpacas, goats and chickens. The show had the biggest crowd on kids/family night than it had in years. "Being it was the first time doing the carnival, I think it turned out to be a huge hit and we plan to expand for next year," said the show chair, Brittany Sanders.

The show ended with the 2nd Annual "Shake it up" Milkshake Contest. Organizations within the Walkersville Community had to sign up in advance to make their signature milkshake. They had to bring all their materials and ingredients. Whole milk was donated by Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers and vanilla ice cream was donated by Trout's Market of Woodsboro. The winning youth team was the Kaleidoscope 4H Club with their 'Shamrock' shake and the adult



Maddie Peterson was crowned this year's Walkersville FFA Ambassador.

team was the Town of Walkersville with their 'Almond Joy' shake.

The Glade Valley Community Show Committee would like to thank all the exhibitors, sponsors, patrons, cake buyers and Walkers Overlook for helping to make the show such an overwhelming success!

We look forward to seeing everyone next year!

## Trout's market: new owners, same love

For decades, locals and visitors alike have utilized Trout's Seafood and Deli Market in Woodsboro for all their grocery, market, and deli needs.

Now, Trout's may have a new face in management, but what hasn't changed is the local market's commitment to community service.

Diya Rajbhandari of Walkersville recently took the reins of Trout's following the retirement of its previous owner John Trout. Rajbhandari said that owning a business in the community she calls home has always been an aspiration.

Rajbhandari said she adores Woodsboro's small-town community feel and how friendly and welcoming it is. "I know change is hard, but I'm going to do everything in my power to connect with every customer who walks through the door, to learn their first names, and ensure they are getting everything they need," she said.

According to Rajbhandari, what sets Trout's apart is its above and beyond customer service that includes helping carry bags and loading them into cars.

"It's the small things that no one else does that can make a huge impact," Rajbhandari said, noting she found some regulars travel far out of the way to shop Trout's

thanks to this dedication of quality service.

Rajbhandari credits Trout's long serving employees as a guiding force and the ownership transition has been nothing less than a team effort. "The staff here are all wonderful!"

Store manager Denise Cook has been a part of Trout's for 30 years and loves the daily interaction with her customers. Cook noted that she can see Rajbhandari clearly "wants to stay true to the roots that are here."

Customers can expect the same personalized shopping experience that has become synonymous with Trout's for decades. Rajbhandari promises to do her best to ensure the same love and tender care that has greeted customers for years and encourages feedback from customers.

Rajbhandari is not only looking to keep the very best of Trout's approaches to treating customers, but also to add new service aspects, especially for senior citizens, such as free delivery within a five-mile radius and more focus in the deli for hot home-cooked food. "They can call us up and tell us what they need. We'll be here to take their call and then deliver their groceries," she said.

"We are here to provide what they need. Anything you're look-



Trout's Market staff: Roshan Shrestha, Carolanne Beamer, Diya Rajbhandari, Denise Cook & Donald Chancey

ing for, you can find it here, and if we don't have it, we'll get it for you," Rajbhandari stated.

Woodsboro Burgess Heath Barnes said he was thrilled that Trout's stayed in local hands and was not gobbled up by a large grocery chain who would ignore local customers. "Rajbhandari stepped in to ensure Woodsboro had a local market, and for that, I am grateful to her."

Commissioners John Cutshall and Bill Rittelmeyer echoed Barnes' comments and they were glad a true local stepped up to the plate to run Trout's. "We're lucky we have Trout's," said Cutshall. "Very few towns have grocery markets the vast majority of residents can walk to. We're very, very lucky. We all need to support Trout's to make sure that luck continues."

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# WOODSBORO NEWS

## Council revisits traffic on alleys

In a follow-up to a conversation the Council had in June—but took no action on—Commissioner Case proposed that the Town reconsider taking some type of action to reduce the “through” traffic on the town’s many small alleys.

Case recounted that even though only a few people have garage access on his alley, cars are frequently using it as a thoroughfare to get to and from Second Street and Main Street. “It’s not uncommon to hear a car every ten minutes,” Case said. “Unfortunately, the main door I use to get into and out of my house is on the alley, and the cars pass so close to that door that if I or the driver are not careful, I could easily be hit.”

In June, Case suggested that all the alleys in the Town could be made one way, allowing traffic to flow only off of Main Street. “This would ensure that only the people who actually live on the alley use them.” Case reasoned that people who now access the alleys

to go from Second Street to Main Street can easily go a block to a “real” street to get to Main Street.

“Some of the alleys in town are really only one car wide, if that,” Case said. “I can’t even begin to tell you how many times I’ve pulled into my alley only to have to back out when someone enters it at the far end. If the alleys were only one way, we could eliminate this problem.”

Since the suggestion to make the alleys one-way had apparently fallen flat, at the October Council meeting, Case suggested that the Town consider installing mirrors to allow residents to spot oncoming autos without having to step out into the alleys.

Unlike in June, however, the Town Council was more receptive to Case’s concerns and openly debated the pros and cons of how best to restrict traffic and traffic speed in alleys.

Commissioner Cutshall, who is the Town’s Streets’ Commission Liaison, suggested that the Town

revisit making some of the alleys one-way, but to alternate the one-way directions.

Burgess Barnes questioned why the speed limit in alleys was 25 mph and suggested that the limit be set at 15 mph and to set up signs on each alley so that violators could be ticketed.

The use of speed bumps was also suggested. Everyone agreed that while that would defiantly put a damper on speeding, they needed to check in with the Town staff on their impacts on snow plowing of the alleys.

While no final decision was reached, all the Council members agreed that controlling the number of cars and their speed in alleys was a worthy issue for the Council to address. All agreed to spend time until the Council’s November meeting to survey residents living along the town alleys and gather opinions, with the intent of settling on a solution at that meeting.

## Bids to be sought to build Town Hall

Following the issuing of all required County permits, all the Town is waiting for to began to solicit bid for the construction of the Town’s new Town Hall is the submission of the final plans by the architect, which Burgess Barnes hopes will happen the first week of November.

“Legally, we must wait 30 days from the time we issue the request. At the close of that time period, the Council will select the winning bidder, which we hope to do in mid-November.

Barnes said he was eager to get the foundation and basement of the building in place before winter sets in. “Those are the items that can be adversely affected by cold weather, so I would like to get them done as soon

as possible,” he said. “Once in place, the actual construction of the building can go on no matter how cold the winter is.”

“Unfortunately, no matter how hard we push, we will not be in a position to select a winning bidder by the November Town Council meeting. But if we wait until the December meeting, there is no way a foundation can be poured before winter sets in, and without a foundation, we’ll have to wait until Spring for construction to start, as opposed to waiting until Spring for its grand opening.”

To minimize any chance that construction could be delayed, Barnes said he may consider calling a special Town Council meeting to review all the sub-

mitted bids and select a winner.

In March, the Council voted unanimously to approve the design and proposed site plan for the new town hall to be located at the site of the old JR Sports Bar and Restaurant, a.k.a. The Hut, on Main Street.

The Town of Woodsboro has never had an official town hall to gather and conduct town business in. Town meetings are currently conducted in the back meeting room of Saint John’s Church and Town business is being conducted in a trailer at the waste water treatment facility. “Finally having an ‘official’ Town Hall will address long pent-up hopes and dreams of the residents of Woodsboro,” Barnes said.

The 2,960 square foot building

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will include a conference room on the right immediately upon entrance, with the town manager’s office on the left adjoining the file room. The Burgess’s office will be adjacent to the front conference hall. The middle of the building will consist of a ‘kitchenette’ and bathrooms, with the back part of the hall set aside as a large conference room with the ability to seat 40.

Barnes’ noted that one of the nicest revisions to the plans was the segmentation of the hall into two parts, which would allow the front section to be

locked while allowing the back section, including the bathrooms, to be used by groups like the Lions Club without worrying about the security of Town offices or records.

In 2022, the Town was able to secure a \$400,000 grant from the State to help in the construction. “I was very excited about the town receiving the funds, as it gave us the option to pick a better location and build a larger building like we originally wanted and not have to cut the size down due to restrictions of the lot size,” Burgess Barnes said.

## Skatepark officially opened

Almost a year to the day from the initial proposal, the Woodsboro skate park was officially opened on October 22nd as part of the Woodsboro Days festivities.

The park was the brainchild of resident Ben Marshall who approached the Town Council in October of 2022, pointing out that there are no skateparks in the immediate area. “It would be really nice to walk through town, [and] cross the street to our local park if we get this built,” Marshall said at the time.

With the Town Council approval, Marshall began the task of raising

money for the park, all the while praying that the town could find grant money to help the effort. As Marshall’s proposal came too late for the Town to Apply for a Project Open Space grant in 2022, he was encouraged to get skateboarding enthusiasts to begin raising money and spreading awareness.

While initial efforts to raise funds looked promising, questions on how to process donations quickly waylaid fundraising efforts. And while the Town had hoped to secure a \$50,000 grant this spring from Project Open Space, proponents were faced with reducing the size

of the park or hold off several years until sufficient funds were raised.

But to the surprise of all, especially Barnes, in June of this year he announced that he was able to secure not \$50,000, but \$128,000 for the park this spring during negotiations with the County over distribution of the County’s POS funds. And with that promise, settling the location of the skatepark in Woodsboro Park took front and center.

Barnes said, “The only thing standing between the Town signing a contract for the skatepark’s construction is

the actual POS check from the County and the Council settling on the actual location for the park.”

Once both those items had been accomplished, Barnes said he hoped the construction could get started within 30 days, and “if all goes without a hitch, the park will be completed by the fall in time to celebrate it opening on Woodsboro Days.”

Settling on the location proved more problematic than first envisioned. Initially the Skatepark was proposed to be located at the corner of the entrance of Woodsboro Park, but Council members expressed concern that the area proposed was also used for overflow


parking for special events, and this could impact those events. Options to place the park in the lower part of the park, where the old softball fields used to be, were nixed over concerns it could be damaged by flooding during heavy rains, just as the old softball fields had been.


A proposal to locate the park in the upper portion of Woodsboro Park drew concerns over the potential of vandalism taking place at that location because of its isolated nature. Commissioner Cutshall cautioned his fellow commissioners that the further they put the skatepark into the park, the more they opened the door to malicious behavior. “If people can’t see what is going on, then things we don’t want to go on will start to go on, such as vandalism and graffiti.”

To break the deadlock, the Town Commissioners all got together and walked Woodsboro Park to identify a suitable location that would provide visibility—and thus prevent vandalism. The area settled upon was the open area between the Park’s tennis courts and the concession stand.

The skatepark now joins the Town’s disc golf course, baseball & sports fields, playgrounds, and fishing pond as just one more amenity that residents of the Town can enjoy.

  
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## WALKERSVILLE NEWS

## Residents fight to keep 'small town' feel

The Planning Commission review of the Town's Comprehensive Plan continued last month with a packed audience of residents in the gallery arguing for and against possibly rezoning of the Town's largest agricultural properties.

A majority of the meeting was taken up with discussion over the 115-acre Staley property, which the draft plan lists as the only new opportunity in town for residential development.

Attorney Bruce Dean, representing Mrs. Stone of Square Acres Farm, a 105-acre property west of 194, argued to change the Stone property to medium residential zoning now from its current agricultural zoning, as this would give the Town options in the future. He asked what might happen if Mr. Staley decided not to develop his property. "You would

have no opportunity to rezone for at least ten years when the next review of the Comprehensive plan occurs."

Dean pointed out that although Walkersville wants to have slow residential growth, assigning a residential zoning to only one property would be too limiting. "It is healthy to have options." He explained that when a property is given a zone in the comprehensive plan, it means that the Town may be interested in using that specific parcel for a purpose other than what it is currently zoned for in the future.

Tiffany Staley, granddaughter of the farm's original owner, argued to keep the Staley property zoned agriculture. She pointed out that when it rains hard, the runoff flows just like a stream. She wondered, "With the blacktop and concrete, where will all

of that water runoff go?" The property is also prone to sinkholes due to limestone formations and underground springs, and she is concerned over what blasting during construction may do to the land. "That farmland is some of the best farmland in Frederick County. I'm asking you from my heart, keep this land agricultural," she said.

Neighbor Linda Grossnickle agreed with Staley asking: "Why develop farmland that lies sandwiched between two developments? You are compromising the existing agricultural buffer!" She also commented on her basement flooding every time Glade Creeks runs over its banks.

Town Commissioner Mike McNiesh, who sat in to watch the meeting, eventually chimed in saying, "We are a farming community.

This plan proposes 340 additional units, 250 low residential and 90 high by redesignating the Staley farm. That is in direct conflict with the Town's vision statement to maintain small town character by limiting growth and maintaining the agricultural buffer that separates the town from surrounding communities."

He pointed out that Walkersville is a desirable location for families bringing children to schools that are already overcrowded and in need of renovations that are not currently being planned for. "I counted 48 cars just in driveways and on streets in a 20-unit development at Longley Green one morning," he said. "At two cars per household, a 340-unit development would add a minimum of 680 cars. None of this maintains our small-town character that most of us love."

Town Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, who was also sitting in the gallery, voiced support of the rezoning of the Staley property. "We have to have some development for the town to progress and move forward." She showed how the population is projected to rise from 6,156 to 7,300 people by 2043, which isn't a lot over a long period of time. "Since many of Walkersville's older residents are aging in place, that puts limits on housing for new families. "In order to provide the current residents with the amenities they desire, we must provide housing for new people to come in as well," she pointed out.

Comments on the draft will be reviewed by the Planning Commission and then sent on to the Burgess and Commissioners for them to review. A public comment workshop will be held before the Town Council vote on approving the Comprehensive Plan.

## Council ponders assuming all sidewalk maintenance

Commissioner Mike McNiesh proposed changing the town's sidewalk ordinance to allow the Town to take responsibility for all sidewalk maintenance, which is historically the financial responsibility of the homeowner.

The proposal was in response to the Maple Avenue project where the town assumed financial responsibility in replacing all the sidewalks on Maple Avenue. When Commissioner Betsey Brannen asked why the town assumed the expense, Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis replied, "It is because the road was continuously being paved over but the failures were never fixed, just covered up."

Town planner Sean Williams pointed out that the town is traditionally responsible for the roadway

and curb repair, but it was found to be impossible to properly match them up to the existing sidewalk, so logically that had to be replaced as well.

McNiesh believes replacing the sidewalks on Maple Avenue was a mistake. However, because "the door was opened," the town should now assume responsibility for all the town's sidewalks. "We need to make this consistent across town," he said. "This way everyone gets the same treatment."

Commissioner Tom Gilbert stated, "In the past, I recommended that an income-based allocation be applied to sidewalks. If you make X amount of money, that would be equal to a percentage you would be responsible for." He believes homeowners should be responsible for their sidewalks;

however, the Maple Avenue project is a 'different story.' He shared his surprise at getting a free sidewalk to which McNiesh pointed out that the plan was created before Gilbert was in office. However, the vote was after he was reelected, so essentially, he voted for a free sidewalk.

McNiesh continued his point by asking, "Right now, we are saying if you live in Old Town, you get a free sidewalk, and the current code only applies to the rest of town? That is not fair," he said. Brodie-Ennis asked, "What about the homeowners that have already paid to replace their sidewalks? What do we tell them?" She shared her frustration that there isn't an easy answer to the sidewalk problem. McNiesh shared an idea of including a restitution fund for any-

one in that position.

Gilbert pointed out, "We have a nice capital surplus paid through taxes over the years, so why not at least share in the cost?"

Williams commented that after repairs for the recently approved Deerfield repair project and Green Street repairs, they may be able to use the extra toward sidewalks as needed. He said applying for grants may be a possibility as well.

The town makes anywhere from \$150,000-\$200,000 on bank interest alone, and that could be used as a sidewalk fund, Williams said.

McNiesh endorsed using the town's surplus. "Right now, we have a surplus and we need to take care of the problems we have now and not worry about the future."

Brannen asked the Town to consider replacing a portion of the town's sidewalk every year, starting with the worst spots first and asked how a sidewalk in need of repair would be determined.

Commissioner Gary Baker asked for a full estimate to replace one sidewalk pad, pointing out that "It's not just pouring new concrete. The old sidewalk and gutter needs torn out and the new one reframed and poured." The estimate would allow the Town Council to plan for future sidewalk replacement costs.

The Council opted to hold off on changing anything in the sidewalk ordinance until town staff could give them an estimate as to the cost to the town for assuming sidewalk maintenance.

## Green Street in dire need of repairs

This past spring, a portion of cracked asphalt, about 40 feet from Maple Avenue on Green Street, was brought to the Town's attention by a concerned resident. A brief investigation, where a camera was sent along Green Street from Fulton St to Maple Ave, showed a breach to the storm drain. The galvanized pipes in question were installed in the 70's and with over 50 years of wear they are showing signs of severe deterioration.

Town Manager Sean Williams described the condition of Green Street as poor, saying "this is an urgent situation as these pipes see a lot of water and the road's condition is poor as it is." In 2020 a stormwater study was completed which recommended replacing the entire pipe system from Colony Village to George Street in the immediate future. Williams pointed out that it made sense to couple the work with existing work on Maple Avenue.

Seven alternatives with estimates were provided to fix the issues and they ranged from band-aid solutions to full replacement. The first option is to apply a patch to the breach with an estimated cost of \$25,482. Second is to apply a partial lining repair for half of

the pipe from the back parking lot of town hall to Maple Avenue, which is like a stint and has a life span of approximately 50 years for \$158,444. Third would be to apply a full lining repair to the entire length of Green Street for \$286,357. The fourth option is to wrap a concrete pipe encasement over the entire damaged pipe for \$185,000, which does not repair the issue but will keep water from leaking. Fifth is to replace the breached pipe with one large pipe for \$222,170 from the back parking lot of town hall to Maple Avenue. The sixth option is to replace the breached pipe with two small pipes

for \$400,440 along the entire length of Green Street and the last option is a total replacement of everything from the Colony Village to George Street for \$1,951,982 million.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis shared that the County uses linings and they have not had to replace a pipe or the linings in over 20 years. She asked if it was possible to line the entire pipeline to which Williams said, "yes however the joints would be difficult to do, and it would be unknown how long they would last."

Williams concern is if they decide

to bite the bullet and move forward with a full replacement, they would likely start at the Fulton Street side of Green Street and unfortunately the pipes near Maple Avenue need the work the most. Commissioner Betsey Whitmore Brannen used the Maple Avenue project as an example stating, "We let it go and now we have a major project at a major expense."

Commissioner Mike McNiesh asked for the decision to be tabled until the next meeting due to the amount of information and number of options to consider. His opinion

was that additional start up and break down costs could accumulate if they decided in favor of smaller projects by choosing a less expensive option instead of doing the entire replacement for \$1.9 Million.

The Council plans on asking the Wilson Ballard Company, an engineering consulting firm, to come to the next meeting for their opinion on the pipes and roads condition. Waiting until the November meeting will allow Council members time to discuss Town finances and determine the best course of action.

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**WALKERSVILLE INFO**

Wed., Nov. 1 - 7 p.m. - Parks Commission Meeting

Wed., Nov. 8 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting

Fri., Nov. 10 - 7 p.m. - Town Office Closed  
Veteran's Day

Sun., Nov. 12 - 1 p.m. - Veteran's Day Ceremony

Tues., Nov. 14 - 7 p.m. - Planning Commission Workshop

Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 23 & 24 - Town Office Closed  
Thanksgiving

Mon., Nov. 27 - 7 p.m. - EDC Meeting

Tues., Nov. 28 - Planning Commission Meeting TBD

website: [www.walkersvillemd.gov](http://www.walkersvillemd.gov)  
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 Walkersville: Our Town



## FROM THE DESK OF . . .

### Congressman David Trone

When I first learned about Congress and the federal government in school, I was in awe. The idea of a government “by the people and for the people,” with respected leaders who put the interests of the American people first, driving forward the idea of democracy and promoting American values. It almost seemed too good to be true. Like many of you, I soon realized that it was.

The past few weeks are a great example of how fundamentally broken Congress is. A complete government shutdown was narrowly avoided, and the “solution” was for a very short term, 45 days. Federal agencies that do critically important work across the nation continue to be horribly underfunded. And then, for the first time in our history, the House had no leader as partisan politics became more important than solving the problems of the peo-

ple who elected these same Representatives.

That’s not the government that I learned about in school. It’s a far cry from the government that the American people — hard-working families, business owners, and those who are struggling the most — deserve. And while this type of dysfunction is one of the reasons I ran for Congress in the first place six years ago, it is even worse than I imagined.

The good news is that we know how to fix it. The bad news is that far too few of my colleagues have the political courage to do what’s necessary.

First, we need to elect leaders with the expertise and values to move us forward and end the idea that Congress is a popularity contest. When I came to Washington, I quickly learned that too many politicians are more interested in being on TV than they are in passing legislation. Since my election, I’ve worked to pass

dozens of pieces of legislation that make a difference on opioids, mental health, veterans issues, education and more. And if you see me on TV (a lot less than others), I’m only there to talk about our progress or to advocate for real solutions.

Next, we need to slam the door on PACs and lobbyists in Washington. Their power and control over our government is a scourge on our democracy and stands in the way of the progress that we must make. In the last election cycle alone, they shelled out over \$1 billion in campaign cash. Make no mistake: there are strings attached to these contributions.

This is why big pharma was able to pursue practices that have led to the deaths of millions from the opioid crisis, why big oil isn’t held accountable for its contribution to climate change, and why large corporations aren’t paying their fair share in taxes. Since the very

beginning, I’ve refused to take a nickel from PACs, lobbyists, or corporations. And if I am elected Senator next year, I’ll be the only Senator in the entire country who has fulfilled that pledge. Once I’m there, I won’t stop fighting until we ban these contributions and get back to working on behalf of the American people — not corporations and their lobbyists.

The final — and one of the most important tasks — is for our leaders to do more listening and less speaking (or yelling). In speeches on the House floor, you’ll hear folks on both sides of the aisle waxing poetically about what their party and their colleagues have accomplished. I certainly believe Democrats have accomplished vast amounts more for the American people, but we need to do a better job of listening.

I do everything I can to walk the walk on these issues. I am grateful to be able to spend so much time traveling across the state and lis-

tening to voters. Because I don’t take PAC or lobbyist money, I’m able to spend less time at fundraisers and more time knocking on doors, hearing from the people who matter most in this race. Few people I listen to care who is elected Speaker of the House or about which committee hearing got the most views on social media. They’re worried about getting the healthcare they deserve, having a good paying job, paying their bills on time, navigating the increased cost of living, and addressing the challenges that their communities face.

It’s past time for Congress to return to being an institution of integrity. I didn’t run for Congress because I needed a job — I ran because I was on a mission. The same is true of my campaign for the U.S. Senate. I’ll always put the people first, and I’ll work to reform Congress from within. But it will be a team effort. And I’m counting on the support of Marylanders to make it happen.

### County Council President Brad Young

The Frederick County Council meets regularly on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. at Winchester Hall in Frederick. All meetings are open to the public.

On October 17, the Frederick County Council approved Bill 23-17 by 7-0 vote. This Bill repeals the original establishment of a County Roads Board. The charge of the Board was to advise the county engineer and the County Council in the planning of road programs. The Council aims to replace this former Board with the establishment of the Frederick County Rustic Roads Commission. Bill 23-18 will establish this

new Commission, if passed, in the coming weeks. Bill 23-18 outlines more specific and inclusive guidelines for the Commission.

This new Commission is charged with establishing a nomination procedure for inclusion into (or removal from) the Rustic Roads Program; overseeing the designation of Designated Rustic Roads and Candidate Roads; advising the County on the protection of Designated Rustic Roads and Candidate Roads, to include the review of proposed substantial changes to these roads; developing and encouraging community efforts and resources

for action on Designated Rustic Roads; and advising on rustic road preservation issues. Once this Commission is established, members of the public will be welcome and encouraged to apply for membership.

On October 17, the Council also passed Bill 23-19 by 7-0 vote, allowing for Child Care Centers/Nursery Schools in the Office/Research Industrial zoned property within the County. This Bill facilitates easier accessibility to child care for those working in nearby research or industrial facilities.

Other upcoming legislation

includes Bill 23-20, which creates a new use within the Agricultural District to allow limited commercial vehicle parking and material and equipment storage associated with a landscape contractor business. Bill 23-21 amends our current Zoning Ordinance to allow for cannabis dispensaries, cannabis growing facilities, and cannabis processing facilities. This Bill also creates definitions and approval criteria for such cannabis dispensaries and cannabis growing and processing facilities in response to the statewide legalization of adult-use cannabis. These changes are required to be imple-

mented because of the legalization of recreational marijuana in the state of Maryland. Full legislation can be found on our website.

The Frederick County Council encourages public involvement at every stage of the legislative process. We welcome public comment at every Council meeting on Tuesday evenings. Members of the public are welcome to attend and give comment in person, leave a voicemail to be forwarded to each Council Member, or email us any time at [councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov). Please visit our website at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/county council](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/county council) to view our latest agendas, legislation, and upcoming calendar of events.

### County Councilwomen Renee Knapp

Accessing affordable, high quality, and convenient childcare was challenging before the COVID-19 pandemic. It has become even more so today. Industries are coming back, and many workers are heading back to office buildings. However, childcare options are not keeping pace with the needs of working families in Frederick County. To effectively address this

issue, county and state legislators must work together, each making the most of their available tools.

