

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

JANUARY 2023

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## Gateway To The Cure donations sets record

Thurmont Municipal Building became a sea of pink Nov. 29 as the community celebrated a Gateway To The Cure milestone — its largest donation to date. The Thurmont Town Council presented the Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund at Frederick Health Hospital with a check for \$22,174, the money having been garnered as the result of Thurmont's 9th Annual Gateway To The Cure Campaign.

"We give thanks to all who have supported our journey for the last nine years for Gateway To The Cure," said Economic Development Manager Vicki Grinder.

Together, the Town of Thurmont has collected a grand total of \$138,174 since the campaign's inception in 2014, according to Grinder. She marveled in appreciation at the community's dedication and volunteer support to not only keep the campaign running but thriving each and every year.

"At every one of our events there are smiles, smiles, smiles everywhere." Grinder noted that all the winners in the Golf Classic donated their money back. That

speaks volumes about how people feel about the cause, she said.

John Stiner, who runs the Cure's 5K, said the Gateway To The Cure effort was close to his heart, as his father had cancer. It was a privilege to do this for the town. They plan on running a 10K in the spring — they think it will draw a lot of people who would enjoy running on the rural roads and over all the local covered bridges.

An anonymous donor gave \$1,000 to purchase pink light bulbs — they were put in stores and given away. "The thinking of the donor," Grinder said, "was that more people would pick them up if they were free, and once they had them they would turn them on, and in doing so, remind people of the cause, and hopefully get more involved." She was right, as Thurmont was a sea of pink all November.

Grinder credited local businesses as: "The heart and soul of Gateway To The Cure" for their continual support.

The Patty Hurwitz Fund began in 1999, after Hurwitz was diagnosed with breast cancer. The



Once again, the citizens and businesses of Thurmont beat everyone's expectations and donated a record \$22,174 to support breast cancer research.

fund is used to support early cancer detection methods at the Stockman Cancer Institute in Frederick, which provides access to the diagnostics county residents need without having to travel far from home.

To date, the Fund has collected close to \$3 million, of which \$138,000 is from Thurmont, Jeff Hurwitz, Patty's husband, told the Town Council.

Hurwitz congratulated Thurmont for reaching such an outstanding milestone for such a small town. "There's a saying, 'You are as

big as your heart is,' so I would say you are a really big town," he said.

Hurwitz acknowledged breast cancer doesn't stop because there is a pandemic and the need for breast cancer funding is just as strong if not stronger now than ever. "You said you could do it, and you did it ... from the bottom of my heart, I thank you all. It takes a lot, this is such a wonderful effort," he said.

Once again, Gateway To The Cure proved that neighbors helping neighbors is the spirit of the Town of Thurmont. Grinder said.

## Commissioners Phiel, Martin seek fourth term

A large crowd gathered in the Adobbin House's Abigail Adams Ballroom on December 9 to listen to what has become quadrennial Adams County tradition — Jim Martin and Randy Phiel announcing their candidacies for Adams County Commissioner.

The pair of Republicans first took office in 2012; if successful, the term that begins in 2024 will be their fourth. Martin and Phiel told supporters they have enjoyed their run and hope to build upon their successes.

"Is commissioner a full-time job?" Phiel asked rhetorically. "It is what you make it, but for Jim and I, it is a full-time job plus. I believe the proof is in the achievement."

Phiel touted a long list of accomplishments, including opening the historic courtroom for commissioners meetings, installing a digital emergency radio system, consolidating tax services from four offices to one, paying off debt, supporting the Adams County Economic Development Corporation, reducing the number of tax appeals, and consolidating the planning office.

During the past term Phiel said the pair successfully facilitated the conversion of the former

Herff Jones plant in Cumberland Township to the Adams County Human Services Building, supported the treasurer's office serving as tax collector for municipalities that cannot fill the position, and maintained the County's high bond rating.

Phiel also touted the pair's accomplishments in restructuring the veterans' affairs office, intervening when the former owner of Oak Lawn Memorial Gardens misappropriated funds and was unable to complete burials, converting the former Mercy House convent into an inpatient and outpatient treatment center for substance abusers, donating \$1 million to the Adams County Historical Society, supporting land preservation, adapting to election law changes, opening the law enforcement training range, spearheading a broadband internet initiative with Franklin County, and distributing American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Phiel said he and Martin work well together because he focuses on "big picture" while Martin excels at details.

Martin said he's anxious to run again because it is rewarding to see our projects bring needed benefits to the citizens of Adams County. "The next campaign," Martin said,



Republican Adams County Commissioners Jim Martin, left, and Randy Phiel are seeking re-election in 2023.

"that we will be entering is not about us, but about you (pointing to the attendees); making sure we continue to have a county we can be proud of. One that continues to be financially strong as shown by our solid bond rating; one that is in position to support economic growth; one that supports vibrant emergency services; and one given to good will and decency."

Other Republican leaders joined the pair at the podium to express their support, including Rep. Dan

Moul and Rep. Torren Ecker.

"We have been working as a team for many, many years for the betterment of Adams County," Moul, who has been in office since 2007, said. "The fact I got re-elected last time tells me the people want this team to stay together."

Ecker noted the size of the crowd and called Phiel and Martin "the central glue that keeps us all together." "This room kind of embodies what I think Adams County is all about," he said.

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# EMMITSBURG NEWS

## Water rates increase back to drawing board

In spite of the town staff's best efforts to clearly convey the actual impact of a proposed 200% increase in the water rates over a three year period on the typical Emmitsburg home owner's quarterly water & sewer bill, their efforts fell on deaf ears at a public hearing during the December Town Council meeting.

The much needed rate increase, the town staff said, would cover the rise in day-to-day operating expenses, plus fund much needed water system infrastructure improvement projects.

At the November meeting, the Council voted to phase in the staff's proposed rate increase over a three-year time period versus an immediate increase. A member of the Council said, "given that times are tough for many, they didn't want to make things worse for the residents by imposing the full rate increase all at once." However, prior to approving the rate change, the Council opted to hold a public hearing.

While a 200% increase may seem huge, less than 17% of the total quarterly bill would be subject to the rate increase. Phased in over three years, as the Council suggested, the average Emmitsburg homeowner would see their water portion of their bill increase by only \$15.40 or \$5 a month in 2023.

Even when fully passed in in 2027, the water portion of the quarterly bill would not even equal what homeowners are paying today for sewer service.

The last water rate increase for all users was over 17 years ago, while the last sewer rate increase was in 2014 following the construction of the new wastewater treatment plant, Town Manager Cathy Willets said.

Because of the 2014 sewer rate increase, the sewer system has had a slight profit in the last few budget years, allowing the proposed increase in sewer rates for the average homeowner to be a more modest 3% per year.

The need to thoroughly review water rates has been looming as the water system has been running at a loss for many years now, Willets said. The town has been able to deal with decreasing water revenue by reducing expenditures, such as not performing needed infrastructure improvement projects. But the town can no longer delay repairs and upgrades to the water system.

The five-year water system plan, which the rate increase will fund, includes water clarifiers and repairs or replacement of deteriorating water lines that have caused issues of brown water coming out of residents faucets.

In spite of the efforts by the town to alert residents to the rate increase, and afford them the opportunity to provide input, few showed up, drawing comments from those that did on the lack of interest. "Sadly, when it comes to issues like this a lot of people wait until the problem has already snowballed out of control and been announced and then complain," said one speaker.

Kevin Hagen from the Emmitsburg Business Alliance voiced his opposition to the rate increase, saying: "The majority of businesses are small businesses. Many of these are still trying to recover from impacts of COVID-19 and the rising cost of goods and services. A substantial water rate increase adds to the difficulty a small business has in being successful."

Following public comments and commissioner discussion, the Council opted not to approve the published increase in the water rates.

The Council asked the town staff to bring rate increase options to February's Town Council meeting. The new numbers will include a 10% increase for 10 years (suggested by Commissioner Davis), and 25% and 30% increase over multiple years as opposed to the original 44% increase over 3 years.

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*Editor's Note: To help clarify the actual situation around and the impact of the rate increase, we asked the town staff to answer*

*some specific questions. We encourage everyone who uses the Emmitsburg Water System to read their responses on page 37.*

## Town sells 'orphan' lot

At the December 6th town council meeting, discussion was had about the 'orphan' lot next to the waste water treatment plant's old drain field. The council agreed to sell the three acre lot to the adjoining property owner, but not without a few bumps along the way.

In 1985, following the completion of the, then new, 'state of the art' wastewater treatment plant, the town found themselves with three excess acres not fenced-in in the plant's drain field. Faced with having to main-

tain the lot with weekly mowing, town staff asked Richard Lindsay, the adjoining property owner, if he wanted to use the three acres as part of his horse farm. Lindsay agreed. While Lindsay only remembers using the three acres for hay one year, he has meticulously maintained the land by mowing it weekly.

In the early 1990's, following the building of a riding ring next to the lot, and with no end in sight for the town resuming maintenance of the lot, Lindsay asked if he could pur-

chase the land. The town turned down the request, and Lindsay continued to maintain the land.

In the fall of this year, Lindsay approached the town again about purchasing the lot. This time however, the town indicated they were open to the suggestion, but countered that the lot, which is currently zoned light industrial, should be first hooked up to the town's water and sewer systems.

Lindsay rejected the suggestion, as the services were not necessary given his farm was currently served by two wells, and he just revamped his septic system. He hoped to have the lot

rezoned 'agricultural,' thereby eliminating the need for the hookups.

Lindsay's offer of \$18,000 for the lot drew the ire of Commissioner O'Donnell, who felt the price too low. O'Donnell noted it was appraised for \$100,000 if the industrial zoning was retained. However, the \$100,000 price tag did not take into account the necessary \$40,000 investment the town would be required to make to run the sewer and water lines, not to mention the cost of installation of a road for access.

Following a spirited give and take among the council, Commission-

ers Davis, Ritz and Sweeny opted to take Lindsay's offer, citing that he had been maintaining the land for 37 years for the town at his own expense. "If he gave us a bill for his services over all those years," Commissioner Davis said, "I'm sure it would more than equal the difference."

O'Donnell however voted against selling the land, saying he did not want people in the future thinking they can get land for a heavily reduced rate from the town. Commissioner Pollitt chose to abstain due to lack of familiarity with the lot and its history.

## Council fills vacancies on boards and committees

At its December 6 meeting, the Town Council made several appointments to fill vacancies on town boards and committees, including:

Dianne Walbrecker was re-appointed to serve on the Board of Appeals for a

three-year term. Diane stated "I am pleased to be able to serve the town and enjoy working with my colleagues on the board of appeals."

The board consists of three members and two alternates. The purpose of the board is to

hear and decide appeals as needed and to hear and decide special exceptions.

Valerie Turnquist was voted to a five year alternate term for the Planning Commission. The Commission has meetings in January, and every month

there after till all business has been completed. New chairperson, vice chair, and secretary will be chosen this January.

Jack Pollitt was appointed to the towns Park and Recreation Committee for a term of two years. The parameters of the committee are that one commissioner is on the board and 10 members. Currently Commissioner Frank Davis is in charge of the committee. Per the town's website there are two vacancies. The commit-

tee researches and proposes park related recommendations, rules, and policies.

Mark Walker was appointed to a two-year term on the Citizen's Advisory Committee. The purpose of the committee is to research, and propose general recommendations, rules, and policies related to the quality of life in Emmitsburg. The committee meets the third Tuesday of January, April, July, and October. Per the town's website there are four vacancies.



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# FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

## Carroll Valley discusses trailers, disabled vehicles

The future look of Carroll Valley was the focus of discussion during December's Borough Council meeting.

Borough Manager David Hazlett submitted proposals to the Council that included increasing the number of trailers allowed on a property while limiting their visibility and prohibiting disabled vehicles.

An ordinance adopted in May permitted residents to have only one trailer on their land if their plot was less than two acres. Hazlett said the rule was restrictive and affects a lot of residents. Council President Richard Mathews expressed concerns about lots with many trailers.

"You can find boats on trailers, jet skis on trailers, cars on trailers, trailers with nothing on them; all at the same place," Mathews said.

Councilman Bruce Carr questioned whether trailers are the problem. "I don't know if it is the offender or the offended that we need to worry about," Carr said.

Hazlett's proposal stated additional recreation vehicles, such as trailers, can be stored on lots if they are on a paved area that is fenced in so they cannot be seen from neighboring properties.

Hazlett said abandoned vehicles are a "much more significant" issue for the borough. He knows of one vehicle that has been on a property "since I was in diapers"

and fears of it and others contaminating residents' water supplies.

Hazlett's proposal would prohibit inoperable or heavily damaged vehicles from being stored on properties in the borough. Vehicles being repaired would be allowed if the work is being done inside of a structure.

"We have to have codes, we have to," Hazlett said. "If we don't start to have certain types of codes, the type of community you have is going to degrade slowly over time."

Hazlett added Carroll Valley was often listed in real estate magazines as a premiere place to live but he fears that rating will decrease if items that could be

deemed to be eyesores and harmful to the environment are allowed on properties.

"It is kind of your responsibility to make sure you are helping them (residents) protect their investments and make sure you are providing them a great quality of life," Hazlett said.

Councilwomen Kari Butterbaugh suggested borough leaders gather input from citizens before changing any rules.

"I am a firm believer that if the public is interested, you try to involve them," Hazlett concurred.

However, he said the planning commission has discussed the rule changes for several months and received little input. The Council has

also had difficulty filling a vacancy on the planning commission.

"There might be a lot of people with an opinion but there are not a lot of people who want to voice their opinion," he said.

The Council decided to delay further action on the trailer and abandoned car proposals. If The Council decides to move forward with expanding the trailer rules, a public hearing will be required since it is part of the borough's zoning law. Disabled vehicle rules would not require a hearing since it would be enacted by ordinance, but the public would have a chance to share thoughts at a council meeting before The Council acts.

## Liberty OK's donations to fire companies, non-profits

Donations to local organizations dominated discussion during December's Liberty Township Board of Supervisors meeting.

The supervisors received requests from Fountindale, Fairfield, and Emmitsburg fire companies as well as Hoffman Homes for Youth and Adams County Office for Aging. The township is especially flush with cash due to receiving \$123,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act and \$10,000 from Adams County. Township Solicitor John Lisko said the funds came with few restrictions.

Supervisor Bobby Keilhotz noted

the township previously wished to donate \$15,000 to Adams Regional Emergency Medical Services but the ambulance company rejected the offer. He proposed that money be split to further support the fire companies, Hoffman Homes, and the Office for Aging.

"I feel very strongly that what we do is take care of our citizens. I believe fire service is a very integral part of what we do," Keilhotz said.

Supervisor Brandon Lowe suggested donating \$7,000 to the Office for Aging, but Keilhotz and Supervisor Walter "Mickey" Barlow thought that amount was too high.

The supervisors agreed to distribute money to the fire departments that respond the most in the township based on call volume. Fairfield Fire Department, which covers 17 percent of calls in the township, will receive \$6,005. Fountindale, which covers 11 percent of calls, will receive \$2,278. Emmitsburg, which covers 31 percent of calls, will receive \$10,976.

Supervisors unanimously chose to split the \$10,000 in rescue funds from the county between Hoffman Homes and Office for Aging.

"We are not giving our money away, we are giving Adams County's money away," Barlow said.

### Police

Supervisors expressed appreciation to outgoing Police Chief Sherri Hansen who was recently hired as Bonneville's police chief. Hansen was the first female chief in Adams County, Barlow said. They also accepted the resignation of part-time Police Officer Craig Hartley, who has been inactive for about three years.

The board welcomed a new officer, Sgt. Chris Rodsen. The sergeant will be paid \$24/hour for 40 hours a week with the possibility of up to 10 overtime hours per week, Barlow said. He will begin his duties Jan. 1.

The township's police department will continue to patrol High-

land Township 25 hours per month. Highland Township will pay Freedom Township \$18,900 in 2023, \$19,656 in 2024, and \$20,442.24 in 2025 for the coverage.

Keilhotz expressed concern about setting a three-year contract for services. "We have no provisions in here to cover us if fuel gets out of hand," he said.

Barlow noted the contract can be canceled by either township at any time, which would protect the township if there is a significant spike in gas prices.

The supervisors will continue to meet at 6 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in 2023.

## Adams County municipalities avoid tax increases

Carroll Valley, Fairfield, Hamiltonban Township, and Liberty Township once again ended their years with budgets that avoided a tax increase.

Carroll Valley Borough Council unanimously approved a budget at its December meeting that includes \$2,377,128 in expenditures, about \$35,000 less than last year. The borough has not raised taxes since 2012, Manager Dave Hazlett said. The borough tax rate is 1.5 mills on real estate, plus a 0.25 fire tax.

"To avoid raising tax rates, tough decisions must continue to be made to fulfill our obligation to the Borough's 4,000+ residents," Hazlett wrote in his budget address. "Many of the decisions that lie ahead may not always be popular, but they may be necessary to secure a solid fiscal foundation for the Borough of Carroll Valley in the 21st century."

Hazlett noted the borough will continue to fix roads using the chip seal in lieu of asphalt, despite complaints from residents. He defended the move by noting asphalt costs 10 times the price of chip seal.

The Fairfield Borough Council approved the 2023 budget with the millage rate established at 1.532 on real estate, plus a 0.25

mill fire tax. The borough will continue to receive police protection from Carroll Valley. The inter-municipal agreement's costs will increase 4 percent in 2023 and 4 percent each year following.

Liberty Township Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a budget with 0.816 mills tax on real estate, plus a 0.25 mill fire tax.

Supervisor Walter "Mickey" Barlow noted the most significant differences in this year's budget compared to last year are eliminating supervisor's mileage payment due to them using township-owned vehicles, the police budget increasing from \$120,840 to \$124,864, and reducing money spent on road signs and employee uniforms by half.

Barlow said the township budgeted \$295,000 for road repairs. The board of supervisors will determine this spring which roads will be fixed. Bullfrog Road is in need of repairs, Barlow said, at an estimated cost of \$280,000.

"I do not want to go over the budget on this at all this year, I would rather fall under," Barlow said.

The township maintains about six months' worth of operating expenses in reserves.

