

Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 3, NO. 10

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

OCTOBER 2023

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EDC & WBPA agree to work together

The Walkersville Economic Development Commission (EDC) and the Walkersville Business and Professional Association (WBPA) have agreed to work together to make “Walkersville a better place to live.”

The EDC and WBPA met following the EDC's September meeting. The purpose of this meeting was two-fold: first to hold the monthly meeting of the EDC and second to learn from each group how to improve the economic endeavors for our citizens and members. The groups mingled for a few minutes before sitting down and beginning an earnest conversation on how to move forward.

As in any initial multi-group meeting, the initial conversation was broad, but as each member spoke about the history of their business, or why they moved to Walkersville, their hopes for the future, the conversation became more focused, robust and productive, and before long, a common theme was found: The EDC and the WBPA need to support each-other's efforts through opportunities in town for local busi-

nesses to work together through community wide events and way finding messaging.

Several times during the evening, the topic of reaching out to the Maryland Main Street program was brought up. It was pointed out that Thurmont has a robust Main Street program that puts on monthly community events and has been a key driver in filling empty store fronts.

Unfortunately, one of the criteria for joining the program is a defined, walkable central business district with a significant number of historic commercial buildings. The town of Walkersville does not meet this criterion; however, it does have a significant number of historic commercial buildings. To that end the EDC agreed to take the lead in exploring what elements of the Main Street Program might be applicable to Walkersville as this would open up a tremendous opportunity for the in-town businesses to access not only state funding but also other resources critical to the growth and sustainability of our town.



Members of the Walkersville Economic Development Committee and the Business & Professional Association agreed to work together to make Walkersville a better place.

Additionally, the idea of Pop-Up shops that aligned with the Walkersville Southern Railroad schedule would enhance the patrons visit to the railroad, creating an opportunity to highlight our local businesses to the over 20,000 visitors to the railroad each year. The Walkersville Southern Railroad has worked long and hard on their property; adding the museum, additional parking, and expanding their train ride offerings. They are at the gateway to Walkersville and an excellent forward-facing business to welcome visitors to our town.

“Wouldn't it be nice to be able to grab a hot cup of coffee and a snack or sandwich to take on the train?”

When you are back from your scenic ride and ready for a meal, way finding information (brochures or signage) would be a wonderful assist to finding an in-town restaurant for lunch or dinner too,” said one participant of the meeting.

The EDC and WBPA are committed to working together, relying on each other for support and information sharing. We welcome input from all of our businesses; micro, small, medium and large in the 21793 zip-code. If you are here already doing business or thinking about Walkersville as your location, please reach out to the WBPA at alan@firestride.com or the EDC at edc@walkersvillemd.gov

Woodsboro Days loses 5K run, gains music events

Following a blowout return last year after a forced cancellation in 2021 due to the pandemic, the organizers of Woodsboro Days are sticking with the new two-day festival format in spite of the decision of the Woodsboro Historical Society to cancel their 5K road run, which has served as the kick off event for the festival in years past.

The decision was a setback to plans to expand the festival to a full two days. Burgess Heath Barnes said that he explored options to move the music festival portion of Woodsboro Days to Saturday to coincide with the yard sales that would be taking place all over town, but unfortunately all the bands were already locked into other arrangements that Saturday, as were all the food trucks, so the town has no other option but to continue with the two-day format—for this year, at least.

In explaining the decision to cancel the 5K, Woodsboro Historical Society President Joes Rensberger said: “We had a wonderful run for exactly 10 years and after much discussion within the membership, a majority of members wished to focus more directly on mission-directed community activities; events for the community that more closely align with historic understanding and preser-

vation. For example, we hosted the Dahl Drenning civil war lecture this past spring and then recently held an antiques appraisal. Instead of recognizing our community sponsors at just Woodsboro Days, we are going to start recognizing and thanking them year 'round. The hope is that this change in event programming will continue to be well received and well attended by the community.”

With the 5K now off the program, Saturday will be devoted to town-wide yard sales, which draws in people from far and wide seeking not only bargains, but unrecognized treasures. Rain or shine, Woodsboro Lutheran will host its annual indoor/outdoor community yard sale from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The church is also accepting donated items, not including televisions or large items, which can be dropped off at the social hall. When not browsing endless yard sales, visitors can drop by the Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church for their traditional home cooked food options.

For the second year in a row, Sunday will feature, music, food, more music, moonshine, more music, food, and yes, even more music from noon to sunset in Woodsboro Park.

Unlike last year, the bands will



While this year's Woodsboro Day's bands will be good, many would give an 'eye-tooth' to go back in time and listen to a concert by the old Woodsboro Coronet Band.

not have to compete with the sound of generators at the music pavilion, as power lines have finally been run to the pavilion, thereby eliminating the past need for portable generators to provide power. The power lines were laid as part of a Project Open Space grant awarded to the Town earlier this year for upgrades to the amenities in the park.

Burgess Heath Barnes acts

as planner and organizer of the annual event each year and continually aims to keep the community activities going for years to come. “I welcome everyone to come out and enjoy a nice fall day in the beautiful historic Town of Woodsboro,” Barnes said.

For more details about the Woodsboro Days e-mail Barnes at hbarnes@woodsboro.org or calling 301-401-7164.

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WOODSBORO NEWS

Water meter system updated

Burgess Heath Barnes told the Town Council that with the exception of a handful of homes, all the homes and businesses in the Town have had their water meter reading system successfully upgraded to a new state of the art system.

The upgrade effort, which began in August, went quite smoothly, Barnes said. "Residents have all been very responsive to setting up appointments to have their meter readers and its associated transmitter changed out," Barnes said.

The town's old water reading system was from 2006, "and it really had become obsolete," Barnes said. While the meters still work, the meter reader-transmitting device, which sits atop the meter itself, had become completely outdated, and many were beginning to fail outright.

The old process required the town staff to download software into a 'remote reader' and then drive around town. At each home, the 'remote reader' would send a signal to the home's water meter transmitter. The transmitter then would respond to the signal with the number of gallons of water used since it was last interrogated. Once all the meters were read, town staff would then have to upload all the readings into another system, which was then

used to process the billing for the water. All in all, it was a time-consuming process.

To make matters worse, the software used by the old system was no longer supported, and the company that created the system had gone out of business, so the town had no option but to replace the old meter readers and their transmitters with a updated system.

If the town had not taken action to replace the old system, town staff was faced with a very real probability that they would soon have to begin to physically read all 450+ meters in town, which would not only adversely impact the ability to incorporate the readings into the town software for water billing, but greatly inconvenience residents who would have been required to allow town staff to enter their homes to read the meters.

The new system not only alleviates the concern over the ability to read meters in a timely fashion but also saves the town money, Barnes explained.

The new meter reader transmitters utilize cell phone technology to send and receive information via a T-Mobile transmitter on the town water tower. Once a quarter, town staff will send a single to the transmitter on the water tank, which will initiate a town wide transmission to all the water

meters in the town. Upon receipt of the signal, the transmitters on the top of the water meters will respond with the number of gallons of water used since they were last interrogated.

The whole 'interrogate and respond' process will take less than a minute. Upon receipt, all the information will be automatically downloaded into a billing software system that will automatically create resident's water bills, resulting in a significant saving in town staff time and expense.

While paper bills will still be sent out, the new system offers residents the opportunity to pay their bills on-line. The new system also includes a feature that will notify the town office of any nefarious system tampering.

While the new water meter reading system does not offer the option for residents to monitor their water usage remotely, like Walkersville's system does, the state of the art software offers the town the option to explore such tools said Barnes. We want to make this a user-friendly process. "The new system is a win-win for everyone and I want to personally thank everyone for their cooperation."

The cost of the new water meter reading systems was paid from funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act. The \$152,000

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price tag also includes purchasing additional meters for installation in future homes, or to replace failed

meters, as well as covering the cost of purchasing a larger meter for the elementary school.

Council readies to solicit bids for Town Hall

Burgess Heath Barnes could barely contain his glee as he told the Town Council that if all goes as planned, the last hurdle in the formal issuing of request to bid on the building of the Town's new Town Hall - the much awaited County permits approving the building's design and environmental related aspects - could be issued within weeks.

Barnes said that he has been calling everyone he knew to fast track the pro-

cess and left no stone unturned when it came to moving the project forward as fast as it could.

"Once we have the permits," Barnes said, "we can advertise for bids to build the hall. Legally we must wait 30 days from the time we issue the request, to the time we select the winning bidder."

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."

Given how tight the schedule is going to be, Barnes told the Council that if the permits come in as expected in the latter half of September, and the bid requests goes out immediately after, the town council would be in a position to select the winning bidder by the end of mid October.

"Unfortunately, no matter how hard we push, we will not be in a position to

select a winning bidder by the October Town Council meeting. But if we wait until the November meeting, which will be held in the middle of November, 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 apposed to waiting until Spring for its grand opening."

To minimize any chance that construction could be delayed, Barnes asked if the members of the Town Council would be willing to meet prior to the scheduled October Planning Commission meeting to review all the submitted bids and select a winner.

"I know it's only two weeks before our normal November meeting, but that could very well be the difference between being able to pour concrete or not," he said.

Barnes's request was met with unanimous support from the Town Council.

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 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 Clubs without worrying about the security of Town offices or records.


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WALKERSVILLE NEWS

Council considers new County Liaison position

At their September 13 meeting, the Town Council discussed the possibility of hiring a part-time Legislative and Policy Liaison to represent the town's interests at various county boards. The proposal, brought forward by Commissioner Mike McNiesh, arose in response to a series of incidents over the past few years where Walkersville staff and officials felt disconnected from critical matters affecting the town.

McNiesh initiated the conversation by providing several examples of such incidents; most recently, the lack of information provided to Walkersville concerning the designation of lime kilns at Fountain Rock Park historic sites, a concern which was also raised in August by the Planning Commission. He also brought up the construction of the Rock Creek School.

"When Rock Creek School was built, we had minimal awareness," said McNiesh. "I met with the school board president at the time, who said that a board member had been informed, but there is no public record of that conversation; whereas there is documented online evidence of the other [potential] location at Monocacy being covered by [the neighborhood advisory council]."

McNiesh recalled that while running for his most recent term as Commissioner, he went door to door with former Commissioner Michael Bailey and had a resident question why Walkersville never had a representative at meetings when "every other municipality was represented." While McNiesh agreed with the sentiment, he emphasized that he doesn't "feel comfortable ask-

ing current staff to [take on that position] because they're already task-saturated."

In regards to hiring a new staff member, Commissioner Gary Baker raised logistical questions, including the number of hours which would be required of the employee per month. In response, McNiesh proposed that commissioners create a list of essential boards for the liaison to attend, with the exception of the County P and Recreation board which Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis already attends regularly.

Burgess Chad Weddle asked Town Manager Sean Williams about the possibility of tying the new position to other staff increases, and inquired about the amount of time it would take to hire such an employee. Williams

stated that the hiring process should take no more than three months, which would ensure the fulfillment of the position by the end of the year.

Town Planner Susan Hauver shared insight into a recent initiative by the Liveable Frederick Plan, which recently reassigned staff to serve as liaisons with specific municipalities. However, she emphasized that even with this initiative, communication still remains difficult.

McNiesh illustrated the necessity of representation by citing a recent County Council meeting with Frederick City Aldermen regarding APFO funds. The funds, which amount to approximately \$6 million, have so far been withheld from the county by the city, with some officials suggesting that the money

should only be disbursed if it is used for Frederick City schools. "The problem with that is that every time Frederick builds a new development, that pushes students to other districts [including us]," said McNiesh. "We need to make sure we're continuing to fight for our kids in our school district."

Burgess Weddle encouraged McNiesh to collaborate with Williams and suggested that other Commissioners communicate their preferences for specific boards to Williams. The overall consensus was that Walkersville does, in fact, require a dedicated liaison to ensure effective representation of town interests. "I think our residents certainly expect us to represent them," McNiesh stated. "Right now we're losing out in the County and the school board. We just need to get our faces out there."

AEDs under consideration for Heritage Farm Park

GVAA President Michelle Fyock attended the September parks commission meeting to advocate for the installation of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at Heritage Farm Park sports facilities. AEDs are defibrillator devices essential in the treatment of cardiac arrest, which according to Fyock is the "leading cause of death among young athletes."

In the spring, a harrowing incident involving a 10-year-old baseball player who was struck in the chest by a line drive highlighted the pressing need for these devices. Although the young athlete, who initially collapsed upon the hit, turned out only to be dazed, the question looms: what if he hadn't been so fortunate?

According to medical experts, time is of the essence when it

comes to cardiac emergencies. While CPR is a valuable life saving skill, it may not be sufficient on its own. "An AED should ideally be no more than three minutes away from any given location within the park," said Fyock. "The average ambulance response time nationally is seven minutes, [so having accessible] AEDs can more than double chances of survival."

Although it is recommended that individuals train to operate an AED, these portable devices are generally user-friendly, equipped with voice prompts that guide even untrained individuals through the life-saving process.

Although members of the parks commission agreed with the importance of installing AEDs, concerns were raised about the effects of fluctuating hot and cold

temperatures on the electronic components of the devices. The question of environmental factors like heat and cold is an important consideration. AEDs must be serviced annually to ensure their functionality, and it may be prudent to temporarily remove them during extreme weather conditions.

Commission members agreed to take note of AED setup in Mount Airy, where the devices are placed in concession stands and practice sheds but moved closer to fields during practices and games. No matter the location, once installed, it will be imperative to educate staff and visitors on the usage of AEDs. Collaborating with fire and rescue services to provide training sessions and demonstrations can ensure that the devices are used effectively

during critical situations.

In terms of cost, AEDs tend to be initially priced around \$700, with additional add-ons pushing the price to \$1,000-\$1,200. The commission decided that it may be best to start with the installation of one or two of the devices, and explore the possibility of acquiring more units in the future.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis relayed information from the September 6 discussion of AEDs to the September 13 Town Council meeting, where Burgess Chad Weddle recommended that the town seek a consultant or AED provider to assess the logistics of AED installation within all Walkersville parks. Weddle emphasized that this would include theft deterrence due to both the importance and

the expense of the units.

With the council in agreement to consult a professional agency prior to moving forward with AEDs, Commissioner Gary Baker also proposed that the Town lobby for a larger rescue force in order to shorten emergency response time. "Where I see a problem is Walkersville responds to a lot of places," said Baker. "So all of a sudden, what could be a five minute response time is 10 to 15 minutes."

Commissioner Mike McNiesh also suggested the installation of signage within parks to clearly mark specific locations, enabling callers to provide precise information when dialing 911.

All of these propositions will be considered more thoroughly in the future in conjunction with experts in the field.

Heritage Farm Park soccer fields to be improved

Local soccer players and fans will be able to look forward to an upgraded experience next year thanks to a plan to improve field quality, which was approved by the parks commission on September 6. The project is set to take place in several parts between Fall of 2023 and Spring of 2024.

Commission member Kevin Conley, who also serves on the GVAA Board of Directors, shared details of the plan with the rest of the commission. He explained that the project closely resembles the successful improvements made to the football fields under the guidance of Jason Smith. Conley emphasized the importance of proper field maintenance and the significant benefits it would bring to the local soccer community.

The first step in the project involves taking two of the three soccer fields temporarily "offline." This downtime will be used to aerate, seed, and fertilize the fields, ensuring their lush green appear-

ance and optimal playing conditions. This phase is set to be completed in mid-October so that the fields can recover prior to winter. The third field will be taken offline in the spring and undergo the same process as the first two, ensuring that all necessary improvements are made within a single fiscal year.

To accommodate soccer players during the field improvements,

arrangements have been made for the usage of a field at Utica Park for two weeks, with one night allocated for practice each week. Furthermore, temporary relocation of two soccer goals to the old golf course is planned, exclusively for practice, no games will be played there. Conley acknowledged that the old golf course sits in a floodplain, but he expressed optimism that the weather would

cooperate, and heavy rains would not interfere with the project's timeline.

In a related matter, Laurie Keifer, speaking on behalf of homeschool families in the area, presented a request for usage of the soccer fields between September 19 and November 21. Due to an existing agreement between the families and GVAA, the parks commission approved the request

assuming that the group will make accommodations during the field improvements.

In addition to the field upgrades, new benches will also be installed to ensure comfort, safety, and enjoyment of the sport. Said Conley, "A lot of the community uses these fields, and we want to keep them up to standards...and maintained as well as we can."

WALKERSVILLE INFO

Wed., Oct. 4 - 7 p.m. - Parks Meeting
 Tues., Oct. 10 - 7 p.m. - Planning Workshop
 Wed., Oct. 11 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting
 Mon. Oct. 23 - 7 p.m. - EDC Meeting
 Tues., Oct. 24 - 7 p.m. - Planning Meeting
 Wed., Oct. 25 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting

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FROM THE DESK OF...

Congressman David Trone

Everywhere I travel around Maryland I hear the same thing: voters are tired of being pawns in a system stacked against them. They are sick of politicians making promises they don't keep. They are disgusted by PACs and lobbyists paying politicians to stop progress in its tracks. They cannot abide seeing their leaders treat division like progress.

I agree with voters on all of this, and that is why I'm running for the United States Senate.

The truth is, I'm fed up with the inaction I see in our leaders. This isn't dissimilar to my experience throughout life. I was fed up when the bank took my parents' farm and our family home. I was fed up when my nephew Ian told me that he couldn't find effective treatment for his addiction. I was

fed up when I faced bogus criminal charges and realized that the color of my skin dictated the outcome of my case as much as my innocence did.

But rather than give up, I took action. After my parents' bankruptcy, I started a small business to help my family make ends meet. After I discovered Ian's troubles, I worked to get him into 30-day programs. And in response to my mistreatment, I launched what has become the Trone Center at the ACLU, devoted to tearing down systemic racism and injustice in our criminal justice system.

But I have an obligation to do even more. Despite our best efforts, Ian died of a fentanyl overdose on New Year's Eve 2016. Our justice system is still jailing generations of Black and Brown Americans at disproportionate rates. Maryland

families tell me each day of struggles more distressing than mine.

The challenges that we face just can't wait. That's why we need a Senator who knows how to bring people together and get things done. A Senator who understands what it's like to build a business the right way, with some of the most progressive hiring practices in the world. A Senator that knows what it's like to fight for a better life for the families they represent.

Maryland families can count on me because I don't just take on tough fights — I win. I've seen the way megacorporations and lobbyists pay their way to influence their bottomline, and I can't stand it. They haven't — and they won't — get that access with me. I'll fight to slam the door on them in Washington, because I want to see more folks with

a story to tell, not a check to write. I've taken on big oil to lower energy costs and fight climate change. I've taken on big pharma to lower prescription drug costs and hold them accountable for the opioid crisis they created. I've taken on big corporations that pay nothing in taxes while raising costs on working families. I did all of this and won.

Right now, Washington is being dominated by extremists intent on tearing down all of the progress that we've made over the last 6 decades. Rolling back our momentum on abortion to civil rights to labor rights. We can't allow that to happen. As your next Senator, I'll build on my experience over three terms in Congress and hit the ground running on day one. Now more than ever, we need a Senator with a proven track record of delivering results where they matter most.

Creating an economy that works for

all Marylanders.

Building the greatest schools on the plant and giving our children access to world-class education.

Ending the gun violence epidemic.

Protecting the right to abortion and leaving reproductive healthcare choices to patients, not the government.

Combating the climate crisis and protecting our environment.

I genuinely believe that we can achieve all of this and more if — and it's a big if — we set aside the mindless division and unproductive political theater.

I'm running for the Senate because the clock is ticking. Progress can't wait. I know how to disrupt rigged systems and create real change for Maryland families, bringing people together to solve big problems. I've done that my whole life. And throughout it all, I'll focus on the only thing that truly matters in this fight: you.

County Council President Brad Young

I am happy to relay to everyone that on August 23, the Maryland Board of Public Works approved a \$3.135 million grant to Frederick County's Mid-Maryland Frederick-Carrollton Manor Rural Legacy Area as part of the Fiscal Year 2024 Rural Legacy Program.

For those of you who may not be familiar with this most valuable agricultural preservation program, the Frederick County Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program helps fund rehabilitation, restoration, and preservation of historic properties located in the unincorporated areas of the county. Grants from the program are designed to preserve, protect, and enhance rural historic properties.

From the County's press release on this matter in case you had missed it. "Maryland's Rural Legacy Program provides the focus and funding necessary to protect and preserve large, contiguous tracts of rich agricultural and forested land from sprawling development. The program

partners with local governments and private land trust sponsors across the state, who work with willing property owners to acquire conservation easements.

The Maryland legislature appropriated approximately \$34.6 million for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' program. Rural Legacy purchases conservation easements or fee simple interests in real property from willing property owners, based on Rural Legacy Plans that have been reviewed by the Rural Legacy Board.

To date, 7,324 acres have been permanently preserved in Frederick County through the Rural Legacy Program. In total, the Frederick County Agricultural Land Preservation Program has permanently preserved over 71,919 acres of land in the County. County Executive Jessica Fitzwater has stated, "We are proud to have a program that permanently preserves land in our county."

Here is some additional information

from the State website on this program.

The Rural Legacy Program provides the focus and funding necessary to protect large, contiguous tracts of land rich in natural and cultural resources from sprawl development. It also enhances natural resources, farms and forests through cooperative efforts among state and local governments and land trusts. Protection is provided through the acquisition of easements and fee simple estates from willing landowners and the supporting activities of Rural Legacy Sponsors and local governments. The Program is administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The Rural Legacy Program was enacted by the 1997 Maryland General Assembly and signed into law May 22nd of that year.

The Rural Legacy Program was created to discourage sprawl development and protect areas for future generations to enjoy. The Program provides farmers

and landowners an alternative to developing (or subdividing) their land or selling their property to developers. Under the Program they can sell or donate their development rights and still retain ownership to continue growing crops or raising livestock.

On the state level, the Rural Legacy Program is funded through a combination of Maryland Program Open Space dollars and general obligation bonds from the state's capital budget. Local jurisdictions also contribute monies for a variety of land preservation efforts within these areas.

The Program encourages local governments and private land trusts to identify Rural Legacy Areas and to competitively apply for funds to complement existing land conservation efforts or create new ones. Local Sponsors must apply annually to the Rural Legacy Board for participation in the Program and to receive funding.

The Rural Legacy Advisory Committee reviews all applications and makes recommendations to the Rural Legacy Board. The Rural Legacy Board, in turn, reviews the applications each year and recommends to the Governor and Board of Public Works which Rural Legacy Areas will be designated and funded. The Board of Public Works designates the Rural Legacy Areas and approves the grants for Rural Legacy funding.

Information about the Rural Legacy program and other County agricultural preservation programs is available at www.frederickcountymd.gov/agricultural-preservation.

I believe in Frederick County's rich agricultural history and wish to preserve and enhance as much of this vibrant part of our community as I can.

If there is ever anything I can do for you, please feel free to reach out to me and my office. You can contact me via email at BYoung@FrederickCountyMD.gov, or you can call my office at 301-600-1108.

County Councilwomen Renee Knapp

As I'm writing this month's article, much needed rain is expected to arrive soon. However, we have been experiencing drought conditions for much of this year. On September 20th, the Maryland Department of the Environment upgraded the drought watch from over the summer to a drought warning. We have a substantial rain deficit to make up, and Frederick County Government is asking all residents to begin voluntarily cutting back on water

usage. Farmers and residents who rely on groundwater have been especially affected by conditions this year, and hopefully, we will see more precipitation during the fall and winter seasons.

Opioid Epidemic

Frederick County received grants for almost \$2 million dollars to help with the opioid epidemic. These grants will deepen the partnership between the Frederick County Health Department

and the Division of Fire and Rescue Services. The Community Outreach and Support Team (COAST) helps residents struggling with substance abuse to begin accessing treatment and recovery resources immediately following a potential overdose incident. With the COAST program, when someone in Frederick County is experiencing such an incident, a Community Paramedic and a Peer Recovery Specialist can be dispatched to the scene to help quickly

and directly. This approach helps to reduce overdose fatalities by emphasizing effective immediate interventions and treatment resources.

Rustic Roads Commission

To better meet current community needs and to make county road planning more efficient and responsive, the County Council is considering legislation to establish a Rustic Roads Commission to administer the Rustic Roads

Program that was approved by former County Executive Jan Gardner in 2022. The Rustic Roads Program will replace the Rural Roads Program which was overseen by the Roads Board. The Rural and Scenic Roads Advisory Committee recommended that a dedicated commission be formed to oversee the new Rustic Roads Program.

The Rustic Roads Commission would establish bylaws to govern its activities to administer the program. These activities would include establish-

continued on next page

SPORTSMAN'S CALENDAR GUN RAFFLE 2024

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GOVERNMENT

County Executive's Jessica Fitzwater

The Great Frederick Fair. Community shows. Apple harvests. Fall has finally arrived! Colorfest and Railroad Days are just around the corner. As we head into October, let's take a moment to celebrate major accomplishments from last month.

Congratulations to the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton on the amazing new museum and visitor center! I was honored to share in the recent dedication. Through generous donations, the shrine renovated its historic space. Visitors to the Basilica can interact with exhibits that bring to life Mother Seton, the first American-born saint of the Catholic Church.

SAFER Grant - Our first responders risk their lives every day to protect and

serve the people of Frederick County. Thanks to a major federal grant, we will soon be able to keep these heroes safer.

Frederick County was awarded nearly \$10 million to add 32 new firefighters to our Division of Fire & Rescue Services. The positions allow us to move from three-person to four-person crews on key pieces of equipment.

I am grateful to our federal delegation - Senator Ben Cardin, Senator Chris Van Hollen, and Congressman David Trone - for their support and assistance to secure these funds. The grant came from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response program, or SAFER for short. Frederick County received the

largest grant awarded to a Maryland fire service this year.

Increasing crews on our engines and ladder trucks has been a priority for some time. The move was recommended by an external review panel following the tragic death of Battalion Chief Joshua Laird two years ago during a house fire in Ijamsville. Four-person staffing will help keep first responders safer at the scenes of fires.

When the new positions are filled, our combined service will include 633 operational career firefighters and approximately 500 volunteer responders across 30 fire and rescue stations.

School Construction - Enrollment in Frederick County Public Schools is growing faster than in any other

county in Maryland. As a 15-year teacher, I am keenly aware of the challenges our school system faces. That's why I supported the construction of new schools and additions to existing schools during my time on the County Council. The new Brunswick Elementary School, which opened at the start of this school year, added 200 seats for students.