Last month the County Council unanimously passed a bill to allow for a childcare center or nursery school to operate in areas zoned Office/Research Industrial (ORI). Many office building complexes fall into this category. While this bill was developed to help

a constituent open a daycare center near an office complex, the newly approved use in this zoning will hopefully encourage more daycare providers to open a business near areas with jobs nearby. For some families, this model of daycare near a household member’s job is the most desirable. For other families, the neighborhood or homebased daycare situation is

preferable. If a resident is commuting from Myersville to Germantown, for example, dropping children off early in the morning with a daycare provider in their neighborhood may be the most convenient option.

Someone wanting to start a home-based daycare business will face some start up costs. The cost of taking classes for certification is one ini-

tial cost. Another cost is possible home improvements to create a childcare area within their home. I have introduced a bill to offer a county property tax credit for improvement done to a property where part of the home is used exclusively for a daycare center operation. The applicant must be operating a registered and licensed childcare facility in their home in Frederick County. This credit would apply for home improve-

continued on next page

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GOVERNMENT

# County Executive's Jessica Fitzwater

It's that time of the year again when we reflect on what's happened over the past year and think about the blessings we have. As the leaves change, I look forward to the views of the foliage during my walks and drives in and around Frederick County to recharge and regroup.

In the spirit of the Thanksgiving season, I want to express my gratitude to my administration, all Frederick County Government staff and partner organizations, the residents of Frederick County, my family, and friends. You all add to the social fabric that makes our community vibrant and thriving. I am grateful for the sense of belonging and community that

Frederick has to offer.

I made a promise to implement an innovative approach to governing that matches the needs of all residents. My key initiatives unveiled during my State of the County Address last month included a transition dashboard, the Office of Agriculture, and the opening of a 24/7 Walk-in Crisis Care Center.

### Transition Dashboard

The public can now track our progress on over 60 recommendations from the Transition Team through our Transition Dashboard. The dashboard lists details of work done to implement each recommendation. You can find

the dashboard at [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Transition-Dashboard](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Transition-Dashboard). The site will be updated quarterly so the public can stay up to date on progress.

### Office of Agriculture

During my State of the County Address, I was proud to announce the newly created Office of Agriculture, which will centralize and elevate the County's agricultural functions. The Office will bring together the agricultural land preservation programs and our award-winning Agriculture Innovation Grants program. One of the first tasks for the office will be to update the County's Agricultural Strategic Plan, which was last published in 2008.

### Crisis Care Center

October 26th marked the official opening of our new 24/7 Walk-In Crisis Care Center – a first of its kind in Maryland. The center will support people experiencing mental health or substance misuse crises. In addition, it will provide basic medical care and connect patients to community-based resources for ongoing recovery-oriented services.

Everyone in our community and region deserves support, adequate resources, and a space for well-being. The facility is owned by Frederick County and operated by the Mental Health Association under the direction of the Frederick County Health Department.

Day-to-day operations will be supported by opioid settlement payments made to Frederick County.

Frederick continues to be a community where the public and government work together to make the transformational change we deserve for our County! In addition to many firsts, we celebrated a milestone year for the 40th annual Brunswick Railroad Day and celebrated our region's beauty at Colorfest.

### Looking Ahead to November

Among the holiday gatherings come events that make our community vibrant and thriving! Mark your calendars for upcoming Veterans Day Parade in Brunswick, one of the nation's oldest Veterans Day parades, and various events in and around Frederick County.

# Woodsboro Burgess Heath Barnes

Happy Thanksgiving. It's hard to believe that we are less than 2 months away from the end of the year. I hope you enjoy time with family and friends this Thanksgiving. Always remember the ones who do not have extra funds or family during this time. If you can volunteer at a place in the community providing Thanksgiving to the less fortunate, I encourage it. I can promise you it is very rewarding.

Our annual Woodsboro Days festival was a great success. Saturday saw yard sales around town with the largest group of them being at the Woodsboro Lutheran Church where they also had food sales. It was great seeing so many out in the community. Also on Saturday, we had the grand opening of our skate park. This project

was made possible by a suggestion by a town resident Ben Marshall last year to the council. At the time it seemed like a pipe dream with the cost of the project and the lack of funds, but myself and former Commissioner Dana Crum (particularly) fought hard for the grant to complete the project and was successful and now we have a wonderful skate park for the community. Thank you, Ben, and Dana for your hard work, and Matt Arment from Arment Concrete for constructing it. In addition, on Saturday, the Woodsboro Volunteer Fire Department had an open house that several enjoyed going to. The weather on Sunday was great for the 3rd annual music festival in the park on the band shell that we had built 3 years ago. It was

also the first year we had electricity to the stage the last 2 years we ran on generators. All the bands, food trucks, and vendors were wonderful. Special thanks to Billie Fulmer and the local Boy Scouts who once again helped with parking. We are already looking forward to next year's event.

As many noticed, water bills for this quarter went out late. This was due to 12 residents not having completed the water meter change upgrade yet. Billing could not be completed until all were updated. The town had to spend extra money and bring in a new plumber on October 20th to complete these final 12 as the contractor's time in town was only for the month of September. We have finally completed the

upgrade. This will make billing much smoother and in January we will be able to start taking electronic payments which has been a request for a long time now.

The latest town hall update is that the permits have all been approved by the county. Our architect has listed for the contractors to bid, and we must keep bids open by law for 30 days. Once the 30 days have expired the council will select a contractor. We will be open the bidding process any day now and we are looking forward to the next step in finally building woodsboro's first town hall.

Halloween trick or treating was held on October 31st between 6 pm and 8 pm in town. It was nice seeing so many children and families out enjoying the evening.

As always, I encourage everyone to support Glade Valley Commu-

nity Services (GVCS) if you have clothes or food donations as they are always in need of items for members of the community. For more information, please contact GVCS by email at [gvcs.inc@verizon.net](mailto:gvcs.inc@verizon.net), or call 301-845-0213.

If you have any questions, concerns, complaints, or compliments please feel free to reach out to me at [hbarnes@woodsboro.org](mailto:hbarnes@woodsboro.org) or by phone at 301-401-7164.

Woodsboro Town meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm. In addition, Planning and Zoning meetings are at 6pm on the First Monday of the month as needed. If you have an item for the agenda, it needs to be submitted 14 days before the P&Z meeting. The current location for meetings is the St. Johns United Church of Christ. The public is always invited to attend.

continued from previous page

ments, and not for other childcare center items like furniture, craft supplies, or computer equipment.

Assistance with home improvement could be a significant and deciding factor in a resident's decision to start a homebased childcare business. Many people don't have \$2,000 to \$3,000 to set up a homebased childcare business, especially after paying for certification classes. If Frederick County can help to increase the number of homebased childcare businesses, that can mean less stress for working families in Frederick County, and better educational outcomes for our kids.

In addition to these ideas coming from the County Council to improve childcare access, the Frederick County Office for Children and Families is conducting a market study to understand the local supply and demand for daycare services. In addition to survey data, the first of three information and input sessions was held last month. That session featured Childcare Providers. There will be two more sessions before the end of the year. On Wednesday, November 15 from 7 to 8:15 p.m., the session will be held for families to share their ideas and experiences.


On Wednesday, December 6 from 8 to 9:15 a.m., the session will focus on Employers. Both of the upcoming

sessions will be held virtually, and registration in advance is required. If you would like registration information, you can contact me at [rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov) or the Frederick County Office for Children and Families at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/OFC](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/OFC).

The results of this study will be used to identify more opportunities to provide solutions for Frederick County families to access affordable, convenient, and high-quality childcare services.

If you have childcare ideas or experiences to share, please feel free to contact me with them. I would like to hear them as I continue to work on this issue in the future.

Have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving!



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# COUNTY NOTES

## Community Partnership Grant program expands

Frederick County's Community Partnership Grant Program will open to a broader range of local nonprofit organizations, Executive Jessica Fitzwater announced today. The competitive grant program provides funding to nonprofit groups that serve the needs of county residents. The county has expanded the program for the upcoming grant cycle, with new priority funding areas.

"I am excited to open up the Community Partnership Grants process to more nonprofits," County Executive Fitzwater said. "For the last nine years, the program has provided strategic support for our human service agencies. We are building on that structure so all community groups have the same opportunity to apply for funding and be held accountable to the same standards."

Grants for the Fiscal Year 2025 cycle

will be focused on the following priorities:

Housing initiatives, including affordable housing and initiatives to help people age in place;

Addressing Homelessness and housing insecurity;

Quality of Life initiatives, including support for seniors, youth support and engagement, recreation, and transportation innovation;

Health and Human Services, such as programs addressing mental health, behavioral health, substance abuse prevention and intervention, and maternal health; and

Arts and the Creative Economy including organizations expanding access to cultural enrichment and providing community arts and culture programming.

Applications will be accepted from eligible nonprofit organizations, with a limit of one application per organization.

There will be one common application for all priority areas. The link to the online application portal will be available Monday, Nov. 27, at [FrederickCountyMD.gov/CPG](http://FrederickCountyMD.gov/CPG).

The deadline to submit an application is 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 5, 2024. Final funding awards will be considered in the county budget process and announced in April 2024, with funding available beginning July 1. An information session will be held for prospective applicants on Nov. 7, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the first floor hearing room of Winchester Hall. All returning and new applicants are encouraged to attend to hear program updates and application changes, and to get their questions answered.

To better reflect the diverse priority funding areas and align with other Frederick County Government grant programs, the administration of the program has moved to the Division of

Finance through the Office of Procurement and Contracting. For more information, visit [FrederickCountyMD.gov/CPG](http://FrederickCountyMD.gov/CPG), or email questions to [CPG@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:CPG@frederickcountymd.gov).

## Frederick County to Release Business Sentiment Survey

The Frederick County Office of Economic Development (FCOED) is asking businesses to participate in a business sentiment survey to gain insight into what potential resources are needed in the local business community, and which current resources business owners are aware of. All businesses located in the county are encouraged to participate and share their thoughts on doing business in Frederick County and the future of their establishments. The survey will be open to all businesses now through Nov. 5. To participate in the Frederick County Office of Economic Development Busi-

ness Sentiment Survey, please use the link or scan the QR code

FCOED will announce the results of the survey in early 2024 and use those results to guide the direction of programming and resources for the Frederick County business community. "This survey will give us valuable insight into the issues our local businesses face, and will help shape future resources and how they are made available to those businesses," says Frederick County Division of Economic Opportunity Director Lara Fritts. "We want Frederick County businesses to know that we hear their concerns and we are here to support them any way we can. Taking a few minutes out of your day to complete this survey will truly make a difference."

The Frederick County Office of Economic Development serves as the primary contact for businesses to start, locate and expand. We do this by connect-

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# COUNTY NOTES

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For more information, businesses can reach out to BEACON at Salisbury University at 410-546-6001 or by email using [Beacon@Salisbury.edu](mailto:Beacon@Salisbury.edu) regarding any questions or concerns.

### Annual Application Period Open for Creek ReLeaf Reforestation Program

The Frederick County Division of Energy and Environment (DEE) has opened its annual application period for participation in the Creek ReLeaf reforestation program. Property owners interested in having native trees planted on their land may apply between October 15 and December 30. Since the program's inception in 2018, Creek ReLeaf has helped local landowners enhance the environmental quality of more than 480 acres.

A goal of DEE's Department of Stormwater is to increase forested land in Frederick County. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources recognized the importance of this work and awarded DEE a \$1,050,717 grant from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund. This funding will help expand the County's Creek ReLeaf Program, and local landowners are encouraged to consider their property for participation.

Properties included in the Creek ReLeaf program receive considerable benefits at no cost to the landowner. In support of the County's reforestation

goals, the Creek ReLeaf program creates permanent conservation easements for the selected parcels. Then, specialists perform a land assessment, develop a planting plan, install a variety of native trees, and provide five years of mowing and maintenance to help establish the forest. The landowner receives a one-time payment for the conservation easement placed on the planted parcel.

Reforestation initiatives achieve more than just planting trees - they are a crucial investment that protects a community's health, safety, and prosperity for generations. While individual Creek ReLeaf projects directly benefit the participating landowners, the overall program has a tremendous positive impact on our regional watershed. Forested land provides better stormwater control, prevents soil erosion, and reduces the risk of flooding. Trees filter air and water pollutants, sequester atmospheric carbon, and have a positive effect on microclimate temperatures. In addition to providing beauty and recreational enjoyment for humans, forests increase biodiversity and provide food and habitat critical for wildlife.

Information about Creek ReLeaf is available on DEE's website [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/CreekReLeaf](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/CreekReLeaf). Applicants may apply online or contact Program Manager Linda Williamson for assistance at 240-608-7426 or via email to [LWilliamson1@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:LWilliamson1@FrederickCountyMD.gov). Those interested in staying up to date on the County's efforts to provide eco-

logical restoration and environmental resilience can join the @SustainableFCMD community conversations on Facebook and Instagram.

### Child Care Gap for Young Children Forecast to Widen by 2035

The child care gap for young children is projected to widen over the next 10 years, at the same time that the business climate for child care providers continues to be challenging, according to preliminary findings from the Frederick County Child Care Market Study. The study led by the Frederick County Office for Children and Families is being conducted by Public Policy Associates and Solomon Evaluation.

The population of young children in Frederick County will increase through 2035, while child care slots decline. The decline is primarily among home-based child care providers, continuing a pre-pandemic trend.

"The greater impact is on families with infants because over 50% of the licensed

infant slots are in home-based child care settings. The decline also disproportionately affects different parts of the county. For example 30% of child care slots in the northern part of the county are home-based, but just 17% in the southeastern part" said Shira Solomon, principal of Solomon Evaluation.

Child care businesses are vital for other businesses to have and retain their workforce. But child care providers report a very challenging business climate, according to the Study.

"The pressure on child care business - many of which are very small - is enormous. Thirty-five percent of the providers who responded to the survey said their businesses are not financially stable," said Shelly Toms, director of the Office for Children and Families.


High quality child care contributes to building healthy brains in young children and prepares them for kindergarten. Formal child care is licensed and required to

meet certain staffing and other quality requirements.

"Our analysis has shown that formal care prior to kindergarten can make a big difference in readiness for all children but especially for English Learners and Hispanic children," said Rebecca Frausel, Ph.D., senior research associate at Public Policy Associates.

The study will identify child care provider and family needs and inform the County on ways to look at innovative strategies to sustain a strong child care system and improve child care access. The study is funded by an American Rescue Plan Act grant. For more information about the project and information on Community Information and Input Sessions scheduled for November 15 for families and December 6 for businesses and employers, see [www.publicpolicy.com/FrederickCoStudy](http://www.publicpolicy.com/FrederickCoStudy).

To read the latest press releases from the County visit [www.walkersville.net](http://www.walkersville.net).



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# COMMENTARY

## The Bulwark

Can America still lead?

Giselle Donnelly

Israel, Ukraine, and what it will take for our deeds to match our words.

President Joe Biden wishes to be “crystal clear”: “The United States has Israel’s back.” His speech on Tuesday was—according to Michael Oren, a distinguished historian who served as Israel’s ambassador to the United States during the Obama administration—“the most passionately pro-Israel” speech ever delivered by an American president.

Biden has also said that America will back Ukraine “as long as it takes” to win its freedom from Russia. Last December, Biden told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, during Zelensky’s trip to Washington where he received a standing ovation from a joint session of Congress, that he and his people “continue to inspire the world” and it was “an honor to be by your side.”

Grand words. Very American words. But what do they—and what should they—mean in deeds? Is this the moment when the United States comes home from its holiday from history to reassert its power on behalf of peace, prosperity, and liberty?

There are many reasons to be skeptical, beginning with the character of the president himself. In his political maturity, dating back at least to his time as vice president, Biden has evinced a

strong preference for diplomacy over the exercise of hard power. During the Obama years, his counsel was not that sage strategy should guide the use of military force, but that it could substitute for it. He advanced a scheme of partition for Iraq and he played a large role in undermining Obama’s time-limited—and hence self-defeating—“surge” in Afghanistan. And, lest we forget, Biden could not be talked out of abandoning the country to the Taliban two years ago.

Yet Biden is as much a trailing edge as a leading edge indicator of America’s strategic temperament in the 2020s. Preserving American strength in the world remains a rhetorical vote-getter. But at the same time, the spirit of retreat manifests itself distinctly in the two parties: Left-leaning Democrats think the United States is morally unfit to lead the world, while right-wing Republicans think the rest of the world is unfit for American attention. A McGovernite, come-home-America theme ran through the Obama and Trump terms. The Bidenites hanker to save the planet more than defend the free world.

Moreover, the Twitterization of politics all but precludes serious thought or discussion, particularly about international affairs. Are Matt Gaetz, Jim Jordan, Marjorie Taylor Greene, and Nancy Mace the men and women for the moment? Can Pramila Jayapal and Jamaal Bowman contribute seriously

to the nation’s foreign policy debates? Don’t even get me started on Donald Trump and RFK Jr.

The 10/7 Hamas attacks were instantly characterized as “Israel’s 9/11.” But comparisons to al Qaeda or the Islamic State not only misrepresent the scale of the assaults but the nature of the threat to Israel. Hamas has de facto sovereignty and sanctuary that have made it far more resilient than the pre-9/11 version of al Qaeda or the Islamic State in Iraq. Hamas has allies and outside backers that have enabled it, may have helped plan this campaign, and can help it reconstitute. The Israelis left Gaza in 2005 and came to accept Hamas as a fact of life; even the best “over the horizon” intelligence-gathering is an invitation to strategic surprise.

Even more remarkably, the Russian invasions of Georgia and Ukraine from 2008 onward—and now, the continuation of the largest land war in Europe since 1945—have not aroused the United States or most of our major European allies to real action, to anything that involves genuine sacrifice or reordering of national priorities. Even Poland, key to the “Eastern Front” and heretofore stalwart in support of Ukraine, is unlikely to forgo its own military modernization to give Kyiv the modern Western systems it needs. The Ukrainian military has had to make do with old Soviet hand-me-downs and narrowly selected U.S. and Western systems. The balance of power in Europe, ever America’s central strategic concern since the founding, apparently no lon-

ger worries us that much.

Nor has the sheer barbarism of our enemies had more than a transitory effect. The extreme brutality of the Hamas attacks are not more horrid than those perpetrated by ISIS, al Qaeda in Iraq, the Iranian Quds Force, the Russian army, or the Wagner Group. The face of evil shows itself again and again—and again and again we avert our eyes.

Back in 2008, frustrated that the Pentagon was dragging its heels in fulfilling the requirements of the Iraq surge, Defense Secretary Robert Gates decried “a tendency towards what might be called ‘Next-War-itis,’ the propensity of much of the defense establishment to be in favor of what might be needed in a future conflict.” The normally imperturbable Gates was infuriated that his senior generals were not committed to winning “the war we are in,” and he fired a number of them. His purge, alas, proved incomplete and transitory. And we can see the same problem today, as too many in the national security world wish to focus only on tomorrow’s contest with China and the defense of Taiwan. For Elbridge Colby, for instance—the scribe for the national defense strategy pursued by the Trump administration, in which he served as a deputy assistant secretary of defense—the new Israeli-Hamas war shows “the need for us to husband our strength for Asia,” prioritizing “very close allies like Israel” at the expense of transfers to Ukraine.

Husbanding is an inadequate and indeed imprudent response to the current systemic crisis of the liberal international order, the world America made from the rubble of World War II. By the time the contest reaches a shape and proportion that is congenial to our current thinking, it will be too late. When the final fig leaf of diplomacy wafts away, we will stand naked in a hostile world.

For President Biden’s passionate words to take on real meaning, they must form the inspiration not just for the immediate defense of beleaguered, freedom-loving friends on the frontier but for a speedily begun and sustained program of rearmament, led by the United States but promulgated across many allies. Our recent presidents have complained about “free-riding” partners who devote less than 2 percent of their annual income to defense, yet we ourselves don’t spend much more than that. We ourselves have become free riders on the investments made by past generations.

Biden can be—may already be—the most pro-Ukraine and pro-Israel president in American history, judging by rhetoric. But his promises and exhortations will count for nothing if he cannot lead the United States to a place where it is willing—politically, economically, militarily—to back up the Israelis.

To read other articles from the Bulwark visit [www.thebulwark.com](http://www.thebulwark.com)

## The Triad

Biden gets 10/7 right

Jonathan V. Last

Here is what Joe Biden said and did with the first 48 hours following the Hamas act on Israeli:

- Biden was on the phone with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu within hours of an initial briefing, shelving tensions over the prime minister’s controversial judicial overhaul as he reiterated America’s “rock solid” commitment to Israel.
- After vowing to provide Israel with whatever it needed, Biden spent the rest of the morning in constant contact with his national security team, including Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and CIA Director Bill Burns.
- Over the next 48 hours, Biden repeatedly reconvened his national security team as the scale of the atrocities.
- Biden pledged to work with Israel “on every aspect of the hostage crisis,” including sharing U.S. intelligence and expertise.
- Biden convened a call with the leaders of the U.K., France, Italy and Germany, who issued a joint statement condemning Hamas.
- The day after the attack Biden ordered the carrier group USS Gerald R. Ford to the eastern Mediterranean, sending a message to Iran and others in the region that American power would be close at hand.

On October 9, Biden put out the following statement:

*This is not some distant tragedy. The ties between Israel and the United States run deep. It is personal for so many American families who are feeling the pain of this attack as well as the scars inflicted through millennia of antisemitism and persecution of Jewish people.*

*In this moment of heartbreak, the American people stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Israelis. We remember the pain of being attacked by terrorists at home, and Americans across the country stand united against these evil acts that have once more claimed innocent American lives. It is an outrage. And we will continue to show the world that the American people are unwavering in our resolve to oppose terrorism in all forms.*

*The United States and the State of Israel are inseparable partners, and I affirmed to Prime Minister Netanyahu again when we spoke yesterday that the United States will continue to make sure Israel has what it needs to defend itself and its people.*

Then on October 10, Biden made an extraordinary speech.

*You know, there are moments in this life—and I mean this literally—when the pure, unadulterated evil is unleashed on this world.*

*The people of Israel lived through one such moment this weekend. The bloody hands of the terrorist organization Hamas—a group whose stated purpose for being is to kill Jews.*

*This was an act of sheer evil.*

*More than 1,000 civilians slaughtered—not just killed, slaughtered—in Israel. Among them, at least 14 American citizens killed.*

*Parents butchered using their bodies to try to protect their children.*

*Stomach-turning reports of being—babies being killed.*

*Entire families slain.*

*Young people massacred while attending a musical festival to celebrate peace—to celebrate peace.*

*Women raped, assaulted, paraded as trophies.*

*Families hid their fear for hours and hours, desperately trying to keep their children quiet to avoid drawing attention. . . .*

*There are still so many families desperately waiting to hear the fate of their loved ones, not knowing if they’re alive or dead or hostages.*

*Infants in their mothers’ arms, grandparents in wheelchairs, Holocaust survivors abducted and held hostage—hostages whom Hamas has now threatened to execute in violation of every code of human morality.*

*It’s abhorrent.*

*The brutality of Hamas—this blood-thirstiness—brings to mind the worst—the worst rampages of ISIS.*

*This is terrorism.*

*But sadly, for the Jewish people, it’s not new.*

*This attack has brought to the surface painful memories and the scars left by a millennia of antisemitism and genocide of the Jewish people.*

*So, in this moment, we must be crystal clear: We stand with Israel. We stand with Israel. And we will make sure Israel has what it needs to take care of its citizens, defend itself, and respond to this attack.*

*There is no justification for terrorism. There is no excuse.*

*Hamas does not stand for the Palestinian people’s right to dignity and self-determination. Its stated purpose is the annihilation of the State*

*of Israel and the murder of Jewish people.*

*They use Palestinian civilians as human shields.*

*Hamas offers nothing but terror and bloodshed with no regard to who pays the price. . . .*

*Like every nation in the world, Israel has the right to respond—indeed has a duty to respond—to these vicious attacks.*

*I just got off the phone with—the third call with Prime Minister Netanyahu. And I told him if the United States experienced what Israel is experiencing, our response would be swift, decisive, and overwhelming.*

*We also discussed how democracies like Israel and the United States are stronger and more secure when we act according to the rule of law.*

*Terrorists purpo—purposefully target civilians, kill them. We uphold the laws of war—the law of war. It matters. There’s a difference.*

*Today, Americans across the country are praying for all those families that have been ripped apart. A lot of us know how it feels. It leaves a black hole in your chest when you lose family, feeling like you’re being sucked in. The anger, the pain, the sense of hopelessness.*

*This is what they mean by a “human tragedy”—an atrocity on an appalling scale.*

*But we’re going to s—continue to stand united, supporting the people of Israel who are suffering unspeakable losses and opposing the hatred and violence of terrorism.*

*My team has been in near constant communication with our Israeli partners and partners all across the region and the world from the moment this crisis began.*

*We’re surging additional military assistance, including ammunition and interceptors to replenish Iron Dome.*

*We’re going to make sure that Israel does not run out of these critical assets to defend its cities and its citizens.*

*My administration has consulted closely with Congress throughout this crisis. And when Congress returns, we’re going to ask them to take urgent action to fund the national security requirements of our critical partners.*

*This is not about party or politics. This is about the security of our world, the security of the United States of America.*

*Let me say again—to any country, any organization, anyone thinking of taking advantage of this situation, I have one word: Don’t. Don’t.*

*Our hearts may be broken, but our resolve is clear.*

There’s more. You can read the rest. You should read the rest.

Here are some things Biden did not do:

- He did not tweet out threats.
- He did not call people dogs.
- He did not alienate any of our allies.
- He did not endorse war crimes.
- He did not criticize any of his domestic political opponents.