The Hamiltonban Township supervisors approved their 2023 budget with expenses totaling \$1,206,855 and revenue at \$843,605. The township will transfer \$363,250 from other accounts to fund the deficit.

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# THURMONT NEWS

## Referendum set to decide Simmer Farm's annexation

On January 17, a special election will be held to allow residents of Thurmont to vote on Annexation Resolution 2022-03. The resolution passed at the Town Council's September 20th meeting, which approved the annexation of Simmer Farm property.

The Town Council narrowly voted in favor of the annexation and zoning change at the September meeting. Commissioners Blakeslee and Hamrick opposed the resolution, while Commissioners Buehrer and Hooper supported. Mayor

Kinnaird broke the tie in favor of the motion.

The farmland property is located southeast of the Apples Church, Roddy, and Elyer Roads intersection. The farm borders Graceham Rd. and consists of approximately 24.5 acres. Seven acres are located in town and currently zoned R-5, while the other nearly 17 acres lie in the county and are agriculturally zoned.

The annexation will allow the farm to be rezoned high-density residential development, allowing it to be

developed with at least 172 residential units, as well as an assisted-living facility and a day care center.

Following the September vote, a petition was started by Evasion Thurmont, asking for the annexation to be brought to a vote before the residents of the town.

The petition submitted by Evasion Thurmont had 1,154 qualified town resident signatures on it, exceeding the 20% minimum, and in doing so, automatically triggered a referendum vote where residents will be asked to simply vote for, or

against, the annexation.

If residents vote against the annexation, the resolution to annex Simmer Farm will be nullified.

If residents vote in favor of the annexation, the development will move forward with acquiring the authorization from the county for the necessary zoning change and only then will the Thurmont Planning and Zoning Commission finalize development plans.

Voting will take place between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. at Thurmont Fire (Guardian Hose) Company activ-

ities building at 123 East Main Street. Residents who wish to vote using an absentee ballot can do so by contacting the town office.

With a long road ahead before any development, Mayor Kinnard urged public participation and community input involvement at all town meetings. "There will be plenty of meetings for you to come out and craft projects the way you think they should be crafted," he said. All the town staff asks, is for you to come out and give us your thoughts.

## New townhouse community proposed

Just when everyone thought it was safe to come out following the successful petition drive by the leaders of Evasion Thurmont to stop the proposed annex of 16.7 acres of farmland into town limits and rezone it high-density residential development. Mountain Gate Park LLC presented a concept plan for a new townhouse community to be located off Moser Road to the Thurmont Planning and Zoning Commission at their December 15 meeting.

The presentation of the concept plan was to get preliminary feedback on the feasibility of the development from the Commission, no action was taken for or against the proposed development.

The community, to be called Oak Forest, will be comprised of 36 single family attached units, i.e., townhouses, and would be built upon 5 acres immediately north of the Thurmont Library and adjacent to the 47 townhouses in Fair Oaks community off of Moser Road.

The land upon which the development was proposed is currently zoned R-5 Residential. R-5 Residential zoning is intended to provide for high density attached single family dwelling on small lots, multi-family dwelling structures, and generally, a variety of residential building types and open spaces to create attractive planned communities.

According to the developer, the

minimum width of each townhouse will be 20 feet and each unit will occupy 1,800 square feet. There shall be no less than 3 units, nor more than 6 units per row, with 30 feet separating each set of townhouses. As the development will be adjacent to wetland, basements will be prohibited in the townhomes.

As in other developments within town limits, all maintenance of common areas, including landscaping, mowing, snow removal, road and sidewalk repairs, and storm water management will be the responsibility of the development's Homeowners' Association.

The town will be responsible for providing electrical, water and sewer

services as well as trash removal and police coverage.

The developer proposed setting aside slightly under 2 acres of the development as common open space, with 50% dedicated to usable recreational purposes. Per the concept plan, the townhouses will surround a common area, which will serve as the community's common park.

According to town staff, a traffic impact study will not be required for the development, however a storm water management plan will have to be permitted.

Public comment on the proposed development came in decidedly against the project. Louise Shafer objected to the project because it would be placed on a wetland and she feared it would only exacerbate the water drainage issues residents along Moser Road are dealing with. Building on a wetland, Shafer said, goes counter to the town's Master Plan and the land should be protected.

Protecting the wetlands that the development would be built upon was also foremost on the mind of


Ruth Haney, as well as the 'Town housing' of Thurmont.

Jennifer Speak, who recently bought a home on Moser Road, expressed frustration that the woods behind her house would be replaced by townhouses, and with the addition of more townhouses, the small town feeling of Thurmont that drew her here would end.

Jennifer's husband echoed his wife's comments, but added that the land around his house, and on the land the development will be placed is always spongy, and the sump pump in his basement is constantly running. The uprooting of the trees and their replacement with roads and impervious surfaces will only make his property a swamp, he said.

Kenneth Floor expressed concerns over traffic - he said the volume of traffic was bad right now and with many speeders. He pointed out that the intersection of Moser Road and Frederick Road already has frequent delays from backed up traffic, and the development will only make it worse.

In the end, the Commission made a few recommendations to the developer and now awaits a formal plan to formally start its review.



## Notice of Referendum Special Election

### Annexation Resolution 2022-23

**(To Enlarge the Municipal Boundaries of The Town of Thurmont)**

Please take notice that a referendum vote on Annexation Resolution 2022-23 enacted by the Town of Thurmont shall take place on January 17, 2023 at the Guardian Hose Co. Activities Building, 123 East Main Street. The voting polls shall be open between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. Absentee ballot applications for the referendum vote will be available starting Tuesday, January 10, 2023. Please note the Town Office will be closing at noon on December 30, 2022 and will be closed all day on January 2, 2023.

The Commissioners of Thurmont

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# TANEYTOWN NEWS

## Fuller elected as Mayor Pro Tem

In its first order of business at its December 7 meeting, the City Council elected Judy Fuller to succeed Joseph Vigliotti as the Mayor Pro Tem.

The Mayor Pro Tem is elected directly by the City Council from among its members. The Mayor is the presiding officer at council meetings, with the Mayor Pro Tem filling that role in the Mayor's absence. The Mayor Pro Tem has the same voting power as any other Councilmember.

Joseph Vigliotti resigned his City

Council seat following his election to the Carroll County Board of Commissioners representing District 1, filling the seat previously held by Stephen Wantz. Wantz was term limited as a Commissioner and made an unsuccessful run for a seat in the House of Delegates.

Vigliotti was first elected to the City Council in 2013. He was elected to serve as the Mayor Pro Tem in 2021. Vigliotti studied history, philosophy, and political science at Mount Saint Mary's Uni-

versity where he graduated in 2008.

Fuller, who moved to Taneytown in 2002 from Texas, was first elected to the City Council in 2017. She has been a member of the Planning Commission and has served on several committees over the past 8 years.

Following the election of Fuller to Mayor Pro Tem, her first duty was to discuss how to fill Vigliotti's seat, which Mayor Wantz said was up to the Council. Wantz said in the past, the City advertized to solicit resumes from those interested

in filling the seat. Letters of interest need to be sent to Fuller who will then circulate them to the members of the council for their review.

The last time the Council followed this process to fill a vacant seat was back in June of 2021 when they selected Leroy Hand to fill Councilman Darryl Hale's seat following his resignation upon being selected as the City's Planning and Zoning director.

Anyone interesting in filling the remaining two and a half years of Vigliotti's term will have until December 31st to submit their letters of interest. Fuller said that will

give her and her fellow Council members more than enough time to review the applications and then vote on the best candidate at the January 4th workshop, with the selected individual being sworn in at the January 9th council meeting.

Taneytown is not the only local municipality that has had to face the less than opaque process for filling a vacant council seat. In November, the Walkersville Town Council opted to hold a special election in February to fill a recently vacated seat as opposed to appoint an individual as Taneytown intends to do.

## Council approves ordinance amendments

At its December 12 regular meeting, the City Council approved four new ordinances which amended existing City regulations.

The Restricted General Business District ordinance was revised, adding flexibility of 'other similar businesses' to the existing list of permitted uses. Single family homes, which are currently present in the district, were added as a permitted use as well. The ordinance was established to serve as a buffer between the general business district and the residential district on the east side of the city.

According to Mayor Wantz, as written, the current ordinance has proved difficult to implement for businesses

who wish to operate there. Broadening the permitted commercial uses and allowing single family homes provides greater opportunity to redevelop or repurpose lots in the district.

Ordinance 10-2022, Amendment to Yard Regulations, was passed to relax restrictions on equivalent yard fences in residential corner lots. Current City code restricts fences to four feet in any front yard whereas residents could build fences up to six feet in rear and side yards. However, a corner lot has a front yard and an equivalent yard. Since corner lots have two yards that face a street, both are considered 'front yards' and restricted to a four-foot fence.

Councilwoman Judy Fuller said, "I guess it comes down to people having power over your yard." She went on to say that residents, especially younger residents, deserve to have privacy in their own backyards with a six-foot fence.

Because houses in Taneytown are set back 35 feet from the street in most areas, homes on corner lots also tend to have smaller backyards that can be enclosed by a 6' high fence than other houses, further limiting privacy for many residents living on corner lots. Under the proposed regulations, residents in most zoning districts will be able to have an additional 17.5-foot fenced in area using a taller fence.

Ordinance 11-2022, Amendment to Downtown Business District, will allow the opening of distilleries and wineries in the Downtown Business District.

Chris Tillman, owner of George's on York Street, representing the Taneytown Chamber of Commerce, spoke in favor of the proposed change. Saying that allowing the sale of alcohol in the downtown area, which is currently prohibited, was long overdue.

Finally, the council approved amendments to the City's Ethics ordinance to include provisions governing the lobbying of elected officials and the lobbying by elected officials. Despite the city not hav-

ing lobbyists practicing, it is now a required aspect and there is not much room for choice on the city's part, City Attorney Jay Gallo said at the Oct. 5 meeting.

Other changes to the ethics ordinance include updated language prohibiting a town employee or elected official from accepting gifts from an association acting on behalf of another that is engaged only in representing counties or municipal corporations, such as the Maryland Association of Counties or the Maryland Municipal League. Revisions also included prohibition against retaliation against an employee for reporting an ethics violation.

Gallo said the new ethics forms should be ready by mid-January.

## Developments limited by waste water plant capacity

At the December City Council workshop, Taneytown City Manager Jim Wieprecht proposed establishing a policy to govern the pace of future developments that would utilize the City W Wastewater treatment plant.

Wieprecht expressed concern over repeated non-compliance letters that the City has been receiving from the State's Department of the Environment over the Waste Water Treatment plant's ongoing struggle with meeting total nitrogen and total phosphorus limits.

While the plant can handle the average flow of one million gallons per day, flow can increase to up to 7 million gallons in inclement weather,

overloading the plant's dilution system, resulting in the plant discharging more pounds of nitrogen or phosphorus than normal, and often exceeding the state imposed limits.

As the plant is most challenged when 'inflow' is greatest, minimizing unnecessary inflow into the sewer system from groundwater leaking into old piping is a priority according to Wieprecht.

While the City is actively working to fix old sewer lines, some of the work is not scheduled to be completed until December of next year. While the fixing of old leaky sewer lines will reduce inflows to the treatment plant, every new house built in the city will increase the inflow.

Wantz said it will take at least 18 months before the city can get its hands around how successful they have been in addressing the wild water issue, and with it, the total amount of water the plant can expect to have to process in bad weather. By limiting the increase in normal daily treatment flows resulting from new homes – the greater the amount of wild water inflow the treatment plant can work with.

To limit the growth in daily normal wastewater flow, Wantz recommended a moratorium on new water or sewer allocations for new homes or developments until the effectiveness of the repairs are known.

Wieprecht recommended that the

City develop a policy, or plan on allocation that could be made public and updated frequently.

While agreeing on the need to minimize the frequency of the violations in wastewater discharges, City Attorney Gallo recommended that any allocation plan take into account that there are developments already

approved that need to be factored in. Any decision on future allocations should be focused on future developments, not those currently in the approved pipeline. In addition, he recommended that a policy be developed that staggers the physical building of new developments, within the town, going forward.

## News Briefs...

### Board Appointments

During the December 12th City Council meeting, the Council approved appointments to the following boards:

Parks Advisory Board: Chairperson Kelly Buie, Secretary Elizabeth Chaney, and Members Emmanuel Harvey and Jerry Hobbs Jr. were all reappointed for another three-year term. According to Mayor Wantz, all four appointees have served very well in the board thus far and deserved re-appointment.

Main Street Board: Brady Bollinger, Stephanie Stevenson, Sharon Tillman, Jason Tate, Beth Lee and Loren Wheper – Council members were all in agreement that the seven up for nomination as board members were all excellent candidates and each have been active members of the community.

Mayor Wantz said that if this group was approved at Monday's meeting, then Taneytown will be starting the New Year off with a "Fresh Main Street 2.0." Main Street is looking to redefine how the board will operate going forward.

### Memorial park expansion

Memorial park is looking at an addition of 22 acres along the backside of the park. What exactly will be done with the new space is still up for debate. Wantz claimed there was a need for specific sports fields and other things, which could be a possible use for the expansion. The proposal for expansion will be up for approval come at the December 12 meeting.

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## GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

### Congressman David Trone

Earlier this month I was sworn in to serve my third term representing you in Congress. It is the honor of a lifetime to be your voice in Washington and to fight for progress on the issues impacting our communities the most. As I took the oath of office, I couldn't help but reflect on the last few years.

The first cases of COVID-19 were identified in Maryland almost three years ago. Things look much different now than they did then. These challenges have provided fundamental lessons for continuing to build stronger, more vibrant communities.

First, we learned that, especially in our most challenging moments, bipartisanship and cooperation are essential to our collective success. We've all heard the cliché saying, "there is more that unites us than divides us." The pandemic proved that this is true, not just rhetoric. Across government and throughout our neigh-

borhoods, we put our differences aside when the pandemic struck and our future was uncertain.

The vast majority of the time activists, healthcare workers, first responders, educators and government officials worked toward the common goal of keeping our communities safe and helping those in need. We passed landmark legislation to provide a lifeline to families and businesses. Federal, state, and local governments worked together to ensure that support got to those who needed it most. I agree with those who say that while the response was not perfect, our collective effort saved tens of thousands lives and prevented the collapse of our economy.

This should serve as a playbook for our future. The needs of our communities will continue, and addressing those problems in a spirit of cooperation is the best approach.

Second, we learned that, as I've said before, we cannot overstate the importance of mental health. Throughout the pandemic, a record number of Americans experienced worsening mental health problems — especially children and teenagers. 40% of adults reported feeling depressed or anxious over the past two years, an increase of nearly 30% over pre-pandemic levels. These numbers were even worse for women, people of color, and young people. Depression and anxiety episodes among adults aged 18-29 increased by over 60%. And the tens of millions of Americans with pre-existing mental health challenges saw them worsen over the past two years.

I'm pleased to report that in just the last few weeks, Congress has made historic progress on the issue of mental health. In the final days before we adjourned for the holidays, we passed the Restoring Hope for Mental Health

and Well-Being Act, a package of over 30 bills, eight of which I led, devoted to investing in mental health resources across America. This legislation will bring real relief to communities and families across the country, all while reducing the federal deficit by \$200 million. Again, this must only be one step in our progress — because our work isn't over until no Americans are suffering.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we learned that the bonds that tie our communities together are incredibly strong. When COVID-19 struck and families struggled to put food on the table, keep a roof over their heads, and ensure that their children were safe and healthy, countless selfless individuals stepped up to the plate and gave generously to support them. Our healthcare workers put their lives on the line—often literally—to provide care to those who were sick. Our educators adapted to the changing environment, developing creative ways to teach our children over the internet. And

millions of Americans went to work to keep our economy running, even when it was dangerous to do so.

While the challenges of the recent past have been immense, we showed time after time that we have the power to overcome them and come out stronger on the other side. It's these moments that inspire me to continue our progress and keep proposing bold ideas for our future. Because the return on our investment will be enormous.

I know that together we can provide mental health services to those who are struggling. We can give our educators the resources they need to inspire and teach the next generation of leaders. We can lend a helping hand to those who are struggling the most, and build an economy that works for everyone. I know this because we've already done it—under incredibly difficult circumstances. With our past successes top of mind, I can't wait for all that we'll achieve over the next two years.

### County Councilman Brad Young

On Monday December 5th, the new County Executive Jessica Fitzwater and the new County Council consisting of Mason Carter, Steve McKay, Jerry Donald Kavonte Duckett, M.C. Keegan-Ayer, Renee Knapp, and myself were sworn into office at the Weinberg Center. We held our first meeting on Tuesday December 6th where we elected officers of the Board. I was elected as President of the Board

and Kavonte Duckett was elected as our Vice President.

The Council held a workshop on December 13th where we discussed several items. One item discussed was the declaration of surplus for an out lot on the Oakdale Elementary School property from the Board of Education. This property was given back to the County as the BOE did not have use for it and there is a need for the property by the

county to complete the Lake Linganore Boulevard extension. A public hearing was held, and no comments were received. This will be voted on at the December 20th meeting of the council.

We were scheduled to hear amendments to plumbing ordinances in the county code, but that item was pulled as it was determined additional work was needed before bringing it to the council. We discussed a proposal to merge the Frederick County Mental Health Advisory Council and the Frederick County Substance Abuse Council into a new council which would be the Frederick County Behavioral Health Advisory Council. Frederick County Health

Director, Dr. Barbara Brookmyer briefed the council on why this was desired. The council will take it up at the meeting on December 20th.

The council received an update from Anne Bradley on the County's preservation of agricultural properties in the county. She reviewed many programs that are being used in Frederick County to make help farmers preserve their properties so that they can only be used for agriculture purposes. She reviewed that the county's goal is to preserve 100,000 acres in the county by 2040. She stated that the county should meet that goal before then.

The Council also discussed which boards that council members wished to serve on. There are over 50 various

boards and commissions in which a council member can serve. Each member will give their preferences and they will be forwarded to the County Executive for her to make decisions. Once she has made recommendations, the council will then receive them back for approval. The council also discussed and consented to cancel our January 3, meeting as several council members will be attending a state meeting out of town.