As County Executive, my priority is to add capacity to our schools. I recently announced a major step toward that effort. My administration purchased 119 acres of land that will eventually house Frederick County's 11th high school. The property is located at the intersection of Routes 75 and 80, an ideal location for a school. I

was pleased to work with the landowners, who did not want the land to be developed into more housing, and our partners at FCPS, to purchase this land for public use. At \$2.2 million, the County paid far below market value for this important investment!

State of the County - Later this month, I will be delivering my administration's first State of the County Address. By engaging residents in new ways, we have been able to accomplish great things over the past year. I invite you to tune into the presentation at 6 p.m. on October 25th. You can watch the State of the County Address live on FCG TV. Stream it from www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/FCGTV or tune into cable channels 19 and 1085. Join us as we celebrate Frederick County's rich history and our bright future!

Woodsboro Burgess Heath Barnes

Happy Fall before we know it the leaves will start changing and the temperature will begin to drop. The smell of pumpkin will be in the air, and the pumpkin patches, corn mazes, haunted houses, and fall festivals are in full swing. Enjoy time with family and friends at these things.

Our water meter update in town had a few hiccups, but I can happily say that all but about 5% has been completed and the town will be working with these residents to get theirs completed ASAP. With the delay in getting these all completed water bills will be going out

a few weeks later than normal this quarter but should have the option to pay electronically beginning with this quarter's bill. This is something that many residents have asked for, and we listened. Please do not be concerned if the bill comes to your home a few weeks later this quarter.

Electricity to the stage has been completed and we will have electricity and not have to use a generator for the bands this year at the Woodsboro Days Festival. Please see the ad here in the paper for details. It will be held October 21-22nd.

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 have called for a tentative special meeting with the council for October 23, 2023, at 7 p.m. to discuss the bids and decide instead of waiting until the regular November meeting so that we can get the building started ASAP.

The construction of the new skate park has begun and should be completed by the end of October. The

excitement around it is very high. It is being built between the concession stand and tennis courts. I am very excited to see this project happening.

Halloween will be on October 31st between 6 pm-8 pm in town. Please be sure to watch out for children in the streets that night and leave your light on if you wish to participate.

As always, I encourage everyone to support Glade Valley Community 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, 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 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 located at 8 N 2nd Street. The public is always invited to attend.

Councilwoman Renee Knapp continued from previous page

ing criteria for residents to nominate a road to be included in the Rustic Roads Program, to identify and oversee the protection of Designated Rustic Roads and Candidate Roads, and to consult with County staff, the County Executive, and the County Council as requested to help address road preservation issues.

To establish the new Rustic Roads Commission, the previous portion of County Code which established the Roads Board must be repealed. The Roads Board was established in 1939 to advise the Board of County Com-

missioners (BOCC) with road planning. As Frederick County grew and the BOCC assumed more planning functions, professional staff largely took up this advisory role. Since 1979, the Roads Board has met quarterly to hear public comment, pass requests to along to County staff, and perform some additional advisory functions.

With the passage of the Rustic Roads Program and with the recommendation of a Rustic Roads Commission to oversee the program and other advisory functions, there is no need for the Roads Board as it was constructed. For those reasons, I supported both the bill to repeal the

Roads Board and the bill to replace it with the Rural Roads Commission which will continue Frederick County's long-standing dedication to rural road preservation and landscapes.

While we're driving on rural roads in October, please remember to be patient with farm equipment on the road during harvest time. It's a beautiful time of year and the leaves will soon be turning. It's a great time to visit your local pumpkin patch, to go apple picking, or to spend some time in downtown Frederick.

You can reach me with any questions or concerns at rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov.



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and Debbie Williams & the Open Road Band



Forever Young
 Noon - 1:30 p.m.



Saskia & the Truly Unruly Band
 1:45 - 3:45 p.m.



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COUNTY NOTES

County Awarded \$9.7 Million SAFER Grant To Hire 32 Additional Firefighters

Frederick County has been awarded a \$9,732,102.08 federal grant to hire additional firefighters in the Division of Fire & Rescue Services. County Executive Jessica Fitzwater announced the grant, the largest awarded to a Maryland fire service to date this year, this afternoon at a press conference alongside U.S. Senator Ben Cardin, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen, and Congressman David Trone. The grant is through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program.

"I am grateful to Senator Cardin, Senator Van Hollen and Congressman Trone for their support and assistance to secure these funds," Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater said. "It has been a priority of ours to increase the size of our crews to better protect our first responders, who put their lives on the line every day for our community. This SAFER grant allows us to phase in this important change."

"Firefighters and first-responders are always on the front lines in an emergency. They often respond to fires, medical emergencies, hazardous materials spills, natural disasters and active shooter situations," said Senator

Cardin. "As many fire stations across the state struggle to fund equipment, training and staff, this federal funding will help provide Frederick County with the personnel and support it needs to keep its growing community safe in an emergency."

"Strong local fire departments are fundamental to the safety of our communities. This investment that Federal Team Maryland fought to secure will enable Frederick County to continue its firefighter recruitment efforts, which will improve emergency response capabilities and better protect those on the front lines who are putting themselves at risk to keep the rest of us safe every day," said Senator Van Hollen. "I will keep working to make sure Maryland firefighters and first responders have the resources to stay fully equipped, staffed, and trained in the years to come."

"Maryland relies on its firefighters every day to keep our communities safe and sound," said Congressman David Trone, member of the House Appropriations Committee. "All of our brave first responders are heroes who deserve the utmost admiration, respect, and support. So I couldn't be more proud to work with Team Maryland in Congress and County Executive Fitzwater to deliver federal funding to stand by our first responders and improve the safety

of our communities."

Increasing engine and ladder truck crews was one of the recommendations made by an external review panel that examined the Aug. 11, 2021, house fire on Ball Road in Ijamsville that claimed the life of Battalion Chief Joshua Laird.

"The award of the SAFER Grant allows Frederick County to hire 32 additional firefighters," said Chief Tom Coe, Director of the Division of Fire & Rescue Services, "so we can continue the transition from three-person to four-person staffing on our fire suppression units. Four-person staffing is a national fire service consensus standard and key recommendation found in the Ball Road After Action and Improvement Report."

When the new positions are filled, the Division of Fire & Rescue Service will have 633 operational career firefighters. Frederick County's combined fire service also includes approximately 500 volunteer responders across 30 fire and rescue stations.

Frederick County Rural Legacy Program Receives \$3.135 Million State Grant The Maryland Board of Public Works approved a \$3.135 million grant to Frederick County's Mid-Maryland Frederick-Carrollton Manor Rural Legacy Area as part of the Fiscal Year 2024 Rural Legacy Program.

Maryland's Rural Legacy Program provides the focus and funding necessary to protect and preserve large, contiguous tracts of rich agricultural and forested land from sprawling development. The program partners with local governments and private land trust sponsors across the state, who work with willing property owners to acquire conservation easements.

The Maryland legislature appropriated approximately \$34.6 million for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' program. Rural Legacy purchases conservation easements or fee simple interests in real property from

willing property owners, based on Rural Legacy Plans that have been reviewed by the Rural Legacy Board.

To date, 7,324 acres have been permanently preserved in Frederick County through the Rural Legacy Program.

In total, the Frederick County Agricultural Land Preservation Program has permanently preserved over 71,919 acres of land in the County. "We are proud to have a program that permanently preserves land in our county," said Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater. "Frederick has such a rich agricultural history and receiving this grant allows us to continue to preserve that history."

Information about the Rural Legacy program and other County agricultural preservation programs is available on the Agricultural Preservation website. For additional details, contact Anne Bradley, Program Administrator, at 301-600-1474 or via e-mail at abradley@frederickcountymd.gov.

Transit Enhances Access to the Taxi Access Program

It is now easier than ever for eligible Transit plus users to participate in Transit Taxi Access Program, or TAP. Through the TAP, Frederick County residence 60 or older, who have permanent or temporary disabilities, now have even more flexible transportation options. The program aims to help current transit plus users get around Frederick County by providing supplemental access through Fredericks taxi providers.

Starting immediately, all eligible users cannot participate in TAP after scheduling or attempting to schedule three transit plus rides over the course of a month. This decision was made after discussing needs with current Transit plus users and identifying opportunities to provide more scheduling flexibility. TAP provides an additional way for people who are eligible for the transit plus program to travel within Frederick County, including during times when transom

plus is not operating.

With the TAP, eligible users receive an allotment of taxi fares monthly, based on home ZIP Codes. Participants pay ZIP Code base fare to use the service and received a subsidy funded by Transit which is applied to a reloadable swipe card. The amount can be used anytime during the month, with up to three months of taxi fare stored on a reloadable card. The card to swipe by participating taxi companies to pay the fare. TAP users can pay in smaller increments of five or \$10 twice a month if necessary.

For more information on TAP, please visit Transit website or contact transit by phone at 301-600-2065

Russell Takes Reins as County's Human Relations Director

Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater has hired an investigator with over three decades of experience to revive the county's Human Relations Department.

Anthony Russell began this week as Director of Human Relations. This department within the Office of Equity and Inclusion is charged with investigating discrimination complaints in housing, employment, and public accommodations, as well as educating the community through trainings, outreach, and initiatives. The director also serves as the primary staff contact for the Human Relations Commission.

"People need to know they have an advocate when they face discrimination in our community," said County Executive Fitzwater, "and Anthony brings extensive skills, knowledge, and commitment to the position of Human Relations Director."

"We are excited to have someone with his skillset and interest in public good to lead the effort in educating our entire community on the very critical matter of human rights," said Frederick County Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer Michael Hughes. "Frederick County Government is committed to addressing

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COUNTY NOTES

injustices and providing leadership in creating a community where each of us is equally valued for the humanity that we share. We are fortunate to have Anthony join us in this effort.”

Mr. Russell brings an extensive background in investigating discrimination. During his 34 years as a Baltimore County Police officer, he spent 18 years as the department’s Fair Practices Liaison. He monitored nationwide trends in discrimination and

served as the primary educator for sexual harassment and discrimination training.

Mr. Russell earned his master’s degree in management and executive leadership and a bachelor’s degree in management, both from Johns Hopkins University.

Additionally, he has specialized training in mediation, conflict management resolution, employment discrimination, and cultural diversity, among other topics.

People who believe they have been discriminated against in housing, employment, or public accommodations in Frederick County can contact the Human Relations Department by calling 301-600-1110.

Fire & Rescue Spokesperson Earns National Award

The National Information Officers Association recognized Frederick County Division of Fire & Rescue Services Public Information Officer Sarah Campbell with their 2023 Outstanding Management of a Critical Incident Award. She earned the honor for her work coordinating public communications following the March 4 tanker truck explosion and resulting fires along U.S. Route 15.

“I am grateful for Sarah and our public information officers across Frederick County Government who work hard to ensure our community is informed during critical times,” County Executive Jessica Fitzwater said. “Sarah did a remarkable job. I congratulate her on this impressive honor.”

“Frederick County is fortunate to have such a professional advocate to keep the public informed of emergencies that occur in our community,” Fire Chief Tom Coe said. “Mrs. Campbell is a hard-working public servant who cares deeply about Frederick County and is incredibly committed to our organization’s mission. I am excited that the National Information Officers Association has recognized Sarah with this most prestigious award.”

On March 4, emergency responders received multiple calls for reports of multiple house fires, a vehicle explosion, and a large brush fire, all along the Route 15 corridor near Rosemont Avenue. Quickly realizing the severity of the incident and its impact on residents and travelers, Campbell stood up a Joint Information Center within the Frederick County Emergency Operations Center, bringing in communications staff from multiple agencies to assist. She provided oversight on all aspects of communications crisis management, providing information to the public through social media channels and media outlets in a timely manner. As news of this event spread to a national audience, Campbell coordinated a press conference with officials from numerous state and local agencies.

When the public began questioning whether hazardous materials from the incident threatened a nearby drinking water source, Campbell worked

with the Maryland Department of the Environment, Frederick County Division of Fire & Rescue Hazardous Materials Team, and the City of Frederick City’s Department of Public Works to distribute accurate information. By dispelling rumors quickly, their efforts prevented additional chaos to an already critical incident.

Throughout the event and into the following week, Campbell guided community leaders and elected officials on communication aspects. She worked with leaders to hold a Town Hall forum for affected residents. With representation from multiple state and local agencies, she oversaw an open forum event in which community members could get their questions answered. Throughout the entire incident, Campbell maintained a calm, cool attitude and maintained control of the communications aspect of the situation.

County Awarded Two Grants to Combat the Opioid Epidemic

Frederick County has been awarded two grants totaling almost \$2 million to help Frederick County

combat the opioid epidemic.

A 2023 First Responders - Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (FR-CARA) Grant comes from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in the amount of \$1.8 million over the next four years.

The second grant awarded was from the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE), worth \$150,000 to be utilized over the next two years.

These grants will expand the Division of Fire and Rescue Services’ (DFRS) partnership with the Frederick County Health Department as they continue to operate the Community Outreach And Support Team (COAST). “We are very proud of our partnership with DFRS that has created a program with effective interventions and positive outcomes,” said Andrea Walker, Director, Behavioral Health Services Division and Local Behavioral Health Authority.


COAST is a collaborative initiative that launched in 2021 to provide enhanced access to substance use treatment and recovery resources through the on-scene response of both a Community Paramedic and

a Peer Recovery Specialist.

The SAMHSA grant funds will allow the COAST initiative to increase the hours they are available per week, as well as an increase in the scope of care that can be provided by their team. Both grants support educating first responders and community partners, working directly with those in need, on opioid emergency identification and response, reducing overdose fatalities. In addition, the grants allow the county to continue strengthening a regional network of care for those with behavioral and drug-related conditions and increase access to critically needed treatment and recovery services.

“These grant funds will provide meaningful, effective, and purpose-driven support towards the opioid epidemic that we continue to battle”, said Fire Chief Tom Coe. “This funding is an enormous step towards increasing Frederick County’s capacity in providing the right resources to members of our community in their time of need.”

To read the latest press releases from the County visit www.walkersville.net.



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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

“Sweetest Corn in Three States” and Politics

Recently, I was driving on U.S. Route 15, traveling south between Luckett’s and Leesburg. There are numerous roadside vegetable stands on that route, and I took notice of one large sign that read “Sweetest Corn in Three States.” My first thought was that from the number of vehicles and persons at the stand, it must be good corn. The thought was quickly followed with a smile, thinking of the marketing genius of the proprietor. No one could disprove the sign, which was intentional. Of course, the whole purpose of the sign was to sell sweet corn, and given the number of vehicles and people, it was successful.

Marketing is important to any commercial enterprise selling a product. A good product is a good start, but advertising drives the sales. A very well-known successful advertising executive once gave a speech on successful advertising. In his remarks, he said that half of everything his firm does is successful. When questioned about the remark and the unsuccessful advertising parts, the executive responded that the firm was not sure which parts were not successful and which parts were successful. So, marketing is not an exact science.

In a free market society, advertising is everywhere. We are blasted with television advertising, newspaper sales ads, and even pop-up ads

on our electronic devices. While we often complain about the ads, without the ad revenue, many newspapers and electronic news would not exist. Advertising affects our decisions to buy products and engage in services, sometimes more than we understand. Even our political engagements, which party we align with, and the candidates we support are influenced by political marketing.

When politicians run for office, they are selling or marketing themselves as a better product than their competitors. A common marketing tool in politics - is to vote for me because I am not as bad as the other candidate. While this strategy has been around for a long time, recently, it has morphed into divisiveness that often divides voters. Instead of building bridges and connecting people, the intention seems to divide the electorate. It has often been said that politicians promise much but deliver little. Of course, not unlike the sweet corn marketing, politicians have been known to stretch a few facts and sometimes alter the reality.

A well-known and creative example of one successful candidate telling the constituents that he was better than his opponent occurred in Florida in the 1950 senate race. George Smathers, a well-known state politician, defeated the better-known U.S. Senator Claude

Pepper in a primary race. It was reported that Smathers gave a speech or wrote an article saying, “Are you aware that Claude Pepper is known all over Washington as a shameless extrovert? Not only that, but this man is reliably reported to practice nepotism with his sister-in-law, he has a brother who is a known homo sapiens, and he a sister who was once a thespian in New York, Worst of all, it is an established fact the Mr. Pepper, before his marriage, habitually practiced Celibacy.”

The wording of this speech has often been questioned. In the 1950’s, television ads were almost unknown, and most political ads were in newspapers or heard on radio programs. Later, Senator Smathers denied that he ever gave the speech, but it was also reported that the speech was given to a radio station by a campaign worker. Either way, Mr. Smathers was successful and went on to win the Senate seat. Of note, the sister, who was reported to be a thespian, later identified herself as the actress. It was also reported in Time magazine that “Smathers had a little speech for cracker voters, who were presumed not to know what the words meant...” They also printed the speech.

Name-calling and attacks on candidates are not unusual, and when asked, people say they do not approve of the tactics, “...yet election results demonstrate that such negative campaigning is frequently successful.”

In Smathers’ case, at least with the reported speech, he never said anything that was not true, but an argument could be made that the words could be misleading.

The questioning of what is factual and true has become very common in politics. Misleading the public can be deceitful and yet may not include lying. Not giving all the facts, like the meaning of words or unsubstantiated facts, does not always give one a fair representation. Of course, politicians can be deceitful without lying, which is often the intent. Outright lying was thought to be not good for the candidate until the 2016 presidential election. Trump’s lies were so frequent that news organizations counted them daily; it did not seem to matter to those who voted for him.

In 2023, when Geroge Santos was elected to Congress from New York, it was only after his election that the numerous lies he told were revealed. George did not just lie; he created an entirely false background for himself. At one time, any elected official who created an alternate self would be sanctioned by his party. That did not happen. You might think that his party would be embarrassed, but they were not. His party ignored him and any press questions about his lack of truth-telling.

“A lie doesn’t become truth, wrong does not become right and evil doesn’t become good just because it’s accepted by a majority.” Booker Washington

The lack of rebuke by Santo’s

party says as much about the party. Has it become normal and accepted to lie? The former president, who lied repeatedly, is still in good standing with his party, which is becoming normal. Normal because he is charged with serious crimes in four separate cases. He is facing ninety-one felony counts, with a maximum incarceration time of 712 years. Allegedly, his untruthfulness about the previous election and his attempts to subvert the results is why he has been charged. He had also stated that his party should suspend part(s) of the constitution so he could be reinstated as president.

On August 23, a debate was held for eight Republican presidential candidates. The candidates were asked if the former president were the party’s nominee and if he were found guilty of crimes before the election would you vote for him. Six of the eight candidates would vote for him, even if found guilty. The charges against the former president, who wants to suspend part of the constitution, are serious, and yet six of the candidates would still vote for him. What does that say about these candidates?

“I prefer someone who burns the flag and then wraps themselves in the Constitution over someone who burns the constitution and then wraps themselves up in the flag.”

—Molly Ivins

To read past editions of Words From Winterbilt, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

The Liberal Patriot

Normie voters want common-sense politics!

Ruy Teixeira

In the wake of the first GOP primary debate, it would not seem that Republicans are making a strong case for their party as America’s common-sense, normie voter alternative. And the craziest one of the lot, Donald Trump, wasn’t even there!

But how much stronger is the Democrats’ case in this regard? For partisan Democrats, the answer is “infinitely stronger”—but it is not among partisan Democrats that the next election will be decided but among more persuadable voters for whom this is a tougher call. This is reflected in the continuing failure of Biden to open up much of a lead over Trump, his probable general election opponent, and even tighter polling in the generic congressional ballot for 2024.

This should worry Democrats a great deal. Given the dysfunctional and weakened nature of today’s Republican Party, why isn’t their party an easier sell? The simplest answer is that they, themselves, are not that attractive. What might it take for Democrats to get over the hurdle and make themselves the clear and easy choice as America’s common-sense, normie voter party and not just in the friendly environs of the country’s cosmopolitan metro areas?

Below are ten statements that I first formulated a couple of years

ago that encapsulate some of what “Common Sense Democrats” might stand for.

Here are the results:

Equality of opportunity is a fundamental American principle; equality of outcome is not. (73 percent agree/13 percent disagree)

America is not perfect but it is good to be patriotic and proud of the country. (81 percent agree/14 percent disagree)

Discrimination and racism are bad but they are not the cause of all disparities in American society. (70 percent agree/24 percent disagree)

No one is completely without bias but calling all white people racists who benefit from white privilege and American society a white supremacist society is not right or fair. (77 percent agree/15 percent disagree)

America benefits from the presence of immigrants and no immigrant, even if illegal, should be mistreated. But border security is still important, as is an enforceable system that fairly decides who can enter the country. (78 percent agree/14 percent disagree)

Police misconduct and brutality against people of any race is wrong and we need to reform police conduct and recruitment. More and better policing is needed for public safety and that cannot be provided by “defunding the police.” (79 percent agree/15 percent disagree)

There are underlying differences

between men and women but discrimination on the basis of gender is wrong. (82 percent agree/12 percent disagree)

There are basically two genders, but people who want to live as a gender different from their biological sex should have that right and not be discriminated against. However, there are issues around child consent to transitioning and participation in women’s sports that are complicated and far from settled. (73 percent agree/17 percent disagree)

Racial achievement gaps are bad and we should seek to close them. However, they are not due just to racism and standards of high achievement should be maintained for people of all races. (74 percent agree/16 percent disagree)

Language policing has gone too far; by and large, people should be able to express their views without fear of sanction by employer, school, institution or government. Good faith should be assumed, not bad faith. (76 percent agree/14 percent disagree)

It could be argued that these statements are too easy to agree with and are just common sense. But if they’re all just common sense, why do so many Democrats have trouble saying these things? Indeed, how comfortable would most Democratic Party politicians be endorsing the full range of these views? Would Joe Biden? I don’t think so.

Here’s another common-sense proposition:

Climate change is a serious problem but it won’t be solved overnight.

As we move toward a clean energy economy with an “all of the above” strategy, energy must continue to be cheap, reliable and abundant. That means fossil fuels, especially natural gas, will continue to be an important part of the mix.

This common-sense approach, and the Democrats’ failure to clearly embrace it, is likely to loom ever-larger in coming months. The Democrats’ energy and general economic strategy as instantiated in the misnamed Inflation Reduction Act is heavily invested in a rapid transition to a renewables-based energy system. It is becoming increasingly obvious, and not just in Europe, that this strategy does not, in fact, produce energy that is cheap, reliable, and abundant, and therefore virtually guarantees voter backlash.

We’ll see more of this as Democrats continue to press the accelerator on their preferred energy approach, instead of the public’s preferred common sense approach. So... on this, as on all the other issues mentioned above, what is preventing Democrats from embracing common sense and meeting voters where they are, as opposed to demanding that voters abandon their common sense and meet Democrats where they are?

The answer has a great deal to do with the shifting base of the Democratic Party and its increased domination by liberal, college-educated voters. But it’s not just the demographics of these voters and associated activists, it’s the style of politics they tend to practice.

As Matt Yglesias has pointed

out, it’s the moralization of political choices, which has made sensible, pragmatic positions increasingly difficult for Democrats on issues favored these voters. Everything has become a matter of principle and cannot be compromised on because compromise is immoral on matters of principle:

In particular, I think it’s worth considering the impact of this way of thinking on cross-pressured voters. Imagine a Texan who favors Medicaid expansion but thinks student athletes should play on chromosomally-appropriate sports teams. Well, you could tell that person that Medicaid has enormous concrete stakes for 1.4 million uninsured Texans while the sports issue impacts a tiny number of people.

But if progressives take the view that identity issues are fundamental moral principles and are too important to brook any compromise, that encourages people with the non-progressive view to see it the same way...

As Democrats have become more upscale they have become less interested in forming big tent electoral coalitions and more interested in ideological purity and uncompromising moral stands.

That’s today’s Democratic Party. And that’s why Democrats are not yet the common-sense, normie voter party despite their abysmal competition. That’s too bad, since America could really use one about now.

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

The Dispatch

The party's over

Nick Catoggio

Farewell to Mitt Romney and the right as we knew it.

In an interview with the Washington Post explaining his decision to retire, Romney pointed to the fact that the anti-vax slobberer DeSantis and the tinpot authoritarian Ramaswamy are outpolling traditional conservatives like Mike Pence and Nikki Haley. "It's pretty clear that the party is inclined to a populist demagogue message," he said.

Although he cited his advancing age and the need for generational change as key to his calculus, one suspects he might have given the Senate another go if he thought the GOP was trending away from demagoguery. He hung on through two impeachments, four indictments, and an insurrection that nearly got him killed, hoping that that series of blows would finally knock some sense into the voters of his party about their choice of leaders. What he got for his patience was Trump leading the GOP primary by 50 points according to the latest national poll.

Having searched hard for glimmers of hope, he found none. And so his retirement feels like a capitulation, not just on his own behalf but on behalf of whatever is left of classical liberalism within the GOP. The party's over.

I suspect he won't be a Republican much longer. The question is how many other conservatives will follow him out when he leaves.

Romney biographer McKay Coppins published an excerpt at The Atlantic from his forthcoming book about his conversations with the senator over the past two years. No sin-

gle quotation here can do justice to the picture it paints of the cowardice and moral corruption of congressional Republicans as Trumpist demagoguery consumed the party. But this one is worth flagging:

"After January 6, a new, more existential brand of cowardice had emerged. One Republican congressman confided to Romney that he wanted to vote for Trump's second impeachment, but chose not to out of fear for his family's safety. The congressman reasoned that Trump would be impeached by House Democrats with or without him—why put his wife and children at risk if it wouldn't change the outcome?"

"Later, during the Senate trial, Romney heard the same calculation while talking with a small group of Republican colleagues. When one senator, a member of leadership, said he was leaning toward voting to convict, the others urged him to reconsider. You can't do that, Romney recalled someone saying. Think of your personal safety, said another. Think of your children."

Romney recognized the risk to his personal safety and his children's, then voted to convict Trump anyway. And not for the first time: A year earlier, after Trump's first impeachment, he became the first senator in American history to vote to convict a president from his own party.

Despite the threats and expense, despite the fact that all but a handful of his fellow Republicans in Congress rolled over to appease Trump's fascist base, he insisted on doing his duty—twice. We should be so lucky as to have a leadership class full of people with the righteous mettle to follow their conscience while being intimidated by feral degenerates. You don't need to like him to recognize that Mitt Romney has

struck a profile in remarkable political courage over the last four years.

Longer than that, actually. The truth is that no prominent figure on the American right has been as clear-eyed about Trump's unfitness for office for as long as Romney has.

As admirably as Liz Cheney behaved during her final term in the House, she voted for Trump for president twice. Not until the mob came for her on January 6 did she recognize that he couldn't conscientiously fulfill the duties of the job. Romney was ahead of her by nearly five full years in that assessment—and not off the record, behind closed doors like his gutless colleagues. He was in front of the cameras, making enemies within his party for the sake of speaking the truth.