Just objectively speaking: Is there anything more you could want from an American president at a moment like this? Because if there is, I can’t think of it.

Joe Biden has done the job about as well as anyone—Republican or Democrat—could have hoped.

To read other articles by Jonathan Last visit [www.thebulwark.com](http://www.thebulwark.com).



# The Liberal Patriot

The hole in the center of the electorate

John Judis

What does American politics look like? There is a widespread view among political scientists and political consultants that the electorate has become inextricably polarized between Democrats and Republicans and there is a very small group of swing voters that decide national and some state elections.

Based on covering elections and looking at American political history, it is that the electorate is becoming, if anything, more fluid and volatile. There are partisan extremes in both parties that espouse consistent ideologies and that often dominate the public discussion of politics—for them party is a cultural identity—but there are growing numbers of voters who are uncomfortable with these extremes and with the parties in so far as they are identified with these extremes. There are several polling results that I would cite in favor of my view of the American electorate.

The first is the rise of “independent” voters. Gallup conducts regular surveys that ask respondents: “Do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, or an independent?” As late as January 1, 2008, the percentage of Democrats exceeded that of independents as well as Republicans, but since then, the percentage of independents has been growing at the expense of both parties. In March 2023, it hit an all-time high of 49 percent. Republicans and Democrats were tied at 25 percent. Of course, when these independents are asked what party they lean to, Democrats and Republicans split the vote, but that’s not the point. The point is that growing percentages of the electorate are alienated from both parties. They might “lean”

to one rather than the other, but that is not the same as being hardline partisans that are culturally identified with one party rather than the other. If anything, the cultural identification with the parties is diminishing.

The second poll has been done recently by the Wall Street Journal. It found that if Donald Trump and Joe Biden are the presidential nominees, 26 percent of the electorate has not made up its mind whom to vote for. That is more than a slice of the electorate and suggests again that there is a large segment of voters who are not strongly committed to either party or to the political views of the party’s candidates. According to the poll, more of these voters identify themselves as “moderate” than either “liberal” or “conservative.” A majority support abortion rights. Almost three-fourths of them have unfavorable views of Trump and Biden. They disapprove of Biden’s handling of the economy and the border, but they think he is the more likeable and caring of the two candidates, and by a wide margin they think Trump did commit illegal actions after the 2020 election. They are younger and somewhat less white and less-college educated on average than the overall electorate.

Beyond what the Wall Street Journal found, there is no other extensive polling of this group of the larger group of “independents,” but based on these findings as well as on past election results, I would venture a few generalizations about what, on the average, is their outlook.

First, on social issues, they do not share the views of the radicals in either party on such issues as abortion or immigration. What is “liberal,” “conservative,” and “moderate” changes by

the decade. In 2004, supporting gay marriage was identified with liberals and cost Democratic nominee John Kerry some votes, but by 2016, both Republican and Democratic presidential nominees supported gay marriage. It was a “moderate” position. In 2024, supporting “gender-affirming” medical intervention for minors will be identified with liberals, while banning abortion with the right. Independents and “persuadables”—whom I will hereafter call “the uncommitted”—will on average reject both these positions. Similarly, the uncommitted will reject both open borders (or its functional equivalent), on one side, and mass deportation of illegal immigrants, on the other.

Second, on economics, the uncommitted center appears to support Social Security and Medicare, food stamps, and the minimum wage—all programs that are either universal in the case of the two big entitlement programs, or don’t require large government expenditures relative to the overall budget, in the case of the latter examples. They share with conservative Republicans a distrust of “big government” but they have rejected Republican and conservative efforts to ax social spending or reward big business and the wealthy. If candidates can show their opponents are on the side of the rich and big business, they are likely to win over the uncommitted.

Third, on foreign policy, they are skeptical of any initiatives that do not appear obviously based on defending the national interest and American security. In The Liberal Patriot poll, large numbers of the young say “neither party is close to my views” on “taking on China in a smart manner” or “maintaining a strong military and defense.” In so far as the “persuadables” are heavily represented among this same age-range, I think it is fair to conclude that an aggressive foreign policy aimed at making the world safe for



democracy would be a hard sell among them. Support for Ukraine war spending, for instance, is likely to waver among many of these voters as time goes on with some supporting and some opposing.

Finally, what conclusions can one draw about who the uncommitted would back in November 2024? Let’s assume that Biden and Trump are the nominees. On economics, Biden seems to have received little credit for his signature achievements, including the Inflation Reduction Act or the CHIPS and Science Act. The results of these bills are yet to be seen, and in the next year, continued inflation may overshadow them. The Fed’s actions may also finally cause a slowdown. Biden will also have to contend with the rise in illegal immigration during his administration. Trump will try to distance himself from his party’s extreme views on abortion, but he will have difficulty doing so. If the election were merely decided on the candidates’ platforms, Trump could enjoy a slight edge.

But the election is likely to pivot on factors that are unique to 2024. These include Biden’s age and physical fitness for office; Trump’s character and integrity; and the electorate’s sense of what the candidates really care about. Trump is likely to suffer on the last two mea-

asures. By November 2024, Trump could be a convicted felon. As the Wall Street Journal poll showed, the persuadables believe that Trump acted illegally.

In the 2016 election, Trump, facing Hillary Clinton, was able to convince the uncommitted that he cared more about them than his opponent did, but by 2020 election, Trump’s vast egotism had undermined his promise of care and concern. Since the 2020 election, Trump’s self-concern has, if anything, become all-consuming, as evidenced in his refusal to get beyond his grievances about the 2020 results. Biden may appear feeble, but as the Wall Street Journal poll showed, he significantly exceeds Trump when these voters are asked whether the candidate “cares about you.” That single consideration is often decisive in American elections—it won Obama Ohio in 2012—and it could prove decisive in 2024.

Winning over the uncommitted, and creating a majority that includes them, will require reforming our electoral system and developing a politics that speaks to their concerns—neither of which are on the horizon today.

To read other articles from *The Liberal Patriot* visit [www.liberalpatriot.com](http://www.liberalpatriot.com)

# Good Day Neighbor

Tearing down our institutions

Dorothea Mordan

Just because it’s 8:30, doesn’t mean I hate the clock.

These words were spoken by a friend while chatting about personal experiences with the institutions that impact our lives. We live by the structure of institutions, from the federal government, on through our everyday network of schools, medicine, and neighborhood businesses where we shop. The best institutions enhance our quality of life.

Some institutions stand out because they are unfair or out of balance. Institutional organizing of our government, schools, religious denominations is meant to bring order and prosperity to us individually, and society as a whole. Life often isn’t fair.

In our chat, the topic was how compensation is handled in different organizations. In the US work force there are huge differences in how employees are paid. Wages don’t have to cover the cost of living just because you have a job. At some point many people, but not enough, get ahead in their work life, get that big promotion, or become a successful entrepreneur. With a big leap to an affluent stage in life, comes a mem-

ory loss of how life was before one got there. It’s as easy for a person of good will toward all to forget how it was when they were coming up the ladder, as it is for one who is self centered. Institutions function with people standing on every rung of the ladder. If you work for one that you believe in, you can go to work, be underpaid, and still get excited to go to work everyday.

Asked about working in an underpaid job that they loved, my friend noticed the clock on the wall was at 8:30, and said, “Just because it’s 8:30, doesn’t mean I hate the clock.”

In other words, just because an organization doesn’t always work for me as it should, doesn’t mean I quit.

Just because the Congress doesn’t do everything I want, doesn’t mean I quit America.

Our governing document, the Constitution, provides guidelines and guide rails for governance and public support. I love our Constitution. I think and write about it a lot. But our founding document is the one to look to in this time of lopsided non-governing.

The Declaration of Independence.

To paraphrase, this document states that our purpose as a country is to give

freedom to the individual to pursue the blessings of life as they see fit.

Some quotes from the Declaration to consider in relation to how events are playing out today:

“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, . . .”

I interrupt this quote to point out that we all know what “all men” meant in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and decades beyond. By now, due to the Emancipation Proclamation and Voting Rights for Women, this phrase means each of us.

“that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute

new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.”

In pursuit of property rights, the Republican majority is ignoring guard rails created in support of our Declaration of Independence, as they have been codified by our Constitution and two centuries of Amendments. They are coming close to removing them while insisting it’s okay to deny Americans the right to living life as they wish.

“Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes”

Here is where the country splitting into factions hits a jersey wall of historical comparison. Today’s factions have been created over petty grievances, and fueled by opportunism. Under King George it was taxation without representation. Today, now that we have representation, if someone doesn’t like the voting outcome, they simply deny that it is real.

Republican members in Congress have put forward policies to lower, or end, Social Security. The population voted for Social Security decades ago because enough people needed them. We have used our votes to implement a social safety system, which

is meant to help everyone regardless of personal opinion or behavior, and is exactly how to serve our common purpose, as mandated in the Declaration of Independence.

Perhaps the biggest impact of our system of government, is the flexibility each citizen has to live an independent life. Sure, there are trade offs. Having to pay taxes is a challenge, but getting the necessities of modern life with them is the pay off. We had a joke that when we came home from Pennsylvania, we knew that we were close because the roads improved at the Maryland line.

It is being said that authoritarian governments around the world can look at the United States of America, right now, and say to their population, “Democracy doesn’t work. Follow me.” Let’s prove them wrong. Stand up, defend, and vote for the principles that define us.

Meanwhile, back at the Congress where a new House Speaker has been sworn in.

Just because the current crop of legislators is run by a group who act on goals that leave many Americans behind, doesn’t mean I have lost faith in our founding principles.

To read past editions of *Good Day Neighbor* visit the Authors section of [Walkersville.net](http://Walkersville.net).



# PASTOR'S DESK

## Giving thanks to the Lord

Pastor Sean Delawder  
Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."*  
—(1 Chronicles 16:34)

This month a holiday is celebrated specifically for all of us to give thanks, of course it is Thanksgiving Day. For many of us, this day is spent with family and friends, we eat an abundance of food (sometimes for days afterwards) and we give thanks. Thanks for our family and friends, thanks for the food, thanks for the day off of work, thanks for our homes, thanks for the many blessings that God has bestowed upon our lives. Some of us will also spend the day being a blessing to others as we volunteer to feed the hungry and provide shelter and clothing to those who have no place to call their home. And this is a very, very good thing – but giving thanks and offering blessings to others is not something to be done just

on Thanksgiving Day - God calls us to do this everyday. In the months of November and December giving and volunteering increases and I think in part because it is on our minds because of our Thanksgiving Holiday and Christmas – but how can we continue this throughout the year?

*"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*  
—(1 Thessalonians 5:16-17)

The Apostle Paul reminds us that we are to always rejoice, give thanks and pray. Sometimes our lives and the events of the world cause us to forget God's will for us in Christ Jesus. Our lives can be overwhelming, and let us be honest with ourselves, we don't always feel like rejoicing and giving thanks. But God does want us to rejoice and give thanks every day because God is always with us and God lifts us up when we are down,

rejoices when we rejoice, gives us hope when things seem hopeless – why? Because this is the will for you in Christ Jesus.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

There are always many things that we can be anxious about. I know many people (and sometimes myself included), that are awake all hours of the night and worrying throughout the day about so many things – the events on the news, the climate change and natural disasters, job losses, medical concerns, wars and strife in our homeland, and on and on.... But again the Apostle Paul reminds us in his letter to the Philippians that we are not to worry about anything. He tells us to give your concerns to God and in doing so, do it with thanksgiving to God.

It is not just our scriptures that tell us to be thankful, research on gratitude has also shown the many benefits of living a life of gratitude. In an article published on August 14, 2021 by Harvard Medical School titled "Giving Thanks can make you happier" it states, "In positive psychology research, gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness. Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships."

In an article published on February 17, 2022 by Mindful.org, "Grati-



tude offers us a way of embracing all that makes our lives what they are." It goes on to say that it improves both our mental and physical health and that people who practice gratitude have fewer health complaints such as headaches, digestive problems, and sleep issues to just name a few. It seems like all of us would benefit from better mental and physical health and especially since it simply takes a conscious effort of expressing gratitude and acknowledging our blessings. It may take a little practice to get into this habit, but it certainly seems to be worth the effort.

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:15-17)

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. (Isaiah 25:1)

So let us be thankful – or at least

do our best to be thankful, not just on Thanksgiving Day but every day. This is what God wills us to do and scientifically we are told that we are the ones who will benefit. But in actuality, we not only benefit but the people who we are grateful to and who we bless are also the ones who benefit. God's will for us is to love God and to love our neighbor and we do this through gratefulness, prayer, service – we do this by our faith.

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!*  
—(Psalm 100:4)

*Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!*  
—(Psalm 150:1)

May you live a life filled with gratefulness and may you experience the peace of Christ each and every day with knowledge that God wants us to live a life of thanksgiving and praise.

*I hope you will join us at Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church – you are welcome always! We are located at 101 South Main Street, Woodsboro. Our Sunday morning worship begins at 10 a.m. For information about our church or any of our events you may call 301-845-4533 or visit our website at www.woodsborolutheranchurch.com.*

*Our Sunday services are posted each Sunday afternoon on our YouTube channel as well. We are having many events coming up including our monthly free community dinners which take place on the first Tuesday of each month, a special Homecoming service on November 5 at 10 a.m. – all are welcome with a lunch following the service, free Christmas Concert on December 10 and two Christmas Eve services and more... please visit our website for complete information.*

**Happy Thanksgiving!**  
**Food Carry-Out!**  
**Sat., November 18 - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**Country Ham Sandwiches \$5**  
**Cranberry Relish Pint \$4 • Quart \$7**  
**Apple Butter Pint \$4 • Quart \$7**

Deadline for call in orders is November 12.  
Please call the church at 301-898-5290 and leave a message with your name, phone number and order or call Carmi Saylor at 301-401-0633.

**St. John's Lutheran Church** Call: **301-898-5290**  
8619 Black's Mill Rd., Creagerstown Or Visit Us At: [www.annitsburg.net/glc](http://www.annitsburg.net/glc)  
(Take 15 N. or S., get off at Thurmont exit and follow Rt. 550 to Creagerstown.)  
(Take 104 N. or S., turn onto Rt. 550 at Woodsboro to Creagerstown.)

 **Glade**  
United Church of Christ

*"All are welcome!"*

**Worship Sundays at 10:30 a.m.**

**November 5th - Communion & All Saints Remembrance**

**November 19th - Handbell Choir, Pastor Rebecca Hoover & Luncheon**

**21 Fulton Avenue, Walkersville • 301-845-6775**  
[www.gladechurch.org](http://www.gladechurch.org) [www.facebook.com/GladeUCCWalkersville](http://www.facebook.com/GladeUCCWalkersville)

 **Join us for Worship**  
**Sunday's at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday School 9:15 a.m.**

**Served With Grace Free Dinner**  
**Nov. 6th at 5:30 to 7 p.m.**  
**All Welcome**  
**Supporting our community with fellowship**

**Graceham Moravian Church**  
**301-271-2379**  
8231-A Rocky Ridge Road, Thurmont  
Facebook Live - You Tube  
e-mail: [admin@gracehammoravian.org](mailto:admin@gracehammoravian.org)

 *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."* John 14:27

**Join us on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.**  
**All are welcome**

If you are unable to join us in the sanctuary you may view our services on our YouTube channel.

**Homecoming Service - November 5 - 10 a.m.**  
With a luncheon following. All are welcome.

**Free Community Dinner - November 7 - 5-7 p.m.**


**Annual Holiday Bazaar - December 2 - 9 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
Visit with Santa Claus, find some treasures and enjoy breakfast or lunch.

**Annual Free Christmas Concert - December 10 - 6-8 p.m.**


**Christmas Eve Service - December 24**

**Morning Worship - 10 a.m. & Candlelight Service - 9 p.m. (Special Music)**

For more information on how to access our services please visit our website or contact the church.



**Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**101 S. Main Street, Woodsboro**  
[www.woodsborolutheranchurch.com](http://www.woodsborolutheranchurch.com) **301-845-4533**





# THE BOOK OF DAYS



Edmond Hailey, 1656 - 1742

## November 15

### Halley's Comet of 1682

Halley's Comet, so called, has been the means of dispelling many popular illusions concerning the influence of those mysterious bodies on worldly affairs. Before it had been ascertained that comets are periodical in their appearance, there was unbounded scope for speculation on the nature of this influence. The excellence of the celebrated vintage of 1811 was attributed to the great comet which appeared in that year; as was also the abundance of the crops. Nay, the number of twins born in the same year, and the fact that a shoemaker's wife in Whitechapel had four children at a birth, were in like manner laid to the charge of the comet; as likewise were the facts that wasps were few, and that flies became blind that year.

The Great Plague of London was attributed by some to a comet which appeared in the spring of that year. As there was a comet in 1668, and in the same year a remarkable epidemic among cats in Westphalia, some of the wisacres of that day connected the two phenomena together as probable cause and effect.

An unusually large flock of wild pigeons in America; the disasters which were experienced by the Christians at the hands of the Turks in 1456; a fit of sneezing that became very prevalent in some parts of Germany; the deaths of eminent persons in various countries—all were believed to have been either produced or presaged by comets which appeared in certain years.

The reason why Halley's comet, or rather Halley's remarkable prediction concerning the comet, has had some influence in lessening these vague speculations, is because a regular and periodical occurrence of any event

takes away from it much of a capricious or uncertain character.

After Flamsteed had written down his careful observations on the comet of 1680, Sir Isaac Newton was able to determine what kind of curve it marked out in the heavens; and then Dr. Halley proceeded to investigate, in a very elaborate way, whether any two recorded comets were really two successive appearances of the same celestial body. He found reason to believe that the comets of 1531, 1607, and 1682 were in fact one and the same comet, which takes about seventy-six years to perform its remarkable journey round the sun.

After making corrections for a few disturbing causes, he boldly declared his belief that that comet would appear again late in 1758 or early- in 1759; and, with a pardonable self-respect, he appealed to posterity not to lose sight of the fact, that if the comet should really return about that period, the prediction of such a result was due to an Englishman.

The comet was espied on the 25th December 1758, and passed its perihelion on March 13th, 1759. This would have been a great triumph to Halley, if he could have lived to see it. All Europe agreed that this particular comet should be called Halley's Comet, in honour to the man who had so boldly and successfully predicted its periodicity. Then, as time passed on, arose the question—"Will this comet re-appear after another interval of about seventy-six years, say in 1835?"

When the year 1835 arrived, all the astronomers in Europe were pointing their telescopes towards the heavens, under the belief that the comet would begin to be visible some time in August. They were right. On the 5th of August the observatory of Rome detected the comet. It became visible to the naked eye towards the end of September, attained its greatest brilliancy about the middle of October, and passed its perihelion on 15th November

All this is very wonderful to persons unskilled in astronomical mathematics; but so certain do savans now feel about it, that they decide that the recorded comets of 1378, 1456, 1531, 1607, 1682, 1759, and 1835 were only so many successive appearances of Halley's comet, at intervals of about seventy-six years apart.

There is not the slightest doubt among them that Halley's comet will appear again in or about the year 1911, although possibly not one of our present astronomers will be alive in that year.

By thus substituting regularity for uncertainty, Halley's labours on the sub-

ject of comets have effectually reformed popular notions concerning those wondrous visitants.

## November 12

### The Burning of The 'Sarah Sands'

One of the finest examples on record, of the saving of human life by the maintenance of high discipline, during trying difficulties, was afforded during the burning of the Sarah Sands, a transport steamer employed by the government in 1857. She was on her passage from England to India, with a great part of the 54th Regiment of Foot on board, intended to assist in the suppression of the Indian mutiny; the number of persons was about 400, besides the ship's crew. The vessel, an iron steamer of 2000 tons burthen, arrived at a spot about 400 miles from Mauritius; when, at three in the afternoon on the 11th of November, the cargo in the hold was found to be on fire. Captain Castle, commanding the ship, and Lieutenant - Colonel Moffatt, commanding the troops, at once concerted plans for maintaining discipline under this terrible trial.

Some of the men hauled up bale after bale of government stores from the hold; some took in sail, and brought the ship before the wind; some ran out lengths of hose from the fire-engine, and poured down torrents of water below. It soon became evident, however, that this water would not quench the flames, and that the smoke in the hold would prevent the men from longer continuing below. The colonel then ordered his men to throw overboard all the ammunition in the starboard magazine. But the larboard or port magazine was so surrounded with heat and smoke, that he hesitated to command the men to risk their lives there; and he therefore called for volunteers. A number of brave fellows at once stepped forward, rushed to the magazine, and cleared out all its contents, except a barrel or two of powder; several of them, overpowered with heat and smoke, fell by the way, and were hauled up senseless.

The fire burst up through the decks and cabins, and was intensified by a fierce gale which happened to be blowing at the time. Captain Castle then resolved to lower the boats, and to provide for as many as he could. This was admirably done. The boats were launched without accident, the troops were mustered on deck, there was no rush to the boats, and the men obeyed the word of command with as much order as if on parade—the greater number of them embarking in the

boats. A small number of women and children who were on board, were lowered into the life-boat. All these filled boats were ordered to remain within reach of the ship till further orders. The sailors then set about constructing rafts of spare spars, to be ready in case of emergency.

Meanwhile the flames had made terrible progress; the whole of the cabins and saloons were one body of fire; and at nine in the evening the flames burst through the upper deck and ignited the mizzen rigging. During this fearful suspense, the barrel or two of powder left in one of the magazines exploded, and blew out the port-quarter of the ship—shewing what would have been the awful result had not the heroic men previously removed the greater part of the ammunition.

As the iron bulk-head of the after-part of the vessel continued to resist the flames, Captain Castle resolved to avail himself of this serviceable aid as long as possible; to which end the men were employed for hours in dashing water against the bulk-head, to keep it cool. When fire seized the upper-rigging, soldiers as well as sailors rushed up with wet blankets, and allayed its fearful progress. This struggle between human perseverance and devastating flames continued until two o'clock in the morning, when, to the inexpressible delight of all, the fire was found to be lessening; and by daylight it was extinguished.

The horrors of the situation were, however, not yet over. The after-part of the ship was a mere hollow burned shell; and as the gale still continued, the waves poured in tremendously. Some of the men were set to the pumps, some baled out water from the flooded hold with buckets; while others sought to prevent the stern of the ship from falling out by passing hawsers around and under it, and others tried to stop the leak in the

port-quarter with spare sails and wet blankets. The water-tanks in the hold, having got loose, were dashed from side to side by the violence of the gale, and battered the poor ship still further.

At two in the afternoon (twenty-three hours after the fire had been discovered), the life-boat was hauled alongside, and the women and children taken on board again. All the other boats, except the gig, were in like manner brought along-side, and the soldiers re-embarked; the gig had been swamped, but all the men in her were saved.

During thirty-six hours more, nearly all the soldiers were assisting the sailors in working the pumps, and clearing the ship of water; while the captain succeeded at length in getting the ill-fated ship into such trim as to be manageable. He then steered towards the Mauritius, which he reached in eight days. The achievement was almost unparalleled, for the vessel was little else than a burned and battered wreck. Not a single person was lost; the iron bulk-head was the main material source of safety; but this would have been of little avail had not discipline and intrepidity been shewn by those on board.

The sense of the 'honour of the flag' came out strikingly during the peril. When the ship was all in a blaze, it was suddenly recollected that the colours of the 54th were in the aft-part of the saloon. Quartermaster Richmond rushed down, snatched the Queen's colours, brought them on deck, and fainted with the heat and smoke; when recovered, he made another descent, accompanied by Private Wills, brought up the regimental colours, and again fainted, with a result which proved nearly fatal.

*To read other selections from Robert Chamber's 1864 The Book of Days visit [www.thebookofdays.com](http://www.thebookofdays.com).*

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# ECOLOGY

## The lovable side of skunks

Anne Gageby  
Strawberry Hill Foundation

Growing up on Mount Hope, I often heard my Pappy telling stories of chasing skunks before school in hopes of being sprayed. His antics were sometimes successful. He'd go to school reeking of musk and be promptly sent home so as to "not disturb the learning environment". Back in the late 1930's, he considered it a win. I doubt too many kids would agree, even today.

I personally don't know a single person, other than Pappy, who would enjoy being sprayed by a skunk. Their musk contains several volatile chemical compounds. The two main compounds are thiols and thioacetates, both of which are rich in sulfur and extremely hard to clean off. The molecules are fairly stable and bond well to other atoms. Cleaning the skunk smell from clothes and fur takes strength. Tomato juice and other folk remedies just don't cut it. The Humane Society recommends mixing one quart of hydrogen peroxide, a quarter cup of baking soda, and one teaspoon of dishwashing liquid. This breaks the chemical bonds and neutralizes the compounds.

Fortunately, a skunk won't spray unless as a last resort. It takes up to ten days for their spray to replenish so they would prefer to conserve their most potent defense system. Instead, a skunk will hiss, stomp its feet, hop backward, and raise

its tail in warning before spraying. It prefers to bluff an enemy rather than attack. If a skunk does spray, watch out. They're capable of spraying up to twelve feet and aiming directly where they want to hit. And if they hit a target's eyes, it's definitely over. Musk is potent enough to temporarily blind a target, even humans.

Striped skunks, such as Strawberry Hill's Animal Ambassador, Ollie, belong to the mephitidae family. Historically, skunks have been lumped in with ferrets in the mustelidae family, but genetic analysis has shown that skunks belong to their own distinct group. There are three skunk species within the United States. Hognose and hooded skunks are found in the American Southwest. While Pennsylvania is home to two species, the striped skunk and spotted skunk, spotted skunks' natural range extends only as far north as the southwestern part of the state. If you have a run-in with a skunk in our area, it would be a striped skunk. Their natural range covers all 48 contiguous states up to southern Canada and down to northern Mexico.