Wrapping up, I am honored to serve as the Council President, and I forward to serving our great county. I always love to hear from the public and you can reach me by email at [byoung@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:byoung@frederickcountymd.gov). I wish everyone a Merry Christy, Happy Hanukkah and a great and prosperous New Year!



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#### County to Develop Rustic Roads Program

To ensure Frederick County's scenic rural roadways are preserved for future generations, Frederick County has created of a new Rustic Roads Program. The program's goal is to balance the sometimes competing interests of ensuring safe travel with protecting and enhancing the roadways' unique appeal. Implementing the new program was recommended in the final report of the Scenic and Rural Roads Advisory Committee, which Executive Gardner appointed in 2020.

"We know that preservation is crucial to maintaining our community's unique characteristics," Former Executive Gardner said. "By launching this

Rustic Roads Program, we can preserve Frederick County's rustic roads in their natural and historic settings so future generations can understand and appreciate our rich agricultural history."

The Rustic Roads Program incorporates all 80 miles of lanes that are currently in the 20-year-old Rural Roads Program, designating them as "Exceptionally Rustic." An additional 287 miles are identified as "Candidate Roads." To be listed as a Candidate Road, a roadway must: have a posted speed limit of no more than 35 miles per hour, or have no posted limit at all; average fewer than 1,000 vehicle trips per day; and be located outside Community Growth Areas and outside major subdivisions. Roads also may be

eligible if there are scenic or natural features along them, or if they have historical or cultural significance.

Special signs will be designed and posted on Exceptionally Rustic roads. The signs will be part of a larger branding effort to market the scenic roadways to tourists and to educate the public on the significance of this network of roads and the cultural and historic value they offer.

Until legislation is passed to establish a new Rustic Roads Commission, roads that are part of the existing Rural Roads Program will continue to be maintained following existing guidelines. Roads will keep the same width, alignment, and surface type, and vegetation in the right-of-way will be maintained.

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# GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

## County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

Hello, North County! I am proud to be writing my first column as your Frederick County Executive. I want to thank voters for their confidence in my leadership. I am ready to serve each and every resident of Frederick County, whether I earned your vote or not. Together we will build bridges and bring our community together to meet this moment with bold ideas and pragmatism. Our goal is to ensure everyone in our county has the opportunity to live, work, and thrive here.

Our administration will be guided by three key values: inclusion, accountability, and sustainability. We will work to ensure everyone has a voice and is heard. That is why we have established collaborative, community-driven workgroups to help identify our goals for the next four years. Our Transition Team is co-chaired by Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Rick Weldon and business owner Toni Bowie. Over 120 people are serving on our transition team workgroups and we are focusing on seven key priorities:

- Economic Development and Jobs;
- Education and Workforce Development;
- Government Innovation;
- Housing and Quality of Life;
- Public Health and Human Services;
- Public Safety; and
- Sustainability, Infrastructure, and Transportation.

Each team will submit a report outlining their vision to me this spring. If you would like to learn more about these workgroups or provide feedback of your own, I encourage you to visit our transition website, [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Transition](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Transition).

### Town Hall on Budget

One of the most important jobs of the County Executive is to decide how to invest in our county's future. Last month, we kicked off the annual budget process with a public hearing. Dozens of people spoke up to communicate the various needs of our community and what they see as priorities for

the next budget year, which begins July 1. To ensure opportunities for all to be heard, we have scheduled a series of five budget town halls, one in each council district.

We have scheduled our first town hall meeting in District 5 which encompasses Emmitsburg, Thurmont, Walkersville and Woodsboro. The town hall in District 5 will take place on Saturday, January 28, at 1 p.m. at the Thurmont Regional Library on Moser Road. I will be joined by District 5 County Council Member Mason Carter.

If you are not able to attend the District 5 meeting, you are invited to attend any of the other town halls. Details will be announced on our County's website when they are confirmed. Please check <http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Budget> for updated information.

### Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program

Preserving important pieces of our rich history is one of the ways we put Livable Frederick into action. That is why Frederick County offers a program to help property owners stabilize or restore historic structures in our rural, unincorporated areas. The Rural Historic Preservation Grant Program is currently accepting applications for 2023 grants.

These competitive grants provide as much as \$50,000 toward work on properties that are either listed on the County Register of Historic Places or contribute to a County-designated Historic District. Grants can be used for expenses to stabilize, rehabilitate, restore, or preserve the exterior of historic buildings. If you are interested in learning more about this program, you can attend one of two virtual workshops this month: Tuesday, January 10, at 2 p.m. or Monday, January 23, at 5:30 p.m. To register, visit [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Historic-Preservation](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Historic-Preservation).

Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 28. Questions about the grant program can be emailed to Historic Preservation Planner Amanda Whitmore at [AWhitmore@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:AWhitmore@FrederickCountyMD.gov).

### Rustic Roads Program

If you have ever driven or biked along one of our rural roads, like Gambrell Park, Mink Farm, Wilhide, or Whiskey Springs, to name just a few, then you understand why it's important to keep their charm. These roadways draw tourists, bicycling enthusiasts, and others to our beautiful county. We know that protecting our wonderful network of rural roads that wind through views of our beautiful scenic landscape is a priority.

That is why the County recently launched a new Rustic Roads Program. Maintaining charm while keeping the roadways safe can be a challenge. The goal of our program is to balance the sometimes competing interests of ensuring safe

travel with protecting and enhancing the roads' unique appeal. We began this new program on the recommendation of the Scenic and Rural Roads Advisory Committee.

All 80 miles of lanes that are currently designated as rural roads will be designated "Exceptionally Rustic" in the new program. Another 287 miles have been identified as candidates for Rustic Road designation. Candidate roads must have a speed limit of 35 mph or less, see fewer than 1,000 vehicle trips a day, on average, and be located outside of Community Growth Areas and major subdivisions. Roads also could be eligible if there are scenic or natural features along them, or if they have historical or cultural significance. Special signs will be designed and posted on Frederick County's "Exceptionally Rustic" roads. The signs will be part of a larger effort to market the scenic roadways to tourists and to educate the public about the significance of the roads and their cultural and historic value.

### Frederick County Turns 275

The year 2023 marks the 275th anniversary of Frederick County. We kicked off the celebration with the Key Drop on Carroll Creek at midnight on New Year's Eve. Special family-friendly events are planned all year long to continue the celebration. We hope you will join in the fun! Find our calendar of activities, merchandise for sale, and other details online at [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/275](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/275). And stay tuned for exciting news about our special Jubilee at Utica Park this summer!

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## FROM THE DESK OF...

## Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

At the December 2022 Borough Council meeting, the Council passed the Tax Levy Ordinance, which fixed the Tax Rate at 2.45 mills or 24.5 cents on each one hundred dollars assessed valuation for 2012. There is no tax increase for the residents of Carroll Valley Borough. Also, without increase, the Council passed the fixed tax of .25 mills appropriated for fire and emergency services operation for 2023. Please note that this is the 11th year that the taxes have not been raised due to outstanding management of our government resources by the Borough staff and the oversight of the Council.

Our community ended 2022 on a theme of happiness and caring for others. I had the opportunity to attend two-holiday events where Santa made an appearance, to the delight of the children in attendance. Breakfast with Santa was held at Fairfield Fire & EMS Department in Fairfield. There were 159 children and 190 adults in attendance. Santa also appeared at the Liberty Worship Center in Hamiltonban Township. Over 300 images were taken. I have tried to capture that moment of intimacy between Santa and the

child asking for a gift on Christmas night. Go to [www.ronspictures.net](http://www.ronspictures.net) and open the appropriate picture album to see the photos taken. You can copy/download the image(s) from the site.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors filled 65 bags and distributed them to local nursing homes and Meals on Wheels. The bags contained such donated items as toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, lotion, deodorant, snacks, and activity books. The Fairfield Family Initiative (FFI), supported by Carroll Valley Borough Council, Committee members, residents, Fairfield Fire & EMS, Bikers on a Mission, and the Fairfield Community, provided 11 Holiday Meal Kits of a turkey and all the trimmings for a traditional holiday feast including dessert. The FFI also provided Christmas gifts to six local children. We hope all who helped have a blessed Holiday Season and a New Year filled with happiness and good health.

January and you all know what I am about to share – my resolutions. Well, not all of them. Some are personal. However, here is one

which I make each year. I am going to try to do my best to help others. To let those around me know how important they are in the lives of others. And to be sure to thank those who assist others. Remember, "Give out what you most want to come back." With January comes snow. It would be best if you made sure that you winterized your car. If you haven't, you need to get it done. Check the car's tires and tire pressure, the heat/defroster, and wipers. Please slow down. Those antilock brakes will not help you reach a smooth stop if you drive too fast. When driving behind another car, remember to leave more space between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you. Some experts tell us that this distance is four car lengths for every ten mph you travel.

If the Borough declares a snow emergency, it is unlawful to park a motor vehicle or to allow that vehicle to remain parked on any Borough road or in any Borough right-of-way in such a manner as to impede or obstruct the snow and ice removal efforts of the Borough or to create a hazardous condition. Also, it is unlawful

to drive any motor vehicle on the Borough's snow emergency route unless that vehicle is equipped with snow tires or chains. If you are trying to figure out if your residence is on the emergency route, launch the Carroll Valley website at [carrollvalley.org](http://carrollvalley.org). Type snow emergency in the search text box and click on Road Classification Map for Snow Plowing or Snow Removal. Whether you are on the emergency route or not, please help our maintenance crew clear our trails after a snowstorm by parking your vehicle so as not to impede the snow-clearing process.

Carroll Valley Police Department is happy to announce that the Borough hired a new police officer, Seth A. Reed, at the December Council meeting. Officer Reed is originally from the Biglerville area. After serving in the United States Army, he attended and graduated from the Harrisburg Area Community College Police Academy. He was hired by Hellman Township in York County and served as a full-time police officer for six years. Officer Reed has moved back to our area, and Chief Cliff Weikert is excited to have him as part of the Carroll Valley Police Department team.

ment team.

The Borough now has three full-time police officers counting Chief Cliff Weikert. On Wednesday, January 4th, is the Blood Drive from 1 to 6 p.m. Everyone will receive two admission vouchers to the Pennsylvania Auto Show and a Blood Donor T-shirt. Remember, Thursday, January 12th is the last day you have to complete the online Adams County Broadband Survey. It should only take 10 minutes of your time. You can access the survey from the Carroll Valley website ([carrollvalley.org](http://carrollvalley.org)). Again, this is your opportunity to help Adams County compete with the other 66 Pennsylvania counties to be awarded funds to help us improve our broadband speed.

Borough meetings in January are Planning Commission (Jan 3rd), Borough Council Meeting (Jan 10th), Public Sewer Advisory Committee (Jan 23rd), and Parks/Recreation Committee (Jan 25th). Please reduce your speed to ensure your loved ones, friends, and neighbors will be safe. Don't Drink and Drive. If you have any questions, call me at 301-606-2021 or email me at [MayorRonHarris@comcast.net](mailto:MayorRonHarris@comcast.net).

## Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

Happy New Year to all! In December, we discussed the possibility of upgrading our tractor and backhoe in the new year. Upgrading these pieces of equipment is crucial so we can act swiftly

and clear the roads in the case of bad weather. If you see any dead trees that look like they may fall, or if you see any trees that are down, please reach out to us so we can stay on top of clean up. On Fri-

day, December 16, during the icy storm, we had fifteen trees down on Township roads. With help from PennLine Tree Services and Mr. Keilholtz, we were able to clean up everything within four hours. We appreciate all the assistance we received during the storm.

Recently, we accepted the resignation of one of our Elected Auditors, Sue Hek. We wish her well in her future endeavors and thank her for her years of service to Liberty Township. We appointed Bob Jackson to the Board of Auditors to fill the vacancy. Bob Jackson is a former Liberty Township Supervisor and he previously served as an Auditor. We are thankful for his will-

ingness to accept the position on such short notice, and we are pleased to work with him again.

At our December meeting, the Board of Supervisors promoted Officer Chris Roosen to Sergeant and hired him as a full-time police officer. Congratulations to Sergeant Roosen and we look forward to seeing more of him in Liberty, Freedom, and Highland Townships in 2023. We are happy to report that both Freedom and Highland Townships are continuing our intermunicipal agreement by signing multi-year contracts for police services. Liberty Township would like to recognize former Carroll Valley Police Chief Richard Hileman

and wish him well in his retirement. Richard Hileman served as chief since 1997 but has been with the Carroll Valley Police Department since 1992. We also want to congratulate the new Chief of Police Clifford Weikert on his promotion. We look forward to continuing our cooperative relationship with the Carroll Valley Police Department.

Liberty Township would like to thank the Adams County Board of Commissioners for deciding to provide a portion of the County's American Rescue Plan Act funds to local municipalities, Fire Departments, and Emergency Medical Service providers. According to Chair Commissioner Randy Phiel, "It has always been the intent of this Board to distribute these funds in a way that would positively impact every citizen in Adams County." Commissioner Jim Martin expressed that "It is our hope that the funds will help these organizations continue to provide the necessary services our community needs to prosper." Liberty Township received approximately \$10,000 from Adams County and made the decision to donate \$5,000 each to Adams County Office For Aging and Hoffman Homes For Youth. The Township is grateful to be able to put these funds directly back into the community and help these populations that need vital services.

I want to thank the staff at Liberty Township for everything they do and for the continued dedication and loyalty they display to the Township. We greatly value them. I hope that everyone has a great new year. I am thankful to have the opportunity to serve you all.

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# GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

## County Commissioner Marty Qually

On January 1, 1983 the Internet was born. The first smart phone came out in 1998. Remember Y2K fears of the great computer crash? Seems like a long, long, long time ago. Look at us now. In less than 40 years the Internet went from a fringe geeky concept to one of the most significant indicators of a community's success. Most of us, myself included, barely understand how this digital world was created, who builds and owns the infrastructure, and how do we get more.

Prior to the pandemic it was clear that portions of Adams County had inadequate broadband infrastructure. After the various at home schooling and work experiences of 2020 it is clear that the general public is now aware that inadequate broadband infrastructure is a big deal. The Internet is no longer just for the geeks and more importantly affordable high-speed internet is no longer a luxury. Affordable high-speed Internet is vital for students learning remotely, employees working from home, making medical

appointments, and many business transactions.

While everything I just listed can be dealt with without high-speed Internet, inadequate internet access is holding us back. If this continues, Adams County could see lasting impacts on our local economy and quality of life. Hopefully, we are at a turning point and with the proper investment of federal, state, and local resources we can change Adams County to a regional leader in broadband connectivity.

In 2021 the federal government approved two funding streams in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic, which had significant funding for broadband expansion. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), better known as the Covid-19 Stimulus Package or the American Rescue Plan and the 2021 Infrastructure bill set aside significant funds for broadband expansion for state and local governments.

Adams County received around \$19,000,000 of ARPA funds, of which we have set \$3,000,000

aside for Broadband Expansion projects. The infrastructure funds will flow through state government. The Broadband funds have not been allocated, but with the right plan in place Adams County may be eligible for additional funding for projects.

Today, I can give you an update on the progress of our plans to attract some of these funds to Adams County. This year we have taken a multi-layered approach to improving broadband. We are focusing our energy on the federal, state, and local initiatives to improve our chances of receiving additional funds and having a plan that will work. First, we set aside the forementioned \$3,000,000 of ARPA funds.

This year we created a Broadband Taskforce of industry leaders in education, business, medicine, tourism, and underserved populations. Our goal was to appoint individuals, who could assist the county with outreach to the public. In this effort we are partnering heavily with the Adams Economic Alliance. While inadequate inter-

net speeds impact all of us, we are especially concerned about access to high-speed internet and our business community.

The county also contracted with a broadband planning company, Design Nine, to develop a broadband assessment and plan. Over the past few months Adams County and Design Nine, Inc. have been developing a Broadband Community Assessment in an effort to bring affordable, high-speed, high-performance internet services to all residents and businesses throughout the county. In order to best determine solutions for achieving this, a public survey is being released to gather information about Broadband. Feedback from individual households and businesses is critical because it will determine which specific areas of the county need faster, more reliable internet service.

As of 12/16 Adams and Franklin counties have received 1,295 responses (Adams/Franklin Residential English: 1,236 responses, Residential Spanish: 13, and Business English: 46). We do not have

the breakdown by county yet, but we must get more responses. This is where you come in. The Emmitsburg News-Journal's Adams County coverage area has many communities that are unserved or underserved with adequate broadband.

The website below will be the main source of all information for our Broadband Initiative, including the surveys. To complete the survey go to this link, <https://arcgis/0SW8Ge>, or using your smart phone, scan this QR code.

If you do not have access to the internet, physical versions of the residential and business surveys are also available at your municipal office or local library.

We need everyone's help, so that we can move our community forward. Watching other counties benefit from affordable high speed internet, is not an option. Our economic future and our quality of life are at stake. Please take the time to complete the survey.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering in this effort, let me know. If you have any questions about broadband or ARPA funds, I am at your service. [mqually@adamscounty.us](mailto:mqually@adamscounty.us).

## State Notes . . .

### Representative Day Moul New Law Aims to Protect Motorists from Snow, Ice

A new state law is in effect that requires drivers to remove ice or snow from their vehicles within 24 hours of a storm. Act 90 of 2022, known as Christine's Law in memory of Christine Lambert, who was killed when a large piece of ice dislodged from a passing box truck and crashed through the windshield of the vehicle she was driving, aims to prevent such tragedies. It gives police officers the discretion to pull over and fine drivers \$50 if their vehicles have a buildup of ice or snow that poses a potential hazard. If snow or ice does dislodge from a moving vehicle and strikes another vehicle or pedestrian resulting in serious bodily injury or death, drivers could be fined \$200-\$1,500 for each offense. Christine's Law went into effect in September.

### Law Allows for Faster Receipt of Childcare Background Clearances

Pennsylvanians applying for childcare clearances can receive most results electronically thanks to a new law passed earlier this session. Act 12 of 2022 allows certain employers to conditionally hire an individual for up to 45 days before all required childcare

clearances are obtained. The goal is to avoid the weeks-long delay that comes while waiting for clearances to arrive via the U.S. Mail. The delay often prevented the timely hiring of employees and caused businesses and nonprofits to limit work and programs due to short staffing. Businesses also asked for help in obtaining electronic FBI clearances – another logjam in the hiring process. Over the course of 18 months, a bipartisan group of lawmakers also worked this out with state agencies and the Pennsylvania State Police. Now, FBI background checks can be applied for online and an electronic result received in as quickly as one day. Previously, the results were received in 3-13 weeks. The shortened timeline will further safeguard children, aid applicants in securing employment, and help employers fill positions that serve children. In addition to any email notification, all applicants will still receive results transmitted by U.S. mail.