In 2016, Mitt Romney warned the nation about Donald Trump. His words are true still today: "Donald Trump is a phony, a fraud. His promises are as worthless as a degree from Trump University... He has neither the temperament nor the judgment to be president."

I've said before and will say again here that policy differences are a second-order concern in American politics. We mistake them for first-order concerns because we have the luxury of living in a country where first-order concerns were traditionally taken for granted. Shall we have liberal democracy or autocracy? Does character matter in leadership or not? Both sides broadly agreed on first-order questions until recently, so we turned to second-order questions to decide which side should govern.

Mitt Romney has been cynical and opportunistic on second-order questions during his career. But on first-order questions, he's the best the American right has to offer.

"A very large portion of my party really doesn't believe in the Constitu-



tion," Romney said, identifying a quintessential first-order concern. With the departure of Romney himself, skeptics of the Constitution will likely gain more influence inside Congress.

That being so, one wonders how much longer a man who does believe in the Constitution can last in this party.

While Romney mused repeatedly about leaving the GOP, he'd stayed long after he stopped feeling at home there—long after his five sons had left—because he felt a quixotic duty to save it. But lately "it was hard to dispute that the battle for the GOP's soul had been lost."

I wonder how many other traditional conservatives now staring down the barrel of not just a Trump nomination but a Trump coronation—despite the insurrection, despite the impeachments, despite the indictments—might also be nearing the point where enough is.

Last week Mike Pence called right-wing populism a "road to ruin" and declared the gap between it and conservatism "unbridgeable." If the populists running for president this year end up squashing the conservatives, then Pence

might also be forced into a hard conclusion about whether he still has a place in the GOP.

Think of it: The last Republican vice president and the last Republican nominee for president before Trump could each be former Republicans sooner rather than later. A landslide Trump victory in the primary might finally convince them that the party in its current form is unsalvageable. And if that's enough to convince them, it may be enough to convince a meaningful number of rank-and-file conservative voters.

It could break the party.

Most rank-and-file conservative partisans will do the same. The right's information gatekeepers have worked very hard to persuade them that the most corrupt, amoral, unfit Republican remains preferable as a leader to any Democrat. Tribalism will keep them in line.

But Mitt Romney, God love him, really is on his way out. And a small but hopefully decisive number of traditional conservatives may be going with him.

To read other articles from The Dispatch visit www.thedispatch.com

Good Day Neighbor

The other social safety net

Dorothea Mordan

Once upon a time the first person was identified as different. Maybe it was autism, maybe it was some other behavior that was unaccepted, maybe it was rooted in a neurological idiosyncrasy yet to be understood.

For centuries as humans struggled to survive, many people were left behind or otherwise shunned. For the most part, our society today tries to include everyone in the quest for a long and better life. We have made great leaps in medical knowledge, food production, housing and the economic means of distribution to get these things to as many people as possible. But with all of our modern innovation people still get left behind. Many people can relate to having a family member or friend who first falls through the cracks of our economic system and then our social safety net.

My husband and I raised a child with "unspecified learning delays", a child who, until recently—in relation to human history—would have been hidden, out of

the sight of genteel society. A few years before the pandemic we joined with two other families in Frederick County to form a non profit organization, Kitsune, Inc, to address the need for solutions for independent living for adults with developmental disabilities, but without intellectual disabilities. In short, the people who do not get services when they age out of the public school system. In Maryland a person with a measurable IQ of over 69 is ineligible for many long term support services after aging out of the public school system and/or reaching the age of majority. These are the young adults who "fall off the cliff" of support after high school.

As we three households raised our children we came to understand that they would have difficulty maintaining a safe home of their own. We brainstormed ideas on how to recreate the back up that we provided to our kids, what we envisioned they would need to live independently. We kept coming up against the same speed bump. Our social safety net provides several pieces of support, but there is noth-

ing that fills the gaps between services. The gaps that we fill for our family and friends when we take a call in the middle of the night—a car breaks down, help is needed to interpret everyday things such as bus schedules, or other small but confusing details of life.

I don't know if society is required to fill gaps for everyone. I do know that where there is a problem there are solutions. The developmental disability likely most discussed in our day is autism. Over decades of knowing people with autism or caregivers for a person with autism, I have developed my own perspective on the growing definition of the "spectrum". I see it as part of the fabric of humanity. As such we the founders of Kitsune viewed our mission as how to recreate, or expand on the back up that we provided our kids.

Kitsune is a 501c3 educational non profit. We are focused on two projects, independent living and a database of resources for caregivers and people in need.

The residential project: A location where small group of individuals would live in their own apartments, with their back up person living on site, in their own apartment. This is envisioned to be a group of twelve two bedroom

apartments in the same building. Ten would be for independent living, one would be for the director as part of a professional salary, and one would be for community gatherings, workshops, whatever was needed. The component that most differentiates the Kitsune model from others, is the on site director to support independence. Having a supervisor to check on residents on a schedule was not useful for our kids. Life does not happen on a schedule that we can each fit into. The back up needed is for that call for help that comes once a month or once a year. When it comes it is mission critical.

The idea has changed over the these past few years. We have learned from several similar projects popping up around the country. Parents like us had been working on various independent living situations for their children. Two examples are, Home of Our Own (homeofourown.org), in Wisconsin, and Main Street (livingatmainstreet.com), in Rockville, Maryland.

The social safety net of our great country, the United States of American, from local to federal resources, has limits that we elect representatives to organize

and declare on our behalf. Each of us knows how hard it can be to get follow through from a government agency when we have a need. But as citizens we each have a super power, the nonprofit sector. Anyone can create a non profit organization to fill a need, to more fully realize our social safety net. It takes planning, and several steps to complete, but it is available to each of us.

So that is what we did in creating Kitsune, Inc. Creative solutions for independent living. The model we started with is an agile one that can be applied to many types of need. We are expanding the method of implementing the idea of a director within a small group of neighbors. There are several ways 11 or 12 apartments can be connected in one location, and we are looking for input from the community—what do you think is needed for independent living?

We will be at the Woodsboro Music Festival on Sunday October 22, at the Woodsboro Park. You will have the opportunity to meet some of the Kitsune members, and tell us what is important to you.

To read past editions of Good Day Neighbor visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

PASTOR'S DESK

Faith without action is not faith

Pastor Sabrina Slimmer
Keymar Evangelical Wesleyan Church

Where is your faith? How do you know you have faith, better yet how can you tell if someone else has faith? In the book of James we read the author James (The brother of Jesus) making a bold statement; "If faith has no deeds to show, by itself is it dead." James is not asking a philosophical question, he is making a theological statement. Faith without action is not faith.

This statement should ignite a fire in us or at the least make us stop and question ourselves. Is my faith evident enough in my life that others notice it? In other words, are the things I do showing that I have faith in the saving hope and grace of Jesus? See we are asked to do more than just boast about our faith. Our faith is to be Lived out. Faith therefore becomes more than just us saying we have it, it becomes an action, something we do.

The bible tells us that faith without works is a dead faith. Not that

we are saved by our works but that it is through what we do that people are able to see the evidence, the proof of the faith we continually talk about.

I have a pastor friend who said, "Mercy always changes the story." Remembering that it was mercy given to us that changed our story when we accepted Jesus Christ, and when we show mercy to others we show evidence of our faith becoming more like Jesus. There is a difference between knowing about the love of God and applying the love of God.

Albert Einstein once said "Any fool can know. The point is to understand." We can hear about the love of God, and we can read about the love of God and we can know that God loves us and forgives us, but that does not mean we apply it to our lives or that we even understand or totally grasp what it truly means to be loved, and forgiven by God.

The definition of wisdom is the soundness of an action or decision with regard to the application of experience, knowledge, and good

judgment. The key is we can only apply what we have learned, and only when we understand it.

When I was 16 I got my drivers permit and had to take a drivers ed course in school that had practical driving skills time in a car with an instructor. That instructor taught me how to drive safely, three point turns, and how to parallel park. The instructor taught me the how-to, the knowledge, but what he couldn't give me was his wisdom from years of his driving experience. Wisdom is gained by experiences.

In my senior year of high school I was in a horrible car accident that happened due to black ice on the road. I fishtailed for a while thinking I could straighten it back out with the knowledge my driver's ed teacher gave me. I did not have enough experience in driving before this happened and I ended up spinning my car into the side of a mountain, rolling and flipping my car.

Knowledge reminded me to turn into the spin, wisdom later taught me that rear wheel drive would have straightened me out had I stepped on the gas instead of the brakes. Here's the difference between knowledge and wisdom. I knew in my head what to do, but I did not know how to properly apply it. My knowledge that night was man given, and I know there are many things our parents have passed



down as far as wisdom goes that we do retain and become useful.

But, it is said that a truly wise person is a good person, and a truly good person is someone from the very beginning who wisely chooses to give God His proper place in his or her life.

There is a difference between human wisdom and divine wisdom. I, with my accident, was left with pain and frustration, but God given wisdom enables us to lead a good and true and satisfying life.

Have you ever known someone who claimed to be wise, but acted foolishly? Just as you can identify a tree by the type of fruit it produces, you can evaluate others and your own wisdom by the way you act.

Wisdom Is the ability to see life from God's perspective and then to know the right course of action to take. Wisdom comes from knowing and trusting God; it is not merely the way to find God. Knowing God will lead to

understanding and then to sharing this knowledge with others.

Proverbs 1:7b gives us a warning. It's a warning to not turn away or ignore good wisdom and discipline when it is given - it reads "Only fools despise wisdom and discipline."

We can all agree that one of the most annoying types of people is a know it all, an opinion on everything, closed minded to anything new, hates to be criticized in helping them grow, resents discipline, and refuses to learn.

One of the wisest men in the Bible Solomon calls this person a fool!

See The problem is - Knowledge is plentiful, but wisdom is scarce. Wisdom is more than just knowing a lot, it's an attitude that affects every aspect of life.

Our foundation should be to honor and respect God, to live in awe of His power, and to obey His word. Faith in God should be the controlling principle for your understanding of the world, your attitudes, and your actions.

When we are "all in" so to speak for God. Our attitudes, actions, behaviors, and motives begin to change. We go from knowing God loves us to giving God's love because He first loved us.

But God doesn't want us to just know and hold on to His love. He wants us to understand, have the wisdom that it is more than we can ever imagine and give it away! So where do we find it, how can we identify it and begin to understand it?

If you want wisdom, then you must decide to go after it. It takes determination! Yes the road will get difficult, and it will become a daily choice between two roads - the foolish or the righteous. Nothing else is more important or more valuable than to seek and gain wisdom from the Lord.

We don't have to wait for God to appear to us. We can boldly ask Him for wisdom today through prayer.

It doesn't matter if you're new or have sought Him for years. The word tells us to search for it daily.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

The Wynyard Ghost-Story



Oct 15

No modern ghost story has been more talked of in England, than one in which the seers were two military officers named Sherbrooke and Wynyard. The men occupied conspicuous places in society, and were universally known as persons of honour, as well as cool good sense; the reality of their vision was attested by a remarkable circumstance which afterwards took place; and every effort of their own or on the part of others to give an 'explanation' has been vain.

John Cope Sherbrooke and George Wynyard appear in the army list of 1785, the one as a captain and the other a lieutenant in the 33d Regiment a corps which, some years after, had the honour to be commanded by the Hon. Arthur Wellesley, subsequently Duke of Wellington. The regiment was then on service in Canada, and Sherbrooke and Wynyard, being of congenial tastes, had become friends. It was their custom to spend in study much of the time which their brother officers devoted to idle pleasures. According to a narration resting on the best authority now attainable:

They were one afternoon sitting in Wynyard's apartment. It was perfectly light, the hour was about four o'clock; they had dined, but neither of them had drunk wine, and they had retired from the mess to continue together the occupations of the morning. It ought to have been said, that the apartment in which they were had two doors in it, the one opening into a passage, and the other leading into Wynyard's bedroom. There was no other means of entering the sitting room but from the passage, and no other egress from the bedroom but through the sitting room; so that any person passing into the bedroom

must have remained there, unless he returned by the way he entered. This point is of consequence to the story.

As these two young officers were pursuing their studies, Sherbrooke, whose eye happened accidentally to glance from the volume before him towards the door that opened to the passage, observed a tall youth, of about twenty years of age, whose appearance was that of extreme emaciation, standing beside it. Struck with the presence of a perfect stranger, he immediately turned to his friend, who was sitting near him, and directed his attention to the guest who had thus strangely broken in upon their studies. As soon as Wynyard's eyes were turned towards the mysterious visitor, his countenance became suddenly agitated. "I have heard," says Sir John Sherbrooke, "of a man's being as pale as death, hut I never saw a living face assume the appearance of a corpse, except Wynyard's at that moment"

As they looked silently at the form before them, for Wynyard, who seemed to apprehend the import of the appearance, was deprived of the faculty of speech, and Sherbrooke perceiving the agitation of his friend, felt no inclination to address it as they looked silently upon the figure, it proceeded slowly into the adjoining apartment, and, in the act of passing them, cast its eyes with an expression of somewhat melancholy affection on young Wynyard. The oppression of this extraordinary presence was no sooner removed, than Wynyard, seizing his friend by the arm, and drawing a deep breath, as if recovering from the suffocation of in tense astonishment and emotion, muttered in a low and almost inaudible tone of voice, "Great God! my brother!" "Your brother!" repeated Sherbrooke, "what can you mean, Wynyard? There must be some deception follow me;" and immediately taking

his friend by the arm, he preceded him into the bedroom, which, as before stated, was connected with the sitting room, and into which the strange visitor had evidently entered.

It has already been said, that from this chamber there was no possibility of withdrawing but by the way of the apartment, through which the figure had certainly passed, and as certainly never had returned. Imagine, then, the astonishment of the young officers, when, on finding themselves in the centre of the chamber, they perceived that the room was perfectly untenanted. Wynyard's mind had received an impression at the first moment of his observing him, that the figure whom he had seen was the spirit of his brother. Sherbrooke still persevered in strenuously believing that some delusion had been practised.

They took note of the day and hour in which the event had happened; but they resolved not to mention the occurrence in the regiment, and gradually they persuaded each other that they had been imposed upon by some artifice of their fellow officers, though they could neither account for the reason, nor suspect the author, nor conceive the means of its execution. They were content to imagine anything possible, rather than admit the possibility of a supernatural appearance. But, though they had attempted these stratagems of self delusion, Wynyard could not help expressing his solicitude with respect to the safety of the brother whose apparition he had either seen, or imagined himself to have seen; and the anxiety which he exhibited for letters from England, and his frequent mention of his fears for his brother's health, at length awakened the curiosity of his comrades, and eventually betrayed him into a declaration of the circumstances which he had in vain determined to conceal.

The story of the silent and unbidden visitor was no sooner bruited abroad, than the destiny of Wynyard's brother became an object of universal and painful interest to the officers of the regiment; there were few who did not inquire for Wynyard's letters before they made any demand after their own; and the packets that arrived from England were welcomed with more than usual eagerness, for they brought not only remembrances from their friends at home, but promised to afford the clue to the mystery which had happened among themselves.

By the first ships no intelligence relating to the story could have been received, for they had all departed from England previously to the appearance of the spirit. At length the long wished for vessel arrived; all the officers had letters except Wynyard. They examined the several newspapers, but they contained no mention of any death, or of any other circumstance connected with his family that could account for the preternatural event. There was a solitary letter for Sherbrooke still unopened. The officers had received their letters in the mess-room at the hour of supper. After Sherbrooke had broken the seal of his last packet, and cast a glance on its contents, he beckoned his friend away from the company, and departed from the room. All were silent.

The suspense of the interest was now at its climax; the impatience for the return of Sherbrooke was inexpressible. They doubted not but that letter had contained the long expected intelligence. After the interval of an hour, Sherbrooke joined them. No one dared be guilty of so great a rudeness as to inquire the nature of his correspondence; but they waited in mute attention, expecting that he would himself touch upon the subject. His mind was manifestly full of thoughts that pained, bewildered, and oppressed him. He drew near to the fireplace, and leaning his head on the mantel-piece, after a pause of some moments, said in a low voice, to the person who was nearest him: "Wynyard's brother is no more!" The first line of Sherbrooke's letter was "Dear John, break to your friend Wynyard the death of his favourite brother." He had died on the day, and at the very hour, on which the friends had seen his spirit pass so mysteriously through the apartment.

It might have been imagined, that these events would have been sufficient to have impressed the mind of Sherbrooke with the conviction of their

truth; but so strong was his prepossession against the existence, or even the possibility of any preternatural intercourse with the souls of the dead, that he still entertained a doubt of the report of his senses, supported as their testimony was by the coincidence of vision and event.

Some years after, on his return to England, he was walking with two gentlemen in Piccadilly, when, on the opposite side of the way, he saw a person bearing the most striking resemblance to the figure which had been disclosed to Wynyard and himself. His companions were acquainted with the story, and he instantly directed their attention to the gentleman opposite, as the individual who had contrived to enter and depart from Wynyard's apartment without their being conscious of the means.

Full of this impression, he immediately went over, and at once addressed the gentleman. He now fully expected to elucidate the mystery. He apologised for the interruption, but excused it by relating the occurrence, which had induced him to the commission of this solecism in manners. The gentleman received him as a friend. "He had never been out of the country, but he was the twin brother of the youth whose spirit had been seen."

A writer, signing himself COGNATUS states in Notes and Queries (July 3rd, 1858), that the brother (not twin-brother) whose spirit appeared to Wynyard and his friend was John Otway Wynyard, a lieutenant in the 3rd regiment of Foot guards, who died on the 15th of October 1785. As this gentleman writes with a minute knowledge of the family history, we may consider this date as that of the alleged spiritual incident.

To read other selections from Robert Chambers' 1864 *The Book of Days* visit Walkersville.net.

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Anne Gageby
Strawberry Hill Foundation

Wildfires shaped the summer of 2023 in a variety of ways. The Canadian wildfire smoke traveled down the East Coast and brought orange-tinted skies. We had multiple days of code red air quality alerts because of the smoke-filled air. And then came the tragedy in Maui. Every news cycle seemed to have another round of stories and it begged the question: does Pennsylvania have wildfires? The answer is a resounding yes.

Over the last few years, it seems as if the news has covered all sorts of wildfires - Australian and Canadian, wildfires out west, and of course, Maui. But we rarely hear of wildfires in our home state. And yet, over the last three years, the number of Pennsylvania wildfires has nearly doubled. 1,507 wildfires burned a total of 3,033 acres in 2020 alone. This year Pennsylvania experienced three major wildfires. A fire in Centre County burned thousands of acres back in April. A month later, a fire burned 162 acres near Shade Mountain. And let's not forget the April 12th Crystal Lake Fire, which burned over 4,000 acres in the northeastern portion of the state and caused the Pennsylvania Turnpike to temporarily close its northeast extension.

The greatest danger of wildfires occurs in spring - March through May. And then again in the fall during October and November. For wildfires to occur, conditions must be just right. It must be dry overall with low relative humidity. There needs to be

an available fuel source such as dried leaves, grass, and debris. In Pennsylvania, people cause 99 percent of all wildfires, usually from activities such as burning debris like yard waste and trash. One moment of carelessness with a backyard burn pile can quickly become a woodland tragedy as fire spreads through dead grass and leaves into neighboring forests.

Wildfires can, and do, occur at any time of day and during every season. However, spring and fall are peak fire seasons. Bare trees in early spring allow more sunlight to reach the forest floor which dries surface fuels such as leaves and forest debris. Add in a warmer-than-usual winter in which little snow has accumulated, and it creates a perfect environment for sparks to take hold. Similarly, in autumn, falling leaves pile high on the forest floor and create a deep layer of debris. Windy days hasten the drying process and create a hazard.

Unfortunately, climate change is creating a perfect storm of hotter and drier weather patterns which, in turn, creates longer and more dangerous fire seasons. This past summer is a perfect example of that. Little precipitation put Pennsylvania on a statewide drought watch. By the end of August, twenty counties, including Adams, remained on watch. As September rolled in, things were looking pretty dire from where we stood at Strawberry Hill. Swamp Creek, which runs through Strawberry Hill's campus and joins Middle Creek at the edge of our property, had dried up. It was a terrible sight and something those of us who live on Mount Hope recall never seeing in our lifetimes. The bone-dry creek looked like

something out of a wasteland. Middle Creek was only slightly better with a small ribbon of water still flowing. The bit of rain we've experienced over the last two weeks has been blessing - for the creeks and the forest alike.

As destructive as wildfires can be, fire as an element is an important part of maintaining a healthy and diverse ecosystem. When fires burn appropriately, they consume leaf litter and forest debris such as dead wood and understory brush which benefits the forest as a whole. It helps maintain native plant species and provides an opportunity for fire-dependent plants and trees to flourish. Almost every region of the United States has such species. Here in the Northeast, pitch pine "barrens" are home to a variety of rare insects and animals that are dependent upon fire to shape their habitat and cut down competition from non-natives.

Generally, natural fires occur in pine barrens every six to 25 years. A variety of pine species have adapted to not only resist fire with a thick, armor-like bark but also have come to depend on fire to reproduce. Mountain pine, which grows on dry, rocky land around Appalachia, reproduces via serotinous cones. These cones are sealed shut with pine resin and can only be opened when a fire rolls through the forest, melting the "glue"



An intentionally lit controlled fire burns intensely in an effort to contain a larger fire nearby. Most wildlife escapes the initial blaze of a wildfire. It's the aftermath of scorched habitat that poses the more grave threat.

holding the cone together.

In Pennsylvania, oak and hickory forests are a common sight. Natural fires occur every 25 years or so. Most oaks have adapted to survive surface fires by growing thick bark and sprouting from the base of trees after fires have become memory. Because oak and hickories don't reproduce well in shade, fires can help control the competition by eliminating shade-producing thick canopy cover as well as dense underbrush.

The benefits of fire are well-known, if not always appreciated. Native

Americans have used controlled burns for ages to protect and nurture healthy forest ecosystems. However, the United States government implemented a policy in 1886 that banned all fires in national parks. This policy was incorporated in the National Parks Act of 1916. The general belief at the time was that fire killed seedlings, created erosion-prone environments, destroyed vital soil nutrients necessary for new growth, and destroyed wildlife habitats. It wasn't until the 1920s or so that the US Forest Service began to acknowledge that certain areas of the US actually benefited from prescribed burns. Opinions didn't change until the 1950's when researchers, foresters, and government officials began to accept controlled burns as a management tool.

Today, Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources utilizes the Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Standards which outlines procedures and planning for the use of prescribed fire. The Pennsylvania Prescribed Burning Practices Act of 2009 further defines prescribed fire as a management tool that benefits the entirety of the Commonwealth.

Fire is one of the most important instruments of change, one that humans have harnessed for ages. Using fire for heating and cooking was one of the first major developments in civilization. As an element, it is both beautiful and terrifying. And to the forest around us, it can be merciless, unyielding, and very much necessary.

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REAL SCIENCE

Caterpillars

Michael Rosenthal

Everyone who spends time outdoors eventually sees caterpillars. Caterpillars are the larval stage of members of the order Lepidoptera, the insect order that includes butterflies and moths. Caterpillars do not attack human beings (!) as do some other insects, and they eat plant material, often, but not always leaves. About 1% of caterpillars eat insects, and some are cannibalistic or feed on products of other animals, such as clothes moths who feed on wool, and even hooves and horn moths who feed on hooves and horns of dead ungulates, a category of critter that includes deer, camels, elks and reindeer, as well as a number of others who largely live on grasslands. Caterpillars have soft bodies that can grow rapidly between moults. Their size varies from one millimeter (0.039 inches) up to 14 centimeters (5.5 inches).

Because caterpillars are typically voracious feeders, many of them are among the most serious of agricultural pests. Some of them who become moths cause harm to fruits and other agricultural produce. Moths are generally obscure and do no direct harm. On the positive side, various species of caterpillar are valued as sources of silk, as human or animal food, or for biological control of pest plants. Caterpillars have an interesting place due to their metamorphosing into butterflies. This quality has led to references in Lewis Carroll's *Adventures in Wonderland* and in an episode of the popular television show *Mad Men*, and also in an episode of Season 5 of *The Sopranos*.

Woollybear festivals are held in several locations in the fall. One festival in Vermillion, Ohio, has costume contests for children and pets. A festival in Banner Elk, North Carolina, features crafts, food, and races. The Woolly Worm Festival in Beattyville, Kentucky features food, vendors, live music, and a Woolly Worm Race, in which people race the woollybear caterpillar up vertical strings.

Other Woolly Bear events are held in Oil City, Pennsylvania, and Little Valley, New York. Caterpillars seem rather innocuous, but some have evolved more

aggressive self-defense measures. These measures include spiny bristles or long fine hair-like setae with detachable tips that will irritate the aggressor by lodging in the skin or mucous membranes. Some birds swallow hairy caterpillars. Highly aggressive caterpillar defenses are bristles called urticating hairs which produces poisonous venom. The venom in the South American silk moth, genus *Lonomia*, produces anticoagulant venom powerful enough to cause death from hemorrhage in a human being.

Some caterpillars have evolved countermeasures which enable them to eat the leaves of toxic plants! In addition to harm being done to them from the toxins, they sequester it to protect them from predators. The species include cinnabar moths and monarch caterpillars.

There is quite a variation in caterpillar impact. Some of them are indeed poisonous or distasteful, and their bright coloring serves as a warning to predators. Others mimic more dangerous caterpillars while not being dangerous themselves. Many caterpillars are cryptically colored and resemble the plants on which they feed. There are caterpillars that look like other things in the environment such as thorns or bird droppings.

Environmental Nutrition, the newsletter from the Health Information Network, for which I promote ongoing enthusiasm, has an article in the August 2021 issue entitled *Frozen Treats on a Stick*. It reminds me of the days when ice cream trucks came rolling down the street in the summer, and you ran inside to find someone who would give you the money needed to buy an ice cream treat. My hometown, Youngstown, Ohio,

(also known as Crimtown USA) is the home of Isaly's, a chain of family-owned dairies which started in Mansfield, Ohio.

It was very popular in the years of my youth, and I still maintain my passion for their ice cream bars. Their products are pretty much purchased now in supermarkets in the frozen food aisle. Like all treats, a consideration of the ingredients is useful in making a healthy diet for you. These frozen treats do not contain much, if any salt, so sodium is not an issue. The main area of nutritional concern is calories, fat, saturated fat, and added sugar. Some of these products encourage multiple ingestion at a single serving.

