

Woodsboro - Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

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

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N. Z. Cramer under new ownership

Effective September 26th, N. Z. Cramer, one of the last 'old style hardware stores' in the county, known for its exceptional customer service and wide selection of quality hardware, came under new ownership, but local management will remain the same.

Peggy Busby, President of Cavetown Planning, which had owned N. Z. Cramer since 1964, announced the transfer of the vaunted institution to Thurmont's Structural Building Solutions.

According to Cramer's long time manager Craig Clark, nothing is changing other than owners. "We'll still be here every day to serve the need of our valued customers." Dale Troupe of Structural Building Solutions echoed Clark's assurance that nothing was going to change, and that maintaining good customer relations was priority number one.

According to Frances Meehan Smith's book, Woodsboro Remembers, published in 1976, N. Z. Cramer has been an integral part of Woodsboro history for more than one hundred years.

Cramer's can trace its roots back to 1869 when it was known as the Woodsboro Warehouse. Originally the warehouse consisted of a large

front room with an ample storage room in back. Initially the 'Warehouse' was used as a ticket office for the Pennsylvania railroad until the railroad's station was built in 1883.

In 1907, N. Z. Cramer assumed ownership of the "warehouse", and in 1922, when he brought his son into the business, the firm then became N. Z. Cramer and Son, which is how it is known today.

In 1930, Cramer established a delivery service in the community, which was an innovation of the time, as previously the customers picked up their own purchases.

In 1964, N. Z. Cramer was sold to the Cavetown Planing Mill Co. of Smithburg. It was through its association with Cavetown Planing Mill that N. Z. Cramer earned a reputation as having the largest, and finest selection of trim woodwork anywhere, making it the 'go-to' hardware store for customers trying to match old trim work for home restorations, and custom builders looking to create homes that would be rated second to none.

Peggy Bushey of Cavetown Planing Mill said the decision to sell Cramer's was a difficult one, but stated that as she and her husband were moving towards retirement, they



Customers were thrilled to hear that the present, customer-focused staff will remain in place and continue to serve them.

wanted to find new owners who would be interested in not only preserving the business, but growing it, and felt Structural Building Solutions was the perfect fit.

The purchase of Cramer's by Structural Building Solutions comes almost 4 years to the day of Structural Building Solutions purchase of Cramer's principal competitor, yet at the same time closest ally, Hobbs Hardware in Thurmont. If one store didn't have what you were looking for, the employees would call to see if the other store had it, then send you on your way. The pair earned

a reputation of always looking out for each other's customers.

Following the closing of Emmitsburg's Zurgable Brothers Hardware in 2018, its customers, who valued the customer interactions only given at a local hardware store, moved their business to Hobbs. When Hobbs closed in August of 2022, its customers, as well as those who used to frequent Zurgables, moved onto N. Z. Cramer.

Thanks to Structural Building Solutions, they, as well as all of N. Z. Cramer's loyal customers, will continue to have a N. Z. Cramer's to go to.

79th Glade Valley Community Show a success

Brittany Sanders

Glade Valley Community Show Chair

Blue and gold champion ribbons were earned by many in the Walkersville Feeder School District at the 79th Glade Valley Community Show, which took place on September 24-26 at Walker's Overlook. There were 1,439 entries in all, ranging from baked goods, knitted items, photography, crafts, agricultural farm products, and garden products, all displayed by 203 exhibitors.

The first night was full of excitement, as the show kicked off with the selection of Bella Fisher as this year's Walkersville FFA (Future Farmers of America) ambassador. Following immediately afterwards came the annual cake and baked goods auction under the watchful eye of Jimmy Summers. The junior grand champion cake was sold in memory of Mr. Meryl McLeaf, per the request of the McLeaf family. The proceeds from the sale were split three ways, supporting the Walkersville FFA Chapter National Convention Trip, the Clayton Lenhart Memorial Scholarship, and the Maryland State Grange Scholarship.

The junior grand champion cake was a pumpkin spice cake baked by Ella Eaves that was purchased for \$1000 by Auburn Farms. The open grand champion cake, a chocolate cake baked by Jichacla Cutshall, was sold to Mountain Gate Family Restaurant for \$608. This year's cake auction brought in \$18,000, of which \$6,000 was given back to various funds and organizations within the Walkersville community.

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

The return of the annual mini carnival was held Thursday evening for families to come enjoy. There were various carnival games, face painting and a petting zoo with cows, alpacas, goats and

chickens. The show had a huge crowd on kids/family night.

The show ended with the 3rd annual "Shake it up" milkshake contest. We had Ella Fell, the Maryland State Dairy princess, there to emcee the contest. Our judges were local dairy farmers from Glade Haven Farms and Teabow Farms.

Organizations within the Walkersville Community had to sign up in advance to make their signature milkshake. They had to bring all their materials and ingredients. Whole milk was donated by Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers and vanilla ice cream was donated by Trout's Market of Woodsboro. The winning youth team was the Kaleidoscope 4H Club with their "Lemon Pie" shake and the adult team was the Walkersville Library with their "Strawberry Shortcake" shake.



Bella Fisher, this year's Walkersville FFA ambassador.

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

We look forward to seeing everyone next year!

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WOODSBORO NEWS

Beaver dams draw ire of residents

During the public comment period at the October Town Council meeting, residents asked if the Town could do anything about the “swamp” on the south side of Coppermine Road where it crosses Israel Creek.

Residents claimed that the swamps were unsightly, a breeding ground for mosquitoes during the summer and the area “was just nasty” in appearance.

In response, Commissioner Rittelmeyer clarified that the “swamps” were not in fact swamps, but beaver dam pools.

“We have three beaver dams. There is one just south of there [Coppermine Road]. If you go 100 yards down stream, just before you get to the pedestrian bridge that runs along the creek behind the homes [on Copper Oaks Place] going north to south, and if you stand on the pedestrian bridge, you can really see them. Then, if you go 50 yards south of Route 550, there is a third one.

“If you stand on that bridge [over Route 550], I went out and looked at it a few months ago, it’s [the pond created by the beaver dam] huge. But if you walk out onto the bridge carefully, you can see them [the dams]. The one along

the pedestrian path you can see from the path; it [the pond] comes literally within five feet of the path.”

In response to a question concerning the dams preventing that stretch of the creek from draining, Rittelmeyer said that “was misinformation that was printed. Israel Creek does not run into Woodsboro Pond and has nothing to do with the water level in Woodsboro Pond.”

But when pressed on the effect of the dams on the draining of Israel Creek, Rittelmeyer said, “Yes, it’s ponding in the creek. Yeah, that’s what beaver dams do. I mean they [the beavers] build it, the water can’t flow freely, the water backs up, the beavers build a den under the water.” Rittelmeyer noted that when the water level reaches a certain height, the water then runs around the dams and continues to flow downstream.

When questioned on the Town’s ability to get rid of the beavers, Rittelmeyer said, “We can’t. No.

“When the first beaver dam appeared south of Route 550, this is going back in late December or January, I called the SHA [State Highway Administration], because they are the ones who did the creek project, and someone came

out and looked at it. Then, a few weeks later, I saw a DNR [Department of Natural Resources] cop. They like beaver dams, so they are not inclined to get rid of them.

“They like beaver dams because it builds marsh, and marsh is good for other wildlife and plant life. They would not take any action [back in the earlier part of the year] on the one south of Rt 550 because, when it was first built, what drew my attention to it, was that in the whole area of the park between 550 and the long bridge, the water rose probably 12 to 18 inches. It [the water level] was getting up to a level where it was going to almost flood the park, and that’s why I called. A few storms later, the beaver dam got knocked down a little bit and they didn’t rebuild it quite as high.”

Rittelmeyer also remarked that over the course of their dam building, the beavers had chewed down some of the young trees that had been planted around the pond in the community park for their building material.

So, while residents nor council members are happy about the dams, nothing can be done at this time to remove the beavers and their homes.

Council punts on junk car issue

For the second time in three months, the Woodsboro Town Council opted to defer action on addressing the issue of unlicensed/inoperable or abandoned cars used for salvage purposes located in the industrial zone.

The issue was first brought to the current Council’s attention by Town Code Enforcement Officer Donnie Strawsburg earlier this summer, when he raised the issue of the apparent disparity between how some properties are treated versus others.

The issue stemmed from Strawsburg citing a resident for having unlicensed/inoperable/abandoned cars in the open on their property. The property cited was not in the Industrial Park.

The property owner challenge the Violation Warning asking if the all the junk vehicles located in the Industrial Park were allowed. Strawsburg reviewed the Town

Zoning Code and discovered that the Industrial Park had no exceptions related to the storage of unlicensed/inoperable or abandoned vehicles.

“I can’t cite one person for violating a town ordinance and not cite another for the same violation; if I do so, I open myself, and the Town, to charges of ‘selective enforcement.’ And once that happens, the residents will lose faith in our enforcement of the Town Code.”

At the August Council meeting, Burgess Barnes said he was aware of the situation and that back in the early 1990s, “there had been some sort of ‘gentleman’s agreement’ between the Town, the Burgess at the time, and the property owner to allow the storing of cars on the lot.”

Unfortunately, whatever was agreed to back in the 1990s was never captured in any Town Council meeting minutes, forcing Strawsburg to play “Sherlock

Holmes.”

Strawsburg reached out to Mark Hatgi, the lot owner, to get his side of the story. “Mark was very professional and was more than happy to fill me in on his recollection of events.” Bsaid Strawsburg. But the bottom line eventually revolves around the current Town Code, which does not allow the storage of unlicensed/inoperable or abandoned cars for salvage purposes in the industrial zone which Hatgi uses some of his cars for.

Strawsburg was able to locate Town Planning Commission meetings minutes, dating back to 1987, that did address the prohibition of the storage of unlicensed/inoperable or abandoned cars for parts or salvage purposes, including a hand written note in the Town’s Code prohibiting auto salvage operations, and stating that any junk cars must be within a structure and could not be outside. An annotation on

Town joins Frederick County CDBG Program

The Town Council voted to join Frederick County’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, guaranteeing funding for fiscal years 2025, 2026 and 2027. With the vote, Woodsboro joins Walkersville, Emmitsburg, and Thurmont in the program. New Market, Myersville and Mt. Airy declined to join.

The CDBG Program is a federally funded program managed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) designed to assist county and municipal governments with activities that are directed toward the enhancement of neighborhoods, housing opportunities, economic development, and improvement of public facilities and services. HUD allocates funding based on four factors: population, people in poverty, the number of overcrowded units (including rentals), and number of homeowners.

Devin Peart, Frederick Coun-

ty’s local government relations associate, expects Woodsboro to be eligible for up to \$30,000 in yearly grants for their annual base allocation from Frederick County’s expected grant total of \$700,000, which will then be divided amongst its municipalities. Frederick County will determine allocations based on criteria similar to HUD’s.

“The big advantage that we see in this process is that your municipality will not have the administrative burden of applying with the state program, needing only to submit project summaries to the County for compliance purposes and working with the County for our reporting needs to HUD,” Peart said.

“Additionally, this funding stream is guaranteed annually, and it will make planning and budgeting easier for your municipality.”

The one downside of joining the County’s CDBG program is that Woodsboro will be “locked” into

the program for three years and during that time, not allowed to independently apply to the state for a CDBG grant. However, Brown said that the Town could still apply for other grants that are not CDBG grants, such as Project Open Space grants.

Town staff told the Council that was “no big deal” as the Town had never applied for CDBG because they felt the Town didn’t meet some of the minimum criteria, “so there is no downside to us joining the program.” Even more importantly they said, “the County is doing all the grant writing, not us, all we have to submit is a description of the project we want to fund and the amount of money we need. It’s a win-win for Woodsboro.”

Barnes pressed Peart on how the money could be used. “Does it have to be used on low-income housings related projects or can we, for example, use it to fund repairs on the

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the Planning Commission meeting minutes indicate these conditions were subsequently approved at a March 1987 Town Council meeting.

The need to address the storage of unlicensed cars in the industrial zone was again raised in 1993 when Hartwood Cornell asked if the storage of unlicensed cars in the industrial zone was in violation of the annexation agreement for that property, but apparently no action was taken to address the issue.

In 1999, a proposed text amendment to the Town’s zoning code to address the storage of unlicensed cars was reviewed by the Planning Commission. The amendment was undertaken as a result of Hatgi’s submission of a proposed site amendment to consolidate his Mark 1 Vintage Wagon Service within the

industrial zone. The proposed amendment prohibited the outdoor storage of unlicensed cars for salvage purposes and was approved at a March 2000 Planning Commission meeting.

“The Town Code is very clear,” Strawsburg told the Town Council, “storage of cars for salvage operations, like that being conducted by Mr. Hatgi, are not permitted in the industrial zone.”

Strawsburg suggested that given the length of time the issue has been going on, the Town should consider providing Hatgi a waiver to allow him to conduct salvaged operations or to remove the term in the Code.

“One way or another, we need to resolve this issue, or we open ourselves up to charges of selective enforcement,” said Strawsburg.

water and sewer plant or on extending the paved paths in the park?” Barnes asked. Peart said that the grant

money can be used for all infrastructure improvements, including water and sewer upgrades “as that will help everyone, including disadvantaged residents.”



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WALKERSVILLE - UNION BRIDGE NEWS

New “no growth” commissioners sworn in

New Commissioners Russ Wench, Chris Ragen and Bob Yoder were sworn in to the Town Council at October’s meeting while Gary Baker and Mike McNiesh (who did not run for reelection) and Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis (who was defeated in her run) ended their terms. Burgess Chad Weddle retained his seat.

With a new resolution adopted this year, Wench and Ragen will serve four-year terms and Yoder, Commissioner Tom Gilbert and Commissioner Betsey Whitmore-Brannen will serve two-

year terms, with Weddle serving a four-year term as well. The resolution intentionally staggers the terms to limit town council turnover, eliminating the chance of an entirely new council of newly elected commissioners.

Going forward, terms for both burgess and council members will increase from the current three years to four years, which means the Town will have elections every other year.

During his campaign, Wench, who was a commissioner in the past and on the Planning Commission, has

been vocally against allowing growth in Town. His focus on “no-growth” continues with his appointment. He was also elected to be the vice president of commissioners. Gilbert nominated Wench because he “received the most votes in the election.” Additionally, Wench will serve as the Planning and Zoning Commission liaison.

Chris Ragen stated his goals are “to combat residential growth, focus on blighted properties in town, and to push for further transparency and public input in town matters.” Ragen

will serve as liaison to the Parks Commission, as he has served on that commission in the past.

Bob Yoder asked for better traffic safety, held a “no growth” viewpoint, wanted to see increased care of abandoned facilities, and voiced water cost concerns. Yoder will push for a more consistent and informative budget.

The newly elected commissioners praised Ennis for her passion and hard work on the Council and as Parks and Recreation liaison. “Everything you’ve done for the Town of Walkersville is

incredible,” said Ragen, “I’ve learned so much from you.” Brannon also thanked Ennis for her advice to vote “what you want” when she was a new commissioner.

