

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 14, NO. 7

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

JULY 2022

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Thurmont Main Street program accredited

Thurmont was once again designated as an accredited Main Street America program for meeting rigorous performance standards set by the National Main Street Center. Each year, the National Main Street Center and its Coordinating Program partners announce the list of accredited Main Street America programs in recognition of their exemplary commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach, Thurmont's Economic Development Manager, Vickie Grindler said.

Since the town's 2005 designation, the program has resulted in: \$1.2 million in 61 private investment projects and \$780,985.00 in 37 public improvement projects.

The Main Street program has logged 17,990 volunteer hours valued at \$503,420.00 and has received \$860,500.00 in grant funding. On average, for every dollar that a Main Street program spent to support their operations, it generated \$19.34 of new investment back into Main Street communities. "You can never take it for granted. Everybody works hard for that, anywhere," she said.

"We are extremely proud to recognize Main Street America programs that have worked tirelessly to advance

economic vitality and quality of life in their downtowns and commercial districts," Patrice Frey, President & CEO of Main Street America said. "During another incredibly challenging year, these programs demonstrated the power of the Main Street movement to respond to the needs of their communities. I am inspired by their steadfast leadership and innovative solutions to drive essential local recovery efforts, support small businesses, and nurture vibrant downtown districts."

Thurmont Main Street's performance is annually evaluated by the Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development, which works in partnership with Main Street America to identify programs like Thurmont's that meet rigorous national performance standards. Evaluation criteria determine the communities that are building meaningful and sustainable revitalization programs and include standards such as, fostering strong public-private partnerships, supporting small and locally owned businesses, and actively preserving historic places, spaces, and cultural assets.

Main Street America has been helping revitalize older and historic commercial districts for more than 35 years. Today, it is a network of more than 1,000 Nationally

Accredited and Affiliate neighborhoods and communities, rural and urban, who share both a commit-

ment to building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development.



Kelly Schultz, Maryland Secretary of Commerce and Republican candidate for Governor and current County Council District 5 representative Michael Blue have done an exceptional job serving the citizens of northern Frederick County and have more than earned your vote. (See editorial on page 6 for additional primary endorsements.)



South Mt. Fair celebrates 100th anniversary

The best part of the summer season is right around the corner, fair season. Are you ready for the return of throttling of tractors, the smell of corn dogs and kids screaming gleefully on the Tilt-A-Whirl? Well, buckle up, because the 100th Annual South Mountain Fair promises to exceed high expectations. The fair opens this year on July 26 and runs through July 30.

South Mountain Fair has returned in full force in time to celebrate its centennial anniversary this season. Patrons can expect a new breath of enthusiasm this year with five days of festivities.

"I don't think most people realize how much work and how many hours goes into preparing for the Fair and the work doesn't end on the last day of the Fair either. We work at it all year. There is always something that needs to be repaired or painted or mowed or cleaned. The average person doesn't see all of those things, but they all need to be taken care of throughout the year and not just Fair week. In 2020 when the Fair and all of our other rentals were canceled, those things still had to be done. The grounds

had to be mowed. We still had to pay the electric and phone bills even without any income," she said.

"This year is going much smoother I think, and we are excited to celebrate our 100th year. It wasn't a happy time, but we made it through it and I'm glad we did. Maybe that's why we're looking forward to celebrating our 100th year. We made it," Irvin said.

The South Mountain Fair is known far and wide for its involvement with agriculture students and the 100th Annual South Mountain Fair is no exception.

The fair began in 1922 and continued each year until 1930, when it was canceled that year because of a drought. The annual event picked up again in 1931 and continued until 1941, when it was again canceled, this time due to a polio epidemic, then World War II, according to the South Mountain Fair Association. The fair was resumed in 1948 and has been held every year since then.

One of the highlights of the fair is 4-H Day livestock judging, which will take place all week long. Other activities include mechanical bull



While the South Mountain Fair has the greatest rides of any carnival or fair around, the heart and soul of the fair is, and always will be, the kids and their animals.

rides, chainsaw carving shows, and a fireworks display on July 28. Exhibit buildings will be open every day for the public. Exhibits include: a photography exhibit; baked goods, wine, vegetables, and fruit exhibits;

crafts and art pieces of all kinds; as well as 4H projects.

For more information and a complete schedule of events, visit www.southmountainfair.com.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Hotel requests hostel designation

At its June 6 meeting, the Emmitsburg Town Council considered a zoning text amendment application to add “hostel/inn” as a permitted use in the General commercial (B-2) Zoning district.

The request came from Pradeep Saini, owner of Village Liquors, who has expressed interest in building a twenty room hotel above a new liquor store next to the Dunkin’ Donuts in Silo Hill.

Hostels are defined as establishments that provide temporary (less than one year) lodging, for a specific group of people such as students, workers, or travelers. It is lower priced temporary accommodation that offers fully furnished basic rooms with linen service. Typically, a hostel may feature a large room with separate beds and a shared bathroom and kitchen. A commercial kitchen may also be located within the establishment to provide guest food services, Town Planner Zachary Gulden said.

The particular change to add a hostel/inn designation to the town code, has been requested, according to Saini, by the financial institution funding the project purely for taxation purposes as well as the security of the bank lending the project’s funding.

The hotel/hostel will be open to the public for extended stay and also allow for student housing. “Essentially it is a hotel, but we cannot stop students from renting ... if they conform to the lifestyle of a hotel, we are open to renting it to them,” Saini said.

Council President Tim O’Donnell raised concerns of students overtaking the building and turning it into a fraternity.

Unlike hotels, guests in hostels don’t have their own rooms; instead they live in dorm-style, meaning that there is one bathroom on each floor, just like in a college dorm. The party vibes (and the drinking and drug taking that goes with it) of hostels is seen as another drawback to the plan. In addition to the fact that the proposed hostel would be built above a liquor store could be problematic, as it would make access to alcohol for parties much easier.

Unlike hotels, which are staffed 24 hours a day, hostels are not always staffed around the clock, so addressing drunk or noisy guests could challenge the quality of life for nearby Silo Hill Residents.

Saini told the town council that an employee will be available at the downstairs liquor store when it is open, and on call at other

hours. However Saini was mum on how responsive the liquor store staff would be while customers were in the store or how long it would take to respond to noise complaints at night.

The Council approved forwarding a proposed text amendment change to the Planning Commission for consideration. If approved, hostel/inn would be added as a permitted use in the General Commercial (B-2) Zoning District ordinance.

The Town also approved a sewer and water connection fee payment plan waiver for the planned Hotel.

As proposed, the hotel will have 273 total fixtures (water faucets and toilets) which equals 18.2 Equivalent Residential Units. The owners requested a 10 percent waiver, which equates to \$29,484 in total fee reductions. Total water and sewer connection fees for the project, with the waivers, will be \$294,840.

If the project is built, the town will receive \$149,240 in water taps and connection fees and \$145,600 in sewer connection fees, Town Manager Cathy Willets said. The fees can be paid over a five-year payment plan.

Town staff had no concern in granting the sewer waiver as there



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are 1,100 taps available for sewer. However, concern was expressed over the granting of the reduction in the cost of the water taps as over the next ten years the town is

anticipating \$17.4 million in water infrastructure projects, and the town only has 100 taps available for water, Willets said. So every dollar from a water tap is needed.

Town to seek grant to replace street lights

The Town Council approved town staff to move forward with a Community Legacy grant application for \$252,000 for the replacement of over 200 streetlamps in town.

Discussion has been held for several years regarding replacing street

lamps and bulbs around town, according to Town Manager Cathy Willets. “We’re going to shoot for the moon and hope we get all the money,” Willets said.

Why are they replacing them??? Is it the cost of them?

When were the lights first installed?

Will the installation of the new streetlights require any re-working of the sidewalks?

The new lights will be updated to LED with dimmable capabilities and including new technology, “Dark Sky” function which minimizing light pollution by not shining straight into the sky, she said.

“The idea is to have consistency around town,” she said, and some

areas may require more or less light.

“The first concern is going to be safety, above and beyond everything else,” she said.

Depending on the bid proposal accepted for the project, the posts styles are expected to look the same as those currently in place.

The streetlight replacement project will be completed in phases. The first phase will focus on replacement of existing streetlights. The second

phase will include the installation of new streetlights to the town’s housing developments.

The council also authorized the yearly Community Legacy grant for funding to improve the façade’s of private buildings in town. Each year the town applies for \$75,000 in Community Legacy grants funds for its façade restoration program, Town Planner Zachary Gulden said. Typically, the town receives about \$50,000.

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Registration Deadline: July 22

Public Information Act approved

The Town Council approved of a Public Information Act (PIA) policy for proactive disclosure of public records.

While Emmitsburg did not previously have an official policy on how public information act requests are

handled, there has always had procedures in place regarding public information, and the approved policy is just a formal adoption, Town Manager Cathy Willets said.

A new mandate now requires municipalities to have a policy that details what the town will disclose and the process to the public to acquire information.

The town’s new policy states the PIA grants access to governmental records without unnecessary costs

or delay and identifies the town clerk as the designated official PIA record manager, Willets said.

In the absence of the town clerk, the town manager will handle requests.

The town will charge twenty-five cents cost per page for each standard document copy, with a possibility for more for specialty items. The town is not required to conduct extensive research or investigations and requests are typically completed within ten days.

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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

CV increases police starting salary

Nearly ten months since the last Carroll Valley Borough police officer resigned, the borough may begin making leeway for new hires as the council approved a starting pay increase June 14.

"Nothing the chief has been able to do has solved our problem of hiring someone," Council President Richard Mathews said.

The Borough's police hiring ad hoc group assembled to review police hiring practices and to recommend

changes to help bring the department back to fully staffed.

The group reviewed patrol officer salaries of neighboring municipalities. Within Adams County, Carroll Valley was found to be considerably under, for police officer's starting salary as well as officers coming in with several years of experience, Mathews said.

The group's conclusion was consensus based following a review of the compensation levels of other collec-

tively bargained police departments in the county. Not only was it determined that Carroll Valley's starting salary was uncompetitively low, but the pay for officers with three to four years of service was \$20,000 to \$30,000 below their peers in nearby departments, according to the police hiring ad hoc group's letter submitted to the council.

The group not only recommended a change to the patrol officer pay range, but also advised further study

to evaluate the fairness of pay to current officers to encourage future retention of experienced officers.

The group recommended a \$70,000 starting salary and a three-year contract guarantee of \$85,000 at the end of three years. The salary range is negotiable depending upon the qualifications and experience of the selectee, Mathews said.

Although self-described as "pro-police as anybody can be," Councilmember Robert Verderaime opposed the salary increase.

Verderaime voiced apprehension, stating that based on the number and nature of service calls, he was reluctant to justify the need to the taxpayers for the hiring of an additional full-time officer.

Based on the group's recommendation, the council's motion authorized Chief Richard Hileman II to advertise the new salary.

Hileman was satisfied with the stage of the development to address police vacancy and bring on new officers. "I think we're in good shape to have a good shot at it," he said.

Get ready for Pippinfest 2022!

Mark your calendar for the Annual Pippinfest, which is set for September 24th and 25th. The organization and planning for Pippinfest, Fairfield's "Old Fashioned Street Festival," is well underway.

This year Pippinfest will be celebrating its 41st anniversary! Founded by David Thomas, then owner of the Fairfield Inn, Pippinfest, named for the Pippin apple, was initiated to provide opportunities for local clubs and non-profit organizations to raise funds and to provide a communi-

ty-wide celebration of the annual apple harvest. From David's efforts along with a supportive citizenry, an all-day street festival was born. Over the years the festival has evolved into a two-day event.

Community and local business' support contributes significantly to the success of the annual festival and Pippinfest allows Fairfield area non-profits to fund raise for their causes. Local Scout troops, high school groups, churches and many others are able to sell food, drinks and other goods

in order to help raise money for their organizations. The festival introduces the Fairfield community to new visitors, fosters an environment of fun for everyone, and brings local community members together.

As in prior years, Pippinfest festivities will be held throughout much of the town. Saturday the 24th traditionally focuses on community-wide yard sales.

Sunday the 25th is considered the main event day of Pippinfest. Along with the craft and food vendors, musical entertainment will be on-going

throughout the day. The Committee anticipates that nearly a dozen band will perform at various locations in the Village. Carriage Rides, a Cruise-in Car Show and Swap Meet, a display of Pippinfest pottery, and street entertainment will engage festival goers of all ages on Sunday. Parking is free in the designated Village lots.

Both days' events include craft and food vendors, a Kids' Corner with a number of popular activities including inflatable rides, pony rides, and a dime pitch. Self-guided walking tours of Fairfield and a quilt show and demonstra-

tion are also available both days.

If you would like to participate as a craft vendor at Pippinfest, an application can be obtained at www.pippinfest.com. The Pippinfest Committee welcomes volunteers to help at the event and anyone wishing to volunteer or to serve on the Pippinfest Committee should contact Sally Thomas at mckessonhouse@comcast.net or complete the information form on the Pippinfest website.

For more information on the event, visit the Pippinfest website at www.pippinfest.com.

Eagle Scout recognized for community service

Newly pinned Eagle Scout Brody Holz, of Fairfield, was recognized this May for his efforts in bringing a recreational GaGa pit to Carrol Valley Park.

The project to construct a GaGa pit was part of Holz's journey to become an Eagle Scout within Venture Crew 230, a venture scout crew chartered by the Greenmount Volunteer Fire Department.

A GaGa pit is a hexagonal or octagonal wooden pit, about three feet tall and twenty feet wide.

Played similarly to dodge ball except in an enclosed octagon or hexagon arena, gaga players bop a ball with their palms in an attempt to strike the other players' shins. The game requires a minimum of two people but can fit multiple people at once in the pit. A versatile game that can accommodate as many people as possible that can fit inside the pit, gaga players can free-for all against each other or form teams.

Holz presented the project to the Car-

roll Valley Borough Council in March 2021 as a way to connect the community through a simple but engaging game, he said. The council gave unanimous support for the promising plan and fundraising quickly went underway. Pledges to fund the approximately \$1,900 project were immediately provided from on-line viewers during Brody's pitch to the council during their March 2021 Zoom meeting.

With Holz as the leader of the team, the scouts of Venture Crew 230

worked tirelessly together to bring the project to the community.

"We had a great deal of technical experience within the crew to help out and I cannot express my gratitude enough for everyone that came to help," he said.

Completed in November, "this addition will not only serve the community for years to come, but it will be a very good addition to the park in general for everyone to use for a very long time," he said.

Holz has moved up through the

BSA ranks for nearly ten years. A lengthy journey to accomplish, Holz credited his fellow scouts and mentors for their support through it all. Holz said his time with the troop holds some of his most cherished memories.

"I am extremely grateful for the experience and the opportunity to learn and grow among my fellow scouts, whom I can now know as some of my closest friends," he said.

More information about Venture Crew 230 can be found by contacting primary advisor Herb Milligan, Sr. at hwmeagle.h8@gmail.com.

News Briefs...

Road/sidewalk survey project bid approved

At its June 8 meeting, Walkersville Burgess and Council moved closer to accessible sidewalks for all as they awarded a road and sidewalk evaluation survey project bid.

The Town Council began discussion in February for the possibility of bringing sidewalks around the town up to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

Wilson T. Ballard Company was awarded the sidewalk project at a cost to the town of \$45,554.30.

The study will determine the best way to repair the sidewalks as well as the "hot spots" in the town that need immediate attention.

The goal of the project will be to repair sidewalks around town but to also make the sidewalks more accessible and compliant with ADA) accessibility standards, according to Public Works Director Joseph Birch.

Although about five companies attended the pre-bid meeting, the town's on-call engineering firm Wilson T. Ballard was the only company to put forth an actual bid for the project, he said.

Town Manager Sean Williams had suggested getting a study done by a

third party to decide which sidewalks are in the worst condition, but also to see which are used most often to determine where priority should be given. Williams got the idea for the study after speaking with the Emmitsburg's town manager where ADA ramps were installed last year with grant money.

As of the June 8 meeting, there was no anticipated start date, but Birch believed the project will begin soon and will likely take between two to three months. Based in Owings Mills, as the company is not particularly local, the project will be performed in chunks at a time, Birch said.

The council became aware of the issues in the sidewalks when residents of Glade Towne Community spoke out about the uneven and cracked sidewalks. This led to the discussion about

replacing sidewalks town wide, which would also include ramps at curbs that are ADA compliant.

Town employee recognized for 25 years

The Town Commissioners and Burgess recognized the recent retirement of a dedicated town employee.

Beginning and finishing her Walkersville Town Hall career on June 10, 25 years apart, the burgess and town Council recognized the dedication of Town Water Administrator Diane Fauble.

Expressing sincere gratitude for her service to the residents of the town, "It is great to have had her for 25 years," Burgess Chad Weddle said.

Fauble was hired June 10, 1997, as a front desk administrative assistant before rapidly advancing to Town Water Administrator, Burgess said.

Fauble faithfully and diligently managed the town's water billing process, meter readings, and has been instrumental in organizing special events including community picnics, Christmas tree lightings, and town elections.

Fauble resided most of her life in Walkersville and is a product of the

Walkersville school system.

Although she will no longer be in office, Fauble said she would be willing to help out whoever came into replace her. The council and Burgess wished Fauble well and expressed hope she will remain in town to continue to enjoy everything Walkersville has to offer.

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THURMONT NEWS

Sign regulations under review

Due to concerns over large political signs, the Town Council held a public workshop to discuss temporary signs.

The reason for the workshop is the town has had issues with larger signs installed without permits, Mayor John Kinnard said.

Whether proclaiming a plumbing business or politician, the nature of the sign makes no difference to the town.

"All we can say is we're not regulating the content of the sign, we're only regulating the size," Mayor John Kinnard said.

The purpose of the sign regula-

tion in the town zoning ordinance is to regulate placement, type, size, and number of signs allowed on a property, Kelly Duty Planning and Zoning Manager said.

The town is not regulating political signs over any other type of sign including yard sale and realtor signs.

The council reiterated it was not infringing upon residents' freedom of speech but limiting the number of larger signs in a property as larger signs of any nature can be distracting.

The zoning ordinance allows certain types of allows an unre-

stricted number of temporary signs four square feet in size, and up to five feet in height, without a permit, Duty said.

Property owners can have as many small signs as they want, but a temporary sign larger in size than 2x2 must apply for a temporary sign permit identifying where it will be located. A property is allowed only one of these larger types of signs, she said.

All temporary signs must be ten feet for roadway and should not be attached to buildings, "They should be stuck literally in the ground," she said.

Negative connotations and backlash have come from residents and the planning and zoning commission has discussed the issue at length.

When Duty has attempted to enforce the size regulation to residents in the past, the town has been accused of addressing the content of the signage, Chief Administrative Officer James Humerick said.

"The ones causing issues are the political signs," Kinnard said, noting two years ago during election time the town saw the same issue.

A property can have as many of the four-square foot signs as desired, but only one larger sign

with a permit is allowed as it can be a problem for neighbors and can cause line of sight issues, Kinnard said.

"People are not following our regulations, simple as that," Kinnard said.

"At the end of the day, I think this is going to be a continuing issue, because they're trying to grab attention, and sometimes the way to do that is to have bigger signs," Duty said.

The council reached a consensus to invite in election candidates and property owners with large signs to share their viewpoint on the issue and understand the regulations.

More ball fields on the horizon

More ball fields are on the horizon for Thurmont after the Town Council approved a bid for East End Park baseball/softball field.

The town Little League site development plan was prioritized by the council based on recommendations from the planning commission and through discussion from town youth and adult ball leagues, according to Chief Administrative Officer James Humerick.

"There just aren't enough fields to go around," he said, noting many Thurmont teams currently

play home games in other municipalities or counties.

The town submitted for grant funding from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for the Local Parks and Playground Infrastructure projects.

The project's original cost, estimated a year and a half ago, was \$262,000 but bids were discovered to be significantly higher than anticipated.

Original bids came in close to \$600,000 and the scope of the work and the initial project were changed to reduce costs, Humerick said.

Project updates removed a parking lot and driveway with the consideration town staff may be able to perform it in house.

Updates to the project also removed an asphalt trail that circled the field, and on the new scope, the trail just acts as an access point, Humerick said.

Revisions also took out some plantings above and beyond the requirements of Frederick County Forest Resource Ordinance.

Despite being able to reduce the project's cost by about \$150,000, the town was still about \$178,275

over the budgeted amount based on the grant funding.

Humerick said continuing to eliminate aspects of the project was non-negotiable to still make it a viable project that meets community needs and town expectations.

Chief Financial Officer Linda Joyce and Humerick both agreed at previous meetings it made sense to utilize American Rescue Plan Act funding (ARPA) for the shortfall.

Project allocation will be LPPI funding of \$262,000 and ARPA funding of \$178,275 for a total project cost of \$440,275.

Greenridge Contractors Incor-

porated, of Williamsport Maryland, was approved for the base bid amount of \$440,275.

Although the town has not worked with Greenridge before, their reference checks were all very positive, Humerick said.

The council provided unanimous support of the project.

Completion is anticipated for September in which there will be a "nice state of the art field that Thurmont has never had before," Humerick said.

Noting the field can potentially open the property for more projects, "I think this is a great start to get us on our way," Mayor John Kinnard said.

Financial services unite

Two of Thurmont's premier small businesses have joined forces to form one finance company. Vinores Financial Services, an independently owned and operated financial planning firm, has partnered with the financial advising team of Ed Gills. The new company will be using the Vinores name while utilizing the Gills location.

Gills, known widely throughout Thurmont and surrounding

towns, brings a great reputation of over thirty years of service and expertise operating as a financial advisor within the community.

The affiliation of Gills and his team with Vinores Financial Services, "will help to enhance our abilities to provide specialized knowledge, resources, and a multi advisor approach focusing on working with our clients to achieve their financial goals," Vinore said.

Gills has been working with the Vinores agency for insurance benefits for the past several years.

"Through the working relationship, the two entities learned a little more about each other's financial planning practice and client focus. The two agencies operate less than a mile apart and seemed like a perfect fit to work together especially as Ed looks for someone who can continue the client focused service

and planning that he has been committed to for so long in the Thurmont area," Vinores said.

"Vinore's brings a team of insurance advisors as well as financial planners that can offer expanded services and technologies that we can build on, [that are] based on the knowledge that Ed has accumulated from the many years in the industry," he said. A crucial aspect for the two financial entities was to maintain a business rooted in Thurmont and keep a local service to the cli-

ents and residents of the area.

The combined financial services now have a team of a Certified Financial Planner, a Wealth Management Specialist, Financial Services Representatives, and Insurance Advisors that can all work collectively with shared knowledge to provide a greater holistic approach to planning and financial management.

"Recognizing the unique needs and culture of the community of Thurmont was important for the financial planners to ensure a local presence and commitment to the town and the broad community we are centralized in," according to Vinores.

With the addition of Gills and his associates, the Vinores Financial Services team looks forward to expanding services and resources to provide an even better experience and knowledge base for all clients. More information about Vinores Financial Services can be found at vinoresfinancial.com.

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TANEYTOWN NEWS

Residents express concerns on Sewell farm annexation

At its June 1 meeting, Taneytown City council continued to hear public comments regarding the proposed Sewell property annexation at an open public comment meeting.

The majority of concerns addressed, by those who spoke, were the potential strain a new housing development planned for the Sewell property would put on existing water and sewer capacities, potential increased traffic congestion through town, and the transparency of the council's decision-making process.

Some residents referenced the Aquaphor, which supplies water for the town, when discussing their concerns about water supply for the town at large if additional homes are drawing of new houses.

"It seems fiscally irresponsible to annex the property first and promise through ordinances that you'll meet the water and sewer needs before figuring out . . . how much it will cost," said Jim Thomas. "The overdraw from a new community will have serious consequences in wells surrounding the annexed community."

Another resident referenced the effect additional houses could have on sewage treatment. Kenneth Ackert said his understanding was that Taneytown's sewage treatment plant is already "running at pretty much full access." He is concerned the town will have to add more sewage to the plant.

Additional traffic will compound what many consider to already be a traffic congestion problem within the town. Ed Grimes said the "overburden" will be "on the town and the people that live here."

A few commenters continued a thread from the last public comment period about the consideration that the council's public hearing and decision process are not transparent enough.

"The protocol of answering individual questions privately really effectively curtails any accountability," Thomas said. "These hearings, while they satisfy the letter of the law, are not effective at providing a meaningful forum for public feedback."

Gail Sands added, "I think the more transparency that can be

provided to our community, the more trust you will have from the community."

The attorney for the Sewell family, Clark Shaffer, countered that plans for future development have been on the town's master plan for years. "I personally have been up here five or six times for the last six or eight months at public meetings where this was discussed," he said.

The mayor and city council will discuss the annexation this month at its workshop meeting July 6 and anticipate a final vote at its business meeting July 11.

Council approves sewer improvement projects

The City Council approved the capital improvement plan that sets capital improvement projects through 2028.

Several months ago, discussion was held regarding potential savings related to current water and sewer rehabilitation projects. Using the unit cost for Inflow and Infiltration (I and I), water loss, and a deteriorated pipe factor, the department applied those numbers to other projects in the capital improvement program.

On the sewer side, the city would be looking at a total engineering projection of \$91,000 a year in reduced sewer processing

related to I and I.

City water projects include Roberts Mill Road and Broad Street, Fairground Avenue, and George, Middle, and West View Drive. Estimated water project savings are approximately \$70,600, he said.

The combined total would be approximately \$161,600 in projected savings by doing these projects, City Manager James Wieprecht said.

Meanwhile, Wieprecht told the City Council that the construction has been completed for the replacement portion of the Meadowbrook interceptor replacement.

The project is now merely awaiting the vegetation to come back into the point that the grading inspector will close out the grading permit and then that project segment will be complete, Wieprecht said.

The city is holding off on the lining portion of the Meadowbrook interceptor in order to include it with the other lining projects for Fiscal Year 2023, "in hopes that we'll get a lower rate per linear foot by bidding a larger amount to be done," he said.

So far, the public works department has already reported observations of decreased flows to the

York Street pumping Station just through this segment being done. "So I'm optimistic that these projects are going to do what we need them to," Wieprecht said.

A key component of the 'wild water' reduction program undergone by the city has been the upgrading of the Meadowbrook Interceptor, which runs from the Meadowbrook Development to the York Street Pump Station.

The Meadowbrook Interceptor was cleaned and televised in June 2020 and is to be rehabilitated by a combination of replacement segments and lining where possible.

Construction for the Micro-C Bulk Storage and the waste treatment plant's sludge dewatering upgrade have also both been delayed due to equipment and delivery delays, according to Town consultant, Brian Lubenow, environmental engineer, and project manager with CDM Smith.

By the Spring of 2022 Lubenow had said he hoped to identify additional inflow and 'wild water' reduction projects and will brief the town council on the potential reductions in 'wild water' flow, and in doing so, move the city closer to meeting mandatory wastewater runoff limits.

Harney VFW honors veterans

At the Monocacy Valley Memorial Post 6918, the Harney VFW recognized the true meaning of Memorial Day, not as the unofficial start to summer, but as a time to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Last year's tribute was at a much smaller scale due to concerns of the pandemic, and Harney VFW has been ready and highly anticipating the prospect of a more worthy celebration for fallen veterans, Chairperson Frank Rauschenberg said.

The memorial recognition kicked off as the Post Honor Guard visited two local cemeteries, the Mountain View Cemetery and Sunrise Cemetery for salutes and prayer services. On behalf of a grateful nation, the Harney VFW dedicatedly placed an American flag at each fallen veteran's headstone. Families and friends of fallen veterans were invited to participate in the services. Pastor Pete Naschke of Saint Paul's Lutheran Church provided prayer and benediction.

The Memorial Day observance ceremony welcomed First Sergeant William Rosier, (retired), a 36-year veteran of the Maryland Army National Guard and the Global War on Terrorism.

Rosier urged everyone to remember the true nature of Memorial Day and to keep the memory of more than five million souls lost to war throughout American history. "They all have

names, they all need to be remembered," Rosier said.

The Ladies Auxiliary read names, with an accompanying bell, of local fallen veterans that willingly laid down their lives for their great country and community. All veterans of the armed forces in attendance were then recognized.

Previous Post Commander Tom Nicholls performed the National Anthem as well as God Bless America on guitar. Post Commander Larry Harris along with the Young Marines laid wreaths at the Post's Memorial Wall. A 21-gun salute

by the Honor Guard along with Taps echoed through the county in remembrance of those willing to live and die for the United States of America.

The public was encouraged to attend the Memorial Day Observance as a somber day of reflection to honor those lost and ensure that no one will ever be forgotten.

More information about Harney VFW can be obtained by calling the Post at 410-756-6866 or Frank Rauschenberg at 240-367-6110 and its website at harneyvfwpost6918.org/index.htm.

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GOVERNMENT

Primary Endorsements

Michael Hillman, Editor

In the upcoming primary, the voters of northern Frederick County are faced with some very stark choices, some very enjoyable choices, and some very difficult choices when it comes to our representation in Annapolis, U.S. Congress, County government, and on the School Board. Given that most of the candidates in these primaries are running unopposed in their respective races, I am going to focus on candidates who are worthy of your vote in contested races.

The starkest of choices between any two candidates is in the Republican race for Governor: Kelly Schulz and Dan Cox. I have to admit, I'm biased: I have followed Kelly's career since she first submitted a candidate article to us when she was running for House of Delegates back in 2014. She won the race. It didn't take long for Governor Hogan to recognize her talent and select her as his Secretary of Labor and later, Secretary of Commerce.

To say that she has performed flawlessly in those positions would be an understatement. Her top priorities are to keep Maryland safe, steady, and prosperous. As a mother, she wants all Maryland children to grow and prosper, and knows that that starts with a world-class education. Her Parental Bill of Rights will empower parents and give every single child an opportunity to succeed. She will continue to fund schools at record levels while also providing parents and students with more choices.

Kelly will work seven days a week to make Maryland more affordable. Other candidates openly support new, massive government programs and more tax hikes. Kelly understands that this will do nothing to make Maryland more affordable.