Despite misconceptions, skunks are gentle and slow-moving, almost lazy at times. They move at their own pace, choosing to meander through their days. If needed, they can reach a top speed of 10 miles per hour. Instead of depending upon running from a potential threat, as other animals do, they've adapted to wear-

ing a deterrent. Their markings are aposematic meaning they send a clear message to potential predators that the intended prey is dangerous. It's the anti-camouflage. Skunks' bold coloring and markings let the world know it's best to leave them be. It mostly works.

Skunks have few natural predators beyond larger carnivores who like to test the limits. Coyotes, foxes, bobcats, badgers, and mountain lions will sometimes take their chances against a skunk. For the most part, cars, parasites, and birds of prey are more of a threat than other mammals. The great horned owl and eagles are skunks' true natural predators, mostly because they're not bothered by the smell. Most skunks live two to three years in the wild. In human care, they can live up to ten years.

Their diet depends on where they live and what's available at a specific time of year. In warmer months, skunks feed on insects in both adult and larval forms. They're well-known for scraping and clawing through decaying wood to gather a meal. They're also known for digging out bumblebee nests and chasing honeybees. Interestingly, stings from bees and wasps don't bother skunks. It's a superpower that opens up a wide range of meal possibilities. Grasshoppers, beetles, and crickets are other common favorites along with spiders, toads, mice, chipmunks, and eggs of turtles and ground-nesting birds. They've been known to eat grasses, leaves, and buds as well as mast. Fruit such as strawberries, grapes, blueberries, and cherries are a treat often found in the wild and enjoyed in season. In other words, they're not picky eaters.

While they're chiefly nocturnal, preferring to hunt between dusk and dawn, they are frequently spotted during the day. To see a skunk during the day doesn't necessarily indicate illness or something wrong. Unlike many other nocturnal animals, daylight hours aren't strictly off-limits. Ollie, for example, tends to sleep during the day but regularly plays and explores in the afternoon.

Skunks den in stumps and ground burrows, wood and rock



Strawberry Hill's resident skunk - Ollie - is a striped skunk who loves teaching kids of all ages that skunks are a vital part of our ecosystem. We work with Ollie every day, providing enrichment opportunities that keep his senses and skills sharp and ensuring he has the best care. It takes training, time, and resources but he's worth it because Ollie is an important member of the Strawberry Hill family. And he definitely loves the attention! You can sponsor Ollie, Strawberry Hill's Animal Ambassador, by visiting [www.strawberryhill.org/donate](http://www.strawberryhill.org/donate).

and sometimes beneath buildings, much to the annoyance of homeowners. Getting rid of skunks under a deck, for example, can be a tricky process. Their burrows have a central chamber that can be more than a foot underground. Skunks often connect their burrows to the surface via tunnels that can be upwards of 15 feet long and burrows usually have more than one tunnel. Finding, and removing a skunk, can be a daunting process.

Cold weather is just starting to creep in, and our season's first frost is almost here. Ollie, like others of his kind, will begin slowing down in preparation for winter. While skunks don't hibernate, they do experience torpor – a state of dormancy. They'll go to their dens and rest for the winter. Because torpor is a temporary state, you may see

skunks out and about on warmer days. So, if you're not into seeing or smelling skunks, winter doesn't necessarily give you a break.

Our English word, skunk, comes from the Algonquian word seganku. The Latin family name, mephitis, generally means "a bad odor", a fitting description for this rather small omnivore. Even though Ollie, our incredible Animal Ambassador, had his scent glands removed while he was young, he still emits a smelly, musky scent. In short, he still smells like a skunk. A loveable, wonderful skunk. Pappy would have appreciated him. And the more I learn about skunks, the more I appreciate them. But I still don't want to be sprayed by one.

To read past editions of Ecology, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.



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## SCIENCE MATTERS

## Surprising news about bees and butterflies

Boyce Rensberger

Honeybees are threatening the environment.

You read that right. The beloved little honeybee can actually be a bad guy. As it happens, so many people are keeping these insects, which are not native to North America, that they are out-competing many species of native bees and other insects that depend on nectar, such as butterflies. As a result, there is too little nectar and pollen to go around, and native species are suffering.

In other counterintuitive insect news, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature has reversed its conclusion that the monarch butterfly is an endangered species. Turns out the charismatic creature is only “vulnerable” to extinction, a less severe category of concern. The IUCN, the world organization that maintains the global list of endangered species, says it may lower the level of alarm still further, depending on new evidence expected soon.

Let’s look at these one at a time. First honeybees.

In recent years there have been countless news reports about honeybee colonies dying from mysterious causes. Sometimes the die-offs are blamed on the parasitic varroa mite, which attacks honeybee larvae. Sometimes they are blamed on widespread use of certain pesticides in farmlands and suburban lawns. Sometimes die-offs are blamed on poor nutrition, owing to the loss of wildflowers that are suitable nectar sources. Or the cause is a combination of these. All these things may be true.

In response, many people are trying to help by becoming beekeepers, establishing hives in suburban back yards, city lots and on urban rooftops. It’s an interesting hobby, and thousands of people are learning a great deal about these fascinating insects.

But, according to ecologists with the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, 28 percent of native bumblebee species in North America are considered threatened, and at least 40 percent of native pollinators, including some butterfly species, “may face extinction in the coming decades.” The Xerces Society is a professional group of entomologists and others who work to save threatened invertebrates. (Xerces is the genus name of an American butterfly that went extinct decades ago.) The declines are blamed on there being too many honeybees.

The group cites several facts to support its cause. First is that native plants and native pollinators have co-evolved to be adapted to each other. Until the early 20th century, North American food crops that required other organisms to ferry their pollen were served by native insects. (By the way, our main foodstuffs, including all grain crops, are wind pollinated and soybeans are self-pollinated. They never rely on insect pollination.)

The Xerces group also notes that honeybees are poor pollinators. They carry pollen in compact “pollen baskets” on their legs where it cannot easily reach other flowers. By contrast, native bees pick up pollen all over their bodies, making it easier to brush off as the bee visits the next flower. So more native bees means better pollination.

The combination of commercial and hobbyist hives has pushed bee densities so high that native bees are being driven out. One typical honeybee hive collects as much pollen as could support 100,000 native bees, which are solitary. A study in Montreal found that as the number of honeybees went up, the species diversity of native bees went down.

But you ask, what about reports that honeybees are threatened and in decline?

According to the U.N.’s Food and Agriculture Organization, the number of beehives around the world has risen nearly 26 percent in the last decade. There are more honeybees on the planet than ever before. That’s because commercial beekeepers routinely raise more than enough new hives to replace those that succumb to the mites and pesticides and loss of wildflowers. Honeybees are a commercially managed form of livestock that industry keeps in good supply, without regard to what that does to native pollinators.

Now, what about another insect that we have all been raised to cherish—the monarch butterfly. As most of us know, this amazing creature flies thousands of miles south to winter in the forests of Mexico. Come spring, it migrates north again, spawning a series of generations to reach as far as Canada.

Scientists generally agree that the number of monarchs in Mexican forests declined precipitously starting half a century ago, mainly because of logging and, more controversially, because herbicide use was growing as farmers adopted “no-till” practices. Herbicides were inadvertently killing the milkweed plants that monarch caterpillars feed on. But there is now evidence that the decline stabilized around 2014 at an estimated 55 million individual butterflies. There have been small drops in some years, but they were followed by increased reproduction the following year.

Last year IUCN researchers declared the species “endangered” based on an alarming assessment of monarch population trends derived from annual “counts” of the wintering population from 1990 to 2020. Of course, nobody is counting every individual. As I’ve seen for myself in the mountains of the Mexican state of Michoacan, evergreen fir forests turn orange with millions of monarchs cluster tightly on fir branches, so many that limbs are bent down. So various statistical models are used to extrapolate from sample counts.

In 2022, those methods led researchers to say that the total may have dropped by anywhere between 22 percent and 72 percent over a ten-year period. Hardly a precise estimate, but it met IUCN’s criterion for the “endangered” classification.

This year, however, an IUCN panel ruled that the statistical methods pre-



A honeybee and a monarch butterfly meet accidentally on a hibiscus blossom. Unlike humans, these species can peacefully co-exist.

viously used were flawed. A better and more complex method showed that the population reached an inflection point in 2013. In that year monarch numbers appear to have bottomed out. They stopped declining rapidly and may even have begun to increase. The panel said the data support the less worrisome “vulnerable” designation. A new count is planned for this winter. Its results may tip the threat level either way.

A separate analysis by Andy Davis, an ecology researcher at the University of Georgia, suggests that the high populations many of us saw decades ago were a result of forest clearing in the 1800s. The resulting open landscapes allowed milkweeds and monarchs to explode to anomalously high levels. Then through the 20th century as forests grew back and farmland increased,

monarch populations declined to levels more typical of bygone times. If Davis is right, the lower populations we see today are ones that have sustained themselves through centuries.

Be it butterflies or bees, ecological research is notoriously difficult. And if the species at issue are popular favorites, there is understandable emotional pressure from the public on scientists who try to stick to the evidence.

Boyce Rensberger retired to New Midway after more than 40 years as a science writer and editor, mostly for *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Write to him at [boycerensberger@gmail.com](mailto:boycerensberger@gmail.com).

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# IN THE COUNTRY

## I stepped aside

Mike Hillman

I looked at the clock and wondered how they were doing.

I wanted to go out and check on them, but thought better of it. Daylight would be coming soon, and I could check then. The less I disturbed them, the better their chances were I told myself.

They were only ants, but they didn't ask for what had happened to them, and I felt guilty that I was the cause.

The day had started like almost any other day. With the daily chores done and my rides over with, I turned my attention to the long list of projects that had been waiting. At the top was breaking up the old cross-county ramp jump.

Built out of old oak boards, it was sixteen feet in width, five feet in depth, and three and a half feet at its maximum high. While it was a great jump, it was an unsafe to jump. The one-inch thick boards that made up the ramp would never have supported a horse, had it made the mistake of putting its feet upon it. Fortunately, none had.

Fifteen years of weathering made it only more unsafe, but every year I jumped it, holding my breath that my horse would clear it. It should have been taken down years ago. It was going to come down today.

After gathering all the necessary tools, I rounded up the dogs and headed out to the field in the truck. The horses had already pretty well destroyed the left hand side of the jump. It only took a few whacks from a sledge hammer to bring down what remained of the left-hand side.

After throwing the remains into the truck, I began to take apart the right-hand side of the jump. It surrendered too easily to the blows

of the sledge hammer. It was then that I discover the ants.

The ants had found the wooden jump to be a perfect home. Isolated from day to day disturbances, and surrounded by plenty of foraging, they had everything they needed. Food, water, shelter, and most of all, time to build a colony. Over the years they had slowly eaten into and up the board that made the base of the jump.

While the colony was large, the ants were not. While the ants had managed to build a series of tunnels throughout the board, the tunnels caused no structural damage. Unlike mankind, the ants had figured out how to live with their environment without destroying it.

As I picked up the board, my eye caught the frightened flurry of thousands of ants. I stopped what I was doing and gently placed the board back on the ground.

I wondered what the ants thought. For generations upon generations they had gone about their lives without disturbance. But today, their existence as they knew it came to an end.

My mind raced back to a scene in an old science fiction movie. The characters were discussing the nature of an advanced alien race that had just been discovered. In questioning how believable it was, a comment was made that for a race so advanced, man would appear as ants appear to us—an inferior pest not even worth of a side-step to avoid killing.

The scene was being replayed out for me, but this time I was the advanced alien race and the question of whether to step out of the way and let the ants live or not was before me.

It would have been easy to bang the board against the ground and knock the ants out. Had they been

termites, I would have killed them on the spot. But they weren't. They were simple little ants, and they had done no harm to anyone.

I stepped aside. When all the rest of the jump was safely in the bed of the truck, I gently picked the board back up and carried it to the hedge row at the bottom of the field. The colony would be safe there. The hedge row was full of thickets, dead limbs, and old rotted fence posts. I picked a sunny spot where the ants would get plenty of warm sunlight and laid the board back down in its original position.

The ants scurried about, but I knew they would be safe there and headed back to the truck, feeling good about what I had done.

It was near sundown before I got around to unloading the truck. Now nothing more than a pile of scrap wood, I grabbed my circular saw and began to cut the boards up into burnable lengths.

I was in a hurry. The sun was setting, and I wanted to wrap up this project. The last thing I needed was to discover I hadn't safely transported all the ants to their new home.

As I turned over one of the last boards to be cut, I saw the massive number of ants that had sought safety under it. In the short few hours the truck had sat in my driveway, they had managed to draw themselves together once again in a secure and sheltered spot.

They formed almost a perfect circular pattern in the center of the board, as if they had come together to discuss what to do next. There were thousands of them.

It was getting late, and the sun was setting. As I watched, the ants were once again scattering about the bed of the truck. If I rushed, I could still take those that remained on the board to the bottom of the field, but what about the others? What had they



done wrong to be left behind?

Once again, I stepped aside. I chose to wait.

They had managed to assemble themselves together in just four hours; an evening undisturbed would hopefully bring them together again, plus give those stragglers yet to find the main body time to find it. So one again I gently placed the board back into its original position and ended the night hoping for the best.

It was three in the morning when I awoke the first time. I had a lot on my mind, but the ants soon occupied my thoughts. So often we rush through life not noticing the little things, the things that make life worth living.

I thought about the ants. How they spend their lives working for the greater good of their colony: their ceaseless work ethic. Their life was so simple. There was not great questions to be answered: no undiscovered truth to be found. There were no petty fights over who was more handsome, smarter, richer, or more popular. All that mattered was the survival of the colony. And for that, they depended upon each other.

I found myself envying them. I wasn't about to give up my warm bed for their cold board. But their simplicity and their acceptance of their role in nature's great plain made me appreciate them.

Dawn finally came. With the sun peaking over the horizon, I slipped outside and made my way to the bed of the truck. I gingerly tilted the board and looked under it. A smile came to my face. "Good boys" I thought.

Over the night, the ants had done as I had hoped. During the night, the mass of ant refugees had grown to twice the size as before. Without the protection of their colony, the ants had huddled together for warmth. Still groggy from the chill air, they ignored the movement of the board.

I carried the board like a proud cook would carry a prized Turkey just taken from an oven. Passing dazed horses, I headed towards the bottom of the field where I had placed the board with the main colony body the afternoon before.

The board had no sooner touched the ground when ants from the main colony descended upon it. As the first scouts of the colony reached the refugee ants, a visible shudder went through their mass, as if to say, we're saved! The nightmare is over!

As I watched, the two groups quickly intermingled, and soon they were one.

They had no way of thanking me, but no thanks were expected. It was I who had caused them their grief, so it was only fitting that I put it right.

As I walked back toward the house, I found myself thinking: nothing I do today is going to compare in importance to my act of benevolence for the ants.

For one brief moment I was truly the advanced alien race, and I had chosen to step aside.

I felt good. The early morning sun on my face made the feeling even better.

To read other articles by Mike Hillman, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

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# IN THE COUNTRY

## 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 Wampanaog 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.



The North American Turkey may not be the national bird, but it has earned its spot in the heart of the nation.

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 Walkersville.net.



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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## The story of scarecrows

C.T. Ward,  
Frederick County Master Gardener

Acting as a modern-day symbol of autumn and harvest, scarecrows are renowned for looking like comical clowns in summer's fields or like ghastly, ghoulish fiends during Halloween. With a quick change of clothes, scarecrows can look however and whoever you want them to be. Economical and ecological, they help provide balance on a planet where humans struggle to co-exist with their wildlife neighbors.

As often as we see scarecrows as part of our popular culture in agriculture, decorations, and media, the biggest question about scarecrows still baffles people: Do scarecrows actually work?

The concept and usage of a scarecrow, though varied by region, is not limited to a specific ethnic group or time period. Juliet Favero notes in her October 2022 article, "The History of Scarecrows," for that the earliest known use of scarecrows in documented history was by the ancient Egyptians, who would hide and scare birds into nets held up by wooden frames in an effort to save crops planted along the Nile River. Likewise, many indigenous groups in the Americas opted for a similar tactic of live scarecrows, by

sitting on platforms and shouting at birds and other wildlife to scare them away from crops.

Both Favero in her article and Lori Rotenberk in "Hay, Man: The Curious Life and Times of Scarecrows," for Modern Farmer, note that the actual, physical representation of what we know as a scarecrow originates from the ancient Greeks and Romans. Originally, farmers would place statues of the god Priapus, the god of horticulture and fertility, in their fields for blessing of a good harvest. Priapus' origins can be found in Eastern European and Asian roots, linking his conception back to Norse and even Japanese mythology, where these wise gods of agriculture remained still and stagnant in the field to impart their wisdom, though knowing so much about the larger world they couldn't explore. A rough-looking fellow, Priapus' physical attributes paid homage to the animalistic and vegetative primal mating instincts of wildlife and untamed flora. In short, he wasn't easy on the eyes. But his influence spread as the Romans conquered the vast majority of Europe and met with his Asian counterpart in trade routes and nomadic farming and merchant communities.

Today's scarecrows' role in human life can be linked back

to medieval times, where in Britain and Western Europe scarecrows were the answer to wasted time and energy used to send children to the fields to scare off wildlife damaging crops. It is believed that during the Black Plague when manpower was hard to come by, farmers and landowners would stuff sacks with straw and other disposable material to make "fake" humans, creating heads with old gourds and tying the structure to poles to imitate a person standing upright. This tradition, along with its preceding history, migrated along with colonists, looking to cultivate the land for cash crops as well as general survival.

What we perceive as the "spooky" side of a scarecrow's origins can be traced back again to the Dark Ages European folklore, with the concepts of the bogeyman and Ireland's Jack-O-Lantern. These monsters were typically depicted as having human-like forms dressed in tattered clothing to trick people into interacting with them, according to "The History of Scarecrows," <agecrofthall.org>. Again, farmers used pumpkins and gourds as replacement heads to help form humanoid bodies that protected their guiding flames from the wind. Because the typical poor European farmer didn't know how to read, let alone relate to the Latin-based Roman god Priapus, people normally stuck with the depiction they could better relate to, using these versions of scarecrows to help ward off evil and creatures who aimed to do harm to their fields, livestock, and families. This particular style carried over to and was most popular with the American colonists and stuck over time.

Nowadays, scarecrows are normally seen as an aesthetic addition to gardens and veggie



patches, more than as a necessity to appease deities and shoo birds and pests from crops. This may be due to the fact that although scarecrows can work, they aren't a one-and-done solution to protecting your gardens. Birds and other wildlife, especially now with overurbanization and rapid development, get used to humans and objects over time. If the scarecrow isn't moved every couple of days to a new position, animals learn that it isn't a threat and continue business as usual.

This natural occurrence is what pushed scientists and horticulturists to develop new methods in intervening between nature and human intention during the twentieth century. Over time, humans have developed more effective ways to ward off pesky birds and rodents from our growing food, but it doesn't always mean they

are the best methods. Overuse of pesticides, alarms, and other unnatural phenomena have been detrimental to our critter neighbors to the extent that they scare away pollinators, tiny and large, that help us maintain balance and produce nutritious and wholesome crops.

So, no, although scarecrows may work, they aren't a one-and-done solution to protecting your gardens.

Perhaps we need to take another look at our good friend the scarecrow and relearn from our ancestors on how to use scarecrows to help us balance our interaction and impact on the Earth. It clearly isn't the end-all solution to our pest-control woes, but it definitely is a creative one with a colorful history behind it.

Here are some facts about scarecrows that you may find interesting: Formidophobia is the fear of scarecrows.

In many cultures, it is considered bad luck to wear any article of clothing or accessory that a scarecrow wore before you. It is believed that evil spirits are absorbed into scarecrows and that wearing the same clothes will transfer the evil to the wearer. In some countries like Ecuador, scarecrows are burned each New Year's Eve to rid the family of the bad luck the scarecrows absorbed that year and then are replaced with new scarecrows to protect the family during the upcoming year.

A Japanese village in Nagoro on Shikoku Island in Tokushima Prefecture has a main populace of scarecrows. Though the village only has approximately 35 villagers, they create over 350 scarecrows to inhabit the entire village.

German scarecrows were fashioned to look like witches, as people believed that the cold, evil spirit of the witch would draw the cold, harsh winter winds into the witch's body and protect the farmers' crops and families.

The first known use of the word "scarecrow" was in the 1719 novel Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe.

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

Both Detective Comics (DC) and Marvel Comics have a character named "Scarecrow" in their story universes, and although they are two completely different characters, they both are villains.

Although it's too late as we go to print in early November, mark your calendar next year for a townwide scarecrow display. Our own Middletown, MD, hosts an annual scarecrow contest! Middletown March of the Scarecrows normally runs from mid-October to the 30th, with the contestant

scarecrows on display along Main Street.

You'll also want to add master gardening events to your current calendar. Check our website or Facebook for upcoming free seminars, Master Gardener certification classes, gardening information, advice, and publications, as well as other announcements at [www.extension.umd.edu/fredrick-county/home-gardening](http://www.extension.umd.edu/fredrick-county/home-gardening), or call us at 301-600-1596:

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## Small Town Gardener

Slip the garden's chains in November

Marianne Willburn

On a recent episode of the UK's long-running Gardeners Question Time (available to US listeners through BBC Sounds app or your podcast player), a panel of well-known gardeners was asked which month they would consider the best to leave the garden.

The question was asked by a woman who didn't garden, but who wished to convince her obsessed husband that they needed a vacation. She wanted heavyweight opinion behind her when she made her pitch for freedom and Mai Tais.

I spoke the word 'November' instinctively (though only the lettuce seedlings I was weeding were paying attention) and listened with satisfaction as the panelists agreed one after another with my learned assessment.

Speaking as an obsessive for obsessives, the fact of the matter is that there isn't any good time to leave the garden (I'm squarely on the husband's side on this), but November is better than most if you're trying to convince someone that there is more to life than homegrown green beans and dahlia collections. My reasoning follows:

### Take Advantage of Exhaustion

For one, the gardener is wiped out. Over the past 6-8 months the temperate garden has delivered a mix of exciting moments and dashed dreams that bear no relation whatsoever to the #bestlifeever being

dished out liberally on their social media feeds. Mentally he or she is already standing in April of next year, expectantly waiting for another round of pleasure and punishment. But it's fresh punishment with a new twist and therefore something to look forward to. This year's garden is squarely in the rear-view mirror.

### Second Stage Autumn is Worth Fleeing

The summer harvest is in and the sublime beauty and rich summer/fall scents that haunt October and keep us in thrall for fall are over. In 1844 the poet and humorist Thomas Hood summed up the month between fresh pumpkins and jolly elves succinctly:

*No warmth, no cheerfulness,  
 no healthful ease,  
 No comfortable feel in any member —  
 No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,  
 No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! —*

November is cold without the excitement of the first fire; and decay without the charm of reddening leaves. It's the month we remember that we didn't get the chimney swept and discover that the squirrels got into the tractor's engine compartment. It's simply best to leave for a couple weeks and hope they don't get into the house too.

And as long as you head south, the chances are slim you'll have to experience someone else's November as bleakly and intimately as you have to experience your own.

### Neglect is Officially Sanctioned & Blessed

In recent years, the trend to leave the seed heads, stems, and general mess of the dying garden for wildlife has become so popular that gardeners who have the temerity to neaten edges and rake the leaves off smothered lawns in November might find themselves shouted at by passing busy-bodies taking their righteousness out for an airing.

Far better to skip the sermon and sip the bourbon.

### If It's Not In, It's Done

For the most part, the shlep-ping in of tender plants by sciatica-ridden gardeners (hereafter referred to as 'The Damned') is finished in November. Even if your beloved obsessive protests that he just has to get a couple more pots in the garage over the weeks to come, Mother Nature will soon give him the mother of all deadlines.

### Bulb Planting Will Wait, Once Again

Whilst November is still a viable month for bulb planting, it's also the best month for bulb planting procrastination.

Yes there may be bags and crates sitting in the basement awaiting attention, but I would wager a good deal of money that if they weren't put in the ground by the over-achiever in September and October, they won't be seeing soil until it's coated in a thin layer of December snow. This argument for staying home is easily bested.

### The Garden Will Be Fine

If we're lucky, we'll have a decent amount of moisture in November, which allows us to leave home without hiring a teenager at extortionate cost to underwater September's newly planted trees. Baby veg such as lettuces, spinach and kale are also well established (or should be), and it's only the eating of them that the gardener will miss (or at least pretend to). Try out some new fusion cuisine in a new place and you might come back to those beds of greens with new enthusiasm.

Not to mention your long-suffering spouse.

*Marianne Willburn is the author of Tropical Plants and How to Love Them, and Big Dreams, Small Garden. She writes from her home in Lovettsville, Virginia. Read more at [GardenRant.com](http://GardenRant.com).*



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# PETS

## How could anyone love her?

Jennifer Vanderau  
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

She came from a house where life wasn't all that great. Sure, there was food – sometimes. There was water – when she could find it.

She had a flea infection real bad a year or two ago and it was just so itchy, she almost couldn't stand it. As a result, her left ear is basically gone. She couldn't help it. She had to itch and even though it hurt, she couldn't stop digging at her ear.