Yoder thanked the outgoing commissioners for their dedication, time and effort spent to keep Walkersville a small-town environment.

Weddle described the Council as “like a small family. Even though we don’t always see eye to eye, everybody up here is doing things for Walkersville,” he said.

All three outgoing commissioners were recognized with resolutions honoring their service to Walkersville.

Bid for Green Street project approved

In early September, four companies submitted bids for the Green Street project. The scope of the project includes replacement of a trenchless structural storm drainpipe lining, sidewalk, curb and gutter installation and the repaving of Green Street. Last year, a brief investigation into a portion of cracked asphalt on Green Street showed a breach to the storm drain. The galvanized pipes in question were installed in the 70’s and at over 50 years of wear and tear, they are showing signs of severe deterioration due to the large quantity of water the pipes see.

The Council discussed seven variations of repair options, with estimates, to fix the issues, ranging from band-aid solutions to full replacement. They eventually opted for the Town staff’s recommendation of a “middle of the road” repair, where a lining is applied to the entire length of the Green Street pipe, with a 2023 cost estimate of \$286,357.

The four offers included ECM Corporation bidding \$528,276, Pleasants Construction bidding \$457,694, Ross Contracting bidding \$497,173 and Wastler & Son bidding \$453,432. The bids cover the total

cost for all labor, materials and equipment for a total of 530 linear feet of corrugated metal pipe lining.

Town staff recommended the lowest bidder Wastler & Son, the same company that completed work on Maple Avenue and in the Deerfield community. “The Town is very satisfied with their work and communication,” said Williams.

Commissioner Betsey Whitmore-Brannen questioned the decision to award the project to a company that would be subcontracting the pipelining work out to another company. “The next bid is less than 1%

more and they are doing the lining with ‘firsthand pipelining experience.’ What is the risk we are taking for less than 1% more in cost?” Williams replied that none of the bidders would be doing 100% of the project and they all use the same sub-contractors, so there would be no risk at all.

The Council also discussed turning Green Street into a one-way street. This decision was precipitated by adding a sidewalk to the corner of Maple Ave and Green Street and pulling the sidewalk in front of No. 3 Green Street out five feet, connecting it to Fulton Avenue. The issue at hand is that by

bumping the sidewalk out by five feet, it narrows Green Street from Fulton Avenue to the Town Hall (about half-way down Green Street).

The suggestion to turn Green Street into a one-way from Fulton Avenue to Maple Avenue would be for safety reasons, with parking being restricted to the second portion of Green Street on the Maple Avenue side.

Williams pointed out that the decision to turn Green Street into a one way would not affect the awarding of the bid, so it was unnecessary to discuss it at this time.

Wastler & Son was awarded the project with a vote of three to one, Brannen being the dissenting vote.

Union Bridge News-Briefs...

Resolutions To Town Charter Approved

Recently, the Town Council discussed implementing two resolutions to the Town’s Charter concerning the upcoming elections. The first will require mayor and commissioner candidates to be residents of Union Bridge for a minimum of two years immediately preceding an upcoming election. Mayor Perry Jones explained the reason why they wanted to update the residency requirements was to catch up with the way other municipalities are doing their elections. “We feel that people move into Town for one year and they don’t really know what is going on,” he said. “If we require them to be residents for at least two years before they try to run for office, maybe they will come to Council meetings and get involved first.”

The second resolution concerns uncontested elections. When the number of qualified candidates is equal or less than the number of positions open, an election will not be required. “This saves us a lot of money because we won’t need to have our election people [at the polls] all day and no one show up,” said Jones.

At September’s meeting, a public hearing was held to see what the Town’s residents thought of the changes. As no one was present to voice opinions, the Council passed both resolutions with unanimous decisions. The public will have 40 days to file a referendum if they so wish. A referendum is a special election where voters will be asked to answer specifically “yes” or “no” to a question, in this case whether they approve of the resolutions or not. If no one files one, after 50 days both resolutions will be officially adopted into the Town’s Charter.

Quaker Hill Road Water Line Project Accepts Bids

The Quaker Hill Road water service line project accepted an official bid for work to begin at September’s meeting. The project consists of the installation of lead-free copper water service lines for two residential units on Quaker

Hill Road. According to Councilmember Bret Grossnickle, the project is being done to “clean up an old mess,” however he did not give further detail as to the reason why.

Two companies placed bids to do the work: Stambaugh’s Inc, a local construction company based out of Union

Bridge, and Mid Atlantic Utilities LLC from the Ellicott City area. Stambaugh’s bid of \$24,339 was considerably lower than Mid Atlantic’s at \$61,290.

Grossnickle promoted Stambaugh’s

saying their work on a previous project in Town was excellent and recommended the company. Council members agreed and the project was awarded to the local business.



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WALKERSVILLE INFO

Wed., Nov. 6 - 7 p.m. - Parks Commission Meeting

Sat., Nov. 9 - Bulk Trash Pick Up

Sun., Nov. 10 - 1 p.m. - Veterans Day Ceremony

Mon., Nov. 11 - Town Hall Closed - Veterans Day

Tues., Nov. 12 - 7 p.m. - Planning Commission Meeting

Wed., Nov. 13 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting

Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 28 & 29 - Town Hall Closed Thanksgiving

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 Walkersville: Our Town

Walkersville Christkindlmarket & Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 7 - 10 to 2
(Both start at 10)

Santa arrives at the end of the parade

Join us for the Christmas parade and enjoy vendors and artisans, along with lunch items including homemade soups, country ham sandwiches, hot chocolate and baked goods for sale. Credit cards accepted.

Additional activities will be held at other locations throughout the town!

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www.gladechurch.org
www.facebook.com/GladeUCCWalkersville

Vendor applications: christkindlmarket@comcast.net
Parade entry info: chrisuebel@hotmail.com

GOVERNMENT

County Councilman Brad Young

The Frederick County Council meets regularly on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 at Winchester Hall, located at 12 East Church Street in downtown Frederick. All meetings are open to the public, and we welcome participation. Members of the public are welcome to attend in person, or participate over the phone. Please note that our meeting on Tuesday October 29 will begin at 6 p.m.

The Council recently passed Bill 24-15 by 7-0 vote. I sponsored this Bill

on behalf of County Executive Jessica Fitzwater. Bill 24-15 amends various County code sections to reflect the new combined name of the Catoctin and Frederick Soil Conservation Districts to "The Frederick County Soil Conservation District." The Council also recently passed Bill 24-16 by 7-0 vote. I also sponsored this Bill on behalf of the County Executive. Bill 24-16 authorizes the issuance of General Obligation Bonds.

At our next meeting, we will be hold-

ing Public Hearings for Bills 24-13 and 24-14. Both of these Bills have been amended and the full text of the Bills and all Amendments can be found on our website and are linked to our agendas. The Public Hearings will begin at 7 p.m. We welcome public participation at all public hearings. For the most up to date agendas, full text of Bills, and Bill schedules, please visit our website.

The Council has two additional Bills advancing through our legislative process

that I have sponsored on behalf of the County Executive. Bill 24-17 amends certain definitions in the County code and adds new definitions. Bill 24-19 amends Section 1-13-24 of the County Code to revise the requirements and processes involved with the Frederick County Critical Farms Local Program. The Public Hearing for Bill 24-19 is scheduled for November 19 at 7 p.m.

The Frederick County Council encourages public involvement at every stage of the legislative process. We welcome public comment at every Council meeting on Tuesday evenings. Members

of the public are welcome to attend and give comment in person, leave a voice-mail to be forwarded to each Council Member, or email us any time at councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov. Please visit our website at www.frederickcountymd.gov/countycouncil to view our latest agendas, legislation, and upcoming calendar of events.

And as always, 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 Councilwoman Renee Knapp

Last month the Frederick County Council voted against the Growth Moratorium Bill (Bill 24-12) that was introduced by Council Member Steve McKay (District 2). I was one of votes against this bill, and I have been asked by several residents why I voted that way when we are facing challenges with keeping up with infrastructure demands that population growth creates. While this seemed like a simple solution, as with many things, the devil is in the details. The residential building moratorium as described in the bill would have introduced disruption to current school funding plans and exposed the County to potential legal challenges which would cost the County time and money unnecessarily.

We all recognize that Frederick County is growing quickly and has for years. Portable classrooms, crowded hallways, many

lunch shifts, and other challenges are daily realities for many students. Halting new housing construction would seem like a reasonable approach to help with school overcrowding, which is what the bill intended to address. However, the process in the proposed bill, would not have done much to accomplish that goal.

In 2008, the Board of County Commissioners passed a Temporary Growth Moratorium Ordinance with clearly defined criteria and a clear two-year time limit. This was done to pause residential construction while comprehensive planning could be completed. This was an understandable use of a building moratorium to create a pause for the County to catch up with planning. That is not the case today. We currently have the Livable Frederick Master Plan with smaller area plans such as the Sugarloaf Treaded Landscape Plan and the South Fred-

erick Corridors Plan being implemented, with additional smaller plans being developed. We have Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) guidelines that are clear and must be adhered to by development companies. While we clearly face challenges with rapid growth, adding regulatory uncertainty doesn't help to build school capacity.

Bill 24-12 would have triggered an automatic residential construction moratorium in any attendance area each time a given school reached a projected enrollment of 120% over the state rated capacity, although the County Council could have rejected any such moratorium with a majority vote or end it at any time. I believed this to be an unacceptable level of regulatory inconsistency. Additionally, each moratorium would require a study to determine the criteria to end it, and an implementation period. Although, each

proposed moratorium would be required to end after two years, I ultimately felt it would be adding red tape and delays to the County Code that could be used to postpone projects that have already satisfied APFO requirements. The County collects fees from residential developers, and those projected fees are used to plan capital projects. Introducing possible interruptions in the collection of those fees only delays the creation of much needed school capacity.

Over the last year, three important efforts were initiated to specifically address school overcrowding meaningfully. First, the County Council passed a real property tax increase to generate 21 million dollars annually dedicated to projects in aging school facilities which helps the County to stay on track with the revenue for new capacity projects. Over the summer, County Executive Fitzwater

announced initiatives to directly address overcrowding in the eastern part of the County, where enrollment is expected to grow significantly. Additionally, earlier this year, Governor Moore signed into legislation the establishment of the Frederick County School Construction Master Plan Workgroup which is comprised of bi-partisan local and state officials and Frederick County Public School representatives. Although it will take some time to see the effects of these actions, it is still preferable to the disruption and uncertainty that the proposed building moratorium process in Bill 24-12 would have created.

I'm looking forward to hearing the findings and proposals from the Workgroup, and to working with others to address continuing school capacity needs that affect Frederick County students and their families. If you would like to discuss this or any issue, I can be reached at rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov.

Woodsboro Burgess Heath Barnes

Greetings, Happy November. We are officially in the Holiday Season. Thanksgiving month is a good time to think of things you are thankful for. Remember that many people do not have family or resources to have a great holiday season. This is also the perfect time of the year to donate time or resources to help a

person or family less fortunate if you can. Woodsboro Days was a wonderful event in town on October 18th and 19th. Several town residents started the weekend on Friday with yard sales throughout the town and the annual large one at the Woodsboro Lutheran Church. Saturday's weather was wonderful, and it was great

seeing so many people out in the park for the music, food truck, and vendor festival. Next year we are looking for an even bigger and better festival. Mark your calendars for October 18th, 2025, for next year's event.

As far as the town hall update, which I know seems to be going on and on, things are happening. The last of the permits and

filing were submitted to the county and there is a good chance we will see the ground being broke in November the goal is still to get the ground broken and building started before the hard cold weather sets in.

We have had several concerns brought forward with quarter 3 water bills which was the first bill with the new water rates. I understand the concern about the increase. We discussed this at multiple town meetings leading up to the budget before voting for the increase was unanimous by the council for the increase. Increasing the water rates was the last thing we wanted to do especially during an economy like we are in, however, several factors led to it. First is that over the last 20 years, there have been 2 very minimal increases which has increasingly led the town's water and sewage funds to run in the negative each year. This could not continue as the water and sewage account has to be run separately from the town's general fund budget and has to run self-sufficiently and pay for itself. We cannot continue to borrow from the general funds to cover it year over year.

If there had been a 1-2% increase year over year to cover the inflation and rising

costs of all things we could have been at the point of covering the costs without a drastic increase at one time. Second, our water operator who has been with the town for several years at 75 thousand a year resigned. After a two-month search the best rate we could find was a new company at 200 thousand a year so that increased our expenditures as well. I know increases are never what anyone wants to see, but I wanted to clarify the reasoning as there has been questions raised to the town clerk, myself, and on social media regarding the rate increase. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or attend any town meeting.

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 gladevalley.org@gmail.com, 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.



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GOVERNMENT

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

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

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

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

It isn't enough, though, to say that the County is strong. We must measure ourselves against the vision laid out in the Livable Frederick Master Plan. We want – and are working towards – a community where people live, work, and thrive while enjoying a strong sense of place and belonging.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

At the State of the County Address, I announced plans to

double the number of preserved acres of agricultural and forested land. This new goal of protecting 160,000 acres will ensure that Frederick County maintains its rural character for future generations.

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

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

The people in our workforce are our most important asset, and I am committed to making

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

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

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

Happy Thanksgiving
I'm so very thankful for your business and support.

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FROM THE DESK OF...

Janie Monier

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

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

ated the County.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Josh Bokee

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

each one for high academic achievement and life itself by the time they are ready to graduate. I am a parent of a blended family of three teenagers, the oldest of whom is now a junior at Frederick High School. He is receiving an excellent education. I am running for the school board because every student throughout Frederick County should have an excellent education, helping to unlock future both college and career opportunities. I am

ready to focus on the essentials, helping to bring partners together and do everything possible to see that all of our students are successful.

It is important to have highly qualified teachers and staff in our classrooms; school buildings that are not overcrowded or are not falling apart; parents who are true partners and a community that is fully invested in the success of our students. We are one Frederick County in our shared

desire to see our students do well; but our needs are varied. In the more rural areas of our county, we need to ensure students have access to AP and honors classes, engineering programs and to the Career Technology Center (CTC). We need to ensure that we have reliable bus transportation to and from school everyday. We need to engage our local businesses and skilled-trades organizations so more students have access to career building internships and apprenticeships.

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

high speed internet). As a member of the school board, ensuring that students have access to technology and use it properly will be an important priority for me.

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

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

Teacher Recommended



L to R: Wilson, Bokee, Monier

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Josh Bokee Janie Monier

Chad King Wilson

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... CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Chad Wilson

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

April McClain Delaney - Candidate for U.S. Congress

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



April McClain Delaney

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



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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

Are we there yet?