### American Battlefield Trust Costing You More

A number of Adams County properties have been purchased by the American Battlefield Trust (ABT), also known as the Civil War Trust, then torn down and replaced by weeds. While we all may have assumed the sacrifice of these properties is part of a grand battlefield

preservation program, there is much more going on here. ABT is a nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. It is acquiring properties such as Mulligan MacDuffers Golf Course and nearby homes, General Pickett's Buffet and parking lot, Larsons Quality Inn, the Appalachian Brewing Company property, the World War II Museum and more, and is petitioning Congress to take them over.

Why should you care? Because turning these properties over to the federal government means they will no longer provide jobs and invite commerce as they once did. Worse

still is the fact that they have been or will be removed from the tax rolls. Our local and county governments and our schools are already missing out on about \$1 million annually in lost tax revenue for the land that has been acquired thus far. That means the rest of us must pay more to make up the difference.

The trouble is, the cost of our schools, police protection, snow removal, road repairs and other necessary maintenance and local government services, continue to rise. Thanks to ABT, there is less revenue to cover it.

Another little-known fact concerning the ABT's acquisition of Adams County properties is that in addition to the donations it receives, it is pocketing taxpayer funded grants. In fact, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) recently gave ABT a \$535,000 state grant. They also receive federal grants as well. Yes, YOUR tax money is being used to help ABT acquire Adams County property and turn it over to the federal government – along with the jobs and revenue it has the potential to produce.



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# COMMENTARY

## Words From Winterbilt

### A new year, predictions & resolutions

Shannon Bohrer

*“Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man”*

—Benjamin Franklin

Every new year we experience a few traditions that seem embedded in our culture. One of the rituals include predictions for the new year from experts, at least people that espouse they are an expert. We also conduct a brief history lesson, reviewing the previous year. Then, on an individual level, we create our new year’s resolutions to be healthier, kinder, and basically a better person. These traditions, along with others, like eating pork on New Year’s Eve for good luck in the coming year, are repeated every year. Do we ever measure our luck, become a better person, or even stop repeating the unpleasant events of our past? Maybe we should question these traditions.

The predictions from the “experts” often include movements in the stock market, interest rates, savings and growth, bond prices, and mortgage rates. My impression is that the majority of these predictions are often economic issues, which have more value to

the business community. Since the business community does affect us, what we pay for products, maybe we should pay more attention.

The predictions also include the weather for the coming year. These predictions have evolved, with the issues of global warming being more noticeable and prominent in recent years. The weather predictions, with the global warming issues, often include the cost of floods, storms, and droughts, which affects crops, transportation, and numerous economic issues. Telling people how much money they should expect to make in the markets, then telling them how much they will lose because of hurricanes and tornadoes, seems more like a warning than a prediction. Of course, to worry about predictions one has to believe, at least in some way, that the predictions will come to fruition. For some people, believing in global warming is not easy since, in today’s world, science seems to be questioned.

The experts also review the previous year telling us what we already know or should have known. It is like a long re-run of major events, most of which never affect us unless it is a major weather disaster. Another perspective of the review is like a cliff notes version of a year’s history. This segment also includes major films, plays, and movies, most of

which I never saw or attended. I would think that most of us would remember wars, pandemics, and natural disasters. Then again, maybe the history of horrific events is becoming so normal that we unconsciously ignore the reporting. I believe this to be true with active shooter incidents. That is a tragedy in itself that there are so many and that we frequently tune them out.

Another tradition is the review of celebrities who died during the year. The celebrities or well-known persons that passed seem important to the news organizations. They often begin with “People we have lost this past year.” I believe the word “lost” is just preferable to died. I have noticed as I have matured a little that some of the celebrities that died are unknown to me. This is somewhat related to the fact that each year many of celebrities are younger than me. I guess there are just fewer celebrities that I remember, or maybe many of them that I knew in my younger years have already passed.

Strange as it may seem we rarely hear anything from the experts about their predictions from previous years. Of course, an argument could be made that the last several years were unpredictable. Some of my predictions from last year were fairly accurate. One of my predictions was that the political divisiveness would continue. Some predictions

are obvious. Another obvious prediction is the political parties blaming the other party for any problems we have, which is a prediction you can always count on, especially in election years.

My prediction for 2023, which is also repeated from 2022, is that some politicians will call for modifying, changing, and or eliminating Social Security, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act. Those predictions are also becoming more dependable. It does not matter that the recipients of all of these programs – pay for them. Nor does it matter that all three programs work and are well-liked. The recommendations will be made, out of habit, because habits are hard to change, and we don’t want to become socialist.

Addressing my new year’s resolutions for the last several years, I have sometimes repeated myself. My resolutions always include keeping a cheerful outlook and only complaining when necessary. That is easy to maintain, provided I decide on the necessary part. As one grows older, the choice of resolutions diminishes. It is hard to get better, be in better shape or be a better person in your seventies. I like to think I have tried to be healthier, kinder, and a good person most of my life.

As to more current predictions, we will probably see more gun violence and active shooter incidents in the coming year. Because of a Supreme Court Decision that allows individuals, with

or without cause, to carry concealed firearms, we have more people carrying guns in public. In 2019, it was reported that “Nearly 6 million Americans were toting loaded handguns on a daily basis.” That number had doubled in just four years and has probably doubled again since the Supreme Court decision. Prior to the Supreme Court Decision twenty-five states issued carry permits with no cause needed. Many of these states have no background checks or training requirements. No one should be surprised that we continue to experience more active shooter incidents.

In summary, the coming year’s weather will be extreme and costly; however, any losses may be offset if you have market funds, proving the predictions are correct. Our politics will continue to be divisive, and there will be an increase in active shooter incidents. Since I believe in science, Covid 19 will still be here. Covid could become one of those obvious predictions for each year. The resolutions we make to improve ourselves will have good intentions, but most of us will not change.

*“Good resolutions are simply checks that men draw on a bank where they have no account.”*

—Oscar Wilde

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

## Tumbleweeds

### The sky is not falling

Mark Greathouse

Nuclear energy? Arrrgh! Nagasaki! Hiroshima! Three Mile Island! Chernobyl! Fukushima! Kaboom! Horrors galore are immediately thrown at a fear-saturated public by the environmental elite. Panic! Global warming disaster? The sky is falling? Not!

To be clear, I agree that our planet’s climate is changing. I support the protection of our environment and the wonders of its wildlife. I disagree with most of the means being ballyhooed by climate extremists to protect mother earth. Global warming per se is not “settled science.” In fact, y’all will find that science is hardly ever “settled.”

I believe – and so should you – that nuclear energy is the cleanest, most efficient, most productive way to solve most of our residential and industrial energy needs. However, biased academia, media, climate activists, and politicians serve to complicate the nuclear energy solution. Radicals Saul Alinsky and Rahm Emmanuel are laughing at the irony of a made-up crisis that proponents dare not let go to waste. The “Greenies” take full advantage of we humans’ tendency to exaggerate our own importance in the scheme of things.

Let’s all agree that the success of an industrialized society requires an abundant source of sufficient uninterrupted power. Intermittent, fluctuating power sources like wind and solar simply will never ever be sufficient even with vast arrays of expensive back-up batteries.

By way of a perspective on climate, visualize my great great grandfather raising longhorns on about 20,000 acres near Alice, Texas in the 1870s through 1890s. While dodging occasional tumbleweeds and dealing with droughts and rustlers, the least of his worries were cattle emissions and smoke from wood-burning cooking fires. Fossil fuels weren’t a concern. Global warming? Ho-hum.

Incidentally, oil and natural gas are abundant worldwide with supplies sufficient for many centuries to come. Oil is actually not a so-called fossil fuel. It’s a hydrocarbon that seeps from several miles beneath the earth’s mantle, picking up fossilized detritus in its path to accessible pools closer to the planet’s surface. There have never been enough dinosaurs and plants in earth’s history to turn into oil in the huge near-surface deposits currently identified. But enough of the fossil thing. Check out studies by the Russian Academy of Sciences, Thomas Gold’s The Deep Hot Biosphere, and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory’s 2004 report on deep earth methane deposits among much other research the Greenies, uninformed politicians, and herd-instinct press choose to ignore.

Are wind and solar energy “clean?” Not on your life. In addition to its impracticality, so-called green energy is not so “green.” Don’t ignore the environmental disasters of mining cobalt, nickel, and lithium for batteries powering electric vehicles; the annual burial of 3 million tons of used wind turbine blades and of used solar panels that damage water tables and never sufficiently biodegrade; the acres of ugly, government-subsidized solar panel farms barely meeting community energy needs; and the inefficient and murderous wind turbine farms constructed directly in the paths of migratory insects, bats, raptors, and other birds which they kill by the hundreds of thousands annually. Last but hardly least, we dare not ignore that those wind turbines use lots of oil for their gearboxes; up to 60 gallons that gets changed every two to three years. Better keep drilling and refining that oil!

Are wind and solar sufficient? With widespread wind turbines and solar panels, we just might save a tiny fraction of a degree of global warming over the next century, assuming all nations are onboard. Maybe a glacier won’t melt. Perhaps, New York City won’t be flooded. The answer surely isn’t in the artificially-induced panic surrounding the Green New Deal. And how much money from Green agendas is fattening the wallets of the likes of Al “Carbon Credit” Gore and John “Climate Reparations” Kerry?

What’s the most efficient energy source from a land use perspective? According to research by the Strata Group at Utah State University, “coal, natural gas, and nuclear power all feature the smallest physical footprint of about 12 acres per megawatt produced. Solar and wind are much more land intensive technologies using 43.5 and 70.6 acres per megawatt, respectively. Hydroelectricity generated by large dams has a significantly larger footprint than any other power generation technology, using 315.2 acres per megawatt.” It would take a land area the size of Texas and California combined to supply U.S. energy needs with wind and solar power. My grandfather Nick is likely turning in his grave at the mere

thought of such waste of good grazing land. Better to let cattle fart.

Let’s “circle back” to nuclear power. Is it safe? Environmentalist Michael Shellenberger quotes in his best-selling Apocalypse Never a 2018 World Health Organization report, “when the worst occurs with nuclear – and the fuel melts – the amount of particulate matter that escapes from the plant is insignificant in comparison to the particulate matter from fossil- and bio-mass burning in homes, cars, and power plants, which killed eight million people in 2016.” Is hydroelectric power safer? The Banqiao hydroelectric dam in China collapsed in 1975 killing upwards of 170,00 to 230,000 people. Shellenberger references a 2007 Lancet article that concludes, “Nuclear is thus the safest way to make reliable electricity.” Contrary to green extremist scare claims, the death toll from nuclear energy is vanishingly small. Moreover, nuclear fuel efficiency and waste reduction is achievable by reprocessing to recover unused uranium that can be used in breeder reactors to produce more fuel. Oh my! It’s renewable!

The economic and world health impacts of the perpetuation of the climate extremist myths are alarming. The price of just about everything revolves around oil from plastics to gasoline and diesel fuels to moving goods to market. Global consequences are huge. Underdeveloped nations are even being held economically hostage by industrialized countries that already have abundant sources of sufficient uninterrupted power by forcing them to use wood and coal as primary energy sources.

Our nation’s security is at great risk. The misguided energy policies

of the current administration that stifle oil and gas production and nuclear energy development have not only contributed to runaway inflation and looming recession but have created a serious national security threat. They’ve placed China in the energy “driver’s seat” for materials for so-called renewables. We’ve further jeopardized national security by moving from oil and gas independence in 2020 to oil dependence in 2022.

The United States stands as the cleanest nation on earth. However, per the law of diminishing returns, we dare not destroy our nation’s economy in exchange for the minimal gains of the gross spending for the Green New Deal panic. The United States must deal from strength on the world diplomatic stage.

As we ponder the green panic, it’s worth reminding ourselves of a prescient quote from John F. Kennedy, “The greatest enemy of the truth is very often not the lie – deliberate, contrived, and dishonest – but the myth – persistent, persuasive, and realistic.”

The myth of the climate change crisis is easily solved. Let’s move forward with oil and gas energy and build new nuclear power plants while we seek a practical, affordable, and enduring energy solution other than the ephemeral practicality of costly wind turbines and solar panels. Let’s build our nation’s economic strength to permit our science and tech industries to develop that ultimate energy solution, one that stands steadfastly on its own as an advance of humankind. Meanwhile, be assured that the sky is not falling.

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

# Country First

The price we pay for political cowards

David Marshall

It takes a special person to exhibit moral courage in any situation. The type of courage in which a person will do the right thing even when it's risky, uncomfortable or unpopular. We are just weeks away from the end of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, and with it comes the transfer of the gavel from Nancy Pelosi to the new Speaker of the House. We are also witnessing the end of the congressional careers of Republicans Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger. Regardless of your political beliefs, if you genuinely care about the Jan. 6 insurrection and the lasting impact it will have on our nation, you must admire the political sacrifices made by the two Republican lawmakers.

Since few elected House Republicans have shown the courage to publicly confront and condemn their fellow Republicans over the Jan. 6 attack, Reps. Cheney and Kinzinger will be sorely missed. Sadly, many voters have it backward. While voters reward political cowardice, political boldness and true patriotism are rejected. "The once great party of Lincoln, Roosevelt, and Reagan has turned its back on the ideals of liberty and self-governance. Instead, it has embraced lies and deceit." Kinzinger said in his fare-

well address to Congress. "Instead of members using our platform to advance the well-being of our nation and her people, we've turned this institution into an echo chamber of lies."

This type of warning to the GOP is not new to Kinzinger, who made efforts during the Trump presidency to inform his one-time GOP allies about the corrosive effects of conspiracy theories. There are consequences when a large part of the electorate forgoes wisdom, good judgment, and common sense when choosing their leaders. We all suffer as a nation when voters choose to be led by elected officials who embrace dishonesty, deceit, corruption, and hypocrisy.

Unfortunately, it exemplifies how this current era of American politics has become a moral failure. This political corrosion is not just limited to Congress. It runs through the courts, state legislatures, and now school boards. Therefore, who is at fault when Kinzinger's warning concerning the threats to democracy is so soundly rejected within his own party? Are the GOP elected officials and candidates who are disingenuous when preaching patriotism at fault? Are the GOP voters who are disingenuous when publicly chanting "USA!" at fault?

There was no "red wave"

during the 2022 midterm elections because enough Democratic, Republican, and Independent voters displayed the degree of wisdom, good judgment, and common sense to discern that both sides are at fault. Before Donald Trump, never has a former or current president called for the termination of the U.S. Constitution. Rep. Cheney, who has picked up a solid national following among moderate Democrats and Republicans alike, denounced the former president's statements. "No honest person can now deny that Trump is an enemy of the Constitution," Cheney said. The Congresswoman is correct, and we can only hope that enough of those who were previously duped and misled will now start to wake up.

Marcus Tullius Cicero was the last true defender of the Roman Empire, and his story sounds very familiar when compared to today's politics. Cicero was a loyal politician to the Roman Republic and viewed the informal alliance known as the First Triumvirate to be in direct opposition to the principles of the republic and the authority of the Senate. By refusing to join this alliance, Cicero was vulnerable to attacks from his political enemies, which became an issue when he was criticized for speaking out against the political figure and tribune, Publius Clodius.

Ironically, it is the same reaction Cheney and Kinzinger received by GOP lawmakers when taking a

public stand against Trump. When Clodius was elected as a tribune, he introduced a bill that revoked the citizenship of anyone who killed a Roman citizen without granting them a trial, a move designed to punish Cicero for his role in putting down an uprising known as the Catalonian rebellion. Cicero ordered the execution of revolutionaries without a trial due to the urgent need to end the dangerous rebellion. With no allies remaining to protect him from Clodius' attack, Cicero fled Rome and lived in exile. When resisting the rise of dictatorship, Cicero once said, "the enemy is within the gates; it is our own luxury, our own folly, our own criminality that we have to contend." His political opinions were not always popular, and he was ultimately declared a public enemy and executed.

History has a way of repeating itself. Reps. Cheney and Kinzinger are the modern-day versions of Cicero. What was true of the government of the Roman Republic is also true with today's U.S. government. The enemies of democracy and the Constitution are within our gates with folly and criminality. Moral failure occurs when far too many people are willing to abuse morality for the sake of self-interest and political power. Attempts to achieve compromise, unity and harmony will often be rejected if it means power must be shared. With Cheney and Kinzinger now "exiled," who on the Republican

side will join Democrat lawmakers in resisting this internal folly and crime?

The battle among House Republicans over the speakership is a preview of the next two years. A small band of GOP opportunists has already signaled to their colleagues that any willful group can hold the entire House majority hostage over any issue they want, making effective governing and accountability impossible. Political instability was a major reason behind the fall of the Roman Empire. Will America have the same fate? "They claim to be super-patriots, but they would destroy every liberty guaranteed by the Constitution. They are patriotic in time of war because it is their interest to be so, but in time of peace they follow power and the dollar wherever they may lead." Those were the prophetic words of former vice president Henry A. Wallace who served under President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

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](http://www.country1st.com).

To read past editions of *Country First*, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

# Good Day, Neighbor

Successful charity begins with planning

Dorothea Mordan

Charities have existed in America since colonial times. An early organization was the Humane Society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, dedicated to saving lives at sea. This was taken over by the US Coast Guard in the early twentieth century. The principle objective of the organization was to promote life-saving endeavors. For everyday needs of food, water and shelter, the average citizen relied on family, churches and the occasional petition to the King.

In our system of democracy, We The People determine exactly that—what our system is and who it serves. Add in that we are a huge nation of opinionated people, and we have a system that blends many beliefs and objectives into laws, rules, governing bodies, economy, et.al. The United States of America is by definition a blend of everything.