On the other hand, I have zero idea what Dan Cox stands for other than advancing QAnon conspiracy theories.

In a heavily Democratic state, if the Republicans wish to hold onto the Governor's house, they need someone who will look out for the best interest of all Marylanders—and that person is Kelly Schulz. It should not go unnoticed – this is Dan Cox's home-

town newspaper. We believe Cox is unequivocally unqualified and we enthusiastically support Kelly Schulz to be our next governor.

In the Democratic primary for U.S. Congress, current U.S. Congressman David Trone is hands-down the best candidate. As a self-made millionaire, he is beholden to no special interests and has done a superb job representing the interests of his constituents in his district—which, thanks to redistricting, we are now part of. As a successful businessman, David has proven he knows how to spend tax dollars wisely.

In the Republican race for U.S. Congress, again, I have to admit I'm biased and come down strongly on the side of Colt Black. I've known Colt now for over 12 years, and a more decent, honorable human being is hard to find—from his active membership in the Thurmont Masons, to his dedication to his family and his devotion to the families he serves through his business. Colt has solid, logical positions on key items of importance to the residents of northern Frederick County. Take the time to research him.

I myself look forward to debates between Colt and David, where they will actually debate policy, not mudslinging, which we have grown so weary of.

Closer to home, the race to succeed Jan Gardner as County Executive is the most watched race in the county. Of the three candidates, Daryl Boffman is by far the most qualified to pick up where Jan will leave off, pressing forward to make Frederick County the best county in Maryland in which to live, work, and prosper. Daryl brings more than 25 years of executive and Board experience serving people across party lines—his only concern is what is best for Frederick County and its residents, regardless of political party affiliations. As a former executive of a nationally recognized wireless integration company, Daryl understands how to get things done, and more importantly, how to not waste money. If you're a Democrat, before you pull the lever for County Executive, research him—you'll not regret

having him as your choice.

Michael Blue should be everyone's choice in the Republican primary race for County Council District 5. Mike is a decent, honorable individual. He's one of the few politicians today who can be described as a statesman: his number one priority is serving us. He is superbly qualified and well-respected by everyone in County government for getting things done. As the Vice President of the Council, Mike is in the rare position of ensuring that the voices of the citizens of northern Frederick County are heard. I can't think of anyone more deserving to be re-elected than Michael Blue.

As for Mike's opponent, Mason Carter, let's be honest, all he has accomplished so far is to graduate from High school – and he accomplished that only a month ago! He's held no full time job, paid no property or business taxes, and if he has paid income taxes on a summer job, it would be a pittance compared to what Michael Blue has paid over his life as a successful local businessman. How Carter believes he is qualified to be a County Councilman is beyond me. He has nothing to offer – period, stop. Northern Frederick County deserves to be represented by an honorable man—we deserve Michael Blue.

In the race for House of Delegates, redistricting has placed northern Frederick County in a Washington County centered district. We find ourselves having to choose between one known Republican candidate – William "Will" Valentine – and three relative unknowns. Having known Will for years, I trust him implicitly to look out for our interests in Annapolis. Will is the type of guy who can and will work with everyone to ensure what comes out of Annapolis is best for everyone. He and I do not always see eye to eye on things, but I have never left a discussion with him not having thoroughly enjoyed myself – and that is a hard thing to come by today, so Will has my vote.

However, our district will be represented by two delegates. Those electing to vote for a second candidate may wish to consider William Wivell. While he resides in Washington County, Will Wivell has local roots in the Emmitsburg area and I believe he will also represent northern Frederick County well in Annapolis.



Colt Black, Republican candidate for U.S. Congress and Democratic County Executive candidate Daryl Boffman are by far the most qualified candidates in their respective primaries. Both will ensure that Frederick County is the best county in which to live, work, and prosper. They deserve your vote!



Board of Education primary

None of the primary races concern me as much as the School Board race. I fear we are about to be dragged down the verbal 'Rabbit Hole.'

We have two 'slates' and several independent candidates, the latter of which are all well qualified and running on logical platforms. I can't say the same for the so called 'slates.'

All I can say is to be very wary of the so-called "Education, Not Indoctrinate" slate: Olivia Angolia, Mark Joannides, Nancy Allen, and Cindy Rose. Their catch-phrase sounds great until you question. "What exactly do you intend to teach in school?" Let's just say, this group is against 'indoctrination': but 'indoctrination' with their ideas is just fine. They are all for teaching science, so

long as the science does not conflict with their religious views.

I found myself wondering what this 'slate' would do if they got control of the School Board. Would they mandate religious training? Of course, the religion would be of their choosing, not yours. The word 'theocracy' keeps coming to my mind when I think of them. I fear they would be more than happy to turn our public schools into the Christian equivalent of an Islamic Madrassa. This slate is bad news.

The other slate comprised of Heather Fletcher, Ashley Nieves, April Montgomery, and Tiffany Noble is not much better. Heather if you remember, is the candidate who appointed herself to remove books from her local library she did not approve of. So, she, not parents, is going to decide what kids get to read. I guess the books she and her slate don't like will be burned in public? That sounds sort of like 1930ish Nazi Germany to me. Parents don't need someone tell them what their children can and can't read – that's their own job.

On the other hand, we have some fine candidates running for School Board, such as Karen Yoho, Ysela Bravo, Rae Gallagher, and Dean Rose. They are the four candidates endorsed by the Frederick County Teachers Association. I concur with the recommendation of the Association.

We need to put the education of children first, not subject them to the ill thought-out whims of the political tribalism that is sweeping our country. We have a great school system in Frederick County – why mess with success?



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The last day to register to vote with Frederick County is August 26.

Registration applications can be obtained at the Town Office located at 300A South Seton Avenue Emmitsburg, Maryland or by visiting www.elections.maryland.gov.

Candidates must file written application for candidacy and their Financial Disclosures with the Town Clerk no later than August 26 at 4 p.m.

All candidates will be posted on the Town bulletin board in alphabetical order.

The write-in deadline is September 20 at noon.

Two commissioner seats are up for election.

For more information visit www.emmitsburgmd.gov or call the Town Office at 301-600-6300.

GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Councilman Michael Blue

Summer is officially here as we turn the page of our calendars to the month of July. I wanted to take this opportunity to provide a brief overview of information and upcoming events.

July 1st begins our new fiscal year 2023. This year's budget was \$792.1 million. I was quite pleased that I was able to lead in returning over \$7.5 million through a tax rebate to homeowners with homes valued at \$328,512 or

less. Additionally, I am quite pleased to report that we kept the property tax and local income tax at the same rate through my four years of serving on the Frederick County Council.

I have prided myself on being your open and responsive District 5 council member. I want everyone to know my office is accessible and willing to work for you. You can contact me at MBlue@FrederickCountyMD.gov

or by calling 301-600-1034.

Additionally, I wanted to include where to find information on our meeting schedule, the agendas, minutes, how to view, and how to participate in our council meetings.

Frederick County Council Meetings are held on Tuesdays beginning at 5:30 p.m. Council agenda and Meeting minutes can be found at www.frederickcountymd.gov/6511/Agendas-and-Minutes.

gov/6511/Agendas-and-Minutes.

You can watch council meeting live or recorded on Comcast Channel 19 or at Online at www.frederickcountymd.gov/1225/FCG-TV. To listen to council meetings on a phone, call 855-925-2801 and enter meeting code 8365, press 1. Of course you are always welcome to attend a meeting in person. Meetings are held in the First Floor Hearing Room at Winchester Hall.

The Frederick County 2022 Gubernatorial Primary Election will be on

Tuesday, July 19th. I want to encourage all Frederick County citizens to do research on the candidates and vote. It is very important to take this opportunity to stand up for the issues you care about. Early voting will be held from Thursday, July 7, through July 14. Early voting centers will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.. If you have not registered to vote, please do so as soon as possible.

It has been my honor and privilege to assist in providing you an effective, efficient, and companionate government.

Mayors . . .

Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird

Here we are in July already, time seems to fly by ever faster as we age! July is vacation time for many and the Thurmont Board of Commissioners is no exception. The BOC has only one meeting during the month of July; this year it will be on Tuesday, July 26th.

We just enjoyed the ambulance and fire Company carnivals, it was a fun filled week. I especially enjoyed the Thursday night parade! Having the parade sort of gave me a feeling that things are getting back to normal. Unfortunately, things are not back to normal as far as fundraising goes for the volunteers at the Guardian Hose Company and the Thurmont Community Ambulance Service. Both of these organizations depend on community support and the last two-year has had a negative impact on fund raising efforts. Please be sure to support both of our first response organizations by attending their events or by making a cash donation to help support their critical work in our community.

I am happy to announce that the new path connecting the skatepark and the all-access playground at the East End Park will be paved in the next month or so. The skatepark has seen several recent improvements including a new small pavilion over the picnic tables designed and built by town staff. There

is also new lighting at the skatepark, this was installed at no cost by G&S Electric. I want to thank G&S for this generous addition to the park. Town staff designed, excavated, and installed the base for the new walkway. As always our staff is up to the challenge when it comes to park improvements. Future work at East Park will include the replacement of the existing picnic pavilion.

The town is currently having engineering work done for two large projects, both of which will be completed using American Recovery Act funds. The first is a project to replace the water main and wastewater lines on North Church Street. This project is expected to cost almost three million dollars and will begin in the summer of 2023. The second project will be a connection between our low-pressure and high-pressure water systems. This will include a pumping station and associated water main lines on our Radio Lane property. This project will help resolve several maintenance issues and will provide increased water capacity on the high-pressure system. A third project will be getting underway within the year. This project will see the rebuilding of stormwater drains, and the repaving of Frederick Road from Water Street to Tippin Drive. This project will be completed in stages, with the storm drains and some water valve work being completed first.

I do not usually discuss politics, but the Primary Elections will be coming up on July 19th. Watch for voting information from the Board of Elections telling you when and where you can vote. Our right to vote for elected officials is something we should not take lightly, I encourage everyone to participate in the Primary Elections and in the General Elections on November 8th.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable July, and as always I can be contacted by email at jkinnaird@thurmont.com or by phone at 301-606-9458.

Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

Please take time to read the banners recently put up on town light posts for those relatives of ours who served our country. Really so proud of this town.

Congratulations to staff on putting together a spectacular proposal for "Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns" Award program. The town will receive \$121,400 for green infrastructure North Seton Avenue plan.

Congratulation to the Catocin Cougars boys track and field team on winning the IA State championship.

Commissioners Sweeney, O'Donnell, and Davis attended the Maryland Municipal League summer conference held annually in Ocean City, June 12-15. Commissioners Ritz, Burns and I did not attend this year.

I have engaged the Mount on many occasions over the eleven years I have served as mayor to establish a presence in our town, primarily the target area was the square. On June 6th, Msgr. Andrew Baker, Rector of Mount St. Mary's Seminary, announced the University is coming to Emmitsburg proper. The Mount "Has entered into a special relationship with the Daughters of Charity" to use the C-Wing of St. Joseph House complex (aka to most of us the "Basilica"). The wing will house

first year seminarians and be called the "Blessed Stanley Rother House" or colloquially, "Rother House" after the martyred former Mount seminary priest. Renovations of the wing will be done over the ensuing year for a scheduled opening August of 2023.

Hoping all enjoy the community pool on the hot days to come, the wonderful festivities and fireworks of Community Heritage Day, Saturday, June 25th. Thank you to town staff and all the volunteers for making the special day possible. Happy Fourth of July!

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FROM THE DESK OF CANDIDATE FOR ...

Daryl Boffman (D), County Executive

Frederick County is a great place to live, grow and prosper. Our residents deserve the best possible candidate to safeguard the great characteristics of our County, while preparing our businesses and residents to thrive and prosper in our global society. The County Executive should not be elected solely based on political attributes, but from a leadership perspective. The role of the County Executive is similar to that of a Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The County Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for building a team around a shared vision for the County. The top County Administrator will need to manage a team of professionals to serve all County residents in a manner that supports their pursuit of prosperity.

Frederick County is fairly evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans with a large Independent Party; therefore, our residents would be better served with a County Executive more willing to intently listen to and learn from multiple perspectives before finalizing decisions that will impact the County as a whole. Frederick County needs leadership that will bring the community closer together as a voice for positive change and progress.

Lowering taxes, reducing funding for education, and stopping growth will send Frederick County backwards. Frederick County Public Schools is ranked #24 out of 24 Counties in per pupil funding. Reducing education funding will result in poor quality education directly associated

with an inability to staff our schools with high quality educators, administrators, and support staff. Poorly performing schools are a deterrent to recruiting top businesses. A County that is not focused on strategic growth will experience a decrease in property value; thereby further reducing the County's tax revenue.

I will plan for strategic growth that will attract and retain targeted large and midsize corporations that will contribute to our tax revenue base. The new revenue will allow the County to finally address the many important needs such as school and infrastructure funding, while generating the ability to lower the tax burden on our residents. Frederick County will attract more top paying jobs so our residents will not have to travel to

jobs down 270 or across 70 to afford a home in Frederick County. We will have more funds to address the needs of our Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) residents as we provide more affordable housing and consolidated human support services. My plan will increase tax revenue to expedite the building and expansion of schools to reduce overcrowding and provide competitive salaries to our schools, public safety, and County staff to ensure we attract, retain, and promote the best and brightest people to serve our residents.

I am the only candidate for County Executive who has over 25 years of executive level experience. I have prepared mission and vision statements, S.M.A.R.T. goals, key performance indicators and personnel performance

evaluations and hired and trained a diverse staff of employees to fulfill various organizations' goals. I have negotiated contracts with Fortune 500 corporations and have served as vice president of finance where I managed budgeting activities.

Most importantly, I have served in legislative roles as a member of the Board of Education, Chamber of Commerce and Frederick Health Hospital. I understand and respect the difference between legislative and executive responsibilities and roles.

I am prepared to work together with the residents as one Frederick, united in pursuing prosperity for all. It starts with experienced leadership because experience matters in this key role that will shape the future of Frederick County for years to come. Please cast your vote for me, Daryl Boffman for County Executive.

Brad Young (D), County Council-At-Large

The campaign is starting to get rolling. The primary is coming up in about 3 weeks. There are only 2 candidates on the Democratic Ballot which are me and Renee Knapp so we are listed as unopposed as we both go on the general election ballot in November. You can still vote for us though on your ballot.

Recently, I was endorsed by the Career Firefighters Association of Frederick County Local 3666. I am

very honored to have their endorsement as First Responders are very important to me. I will work hard to support them in any way that I can. I will also say that in Frederick County, we are very blessed to have a great volunteer fire system as well and I will work hard to make sure they have the resources that they need. Frederick County is growing fast, and the county has had a hard time keeping up with the

growth and filling positions. Frederick County also has a rich history of strong volunteers and I pledge to work with both our paid and volunteer members to make sure that Frederick County has the coverage we need to keep us safe.

I also am a strong supporter of our police departments. I have several retired law enforcement officers in my family including my son-in-law and brother-in-law. You

cannot have a great community without having strong police and fire, ambulance, and rescue departments. We have so many great police officers leaving the field because of the negative coverage that happens when the few that are bad do stupid things. The majority of our officers are great people trying hard to keep us safe every day and we need to respect them and give them the support they need!

I would encourage our youth to consider law enforcement and fire-fighting as a career. I know both are in desperate need of good young people to join!

I have begun putting yard signs out and canvassing neighborhoods so look for me and if you would like a sign or contribute to the campaign, my website is www.brad-young.com. If you would like me to attend or speak at any events, you can contact me at FriendsOfBradYoung@yahoo.com.

Nate Wilson (R), Register of Wills

As the next Register of Wills for Frederick County it is my intent to serve by the principals of integrity, compassion and stewardship of service to all citizens of Frederick County.

In our current culture we disassociate ourselves with death. A century ago we would celebrate in cemeteries. Our "living rooms" were called parlors, and families would hold viewings in the parlor of deceased family members. To disassociate ourselves from death we now call it a living room.

For this reason, unfortunately the

Register of Wills and the Orphan's Court with which it so closely works seem to be the offices you don't know until you need them, or see them on the ballot. Sadly, every year approximately 1,700 Frederick County families or more need the Register's Office. During some of the worst times that families may go through when losing a loved one, the last concern they should have is their interactions with the Register of Wills Office. One of the first implementations I will make should I be elected is to make it a requirement

that the family of each decedent WILL see the Register as part of their interaction with the Office so as to voice concern or ask questions.

The Register of Wills Office most notably, serves as clerk to the Orphan's Court, collects and manages tax accounts and also registers and keeps safe the wills of Frederick County Citizens amongst many other duties. It is little known that in the vacancy of a Register the Orphan's Court actually appoints the replacement until the next election.

In 2017 I was honored to be appointed as a Judge of the Orphan's Court for Frederick County by the Governor. The following year I was designated as Chief Judge of the Orphan's Court. This service was the most humbling and fulfilling experience of my life.

My family's farm was involved in an 8 year probate process some time back; this left a deep impact on me while at the same time I was just beginning a career in judicial security. The future of our "bicentennial" farm was at stake and this left the question of whether it would be sustainable for the newest of

the 11 generations of our family. The serious impacts on families and loved ones after death are not lost on me and this understanding only adds to my desire to serve in this capacity.

I ask to be your candidate for Register of Wills. I have the experience of leadership and management, the compassion for life and understand the stress involved in making life changing decisions and the events that can occur as we lose our loved ones. But most of all the desire to serve and continue the excellent service of the office of the Register of Wills.



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BY AUTHORITY OF WILLIE WRIGHT, TREASURER

FROM THE DESK OF CANDIDATE FOR ...

Renee Knapp (D), County Council-At-Large

Over the last several months I have shared my vision for how we can keep Frederick County moving forward for the next four years and beyond. We are nearing the end of the county's first two terms of charter government, and the end of County Executive Jan Gardner's term in office.

Despite the tragic loss of life, the economic hardship, and the constant stress that too many county residents had to endure because of the COVID-19 pandemic, I'm optimistic about Frederick County's future for several reasons.

The county is in a fiscally sound and financially responsible position that must be preserved. Attaining and maintaining a AAA bond rating from all three rating agencies requires fiscal discipline and a comprehensive strategic vision from the County Executive and the County Council. We need this high-quality bond rating to help finance large scale capital improvement projects like school construction and transportation upgrades. As your Council Member and steward of the taxpayers, I will be an adamant voice for doing what is

necessary to preserve Frederick County's long term financial stability.

Significant Internet expansion is coming to Frederick County. Expansion of broadband infrastructure and Wi-Fi capability are key to moving the county forward in the areas of local economic growth, competitive public education, and long needed transportation solutions. Amending the County Code to include critical data infrastructure as a new industrial use was an important first step towards the development of public/private partnerships for broad-

band expansion. Internet access has become crucial for success in education and business, and I will support efforts to expand and fortify this essential service in Frederick County.

As we move beyond the pandemic, Frederick County is making continuing wise investments in our public school system. Funding has been allocated to improve compensation for our teachers, administrators, and school support staff, so that our county can attract and retain talented educators. I support continuing to fund Frederick

County Public Schools (FCPS) above what is the minimum amount required by law. This will allow us to expand much needed and often requested education in the skilled trades, and to deliver a rigorous and competitive program for college preparation.

These are just some of the reasons why I'm optimistic about the county's future, and why I'm confident we can meet future challenges. I ask for your vote for Frederick County Council At-Large on July 19th.

To learn more about my campaign to get involved, please visit www.knapp4countycouncil.com.

Julianna Lufkin (D), County Council District 5

When I was a little girl, Independence Day was always my favorite holiday. Every year, I'd celebrate by rewatching my favorite musical, 1776, and then my family would read the Declaration of Independence aloud. We'd have a conversation about how fortunate we are, to live in a country that was created generations ago, so that we had the ability to choose everything about our lives. As I grew older, these conversations expanded to include the darker side of our history; the fact that "our" land shouldn't have been ours in the first place, and that so much of our modern lives were made possible by the enslavement and

exploitation of people of color, indigenous Americans, and women.

We talked about the "invisible labor" that the wives, families, and enslaved people did so that the Second Continental Congress was able to meet and create this country for us. We read the letters between Abigail and John Adams, where she asks him to remember the ladies, and to be "more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors," while planning rights for all, and he replies "I cannot but laugh, you are so saucy."

I grew up thinking of America like a beloved member of my family; it was mine, right or wrong. If I saw an injus-

tice, or disagreed with something, it was my duty to stand up and try to fix it, much as our Founding Fathers had done. I am an outspoken advocate for the causes I care about, and am always willing to reexamine my views and beliefs. I disagree with the stances elected representatives in our district have taken in the past, and believe that my compassion and dedication make me the perfect candidate for this election cycle.

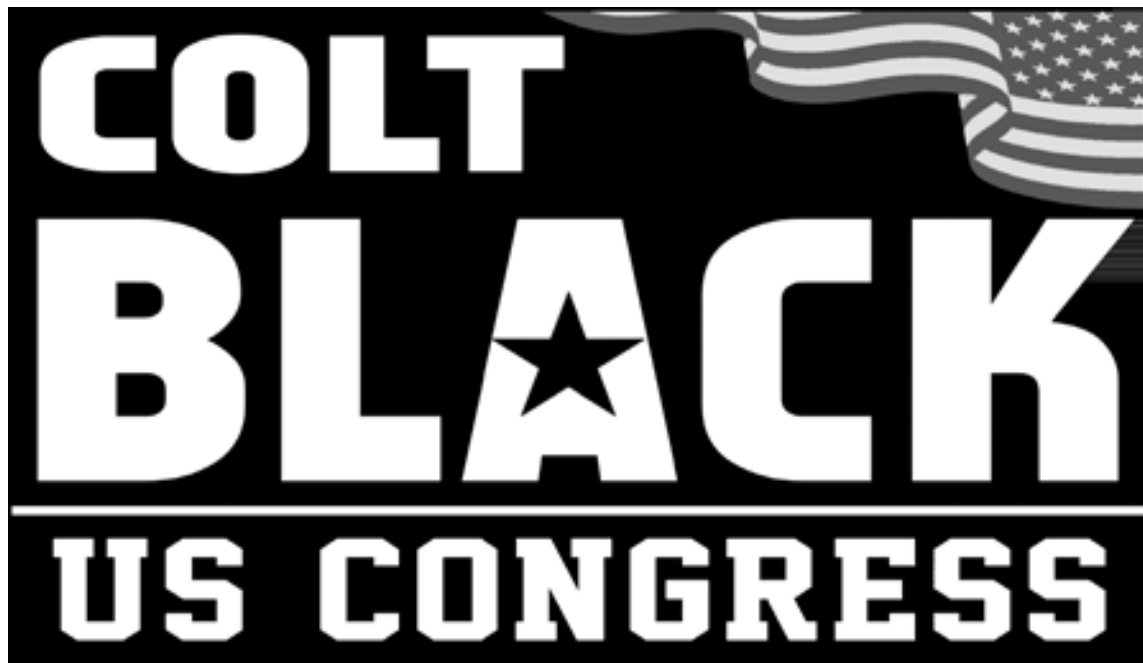
In theory, the two-party system exists to balance each other; the liberal side looks towards the future, working quickly towards new ideas and innovation, while the conservative side looks at history, finding what has and hasn't worked in

the past, urging moderation and consideration. While my views are liberal, I pride myself on my ability to consider our history as well as our past, and to work quickly yet with care towards solutions that will improve our lives, and the lives of generations to come.

For registered Democrats here in District 5, my name will be the only name on your ballot under the

"County Council District 5" heading. For Republicans, Independents, unaffiliated folks, and all other parties, you won't see my name on your ballot until November, at which time it will appear along with the winner of the Republican primary.

You can find more information about me and my platform at my website; Linktr.ee/Lufkin.Listens.



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LUFKIN
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- Hardworking
- Compassionate
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By Authority of Martin Gross, Treasurer



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DISTRICT 5**

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I ask for your vote July 19th

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Paid for by Citizens for Michael Blue for County Council, Maryann Fox, Treasurer

FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

The Covered Device Recycling event was held at the Freedom Township municipality building parking lot on May 14th. The traffic flow was, as in previous events, evenly spaced. Fifty-eight vehicles dropped off allowable electronic devices. Most people had at least one television. There were also computers, monitors, keyboards, stereos, DVD players, radios, etc. A few microwaves, a heater, and some batteries were turned away. One 30-yard container was filled. There have been two or three 20-yard containers in the past, with only two being needed in the more recent years. Thanks to all who participated. E-Recycling prevents these items from showing up in a landfill or alongside a trail in Carroll Valley. The Carroll Valley Yard Sale was held on Saturday, June 4th, under sunny skies. There were 18 vendors for residents to look for deals. Amanda Bell and Gayle Marthers were involved in working on arranging spaces for the vendors. Tim Skoczen, chairperson of the Carroll Valley Recreation Committee, and Crystal Durbin, also from the committee, managed the event.

On June 21st, summer began. It's a time to relax and enjoy our natural environment. We are surrounded by

the aesthetics and natural beauty of Carroll Valley's country scenery and wildlife. But we need to be aware that the summer months represent a time when the cases of Lyme disease increase. Why? The reason is that we spend more time outdoors enjoying where we live. Last year, Pennsylvania had the second-highest rate of Lyme disease infections, following Vermont. Lyme disease is an infection caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*. It is carried to people from a bite from a black-legged or deer tick. The disease affects different body systems, such as the nervous system, joints, skin, and heart.

Early symptoms may include headache, fever, fatigue, and a characteristic circular skin rash. It is treatable. Some of the things you should consider when you are out and about are stay out of tall grass and un-cleared areas of the forest floor; don't roll in a pile of leaves, check daily for ticks; and if you plan to use insect repellent, be sure to review the safety information on the label. Many websites provide information on Lyme disease. One site you may want to visit is www.lyme-disease.org. By the way, dogs and cats can get Lyme disease. Discuss the best Lyme prevention products

with your veterinarian. Dogs may be vaccinated for Lyme disease.

This month we celebrate the most memorable day in the history of the United States, the 4th of July. On July 4th, 1776, Continental Congress adopted the formal statement called the Declaration of Independence. This historical, legal statement of independence was drafted by a committee of five appointed by the Continental Congress. One of the committee members, John Adams, writing to his wife, said this day will be celebrated in the future of the country "as a great anniversary festival." Well, living up to the words of John Adams, the Borough of Carroll Valley is planning to bring back last year's "The Reagan Years" band. So, bring your family, your friends, and your neighbors. Pack your picnic basket or stop by one of the food trucks. The venue is all grass seating, so bring chairs or blankets and save a little room around you to dance! Speaking about dancing, since last year, the Borough has constructed a dance floor in front of the outdoor stage for you to show off your moves and enjoy the music. The band will start at 6:30 p.m., and the fireworks will go off at 9:45 p.m.

Heat Advisors are issued during

July and August. We need to pay attention to these heat advisories. It would be best if you understood the difference between an "Excessive Heat Warning" and a "Heat Advisory." Excessive Heat Warning means "the Heat Index values are forecast to meet or exceed locally defined warning criteria for a least two days (daytime highs = 105° – 110° Fahrenheit)." A Heat Advisory means the "Heat Index is forecast to meet locally defined advisory criteria for 1 to 2 days (daytime highs = 100° – 105° Fahrenheit)". During a heat wave, you should listen to the updates from the National Weather Service. Stay hydrated by drinking fluids. Avoid drinks with caffeine or alcohol. Use the buddy system when working in excessive heat and take frequent breaks if you must work outdoors. Check on your animals frequently to ensure they are not suffering from the heat.

Please discuss heat safety precautions with members of your household. Enjoy the summer and keep safe. The Movie in the Park film, "Boss Baby – Family Business", will be shown on Friday, July 15th. In this series episode, the adult brothers must work through their differences to defeat a new villain. The film emphasizes the value of family, teamwork, and communication. The movie starts at 7:30 p.m. Bring

your blankets and chairs.

You should be aware that 988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code to route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. While some areas may be able to connect to the Lifeline by dialing 988, this dialing code will be available to everyone across the United States starting on July 16, 2022. When people call, text, or chat 988, they will be connected to trained counselors that are part of the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network. These trained counselors will listen, understand how their problems affect them, provide support, and connect them to appropriate resources. The current Lifeline phone number (800-273-8255) will always remain available to people in emotional distress or suicidal crisis, even after 988 is launched on July 16th. Lifeline's network of over 180 crisis centers has been operating since 2005 and has proven effective. The counselors at these local crisis centers answer Lifeline's contacts daily. Numerous studies have shown that callers feel less suicidal, less depressed, less overwhelmed, and more hopeful after speaking with a Lifeline counselor.

If you have any questions, contact me at 301-606-2021 or email at MayorRonHarris@comcast.net. Enjoy your summer.

Liberty Supervisor Walter Barlow

First, I would like to thank Mike Hillman for his continued offer of publishing our monthly newsletter in this publication to keep our residents and the surrounding community informed of activities in Liberty Township. We are very fortunate to have a local paper that is willing to offer this service at no cost.

A big thank you to Dan Rumbaugh from East Trail Automotive for providing same day service for brake repairs on one of our police cars recently. At the time of the request, our other police unit was in the shop for maintenance. Danny's quick response allowed us to limit our down time to a few hours. Both cars are

now back in service. New Enterprise began work on McGlaughlin Road on June 10. Inclement weather interrupted the project, and they are now scheduled to complete the project by the end of June. Work has begun on the Old Waynesboro Road Bridge project. We have cleared out the excess vegetation in the area sur-

rounding the bridge and expect to work on the repairs throughout the summer.

The Township received a report from LTAP on the site distance, and all areas of concern have been addressed. Vegetation was causing a site distance issue on Bullfrog Road near Stoops Road. We would like to thank property owner Ken Farabaugh for helping us address that issue and assisting with the removal of the bush. Harrington's request for placing signs on PA Route 16 to give notice of restricted truck traffic on Orchard Road was approved by PennDOT and the township has purchased and installed the signs. I attended an 811 safety convention in York on June 16th which was very informative. It is imperative that you are getting for the correct information from utility providers and ensure that you are doing things correctly and safely.