Shannon Bohrer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Winston Churchill

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

The Bulwark

A permission structure to vote for Kamala Harris

Michael Cohen

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Do I Think Harris Will Win?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Liberal Patriot

The idiots guide to dominating American politics

Yascha Mounk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Good Day Neighbor

First impressions, rational judgements

Dorothea Mordan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Robert Roberson has just been given a 30 day reprieve.

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

We have policies about physical and

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

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

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

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

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

The real threat to democracy? Not voting. 2024 is the year of the vote. Please make yours count.

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

PASTOR'S DESK

Thankful

Pastor Jay Petrella
Graceham Moravian Church

The march of time waits for no one. As we finish off the remaining pieces of Halloween candy and commit our jack-o'-lanterns to the compost heap, we dive headlong into the season of Thanksgiving. I love a good Thanksgiving dinner. Turkey, gravy and stuffing, without oysters thank you. Green bean casserole, sweet potatoes with golden brown marshmallows on top. And who can forget the cranberry sauce? Now, I hope I don't lose this publication any readers when I say that the cranberry sauce ideally should be gelatinous, can shaped, and served in circular slices. Sure, the fancy cranberry sauce lovingly made with real cranberries, orange peel and all those tiny, fibrous pieces that get stuck in your teeth is fine. But in my book, nothing beats the stuff from a can that makes slurping sounds as it flops out onto a serving platter.

Then, beyond the bountiful meal, and the inevitable late afternoon naps, you have the deeper meaning of Thanksgiving. There is a lot of lore around the origins of the holiday. I'm sure some of what I've heard over the years is historical fact while other aspects may be a bit apocryphal. For instance, I don't think the pilgrims actually

ate green bean casserole, because where on Earth would they have bought knockoff brand cream of mushroom soup? Since I'm obviously not any kind of authority on that subject allow me instead to write a bit about the act of giving thanks.

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

I'm not talking about any sort of hollow gestures of giving thanks here. I think there's a difference between genuine, heartfelt thanksgiving and the barely audible, mumbled-to-oneself, thanks. Like the customary usage of the phrase, "how are you doing" as a greeting. The cultural norm is for the recipient of that greeting to smile, nod and say, "fine" or perhaps, "good" before both parties move along. That, as opposed to a genuine concern for the other

person's well-being and an invitation into a time of heartfelt sharing. Genuine thanksgiving can be profound, powerful and beneficial, much like a heartfelt, "so, how you really doing."

Our world and our lives can be so filled with reasons to be upset. First you have personal struggles of every kind. Then you have family, workplace and cultural struggles. Add in community concerns of local, national and global varieties. Everything from politics, to culture, to religion. There is struggle and disharmony just about wherever you look it seems. Then you add in television and Internet into the mix. These medias are tremendous pieces of technology we've invented as a means of communication and education. But one of the downsides is that instead of being on your own to notice all of the problems going on around you, you get the help of billions of people across the globe bringing to your attention all of the anger and grief inducing matters you would otherwise be unaware of. And because the television and Internet doesn't have business hours like a bank or pharmacy, we can allow ourselves to be bombarded with disaster, trauma and outrage around the clock.

This is not healthy for us in any way. Mentally, emotionally, spiritually it can distort our view of reality and destroy us. More and more scientists and doctors are finding connections between our inner mental/emotional health,



and our physical health. The one inexorably impacting the other, for better or worse.

Of course, barring any mental health issues that require professional, medical intervention, sometimes just the constant barrage of anxiety, fear, panic and anger can devastate us individually. It can devastate whole families and communities. Perhaps you yourself have been feeling a bit tense, a bit down, a bit doom and gloom lately. Perhaps you have a family member, a friend, or colleague whose personality has drastically changed over the past number of years, as they spiraled down into a perpetual state of outrage.

Now there are legitimate concerns out there in the world and within our personal lives. I'm not trying to de-legitimize those things. There is serious injustice

in this world that needs to be corrected. There are people out there with malicious intent who must be stopped. God himself has asked us to do justice and love mercy. We are told to see to it the poor have food to eat and have clothes to wear. We've been instructed by the the Messiah himself to care for those who are sick and welcome the strangers and aliens among us. We followers of Christ indeed have a lot of work to do, and many things to be concerned about.

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

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

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

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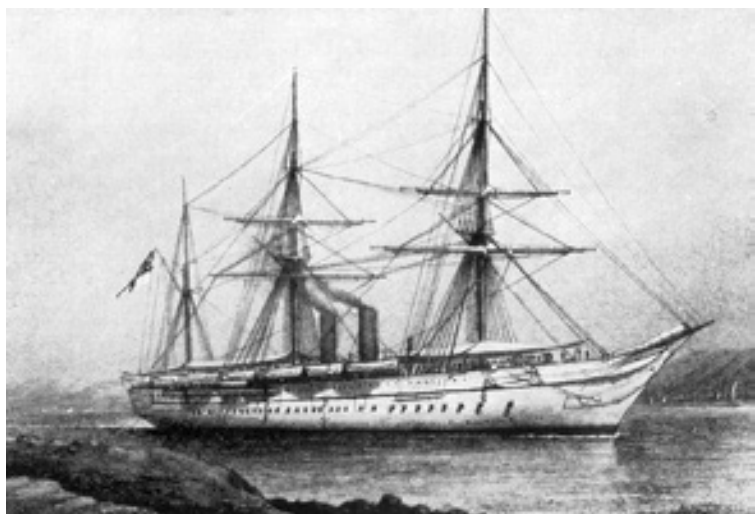
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THE BOOK OF DAYS

The burning of the 'Sarah Sands'



November 12

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

Some of the men hauled up bale after bale of government stores from the hold; some took in sail, and brought the ship before the wind; some ran out lengths of hose from the fire-engine, and poured down torrents of water below. It soon became evident, however, that this water would not quench the flames, and that the smoke in the hold would prevent the men from longer continuing below. The colonel then ordered his men to throw overboard all the ammunition in the starboard

that he hesitated to command the men to risk their lives there; and he therefore called for volunteers. A number of brave fellows at once stepped forward, rushed to the magazine, and cleared out all its contents, except a barrel or two of powder; several of them, overpowered with heat and smoke, fell by the way, and were hauled up senseless.

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

of command with as much order as if on parade—the greater number of them embarking in the boats. A small number of women and children who were on board, were lowered into the life-boat. All these filled boats were ordered to remain within reach of the ship till further orders. The sailors then set about constructing rafts of spare spars, to be ready in case of emergency. Meanwhile the flames had made terrible progress; the whole of the cabins and saloons were one body of fire; and at nine in the evening the flames burst through the upper deck and ignited the mizzen rigging. During this fearful suspense, the barrel or two of powder left in one of the magazines exploded, and blew out the port-quarter of the ship—shewing what would have been the awful result had not the heroic men previously removed the greater part of the ammunition.

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

the morning, when, to the inexpressible delight of all, the fire was found to be lessening; and by daylight it was extinguished. The horrors of the situation were, however, not yet over. The after-part of the ship was a mere hollow burned shell; and as the gale still continued, the waves poured in tremendously. Some of the men were set to the pumps, some baled out water from the flooded hold with buckets; while others sought to prevent the stern of the ship from falling out by passing hawsers around and under it, and others tried to stop the leak in the port-quarter with spare sails and wet blankets. The water-tanks in the hold, having got loose, were dashed from side to side by the violence of the gale, and battered the poor ship still further.

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

During thirty-six hours more, nearly all the soldiers were assisting

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

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

To read other selections from Robert Chamber's 1864 *The Book of Days*, visit thebookofdays.com.

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ECOLOGY

The joy of a colorful yard

Anne Gageby
 Director of Environmental Education
 Strawberry Hill Foundation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

create a physical burden on branches.

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

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

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

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

This year, consider leaving at least some of the leaves in inconspicuous



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

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

Leaf rings create what's called a duff litter layer which decomposes and helps maintain healthy pH levels in the soil. It also aids tree roots' reabsorption of water and nutrients. Some trees continue to grow roots during the winter as long as the soil doesn't freeze. So, providing a duff litter layer around the base of a tree will allow that tree to continue to grow healthy and strong. Having said that, if the tree is fighting a fungus or other disease on its leaves, it's best to gather those leaves and bag them for disposal. Otherwise, you run the risk of the fungus continuing to grow and spread come spring.

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

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

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THE RETIRED ECOLOGIST

Ebola from an ecological perspective

Bill Meredith

"...God's in His Heaven, all's right with the world." Robert Browning, 1841: "Pippa Passes"

I was cleaning out the raspberry patch recently on a clear, mild day, and for no logical reason, that line from Browning's poem wandered through my mind. I couldn't remember the rest of the poem, so after lunch I looked it up. It was from a play Browning wrote about 170 years ago, in which a girl named Pippa walked along singing, and wherever she went, troubles disappeared and people who were planning evil acts became kinder.

It seemed to fit that particular day. Fall came gently this year... the leaves turned gradually and gloriously; chimney swifts, hummingbirds and chipping sparrows all slipped away quietly, a few at a time, so instead of watching a grand mass exodus, I just looked around one day and they were gone. Maybe I didn't notice them because the tree frogs were making so much noise; we've had moderate temperatures and more rain than usual, so the frogs had a good year and now they are singing and chirping all over the place. You rarely actually see them, because they change color and look like a lump of bark on the branches; I've seen only one, and that was because it had perched on the rearview mirror of our car. It almost seemed that Pippa had strolled through Emmitsburg and left peace and tranquility in her path... and then came the Ebola scare.

Now, don't get me wrong; Ebola is potentially more than a scare. It is a serious international problem, and the measures that are being taken to combat it are well justified. One death is too many, and there have been over 5,000 in Africa as I write this. But to put it in perspective, estimates of the worldwide mortality from the flu pandemic of 2009 range from 123,000 to 400,000 deaths; and since 1960, there have been over 30 million deaths from HIV-AIDS in Africa alone. So I think it is not time to panic. What we need is some historical perspective.

Go back 670 years ago, and picture a tribe of nomads living in central Asia, perhaps in Kazakhstan, around the year 1330 AD. Their dogs commonly carried fleas, which they had picked up from rodents of various kinds, and the fleas moved to blankets and tents. Everyone was bitten regularly by fleas; they always had, and usually it was a minor nuisance. But one day someone felt feverish, and became ill a few days later. He developed boils all over his

body; the swellings blackened, bled, and within a week he died. No one had seen such an illness before. Soon others sickened and died, and it spread throughout the area. No one connected it to the fleas; there had always been fleas, and no one had gotten sick before. It became an epidemic and spread into China, where it caused untold millions of deaths.

Caravans on the Silk Road passed through the area and picked up infected fleas, and thus the disease spread westward to the Crimea. Eventually goods from the caravans, fleas included, reached Mediterranean ports and were shipped toward Italy. In 1346, a ship carrying sick and dying sailors reached Sicily; and the ship's rats came ashore with their fleas. Thus the disease, which came to be called the Black Death, reached Europe. Over the next five years it spread to England, Scandinavia, and eastward as far as Russia, killing both people and livestock. Estimates of the death toll range from 75 million to 200 million for Europe, India and China combined. It was 150 years before the population of Europe recovered to its former level.

Everyone will remember the name of Antony Van Leeuwenhoek from high school biology; he discovered bacteria, around 1670. But another 200 years passed before anyone realized that bacteria cause diseases; before that, diseases were attributed to acts of God, or poisons in food and water, or bad air. Meanwhile, the Black Death, which later was called Bubonic Plague, recurred every few decades; and other pandemics such as cholera, smallpox, measles, polio, flu, and typhus flared up periodically. Finally, in 1870 a physician named Yersin discovered bacteria in plague victims in Hong Kong, and attributed the disease to them; those bacteria were named Yersinia in his honor. Soon cholera was also found to be caused by a bacterium, and sanita-

tion measures reduced the incidence of both diseases. However, many diseases... smallpox, rabies, flu, polio, for example... did not appear to be caused by bacteria. Viruses were not discovered until 1892, and they were first recognized as disease agents (tobacco mosaic disease) in 1898.

Ebola seems more understandable when viewed in this historical context. The Plague bacterium existed in wild rodent populations before it was transferred to humans; the Ebola virus existed in fruit-eating bats, and was picked up by monkeys and other mammals, which ate fruit that the bats had contaminated. As the population of Africa exploded in the 1950s, humans spread into formerly unpopulated jungle areas and began eating "bushmeat," and in 1976 someone in South Sudan became the first known human victim.

Both Plague and Ebola were carried from their places origin by commercial travelers. Plague was carried west to Europe by traders along the Silk Road and by commercial shipping. In Africa, people moved in all directions carrying agricultural products and looking for jobs as the population grew. In the days of the Plague, medicine and sanitation were primitive, if they existed at all; with Ebola, both medical facilities were limited and sanitation was not consistent. Given this background, it was inevitable that Ebola would eventually be picked up by international travelers.

Now that governments and medical institutions understand the situation, it is a near certainty that Ebola will be controlled before it reaches the level of Plague or HIV-AIDS. However, the disease has a head start, and many more thousands of people will die before modern technologies catch up with it. In the meantime, we should recognize it as a cautionary tale and a warning of things to come.

It is estimated that the population of the



world at the time of Christ was about 200 million. Repeated outbreaks of plague, cholera, tuberculosis, smallpox, and all the rest (including constant wars and frequent famines), slowed population growth, but by the time my ancestors came to the U.S. from Wales in 1800 the population had reached one billion. Shortly before I was born in 1933, it passed 2 billion. Antibiotics had just been invented then, and by the time I came to Emmitsburg in 1957, the population approached 3 billion. It passed 4 billion in 1975, 5 billion in 1987, 6 billion in 1999, and 7 billion in 2011.

In the meanwhile, the earth has stayed the same size, so it is becoming more crowded; and the technology explosion has resulted in globalization, so large num-

bers of people are moving from place to place to trade and find jobs. It is no accident that people want to walk across our southern border, or to fly here from Africa; and walls or no walls, they will keep coming from all directions. And with them, in addition to their commercial products and intellectual gifts, they will bring diseases, both old ones and new ones that have not yet evolved. We ourselves did this when we came; smallpox and other diseases killed more Native Americans than all the guns and whiskey. So has it always been. And sadly, as people continue to come, Pippa will not be among them.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Let's talk turkey

Tim Iverson, Naturalist

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

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

try to father the next generation.

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

It's up for debate about whether or not turkey was served during the first Thanksgiving meal, but

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

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

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



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

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

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

Presidents, for the better part of a century now, have been issuing pardons to a lucky turkey or two every year. While the par-

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

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

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

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Climate disaster is upon us

Boyce Rensberger

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

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

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

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

"Tragically, we are failing to avoid serious impacts, and we can now only hope to limit the extent of the damage. We are witnessing the grim reality of the forecasts as climate impacts escalate, bringing forth scenes of unprecedented disasters around the world and human and nonhuman suffering. We find ourselves amid an abrupt climate upheaval, a dire situation never before encountered in the annals of human existence. We have now brought the planet into climatic conditions never witnessed by us or our prehistoric relatives within our genus, *Homo*.