There were a lot of other cats in the house, too, and the people left everything they ate or didn't want anymore all over the floor.

A few days ago, the animal shelter came in and took her and all her feline siblings out of the house.

So now she's in a kennel with a really soft blanket and a litterbox and food and water. Everything's clean and smells nice. Considering where she had been living for the last five years, this isn't too bad.

In the beginning, she was still scared. She didn't really come out of the back of the cage much. She was grateful for the better existence, but still wasn't sure where she had ended up.

Since then, she has started to look around and what she sees tells her quite a story.

There are a lot of cats in the shelter – all over the place, actually. Cats

that have been abandoned by their humans or found on the street.

Cats that came in with mothers. Cats that were in foster care. Cats that spent time in the offices with the people so they could acclimate to the shelter life.

But the one thing she knows when she finally looks around and sees all the other cats is...she can't compete. She is nothing like them.

She came from a bad place. She's not cute. She's not cuddly. Her hair is still growing back in from where she lost it to the flea infection. She doesn't have pretty colors. She doesn't have unique eyes.

She doesn't even have both her ears. She listens to the other cats talk about getting adopted or "going home" and she can't help but think there's no chance that will ever happen for her. The cute kittens fall all over each other and the humans that come in coo at them and say how cute they are, but they never say that about her.

They barely even look at her. And the truth of it is, she can't blame them. She knows what she is and what she isn't. She'll never be the cat people take pictures of or share on whatever the thing called social media is.

What chance does she possibly have to find someone who would ever love her?

So most days, she curls up on her

warm, soft blanket and is grateful to be taken care of by the staff at the shelter. They're all really nice and they care a lot about her and tell her how lucky she is to be with them.

She believes it because her belly is full and the fleas are gone and she'll never have to want for anything again.

She likes when the staff take time to talk to her and hold her and pet her when they clean her cage. She even purrs a little for them because it's so nice. It's those moments when she allows herself to dream that maybe, someday, she could find someone.

She tries not to fool herself, though. She has herself so convinced the shelter will be her home for the rest of her life, the day someone new stops by her cage to talk to her, she's so freaked out, she curls into the back of her cage again. It has to be some kind of a joke.

But the two people – a man and a woman – talk to her so softly and seem to ignore all the cute kittens and their adorable antics. They take her into the bonding room and it takes her forever to come out from under the bench because she doesn't want to believe this could be something.

The people wait for her. They don't push and they don't get irritated and they let her be who she is – scars and all.

She takes a chance and walks up to their legs and they gently – so gently – rub their hands through her fur and don't seem to be grossed out by the patches where it's missing.

The woman says out loud, "We know what you've been through, sweetheart, and we want to love you."

The man whispers, "We'll take care of you."

The next day, she is the one who is actually going home, getting adopted, and part of her really can't believe it.

But the other part is just so incredibly grateful for everything the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter did to help her find someone to love her.

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



Koda was surrendered to the shelter when his owner could no longer care for him. He is a 1-year-old terrier mix who can be a little shy when he first meets new people. Once he's comfortable with you, Koda is such a sweetheart. He loves to go out to the play yard and run! He did live with other dogs, but he will have to meet any dogs that reside in his potential adoptive home to be sure they are compatible. Per his previous owner Koda does chase cats so a home without cats would be best. Koda did live with children in his previous home but may be too much for smaller children. Do you have the right spot for Koda?



Luna was surrendered to the shelter when her owner was moving and could not take her along with them. She is a 2-year-old husky/terrier mix who is a super sweet girl who loves attention. Luna knows sit but will need some work on other commands. She likes to please her people and is treat motivated. Luna does have a high chase drive with cats and other small animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs, etc., so a home without cats and other small animals would be best for her. She may be too much for smaller children so an age restriction for children in the home may apply, please discuss this with shelter staff. Luna would love to find her loving forever home soon!



When Bahama Mama arrived at the shelter, she weighed 22 pounds! She has lost four pounds since her arrival at the shelter and has a few more to lose but is now ready to find her forever home. Bahama Mama is on a special diet food and will need someone that is able to follow through with her weight loss program. She is a really sweet girl that enjoys lounging on the short cat tree. She does not mind being brushed and will require regular brushing to keep her from matting. We've been getting her out in the front office at the shelter for some exercise and she's been doing really well. Could you give Bahama Mama the help and home she needs?



Blissy came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about her, but she is a typical, fun-loving kitten. She's a four-month-old gray tabby who really loves to run play. Could you show Blissy what a forever home is all about?

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

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Stephani Rickerd  
& Aslan

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

petco foundation



# FCSO welcomes 3 new K-9s



Deputy Jeremy Slodki and his partner K-9 Fetty, 1.5-year-old Belgian Malinois/German Shepherd cross; Deputy Douglas Story and his partner K-9 Jax, 1.5-year-old Belgian Malinois/German Shepherd cross; and, Deputy Miller Yackovich and his partner K-9 Triglav, 1.5-year-old Belgian Malinois

**Todd Wivell**  
Frederick County Sheriff's Office

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) is proud to announce that three new dogs, specifically trained for law enforcement work, that have hit the streets with their handlers to serve the county!

The new K-9's and their deputy handlers are:

- Deputy 1st Class (DFC) Jeremy Slodki and his partner K-9 Fetty, 1.5-year-old Belgian Malinois/German Shepherd cross
- DFC Douglas Story and his partner K-9 Jax, 1.5-year-old Belgian Malinois/German Shepherd cross
- DFC Miller Yackovich and his partner K-9 Triglav, 1.5-year-old Belgian Malinois

K-9's Triglav and Jax recently completed a 16-week patrol school in Montgomery County where the dogs received training in obedience, article searches, tracking, agility, and apprehension work. Upon completion of the school, the K-9's received certifications in

all aspects of their training.

K-9's Triglav, Jax, and Fetty then completed an 8-week narcotics detection school that the agency hosted. The dogs received training and certifications to detect cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamines.

K-9 Edy, with Corporal Steve Kocevar as his handler, already assigned to the agency as a narcotics detection dog, also completed training at the patrol school in Montgomery County with certification in article search, tracking, and apprehension.

"Edy, Jax, and Triglav are dual-purpose K-9's assigned to the agency and Fetty is a single purpose K-9 certified in narcotics detection," said Kocevar. "Along with K-9 Odin, assigned to DFC Tara Shriver, all five K-9's are vital assets to the agency."

The K-9's do not have specific patrol team assignments, instead the dogs have assignments to each rotation and have developed a schedule that makes them available during the times of highest K-9 call volumes.

Along with the FCSSO calls for service and since the beginning of 2022, FCSSO K-9's assisted

on 208 calls for service for other police agencies, and so far in 2023 assisted on 72 calls for service for other agencies.

"History demonstrates that K-9's are very effective in drug scans on traffic stops, allowing deputies to locate and seize illegal drugs from vehicles, which on many occasions has also led to the location and seizure of illegally possessed firearms. Our five K-9 teams are an important tool in combating the trafficking of illegal narcotics in and through Frederick County," said FCSSO Sheriff Chuck Jenkins. "The police K-9 has attributes in searching for items and/or persons that can quickly facilitate their location. Thus, we can better manage resources in a more efficient and effective manner. They, along with their trained handlers, help keep the more than 280,000 citizens of Frederick County safe."

The three new K-9's replaced DFC Yackovich's last partner, Eikel, DFC Story's last partner, Azor, and DFC Phelps' partner, Taz. Those three dogs are now retired and live at home with their handlers as household members.



Come on down and meet Bob Barker. He is approximately 3-4 years old and is a goofy, playful guy. Bob is a Great Dane mix and cannot be categorized as lap dog since he weighs seventy plus pounds. He was found as a stray in late August and no one reclaimed him. Bob is recommended for families with kids of any age and would likely do well with another dog and/or a cat.



They say a picture is worth a thousand words and Cherry's does her justice. She is a fire-cracker, ready for anything at any time. Cherry is approximately 4yrs old, weighs only 21lbs and is a Terrier mix. She seems to be in constant motion, even when she is sitting beside you her whole body is wiggling and her tail is wagging. Cherry needs a family that is willing to incorporate her into their activities and provide her daily exercise.



Her name says it all. Momma Oreo arrived at the shelter with eight kittens in tow. They were placed in a foster home and Oreo did a fantastic job raising her kids. Since their return in mid-August, her kittens have been adopted and Momma Oreo patiently waits for a family to pick her. At only 3-4 years old, she is still playful but prefer to be petted and dotted on. She currently resides in the shelter's second free roam cat room and will politely ask for attention when you enter.



Monkey is a 6-month-old, Basset Hound Mix. She loves going on walks and enjoys sniffing all the scents when she is out and about. Monkey can be a little shy when meeting new people but does warm up quickly with a little patience. She recently attended a weeklong training class, which will be a good foundation for her next family to build on.



Bacon and Zoe are two peas in a pod and the shelter has designated them as a bonded pair. Bacon can be shy around new people/situations and Zoe helps him feel more confident. Zoe is friendly and outgoing but does become noticeably upset if she is separated from Bacon. In their personality profiles, Bacon's previous owner described him as a gentle giant, who loves to sit in laps while Zoe likes crinkle balls and can be quite talkative.

For more information about Bob Barker, Cherry, Momma Oreo, Monkey, Bacon or Zoe, call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac).

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“Like you, I’m saddened that Congress is broken. We know how to fix it - but it will take leaders who have the courage to do the right thing and get back to doing the people’s business.”

# DAVID TRONE

DEMOCRAT FOR U.S. SENATE



## Congress Is Broken

The past few weeks are a great example of how broken Congress is. A complete government shutdown was narrowly avoided, and the “solution” was a very short term, 45 days. Federal agencies that do critically important work across the nation continue to be horribly underfunded. And then, for the first time in our history, the House had no leader as politics became more important than solving the problems of the people.

## We Know How To Fix It

The good news is, we know how to fix it. The bad news is, far too few of my colleagues have the political courage to do it. We need to elect leaders with the expertise and values to move us forward and not make Congress a popularity contest. When I got elected, I quickly learned that too many politicians are more interested in being on TV than passing legislation. Since my election, I’ve worked to pass dozens of pieces of legislation that make a difference on opioids, mental health, veterans issues, education and more. And if you see me on TV, I’m only there to talk about our progress or to advocate for real solutions.

We also need to say “NO” to PACs and lobbyists. Their power over our government is a scourge on our democracy and stands in the way of progress. In the last election, they shelled out over \$1 billion in campaign cash. Make no mistake: there are strings attached to these contributions.

## Actions Speak Louder Than Words

Since the very beginning, I’ve refused to take a nickel from PACs, lobbyists, or corporations. And if I am elected Senator next year, I’ll be the only Senator who has fulfilled that pledge. Once I’m there, I won’t stop fighting until we ban these contributions and get back to working on behalf of the American people.

The final – and one of the most important – task is for our leaders to do more listening and less speaking (or yelling). It’s past time for Congress to return to being an institution of integrity. And that’s why I’m running for the U.S. Senate. I’ll always put the people first, and I’ll work to reform Congress from within. But I need your help and hope I can earn your support.

**DAVID TRONE**  
U.S. SENATE



# Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL SECTION 2

## Pastor Phil Beck: a life of community commitment

Elizabeth Anderson

From a career in law enforcement to his current role leading worship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Walkersville, Pastor Phil Beck has nothing less than a remarkable life story. Beck's roots in service and faith run deep, shaped by his upbringing in a family where serving others was a way of life.

Born and raised in Narrowsburg, New York, Pastor Beck grew up in a family where "service to others was a way of life." His father served as a pastor, and his mother worked as a nurse, instilling in Beck and his two brothers a profound sense of duty and ministry which he carried with him through various community roles in high school and college, including his time as a volunteer with the local fire and ambulance companies.

In 1988, Beck joined the U.S. Park Police in Washington, D.C., fulfilling his lifelong dream of working in law enforcement, where he aspired to follow in the footsteps of his childhood mentors, several of whom were New York State Troopers. Beck would end up dedicating 29 years of his life to the position and eventually serve as an inspiration for his son to join the U.S. Army.

It was during the twilight of his law enforcement career that Beck experienced a profound calling which would lead him down a path considered starkly different by many. "I got that bonk in the head from God saying, 'I've got something else I need you to do,'" Beck said. The pivotal moment came unexpectedly when he received a phone call from his own pastor while driving with his wife. "The pastor needed someone to lead worship the next day, and I was doing everything I could to get out of it," he said. "But my wife encouraged me to help, and

I ended up spending five hours that night writing a sermon."

The overwhelmingly positive response from the congregation convinced Beck that he had found a new calling. While continuing to work full-time with the U.S. Park Police, he attended the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, demonstrating his unwavering dedication to both paths.

Today, Pastor Beck serves as the spiritual leader of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Walkersville, emphasizing inclusivity and community outreach. Rather than dictating what the community needs, Beck's approach is to listen to its members and offer support accordingly, creating an environment where everyone is welcome, no matter who they are. "Somebody once asked what they should call me—pastor, reverend, priest," said Beck. "And I said, 'I prefer 'ir-reverend.' Because I really am just a regular guy."

The church is known for its active participation in various community initiatives, including Thanksgiving dinners, Christmas celebrations, game nights, and health fairs. Lovingly known by locals as "the Strawberry Church" due to its annual Strawberry Festival, St. Paul's has long been a cornerstone of the Walkersville community.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic posed significant challenges to many of the church's cherished traditions. "COVID shut down both our German dinner and Strawberry Festival. With an aging congregation, those things are challenging. To find the human power to pull them off is difficult," said Beck.

But despite the setbacks, Pastor Beck remains committed to serving others, understanding the importance of reaching out and building bridges

with diverse groups in the area. This includes new families, a burgeoning Latino population, and especially youth who are increasingly busy with sports and other activities. "The culture of America has changed to where... Sunday isn't necessarily a sacred day any more. [Although] that hurts me, I think realistically, we need to evolve like everything else and understand what it is that we can add to our toolbox to... bring families in," says Beck.

One way in which he strives to accomplish this is through the use of technology as an important resource for engagement. While many churches stopped live streaming services after the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Paul's has continued.

"We have people joining us for worship every Sunday that probably wouldn't show up inside our doors—people from New York, North Carolina, Florida," says Beck. "We've had members who were in the military that were able to worship with us from South Korea. We had a wedding where the groom's family living in Turkey was able to join us. And yeah, I would like to have more people coming back inside the doors, but I think what's more important is providing access to the word."

Furthermore, Pastor Beck is dedicated to strengthening ecumenical ties within Walkersville, hoping to rekindle partnerships among local churches to better serve the community. "There used to be a ministerium here in Walkersville where local parishes would get together. I want to restart that partnership," he said.

Beck's collaborative spirit is evident



St. Paul's Lutheran Church's Pastor Phil Beck.

in many of the church's activities, such as its 2023 Vacation Bible School program in which St. Paul's partnered with Walkersville United Methodist Church in order to reach more children in the community. Pastor Beck himself doubly serves as the pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church on Opossumtown Pike.

And Beck's service extends beyond church doors, too. He has served as chaplain for his former police department for several years, offering a sympathetic ear to officers during challenging times. "Everyone deserves to be served in that way—it doesn't matter who you are," says Beck. "I think the biggest thing, really, is that we need to get back to listening, and being comfortable in saying, 'Well, I don't agree with you, but I hear what you're saying.'"

For over three decades, Pastor Phil Beck has been a guiding light in Walkersville, serving both his congregation

and the wider community. During this time, he has not only been known for his dedication to the church but also for his commitment to fostering community bonds and offering a helping hand to those in need, regardless of background, belief, or opinion. "I'm not that guy who's going to shove religion down your throat. I believe in listening to the community and understanding what they need," says Beck. "Our mission is to serve the community, and that's what we're trying to embrace here at St. Paul's."

Through his actions and words, Pastor Beck embodies the strong spirit of "giving back" which so clearly defines Walkersville. He continuously demonstrates that the mission of any church is not only about faith, but also about making a positive impact on the lives of those it serves. Says Beck, "We welcome everyone, no matter who you are. Come as you are."

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# HISTORY

## Woodsboro Remembers

Francis Meehan Smith

### Part 7 Organization Girl Scouting in Woodsboro

Woodsboro had one of the first Girl Scout Troops in Frederick County because there was an Intermediate Troop here in 1940. Girl scouting didn't come into the county until the very late 1930's. The Intermediate Troop was for girls in grades five through eight. It is not known if there was a Brownie or Senior Troop at that time, nor just how long this troop lasted. It is known that there were no troops in Woodsboro from 1945 to 1965.

Mrs. Harold Reiley started a Junior Troop in July of 1965 with Mrs. Thomas McCormick as her assistant. Brownies were also started at this time by Mrs. Mac

Wallingford, assisted by Mrs. Wm. Farra. Meetings were held in the firehall. Mrs. Wallingford was Brownie leader just one year. In 1966 Mrs. Farra became leader with Mrs. Elton Wampler as her assistant. The following year Mrs. Wampler became leader and in 1968 Gloria Gladhill was her assistant. After that year Brownies stopped for several years.

Mrs Reiley and Mrs. McCormick continued as Junior leaders until Octo-

ber 1970. At that time Mrs. Lee Miller took the troop for two years. She held her meetings in the Scout Room of the firehall. After 1971 the Junior Troop disbanded.

In the Fall of 1971 Monica Schairer and Sandra Powell started a Brownie Troop and kept it for two years. They met at the firehall and later moved to the Lutheran Church as the group got larger.

A Junior Troop was again formed in 1973 by Kay Herrell assisted by Sandra Powell and Gloria Claitriil. Meetings were held in the school gym. This troop was dropped after a year when Mrs. Herrell moved away.

In 1973 the Brownie Troop met in the art room of the school with Dorothy Douglass as leader. In 1974 Shirley Morgan became Brownie leader with Ella Mullis and Mary Ann Beard as Assistants. There were fifteen girls in the troop with two of these girls coming from New Midway School. Meetings were held in the school gym.

### Glade Valley Lions Club

The permanent organization meeting of the Glade Valley Lions Club was held at the Walkersville High School on April 3, 1945, with Rev Francis Reinberger as Temporary Chairman, and International Rep-

resentative Lawrence Slater and his wife in attendance. Mrs. Slater acting as Temporary Secretary.

Rev. Donald Brake of the Middletown Lions Club was District Governor. Richard Simmons of the Frederick Club was Chairman of the Extension Committee for the

Frederick Club who sponsored the Glade Valley Club into Lions International. Richard Kline was president of the Frederick Lions Club

Ladies of the prospective members served the meal for those in attendance.

Permanent organization was effected at this meeting with the Charter members signing at this time. Rev. Reinberger was elected as the first president; and J. Harold Hooper was elected as Secretary. The first Charter Night was set for May 15, 1945, at the Walkersville High School.

### Glade Valley Lions Contributions

Glade Valley has always had as a major aim and project the continuing programs of sight conservation, sponsoring eye examinations (especially for the youth) and the purchase of glasses for area residents not able to afford this need on their own. The Club has also made available the service of furnishing wheelchairs and crutches for those persons in need of these items.

April 3, 1945, the club came into existence with 33 members. Today

there are 84 members on the club's roster willing and able to assist in the work of service.

Many activities and contributions in community service have marked the service rendered to the community.

During the more than 25 years, \$25,877 has been raised through projects to further service work, and \$26,552 has been expended on the various club projects of community service, as well as the continuing projects of sight conservation, scholarships, wheelchair, and crutch programs. Over \$6,000 alone was given in flood relief from Hurricane Agnes.

Club members look forward to the next 25 years of service in the Glade Valley community and to further the aims and ideals of Lions International.

### Sertoma Club

The Woodsboro Sertoma Club was organized in February 1975. The idea for the Woodsboro chapter of Sertoma International originated from an informal meeting of several Frederick Sertoma members with Austin Abrecht (Duckie) and Paul Brunner.

Letters were mailed to prospective members and enough enthusiasm was evidenced that a Woodsboro club was started.

Charter night was held in July 1975. The officers for the club for the current year are President - Austin Abrecht, V. President - Don Ritchie, Secretary - Charles Worley,

Treasurer - Paul Brunner Sertoma Clubs are devoted to "service to mankind"; the Woodsboro Chapter is specifically dedicated to helping the Woodsboro community in any way possible.

### Part 8: Schools

During Woodsboro's early days schooling was spotty. Day by day problems of existing in the frontier life precluded most niceties unless concerned with food, clothing, and shelter.

It is interesting to learn that first generations of settlers often times could read and write rather fluently in English or German, having received at least the basics of education in their place of birth. By 1800 to 1840, however, many rather prominent people signed their wills with simply an "X", an indication of their preoccupation with survival and remoteness from cultural centers.

The first schools were held in homes or at the churches with only a small percentage of neighboring children able to attend. The curriculum was mainly

Bible-related and sought to prepare the child for participation in the church activities. Many times the preacher served as teacher and was often the best educated person in the vicinity.

As more and more families arrived in the Woodsboro area the number of children to be educated outgrew the home tutoring and the small church related schools.

In the Nineteenth Century the government took a hand and designated that schools be built to accommodate the growing need for education. These schools were mainly one room, within walking distance, encompassed seven grades and had three local men as supervisors. The teacher was usually a man who taught the three "R's". One notable exception was Miss Sadie Spurrier who taught at Continental School, walking to and from her home in Woodsboro each day.


Reading was necessary as it was the sole means of learning about the world, both past and present. Writing legibly was important as there were no typewriters; thus handwriting and spelling became an indication of the person's degree of education arithmetic was basic and geared to the everyday needs such as bushels and pecks, So the farmer would not get cheated, and inches, feet, and perches, so that land could be surveyed, buildings erected, and distances measured.

At the north of Woodsboro there was the New Midway School, now occupied by an Allis Chalmers dealer; at the east of town was Eyley's School, located on the now closed road from Cash Smith Road to Hill Road at the bend around Gruber's farm; Centerville School was also to the east of town on the Coppermine Road; Cedar Grove School was on Liberty Road where Mrs. Mary Fogle now lives; Smith School was located to the south of town on a small rise toward Woodsboro from "Bunker" Hill on Route 194. Troutville School was located to the west and is now owned by Nelson Summers. Continental School was on Gravel Hill and Dublin Roads while Oak Hill School was located at LeGore beside the church.

After 1900 the various one-room schools which were located around Woodsboro began to close and the children were gradually absorbed into the larger school in town. By 1929 all of the little red schoolhouses were closed and the one room school virtually became extinct. Ironically the trend in 1975 is once again toward the open one room school but with embellish-


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# HISTORY



Woodsboro School 1919

**Bottom Row:** Claude Barrick, Cash Smith, Murray Hildebride, John Winebrenner, Thomas Miller, Ralph Potts, Curtis Houck, Charles Smith, Algernon Hahn, John Huffman, Henry Crum.

**Second Row:** Franklin Gruber, Elwood Mort, Frank Winebrenner, Harry Hildebride, William Anders, R. Cline, Romanus Stitley, Reese Smith, Robert Ecker, William Mort, James Morgan.

**Third Row:** Millard Evler, Robert Smith, Gilmore Etzler, Meryl Seiss, Ralston LeGore, Melvin Gilbert, Melvin Shank, Richard Frock, Reno

**Stitley, Henry Huffman, Elwood Powell, Wilbur LeGore, Emory Wills, James Reddick.**

**Forth Row:** Kenneth Kling, Russell Flanagan, Dorothy Bair, Mary Ambrose, Rosie Ecker, Viola Hildebride, Marceline Lutz, Ethel Strine, Mildred Reddick, Winifred Patterson, Wilbur Etzler, Frances Winebrenner, Ruth Smith, Anna Bell Hull.

**Fifth Row:** Laura Anders, Edith Ambrose, Frances Feiser, Jane Redmond, Ruth Welty, Ethel Eichelberger, Frances Saxten, Myrtle

**Ambrose, Annabelle Smith, Lillian Shank, Mildred Wills, LeRoy Barrick, John Daughterty.**

**Sixth Row:** Pauline Crum, Marjorie Miller, Mildred Smith, Helen Smith, Violet Smith, Edith Miller, Anna Hoffman, Margaret Powell, Ethel Crum, Evelyn Etzler, Frances Wills.

**Seventh Row:** Margaret Crum, Louise Wills, Kathryn Barrick, Catherine Eyley, Mabel Smith, Miss Mae Dorcus, Charlotte Aumen, Miss Olive Bowlus, Anna Miller, Miss Ethel Fogle (Teacher), Ethel Fogle (Student), Mary Flanagan, Edith Phillips, Frances Donsife, Lola Ecker.

ments that its ancestors would never recognize or believe.

The first school in Woodsboro was located on the crest of the hill leading to the railroad station, on the right side of the road. It was a brick building twenty feet wide and thirty feet long. Later it became a dwelling and finally a stable. The dates of this school are uncertain but the foundation was verified in 1922 by J.P. Feiser.

The second school was built on the east side of town in 1870 on the site of the present school. It was two stories high with one room on each floor connected by a circular staircase. In 1891 many parents kept their children out of this school as the brick walls of the old building were budging and appeared to be collapsing. In the spring of the year 1892 the school house was torn down and a new four room school house structure was built.

While the new school was being constructed the children attended school in the old Methodist Church building on Canning Factory Hill. A curtain divided the temporary school rooms but did not reach the ceiling. Spitballs as well as other missiles traveled back and forth and woe be to

the body that leaned against the curtain as unfailing opportunist on the other side promptly inserted a pin into the protruding form. We assume that the year 1892 was pretty well lost of higher education from the graphic description by one of the pupils.