At the June Board of Supervisors' meeting, Liberty Township approved the proposed changes

to the fire box maps. Adams County is in the process of transitioning to Next Generation 911 (NG-911) and as part of the transition, they are updating the fire box maps for accurately reflect coverage areas. The previous system used a buffer from the centerline of the road, which resulted in properties being split within multiple fire box response areas. Since last month's request, several property owners have responded to consider giving permission for their pond to be used as a source of water for the fire suppression by the area fire departments. If you have a pond and would be interested in participating in this project, please contact the township.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as Township Supervisor. Please feel free to give me your suggestions on how to better govern our township. I am always willing to listen. Have a safe and Happy 4th of July.

Thurmont Community Ambulance Service

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YEAH!

Friday Night

YEAH!

BINGO

Bring your Friends & Family
for a fun filled night

Doors Open @ 5 p.m. - Bingo starts @ 6:45 p.m.

Fredrick County Health Dept. & CDC Guidelines Will Be Followed

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Randy Phiel

We are gratified to report that the May 25 Primary Election turnout was very high at 39% when compared to a typical average of 25% for the primary. The Adams County election re-count for the PA Senate race between McCormick & Oz began on Wednesday, June 1 at 10 AM and was completed at 4:30PM by Adams County elections staff. The election staff was assisted by IT and the Commissioner's Office. The 16,902 Republican ballots were run through different scanners then they were originally tabulated on as required by statute. Provisional ballots and ballots the scanners kicked out for various reasons were reviewed by the Election Board for determination. At conclusion the process again validated elections in Adams County are both accurate and secure!

Administering elections is the responsibility of Pennsylvania counties governed by legislative statute. Most of you are aware that in the past several years the entire election process has become significantly more difficult and laborious. Mail-in ballots have greatly increased preparation time, overall election costs, need for additional resources, and material cost for counties. Pennsylvania County Commissioners continually and consistently ask the Pennsylvania Legislature to allow pre-canvass of mail-in ballots to get them ready for the scanners, and to make the voter registration deadline and mail-in request dead-line synonymous. It has not happened! The irony is that the legislature profoundly agrees with these two simple requests; but they are deadlocked into no action because of polarization on election issues in general.

Although the effort put forth by the Adams County Elections Staff deserves special recognition, we again applaud the Teamwork displayed by county staff and numerous other Adams County Departments and individuals that is now required to administer efficient elections. The world of election administration changed dramatically in the past two years, forcing significant adaptation, and we remain very proud of our

election process in Adams County!

On June 2, Governor Wolf, as well as the Adams County Commissioners, attended two unique events that will hopefully have a very positive impact on Adams County. Outside the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center, America250PA, the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial, relaunched efforts to commemorate the milestone anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. Established by the state legislature and the Governor in 2018, America250PA was created to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. and the state's integral role. Each county was charged by the state commission, with forming a county commission and facilitating committees and events in their respective county. Adams County Manager Steve Nevada serves as the Adams County advisory committee member to the state commission. In Adams County, five committees have been created, made up of numerous community organizations, focusing on Events, Fundraising, Marketing, Civic Engagement, and County Heritage efforts. The County is attempting to make this an all-inclusive event for all areas of the County to engage, get involved, and showcase their history and heritage.

The AmericaPA250 event was followed by Adams County Historical Society Director Andrew Dalton giving the Governor, Adams County Commissioners, and other local officials an on-site tour of the partially completed Adams County Historical Society Museum & Curatorial facility. The facility promises to be a wonderful addition to Adams County historic resource preservation, historic education, and will offer Adams County's rich history to our youth. The second level of the complex features a large 200 person events center available for rental with a stunning view of Barlow's Knoll. Both Adams County and the State of Pennsylvania provided funds toward the project. The original fundraising

goal was \$5M. With increasing interest and surprising momentum, the newly established goal of \$10M is within reach. We are extremely excited for this new addition to our community!

Efficient broadband is critical for education, economic development, and quality of life. In areas like upper and western Adams County, students have issues working from home due to lack of service. With recent Federal, State and County emphasis on broadband, partially precipitated by COVID, Adams County is in the process of forming a Broadband Task Force for this new push and is reviewing proposals for a feasibility study that will make determinations on needs and technology for Adams County. We have partnered with Franklin County to maximize efficiency and reduce cost. Right now, nothing beats hard fiber - but with satellite technology constancy improving, it will be interesting to evaluate the findings. A major stumbling block to this point is that providers require a higher population density to run fiber.

The 2022 Block Grant Application Period is open! The Adams County Department of Planning is pleased to invite applications from all County municipalities, community non-profits, and other organizations serving residents of Adams County for the 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). In order to meet CDBG project requirements, projects must meet one of the CDBG objectives for residents of Adams County. Historically, the County has been allocated approximately \$300,000 for each CDBG program year. The exact amount of County's CDBG allocation will be announced by the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development later this year. Applications to the Adams County Office of Planning and Development are due by Friday,

August 19th. If you are considering applying for funding, please contact the Adams County Office of Planning and Development at 717-337-9824 any potential projects.

Adams County recently received two Historical Architecture Review Board Awards. On May 18, 2022, the Gettysburg's Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) recognized Adams County with a certificate of merit in the restoration category for work completed on the Adams County Historic Courthouse roof and belltower. The County was also recognized as an honorable mention in the category of new commercial construction for work at Mercy House (45 W High Street). HARB commended Adams County for the County's work to protect the architectural and historical character that makes Gettysburg a unique place. Special thanks go out to Larry Steinour, Director of Build-

ing and Maintenance, for his diligent work on this project.

The Adams County Community should be aware that 988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. While some areas may be currently able to connect to the Lifeline by dialing 988, this dialing code will be available to everyone across the United States starting on July 16. When people call, text, or chat 988, they will be connected to trained counselors that are part of the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network. The current Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will always remain available to people in emotional distress or suicidal crisis, even after 988 is launched on July 16.

No matter what you do - get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer.

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CornFest
Sunday, July 24th
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Rain or Shine
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8 Miles West of Gettysburg (towards Arendtsville)



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5 Deer Tr., Carroll Valley, PA
Very nice lot, close to Carroll Valley Golf Course & Liberty Mt. Resort. Years ago this lot failed perc test. Chance buyers could do another perc test.....**\$7,000**

11 Sidetrack Tr., Carroll Valley, PA
Two building lots, 1 ac. each, lovely setting, wooded hillside, creek, touches golf course. Walking distance to resort & ski slopes. Owner financing available.....**\$64,900**

4 Fernwood Tr., Carroll Valley, PA
0.86 ac., perc appr. lot for a Drip Irrigation Septic System, walking distance to ski resort, & golf course. Heavily wooded with mature trees. 12 mi. from Gettysburg.....**\$27,900**

4 Fir Tr., Carroll Valley, PA
Nice 0.79 ac. lot perc appr., for elevated sandmound septic system. Property wooded & sloped. Close to ski & gold resort. Only 12 mi. from historic Gettysburg.....**\$12,000**

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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

Guns and politics

Shannon Bohrer

I was having a conversation with an acquaintance about the war in Ukraine when my friend commented about the weapons that the average Ukrainian citizen is using to fight the Russians. The weapons he was referring to are the assault rifles, which he believed have been instrumental in Ukraine's defense. He related Ukraine's assault weapons to our second amendment, implying that we need the second amendment, in case we are attacked. I responded that the Ukrainian citizens were using weapons to defend their country. Yet, some of our fellow citizens in this country want to use assault weapons to overthrow our government.

I do not believe he expected my response. In a survey from 2018, "43 percent of Republicans, 29 percent of Independents and 20 percent of Democrats could imagine supporting a military coup in the U.S." The same survey said, "only 29 percent of Americans would support a military takeover, and 41 percent oppose it." Today, many believe the numbers for support - could be higher.

If you believe that you should overthrow a government, then it seems logical that you need an assault weapon. Adding to this issue is a segment of society with an affinity for assault weapons. The attraction to these weapons has manifested itself into a subculture that has a strong belief that citizens

should be able to own any gun. This includes the idea that we should not have any regulations or even background checks when purchasing a firearm. Thankfully, the segment of society that espouses these beliefs are a minority of our population. Conversely, most people, including most gun owners, favor background checks and sensible regulations on weapon ownership. I count myself as a responsible gun owner.

The arguments for and against gun regulations were recently front and center with the school shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. When young children are victims of a mass shooting with assault weapons, the death toll and injuries shock our consciousness, and we question what can be done. One side wants to enhance the school defenses and as expected, offer up mental illness as the cause, and even arm the teachers. The other side wants more regulations, background checks for every gun sale, banning of assault weapon and raising the age limits to purchase weapons.

Mass shootings happen so frequently that it often seems like a repeated scene in a movie. This year we have experienced 233 mass shootings - when this article was written.¹ The effects on the victims, survivors, and relatives are heightened each time another shoot-

¹ The Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act of 2012, signed into law in January 2013, defines a mass killing as one resulting in at least three victims, excluding the perpetrator.

ing occurs. When the shootings occur, both sides dig in and defend their positions, and nothing changes.

The argument for additional regulations is legal and does not affect anyone's right to own a gun, so it is possible to do something. The current law on the second amendment was decided in 2008 with the Heller case. At that time, the Supreme Court said that there is an individual constitutional right to have a handgun in one's home for self-protection. The court also noted that the entity (the governing body) has a right to create regulations concerning firearms.

Part of the majority opinion reads, "Like most rights, the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited...". It is "...not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose." "Nothing in our opinion should be taken to cast doubt on longstanding prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms." "We also recognize another important limitation on the right to keep and carry arms. We think that limitation is fairly supported by the historical tradition of prohibiting the carrying of 'dangerous and unusual weapons.'"

Justice Antonin Scalia wrote the majority opinion for the court in the Heller case. That case is the current

law, so when people say that any rules or regulations are an infringement on their rights - they are not telling the truth; they are lying. Legally, if we wanted to ban dangerous weapons, we could. How many dangerous weapons do Americans own? The answer is we do not know. Several years ago, at a gun buy back in California, "two rocket propelled grenade launchers," were turned in.

When assault weapons were banned (1994 to 2004), active shooter incidents decreased, so we know that banning assault weapons worked. We know that states that have since banned assault weapons, and enacted red-flag laws, have witnessed reductions in shootings. A common argument that guns don't kill seems shallow when you consider that we have close to 4 million guns in private hands. We have less than 5 percent of the world population and over half the weapons that are privately owned. We are awash in guns, with few regulations and controls, which contributes to the fact that active shooter incidents occur more here than any other developed country.

For many years we were told that Israel is an example where everyone carries a gun, and that made them safer. That was also a lie. Israel has a list of requirements to just obtain a license to purchase a firearm. "You need a note from your doctor assuring you are in sound physical and mental health. You can't have a criminal record. You must take a written and practical gun safety test... About 40% of requests for gun ownership are rejected." Applying for a license for general self-defense is not considered a sufficient reason to issue

a permit. Obtaining a license can take up to 60 days, and it must be renewed every three years. Could we adopt similar regulations?

With the current law (the Heller case), if we had the will, we could ban all assault weapons. We could create licensing requirements and even include mental health testing. I do believe that if we required mental health testing, some congresspersons would be prohibited from buying a gun.

Currently, the U.S. Supreme Court is considering a case on gun rights. The case before the court questions New York's law on issuing concealed carry permits. New York is one of many states that require a need for a concealed carry permit, meaning the applicant must demonstrate a "Special need for self-protection." The decision will be made before this article is published.

It is possible that the Supreme Court will expand gun rights and give the citizen the right to carry without any requirement to demonstrate a need. If that does occur, our mass shootings are expected to increase. If the Supreme Court sides with the state, keeping the requirement to demonstrate a need, mass shootings will also increase. I believe this because of a mental illness syndrome of too many politicians - that they value their re-election over the lives of school children.

"Tolerance and apathy are the last virtues of a dying society."
—Aristotle

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

Tumbleweeds

Courage of convictions: an American relic?

Mark Greathouse

Recall the phrase "have the courage of your convictions?" Whether individuals or businesses or governments, courage mostly seems to ring hollow these days and convictions are about as morally shallow as they can get. The very idea of having the mental or moral strength to persevere and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty has become anathema to far too many folks. Seems we have an ever-smaller number of citizens with the moxie to muster even a shred of courage much less hold high moral convictions, as we are inundated with movements like woke culture and a host of "isms" targeted at dividing and breaking down our society. Has courage of convictions become a relic of our nation's past?

As a published author of western genre fiction, I necessarily immerse myself in the history of America's old west. In my research, I came upon a thought-provoking question by my poet/novelist cousin Mary Maude Dunn Wright (pseud. Lilith Lorraine). In writing the preface to her father "Red John" Dunn's autobiography back in 1932, she boldly asked, "Not in the spirit of judging their actions by artificial standards which in their day had no existence, but by asking ourselves if we were in their places, should we have acquit-

ted ourselves as well, and by putting to ourselves the still more potent question: how well have we kept the birthright that they have given us, how well have we safeguarded the liberties that they purchased through untold privations, how courageously are we meeting the problems that confront us today; in short when we stand before the tribunal of remote posterity, to whom shall the laurel be awarded?" Courage? Convictions?

Many say that the incredible durability of the western novel is owed largely to the frontier mystique that's wired into our American DNA. It's at least partly because westerns dish up thrills, action, and adventure in a way that entertains while tapping directly into America's foundational psyche. It's a petri dish of courage of convictions. There's truly no other genre that reflects the determination, courage, morality, and adventure so well. Westerns offer a magnifying glass through which to view America's heritage of courage and strong faith-based convictions. They trace our nation's shifting self-image from economic booms to crashes, morality to depravity, faith to hopelessness, but invariably to roots nurtured in rugged individualism and accompanying freedom.

The old west represents the brave pioneering spirit and the courage

of convictions of settlers that met the challenges and transcended mere survival to enable America to achieve exceptional growth. The settling of the American west is replete with tales of leveraging the courage of making free choices for individual achievement. Thus, it seems fair to say that reliving our past often has the effect of pointing the way to an ever-brighter future. Might we be up to it?

What about courage in business? Are there corporate leaders today up to that elusive courage of convictions? Can we rely upon Mickey Mouse to deliver morally courageous messages given Disney's knuckling under to the woke crowd? What sort of convictions did Coca Cola show over the Georgia voting rights act? What are the convictions of Meta's Mark Zuckerberg? How about Amazon's Jeff Bezos? Do they meet the high bar of courage? How do their convictions stack up in terms of moral strength and upon what are they based? Seems that we have a pandemic of corporate cowardice that gains function with each new hate-filled woke aberration. By comparison, the corporate barons of the old west like railroad and fur tycoon John Jacob Astor could hardly be placed on any moral high ground. The convictions of the unscrupulous Jay Gould of gold and railroad notoriety were hardly lily pure. Whom do we point to as holding the moral high ground?

Alas, there seems to be less a dearth of courage in America than a lack of convictions based upon high moral standards. For decades we've endured the uprooting of our nation's core virtues. There's been a fundamental erosion of respect evidenced in cancel culture and the cow-towing of spineless corporate executives to their ill-conceived threats. Do we hold out some level of hope with the likes of Elon Musk controlling Twitter? What are his convictions rooted in?

The courage of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and their contemporaries linger in the mists of our memory. They were not moral paragons, yet by their example we hold high but mostly unfulfilled expectations of our nation's business and government leaders.

From its beginnings, the United States has been rooted in the fundamental concept of freedom, especially freedom of opportunity. Freedom is essential to maintaining high moral convictions. We desperately need courageous leaders with those high moral convictions and the backbone to fight to preserve our freedoms. The lack of convictions of corporate America runs far deeper than boycotts or Congressional hearings might resolve. The raising of the moral and ethical bar underlying our nation begins with individual citizens evincing pride in our nation's exceptionalism. It must encompass families, communities, education, media, corpora-

tions, and governments. Theodore Roosevelt once said, "To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society." Folks must stand strong for the founding principles that enabled us to build a powerful nation over the past 240 years. Can such moral resolve of convictions among the citizens comprising our families and communities well up to capture the leaders of corporations and thence to government? Will it thus provide the strength to ward off woke aberrations and recapture the sort of courage of convictions rooted in the Godly morality upon which America was founded? Only when these questions are resolved will we salvage American courage from the ignominious amoral fate of becoming a relic of the past.

Meanwhile...M-I-C-K-E-Y M-O-U...Stop! Our nation's future is at stake. Whether individual or business, we must strive for the courage of strong Godly moral convictions. By being exemplars of our own courage of such virtuous convictions; only then can we hold business and government accountable to the high standards we should expect and by which America will endure. How might we answer Lilith Lorraine's question? Courage of convictions must not become an American relic. Carpe diem indeed.

To read past editions of Tumbleweeds, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Country First

America could use a few fireside chats

David Marshall

The former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright once wrote, “The temptation is powerful to close our eyes and wait for the worst to pass, but history tells that for freedom to survive, it must be defended, and that if lies are to stop, they must be exposed. Therefore, it is not surprising that the majority of those who had testified to date before the Jan. 6th House Select Committee are not Democrats, but Republicans. While they are mostly Republicans who held key positions in former President Trump’s campaign or administration, it takes the notion away that the public hearings are part of a partisan witch-hunt.

Piece by piece the testimonies given before the American people is solidly exposing the lies. Sen. Tim Scott from South Carolina was asked if he had been watching the hearings. “I have not watched the January 6 hearings,” Scott said, “I was actually in the Senate when it happened. So I don’t need an education on what actually happened.” He continued by putting down the hearings as simply a “made for TV” event aimed more at “diverting the public’s attention and less to do with finding the truth.” Nowhere in Sen. Scott’s response did he mention the responsibility of Congress in holding all those involved

accountable. This would include members of Congress along with members of the former president’s administration and campaign.

The January 6 insurrection was not simply a “dust-up at the Capitol”, but rather a deadly domestic attack on a sacred symbol of American democracy where members inside were proceeding with the lawful transfer of presidential power. Unfortunately for the nation, the senator is not alone in his way of thinking. Many people strongly feel they too “don’t need an education” and are downplaying the attack out of fear or loyalty to the former president. Since Senator Scott used the word education, maybe teaching is part of the solution in defending democracy and opening closed eyes.

But the most effective teaching should come from the top. David Gergen was a former White House advisor who served four sitting presidents – Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton. Gergen said, “The role of the leader is to be a teacher.” He also cited former President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s belief that moral leadership is “all about the President making choices and trying to bring people along on difficult issues.”

Roosevelt was both highly respected and highly criticized. While credited with helping the nation through the Great Depression and for providing strong military leadership during World War II, he had many political detractors who opposed his

excessive presidential control. He would often clash with conservatives who disagreed with the growing federal government and national debt. While conservatives were not in favor of his regulations on businesses and his support for labor unions, others were disappointed that Roosevelt was not deeply supportive of civil rights or women’s rights.

Regardless of whether you view him as hero or villain, his leadership skills were unmatched as to how he connected with everyday people. When Roosevelt took office, nearly a third of the nation’s workers were unemployed, a large number of banks and businesses went under and the national income was slashed in half. The nation was literally in fear of an unknown future. During the depression, Roosevelt believed in keeping the people whom he served fully informed. He developed a habit of communicating directly with the public by way of evening radio addresses (fireside chats). It was an opportunity to subdue rumors while using the simplest language to explain complex reasons behind the social changes being proposed. In other words, he was a teacher to the American people.

The political climate was much different in the 1930’s where eventually conservatives accepted the truth from a liberal president. Therefore, his calming manner of communicating was effective in lifting up the public’s confidence and understanding despite the overall differences in political ideology. He was the only man



elected U.S. president four times.

Today our nation again faces an unknown future. For Roosevelt, it was an economic Depression, today it is the unknown future of American democracy. About a third of the way through the 2022 primaries, voters have nominated over 100 Republican candidates for state and federal offices who supported Donald Trump’s false fraud claims by saying the 2020 election was rigged. Despite the shocking details being revealed during the Jan. 6 hearings, election-denying candidates are still ignoring the truth.

People in the nation are fearful that the unsuccessful attempts to overthrow the presidential election in 2020 may not be stopped in 2024 due to this year’s midterm elections and the wave of election-denying candidates. Many of these candidates will hold positions with the power to interfere in the outcomes of future contests

– to block the certification of election results, to change the rules around the awarding of their states electoral votes or to accept litigation attempting to set aside the popular vote. Democracy must be defended in real time. Today, we see Democrats and Republicans working together and doing their part with the committee hearings. After the complete findings from the Jan. 6 committee are presented to the public, only time will tell if the Department of Justice officials and the president will fully rise to the moment.

David W. Marshall is author of the book “God Bless Our Divided America” and member of Country First. Country First is focused on recognizing that Republicans, Democrats and Independents don’t have to be enemies because they have different experiences and perspectives. To learn more about Country First visit www.country1st.com.

Common Sense

Time to legalize marijuana?

Colt Black
Candidate, U.S. Congress,
District 6

As Republicans our party since inception has fought against injustice and worked to right wrongs in the world.

While today we have many challenges facing our nation, we have an opportunity in front of us. An opportunity to create entrepreneurial opportunities, decrease crime, bring Americans currently on the government dole to prosperity, restore constitutional rights, relieve pressure on law enforcement, reduce cost on taxpayers, and increase funding for various needs in our community. Can you take a guess what it is, not even one?

I am talking about the legalization of cannabis or better-known marijuana.

So, I know that many folks are right off going to get on their high horse and revert to “drugs are bad” and “it’s the devil’s weed”, however let’s put on our thinking caps and open our minds, shall we?

I know many may say “marijuana is a gateway drug”, while that may be true for some indi-

viduals; so is tobacco and alcohol. Yet both products are completely legal to purchase for those of age. Both tobacco and alcohol are sold in practically every convenience store and other locations throughout the state and around the nation. So, if they are gateway drugs why don’t we ban alcohol and tobacco? We tried that, and have a track record to show what happens when we make a product illegal, remember the Volstead Act, aka prohibition of alcohol?

While most of us today were not alive in 1919 when prohibition took effect, what we know is there was mass incarceration, rampant crime, organized criminal enterprises getting rich, dead citizens from bad alcohol & police use of force, and dead police officers. Are we starting to see a pattern here? Does any of this sound familiar to the “war on drugs” declared by Richard Nixon in 1971?

Next folks will point out to impaired driving as a reason to keep marijuana illegal. Now let’s throw out some factual data from the Centers for Disease Control and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. In 2016, there were 37,461 motor vehi-

cle accident deaths. Out of those numbers 10,497 deaths occurring from alcohol impaired driving crashes, accounting for 28 percent of traffic deaths in America. In 2016 there were a total estimated 7,277,000 vehicle accidents. Out of that number of crashes (both fatal and non-fatal) only 16% were caused by drugs both illegal and legal (not counting alcohol). So, alcohol, something legal and readily available kills more people than illegal drugs? That is correct, yet there is no fight to make alcohol illegal, why? Because we’ve tried that with horrible results. We also know that smoking kills scores more people a year as well and again still no bans, and oddly enough there is absolutely no medical value to be shown by using tobacco. Now let’s talk about cannabis.

In our state of Maryland, we already have legalization on the state level for medicinal use. Let that sink in, your state government has admitted what millions of people have known to be true for years and multiple studies are showing, marijuana has multiple medicinal uses. So, doesn’t it seem like a conspiracy of big pharma who does not like natural remedies and big tobacco who would be crushed if a product with actual medical uses and cleaner to con-

sume than tobacco would be allowed to be sold? Of course.

As early as 1850, cannabis extract was sold over the counter in pharmacies throughout the United States, again someone knew something society later forgot. Additionally, cannabis was made illegal in the United States in 1937, during a period where cannabis consumption was growing particularly in minority communities, a quote from Harry J. Anslinger who was appointed the head of Federal Bureau of Narcotics in 1930 sums up the racist connotation to the ban of cannabis stating, “Reefer makes darkies think they’re as good as white men”. So, between the interest of big pharma, big tobacco, and the racism of the era cannabis was made illegal.

Starting at age 16, I became an EMT and responded with Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Company at the time and throughout my time on the ambulance I never encountered a patient who overdosed on cannabis yet encountered numerous alcohol poisonings and other incidents fueled by alcohol. As a funeral director and owner of Black’s Funeral Home, currently and going back through the years since my start in the industry at the age of 18, I’ve never encountered a deceased person who died from a cannabis overdose. It just doesn’t

happen. Yet I’ve signed hundreds of certificates of individuals who have died from alcohol and tobacco related causes.

Legalization of cannabis will occur with or without my support. I’d rather have a seat at the table to ensure it is done correctly. We can create thousands of new jobs across the country revitalizing our agriculture sector, stimulating entrepreneurial opportunities, lower crime by dropping the bottom out of the black market as legal cannabis is better in quality and folks who partake know that it unadulterated. It will allow police resources to be redirected to real problems in our communities and by retroactively expunging cannabis related charges from criminal records of our fellow citizens, once again they may have the ability to get a decent job instead of sitting on the dole of the taxpayer.

Legalization will save our country billions of dollars in corrections, law enforcement, and social programs, increase revenue via a tax to various community needs and right the wrongs of past injustice. I am proud to support legalization efforts and right the wrongs of our past, as other Republicans have done before.

To read past editions of Common Sense, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Free indeed!

Pastor John Talcott
Christ Community Church

This Independence Day as we gather together with family and friends, enjoying cookouts, parades, and fireworks, we must remember it is a celebration of our freedom. In spite of economic instability, social and political tensions, COVID-19 cases increasing and gas prices soaring, for many the Fourth of July is one of the most anticipated and festive celebrations of the year. And this year, we look forward to celebrating our freedom without COVID-19 restrictions for social distancing and masks, but there remains a darkness covering the earth and thick darkness over the people (Isaiah 60:2).

It's not like the darkness or the heaviness of the oppression and taxation on those original 13 colonies by Great Britain. Or even the darkness that shrouds community parks as families gather with lawn chairs and blankets to watch the fireworks. But we are living in a tragically dark time right now, we thought COVID-19 was bad, but what's happening right now may be even worse.

You see, in America today, there is another form of freedom that is celebrated, that is the freedom to do whatever you want regardless of the consequences or the effect it has on others. It is the continual downward spiral of our society and its view of morality. And while many of us look forward to gathering with our families and friends

for barbecues and parades celebrating our national freedom, there is another group celebrating a selfish personal freedom that "calls evil good and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20). This distorted view of freedom attempts to force its ideology on others, declaring the supremacy of its own worldview, swallowing up the lives of the innocent, not just the unborn, not just our children at school, but many others who are considered invisible and marginalized. This is sobering because this intolerant and reprobate worldview is willing to put its knee on the neck of another, choking the life out of them, treating them as if they were a mere impediment to the progress of society.

I am afraid that there are more and more in our culture today who have a blatant disregard or lack of respect for the life, ethics, and freedom of others; but to force your views or your lifestyle on others without concern for their own good is not freedom. And today even though we are no longer under the oppression of a monarchy as those original 13 colonies were in 1772, in many ways we have succumbed to the oppression of a very loud and influential minority.

As Christians, for the most part we have passively relegated our religious liberty to live in the fear of God to the judgment of the perverse and therefore a thick darkness has fallen over the nation. It has been said, "Freedom is not the sole prerogative of a lucky few,

but the inalienable and universal right of all human beings" (Ronald Reagan). And so, we would do well to pay attention to the Scriptures admonition; "Do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love" (Galatians 5:13).

As followers of Jesus, we have the solution, and that solution is the presence of Jesus. The Scripture says, "Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19). And we recognize that many will not receive him, but only Jesus can transform the heart, and his promise is that those who receive him, to those who believe in his name, he said, "If you hold to my teaching... you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32). Now, that freedom doesn't come by keeping rules, it comes by receiving the truth, which is why guys like Martin Luther King Jr. preached the gospel, because he knew that hurt people, hurt people. King knew that lasting change doesn't come through violence, but only Jesus Christ can bring about true change, helping hurt people channel their hurt in a healing and helpful way.

In fact, Jesus promised, "If the Son (referring to himself) sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). And so, today as the people of God, not only do we have the freedom to speak up, but we have the responsibility to speak up for those that are hurting, or that nobody is listening to, as well as those that have no voice. And we have to speak out against the violence, because nobody has that right, there is no justification for hurting people in the name of freedom.

And yet there seems to be so much that has made the headlines lately that is just taking our attention away from the very real issues facing our nation today. That is the fact that we all need Jesus, there's not one of us that doesn't need Jesus, because he said very clearly, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). And so, victim or perpetrator, those who are hurt, and those who are doing the hurting, we all



need God to heal our land, forgiving us of our sins, and giving us new hearts and new minds.

The prophet Isaiah said, "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you" (Isaiah 60:1). And it's time for the church to rise up, because we have the Spirit of God, we are the salt of the earth, we are the light of the world, and so we need to get on our knees before God and seek his mercy for this nation like never before. I believe when the Church gets serious about seeking God and begins repenting of our sins, we will see his favor in America again, because the Scripture says, "This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word" (Isaiah 66:2). And his promise is, "I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

This Independence Day and every day we need to remember that "our citizenship is in heaven" (Philippians 3:20). And so, we're not first Americans and then Christians, but

we are Christians who happen to be Americans, and what is happening in America right now is heart-breaking. True freedom has been abandoned, and so we need to shift our focus, as the Lord said, "Arise, shine, for your light has come" (Isaiah 60:1). And that light is not in the White House, but "you are the light", because when the fire of God is burning inside of you it produces light (Matthew 5:14).

And so, as we spend time in the presence of God, redirecting our focus back to him, we can rise above our culture, bringing hope, unity, love, and peace. And as we celebrate our freedom this Fourth of July, let's demonstrate the love of God in our families, our communities, and our churches, because the world doesn't need another opinion, they need light, they need love, and they need the Lord.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Alexander Hamilton



Alexander Hamilton, killed in a duel, July 11, 1804

Although the name of Alexander Hamilton is not so popularly familiar as several others concerned in the construction of the American Union, yet there is scarcely another which so closely interests the profounder students of that momentous passage in the world's history. Of Hamilton's share in that work, Guizot testifies, 'that there is not one element of order, strength, and durability in the constitution which he did not powerfully contribute to introduce into the scheme and cause to be adopted.'