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

coming years.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The surge in yearly climate disasters shows we are in a major crisis with



worse to come if we continue with business as usual. Today, more than ever, our actions matter for the stable climate system that has supported us for thousands of years. Humanity's future depends on our creativity, moral fiber, and perseverance. We must urgently reduce ecological overshoot and pursue immediate large-scale climate change mitigation and adaptation to limit near-term damage. Only through decisive action can we safeguard the natural world, avert profound human suffering, and ensure that future generations inherit the livable world they deserve. The future of humanity hangs in the balance."

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

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

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

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

Researchers from the University of Miami and Princeton University carried out computer simulations of what happens after La Niñas of varying duration. Their peer-reviewed report

was published in the journal *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*.

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

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

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

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Lessons I've learned from more than 50 years of gardening

Maritta Perry Grau
Frederick County Master Gardener

I've learned a lot in my 50-plus years of gardening, and I'm still learning. Here are just five: watch out for invasives; research first; leave some fall debris for overwintering wildlife; label harvested seeds and roots; and don't be afraid or too embarrassed to ask for advice. I've learned to...

Watch Out For Invasives

Ten or so years ago, before I knew much about the advantages of native plants, I bought some Russian sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*). I loved its tall, slender stalks of grayish-white with small, lavender-colored, tubular flowers; I loved the minty smell; I loved that it was a perennial, that it grew easily and didn't need much care. Well, I learned the hard way that it might not be such a good choice after all: it spreads easily; its many tiny seeds are often blown to our other flower beds by the wind; it produces lots of underground runners and can be a bit of a thug in the garden. And it's not native to North America.

Another invasive I unknowingly planted was English ivy. I found some small cuttings, so cute with their tiny, curly leaves, for sale at a favorite pottery shop. Seemed perfect—they would stay green all year and could serve as a "green," living mulch. Unfortunately, with an impulse buy, I did not do my due diligence. To my dis-

may, in the next couple of seasons those tiny, curly leaves grew much larger, flattened out, and took over the bed where they were planted, soon choking out the tall summer phlox. And now I'm learning that English ivy roots are very hard to remove.

Around 1998, I planted some variegated bishop's weed, *Aegopodium podagraria* "variegata" in a small side bed, and while the tulip magnolia and three lilacs in that bed have co-existed with it all these years, it did not take the bishop's weed long to smother out the giant hostas, irises, and some poppies there. I also belatedly learned that bishop's weed is another invasive, even though it does have some advantages as a green mulch or groundcover. And even as we have pulled out most of the variegated bishop's weed, it has popped right back up with shoots of plain green from the original stock roots.

Research Before Planting Something New

I learned early on that just because a particular species is recommended, doesn't mean that all the varieties of that species are equally recommended. For example, gardeners often recommend various species of the hellebores (*Helleborus* spp.), also called the Lenten or Christmas rose. Sounded good to me in those early days of gardening—I loved the idea that it would put out flowers in my zone 5 in late winter or early spring; was

a perennial; was green year-round; and had few pests or diseases. And for a while, it did seem perfect. Then one warm late spring morning, I went outside and smelled something dead. Searching all around, I finally zeroed in on the hellebore. A close sniff test showed that the dead smell was definitely coming from the plant, but I did not see any dead animal around, under, or near it. Finally, I dug it up—no dead bodies in the soil!—and put it in a plastic bag. Immediately, the smell disappeared.

Did I plant *Helleborus foetidus*, sometimes called stinking hellebore or bear's foot? Did the smell come from some other, unidentified source? No one seems to think the *Helleborus foetidus* smell is widespread or really offensive—most sites just say it may have a "strange" smell and that the foetid scent only happens when the leaves are crushed. However, the smell was more than strange to me, and the leaves definitely had not been crushed. Perhaps its smell is like the taste of cilantro—depends on one's genetic makeup.

Minimize The Fall Clean-Up In Garden Beds

A lot of gardening magazines and websites today advocate just getting rid of diseased leaves, pruning only diseased branches or those being decimated by pests, but leaving the majority of leaves, dead flowers, and vegetables in place until late spring. I've learned that this practice has many advantages, not the least of which is less work for the gardener on those cold days of fall and deep winter! But most importantly, leaving much of the garden debris provides shelter and food for birds, insects, and other small wild-



From late spring to late fall, Russian Sage attracts many species of bees and other insects.

life. Many solitary bees and some other insects like to lay their eggs in the broken, hollow stems of some plants, so much so that some gardeners even hang bee houses made of bundles of hollow tubes in their gardens. And of course, providing shelter for insects helps you have more pollinators for next year's flowers and vegetables.

Label, Label, Label Seeds And Roots

In the early days of gardening at our first home (in Annapolis), I was surprised and delighted to see that marigolds had apparently reseeded themselves and were coming up in quite a few places. For several weeks, I carefully watered and fertilized those marigolds, watching as they grew. It wasn't until they began to bloom

that I realized what I thought were marigolds were, in fact, common groundsel, *Senecio vulgaris*.

You'd think I would have learned from that mistake and would have made sure to recognize or at least to look for pictures of certain seeds and roots, and to label any I was saving. But oh, no! Last fall, I spent a couple of days gathering seeds from zinnias, marigolds (I do at least recognize marigold seedlings now!), feathery coxcomb, and other annuals; and digging up my elephant ears and canna lilies. Seedheads were dried on paper towels, species and color carefully noted, then the gathered seeds were placed in paper envelopes or small bags, also carefully labeled. I didn't bother to label the roots, just tossed them together to spread out and dry, sure that they were distinctive enough that I would remember which was which.

Late this past spring, still fairly sure I knew what was what, I put a couple of elephant ears in somewhat shaded areas for oomph and in some pots for that "thriller" part of container planting (plant a thriller, a filler, and a spiller in each pot). The canna lilies were designated for back-of-the-border height and color, especially in the sunny beds. Needless to say, while I guessed correctly for some of the roots, for others I did not. So in the next few days I will dig up several elephant ears from back-of-the-border misplacement and a couple of canna lilies that mistakenly ended up in small pots. And by golly, I'll make sure that this time I put the roots in labeled paper bags!

Ask Someone More Experienced For Advice

One of the first things we learn as master gardener interns, when we don't know the answer, is to say, "I'll find out whom to ask." When stumped, I often put out a plea to my fellow Frederick County master gardeners—with more than 120 members, someone almost always knows the answer. I've also learned to look for -edu and -org sites to find my answers.

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You can learn, too: Check the Master Gardener website for upcoming seminars, Master Gardener certification classes, or other announcements; and the University of Maryland extension service for answers to your gardening questions. Visit us at the Univer-

sity of Maryland Extension Service building, 330 Montevue Lane, Frederick; see the links below, or call us at 301-600-1596.

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

Frederick County Master Gardeners October Seminars

October 5 (10 to noon): "Mindfulness in the Garden" Experience the healing power of the garden and plants. We will start with a discussion of the benefits of plants to your wellbeing and then take a walk in the demonstration garden for mindfulness activities.

October 12 (10 to noon): "Propagating Native Plants" Native perennials are a wonderful addition to any landscape! Find out about the benefits of native perennials and why they're essential for pollinators and wildlife. Join us to learn how to propagate

various natives and expand your garden, then take a few plants home. Class size is limited to 15 participants.

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

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

Small Town Gardener

Maintenance as stewardship: a new perspective

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

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

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

And they hate their job.

I hate it for them. But what I hate most is that they confuse this excruciatingly tedious work with what others rightly call "gardening." As a gardener, I experience my share of tedious jobs, certainly; but as such work is integral

to the overall stewardship of the landscape, the sting of that tedium is lessened by its value. Thus, mowing is not mowing – it is a framing of paintings I have created with plants. Clearing invasive brambles is not clearing invasive brambles, it is thoughtful editing to allow desired saplings and spring ephemerals to carpet the woodland.

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

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

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

There is another way. Many years ago I attended The Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council's annual Turning a New Leaf Conference and had the pleasure of hearing Rick Darke, keynote speaker at the conference and author of numerous books on the aesthetics of liv-

ing landscapes. He urged the audience to think in terms of 'creative dynamic stewardship' – challenging home owners to re-vitalize their landscapes by visualizing them as a haven for wildlife and the natural processes of decay and regeneration.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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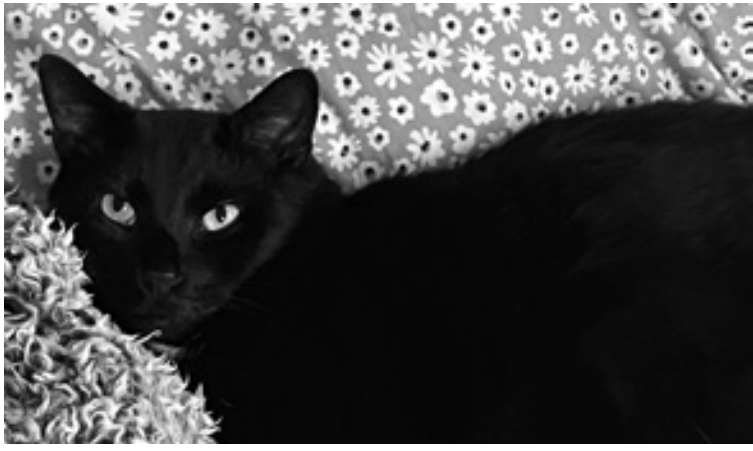
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PETS

My baby Loki passed away



Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

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

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

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

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

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

He was a stinker, though. Loki did things his way and nothing was going to change that.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And then I remember.
He's not coming back.

It's so bizarre to think so much character and personality and sparkle could be packed into, really, what amounted to such a tiny, little package.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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



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



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



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

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

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown

Weighing in on pet care



Shawn Snyder
Frederick County Animal Shelter

At the Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center, we witness the result of pet owners who associate how much they love their pet with how much they feed them. However, overfeeding pets resulting in obesity is anything but loving. Unfortunately, obesity in pets is common and can lead to other significant health issues, such as diabetes, joint discomfort, and even immobility. In cats, obesity can lead to an inability to groom properly and difficulty traveling

into, and navigating out of, a traditional litterbox. Dogs that are overweight can suffer unnecessary discomfort in movement, an increased risk of joint damage and cruciate tears, and undue cardiac stress.

Chappy Lemon is one of our Domestic Shorthair variety cats currently available for adoption. He was surrendered to the shelter because another resident cat was picking on him. Chappy is a naturally big fellow; his current weight is 18.5 pounds. However, for his comfort, his ideal weight should be around 14 pounds. Currently, he is on a measured

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

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

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



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



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



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



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

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

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Reject Extremism, Embrace Common Sense Leadership

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

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

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

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Woodsboro - Walkersville

NEWS-JOURNAL SECTION 2

17th Annual Foothills Artists Studio Tour

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

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

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

The Artists:

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

Daryl Despres — Mountain Woodworks, 59 Ringneck Trail, Carroll Valley. Daryl is a woodworker who has turned his passion into his profession. He creates functional, non-tradi-

tional bandsawn boxes using different woods, almost all reclaimed. He prefers to use locally sourced wood or materials given to him by friends.

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

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

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

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

Chris Herbert — Rocktop Bookshop and Bindery, 1229 Old Route 30, Cashtown. A graduate of the Clark University School at the Worcester Art Museum, with 27 years of experience in Book Binding, Chris has the skills to help with any book project from restoring a cherished family Bible, to creating a custom gift book for a loved one.



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

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

Heidi Myers — Haywire Studio, 260 Orrtanna Road, Orrtanna. Heidi is a ceramic artist who has been expressing herself with clay for over twenty years. She enjoys sculpture, slab and hand-building. This year she has continued to explore sgraffito. Heidi's inspirations can be found in the nature that surrounds her Haywire Studio.

Judy Pyle — showing at Beech Springs Farm, 784 Mt. Carmel Road, Orrtanna. Judy makes jewelry in hand-fabricated silver, torch-fired enamels on copper and fine silver. Her new enamel pieces are wearable sculptures.

She has been a life-long art educator, as well as a practicing artist. Her most recent small sculptures — enameled items and other found objects — have been juried into national exhibits.

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

Jayne Shord — Beech Springs Farm, 784 Mt. Carmel Road, Orrtanna. Jayne is a photographer, specializing in garden images from her Beech Springs Farm, as well as other locations around

Adams County and from her extensive travel. Her work has received local and national recognition.

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

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

GIVE ORIGINAL ART FOR THE HOLIDAYS!
 17th Annual
Foothills Artists Studio Tour
 Saturday & Sunday, November 23rd & 24th, 10 to 5
 Fairfield, Orrtanna and Cashtown, PA area
 Visit fourteen local artists in eight studio locations ~ Most in Historic Homes

Erin Brown - 43 Water St., Fairfield
 Chris Herbert - 1229 Old Rt. 30, Cashtown
 Jack Handshaw - 1575 Mt. Hope Rd., Fairfield
 Geoff Grant, Joh Ricci and Debbie Westmoreland - 378 Topper Road, Fairfield
 Geoffrey Thulin - 1013 Old Rt. 30, Cashtown
 Daryl Despres - 59 Ringneck Trail, Carroll Valley
 Heidi Myers - 260 Orrtanna Road, Orrtanna
 Andrea Finch, Anne Finucane, Sarah Maclay, Judy Pyle & Jayne Shord - 784 Mt. Carmel Rd., Orrtanna

Painting, Pottery, Woodworking, Photography, Printmaking, Fiber & Textile Art, Enameling, Jewelry, Illustration and Bookbinding

Foothills Artists

For details including map with street addresses visit:
www.foothillsartists.net

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 Dec. 16 - Tokarev Bullpup 12GA
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 Dec. 19 - \$350 Cash
 Dec. 20 - Savage Axis XP 400 Legend w/ Scope
 Dec. 21 - \$350 Cash
 Dec. 22 - Mossberg Patriot Kuiu 6.5CM
 Dec. 23 - \$350 Cash
 Dec. 24 - Mossberg 500 20GA
 Dec. 25 - \$500 Cash

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HISTORY

Williams History of Frederick County

Continued from last month

Jacob Wachter Hyder

Jacob Hyder is the owner of a fine 40-acre farm, which is well improved with a beautiful house and good outbuildings. His home is situated in Pleasant Valley, near Good Intent, in the Johnsville District. Jacob was born at Pleasant Hill, in the Woodsboro District, on the farm of his father, in December 1833. He is the son of Jacob and Sarah Hyder.

John Hyder, the grandfather of Jacob Hyder, followed the profession of a schoolteacher. He died suddenly while engaged in instructing a school. He was married to Elizabeth Stitley. They had a son, Jacob.