As Mel Brooks says, "Everything is Show Biz". Hard as it may be, it is wise to limit your treat to one bar at a time. In more recent times, Greek yogurt has been used as an ingredient, which is healthier, by giving a protein boost. There are a few other options to consider. One can look for smaller bars rather than larger ones. Favor those made with genuine fruit, rather than flavored sugar substitutes. Avoid those treats containing sugar alcohols. They can be sources of gastric distress. Those treats that are non-dairy contain no more than 60 calories and 7 grams of added sugar. Dairy choices contain no more than 150 calories, 7 grams of fat, and 10 grams of added sugar.

The same issue of Environmental Nutrition has an article on caffeine-containing drinks. I rarely start the day without coffee, for better or for worse. Let's see which dominates! Caffeine is of course the ingredient that creates the effect, besides that of flavor or just encouraging your habit. Energy



Legend holds that the length of a woolly bear caterpillar's color bands can be used to forecast how severe the winter weather will be. The myth dates back to colonial American folklore.

drinks have been a major source of caffeine.

Though caffeine is not generally thought of as a dangerous drug, excessive consumption can lead to nervousness, headaches, nausea, cardiac arrhythmias, and seizures. Most of us who drink coffee can relate to a time when we drank a lot of it, and felt nervous and shaky. Excessive coffee input can increase blood pressure. Also increasing with excessive coffee drinking is the stress hormone norepinephrine. Caffeine containing products often contain other substances that contribute to health effects. I still have coffee in the morning and occasionally during the day, but I've learned not to drink too much and get

these unpleasant and unhealthy side effects.

So how much coffee is too much coffee?

A noted sports cardiologist, John P. Higgins, suggests that a person should limit his or her amounts of caffeine. A noted rise in blood pressure and the stress hormone norepinephrine came with energy drinks. The Food and Drug Administration has not taken a very active role in this topic. It is well, says the article's author to limit your consumption of coffee and energy drinks, and undertake a good diet and life-style.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Squirrels and forest ecology

Tim Iverson
Naturalist

With the onset of fall comes cooler temperatures, changing leaves, and acorns by the dozens. Acorns can make a hazardous nightmare for a hiker or anyone just enjoying the outdoors. The forest floor becomes one giant tripping hazard covered in a blanket of marbles and dodging these falling projectiles is nearly an olympic feat of agility and acrobatics. Acorns are much more than bombs and slip hazards. Our native oak trees prepare for the future by producing and dispersing these seed packages.

Acorns are the nut produced by oak trees. An oak tree can produce up to 10,000 acorns in a single year. These durable casings contain a single seed, which under the right conditions can germinate and eventually grow into a tree. Typically oaks will produce acorns in two to five year cycles. These boom and bust cycles are called mast years, the last of which occurred regionally in 2015 and 2016. Scientists aren't sure about how or why this occurs. Research shows it could be triggered by chemical signalling between the trees or environmental conditions. However, there doesn't seem to be a strong connection between weather patterns and production.

Evolutionary biologists suggest that it could be the best way to

ensure the overall success of seed distribution and growth. By staggering production cycles it allows the predator population (chipmunks, squirrels, mice, deer, jays, etc.) to thin out. Then all at once the trees collectively produce millions of acorns that blanket the forest floor. The numbers produced are simply too overwhelming and abundant to be eaten by the diminished animal populations. Another reason could be that it's taxing on the trees to make the acorns, so by alternating production years it allows them to recover for the next round of production cycles. Either way, the animal populations that do rely on these calorie packed snacks do very well those years. Typically, those dependent animals see population numbers explode the following year.

Most trees and plants rely on the wind to spread seeds, but acorns are just too heavy to get around this way. This is where biological vectors come in - in other words, animals. Acorns are a favorite meal of many different kinds of animals. They are a great nutritious high calorie snack to fatten up animals before a long migration or a long cold winter. Some animals, like squirrels, will cache, or hide, thousands of acorns for later use. Initially, squirrels don't seem all that intelligent. Frequently they're spotted darting across roads meeting untimely ends. However, they

are the unsung heroes of forest growth. When it comes to forest ecology they are the primary agent in acorn dispersal.

In forests with oak trees there can be hundreds of acorns in a square foot during mast years. Squirrels can differentiate between species of oak acorns often preferring to eat acorns produced by White Oaks immediately and storing acorns produced by Red Oaks for later. This is because the White Oak acorns spoil faster, usually within a few months, while the Red Oak acorns can last up to 16 months in storage. These discerning rodents are also deceptive.

Concerned by opportunistic spies, squirrels will trick others by creating fake caches. If a squirrel thinks it is being watched it will dig a hole, pretend to place the acorn in it (while actually leaving the acorn in its mouth), cover the hole back up, then scurry off elsewhere to actually hide its treasure. A single squirrel is estimated to create hundreds, possibly up to a thousand, of caches each season.

Remarkably they can remember where each and everyone is located. Researchers have demonstrated that some of this is done by memory, but as they close in on the specific location scent can help them hone in on the specific spot. For the acorns that don't get eaten that season they can germinate and sprout. By carrying the acorns further than the tree would be able to disperse them squirrels help expand the boundary and the genetic diversity of the forest.

The eastern gray squirrel, while native, at this point is considered an invasive pest. People with bird feeders would've agreed with this sentiment long ago, but it's their ingenuity and evolutionary adaptations that have given them this edge. Their tails are one of the



The eastern gray squirrel is crepuscular, meaning they are most active during dawn and dusk, allowing them to avoid the heat of midday.

remarkable features that have secured their niche. Squirrels dart, dash, and dive throughout the forest canopy.

Like a child walking astride a curbside with their arms extended for balance the tail of the squirrel keeps them balanced through all their aerial acrobatics up in the branches. Additionally, their tails are basically a thermostat helping to regulate their core body temperature. During the cold winter months it directs blood flow back into the core of their body, while during the summer body heat is radiated away as the blood circulates through the tail. Squirrels are one of the only mammals that can climb down a tree face first. Incredibly their wrists allow their hands to rotate a full 180 degrees backwards. This ability allows their claws to securely grip tree bark making their descents rapid and smooth.

Primary predators include hawks, owls, and foxes. Squirrels are incredibly agile and have excellent peripheral vision that makes it difficult for predators to sneak up on them. The eastern

gray squirrel is crepuscular, meaning they are most active during dawn and dusk allowing them to avoid the heat of midday. Maryland is also home to flying squirrels too. Flying squirrels are rarely seen though, as they are nocturnal. The flying squirrel nests in tree cavities making them more difficult to spot, whereas gray squirrels create visible nests high in the tree tops. Flying squirrels, despite their name, can not actually fly. They can glide up to 300 feet from tree to tree using folds of skin between their front and hind legs.

To homeowners and drivers squirrels can be bothersome. They are, however, a remarkably adaptive species that is truly beneficial for the overall health of a forest ecosystem. While we may occasionally have to swerve around them or sacrifice some seed from our feeders we need them for the services they provide for forest growth.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Oh the lowly Woolly Bear

Michael Hillman

Is it just me, or was there an unusually large number of Woolly Bear caterpillars crossing the roads this fall? From sun up to sun down, you couldn't go more than 20 feet without seeing one "attempting" to cross the street.

You'll notice I used quotes around the word attempting, as most of them sadly don't make it. Instead, they fall prey to tires of oncoming cars.

Which brings me to my next question: how many of you slowed down and weaved around the Woolly Bears to give them a break? I'll be the first to admit, I do—that is, when I can.

When I'm driving on back roads, I find my eyes glued to the road surface, looking for their telltale red striped coloring. When I spot one, I swerve the car left or right to give the Woolly Bear as much clearance as I can. At times I find myself weaving so much that I must look like a down-hill slalom skier, or worse, a drunk!

It would be nice to think that the caterpillars I swerve around, do indeed make it to the other side of the road, but unfortunately, more times than I care to admit, I find myself looking into my rear view mirror to watch the tracks of a car behind me roll over the spot I just weaved at. I do a quick mental calculation—"The Woolly bear is crawling at two feet per minute, the car is 45 seconds behind me... nope, they ran over it."

I sigh. The next one I come to is just near the yellow line in the center, "OK, you'll make it." I think to myself, "at least the next car won't hit you." And so it goes the whole length of the road until I get home.

One unusually warm day recently I turned onto Motter Station Road off of Route 15 to discover the road literally swarming with them. For the previous half hour on my drive north on Route 15 I had watched with sorrow the large migration of Woolly Bears attempting to cross the highway, knowing full well that few would ever make it to the grass median. Knowing that I had just passed hundreds of Willy Bears that were now dead, I pulled my car off to the side of the road and got out. I couldn't help those trying to cross Route 15, but I could help those trying to cross Motter Station Road.

I no sooner picked up the closest to my car when I spotted another 5 feet away. Then another a few feet more, then a pair, then another pair. As I picked them up, they immediately curled up into a ball—which made holding them rather easy. Once I had a handful, I walked to the side of the road and gently placed them safely out of harm's way.

It would be nice to think that they all continued in the direction they were originally heading, but as I looked at the scene before me, with Woolly Bears headed in every direction imaginable, I cringed at the thought that most of them would probably find the old saying: "the grass is not always greener on the other side of the road" true, and turn around to head back in the direction from which they had come—and once again find themselves in the middle of the road, and at the mercy of the 'Michelin Man'.

I shrugged my shoulders. By the time they had decided that the side of the road they had been heading toward was not worth the trip, I could have been home and ridden at least one, if not both my

horses, not to mention, written this article. So instead, I concentrated my efforts on simply clearing the road of the Woolly Bears that were on it at the time.

More than one driver slowed to look at what I was doing. Some waved and gave me a thumbs-up, others gave me a blank stare as if I were a nut case and went on their way. The former I noted, like me, seemed to make an effort to weave around the plethora of Woolly Bears on the road. The latter crushed more than their fair share of Woolly Bears.

Once the section of the road I was standing on was clear, I started my car and moved it to where I had left off and got out again. For the first 500 yards, each stop yielded easily 25 Woolly Bears. The further I got away from Route 15, the lower the density of Woolly Bears on the road. I have no idea why; it was just something I noticed. Still, I was burning up precious daylight.

It was time for triage.

When no cars were coming, and it was apparent that a Woolly Bear would make it to the side of the road safely, I left them to fend for themselves. But if they were in the middle of the road, or just starting to cross the road, I pulled next to them and opened the door of the car and scooped them up, placing them gently on the passenger seat next to me. When the seat had filled to capacity, I would stop the car and place all my "passengers" into the grass and resume the operation.

I progressed as fast as I could, but unfortunately couldn't help them all. I watched in dejection as cars passed me, knowing full well that those that were not swerving were more than likely running over Woolly Bears I might have gotten to in the next few minutes. With

each passing car, I redoubled my efforts, trying to pick up as many Woolly Bears as I could. But they were everywhere.

That day, my usual 5-minute drive from Route 15 to my farm took over an hour, and while I missed my opportunity to ride, I didn't regret it. When I did get home, I scooped out those that I had picked up along the road in front of my farm and carried them out into the far corner of the pasture. Even if they had wanted to try to re-cross the road, it would take them days to find it again, and maybe, just maybe, I thought, they might find a nice warm spot to curl up for the winter.

In spite of all my efforts the evening before, I found Motter Station teeming with Woolly Bears as I left for work the next morning. While I would have liked to have stopped to help each and every one of them, I couldn't imagine my boss accepting that as an acceptable excuse for not showing up for work that day, or the day after, or the day after that.

I wanted to save them all. Instead, I decided to save as many as I could. Every day when I returned home from work, I would walk down the road in front of my farm and scoop up those daring to cross the road. On the return trip back to the house, I scooped up those that had started to cross after I passed by the first time. Some days I only saved a few, other days my bag of Woolly Bears was overflowing.

Ironically, in spite of all the time I spent saving them, it never really occurred to me to inquire what they look like once they become butterflies. I was hoping they would be something beautiful, but they are not. Instead, they turn into plain old simple moths. But I discovered



Unfortunately, most people first become aware of the Woolly Bears when they start to cross streets, with many falling victim to tires. But if you're alert, you can save a few.

that they do have an interesting life cycle.

According to Wikipedia: "The moth *Pyrrharctia isabella* is known by different common names at its two main life stages. The adult is the Isabella Tiger Moth and the larva is called the Banded Woolly Bear. The Woolly Bear larva emerges from the egg in the fall and overwinters in its caterpillar form, when it literally freezes solid. First its heart stops beating, then its gut freezes, then its blood, followed by the rest of the body. It survives being frozen by producing a cryoprotectant in its tissues. In the spring it thaws out and emerges to pupate. Once it emerges from its pupa as a moth it has only days to find a mate before it dies."

Not exactly a life to write home about. You're born, you freeze, you thaw out, then you die. Oh well, at least they look cute when they are caterpillars... cute enough for this old writer to enjoy taking a few minutes every day to help a few of them out. After all, if I were a Woolly Bear, I would hope someone would look out for me.

In the end, we are all God's creatures, and we all share the same planet. When possible, we all need to look out for each other or there will be no one to look after us.

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Fall decorations. Golds. Browns. Yellows. Oranges. Rooting for grandson and others at local high school football and soccer games (Go, Adam! Go, Brian!), yelling for the Orioles' finals, cheering on the Redsk—er, Commanders. Switching from short sleeves to long sleeves and sweaters, capris to long jeans. Ghosts, witches, colorful leaves hung around the house, and fall-themed decorations in the windows. Carving pumpkins. Pumpkin pie. Pumpkin log rolls. Apple cider and homemade ginger snaps. Pumpkin latte. Putting up dancing ghosts around the cherry tree in the front yard.

I love fall traditions. But besides the traditions of games, good eats and drinks, wardrobe and household changes, traditions of a different nature extend to our fall yard and garden.

We've brought in a few herb cuttings or plants, such as basil, rosemary, thyme, and parsley. We'll also pot up to overwinter inside, some of summer's decorative plants: angel wing begonias, coleus, geraniums, and tender succulents.

We've dug up and are drying out caladium, elephant ear roots, and calla and canna lilies to store in a dark netted storage bin in the cool basement. I always make sure to bag and carefully label daffodil bulbs, which are poisonous, and never store them where they might be confused with onions. Favored colors of zinnia, marigolds, and celosia seedheads have been gathered, dried and stored for spring planting.

And it looks like we're adding a new tradition this year: getting rid of the Tree of Heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*. You've probably read about this horribly invasive tree already. Peek around in your own garden, and you'll probably spy it popping up in lots of places, even after you've repeatedly cut it down. Unfortunately, cutting it down is a bit like cutting down thistles or pulling up bind weed vines—the roots that remain in the ground send up even more shoots.

From various web sites, I've learned that Tree of Heaven can grow as much as 15 feet in one year and is able to grow in all kinds of soil, even in sidewalk cracks. Not only that, but it produces a lot of pollen which can cause allergies, and its leaves, branches, seeds and



The American Goldfinch is among the most colorful and musical bird you will find. Goldfinches are members of the finch family, as their name implies. The male's eye-catching, gold and black plumage of summer is unmistakable. They thrive in the rural, thistle-rich fields of our county and are very much at home in the open spaces of parks, trail edge zones, and many of our urban and suburban neighborhoods.

bark all can irritate the skin. It's also allelopathic—that is, it produces a chemical that may kill off other plants near it. And if all that weren't enough, it is the main host for the also horrific, invasive spotted lanternfly, which in turn destroys many crops and other plants.

So how do we add getting rid of this tree to our fall (really, year-round in this case!) traditions? Well, first, if the plant is quite small, we dig it up, trying to make sure to get all the roots. Web sites advise that if the tree is big enough that you have to saw it, you should try to cut it down as close to the ground as you can. Be ready to immediately apply a systemic herbicide to the cut surface.

According to thespruce.com, you have to apply the herbicide within five minutes after cut-

ting the tree, because "otherwise, the surface will have closed up and the herbicide won't penetrate the tissue." goes on to advise that you check the stump periodically, always removing any new growth, followed by the systemic herbicide each time. It may be several months before the Tree of Heaven finally dies.

While other chores include removing any diseased plants and debris from our garden beds and trimming back irises, lavender, and coreopsis, we don't cut down the coneflowers and black-eyed Susans or rake the garden beds bare of all plants and leaves. Our beds may look a little messy to non-gardeners, but the seedheads of various flowers provide lots of food for overwintering birds. Just last week early one morning I saw six yellow finches feeding on the

coneflower seedheads next to our front porch.

In addition, leaving at least some debris to disintegrate on the garden beds is another way of protecting our beneficial pollinators—garden insects and birds. Some insects will lay eggs in the hollow stems of plants; some under the leaves; some in the soil. In bad weather, while birds may take shelter in trees and shrubs, they also seek shelter and food (yes, they'll eat some of the beneficial insects/larvae, but also lots of predators) in piles of garden debris such as tree/shrub trimmings of branches and logs, perhaps tidied away in a far corner of the yard.

I have always loved the exuberance of an English cottage garden, but I must admit the chrysanthemums, Russian sage, black-eyed Susans, bee balm, lambs' ear, irises, and other plants that crowd the beds make it hard to weed, especially when bind weed and morning glory vines get so entwined in the masses of perennials. The Old Coach is advocating now for a tidier, more formal garden with fewer and smaller plants and more space between individuals. With that plan, he says, it will be easier to spot the vines and eliminate them before they are climbing all over the perennials. Hmm. He may be right. But...oh, I do love that cottage garden style!

Finally, one more tradition to sort out is how we put our lawn to bed for the winter. Did you know that Maryland has a lawn fertilizer law? It states that residents may not apply fertilizers that contain phosphorus or nitrogen to our lawns between November 15th and March 1st, and soil tests are required before applying phosphorus. And why? To protect the quality of our water—too much nitrogen in our water sources is not healthy for us.

So, if you feel the need to fertilize your lawn, you have only a few weeks left in which to make those applications. You are still allowed to apply potassium and lime, as the state does not consider those chemicals a threat to

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THE MASTER GARDENER

water quality. An exception to the November/March blackout is made for licensed lawn-care professionals, who are allowed to “apply up to 0.5 pounds of soluble or insoluble nitrogen per 1,000 square feet” of lawn up through the end of November, according to the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

And looking ahead to winter, the Maryland State Department notes that we are not supposed to use fertilizer products to melt ice or snow from steps, driveways, sidewalks, etc., for much the same reasons as applying phosphorus and nitrogen to the lawn: it affects the quality of the water we all use. “Applying fertilizer to hard or frozen ground provides a direct path-

way for nutrient runoff into storm drains that feed into the Chesapeake Bay.”

Although I have recommended the use of corn gluten on lawns in the past, I have recently learned that it is no longer recommended. According to an article by Debra Ricigliano for the University of Maryland Extension Service, “Corn gluten is ... not recommended for use on Maryland lawns for weed prevention because the recommended rate for weed control would exceed the amount of nitrogen allowed by the Fertilizer Use Act of 2011.”

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

Frederick County Master Gardeners October Seminars

October 14: “The Crucial Role of Oaks” - Over 500 mammals, birds and insects depend on oaks for survival. Explore the special characteristics of oaks and their crucial role in the ecosystem. Learn about the extraordinary diversity of oaks and how to identify some of the varieties native to our area. The presentation and hands-on activities are geared to all ages.

October 21: “Fall & Winter Pruning” - Learn what to prune in the fall and how to prune to get the most out of your plants.

October 28: “Honey, I Shrank the Lawn” - Small changes to our yards can have a big impact on our environment. Join the grassroots movement to restore biodiversity by turning turf into a part of the Homegrown National Park! Learn more at homegrownnationalpark.org.

All seminars are free unless otherwise stated. Seminars are held at the University of Maryland Extension office at 330 Montevue Lane, (off Rosemont Avenue) in Frederick, from 10 to noon.

You can register online for these and other events at <https://bit.ly>

Small Town Gardener

Live with your space

Marianne Willburn

There's more than one way to do everything.

In gardening. In life. In planting an apple tree, or peeling apples over the sink. Certainly there are rules that guide us (don't use a dull knife), and experts that sway us (use a 3 1/4 inch Victorinox, says the team at Cook's Illustrated). But the earlier we start to play a little and discover the ways that work well for us, the more flexible we become to take on new challenges – including the challenge of sharing what we've learned without ramming it down the throats of others as The Only Way.

Last month, I was fortunate to have another conversation with Margaret Roach on her excellent podcast A Way to Garden. We discussed what Margaret calls “The Mad Stash” – which is my new favorite term to describe the imminent autumn frenzy of finding winter homes for tender plants before the first frost.

What she does...What I do... What we've seen done in the gardens of others... We also discussed some overall guidelines for gardeners who insist, as we do, on playing with plants that require life support in cold winter months.

After comparing notes and laughing a lot (my apologies to Margaret's editor) it struck me how perfectly she has named her long-running website and podcast. Not, The Way to Garden, but A Way to Garden. I highly recommend it.

Rolling With the Punches

Gardening is not a precise and sterile process that happens in a lab. (Well, at least the kind of gardening I do.) There are hundreds of variables at play, from the pH of your soil; to the dappled light you get on one side of your porch but not the other; to the dry weather you had in July and

August; to the flood you had in June; to the day of the month you chose to plant those clearance bulbs; to just how ‘clearanced’ they looked when they went into the ground.

All these things come together in thousands of permutations to make this the “best X ever” or the “worst X ever.” The year you started gardening – or the year you gave up all together. (Until next spring.)

We're all of us playing on a different field – quite literally. Even your neighbor, on a different ridge line or flood plain, or battling the compacted clay gifted by a disinterested developer, may have gotten all the rain you got this year, but doesn't share your soil – or your sun.

Comparing Notes

At the time of our conversation, Margaret (in New York) was tired of rain. I (in Northern Virginia) was tired of no rain. We're facing the same job of bringing things indoors, but her tropicals might be a little stronger after a wetter summer than mine.

Most of my bananas look like they've been intermittent fasting towards a lean beach body – I'll need to keep a sharper eye on them over the winter months than I normally do. Hers might be shedding some water weight in the cellar and need a different kind of monitoring so they don't rot in cold conditions.

She was curious as to what I do with my bromeliads, and I was curious how badly she treats her canna. Here I thought I was the cruelest canna wrestler out there, but it turns out I've got competition. And a license to get crueler.

So guidelines and experts are great, but we need even more. We need curiosity to help us identify and care about nuanced variables, and the courage to play with those variables, conquer them, be bested by them, and learn from them.

Hands on Experience Matters When Finding a Way

I can't help feeling that, as our media moves increasingly toward 30 second reels and one minute listicle reads,

not to mention a gardening culture more heavily weighted toward garden designers (as discussed by Anne Wareham on GardenRant.com recently), it becomes easier to believe that there is One Way. Gardening is easy. Gardening is simple. Here's how to do it (or have it done). Here's what to plant. Here's The Solution.

No. If you're all in, you're in for a thrashing. Mentally and physically.

Because it's not about one year (like 2020). Or two years, or three for that matter. Because the things that may have been true during that three year period – lets say, our first three years gardening or the first three years in a new garden – might not work so well when one of the moving parts mentioned above changes. And no matter how much you read or watch on YouTube, you need to experience that for yourself. And then you need to experience it again. And quite frankly, again.

Know Why It Works

For instance, I know that I can store dahlias in their quart pots in a frost-free basement in the dark. I water every four to five weeks and rarely lose one tuber.

I know this, not because I was told by a dahlia expert (I was), but because I failed at it the first time and paid more attention the second, third, and fourth times. I also know that I can store them in damp sand, or painstakingly wrap them in Saran wrap, or leave them in the ground and hope the voles don't get hungry and the winter goes more 7a than 6b this year. I've done all those things, and they are all variations on a baseline of light humidity, frost-free temps, and dark storage.

There's more than one way. I store dahlias in pots because I grow them in those pots – plunged into the soil – so storage is a quick dig, a cutting of feeder roots, and a stacking on racks until spring when they are divided and freshened. (If you're interested, you can read about this in my book Tropical Plants and How to Love Them).

Granted it's lazy. But it works amazingly well. It's A way, not THE way to play with dahlias. If I was selling dahlias, or indeed the blooms, I might do something different.

Experimentation is Play

Yes there are rules you probably don't want to break. If we're talking tropical storage, gingers sitting wet in a cold garage would be one of them. Begonias sitting over a heating vent is a poor idea. A three-foot agave in your bathroom is just stupid and someone's going to lose an eye. But when it does go wrong, if you've done a bit of research, or have smart plant friends, you'll be able to identify why, and how you can tweak things going forward.

A way to garden. Isn't it fascinating to figure out what works?

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.



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PETS

She's my person

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley
Animal Shelter

Some days I'm not sure how she could still love me. She tells me she does and I have no reason not to believe it, but my muzzle has turned so gray and it takes me time to get up to greet her at the door when she comes home from work.

We've been together since I was a young pup. The early days of "us" were so much fun. We would go to the dog park and she'd show me off like she was proud of me. I even heard her talking to people on the telephone about me and how much she loved me.

It took a while, but I began to realize those feelings were real. She was proud of me. And she loved me. Sometimes I couldn't believe it, but it made me feel so warm inside.

I was her constant companion. When she got off work, we would go for our nightly walk – no matter the weather. She didn't complain once, just put the appropriate "human wear" on so as not to get totally soaking wet if it was raining or freeze if it was snowing or sweat like a crazy person if it was hot.

She always took good care of me, made sure my paws weren't too cold or hot and that I had enough water.

When we were done with our walk, it was dinner time for both of us. We would eat together and either watch something on TV or listen to music. Sometimes when we were finished, we'd even dance around together.

She talked to me about her favorite shows and when she couldn't believe one of the characters did something. She cried at movies and told me why she was upset. She'd laugh out loud at some shows, too, like ones called Seinfeld and Friends.

She would take me on her annual vacations. She found a place that allowed dogs and we'd spend just about every day on this place she called the "beach." At first, the waves were something I couldn't really figure out, but when I chased them, she would laugh, so I just kept doing it.

I love when she laughs at my antics.

She's such an amazing person. I'm in awe that her hair is still the same beautiful auburn it was when we first met and she's just as eager to go for a walk as she was at the beginning.

I wish I could say the same about myself.

My joints have started to ache and I can feel my age creeping up on me. Sometimes I wonder why we can't grow old at the same rate. I'd love nothing more than to spend decades with her,

making memories together.

We still take our beach vacations, but I'm slower getting down to our spot in the sand.

I try to walk for her each night, but I can't go as far as I used to.

I know there will be a day – probably sooner than I'd like to admit – where I'll have to say goodbye and the thought of not seeing her anymore just breaks my heart.

She told me one night when we were getting ready for bed about a place called the Rainbow Bridge. She says it's a place where animals go when they can no longer exist on the earth. It's a beautiful place where all the four-legged friends gather to wait for their humans.