Hamilton's father was a Scotsman, and his mother a member of a Huguenot family, banished from France. He was born in 1757, on the island of Nevis; and whilst a youth serving as clerk in a merchant's office, a hurricane of more than ordinary violence occurred, and Hamilton drew up an account of its ravages, which was inserted in a West Indian newspaper. The narrative was so well written, and excited so much attention, that the writer was deemed born for something better than mercantile drudgery, and was sent to New York to prosecute his education. The dispute between Great Britain and the colonies had begun to grow very warm, and Hamilton soon distinguished himself by eloquent speeches in advocacy of resistance.

With the ardour of youth he commenced the study of military tactics, and turned his learning to good account in the first action between the British and Americans at Lexington in 1775. In the course of the unhappy war which followed, Hamilton was Washington's most trusted and confidential aid. At the conclusion of hostilities he commenced practice at the bar, became secretary of the treasury under President Washington, and a leading actor in all those intricate, delicate, and perplexing discussions, which attended the consolidation of the thirteen independent colonies into one nation.

Hamilton was the most conservative of republicans. He opposed the ultra-democratic doctrines of Jefferson, he was an ardent admirer of the English constitution, and he beheld the course of the French Revolution with abhorrence and dismay. But all the blessings which lay in store for America in the treasury of Hamilton's fine intel-

lect, were lost by a cruel mischance ere he had attained his forty-seventh year. With the feelings of an upright man, he had expressed his sense of the profligacy of Aaron Burr, who thereon challenged him to a duel. Hamilton had all reasonable contempt for such a mode of settling differences, but fearing, as he wrote, that 'his ability to be in future useful either in preventing mischief or effecting good was inseparable from a conformity to prejudice in this particular,' he weakly yielded. With every precaution of secrecy, he met his adversary at Weehardken, near New York. Colonel Burr fired, and his ball entered Hamilton's side, who fell mortally wounded, his pistol going involuntarily off as he staggered to the ground. After a day of agony, he expired on the 11th of July 1804. Never, except at Washington's death, was there such mourning in America.

Hamilton was a man under middle height, spare, erect, and of a most dignified presence. His writings in The

Federalist are read by political philosophers with admiration to this day. He wrote rapidly, but with precision and method. His habit was to think well over his subject, and then, at whatever time of night, to go to bed and sleep for six or seven hours. On awaking, he drank a cup of strong coffee, sat down at his desk, and for five, six, seven, or even eight hours continued writing, until he had cleared the whole matter off his mind.

Sir Thomas More Chancellor of England, beheaded, July 6, 1535

When Sir Thomas More was installed as Lord Chancellor, by the Henry VIII, Henry commended him "unto the people, there with great applause and joy gathered together, for his admirable wisdom, integrity, and innocencie, joined with most pleasant facilitie of witt;" praise which perfectly suited its subject.

Sir Thomas More united prudence with pleasantry, great and singular learning with simplicity of life, and unaffected humility with the proudest temporal greatness: he preferred the love of his family, and the quiet pleasures of his own house-hold, to the favours of kings or delights of courts. It was only after the repeated urging of Henry, that at last he consented to relinquish his studious and secluded life, and it may truly be said that he was never happy after, for, besides his natural shrinking from public responsibility, and his disregard of worldly notoriety, he had a remarkably clear insight into Henry's character, and never put much faith in his abundant favours.

More was retained in the king's household like a personal friend, except that there must have been a degree of tyranny in his being kept thus continually from his own family. But his pleas-

ancies amused the king and his queen, and his learning was useful to a monarch, who was writing a book which was to be the wonder of Christendom, and which had to be looked over, corrected, and arranged by Sir Thomas, as Sir Thomas himself admits, before Europe could be honoured with a glance at it.

He filled the office of Chancellor with a wisdom and unspotted integrity which were unexampled in his own time: and yet united with these virtues such graceful ease and agreeable manners, that it seemed to him no effort to be honest, and no difficulty to be just. When one woman sought to bribe him, by presenting him with a valuable cup, he ordered his butler to fill it with wine, and having drunk her health, returned it: and when another presented him with a pair of gloves, containing forty pounds, he accepted the gloves and returned the gold, declaring that 'he preferred his gloves without lining.'

More, though liberal-minded, was a staunch believer in the pope's supremacy, and had a great dread of heresy: and when Henry opposed the pope's will and decree by marrying Anne Boleyn, More resigned his chancellorship. He did not do so ostensibly on that account, but the king was shrewd enough to surmise his true reason. Henry really loved his servant, and did his utmost to obtain his approval of the new marriage, but the ex-Chancellor preserved a discreet silence. The king, piqued by the neutrality of one whose opinion he valued, and on whom he fancied he had bestowed so many inestimable benefits, determined to make the late favourite acquiesce in his sovereign's will.

More was invited to the coronation, and urged to appear, but he refused. He was threatened, but he only smiled. His name was put in the bill of attainder against the supposed accomplices of Joan of Kent, and then erased as a favour. But when the oath was put to him, which declared the lawfulness of the king's marriage, he would not take it, and so was committed to the Tower: and after many attempts, first to change him, and then to make him betray himself, so as to afford just ground for condemnation, he was tried and condemned unjustly, and beheaded, to the regret and shame of the whole nation, and all the world's astonishment and disgust.

The body of Sir Thomas More was interred in St. Peter's Church, in the Tower, but his head was stuck on a pole, and placed on London Bridge, where it remained fourteen days. His eldest daughter, Margaret Roper, much grieved and shocked at this exposure of her father's head, determined to gain possession of it. She succeeded. For this she was imprisoned, but was soon liberated, and allowed to retain her father's head, which she had enclosed in a leaden box, and preserved it with the tenderest devotion.

She died in 1544 and her father's head was placed in her coffin. But subsequently, it was removed from its leaden case, and deposited in a small niche in the wall of the vault, with an iron grating before it, where it now remains in the condition of a fleshless skull.

To read other selections from Robert Cambers 1864 *The Book of Days* visit www.thebookofdays.com.

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ECOLOGY

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Danny Stoner
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

When driving through town or walking through a development, there are beautifully manicured lawns that were cut to perfection, fertilized, and watered. There is a competition to see whose lawn is best kept, “No pesky weeds are going to ruin my lawn.” With a beautiful lawn comes the eerie silence when no kids are out play. What is missing in this beautiful landscape? It’s the wild! There is no humming of bees, sweet songs sung by birds, croaking of frogs, or rustling of leaf litter. Why is there an absence of these sounds in our pedicured lawns? Well, what seems beautiful to us is far from beautiful to our nature friends. Without those “weeds” or other plants the absence of animals is guaranteed. Just like us, food is a requirement to survive and almost all food starts with a plant.

You might have learned about the food chain or food web as a young child from a favorite teacher or from a nature program like the ones at Strawberry Hill’s. Therefore, you know that the first thing on the list are the plants, or primary producers. They create energy from the sun through photosynthesis. However, for that energy to get passed on to other

animals they must eat a part of the plant. Unfortunately, our pristine lawns are not on the menu for most animals. Therefore, our priority of competing for best looking lawn is taking away critical habitat for even the smallest of critters. With development increasing and natural areas decreasing some of those critters are becoming threatened or endangered.

This scenario has become all too real for what used to be one of Pennsylvania’s bumble bee species. The Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee (*Bombus affinis*), the first insect to become endangered in North America, has not been seen in Pennsylvania in over seven years. One might ask, “why does it matter that one bee species as become endangered or any species for that matter?” The Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee, just like another endangered bee species the American Bumble Bee (*Bombus pensylvanicus*), are generalists. This means that they feed on, and therefore pollinate, a large variety of flowering plants. When generalist start to struggle other related species are soon to follow, and bees are critical to the reproduction of wildflowers, trees, and the fruits and vegetables we eat.

Bees are not the only species that has become endangered or threatened because of the loss of habitat in Pennsylvania, nor are

they the only animals that help pollinate and keep our food chain going. There are bird species, such as the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and mammals, like the Small-footed Bat or the Northern Flying Squirrel. Each one of these species needs a particular type of environment to thrive, whether it be full of native flowers, grasses, or trees to start as our primary producers. Some species can use more types of plants, or they can live off the animals that are feeding off those plants, while others are more particular in what they want to eat. Therefore, to bring back the wild, we need to bring back the plants and build a habitat that supports insects and other animals all the way to our tertiary consumers, the top of the food chain. There are many plants that you can use to build a habitat and each one brings in a variety of animals.

Maybe you have an interest in all varieties of pollinators like bees, flies, and hummingbirds. Well then you would want to plant a large variety of flowers that are different colors and have different flower types. These could include Hairy Beardtongue (*Penstemon hirsutus*), Hoary Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum incanum*), Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*), Joe Pie Weed (*Eutrochium fistulosum*), Scarlet Beebalm (*Monarda didyma*), Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), Goldenrod species (*Solidago* spp.), or New England Aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*). Most of these flowers are mid to late summer bloomers, but you would want



The Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee was the first insect to become endangered in North America and has not been seen in Pennsylvania in over seven years.

other plants to bloom periodically from spring to fall to give the animals a food source throughout that time.

What if you wanted to create a habitat good for birds? Well, it would depend on the bird species. Birds use different types of habitats from grasslands to thick woods. If you wanted to create a habitat for species like Grasshopper Sparrows (*Ammodramus savaannarum*), Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*), or the American Kestrel you would want an open space to plant a native grassland full of Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardi*), Sweet Grass (*Hierochloa odorata*), Tussock Sedge, or Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*). Maybe you want to have plants that produce seeds or berries for the birds Like the American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) or Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*)

to eat. These plants could include Field Thistle (*Cirsium discolor*), Yellow Thistle (*Cirsium horridulum*), Jerusalem Artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*), Cup Plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*), Black Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*), Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*), or American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*).

However, almost all songbirds would benefit by planting native tree species. A majority of songbird species use caterpillars to feed their young, and a lot of butterflies and moths use trees for their host plants. A host plant is the plant species that the caterpillar uses to feed on. Not every tree is the same though. Some trees are hosts for hundreds of different species, while others only host a hand full. Some tree species such as the American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), Hickory species (*Carya* spp.), or Pine species (*Pinus* spp.) can host 100 to 200 different butterfly or moth species. An even better tree to plant would be the Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), who hosts 456 different species and produces berries for the birds and other animals to feed on. However, the most important tree to plant in your yard would be the oak tree (*Quercus* spp.). These trees host 534 different species and their acorns feed a variety of animals such as deer, fox, raccoons, squirrel and mice. If you were to only plant one tree, you should plant an oak.

If you do not what to plant an oak tree that is okay. There are so many things that you can do to bring back your wildlife that does not involve a large garden or forest. It can be as simple as leaving a patch of your lawn unmown or not mulching your leaves before winter. However, it is important that we give back in some type of way.

You can learn more about native gardening, habitat types, and endangered animals on the Pennsylvania Game Commission website at www.pgc.pa.gov or the Penn State Extension website at www.extension.psu.edu. To learn about the plants listed above you can go to the Lady Bird Johnson wildflower center website at www.wildflower.org.

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



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IN THE COUNTRY

Give 'em a brake!

Rusty Ryan
South Mountain Chapter of the
National Audubon Society

What animal is the longest lived species in the Mason-Dixon region but does not reach sexual maturity till nearly ten years? This same animal will spend most of its life in a home range of a few acres in size. As an adult, this animal is basically predator proof due to its physical attributes (a tough hinged shell) but at the same time cannot seem to survive a trek across our ever increasing roadway system. If you said the Eastern Box Turtle (Box Turtle) you should enjoy this article.

In the coming weeks and months many species of wildlife such as frogs, salamanders and turtles will be attempting a round trip suicidal trek across our roads in the hopes of breeding and laying eggs. As mentioned in a previous article on vernal pools, the local amphibians which commonly cross roads for breeding purposes are the Wood Frog and Spotted Salamander. These species are most commonly encountered during wet, warm evenings.

While the Box Turtle is not rare or endangered in the Mason-Dixon region, studies have shown that their numbers have been declining. The major reason for their decline is habitat loss and forest fragmentation. When the turtles preferred habitat of wooded areas is developed (removed and/or broken up into smaller tracts), this results in more roads and more potential for collisions with motorists. Another problem that habitat loss and fragmentation brings is an increase in predation to the eggs in the nest. Raccoons and skunks can decimate turtle nests and both of these predators seem to adapt and coincide around humans.

Another hurdle that many species must deal with is the capture and relocation of species. Many wildlife species such as the Timber Rattlesnake and the Box Turtles have their own built in GPS system and they know their home range inside and out. If you remove one of these species from this "comfort zone" the species literally has a difficult time adapting to the new surroundings and simply is lost.

The decline of this and many species can also be attributed to the removal of a species from its home for the simple reason of having a pet. This pet thing can be taken to the next level where the turtles are captured and sold to the highest bidder for illegal pet trade. I believe many of us (including me) have been guilty of finding a box turtle or some other wildlife and taking them home as a pet.

What can we do?

Please don't take wildlife home as pets and don't take wildlife from one area and release it to

another area. Leave it be and enjoy the moment. If you wish to purchase a turtle or any other species, please make sure the dealer is reputable and always ask if the animal is "captive bred". It is illegal to sell E. Box Turtles in PA and Maryland.

In terms of road mortality issues, the easiest thing that we can do as motorists would be to drive with caution especially through known wildlife crossing areas. Unfortunately, motorists seem to be more distracted than ever and most folks are just plain in a hurry and speed limits don't mean anything. This lethal combination of speed and distractions is hazardous for wildlife.

If you come across a turtle crossing the road, please use extreme caution when pulling over. As much as I want people to help the turtle, I also wish for you to be considerate for other motorists when you're stopping along the roadways. If you wish to assist the turtle than pull safely off the road and put your hazard lights on. Proceed to catch the turtle and always release the turtle into a safe area and in the direction the turtle was heading.

What has been done to minimize wildlife mortality by vehicles?

Warning signs are a simple means of notifying motorists of a known travel corridor for wildlife. We all have noticed the roadside signs meant to warn motorists of known deer crossing areas. The same can be and has

been done to warn motorists of known salamander, turtle or frog crossings. If you are aware of an area that you've witnessed to be a high mortality rate for other species, you may wish to contact the local municipality or state highway department. With the proper permission, these warning signs can be effective in protecting wildlife.

Near Boonsboro, Maryland, it was observed that a section of roadway seemed to have unusual number of Box Turtle mortality. A barrier (fence) was installed parallel to the roadway along both sides of the roadway. When the turtles make their trek towards the roadway, the barrier forces them to follow the fence which leads the turtles to a culvert (pipe) which provides safe passage under the roadway. This procedure was done to a nearly 2 mile stretch of roadway and by using trail cameras, the turtles and other wildlife have successfully survived the motorists. This technique utilizing physical barriers and special pipes is being used for many other wildlife species in the world.

Remember to give wildlife a better chance by being cautious and observant while driving. If we follow the tips mentioned above, we can make a difference by keeping these species moving in their intended direction of travel.

So Give 'Em a Brake!

To read past articles by Rusty Ryan visit the Authors Section of *Emmitsburg.net*.



Unfortunately, cars are not the only users of roads, and turtles and snakes are no match for them. Turtles can easily be picked up and placed in grass. Snakes are a little bit more problematic. For those kind of heart, a simple stick can be used to move them off the road.

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SCIENCE MATTERS

The great age of invention

Boyce Rensberger

If you think we're living in an age of amazing scientific and technological advances, take a moment to consider an era that existed more than a century ago. New discoveries and socially disruptive inventions were coming at the public from all directions.

Today, by contrast, most of the major innovations that make a big impact on society are the product of just three sets of related research fields. One is subatomic physics, which has given us nuclear power and nuclear weapons. A second is electronics, which has given us television, the computer, the Internet, and host of digital technologies. The third is biomedical science, which gave us antibiotics, vaccines and many useful pharmaceuticals.

As spectacular as today's advances are, travel back in your mind to the 19th century, say to the lifetime of a person who lived during the 65 years from 1839 through 1903. This is the

Victorian era of horse-drawn carriages, men in top hats and women in voluminous floor-length skirts. This era began before the Civil War and ended in the presidency of William Howard Taft when the United States had only 45 states. Everybody reading this column was born after that period.

One could argue that people living then witnessed a broader array of ground-breaking and socially disruptive changes than we have seen in a comparable period, say the six-plus decades, since the launch of Sputnik in 1957. For a taste of what I am talking about, think about how these six 19th century products of science and engineering changed people's lives—the automobile and electric lights, movies and the phonograph, X-rays and aspirin.

Here are more examples in chronological order. (Of course, most advances are the culmination of years of prior steps. So, dates given here are only for the best known point of cli-

max and the most prominent person responsible for it.) I've thrown in a few lighter innovations for context.

1839 – Daguerre's photography captures the first realistic images of people and scenes.

1844 – Telegraph systems send Morse-coded messages between cities.

1845 – Singer's sewing machine makes clothing less costly.

1845 – Morton's anesthesia makes surgery painless.

1852 – The gyroscope makes navigation at sea more accurate.

1850s – Lister's antiseptic methods make surgery safer.

1853 – Otis's elevator safety brake allows construction of skyscrapers.

1855 – Bessemer invents steel, further making tall buildings possible.

1859 – Darwin sets forth a new understanding of how living species came to be.

1864 – Pasteur's heating method kills harmful microbes in milk.

1866 – The U.S. and Britain communicate instantaneously using the first undersea telegraph cable.

1858 – The internal combustion engine is invented.

1866 – Tin cans preserve food indefinitely.

1866 – The typewriter.

1867 – Nobel's dynamite makes it easier to blast tunnels through mountains.

1867 – The paper clip.

1872 – Ward's first mail-order catalog gives rural families access to countless products.

1872 – Asphalt paving makes roads smoother and eliminates muddy ruts.

1876 – Bell's telephone lets people miles apart converse in real time.

1877 – Edison's phonograph brings professional music into homes.

1878 – Edison's early movies open a new realm for entertainment.

1879 – Edison's first practical light bulb extends the day

beyond sunset.

1882 – The first electric power company.

1885 – Benz develops the first practical automobile.

1886 – Coca-Cola

1886 – Sprague invents the DC electric motor

1888 – Tesla develops the AC motor and transformer.

1891 – The escalator

1893 – London opens the world's first subway system. Boston follows in 1897.

1895 – Roentgen's x-ray technology lets doctors look inside the intact human body.

1895 – Marconi invents radio, wirelessly transmitting messages in Morse code.

1898 – Thompson discovers the electron, taking science into the subatomic realm.

1899 – Bayer company develops aspirin, relieving pain for untold millions.

1903 – Wright brothers invent the airplane.

In 1896 an essayist at Scientific American magazine took stock of the pace of progress.

The country, he wrote, was living through "an epoch of invention and progress unique in the history of the world." He characterized it as "a gigantic tidal wave of human ingenuity and resource, so stupendous in its magnitude, so complex in its diversity, so profound in its thought, so fruitful in its wealth, so beneficent in its result that the mind is strained and embarrassed in its effort to expand to a full appreciation of it."

To be sure, for all the technological wizardry, America was a nation deeply divided between the haves and have-nots. This was an age of urban squalor, rural poverty, robber barons, the industrial exploitation of workers including children, and deep political corruption. Worst of all was the repression of Blacks, beginning with slavery and continuing with segregation enforced by widespread lynchings.

In the first decade of the 20th century these ills would lead to many attempts at progressive reforms such as President Theodore Roosevelt's trust busting, the beginning of meat inspection, the first child labor laws, creation of the precursor of the Food and Drug Administration. The so-called Progressive Era was underway, but progress itself had been racing ahead for more than a century.

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

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

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

Facebook deleted

Jack Deatherage

Other than checking the family's "direct messages" via the DW's Facebook account I've managed to disengage from that "collective". The warnings from Facebook had been coming in hot and heavy (for more than a year) that I needed to go back through nearly ten years of once acceptable postings and censor them to satisfy the collective's new definition of "community standards". I, of course, ignored the warnings and the collective began "jailing" me for old posts it now found "in violation" blah blah blah.

Meh. The days and weeks I wasn't allowed to post new content, or respond to others' content, became time to do other things. I read more, spent more time watching YouTube videos (adding gardening, cooking and food preservation channels to the daily fare of conservative and libertarian news/commentary channels). My haphazard ransacking of the state's public libraries became an almost weekly routine as I sifted through a variety of subjects that interest me.

Then came the notice that I had to provide Facebook with a mobile phone number, capable of receiving text, to prove who I am or I would be locked out of my account until I complied! That fired me up for a minute, though it took a couple weeks for me to decide what I'd do. Buying a mobile phone, just to surrender it's number to a collective, was not an option! However, deleting my account was.

I warned everyone on my "friends" list to "take" any pictures or web links I'd posted over the years that might be of value to them before I deleted my account. Boy, that set the kettle to boiling! Though I suspect it also caused

more than a few people to sigh in relief. How people felt about my exit from the collective didn't matter as much as rooting through the hundreds of photos I'd posted over the years. Reclaiming those that were important to me took several days.

The day before I was to be "locked out" of my account I deleted the entire thing. Almost immediately I started hearing from friends and relatives- "You need to open a new account!" "Facebook sucks without you!" "I bet \$10 you wouldn't delete your account! Thanks a lot." "I rarely check my email. You need to come back to Facebook!"

Wow. I don't think quitting tobacco and alcohol created such a stir among my drug addicted friends. And, just as my drug addict friends quickly adapted to life without me, so have my Facebook friends. I, on the other hand, have yet to settle down with some new addiction.

Only needing a few minutes a day to check the DW's Facebook messages my mind was freed (Gods! how the DW abhors that expression!) to wander about without a focus- other than the library. The library being central to feeding my curiosity, and supplying answers to questions I've yet to conceive, it's little wonder a new focus began to coalesce there.

Librarian Penny, who replaced Librarian Sue- in both branch duties and as my go-to librarian, suggested I put together a container gardening lecture based on a survivalist perspective. Once again I found myself marveling that I'm asked to speak on something I'm interested in, but should be the last person taking up such a public task.

On the other hand! Ransacking the state's public libraries is fun. So off I went happily requesting and skimming

container gardening books. Of course those books led me to micro-gardening, which caused me to search YouTube for how-to videos. All of which required me to create a lecture outline, the last two pages of which would be lists of library and local garden resources lecture attendees could take away.

The outline morphed into a little booklet that Penny suggested I should offer to anyone that shows up for my garden lecture. (I figure maybe three people will attend. Penny thinks closer to ten. I'm skeptical there are that many people willing to waste an hour or so listening to me babble about plastic containers, potting soil and potato peels.)

Where did the booklet idea come from? It's probably one of those distractions that have kept me from writing a novel composed of the short stories I began 40 years ago?

A coupla visits to The Walters Art Museum's exhibit on the history of writing/bookbinding put it in my head to create a book of my own. It's only taken ten years of that idea percolating, and my recently stumbling upon a video explaining how to use the "booklet" feature of modern day home computer printers, to get me to the point of hand stitching a booklet together. (The DW headed off a trip to a craft shop for bookbinding supplies by rooting through the piles of boxes that contain leather crafting tools to find cutting boards, needles and thread. Darn! Distraction foiled again!)



Still, just learning how to organize a booklet and get it printed has been a great distraction for preventing my writing a story! I'm on the fifth attempt to get the container gardening booklet to turn out the way I want it. I'm sure it isn't the last "correction".

Distracted or not, I's jazzed enough about having taken a couple baby steps toward some as yet unfocused goal that I contacted the offspring to let him know I'm on track to creating the short story booklets we had discussed some years ago. His first question was whether or not I planned to go public with the story books. When I told him they'd be for family and friends only he jumped onboard with the idea. (He's been building stories in his head that spin off of a series of novels that fascinate him and he worries about copyright.)

First Sister also jumped at the chance to create some pictures for the little books. She's after me to send her text she can turn into a picture. So far I'm still focused on the July garden lecture at the L and getting the booklet sorted out for that. I asked if she had a copy of a drawing she'd sent me years

ago. I figured I could add it to the lecture booklet. She allowed she remembered the drawing, but didn't think she had a copy. "I'll redraw it for you."

Great! Adding the new drawing to the booklet will be another distraction! Gods! Am I good at not having to create stories or what!

Oh. I just came up with another excuse not to write. I need more potting soil so I can get some micro-greens going for the lecture, as well as plant some summer and winter squash for my own survival garden. Though getting into the habit of eating such foods is more of a trial than trying to write cogently. Still, eating canned, dried or frozen foods I grew and put up seems a better bet than counting on the economy not going to hell and leaving the store shelves bare- either deliberately, or through incompetence.

When is my library lecture? Darn if I know. Librarian Penny and the DW are supposed to alert me the day before. A better bet would be the morning of!

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Be on the lookout for invasives

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

Many plants are invasive in our gardens, meaning they will spread quickly, like mint, or move around the garden through seeds, like the perennial bachelor's button, *Centaurea Montana*. These plants, although aggressive, are not invasive in our environment. They do not take over natural areas, reducing, and sometimes eliminating native species.

But other plants do. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has a noxious and invasive weed list that tells us what we should, or even cannot, plant. "Noxious weeds are identified as a plant that is determined to be injurious to public health, crops, livestock, agricultural land or other property and cannot be sold, transported, planted, or otherwise propagated in Pennsylvania." Invasive weeds are "Invasive plants are those that: Are not native to an area, spread quickly, cause economic or environmental harm, or

harm to human health." The plants that are on either one of these lists should be avoided and controlled.

One such plant that is blooming now is the Poison Hemlock. A bit misleading in name, as this is an herbaceous plant that dies down to the ground each year. It is a biennial in some parts of the country, perennial in others. It looks a bit like Queen Anne's Lace, as it has the same flower structure and color, but differs greatly in that it has thicker, purplish stems, or purple spots on the stems, blooms just a bit earlier than Queen Anne's Lace, and gets to be a bigger, bulkier plant. Even more importantly, it is toxic! Every part of the plant, if ingested, is toxic. Touching the plant can cause blisters or dermatitis. It is not only toxic to us humans, but deadly to livestock. This is definitely a plant to control and get rid of if it shows up on your property.

However, when trying to control this plant, you must wear protective clothing so as not to expose any skin. In addition to pulling it out, this weed can be cut down in early spring and man-

aged through mowing. Another option is to use an herbicide for control. If an herbicide is your choice of control, remember to read the label so you are applying correctly – timing, temperature and application rate will all be on the label, as well as protective gear recommended, and disposal of the bottle when empty.

Jumping worms, although not a plant, are becoming a huge problem in gardens. Unfortunately, Adams County and surrounding counties are not protected from this soil thief. In the past, we always thought of worms as a good thing to have in our soil. They add aeration, they mix in the organic matter, as well as adding a bit of it themselves. However, the jumping worm with change your mind about all of this.

Keeping in mind that there are no worms that are native to the northeast and introducing any worms to our soil is not recommended, the jumping worm puts a whole new perspective on the damage that can be done. They eat the organic layer of the soil, reducing it to coffee ground-like texture, with no nutrient holding capacity. Plants can die and ecosystems will change. Unlike earthworms that make tunnels in the soil, the jumping worms feed and live on the top three inches of the soil, where the organic matter is.

To identify these critters, look for the worms that are snake-like in movement. They move side to side and jump



Poison Hemlock – an invasive, toxic plant. It can be identified by the purple spotting on the stems.

around, more than any other worm. A prominent light-colored band will be seen around the body of the worm.

Ways that we as gardeners can help control the spread includes these easy rules:

Do wash off all the soil of the roots. Bareroot the plants before sharing with others. Don't share plants with others that are dug from your garden, and don't take plants from others dug from their garden. Worms and eggs can be carried through the soil on the plants. Eggs are hard to see and can inadvertently be spread.

Look for compost or mulch suppliers that accurately heat the piles to kill the adults and eggs. The temperature of the pile should reach a minimum of 131 degrees.

Clean off your gardening tools before

using them at a different location. This will eliminate the possibility of spreading.

There is little research on control methods of the jumping worms, but if you follow some easy rules, spreading them will be reduced. Check back from time to time to learn more about updated research on control of these invasives.

An insect that we have been hearing lots about is the Spotted Lanternfly, an invasive insect that was first discovered in Berks County, PA in 2014 and that has been wreaking havoc along its path. Adams County has been lucky for quite a few years, in that the insect seemed to avoid us. However, those days are gone. Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) has added Adams County to the state quarantine list. This means that products moving in and out of the county are regulated, as any products, vehicles or other carriers can harbor eggs, nymphs or adults, therefore spreading this insect to other parts of the state and country.

The spotted lanternfly causes serious damage including oozing sap, wilting, leaf curling and dieback in trees, vines, crops and many other types of plants. In addition to plant damage, when spotted lanternflies feed, they excrete a sugary substance, called honeydew, that encourages the growth of black sooty mold. This mold is harmless to people however it causes damage to plants. When the sooty mold is all over your deck, patio furniture, kids' yard toys, etc, it truly becomes a nuisance.

What can we do? Report it at www.services.agriculture.pa.gov, or call 1-888-4BADFLY; smash it; kill it. Go online and become familiar with what they look like, in all stages. This pretty insect isn't one to mess with. Just get rid of it. Right now we will be seeing the nymph stage, a black and white insect. Some of the insects may be reaching the next instar that gives them an additional red coloration on their body. At this life stage they do not fly, they crawl on stems. At all life stages, the insect injects its mouthpart into the stem of a plant and sucks the sap, excreting a sticky substance described above. Insecticidal soap has been known to kill the nymphs when directly sprayed onto the insect. Scraping the egg masses in fall/winter will also help reduce the population.

These three invasive plants and insects are active now in Adams County. Become familiar with them and do what you can to help stop the spread.