Jacob Hyder, son of John and Elizabeth, was a farmer, and also taught in the schools of Frederick County. He was a prominent citizen of the county, and was at one time, Judge of the Orphans' Court. In that office, he discharged his duties with marked ability and fidelity. He died on his farm at Pleasant Hill and his buried at Rock Hill cemetery. He was a man of brilliant natural talents. He possessed many good traits of character, and had high standing in the community in which he lived.

Jacob was married to Sarah

Lighter. They were parents of 14 children. One of which, Theodore, was killed during the Civil War.

Jacob Wachter Hyder, son of Jacob and Sarah, acquired his learning at the Pleasant Hill school. He was reared in the usual routine of a farmer's son. He later learned the trade of a carpenter with Upton Waltz and Joseph Wolf. This occupation he followed for a period of 15 years. At the time of his first marriage, he was living on his farm of 123 acres at Pleasant Hill. He continued to engage in farming until his wife died, after which he made, and return to the carpentry trade.

Jacob, in 1886, brought his present home, which contains 40-acres and lies in Pleasant Valley, in the Johnsville District. This is a magnificent estate. Frederick County boast of many beautiful country homes, and Jacob's takes a high rank. Great care is taken in the care of the place and it shows the efforts taken to preserve its excellent condition. Jacob has been very successful in life. He has recently retired from active work. He uses his write a franchise in favor of the candidates of Republican Party. In religion, he is a member of the Lutheran Church, to which he is a liberal contributor.

Jacob has been married twice.

His first wife was Sophia Stull, who died at the end of the Civil War. Secondly, to Susan Snook, there is no child by either marriage.

Thomas Stoner

Thomas Stoner is the owner of "Mapleton", a farm midway between Ladiesburg and Union Bridge, in the Johnsville District; it contains 57 acres of finely improved land, all the improvements have been made by Mr. Stoner. He began farming here when this property was yet woods. His first purchase was 18 1/2 acres, he added to this from time to time until now, he has 57 acres. He was born in Johnsville, July 10, 1847, and is the sun of Augustus and Ann Stoner.

Augustus Stoner was born in Middleburg, then Frederick, now Carroll County, June 18, 1816, and died on his farm in 1896. He was educated in the common school at Johnsville. He first followed the business of a Huckster, afterwards he turned his attention to farming, which he ever after engaged. He succeeded to the Hammond Farm through his wife. This track contained 86 acres, but when his children grew up, it was too small and he traded with John Houck for a farm of 135 acres, near Middleburg. He is buried at Beaver Dam Church.

Augustus was three times married. His first wife was Hannah Stoner, his second wife was Ann Hammond, daughter of Denton Hammond, who was a weaver at Johnsville. She died in 1852 and is laid to rest at Beaver Dam.

There were four children by this marriage. Mr. Stoner was married for the last time to Elizabeth Kling, a sister of John Kling, of Woodsboro. She is living at the age of 83 years.

Thomas Stoner, son of Augustus and Anne, lived at Johnsville until he was 14 years old, when his father removed to Good Intent. At these two places, he secured his learning in the public schools. When a boy of 11 years, he began to work on the home farm, and he followed agricultural pursuits to this day, save two years. He was for one year a clerk in the store of Anders and Lighter before his marriage at Union Bridge, and for a similar period in the merchant enterprise of George Buckley. For one year after his marriage, Thomas lived at Union Bridge. For the next six years, he rented the home farm. He then purchased his present place in the manner before stated. He is a member of the Beaver Dam church.

Thomas was married February 17, 1872 to Laura Bowman, of Good Intent. She was born at Ladiesburg, February 25, 1849, and was educated at the Good Intent school. She holds membership in the Methodist Protestant Church at Johnsville. Mr. and Mrs. Stoner have no children.

William Bowman, Mrs. Stoner's father, was a merchant at Ladiesburg for many years. He removed to Good Intent and kept a small country store. He died at that place in 1890, age 74 years, his death occurring on his birthday. He was a Methodist in religion.

George Sager

George Sager is one of those residents of the Johnsville District who has received large returns for their labors. Mr. Sager's efforts have been spent in agriculture. He lives on the Spring Run farm of 105 acres, which he bought from James Clemson. The property lies on the road from Hopewell to McKinstry's Mill. He was born on a farm near Good Intent, October 17, 1868. He is the son of Matthias and Kathryn Sager.

The Sager family is of ancient German lineage. Matthias Sager came from Germany to New York when he was 14 years old. With him came a brother and a sister, the latter going west. Matthias came to Frederick County, where he hired out to farmers. He later work by the month in the Woodsboro District, and then secure a small track of 25 acres, near New Midway. He passed the rest of his life on his farm and was buried at Rocky Hill cemetery. He held membership in the Rocky Hill Lutheran Church, and was a devout man. He lent his influence to the advancement of the Republican Party. Mr. Steger was married to Kathryn Fogle. She is still living.

George Steger, son of Matthias and Catherine Sager, secured his schooling at Pleasant Hill. He left school at 18 years of age, and worked out by the month. He began life for himself by cultivating the Longanecker farm in the Johnsville District, where he lived for 11 years. In the spring of 1903, he secured possession of his present farm to which he removed. George is a man of high character, as a farmer, he has been very successful. He is one of the leading men of his community, and possesses the esteem of all who have the pleasure of knowing him. He is progressive and Amanda of intelligence.

George was married January 23, 1891 to Elizabeth Myers. Mr. and Mrs. Sager are affiliated with the New Side Dunkard church. They are parents of two children.

James Stevens

James Stevens of Creagerstown, manufacturer, and dealer in hardwoods and lumber was born in Creagerstown on December 21, 1868 to Charles and Eliza Stevens.

James attended the public schools of Creagerstown, and completed

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HISTORY

his education by a business course in the Eaton and Burnett's Business College in Baltimore. Having finished his course, he spent a short time at home, and soon secured a position with the Pennsylvania Steel Company at Steelton, Pennsylvania. After serving the company for three years, he resigned his position to accept another with the Lorillard Tobacco Company, of Jersey City, with whom he remained for two years, when he was called to the homestead by the serious illness of his father.

James assumed charge of the home farm, which he cultivated successfully for one year. He then began business for himself as a dealer in lumber. In this he succeeded admirably. He now owns and manages a sawmill situated at the foot of the mountain from which he ships thousands of feet of lumber to all parts of the state. The lumber used in the building of many fine homes and barns in Frederick County was manufactured in his plant.

James owns 100 acres of excellent timberland on the mountain, and a beautiful residence in Creagerstown. All the lumber required for the house, barn, and outbuildings was the product of his own mill. He has been a hard worker, diligent and faithful in business, and to those qualities are attributed his financial success.

He was appointed Justice of the Peace in Creagerstown, by Governor Warfield, and discharged the duties of the office faithfully, giving an entire satisfaction to the community. James is highly regarded in the District. He is a stockholder in the Creagerstown and Woodsboro Turnpike Company and the Woodsboro Canning Company. James is married to Nini Bell and they have three children.

William Ashbaugh

William Ashbaugh, Deputy Sheriff of Frederick County, the son of John and Martha Ashbaugh, was born on a farm near Johnsville, March 29, 1837.

The Ashbaugh family is of German descent. Mr. Ashbaugh's grandfather, John Ashbaugh,

was a native of Gettysburg. He was a potter in Gettysburg, and in Middleburg, Carroll County, where he died.

John Ashbaugh, father of William Ashbaugh, was born in Gettysburg, in 1808. He was a child when his parents removed to Middleburg, where he received his education and learned pottery under his father, and finally succeeded him in business. Sometime after his father's death, John moved to Johnsville, where he continued his business and connection with farming. In 1844 he removed to Frederick City, where he erected a pottery in which he manufactured a fine grade of earthenware and stoneware. He was an expert in his line, and his wares command a high price, and were sold all over the country.

John was a Whig in his life, and was actively engaged in public affairs. He was highly esteemed in the city and county. He was obliged to give up business on account of failing health, the result of a shock that he received. John was married to Martha Hahn. They had five children. John died in Frederick in 1862 and his widow in 1868. He was a member of the Reformed Church.

William Ashbaugh, son of John and Martha, was educated in the public schools of Frederick City, and while still a child, began helping his father in the pottery. He left school at 15 and learned his father's business thoroughly. However, the work soon affected his health, and he gave up pottery to open a butcher shop in Gettysburg, where he spent five years.

On September 24, 1861, William enlisted at Gettysburg, for three years, as a Private in Company F, 87th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and was assigned to the clerical business of the company. After serving for a year and a half, his health failed, and he was honorably discharged. Returning to his home in Gettysburg, he recuperated in an 1864, relisted for one year, or until the close of the war, as a Corporal in Company G, 209th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry and served until the close of the war.

In 1866, William moved to Emmitsburg, where he dealt in horses until 1876, when he was appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to a position in the constabulary of Frederick County, in that same year, he was made Deputy Sheriff of Frederick County. After filling the three offices for 21 years, Mr. Ashbaugh resigned his position in the constabulary. His record as Sheriff is unique, and his perhaps unequal in the county since he has been Deputy Sheriff for 32 consecutive years, being reappointed by each succeeding Sheriff. He is now so familiar with the details of the office that his services are almost indispensable. He has led an exemplary life, never touching liquor, for the last 28 years he has smoked although as a young man he never touched tobacco. He has been a Republican all his life.

William was married to Martha Dyer with whom he had seven children. William and Martha are members Methodist Episcopal Church. Martha dies on July 31, 1903 and is buried in the Emmitsburg Mountain View Cemetery.

Stanley Stitley

Stanley Stitley, the youngest brother of George Washington Stitley, was born on the Brandenburg farm, in the Johnsville District, near the village of that name, on October

As a boy he lived near Coppermine school, where he was a student under Bill Stitley, Jerry Fox, and his brother, George W.

When he reached 18 years of age, he gave up school. Until his marriage, which occurred in 1869, he worked on the home farm for his father. At the time he relocated on the Coppermine farm of his father, living there for sometime. He then was employed in the mines for three years, after which he removed to Centerville, where he stayed several years.

Stanley then began farming on the colonel Anders farm in Johnsville District, being settled there for 2 and a half years. He then went to the Aaron Anders estate, where he now lives.

Stanley is a staunch Republican, and served as a school trustee

Kathryn Himes



Kathryn "Kitty" Rebecca (Saylor) Himes, 88, of Walkersville passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, October 6.

Born on October 12, 1935, in Woodsboro, she was the daughter of the late Russell and Nellie (Dayhoff) Saylor. She was married to Guy M Himes, who predeceased her in 2005.

Kitty graduated from Walkersville High School in 1953. She worked as a bookkeeper and accountant for several Frederick companies including Fisher Plumbing, Frederick Construction, Metraplex and Rogers

Office Supply. She worked for American Greetings for over 25 years, right up until her passing. For 30 years, Kitty was a major part of the team at Abloom Florist, her daughter-in-law, Lori's, business. Kitty enjoyed crafts, puzzles, her yard, and anything with her grandchildren.

Kitty is survived by her sons Doug (Linda) Himes of Frederick, Todd (Lori) Himes of Walkersville and stepson Stephen (Kathy) Himes of Martinsburg WV. She was an amazing grandmother to Sarah (Dan) Bartock, Becca, Stepheney, Amanda and Ross Himes.

In addition to her husband and parents, Kitty was predeceased by her sister Betty (Buddy) Potts, and brothers Robert "Bob" (Dottie) Saylor and Kenneth "Chuck" Saylor.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the staff of Frederick Health Hospice.

Donations may be made in memory of Kitty to Frederick Health Hospice, or the American Cancer Society. Burial was private.

for two years. Stanley was married December 16, 1869 to Missouri Hohn. She was born at Creagerstown on August 20, 1851 and is

a member of the Lutheran Church. They are parents of nine children. Two of each died in infancy.

continued next month

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

November 7

Presidential Election Results

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

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

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

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

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

President Coolidge made a practical demonstration of his inclination towards economy, by mailing the votes of himself and his wife back to Massachusetts. This appears to us to be a very sensible law for all states - voting by mail.

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

Rather contrary to most expectation, the La Follette vote appears to have been made up of more Democrats than Republican votes. An outstanding fact in the returns is, that Mr. Davis lost his home state, West Virginia, and his

vice-presidential partner Charles Byron lost his home state of Nebraska, both by an un-mistakable plurality.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"It does not seem possible to me, to make an adequate expression concern-

ing the Presidency of the United States. No other honor equals it, no other responsibility approaches it. When it is conferred by an overwhelming choice of the people and the vote of the Electoral College, these are made all the greater.

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

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

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

Coolidge enthusiast in Emmitsburg, Thurmont, Taneytown, Woodsboro and Walkersville took to the streets on Wednesday morning and paraded through the towns with drums and horns, as well as raising some noisy vocal efforts.

Local Broadcasting Of Election By Telephone A Failure

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

In talking to other owners of radios, we learned that our experiment was not

LOOK. LOOK.

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

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

<p>CLOTHING.</p> <p>Men's \$25.00 Suits, \$15.89 Men's \$15.00 Suits, \$9.98 Boys' \$15.00 Suits, \$7.98 Boys' \$10.00 Suits, \$5.98 Men's \$35.00 Overcoats, \$22.98 Boys' \$15.00 Overcoats, \$9.98 Boys' \$10.00 Overcoats, \$5.98 Men's \$4.00 Separate Coats, \$3.98 Men's \$5.00 Trousers, \$3.98 Men's \$5.00 Trousers, \$2.98 Men's \$2.00 Trousers, \$1.49 Men's Klaki Trousers, \$1.99 Men's Shippensburg Corduroy Trousers, regular price \$6.00, now \$4.98</p>	<p>CLOTHING.</p> <p>Men's Extra good quality Cord Trousers, \$3.79 Men's Shippensburg Heavy Work Shirts, 79c Men's \$3.00 Dress Shirts, \$2.39 Men's \$2.00 Dress Shirts, \$1.69 Men's Dress Shirts, 79c Men's \$2.50 Caps, \$1.49 Men's \$1.50 Underwear, 98c Men's \$6.00 Sweaters, \$4.49 Men's \$4.50 Sweaters, \$3.59 Men's \$4.00 Sweaters, \$2.98 Boys' \$1.50 Sweaters, 89c Men's Hose, 9c</p>
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DRY GOODS DEPARTMENT.

35c Dress Ginghams, 27c
 25c Dress Ginghams, 19c
 28c Dress Ginghams, 22c
 20c Dress Percales, 16c
 A big lot of Percales, 16c
 25c Chambrays, 19c
 Lancaster Apron Gingham, 18c
 Apron Gingham, 12 1/2c
 Druse Muslin, 13c
 Reliance Muslin, 14c

Hill Muslin, 19 1/2c
 Fancy Outings, 14c
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 Red and white, blue and white Table Damask, 59c
 \$1.00 Table Linen, 79c
 Ladies, Men's and Children's Underwear, all reduced.
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Haines Supply House

HARNEY, MD.

very different from others. There was such a commotion on the ether caused by the activity of every broadcasting station in the country, and almost every individual radio station was adding its own little part to cause interference, that it is a wonder that reception was as clear as it was.