I wanted so badly to talk right then because I wanted to ask why we had to be separated at all. Why couldn't we spend all our days together?

But the Rainbow Bridge sounded like a real nice place. She said no animal is in pain there. No animal is old. They are all young and love to run and play – and I'd be same, nothing would hurt.

She told me to wait for her there. She said she'd be along and we'd be together again and we'd never let each other go ever again. We'd be together forever. She promised.

So I know it's real.

She's my person and I'm so lucky. I'm lucky to have known her and had her care for me. I'm lucky she loves me as much as she does.

I'm lucky we found each other that day so many years ago at the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter.

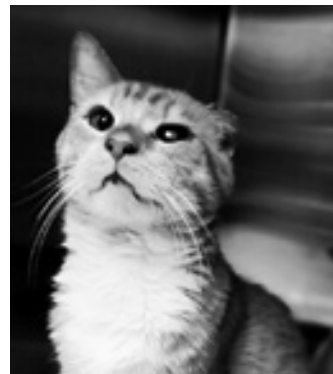
Jennifer Vanderau is the Publications and Promotions Consultant for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter and can be reached at cvascomm@cvas-pets.org. The shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit the website www.cvas-pets.org. CVAS also operates a thrift store in Chambersburg, Pa. Help support the animals at the shelter by donating to or shopping at the store.



Penny came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about her, but this is one happy-go-lucky pup! She is a 3-year-old terrier mix who doesn't seem to realize how big she is when she gets excited. Penny is an active girl who will need someone that can provide her with regular exercise. She loves to play ball! Penny does need some work on her manners but with regular exercise and consistency, Penny will make someone a loving companion! Penny may be too much for small children so an age restriction for children in the home may apply, please discuss this with shelter staff.



Bison is a 3-year-old Chow Chow who came into the shelter as a stray. He is one handsome boy, who can be reserved. Adopters experienced with the Chow Chow breed will be helpful for Bison. He is aloof at first with new people but does eventually accept them. Bison is incredibly loyal and would love to find his new person. Because we have no past history with children, an age restriction may apply. Please discuss this with shelter staff. Could Bison be the one for you?



Instant Noodles was brought into the shelter after being found abandoned in a house with 20 other cats. He was covered in fleas, skinny, and was missing a lot of fur. Since his arrival at the shelter, he's been doing much better. He's about 3 years old and would love to find out what having a forever home is all about. Could you give Instant Noodles a second chance?



Kairo came into the shelter because his owner was moving and couldn't take him along. He's a 1-year-old Chihuahua mix. Kairo loves belly rubs. He would do best in a quiet home. He has been around older children, but not small children, so an age restriction for children in the home may apply. Could you give Kairo a second chance?



Samson was surrendered to the shelter with his brother because his owners could no longer care for him. Samson is a 3-year-old black-and-white boxer who loves to play. Samson does tend to jump up when he is excited but is working on his manners. Because of his energy, Samson may be too much for small children. Please discuss this with shelter staff. Samson would be best as the only dog in the home and he will chase cats. Is Samson the guy for you?

For more information about Penny, Bison, Instant Noodles, Kairo, or Samson call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791, or visit them online at www.cvaspets.org or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter.

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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

Canine speed dating



Monkey can be a bit reserved when meeting new people, but give her a few moments to get comfortable, and you will have a new friend. At six months old, she is playful and loves to be outside. Monkey has attended a weeklong manners class and will have a good training foundation for her new owner to build upon. She arrived at the shelter as a stray, and her owner was located; however, they declined to reclaim her.

Shawn Snyder

Shelter life is stressful for any animal. Despite all the love and care we provide them, it's simply not a home. Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center has seen a surge in our canine population in the last year or so, something that is being seen and felt in shelters and rescues across the country. Although this rise in population may mean more dogs for adopters to choose from it has inevitably increased levels of stress and anxiety for our canine residents. As a result, this Fall we are trying something new and eliminating the stressful kennel from our canine adoption process in the hope that our animals will not only be more comfortable during their shelter stays but will also get into forever homes more quickly.

Closing the dog kennels may seem counterproductive, but the reality is that dogs aren't their true selves in a kennel environment and sadly great pets get overlooked due to their kennel behavior. We want potential adopters to see what we see every day when making decisions about their new family members; our mix of loving and playful dogs who can't get enough of fetch or love a good cuddle session. Not dogs barking

and jumping up on kennel doors.

While the well-being of our dogs may have been at the forefront of this decision, FCAC visitors were also considered. The kennels aren't just loud and overwhelming for our four-legged friends. Visitors can also be stressed by the kennel environment. Some, especially children, are even too scared to walk through and look at the dogs.

We're calling this program Fall for Me Canine Speed Dating and here's how it works. Instead of walking through the kennel looking for a dog to meet, you'll browse our catalog of fantastic adoptable dogs either online through our Facebook page or in person. You can choose up to 3 dogs per visit to meet with for ten minutes. You'll meet the dogs outside in one of our many play areas or in our education room.

If you'd like to meet additional dogs or spend more time with one particular dog, just book another visitation. Visitors will still be required to read profiles via the QR codes and the application process has remained the same. The only part of our process that has changed is that visitors no longer walk through the dog kennels.

Since we began this new process in early September staff and

volunteers have seen a noticeable difference in the behavior of our canines. They are much calmer, quieter and happier. Additionally, we have received tons of positive feedback from our visitors and have not seen a decline in our number of adoptions. For now, FCAC plans on continuing Fall for Me Canine Speed Dating into October, but whether it will become permanent has not been determined. You can find our catalog of adoptables in the features section pinned at the top of our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fcacmd.

Reducing stress on dogs in shelters

The dog kennels at any animal shelter can be a stressful place for both the dogs and the visitors looking to adopt. The kennels tend to be loud and overwhelming. Dogs aren't their true selves in this environment and sadly great dogs get overlooked due to their kennel behavior.

Some visitors, especially children, are even too scared to walk the kennels and see our canines. As a result, this September we are trying something new and eliminating the stressful kennel from our canine adoption process. The dog kennels will be closed and visitors will only meet adoptable dogs outside the kennel environment.

Here's how it will work. Instead of walking through the kennel looking for a dog to meet, you'll browse our catalog of fantastic adoptable dogs either online or in person.

You can choose up to 3 dogs per visit to meet with for ten minutes. You'll meet the dogs outside in one of our many play areas. If you'd like to meet additional dogs or spend more time with one particular dog, just book another visitation. Visitors will still be required to read profiles via the QR codes and the application process has remained the same.

Check out the profiles of our awesome adoptables below or visit FCAC's Facebook page to see all available dogs.

If you have any questions, feel free to call us at 301-600-1564.



Leo arrived at the shelter with wounds of an unknown origin and was required to spend several months in a foster home. He is approximately two years old and considered a domestic short haired cat. Leo's foster mom completed a personality profile which indicates he is calm, playful, friendly and particularly fond of his stuffed toy unicorn. His laid-back personality will make him a great companion for almost any family.



Eleven-year-old Gypsy finds herself having to start over and hopes a family with a big heart is willing to give her a chance. Unfortunately, her lifelong owner passed and there was no one to take care of her. Gypsy is a sweet, older lady who likes attention. She arrived front declawed and has no known health issues. Gypsy would be a good match for families with children of any age and will likely transition to a new home with ease.



Blue can't catch a break. She arrived at the shelter on August 7 as a stray and was adopted on August 22. Three days later Blue's new family returned her because she was too active, and they did not have the time to train her. Blue loves to be doted on and will cuddle up beside you. At only one year old, she enjoys walks and playing outside. Blue is seeking a committed family that can incorporate her into their daily activities.



Draco is such a good boy! He recently attended a local dog event and did a wonderful job greeting people as well as other dogs politely. Draco can be playful but also enjoys lounging around. He loves to be petted and will sit as close to you, or on you, to show his appreciation. Draco's easy-going personality will make him a great fit for families with kids and/or other dogs. However, he does prefer a home without cats.

For more information about Leo, Gypsy, Blue, Monkey, or Draco, call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac.

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"Why I'm Running for the U.S. Senate"

CONGRESSMAN **DAVID TRONE**



My Roots, My Values

I grew up in a working family on a 200-acre farm. I worked hard on the farm, cleaning up chicken manure, working the fields, and helping my Dad. But my Dad lost the farm to bankruptcy and our family went through tough times. I learned the value of hard work, the value of getting a good education, and the value of dealing with problems and getting things done to fix them. I started a small business to support my family. It's grown to be the largest private wine retailer in the country with over 12,000 team members in 28 states. I'm proud that the headquarters for Total Wine & More is still in Maryland. And in 2018, I was elected to be your Representative in Congress.

People Are Fed Up With Pay-to-Play Politics

Everywhere I travel in Maryland I hear the same thing: people are tired of being pawns in a system stacked against them. They are sick of politicians making promises they don't keep. They are disgusted by PACs and lobbyists paying politicians to stop progress in its tracks. I agree, and that's why I'm running for the United States Senate. And as always, I'll never take a penny from any PAC, Lobbyist, or Corporation.

People Want Action and I've Delivered

The truth is, I'm fed up with the inaction I see in Congress. This is like my experiences throughout life. I was fed up when the bank took our parents' farm and our family home. I was fed up when my nephew Ian told me that he couldn't find effective treatment for his addiction. I was fed up when I faced bogus criminal charges and realized that the color of my skin dictated the outcome of my case as much as my innocence did. So, I've rolled up my sleeves, worked with members of both parties, and gotten results to:

- Make our Economy Work for all Marylanders
- Expand Mental Health Care Services
- Help those with opioid and other addictions
- Lower the cost of prescription drugs
- Make our Criminal Justice System More Fair

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U.S. SENATE

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Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL SECTION 2

Ron Layman: lifelong Scout and community leader



Elizabeth Anderson

Walkersville is a town steeped in history, and Ron Layman is a living testament to its enduring legacy. Born and raised in Walkersville, Ron has dedicated his life to his community and to his family, supporting many young men and women as they have made their way from childhood to adult life.

Proudly hailing from a long line of Walkersville residents, Layman's roots extend back several generations. "I'm a town boy," he reflects. "My mother is about the third generation in this town, and my kids grew up here, so I'm carrying it on a little bit."

Both his mother's father and his own father were involved with painting businesses in the town: Wilhite Painting and Roger Layman Painting, respectively. Although he never met his maternal grandfather, he carried on his father's business, working under the Layman name for 40 years.

As a young boy, Layman experienced a tight-knit community where "everybody knew everybody." While he made many friends at school, including Vaughn Zimmerman of the Volunteer Fire & Rescue Co., some of his most significant connections were made through Boy Scouts, an organization he remains closely associated with to this day. Layman was a member of Troop 1056, and he calls his involvement with the group "formative."

"We used to have our meetings at the first fire house in town hall," he says. "We camped at local farms on the weekends, went to different summer camps, and raised our money. We did paper drives the first Saturday of every month--people would save their newspapers, bundle them up, set them

on the curb, and we'd pick them up and take them to the recycle yard. Back then it was probably five bucks at the most, but it was money we could put into buying things we needed."

Unfortunately, Layman's time as a Boy Scout was brief, and shortly after he left, Troop 1056 dissolved. At the time, this was not uncommon, and in many cases boys had to travel to a different town in order to be part of a Boy Scouts troop.

After graduating from high school, Layman joined the Marine Corps, serving three years in active duty and three years in inactive reserves. During the Vietnam War, he spent about 13 months in the jungle as an infantryman and squad leader.

By the time his time in the military was over, the Walkersville Boy Scouts troop had reformed as Troop 1070, but Layman focused much of his energy on Troop 274 at St. John's Regional Catholic School in Frederick where his two sons attended school and participated in the Scouts program. Layman served as Scoutmaster for the troop for an astounding 34 years, retiring only recently in 2017.

Emphasizing the positive impact of scouting on young lives, Layman stated, "Scouting teaches [the children involved] a lot of things--not just outdoors, [but also] citizenship in the community, the nation, and the world. It helps them grow, understand people better."

Layman speaks proudly of the numerous Eagle Scout projects completed by local scouts that have benefited the community, often saving municipalities substantial costs. Most recently, he has helped lead the restoration of the Manor House at Heritage Farm Park, which is already being

used to host local Boy Scout meetings and events.

Prior to Eagle Scout projects, which are typically done by older members, scouts get numerous opportunities to build leadership and character through summer programs, day camps, and travel. Cub Scouts, designed as a "prerequisite" to Boy Scouts, have access to Explorer groups, which sponsor activities for younger scouts. Layman also discussed the Scouts' focus on leadership development and character-building.

In all of these endeavors, Layman cites the invaluable support of local governments like Walkersville's, which provide key support to scouts by providing essential spaces like the watershed for troop activities. In addition, Layman notes the importance of charter organizations, which sponsor and support Boy Scout troops in their communities. Walkersville Troop 1070 is currently chartered by the Walkersville Lions Club, while other troops receive support from various American Legion Posts, Ruritan Clubs, and Rotary Clubs. "These organiza-

tions are the backbone of our scouting community, and their support helps the youth in our community thrive," said Layman.

Although he acknowledges that the program faces challenges, particularly in competing with other extracurriculars like sports, Layman remains optimistic about its future. "[These kids] may not be able to hang their merit badges on the mantle like a trophy, but those patches mean that youngster learned something," he said. "They really do get something out of it, and they're able to give something back too."

Layman believes that this kind of civic engagement is essential for bridging generational gaps and involving more young people in the community. "We need volunteers to keep our organizations running smoothly, and [members of those organizations] are looking to help youth through their younger years by passing on valuable skills and values," said Layman. "Then hopefully down the line, those youth will become active members of those organi-

zations and keep them going."

Ron Layman's dedication to community service and his insights into the world of scouting and community involvement serve as an inspiring example for others to follow. His commitment to the betterment of his community demonstrates the positive impact individuals can have when they engage actively in volunteer work and support local organizations. "Communities don't just happen; they are built and sustained by volunteers and organizations," Layman stated. "It's essential to give back and make our communities stronger and better."

It is rare that Layman credits himself for his community service; more often than not, he is expressing heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for fellow Scout leaders, who have invested just as much tireless effort in giving back to others. In fact, Layman himself requested that this article be concluded with a note of thanks to all those who, like him, have served their respective scouting communities with nothing but hard work, dedication, and a shared vision of duty.

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HISTORY

Woodsboro Remembers

Francis Meehan Smith

Part 7: Organization

Woodsboro Homemakers Club

The Woodsboro Homemakers Club, called Woodsboro Demonstration Club, at its beginning, was organized through the efforts of Mrs. J.P. Feiser, February 79, 1923.

Mrs. A.G. McKinney, Walkersville, County Federation President at that time spoke on the advantages to be gained by serving our community, by developing our minds, bodies and souls and the enjoyment of club work and how the clubs in the county were conducted. Miss Elizabeth Thompson, the County Home Demonstration

Agent, gave a demonstration on salads and salad dressing, which was

very well received by those present. She also explained that there were three projects offered, Namey, clothing, nutrition and household management.

The group decided to take up nutritional subjects for the first year. Seventeen of the twenty-two persons organized with the following officers: President - Mrs. J.P. Feiser; Vice President, Mrs. Charles Dorcus; Secretary, Mrs. Gail Cutshall; Treasurer, Mrs. Maynard Dudrear; Director, Mrs. Cora Barrick.

Woodsboro was the twelfth club to organize in the county. The charter members were: Mrs. Maynard Dudrear, Mrs. Charles Dorcus, Mrs. Newton Cramer, Mrs. Marshall Winebrenner, Mrs. Gail Cutshall, Mrs. Ross Kling, Mrs. Bradley Stambaugh,

Mrs. Oscar Barrick, Mrs. Charles

Miller, Mrs. J.A. Saxten, Mrs. Harry Barrick. Mrs. J. Ernest Stoner (Hazel). Mrs. Cora Barrick. Mrs. Walter Le Gore. Mrs. William B. Cutshall. Mrs. L.C. Powell, and Mrs. J.P. Feiser.

Two of the charter members are still living and one is still a member of the club. The club colors are green and gold, the flower the Black-eyed Susan, the motto "Life Needs Us All". For many years the club met twice a month, one meeting a demonstration and the other a program along cultural lines, legislation, civics, welfare, etc. Many times an interesting speaker spoke to the group. At first we had a special roll call response and ended with some form of recreation.

Some of the interesting happenings over the period of years were, as follows: a big party on our anniversary. Husbands were always the guests. We would alternate the entertainment, one year the men would give the program and the next the women.

During the first twenty-five years we did more entertaining than in the past years. When we were only four years old we entertained all the clubs of the County, approximately 375 members. This event was held in the old Woodsboro Opera House. At this time Mrs. J.E. Stoner (Hazel) was President and Mrs. Maurice Coblentz, County President. Mrs. Belle Taylor Doyle of the educational department

Grace "Rocky Hill" Lutheran Church To Lay Plaque For Revolutionary Patriots



Following worship at 12:15 on Sunday October 22 the community is invited to gather in the cemetery for a special dedication of plaques for seven Revolutionary Patriots who are buried there. That ceremony will be conducted by the Lawrence Everhart Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution of Frederick, with members of the Daughters of the American Revolution also present (light refreshments will be served). For more information call 301-845-6733 or e-mail us at grhchurch@gmail.com

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HISTORY

benefit luncheon for the benefit of the cancer drive.

Many extra activities have been had over the period of years, namely: musical festivals, flower shows, capsule sisters and parties, Halloween and Christmas

parties, summer picnics, square dances, trips to DuPont Gardens, Hershey, Harrisburg, boat trip down Chesapeake Bay, Annapolis, Mount Vernon, etc.

Each year a Short Course is held at University of Maryland. Many of our members have attended these courses and we have quite a few graduates. Club work is non-sectarian; non-political, and is non-profit and is open to anyone regardless of race, color or national origin. Each one is a member of the State Council, the National Council and the Associated Country Women of the World. Club work typifies the home, the state and the nation. The objective of Woodsboro Homemakers Club and all other clubs is to unite so that the standards of home and community life can be

raised; leadership developed; adult programs will be further enlarged, closer cooperation may occur between family, friends and community life.

Food 'n' Friends

Under the direction of Mrs. Pat Throne, Chairman of the Commission on Aging for Frederick County, Mrs. Steiner Smith arranged and organized for weekly meetings of Food 'N'

Friends on Wednesdays at noon in the Woodsboro Fire Hall. Miss Mabel Smith is chairman of reservations; Mrs. John Drenning, Mrs. Reuben Bair, Mrs. Gail Cutshall, Mrs. Wilbur LeGore, Mrs. Gordon Wilson, and Rev. Edward Zigler have also assisted. Mrs. Harry Keeney, having just retired after serving many years as Food Manager at the New Midway School, serves the food assisted by Mrs. Charles W. Hahn, Mrs. Edith Flanigan, and many other volunteers.

From thirty-four original participants the group has grown to one hundred and eight. Mrs. Melvin Anders serves as pianist; Rev. Harry Wolpert volunteers to lead group singing; Rev. Zigler gives the Invocation; the Woodsboro School has contributed many fine vocal and instrumental programs. Mrs. Millie Corum is County project Chairman and by sheer weight of her great personality has made Food 'N' Friends a great success.

The second Wednesday in the month is designated as Bingo Day. The prizes are supplied locally and voluntarily. Drawn prizes are also given without solicitation. Most importantly, a kind and friendly spirit prevails in the weekly meetings and new friendships are made daily. This program is designed to provide nutritionally sound meals in a group setting, thus promoting better physical and mental health in the surrounding population. Such a program is aimed at reducing the isolation of the older citizen

by giving them something to become involved socially. It helps to show that these older citizens have much to offer the community and that their knowledge and talents can be utilized.

Woodsboro Scout Troops

The first Scout Troop in Woodsboro was sponsored by the Lutheran Church in 1939. The Rev. Herbert Schmidt served as scoutmaster and cub pack master in addition to his duties as pastor. William "Bill" Arnold, Harry Barrick, Sam Barrick, Frank Barton, Atvill Bowers, Ira A. "Arch" Caldwell, William "Bill" Drenning, Charles Dixon, Robert "Buckwheat" Dixon, James "Jimmy" Shankle, and Jimmy Smith were among the members of old troop #29 who camped in the Catoc-tin Mountains at Fort Richie at that time with the blessing of Col. Barrick, Commandant.

The Second World War intervened. In 1946 the Church pastured by the Rev. Raymond Myers with the assistance of the Rev. J.F. Minor Simpson of Libertytown resumed the sponsorship of a troop with I.A. Caldwell as scoutmaster. This Troop sent one of the earlier patrols, composed of Daryl Hawkins, Jerry Crum, Dick Meehan and Mike Pue to the newly opened

Walkersville Senior Citizens to celebrate 50th anniversary

October is a special month for the Walkersville Senior Citizens as they celebrate their 50th anniversary on the 12th. If you are a member or former member of the organization and have not been contacted, please call 301-845-7174 if interested in attending the event. Thanks to all the local businesses and clubs who are supporting the occasion by donating door prizes.

On October 19, the group will learn and play a board game called Ganzenbord, which in Dutch means "goose board" or "goose game." The game, new to many of us, originated in Spain in the 1300s and spread throughout Europe by

the 1500s. Ganzenbord is one of the many names for what is credited as the first commercial board game.

On October 26, Seniors will celebrate an early Halloween. Bingo will be played in the afternoon and all prizes will be sweet treats.

Walkersville Senior Citizens meet at Town Hall, 21 West Frederick Street, Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. Lunch, catered by Trout's Market of Woodsboro, is served at noon. For information, call 301-845-7174. Lunch reservations are required at least 72 hours in advance, please call the number previously given.

National Scout Camp Philmont in New Mexico.

The troop and pack have continued to serve the young men of Woodsboro and vicinity with fathers of boys serving in all the capacities on troop commit-

tees and as scoutmaster and cubmaster with not inconsiderable help from mothers serving as pack den mothers and transport specialists for the camping program.

continued next month

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

October 5

Fall Holds Sway, Trees Coloring

Cool temperatures, falling leaves, and fading flowers still remain the principal sign of the times. These are Fall days for fair and the passing of Summer has now become an established fact. No killing frost has as yet played havoc with vegetation and ice has not as yet formed on the surface of the County streams.

The weather has not been wintry to date, but there is a touch of Winter in the morning air. There have also been light frosts here and there in the County, but they have so far done no damage. The temperature prevailing during the past two days have been uniform. The high on both Tuesday and Wednesday was 71, while the minimum Wednesday was 44 and 1° warmer than on Tuesday.

September brought with it many variances in temperatures. The highest marks reach what is 95° on the third and the lowest was 40° which was registered on the 16th and 17th. There was said to have been frost in the County on the latter day.

Last year the highest mark reached by the mercury was 90° and this was registered no less than four times during that month. In 1921, September had a maximum temperature of 93° and the official thermometer rose to 90° three times.

September 1923 put it all over the same month in the preceding year in the matter of precipitation. The month just passed was very moist, no less than 3.53 inches of rain falling, while in 1922 there was only 2.51 inches. Normally, precipitation for September is said to be about 3.35 inches. There was rainfall on 16 days

during September. The heaviest in 24 hours was 1.19 inches on the 21st, and the second heaviest on the sixth was .69 of an inch.

There were thunderstorms on September 3, 7, 12 and 29th and lightning and a shower on the 23rd. The entire month was characterized by heavy dews. September had 20 clear evenings, three partly cloudy, six cloudy and one stormy.

Walkersville Raises \$193 For Jap Relief Fund

A total of \$193 was raised in the Walkersville district for the relief of the earthquake victims in Japan, according to an announcement made by the American Red Cross. The contributions, which was reported by Mrs. Nicodemus, Red Cross Chairman for the Walkersville District, is one of the leading branch reports in the County.

The largest portion came through Edwin Devilbiss, cashier of the Walkersville Savings Bank. Active cooperation was also given to the Red Cross appeal by Reverend Harzell, pastor of the Walkersville Reformed Church, and many others in the community.

Many Thrilled As Big Dirigible Sales Through Air

Her huge white hulk glistening in the rays of a faultless Autumn sun, the giant dirigible of the American Navy, the Shenandoah, glided majestically over Frederick County this week.

Emerging from the blue background of the sky enveloping the northern mountains, the leviathan of the air pointed her nose southward and following the Catocin Hills slid peacefully through the air.

Hundreds of Frederick County people, gazed in awe as the huge craft

sailed in state through the air. Her tremendous white bulk glistening in the sun light and flying scarcely higher than the mountaintops, the airship was plainly visible to everyone in the County.

Many people, learning the giant dirigible was sailing over a portion of the County near them, sought a vantage point from which to view the spectacle. So clear was the atmosphere that a times puffs of smoke from the exhaust were visible, even at great distance.

The dirigible sailed over the western edge of Emmitsburg, then followed a route that took it over Thurmont, Woodsboro and eventually Libertytown At which point it turn west and headed down to the Shenandoah valley to its final destination, Richmond Virginia.

Condition Serious After An Accident

Joseph Bell, colored, about 23 years old, was taken from the jail to Montevue Hospital, Monday afternoon, said to be suffering from a concussion of the brain and internal injuries. It is stated that he had had been unconscious since he was hurt in an automobile accident on the State Road near Woodsboro Sunday morning.

Shortly after the accident, Dr. Bourne examined the injured man and ordered him to be taken to Montevue for treatment. Instead of being committed to the hospital he was taken to the jail. Monday afternoon Dr. Bourne called to see him and found that he was still unconscious and will probably die from his injuries. He then arranged to have him take him to the hospital.

A State motorcycle officer arrived on the scene of the accident soon after it occurred. When the public ambulance arrived, Bell was placed on a stretcher and lifted into the vehicle. It is said that the motorcycle officer sent word to the Deputy Sheriff that Bell was shamming and the Deputy lodged the injured man in jail. Dr. Bourne stated that Bell was seriously injured and was unconscious from the time of the accident until he saw him on Monday afternoon and had him removed to the hospital.

A King "Tut" Entertainment

An interesting entertainment, in

which King "Tut" and his tomb will be the focus; will be given at the Woodsboro schoolhouse, for the benefit of the school Friday evening. The event will be under the direction of a special committee of patrons, and the school children will take part. The committee has planned many novel features, which will be revealed in the nature of real surprises. It will be the first entertainment of the Fall term and the committee as well as the children have worked hard to afford an evening of rare amusement to all who attend.

Lutherans and Reformed Churches, later a disruption occurred, separating the denominations. The Brethren were obligated to find another place of worship. For a time they held services in the home of Jakob Welley, but soon, Daniel Delaney gave them 10 acres of land from his estate for the site of a church and a schoolhouse.