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

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Small Town Gardener

Helping your garden weather a renovation project

Marianne Willburn

Three years ago, a freak windstorm used a dying ash tree to create mayhem in our lives. Twenty holes were punched in the roof, many of which came right through the ceiling. The chimney was cracked. The deck lost railings. Supporting beams were split and the seals on the windows that make up one wall of the living room were all popped.

The good news in the midst of the not-so-good was that no one was hurt, the insurance company was sympathetic, and it all looked fixable. The only problem: I'd never really contemplated how much damage might be caused to a landscape that leaves little in the way of void spaces near the house. Answer: A lot.

Three years and a few jobs later, I've learned a few lessons from the process. Whether you're having a fence built or a whole new extension added to your home, here are my top ten tips for making the process a lot less upsetting:

1. Talk to your contractor from the very beginning about your plants.

Contractors and their crews have to deal with a lot of really difficult people (I've heard many stories over the years). When you are not one of them, you stand out and make their job a lot more pleasant. Be firm, but kind. Stand up for your plants, but do so with a smile on your face and the knowledge that, to most people who don't understand plants, you're the weird one. Throw a few sheepish grins out there, mention something about 'passion' or 'reason for living,' but don't be afraid to speak up.

2. Walk with your contractor or work chief around the entire area. Don't assume that he or she knows what an edgeworthia is – or even a hosta. Talk in terms of 'flowers' or 'plant with yellow leaves.' Making a quick diagram of the area is also helpful (though I never get around to this step).

3. Give the work crews plenty of options. You don't want to put work crews in strait jackets so they can't do their jobs or get so annoyed that they start taking major short cuts and blame you. Give them lots of areas where demolition material can be thrown. Any open space is fair game – even if it's your pristine lawn. That's what tarps are for.

4. Make some tough decisions. Unless you're living in new construction, you've got plants at risk and you can't save all of them. Figure out what will be set back irreparably or killed vs. those that will merely need to wait for another season to look as good as new. Point out the really precious ones but don't point out too many.

5. Move things you can't replace easily. This is a last option for the desperate, and tough in the middle of a hot summer month, but plants can be dug and temporarily heeled into a large pile of moist compost until you can re-plant them. Keeping them watered is essential.

6. Be realistic about the things you can't replace easily. This takes a little perspective, which is something in short supply when temperatures are hot and so are tempers. Its. Just. A. Plant. You may need to read that one more time, but seriously folks, it really is.

7. Ask to keep one of the contractor's magnet rakes for at

least a couple weeks after the renovation. Nails are everywhere and some will sneak past even the best contractors in town. And, by virtue of your hands-and-knees job as a gardener, you are likely to be the first to encounter them. Take a little time and use that high-powered magnet in the morning to work through your planting beds to find those nails before they find you.

8. Be kind. It costs very little to offer a pitcher of ice water or a plate of store-bought cookies to crews working their tails off in hot sun or freezing wind, and it's the right thing to do. If you are home, or work from home, offer some.

9. Keep dialogue open. Continue to walk your property with your contractor with any big concerns you may be seeing regarding your landscape, but don't be overly precious.

9. Keep smiling. If you're going through this process, it means that you are eventually going to experience an improvement in your living space. Whether it's a new roof, a new deck or a repaired foundation – there is a big silver lining. Focus on that when you're feeling down. If you're having a hard time finding that serenity, ask a friend who is probably fairly envious you're having work done of any kind and will be the first to tell you to shut up and get over it. We need those friends in our lives.

Marianne is the author of Big Dreams, Small Garden. You can read more at www.small-towngardener.com.

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PETS

It's dog park time!



Jennifer Vanderau

At least I'm pretty sure that's what dad said before he headed out to the laundry room.

I mean "let's go to the dog park" doesn't sound anything like "it's time for your vet appointment," right? I couldn't have messed those two up, could I?

Dad's got my harness and leash and my special dog park water bowl! Yes! Dog park it is!

I love sticking my head out the window on the way there. Dad makes sure it's only open so far so I won't fall out or anything.

You would not believe the smells that are on the air. I'm guessing you're a human, so it's gotta be tough for you to realize what all is out in the world to be sniffed. At least from my conversations with my dog park friends, I understand humans don't have as strong a sense of smell as we do.

I can smell people, other dogs and even emotions in the air. And the stuff you all eat? I can smell each, individual ingredient. Do you know what's in those hamburgers? Probably not. But, back to the dog park day.

The car ride to the dog park is a sensory explosion in smells, that's for sure.

As we approach the park, I hear my friends barking and I can't help but answer in kind. Before we even see each other, we're busy filling each other in on what's been happening in our lives.

Because the humidity has been pretty low today, the park is really full and I start to jump around in the back seat as dad pulls into a parking space.

"Okay, okay," he tells me in that

tone I know holds a smile. "Hang on. We'll get there."

Dad leashes me up and I'm bouncing all around. I just can't help it! So many of my friends are here! It's so exciting!

There's Rocky and Bella and Charlie! And wow! Even Sanders! I haven't seen him in forever.

And oh my word, my heart almost stops when I spot Olivia. We've had this on-again, off-again thing for a while now and she's an Irish Setter with this amazing red hair and whew. I'm hoping maybe we could make something work long-term, but I don't want to jump the gun here. Charlie told me to play it cool, so I'm trying, but man, she's pretty.

Thank heavens dad gave me a bath two nights ago. I think I'm looking pretty good.

I drag dad over to the gate and all my friends come up to meet me. I hear dad's human friends yell out a greeting, too.

Once I'm inside, it's a free for all. I make sure to say hi to everyone, even the people.

Olivia is kind of acting like she might want to be on-again and I try to control my racing heart as I make it look like I'm good with whatever. Charlie tells me not looking desperate is the key. I mean how do you do that when you actually are a little desperate? She's just so cool and pretty.

I give her a little shrug and tell her we'll talk later, but my heart's skipping pretty crazy in my chest.

I catch up with my friends and Sanders tells us all about what he's been up to – he's been healing from a torn ACL that he thinks he got from a romp in his back yard

and wow. He's been on a lot of cage rest. That would have driven me crazy! No wonder he was so happy to see us.

I don't think I'd have the patience to stay still that long. Dad calls me his jumping bean Labrador. I do have a lot of energy, but I just get so excited about stuff. Everything in life really is pretty amazing, if you just take the time to appreciate it. You know? Dad just laughs at me when I hop up and down about stuff. It's okay. I've seen him get pretty excited over those car shows he goes to.

As the sun dips lower in the sky and we all hop around, playing with canine and human alike, I realize we are so lucky to have this dog park behind the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter.

Hey you all. It's Jen. I just wanted to let you know that a few nights ago, I took a seat on one of the picnic tables behind the shelter before going home. The commotion from behind me pulled my attention to the dog park behind the shelter, a combined effort between CVAS, the borough of Chambersburg and Greene Township

What I saw was a relatively large group of people and dogs under the trees, standing in the waning sunlight and everyone – I could tell even from a distance – was just...happy.

Dogs were running around each other, tails wagging. I'm telling you, there wasn't a single tail that wasn't up and waving. Some of the pups were weaving between dog and dog and then human and human.

It was a physical representation of joy and it soothed my soul just to watch it. If you ever get a chance, stop by our dog park behind the shelter.

I have a feeling you'll be very glad you did.

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



Chance came into the shelter as a stray and we think he is about 10 months old. This guy weighs in at 56 pounds and is still growing. We think he might have Great Dane in him. He will need someone that can work with him on socialization. Chance is currently in his "awkward" teenage stage where he is all legs and is not quite sure what to do with them or himself! He is still a puppy, but is a rather large one that will need someone that understands the time and the patience that goes into training a young dog. Could you take a chance on Chance?



Magpie came to the shelter as a stray, and was very scared when she first arrived. She does know sit, but you have to get her tail to stop wagging long enough for her to do so! She is a "velcro" pup with her people and wants to be wherever you are! She especially likes to play "keep away" which she thinks is great fun, however due to this we are requiring her potential home to have a fenced in yard so that Magpie has a safe area to run and have fun! Magpie is still on the shy side with new people, so potential adopters will need to meet with her several times to establish a relationship with her before she goes home with them. Due to no past history, an age restriction for children in the home may apply, so please discuss this with shelter staff.



Patty Cake is a 5-month-old dilute tortie girl who is super sweet and loves to play. She came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about her, but this girl is going to make someone a real nice companion. Could that someone be you?

For more information about Chance, Magpie, and Patty Cake 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.

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

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Fraidy Cats

Bethany Davidson
FCAC Humane Educator

Shelters are very stressful places for animals. They are in unfamiliar surroundings filled with strange noises, smells and a constant stream of new people. It's understandable that most are a little shy upon arrival. Over a few days or weeks, Frederick County Animal Control's residents settle into a routine and begin to habituate to their new environment. However, some pets feel the stress of shelter life more intensely than others especially when it's combined with a lack of socialization and various fears. At FCAC, staff and specially trained volunteers work with these very shy or fearful animals as part of two programs, Sheba's Fearful Dog Program and Fraidy Cats.

FCAC's feline adoption floor is currently home to two Fraidy Cats, kittens Madam Mim and Jaskier. Both of these four-month-olds are adorable and enjoy affection on their terms which garners them a lot of attention from potential adopters. But due to their fearfulness, they're not the best fit for every family. Cats in the Fraidy Cat Program tend to do best in homes with adults or teenagers who are very patient and cat savvy.

Even though homes tend to be less stressful than a shelter, cats like Madam Mim and Jaskier can still take weeks to months to acclimate once they've moved in with their adoptive families. There are many things that new families can do to help ease the transitions for their new additions. At FCAC, we recommend keeping your new cat located in one room for

at least ten days, but Fraidy Cats may need to remain in one room for longer periods of time. It can also be helpful to transition them from one room to another, gradually increasing their space.

Madam Mim and Jaskier spend a fair amount of time hiding in their beds at the shelter. Providing them with safe hiding spots in a new home is also helpful. Beds, boxes, cat trees draped with blankets are all good options and as a bonus these items can be moved from space to space as the cat's territory increases.

New pet owners are often eager to cuddle and interact with their cats, however, with very shy animals it is best to take a more hands off approach at first. It's important to avoid removing them from their safe hiding spots. Instead sit quietly in a room with them and let the cat come to you. Play sessions with interactive toys is a great way to encourage them to come out of hiding and bond as are tasty treats.

When Fraidy Cats are adopted at Frederick County Animal Control, we provide pet parents with this information and more during adoption interviews to ensure they have the tools they need to successfully integrate their new additions.

Holding Patterns

A large component of our work at the Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center is education. Sheltering animals is a unique endeavor, and our procedures, protocols, and processes are sometimes misunderstood. One of the more common questions we are asked is

"how long do you keep animals?" The answer is "it depends." Ditto and Porygon have been here since June 7, 2021 or 370+ days, dispelling the myth that we have a time limit on residency. However, we have established guidelines that are applied to each animal.

As a county agency, we are 100% County tax funded. Therefore, we only take in animals from Frederick County residences, or stray animals found within Frederick County. We ask that pet owners utilize the shelter as a last resort for pets they no longer want, or pets they can no longer keep. Owned animals that are relinquished to us may be placed immediately and owners sign a relinquishment form stating clearly, in bold, "animals relinquished to the FCACC are subject to immediate adoption or euthanasia." That may seem harsh, but our intake process includes questions, counseling, and alternatives to help owners keep their pets.

Stray animals are held for a minimum of five (5) days during which we evaluate best placement if an owner does not come forward. Return-to-Owner (RTO) is the best scenario for strays, but adoption, rescue, foster care, or euthanasia are the other options. Exceptions are made for animals that are dangerous or suffering, in which case a course of action may be made prior to five days in the interest of human safety or the animal's comfort, respectively.

A less common holding period is ten (10) days for animals we impound or seize. Ten days allows an owner to relinquish the animals, reclaim depending on circumstances, or appeal our decision to take the animals. Impounds or seizures may result from a complaint of neglect or cruelty, but also from auto accidents, owners being admitted to the hospital, owner's death or other unexpected situations that occur.

Getting back to Ditto and Porygon, they were found as strays on Bear Den Road. They lived for a short period of time with a foster family and upon their return were made available for adoption. We would like to see their stay here end and their time in a forever family begin.



Who likes big dogs? At only one-year-old, Caden already weighs 106 pounds and still has some growing to do. Surprisingly, he walks well on a leash, however, he does display some puppy behaviors such as light mouthing. During his behavior assessment, our staff noted, "I am a gentle giant but unaware of how big I am. I am extremely sweet and loving and need someone to help me learn my manners."



Buck is a goofy boy looking for a place to call home. He greets visitors to his kennel with a friendly wag and eagerly anticipates going outside. At only one-year-old, Buck can become excited when playing with his toys, and at times forgets where toy ends and fingers begin. He is smart and would benefit greatly from training and, of course, daily exercise.



Blanche and Dorothy arrived at the shelter in early February as strays from the Monrovia area. They currently live in one of the shelter's free roam cat rooms and love when visitors stop by. Blanche is quite the talker and greets each person as if they are a long lost friend. Dorothy is a bit more reserved but enjoys attention and the opportunity to be pet. Both Dorothy and Blanche need dentals and the procedure has been scheduled for Dorothy. Blanche suffers from hyperthyroid and shelter staff continues to balance her medication so she too can have a dental performed. If you are interested in meeting Blanche and Dorothy, please make a reservation at visitfcac.as.me or call us at 301-600-1546.

For more information about Caden, Buck, Blanche, and Dorothy call the Frederick County Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter.



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Sharing the Past – Envisioning the Future

Habitat Frederick - building toward a brighter future

Eric Anderson
Frederick Habitat for Humanity

At a time when rising real estate costs and inflation combine to create a daunting outlook for affordable housing, one of Frederick County's most recognized nonprofit organizations is evolving to better deliver its mission of service.

Rising property and construction material costs is a growing problem nationally, especially for homeowners and potential buyers already facing significant financial challenges. Yet Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County is finding new ways to help families build the strength, stability and self-reliance needed to build a better life for themselves and their families through affordable homeownership and improvements.

Established in 1993 as an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, Habitat Frederick embraces the organization's "hand up, not hand out" philosophy. They engage homeowners and prospective buyers to work side-by-side with Habitat leaders and dozens of volunteers from the Frederick community to build "sweat equity" into their own homes. This hands-on engagement with homeowners contradicts a common misperception that Habitat builds houses and gives them away.

So how does Habitat achieve success? While many are aware of one or more aspects of Habitat's service delivery, few are aware of all of them. Utilizing a reliance on trained volunteers to

significantly reduce labor costs, combined with the generosity of individual and corporate donors and grant funding, Habitat Frederick reaches families through four key programs.

Home Builds

Home builds are primarily how Habitat for Humanity International and its many affiliates have literally built their reputation. With the help of volunteers, community collaborators and the selected homeowner partners, Habitat builds houses and help families on their journey to homeownership buy them. A rigorous selection process ensures the potential homeowner partners meet affordable housing criteria including financial qualifications, sweat equity, and homeownership classes - while simultaneously engaging them to help ensure they remain partners for life with the organization. The act of purchasing an affordable home also begins the journey of building equity for the homeowner that will enhance their financial stability while creating future opportunities for personal growth and wealth building that can last for generations while simultaneously contributing to community development.

For nearly 30 years, the Habitat Frederick model of home building has centered on individual home construction. Yet with increasing real estate costs and a lack of discounted or donated property, the sustainability of this model is in jeopardy. So in recent years, Habitat Frederick has shifted its focus to innovative approaches that reduce costs while

increasing the availability of homes to more potential homeowners.

Currently, Habitat Frederick is working on its largest project to date - 12 affordable, for-sale homes in downtown Frederick frequently referred to as the West All Saints Street Project. After acquiring multiple blighted properties as part of the Frederick County Affordable Housing Land Trust that have remained empty for more than 20 years, Habitat is developing condominiums as part of the \$3 million project that will help not only the 12 first-time homeowners and their families, but also contribute to the revitalization taking place in that historic neighborhood and throughout the City of Frederick.

"I get excited about the West All Saints project, because it'll be the first of its kind in Frederick County where a condominium development is done on a land trust property. This is significant because we will be able to offer modern and quality homes in a great area at unprecedented affordable prices especially in the current housing and construction market," said Assan Sosseh, the Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization Manager for Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County. "Families and workers in Frederick County who would otherwise not have access to these types of houses will be able to afford them, and they will stay perpetually affordable for future buyers of these homes. We are also setting the framework for such projects in



For most, the name Habitat for Humanity conjures up visions of building whole homes for needy individuals, while to the contrary, most of Habitat for Humanity's efforts are focused on helping repair homes of those in need.

the future not only in the County but for the entire state of Maryland and beyond."

Home Repairs

Habitat also completes critical safety home repairs and aging-in-place modifications for people in Frederick County, again with the help of volunteers, community partners and homeowners. These repairs can range from repairing decks to installing wheelchair ramps to fixing broken doors and plumbing-related issues that create significant health and safety risks. Home Repairs are an ongoing project at Habitat, with more than two dozen being completed each year. Applicants are encouraged to visit Habitat's website to apply online or through the help of a friend or family member.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic,

there has been a rise in the number of families in need of these services. Thanks to a recent American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal grant made available through the office of Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner, Habitat Frederick can fuel significant growth in the home repairs program, with capacity expected to more than double in the fiscal year ahead.

"Habitat for Humanity offers a program to repair, make home modifications so that people can remain in their homes. This program targets veterans, disabled individuals, seniors, and low-income households. So Frederick County will put \$250,000 towards Habitat's Home Repair Program," said Gardner, with the capability for the funding to grow based on the program's scalability and success in the year ahead.

continued next month

William Valentine

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AUTHORITY: FRIENDS OF WILLIAM VALENTINE; LISA VALENTINE, TREASURER



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HISTORY

The Emmitsburg Railroad 1875 – 1940

Louis O'Donoghue

Dedicated to my Great Grandfather, John Donoghue

Chapter 1

Introduction

In 1866 when the citizens of Emmitsburg found out that the Western Maryland Railroad (WMRR) would bypass their town and go to Mechanicstown instead, they formed a Rail Road Board. This board had the General Assembly authorize them to incorporate so as to form the Emmitsburg Railroad Company (ERR).

The Charter and By-Laws for the ERR were approved March 28, 1868. In April the ERR pub-

lished a 'Notice To Contractors' in a nationwide railroad trade magazine announcing to contractors that the ERR was soliciting bids on construction of a seven mile long railroad. Twenty-three bids were submitted.

The contract was awarded August 19, 1871 to John Donoghue and the ERR released to him \$43,000 to pay for the construction of the line. The grading of the road was completed in 1872, but not enough money was available to pay for rails, rolling stock and crews. In 1875 the WMRR, under contract, laid the seven miles of track and began running trains for the ERR. The WMRR furnished the rolling stock and crews without charge, being satisfied with the tar-

iff from the increased traffic that the ERR brought. By 1879 the ERR took over the managing and operation of the railroad. It had acquired its own rolling stock which was manned by its own crews.

Actually, there were two Emmitsburg Railroad Companies. The first company, organized in 1868, went bankrupt and was succeeded by the second company in 1898. Both companies used the same name and can only be differentiated by dates. Both operated under the same authority of the General Assembly. The first company began running trains in 1875, seven years after being organized. The financial panic and great depression of 1893 caused a cash flow



Masthead image from the 1886 Emmitsburg Railroad bond certificate.

problem, which the company withstood for five years. By 1898 it was forced to reorganize. In 1930 a great depression again caused the company financial problems. This, along with the proliferation of motorcars and trucks drained away much of the traffic, severely reduced revenue. Passenger service was stopped on June 15, 1935. By 1937 the ERR was relieved from paying taxes due to insolvency.

From the beginning and throughout its 65 years (1875-1940) of operation, the company and the railroad were very much a product of the desire of the Emmitsburg community; a desire for a better life within the greater Emmitsburg area. A unique relationship existed between the Sisters of Charity at Saint Joseph's Academy and the ERR. Because the Sisters wanted safe and comfortable travel conditions for their students and parents, they financially backed construction of the ERR. They invested enough cash to assure that the road would be built. During the entire 65 years of operation the Sisters again and again invested in this lifeline to the outside world. Indeed, they owned considerably more than half of the stock and bonds of the Company.

Between 1900 and 1920 its best years, the ERR operated as many as eight to ten round trips a day. On May 2, 1935 the ERR made application to the Maryland Public Service Commission for an order permitting and approving the discontinuance of passenger train service. On June 15, 1935 passenger service was suspended. Freight service and all other operations were stopped in 1940. In 1941 the line was physically dismantled and all equipment including the engines and

rails were sold as scrap.

Throughout its 65 years of operation, the company and the railroad were very much a product of the desire of the Emmitsburg community; a desire for a better life within the greater Emmitsburg area.

Chapter 2

A Railroad In And Of Its Time

As early as the first half of the 1830s, long before the Civil War, the people of Frederick County aspired to having a connection to the nation growing railroad system. A need to connect to Gettysburg, and west to Carlisle and on to Pittsburgh as well to the east to Hanover and Philadelphia were very much desired.

In 1832 John Henry Alexander was commissioned, to plan a rail route from Frederick Town to Emmitsburg. He had been appointed Chief Engineer of Maryland in 1833. Also, he had been commissioned to create a complete map of Maryland and a map of the "Proposed Rail Road from Frederick Town to Pennsylvania." One, the Catocin Line, following the base of the mountain and the other the Monocacy Line, following the river.

In the 1820s Baltimore business men, stung by the loss of trade to Philadelphia via the Delaware River and future expected losses to Georgetown and Alexandria via the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, convinced the city of Baltimore and the state of Maryland to join in building a railroad to the west.

The first part of the WMRR line opened to Emory Grove, August 11, 1859, seven years after being chartered. In 1861 the line opened to Westminster. The WMRR construction had reached Union Bridge by 1862, when

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HISTORY

due to the Civil War, construction stopped for about six years. In 1870 the line to railroad had reached Rocky Ridge, and in 1872, Hagerstown.

The WMRR Company prospered and grew by two means. First, by building its own main line from Owings Mill to Hagerstown and second, by consolidating, merging and reorganizing over 30 smaller railroads.

Railroads were utterly essential to changing America's economy from an agrarian one to an industrial one. Trains were seen as instruments improving the quality of life. Goods were shipped by rail; people traveled by rail. The culture of America was deeply influenced by them. In the 1830s while the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was pushing west from Ellicott Mills it passed south of Frederick-town by three miles just as the WMRR did in 1871 while passing south of Emmitsburg by seven miles.

As early as 1866, the people of Emmitsburg knew for certain that WMRR has chosen the Thurmont route, rather than the Emmitsburg route. The Emmitsburg folk redoubled their efforts to organize and establish their own railroad.

Although the WMRR was reputed to have been a heavy investor in the ERR, they actually owned none of the ERR Co. stock. However, the WMRR did, under contract, manage the operations of the ERR railroad during the first four years of its existence. Also, The WMRR fostered much needed encouragement and support, as they had done for many

other branch railroads which act as feeder for their mainline.

For the ERR, the actual construction work which consisted of grading the road bed, making cuts, fills and embankments, putting in culverts and making trestles was done by John Donoghue who had just completed construction on several sections of the WMRR near Charmian just north of Blue Ridge Summit on the Dutch line.

The people in and around Emmitsburg wanted the 'prosperity and advantages' that comes from a railroad, so soon after the 1866 announcement that Emmitsburg would be bypassed, the people of Emmitsburg formed a Railroad Board. In 1886 the state of Maryland granted the Board a charter to organize the Emmitsburg Railroad Company and build their own railroad.

All hauling of merchandise from Baltimore to the West in early days was by teams, usually six-horse teams. Emmitsburg was on the route to Pittsburgh, and hundreds of teams passed through town each year as they traveled west and then coming back east. As new railroad construction reached a town, the western terminal point of the railroad usually became the western terminal point for horse drawn traffic.

As the railroad terminal points moved west, commerce, in many towns that did not have a railroad, was reduced and the taverns and stables along a turnpike closed because of a lack of business. The through stages ceased coming to Emmitsburg when

the WMRR reached Thurmont. The Guthrie and Bean Stage, the local stage line between Emmitsburg and the WMRR at Thurmont ceased to run when the Emmitsburg railroad was opened in 1875.

After it was certain that the WMRR was going to be extended to Hagerstown the people of Emmitsburg began to speculate about how a railroad would improve their lives. In 1866 this speculation abruptly changed when the WMRR announced it would pass through Mechanicstown, leaving Emmitsburg seven miles off the main line.

Soon thoughts of a plan to connect to the WMRR were beginning to formulate in the minds of Emmitsburg's business men. A 'Railroad Board' was proposed and established. Parties interested in establishing a rail link were Mount Saint Mary's College, Saint Joseph's Academy, the local bank, cattle dealers and milk producers.

At Mount St. Mary's, the Council, keenly aware of their heavy financial indebtedness, nonetheless clearly saw the needs of the college and the benefits which would accrue to the college, resulting from a major investment in ERR stock.

At St. Joseph's, the administrators, with a frugal, but practical entrepreneurial spirit (they operated a water powered mill, a shoe factory, and power belts), donated the land for the right of way and built its own station. The Sisters of Charity felt obliged to refrain from attending such meetings. To be sure they made their wants and desires known and they got their own private station at the end of their lane, they requested a priest always be included as a member of the board.

Part 2 next month

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

July 7

Union Bridge Bank Case

Edward Olmstead, the defaulting cashier of the Union Bridge National Bank, was convicted on several counts and sentenced to four and a half years in the Federal prison in Atlanta. Desire to make a "killing" in the stock market is said to have caused the downfall of Olmstead.

His gross shortage has been stated as \$163,367. The ceasing of his assets, along with contributions from the Board of Directors reduced the shortage to \$30,000, which will be covered by an assessment of about 11% on the depositors, which seems to be the best way to wind up affairs. If the depositors refuse the 11% assessment, the Board of Directors said they would withdraw their \$28,000 contribution and the let the bank go into receivership, which would result in the depositors losing more than 11%. It is estimated that without the settlement, depositors would receive 50 to 75 cents on the dollar of their deposits.

Orphans Give Concert In Fairfield

The Trussler Orphan Home band rendered a concert, Sunday evening in Fairfield in front of the Lutheran Church. 500 persons gathered round the boys to hear the concert, which consisted of religious and secular numbers.

Young Cyclone Hits Emmitsburg

For a few minutes last Saturday afternoon, Emmitsburg experienced a real touch of a small cyclone. It came without much warning and although no real damage has been reported, there were several incidents that gave ones to worry.

The storm came shooting across from the Southwest and as far as can be gathered was confined mostly to the country. For a short time the rain descended in torrents with a ferocious wind accompanying the heavy drops, knocking down trees, rolling chairs and plants from porches of residence with every appearance of a real Cyclone

The storm rushed on so quickly that the people had little or no time to prepare for it and for a time there was much alarm as to what was to happen. The storm centered mostly over the town, very little rain falling out near Mount Saint Mary's. The electric light service was put out of commission for about 30 minutes. The storm paid a visit down along the Taneytown Pike and hit the home of Mrs. Charles Scherer with such force that it drove one of the windows in and shattered glass, hitting her baby, effecting a gash on the head calling for four stitches.

Heavy Rains

On Saturday about 1 o'clock Thurmont received a light shower, some hail falling at that time. About 3 o'clock and heavy wind and rain-storm prevailed. During the storm two large panes of glass in Roger Eyley's barber shop or broken, the wind slamming the screen door against the window. Glass was throwing the length of the room and over customers occupying the chairs. Luckily no one was hurt.

The storms played havoc with the telephone service in Thurmont. That on Saturday put a number of phones out of commission and Sunday storm did still greater damage.

James England made a narrow escape from being struck by lightning. He had taken shelter from the storm under a pear tree but went to the house, and several minutes later, lightning struck the tree he had been under.

Chesapeake And Potomac To Add Lines

It is has been said that due to womenfolk tying up phone lines gossiping, the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co. will have to build a new line from Frederick to Thurmont, Emmitsburg and all the small towns along the way. The Board of Directors have asked all the men in the County to try to limit the time women gossip on the phone to the evening, so as not to interfere with businesses who need

the lines during the day, and to under an hour of gossiping if possible.

July 14

Small Apple Crop

Late frost affecting fruit are said to have done considerable damage to fruit crops. Local farmers will only get about 45% of their normal apple crop and about 42% of their peach crop. Picking of apples has begun and they will begin to reach local market in a week or two.

Thrown From Buggy And Killed

In a driving accident near Emmitsburg, in which the horse and buggy of Philip Hoffman of Gettysburg figured, Margaret Butler, colored, age 9 years, was instantly killed when she was thrown out of Mr. Hoffman's carriage and the freighted horse fell on her. Mr. Hoffman had been transacting business in Emmitsburg and pick up two little colored girls who were walking along the road and offered to take them to their destination, several miles further on, when they had nearly reached the end of their ride, the horse took fright at an automobile and reared and overturn the buggy, the horse fell with its full weight on the child, breaking nearly every rib in her body and causing almost instant death. Mr. Hoffman was thrown to the ground with much force and was badly bruised.

Motorcycle And Truck In Collision

A truck driven by Paul Hobbs, and a motorcycle on which two Lewistown boys were riding, collided in the square, in Thurmont on Saturday morning. Nobody was seriously hurt, but the motorcycle was considerably damage. Both drivers claim to have had the right of way. The point in question seems to be which one of the truck's front wheels hit the motorcycle. With this point settled, the nature of the accident is supposed to decide which one has the right of way.

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July 21

Locals Sue Emmitsburg Motor Machine Company

Charles Krise of Rocky Ridge, George Naylor of Taneytown, and Henry Dern of Emmitsburg testified at a hearing before receivers appointed for the Maryland Motor Machine Company.

Mr. Krise told of a complicated transaction, involving the exchange of some tractors for \$7,500 in money and notes, leaving him still owning the Moline Plow Company \$5,100. Because of this he was forced to make an assignment for the benefit of his creditors and today he is ruined financially, owing \$26,000 and having property worth only \$20,000.