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

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

County jail to away trial at the January term of the court.

Richardson was held on three counts: larceny of a motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle without the owner's consent, and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

Reese is charged with being an accessory to the above counts lodged against Richardson.

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

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

Nov 14

Youths Held For Stealing Auto

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

Women Of Keymar Put Out Fire

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

Holiday Open House

December 6 & 7 - 11 to 7
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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

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

Real Estate For Sale

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

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

Fairfield Chamber Of Commerce Gets Underway

Reverend Ralph Baker was elected President of the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce at the meeting of its Directors. Other officers elected were Robert Rein-doller - Vice President, Edward Seabrook - Secretary, and Paul Lower - Treasurer.

Reverend Baker played a prominent part in the organization of the body, and his election to the Presidency, was in the nature of a reward for his efforts. His election to the head of the body is considered by Fairfield businessman as an excellent choice and Fairfield Chamber of Commerce members are confident of the ultimate results.

Emmitsburg Farmer Held In Liquor Case

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

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

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

Nov 21

Two Of Three Escaped Prisoners Give Up

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

Following their sensational escape from their cell in the jail the trio hid in a barn on the unattended farm

of Robert Watson, in Hamiltonban Township. Suffering from lack of food, and, fearing capture, brought the two young men to the decision that they would give themselves up.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The three of us, then started out the

Fairfield Road, and on up to the mountains to the Watson farm, which Richardson and I knew was not tentative."

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

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

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

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

Emmitsburg Doctor Fined For Intoxicated Driving

Dr. Posey, of Emmitsburg, who is arrested in Fairfield on July 6 on the charge of driving his car while under the influence of intoxicating liquors, pleaded guilty and was fine \$200 and cost.

Steelman Marker To Be Dedicated At Zora

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

The unveiling of the marker to the first white settler in Adams County will take place Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, and the

Swedish Colonial Society - Hanson, having been a native of Sweden.

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

Nov 28

Escaped Bootlegger Caught

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

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

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

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

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

Accidents & Deaths

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

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

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

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

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



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Saturday, November 23
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 (8) Fried Shrimp
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Doors open @ 5 p.m. Games begin @ 7 p.m.
For more info call: 301-898-0543

LIBRARY NEWS

While Fall officially started back in September, it really feels like it now that our clocks ‘fall’ backwards with daylight savings. When the early darkness creeps in, grab a book and live vicariously through the characters in your next read. You can also watch your favorite shows or movies for free if you have a library card! Check out all the online resources that an FCPL card holder has access to; search our website or stop at one of the 9 branches for in person help. Don’t forget to ask a librarian for their favorite recommendation!

Please note that all Frederick County Public Libraries will be closed November 10 and 11 for Veteran’s Day, November 28 and 29 for Thanksgiving, and all branches will close at 5 on November 27.

First published in the 1930’s in the era of segregation, the Green-Book became a travel guide for Black individuals and families to safely road trip through the United States in

the early 20th century. Join us at the Walkersville Branch Library on Sunday, November 17 at 1:30 for a deeper look into the history and importance of this publication. Presented by Barbara Thompson with the African American Resources Cultural Heritage Society (AARCH) of Frederick County.

A 1-hour, free yoga class offered by Sol Yoga will be held at the Walkersville Branch Library on Monday, November 25 at 6. This is a great way to center yourself before the week ahead. Looking for an exercise class that will pump you up? We have that too! Freedom BANG Fitness happens every Saturday at 10. Freedom BANG is a pre-choreographed fusion of boxing, HIIT, hip hop, world dance, optional weighted gloves and just a touch of attitude. Offering a wide range of intensity options to help you customize your workout.

Marquis de Lafayette, the last surviving French general of the American Revolutionary War went

on a “farewell tour” of the United States—all 24 of them in 1824—and even visited Frederick. If you’re interested in early enlightenment history or want to know more about Lafayette’s views on civil rights for women, Native Americans and religious freedom. Dr. Patricia L. Maclay will give a presentation about this multifaceted man on November 24 at the Walkersville Branch Library at 1:30.

A sensory program for adults with intellectual disabilities takes place on the first three Wednesdays in November at 10:15. Move and groove with friends during a dance class on 11/6, watch an exciting demonstration from Frederick Martial Arts on 11/13, and decorate your own pumpkin on 11/20!

Need help expunging your record from a past conviction? Meet with an attorney from Maryland Legal Aid to discuss your options and begin the process. This is a free service offered on November 7 from 4 – 7 at the Walkersville Library.

If you’re looking for engaging, educational programs for your elementary and middle grade kids, “Take a Closer Look” at Walkersville Branch Library on the following Fridays at 1: start by going to Spy School on November 1, followed by Forensic Science on November 8, and round out the trio of classes with Coding on November 15. This series is a great way for kids to learn more about the science and processes behind STEM careers, while

also having fun!

The library is a great place to hang with friends after school, especially on Tuesdays at 3:30 when there are activities specifically for teens to enjoy with friends. Whether it’s designing a bag with duct tape, listening to music and playing games, or learning how to fly a mini drone, there will always be a place for you in the Walkersville Branch Library.

Hey, kids! Join us on November 19 from 6 to 6:45 to earn your Elementary Library Explorers: World Traveler Badge. Get set to dive into the foods, clothing, games, and daily life of various cultures around the world, all seen through the experiences of exchange students!

Improve your reading confidence and make a new friend when you read aloud to a Go Team Therapy Dog on November 14 from 6:30-7:30. P.S. You don’t have to read to the dogs, all are welcome to come say hi and get some cuddles from the best dogs around!

If you have a ‘tween’ who loves to create, we invite them to join us at Tween Tech Night on Monday, November 4 at 6 p.m. to play Minecraft, master the art of puppetry by making a marionette on November 6 at 4 p.m. and on November 18 at 6 p.m. to make their very own Plushie to keep!

Is your middle or high schooler looking for ways to volunteer or be part of the community? Send them to the Walkersville Branch

Library on November 26 at 3:30 to learn about the Teen Library Council. This monthly meeting is for teens interested in being part of the community and having an impact on activities at the Walkersville Library. 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 peers.

If you have little ones who are not yet in school, join us at the library for Fri-Yay on Fridays at 11. Full of hands-on and engaging activities, there’s plenty for everyone to do at their own pace! Bring your brain to Fri-Yay on November 1 and get ready to put it to the test with some brain busting puzzles, memory games and more! If your child loves dinosaurs, November 8 is the day to join us—we’ll be jumping back to prehistoric times to spend the morning as dinosaurs! On November 15, a special guest named Cruz the Safety Car will be at the library with friends from the Department of MD Highway Safety Office to teach traffic safety in a fun way. Bring your friends and family to Fri-Yay on November 22 because we’ll need help catching a mischievous a feathered friend. Using STEM skills and teamwork, we can find a way to catch a turkey!

Our schedule for storytimes is as follows:

Monday: Infants at 10; Baby Steps Skill Building at 10:30; Babies at 11

Tuesday: Toddlers at 11
Wednesday: Family at 6
Thursday: Preschool at 11

Bilingual Storytime at the Walkersville Branch Library will be on Wednesday, November 6 and 20 at 6. This dynamic and engaging storytime is fun for the whole family and will feature songs, rhymes and more in English and other world languages.

November 14, 15 & 16
Walkersville High School Drama Department Presents
Murder At Cafe Noir
By David Landau
Music by Nikki Stern
2024
“Murder At Cafe Noir” is presented by arrangement with concord the theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, INC. www.concordtheatricals.com

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SCHOOL NEWS

Walkersville High's Murder at Café Noir

Celia Alspaugh
WHS Class of 2025

The Walkersville High School Drama Department invites you to step out of your everyday lives and join them in a dark, swanky café in the Caribbean. Directed by Louise VanGilder-Martin, Murder at Café Noir is not as black and white as it may seem. Together the diners and audience members will be transported back to the 1940s when they step over the threshold.

This fall's production, written by David Landau with music by Nikki Stern, was described by the Assistant Director, Shannon Hall as "a fun and quirky mystery that will keep the audience guessing up to the end."

Director and drama teacher at Walkersville High School, Louise VanGilder-Martin loves working on the fall shows. "I have an incredible team of adults (Shannon Hall and James

Meech) working with me so that while I'm working on the acting, singing, blocking etc. I know that I can depend on their backstage expertise to put it all together. I also have two incredible student stage managers Esther Odu and Jake McNiesh as well as my head costumer Makenzie McGraw."

On his way to a job, the protagonist, Private Investigator Richard "Rick" Archer, played by Dominic Napper, unwittingly stumbles upon the untimely death of the café owner, Andre Gavereau. Raised on Bogart and Mitchum movies, Rick is well versed in the tactics of espionage and bargaining. The plot thickens when it becomes clear Rick will have to solve this case based solely upon the semi-trustworthy accounts of a voodoo priestess, a charismatic black marketeer, the café's regal manager, and other shady suspects. During his pursuits, Rick often finds himself distracted by the

femme fatale herself, Sheila Wonderly. As described by the actress portraying her, Guadalupe Peralta-Orellano, Wonderly is "wonderfully feisty" and a character Peralta-Orellano states she is "delighted to portray."

Walkersville High has many committed thespians who love the art of theater. Sophomore Napper had his breakout moment last year in Walkersville's spring musical and has quickly climbed the ranks, landing him a lead role in Murder at Café Noir. Napper states, "When I first joined, I saw [theater] as a safe place where I can be myself and I can make new friends, while at the same time honing my skills." Along with Napper, Samantha Froude, a participant in community theater as well as WHS productions, stated that, "Theater has given me so many great friends and truly unlocked my love of performing." The cast and crew have also been enhanced by a strong number of fresh-

men eager to get their chance on the Walkersville stage.

For example, Conor Reeves, originally an understudy for the character Rigfield, stepped up when the role's original actor was unable to participate. With this new responsibility sprung on him, Reeves managed to get off-book in just two days! Assistant Stage manager Jake McNiesh shared that his favorite thing about working in theater is "being able to meet all of the new people and getting them excited for the shows. Theater is a lot of fun, and I enjoy being behind the scenes, working with people with many different skills and experiences."

Behind the scenes much is going on to bring this café filled with smooth swindlers and befuddling blackmailers to life. James Meech not only built the set for this year's fall show with the help of dedicated parents and students, but also por-

trayed the role of Anthony Cairo back in 1998. When discussing the show, this proud father shared, "A fun fact about working with the WHS Drama Department is that I get to work alongside my fifteen year old sophomore, Maggie... and helping them with the scenic design for this show has been a fun and educational experience for us both!"

While the students are in the midst of building sets, learning lines, and blocking scenes, Drama Booster parents are working behind behind the scenes. Providing food for late night rehearsals, helping raise money, and organizing advertising campaigns are just some of the things these dedicated volunteers are handling. Without them, these students would have a hard time pulling off this production. As Ms. VG-M puts it, "My Drama Boosters are Fabulous and we could not do the show without them." They are truly highly valued members of this department.

Frederick County School System

Rae Gallagher
Frederick County Public Schools

On April 25, Governor Wes Moore approved the Frederick County Delegation Bill HB1016, passed by the Maryland General Assembly. This bill establishes the Frederick County School Construction Master Plan Workgroup, focusing on the development and implementation of the master plan for school construction in Frederick County.

This group is comprised of Senator William Folden, Senator Karen Lewis-Young, Delegate April Miller, Delegate Ken Ken, County Council President Brad Young, County Council Member Steve McKay, Board of Education Present Karen Yoho, Board of Education Vice President Rae Gallagher, Janice Spiegel, Special Projects Manager, Frederick County Government and Michael Darenberg, Commissioner, Interagency Commission on School Construction. The group began meeting during the summer to discuss the challenges and opportunities to address the needs for school construction to address growth across Frederick County as well as aging infrastructure.

The workgroup examined historic efforts and previous recommendations to address

school construction needs; invited representatives from municipalities to discuss their unique perspectives and challenges; and considered alternative funding sources such as P3 (Public-Private Partnership) for school construction. The workgroup will meet two times in November prior to completing their recommendations. On or before December 31, the Workgroup will report its findings and recommendations to the County Executive of Frederick County, the Frederick County Council, the Frederick County Board of Education, the Interagency Commission on School Construction and the Frederick County House and Senate Delegations.

During the October 23rd Board of Education meeting, the Board and Superintendent highlighted the upcoming budget roadmap as we prepare for the development of the fiscal year 2026 budget. In the upcoming year, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future legislation will continue to guide funding for education across Maryland, and we anticipate that funding will be tied closely to Blueprint goals. As Frederick County continues to grow faster than any other educational district in the state, our education dollars must stretch further to ensure that we are meeting all of our students' needs. The following dates will be opportunities for the community to

engage with the Board and the Superintendent around the budget:

- November 18 – Community Budget Listening Session (virtual)
- December 3 – Community Budget Listening Session (virtual)
- December 16 – Community Budget Listening Session (virtual)
- January 6 – Public release of superintendent's recommended budget
- January 8 – Board meeting – budget discussion at 6 p.m. in the Board room (in-person)
- January 15 – Board budget work session 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – at the Board room (in-person)
- January 22 – Board meeting, Board budget discussions – 6 p.m. Board room (in-person)
- January 29 – Board public hearing on the budget @ Tuscarora HS (in-person)
- February 12 – Board meeting approval of operating budget request – 6 p.m. in the Board room (in-person)
- April-June – Ongoing Board budget discussions, as needed

Breakfast with Santa & CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, December 7
* 8 to Noon *



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Tuesday, December 31

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(1 sheet of 3 for each 50/50 & 3 jackpots)

Doors open at 5 • Bingo starts at 8

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We reserve the right to lower payouts if less than 300 tickets sold.
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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

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

Freshman

Life at home

Cameron Madden
MSMU Class of 2028

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sophomore

Love and war

Gracie Smith
MSMU Class of 2027

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

I had the privilege of speaking with locals in the area about their experiences during war and what

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

Mrs. Davis, of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, had been married to her husband, Mr. Davis, for 3 years when he was drafted to fight in Vietnam. Out of respect and for privacy reasons, I will not release their first names. When asked what their initial reaction to Mr. Davis being drafted was, they both replied rather dimly, saying that "it was a shock, even though we'd both expected it". Mrs. Davis had been prepared to provide for herself, however, she'd not been prepared to live by herself. She recounts that it was hard, when Mr. Davis first left for boot camp. She calls this their "trial

run" even though they didn't have a choice in how they continued. She said their "trial run" went smoothly, but what differentiated it from Mr. Davis' actual employment was that she didn't know if he'd come back. Imagine having to go through your day not knowing what was going on. Not having a clue where your spouse was—whether they were still alive or not.