As any society grows, so does the variety of need. Over the last couple of centuries we have benefited from advances in medical care, food production, and treatment to make clean water available. Yet the basic problems of not all people having enough food, water and shelter is still present. In the quest to cover the cost of the needs of the many, we have

a tax system with an excruciatingly complex set of rules for calculating taxes paid by each person and commercial enterprise. There is ample to complain about. We argue about how much the government can take from us to organize and return services and benefits to us.

One argument for small government, is that everyone should carry their own weight, pull themselves up by their bootstraps, and leave charity to churches. Still huge numbers of our fellow Americans fall through the cracks caused by mental illness, addiction, poverty.

Alongside tax collection, our system has a path for people with the means to choose how to give aid by donating assets to nonprofit organizations. The tax exempt part of our system is there for anyone to literally put their money where their self-determining mouth is, directly giving resources where they see need.

Tax season is upon us, and donations for 2022 may be completed, but now is the time to put some thought into 2023 charitable giving, and where your contributions can make a difference.

Humans have practiced charitable giving for centuries. In the twentieth century the options expanded into government agencies, and a nationwide net-

work of nonprofits. We have no one-size-fits-all solution for challenges faced by individual people. Poverty, lack of access to quality education, or job training are often cyclic in families and communities. Diseases of despair—addiction, alcoholism, depression—can strike any one of us in a moment of insecurity, or medical event where the medicine proves to be addictive without warning.

Local nonprofits directly support our committees, here are a few in Frederick County:

Federated Charities of Frederick. From the website, "Nonprofits thrive here...more than 100 years ago a group of people gathered in Frederick in order to build what we now call a nonprofit center. It may have been called something different but the intention was to weave together the kinds of programs that make up the community safety net. It looks a lot like an office building but the nonprofits who work here save an average of \$7,000-\$15,000 annually when they share space here (and we're not just for nonprofits). Our partners worry less about the roof over their heads and spend more time on their programs serving individuals and families in our community...the math works." [federatedcharities.org](http://federatedcharities.org)

Andrea's House. Carleah Summers founded Andrea's House, a faith-based residential program in Frederick, MD, in March 2019.

From the website, "Transitional living for women recovering from substance use disorders and their children. Andrea's House also works with local community agencies to provide our women and children with all necessary resources needed to become effective mothers and achieve long term sobriety." [andreashouse.org](http://andreashouse.org)

SHIP of Frederick. From their website, "The Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership builds capacity in students to reduce housing insecurity, homelessness, and their impact by breaking the systemic barriers facing Frederick County youth." [shipfrederick.com](http://shipfrederick.com)

On Our Own. From the website, "On Our Own of Frederick County is a wellness and recovery center located in downtown Frederick, Maryland. We are a nonprofit organization that provides peer support, resources, advocacy, life/recovery coaching and more for adults and families in Frederick County who experience mental health challenges and/or substance use disorder." [onourownfrederick.org](http://onourownfrederick.org)

Justice Jobs. From the website, "Justice Jobs provides helps people experiencing barriers to employment to get a job, keep that job, and move up to a better job!" [justicejobsmd.org](http://justicejobsmd.org)

Kitsune Inc. I am a founding board member of this fledgling nonprofit. Our mission is to provide a supportive, live-in environment for individuals with dis-

abilities which impede activities of daily living, and instrumental activities of daily living. We will provide support and education in navigating these skills. [kitsuneinc.org](http://kitsuneinc.org).

If you don't believe in hand outs of money, many local organizations can benefit as much from in-kind donations as financial help. Ship of Frederick addresses student homelessness. "As these children are typically living in transitional circumstances, maintaining proper personal hygiene can be challenging. SHIP periodically makes requests of the community for a wide variety of hygiene items including: soap and body wash, shampoo, tooth brushes and paste, shaving cream, toilet paper, and deodorant." Andrea's House, and many other nonprofits addressing housing, and practical needs while working toward reentry into society, also take in-kind donations.

The return on investing in your neighbors when they are down, is to have more people living in permanent housing, with stable jobs, and the ability to one day to share their own time, talent and treasure in our community. They may be able to help you or me if our own foundations get shaky.

As they say at Federated Charities of Frederick, "The math works."

To learn more about *Woodsboro's own Dorothea*, visit her site at [chandlerdesignslimited.com](http://chandlerdesignslimited.com).

# THE PASTOR'S DESK

## God is doing new things

**Pastor Richard Baker**  
**Trinity United Methodist Church**

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.” (Isaiah 43: 19)

Most of us are familiar with this verse from Isaiah and you may have heard it shared at the beginning of a new year, or perhaps a new project. Back when I was in High School and starting college, I had a job at a Greenhouse, and every fall we would plant over five thousand lilies, tulips, and other spring bulbs.

We would start by digging up the long exterior flower beds. We would then lay long steam pipes over the beds, cover them, and steam the soil for several hours. After the beds were prepared, we would plant the bulbs and cover them again.

Right after the new year, we would go outside in the freezing cold and dig up the bulbs and bring them inside where they were transferred to their own pots and forced to grow. As I was digging up the bulbs, they didn't look any different than when we planted them, but the trained eye of the senior growers could see new life on the top edge of the bulb and with loving care they prepped them for the next part of their journey.

I believe that God is preparing us for something new. We may not see it, but it's happening all around us. This world is ready for something new. Everywhere I turn, I see damage. We are destroying our environment. Our disregard for this world is

amazing. I see the obvious food trash strewn on the ground, but I look as I drive around, I also see all kinds of trash dumped on the side of the roads. Just a few weeks ago, an oil pipeline began to leak in Kansas with over a half a million barrels of oil spilling onto the ground. We took a perfect world that God gave us dominion over and have left it damaged.

Our disregard for life has reached a breaking point. Our government categorizes a mass shooting as four or more people killed. We have had over sixty mass-shooting this year. Baltimore loses someone every day to gun violence. Our children are no longer safe in school.

We throw away enough food to feed the entire world and yet every day nine million children in our country go to bed hungry. In our land of abundance, over a half a million people are homeless in our country. I was at a religious gathering recently and the speaker said that the United States is the only country where we build houses for our cars, while people sleep on our streets.

I say all of this, not to depress you, but to make my point that I believe God is about to act in a mighty way in this world. Most mornings, as I pray, I ask God for revival in this world. I ask God to step into our world in a powerful way and transform the hearts of those who are living.

Some people want to write the church's obituary, but I see new people coming to the Lord. I see new professions of faith. I see young people embracing the word. I had the real thrill of doing a river baptism for one of



our young members. I had two young ladies in our Confirmation class and I was amazed how seriously they took the entire experience. Each week, they arrived with detailed answers to every question. They were able to articulate their faith. I feel comfortable

*Some people want to write the church's obituary, but I see new people coming to the Lord. I see new professions of faith. I see young people embracing the word.*

that they will be able and willing to share their faith with their contemporaries. I see new life springing up in the desert.

I assume that many of you reading this are believers. Many of you have faithfully attended church all your lives and, if you're like me, you mourn that our children and grandchildren do not seem to be embracing the faith as we did. But I believe we're only seeing a small picture of what is happening. People, both young and old,

still love the Lord, but they are looking for new faith expressions. Several years ago, our denomination sent me to Florida for something called "Exponential." It was a gathering of over five thousand church planters. They did things very differently than we do in our Protestant churches. Worship is much more experiential. It's also more spontaneous. They do not follow our model of prescribed prayers and three hymn in each service. But their churches are usually packed and branching off to start new off campus churches. I saw new life springing up.

Bob Dylan wrote a song called, "The Times, They are a Changing," and in it, he told the old generation to get out of the way if they won't lend a hand. If we want to experience that abundant life that Jesus offered us, we may need to get out of the way. People are hungry for something authentic. People are not turned off by God, but they're not that excited about the way we do things. Can we be open enough to allow them their opportunity at shaping the church of the future?

The new Christian church faced tremendous opposition as it got started. It was a part of the Jewish worship experience and as it grew and made the decision to welcome non-Jewish believers, controversy arose. Many Jewish people felt that new believers had to become Jewish first before embracing Christianity. The Apostle Paul believed he had received his commission from Jesus to reach out to gentiles (non-Jewish) believers.

The Jewish believers dogged him everywhere he went. They

tried to stir up trouble and Paul was often locked up as authorities tried to understand what this new faith was. Finally, Paul traveled to Jerusalem and met with the church leaders, which included Peter and James. They discussed the burdens that were being placed on new believers and made what was the first accommodation to our faith. New believers did not need to convert to Judaism, but they were asked to maintain some of the food purity laws and asked to abstain from sexual immorality. The new church took off and thousands embraced the new faith. New life sprung on in the wilderness.

Like those flower bulbs we planted, it took a trained eye to see new growth, but that trained eye was able to nurture that plant and bring it to blossom. We can never lose hope in what God will accomplish. Rick Warren, in his book, "The Purpose Driven Life" said that God is always sending a new wave for the church. It is God who is at work. Our job is to see the wave, catch it, and ride it. But we must remember that it was God who created the wave.

God is bringing new life into our world. It's happening whether we see it or not. We have a choice. We can get out of the way as Dylan said, or we can catch it and ride it for everything it's worth. May God give us the wisdom to choose. I invite you to visit us at Trinity United Methodist Church on Main Street in Emmitsburg where we try and catch those waves. Besides making things new, God is calling the faithful. May we all hear that voice.

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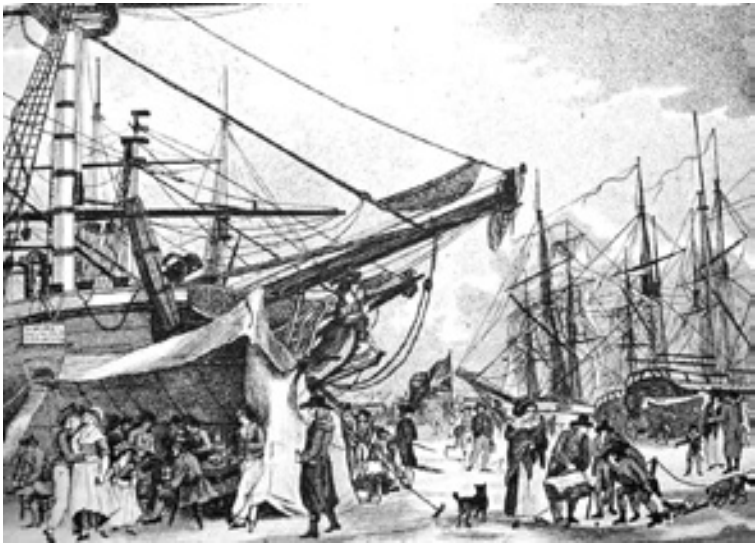
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# THE BOOK OF DAYS

## On this day in 1205



Began a frost which continued till the two and twentieth day of March, so that the ground could not be tilled; whereof it came to pass that, in summer following a quarter of wheat was sold for a mark of silver in many places of England, which for the more part in the days of King Henry the Second was sold for twelve pence; a quarter of beans or peas for half a mark; a quarter of oats for thirty pence, that were wont to be sold for fourpence. Also the money was so sore clipped that there was no remedy but to have it renewed.'—Stowe's Chronicle

It has become customary in England to look to St. Herilary's Day as the coldest in the year; perhaps from its being a noted day about the middle of the noted coldest month. It is, however, just possible that the commencement of the extraordinary and fatal frost of 1205, on this day, may have had something to do with the notion; and it may be remarked, that in 1820 the 14th of January was the coldest day of the year, one gentleman's thermometer falling to four degrees Fahrenheit below zero. On a review of the greatest frosts in the English chronicles, it can only be observed that they have for the most part occurred throughout January, and only, in general, diverge a little into December on the one hand, and February on the other. Yet one of the most remarkable of modern frosts began quite at the end of January.

It was at that time in 1814 that London last saw the Thames begin to be so firmly frozen as to support a multitude of human beings on its surface. For a month following the 27th of the previous December, there had been a strong frost in England. A thaw took place on the 26th January, and the ice of the Thames came down in a huge 'pack,' which was suddenly arrested between the bridges by the renewal of the frost. On the 31st the ice pack was so firmly frozen in one mass, that people began to pass over it, and next day the footing appeared so safe, that thousands of persons ventured to cross.

Opposite to Queen-hithe, where the mass appeared most solid, upwards of thirty booths were erected, for the sale of liquors and viands, and for the playing of skittles. A sheep was set to a fire in a tent upon the ice, and sold in shilling slices, under the appellation of Lapland mutton. Musicians came, and dances were effected on the rough and slippery surface. What with the gay appearance of the booths, and the quantity of favourite popular amusements going on, the scene was singularly cheerful and excit-

ing. On the ensuing day, faith in the ice having increased, there were vast multitudes upon it between the London and Blackfriars' Bridges; the tents for the sale of refreshments, and for games of hazard, had largely multiplied; swings and merry-go-rounds were added to skittles; in short, there were all the appearances of a Greenwich or Bartholomew Fair exhibited on this frail surface, and Frost Fair was a term in everybody's mouth.

Amongst those who strove to make a trade of the occasion, none were more active than the humbler class of printers. Their power of producing an article capable of preservation, as a memorial of the affair, brought them in great numbers to the scene. Their principal business consisted, accordingly, in the throwing off of little broadsides referring to Frost Fair, and stating the singular circumstances under which they were produced, in rather poor verses—such as the following:

*'Amidst the arts which on the  
Thames appear,  
To tell the wonders of this icy year,  
Printing claims prior place, which  
at one view  
Erects a monument of that and  
You.'*

Another peculiarly active corps was the ancient fraternity of watermen, who, deserting their proper trade, contrived to render themselves serviceable by making convenient accesses from the landings, for which they charged a moderate toll. It was reported that some of these men realized as much as ten pounds a day by this kind of business.

All who remember the scene describe it as having been singular and picturesque. It was not merely a white icy plain, covered with flag-bearing booths and lively crowds. The peculiar circumstances under which this part of the river had finally been frozen, caused it to appear as a variegated ice country—hill and dale, and devious walk, all mixed together, with human beings thronging over every bit of accessible surface.

After Frost Fair had lasted with increasing activity for four days, a killing thaw came with the Saturday, and most of the traders who possessed any prudence struck their flags and departed. Many, reluctant to go while any customers remained, held on past the right time, and towards evening there was a strange medley of tents, and merry-go-rounds, and printing presses seen floating about on

detached masses of ice, beyond recovery of their dismayed owners, who had themselves barely escaped with life. A large refreshment booth, belonging to one Lawrence, a publican of Queen-hithe, which had been placed opposite Brook's Wharf, was floated off by the rising tide, at an early hour on Sunday morning, with nine men in the interior, and was borne with violence back towards Blackfriars' Bridge, catching fire as it went. Before the conflagration had gone far, the whole mass was dashed to pieces on one of the piers of the bridge, and the men with difficulty got to land. A vast number of persons suffered immersion both on this and previous days, and three men were drowned. By Monday nothing was to be seen where Frost Fair had been, but a number of ice-boards swinging lazily backwards and for-forwards under the impulse of the tide.

There has been no recurrence of Frost Fair on the Thames from 1814 down to the present year (1861); but it is a phenomenon which, as a rule, appears to recur several times each century. The next previous occasion was in the winter of 1788-9; the next again in January 1740, when people dwelt in tents on the Thames for weeks. In 1715-16, the river was thickly frozen for several miles, and became the scene of a popular fete resembling that just described, with the additional feature of an ox roasted whole for the regalement of the people. The next previous instance was in January 1684. There was then a constant frost of seven weeks, producing ice eighteen inches thick. A contemporary, John Evelyn, who was an eyewitness of the scene, thus describes it:

'The frost continuing, more and more severe, the Thames, before London, was still planted with booths in formal streets, all sorts of trades and shops, furnished and full of commodities, even to a printing press, where the people and ladies took a fancy to have

their names printed, and the day and the year set down when produced on the Thames: this humour took so universally, that it was estimated the printer gained five pounds a day, for printing a line only, at sixpence a name, besides what he got by ballads, &c. Coaches plied from Westminster to the Temple and from other stairs, to and fro, as in the streets; sheds, sliding with skates, or bull-baiting, horse and coach races, puppet-shows and interludes, cooks, tipling and other lewd places; so that it seemed to be a bacchanalian triumph or carnival on the water: while it was a severe judgment on the land, the trees not only splitting as if lightning-struck, but men and cattle perishing in divers places, and the very seas so locked up with ice, that no vessels could stir out or come in; the fowls, fish, and birds, and all our exotic plants and greens, universally perishing. Many parks of deer were destroyed; and all sorts of fuel so dear, that there were great contributions to keep the poor alive. Nor was this severe weather much less intense in most parts of Europe, even as far as Spain in the most southern tracts.

London, by reason of the excessive coldness of the air hindering the ascent of the smoke, was so filled with the fuliginous stream of the sea-coal, that hardly could any one see across the streets; and this filling of the lungs with the gross particles exceedingly obstructed the breath, so as one could scarcely breathe. There was no water to be had from the pipes or engines; nor could the brewers and divers other tradesmen work; and every moment was full of disastrous accidents.'

Hollinshed describes a severe frost as occurring at the close of December 1564:

'On New Year's Eve,' he says, 'people went over and along the Thames on the ice from London Bridge to Westminster. Some played at the foot-ball as boldly there as if it had been on dry

land. Divers of the court, being daily at Westminster, shot daily at pricks set upon the Thames; and the people, both men and women, went daily on the Thames in greater number than in any street of the city of London. On the 3rd day of January it began to thaw, and on the 5th day was no ice to be seen between London Bridge and Lambeth; which sudden thaw caused great floods and high waters, that bare down bridges and houses, and drowned many people, especially in Yorkshire.'

A protracted frost necessarily deranges the lower class of employments in such a city as London, and throws many poor persons into destitution. Just as sure as this is the fact, so sure is it that a vast horde of the class who systematically avoid regular work, preferring to live by their wits, simulate the characteristic appearances of distressed labourers, and try to excite the charity of the better class of citizens. Investing themselves in aprons, clutching an old spade, and hoisting as their signal of distress a turnip on the top of a pole or rake, they will wend their way through the west-end streets, proclaiming themselves in sepulchral tones as Frozen-out Gardeners, or simply calling, 'Hall frozen hout!' or chanting 'We've got no work to do The faces of the corps are duly dolorous; but one can nevertheless observe a sharp eye kept on the doors and windows they are passing, in order that if possible they may arrest some female gaze on which to practise their spell of pity. It is alleged on good grounds that the generality of these victims of the frost are impostors, and that their daily gatherings will often amount to double a skilled workman's wages.