In 1753, the congregation was organized, and a permanent minister appointed. In 1772, the ground was staked off for a new church building, which was dedicated on October 16, 1773. (A log building had previously been used since 1749.)

Almost half a century later, in 1822, the second building was removed, and a new brick structure was begun. The church is joining to the parsonage, also a brick building, which was erected in 1797. The parsonage is there for 126 years old and the church just over a century. At the present time plans are underway for the renovating of the church and parsonage. The congregation plans to spend between 1,200 and \$1,500 for the work.

October 12

Moravian Church At Graceham Celebrates 165 Years

On Sunday, October 7, the Moravian church at Graceham, celebrated its 165th anniversary. The highlight of the event was the Love Feast at which the anniversary sermon was preached by the Pastor Samuel Redman.

For the benefit of those who are not acquainted with a custom of the Moravians, a word of explanation is given about the Love Feast. Love Feasts originated in a gathering of the Christians after Pentecost. Believers met to break bread together. This fulfilled a double purpose. It united the believers as a family, signifying their unity and equality in the sight of the Lord. It also reminded them of the last meal of their Lord, when he ate with his disciples. These meals of the church family were associated with the Lord's Supper, and so generally are the Love Feasts in the Moravian church. The Love Feast consists of a bun and a cup of coffee, which is distributed while hymns are song, and eaten during the singing by the choir.

The Sunday was the 165th anniversary of the organization of the congregation. The work of the church however dates back to the year 1745 when John Henzer was sent as a schoolteacher and lay reader, upon the invitation of the residence of the locality. He labored faithfully until 1756 the first organized minister, George Neike, was sent from Bethlehem PA., the center of the Moravian activity in the United States, then as now.

The work in those early days was carried on in conjunction with the

Auto Misses Bridge

Late Thursday night, as a carload of colored folks were returning from the Hagerstown Fair, the driver failed to make the turn at the approach to the covered bridge over the Monocacy, at Bridgeport, and went over the embankment throwing the six occupants out, some of them into the water. Five of them were more or less seriously hurt.

The car, a big Packard, must have been running at a high speed, and the curved approach to the bridge was seen too late to avoid. As indicating the high rate of speed at which the car must have been running, it appears to have made a clear jump of about 36 feet from the bridge wall before it touched the ground, were it turned over and made another plunge of the same distance into the bed of the stream where it now sits, upside down, a complete wreck.

This is a dangerous spot on the road, especially at night, and to a driver unacquainted with the situation. This old one-way bridge – one of the few covered bridges yet remaining on modern roads, rest on high foundation walls, and is approached on a

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curve at each end. It is one of the many bridges that needs replacement by an open, wide structure with guardrails.

Lost Planes Land

Last Friday evening, two flying machines landed in a field just outside of Taneytown. One of them had lost his way, and was merely following the other to find out "where he was at". As the leader ran out of oil, and had to land to fill up, the other landed too and the two pilots got together and inquired of the local farmer upon who's field they landed as to where they were at. They both had been headed to Washington but apparently took a wrong turn somewhere. The farmer stood in his field pointing South as the planes took off.

Officer Probes Old Case

A Sheriff's Deputy from York County arrived in Frederick to further investigate the case of George Brown, 36, who is alleged to have stolen on an automobile in Hanover in August, 1917 and who was seriously injured in an accident near Lewistown a short while after.

The car, a seven passenger Hudson was found wreck near Lewistown a short while after it was stolen and Brown was found with a broken leg, a broken collarbone and other injuries. He was taken back to York County and lodged in jail. His condition was such that he has never been brought to trial and a few weeks ago, while still on crutches, he escaped. He has since been apprehended and will be tried on October 22.

Students Debate The Movie Craze

An audience of more than 100 heard a debate on moving pictures, as they conducted today, praised and defended, held in connection with a meeting of the Walkersville Community Club in the town hall at that place, Monday night.

The question was: "Resolved, that motion pictures as they are now conducted are on the average detrimental to the American people." The affirmative side won the decision of the judges. All the debaters were girl students at Walkersville high school.

The address of the evening with was delivered by Professor Bible, principal of the East Church St. School. His subject was community cooperation, and praise the work of the Walkersville Community Club and described the good obtained from such an organization.

The program opened with a scrip-

ture reading and prayer by Reverend Shike. Mrs. Betty Stauffer delivered a declaration: "The Man Who Quits And The Man Who Sticks," this was followed by community singing under the direction of the Reverend Hartzell.

At the business meeting it was voted to offer prizes for the best essay on "Why Walkersville Needs A Community Association". First prize will be \$5, second prize \$3, and third prize \$2.

October 19

Kitchen Cabinet Band

With the house filled to overflowing, the people of Union Bridge greeted the Kitchen Cabinet Band in their musical on Monday evening. After a few popular selections by the Union Bridge Orchestra, the band, in full regalia of scarlet coats decorated with dozens of shining teaspoons, and equipped with various kitchen utensils, such as the wash tub, washboard, eggbeater, mousetrap, rolling pins, and many others, presenting themselves.

Our hearts were thrilled with many songs of long ago - 'My Old Kentucky Home', 'Carry Me Back To Old Virginy', 'Old Black Joe,' also a clog dance to the strains of 'Dixie'.

Among other instruments were marvelous saxophones made of tin cans, and every one active their parts with wonderful originality and efficiency, special mention must be made of the leader, Miss Marie Senseney, 'Madame Kitchenette', who with a large spoon as a baton, kept everyone in time, and by her enthusiasm gave zest to all. The audience frequently applauded as the various kitchen instruments were made to give forth novel evidence of their musical ability.

We think the verdict of everyone present would be, that the entertainment was a great success and a source of much pleasure. The play was given for the benefit of the Parent-Teachers Association, net receipts amounting to \$52.75. The band expects to give a performance in Taneytown on October 26, for the benefit of the Public Library.

Boy Scouts Meet

A joint meeting of the Walkersville and YMCA Boy Scouts was held Friday evening in the YMCA building. A member of the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Co. first aid division was present and with the assistance of the team organized recently in

troop the YMCA troop, demonstrated methods of first aid to the injured.

First aid is one of the most practical and most useful branches of scout instruction. it carries out the idea of 'Be Prepared', which is the Scout motto. Everything in the curriculum of Scouting tends to prepare the scout to meet all emergencies in life, but because knowledge of first aid is necessary in saving life and in preventing any more serious complications when the trouble is minor, it is stressed more than any other subject.

October 26

Margaret Mirroring Dies

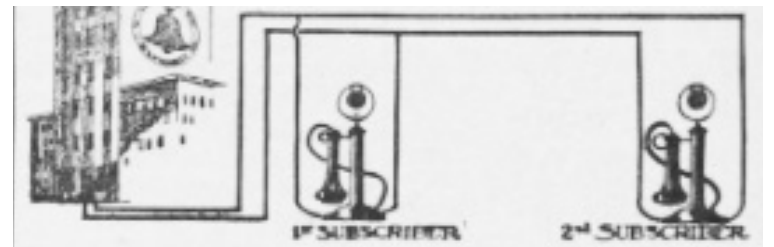
Miss Margaret Mehring, of Bruceville, departed this life, Wednesday morning. By the death of Miss Mehring, a loving circle, a large number of attach friends, and the entire community of which she was a useful and most respected member, have sustained a great loss. It would be unjust to her many domestic virtues and sterling social qualities to allow her to pass away without some tribute of memory.

She was a member of the Lutheran Church of Mount Zion, a true genuine and sincere Christian lady, and of that active benevolence which prompted her to relieve want and suffering whenever in her power to do so.

She possessed great energy of character and mental vigor, combined with womanly trades. Firmness, cheerfulness, and soundness of judgment, were strong elements in her character, while the vivacity of her manners and fine conversational powers, made her a charming companion. She was one of the noblest of women, and the embodiment of a genteel, sincere, accomplished, frank and generous Maryland lady.

Time, when it robbed her cheek, of its bloom, and her step off its lightness, had no power to chill the warmth of her heart, nor dull the brightness of her intellect. Genteel hospitality and many admirable qualities endured her to a large circle of friends; and her faithful and efficient discharge have every duty to her brother, so many years, who passed away nine months ago, rendered her more than loved by her friends.

Life's Christian service ended here. She wears the crown in mortal, and the memory of her works remains a blessed legacy to her morning kindred and friends, and her name will long be cher-



Party Line Courtesy

Courtesy in the use of the telephone is nowhere more necessary or more appreciated than on a party line. Both parties on the line expect and should receive good service and as little interruption as possible.

If you are on a party line and desire to be considerate of the other person on the line, we would suggest that you eliminate as far as possible lengthy telephone conversations. They are annoying not only to your neighbor, but also to persons desiring to reach him, and sometimes may result in delays of serious consequence.

When you pick up the receiver on a party line and find another person talking, the courteous thing to do is to replace the receiver as quietly as possible and wait a reasonable length of time before trying again to use the line.

The observance of these suggestions by party line users will result in better telephone service and better feeling between those on the same line.

The Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company

ished by all who knew and loved her.

Cold Weather Arrives

There was another big drop in the temperature Tuesday from a high of 71° around noon. It fell by 11° by 6 o'clock, induced by the rain which began to fall around 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

With the continuation of this rain, the liquid fell 20 more degrees overnight, being caught at the 41° mark. If the drop in temperature was brought on by the rain, it was not hard to understand why there was such a big drop, for the raindrops amounted to .7 of an inch in that time.

The weather has been checkered ever since the reaction from the annual October dry spell set in last Tuesday. All the dry weather of the first half of

this month almost reach the proportions of a drought, it has since not only rained enough to make up for any last time, but also enough for the total rain for this October to far surpass that of last year.

A heavy frost is predicted for tonight. While there have, of course, been several heavy frosts this fall, we have escaped a 'black' frost, as the temperature has not been lower than 30° this month. The temperature must go down to 29 or 30 before there is a killing frost. The nights of this October have been warmer than those of last October, yet the days during this month have been colder.

To read past editions of 100 Years Ago this month, visit the History section of Walkersville.net.

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LIBRARY NEWS

October at the library

As the days get shorter and the air becomes crisp, curling up with a good book and a warm drink is always a good way to spend your time. If you're looking to get out and about now that it's not hot and humid, there are always events and activities for everyone down at the library. The library will start and end the month with epic family friendly events and many more on the days in between!

To start the month, come to the Renaissance Faire on October 1 from 1-3 pm with fun for the whole family, right in the backyard of the library! The Hood Chamber Singers will kick off the event with a performance at 1pm followed by Combat and Magic demonstrations at 1:30 and 2:30. Food trucks, blade-making and leather-crafting vendors will be on site to satisfy all your medieval cravings and curiosity. There will also be plenty of photo opportunities and things for your wee ones to play with as well!

Everyone knows October is for Halloween! The Friends of the

Library and various community partners will be ready for Trunk-or-Treating rain or shine on Halloween night from 6 - 7:30 p.m.! The library will also be hosting a spooky haunted house designed for children ages 0-12 and their caregivers.

Start your weekends with a BANG! On Saturdays at 10 a.m. we have Freedom BANG, 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 the library on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. to melt away the stress of Monday during a free drop-in yoga class lead by instructors from Sol Yoga.

Do you have questions about Medicare and how it works? Open enrollment is around the corner! Come get the facts and your questions answered on October 2nd from 10:30 to noon. Elly Williams is from the Frederick County Division of Aging and Independence and is the State Health Insurance and

Senior Medicare Patrol Program Coordinator; she will share her extensive knowledge about Medicare Open Enrollment and Medicare Advantage Plans and help you feel more confident in your decision making.

Do you need financial assistance with getting a mammogram, clinical breast exam, pap smear or colonoscopy? Saturday October 21 at 10:30 a.m., both the County's Health Department and the nonprofit organization Team HOPE will be at the library to talk about the resources they offer. Learn about the County's Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program and Colorectal Cancer Screening Program. Discover how Team HOPE provides financial assistance with mammograms and clinical breast exams!

Supporting Older Adults Through Resources and the Aging Network Alliance provides reoccurring Senior Education Seminars in partnership with Frederick County Public Libraries. These Senior Education Seminars are opportunities for seniors and their families to learn more about the available senior resources in Frederick County. All senior education seminars are FREE, and registration is not required, so please stop by the library on October 26 at 1:30 p.m.! These seminars are interactive, and time will be allotted for questions.

Keen to know more about your own family or the local his-

tory? Two presenters will be at the library this month to share their knowledge. Mary Mannix of the FCPL Maryland Room will present on October 28 from 10:30 - 11:30 to share tips and tricks that members of under-represented groups can use to research their families and learn their histories. Just before Halloween, on October 29 from 1:30 - 3, author and historian Bryan Main will reveal fascinating facts and stories about local Walkersville and Woodsboro cemeteries.

Calling all teens who love to explore, create, and innovate! Head over to the 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 Thursday from 3:30-4:30pm. Kids aged 10-13 are invited to collaborate on October 23 at 6 p.m. for the Tween Tech: Zombie Maker Space program.


Join us in the yard at the library for the October 14th Solar Eclipse! There will be solar, lunar and space themed activities from noon to 1 to celebrate the special event.

Looking for a family friendly activity for a Sunday afternoon? On October 15, local band Cubano Groove will put on a concert in the library's backyard! La Carreta Tacos y Tortas will be serving food starting at noon. Bring your friends, family, and a blanket or chair to enjoy the beautiful weather and music! The following week on 10/22, Jenn and her Uncommon Critters will be at the library from 2 - 3:30. This is a show, tell and touch experience focusing on general facts, unique characteristics and animal stewardship.

If you're a teen in need of volunteer hours or are interested in the goings-on at the library, join us at the monthly Teen Library Council Meeting (TLC) 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 October 31 at 3:30 p.m.

"Let's Get Ready for Kindergarten" is a program on Wednesdays from 11-11:45am where preschoolers and their caregivers can build school ready skills and explore their social-emotional selves with peers. Our weekly Friday YAY Program will continue into the fall from 11 -11:45 a.m. 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 dinosaurs, spies, literacy, and more! On October 27, a special guest named Poppy Troll will make an appearance for music and dancing fun!

"Nature Is All Around Us" will be the focus for October's weekly program on Friday afternoons, from 1 - 1:45 p.m. Perfect for elementary age children, each program will feature a guest with special knowledge on fascinating subjects—join us to learn about reptiles, bats and insects! This program will run on 10/6, 10/13/ and 10/20.



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Fall has arrived!

We've made it through the heat of summer. Now it's time to wind down a bit and start the end-of-year decorating. And we can't forget the sales! Watch our website and Facebook page for the latest info on sales, including our plans for Black Friday!

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SCHOOL NEWS

Walkersville High School Alumni Assoc. awards scholarships

Patty Green

Walkersville High School Alumni Association, Inc. (WHS) awarded eighteen scholarships to WHS graduates. These were presented at the annual meeting/. Celebrating with a theme "How Sweet It is", dinner was enjoyed by more than 195 alumni and guests.

Jerry Fouche, President of WHS Alumni, welcomed everyone, and thanked everyone for attending. The New Midway Fire Company members provided the meal for the event. A brief overview of the WHS Alumni activities that had taken place during the past 2022-2023 year was presented. The traditional roll call of WHS Alumni classes was taken.

Sandy Zimmerman presented eighteen scholarships, with a total amount of \$20,200, to WHS 2023 graduating seniors. Karen Garst received the WHS Inter-generational Scholarship. She had parents and grandparents and many other family members who graduated from WHS.

Two William Talley scholar-

ships were presented to Brady Bliven and Abigail Atallah to pursue athletic careers. Audrey Shabelski was presented a Josephine Gilbert scholarship. Two Tommy Dorsey scholarships were presented to Hailey Ogg and Sidney Winpiger. Two designated STEM scholarships were sponsored by WHS Class of 1972, and presented to Natalie Hafler and Miriam Van Orden.

The 1972 class also sponsored a scholarship to a senior attending FCC and it was presented to Karlie Brockey. They also sponsored a Nursing scholarship and it was presented to Adyn Isemann. A scholarship sponsored by Dale Clabaugh – State Farm Agent, for STEM was presented to Yazlin Moujalled. A scholarship, in memory of Rich Duncan, was presented to Ashlynn Holmes. Walkersville Grange sponsored an Agriculture scholarship, which was presented to Emily Wilson.

The WHS class of 1971 sponsored a Vocation/Trade scholarship, which was presented to Jadyn Cramer.

The WHS class of 1973 spon-

sored two scholarships to Tyler Demory and Delanie Burriss. WHS Alumni sponsored a scholarship that was presented to Sydney Deck. A WHS Alumni Continuation Scholarship was presented to Katie Driscoll.

WHS graduates from classes 1938 through 2023 were represented at the meeting. Everyone was encouraged to invite all classmates to participate in WHS Alumni events and to invite others to reminisce with everyone at a future meeting/banquet.

James Crum presented a program to celebrate the WHS Class of 1973 50th class reunion. He provided a very enlightening program with pictures about the activities of the 1973 class. They brought back many memories and laughs. Special guests at the dinner included former teachers Peggy Trimmer and Tom Ford. A special honored guest was Mrs. William Talley.

The following officers were elected for the upcoming 2023-2024 year. President – Jerry Fouche (class of 1971); Vice President elected – James Crum (class



Walkersville High School (WHS) Alumni Assoc. scholarship recipients: Front Row: Adyn Isemann, Sandy Zimmerman, Katie Driscoll, Jadyn Cramer and Abigail Atallah. Absent from picture is Ashlynn Holmes. Middle Row: Karlie Brockey, Miriam Van Orden, Emily Wilson, Brady Bliven, Tyler Demory, Sydney Deck, Hailey Ogg. Back row: Natalie Hafler, Karen Garst, Yazlin Moujalled, Sidney Winpiger, Audrey Shabelski, Delanie Burriss.

of 1973); Treasurer – Chad Weddle (class of 1987); Asst. Treasurer – Alan Heflin (class of 1964); Recording Secretary – Marsha Burrier Bruchey (class of 1964); Assistant Recording Secretary – To be Determined and Corresponding Secretary – Patty Burrier Green (class of 1970).

Activities to raise funds for 2024 scholarships will be scheduled. Anyone interested in further

information about the Walkersville High School Alumni Assoc. Inc. should contact current President Jerry Fouche. Info about WHS Alumni, including upcoming meeting dates, can be found at the WHS Alumni section on WHS website: education.fcps.org/whs/node/756. Inquiries and updates can also be mailed to WHS Alumni, PO Box 546, Walkersville, MD 21793.

Frederick County Public Schools

Gary Randall

Frederick County Pubic School System

FCPS students performed above state average in all subjects and grade levels, according to the 2023 Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) results for Math, English/Language Arts and Science.

The results, released by the Maryland State Department of Education last week, showed that FCPS ranked consistently ranked in the top quartile in Maryland with year-over-year improvement in almost all subjects and grade levels.

"We are pleased with the latest MCAP results, but we know there is room for improvement," said Dr. Jamie Aliveto, FCPS Chief of Schools

and Accountability. "We are committed to continuous improvement as a district and are focused on helping every student achieve at high levels."

Some highlights:

Elementary results:

- 57 percent of test-takers achieved a proficient or distinguished score on the ELA assessment – 6-12 percentage points above the state average.
- Elementary math scores improved by 3-7 percentage points, depending upon grade level.
- FCPS ranked third in the state on the Maryland Integrated Science assessment results.

Middle School results:

- English Language Arts scores increased by 5-7 percentage points. Math scores improved 3-4 percentage points.

High School results:

- 76 percent of test takers scored proficient or distinguished on the English 10 assessment – an improvement of 7 percentage points from last year's data.

A substantial percentage of students scored just below the proficiency score cutoff and are considered on the cusp of proficiency on many assessments. FCPS, like districts across the state, are facing achievement gaps for students receiving special services, including those with special needs, multilingual students, and students who receive free or reduced meals.

The district maintains a commitment to using data from a variety of sources, including local assessment measures, to evaluate student progress in our schools. The only assessment with lower student performance from prior years was eighth grade Science, which mirrors results from other districts in Maryland. The 8th grade Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) is a comprehensive assessment of content from grades 6-8.

FCPS is one of seven organizations in Maryland to earn this prestigious award, which recognizes organizations that demonstrate a commitment to innovation, professionalism, productivity, e-procurement and leadership attributes. The FCPS Purchasing Department obtains the goods and services necessary for students and staff in the most cost-effective and efficient manner. FCPS encourages open competition among vendors through fair negotiation, competitive bidding and

contract buying. Bill Meekins is the FCPS Purchasing Manager.

Our school system prides itself in its efforts to include every student. Tuscarora High has joined Twin Ridge Elementary to earn national banner recognition from the Special Olympics. THS was identified as a Special Olympics Unified Champion School for its efforts to provide inclusive sports and activities for all students, meeting national standards of excellence in the areas of inclusion, advocacy, and respect.

October 4 is International Walk to School Day. Interims will also be issued on this day. The County Marching Band Festival is scheduled for October 9 with a rain date of October 16. Elementary and middle school conferences will take place on October 11, 12, and 13, but teachers are available at any level to discuss your student with you at any time. For other dates of note please see the FCPS Calendar-Handbook. Best of luck to all our fall sports athletes.



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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

In researching this month's 100 years ago column, we came across several headlines that caught our attention, so we decided to challenge our writers by asking them to create a fictionalized story around a headline of their choice.

Freshman

The anthem of unity

Gracie Smith
MSMU Class of 2027

I never understood why people enjoy music over the satisfaction of a good book. The very thought of being surrounded by the haunting sounds of old metal being banged against rusty pans made my spine shiver. My eldest sister, Miss Marie Senseney, was responsible for my agony one particular evening.

I struggled to focus on my novel as people were chanting and cheering all around me. I felt my palms begin to perspire in correlation with my rapid heart rate. My eyes struggled to focus on the words in front of me. The people began to shout the lyrics to My Old Kentucky Home, "Weep no more, my lady, oh! Weep no more today! We will sing one song!"

Before I could react, I felt the cool sensation of whiskey brush upon my bare. The gentlemen to my left had had far too many drinks to begin with; I was not surprised that this was the result.

I reached for the nearest cloth, careful to protect my novel, when I felt a soft hand land overtop mine. "Why aren't you dancing? Don't you like it?"

A woman, young and energetic, stood before me. Her smile seemed to radiate enough enthusiasm for the two of us combined. Her blonde braids loosely draped down her back and her blue eyes beamed with excitement saying, "More. More. More."

"I'm Margaret, Margaret Sneijder," she greeted as I snatched the cloth out of her grasp and dried the whiskey off me, purposefully avoiding eye contact—her emotions not impaired by my actions. Her name sounded familiar. I glazed around the room for any hints, and sure enough, it came to me—the coordinator of the event. Marie had mentioned a thing or two about her eagerness for our cooperation with the parent-teacher association here in Emmitsburg.

Parents in the area grew a peculiar interest in their children's education and decided to start an association for the ultimate benefit of the children. Naturally, Marie couldn't refuse.

To my relief, the band ended their song and stepped off the makeshift stage for a quick intermission. I couldn't help but sigh when I saw Marie dart toward me. I tried to sneak away but my attempts were unsuccessful.

"Miss Sneijder, how good to see you," Marie smiled tiredly as she locked arms with me, "I do hope our playing is

what you had hoped for?"

"Hoped for? It's sensational! It's hardly half past 8 o'clock and we've already raised almost thirty whole dollars!" Margaret could hardly contain her excitement between her breaths.

"I see you've become acquainted with my younger sister, Claire." Marie nudged at my side softly. I stood up quickly in response hoping my earlier actions would keep from being the next conversation starter.

Margaret beamed, "This is your sister? I would have never guessed!"

"Yes, Claire was the one who helped recruit some of my bandmates. She isn't too bad herself when it comes to singing," Marie nudged me a bit harder, this time with a grin.

My stomach dropped, "I much prefer to watch" I said with a soft, bashful smile when I really wanted to scream at my sister for such a comment.

"I completely agree," Margaret added, "I was speaking with some members of the organization, and we were hoping to make this an annual event here in Emmitsburg."

My eyes locked on Marie who responded, "I think that would be a wonderful idea! Anything to raise a few extra dollars for the children."

"I do have a couple of people asking for certain songs, do you think you and

the others are able?" Margaret asked with a sort of hopefulness in her eyes.

"Of course, what songs?" Marie and Margaret had exchanged a few songs I wasn't familiar with. I took the opportunity to sneak my way out.

I wandered around the small house for what felt like ages and took in the audience; Men and women reunited after the war, children running around with rag dolls, friends catching up on old times. The energy in the room seemed to radiate a theme of unity, togetherness, and family.

I couldn't help but envy them. Their family came back from the war, but mine didn't. Mine got blown up as a human sacrifice that only ended in a battle lost. I watched husbands lock hands with their wives, and children cling to their fathers. My jealousy only fueled my hatred for this evening.

I found a stool in the corner of the room and claimed it quickly. Marie had finally ended her conversation with Margaret and hurried back to the makeshift stage in front of the brick fireplace.

Watching her every move, I prepared for the impact of another song. Instead, her eyes locked with mine and she waved me up on the platform. The color drained from my already pale

face. Before I could stop myself, I began to walk towards her.

"Sing with us," Marie said with a small smile.

The words couldn't come to me, I simply shook my head no. I felt my eyes begin to swell.

No, not here.

Marie took my hand and gave me a wooden rolling pin—I mean—microphone. I grasped it so hard I could feel the wood molding to fit my hand.

Knowing I didn't have a choice, I turned to face the audience; the same husbands and wives as before, the same children running around, the same friends telling old tales... and a widow... dressed in all black standing by the open window. Her face matched mine: empty, lonely, desperate. Suddenly all over I could see people without their loved ones: a lonely mother holding her baby in the corner of the room; a husband without his wife standing by the door.

I have been such a fool. For the first time since the war ended, I could see that I was not alone. Everyone had suffered loss, and everyone experienced grief—it insisted on being felt.

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

Sophomore

The journey of the Shenandoah

Devin Owen
MSMU Class of 2026

As the wind blows the recently changing leaves through the cool autumn air, the giant dirigibles of the American navy—known as "The

Shenandoah"—glides through the air with ease, towering over Frederick County; the sun shining brightly causing the white hulk to glisten for all to see from below. In a small town near the western edge of this county, called Emmitsburg, residents gathered on the streets, their faces upturned to the sky. Children pointed excitedly, and adults shared stories of the last time they had seen such a marvel. The Shenandoah sailed majestically over the town, casting a shadow that rippled across the town

like a gentle breeze. It was a sight that would be etched into the memories of those fortunate enough to witness it for years to come. Among those gathered to see the airship, a young girl aged only fourteen, pushed her way to the front of the crowd with her older sister trailing behind in attempts to catch the teenager before she gets lost. As Raelynn pushed her way through the crowd, she finally made it to the front, getting a good look at the airship soaring through the air. At last, her sister Nikki made her way to the front of the crowd too, finally able to see what the fuss was about.