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

week had been sent back to her. Mrs. Davis smiled when she said it was because she had filled out the envelope incorrectly. She said that writing letters was a way to help herself know "he wasn't that far away", and it was a way for her to cope with him being gone. When I asked what Mr. Davis thought of the letters he responded simply, "I kept every one".

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

were also commonly molded to take these positions in the household and care for the mother and younger siblings.

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

All of this to say, through Mrs. Davis' experiences, we get just a glance at what thousands of wives, girlfriends, fiancés, and mothers had to go through when war broke out. Not only were our brave soldiers off fighting for our nation, but the women in the homeland were supporting from within; supporting our small towns and businesses, supporting children and their education, supporting the household and the homes our soldiers came back to, and more importantly each other. Mr. and Mrs. Davis are just one couple who had to adapt new skills for the sake of the other. Their relationship was stretched nearly 9,000 miles, but it never broke.

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



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REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED ON THE HOME FRONT

Junior

The other half of the hero

Devin Owen
MSMU Class of 2026

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

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

When I brought up the topic of what sacrifices had to be made

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This November, take time to honor the veterans who have made sacrifices for love of country. But also, take a moment to honor the spouses and children still at home who have made sacrifices for love of country AND for love of their partner. It takes a special kind of resilience to be able to make the sacrifices my grandmother—and many other military spouses—have made over the years.

To read other articles by Devin Owen, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

Senior

Holding down the home front

Dolores Hans
MSMU Class of 2025

Where graceful adaptability and loyalty meet the inevitability of despondency and tribulation is a woman. This woman has looked into the future and without fear has consented to its unpredictable nature. You may ask why a woman would make this choice, and to this question I respond: love. And what is a woman if not love? In the name of this love, this woman has decided to live a life that faces nothing less than the most extreme ebbs and flows that can be offered in this world. Love is a communion, an unbreakable bond, expressed through self-sacrifice, understanding, and affection. How is love sustainable when there are thousands of miles between the two, or when every good moment can be interrupted by one being called away to face danger. This is the life of a veteran's wife.

"As a girl I always planned what my marriage would look like. Beginning and ending our day together, taking the kids to church, being able to count on my husband's presence each day. When I met [my husband] those plans were uprooted and new plans had to be made. But I wouldn't want it any different because sharing a love with him makes it all worth it."

There is a weight that comes with having a husband who has served, and therefore could serve again, that impacts every aspect

of your being. Physically, being alone for an extended period of time, and knowing that the possibility of going through pregnancy or raising a child mostly without that constant presence of a partner can be daunting. Emotionally, it is often up to the wife to support her husband's mental health and social wellbeing. Being a rock for someone else takes a toll on your own psychological health.

"I often have to prompt him to share his feelings with me, as he is not used to someone else being dependent on his state of mind as a wife is to her husband".

Being a military wife is having a lot of stuff thrown at you and having to just take it. There is no other option. Every family struggles in some type of way. Great or small, no trial can be overlooked. One of the struggles that takes place is the unpredictability of it all. Deployments, trainings, random jobs and duties, all remove your spouse from your reach.

"When we were dating, he would be away for maybe one to two weeks of each month, or sometimes even longer. I remember my friends thinking it was adorable when they saw me writing letters to him, how romantic and movie-like it was. But it wasn't like it is in the movies. It is a lot of hardship."

The hardest part of being the wife of a soldier is the good-byes. Sometimes they were long and sad, and sometimes they were so quick that it wasn't even fully processed. You really learn to cherish your spouse and take advantage of time. It is the memories that keep you going. In the

average marriage, there are many certainties. Falling asleep in the same bed, sharing meals together, going on dates and adventures, celebrating anniversaries and birthdays and holidays, and communication. When you have a husband in the military, quite often you fall asleep alone, eat alone or experience the struggle of preparing and cleaning a meal with no support, you miss out on certain events because you don't want to attend without your spouse, and so many special days are left uncelebrated. There are no certainties except that hope and faith are important, and there are no expectations except the unexpected.

"All of these struggles take a toll, but there is no better feeling in the world than when he returned home to me and we embraced like we were able to breathe again, and I became whole again."

While our veterans have sacrificed so much for us, let's not forget those who have sacrificed as well to support them and give them a life worthy of coming home to. Those who serve dream of home, and those who love them dream of their home coming back to them.

"My dad was my hero when I was young because he served in the army for quite some time. But now that I am older, and I am a military wife, my mom is my hero. She saved my childhood, she saved my home, and she saved my dad. And I will never forget that."

This month, take the time to honor the veterans you know, and in the same breath, honor their wives. The ones who hold down the home front. The ones

who give their husbands something worth fighting for. The ones whose goodness keep them going and keeps them in comfort as they face the terror of war. The ones who hold them when they return, provide them with a feeling of safety, allow them to really live as opposed to just surviving. Vet-

erans' wives are advocates. Veterans' wives are nurturers. Veterans' wives are soldiers fighting a battle to make the most of a life that is working against them, and going it with their hearts wide open.

To read other articles by Dolores Hans, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.



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ARTS

Upcoming events at the Weinburg Center & New Spire Arts

Trae Crowder WellRED Comedy Tour – November 7. Best known for his razor-sharp “Liberal Redneck” porch rants, Crowder’s blend of Southern charm and biting political humor has earned him millions of fans worldwide. Trae Crowder burst onto the scene in 2016 with his viral “Liberal Redneck” videos, quickly becoming a favorite for his hilarious and insightful commentary. He has since co-authored the best-selling Liberal Redneck Manifesto: Draggin’ Dixie Outta the Dark, toured nationally with sold-out performances.

Chicago Rewired – November 8. Relive the timeless hits of one of the most iconic bands in pop/rock history when Chicago Rewired—The Premier Chicago® Tribute Band. Rewired will deliver an unforgettable night filled with classic hits like “25 or 6 to 4,” “Saturday in the Park,” and “Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?”

Formed in 2015 by Charlotte-based drummer Mike Graci, Chicago Rewired was created with a mission: to faithfully recreate the unique sound of Chicago®. Graci sought out top-tier musicians to bring this vision to life, forming a band whose performances capture both the technical precision and the soulful essence of the original. The band’s chemistry and passion for the music have made them a favorite among diehard Chicago® fans, packing venues with those eager to relive the classic era of hits that defined a generation. With a commitment to delivering not just music, but an immersive concert experience, Chicago Rewired promises to evoke memories and create new ones with every performance.

Wishbone Ash Wishlist Tour – November 9. Fans will experience a thrilling live performance of their iconic album Argus in its entirety, along with top-requested fan favorites from across their

storied career. Formed in 1969, Wishbone Ash is celebrated for their innovative twin-guitar sound and progressive rock influences. With a discography spanning five decades, their timeless album Argus remains a cornerstone of classic rock. The band has spent more than 50 years touring the globe and releasing new music. This interactive tour allows fans to shape the setlist by requesting their favorite songs via social media. “I love the interactive element,” says Powell, the band’s founding guitarist, vocalist, and songwriter. “We have over 500 songs, and it’s fun to let the fans decide what they want to hear.” In addition to playing Argus, which features timeless hits like “Blowin’ Free” and “The King Will Come,” Wishbone Ash will perform other fan-chosen classics. Powell compares their loyal following to that of the Grateful Dead, with a career built not on radio play, but on word of mouth and a dedicated fan base.

The Paul Carr Quartet showcases at New Spire Arts— November 14. Carr’s mastery of traditional jazz, presenting a dynamic and engaging experience for jazz lovers of all kinds. With over a decade of experience as a bandleader, Carr’s music blends virtuosity with a deep respect for the jazz tradition. Known as “The Real Jazz Whisperer,” Carr is a renowned saxophonist, educator, and curator whose music and mentorship have had a profound impact on the jazz community. With ten recordings to his name, many of which have reached the top 10 on the Jazz

Week chart, Carr brings a legacy of excellence to the stage. His most recent recording, Paul Carr Legacy Quartet, features legendary bassist Buster Williams, pianist Bruce Barth, and celebrated drummer Lewis Nash. Carr is the founder, Executive and Artistic Director of the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival and has been recognized by the Jazz Journalist Association as a Jazz Hero and by the Capitol Hill Jazz Foundation for his leadership in service to the DC jazz community.

Ladies of Laughter at New Spire Arts – November 15. Get ready for a night of side-splitting laughter as Ladies of Laughter®, the nation’s premier stand-up comedy showcase featuring the funniest women in comedy. The show promises to be an unforgettable evening with two top-tier comedians, Alycia Cooper and Poppy Champlin, each delivering their own brand of uproarious, bold humor.

The Ladies of Laughter program began as a tribute to the late Mary Jo Wobker, a trailblazing producer who helped women break into stand-up comedy. After her passing in 1992, the “Mary Jo Comedy Awards” launched what is now the Ladies of Laughter® series, showcasing rising stars in venues from comedy clubs to Madison Square Garden.

Lorrie Morgan - November 16. Lorrie Morgan, the first woman in country music to begin her career with three consecutive Platinum albums, is back in the studio with award-winning producer Richard Landis, crafting a new

album filled with the emotional range that defines her music—from deep heartache to bright humor. “Where I am in my life right now, I’m not afraid to express what I feel,” she says, emphasizing her commitment to creating songs that reflect her personal experiences as a woman and survivor in the industry. Known for hits like “Watch Me” and “Something in Red,” Morgan’s ability to connect deeply with her audience has made her a timeless artist.

A Nashville native and daughter of Country Music Hall of Fame member George Morgan, Lorrie made her Grand Ole Opry debut at 13 and was inducted into the Opry by age 24. Her career took off with hits like “Til a Tear Becomes a Rose,” which won her a CMA award in 1990. Over the years, she has earned multiple platinum and gold records and collaborated with legends such as Frank Sinatra, Dolly Parton, and Keith Whitley. Morgan continues to perform, recently sharing the stage with Judy Collins and working on new music with Larry Gatlin, maintaining her vibrant presence in country music.

A Celtic Christmas to Holiday Season Lineup – December 20. A Taste of Ireland brings its holiday spectacular, featuring former World Irish dance champions and stars from Lord of the Dance and Riverdance, A Celtic Christmas blends the spirit of Christmas with the vibrant energy of Ireland’s rich cultural traditions. Audiences will experience a captivating mix of traditional tunes, acapella tap battles, and heartwarming storytelling, all wrapped in festive cheer. The show also features favorite Christmas carols, alongside melodic folk mashups and stunning choreography. Having already mesmerized audiences across New York and beyond, A Celtic Christmas by A Taste of Ireland is now set to charm audiences in Frederick. This unforgettable show, filled with the spirit of the season, will be a highlight of the holiday calendar.

Tickets for all these events may be purchased online at WeinbergCenter.org, by calling the box office at 301-600-2828, or in person at 20 West Patrick Street.

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No turkey, no problem November

Sonya Verlaque
FCC Culinary Program

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

Honey Glazed Salmon Bowls

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

Ingredients

For the Honey Glazed Salmon

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

For Bowl Base

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

For Paprika Mayo Topping

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

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

Maple Mustard Glazed Carrots

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

Ingredients

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

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

Using a slotted spoon, remove the carrots from the bowl and transfer them to the prepared pan spreading them out in an even layer. (Reserve the liquid in your bowl to brush over the carrots later.) Place the pan in the oven and roast for 20-25 minutes or until the carrots are tender. During the last 5-10 minutes, brush the reserved liquid over the carrots and let them continue cooking until done. Serve. Once done, whisk the remaining 1 tablespoon of maple syrup + 1/2 tablespoon of whole grain mustard + 1 tsp Dijon mustard together and drizzle the

sauce over the carrots. Toss and serve with fresh thyme sprigs and crumbled goat cheese sprinkled over the top (if desired).

Knock-Off Red Lobster Biscuits

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

Ingredients

2 cups all purpose flour 240 grams
2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp sugar
1 tsp garlic powder (not garlic salt)
1/2 tsp table salt
1/2 cup unsalted butter 113 grams (room temperature and cut into 1 inch pieces)
1 cup mild or medium cheddar cheese 113 grams (shredded)
1 cup buttermilk 236.59 ml (read above on how to make buttermilk)
Butter Topping
3 tbs unsalted butter 42.4 grams (melted)
1 garlic clove minced
1 tsp dried parsley
1/2 tsp garlic powder

Preparation instructions: Preheat your oven to 450 degrees Fahrenheit. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, sugar, garlic powder, and salt. Using a fork or pastry cutter, cut the butter into the flour mixture. It will be crumbly. Add in the cheese and buttermilk. Stir together until just combined. Using a 3 tablespoon cookie scoop or a large spoon, scoop out the biscuits and place



Maple Mustard Glazed Carrots

them approximately 2 inches apart on the prepared baking sheet. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown. While the biscuits are baking whisk together the ingredients for the butter topping. As soon as the biscuits come out of the oven, brush them with the butter topping. Best served warm, but always pretty good.

Pumpkin Pancakes

Ingredients

1 cup flour
1 tbs baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
1 tbs brown sugar
1 Egg
3/4 cup plus 2 tbs milk
1/2 cup pumpkin puree
1 tbs vegetable oil
1/4 tsp cinnamon

Preparation instructions: In a bowl, beat together eggs, milk, pumpkin and oil. Set aside. In another bowl,

mix together flour, baking powder, brown sugar and cinnamon. Add the egg mixture. Drop by spoonful into a preheated nonstick griddle. Cook until bubbles appear on the surface. Turn once and serve immediately.

Sauteed Squash

Ingredients

1 medium size delicata (or similar) squash
1/4 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup cider
1/2 cup butter

Preparation instructions: After cubing squash, place in fry pan where you have melted butter, and added sugar and cider. Cook with lid on until squash has softened. Then remove lid so that mixture becomes caramelized. Serve warm as a side.

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

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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of November

Professor Wayne Wooten

The new moon is on November 1, 2024. On November 3rd, we fall back to central standard time; that same evening, look for the slender crescent moon two degrees south of Mercury in dusk. The Moon catches up with Venus on November 5th, passing 3.5 degrees south of the brilliant “evening star”. The first quarter moon is on November 9th. The waxing gibbous moon is just south of Saturn about sunset on November 10th, a great photo op.

Much of the world will witness an occultation, but for us, a close miss! The Full or Beaver Moon is on November 15th. Mercury is highest east of the sun on the evening of November 16th, 23 degrees behind it. On the outer fringe of the solar system, Uranus is at opposition on November 17th, the same day that much closer Jupiter has the moon passing 5.6 degrees north of Jupiter.

Much closer to home, the Moon passes by Mars on November 20th, some two degrees north of it. The Moon is last quarter on November 23, and back to new on November 1st, the passing of the phase based synodic month. Jupiter will come to opposition on December 7th, rising in the east at sunset.