Nor do they usually discontinue the trade till long after the return of milder airs has liquidated even real claims upon the public sympathy.

To read more selections from the Book of Days visit [Thebookofdays.com](http://Thebookofdays.com).



**A friend of the Town of Emmitsburg Michael Zhorvin, presented The Emmitsburg Sister City Proclamation to Mayor Ihor Polishchuk of Ukraine on December 8, 2022.**



**Emmitsburg Tree Lighting Ceremony  
Top: Natalie Raymond  
Bottom: Mayor Briggs & Mr. Melody**

# ECOLOGY

## Wolves: where fear, mythology, and ecology intersect

Anne Gageby  
Environmental Education Manager  
Strawberry Hill

Full Wolf Moon will peak this Friday, January 6th. The first full moon of the new year is named for the elusive and terrifyingly beautiful animals that once roamed the Pennsylvania woods in unimaginable numbers. Sadly, it's been over a hundred years since the last gray wolf was spotted in our state. Mystery, fear, and misconceptions resulted in campaigns that destroyed wolf populations along the East Coast, not just Pennsylvania. The gray wolves' elimination serves as both an ecological and societal warning, one specially stained by folklore.

Nearly every culture around the world has stories of humans turning into animals by way of magic. Stories abound of humans turning into lions, leopards, crocodiles, and so on. This metamorphosis could be accomplished by smearing oneself with a magic balm, wearing an animal skin, donning a magic belt, or as is the case with some European werewolf legends, drinking from a wolf's tracks under a full moon. In almost all cases, the animal involved in this magic is something to be feared – an apex predator.

Scots-Irish and German settlers brought folktales that shaped their views on the very forests they would soon inhabit. Their collective stories included tales of wolfmen lurking amongst the trees, cursed mercenaries paid in human

blood, and documented wolf attacks. This complicated relationship with the natural world wove fear into mythology and accepted it as reality.

To early settlers, wolves were intimidating in a way bears and bobcats weren't. For starters, wolves are the largest wild canid species with powerful jaws, and they hunt in packs. They are relentless and fast, usually traveling 5 miles an hour, but can reach speeds of up to 40 miles an hour. Though eastern gray wolves preferred avoidance and tended to be nocturnal, their howls must have seemed almost ghostly in the dark of night.

Throughout the centuries, wolf attacks on humans, though relatively rare, have been well-documented across the globe. For example, from 1764-1767, wolves were reported to have killed at least 100 people in the Gevaudan region of France. These attacks were documented in parish records and by noted historians of the time, even the king of France. Though it is one of the best documented instances of wolf attacks in Western Europe, there is still doubt that wolves were involved at all. Modern interpretations of contemporary descriptions often point to dog-wolf hybrids or large breed dogs.

According to documented wolf attacks in Europe, the most common cause was rabies. Rabid wolf attacks were generally destructive, expansive, and limited to a 24-48 hour window. A rabid wolf could

travel through several villages in a day, attacking dozens of people and livestock before perishing. Word of these attacks spread fear and misunderstanding, adding to the already sinister impression Europeans had of wolves long before they set foot in the new world.

To the early settlers, Pennsylvania's forests probably looked like something from a dark fairytale. Elk and wolves roamed the Northeastern woods alongside the more familiar deer, bear, and bobcats. Dense tree growth teeming with wildlife and opportunity must have been more than a little intimidating for those who ventured here. Settlers were faced with an unimaginable landscape, unfamiliar and imposing.

The old-growth forests were so dense that it was said a squirrel could travel hundreds of miles along a highway of interlocking branches and never need to touch the ground. American chestnuts, now considered functionally extinct, once dominated our state. They regularly grew well over 120 ft tall and more than 10 ft in diameter. Massive hemlocks grew thick trunks large enough for a car to drive through. White pines could reach nearly 100 ft.

Rather quickly, settlers began radically changing the landscape as they cut down trees for timber and farming. They built milldams across the state, effectively turning areas of wetlands into precise streams. This environmental change affected the flora and fauna



Full Wolf Moon will peak January 6th. The first full moon of the new year is named for the elusive and terrifyingly beautiful animals that once roamed the woods in unimaginable numbers.

inhabiting these areas. Deforestation led to habitat loss and dwindling resources. By the late 1800s, unregulated trapping and hunting caused beaver and elk to be eradicated from our local ecosystems. Hunting dropped deer populations to nearly zero. With the destruction of beaver, elk, and deer populations, eastern gray wolves were forced to rely on easier prey – livestock such as sheep and goats. Farmers' long-held beliefs in the "evilness" of wolves was compounded by the threat to their livelihoods. As wolves encroached upon human settlements, people were reminded of old tales of wolfmen lurking in the shadows. The threat to body and soul was never clearer.

It didn't take long for settlers to strike down the wolf popu-

lations. They had brought with them a tradition of killing wolves, after all. Britain eliminated the last of its wolf populations in the 17th century. Ireland followed suit in the 18th century. Hunting and trapping wolves was not only allowed in early Pennsylvania but encouraged. Farmers and hunters discovered poisoned bait was easier and generally safer for culling wolf populations quickly. Some towns enacted bounties and paid for every dead wolf brought in, a lucrative prospect for those in need of cash.

It was decidedly easy for settlers and government officials to support the eradication of wolves. Human-wolf conflict is a story as old as civilization itself no matter which continent you're on. It's only been recently accepted that wolves are a keystone species and therefore are necessary for a healthy ecosystem. And yet, some beliefs are so ingrained it's almost impossible to excise them completely.

European tradition holds wolves in odd esteem. On one hand, wolves are beautiful, near mythical and perversely fascinating. On the other, they are a scourge, destructive and dangerous to humans, as likely to snatch a person as a sheep. Ecologists, folklorists, and historians often point out that it's simply not in wolves' natures to treat humans as prey. Because wolf attacks are an aberration, folktales are often imbued with some sort of magical element to explain it – werewolves, shape-shifting killers, evil spirits, etc. Throughout the Middle Ages and into the Renaissance, European tradition emphasized the "evilness" of werewolves and shapeshifter stories, adding to the notions of magic and fear of the natural world. These stories aligned with and highlighted the veritable threat wolves posed to farmers' livestock. In adding these elements, it takes a difficult and terrifying subject and makes it a little easier to comprehend. However, when those stories are allowed to bloom and grow, real wolves suffer the consequences.

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

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# IN THE COUNTRY

## The climes are a-changin'

Tim Iverson  
Naturalist

April showers bring May flowers. Geese are spotted flying south for the winter. Leaves on trees turn brilliant colors and fall to the ground as the trees become dormant for winter. The arrival of the Cherry Blossom trees in D.C. signal spring has finally arrived. How do these plants and animals know when to do this? That's where a type of ecology, known as phenology, comes in. Phenology is the study of changes in seasonal timing, it literally means the study of appearance. Anyone can observe examples of these appearances or changes as birds migrating, flowers blooming, or animals hibernating. Plants and animals have developed some unique and resourceful ways to adapt for survival, but can they adjust to climatic changes that are growing ever more present? There are implications for some animals and others will hardly notice. As always, when the die is cast there are always winners and losers, but can those who suffer as a result of the phenological changes keep up the pace?

With seasonal changes organisms have evolved different ways to survive. Animals have three options when confronting this prospect: hibernate, migrate, or adapt. The Wood Frog (which is native to Maryland) survives for months at a time frozen solid! The glucose in its blood essentially acts as anti-freeze and will surround vital organs while the rest of the frog remains frozen solid. Then when warmer temperatures return in the spring it thaws out and keeps on hopping. Woolly Bear Caterpillars have a similar adaptation. Once the woolly bear caterpillar hatches from an egg laid by an adult moth it will start life in the spring voraciously munching on plants like dandelions and nettles. It will continue to do this all through spring and summer. Once the warm air moves out, and the chill of fall settles in the woolly bear makes its way from feeding grounds to overwintering sites. They usually set out for places underneath logs, rocks, or dense brush that will provide protection from any unwanted disturbance. The cool turns to cold and this is where the fur kicks in. The caterpillar begins to hibernate. Once this begins their bodies produce a natural "anti-freeze" called glycerol, and they begin to freeze almost solid. They will freeze until everything but the inside of their cells is frozen. The setae (their "fur") will actually begin the freezing process on the outside of the body, away from the internal cells. This is less damaging to their bodies, and energy reserves aren't taxed on healing as much when it's time to thaw out and wake up. It will spend just a few more weeks in spring eating some more before it spins a cocoon and grows up into a moth.

When the weather turns migratory animals pack up shop and relocate to more suitable environments for a few months. Birds and insects, like the Monarch Butterfly, can travel thousands of miles to find suitable wintering grounds. Year after year

these critters find the same locations. Scientists believe this is done by navigating with the sun, moon, and stars. They also seem to have the amazing ability to sense the magnetic field of the earth, which they use like a compass. It's not just birds or insects who migrate south though. Fish, whales, elk, and some species of bats also migrate south. Instead of migrating south earthworms migrate deeper. They can go down to as far as 6 feet under the top soil, where the temperature is much more regular and habitable for them.

Animals take their cues from the food availability, sun, and weather pattern changes. This is the mechanism that tells them what to do and when. Other animals like hibernators and long distance migrators are on a cyclical clock that cues them into when it's time to wake up or move along. In either instance, decades long research indicates that these annual events are occurring earlier and earlier every year. The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report in 2007 showing that spring is arriving by about 2.3 to 5.2 days earlier per decade in the last 30 years. The findings show that seasonal timing that ushers in plants and animals is accelerating across the globe. These new arrival times for plants and animals aren't always syncing up potentially leading to complex problems down the road.

Hypothetically, warming temperatures can indicate to plants that it's time to sprout and bloom. These temperatures also indicate to insect species like butterflies it's time to migrate north. These butterflies fly north and begin to lay eggs, but because it's still so early in the season a frost settles in destroying the plants and leaving the eggs nothing to eat should they survive the frost. Migratory hummingbirds could also face similar issues with food scarcity caused by frosts



destroying plants and their nectar. Other birds having exhausted food supplies in the south and being signaled that it's time to move north due to increasing temperatures might find that the warming pace hasn't ushered in the required prey species. The issue is that these aren't hypothetical situations. These are documented cases involving the Mormon Fritillary Butterfly and the Red Knot (a migratory bird that stops mid trip in Delaware to feast on horseshoe crab eggs). Breaking any link in these chains can be critical for these species survival and overall productivity.

The bottom line is that ecologists and climate scientists don't know an awful lot. Predictive models often fail to grasp the complexity and intricacies of macro and micro ecosystems and the affected species. Whether or not the long-term sustainability or extinction rates of species is affected ultimately depends on their evolutionary adaptability and whether or not these climatic shifts can be slowed. We have seen the fingerprints of these changes around the

globe and many species can change behaviors to adapt. Within a few generations of fast reproducing species genetic changes may even occur to make them better suited for new and changing environments. The recent climate summit in Paris has the potential to help curtail rapid environmental degradation (assuming all parties stick to the agreements made). This, however, is not a panacea, but a start. Between curbing emissions and responsible development with both conservation and economics in mind we can strike a balance.

Everyone has heard worst-case scenarios including but not limited to mass extinctions, oceans swallowing islands, heat waves that melt all the ice

cream, and more supercell storms terribly named by meteorologists. Ultimately at the end of the day we don't know what we don't. When we can acknowledge that fact and the fact that we, for better or worse, are a part of a changing world that we can affect we can begin our own adaptive evolution. By observing appearances of these cyclical events we can get a pretty clear picture of what's going on in the world around us. Phenology can help researchers, policy makers, and people be better decision makers and agents of positive change.

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

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# REAL SCIENCE

## 2022 Mother Seton School Science Fair winners

Michael Rosenthal

In spite of the pandemic, Mother Seton School moved ahead and held its annual science fair. I did not attend the fair personally as I have done in the past, but I requested and received the 2022 Winners List. It is clear that the pandemic did not affect the commitment of the students nor the quality of their work. Congratulations as well go to the mentors and to the judges, named below, who came out and supervised, reviewed, and evaluated the projects.

Here is the list of the 2022 winners. HM indicates Honorable Mention.

Sixth Grade winners are as follows. In 1st place was Giovan Nana: Temperature Effect on Balloon Powered Cars; In 2nd place was Brian Bowers: Liquids that prevent or cause rust; In 3rd place was Philip Field: Effect of peroxide concentration on forming foam; HM is Mackenzie Hagar: Making a Geiger counter.

Seventh Grade winners where: In 1st place was Catalina Caretti: Stain Removers; in 2nd place was Noah Riling: Inclined Plane Physics; in 3rd place was Peyton Myles: Efficiency of Homemade Water Filters; Honorable Mention went to Gabriel Valerio for her project entitled: What type of Coal Burns the Hottest. (Gabriel is my next-door neighbor!)

Eighth Grade Winners where In 1st place where Emma and

Sarah Simons: Respiratory Distress Monitor for Asthmatic Horses (invention category); In 2nd place was Olivia Jaeger: Calming Dogs With The Right Frequency of Music; In 3rd place was Aidan Burnette: Testing Glow Fuel vs. Kerosene in Model Jet Engines; Honorable Mention went to Lindjie Ulma and Bernadette Forze for their project entitled: Testing Homemade Root Beer Against A&W.

The judges themselves deserve a lot of credit. In previous years when I attended the Fair, I met some of the judges, and others who served as judges I had met in the Emmitsburg community. This year's judges where:

Ed Hatter, A NASA scientist and his son Edison Hatter, also a NASA scientist; Bernie Buckley, A retired science teacher; Dillon Fitzgerald, a Mother Seton alum who earned PhDs in engineering and wood strength; Jeffrey Crefton, A U. S. Naval Observatory Scientist who is astronomer/geodesist with a background in astronomy; Ron Albaugh, a retired science professor from Hood College; Bill Little; Lisa Simmons; and Mackenzie Orndorff, a Mother Seton alum and current senior at Catoctin School

I am a retired college chemistry teacher with many years of teaching science: 19 years of teaching first year college chemistry plus advanced courses in chemistry and environmental science at Bard College in New York, part-time Science teaching at McDaniel

College and Mt. St. Mary's University and administering college programs as an academic dean, I have the background and experience to appreciate both the commitment of the mentors and the accomplishments of the students.

As I said in a previous year's review of this program, I owe much of my success as a science professor to the mentorship of my high school chemistry teacher in Youngstown, Ohio, Mr. Gillespie.

Such an opportunity as the Mother Seton Science Fair opens the door for a potential career in science by giving the student a personal opportunity to conduct research and evaluate the results. My most sincere congratulations go to all the involved in this wonderful project, and my special congratulations go to Danielle Kuykendall, Mother Seton science teacher.

An ongoing issue with no easy solution is the safest way to produce energy.

California is moving forward with a plan to ban plants that burn gas. Their plan, as recently reported, is to ending the construction of new gas-burning power plants. Such a move would cut the demand for fossil fuels, but place the state at greater risk for power blackouts. California has committed to establishing carbon neutrality by 2045. This plan is the most ambitious plan of its kind in the United States.

If this plan is carried out, planet-warming emissions would fall 85 percent below 1990 levels by 2045. Its interim target is to have emissions fall 40% by 2030. The new plan if carried out successfully would achieve a cut of 48% by the end of the decade. The chair of California's air board, Liane Randolph, recognizes the challenge of meeting that goal, but reasserts that the only way to counter changing climate is to "break forever our dependence on fossil fuels."

The proposal has the support of California Governor Gavin Newsom, and stated: "it will spur an economic transformation akin to the industrial revolution." Others are worried that it is an overambitious goal. Catherine Garoupa



7th grader Gabriel Valerio won honorable mention for her project titled: What Type of Coal Burns the Hottest.

White, executive director of the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition, worries that the plan is overly reliant on technological advances to curb emissions and was not as aggressive as she and others hoped it would be, in particular for its not having an enforcement strategy.

California, probably our most progressive states in energy planning, has been frustrated by a continuing threat of rolling blackouts, especially on hot summer nights, and other situations in which solar farms are not producing enough electricity. Anticipating this possibility, California has added giant battery systems to store the daylight energy produced for nighttime use.

A California plan was approved in June to extend the life of the old natural gas power plants and the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant to shore up the electricity grid. The recent action would allow the use of that plan, but would prevent the construction of any new natural gas plants, even those with modern emission-limiting technology. In addition regulators have instituted a ban on new sales of natu-

ral gas heaters, water heaters, and furnaces by 2030.

Now here's a big one! California has banned the sale of gas-burning automobiles by 2035. These and other upcoming regulations will require approximately 6 million heat pumps by 2030 and 20 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2045.

The transition to cleaner energy production will be gradual. Older gas-burning cars and trucks will keep on going, and some industries, such as cement plants, will take longer to break free of fossil fuel use. The state is pursuing new ways technology to capture and store carbon, allowing some continuation of production of greenhouse gas. This part of the plan is not approved by all.

My son, Dr. Nicolas Rosenthal, is a professor of Native American History at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. I will keep in touch with him regarding the energy use changes in daily life that these plans will produce.

To read past editions of Real Science visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



# THE VILLAGE IDIOT

## Every now and again

Jack Deatherage

The universe (aka “the laughing gods”) recently took on the form of Emmitsburg’s governing body (aka the mayor, the town manager and the entire board of commissioners) and granted me permission to design and establish a new, larger community garden on the back of the lot that serves as the town’s farmers market- located at the corner of South Seton and Cedar Avenues, across from the community center. The next day, Brian McKenny and I took to staking the potential garden area with an eleven-inch broadfork and a nine inch garden fork to determine if we’d be gardening in the ground itself or building raised beds on it. To our surprise the forks easily sank to their hilts every place we stabbed the ground!

Brian, using the broadfork to lift a chunk of sod, grabbed a handful of soil from about seven inches down. “I wish I had soil this good in my yard! It smells like rich mushroom soil! I wonder if the town would let me build a house here?”