The girls had been sent out by their mother to gather supplies for their road trip that they were taking that afternoon; their destination being lovely Richmond, Virginia. Their mother, still (somewhat) patiently waiting in the car for her daughters to return, checked her watch for a third time. Once she finally notices the large crowd forming, the girls' mother decided to push her way through to find her kids and usher them back to the car. After pulling, ushering, and finally begging for her girls to return to the vehicle, they were able to continue their journey forward to their destinations. Snacks and beverages in hand—and laps, mostly—their drive continued.

Raelynn sat in the backseat staring in wonder out the window, following the dirigible as much as she possibly could; allowing herself to be overtaken with discomfort and stiffness in her neck as she decided to lay her head on the window and fall into a slumber, leaving her mother and sister to watch the dirigible through the windows. The dirigible continued its journey, following a precise route that took it over Thurmont, where, as pointed out by Nikki, the townsfolk had assembled with binoculars and cameras in hand, snapping pictures to keep

for the years to come. Families picnicked in the nearby parks; their eyes glued to the sky as the Shenandoah passed overhead. The quiet hum of its engines filled the air, creating an almost surreal sense of serenity as it sailed, although that hum couldn't be heard by anyone on land. Woodsboro, too though, was graced by the Shenandoah's presence. The townspeople here as well, watched in wonder as the massive airship carried through the air above them.

Eventually, the Shenandoah approached Libertytown, where the anticipation was at its peak. News of the 'blimp' had been shared from one family to the next, with phones ringing from relatives calls of "Have you seen it?!" or "Look up! It's the Shenandoah in the sky! Look! Look! Look!" At this point, the airship made a graceful turn to the west, heading towards the Shenandoah Valley and its final destination, Richmond, Virginia. The small family of three was following the same path as the blimp, the girls unaware of the plans their mother held for their arrival in Richmond.

The car ride continued, with the excitement and anticipation enveloping the atmosphere of the vehicle. The daughters were waiting to hear what the point of this long trip was—why would anyone want to be stuck in the car for so long at a time? Their mother, bubbling with joy, was so beyond ready to surprise her daughters with the gift of a lifetime. They made their way towards a private airport, getting oddly closer to the final destination of the dirigible, leading the girls to realize that they are going to get their own personal close up of the airship as it lands. As it landed on the tarmac, a grand welcome awaited the airship. A crowd had gathered at the airship terminal, and a brass band played lively tunes to mark the occasion.

The Shenandoah descended gracefully, its massive bulk settling gently on the landing platform. Sailors in crisp uniforms and officers in their finest attire disembarked, greeted by cheers from the crowd. The captain of the Shenandoah, Captain Foraker, stepped off the airship and was met by the mayor of Richmond. They shook hands, and the mayor declared, "Captain Foraker, you and your crew have made history today. The Shenandoah's flight over our great nation is a testament to American ingenuity and progress."

Captain Foraker smiled and replied, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. It's an honor to have been a part of this journey. The Shenandoah and her crew are proud to serve our country." A particular officer though, was patiently waiting to surprise two out of three loves of his life.

Officer Tracy, after waiting an excruciating 19 months, finally gets view of his wife and daughters walking up through the crowd of people. Pure joy and love flowed through the cheers of excitement called out by both Nikki and Raelynn, while their mother followed behind with a smile from ear to ear and tears threatening to leak from her eyes. As they reached their father, the girls leaped into his arms, hugging him as tightly as they could, as if they would never get to hug him again. As the festivities of reunion continued into the night, Officer Tracy looked up at the starry sky, thinking about this incredible journey. The Shenandoah had brought joy and wonder to the people of Frederick County and beyond, and it had shown them that the sky was no longer the limit; but the real joy for this officer was his return to home, a return to his heart.

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

Glade Valley Community Services

Holiday Toy Shoppe Assistance Program

Sign up opens October 1st

Sign up closes October 31st

MUST BE REGISTERED TO PARTICIPATE

Distribution will be on Friday, December 1st
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8651 Biggs Ford Rd., Walkersville

For questions & in person appointment
301-845-0213
Leave a message

Applications for the GVCS
will be available online at
gladevalley.org/holiday-toy-shoppe.

Walk-in applications may be dropped off at the
Walkersville Public Library
2 South Glade Rd., Walkersville

Wednesday, Oct. 4: 5 - 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 10: Noon - 2 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 17: 5 - 7 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 22: 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Ages 0 to 18 (Must be in High School)
To be eligible you must LIVE in the Walkersville School
area, provide proof of address, income, financial need
and a birth certificate, passport or guardianship
papers for each child.

REFLECTIONS ON NEWS STORIES FROM 100 YEARS AGO

Junior

The best time of year

Dolores Hans
MSMU Class of 2025

I woke up this morning to a cool breeze coming through the crack in my window and the smell of my neighbor baking spice cake. That's when I knew it was the best time of year! Autumn! Summer was over, and the leaves were changing colors. The faint sound of Mama's humming put a big smile on my face. She always hums in the morning. I raced out of my room knowing Mama was probably reading the newspaper. I wrapped her in a big, warm hug when I saw her. She kissed me on the forehead and started calling me all the nicknames she could think of that had to do with autumn: pumpkin, cutie pie, sweetheart, boo, honey, buddy bear and sugar. I laughed and blissfully walked to the other side of the room to look out the window.

Mama got up and began getting my things ready for school. I waved and made silly faces through the window at Mr. Frank. He was our neighbor.

He always came over to rake our leaves during this time of year. I love autumn because not only did I get to help him rake the leaves, but Mrs. Frank, his wife, always brought us some delicious spice cake. I watched her walk up the sidewalk slowly because she was old. She knocked on our door, and as I ran over to open it and let her in, I could hear the conversation she was having with Mr. Frank. Mr. Frank said he worries about Mama this time of year, and she responded smiling, saying that's why she always brings over something sweet. She entered our house and always pointed out how big I was getting. She calls me "Mama's little man." Mama comes to meet her from the kitchen. As Mrs. Frank hands her the cake, she tells Mama that the cake is left over and she doesn't want it to go to waste, that's why she gives it to us. But I know that she bakes it early in the morning and brings it right over, and only keeps a few slices for herself. She must forget because she is old.

When it's time for me to go to school, Mama goes to work. School is good sometimes, and Mama's work is hard sometimes. She says we all have our respon-

sibilities, but I would rather go to work than school. Although, Mama works in the school, so I guess either way I am stuck here. Mama teaches the little kids art. I think having her as a mom is really cool because she taught me all kinds of things about seeing the beautiful things in the world, even the things that don't seem beautiful at first.

In school, our teacher wanted us to write about the things we love. I started to think about my morning with Mama. I knew immediately what to write about. I loved autumn. I loved it because I liked to spend time outside playing in the leaves. The best part was when Mama lets me wear my jacket with all the patches, that way I never have to choose just one color to wear. It got so many patches over the years that the jacket is like five jackets in one. Also, it's like camouflage when I hide in the leaf piles because the patches of the jacket match the different colors of the leaves. My teachers told me I needed a new jacket, but Mama knows how much I love it, so she never tries to buy a replacement. Nothing can replace my patchy jacket. Mama knows me so well.

I also love autumn because I

get to have "Auntie days" twice a week! If you don't know, Auntie days are when my auntie picks me up at school and she brings me out to dinner. I even get to sleep at her house while my mom goes to her other job. Auntie brings me to school the next morning. When mom sees me at school the day after one of my Auntie days, she always says she is sorry she couldn't be there to have fun with me. I say she is silly since Auntie days are the best because we get to eat out, which Mama and I don't do very often.

Mama and I go out for walks all the time. Usually when she is the busiest, she stops and wraps me in a hug, and then asks if I want to get my jacket and go for a walk. She knows I love the leaves, so she asks me, but sometimes I think she also asks because she needs a break. Mama grabs her little art kit and her journal while I get my patchy jacket and shoes. She buttons my jacket, and we head out on our usual path. Mama starts asking me if I am excited for the holidays coming up.

Thanksgiving is the best because Mr. and Mrs. Frank come over for breakfast before they go to their family's house,

and Auntie comes over with my baby cousin and Uncle John for dinner. Mama lets me help make the potatoes, and Auntie brings the turkey and stuffing. We usually get one of Mrs. Frank's pies when she comes by in the morning.

For Christmas, Mama and I do a gift exchange. We always spend time making a present for each other. I already know what I'm going to do this year. Mama used to tell Auntie about how she craved "James' risotto". I don't know who James is, but apparently, he used to cook whatever risotto is for mama all the time. Auntie says that before I came along, the best part of her night was dancing in the kitchen and eating James' risotto. Now the best part of her night is singing me to sleep. Anyway, I am going to ask Mrs. Frank to give me cooking lessons so that I can make risotto for mama this Christmas. She always makes my days happy; I think I can try to make hers happy too. This really is the best time of the year, all because of my Mama.

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

Senior

My obituary writing career

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

Writing obituaries is a fascinating career. Of course, when I signed up to be a writer, I didn't think that I'd be writing about dead people. I went to college to investigate news stories, to actively interview people and see my articles on the front page. A big headline, bolded and black, followed by my name, in print.

But the thing about being a writer these days in the twenties is that you cannot choose where or what the jobs are. While I wanted to do the top headlines of the week, I was given the task of writing obituaries.

What kind of news is that?

I've found that, time after time, I actually like writing these articles. You know for a fact they are being read, and you also feel like you're making some type of contribution. They're informative but emotional—personal, yet fact-based. Plus, it's good money. A cent a word for some of my articles, but obituaries are more. By just a bit, but still.

But my first obituary—that was something.

Her name was Margaret Mehring. She died in October 1923, just when the leaves were turning. I remember because I had just graduated college, and I had landed this job in the Emmitsburg Paper. My editor told me that I'd begin with an obituary of Margaret Mehring, who had died peacefully in her sleep at age 70. "She's lived here her entire life," my editor said, "Go to town." With a pat on the back, I was left to my own little

desk in the corner of the office. I overlooked the mountains, and October was slowly painting its way through the mountains. Autumn-touched leaves and chilled air. Tonight, the sun would set earlier than it has been.

70. That was old. My editor's words floated around me: She's lived here her entire life. In Bruceville, Maryland of all places. It was an ordinary town, a creek driven through the soil, and the stone-arch bridge over the creek. Woods painted with autumn and road signs and such. It was normal. How could Ms. Margaret Mehring have lived in Bruceville her entire life? I was only 22, a young journalist fresh out of college. I dreamed of travel and writing from all types of countries and cities. I couldn't fathom staying in Maryland forever.

70 was also beyond the life expectancy these days. It was normally in the fifties or sixties, if you were lucky.

Ms. Margaret Mehring was born in 1853. She lived through the Civil War, through the first world war. With just a little research, however, I learned that the last name "Mehring" had a fine reputation in this small town.

Margaret's father, George Mehring, bought a house, stone grist, and sawmill in Bruceville just on the banks of the Big Pipe Creek. The house was called Myrtle Hill; it was big and beautiful and white, with a wrap-around porch and swaying trees all around. Mehring was a rich man as well. He wanted the best for his children Frederick, Johanna, and Margaret (called Maggie, back then), but he also built houses for his workers and located his house near the store, school, and blacksmith shop. Right in the center of the village. However,

he died in 1860, when his youngest daughter was just seven years old.

Margaret 'Maggie' Mehring. Already so young and without a father. Her mother wasn't in the picture, at least from my research. Maggie is remembered best for her diary, one she kept during the Civil War while she was at boarding school. Come to find out, the Union troops marched through her town towards Gettysburg in June of 1863. She wrote of her cousin Annie and the movements in her town and how it was a beautiful sight, with the moonlight and the horseman and the flashing clattering of the swords.

An excellent writer and also, later, a teacher. With her sister she taught in the one-room stone school and joined the Women's Christian Temperance Union. She was a "fine lady," and that is all that is remembered of her. A fine lady.

As an obituary writer, I am required to only write facts. I'm also supposed to be as generic as possible. But with an entire life lying before me, especially all confined within one town, I am inclined to know more. She kept the last name Mehring—was there ever a man she loved? Did she write love letters? What about Myrtle Hill? Research and files show that Maggie died there, in the same house her father raised her in. Frederick died nine months before her, and Maggie was keeping the house for him. Did Maggie even like living there? Did she dream about travelling like I do now, or even about a career? Did she have friends?

But I also know that she was a noble woman, both sincere and accomplished. She was cheerful and had great energy. At least, these are

things I'm supposed to write about. The words that, here in the obituary business, we call filler words, because you can put them anywhere in an obituary and someone will relate to them. "Ah, yes, Maggie Mehring was sincere." "Oh, how cheerful she was." "Yes, so accomplished, too."

And suddenly I realized how far away from the truth I was. How far away all obituaries are from the truth. All facts and generalizations and filler words, with no emotion or meaning. I didn't even know Maggie Mehring, so how was I supposed to write a summary of her life? A notice of her death?

It was money, though, my edi-

tor reminded me. These days both jobs and money were hard to come by, if you weren't the wealthy. I wrote the obituary, and it was perfectly emotional for those who could relate, but also entirely generic for anyone to glance at and say, "Oh, what a shame." I wrote it and got a couple of dollars. But for Margaret Mehring—Maggie—I still always think about her. Every obituary I write. I wonder how she is doing. If she finally left Myrtle Hill.

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



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ARTS

Dance Company bring hip-hop to Weinberg

LA's best Hip-Hop dance troupe Versa-Style Dance Company bring their energy and passion to the Weinberg Center for the Arts, Saturday, October 7 at 8 p.m.

Versa-Style is a dance ensemble that consists of committed and conscientious artists representing the diversity and beautiful complexity of Los Angeles. Founded in 2005 by Los Angeles natives and co-artistic directors Jackie

Lopez aka Miss Funk and Leigh Foad aka Breeze-lee, Versa-Style Dance Company was created to promote, empower and celebrate the artistry of Hip Hop and street dance culture.

Named "Los Angeles' Best Dance Troupe for Hip Hop Empowerment" by LA Weekly, Versa-Style is recognized for its electrifying performances and inspiring engagement activities for schools and local communi-

ties. Consisting of committed, highly skilled street dance artists and educators representative of the diversity and beautiful complexity of Los Angeles, Versa-Style Dance Company harnesses the exhilarating energy of street dance onto the concert stage for an unforgettable evening of dance.

There is a Free Ticketed Dance Workshop at New Spire Arts at 10 a.m. which will focus on the fundamentals of street style, includ-

ing the rhythm and timing of movements, grooves, vocabulary, and the cultural and historical contexts in which the dance was created.

In addition, there is also a Free Pre-Show Talk at 7 p.m. for ticket holders of the event. It will be a moderated discussion that will put Versa-Style's electrifying and inspiring works into context. Attendees will learn about the history and impact of street

dance, understand the importance of improvisation (aka 'freestyle') in street dance culture, and get some tips on what to look for in the company's performance that night.

Tickets start at \$25 and may be purchased online at Weinberg-Center.org, by calling the box office at 301-600-2828, or in person at 20 West Patrick Street. Discounts are available for students, children, military, and seniors.

Frederick Reads Returns

Frederick County Public Libraries, (FCPL) is pleased to announce that popular musician and author Michelle Zauner will be the speaker for the annual Frederick Reads event. Zauner will discuss her New York Times Bestselling memoir "Crying in H-Mart."

Michelle Zauner is best known

as a singer and guitarist who creates dreamy, shoegaze-inspired indie pop under the name Japanese Breakfast. She has won acclaim from major music outlets around the world for releases like "Psychopomp," (2016) and "Soft Sounds from Another Planet," (2017).

Her most recent album, "Jubi-

lee" (2021), earned two Grammy award nominations for Best New Artist and Best Alternative Music Album. Her first book, "Crying in H-Mart," has been described as an unflinching, powerful memoir about growing up Korean American, losing her mother, and forging her own identity. She's currently

adapting the memoir for the screen for MGM's Orion Pictures.

This program is a collaborative effort between FCPL, Frederick Community College, and the Weinberg Center for the Arts.

Zauner will make two appearances. The first, is on Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 12:30 p.m. at the Jack B. Kussmaul Theater at Frederick Community College (FCC), and

the second, is later that evening at 7 p.m. at the Weinberg Center for the Arts.

Both events are open to the public. Tickets are free but required, and can be obtained beginning Tuesday, Aug. 29 at, 10 a.m. at weinbergcenter.org, by phone at 301-600-2828, or in person at the Weinberg Center for the Arts box office located at 20 West Patrick Street.

Weinberg presents Grammy award winner Travis Tritt

Travis Tritt, the award-winning artist and one of country music's most beloved stars, brings his 2023 tour to the Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick, Maryland, Friday, October 20, 2023 at 7:30 PM. Fans of the multi-platinum-selling artist can look forward to experiencing an unforgetta-

ble evening of classic hits and new favorites.

Travis Tritt's albums, seven of which are certified platinum or higher, have led him to amass more than 30 million in career album sales, two GRAMMY® Awards, four CMA Awards, including the CMA Horizon Award (now known as

the New Artist Award); a Billboard Music Award for Top New Artist, an invitation to become a member of the world-famous Grand Ole Opry and a devoted fan base that has filled venues coast-to-coast.

He is also dubbed one of "The Class of '89," which includes Country music superstars Garth Brooks,

Clint Black, and Alan Jackson, who dominated the charts in the '90s. Among his eleven studio albums and numerous charted singles are five number ones and 20 Top 10 hits.

Throughout the tour, Tritt and his band will be performing some of his greatest hits, including "Anytime," "T-R-O-U-B-L-E," "It's A

Great Day to Be Alive," and "Here's A Quarter," as well as songs off his most recent album release, Set In Stone.

Tickets start at \$68 and may be purchased online at WeinbergCenter.org, by calling the box office at 301-600-2828, or in person at 20 West Patrick Street.

Frederick Arts Council's INKED: a tattoo inspired exhibition

The Frederick Arts Council announces INKED: an exhibit featuring work surrounding tattoos and the art of tattooing on the first and second floors of FAC's Art Center at 5 E 2nd St, Frederick.

INKED is a multimedia show which aims to serve as a homage to the art of tattooing, the history behind it and artists working in the field today. The show features tattoo mem-

orabilia, flash and equipment from prominent artists, as well as flash, tattooed hide, and work which explores the personal and cultural practices of tattooing from artists living in the greater Frederick area.

Tattooing has an extensive history with roots in a number of cultures. The practice began at least as early as the Neolithic period and continues presently using a variety of tech-

niques and styles explored in this show. From stick-n-pokes to tattoo machines to traditional hand-tapping, individuals and groups have used tattoos as a means of indicating affiliation, self-expression, commemorating life milestones, and general adornment.

For decades in the West, tattooing was not perceived as artistic practice and only subcultures such as sail-

ors and circus performers sported permanent body art. As acceptance increased, greater demand has led to further diversification of designs, examples of which we hope to showcase.

This show features work and tools from famous tattoo artists including, Ed Hardy, Philadelphia Eddie, Mike "Rollo" Malone, and Apo Whang Od.

The talented local and regional artists included in this show are: Lis Zdravec, Gordon Staub, Colin Smallwood, Wendell Poindexter, Emma Cytrynbaum, Olivia Henry, Christina Rogombé, Jared Weippert, Chris Smith, Makoto Namura, Julia Zukos and Shane Acuff.

The tattoo inspired exhibition will be on display at the FAC Art Center on 5 E 2nd St, Frederick, MD 21701 2nd Floor through November 2023. Stop by the FAC Art Center to check out this fascinating exhibit as well as our other FAC After Hours events including bi-monthly improv jazz, weekly film screenings, Meditative Dance, Creative Writing workshops and more!

About the Frederick Arts Council
The Frederick Arts Council invests in a vibrant and cohesive arts community for the people of Frederick County. The organization fosters an environment where the arts flourish in the community through grants and scholarships, arts advocacy, and links to essential resources. FAC is responsible for large-scale programming such as the Frederick Festival of the Arts, Sky Stage, Frederick Public Art Initiative, FAC Artist Studios, Art in the Park, and Arts in Education grants. For more information about the Frederick Arts Council, visit www.frederickartscouncil.org.



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Non-pumpkin recipes

Sonya Verlaque

I have a long commute for work and am wholly impressed with people can listen to podcasts and learn things on their drives. I often listen to the same song on over and over again without it feeling repetitive, and then it goes on a hiatus for a while. I think the same could be for the pumpkin spice latte (PSL) of Fall, it can be a regular occurrence and then go on a break until next fall. People may call it “basic,” but sometimes things are popular because they are good.

Fall is my favorite season and I do love a good PSL, but I think you probably have or are able to get plenty of pumpkin recipes. So here are some easy non-pumpkin recipes for the beginning of autumn. And people are usually pretty pleased when you bring some Autumn Bread with caramel as your commuting co-pilot.

Butternut Squash Soup

I suppose this is in the vein of pumpkin-ing since its also a gourd, but this soup is warm and light if you use fat free milk, and more filling or rich when using whole milk or cream. For thanksgiving one year I served this in pre-filled cups for service, so there weren't big bowls on the table and everyone was able to “drink” their soup as a little appetizer.

Ingredients

4 cups butternut squash, peeled and cut into 1 inch cubes

4 cups fat free milk, divided into 1.5c and then 2.5c
 ¾ cup diced onion
 ½ cup flour
 2 tbs butter
 2-3 tsps salt
 ¼ tsp celery salt
 ¼ tsp cumin
 optional: 1-2 tsps smoked paprika
 optional: fresh green onions or parsley

Preparation: Place squash in a large microwave-safe container with a lid. Fill with about 1 inch of water. Place lid on top of container, slightly off-set so that one or two corners are uncovered. Microwave on high 3-4 minutes or until squash is very tender. Strainer liquid from container. In a blender or food processor, blend squash with 1 1/2 cups milk until well pureed. Add diced onion, pulse 30 seconds more. Transfer squash and onion puree to a large pot. Add remaining milk, butter, and flour. Cook over medium high heat 5-10 minutes, whisking throughout. Stir in salt, celery salt, cumin, and optional paprika. Garnish with chopped green onions or parsley if desired. Serve warm.

One Skillet Chicken with Green Beans

Ingredients:

1/2 lb. French green beans
 1 Tbsp olive oil
 1 Tbsp butter
 4 boneless skinless chicken thighs thinly sliced

Salt and lemon pepper (to taste)
 4 cloves garlic minced
 1 tsp onion powder
 10 oz. mushrooms
 ½ cup chicken broth unsalted
 ½ cup heavy cream (or half-and-half + 1 tablespoon flour for lighter version)
 2/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese more for garnish

Preparation: Arrange green beans in a microwave-safe dish with ½ cup (125ml) water. Cook in the microwave for 8-10 minutes, until almost done but still crisp. In a large skillet, add olive oil and butter to the pan and heat it over medium high heat. When the pan is hot, add sliced chicken, season it with salt and lemon pepper right in the pan, and cook for about 4 minutes on each side until chicken slices are slightly browned. Next add garlic, onion powder, precooked beans and mushrooms. Cook for 4 to 5 minutes, stirring regularly, until cooked to your liking. Add chicken broth and heavy cream and reduce the sauce for a couple of minutes, until slightly thickened. Next add parmesan cheese into the pan. Stir until cheese is incorporated with the sauce. Taste and season with more salt and pepper. Serve warm and garnish with extra cheese, if desired.

Autumn Pear Bread

You can also make this with all the apples you pick this fall, just substitute them for the pears and add 1 tsp of cinnamon, because: apples and cinnamon.



Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour
 1 cup sugar
 1 tsp baking powder
 1/2 tsp baking soda
 1/2 tsp salt
 1/8 tsp ground nutmeg
 1/2 cup cold butter
 2 large eggs, room temperature
 1/4 cup buttermilk
 1 tsp vanilla extract
 1 cup finely chopped peeled ripe pears

Preparation: In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt and nutmeg; cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Combine the eggs, buttermilk and vanilla; stir into the flour mixture just until moistened. Fold in pears. Spoon into 2 greased 5-3/4x3x2-in. loaf pans. Bake at 350° for 35-40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks to cool completely.

Caramel Icing Glaze for your Autumn Bread

You have to make this with attention or the sugar can burn. Put the kids on tablets and don't walk away from the stove. The longer this cools the thicker

and stickier it becomes, so pour it when your bread is cooled completely and when the glaze has cooled down some so it doesn't just slide off. If you do cool it too long, just put it back on the burner to re-warm slowly.

Ingredients

1½ sticks butter ¾ cup
 1 cup brown sugar packed packed
 ½ cup milk
 2 tsps vanilla extract

Preparation: Melt butter in a medium saucepan over medium-low heat. Add the brown sugar to the melted butter and cook, stirring constantly, for 1 minute (be sure the butter and sugar are completely combined and you can't see any separated butter in the mixture). Bring to a boil over medium heat. Continue cooking, stirring, for 2 minutes. Add the milk and vanilla. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Continue cooking, stirring, for 3 minutes. Remove from heat and set aside to cool for use.

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

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




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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of October

Professor Wayne Wooten

For October 2023. The waning gibbous moon rises just north of bright Jupiter on October 1st, about 9 p.m.. The last quarter moon is on October 6th. The waning crescent moon passes just above brilliant Venus, with the star Regulus in Leo sandwiched between them (great photo op!).

The big event is of course the partial solar eclipse at new moon on Saturday, October 14. The eclipse begins at 10:41 a.m. 70% of the Sun will be covered about noon, and the moon leaves the sun's disk about 1:50 p.m.. You will need to use safe filters, such as eclipse viewers, to visually or photographically observe this event.

But farther west, in Texas and New Mexico, the moon will pass directly in front of the Sun. But this time it is not a total eclipse, since the moon is near apogee in its orbit, too distant and small to over the whole sun. Next April 8, the closer moon will give much of the central US up to four minutes of totality. As about 10% of the Sun is still visible round the rim of the moon, this ring of fire is called an annular solar eclipse.

The most dramatic of all is the broken annular eclipse, such as Merry photographed on May 30, 1984, then the sizes match so closely that only tiny bits of sunlight (Bailey's Beads) leak through the lunar valleys, while the rest of the Sun was blocked. This perfect alignment only lasted eleven seconds, so Merry was delighted to take this shot that made the cover of the Astronomical League's Reflector magazine in June 1984.