The 1892 structure was used until 1952 when an annex was built with four classrooms, a multi-purpose room, principal's office, library, and kitchen. The total cost was approximately \$166,000.

Principals of the school from 1892 were Miss Cora Shaw (later Mrs. W.B. Cutshall), Mr. Adam Roser, Miss Olive Bowlus, Miss Mae Dorcus (later Mrs. Howard Gross), Miss Ethel Fogle (later Mrs. Jacob Shawbaker), Mrs., Mary Kline Repp, and Delmar Rippeon.

Under the principalship of Miss Ethel Fogle a hot lunch program was introduced. A three burner coal oil stove in the corner of the classroom provided the hot soup and cocoa which was a welcome addition on a cold winter day to the "lunch box special." During World War I the entire school knitted and pieced together eight inch squares of various colored squares of yarn to be made into blankets for the boys at the front. The Red Cross must have been

solely tried in making the dropped stitches and irregular ends meet.

School was assembled by the ringing of the bell on the school tower. When pulled sharply and hard, the bell would flip over and become immobilized. This involved a major crisis and one of the "big" boys had to shinny up to the belfry to unloosen the rope with the entire school watching admiringly from below and also consuming some of the lesson time.

The floors of the building were heavily oiled on weekends presumably to keep down dust and the strong odor of oil on Monday mornings permeated the entire building. With no fire codes in those days, the pot bellied stove stood bravely in the center of the room in a pool of oil, defying death and destruction for a whole generation of children.

Sanitary facilities were out the front door and away to the right along the fence to the chicken yard. At Hallowe'en the "necessary" houses suffered brutal upheaval year after year, a primary target of the young demons abroad the night before. On the morning after undoubtedly the same demons got out of school to set the structures upright and again got out of classes, with everyone content with the arrangement and diversion.

One of the biggest highlights of the year vanished with indoor plumbing.

Mrs. Edith Wills sold taffy for a penny at this time and those with spending money of that sort were indeed lucky. Many adults in town still remember how good that candy tasted.

On May 7, 1936 the Department of Education certified that the Woodsboro school was a Standard State Elementary School. "At a meeting of the Parent-Teachers Association at the Woodsboro School Thursday evening, Mrs. Paul Douglas, president, it was announced by Thomas Gibson, State Supervisor of Music and also Supervisor of Attendance and Standardization, that the Woodsboro School had passed the tests and is now a standard school. All four rooms passed the test and the school is the first of its type in this county to achieve this honor. The pupils, teachers and parents co operated to attain the

distinction. Mrs. John Repp is principal, and the teachers are Miss Evelyn Shoemaker, Miss Marian Dorsey and Miss Edna Michael. Several songs and playlets were given by the children, and Prof. Gibson, assisted County Superintendent of Education, J.C. Biehl and Miss Helen J. Woodley, county supervisor, spoke. Mrs. J.P. Feiser, member of the Frederick County Board of Education, introduced the speakers."

Mrs. Repp was responsible for many innovations during her stay as principal. Children were taken to Arlington, Virginia to sing over the radio before there was a radio station in Frederick, among them Evelyn Caldwell and Elaine Bair. Children in the upper grades listened to American School of the Air by CBS and followed study guides.

On a trip to Mt. Vernon the children saw their first cloverleaf intersection. An annual trip to Washington, D.C. was established in the 1950's for grades six and seven; these trips were sponsored by the P.T.A. before the Board of Education furnished money for field trips.

Henry Huffman was instrumental in funding these trips by holding square dances in his barn to raise the necessary money.

Woodsboro also participated for many years in the county field meets, where in 1937 the school won first place in the County D Class and in countywide folk dances. Local folk dances and a June fete have been part of the program as well as monthly programs of the P.T.A., assembly programs, use of the Weekly Reader, and many other activities in keeping with advancing education.

In 1973 a new large open space school was erected on and around the 1952 school, with the Media Center named in honor of Mary K. Repp. The new school has a kindergarten and art and music rooms. The school now owns four and one-half acres, part of which is an updated modern playground with accompanying facilities expected in conjunction with modern open space education.

When the new school was built in 1973 two plaques were moved - the old cornerstone of the 1870 school and a memorial plaque to Bertha Rice Fogle, who died in 1951, which honors her as "Teacher-friend. Her life an inspiration, her friendship and affection a lasting memory."

continued next month



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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## November 2

### Run Down By Auto And Killed

Thomas Keffer, 55, of Keymar, was run down by a Ford car near New Midway on Tuesday evening as he and his son were walking home. Both were hit by the car, but the son escaped with minor injuries.

They had been to Taneytown to consult an eye specialist for the son, and arrived in Taneytown on an earlier train than they expected, consequently, another son who was to have met them, was not there, and they started to walk towards home. The Ford car was going in the same direction at a rapid gait, and threw both of them some distance. Keffer was taken to the office of Dr. Wetzel in Union Bridge and at once hurried to the Gettysburg Hospital, where an operation was performed, but death ensued. He is survived by his wife and three sons and three daughters.

The driver of the car went on his way, without stopping to render any assistance.

### Electrifying A Nation

Realizing that this country is on the threshold of the greatest industrial development it has ever experienced, Secretary Hoover, with the approval of the President, called an Eastern Super-Power Conference in New York City for a preliminary discussion on what steps Federal and State authorities can properly take in the promotion of what is called super-power development in the New England and Mid-Atlantic states.

Hoover explain that the conference was not to put more government in business, but as public authorities were already deeply interested in power production through many forms of regulation and control over power resources, he felt that coordination between public authorities and individuals would help in the advancement in the development of a great service to the public.

Engineering science has at last made it possible, by the perfection of high-voltage transmission lines of great lengths, to send power from distance sources to the thickly populated communities. Great econo-

mies in distribution can be secured through the interconnection of loads between systems and at the same time assure more security in the power supply from the effects of coal strikes and transportation interruptions.

A power distribution system stretching across state lines will result, he said, in financial, ownership and legal problems arising which must be coordinated. It was with these ideas in mind that secretary Hoover called the present conference in order that the way be prepared to handle the coming situation in the most efficient and scientific matter.

Mr. Hoover said: "every time we cheap in power and centralize its production we create new users; we increase production, we eliminate waste, we decrease the burden of physical effort upon men. In sum, we increase the standard of living and comfort of all our people."

### Stops For Drunk And Gets Hit

An automobile accident occurred in Middleburg in front of C.E. Six's store, on Thursday night. Fortunately no one was hurt but the car of James Nussbaum was pretty badly damaged. John Newcomer was also pretty badly shaken up, as he had stopped his car so not to run over Wanda Sherman, who was passed out on the street, having imbibed a tad too much of her husband's stash of hooch, when Nussbaum's car hit his car. According to rumor, Sherman's husband thanked Newcomer for missing the jug of hooch beside his wife on the road, and secured that before looking to his wife.

## November 7

### Frederick Must Pay

Although Frederick County has been slow in paying for the tuition of children from this County who have been attending border schools, the State School Superintendent has told the Carroll County school system that these children cannot be barred from schools, as the Carroll County Board of Education has warned officials at Frederick County they would do.

The question of barring Freder-

ick County children in the vicinity of Union Bridge from attending schools has resulted from the failure of Frederick County to pay a balance of \$4,656 for tuition for the 1922 to 1923 school year. The original bill was \$8,656, \$4,000 hasn't been paid by the Frederick County School Board. Because of an adequate school levy, say school officials, the balance has been unpaid.

Approximately 108 Frederick County school children in high school and elementary grades are attending border schools in Carroll County. Carroll County's per capita charge has been \$133, which is considerably higher than the per capita cost in Frederick County.

This year Frederick County school officials have put a bus into service running from near Union Bridge to Libertytown. Each day 28 pupils who have been attending border schools are transported to the Liberty high school and elementary school. The cost of operating this bus is about \$100 per month, or about \$1,000 for the school year, as against the \$3,700 charge by the Carroll County authorities.

In discussing the question, the Frederick County School Superintendent said that the state superintendent had decided that children living near the Carroll County schools can attend those schools and their tuition must be paid by the County in which they live. If these children live near Frederick County high or elementary schools, they are expected to attend the schools of this county. Otherwise the family must pay for the tuition of their children if they wish them to go to out of County schools.

### Thief Is Known

The person who took Paul Smith's sheep lined coat from A. H. Deers mailbox Saturday evening, November 10, is known. If not return at once the party will be prosecuted - Charles Smith, Walkersville.

### County Chautauqua

While Frederick City may be tiring of the Chautauqua, County town seem to be taking kinder to it. Practically all the towns and villages of Frederick County either have conducted a successful Chau-

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**'1 — '2 — '3 — '4**

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taqua or plan on holding one. It is felt there an annual performance under the auspice is of the Swarthmore Chautauqua Department is the thing to do.

But Chautauqua season is just opening. Towns are buzzing about preparing to hold the three or four-day afternoon and evenings of literary a musical entertainment. Woodsboro's third annual Chautauqua will be held on December 13, 14 and 15<sup>th</sup>. Both the others were patronized and every session was attended by hundreds of people of Woodsboro and vicinity.

On the opening day a musical program will be given both in the afternoon and evening sessions. The lecture in the evening session will be delivered by George Turner, who subject will be 'Towards the Goal.' The lecture on the second evening session will be at William Robin, who's subject will be 'Youthful America.'

On the third day a junior Chautauqua pageant, 'Her Family On Display' will be featured in the afternoon session and three-act comedy, 'The Riddle', will be given at the evening session.

## November 14

### Dropping Gasoline Prices

Gasoline is selling in California from 6 to 13 cents per gallon and in Oregon and Washington from 12 to 14 cents per gallon. The reason for this is California has knock the bottom out of the oil business through the opening of vast new fields producing 600,000 barrels of crude per day, and is said to be capable of producing 1 million barrels per day.

California is now yielding more crude oil than Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas, three of the great petroleum regions of the United States and the bulk of this California oil



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## 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

is being produced in Los Angeles, which until a few years ago, was chiefly devoted to citrus fruit growing and diversified farming.

Within a radius of 35 miles of the city center lays three great petroleum fields and another field, which is reported to be destined to replace the Huntington Beach field in its declining years. This latter field has put 40 wells into production in the last 15 months for a grand total of 128 producing, drilling or building rigs.

In less than eight months the oil fields of California, some of which reared their 120 foot derricks above bearing orange tree groves, valued at from \$2,000-\$5,000 per acre, have caused the petroleum capital of the world to rise within 2 miles of the tidewater at Los Angeles harbor; having put the Panama Canal on a paying basis after the world's general maritime trade failed to do so, and have provided the United States Shipping Board with \$40 million worth of new steel tankers

#### Store Is Robbed

A robbery which took place at the clothing store of Samuel Morris in Union Bridge, was discovered when the clerk, Joseph Colt, arrived to open the store. It was found that the thief, or thieves, had gotten away with 20 men's suits and overcoats, all of the expensive shirts in stock, some jewelry and silverware, and a lot of women's dresses and coats.

An automobile was noticed parked in the alley near the store about midnight, but nothing was thought of the matter until the robbery became known. It is now thought that the goods were hauled away in this car. Entrance was gained by breaking the glass in the rear door, which opens on the alley.

About a year ago the dry goods store of J.T. Miller, also in Union Bridge, was robbed in a like matter and no trace of the thieves was ever found.

#### Big Enrollment In Red Cross Expecting

A record enrollment of membership in the American Red Cross for 1924 is indicated in Frederick County from reports received from all sections of the County. Most of the rural leaders, in answer to the call of President Coolidge, have completed plans to reach, or exceed, the 1923 membership quota.

Red Cross activities from the annual report to Congress have been given wide circulation. The largest sums last year were used in service to the deceased and injured men of the world war, relief and disaster, home hygiene, nursing service, first aid work, refugee assistant, Junior Red Cross etc. The Japanese earthquake relief was one of the outstanding accomplishments of the year. In Frederick County the amount given to the Japanese relief totaled \$3,157.

The Walkersville District has one of the largest enrollments with over 100 members. Mrs. Nicodemus is the Chairman for the Walkersville effort. A special church service with an appropriate Red Cross sermon was held under the auspices of the Walkersville Red Cross this week.

At Woodsboro, the committee appointment consisted of Mrs. J.P. Feiser, chairman, Mrs. Kathryn Barwick and Mrs. Edith Miller.

#### Adolph Hitler Captured

Adolph Hitler, the fascist leader of the recent Munich plot, was arrested near Lake Stuffle, Southern Bavaria. He offered no resistance.

Private advances from Munich represent the situation there as wholly in a state of flux. Ritter von Kahr, Bavarian Commissioner, General von Lossow and Colonel Ritter Seiser, who disavowed the Ludendorff-Hitler revolt, are directing the affairs from their barracks in which they have been quartered since last Thursday night. General Ludendorff has been himself entirely incommunicado at his villa.

The preponderance of sentiment among the masses is reported to be for Hitler. His friends are making strong presentations to von Kahr, demanding the dictator arrive at an understanding with the Fascist leader. Reinforcements of troops are reported to be reaching Munich hourly from surrounding districts.

#### Work On Graceham Moravian Church Nearing Completion

Work on the Graceham Moravian Church is progressing satisfactorily. The new ceiling, which is of Wainscot is finished. The painters are now at work. Besides the ceiling, there were numerous other repairs made.

The outside of both the church and the parsonage have been painted, and the interior of the church is to be re-decorated. The

Ladies Aid Society has brought new light fixtures as well as carpet and rubber padding for the platform and isles. Three new Port Richey hours and a communion table are being made, all of walnut, to harmonize with the railing and the pulpit. After the work is finished the church will be very attractive. It is hoped that everything will be completed for the reopening on December 9.

## November 21

#### Thanksgiving Day Services

Thanksgiving day will be a big one in the local churches. In Walkersville, the services will be held in the Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. Ramen Mowbray, pastor. The sermon will be presented by Rev. Shilkem, pastor of the Lutheran Church. Other congregations participating in the service include: Reformed Rev. Harzell, pastor, and United Brethren, Rev. Skettle, pastor. The services will begin at 10 in the morning. At noon the woman of the Walkersville Lutheran congregation will serve a Thanksgiving dinner in the Town hall.

A community Thanksgiving dinner will also be given in Creagerstown, at the residence of Mrs. Kolb, the dinner being served by the members of the Lutheran Church of Creagerstown.

The Methodist Episcopal and the Methodist Protestant churches of Libertytown will unite and hold Thanksgiving services in the Methodist Episcopal church at 7 p.m.

In Woodsboro, Thanksgiving Day services will be held in the Woodsboro Lutheran Church, Rev. Patterson, pastor. It will feature a brotherhood rally and by a dinner. Services will begin in the morning at 10:30.

#### Stonesifer Feed Mixer

William Stonesifer, of Keysville, is the inventor and patent holder of a molasses feed mixer that promises to be a big success for use in connection with feed mills for making of dairy feed. This mixer can be attached to any standard mill, and will mix as fast as the mill will grind, and without heating of the molasses. It is designed for use by the individual farmer. Mr. Stonesifer deserves a great deal of credit for his innovative ingenuity, as the mixer

has been severely tested and does its work completely.

#### Patron See Work Done In The Schools

Wednesday was a big day in public schools throughout the County. In Walkersville and Liberty high schools, patrons day was observed by large crowds who visited both institutions.

A large number of patrons and friends of the school attended during the morning and observed how the different classes were taught. The latter part of the morning was given over to exercises by members of the student body. Plays were given by student actors and actresses. A demonstration of how hot lunches are prepared and served was given at the noon hour.

The afternoon was given over to demonstrations of physical education work. Two pick teams of girls give a demonstration game I field ball while two teams of eleven boys gave a similar one of soccer.

## November 28

#### Places Crosstie On Track To Derail Train

"Just for fun," Fillmore Hartsock, 16-year-old, who attempted to wreck the Baltimore Hagerstown express train of the Western Maryland Railroad early Friday at Union Bridge, told the magistrate when he was arraigned on Saturday.

The incident was at first believed to be an attempt on the life of Maxwell Byer's, President of the Western Maryland Rail Company, who was on the train in his private car. Byer's ordered an immediate investigation and the Western Maryland detectives were soon on the scene. Evidence was quickly secured and Hartsock was placed under arrest.

Hartsock's arrest followed an investigation which began Thursday

night when it was believed the boy made an attempt to wreck another train, but was foiled by a little girl who saw a crosstie on the track and pulled it off. The girl told authorities she had seen Hartsock coming out of the woods shortly after she took the crosstie from the tracks, Hartsock was suspected of Friday's attempt and his arrest followed.

Hartsock, when arrested, made a full confession of the crime, saying that while on his way to work at the Union Bridge cement plant he decided to place the cross tie across the rail to see if the engine would push it off.

He apparently realized the seriousness of his crime, although he spoke a bit lightly. Detectives who questioned him state that they believed that he did not take the action with any malice, or with any design on the life of the President of the railway.

Keen eyesight on the part of the engineer on the passenger train, was all that prevented serious consequences. The engineer, despite the dim light of early dawn, and the mist, which cover the tracks, detected the obstruction on the rails as the headlight played upon it, and slowed the engine down to such an extent that, when it struck the crosstie, the only damage resulting was a broken pilot. Repairs were quickly made, and the train delayed only 30 minutes.

Hartsock, according to reports from Union Bridge, has a bad reputation, and several times has been charged with malicious destruction of property. Hartsock lives at the home of his father, a farmer on a small farm close to the railroad tracks, and not far from the station at Union Bridge. He is considered by several people who know him to be mentally deficient.

To read other articles related to 100 Years Ago this Month, visit the History section of Walkerville.net.



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# LIBRARY NEWS

## November at the library

It's that time of year to be outside and active during the day but get a warm drink and curl up with a good book or movie in the evening. The days are short, the leaves are changing, and the holiday season is just around the corner! As usual, the Walkersville Branch Library has a variety of programs to keep the whole family entertained whether it's storytime for your little ones, after school for your teens, or rainy weekend afternoons for the whole family. Read on for all the autumn happenings at the library or come visit the branch and pick up an event calendar to keep it handy!

All branches of Frederick County Public Libraries will be closed November 10 and 11 for Veteran's Day and November 23 and 24 for Thanksgiving. Please note that all branches of the library will be also closing at 5. on Thanksgiving Eve, 11/23. If you're not able to make it to the library to get a fresh stack of books for the long holi-

day weekends, don't worry! You have access to digital resources with your FCPL card. Hoopla is great for Ebooks, Audiobooks, comics, and even music. Hoopla can be accessed using your smartphone, tablet or computer. Looking for a movie or tv show instead? Get cozy, stay in one night and stream thousands of movies for free on Kanopy or Kanopy Kids.

Cabin fever hitting already? Jump out of the house and over to the library on Saturdays at 10am, when Freedom BANG is happening. Freedom BANG is a pre-choreographed fusion of boxing, HIIT, hip hop, world dance, optional weighted gloves, and a touch of attitude, offering a wide range of options to customize your workout. Not ready to get out of bed and sweat on the weekend? Stop by Walkersville Branch Library on Monday November 13 or 27 at 6 p.m. for a free drop-in yoga class lead by instructors from Sol Yoga, perfect for

anyone looking to stretch and move their body. Another gentle form of exercise is Tai Chi, a self-paced system of stretching; a Tai Chi program for seniors will be at the Walkersville Library November 14 at 10 a.m., presented by Inner Court Tai-Ji.

The weekend after Veteran's Day has two great programs for adults featuring local businesses. On Saturday, November 18 at 11 a.m., staff from The Flying Barrel will be at the library to discuss the process of brewing your own beverage and share tips and tricks for homebrewers of all levels! The Flying Barrel has a brew house in Frederick that is available for use and is a great place to learn from experienced brewers and meet other homebrewers and wine makers.

If you're interested in food, fashion, or rescue animals, join us for a program on Sunday, November 19 at 1pm that incorporates all the above! Enjoy tasting teas with Paulella Birchill, local author of "Tea for Every Occasion" and snack on perfectly paired cakes from Brick Block Cakes while perusing vintage clothing donated to Fetch Thrift Shop. You may be wondering what do rescue animals have to do with this—all net proceeds from Fetch Thrift Shop directly help local rescue to find "forever homes", provide medical care, food, supplies local spay and neuter programs. Learn more about Fetch Thrift Shop's mission and how to find great thrift items at this afternoon event!

A sensory program for adults with intellectual disabilities this month will include a visit from our furry friends at Go Team Therapy Dogs!

They will be at the Walkersville Branch on November 7th at 10. The Go Team dogs will be back on Thursday the 9th at 6:30 p.m. with snuggles and listening ears for anyone who would like to read their favorite story to a four-legged friend.

Do you want to know more about the future of transportation? Ronald Kaltenbaugh, President of the Electric Vehicle Association of Greater Washington DC, will be at the Walkersville Branch Library to give a presentation on electric vehicles. Maybe you already have one but want to know how it works, or even take it on a long-distance road trip! Bring your questions and curiosity on Sunday, November 12 from 1:30 to 3.

Are you a teen or adult interested in playing Dungeons and Dragons but don't have a group to play with? Then come out on Sunday, November 5 from 1:30 to 3 for "Session 0" and go over all the basics of D&D—character creation, dice rolling and all the fun of a social role-playing game!

Kids aged 10-13 are invited to join the Tween Tech program on Monday, November 20 from 6 to 6:45 p.m. This month's topic is all about the novel world of eSports—come explore a variety of games with a friend!

From 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 16 some of Frederick County's international high school students will have exhibits set up around the library to share the cultures and traditions of their countries of origin.

Calling all teens who love to explore, create, and innovate! Head

over to the Walkersville Branch Library on Tuesday afternoons at 3:30 for our Teen Innovation Hour. Each week we will explore a new concept and then get hands-on. Bring a friend or two and see what's in store for the day—learn how to use a 3D printer, program robots, and more await! Are you looking for a safe space to engage with friends outside of school? Maybe looking for peer mentors or teen-oriented community resources? Teen Connect happens every Friday (except days the library is closed) from 3:30 to 4:30, so bring a friend and drop by to see what's going on for you at the library!

If you're a teenager in need of volunteer hours or you want to have a say in the goings-on at the Walkersville Branch Library, join us at the monthly Teen Library Council Meeting to help make the library the best place it can be for you! Attendees will not only receive volunteer hours, but also develop marketable leadership skills, credentials for future job and college applications, and have a fun time with other teens. This month the meeting is on November 28 at 3:30.

"Let's Get Ready for Kindergarten" is a program on Wednesdays from 11 to 11:45 where preschoolers and their caregivers can build school ready skills like counting, literacy and exploring their social-emotional selves with peers. Our weekly Fri-YAY Program will continue into the fall from 11 to 11:45. An informal educational program to round out the week, this Friday program includes a variety of topics, performers, and hands-on activities for children of all ages. Topics include science, farms and more!

"History Is All Around Us" will be the focus for November's themed program on Friday 11/3 and 11/17 from 1 to 1:45. Perfect for elementary age children, each program will feature a guest with special knowledge on life during the 1800s. On November 17, a Civil War camp will be right here at the library! Come learn what it was like to be a soldier in the Civil War, touch and see real relics and hear stories from a reenactor!

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# SCHOOL NEWS

## Frederick County Public Schools

**Karen Yoho**  
Frederick County School Board

Happy fall from the Frederick County Board of Education. This month, our Board of Education meetings will be held on Wednesday, November 8 and Monday, November 20 to accommodate schools being closed 11/22-24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Board of Education will hold a public hearing for the Crestwood Area Redistricting on November 1. We have received many emails at this time, but discussion is planned to occur after this hearing at our December 6 regular meeting.

On November 2, FCPS will hold Became an Educator Night at Frederick High School, 5-7 p.m.. Registration ended on October 25, but you can email April Vierra (April.Vierra@fcps.org) to see if there are still openings. If you are just in the beginning stages of wondering if teaching is the career for

you and want to learn about the pathways to becoming an educator, there is a 13-minute video on the FCPS website.

Report cards will be issued on November 8. November 15 is Education Support Professionals Day. We all know that our schools would not be able to run as thoroughly as they do without these important individuals. They are typically the first and last to see our students every day.

November 16 is National Parental Involvement Day. It is crucial that parents and school staff work together as partners for the benefit of our students. November 17 is Substitute Educator Day. These are also essential personnel because every classroom must be covered by a responsible and qualified adult.

While it seems as though our current Student Member of the Board (SMOB), Brooke Lieberman, just joined us, nominations closed on October 30th for next

year's SMOB. The field will be narrowed to five candidates and online voting for all middle and high school students will occur January 4 – January 26. For further information, contact Dr. Colleen Bernard at Colleen.Bernard@fcps.org or 301-644-5256.

The caliber of the Frederick County Student Member has been exemplary. We look to our SMOB as a representative to convey the voices of our student body. Ms. Lieberman has quickly become an active member, participating in as many activities and events as her busy schedule allows. She also seeks new methods of hearing from students who may not be involved in the Student Government Association. Her email is StudentMember-BOE@fcps.org

FCPS and the Frederick County Bar Association will sponsor a Civics and Law Academy on Saturday, November 11 from 8:30 to 1 pm at Frederick High School. The

program is open to all high school students, with in-county students having priority. Registration will close once all spaces have been filled. To register, go to the FCPS website on the main page.

FCPS and the Frederick County Health Department have united in an initiative called 'Coaches Versus Overdoses' at all ten high schools. According to the FCPS website, "National studies show that former high school athletes have lifetime opioid use rates of up to 46%, significantly higher than any other student population. According to Frederick County data in the 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, more than one in ten Frederick County middle and high school students reported they have taken prescription pain medicine without a prescription or differently than how a doctor told them to use it."