Mercury is well placed in the SW evening skies the first two weeks of November, but is lost in



The Andromeda Galaxy is a barred spiral galaxy and is the nearest major galaxy to the Milky Way. Andromeda is approximately 2.5 million light-years away from Earth. The galaxy's name stems from the area of Earth's sky in which it appears, the constellation of Andromeda, which itself is named after the princess who was the wife of Perseus in Greek mythology. The Milky Way and Andromeda galaxies are expected to collide with each other in around 4-5 billion years, merging to potentially form a giant elliptical galaxy.

its glare by Thanksgiving. Venus dominates the SW sky, getting closer and brighter but also shrinking in phase to approach half lit by Christmas.

Mars is still in the morning sky, in Gemini. Jupiter, the largest planet, will reach opposition on December 7th. Saturn will be in the south in Aquarius in the evening sky, with his rings seen almost edge on this year.

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away from any bright lights, is a wonderful instrument to stare up into deep space, far beyond our own Milky

Way, binoculars are better for spotting specific deep sky objects. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about October 31st visit the www.skymaps.com website and download the map for November 2024; it will have a more extensive calendar, and list of best objects for the naked eyes, binoculars, and scopes on the back of the map. Sky & Telescope has: www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts/.

Setting in the southwest is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way Galaxy, with Saturn just above the lid of its teapot. The best view of our Galaxy lies overhead now.

The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the sky in the northwest. To the northeast of Vega is Deneb, the brightest star of Cygnus the Swan. To the south is Altair, the brightest star of Aquila the Eagle, the third member of the three bright stars that make the Summer Triangle so obvious in the NE these clear autumn evenings. Use binocs and your sky map to spot many clusters here, using the SkyMap download to locate some of the best ones plotted and described on the back.

Overhead the square of Pegasus is a beacon of fall. South of it is the only bright star of Fall, Fomalhaut. If the southern skies of Fall look sparse, it is because we are looking away from our Galaxy into the depths of intergalactic space. The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W, rising in the NE as the Big Dipper sets in the NW. Polaris lies about midway between them. She contains many fine star clusters and nebulae. Much more distant in her daughter Andromeda is the closest large spiral galaxy comparable to our own Milky Way, M-31. This photo of it with two smaller companion galaxies, M-32 (below the nucleus) and M-110 (to upper left) was taken with the new Dwarf 3 digital telescope, now available for \$400, with the ability to take telephotos like this as well as wide angle photos of the constellations.

To the northeast, Andromeda's hero, Perseus, rises. Perseus con-

tains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth. south. Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster to rise, a sure sign of bright winter stars to come. This is probably the best sight in the sky with binoculars, with hundreds of fainter stars joining the famed “Seven Sisters” with 10x50 binocs.


In addition to the stars, we see this cluster passing through a nearby cloud of dust and gas and the stars having their blue light reflected by the dust particles, in the same way our sky in daytime is turned blue by tiny molecules in our atmosphere that in “Rayleigh Scattering” selectively scatter the shorter blue waves, while allowing the reds of sunset and total lunar eclipses to pass through our atmosphere.

To the NE, yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, rises at 7 as November begins along the northeastern horizon. It is the fifth brightest star in the sky, and a beacon of the colorful and bright winter stars to come in December. South of the pentagon of Auriga, we find bright Jupiter, near orange Aldebaran, the eye of Taurus the Bull, rising in the NE about 7 by mid November.

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Farmers' Almanac

The thinnest yellow light of November is more warming and exhilarating than any wine they tell of.
—Henry David Thoreau (1817-1872)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Seasonable with occasional Showers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); 6-10: dry and turning very warm (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); rain and gusty winds followed by cooler temperatures (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); brisk and chilly with snow showers west and sprinkles east (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); seasonably cool with rain showers (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); dry and seasonable (26, 27, 28, 29, 30).

Severe Weather Watch: The Almanack sees heavy rain with flooding in the Mid-Atlantic Region (10, 11, 12). Full Moon: The Full Moon in November will occur on Friday, November 15th. Many Native American tribes called it Big Wind Moon because of the high winds that would sweep across the Plains during the month. Other tribes called it Falling Leaf Moon and Dying Grass because of all the leaves falling and grasses dying off.

Special Notes: Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 3rd. Remember to “fall back” an

hour! Election Day falls on Tuesday, November 5th in 2024. This year, we are casting our ballots for President of the United States and we must all participate in this great privilege no matter which candidate is support. If voting by mail, be sure to complete your ballot immediately upon receipt and place the properly-completed ballot into a legitimate drop box in your area or mail as early as possible.

Holidays: In 2024, Veteran's Day falls on Monday, November 11th. Honor our military service branches and those who have served and who continue to serve and protect us today and remember them in our prayers. Thanksgiving is celebrated on Thursday, November 28th. Enjoy time with family and friends and reflect on all the things we have to be thankful for and make an effort to carry that appreciation not only throughout the holiday season, but for always!

The Garden: Even though lawns rest in winter, they still need all the winter sunlight they can get so don't put away the rake until all of the leaves and pine needles have fallen and you can remove them. If you do have to do that one last mow, don't bag those grass clippings. Instead, recycle them back onto the lawn. Take the time to organize, clean, and sharpen

your garden tools. Keep them from underfoot, cleaned, and sharpened and they will be ready to go come Spring. Feed the birds in a fun, unique way by making a pinecone bird feeder. Just roll a large pinecone in peanut butter and birdseed. Hang the finished 'ornament' with rustic twine or ribbon on a tree limb close to a window for easy observation. Remember that once you start feeding them, don't stop until natural food becomes available for them again next spring.

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (25, 26, 27); planting above-ground crops (1, 2); weeding and stirring the soil (21, 22); harvesting all crops (8, 9, 12, 13); the best days for setting hens and incubators (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8); transplanting (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8); the weaning of small animals and livestock (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 30); the harvesting and storing grains (22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30).

John Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

“Pay heed to what one promises when seeking your vote or friendship; it sometimes bears little resemblance to what you receive after the goal that was sought has been attained.”

Screenings, treatment, and innovation for lung cancer patients

Josh Faust
Frederick Health

November is National Lung Cancer Awareness Month. While statistics show that the overall number of lung cancer deaths in America has declined in recent decades, it remains a significant health threat. Lung cancer is the third most diagnosed form of cancer and the most common cause of cancer deaths in the United States with most of these deaths being attributed to tobacco usage. Lung cancer can also be caused by pollution, genetics, and environmental factors or occupation.

According to available data, Frederick County still sits above the national average in lung cancer cases. That's why Frederick Health is pleased to offer various screenings, treatments, and innovative advancements to help treat lung cancer patients in the community.

Lung cancer typically does not cause signs and symptoms in its earliest stages; signs and symptoms usually occur when the disease is advanced. Some of the earliest symptoms of lung cancer include a cough that does not go away, coughing up blood, even a small amount, shortness of breath, chest pain, losing weight without trying, or headache.

The easiest way to prevent serious lung cancer from developing is to schedule routine screenings. By understanding the risks of lung cancer, patients can take an active role in their health.

"The best way to protect yourself against lung cancer is to get a screening," said Tammy Welch, Coordinator of the Early Pulmonary Cancer Detection Program. "Early detection can save your life."

To help increase lung cancer screenings in the community, Frederick Health is proud to participate in the National Lung Cancer Screening Event sponsored by the American College of Radiology (ACR). This nationwide event promotes lung cancer screening and the benefits of early detection. This year, the event will be held on Wednesday, November 6th, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at James M Stockman Cancer Institute, 1562 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, Maryland. It is open to the public.

Community members are invited to join Frederick Health experts to learn about lung cancer screening and its causes. This event also allows individuals to meet with a provider to determine if they are a candidate for a lung screening and schedule one. Medicare and most other insurance usually cover screening costs. There will also be resources to help quit smoking, light refreshments, and several other organizations on hand to provide guidance and information to those in attendance.

Regardless of how or when an individual was diagnosed with lung cancer, Welch says the Frederick Health team is here and ready to provide expert care.

"I'm proud to be part of a team that is providing innovative, expert care," added Welch. "What we do makes a real difference in the lives of our patients. Seeing those we cared for in the community, living a healthy life, makes it all worth it."

If an individual is diagnosed with lung cancer, Dr. Maurice Smith, Thoracic Surgeon and Medical Director for Chest Surgery with Frederick Health Medical Group, says listening to the patient and the family is vital.

"Cancer is a family diagnosis. We are here for you and your family during every part of treatment," says Dr. Smith.

The healthcare system employs a large team of expert providers who can help shepherd patients through their treatment journey with personalized care and communication.

"Any medical issue can be frightening, and cancer is no different. But by ensuring that patients feel heard and supported, we can develop a treatment plan tailored to their needs," added Dr. Smith.

As part of that treatment, Dr. Smith and his team have invested significant energy into robotic-assisted surgery to help diagnose and treat lung cancer patients. Those efforts have paid off for both patients and the healthcare system.

Recently, Frederick Health announced that Intuitive, a leading manufacturer of robotic-assisted surgery platforms, designated Frederick Health's Thoracic Oncology Program as a United States Case Observation Site. This is a rare accomplishment

for a community healthcare system. This designation means that surgeons from all over the country can come to Frederick Health to learn the most advanced robotic surgery techniques from Frederick Health surgeons and providers.

"Being named a US Case Observation Site is a significant achievement," says Dr. Smith. According to Intuitive, a case observation site is a hospital that leads by example, demonstrating the highest quality of care, efficiency, and outcomes and using the latest technologies while hosting and teaching surgeons across the United States.

Frederick Health is a leader in robotic innovation and currently uses several robotic-assisted surgery platforms. In the last decade, Frederick Health has performed over 5,000 robotic-assisted surgeries. The organization is also the first and

only healthcare system in the state to have the da Vinci 5, the most technologically advanced robotic-assisted surgery platform on the market.

According to Dr. Smith, investments like this set Frederick Health apart.

"Few systems earn this prestigious designation. It speaks volumes about the quality, compassionate care available to residents in our community and the pri-

orities of our leadership," added Smith.

"It also demonstrates that Frederick Health is a surgical destination, not just for patients, but also for those providers looking to learn the latest and most innovative techniques," he concluded.

To learn more about lung cancer treatment at Frederick Health, visit www.frederick-health.org/lungcancer.

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GLADE VALLEY LIONS CLUB

On September 26, the Glade Valley Lions Club (GVLC), met at the Glade United Church of Christ in Walkersville to celebrate new Teachers and Administrators to the Walkersville area schools. The


program for the evening was presented by Amy Nelson the CASS Coordinator for the Walkersville feeder system, and Mariana Vieira the Community Liaison for Walkersville High School.

Pictured below from Front Row/left to right: Mariana Vieira, Amy Nelson, Mary Flood WMS Special Education Instructional Assistant, Kimberly Leaman WMS Math

Teacher. Back Row/left to right: John Milliman Special Education Program Coordinator WMS, Shawn Miller Asst. Principal WKES, Rachel Neave WMS Instructional Assistant, Dr. Jeff Marker, Asst. Princi-

pal WMS, Jennifer Speak First Grade Teacher W/NMW Elementary Teacher, Samantha Phelps First Grade Teacher W/MNW Elementary, Cathy Widder Vice President Glade Valley Lions Club.





**Glade Valley Lions Club
OPEN HOUSE
FRIENDSHIP NIGHT**

Thursday, November 21 - 6:15 p.m.
St. John's United Church of Christ
8 N. Second St., Woodsboro
Light refreshments will be served

You've seen Glade Valley Lions Club members around the community doing service projects and fundraisers. We are looking for new members with great ideas! Want to find out more? Please join us for a Meet and Greet for all Glade Valley community members.

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COUNTY NOTES

County Announces Green Infrastructure Plan to Drive Sustainability and Resilience

Frederick County is proud to announce the beginning of the planning process for its Green Infrastructure Plan, a bold new initiative aimed at addressing critical issues related to the natural and built environment, community resilience, and environmental stewardship. This forward-thinking plan reflects the County's commitment to sustainability, which is a cornerstone of both County Executive Jessica Fitzwater's administration and the community-led Transition Team's 2023 recommendations. Residents, businesses, and stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the plan's development through upcoming public forums.

"Frederick County is taking concrete steps to ensure a healthier, more resilient environment while promoting community well-being," County Executive Fitzwater said. "I look forward to working with the public to develop and implement the Green Infrastructure Plan. Sustainability is not only about protecting the environment—it's about creating a livable, vibrant future where everyone can thrive."

Goals of the Green Infrastructure Plan include establishing a strategic network of "hubs" and "corridors" that reduce habitat fragmentation, provide options for wildlife migration, sustain and regenerate working lands, mitigate the effects of climate change, and increase access to green space and outdoor recreation opportunities. The plan will consider factors that affect environmental, agricultural, and recreational resources in the County.

The Livable Frederick Planning and

Design Office is leading the planning effort. The first phase of the process will involve a series of meetings with the Green Infrastructure Advisory Group.

Opportunities for members of the public to participate and provide comment will be available through open houses, Planning Commission workshops as the plan is developed, Planning Commission public hearings as a draft document is considered, and as the Recommended Plan moves forward for County Council review.

For more information, visit FrederickCountyMD.gov/GreenInfrastructurePlan.

Frederick County Selects Partner in Housing Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan

Frederick County has selected Thomas P. Miller and Associates (TPMA) as partner in developing a Frederick County Housing Needs Assessment and Housing Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan will set the direction for how the County will refine and shape

its housing policy, as well as identify resources to address the needs identified in the Needs Assessment. This initiative aligns with County Executive Jessica Fitzwater's community-based Transition Team's recommendation to update the 2016 Affordable Housing Needs Assessment and develop a strategic plan for housing.

"As the fastest growing county in Maryland, Frederick County has experienced increased pressure on housing affordability in both the rental and homeownership markets. An updated Housing Needs Assessment is critical to identify the current housing needs in our County, as well as the projected needs over the next 10 years," said County Executive Fitzwater. "On behalf of our entire community, I want to extend my thanks to the City of Frederick and the Affordable Housing Council for their partnership and shared commitment to addressing housing challenges."

TPMA was selected through a Request for Proposals process, based

on the firm's vast experience with housing studies, as well as its commitment to engaging local communities in the projects their staff have completed across the country. TPMA also brings experience in the State of Maryland, having conducted economic and workforce development projects in neighboring counties.

"As we continue to tackle the challenge of affordable housing in Frederick County, it's imperative that we understand the needs of our residents, both in terms of data and by hearing directly from them about their concerns," said Vincent Rogers, Director of the Frederick County Division of Housing. "TPMA is expert in data analysis and community engagement, and their

regional and national expertise will ensure that our Strategic Plan takes into consideration best practices from across the country as well as the local environment in Frederick County."

The City of Frederick has been a valued partner with Frederick County in this process, contributing to the cost of the project, and will be provided with disaggregated housing needs data for the city. It is anticipated that TPMA will begin the project this October and provide a final report to Frederick County by Fall 2025. Opportunities for community input and engagement are expected to begin later this year. For more information on the work done by the Division of Housing, visit FrederickCountyMD.gov/Housing.

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