I still need to send off some soil samples to a lab for analysis. I worry there might be lead in the soil as no one I’ve talked to can tell me for certain what that lot has been used for during the last one hundred years. While it’s possible to garden in lead contaminated soil, I’d sooner not, especially in a community garden.

While soil testing can wait a few months, organizing a group interested in building a community garden can’t. First up, I need a design to present to town manager Cathy Willets. I haven’t seriously attempted to design anything since Mr. Massett’s Industrial Arts class in 1971. Eh-hem. The community garden could use an artist or several- we’ll need a garden sign and an eye-catching, garden promoting poster to place around town as well.

Second, a place for members to meet. The librarians tell me their community room is designated for just such purposes so that’s taken care of.

As many years as I’ve been playing in the dirt trying to grow a freakin’ tasty cabbage I blush when people say “You know so much about gardening.” I barely know enough to pot up a seedling! What I need, community gardenwise, is a few of Maryland, or Pennsylvania’s Master Gardeners to tell me what I’m doing wrong. (Ignoring a Master’s advice isn’t smart, though I’ve done it often

enough to have lucked out a few times.) Maybe there are some newly minted Masters that need to get in their community service hours who’d like to join this adventure?

I bought a 1982 copy of “A Handbook of Community Gardening” by Boston Urban Gardeners which makes my head hurt. I’m so not the one to organize a group of more than two- and the DW general balks at my ideas even when we agree in principle. (Oh, the gods are laughing.) The garden will certainly benefit from a people organizer, or two.

While I hope to see the garden built with volunteered moneys, I know at some point an account will have to be opened to collect, distribute and track donations, grants and market sales moneys the garden will acquire and generate. (The DW says she’ll do the accounting if no one else steps up. She knows what a disaster I’d make of the task, but her heart wouldn’t be in the work.)

Hmm... Who am I missing? Gardeners?

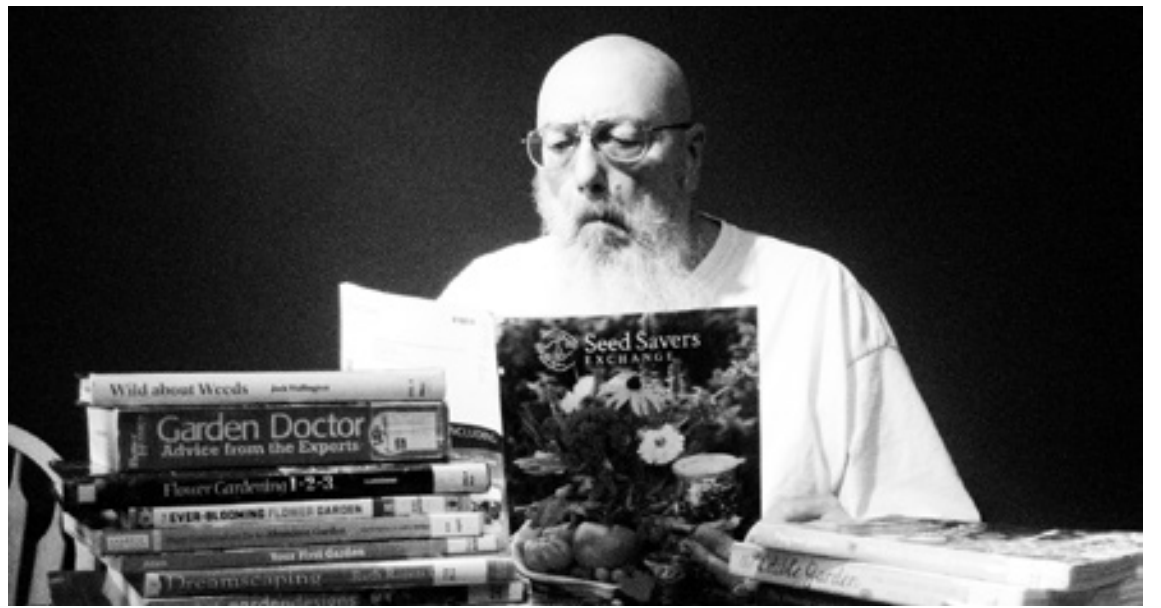
Surprisingly, gardeners aren’t actually essential in starting a community garden.

Why? I’m glad I asked because I’d not thought about it before.

Gardeners, as I’ve known them, tend to be solitary in their pursuit of teasing plants from the soil. Sure, many of them take pride in showing off their accomplishments, but in my 64 years of being aware of gardens I’ve rarely seen gardeners working together outside of a commercial garden. My examples were mostly Mom’s brothers, each gardening in their own yards but coming to the family farm when larger gardens were needed. They’d advise or commiserate with each other. They’d share the tools and water sources, but I never saw one step into the other’s patch to pull a weed or plant a seed.

I’ve been a member of more than one garden community over the years. Such communities are easily assembled as the members don’t have to leave their gardens to be a part of the community. The gardens exist before the community!

A community garden is a totally different beast. Why? Because building a garden is pretty straight forward in spite of the myriad options available. A gardener simply decides what he or she wants and sets about creating it. Building a community requires enough people, with varying reasons for joining a community, to set individual



Jack studying up to become the next town Master Gardener.

wants aside so they can work with others to build a thing that does not necessarily meet everyone’s wants, but hopefully fulfills some of whatever everyone needs.

That’s why gardeners are last on my list of “needs”, though they are hardly the least important. After all, the community builds the garden for them. Which brings me to “them”.

They’s; school kids (public, private and home schooled) needing science projects and/or community service activities, church and scouting groups looking for “good works” to support their members and the community at large, librarians with various educational programs waiting for an opportunity, apartment dwellers looking to try their hands at gardening, seniors remembering garden grown flavors lost in their childhood memories but still available in seed catalogs under the “heirloom” headings, parents wanting their children to learn

at least the basics of gardening, lawn proud homeowners (I’m not in that clan) wanting to grow flowers and veggies for their tables without scaring their landscaping, people needing to supplement their pantries and larders (do townsfolk have larders?) and people with reasons to garden that I haven’t met, yet.

Worldpopulationreview.com claims Thurmont had 3,457 more residents in 2020 than this place did. Both towns have lost population since the census. Mayor Kinnaird tells me Thurmont set aside land for a community garden that has seen fewer gardeners each year of its existence in spite of fencing and a steady supply of water. While he thought building a similar garden near Emmitsburg’s farmers market was a good idea, I can’t help but wonder if Thurmont’s garden was built before the “community” part of community garden was.

To avoid such a waste of time and

money I’m building the community first. Town government is willing to do its part in building the garden. The librarians are waiting for their supervisor to give them the nod. I’m sure Brian would already be laying out garden plots if we had a formal design. Now’s the time for community. The gardeners will follow.

Interested? I can be reached via the post office:

Deatherage  
PO Box 417  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Phone: 301-447-2151 (if the answering machine picks up, please leave a contact number-speak slowly and clearly - English is a struggle for me, all other languages are beyond me)

Email: jackdeathjr@juno.com

To read past articles by Jack Deatherage, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Growing houseplants

Mary Ann Ryan  
Adams County Master Gardener

This time of year, as the weather freezes and gardening outside stops, we begin to look inside to satisfy our need for growing plants. Poinsettias, cyclamen, and Christmas cactus are often the plants chosen for indoor color around the holidays, but now that the holidays are coming to an end, have you considered other options?

Houseplants are very much “in fashion”. All the many benefits of having plants in our homes, from better air quality to a positive mood, houseplants have lots to offer. This time of year, it’s pretty easy to find a houseplant that will suit your situation and taste. Orchids, low light plants, succulents and cacti all have special needs and certainly one of these groups of plants can suit you.

Growing houseplants can be an easy proposition if all, or most, requirements are met. Knowing what kind of environment you can offer your plant is a good first step. Before entering a greenhouse, study the areas you wish to grow plants.

What kind of sunlight is the area getting? Is it near a window and what direction does that window face – north, south, east or west? Are there any air vents where heat or air conditioning will be blowing? What kind of heat do you have? Is it wood stove, electric, or gas? You need to know the answers to all these questions before selecting your plants.

When visiting a greenhouse or florist, look around at all that is available. You will quickly see that there are many colors, textures and sizes. Be sure the plant variety that you are selecting is going to grow well in the conditions you are providing. Light, temperature and humidity are very important when selecting a plant.

Select plants that are insect free. Always inspect the underside of the foliage as well as at the leaf axils. Choose plants with healthy foliage. If the leaves look yellow, or chlorotic, don’t buy them. Look out for brown leaf margins or weak growth. Plants that have young, new growth and healthy buds are usually of superior quality.

Note the environment that the plants are now growing. Be aware of the kind of care the plant is getting before you purchase it. For instance, if it is a plant that requires high light conditions, such as a croton, and is living in a low light situation in a store, when you get it home it will probably drop many leaves. You will be nursing it back to health for quite a long while. Likewise, if you take a low-light plant, growing in a florescent light situation, take it home, and put it in a window that is getting all day sun, it will likely have leaf burn and lose those leaves.

Take notice as to the watering conditions of the plant. Too dry too frequently can cause much stress to the plant, allowing insect and disease problems to take over, as well as leaf drop. Too wet can cause rotting of the roots.

After you have taken much care in selecting the healthy plant that is appropriate for your growing conditions, be sure you protect it when leaving the greenhouse or store. Wrap the plant in paper or plastic bags, and be sure to transport it in the front of the car that is heated, not the trunk. Don’t make lots of stops after purchasing your plants. Just short distances in low temperatures can cause severe damage or death to a houseplant.

In my experience, watering has often been the object of blame when it comes to plant fatality. Too much water or too little water can cause stress or even death. It’s best to grow the plant in a container that has good drainage. Place a saucer underneath the container so the water runs through. After 15 minutes, dump the excess water out of the saucer. If the soil medium continues to be wet for a long period of time, the roots of the plants will rot.

Just as important is not allowing the plant to dry out. If the soil



Growing house plants is a great way to brighten up dreary winter days.

medium is dry to the touch, it’s time to water. A good rule of thumb is to check the plants twice a week. If it is dry, water it, if it isn’t, let it alone until next time. It is good to get your watering on a schedule like every Wednesday and Saturday. That way the plant is not forgotten. Plant care then becomes habit.

Humidity is important to a plant’s survival. Dry heat from a wood stove can be deadly to a houseplant. To create more humidity for a houseplant, group plants together or put a humidity tray under them. Misting plants has very little effect. Locate your houseplant in a room that has good ventilation, but not drafty.

During the plant’s active growing time, typically March through September, fertilize every two to four weeks. Use a well-balanced fertilizer. A typical analysis of a fertilizer is 10-10-10 or 20-20-20. The

analysis tells you the percentage of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium that is in the fertilizer.

If you are transplanting your houseplant, use a potting mix that is formulated for houseplants. We transplanting your plants, loosen up the roots before planting it in new soil. Transplant the plant in a container that is slightly larger than the one it is now growing in. Water it well and your plant is ready for another year or so of healthy living.

This winter the Master Gardeners will be leading three classes on houseplants. Classes will take place on February 9, 16, and 23 from 6:30PM to 8PM at the Agricultural and Natural Resources Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg. On February 9, the focus will be on Cacti and Succulents. You will learn about the differences between hardy and tender succulents, the best soil

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• Kemptown Park (lower left parking lot) 3456B Kemptown Church Rd, Monrovia  
• Point of Rocks Ruritan (left side parking lot) 1637 Ballenger Creek Pike, Point of Rocks  
• Remsburg Park (first parking lot entrance on left) 7408 Holter Road, Middletown  
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# THE MASTER GARDENER

and containers to grow them in, how to propagate, and best location, as well as watering and sunlight needs. You will be starting your own cactus from seeds to grow at home.

February 16 will be on Easy to Grow Houseplants, including plants best for the office setting. Master Gardeners will share information about easy to grow plants, how to care for these plants, and some interesting propagation techniques. They will discuss cultural needs and potential roadblocks.

The last class will offer informa-

tion on Tropical Plants. A Master Gardener will talk about growing orchids in the home, how to manage citrus, and a few other more difficult to grow plants. You will learn about the best environment for many of these plants and some of the challenges.

*To find out more information about any of these classes, go to our website at <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/master-gardener/counties/adams>.*

*To read other gardening articles, visit the Gardening section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).*

## Upcoming Master Gardener Seminars

The University of Maryland Extension Frederick County Master Gardeners present the following seminars:

January 7: "Landscaping Solutions for Wet Areas in Your Yard" Do you have wet areas on your property? Learn about ways to solve the problems it causes. We will discuss hydrography and how to create a good flow of water across your landscape. Register online: [bit.ly/FCMG23WetAreas](http://bit.ly/FCMG23WetAreas).

January 14: "Think You Want a Vegetable Garden? Make a Plan!" Wondering how to plan a home vegetable garden? Learn what kind

of garden will fit your needs, when to start, what to plant, and how much is enough. We will share tips on finding resources for planning, garden supplies and seeds. Register online: [bit.ly/FCMG23Veg-GardenPlanning](http://bit.ly/FCMG23Veg-GardenPlanning)

January 21: "Winter Pruning" Learn what to prune in the winter and early spring and how to prune to get the most out of your plants. Register online: <https://bit.ly/FCMG23WinterPruning>

All seminars are free and open to the public. Seminars start at 10 am and run until noon at the UME Office, 330 Montevue Lane, (off Rosemont Avenue), Frederick.

## Small Town Gardener

Too many seeds, too much space

Marianne Willburn

I have never had a closet big enough to house all of my clothes in one place. By American standards, closet space in Willburn homes has always been on the paltry side. As maddening as it can be however, there is a surprising bonus to a lack of storage.

A smaller closet forces me to edit my collection of Goodwill sweaters and daring dresses twice a year: trading winter woolens for spring linens and forsaking trendy boots that looked much better on the rack than they do on my feet. I am not brilliant at it, but the space requires that I be harsh. Even if I wanted to, I could not collect purses or shoes or flamboyant hats for a one-off wedding.

I do not have such space limitations when it comes to seeds, and the result is a chaos so completely opposite to the way I conduct most other aspects of my life that I'm embarrassed to admit to it.

Twenty-five years ago, my seed box was a little Tupperware container – the type meant to hold a rectangular half-gallon of ice cream before cylindrical cardboard shaved a pint off our consumption and added four bucks to our budget.

Ah...the organization of it all. I still get shivers thinking about it. Three 3x5 cards acted as tabs – 'Vegetables,' 'Flowers,' and 'Herbs,' – separating packets neatly on their sides for easy access and joyful January evenings. When finished perusing or planting, I simply replaced the airtight lid and the neat little box was returned to a back corner of the fridge where it occupied space next to a lonely tub of miso paste.

It was the vegetables that spoiled everything. The peas, in particular.

As my gardening know-how began to expand, I grew dissatisfied with the stringy pods and starchy contents of the pea packets thrust upon the spring-time consumer in the average store. I came across a catalog at a friend's house and put in an order for something different. It arrived, along with dozens of other tempting catalogs – my name and address having been purloined



by competing companies notified of my desire for "something different."

Peas take up a great deal of space in an ice-cream container. The larkspur started feeling put upon and along with the rest of the flowers, moved out into the less-luxurious digs of a nearby Ziploc bag. Chaos reigned over the flower seeds from that point onwards, but they were flowers, and I had a cottage garden – it seemed appropriate.

Meanwhile, I began to investigate new avenues in squash. 'Borer resistant,' 'trailing,' 'sweet,' 'earthy,' – each new variety tickled the imagination and fueled springtime dreams of gourd arbors and prize-winning pumpkins. Like peas, squash is not a diminutive seed. The Tupperware groaned, but those circa 1981 lids had an iron grip upon their contents.

Seasons passed. My clothes closet went through many changeovers. My closet remained trim. Not so with seeds. My new adventures shared space with old adventures. That's a lot of adventures. I couldn't make myself get rid of any of them. The thought of so much un-germinated potential stayed my hand each time I tried. I even kept empties to remind me of my early naiveté, or the thrilling rush of a horticultural triumph. But six seeds here, and ten seeds there does not a garden grow.

One can only tread this path for so long. My trusty 30-year-old container, now yellowed, sat in a large reed basket with several Ziplocs of varying size and contents. Rhyme and reason had fled.

One bag held seeds "Used in 2006", one bag held seeds "NOT used in 2007." I couldn't throw anything out – what if it germinated? I couldn't trade anything at a seed exchange – most were shamefully too old for beginning gardeners to try.

There was no other choice. I started perusing the container aisles looking for something to hold my hoard, secretly hoping that nothing would appear and I would therefore be forced to face the problem the same way I faced my clothes closet every season – as Shiva the Destroyer.

In this day and age of cheap mass-produced petroleum products, my glimmerings of better nature didn't have a chance. I found a container, and enabled the problem still further. But in those moments before I transferred my chaotic jumble into its new 'tidy' home, I called my mother in a last-ditch effort to invoke shame upon the situation.

"What are you asking me for?" she said surprised. "I still have a packet of tomatoes I planted when you were four years old. What's more, I germinated a couple last year."

So much for parental shame. They don't make it like they used to.

*Marianne Willburn is an author, speaker and columnist and blogs at [GardenRant](http://GardenRant) and [MarianneWillburn.com](http://MarianneWillburn.com).*



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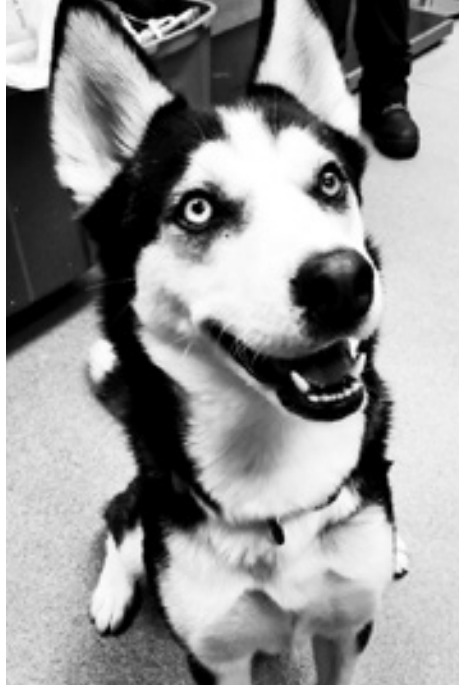
# THE BEST NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION EVER ...