Mr. Naylor said he brought \$1,500 worth of stock and is an endorser of a note, held by the company, for \$20,000. He made the stock purchase and signed the note on the recommendation of agents of the company, assuring him that the investment would yield a 10% dividend, yet he never got a dime.

Mr. Dern bought \$1,000 worth of stock up on the promise of becoming manager of its Emmitsburg garage, which the company had taken over, at a salary of \$35 a week. He worked at the garage for two weeks and was then transferred to Waynesboro, where agents of the company were selling stock, he said. He said he received no pay for his employment at the Emmitsburg garage and after working at Waynesboro for 17 days was dropped by the company.

July 28

Airplane Engine in Car

The other day a Ford touring car was seeing flying along the Emmitsburg Road at 60 miles an hour! When it entered Emmitsburg it stopped and sometime later numerous and dusty

drivers stopped their machines to ask the driver how he did it. To their surprise they found that an airplane engine had been installed in the Lizzie and the back weighted down with iron to hold it on the ground. Perhaps this will give Mr. Ford an idea for his next million automobiles.

Another Drowned Swimming

Louis Harbaugh, Rocky Ridge, age 22 was drowned last Sunday afternoon in the Monocacy, having been stricken with cramps while in midstream. He was an expert swimmer. Medical men say that bathing, after eating a full meal, is very dangerous. A large number of drowning cases have been reported this summer.

Meanwhile While out with other boys along a stream bathing and having a good time last Sunday, Charles Zentz, broke his right leg just below the knee. Charles was standing on a stone. When the stone started to roll, one of the boy's legs was caught between some rocks when he fell, snapping it in half.

Arrested For Forgery

Paul Hahn of Taneytown was arrested on Sunday and lodged in jail on charge of forging of the name of Nelson Summers of Woodsboro on three checks, two for \$40 each and one for \$13. The checks contained the forged signature of Summers and were indorsed by Hahn. When the forgery became known, Mr. Summers swore out a warrant for Hahn. Hahn denies the charges.

Injured While Cranking Car

While cranking his car, Saturday afternoon, Merle Baumgardner, received a very painful accident caused by the engine backfiring. The crank struck him a terrific blow on the left side of his head, causing great pain but fortunately no fracture.

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

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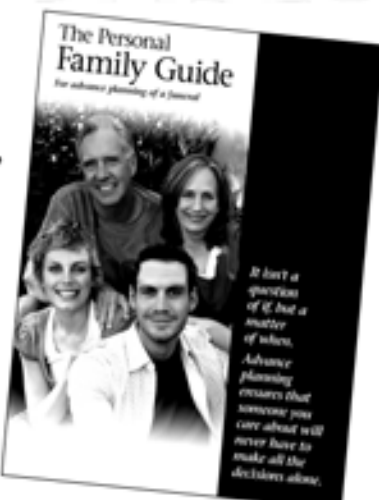
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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

Sauble's Inn

David Bule

Many Taneytown residents have passed the large yellow house on the corner of Baltimore Street and Harney Rd, but how many know the home's history, which dates to 1796?

Initially, a 14-room brick house built by Ruliff and Abigail Crapster at the end of the century. Their home stood on the western edge of Taneytown and was named "Locust Grove." An early toll road connecting Westminster and Emmitsburg ran past the front door; Harney Road, the most direct route to Gettysburg, passed by the side door. Taneytown was a thriving town during this period - a natural stopping place for travelers traveling between York, Pennsylvania, and Frederick, Maryland, or heading west.

William Crapster, the son of Ruliff's, who was willed the home with four enslaved individuals referred to as only Bill, Abraham, Milli, and Lydia. William operated Locust Grove as a tavern, and reports suggest his father did as well. However, as its location made it an ideal inn, it was not a tavern by today's standards.

There seems to be no other record for Locust Grove until 1838. A deed on file at the courthouse in Westminster shows that Jacob Corell sold Locust Grove to Alexander McAllister for sixteen hundred dollars. Mr. McAllister later sold Locust Grove to Samuel Swope in 1884.

At the time of the purchase, Dr.

Samuel Swope had become Taneytown's most influential and wealthiest citizen of the nineteenth century. Samuel and his brother, John, graduated from the University School of Medicine in 1830. After graduating, Samuel returned to Taneytown and, in 1884, purchased Locust Grove. Dr. Swope would continue his practice and reside at Locust Grove for fifty years. The home developed a reputation as a place where Maryland-style hospitality was provided.

The next transfer occurred, when Edward Reindollar obtained the property from Dr. Swope in March of 1900. Reindollar never lived there but leased it to tenants who farmed the adjoining land. A section of the home was also used as a harness shop, where in the Spring and Fall, they greased the harnesses to keep them in good repair.

Around the turn of the century, George and Irene Sauble purchased the home. However, it was not until 1914 that they moved into what they often called the "Big" house. The move, which evolved into a business in 1916, was first an Inn with boarders and then and later, in 1918, a respected restaurant. "I had nothing" is how George Sauble put it in a 1943 interview with the Baltimore Sun after announcing the closure of the Inn. Starting the business in the prime of their life, George and Irene believed that, with the revenue of the Inn, their two-hundred-acre farm, boarders in the home, and Georg's milk route, they thought they could "get along." Soon, meet-

ing the needs of six to eight boarders, the Saubles were soaring past their best expectations.

As the business grew, so did the Inn's reputation for quality meals attracting patrons from all over the United States. In an interview with the Taneytown History Museum, George and Irene's granddaughter remembers the family-style meal they served. The meals often featured fried chicken with mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, lima beans, peas, sliced tomatoes, candied sweet potatoes, coleslaw, candied apples, cottage cheese and apple butter, fruit salad, chicken salad, sauerkraut, three kinds of cupcakes, three kinds of ice cream, and beverages. The family grew or made almost everything. Peach ice cream was a favorite in the summer, and fresh asparagus was added in the spring.

In addition to being raised on Sauble's farm, the chickens served at their restaurant were also supplied by local farmers. As the demand for Plymouth Rock and Rhode Island Red chickens increased, Sauble began purchasing them from local farmers. However, at times, the need for chickens would become so great it would become necessary to reach out to surrounding counties to supplement what could not be purchased locally. Sauble spent approximately twelve thousand dollars a year on chickens, which is about two hundred thousand dollars today.

An overnight stay at the Inn plus three meals cost \$3.50. Servers found the work demanding and



Present day structure of what was once Sauble's Inn.

receiving a \$1.00 tip was rare in those days. They risked the wrath of local ministers who were not very pleased that their young parishioners broke the Sabbath. However, this was a fantastic way to earn extra money during the Depression.

George and Irene ran the Inn and farm from 1918 until 1941 before handing the operation over to their daughter. George remained active in preparation for the Sunday dinner, as did every family member, rising at 3 am and ending around 10 pm. Monday morning began the preparation for the following Sunday dinner.

Sunday dinners cost seventy-five cents when the restaurant business began in 1918, but the price slowly rose to \$2.75, and Sauble was afraid they might need to charge more in 1943 due to the rationing associated with the war. Therefore, they closed the Inn's doors to avoid

that prospect because they felt they were getting too old for such strenuous work.

The story Sauble's Inn and many other buildings in Taneytown are in danger of being lost forever. For many years, citizens of Taneytown were proud of the architecture and its significance in our country's founding and evolution. Few places in our country can boast the number of Medal of Honor recipients and the author of our national anthem. In addition, there is the prolific architecture of J.A. Dempwolf. Unless we take proactive measures to preserve before all is lost, we are in danger of losing our history. Keeping the town's rich history alive is up to all of us.

To read past articles on Taneytown history, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

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COOKING

A berry fruitful July

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Local farms are bursting with sweet berries and fruits in July. This provides the perfect opportunity to get the best tasting, antioxidants bursting foods for ourselves, our friends and families. With backyard gatherings and summer potlucks, a beautiful, crisp and cool fruit tart is a wonderful way to use your berry harvest.

Fruit tarts start with a sweet short crust pastry dough, but you can also purchase a sweet pie crust if you are short on time.

Sweet Tart Dough

Ingredients

Granulated sugar 4oz Butter, soft
8oz
Egg, 1
All Purpose Flour 12 oz Salt 3/4
tsp
Egg white - for egg wash

Preparation: In a stand mixer with the paddle attachment, cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Mix in the 1 egg. Sift together the flour and salt and then slowly to add the butter and egg mixture until just combined. Wrap the dough in plastic and chill for one hour. Roll out the pastry on a lightly floured surface into an circle about 1/4 inch thick.

Carefully lay the dough into tart or pie pan and press the dough so it fits tightly and press the edges up the side of the pan. Press the dough into every edge and nook of the pan. Shave off the excess hanging dough with a knife. Put the tart in the refrigerator for 15 minutes to relax and set. Place the tart on a cookie sheet and with a fork poke holes in the base of the tart shell.

Line the tart with aluminum foil or parchment paper and fill with pie weights or beans. Bake for 30 minutes at 375F. Remove from oven, remove the foil and weights. Using a pastry

brush, lightly coat the crust with the beaten egg white. Return to the oven and continue to bake for another 8 minutes until the tart is golden in color. Let cool. Yields one 10" tart.

Pastry Cream

Ingredients

500 ml (2 cups) Full Cream /
Whole Milk 1 tsp of vanilla
extract
4 Egg Yolks room temperature
45g (3 tbsp) granulated sugar
30 g (1/4 cup) Cornstarch
30 g (2 tbsp) Unsalted Butter

Preparation: Heat the milk and half of the sugar together in a saucepan over medium heat until just before a simmer. While heating, in a separate bowl, whisk together the remaining sugar, cornstarch, whole eggs and egg yolks. Temper the hot milk into the egg mixture, and then return the mixture back into the pot. Whisk and cook the mixture until the pastry cream thickens. Remove from heat, stir in the butter and vanilla, mix until the butter is melted. Pour the cooked pastry cream into a shallow pan and place plastic wrap directly on top to keep a skin from forming and refrigerate until needed.

Fruit Glaze

Ingredients

1 tbs Apricot Jam
1 tsp of very hot water

Preparation: Whisk the jam and water quickly to dissolve the jam into the water and mix until smooth. This is used to brush over the fruit on the top of the tart.

For assembly of the tart, about 2 to 2 1/2 cups of berries will be needed to top the fruit tart. Large berries, like strawberries should be cut up, but blueberries and blackberries can be kept whole.



Sonya's Sous Chefs creaming sugar and butter.

Kiwi are also nice as they give added color to the top of the tart.

Take your cooled tart shell and fill with vanilla pastry cream and smooth to make level, top with your fruit, then brush with the Fruit glaze and refrigerate until ready to serve.

For an alternate filling for your tart shell, a refreshing lemon curd that can be topped with whipped cream or a meringue. In this recipe, a Bain Marie is used which is a method of indirect cooking. A saucepan of boiling water is used to heat the ingredients in a bowl on top of the saucepan.

Lemon Curd

Ingredients

Yield 2 cups
Gelatin (one sheet or 1 tsp powder
with 1 Tbsp of cold water)
Eggs 2 each
Granulated sugar 4 1/2 oz (2/3 C)
Lemon Juice 2 3/4 oz
Lemon Zest 2 each
Butter 10 1/2 Tbsp

Preparation: Bloom the sheet gelatin in ice water or if using powdered gelatin, mix with one Tablespoon of very

cold water. In a mixing bowl, combine eggs, sugar, lemon juice and zest. Keep the mixture over a Bain Marie until it reaches a temperature of 180F. Take off the heat and whisk in the butter and gelatin. Blend the curd with an immersion blender until smooth, however you can also go directly to straining it to insure it is smooth. Pour the curd into your prepared pre-baked tart shell. Chill for several hours or overnight until it is fully set. Then you can place whipped cream or a meringue on top, or even just sift powdered sugar before serving.

On a hot day, with cool deserts it is also nice to have a refreshing summer drink. This Berry Lemonade is refreshing and delicious, and is kid friendly - and they feel like they are getting something really special, feel free to add an ounce of bourbon, if desired, for a grown up drink.

Berry Lemonade

Ingredients

1 cup sliced strawberries, stem
removed
1 cup blueberries
6-8 Lemons (1 1/2 cup of fresh-
squeezed juice)
1/2 cup local honey
4-5 cups of water
Ice

Preparation: Heat one cup of water in the microwave and then add in the honey to dissolve. Then in a large pitcher or container add fresh-squeezed lemon juice, and 4-5 cups of water to a mix until combined. Add the berries to a blender and puree the berries for 3-4 seconds and then add them to the lemonade. Stir Well. Serve with ice and add some whole berries and lemon slices to the pitcher.

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

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MOMS' TIME OUT

Celebrate your accomplishments



Mary Angle

I am the first one to admit I have screwed up as a parent. After all, who hasn't. Whether it be with discipline, advice, or rules, I have never gotten it 100 percent correct. In honor of the month of independence, I am going to declare my independence from failing as a parent and tell you some of things I have done well. Although you might catch on to some of my shortcomings in a few of the stories I am about to tell.

When my first child was born, we handled things a lot like the Luvs commercial. You know the one I am talking about, where the mom is interviewing the lady with the master's in early childhood development for the position of babysitter and then with the second child, she hands the baby over to the girl all dressed in black with the piercings. When he was old enough to eat, I made all of his baby food from scratch (his favorite was butternut squash). It was maybe four or six months in when I was out without any of his premade goodness and had to buy jarred food. Much to my surprise he loved it and my life suddenly got a lot easier. I quickly discovered that by not making his food I had a heck of a lot more time to enjoy my baby and spend quality time with my husband. As you can see, what is best isn't always what you think it might be. This is what parenting is all about, figuring out what works best for your family.

I also believe I was good at encouraging my kids to try new things.

every year. Even though he threw up before every performance because his nerves got the best of him, you never would have known that from the audience. Until the pandemic he was still acting in local theater.

My husband and I have always been big supporters of family time. Most of the week we have family dinner together. When the kids were young it was all 6 of us and on Sundays we would add in my parents and my husband's parents and my brother, bringing the family dinner total up to 11. Now that the kids are older and have after school activities and jobs, we hope for at least three of us at least 4 times a week, but six to nine of us on Sunday. One or two Friday nights a week we would have family game night and once a year we would plan a family staycation (check out my other articles to learn what that is and some ideas to plan your own). The important part is not what you are doing, it is doing what ever it is as a family. Go to dinner or the movies, do an escape room or throw axes, or simply sit at home and play games, just find something you can enjoy as a family.

Lastly, we have always taught our children that they can talk to us about anything. Whether it be school or life, happy or sad, funny or disgusting we have always been there to listen. Sometimes this has been a little more than we have bargained for, but always a positive in their lives. I have heard about medical issues, alcohol, sex, and inappropriate jokes. I have heard way too many quotes from American Dad and even watched an anime or two (and yes, I cried). I know more stories about the friends who offered them

drugs or alcohol or vape than I can shake a stick at. I have a list of the boys who have sent my girls texts requesting "noodles" (look it up moms...you need to know this one). I know which bathroom at the high school to avoid because it is called "The Vape Lounge" and I have learned when to just listen and keep my mouth shut. This is never easy but will lead to many more conversations that you need to hear.

Even during the successes of motherhood, you will still find small failures and that is okay. Focus on the positive and improve the negative and you will

be doing a great job. Although I am a borderline hoarder, a nerd, a stress eater, a crier, and I may not always understand what my kids are saying when they abbreviate words, I still try to engage and encourage them whenever I can. For this month of independence from your shortcomings give yourself permission to fail and celebrate your accomplishments. After all you are a mom and a darn good one!

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

Whether it was different sports, activities, or hobbies I always made sure they had what they needed to give it a good ole college try. Sometimes I even knew they would be terrible at it or hate it, but if they wanted to try something out then so be it, I was going to encourage them. My first daughter may have fallen in a hole and sprained her ankle at one of her first softball practices in middle school and she may have done the same thing in the only hole on the football field for a band competition in high school, but she tried! My second son may have discovered he inherited his mother's shin splints when he tried out for track and had to switch to band, but he showed an interest, and we encourage him to give it a shot. Our oldest showed a huge interest in acting at a very young age, so we found every acting camp we could find in the tri-state area. Then when he entered high school there was a play and a musical

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FREDERICK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

Karen Yoho

As I write this month's campaign article, voters are already submitting their mail-in ballots. Early Voting runs from July 7 through July 14. And the Primary itself is on Tuesday, July 19. Last month I wrote about the importance of voting in the Primary. A reminder that there are sixteen school board candidates with drastically different views on how the school system should run. Each voter gets to select four. The top eight vote-getters will move on to the

General Election in November. So, the point of this article is to lay out my case for earning one of your four votes. Besides being a part of the school system as first a parent volunteer and substitute teacher, then as an elementary classroom teacher, I have four years' experience as a sitting board member. What difference does that make? Well, it takes time to learn what it means to be on the Board of Education. Many candidates who run for a seat on the board do so for the right reasons.

But once they are on, they discover it is not what they thought it would be. It can be frustrating and confining. After all, you're not running for superintendent, the person who runs the day-to-day operations and personnel of the system. You are one of seven on a board, and to accomplish anything you must convince at least three other board members to vote with you.

In a recent interview I was asked what I am most proud of during my tenure on the Frederick County Board of Education. The question threw me. I had never

thought in those terms before. It's not about me or anyone on the board. It's about the students and staff of FCPS. I scrambled to come up with a thought or two.

Afterward, of course, it came to me that I am probably most proud of the relationships I've developed with people in FCPS. That also takes time. I knew many teachers and other personnel from my 25 years in the classroom. I value those connections and tap into them on a regular basis. When visiting schools, it is very pleasing to hear people tell me that I am a voice of common sense on the board because I know what they are going through.

And I now know many of the key people in Central Office. These are the hard-working people who spend everyday trying their best to support our schools. But you know what? If you're not in the schools, you can forget how things affect those schools, those staff members, those stu-

dents. I try to make sure I connect the two.

I am running out of room to make a full and complete case for being elected. In short, I love this school system and I care deeply about all of our students. I want them to feel safe and welcomed so they will be ready to learn. And I want to pay our employees well so we can attract and retain the highest quality staff for the benefit of our students and community.

So now it is up to you to make your four choices. We have all done interviews with the Frederick News-Post and WFMD. Many submitted responses to the League of Women Voter's questionnaire which you can check out at 411.org. Many other organizations have sent us questionnaires. We have websites and social media posts. Board of Education is at the end of the ballot, and I am the very last name. I encourage you to do your homework (sorry, former teacher here). Your vote is important!



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Mount Receives \$4 Million STEM Grant

Congressman David Trone requested \$4 million for a STEM workforce development program at Mount St. Mary's University. The project was submitted and approved by the House Committee on Appropriations to be included in the FY-23 federal funding package.

"Mount St. Mary's University is grateful to Congressman Trone for his support of the university's expansion and renovation of our STEM research facilities to support American competitiveness in high demand fields such as computer science, data science, cybersecurity, neuroscience and biological, environmental, and physical sciences, as well as contribute to a highly trained STEM workforce for the state of Maryland," said University President Timothy Trainor. "We are honored to be blending superb classroom instruction with research mentored by top-tier scientists in educating diverse and ethical STEM students who will help lead the STEM-oriented U.S. economy in the decades ahead."



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FREDERICK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

Rae Gallagher

I never considered myself to be a politician, even when I decided to apply for the vacancy on the Board of Education in 2020; or when I decided to run to maintain the seat; nor when I decided again to run in 2022. I am running for the Board of Education because I simply believe in the transformative power of a public education system for all students. Frederick County Public Schools possess great potential amid many challenges - but I believe that together as a community, with the right Board members, superintendent, and staff, we will strive to be the best system in our state. Politics aside, the Board of Education race has the potential to drastically influence the trajectory of FCPS for years to come.

During this election cycle, one of the most critical components of campaigning is getting out in communities across our county, knocking on doors, and talking to concerned citizens. In the past several months, I have come across so many parents, retired educators, current educators, grandparents, and even students eager to discuss the future of FCPS. I listened to parents who are hopeful that FCPS will continue to embrace, celebrate, and acknowledge the beautiful diversity of our community through

inclusive and comprehensive curriculum and instruction.

I heard from teachers, parents, and grandparents about ballooning class sizes and the ever-increasing workload placed on educators. Support staff shared challenges with staffing, wages, and lack of acknowledgement or appreciation from the broader community - and sometimes the Board - for all their hard work throughout the pandemic. I empathized with many teachers who choose to teach in other counties because of more competitive wages, but would prefer to teach closer to home. I've spoken to many who want to see expanded mental health support, more career/technology options, and comprehensive plans to meet special education needs. I commiserated over concerns of school safety, threats of gun violence, and bullying from too many citizens to count.

Despite the challenges and concerns, I also heard a lot of pride in FCPS and hope in the future of Frederick County. There is a strong and steadfast commitment from Frederick County citizens to continue pushing forward - for equity, for recognition and appreciation of diversity, for comprehensive curriculum that reflects the true needs of our students in a global society, for more fund-

ing to increase wages and benefits for all FCPS employees, for genuine parental involvement, and for increased partnerships so that all students can thrive.

In order to get to a place where all FCPS students, educators, and staff can excel, the upcoming election for four Board of Education

members is beyond critical. The next Board will work closely with our new superintendent to shape the strategic plan and priorities for the entire system moving forward. We need a Board made of members fully committed to public education who can work collaboratively together, value community input,

set a vision for FCPS, and put policies in place to help us get to the vision. Anything less will set FCPS back - and our students will suffer most. No matter your political stance, please come out and vote in the primary election on July 19th - the future of our education system depends on your vote.

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Continuing with our July edition tradition, our writers explore what happened to signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Sophomore

George Wythe

Joseph Carlson
MSMU Class of 2025

George Wythe (1726-1806) is a fascinating figure from the dawn of our nation. He was America's first professor of law, and a personal friend and mentor of Thomas Jefferson. He was one of the most distinguished men of his age, and it is no doubt that a man so influential in Jefferson's thought would have his ideas somewhere in the Declaration of Independence, and in all of Jefferson's work. He was one of the seven men from Virginia to sign the Declaration, and one of the few to whom Jefferson had entrusted a manuscript to for revisions a month before the signing. Among the founding fathers, Wythe is one of the humblest. He was known for his extreme intelligence and knowledge of law, and especially for his pensive demeanor. Unlike many of the other Virginians to sign the Declaration, Wythe was an abolitionist, though a quiet one. He freed his slaves and provided for them until they could earn a living. His giving them their lives, however, cost him

his own life, for a young member of his family, upon learning that Wythe had conditionally willed part of his property to be given to his slaves, attempted to enlarge his own share by poisoning them with arsenic. Wythe was poisoned too, however, and died at the age of 80. Though he was very influential, few of his writings survived except for his legal texts from when he was a chancellor of Virginia.

Wythe was born into a rich agricultural family, but his father died when he was three. He was raised by his mother, who was exceedingly well educated for a woman of her day, and she tutored him in the classics. His mother died, however, when he was a teenager, and his brother, who cared little for him, took over the family estate. Wythe entered college at William and Mary, but couldn't afford the fees, so he dropped out. He managed, however, to secure a study of law at the age of 20. He was exceptionally intelligent and was appointed clerk of the committee that formed the House of Burgesses. He was appointed Attorney General of Virginia in 1753, and was elected representative to the House of Burgesses for Williamsburg in 1755. His brother died and he inherited the family farm, and served in the

House of Burgesses until the Revolution. He was elected to the Board of Visitors at the College of William and Mary in 1761, and in 1769, the man who couldn't even afford a degree was our nation's first professor of law. He taught Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, Henry Clay, John Marshal, and many other very important individuals. His friendship with Jefferson would last him the rest of his lifetime, and when he died, Jefferson received his silver cups, gold headed cane, and his entire library. Much of what we know about Wythe comes from correspondences about him after his death. In this remarkable passage full of the highest praise, Governor John Tyler of Virginia wrote to President Jefferson in 1810 asking if he could send the President Wythe's lecture notes for publication:

"[the publication of Wythe's lecture notes] will afford a lasting evidence to the world, among much other, of your remembrance of the man who was always dear to you and his country. I do not see why an American Aristides should not be known to future ages. Had he been a vain egoist his sentiments would have been often seen on paper; and perhaps he erred in this respect, as the good and great should always leave their precepts and opinions for

the benefit of mankind."

The notes were sadly never published, and were eventually lost to history. What is most striking to me from this passage is that Tyler called Wythe "an American Aristides." Aristides was an Athenian from the dawn of the Greek Golden Age, the period credited with the invention of democracy. The ancient historian Herodotus cited Aristides as "the best and most honourable man in Athens," and even in his own time, Aristides was known as "the just." This is highest praise enough, but the correlation continues. Aristides was known for his rivalry with Themistocles, the other most important general in the Greek war against the Persians. These two combined saved the Athenian Civilization, and they were right before the time of Pericles, one of the most well-known of all Greeks, who set Athens, and therefore democracy, at the forefront of the Greek world. Wythe had a rival too: Edmund Pendleton. Pendleton was known for his oratory and power of persuasion, even though he was considerably less educated in jurisprudence, and he often defeated Wythe in the court room on account of his adeptness at debating. The largest collection of work we have from Wythe is actually his criticisms of Pendleton's court decisions. Pendleton was also a

friend of Jefferson's, and was another of the men to receive the draft of the Declaration a month before it was signed. Only a few months after the war had begun, Wythe, Pendleton, and Jefferson were tasked with revising the old colonial laws in Virginia. Jefferson, of course, is known as one of the great fathers of our nation, and the parallels between the Golden Age of Athens and the founding of our nation are manifold. Jefferson is to Pericles as Pendleton is to Themistocles, and Wythe is to Aristides. Wythe truly has earned this title, "the just."

I am from Virginia, so this part of our history was refreshing to me. Virginia, of course, was the cradle of the Confederacy in the Civil War, and most of our founding fathers owned slaves, a fact which has always grieved me. It was incredible, therefore, to discover such a noble and intelligent man of such highest convictions. Though I don't imagine he intended to do so, he died for his slaves' freedom, and I cannot imagine a more fitting end for a man who put everything on the line for your freedom and mine.

To read other articles by Joseph Carlson, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

Junior

Francis Hopkinson,

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

Little do we think about how famous people from the past—individuals who have a role in shaping our nation's history as we know it—are humans, just like us.

While scrolling down the list of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, one word stuck out to me: musician. One of these signers, one of these men who had a hand in freeing our country, was a musician. He represented the state of New Jersey, was born in Philadelphia, PA, and, along with being a lawyer, loved music.

In fact, this signer—Francis Hopkinson—enjoyed all forms of art: writing, painting, music, and design. A player of the harpsichord and the organ, and even a composer of several pieces himself, Hopkinson was said to have practiced music for the love of it. He even performed at his graduation ceremony at the College of Philadelphia—now known as the University of Pennsylvania. In a poem he composed, "The Raising: A Song for Federal Mechanics," Hopkinson wrote, "For our roof we will raise, and our song still shall be / A Federal Head, o'er a people still free." This satiric poem was to promote ratification of the U.S. Constitution, and it used the metaphor of our country needing a new roof entirely, rather than simple and continuous repairs to a current roof. He was being humorous. Can you imagine, a historical figure, a

signer of the Declaration of Independence, with a sense of humor?

Francis Hopkinson was in fact the only American-born composer of secular music that we know has written songs before 1800. He wrote the music for "My Days Have Been So Wondrous Free," with the words by Thomas Parnell. The song starts with a graceful and flowing piano melody, corresponding to the natural imagery conveyed by the words: "My days have been so wondrous free, / the little birds that fly / with careless ease from tree / to tree were but as blest as I." Ending in a slow yet beautiful run of notes, this song makes you feel as if you are in a trance, residing in the simplicity of the music, resonating with the last ringing tone.

"'Twas early day, as Poets say, / Just when the sun was rising; / A soldier stood on a log of wood / And saw a sight surprising." Hopkinson included these words in his ballad, "The Battle of the Kegs," which dramatically depicts the attempted attack upon the British Fleet during the American Revolutionary War. This ballad, which can be recited along to the tune of "Yankee Doodle," memorialized this event, preserved it in words. Francis Hopkinson's ability to write about such historical happenings that shaped our nation is inspiring and fascinating. This is the purpose of poetry: using art to build understanding and using art as a vehicle for higher meaning.

Francis Hopkinson also designed the Orrery Seal of the University of Pennsylvania, and he took part in designing the seal of the state of New Jersey and the Great Seal of the United States as

well. There have been rumors that he helped design the flag of the United States of America, too. It is clear, through his musical, designing, and literary accomplishments, that Francis Hopkinson had an artistic eye.

Typically, we don't recall historical figures by their passions or hobbies, and I find this interesting. We remember Francis Hopkinson because he signed the Declaration of Independence. We also remember him in dates. Search him up online, and in a matter of seconds, you'll know that he was born on October 2nd, 1737, and died on May 9th, 1791. You'll know that he attended the College of Philadelphia, that he was an American judge, and that he notoriously signed the very document that freed our nation. Isn't that the case with anyone? How are we meant to take these facts, these tidbits of information, and piece together a person?

I wanted to study Francis Hopkinson because, like him, I love the arts. I study English and creative writing, and I also play the flute. In fact, I have been reading music since fifth grade. At Mount St. Mary's, we are promised a liberal arts education, one that shapes us into knowledgeable, free, and respectable thinkers. We read texts and analyze what it means to be human. As I take a closer look at Francis Hopkinson, I find myself attracted more towards the whole of his personality—his sense of humor, his musical ear, how he was called "the artful rebel" for combining his artistic talents with his patriotism—rather than the few facts we are meant to define

him as. In fact, in a letter to Benjamin Franklin, Hopkinson wrote, "I have not the abilities to assist our righteous Cause by personal Prowess & Force of Arms, but I have done it all the Service I could with my Pen-throwing in my Mite at Times in Prose & Verse, serious and satirical Essays." In short, his pen was mightier than the sword. His words influenced the shaping of our nation, and his music elevated our country's artistic identity.