The local kick-off to National Drug Take Back Day occurred on October 29. The Prevention Playbook that coaches distributed helps parents and student-athletes

tackle the root causes of today's overdose crisis. For more information, contact Kevin Kendro, Supervisor of Athletics and Extracurricular Activities.

The Board of Education held its inaugural "Listening Session" on October 18. The plan is to hold three sessions each school year and to move them around the county to different school locations to make attendance easier for those wishing to attend. The format is more casual than at regular Board meetings and allows for some interaction.

Veterans Day is coming up soon. FCPS always honors this solemn holiday with a ceremony and recognition of staff members who are also veterans. Schools will celebrate our veterans and learn about the history of this holiday. A happy Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, to the more than one billion people who celebrate the victory of good over evil. And we wish a Thanksgiving filled with family, friends, fun, and food (not too much) to all who celebrate this holiday.

## FCPS Marching Band Festival

**Claire Doll**  
MSMU Class of 2024

On Monday, October 9th, Frederick County held its yearly All County High School Marching Band Festival. The festival took place at Linganore High School, featuring 10 marching bands from throughout the county and a special exhibition performance by the Shepherd University RAM band.

The event's schedule began with the National Anthem followed by fifteen-minute performances by each band. Featured high schools included Walkersville High, Urbana High, Governor Thomas Johnson High, Frederick High, Catoctin High, Tuscarora High, Brunswick High, Middletown High, and Linganore High. The events was finished with the Shepherd University RAM performance, as well as a band recognition.

Dozens of people showed up for the event to support their students' participation in the concert. Each high school band portrayed creative themes through a variety of musical selections in each performance. For example, students from Brunswick High School performed in front of a large, framed photo of a train, inspired by the high school's team called the "Railroaders." Brunswick is known for being a railroad town especially through the 1970s and 1980s, and the student's image of school identity is represented through their musical performance.

Such marching band programs in FCPS, like Urbana High School's, requires almost daily evening rehearsals each week to prepare for performances. Urbana High School's marching band season is preceded by a summer band camp, an intensive two-week program requiring students to prepare

for the upcoming competition season. This includes "learning the show drill, memorizing music, and mastering marching techniques." Other high schools, such as Catoctin High School, reach out to the feeder middle school by inviting their bands to learn from and perform with them. This community involvement allows the marching band to recruit new members and promote interest in the program.

The festival's guest, Shepherd University's RAM band, is one of the highlights of Shepherd University, located in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The RAM band, open to all majors and areas of study at the university, is in demand all throughout the Mid-Atlantic region in the United States. Under the direction of Dr. Scott Hippensteel, the band is "known for its strong commitment to musical excellence and its exciting shows." The presence of such a renowned, collegiate musical

group at the FCPS showcase is sure to leave a lasting mark on the high school musicians and inspire musical pursuit in college and beyond.

A video compilation of October 9th showcase can be found on the Frederick News-Post. The video features clips from different sections of the night, as well as photos of each band as a whole as well as individual members. To learn more about

performances by Shepherd University's RAM band, visit [www.shepherd.edu/music/marching-band/](http://www.shepherd.edu/music/marching-band/). To learn more about the marching bands of Frederick County Public Schools, be sure to visit each high school's official website and search "music" to view upcoming performances and more information.

Great job to all the student performers at the festival!



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# FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

*As Fall is associated with 'change', this month our writers decided to write about things they would like to see 'changed' in this world.*

## Freshman

### Parenting through technology

Gracie Smith  
MSMU Class of 2027

Society as a whole is nothing like it was 20 years ago. The kids of 20 years ago are faced with a generation that is growing up watching TikTok. The kids of 20 years ago are faced with a generation that has no idea of the importance of respect and responsibility. The next generation is largely being parented by cell phones and iPads instead of learning how to be successful in life. This is a huge problem that needs to be fixed before society crumbles in the hands of technology. The rapid and out-of-hand progression of technology is negatively impacting future generations, and it needs to be changed.

My parents are the reason I am the young woman I am today. From a very young age, my mother and father instilled the importance of respect into my brain. It has always been “yes ma’am,” “yes sir,” “please,” and “thank you.” Being humble and kind is a fam-

ily pillar where I come from. As an 18-year-old, I am now able to see how my actions reflect upon others and in return how their actions reflect on me. Where I work, I am often faced with disrespectful people, and I can personally say that most of my disrespectful customers are the younger generations. They have little to no respect for their elders, but rather a sense of impatience, and furthermore, they misbehave in situations where it is completely inappropriate to do so. If I were as disrespectful as some of the kids I see, my mother would have lost her mind. Firstly, she would have dragged me out of wherever we were no matter how much I fought her. Secondly, she would’ve given me a stern lecture in a way that intimidated me so much I would never do it again. The number of times I see children with cell phones as a result of their behavior makes me question: what is this child learning from this behavior? How is this a solution for children these days, and their relationship with technology?

Additionally, the future generations are learning nothing about responsibility. For example, students today don’t do homework, and they don’t realize the importance of being responsible. I was 16 when I bought my 2015 Jeep Cher-

okee and could not be prouder of my car. I have been working a steady job since my sophomore year of high school in order to make my monthly car payment. If I’m late, I pay a late fee. If I don’t have the money to make my monthly car payment, then I pick up more hours at work or take money out of my savings. Life never throws you a bone. No matter what happens, you will always have responsibilities and bills to pay. I know what it’s like to be held responsible for something, and now I know what it’s like to pay a late fee because I made my payment on the 2nd and not the 1st. If parents realize the bigger picture and ultimately strive to put their kids in a position to succeed in life, their children will grow up relying on their own hard work and integrity rather than relying on technology that diminishes the idea of responsibility.

As I mentioned before, the future generations are growing up watching TikTok instead of the televised blessings we 2000s kids had: shows such as *The Backyardigans*, *Wonder Pets*, *Max and Ruby*, *Bob the Builder*, etc. I didn’t get my first cell phone until I was going into high school. Nowadays, I see seven-year-olds with their own phones. When I was seven, I thought it was awe-

some that I had a Disney Princess CD player that I could listen to KidzBop with. As far as I am concerned, a child should not own a cell phone until middle school at the very least, due to the effect it might have on their social and physical development. While I personally think that is still too young, society is different than it was 20 years ago. When I was in middle school, I was faced with multiple challenges since I did not own a cell phone—challenges that forced me to think out of the box and deepen my cognitive skills. To this day, I do not have TikTok installed on my phone, and I don’t want to install it. Call me old fashioned (hence writing for the newspaper), but there is no value in having TikTok, nor does it actually succeed in entertaining me, while it might for someone else. Why would I watch someone rate their food recipe when I could read a cookbook by Betty Crocker and get much better results? At the end of the day, while it is understandable and useful to use technology to help enforce a child’s behavior, technology should not be used as a constant replacement of parenting. This is because children rely too heavily on what their parents teach them, and learning from a screen more often than

learning from their parents can be detrimental to their future.

If technology is going to continue to brainwash our younger generations, then I urge parents to limit screen time as much as possible and spend time with their children. Parents are crucial in a child’s life, and children naturally and beautifully learn so much from them. If society continues in this negative direction ruled over by technology, I pray that my generation is strong enough to take over before technology harms us all and causes irreversible effects. The blatant lack of respect towards others, lack of responsibility, and the constant thirst for technology by younger generations is embarrassing and overall scary. One of the only things that can be changed to prevent our world from being fully consumed by technology is changing the style and motivation that informs parenting. The evolution of technology is inevitable, but parenting is something that will always have the greatest effect on a child and how successful they will be in life.

To read other articles by Gracie Smith, visit the Author’s section of Walkersville.net.

## Sophomore

### A global urgency: end rape

Devin Owen  
MSMU Class of 2026

With the changing of the seasons comes change in mindset and habits in our daily lives: we no longer are wearing shorts and tank tops outside. We aren’t at the beach in our swimsuits multiple days a week, but rather, we are at school or work and wrapping up in warm, cozy comfort clothes as the leaves change their colors and the air gets a little cooler with every hour that passes by. With the changes in mind, it leaves us to wonder what some other changes we could or would like to see—not just in our daily lives—but in the world itself.

I, for one, have a very long list of the changes in the world that I would like to see, but the one I’ll focus on is rape and sexual assault. Rape is, and has been, a very large and on-going issue in the world for a very long time. Worse than that though, is the stigma that follows it around: it’s not the rapist’s fault that they did it if the victim was wearing something provocative, or if they lead them on—the list goes on and on. This is a crime that knows no boundaries; an undeniably horrific violation of one’s physical and emotional integrity, and an affront to the principles of human dignity.

One of the most alarming aspects of this issue is the sheer prevalence of rape worldwide. According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network Organization (RAINN), there is an average of about 463,634 victims of sexual violence in just America, and that ranges from ages 12 and up—meaning that it doesn’t include the thousands of younger children being preyed upon or attacked before they even can comprehend what ‘it’ is. It was also stated by the organiza-

tion that 82 percent of the juvenile victims and 90 percent of the adult victims of rape are female. The World Health Organization estimates that about one in three women worldwide has experienced sexual violence from either a partner or non-partner at some point in their lifetime. As a woman, this information is horrifying and serves as an explanation for why we are as cautious as we are in public. However, it is not only women that suffer, but men are also victims of rape and that itself should be talked about more. RAINN notes that one out of every ten rape victims are male and that in America alone, 2.78 million men have been victims of attempted or completed rape. A sad truth of the crisis of rape in the world happens to be that there is severe underreporting of cases due to fear of stigma and retaliation: will I be blamed for this? Will anyone believe me? It’s my word over theirs, is that enough? What if they shame me...does it matter what I was wearing? These are all questions left for a survivor to ask—a result of the stigmas of rape.

Consent is a huge part of this crisis as well though, as it happens to lay the foundation for intercourse itself. Consider what it says in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; every individual has the right to life, liberty, and security of person. Rape is a very clear violation of said fundamental human right, and in order to violate that right, one has to forego the unsaid law of consent. Something as simple as asking “is this okay?” or “are you sure?” is considered to be consent. The impact of such blatant disregard for human rights also affects those around the victim as they are there with the victim for the aftermath—the emotional and psychological aftermath.

I’m going to get more personal here, which is hard because such a blatant disregard for human rights is hard to talk about. When I was in high school, I was sexually assaulted by a close friend

of mine, someone I believed to care about me and my well-being. At first, I didn’t realize that it was actually assault because I willingly went to see a friend at their home, but in the end, I went home with less innocence than I started with. There comes a point though, when you are with someone that certain trust and kindness should be shown; being flipped around like a ragdoll to do what it is that the second party here desires—while you beg for them to stop, while you call out “no” and “please, I can’t,” repeatedly—is not something that exudes trust and kindness, and most certainly not consensual. This is a violation of privacy and human rights so inhumane that you are kept up with nightmares about it for years; a violation that

prevents you from forming close relationships with other people, from allowing physical touch from men because you are so terrified that something—anything—might happen again. The cherry on top of this experience, is that this “friend” of mine has no idea that he ever did anything wrong, and at the end of this experience, he left me to leave with the message of: “well you’re a little less innocent now, you’re very welcome.” To this day the thought of what happened that night creates a knot in my stomach that tightens into a coil; like a snake wrapped around its prey, squeezing the life out of me.

It’s hard to realize that rape or assault isn’t something that is just done by strangers; it, in most cases, is carried out

by someone we might know or even someone we could be close with. Try to imagine that: someone you’re incredibly close with choosing to violate your being in such a violent and horrific way, that you are left to pick up your broken pieces for years to come, by yourself.

It doesn’t matter what we wear, how we interacted with others that might lead to “misunderstandings,” or if it’s a boy or a girl: no means NO. Frankly, it’s a phrase that I wish more people understood.

This is a change I want to see in the world...it’s a change that the world needs to see.

To read other articles by Devin Owen, visit the Author’s section of Walkersville.net.

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## FALL — A TIME FOR CHANGE

## Junior

Where have all the Good Samaritans gone?

Dolores Hans  
MSMU class of 2025

When did adults stop teaching kids to be Good Samaritans? Growing up, I remember my parents, teachers, and other adults encouraged me to be overly kind and trusting, and to see the good in people, following the example of the Good Samaritan. Some adults weren't even aware of the religious affiliation of this phrase, but knew it was a quality of person that showed selflessness, dependability, and trust. I was recently reminded of the importance of trust when a stranger, much like the Good Samaritan, selflessly returned a large amount of money that was accidentally sent to her rather than me. She had every opportunity to keep the money for herself, yet she chose to acknowledge that it was a technological mistake and graciously returned it. In an age where technology provides many opportunities for scams and fraud, I tend to miss the simplicity of my childhood. Now, as an adult, I see children being taught

that "those who easily trust are easily deceived," and phrases like "stranger danger" or that people will take advantage of them if given the chance.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan comes from The Bible, in the Gospel of Luke. It is as follows: "A man fell victim to robbers. . . They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise, a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' . . . Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise'" (Luke 10:29-37).

This passage probably seems as though it takes place in some far-off utopian world, according to now-days standards and practices. We used

to relate to this story. We used to hear this and think of someone in our lives who was a Good Samaritan to us, the wounded. Or think of a time when we helped someone in need regardless of what was in it for us. Today, we hear this story and ask questions like, "How does the Good Samaritan know he can trust the wounded man not to rob him?" We can all say we understand that when someone is deeply wounded (physically or emotionally) they will turn around and hurt others, especially those who try to help them heal. "What if the wounded man had a past of cruelty and sin? How can the Good Samaritan justify saving them?" Because why lend a hand to someone who could have hurt others? "What if those who robbed him were people that he had wronged? He deserved justice, not help." It is so easy to assume the worst about others.

Isn't it so easy to justify your own negligence and coldness toward others when you've made up a good enough reason? How many times have we walked by a homeless man because we assumed he would just spend the money on drugs or alcohol, which is probably how he ended up in his position anyway? How many times have we walked down the street and

assumed the man behind us is following us because men have no control over their desires? How many times have we blamed our parents for our shortcomings because if they had tried to heal from the trauma their parents put them through, we would be better off. How many people are we going to turn our back on because they don't live up to our standards, or because it is not our job to fix them? "You need to put yourself first." Not selfish. "Don't give away your trust until they earn it." Better safe than sorry. "Screw your family." They don't understand or appreciate you. "He won't share his feelings with me." He must be immature, or cheating, dump him.

When does it end? We are not the only ones hurting. We are not the only ones with responsibilities. We can have every reason in the world not to help, but where will that get us? If we turn our back on someone, regardless of their circumstance, then there is no reason to have hope in the world. And isn't that what we have become? A hopeless world?

In this world, and especially in this generation, we have put up our guards. We have been taught and trained to assume the worst, to live in fear, and to put ourselves first. But what about the

Good Samaritan? Forget about caring for the wounded man by personally bandaging his wounds and bringing him to an inn and spending money to provide him with comfort and security, we can't even comprehend giving away a meal to a hungry stranger, or engaging in a conversation with someone we think is below us. We can't even do the bare minimum of trusting our own family and significant others not to deceive us.

I believe that if there was something to change about our world, it would be to restore trust and hope in humanity. We live in a society full of untrustworthy people who scam us and hurt us in countless ways, building us to form distrusting habits and mindsets. Whether it is something as drastic as parents separating, or as simple as returning money that doesn't belong to us, we assume people will only do what is right and convenient for themselves.

Let us find the Good Samaritans of our time. Let's honor them, put them on the news rather than all the hate and crime that goes on in our world, and follow their example. What is stopping you from being a Good Samaritan? "Go and do likewise."

To read other articles by Dolores Hans, visit the Author's section of Walkersville.net.

## Senior

Let it snow, again

Claire Doll  
MSMU Class of 2024

I would change the snow, make it last forever.

All winters would be white, like they used to be: cold, crisp, sparkling air. Snow-dusted blades of grass, and barren, silhouetted trees. My old home where the sun rose through the kitchen window, golden light bouncing off the glistening frost. The smell of hot chocolate from the kitchen. The ever-telling door that sounded when my dad came home from work: thudding footsteps, keys jingling, setting sunlight following him inside. Frozen flakes clinging to his uniform, whispers of wind before he closed the door. The anticipation you felt when you woke up on a scarlet morning and glimpsed out the windows, a sliver of white blanketing everything you knew.

Snow is threaded in every memory of winter. Sparkling silence, untouched nature. Snow is winter, making up Christmas and New Year's and all the holidays in those barren months. Snowfall is what makes the winter evenings so romantic, makes the mornings worthy, makes the afternoons slow and hushed as we watch from our windows.

Except we didn't get any snow last winter.

Instead, we got gray skies and ice-slick roads. We got a cold Christmas, a mild New Year's, and a thawing February that felt as though we had already been living in spring for months. But not a single flake of snow. Not a single snow day for students, or a morning we woke up to silence and sparkling sheets in our backyard. While I love

the warm weather and the blossoming of spring, I can't help but grieve for the winters I knew as a child.

Global warming and climate change have become a threat to not only winters, but all seasons as we know them. In an article by How Stuff Works, authors Patrick J. Kiger and Desiree Bowie write, "By the end of this century, spring and summer could begin a month earlier, and autumn and winter might arrive half a month later. Summers could extend to nearly half the year, with less than two months of winter by 2100."

This shocking news asks us to redefine our seasons and slowly let go of what winter once was. Instead of cold months and long nights and snow-dusted mornings, we will start to see milder temperatures, earlier blooming flowers, and less snow in the forecast. Frankly, we are entering a period where we might lose the winters we once had as a child.

"For much of the eastern United States. . . winter has been a bust," writes Michael Casey in an article on AP News, calling the climate "a winterless winter." The memories we once fondly reminisced upon will soon become an image of the past we can hardly grasp, let alone wish for.

So rather, I would change climate change in general, make it avoidable, perhaps even nonexistent. As a 21-year-old in this society, I dream about my future. I dream about world travel, and marrying the love of my life, and having children, and venturing through the seasons of life much like I do the seasons of the year. I dream about quiet snow days in the same way I dream about sunny summer days. I long for all seasons, for the cold and the warm, for the light and the dark.

But with threatening climate

change and the most recent world tensions involving Israel and Hamas putting pressure on the world—as well as other serious global issues such as poverty and economic inequality and hunger—I fear deeply for the future I once idolized as a child.

It makes sense, though. Being born in 2001—the year of our nation's catastrophic terrorist attacks—my generation's identity "has been shaped by the digital age, climate anxiety, a shifting financial landscape, and COVID-19" (McKinsey & Company). I remember my childhood as beautiful and wondrous, filled with family. I could spend hours thumbing through the photo albums in my basement: pictures of the playground set in my backyard, the piles of autumn leaves, the blizzard in second grade that called off schools for a week. But my pre-teenage years were characterized by social media (how many likes did I get on Instagram?) and normalized school shootings (where is the best hiding spot in the classroom?) and the dreaded, continuous, irreversible climate change conversation (where have the snow days gone?). Once I graduated high school into a global pandemic, my worldview was shockingly pried open. I have loved college, and I anticipate my future career, but entering the job and housing market and inflated grocery store prices and an earth without winters—it's terrifying.

Sometimes all I wish for is the snow.

Or rather, I wish for nothing to have changed at all. If I could go back to that townhouse in the corner of my old neighborhood, the one the sun touched every day, the one where all four seasons watched me grow, I would. As an emerging adult with the anxiety of a teenager

and the heart of a child, I would give anything to wish away the problems in this world today.

Of course, reality has different plans, ones that we must confront rather than avoid. Although winters might look and feel different, it is important to both preserve what we once knew and act now—take responsibility for our own carbon footprint, and demand action from larger corporations. Demand they take accountability. Wealthy polluters, rich countries, and sometimes, ourselves.

But take a moment to remember your fondest memory of snow. Perhaps it is with your children, on a day off school, dressing them in cozy snowsuits. Watching their little footprints dot the white blanket,

smiling as they take off on a sled down a hill. Or perhaps it is with your partner, brewing hot chocolate or sipping wine while you watch the snowfall from a frost-painted window. Perhaps it is with your parents, your friends, yourself. Flakes drifting on Christmas Eve, or a rush of snow in a February blizzard. It's winter, the silent months. The months we gather together and slow down. The months we desperately need to hang onto, especially now. In this world, in these scary, frightening days, we all need to watch the snow, smell the crisp air moments before the flakes fall.

To read other articles by Claire Doll, visit the Author's section of Walkersville.net.



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# ARTS

## This month at the Weinberg Center

### Peter Noone, Herman's Hermits & The Marcells

The legendary Peter Noone and the iconic Sixties pop band Herman's Hermits, are set to grace the stage at the Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick Maryland on Sunday, November 12. Joining them for this unforgettable musical journey is special guest, The Marcells.

Peter Noone has delighted audiences for generations with his incredible career. He achieved international fame as the lead singer of Herman's Hermits. Their classic hits, including "I'm Into Something Good," "Mrs. Brown, You've Got A Lovely Daughter," and "I'm Henry VIII, I Am," continue to resonate with fans worldwide. Throughout the '60s, Herman's Hermits sold over sixty million recordings, with fourteen singles and seven albums earning gold status. They were twice named Cashbox's "Entertainer of the Year."

Joining Peter Noone at the Weinberg Center are The Marcells, renowned for their 1961 hit, "Blue

Moon," which sold over two and a half million copies. With three record albums and numerous hit singles, The Marcells have left an indelible mark on the music world.

### Alan Cumming & Ari Shapiro

Alan Cumming and Ari Shapiro bring their two-man show, Och & Oy! A Considered Cabaret, to the Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick, Maryland, Saturday, November 11.

Alan Cumming, celebrated for his Tony Award-winning role on Broadway in Cabaret and his Emmy-nominated role on The Good Wife, joins forces with Ari Shapiro, the acclaimed journalist and co-host of NPR's All Things Considered. Together, they create a vibrant tapestry of music and storytelling that explores their own diverse backgrounds and the universal themes that connect us all. In a statement, Cumming said, "I've got to know Ari over the last few years, both socially and when he interviewed me for a

couple of events. The last time was an evening in D.C., and by the end of it I realized our chemistry and the unusual combo of us, as well as the fact that Ari has an amazing voice, would make for a really great cabaret show. And kapow! We're doing it! What I love most is it's fresh and ever-changing."

Shapiro added, "When Alan first suggested that we create a show together, I didn't quite believe him. Then as we started to dig into this collaboration, I realized how much our professional lives actually complement each other. We're both storytellers who try to help audiences better understand themselves and the world around them. This show lets us explore those shared ideals on stage together, through stories and songs."

### Menopause the Musical

Get ready to laugh, sing, and celebrate the joys and challenges of being a woman as Menopause the Musical takes the stage at the Weinberg Center on November 9 & 10

Menopause The Musical has been running for over 20 years, including 15 years as the longest-running musical in Las Vegas history. Nearly 17 million people in 16 countries (more than 500 cities) have attended the performance. The show is a musical parody that takes a lighthearted look at the trials and tribulations of "the



If you know the words to "I'm Henry the 8th I am, I am ..." then we'll be seeing you at the Weinberg for Peter Noone's Herman's Hermits show!

change." Set in a department store, the show brings together four women with seemingly nothing in common except a black lace bra on sale and a shared experience of hot flashes, mood swings, wrinkles, and more. As they bond over their menopausal misadventures, the audience is treated to a series of reimagined classic songs from the '60s, '70s, and '80s, all with cleverly rewritten lyrics that highlight the humor of the menopausal journey.

### This month at New Spire Arts Stage The Jeremiahs

Irish folk band, The Jeremiahs present poignant vocals, backed by

gifted guitar, viola, fiddle, and flute at New Spire Arts in Frederick, on November 3.

The Jeremiahs is an Irish folk band that comprises four musicians who have come together with the common goal of writing, composing, and performing folk songs and music. They have travelled extensively, bringing their music far and wide and are heralded as a live band not to be missed. With a wonderful mixture of newly composed songs and tunes in the folk genre and a well selected catalogue of older folk songs, they are sure to rouse all the emotions. Hailing from County Dublin is singer Joe Gibney on vocals. On fiddle, viola and vocals is County Cork's Niamh Varian-Barry (formerly of Solas). On flutes and whistles is the French born Julien Bruneteau and on Guitar is Dublin born James Ryan.

### Physical Theatre's "Generic Male"

Prepare to be captivated as PUSH Physical Theatre brings their highly acclaimed production, "Generic Male," on November 4. Known for their innovative fusion of theater, dance, and acrobatics, PUSH Physical Theatre promises an evening of breathtaking athleticism, visual storytelling, and emotional depth.

PUSH Physical Theatre has received critical acclaim worldwide for their unique and groundbreaking approach to theater. Their performances have been described as "mesmerizing" and "spellbinding," leaving audiences both inspired and profoundly moved. "Generic Male" is no exception, as it delves into universal themes that resonate with people of all backgrounds. This multi-award-winning Off-Broadway show is a powerful and thought-provoking performance that explores the complexities of masculinity, identity, and vulnerability. With a blend of physicality, humor, and raw emotion, PUSH Physical Theatre takes audiences on a journey that challenges traditional notions of what it means to be a man in today's world.

Tickets for all shows at the Weinberg & New Spire Arts may be purchased online at WeinbergCenter.org, by calling the box office at 301-600-2828, or in person at 20 West Patrick Street.