Mercury lies too close to the Sun for visibility from Earth this month. Venus by contrast is at its greatest brilliancy as a waxing crescent in the dawn as October begins. It reaches greatest elongation west of the Sun on October 23rd at 48 degrees in front of the rising sun. On the edge of her orbit, Venus will then appear exactly half lit. Mars is now lost behind the Sun as well. Jupiter and Saturn are both well placed for evening observing. Jupiter reaches opposition



A partial solar eclipse at the new moon on Saturday, October 14. The eclipse begins at 9:41 a.m. 70% of the sun will be covered by about eleven, and the moon leaves the sun's disk about 12:50 p.m.

in early November, and rises about 10 PM in the northeast in Taurus at mid-month. But Saturn is well up in the SE at sunset in Capricorn. Its rings are now tilted about six degrees to our line of sight, and closing become edge on at its equinox in May 2025, almost invisible from earth for weeks.

The Big Dipper falls lower each evening. By the end of October, it will be only the three stars in the handle of Dipper still visible in the northwestern twilight. By contrast, the Little Dipper, while much fainter, is always above our northern horizon here along the Gulf Coast.

To the southwest, Antares and Scorpius also set soon after twilight, and will be gone by month's end. East of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way galaxy. Saturn lies above of the pour spout now. Looking like a cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout is the fine Lagoon Nebula, M-8, easily visible with the naked eye.

The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the sky overhead. To the northeast of Vega is Deneb, the brightest star of Cygnus the Swan. To the south is Altair, the brightest star of Aquila the Eagle, the third member of the three bright stars that make the Summer Triangle so obvious in the NE these clear autumn evenings. To the east of Altair lies tiny

Delphinus, a rare case of a constellation that does look like its namesake.

To the south, Saturn is in the head of Capricornus, and Jupiter above its tail. Aquarius and Pisces are among the faintest of the zodiacal constellations, and need dark skies to pick out. Fomalhaut is the only first magnitude star of the SE fall sky, and stands alone above the SE horizon now.

To the east, the square of Pegasus is a beacon of fall. If the southern skies of Fall look sparse, it is because we are looking away from our Galaxy into the depths of intergalactic space. The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W, rising in the NE as the Big Dipper sets in the NW. Polaris lies about midway between them. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus' Square, and goes NE 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, lying 2.5 million light years distant.

Look closely at this superb star city. Bigger than our own Milky Way, it too has companions like our own Large and Small Magellanic Clouds. The one closest to it, M-32, lies above the core in this shot, while larger M-110 lies to the left of the disk here. All three are visible in small telescopes. The core appears redder, due to aging population II stars near its core, but the outer regions are rejuvenated by continuous star birth of bright population I is the hot pink H-II regions that outline the leading edges of the spiral arms. Because we see this great galaxy almost edge on (as it would also see US), we also note the dark clouds of gas and dust mixed among the spiral arms and providing the fuel that make new stars (and with the dark carbon dust) and new life (?) form in the H-II regions. All the critical elements and basic amino acids needed for life here have been found in these stellar nurseries, so the building blocks of us are indeed out there. It is moving toward us, and may sideswipe our smaller spiral in perhaps three billion years, so be sure your galactic collision insurance is paid up now.

South of M31 is the other great spiral in our Local Group of Galaxies. M-33 in Triangulum is seen from a higher viewing angle, so the spiral arms are even more striking. It too is about three million light years distant. About 50 smaller elliptical and irregular galaxies accompany the three big

spirals in our own cluster of galaxies.

Below the head of Pegasus is Aquarius, the Water Carrier. Below his western foot is the only bright star of the southern fall sky, Fomalhaut. It means the "mouth of the fish", and carries on the watery grouping of Pisces the Fish (home to Jupiter now), Capricornus the sea goat (with Saturn in its tail), Cetus the Whale in the SE, and Grus the Crane due south now.

Below Andromeda is her hero, Perseus. In his hand is a star most appropriate for Halloween, Algol. This star "winks" at us for six out of every 70 hours, which Arabic astronomers centuries ago found spooky, hence naming it "the ghoul". We know today it is an eclipsing binary system, an orange giant covering most of its blue companion.

At the foot of Perseus, the hero of "Clash of the Titans" is the fine Pleiades star cluster, the "seven sisters" that reveal hundreds of cluster members in large binoculars. This might be the best object in the sky for binocular users. The giant planet Jupiter now sits just west of this famous group in early evenings.

Winter will be coming soon, and in the NE we see yellow Capella rising. It is the brightest star of Auriga the Charioteer, and pair of giant stars the same temperature as our sun, but at least 100X more luminous and about 10X larger than our sun. It lies about 43 light-years distant. A little farther south, below the Pleiades, orange Aldebaran rises. It is the eye of Taurus the bull, with the V shaped Hyades star cluster around it making the head of the bull. This colorful giant star is only 2/3 as hot as our yellow sun, but 44X times larger and at 65 light years distant, one of the closest of these monster stars.

Farmers' Almanac

*"The trees are in their autumn beauty,
The woodland paths are dry,
Under the October twilight the water
Mirrors a still sky."*
—William Butler Yeats
(1865-1939)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Dry, turning very warm (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); very warm and dry at first, then period of rain, followed by cooler temperatures (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); dry, then showers followed by seasonably cold temperatures and return to dry weather (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); dry and warm, then showers followed by seasonably cold temperatures (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); occasional showers and mild (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); dry, warm days and cool nights (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

Severe Weather Watch: The Town and Country Almanack sees heavy rains hitting the region (7, 8, 9, 10, 22, 23, 24, 25). Stay dry!

Full Moon: October's Full Moon will occur on October 28th and is the Hunter's Moon of 2021. Named because of the extra light the moon provided to many Native American tribes, giving them more time to hunt for. The Cree Tribe referred to as and Yellow Leaf and Falling Leaves because of the many leaves turning bright yellow (an many others,

as well!) and because most trees have lost the last of their leaves during the month.

Holidays: Columbus Day is observed on Monday, October 9th, United Nations Day is celebrated on Tuesday, the 24th, and Halloween falls on Sunday, October 31st.

Special Notes: October is Fire Prevention Month. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) named the second week of October Fire Prevention Week in 1922 in commemoration to the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. Today, we celebrate Fire Prevention Week and Month by educating families, students and communities across the United States raising fire safety awareness. During this month, local and regional fire departments provide education to their communities and encourage parents and loved ones to practice fire safety. Remember to have an evacuation plan ready for your family to follow, check smoke detector batteries often, and always, always respect the power of fire.

The Garden: Mulching fall planted perennials will keep the soil warmer longer, allowing root growth to continue, however, the plants do need time to harden off for winter. Spread a thin layer of mulch after fall planting,

and then add a thicker layer once the ground has frozen. Shredding leaves, along with lawn clippings, dead plant stalks from the vegetable garden make a fine addition to the compost heap. And try this simply trick: remove all large vines and spent plants from the vegetable garden. Mix 1 can of cola (not diet), 1 cup of dish soap, and ¼ cup of ammonia and add to 20-gallon hose end sprayer and fill to top. Saturate the layer of mulch that's left on top of the garden's soil and then say, "Good Night" until the next growing season!

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (1, 2, 13 14); weeding and stirring the soil (8, 9, 10); planting above-ground crops (15, 6, 17); harvesting all crops (18, 19, 26, 27); the best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 22, 2e, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); transplanting (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); weening of all small animals and livestock (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); harvesting and storing grains (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13).

John Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

When a boy passes through a graveyard, does he whistle to keep his own spirits up or to keep the spirits of other people down?



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FITNESS & HEALTH

Fall respiratory illness update

Barbara Brookmyer

As fall approaches, the number of COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infections is likely to increase.

The following actions can help protect against these and other respiratory illnesses:

- Stay home if you are sick

- Wash your hands
- Test for COVID-19 if you are sick
- Talk to your healthcare provider about treatment if you have a respiratory illness and are at high risk of getting very sick
- If you choose to wear a mask, wear a high-quality one that fits well over your nose and mouth

- Get your COVID-19, influenza and/or RSV vaccines as recommended

Vaccines for COVID-19 and influenza have been updated for fall 2023 to provide better protection for the viruses that are currently circulating. CDC recommends the updated COVID-19 vaccine for all Americans 6 months and older to protect against

the potentially serious outcomes of COVID-19 illness this fall and winter. Many local pharmacies will offer both COVID-19 and influenza vaccine and are listed at [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov). Talk to your healthcare provider about the need for an RSV vaccination based on your personal health risk.

The Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) will provide influenza vaccine for children 18 years and younger who are unin-

sured or underinsured, meaning their insurance does not cover the cost of immunizations. Our COVID-19 vaccination clinics will only be for children 6 months through 5 years.

FCHD expects to receive the updated COVID-19 and flu vaccines in a few weeks. We will announce when we are ready to begin scheduling with this inventory. For more information, visit our website at [Health.FredrickCountyMD.gov/Immunization](https://www.Health.FredrickCountyMD.gov/Immunization).

Positive thinking!

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

Positive thinking is the most powerful thing we can do for ourselves. I have been working with someone who has changed my thinking and life in a very positive way. She has taught me to always look for the good and the positive in everything. I will admit, sometimes it is not easy and I have to think about it for a little while but there is always something. Don't beat yourself up if those negative thoughts still come to you, just try to have them less and less and hopefully they will be replaced by positive ones more and more.

If we tell ourselves something is going to go wrong or something is bad then we start to believe it. I didn't realize how even small thoughts or words like "I'm worried sick" can impact how we feel

and our overall health if we keep thinking that way. Losing weight is a positive and healthy thing. Thinking about it can be daunting and thinking about how to do it can be even harder but thinking about the final outcome is a very positive pleasure.

Positive thinking can help us in so many ways. People have found new employment by believing in themselves and portraying that at an interview. If you go into that interview with the idea that you are not going to get the job then chances are you may not because the boss saw too. Of course, I don't mean be overly boastful and say you can do anything just be honest and be willing to work hard to learn what you don't know.

If you go into an interview with a positive attitude and show the person you are enthusiastic about the company and show you are willing and interested in learn-

ing that may just be what they are looking for. Positive thinking will always have a better outcome than being negative and down on things. Even if you don't get the outcome you hoped for you will have that experience and knowledge going forward to the next adventure.

Energy is all around us. It can be negative energy or positive energy. The positive energy is what we need to tap into and keep around us at all times. Positive thoughts, words and feeling are what keeps us going in the right direction. I know sometimes it's hard to stay positive when things are not going as we hoped they would. During these times we need to dig deep into ourselves to find whatever we have to keep going.


Surrounding ourselves with positive people is also very

important. We may not realize how other people's feeling, attitude and energy can affect us. I'm sure you can think of a person or two that always leaves you feeling down or discouraged when they are around. On the bright side, I'm sure you also know someone that makes you feel better when they are around. Some people just brighten a room when they come in or just make you feel better when you are with them. These are the ones you want to see often.

Energy, either negative or positive can transfer from others to you. We may not realize it but think about how you feel when you know someone is coming for a visit. If you are thinking, oh I dread seeing them, then you may want to consider changing your plans. On the other hand, if you are always happy to see someone

because you have a good time with them and feel good during and after their visit these are the people you want to have in your life. We all have to deal with negative people and events but it is how we let them affect us that can be harmful to our lives.


Positive energy is all around us, we just need to look for it and figure out how to use it for our benefit. Find a few positive affirmations and keep them tucked in your mind. Whenever you find yourself feeling down or doubtful, recite some positive words and you will feel better. We can not have negative and positive feelings at the same time so when the negative thoughts creep into your mind chase them away with happy, positive thoughts. Stay positive and motivation will keep you going. Remember to keep moving!



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CREATIVE WRITING

Editor's note: We came across the story below while researching this month's 100 Years Ago Column and provide it to our Mount students with the challenge craft a creative story around it. We hope you enjoy the result.

May yet drop two-dollar bills

The fact of the Treasury Department is still considering dropping the \$2 bill from the denominations of paper currency and has admitted it in the preparation of new designs for silver certificates and Federal Reserve notes will bring cheer to those that look on this form of legal tender as unlucky to its possessor or as a general nuisance because of its unpopularity as a business medium.

There is no doubt of the unpopularity. The paying teller at any bank will confirm it. Anyone who invest money in games of chance, where

the element of a good or bad luck is supposed to enter, will affirm that a \$2 bill spells bad luck. And it further proof or needed there is the evidence contained in Treasury Department files in the form of thousands of letters of congratulations received last April when the possibility that the \$2 note might be discontinued was first made known.

Another indication of its disfavor is the speed with which it circulates and becomes unfit for use. It is passed from one hand to another as fast as the exchange can be made and its life is less than six months, the shortest span of existence of other dominations of paper money.

When the \$2 bill goes back to the Treasury for redemption, it bears the marks of all the ill usage which contempt for it has engineered. It is dirty, greasy, unkept - a very hobo of a bill. Frequently one corner is torn off, and when

thus mutilated it cannot go to the treasury laundry for washing, ironing and a return to circulation. A new bill must be issued in its place. No one hates to part with a brand new \$2 bill, or clings to it as he would a crisp fresh repeated \$1 or \$5 bill. In exchange for a new \$2 note he will gladly take two \$1 bills then bear the grime a many hands and pockets.

Treasury officials admit that, with the exception of New England, the prejudice is nationwide and prevails among all classes, except paymasters, who make up envelopes of cash and to whom the \$2 bill represents a savings of time and effort in counting. But, say the men of Federal finance, they can find no adequate reason for the dislike of the bill.

If the puzzled officials were to interrogate restaurant cashiers, cigar store clerks, theater box office treasurers and the glass-guarded girls who sell tickets in movie picture theater booths, they will get light of the seeming mystery.

The \$2 bill is unpopular, aside from the superstition that it is synonymous with bad luck, because it represents too many persons actual monetary loss.

Likewise it is a temptation to the crime known as shortchanging.

To quote one of them - "the average person thinks a \$2 bill is a \$1 bill. How many times have you been counting a number of bills and your \$2 bill was in the stack of \$1 bills and you found yourself counting the two as a one?"

"The mistake is never made with a \$5 bill. The fact of one has the five is firmly impressed on the mind, even though, like the two, it is a single bill. There's no reason why the presence of the two should be forgotten unless that whereas a \$5 bill is generally fairly clean and often new, the \$2 bill is invariably dirty and worn any consequence seems to have lost some of its value.

"We associated \$1 bills with constant handling and the marks of usage and the \$2, because of its appearance, naturally falls into a like class and loses its identity.

"But irrespective of the reasons - whether it is carelessness, absentmindedness or an actual delusion - it's a hard, cold fact is that three out of every five persons who hand a \$2 bill to me for

a ticket thinks they are giving me a \$1 bill. This is shown by the fact that they walk away with the silver change as soon as I put it down, not waiting for the remaining \$1 bill. They are always surprised when I called them back and tell them that they had forgotten some of their change.

"But there's another angle. It's a poor \$2 bill that won't work both ways. We don't like to handle them anymore then do our patrons, and for the same reason. We are likely to hand one out and in making change thinking it is a \$1 bill. Even where a cash register or a change making machine is employed it is a common practice for us to stick a \$2 bill in the compartment reserve for the \$1 bills, with the same result that we frequently short change ourselves."

"An unmitigated nuisance," is the verdict of the bank teller. "Our depositors must accept them in trade. What they can't get rid of in the course a barter they must deposit. We have to take them. But we can't pass them back. Depositors would hit the ceiling if we gave a \$2 bill. There are only two ways for us to get rid of them. One is the make up cash payrolls for firms with many employees; the other is, returning them to the Treasury for redemption. "Fifty percent of them come to us with one corner torn off. Many or torn in two corners. They are the dirtiest of all the bills we handle and hard to count because they stick together. Some people refuse them because they think bad luck goes with them."

The bad luck superstition responsible for the mutilation of these notes is prevalent among those who invest their money in games of chance, in the sporting world, the underworld, and those who have to do with the stage.

Tearing off a corner is supposed to remove the 'jinx.' Professional poker players and even amateurs who follow the many and devious turns of 'stud' or 'showdown'; hate to have a \$2 bill in a cash game. One corner is torn off as soon as the 'jinx' note appears on the table, and even then no player keeps it if they can avoid it. At the first opportunity he will put it into the 'aute.' Crapshooters will not be at such a bill on their own throw unless it is the last of their money. To fade an the opposing player with a \$2 bill is considered bad luck for him.

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CREATIVE WRITING

Receiving a \$2 bill was seen by many as a omen of bad luck

Sophi Toth
MSMU Class of 2027

Neon is meant to be conspicuous. It's meant to be pretty, to exclaim the owner's business and lure people to partake in it. The neon sign in this room, however, was not. It hung luridly on the wall, four shapes of the suits. Its red eyes glared down at us, our lazy god. Despite its warped gleam, the room was ensconced in shadow. The five men around the table were identical, emotionless. A smoldering red cigar, held by the card shark at the far end, hovered in midair. We were players, pawns in his game. I relaxed my face as best I could. I was not your average fish, and, though I would play, I wouldn't lose. Cigar smoke penetrated the room, smelling sweetly of death. Besides the neon, the only light was weakly flickering from a ceiling lamp above the table.

\$20,000 was riding now. I could taste the tension, the fear and dread. The card shark at the end folded, and nearly everyone else had too. It was me and one other man, who wore a two dice pendant necklace. I tried not to cough at the cigar smoke; it would cost me my control. My own cards were terrible. But I kept my eyes on him steadily. He folded and I collected my prize.

"Good going for someone as young as you," the card shark murmured. His voice was raspy, quieter than cotton touching felt, but I heard him. Everyone heard him, and he knew it.

"Got lucky," I said. Everything

felt lighter. I could pay off my debts. Johnny wouldn't have any reason to—I cut myself off. Everything would be okay now. But there was still the rent, and the bank...no, I'd taken enough risks for tonight.

The shark tapped his cigar against an ashtray and two chunks of red coal fell off.

"What's your name, son?"

I hesitated. "Horne, sir."

"Horne." His whisper wrapped around the name, choking it.

"I see." The dark corners of the room seemed darker, red eyes of coal snakes lurking there. "Why don't you stay one more game, Horne?"

I shouldn't have given him my name. "No thank you, sir. I'd best be getting along."

"Come on, Horne. \$20,000 is a pittance compared to the possibilities." He leaned forward and shackled me with his dark eyes. He seemed familiar. He looked as rich as any of the men on Wall Street. What would he gain if I stayed?

But I did need the money. And so far, it had been relatively easy...maybe I could make rent while at it.

"If you insist." I said, sitting back down. I was making a gamble, but the payoff was tempting. The dealer dealt us each a card, then a community. And so, it continued. My cards were okay—not the best, but not the worst. The bets were made, stakes rose to \$50,000. Besides the \$20,000 I had earned, I had \$20,000 in my pockets. The man to my left upped the ante to \$90,000, and a lesser man would have

perspired. But I stayed stoic. I could always fold. But \$90,000—the cars, the women, the freedom.

Finally, it was just me and the card shark. For all the marbles, keep your face still.

"Getting a little higher now." The shark grinned. "Why don't we see some money on the table."

It wasn't a request. I took out my rolls and counted out \$20,000, added to the \$20,000 I had earned. The paler green against the card table swam before my eyes.

"And the rest?"

"You'll see the rest when you win." I said, shoving the tremble out of my voice. This was no place for weakness. I was among sharks.

I glanced down at my money again, less than half of what I needed if I lost. Right on the top of a back note strap, the first in the pack, was a two-dollar bill.

I couldn't help it. My eyes widened. A pair of fives, even twos, I could handle, but not this. Quickly, I pulled the two-dollar note out and ripped off a corner. Was the damage done? Was I already cursed?

"Carrying around two-dollar bills?" the shark said. "Being a little risky, aren't we?"

I wanted to say something brash, like, "Risky is my middle name."

But I was shaken, and nervous now. No matter the place, no one played with two-dollar bills. They were bad luck, never to be touched. I knew someone who had lost everything because he'd put down a two-dollar



bill in craps. They tainted fate wherever they went, swayed the wheel of fortune, turned Lady Luck sour. But I couldn't fold, not anymore. I had a straight, but the shark turned his cards over. Flush.

The silence seeped into my throat, choking me. The numbers blurred, black overtaking red. The shark smiled, taking another puff of his cigar. "That'll be \$50,000."

I couldn't help it—my hands trembled. The two-dollar bill loomed large and wicked. "\$50,000 then, but give me two weeks for it. Things are...a little slow right now."

The cigar burned. "Gentlemen, if you could leave us. Come back any time."

It was me and the shark. "Dale, we've given you months."

A cold feeling shivered up my spine, even worse than the added debt I now owed. "What?"

"Johnny's a kind man, but he's not blessed with patience."

"How—how do you know Johnny?"

He was quiet, and I remembered. An older man of Johnny's, silent and brooding... The fear must have shown in my face. "You understand why I have to do this. It's nothing personal."

Panic now. "Please, I can pay him back, the \$50,000 too, just a few weeks—even days—"

His eyes were blank. "That's what they all say."

A silenced shot, the neon lights reflected in the blood seeping across the red floors. The two-dollar bill fell, following me into death.



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| <p>UNDER CONTRACT</p>  <p>100 W. Main St., Emmitsburg 4 Bdrms/ 1 Bath/ All Brick Victorian \$285,000 Call Cindy Grimes</p> | <p>UNDER CONTRACT</p>  <p>11012 Hessong Bridge Rd., Thurmont 2 Bdrms/ 1 Bath/ 1300 SqFt/ 2 Acres/ Hdwd Flrs, Brick Fireplace \$279,900 Call Cindy Grimes</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Fall Back!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Remember to move your clocks back one hour.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, November 5th</p> | <p>UNDER CONTRACT</p>  <p>211 Village Ave., Mt. Airy 4 Bdrms/ 2.5 Baths/ 1836 SqFt/ New Roof/ Updated Kitchen/ Storage Shed \$409,000 Call Beth Ohler</p> | <p>SOLD</p>  <p>3326 Buffalo Rd., New Windsor 5 Bdrms/ 3.5 Baths/ 3859 SqFt/ 1+ Acres/ Main Level Laundry \$595,000 Call Cathi Miller</p> |
| <p>COMING SOON</p>  <p>104 Rouzer Lane, Thurmont 3 Bdrms/ 2 Baths/ Finished LL Fenced Yard/ Storage Shed \$325,000 Call Beth Ohler</p> | <p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>3825 Jefferson Pike, Jefferson 3 Bdrms/ 2.5 Baths/ 2300 SqFt/ Beautiful Colonial/ Completely Updated \$589,999 Call Diane Bowers</p> | <p>ACTIVE</p>  <p>15519 Kelbaugh Rd., Thurmont 2+ Acres/ Perc'd/ Scenic View \$125,000 Call Cindy Grimes</p> | <p>COMING SOON</p>  <p>111 Sunny Way, Thurmont 3 Bdrms/ 2 Baths/ Loft Covered Deck/ Fenced Yard \$254,900 Call Cindy Grimes</p> | <p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>13115 Catoctin Furnace Rd. 3 Bdrms/ 3 Baths/ 1+ Acre Hdwd Flrs/ Exposed Beams \$349,900 Call Elle Smith</p> |
| <p>NEW LISTING</p>  <p>13411 Catoctin Furnace Rd. 3 Bdrms/ 1 Bath/ Craftsman Style Lg. Deck w/ Patio \$275,000 Call Elle Smith</p> | <p>NEW PRICE</p>  <p>8161 Rocky Ridge Rd., Rocky Ridge Investment Opportunity/ Multi Family Duplex \$289,998 Call Diane Bowers</p> | <p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>Owens Creek Overlook, Sabillasville</p> <p>5 Custom Home Packages w/Land starting at \$599,900</p> <p>16011 Foxville Deerfield Road 5.43 Acres/ 3 Bdrms/ Perc 10 GPM</p> <p>16013 Foxville Deerfield Road 5 Acres/ 3 Bdrms, Perc 5 GPM</p> <p>16015 Foxville Deerfield Road 5.24 Acres/ 3 Bdrms/ Perc 12 GPM</p> <p>16017 Foxville Deerfield Road 5.12 Acres/ 3 Bdrms/ Perc 10 GPM</p> <p>16019 Foxville Deerfield Road 5 Acres/ 3 Bdrms/ Perc 10 GPM</p> <p>Call Cindy Grimes</p> | <p>NEW PRICE</p>  <p>6842 Browns Quarry Rd., Sabillasville 6+ Acres/ Wooded/ Conventional Perc \$149,900 Call Cindy Grimes</p> | <p>UNDER CONTRACT</p>  <p>Brice Road Lot 1.25 Acres/ Perc Approved/ Pastoral Views \$90,000 Call Cathi Miller</p> |
| <p>COMING SOON</p>  <p>14280 Upper Edgemont Rd. #9, Waynesboro, PA 4 Bdrms/ 3 Full Baths/ 5000+ SqFt In-Ground Pool/ Remodeled Kitchen Finished LL \$519,900 Call Rachel Hogg</p> | <p>UNDER CONTRACT</p>  <p>18 Apples Church Rd., Thurmont Investment/Commercial Property/ Very Well Maintained Apartment Bldg \$975,000 Call Carroll Glass</p> | <p>ACTIVE</p>  <p>158 N. Carroll St., Thurmont</p> <p>1672 SqFt House w/ Bank Barn/ 2.6 Acres/ Zoned Office/ Industrial \$450,000 Call Cindy Grimes</p> | <p>Cindy Grimes Broker - 301-271-3487 x203 301-788-5354 Cindy_Grimes@msn.com</p> | |
| <p>Kelly Weddle Salesperson, MD & PA 301-693-7232 kellyweddesells@outlook.com</p> | <p>Elle Smith Salesperson, MD & PA 301-401-8620 smith21788@comcast.net</p> | <p>Valentine Benning Salesperson, MD 301-807-9439 valentinebenning@gmail.com</p> | <p>Beth Ohler Salesperson, MD & PA 240-315-5376 bethohlersells@gmail.com</p> | <p>Deb Gartner Associate Broker, MD & PA 301-748-1960 deb.theamericandream@gmail.com</p> |
| <p>Cathi Miller Associate Broker, MD & PA 301-788-7216 cathi@2bizar.com</p> | <p>Diane Bowers Salesperson, MD & PA 301-898-4663 bowersrealtor@hotmail.com</p> | <p>Carroll Glass Salesperson, MD & PA 240-674-2538 carroll-glass@gmail.com</p> | <p>Kelly Rumpf Salesperson, MD 240-292-1746 kelly_rumpf@outlook.com</p> | <p>Rachel Hogg Salesperson, MD & PA 443-605-2426 rachhogg1@gmail.com</p> |

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