To circle back to my very first thought while writing this, we have no idea that historical figures are humans, just like us. It is a fact that Francis Hopkinson signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776, that he made the sacrifice to enable American independence

and freedom from British rule. But it is also a fact that Francis Hopkinson was a human, with passions and abilities and hobbies, just like us. He composed songs, he wrote poems, and he designed images, using art to shape our nation. He played the organ, sang, and held a love for music that did not require recognition. Yet, as people in 2022, maybe we should start recognizing humans as humans, start celebrating their passions. We can look at history from the perspective that individuals, while notorious for their accomplishments and duties, should also be notorious for their humanity as well.

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

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THE FATE OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION

Senior

John Morton

McKenna Snow
MSMU Class of 2023

One thing I love about Mount Saint Mary's is that it is about twenty minutes from Pennsylvania. I like Pennsylvania because it is a "northern" state that reminds me of my home state, Kentucky; they share rolling, green hills and farmland. I gravitated to picking John Morton because I saw that he was from Pennsylvania and was a farmer. The majority of the signers were lawyers and merchants, so I was surprised to read about John Morton. I found that he was a rather simple man, less "distinguished" as it were, but still very active in early American politics according to what stature he was given.

John Morton was born in 1725 in Pennsylvania. He was a representative for Pennsylvania as the colonies cast their vote for declaring their independence from England, finding himself in the tie-breaking position to see if Pennsylvania would vote for independence. Morton built his way up to a position of this gravity through simple, humble beginnings; whether he intended to rise to such a place or if he simply became

so as a result of love for his neighbor is a more ambiguous question.

Before life in the public eye, Morton was a farmer. Unlike most of the other signers, he was not extensively educated. Rather, it is speculated that he received around three months of formal education in his life and was instructed personally throughout his childhood by his stepfather. That is quite the comparison to the average, modern-day college student: thirteen years of primary and secondary school, and then four years of college. The difference between the beginning years of America and life two hundred years later is astounding: I imagine Morton would be surprised to see how accessible formal education has become.

However, his lack of formal education did not define him, and he found ways to become involved with his local community and politics on a small scale, eventually growing to a statewide scale. The website "Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence" wrote that "Morton assisted neighbors by overseeing their books and maps as well as surveying their property. He also acted as an advocate and advisor for them when necessary." This helped those around him to get to know his character and build trust. He was voted into vary-

ing positions of local political power by those whom he had once helped simply because they were his neighbors: Justice of the Peace, High Sheriff of the County of Chester, Judge of the Court of General Quarters Session, and more. He was the presiding officer as Justice of Orphan's Court from 1770 until March 25, 1774. Despite his lack of education, the common sense he used in legal matters garnered him enough respect to qualify for these positions.

In his private life, Morton was twenty-three when he married Anne Justis; their family grew significantly over the years, as they had nine children. One of their daughters married a man who fought in the American Revolution, and one of their sons was a surgeon who was a prisoner of war on a British ship.

How did this farmer and local politician become one of the men to sign the Declaration? The "Descendants of the Signers" website writes, "In 1774, while serving as Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly, he was voted to be a delegate to the First Continental Congress held in Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia. On November 4, 1775 he was elected to the Second Continental Congress which was held in the State House, later renamed Independence Hall." Being a part of this

Congress gave Morton a role in voting on behalf of Pennsylvania to declare whether the state would vote for independence or for loyalty to England. Morton was the last of the Pennsylvania representatives to vote, and his vote was the tiebreaker; had he voted no, Pennsylvania would not have sided with the patriots, and the war might have looked much different. Pennsylvania has the nickname "the Keystone State," and it may be because of Morton's vote which cemented Pennsylvania into the patriots' cause. Tara Ross online wrote, "As a keystone is critical to holding an arch together, many believed that Pennsylvania was critical to holding the American colonies together at that moment in time."

Thus, in 1776, Morton voted for independence, recognizing the needs of the new country, and turned the tide. This was no impulsive vote, but rather was a cause he supported far before the open war. In 1775, Morton wrote a letter to Thomas Powell that records strong words in favor of America's cause for independence. Morton wrote, "I hope Time will manifest to the World that a steady Perseverance in the Cause of Freedom will triumph over all the deep lay'd Schemes of Tyranny, & that Britain & America will again be united on the solid Foundation of Commerce &

the Constitution... You have declared the New England People Rebels, & the other Provinces Aiders & Abettors, this is putting the Halter about our Necks, & we may as well die by the Sword as be hang'd like Rebels, this has made the People desperate."

Morton was the first of the signers to pass away after the Declaration, as he died of tuberculosis at the age of 53, in April of 1777. That same year, as the war for independence blazed on, Morton's wife Anne was forced to flee across the Delaware River to Billingsport, New Jersey, during which many of Morton's papers and household possessions were destroyed. It can be difficult due to circumstances such as these, to know much about people of the past, since so much of what we know is dependent upon what evidence we have of their legacy. But at least for this one man, if nothing else about him was left behind, he left one indelible mark of evidence that says what all people passing through like to write: "John Morton was here." How neat it is that a farmer from old Pennsylvania got to write that on the Declaration of Independence!

To read other articles by McKenna Snow, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Graduate

Wealth and prosperity

Emmy Jansen
MSMU Class of 2022

As we come to the close of my tenure with the Emmitsburg News-Journal, you've become well aware of my passion for my hometown of Richmond, Virginia. Last year, the first signer I chose to write about, Thomas Nelson Jr., was a Virginia landowner and statesman, someone whose name I passed while driving on I-64. When choosing my second signer, I thought about going through the list of Old Dominion signers, sticking true to my theme of state pride. But instead, I decided to focus on someone that related more to you than to me, an homage to my second home on the Maryland-Pennsylvania border. His name is Charles Carroll, last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence, and namesake of Carroll County, Maryland. Born 1737 in Annapolis, Maryland, Charles Carroll was a notable signer for more than just his old age, being the only Catholic signer, the wealthiest signer, and the most educated signer, having received a 17-year Jesuit education in France. Not only was he the wealthiest signer, but he was the wealthiest man in the American colonies, having inherited great landed estates, including property in Frederick County. At the start of the Revolution, Carroll had a fortune of what would be \$375 million in American dollars today.

While this amount of money and status would be notable for any person, it is extremely noteworthy for one reason: Carroll was Catholic. Even though Maryland was first founded as a religious haven for Catholics, in the eighteenth century, improper religious affiliation would bar one from holding public office, voting, and practicing

law. Yet, this did not prevent Carroll from gaining notoriety in the eyes of the Maryland public, even without a formal platform to do so. In 1772, Carroll engaged in an anonymous debate in the form of newspaper letters with a member of one of the controlling, loyalist families of Maryland. When the identities of the writers were revealed and his opponent resorted to abusive, ad hominem attacks, Carroll's following grew, and it earned him seats on various committees. This is what led to his being elected to the Continental Congress, where he would sign the document that spurred the Revolution to free this great country. While every man risked life, limb, and reputation by attaching their name to the parchment, Carroll arguably had the most to lose in doing so, being the richest man in what would hopefully become America.

Despite being renowned around the country for his wealth and revolutionary zeal, Carroll was, like me, a loyal descendant of his home. In the early days of the national government, he was elected to the first U.S. Senate. When it became impossible to serve on both state and national legislatures, he resigned from the larger, more prestigious position in order to serve his home state and community. He also opposed the movement to confiscate property from landowners who had been loyalists during the war; even though he was outvoted on this measure, his dedication to all Marylanders, even those he disagreed with, speaks loudly of his level of honor and dignity.

Charles Carroll passed away in November 1832 at the age of 95, which seems like a remarkable feat for anyone of the era, regardless of signatory status. In living so long, he saw seven presidents sworn into office. Supposedly, he became disengaged with the politics of the nation he fought for around the time of Thomas Jefferson's election to the presidency.

Instead, he retired officially to Maryland, helping with various efforts such as laying the cornerstone of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

Perhaps you knew all of this already. Perhaps you live in Carroll County or grew up in Maryland, where men like Carroll are presumably lectured about in schools. Assumedly, you also know about John Carroll, his cousin, who would become the first American Catholic Bishop. I find it remarkable that at a time where religion was still seen as a dividing factor in a nation trying to find unity, the cousin of the first Bishop would sign the document that would bring about freedom for the same people who had barred them from public office, voting, and religious education. Carroll not only inherited a vast estate, but also the legacy of defending family and faith down the generations. Carroll's surprising position of public power, even without political power, allowed him to establish religious tolerance more formally in the formation of the founding documents of our nation, where all men are created equal.

One thing I have learned and loved during my time in Maryland has been the Catholic heritage of the state. If you've ever ventured south, you'll notice that the Catholic populations start to dwindle and then form again in Louisiana. But in the northern Bible belt area of Virginia, where I've grown up, Catholics are far and few between. Don't misunderstand me: I am thoroughly thankful for the Protestant community I've been raised around, because it has provided me with a unique faith experience and the opportunity to expand upon my own beliefs. I would not trade this for the world, and I find myself much more at home in a southern Bible town than Boston, where there's a Catholic church on every street. But spending time in Maryland, especially at a Catholic university that shares a mountain-

side with a national pilgrimage site, I have come to appreciate the beauty of a unified faith community. I've enjoyed having some classes start with an opening prayer, the discussion of Biblical history in an English seminar, and seeing Emmitsburg come alive during a Eucharistic procession. But this unity and diversity of religious affiliations is possible because of men like Carroll, where it was not the idea of one faith reigning supreme but the ability to practice as one would wish, with

equal respect and dignity for all traditions. This sentiment, which I hold dearly like Carroll, reminds me of the answer a Jewish professor at the Mount gave me when I asked what his experience was teaching at a Catholic university: that he knew his faith would be more respected at a religious university, even one that believed differently than he did, than at a secular institution.

To read more articles by Emmy Jansen visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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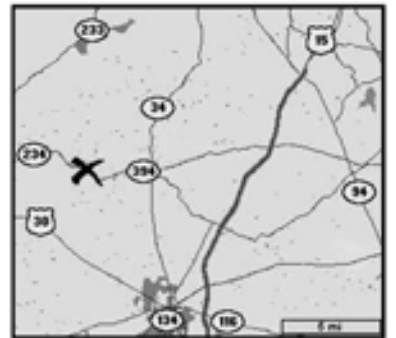
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Sunday, July 24

1 p.m. - South Mountain Fair Rabbit and Cavy Show
2 - 4 p.m. - Registration of Open Exhibits (See 4-H Schedule)

Monday, July 25

4 - 7 p.m. Registration of Open Exhibits (See 4-H Schedule)

Tuesday, July 26

4 p.m. - Fair Opens, Exhibit Buildings Open
5 - 10 p.m. - Carnival Rides Open (Approximate times)
6:30 p.m. - RAY OWEN - Horse Pull Arena - FREE
7 p.m. - Open Youth/Adams Co. Jr. Livestock Market Swine Judging, Show Arena
7:30 p.m. - FOOD AUCTION - Auditorium - To benefit a local charity

Wednesday, July 27

3 p.m. - Open Goat Judging, Show Arena
4 p.m. - Fair Opens, Exhibit Buildings Open
4 p.m. - Open Sheep Judging, Show Arena
5 - 10 p.m. - Carnival Rides Open (Approximate times)
6 p.m. - Open Youth/Adams Co. Jr. Livestock Market Goat Judging, Show Arena
6:30 p.m. - DRAFT & MINIATURE HORSE PULLING CONTEST, Rear Arena
7 p.m. - Open Youth/Adams Co. Jr. Livestock Market Sheep Judging, Show Arena

Thursday, July 28

4 p.m. - Fair and Exhibit Buildings Open
5 - 10 p.m. - Carnival Rides Open
4 p.m. - Open Youth/Adams Co. Jr. Livestock Dairy Feeder Calf Judging, Show Arena

4:30 p.m. - Open Youth/Adams Co. Jr. Livestock Dairy Beef Finished Steer Judging, Show Arena

5 p.m. - Open Youth/Adams Co. Jr. Livestock Steer Judging, Show Arena

6 - 9 p.m. - MECHANICAL BULL RIDE - \$5

6:30 p.m. - CHAINSAW CARVING SHOW

7 p.m. - Open Beef Judging, Show Arena

7 p.m. - AUSTIN RIFE - Auditorium - FREE

8 p.m. - CHAINSAW CARVING SHOW

9:30 p.m. - FIREWORKS DISPLAY - Visible from entire fairgrounds

Friday, July 29

4 p.m. - Fair Opens, Exhibit Buildings Open
5 - 10 p.m. - Carnival Rides Open (Approximate times)
5 p.m. - Adams Co. Jr. Livestock Dairy Judging, Show Arena
6 p.m. - Dairy Showmanship Judging, Show Arena
6 - 9 p.m. - MECHANICAL BULL RIDE - \$5
6:30 p.m. - CHAINSAW CARVING SHOW
6:30 p.m. - Open Dairy Cattle Judging, (All Breeds), Show Arena
7 p.m. - TYLER SHORT - Auditorium - FREE
8 p.m. - CHAINSAW CARVING SHOW

Saturday, July 30

1 p.m. - Fair Opens, Exhibit Buildings Open
1-4 p.m. & 5-7 p.m. - HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDES
2 - 10 p.m. - Carnival Rides Open (with afternoon break for dinner)
4 p.m. - Adams Co. Jr. Livestock Sale - Show Arena
(Steer/Dairy/Beef/Goat/Sheep/Rabbits/Swine)
4:30 p.m. - Parade Of Antique Farm Equipment
6 p.m. - PEDAL TRACTOR PULL FOR THE KIDS
10 p.m. - Exhibit Buildings Close (ONLY LIVESTOCK MAY BE REMOVED)

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WATER REPORT

2021 Mount St. Mary's University Treated Water Quality Report

Important Information About Your Drinking Water

We're pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2021. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Maryland Environmental Service (MES), an Agency of the State of Maryland, began operating the water treatment facility in June 2014 and prepared this report on behalf of the Mount St. Mary's University.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates Public Water Systems and the contaminants found in water through the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The SDWA sets regulations and guidelines for how public water systems operate and identifies several hundred drinking water contaminants, establishes monitoring frequencies and limitations. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is responsible for the enforcement of the SDWA and routinely complete Sanitary Surveys as part of their ongoing inspection and monitoring program. MES provides safe dependable operations of the water system and is dedicated to consistently providing high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds the SDWA standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Tood Otis, Director of Capital Projects & Energy Management at 240-344-4765, e-mail: otis@msmary.edu. Copies of this report will not be mailed to consumers but are available upon request from your utility.

The Mount St. Mary's University water works consists of three drilled wells. Before the water enters the distribution network chlorine is added to protect against microbial contaminants. The water is then pumped into a storage tank. The Maryland Department of the Environment has performed an assessment of the source water. A copy of the results is available. Call Maryland Environmental Service at 410-729-8350.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Important information Regarding Gross Alpha Emitters

Mount St. Mary's University's water system was placed on quarterly monitoring for Gross Alpha beginning in October 2014. Compliance with the MCL will be determined based on a annual rolling average of quarterly results. Alpha emitters are naturally occurring radiations in soil, air and water. These emitters generally occur when certain elements decay or break down in the environment. The emitters enter drinking water through various methods including the erosion of natural deposits. There are no immediate health risks from consuming water that contains gross alpha, however some people who drink water containing alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Currently, the highest level of gross alpha detected is 11.0 pCi/L.

Definitions

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow
- Treatment Technique (TT) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water
- Turbidity - Relates to a condition where suspended particles are present in the water. Turbidity measurements are a way to describe the level of "cloudiness" of the water.
- pCi/l - Picocuries per liter. A measure of radiation.
- ppb - parts per billion or micrograms per liter
- ppm - parts per million or milligrams per liter
- ppt - parts per trillion or nanograms per liter

Special Points of Interest

The water at the Mount St. Mary's University is tested for over 120 different compounds. The Mount St. Mary's University's

Drinking Water met all of the State and Federal requirements. Drinking Water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some compounds. The presence of these compounds does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (1-800-426-4791)

The table on this page lists all the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2021 calendar year. The presence of these compounds in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2021. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

Sources of Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain compounds in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Important Information About Arsenic

Arsenic is a semi-metal element in the periodic table. It is odorless and tasteless. It enters drinking water supplies from natural deposits in the earth or from agricultural and industrial practices. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and

may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Currently, the arsenic levels are being monitored quarterly. We are constantly evaluating alternatives and treatment options for reducing the arsenic levels to less than 10 ppb.

Lead Prevention

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Mount St. Mary's University is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Contaminants That May Be Present in Source Water

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agri-cultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agri-culture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses. Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be nat-urally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas produc-tion, mining, or farming. Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)
Regulated at the Treatment Plant - Point of Entry			
Nitrate	10 ppm	2.9 ppm (range from 1.2 to 2.9 ppm)	10 ppm
Typical Source of Contamination: Runoff from fertilizer use			
Barium (2019 Testing)	2000 ppb	607 ppb (range from 239 to 607 ppb)	2000 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits			
Selenium (2019 Testing)	50 ppb	1.40 ppb (range from 1.07 to 1.40 ppb)	50 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines			
Arsenic (2019 & 2021 Testing)	10 ppb	5.1 ppb (range from 3.8 to 5.1 ppm)	10 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits			
Combined Radium (226 & 228) (2021 Testing)	5 pCi/l	3.2 pCi/l (range from 0.3 to 3.2 pCi/l)	0 pCi/l
Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits			
Uranium (2021 Testing)	30 ug/l	19.4 ug/l (range from 5.6 to 19.4 ug/l)	0 ug/l
Typical sources of contaminant: Erosion of natural deposits			
Gross Alpha (2021 Testing)	15 pCi/l*	11 pCi/l* (range from 2.3 to 17.1 pCi/l)	0.0 pCi/l*
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits			
* Result is a rotational annual average. Please read page 4 of the Consumer Confidence report for more information on Gross Alpha Emitters.			
Gross Beta - (2020 Testing)	50 pCi/l*	5.6 pCi/l** (range from 0 to 5.6 pCi/l)	0.0 pCi/l
Typical Source of Contamination: Erosion of natural deposits			
*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles ** Because the beta particle results were below 50 pCi/l, no testing for individual beta particle constituents was required			
Regulated in the Distribution System			
Chlorine	4 ppm	1.10 ppm * (range from 0.87 to 1.23 ppm)	n/a
Water Additive used to control microbes. *Annual Rolling Average			
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (2021 Testing)	80 ppb	7.9 ppb	n/a
Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water chlorination			
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (2021 Testing)	60 ppb	1.5 ppb	n/a
Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water chlorination			
Regulated in the Distribution System			
	Action Level	90th percentile	Ideal Goal
Copper (2021 Testing)	1300 ppb	220 ppb	1300 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems			
Lead (2021 Testing)	15 ppb	3.2 ppb	0 ppb
Typical Source of Contamination: Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems			

LOCAL ARTS

GreenSpring Foundation summer concert series

GreenSpring Foundation is pleased to present "Music for Peace" Maryland Concert Series featuring internationally-renowned soloists and prize-winning young musicians who are the future of music. All concerts will take place at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Utica located at 10621 Old Frederick Road, Thurmont.

In lieu of tickets, we will collect an offering for the American Red Cross to support those impacted by the war in Ukraine.

Tuesday, July 12, 7 p.m.: Ensemble Lafayette, Rebecca Anstine Smith, Harpist, and Diane Kinsley, Organ. These two outstanding professionals from the Kennedy Center and Naval Academy will delight us with their extraordinary musicianship.

Wednesday, July 13, 7 p.m.: The Art of the Harp featuring harpists from the Maryland Summer Harp Institute. An audience favorite, this is a delightful evening of music featuring the future

professionals of the harp world!

Friday, July 15, 4 p.m.: Grand Finale featuring the Maryland Summer Harp Institute Ensemble. Join us as we give Maryland audiences an exclusive preview of our new album recorded in February at Abbey Road Studios, London, and showcase the MSHI student ensemble! Enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at our Abbey Road recording session below!

The American Youth Harp Ensemble, founded in 1999, continues to captivate audiences around the world as America's finest youth harp ensemble. With an annual reach of more than a million listeners, the ensemble has 25 national and international tours to its credit. Highlights include multiple performances in Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, the White House and celebrated concert halls across Europe, Australia and Canada. The AYHE has been featured in a variety of television specials and was considered for a

Grammy award in 2016.

Summer programming evolved from one harp camp in 1995 into the current multi-week, multi-instrument Summer Music Institutes and International Summer Touring program. The GreenSpring Young Artist Program, a special track for the conservatory-bound student, features world-class faculty and guest artists, student concerts and performance seminars.

From these core programs, outreach programs have developed such as Sound Experiences, a multi-day, tuition-free music education program in partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs; the Harp Therapy programs including Harping in the Hospitals in partnership with local healthcare institutions and the Harp Therapy Outreach Program in which peer mentors are matched with youth with disabilities to teach them to play the harp; and, Community Service, a program in which our young musicians provide over 300 performances annually often



for audiences with limited access to live performance or the arts.

Studying music at GreenSpring is an exciting, enriching and rewarding experience. Students benefit from an outstanding faculty, a supportive environment and a classically-based music education.

Partnering with eleven local K-12 public and private schools and youth-centered service organizations, GreenSpring supports the community, specifically youth with the greatest need, by providing in-school and after-

school music programs that incorporate performances by our students and professional musicians. GreenSpring also offers concerts in diverse settings with a special focus on performances for those in our community with limited access to the arts.

For more information and interview opportunities contact Lynnelle Ediger, Executive Director, at 804-837-9355 or visit their website at www.greenspring-music.org.

Christmas in July to feature local international opera singer

Apples Church in Thurmont has long been known to love music and outreach to the community. Richard Troxell, Thurmont native and International Opera singer will come to sing at Apples Church 7908 Apples Church Rd. Thurmont on Saturday July 30th with a select choir, "In Season". This light-hearted concert will have free admission but have a freewill offering to support the Thurmont Ministerium.

Richard owns his childhood home on Kelbaugh Road but lives

in Chester County, PA. Richard was born and raised in Thurmont, and began performing at age 4, first at Apples, then in school at Catoclin High and later at college. He comes from a singing family. Singing in the church choir with his parents, siblings and aunts and uncles was the link to his performing life. He is currently performing in Taiwan in Puccini's Madama Butterfly as Lieutenant B.F. Pinkerton.

Apples church is a local Thurmont

landmark as a small stone church built in 1826. Apples has regular Sunday services at 9:30 a.m. The attached cemetery has stones from the Revolutionary and Civil wars.

The reasoning for having a "Christmas" concert is two-fold. The pandemic ruined so many performing opportunities during the

past two years and now that things are normalizing, it seemed a wonderful time to gather in fellowship. Also important is that during the summer, donations are decreased for the Ministerium. This outreach by Apples is important to help spread love to those in need – whatever that need might be.

The choir consists of Amie Ferrough Cutchin, Brittany Henningsen, Paula Mathis, Cheryl Carney, Ben Mathis, Mike Mathis. Special vocalist- Lu-Anne Ewing. The conductor will be Rev. Kelly Crenshaw. They will be accompanied by Mary George on piano and cellist Rachael Stouter.

New Spire Arts

The month kicks off with performances on July 1st through 3rd of Laughter on the 23rd Floor presented by Landless Theatre Company. This laugh-out-loud play is inspired by the playwright's youthful experience as a staff writer on Sid Caesar's Your Show of Shows. This ensemble comedy features all the attendant comic drama as the harried writing staff frantically scram-

bles to top each other with gags while competing for the attention of star madman Max Prince.

If you are more of a Shakespeare fan, be sure to see Endangered Species Theater Project's production of Merry Wives of Windsor as part of the Frederick Shakespeare Festival! Performances will be held at New Spire Arts on July 9th and 16th and other performances will be held at Hood

College. Merry Wives of Windsor is delightful c comedy that will have audiences rolling in the aisles. The disreputable gourmand Sir John Falstaff pursues two of Windsor's wives, Mistress Ford and Mistress Page who conspire to trick and humiliate him – to deal him his just desserts. Meanwhile, three suitors compete for the hand of Mistress Page's daughter, Anne. Tickets are pay what you can and all patrons are required to show proof of vaccination and wear masks while at the performance.

The last two weekends of July see Landless Theatre Company back with their production of School of Rock: The Musical! July 22nd through 31st don't miss Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical based on the hysterical movie about Dewey Finn, a failed, wannabe rock star who decides to earn an extra bit of cash by posing as a substitute teacher at a prestigious prep school. There he turns a class of straight-A pupils into a guitar-shredding, bass-slapping, mind-blowing rock band. School of Rock - The Musical, with its sensational live kids' rock band, is a loving testimony to the transforming power of music. Please note that for the safety of cast and crew, all audience members will be required to wear masks.

New Spire Arts is also excited to be hosting the Maryland Ensemble Theatre's Fun Camp throughout the month of July. Fun Camp introduces campers age 7-16 about the fun of theater and performance and features a variety of different camps. For more information about these shows, visit www.newspirearts.org/stages-events.

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Why we write: the history of writing



Grammar, which may seem like minutia, is what allows us to communicate efficiently. The more you practice, the better off you'll be!

Part 2 of 3

Ashley Walczyk
MSMU Class of 2024

The art of writing has many complexities following the structure of a story. Without these rules, however, literature would be incomprehensible and hard to read. This is why grammar is important to the English language.

When we learned grammar, we first learned through oral communication. Native speakers of a language are in environments where they can mimic and reproduce their semiotics. Semiotics refers to the interpretation of signs and symbols to communicate, learn, and develop knowledge. It is a study of linguistics and signs to form significance and meanings of words. Although a more advanced study, it is important to understand the symbolism and essence of any word in any language.

However, non-native speakers and native speakers both learn about the rules of language inside of a school classroom. They will learn about parts of speech, sentence structure, types, patterns, and errors and fragments. It is important to understand the difference in appropriate and inappropriate structure in cohesive sentences.

Applying the appropriate parts of speech for communicating is also essential to proper grammar. Whether it be through written or oral communication, the parts of speech are used to help differentiate the ways words can function in sentence. Common parts of speech include adjectives, nouns, verbs, pronouns, and adverbs. More complex parts of speech include articles, conjunctions, interjections, and prepositions; these are taught at higher levels of primary schooling.

To understand the importance of the complex structure of sentences, it would be helpful to understand the functions of articles, conjunctions, interjections, and prepositions. An article refers to the a, an, and the words that introduce nouns. There are certain rules to follow with these words, however. A and an function similarly—being used to introduce a general noun or something not mentioned previously in writing—however, an is followed by a noun that has a vowel at the beginning. The is used when the noun is specific,

co-equal; subordinating is used to show the relationship of ideas. Interjections are punctuation used to denote emotions while repositions show the relationship in sentences. The complexities of parts of speech are significant in proper sentence structure and patterns.

The structuring of sentences is also learned at all levels in schooling. Schools start with simple sentences, followed by compound, complex, then to compound-complex sentencings. There are three things to know when forming a sentence: clauses, conjunctions, and subordinators. Clauses and phrases are groups of words that include both a subject and a verb. Clauses are composed of independent clauses—consisting of a subject and predicate—that can stand as a singular sentence, or dependent clauses—consisting of a subject and verb—that need more words to rely on, such as a phrase. Phrases have a different function as they do not consist of subjects or verbs, nor can they stand alone

like an independent clause. Both phrases and clauses work together in sentence structuring.

Much like clauses, subordinators also have two subcategories: coordination and subordination. Coordination is used to join sentences together that share similar ideas and themes. Coordination can join two independent phrases together using words such as for, and, nor, but, or,

yet, so, or a semicolon with or without a conjunctive adverb—however, furthermore, and consequently. Subordination is used to join two sentences together on two conditions: when indicating that one idea is dependent on another, or when showing a cause-and-effect relationship. Usually, these sentences have one independent clause and one dependent clause. The independent clause usually has more emphasized than the dependent clause.

Part 3 next month

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CATOCTIN SPORTS

Boys track team wins State Championship

Gina Lin
CHS Class of 2024

Catoctin High School has had a commendable school year regarding extracurricular triumphs, whether in athletics or academics. With the conclusion of spring sports and the school year, the Catoctin High School boys track team has much to celebrate. After claiming the MPSSAA 1A State Championship for indoor track during the winter season, the CHS track and field team has achieved the state championship title in the spring. The boys head coach, David Lillard, commented that consecutive 1A titles has never before happened in Catoctin history. The Catoctin track teams competed in the MPSSAA West Region 1A State Championship before advancing to MPSSAA 1A State Championships. The West Region 1A Championship was held at Smithsburg High school from May 19 - May 20. Catoctin boys track qualified for 12 of the 18 events and the girls track team qualified for six events. The 1A State Championship took place from May 26 to May 28 and was composed of 18 different events including meter dashes, relays, hurdles, and numerous jumps. The competition was held at the Prince George's Sports Learning Complex in Landover, Maryland. Catoctin secured first place with 73 points. That's a fair margin compared to second place, Mountain Ridge, with 51 points.

Catoctin boys track received second place in the West Region

1A Championship with 118 points, which was very close to Mountain Ridge High School who took first with 125 points. In the 100 meter dash, junior Brody Buffington qualified for the state championship and first place with a time of 10.93 seconds in the finals. In the 200 meter race, Buffington took first with a time of 22.15 and qualified for states. Sophomore Furious Trammel ran the 400 meter dash with a time of 51.41 which earned him second place and qualified for the 1A State Championship. With a time of 2:07.43, sophomore Dennis Lease would go on to represent Catoctin in the 800 meter race at the state championship. Junior Alex Contreras qualified for states in the 1600 and 3200 meter run. Contreras ran a PR of 4:33.77 and claimed second place. In the 3200 meter run, Contreras won third place with a time of 10:16.93.