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# Alternate Autumn feasts

Sonya Verlaque

One very hot summer day, my oldest cousin got married. It was the late nineteen hundreds, maybe 1990, the actual date I can't remember but she was wearing very puffy sleeves on an elaborate dress. Her new husband was kind and friendly and had a very loud laugh. Thanksgiving rolled around and he brought a side dish from Czechoslovakia, his heritage. Most of our family was very used to the usual thanksgiving sides, sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce that still has the ridges from the can when you are finally able to shake it onto a plate to slice. James brought sauerkraut. But not the usual sauerkraut that I had eaten in the past, from a plastic bag thing that was heated up and then served with corned beef or brisket. This sauerkraut was good. It was salty, it was sour, it was crunchy, it had little pieces of puffy bread in it. Middle school me was shocked, and ate more than was good for a 12 year old stomach.

I asked him when I was older, how do you make it? He told me to make some pork meatballs, and then some dumplings. You know, just regular dumplings, and then just make the sauerkraut, and put it all in. Clearly this was a passed down recipe that you just learn to cook from mama, who learned from grandmama, etc. So, in searching for the Czech Sauerkraut, I found this recipe from Becky Robins "Travel by Stove" which incorporates a roast pork, instead of meatballs, but makes for a main course or dinner like dish. Its assembled after making all the components and putting the dumplings and sauerkraut together and then the pork on top, or in the center with the rest

surrounding it. As a note, this dish and Czech dishes tend to be salty, so adjust this amount according to how much salt you personally prefer.

### Veprova Pecene (Roast Pork)

#### Ingredients

- 1 tbs vegetable oil
- 1 tbs prepared mustard
- 2 tbs caraway seeds
- 1 tbs garlic powder
- 1 tbs salt\*
- 1 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 2 lbs pork roast
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup beer (or water)
- 1 tbs cornstarch
- 2 tbs butter

Preparation: Make a marinade out of the oil, mustard, caraway seeds, garlic powder and salt and pepper. Rub the pork all over with this mixture and refrigerate for 45 minutes. Preheat your oven to 325 degrees. Place the chopped onions in a layer on the bottom of the roasting pan and add the beer or water (the only beer I had was Guinness, which really isn't very Czech, so I just went with water). Now put the roast on top of the onions and cover loosely with foil. Roast until the internal temperature reaches 145 degrees, turning once. Let rest for 10 minutes. Transfer the juices from the roasting pan into a saucepan and add the cornstarch and butter. Simmer until thick and serve over the sliced meat.

### Houskove Knedliky (Yeast Dumplings)

#### Ingredients

- 1 1/8 tsp active dry yeast
- 2 cups lukewarm water
- 1 tsp sugar

- 2 tbsp salt
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 egg
- 1 cubed bread roll

Preparation: Dissolve the yeast in the water and add the sugar. Meanwhile, mix the flour, salt, egg and cubed bread roll in a large bowl. When the yeast is frothy, add it to the bowl and mix well. Knead for 10 minutes. Separate the dough into four rolls and then cover and let rise in a warm place for an hour or so.

Now boil some salted water and add one or two of the rolls to the pot. Cover and let boil for about 20 minutes. When finished, the dumplings should be very light and fluffy.

### Cranberry Pecan Sweet Potato Wild Rice Pilaf

#### Ingredients

- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup wild rice blend
- 1/2 tsp dried parsley
- 1/2 tsp dried oregano
- 1/2 tsp dried thyme
- 1 tbs olive oil
- 1 cup sweet potato, diced small
- 1/4 cup onion, chopped
- 1/3 cup dried cranberries
- 1/3 cup pecans, chopped
- fresh parsley, for garnish

Preparation: In a medium sized sauce pan bring the broth to a boil and add wild rice, parsley, oregano, and thyme. Reduce the heat to a simmer and cover with a lid. Cook for 30 minutes or until tender. Alternatively, you may follow the liquid/rice ratios and cooking directions according to your particular brand of wild rice blend for 1 cup




Cranberry Pecan Sweet Potato Wild Rice Pilaf

of rice. a skillet add the olive oil and sweet potato and saute until tender, about 15 minutes or so. Once the potatoes are nearly cooked through, add the onion to the pan and cook until translucent. Add cranberries and chopped pecans and cook

for 1-2 minutes. Add the cranberries and pecans to the rice mixture and fluff with a fork. Garnish with fresh parsley and serve warm!

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



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# ASTRONOMY

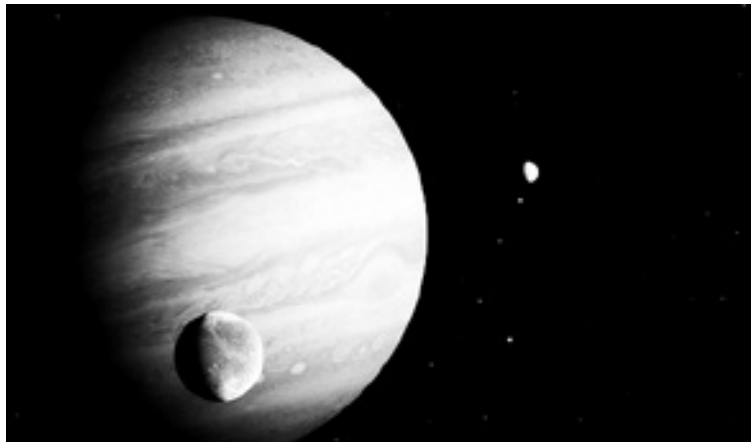
## The night sky of November

Professor Wayne Wooten

The Last Quarter moon is November 5<sup>th</sup>. The waning crescent moon passes a degree north of brilliant Venus in the dawn on November 9<sup>th</sup>. The moon is new on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The waning crescent moon will set well before the peak for the Leonid meteor shower on the morning of November 17<sup>th</sup>. The First Quarter Moon is on November 20<sup>th</sup>, passing three degrees south of Saturn. The waxing gibbous moon passes three degrees north of Jupiter on November 25<sup>th</sup>. The Full Moon, the Beaver Moon, is on November 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mercury is lost in Sun's glare in November. Venus dominates the dawn, a shrinking crescent that will appear half lit in December. Mars is in conjunction with the Sun on November 17<sup>th</sup> directly behind the Sun. This is the month for Jupiter, which comes to opposition on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. It now lies in Aries. Saturn is in the south in Aquarius in the evening sky.

This spectacular shot of Jupiter was made by the Hubble. To lower right, the famed Great Red Spot is very visible and still larger than Earth! At bottom left is the huge moon Ganymede, the larg-



This spectacular shot of Jupiter was made by the Hubble. To lower right, the famed Great Red Spot is very visible and still larger than Earth! At bottom left is the huge moon Ganymede, the largest moon in our solar system. It is larger than Mercury.

est moon in our solar system. It is larger than Mercury. It and Callisto, the outermost Galilean, can just miss Jupiter's poles currently, but smaller, inner Io (orange to left edge) and Europa always pass directly in front of and behind Jupiter's disk every orbit. Their dark umbral shadows will almost exactly behind them near November 2<sup>nd</sup> and opposition, with the earth between the Sun and Jupiter. Io and Europa are both similar to our own moon in size, but much brighter, with fresh surfaces of sulfur (Io) and water ice (Europa) instead of the dark volcanic basalt of our lunar mare.

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 2023; 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.sky-andtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts](http://www.sky-andtelescope.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 North East 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 West rising in the North East as the Big Dipper sets in the North West. Polaris lies about midway between them. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the North East now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the North East corner star of Pegasus" Square, and goes North

East with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye. South of it, and visible in binoculars, is M-33 in Triangulum.

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. 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". To the North East, yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, rises at 7 p.m. 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.

## Farmers' Almanac

"November's sky is chill and drear, November's leaf is red and sear"

- Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832)

**Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:** Dry and warm, then a few showers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); rain, then turning breezy and colder on the 10th (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); seasonably cold and dry with a hard freeze east, then snow showers west and rain showers east (11,

12, 13, 14, 15); dry and turning milder, then wind-driven rain and turning colder with snow showers west (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); 21-26 seasonably chilly and dry at first, then showers (21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26); windy with rain, changing to snow west (27, 28, 29, 30).

**Severe Weather Watch:** The Town and Country Almanack forecasts a hard freeze (11, 12, 13); heavy snow,

lake effect-winds (18); more heavy snow, wind (27).

**Full Moon:** The Full Moon in November will occur on Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. Because of the high winds that would sweep across The Plains, many Native American tribes called it Big Wind Moon and with all of the leaves falling and grasses dying off, it was also been referred to as Falling Leaf Moon And Dying Grass Moon.

**Special Notes:** The 2023 elections will be held on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Though this year, we are not electing the President of The United States, your vote is still needed to help maintain the course of America for the future. 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.

Daylight Savings will end on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 2 a.m. Be sure to turn the clocks back an hour before retiring Saturday evening. And make note that this will most likely be the very last time we will have to make this biannual time

change! The United States Senate has passed the Sunshine Protection Act of 2021, which would abolish clock changes in favor of making daylight saving time permanent. Once it reviewed by the House of Representatives passes the Senate and is signed into law by the president, the change will take place in 2024.

**Holidays:** In 2023, Veteran's Day falls on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Remember to honor our military service branches and those who have served and with their on-going service, continue to protect us today. Thanksgiving is celebrated on Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Join with family and friends and reflect on all of the things we have to be thankful for and please, try and carry that appreciation not only throughout the holiday season, but for always! And though not officially recognized as a holiday, Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> is the great civil rights leader, Martin Luther King's actual birthday.

**The Garden:** Keep watering until the ground temperature reaches 40 degrees. Pay particular attention to any plants or shrubs recently planted. Plants that face winter

dryness are prone to damage and dieback during the cooler months. The trick is to water deeply and less often in order to establish self-sufficient plants. Use small stakes or markers where you've planted bulbs or late starting spring plants in the perennial garden, to avoid disturbing them when you begin spring soil preparation. If you feel that stakes don't fit your landscape style, you might consider marking stones with fingernail polish or paint, and set them on the planting spot (painted side down). Drain your hoses and put them away so they don't freeze and burst. Winter heating dries the air out in your home considerably. Help your houseplants survive by misting them or placing the pots on a pebble-filled tray of water to ensure adequate humidity and moisture.

**The Farm:** Best for planting root crops (9, 10, 11); planting above-ground crops (21, 22); weeding and stirring the soil (4, 5, 6); harvesting all crops (23, 24); the best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19); transplanting (13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19); the weaning of small animals and livestock (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22); the harvesting and storing grains (5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12).

**John Gruber's Thought For Today's Living**

"If youth knew what Age would crave, it would stive to get and save."



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**FITNESS & HEALTH**

# Thanksgiving dinner is always a favorite!

**Linda Stultz**  
**Certified Fitness Trainer**

Over the past several years I have written a Thanksgiving Dinner article with suggestions and recipes for a healthy holiday meal. I am still interested in finding new and healthy foods to add to the traditional turkey, ham, stuffing and veggies and of course pumpkin and apple pie but thought I would make a few other suggestions this time.

A buffet can make things a little easier when everyone is so busy and has more than one house to visit for the holiday meal. You can fix some of the food a day or so ahead and heat it up or serve cold. Crock pots are a great way to keep foods hot without drying out or over cooking them. A hardy autumn soup or stew with some home baked warm bread or muffins will hit the spot and can be served whatever time your guests arrive.

A healthy tray of fresh veggies with a low sugar dip is also a great way for you to serve good food that is ready all day long. Most people like veggies and dip and they can choose the ones they like best. Sometimes the kids only like a few vegetables but when you add the dip they seem to eat a better variety.

Keeping with the traditional turkey and ham, and of course all the fixens, there are a wide variety of side dishes. Some of the dishes can be the favorites of the season and some can be new ones or even

cold dishes that you can prepare ahead of time. You need to enjoy the holiday too, so make it a little easier on yourself. A friend told me they did a buffet one year, it went really well and will probably do it again. A casserole can be a great way to incorporate the traditional meat, stuffing and vegetables while giving you more time to spend with your guests. It is also a great way to use up all those leftovers the following weekend.

I don't have any changes to the pumpkin and apple pies. Dessert always seems to be allowed on Thanksgiving. Of course, these can be made a day ahead so you can share quality time with your family and still have dessert. Maybe they are eating at someone else's house and coming to yours for dessert. If that is the case you may want to make a few other family favorites like apple cake, sweet potato pie or whatever is traditional for your family. Today there a lot of recipes with less carbs and calories. Check the internet for substitutes and make a healthier version of their favorites.

Whatever your holiday has in store, I hope you have a safe, healthy and Happy Thanksgiving. Remember to take a walk or get some type of physical activity after dinner. You'll be glad to share the time with the people you love and you'll feel better after a big meal. You can contact me at 717-334-6009 with any ideas you would like to share for food, exercise or a healthy way of life. Thanks!



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# COMMUNITY NOTES

## Glade Valley annual new teacher appreciation night dinner

On September 21, The Glade Valley Lions Club (GVLC) held its annual New Teacher Appreciation Night Dinner Meeting to honor new teacher and Administrators from area schools. Letters of invitation were sent to all of the six area schools: Walkersville Elementary School (WES), Walkersville High School (WHS), Walkersville Middle School (WMS), Rock Creek School (RCS), Glade Elementary School (GES) and Woodsboro/New Midway Elementary School (WN). The Guest Speaker at this meeting was the local School Resource Officer DFC Tyler Olejniczak. He presented information about the services that his program can provide to the schools in the Glade Valley area.



DFC Tyler Olejniczak, GVLC President Jim Corley.



Front Row: DFC Tyler Olejniczak, Kristen Sutherin (WMS), Michelle Keegin (WES), Kyra Fry (WES), Kaitlyn Kelly (RCS), Crista Driscoll (RCS); Back Row: Jim Corley (GVLC), Kristina Sandi (WMS), Alex Effom (WHS), Anna Gregory (WHS), Nick Schoeneman (WHS), Diana Merritt (WMS) and Shawn Miller (WES).

**Glade Valley Lions Club  
OPEN HOUSE  
FRIENDSHIP NIGHT**  
Thursday, November 16 - 6:15 p.m.  
St. John's United Church of Christ  
8 N. Second St., Woodsboro  
*Light refreshments will be served*

You've seen Glade Valley Lions Club members around the community doing service projects and fundraisers. We are looking for new members with great ideas! Want to find out more? Please join us for a Meet and Greet for all Glade Valley community members.

Please RSVP by visiting our website: [www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/gladevalley](http://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/gladevalley), our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/GVLIONS/](http://www.facebook.com/GVLIONS/) or send us an email at [GladeValleyLions@gmail.com](mailto:GladeValleyLions@gmail.com)

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**YEAH! Friday Night YEAH!**

**'BINGO'**

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**Bingo begins @ 7 p.m.**

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**301-271-7550** [www.thurmonteventcomplex.com](http://www.thurmonteventcomplex.com)

**SPORTSMAN'S CALENDAR  
GUN RAFFLE 2024**  
**THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS IS A \$1000 A DAY PRIZE**  
**Annual Fundraising Event to support the Emmitsburg Vigilant Hose Company #6 Fire & Rescue**

Calendars will be available starting the middle of September at the VHC Fire Hall and Stateline Gun Exchange, Emmitsburg

For more information contact the Vigilant Hose Co. at: 240-674-0154 or visit [www.VHC6.com](http://www.VHC6.com)





# COMMUNITY NOTES

## Walkersville Senior Citizens celebrate 50th anniversary

After a one-year delay, the Walkersville Senior Citizens celebrated their 50th anniversary on October 12 with good food, friends, and fellowship. Attendees socialized in the morning, looked at albums filled with photographs of current members, as well as those of the past, and had their own group photograph taken.

The focus of the afternoon program was the history of the club's journey from 1972 – 2022. Frances Miller began the program by describing the world events happening in 1972, a turbulent year, but also a year of great advances in science, the space program, and inventions. She also noted the costs at that time for gas, rent, housing, and food items. With an average income at \$11,800 per year, buying a new home (average cost \$27,550) was a struggle then as it is now.

Kathryn Nicodemus presented the early history of the group explaining the progression from an idea of a senior group to a functioning organization. In the beginning, the group met once a month at a church fellowship hall or at the high school. Attendees were asked to pack a lunch, with the beverage and dessert provided by the steering committee, later funded by the club's treasury. Often, a civic or church organization would provide the lunch and the program. The group met like this for 21 years.

Doris Main described the transition in 1993 to meeting twice a week at Georgetown Hall of the Methodist Church. Members of the group were very active, traveled extensively and would, upon their return, describe and show slides of the countries they visited.

Meals were prepared by the women of the church under the direction and guidance of Virginia Serkiz. The delicious and healthy meals were greatly enjoyed by all attendees. The group met at Georgetown Hall for 7 years.

Paula Aboyouin read a message written by Reba Staley at the time of the 35th anniversary in 2007. Reba was a unique member as she attended the first meeting of the Walkersville Senior Citizens October 25, 1972. In addition, she experienced all of the relocations, as well as the changes in lunches from brown-bagging to being home-cooked, and then to being catered.

Linda Spears spoke about the 3-year hiatus brought about by the COVID

pandemic. When restaurants were allowed to open to on-site customers, Seniors, known as the "Lunch Bunch" met for lunch at area restaurants on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. At the conclusion of the meal, each member would be given a small bag of candy tied with a brightly colored ribbon. To commemorate that period of history, a similar bag of candy was provided to attendees.

Please join the Walkersville Senior Citizens as we start our next 50 years. Seniors meet at Town Hall, 21 West Frederick Street, from 11 to 2. Note: Starting in November, Seniors will meet on Wednesdays. For information and lunch reservations, please call 301-845-7174.



Walkersville Senior Citizens recognize the four most senior members in attendance at the 50th Anniversary celebration. Pictured are Kathryn Nicodemus (91), Doris Main (94), Virginia Rogers (95), and Alice Lyon (90) standing.

**Rocky Ridge Vol. Fire Co.**  
**12 Days of Christmas**

Dec. 14 - Rossie Rio Bravo 22LR  
 Dec. 15 - \$350 Cash  
 Dec. 16 - Savage 93 Camo 22WMR  
 Dec. 17 - \$350 Cash  
 Dec. 18 - Traditions Buckstalker 50 Cal  
 Dec. 19 - \$350 Cash  
 Dec. 20 - G-Force GF1 12 Ga  
 Dec. 21 - \$350 Cash  
 Dec. 22 - Mossberg Patriot 6.5 CM  
 Dec. 23 - \$350 Cash  
 Dec. 24 - Ruger Range 6.5 GR  
 Dec. 25 - \$500 Cash

**\$10 donation per person**  
 Winners are determined by evening "Pick 3"  
**Cash alternative to firearms \$350**  
 Guns provided by Bollinger Gunsmithing & Sales, LLC  
**Get your tickets now!**  
**Call your friendly RRVFC volunteers...**  
 Penny: 240-674-9834 • Dave: 240-385-6682  
 Rob: 301-271-7780 • Bonny: 301-788-0311  
**Or stop in at the fire house!**  
 13516 Motters Station Rd., Rocky Ridge

**Walkersville Christkindlmarket & Christmas Parade**  
 Sat., December 2 - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
 (Both start at 10 a.m.)

**Santa arrives at the end of the parade**  
 Following the parade there will be vendors & artisans. Homemade soups, country ham sandwiches, hot chocolate and baked goods will be for sale!  
 Credit Cards Accepted

**Additional activities will be held at other locations throughout the town!**

**Glade United Church of Christ**  
 21 Fulton Avenue, Walkersville  
 301-845-6775  
 www.gladchurch.org  
 www.facebook.com/GladeUCCWalkersville  
 Vendor applications: christkindlmarket@comcast.net  
 Parade entry info: chrisuebel@hotmail.com

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**Happy Thanksgiving**

<p><b>COMING SOON</b></p> <p>8004 Rocky Ridge Rd., Thurmont                  3 Bdrms/ 1 Bath/ 1 Acre Lot, Lg. Heated Garage w/Lift/ Investors Welcome  <b>\$199,000</b>                  Call Beth Ohler</p>	<p><b>COMING SOON</b></p> <p>116 Sunny Way, Thurmont                  Rancher w/Attached Garage/ Deck/ Covered Porch/ Prim Bdrm w/Private Bath  <b>\$349,900</b>                  Call Cindy Grimes</p>	<p><b>COMING SOON</b></p> <p>12133 Pleasant Walk Rd., Myersville                  3 Bdrms/ 3 Baths/  <b>Info to Come \$649,000</b>                  Call Beth Ohler</p>	<p><b>COMING SOON</b></p> <p>7101 Friends Creek Rd., Emmitsburg                  3 Bdrms/ 1 Bath/ 2.5 Acres/                  Enclosed Car Port/ Shed  <b>\$275,000</b>                  Call Beth Ohler</p>	
<p><b>UNDER CONTRACT</b></p> <p>104 Rouzer Lane, Thurmont                  3 Bdrms/ 2 Baths/ Finished LL                  Fenced Yard/ Storage Shed  <b>\$325,000</b>                  Call Beth Ohler</p>	<p><b>UNDER CONTRACT</b></p> <p>3825 Jefferson Pike, Jefferson                  3 Bdrms/ 2.5 Baths/ 3900+ SqFt/                  Beautiful Colonial/ Completely Updated  <b>\$589,999</b>                  Call Diane Bowers</p>	<p><b>ACTIVE</b></p> <p>15519 Kelbaugh Rd., Thurmont                  2+ Acres/ Perc'd/ Scenic View  <b>\$125,000</b>                  Call Cindy Grimes</p>	<p><b>NEW LISTING</b></p> <p>111 Sunny Way, Thurmont                  3 Bdrms/ 2 Baths/ Loft                  Covered Deck/ Fenced Yard  <b>\$254,900</b>                  Call Cindy Grimes</p>	<p><b>NEW LISTING</b></p> <p>13115 Catoctin Furnace Rd.                  3 Bdrms/ 3 Baths/ 1+ Acre                  Hdwd Flrs/ Exposed Beams  <b>\$345,000</b>                  Call Elle Smith</p>
<p><b>ACTIVE</b></p> <p>13411 Catoctin Furnace Rd.                  3 Bdrms/ 1 Bath/ Craftsman Style                  Lg. Deck w/ Patio  <b>\$265,000</b>                  Call Elle Smith</p>	<p><b>UNDER CONTRACT</b></p> <p>8161 Rocky Ridge Rd., Rocky Ridge                  Investment Opportunity/                  Multi Family Duplex  <b>\$289,998</b>                  Call Diane Bowers</p>	<p><b>Owens Creek Overlook, Sabillasville</b>                  5 Custom Home Packages w/Land starting at \$599,900</p> <p>16011 Foxville Deerfield Road                  5.43 Acres/ 3 Bdrms/ Perc 10 GPM                  16013 Foxville Deerfield Road                  5 Acres/ 3 Bdrms, Perc 5 GPM                  16015 Foxville Deerfield Road                  5.24 Acres/ 3 Bdrms/ Perc 12 GPM                  16017 Foxville Deerfield Road                  5.12 Acres/ 3 Bdrms/ Perc 10 GPM                  16019 Foxville Deerfield Road                  5 Acres/ 3 Bdrms/ Perc 10 GPM                  Call Cindy Grimes</p>	<p><b>ACTIVE</b></p> <p>6842 Browns Quarry Rd., Sabillasville                  6+ Acres/ Wooded/                  Conventional Perc  <b>\$149,900</b>                  Call Cindy Grimes</p>	<p><b>UNDER CONTRACT</b></p> <p>Brice Road Lot                  1.25 Acres/ Perc Approved/                  Pastoral Views  <b>\$90,000</b>                  Call Gathi Miller</p>
<p><b>NEW LISTING</b></p> <p>14280 Upper Edgemont Rd. #9,                  Waynesboro, PA                  4 Bdrms/ 3 Full Baths/ 5000+ SqFt                  In-Ground Pool/ Remodeled Kitchen                  Finished LL  <b>\$519,900</b>                  Call Rachel Hogg</p>	<p><b>COMING SOON</b></p> <p>5101 Wigville Rd., Thurmont                  4 Bdrms/ 3 Baths/ 3900+ SqFt/                  Raised Rancher/ 4+ Acres Wooded                  Finished LL  <b>\$474,900</b>                  Call Cindy Grimes</p>	<p><b>ACTIVE</b></p> <p>158 N. Carroll St., Thurmont                  1672 SqFt House w/ Bank Barn                  2.6 Acres/ Zoned Office/ Industrial  <b>\$450,000</b>                  Call Cindy Grimes</p>	<p><b>TO BE BUILT</b></p> <p>16019 Foxville Deerfield Rd., Sabillasville                  3 Bdrms/ 2.5 Baths/ 2200+ SqFt/                  To Be Built/ Wooded Lot/ 5+ Acres  <b>\$599,900</b>                  Call Cindy Grimes</p>	

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<p><b>Cathi Miller</b>                  Associate Broker, MD &amp; PA                  301-788-7216                  cathi@2bizar.com</p>	<p><b>Diane Bowers</b>                  Salesperson, MD &amp; PA                  301-898-4663                  bowersrealtor@hotmail.com</p>	<p><b>Carroll Glass</b>                  Salesperson, MD &amp; PA                  240-674-2538                  carroll-glass@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Kelly Rumpf</b>                  Salesperson, MD                  240-292-1746                  kelly_rumpf@outlook.com</p>	<p><b>Rachell Hogg</b>                  Salesperson, MD &amp; PA                  443-605-2426                  rachhogg1@gmail.com</p>



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