Next, in the 4x100 relay race, Catoctin came in fifth with a time of 45.84. The team consisted of Brody Buffington, (senior) Joshua Glass, (senior) Dylan Wangness, and (senior) Layne Stull. The 4x400 relay team consisted of (junior) William Smith, (senior) Ryan Horning, Dennis Lease, and Furious Trammel. The team came in seventh place with a time of 3:41.60. Catoctin was able to seize fifth place in the 4x800 relay race with a time of 8:46.85. The team included Alex Contreras, (sophomore) Gabriel Riling, Dennis Lease, and Daniel Hoyle. The Catoctin boys track team qualified in the 4x100, 4x400, and

4x800 relays. Additionally, freshman Ethan Robeson advanced to states in the shot put, after securing sixth place and a PR of 43 feet, seven inches. Senior Garrett Sullivan holds second place in the discus with a score of 129'2. Sullivan and William Smith both qualified in the long jump. Sullivan came in fourth and Smith grasped sixth place. Both players jumped a height of 5'7. The top two spots in the long jump were claimed by Buffington and Trammel. In addition, both qualified. Buffington scored 20'8 and Trammel scored 19'6.5. Ryan Horning came in ninth with 17'5.75. Lastly, in the triple jump Furious Trammel received a score of 40'9.5 in first place. Ryan Horning, in second place, qualified with 38'3.25

Every team member contributed to the victory, with five players acquiring personal records in six events. Some highlights include Brody Buffington scoring 10.60 in the 100 meter dash which earned him second place. Buffington also secured first place in the 200 meter dash with a PR of 21.54. Additionally, Buffington blew away competition with a first place win in the long jump. Buffington scored a PR of 21' 7.5. Furious Trammel followed in second place for the long jump with a personal best of 21'3. In the 400 meter dash Trammel ran a PR of 51.1 which earned him fourth place. Dennis Lease took ninth place with a PR of 2:05.35 in the 800 meter race. In the 1600 meter race, Alex Contreras secured seventh place with a score of 4:41.56. Contreras also won fourth place in the 3200 meter race with a time of 9:46.21. Contreras obtained a PR of 30 seconds faster than his previous record.

Catoctin boys track also had major accomplishments in the relay races. The 4x400 relay team consisted of Dennis Lease, Alex Contreras, William Smith, and Furious Trammel. They ran a time of 3:36.20 and earned eighth place. The 4x800 relay team comprised of Dennis Lease, Gabriel Riling, Daniel Hoyle, and Alex Contreras. Of the four mem-



The Catoctin High School boys track and field team proudly displaying the MPSSAA 1A State Champion team trophy and individual medals.

bers, three were underclassmen. They ran a time of 8:49.83 which secured seventh place. Next, in the shot put, Ethan Robeson scored 43'2 and earned fifth place overall. Garrett Sullivan competed in the discus throw. Sullivan took second place in the event with a score of 128'3. Finally, in the triple jump, two players won spots in the top ten. Furious Trammel achieved third place with a score of 42'0 and Ryan Horning earned seventh with a score of 39'11.

Not to be outdone by the boys track team, the Catoctin girls track team also competed in the MPSSAA 1A State Championship. In the West Region 1A Championship the girls track team qualified in the 800 meter and 1600 meter. Additionally, Catoctin girls qualified in the 4x100, 4x200, 4x400, and 4x800 relay races. Some noteworthy events in the 1A State Championship include sophomore Jenna Conley seizing fifth place in the 3200 meter race and scoring a PR of 12:30.18. In the 800 meter, Conley also secured fifth place in the 1600 meter dash with a PR of 5:40.32. Conley would go on to gain PR's in three different competitions. The 4x800 relay team was also led by Jenna Conley and consisted of (freshman) Kylie Foster, (sophomore) Kiera Taylor, and (sophomore) Natalie Hoyt. The team scored a time of 11:37.66 and

earned ninth place. In the 4x400 relay, Catoctin placed tenth with a time of 4:34.59. The team consisted of (sophomore) Grace Williams, (sophomore) Allison Kelly, (sophomore) Ava Thompson, and (junior) Robyn Tucker. After much hard work, the Catoctin girls track team placed 19th in the 1A State Championship.

Coach Lillard credits the Catoctin boys track team's hard work and sacrifice as a result of their 1A State Champion title. "They gave up a lot of time, weekends, and time hanging out with their friends." Lillard also applauds the team's ability to "take praise and criticism on a regular basis...They see it as a form of improvement." Coach Lillard emphasizes the role of every player in contributing to the CHS track team's victory. "Most teams don't see a point in getting eighth place... it's still a point and most championships only lose by one or two points." The Catoctin boys track team hopes to continue the success of this year. Furious Trammel remarked that he hopes the team will "win 1A again, in the winter and spring." The Catoctin community is very proud of what the boys and girls track team have accomplished. We look forward to what they achieve next season.

To read past Catoctin Sport articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.



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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Context is everything...

Jefferson Breland

Over the next several months I am going to introduce some (hopefully) new ideas about the role of context with regard to our health. I will also offer suggestions on how we might make small sustainable shifts to improve the quality of our lives in those contexts. I hope you find these articles helpful.

Our health for better or worse does not happen in a vacuum. This may sound obvious, yet, Western medicine, the only medicine most of us have ever known, often addresses illnesses as isolated events or using a simplified cause and effect model. This model treats the symptom as if it were the cause: eliminate the symptom and everything is hunky dory.

The next sentence may seem absurdly obvious. Symptoms are our body's way of telling us something is wrong. This seems so simple. If it is, then why do we have industries creating products that are essentially bandaids we swallow. I am speaking of many of the over-the-counter (OTC) drugs available to us. These ingestible quick fixes are just that: quick. They do not, however, address the causes of the symptoms. The symptoms are merely the effect. OTC drugs may reduce the presentation of symptoms, yet they do nothing to address the underlying cause of those symptoms.

In a sense, over-the-counter drugs are the equivalent of putting tape over the "Check Engine" light on our car's dashboard. No light, no problem... no symptom, no problem. Are OTC drugs helpful at times? Yes, and, too often they are considered the solution or at least the opportunity for us to not look at what's really going on with our health. Often times, we will suppress the pesky day-to-day symptoms until a more serious condition shows up that we cannot ignore or suppress with over-the-counter drugs.

Yes, I am about to talk about Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). How TCM looks at the influences of daily life on our health can provide clues for how we can help ourselves.

Relationships are the very heart of Chinese medicine. These relationships might be the environment (temperature, humidity, climate), our family, our work, our finances, our emotions, educational opportunities, safety, food, politics, religion, social inequality, housing. The last sentence basically describes everything in our life. This is because everything in our life influences our health in one or more ways.

This seems obvious... or does it? One way TCM looks at these relationships to environment differently is related to temperature. Temperature? Yes, temperature.

To show you that I am an astute observer of life, I know that we are in the season of Summer. Summer in this part of our world can be hot and humid. See, I told you I am paying attention.

External environmental factors such as this season's high temperatures, and humidity can have an obvious effect on our body. We can become overheated and sweat more than we like among other uncomfortable effects.

What is one of the first things one might do when one feels hot when the temperature is in the upper 80's with 75% relative humidity? We might reach for a cold beverage, be it water, iced tea, a soda with ice, or a cold beer.

Well, according to TCM this is not such a good idea. Firstly, the shock of the cold temperature in our mouth, esophagus, and stomach is considered, well, shocking to the body. It is akin to getting "brain freeze" pain from eating ice cream or drinking a slushy too fast, just in a less obvious way.

This sudden ingestion of cold liquid leads to the second effect. When we have an ice-cold beverage or food, our stomach has to heat it up to digest it. This has the effect of heating our body up. Oops. The drink feels refreshing going down, but may actually have the reverse effect. We may not notice our warmer bodies if we are sitting in an air-conditioned room.

Thirdly, now this is a distinctly TCM viewpoint here, to heat up that cold food or drink we must use our vital energy or Qi (pronounced, "chee") to so. Accord-

ing to TCM, the stomach loves warmth. It is sometimes referred to as the "100 degree soup." The warm food means we use less Qi to digest it. This means we have more Qi available to support our body's natural healing ability. One of my patients followed my advice to stop drinking cold beverages and his symptom of bloating decreased in one week.

Not only that, we happen to live in a place that gets hot and humid. If we are out and about running errands or exercising in the seemingly unbearable heat, where do we want to go? Indoors to a nicely air-conditioned space seems like a good choice. Yes and no.

If you are on the risk of a heat stroke, or feeling overwhelmed by high outdoor temperatures, moving to a cooler environment is a good idea.

When we move in and out of the heat and cooler air-conditioned buildings- now this might seem crazy- but might this not confuse the body's thermostat? Our bodies are constantly seeking balance or homeostasis. For most of human existence we have not had readily available air conditioned buildings. We are designed to acclimatize. Ever notice on a cooler summer day that temperatures in the lower 70s feel downright cool. In the Winter, temperatures in the lower 70s can feel very comfortable.

This "thermostatic confusion" in the body may weaken the immune system much the way the alternating warmer and colder days of Springtime does. This can provide the opportunity for colds and other conditions to take hold which we might otherwise be able to fight off. This bodily confusion may also lead to allergy symptoms such as runny noses and coughs.

When you feel hot, TCM suggests eating cooling foods such as watermelon, cucumber, mung beans, pears, and apples. Even at room temperature, these foods will help cool the body. Also, it is wise to avoid foods that add heat to the body such as spicy peppers, cinnamon, and fried foods.

My general advice is not from the TCM point of view. It is common sense. Do what you can to



Lotta Ears, or Lotta, came into the shelter as a stray because she was found fending for herself in the wild, which is something no domestic rabbit should have to go through. We think Lotta is about 9 months old. She is a nice girl (with a lot of ears!) and doesn't mind being picked up. We think she still has some growth and maturing to do.

For more information about Lotta 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.

limit your exposure to the extremes of temperature. One way to do this is to not set the temperature of your air conditioning lower than 75 degrees. Another way is to have a light scarf or bandanna to cover the back of your neck when you go into a cold store, restaurant, or theater. In my home we use ceiling fans or other electric fans as long as we can before turning on the air conditioning. Of course, there are many variables such as your spe-

cific heat tolerance.

The goal is to find a balance based on your body's specific needs. When we begin to pay attention to small influences on our body's state of being, we can begin to understand how they may lead up to larger concerns or better health. The choice is yours.

To read past Complementary Corner articles, visit the author's section of Emmitsburg.net.



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Frederick Health unveils new critical care expansion

Josh Faust
Frederick Health

The global healthcare system is being impacted and, in some unfortunate cases, cut in rural areas. But Frederick County residents can take comfort in knowing that Frederick Health, the largest healthcare provider in Frederick County, is moving in the opposite direction by expanding services and updating its existing infrastructure. As part of those updates and improvements, Frederick Health recently held an open house for team members to unveil a new, state-of-the-art Critical Care expansion at its hospital location in downtown Frederick.

Work on this \$46.7 million expansion began in late 2020. However, the planning of this project has been ongoing for years.

When finished, the expansion will include a completely new Adult Emergency Department (ED), a new Pediatric ED and inpatient unit, a new Intensive Care Unit (ICU), a new behavioral health triage and assessment location, and a new Cardiac-Cath Laboratory.

According to available data, Frederick Health's ED is one of the busiest in the state, ranking 7th of 47 in terms of visits. That increase, says Frederick Health leadership, is due to a growing and dynamic population.

By reimagining the way both the Adult and Pediatric EDs function and how they integrate their healthcare service lines, Frederick Health aims to improve access and create a more friendly, patient-centered experience.

"This expansion of our critical care services will help prepare Frederick Health to meet our community's growing and changing needs," says Cheryl Cioffi, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Frederick Health.

While the new EDs will be opening soon, construction activities continue on the ICU and Cardiac-Cath Laboratory portions of the expansion. During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Frederick Health's ICU was a critical tool in the efforts to treat those in the community who had fallen seriously ill with the virus. This new ICU expansion will provide additional capacity, larger rooms, and a family-friendly, comfortable lobby area.

The new Cardiac-Cath expansion will increase the treatment bays from six to 16, allowing for faster treatment and shorter patient wait times.

Both the 2nd and 3rd floor portions of the expansion are scheduled to open later this year.

"Perhaps most importantly, the enhancements that we are making will ensure that when you or a loved one are experiencing a medical emergency, the Critical Care services that you need will be available right here, close to home," adds Cioffi.

Around \$9 million of this \$46.7 million project have been donated by individuals, businesses, and other members of the community. Of that amount, nearly \$535,000 has come from donations made by members of the Frederick Health team. The orga-

nization is continuing to fundraise for this Critical Care expansion, and if you are interested in contributing, you may donate at frederickhealth.org/donate.

During the open house event, nearly 500 Frederick Health team members, which include employees, vendors, contractors, and volunteers, toured the first floor of the new expansion. Refreshments were provided, and team members could have their photo taken as well as win door prizes and other items. Ryan Becker, the Project Executive with Gilbane Building Company that has overseen this project, was pleased with the turnout, response, and overall environment at the open house.

"It's always rewarding when you see a bunch of people appreciating all of the hard work that our team put in. It makes it all worthwhile," says Becker.

By investing into its operations and services, Frederick Health is rising to meet the growing demand in the community. According to the 2020 census,

the greater Washington, D.C. area is one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. Of the greater "DMV", Frederick County is the fastest growing area after the City of Alexandria. This rapid increase in population means organizations like Frederick Health must adapt.

In addition to expanding its Critical Care services, Frederick Health is also expanding into the Emmitsburg area with a new, comprehensive, and state-of-the-art facility scheduled to open later this summer near the campus of Mount St. Mary's University. This location will offer Primary Care, Urgent Care, laboratory, and physical therapy resources to residents of northern Frederick County. Frederick Health is also planning future expansions into other parts of the county.

"Frederick County is one of the fastest growing regions in the Washington, D.C. area and, as a pillar of this community, we are committed to investing in the care and treatment of our friends, family, and neighbors," adds Cioffi.

With over 4,500 team members, Frederick Health provides a full spectrum of healthcare and wellness services to support its mission to positively impact

the well-being of every individual in our community. For more information on Frederick Health and its services, you can visit www.frederickhealth.org.

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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of July

Professor Wayne Wooten

For July 2022, The Moon is new on June 30th, and a crescent in the SW the first week of the month. First quarter moon is July 6th. The Full Moon, the Thunder Moon, is July 13th. The waning gibbous moon passes below Saturn after dusk on July 15th, and is below Jupiter in the dawn sky on July 19th. It is last quarter the following morning, and passes below Mars in the dawn on July 22nd. The waning crescent lies just above brilliant Venus in the dawn on July 26th, a fine photo op. Even better the following morning; an hour before sunrise, the thin crescent sits just right of Pollux in the Gemini, with Venus to upper right of both. It is new on July 28th, which marks the 27.3 days of the moon synodic (phase based) month, in this case, from new to next new moon.

Mercury lies behind the Sun all month. Venus is also heading there, but still visible low in the SE in the dawn this month, a brilliant gibbous disk in the telescope. She will be rising closer and closer to the Sun in the next few weeks.

Mars is in Aries in the dawn sky currently. Mars is getting closer to us nightly, and telescopic observers will find its gibbous disk becoming larger and brighter as it approaches opposition in Taurus on December 8th. This opposition will put Mars almost directly over head for us locally, but Mars will not be near perihelion and so not get as close to earth or as large in our telescopes as he did in 2003. Jupiter is in Pisces in the morning sky, and will come to opposition on Sep-



As night light pollution increases, it will become increasingly impossible for most people to stare in awe into the night sky and see sights like this - the center of the Milky Way.

tember 22nd. Even small scopes and binoculars will reveal its four large Galilean moons. Saturn lies above the tail of Capricornus, and will coming to opposition next month, on August 14th, when it will rise at sunset and be brightest and closest to us. Its famed rings are currently tilted at 12 degrees for us on earth, and several of its larger moons will be visible in larger scopes.

For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about June 30th visit the www.skymaps.com website and download the map for July; 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.

If you drop south from the bowl of the Big Dipper, Leo the Lion is in the SW. Note the Egyptian Sphinx is based on the shape of this Lion in the sky. Taking the arc in the Dipper's han-

dle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of Spring. Cooler than our yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its strange motion reveals it to be an invading star from another smaller galaxy. This is the Sagittarius Dwarf Galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. It lies on the far edge of our own barred spiral, and may account for the formation of our bar. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky Way, Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley.

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo, then curve to Corvus the Crow, a four sided grouping. North of Corvus, in the arms of Virgo, is where our large scopes will show members of the Virgo Supercluster, a swarm of over a thousand galaxies about 50 million light years distant.

To the east, Hercules is well up, with the nice globular cluster M-13 marked on your sky map and visible in binocs. The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega (from Carl Sagan's novel and movie, "Contact"), rises in the NE as twilight deepens. Twice as hot as our Sun, it appears blue-white, like most bright stars. At the opposite end of the parallelogram of Lyra is M-57, the Ring Nebula. In Floyd Griffith's fine shot of the northern summer Milky Way on the following page, Vega is the bright star just to the top right of the plane of the Galaxy.

Northeast of Lyra is Cygnus, the Swan, flying down the Milky Way. Its bright star Deneb, at the top of the "northern cross" is one of the luminaries of the Galaxy, about 50,000 times more luminous than our Sun and around 3,000 light years distant. But amidst all the stars in Floyd's majestic shot, it is hard to pick out, just to left of the plane of the Galaxy, and a little above (north) of Vega. Under dark skies as in Floyd's fine photo, note the "Great Rift", a dark nebula in front of our solar system as we revolve around the core of the Milky Way in the Galactic Year of 250 million of our own years.

Altair is the third bright star of the summer triangle. It lies in Aquila the Eagle, and is much closer than Deneb; it lies within about 13 light years of our Sun. Here it is brightest star just to the upper left of the center of the photo, just to the left of the dark dust clouds along the Galactic Plane.

As we head south, Antares is well up at sunset in Scorpius. It appears reddish (its Greek name means rival of Ares or Mars to the Latins) because it is half as hot as our yellow Sun; it is bright because it is a bloated red super-

giant, big enough to swallow up our solar system all the way out to Saturn's orbit! Scorpius is the brightest constellation in the sky, with 13 stars brighter than the pole star Polaris! Note the fine naked eye clusters M-6 and M-7, just to the left of the Scorpion's tail.

Just a little east of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which lies toward the center of the Milky Way. From a dark sky site, you can pick out the fine stellar nursery, M-8, the Lagoon Nebula (pink patch here), like a cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout. This view of our home galaxy stretching overhead is for about midnight on July evenings, looking from the South to overhead. My favorite way of learning the many deep sky objects (open and globular clusters, bright nebulae like the Lagoon, and the many dark nebulae that make up the "Dark Constellations" of the Inca) is to use low power binoculars and lean back in a lawn chair (also an ideal way to observe meteor showers like August's Perseids with just your naked eyes) and slowly sweep up and down the Galaxy, marking off the deep sky objects on your SkyMap as you spot them.

Note the back of the SkyMap has a fine selection of the best deep sky objects to spot with the naked eyes, binocs, and small scopes to help you find your way across the Galaxy this summer. Of course, you will need dark skies to see this kind of beauty, but many have plans for trips to parks and out west this summer, so be sure to plan for at least a few evenings under dark skies to appreciate our galaxy. Also, most new smartphones can get fine shots with timed exposures on a tripod like this one, using night camera or Starry Camera Pro programs. Try out yours dark evening.

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Farmers' Almanac

"The United States is the only country with a known birthday"
- James G. Blaine (1830-1893)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Isolated late-day thunderstorms, hot and humid (1, 2, 3); scattered late-day thunderstorms, quite humid (4, 5, 6, 7). Isolated late-day thunderstorms, very hot (8, 9, 10, 11, 12); late-day showers and thunderstorms, then slightly cooler but still humid (13, 14); dry, turning very hot (15, 16, 17, 18, 19); widespread late-day thunderstorms (20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27); scattered thunderstorms, heavy rain (28, 29); 30, 31 dry, warm and Humid (30, 31).

Severe Weather Watch: The Town and Country Almanack sees severe thunderstorms, heavy rain (14); excessive heat (17, 18, 19); severe thunderstorms, heavy rain (20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28).

Full Moon: July's Full Moon will occur on Wednesday, July 13th. It has been often referred to by many Native American tribes as Thunder Moon because of the numerous thunderstorms during the month (see this month's forecast above!), many quite severe in some areas. However, other tribes in other regions of The United

States, called it BUCK MOON due the rapid growth of antlers on young bucks during the month, RIPE CORN MOON because of the appearance of young corn on the stalks, or HAY MOON since hay tended to ripen as well.

Special Notes: Watch out! Those Dog Days of Summer will be upon us starting Sunday, July 3rd. Get ready for some hot, hazy, and humid weather (the dreaded 3 H's) that will continue into mid-August.

Holidays: This year's Fourth of July celebration falls on Monday, July 4th! On this most famous day in United States History, in 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution saying, "These United Colonies are, and of right, ought to be, free and independent states". Hopefully, you have already 'tried out' the old grill this season. Nobody wants any surprises so it was wise to have made sure that it is functioning properly and you remembered to fill up the propane tank (or picked up plenty of charcoal and charcoal lighter fluid!). Now it's time to enjoy! If planning extended outdoor, use the appropriate level of sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher) and apply frequently, especially if swimming or perspiring.

The Garden: Leggy annuals may need to be pruned back to encourage new growth and more flowering. Be sure that all tall annuals and perennials are securely staked so that they will remain upright during the afternoon thunderstorms that are so common for this time of year. During the dry summer months, remember to mow the lawn when it is high and mow less often. Taller grass withstands drought better because its blades shade the soil. Allow roses to rest in July and August. Do not fertilize, but continue spraying, and give them a light pruning in July to encourage new fall growth.

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (21, 22); weeding and stirring the soil (1, 2, 3, 28, 29); planting above-ground crops (8, 9); harvesting all crops (10, 11, 14, 15); the best days for setting hens and incubators (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 28, 29, 30, 31); transplanting (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 28, 29, 30, 31); the weaning of all small animals and livestock (10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17); harvesting and storing grains (20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living:

"Do not regard liberty and freedom so lightly that you forget its value and take it for granted."

COMPUTER Q&A

Not backing up your data could cost you!

Aysë Stenabaugh
Jesters' Computers

Too often the "out of sight out of mind" concept can bite us in the behind. Recently, an Emmitsburg resident contacted us because she was unable to access her data. Upon completing diagnostics on her storage device we determined that in order to recover her data she would have to send her hard drive to a data recovery specialist. Later she learned that the mistake of not backing up her data would cost her \$800.

Data that is stored on only ONE device is never completely safe because all physical storage devices will eventually fail. The only way to protect your data is to ensure that data is either being manually copied to another storage device, an automatic backup to an external storage device is configured to run at regular intervals or cloud storage is being utilized and data is being saved properly to your cloud storage. Any of the above methods will help ensure that your data is safe, read on to learn the benefits and limitations of each option.

CDs and DVDs are the least secure storage method and are the most likely to become damaged or lost. If you've ever found yourself listening to a music cd only for it to start skipping, the disc probably got scratched or damaged. Since your relying on a laser to burn the data into the disc the slower the burn speed the deeper the burn or etching of the data into the disk. If you do choose to burn your data to a disc, choosing a slower speed can help ensure that your data won't get damaged as easily but it doesn't prevent scratches. It's okay to burn a copy of data to a disc if you need to share your files with another person but we wouldn't recommend using it as a method to backup or store a single copy of important data.

Flash Drives can seem like a good storage option since there are no moving parts and USBs are readily accessible on most devices. In reality, flash drives were never meant to be permanent storage media instead, the devices were designed to copy files from one device and easily transfer them to another. The problem with this is that flash drives can be easily lost or damaged. Flash drives, similar to solid-state hard drives have a limit on the number of times it can write to and erase the memory in the device. Additionally, plugging a flash drive into a device that is not properly regulating its power can cause a surge that can damage the hardware.

External backup drives that remain plugged in and are configured to backup your data are a good option to automatically ensure that your data is stored in a second location. Windows 8 and Windows 10 both provide the ability to set up file history which will automatically copy and new or changed files to your external storage device. Additionally, on Windows 7 and newer devices, you can perform a system image or setup your image on a regular schedule. A system image is a snapshot of your entire computer including personal files, programs, and settings. Having a system

image can prevent you from needing to locate and re-load all of your programs and restore your files and settings. A system image can only be saved to an external hard drive (unless you have the pro versions of Windows which allows network storage devices to be used). Using an external backup drive you do have an initial cost, at some point any physical storage device could fail at which point you would replace that device.

Cloud storage is a great way to ensure that all of your data is safe in the event of a fire or natural disaster.

When configured properly, data can be saved to the cloud and the computer automatically. With cloud storage, you can typically access your cloud data from any device with internet access by logging into your account. There are several different cloud storage options including Dropbox, OneDrive, and iCloud. For those that want to utilize Microsoft Office software such as Word, Excel or Outlook can benefit two-fold by subscribing to Microsoft 365 (formerly office 365) which provides the latest versions of their Office software

as well as 1 Terabyte of online storage for a yearly fee.

Too often we see our customers in tears because they lost pictures, videos, school work, etc that was not properly backed up. If you want to ensure this doesn't happen to you we strongly recommend considering at

least one of the options above, ideally both a physical and cloud storage. If you find yourself with questions about data storage or if you need assistance with your computer, consider reaching out to us at Jester's Computer Services for advice or to schedule an appointment at 717-642-6611. You can also find us on the web at www.jesterscomputers.com.

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4TH OF JULY REFLECTIONS

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his

home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in

forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart.

Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education.

They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

They gave you and me a free and independent America. The history books never told you a lot about what happened in the Revolutionary War. We didn't fight just the British. We were British subjects at that time and we fought our own government!

Some of us take these liberties so much for granted, but we shouldn't. So, take a few minutes this year while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid.

Remember: freedom is never free, and the Fourth of July has more to it than parades, beer, picnics, and baseball games.

The meaning of the symbols on the Dollar Bill

Take out a one dollar bill and look at it. The one-dollar bill you're looking at first came off the presses in 1957 in its present design. This so-called paper money is in fact a cotton and linen blend, with red and blue minute silk fibers running through it. It's not paper money at all...its fabric money. We've all washed it without it falling apart. A special blend of ink is used, the contents we will never know. It is overprinted with symbols and then it is starched to make it water resistant and pressed to give it that nice crisp look.

If you look on the front of the bill, you will see the United States Treasury Seal. On the top you will see the scales for the balance-a balanced budget. In the center you have a carpenter's T-square, a tool used for an even cut. Underneath is the Key to the United States Treasury.

That's all pretty easy to figure out, but what is on the back of that dollar bill is something we should all know. If you turn the bill over, you will see two circles. Both circles, together, comprise the Great Seal of the United States. The First Continental Congress requested that Benjamin Franklin and a group of men come up with a Seal. It took them four years to accomplish this task and another two years to get it approved.

If you look at the left hand circle, you will see a Pyramid. Notice the face is lighted and the western side is dark. This country was just beginning. We had not begun to explore the West or decided what we could do for Western Civilization. The Pyramid is uncapped, again signifying that we were not even close to being finished. Inside the capstone you have the all-seeing eye, and ancient symbol for divinity. It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do it alone, but a group of men, with the help of God could do anything. "IN GOD WE TRUST" is on this currency. The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS, means: "God has favored our undertaking." The Latin below the pyramid, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, means "a new order has begun." At the base of the pyramid is the Roman numeral for 1776.

5th Annual
Thurmont Plein Air

August 27 | 9am-3pm

This years Plein Air will take us to local CHURCHES!
Artists can choose from the following churches to paint:

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CATOCTIN EPISCOPAL PARISH 12625 Catoctin Furnace Road	PIONEER BAPTIST CHURCH 13802 Long Road	THURMONT UNITED METHODIST 13830 Long Road
CATOCTIN VIEW SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH 15601 Catoctin Mountain Hwy.	ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 15 N. Church Street	WELLERS UNITED METHODIST 101 N. Altamont Avenue

Calling all artists for the Thurmont Plein Air!
Artists Paint from 9am-1pm.

Spectators come out to Thurmont Community Park to view the paintings while they are judged & meet the artists. This year's judge will be once again International Artist Yemi Fagbohun! Paintings will also be available for purchase. Thurmont Community Park is located at 21 Frederick Road.

Please contact vgrinder@thurmontstaff.com for more information

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4TH OF JULY REFLECTIONS

If you look at the right-hand circle, and check it carefully, you will learn that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States. It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, Florida National Cemetery and is the centerpiece of most hero's monuments. Slightly modified, it is the seal of the President of the United States and it is always visible whenever he speaks, yet no one knows what the symbols mean.

The Bald Eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons first, he is not afraid of a storm; he is strong and he is smart enough to soar above it. Secondly, he wears no material crown. We had just broken from the King of England. Also, notice the shield is unsupported. This country can now stand on its own. At the top of that shield you have a white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor. We were coming together as one nation.

In the Eagle's beak you will read, "E PLURIBUS UNUM", meaning "one nation from many people." Above the Eagle you have thirteen stars representing the thirteen original colonies, and any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away. Again, we were coming together as one. Notice what the Eagle holds in his talons. He holds an olive branch and arrows. This country wants peace, but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace. The Eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the arrows.

They say that the number 13 is an unlucky number. This is almost a worldwide belief. You will usually never see a room numbered 13, or any hotels or motels with a 13th floor. But think about this: 13 original colonies, 13 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 13 stripes on our flag, 13 steps on the Pyramid, 13 letters in the Latin above, 13 letters in "E Pluribus Unum", 13 stars above the Eagle, 13 plumes of feathers on each span of the Eagle's wing, 13 bars on that shield, 13 leaves on the olive branch, 13 fruits, and if you look closely, 13 arrows. And for minorities: the 13th Amendment.

Why didn't we know this? You probably don't know it and your children don't know it because no one ever felt it important enough to tell us about it. Too many veterans have given up too much to ever let that meaning fade. Many veterans remember coming home to an America that doesn't care. Too many veterans never came home at all.

Tell your kids and grandkids what a dollar bill really stands for. Because if you don't, nobody else will.

Why the American Flag Is Folded 12 Times

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American

citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they are found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that

the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to the father; for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies in their eyes, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today.



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