Thanks to our friends at the Emmitsburg Journal, we're having a second month of pet photos to start the new year! These sweet babies are looking for a home and one of the greatest gifts shelter workers could get for 2023 would be to get the four-legged souls in their care out of a cage and into a forever home. If you or anyone you know is looking for a furry friend, please take a look below. The love of an animal is often one of the strongest, most rewarding relationships a person can find. If you want to help but can't adopt, the shelter is always in need of monetary or pet supply donations, including kitten food and adult cat food with meat as the first ingredient. From all of us at Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter to all of you, we wish you the happiest, healthiest New Year.

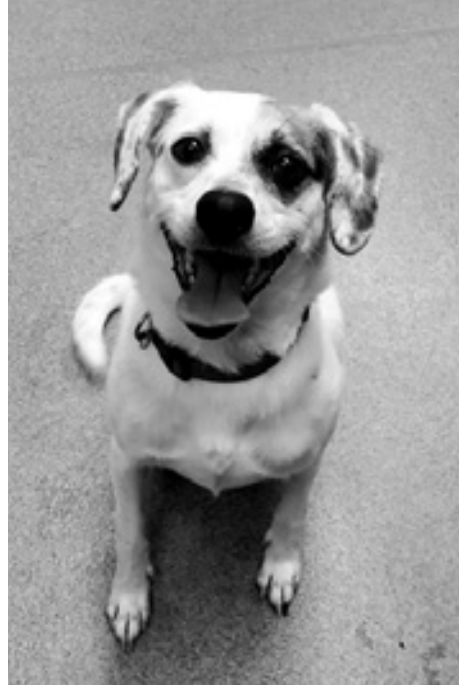
For more information about adopting one of these pets, please call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit their website at [www.cvas-pets.org](http://www.cvas-pets.org). The Adams County Animals Shelter is always looking for humans seeking canine or feline companionship. You can contact them at 717-334-8876 or visit them on-line at [www.adamscountypca.org](http://www.adamscountypca.org). And you can never go wrong dropping by the Frederick County Animal Shelter. Visit them on-line at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/FCAC](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/FCAC) or call them at 301-600-1546.



Chula was surrendered to the shelter when her owner could no longer care for her. She is an 11-year-old Chihuahua mix. She loves attention! Chula had a senior blood panel done and some of her liver values were elevated. She has since been placed on a liver medication and her values are going down. Potential adopters will have to have a close working relationship with their veterinarian to keep an eye on this with her. Could you give Chula her second chance?



Lily was surrendered to the shelter when her owners could no longer care for her. She is a 3-year-old husky mix. Because of her shyness, Lily might require several meetings before she goes to her forever home. Once she gets to know you, she's a real sweet girl. She knows sit and is treat motivated! Lily has never been around children, so an age restriction for children in the home may apply, please discuss this with shelter staff. Could you give Lily her second chance?



Rusty Bolts was brought into the shelter as a stray, so we know little about his past. We think he's about 4 years old and a beagle mix. He's about 25 pounds and quite active. He loves to run outside in the yard. Because we have no past history with children in the home, an age restriction may apply, so please discuss this with shelter staff. Rusty really loves squeaky toys and taking in all the smells outside. Do you have the right place for this cute boy?



Janis Hoplin was brought into the shelter as a stray. The day after her arrival Janis surprised staff with 3 babies! Janis was a good mother and raised her babies well (they are now bigger than she is!). She has since been spayed and is and now ready to find a home to call her own. Janis is a 1-year-old girl who would love to find a forever home.



Fado was brought into the shelter with many other cats when they were left abandoned in a house without food or water. Fado is a 2-year-old sweet boy who loves to have his ears scratched! He really wants to find a loving home and not have to worry about being left to fend for himself ever again!



Harvest is a 2-year-old brown-and-red tabby girl who came into the shelter as a stray. We don't know a lot about her, but she is one sweet baby looking for her forever home. Could you help her out?



Loki was left behind after his family moved away and he was brought into the shelter by a kind person who was concerned for him. Loki is around 6 years old and quite the social fellow. Loki would like to find a home where he would never have to worry about being left behind again.



Norland arrived at the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about his past. We do know that he is one sweet boy who loves attention and treats. This 1-year-old gray-and-white fellow is going to make someone an incredible companion. Could that be you?

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...  
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-- Author Unknown

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## ...A HOME FOR A SHELTER PET

# You're never quite sure how far the ripples will go

**Jennifer Vanderau**  
Cumberland Valley  
Animal Shelter

Well, here we are at the end of yet another year, getting ready to usher in 2023. Can you believe it? When I was a kid, the year 2000 was just a movie, you know?

Oh, yeah, I'm that old. Stop chuckling, mother -- you know what that means about your age. Heh.

With said age comes the rather alarming passage of time. Where do the years go anymore? It's shocking to me, I'm sad to say, how quickly it feels like I flip months on a calendar.

Despite how quickly life can pass us by, I think the beginning of a new year is a good time to reflect on how much we actually do have to be grateful for -- and at CVAS, the list is long.

Our adopters. The folks who wanted to add a furry friend to their family and thought to save a life. The people who looked into the eyes of one of our babies and found their best friend. They send us photos and updates and stop by for our fundraisers and generally give us a wonderful feeling that keeps us all going.

Our supporters. Those who gave, either supplies or monetary donations, to make sure this shelter could continue to house, care for and adopt homeless animals. School

classes, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, church organizations and community members all stepped up this year to help.

Our supporters also include all the businesses that gave time, media space, supplies and general backing to help the animals in this shelter. I'm always amazed at how generous this community continues to be for us and that philanthropy will be what carries us into 2023 and beyond.

Our staff. It fills me with pride that these folks continue to come in here, day after day, to make sure the basic needs of these animals are met. We've got an unbelievably dedicated group who, while they may add to my bouts of insanity from time to time, I wouldn't be able to do what I do without them.

Our board. This is a group who works tirelessly to create policy and adapt regulations that makes sure the welfare of homeless animals will continue to be top notch.

Our thrift stores. The incredible staff at our thrift stores in Chambersburg and Shippensburg work energetically to keep the stores running efficiently and effectively. The ultimate goal of our stores is to help support this animal shelter -- and without them, we wouldn't be able to continue to meet the needs of homeless pets. Ladies, you are all wonderful!!

Our volunteers. And there are many: everyone who comes to the

shelter and walks dogs regularly, everyone who cleans cats at Petmart, everyone who helps out at our various fundraisers from the spaghetti dinner to the dog walk to the open house, everyone who has ever picked up a mop or scooper to clean kennels, everyone who fosters animals until they can be adopted. You folks are sincerely inspiring to all of us and we know your hearts are as big as your smiles and the love you have for our furry friends.

This shelter isn't about one person. This shelter is here and continues to be here because of the many groups of people who step up to help us every year.

Really, it's about ripples. Bear with me for a minute on this one. I actually have a point.

Years ago, back in middle school, I believe, when we were first learning how to write term papers (oh, how I do not miss those!) I reported on the women's suffrage movement.

I remember using a quote that, believe it or not, still resonates with me today. I can't get the exact verbiage, but it talked about a stone in a pond and the ripples it creates. When you first toss the stone in, there's a rather large splash, but the ripples can often go all the way to the shore of the body of water.

The point is we're never quite sure how far the ripples will go. We can't always tell what our actions will cause.

It was a powerful statement for

a middle schooler who thought in pictures and the idea is still quite vivid in my head.

The ripples that everyone makes by helping the shelter go a lot farther than any of us would likely suspect.

Think about it.

When an animal comes to us, that's the stone being tossed in the pond. We get the animal healthy, spay or neuter him or her and find the pup or cat a loving home. That one animal can affect the lives of literally hundreds of people. He certainly affects the lives of those of us at the shelter. He will definitely have an impact on the family who adopts him.

What about the neighbors? The extended family? The people he meets at a dog park? Or even those who might see him on a Christmas card?

Even co-workers and fellow school children who hear stories about the family's adopted pet could feel the effects of those ripples.

I think you see my point about how one little stone can have an amazing resonance and the ripples can often extend well beyond what we obviously know.

We can all make those ripples -- it's not just shelter workers. Every action we make has an effect. I think the start of the new year is a perfect time to ask yourself every day what kind of ripples you're making. Are you helping someone? Making their

day with a smile or sincere compliment? Or are you upsetting people? Using your ripples to put bad thoughts or feelings out into the universe?

I truly think we often have no idea how powerful a simple gesture of kindness can be.

Everything we say and do can be a stone in someone else's pond. Every animal we save and adopt at CVAS is a stone in someone else's pond.

The animals have no voice but ours, so we must speak for them. This is our motto and will continue to be the ethics and beliefs of this animal shelter well into the future.

So from all of those four-legged, brown-eyed, blue-eyed, green-eyed, furry souls who have been helped by the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter and those who will be helped in the years to come: thank you for your ripples and may you have a safe and prosperous 2023.

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

## New Year's resolutions for dogs and cats

Every year people make resolutions... they are going to lose weight, quit smoking, stop drinking, etc. However, most of these are abandoned after the first week. What if your dog could make his own resolutions?

I will become best friends with the mailman or anyone delivering packages. I will not chase his truck or jump up on him.

If I get sick in the middle of the night, I will try and make the toilet. If not, I will try and hit the tile versus the carpeting.

I will not eat my poop, the cat's poop or another dog's poop. I also will not eat the baby's diapers!

I will stop watching you play video games and do a few laps around the house to get more exercise.

I will be less afraid of the vacuum or other things that make loud noises. But I'm not making any promises about the fireworks on the Fourth of July or New Year's Eve.

I will try and not talk to you (aka bark at you) when you are on the phone.

I won't nudge you at your desk when you are busy working. But it really is all about me isn't it?

I will not freak out when you leave the house, but I get bored and I miss you. Maybe you could leave me with a "to do" list like you do with the kids. Maybe I could help organize my toy bin (by the way, they are looking a little raggedy... is there a new toy in my future?)

I'll stop counter surfing if you promise to sneak me some table

scraps every once in a while.

What I'm Not Changing:

I will continue to fart and not feel bad about it. Dad does it and he doesn't feel bad... in fact he still laughs!

If you come home smelling like another dog, I will get jealous. Don't cheat on me.

I will continue to try and get what I want by whining (a little) and giving you my best sad eyes.

If it lands on the floor, forget about the five-second rule... it's mine!

I will not "tug" the stuffing out of your pillows if you buy me a tug toy!

I know I am spoiled and have a pretty cushy life. I suppose I could learn to share if you took in a foster dog.

I won't wake you up every morning by jumping up on the bed. But really, that alarm gets annoying when you hit the snooze five times.

I will not stop chasing the squirrels and rabbits... they taunt me by thinking they are faster than me.

I will take my pills without spitting them back up only if they are wrapped in peanut butter or another yummy treat.

I will chew up your New Year's resolution list so you don't have to feel bad when you break all your good intentions!

### New Year's resolutions for cats

I will not puff my entire body to twice its size for no reason after my human has finished watching a horror movie.

I must not help myself to Q-tips, and I must certainly not proceed to

stuff them down the sink's drain.

I will not eat large numbers of assorted bugs, then come home and puke them up so the humans can see that I'm getting plenty of roughage.

I will not lean way over to drink out of the tub, fall in, and then pelt right for the box of clumping cat litter. (It took forever to get the stuff out of my fur.)

I will not stand on the bathroom counter, stare down the hall, and growl at nothing after my human has finished watching The X-Files.

I will not use the bathtub to store live mice for late-night snacks.

I will not perch on my human's

chest in the middle of the night and stare into her eyes until she wakes up.

We will not play Herd of Thundering Wildebeests Stampeding Across the Plains of the Serengeti over any humans'

bed while they're trying to sleep.

I cannot leap through closed windows to catch birds outside. If I forget this and bonk my head on the window and fall behind the couch in my attempt, I will not get up and do the same thing again.



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# LIBRARY & SCHOOL NEWS

## New FCPS board members sworn in



Dean Rose, Karen Yoho, Rae Gallagher, and Nancy Allen, four recently elected Board of Education of Frederick County members, took their official oath of office under the guise of Sandra Dalton, Fredrick County's Clerk of Courts.

Yoho is beginning her second term on the Board of Education. She was originally elected in November 2018.

Gallagher previously served on the Board from January 2020-November 2020 after being appointed by then County Executive Jan Gardner.

Allen and Rose are beginning their first terms as Board members.

After the swearing-in ceremony, conducted by Clerk of the Circuit Court Sandra K. Dalton, the Board convened its annual meeting to elect officers for the coming year.

Sue Johnson was unanimously elected president. Dean Rose was unanimously elected vice president.

Johnson has served on the Board since December 2020. She has worked as a systems engineer and consultant for companies,

including Andersen Consulting (Accenture), Lotus Development European Corporation, and IBM. Since 1997, she has taught at the college level and has been a full-time professor of Computer and Information Science at Frederick Community College since 1999.

Rose has worked for 37 years in the insurance and financial services field. He currently operates his own insurance business in Middletown. He serves on the steering committee for Tour de Frederick and the Special Gifts Committee of the Freder-

### FCPS Opens Nominations for Principal of the Year

Frederick County Public Schools is accepting nominations for The Washington Post Principal of the Year award. The deadline to submit names is Friday, January 6.

The Washington Post Educational Foundation sponsors the award, created to recognize principals who go beyond the day-to-day demands of their position to create an exceptional educational environment. The person chosen as The Washington Post's regional Principal of the Year will receive a \$7,500 monetary award, a trophy, and a half-page feature spot in The Washington Post.

The FCPS Public Affairs Department is coordinating the nomination and selection process before forwarding the FCPS finalist materials to The Washington Post. Nominees must be full-time principals with at least five

years of experience as a principal, the most recent three of which must be with FCPS. They must maintain their position as principal through the 2023-24 school year.

Desired criteria include showcasing effective management, creativity and innovation, fostering cooperation between the school and community, communicating effectively with students, parents, and staff, keeping abreast of developments in education, encouraging team spirit, demonstrating leadership, and continuing to play a role in the classroom. Nominations are welcome from current and former students, teachers, support staff, parents, community members, administrators and supervisors.

The nomination package and details are online at [www.fcps.org/centraloffice/wapo-principal](http://www.fcps.org/centraloffice/wapo-principal).

ick Health Development Council. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Boys & Girls Club of Frederick County for six years, including two years as

the organization's board chair. He's also volunteered as an assistant basketball coach for 13 years at Urbana and Oakdale high schools.

## Library Events

**Blue Ridge Summit Free Library**  
Monday – Children's Story Time 4 – 5 p.m., Children and parents can join us for a weekly story, craft or coloring sheet, or play time. We will be running two identical 30-minute sessions in an attempt to accommodate busy schedules.

Wednesday – Coffee club from 3 – 4 p.m.! Mingle with the gang for coffee, tea, puzzles, board games, coloring books, &c.

Thursdays – Teen's Night. The community room is reserved for teen use from 4:30 – 6 p.m.. just hang out or play Wii, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks,

watch movies, make movies, etc.!

Saturday - Join us at 10:30 a.m., for a hour of Story Time and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book and a fun craft?

Scherenschnitte Night at the Library – January 10 at 6:30 p.m.. Learn the German art of paper cutting design. The artwork often has rotational symmetry within the design, and common forms include silhouettes, valentines, and love letters. The art tradition was founded in Switzerland and Germany in the 16th century and was brought to Colonial America in the 18th

century by Swiss and German immigrants who settled primarily in Pennsylvania.

The Summit Stitches Quilt Club is also meeting at 5:30 p.m. on January 17. New members and new projects are always welcome! Any skill level may attend. If you have always wanted to learn how to quilt, now is the perfect time to start! The group is currently working on this year's gorgeous raffle quilt.

The BRS Book Club will meet January 23rd at 5 p.m.

For more information on the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library visit [www.fclspa.org](http://www.fclspa.org) or call 717-792-2240

### Frederick County Libraries

It's a New Year and the start of new beginnings and a time of reflection for all of us! This year, Frederick County is celebrating its 275th Anniversary. Throughout the year, Frederick County Public libraries will be joining in the celebration by providing programs that explore our rich history, celebrate our spectacular outdoors and connect with the vibrant organizations that enrich our lives. On our Calendar of Events, programs listed as "Frederick County 275th" will feature presenters, community partners and events that explore the stories, historical perspective, knowledge of our natural sur-

roundings and other inspiring and interesting aspects of life in Frederick County. You can find more information about events that are planned county-wide at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/8403/275-Calendar-of-Key-Events](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/8403/275-Calendar-of-Key-Events).

On Saturday, January 14 from 1-3pm, tweens and teens can let their imaginations run wild by creating their own story terrariums.

"Exploration Station" is a new monthly, STEM program for elementary age children. This month, visit us on Tuesday, January 18, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. as we explore an exciting new theme. We hope you can join us!

January brings cool, crisp days, perfect for exploring the outdoors and trails throughout our community and county. On January 11, at 7 p.m., at Thurmont Library, discover how the positive economic, social and political outcomes of trails impact a community in the first of the 275th Anniversary programs: "Trail Building is Community Building" presented by Tim O'Donnell of Emmitsburg, Thurmont's Bryant Despeaux and Brunswick's Alfano.

On January 24th at 7 p.m., Philip Greenwalt, Chief of Interpretation and Education at Catoctin Mountain Park will present a "Year of Anniversaries". He will be reflecting on the momentous events celebrating anniversaries this year that have had a profound effect on local, state and national history. The presentation will feature the 45th anniversary of the "Camp David Accords" and the 250th anniversary of "The Boston Tea Party, to name a few examples.

continued on the next page



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# SCHOOL NEWS

## Mother Seton School students win essay contests

Three middle school students from Mother Seton School in Emmitsburg received the top awards in the 2022-2023 Patriot Pen Essay Contest sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts 6658 (Emmitsburg) and 467 (Westminster).

Writing on the theme of "My Pledge to Our Veterans," Emma Simmons (grade 8) earned first place for VFW Post 6658, while Olivia Jaeger (grade 8) took home third-place honors. Eva Doll (grade 7) earned first place for VFW Post 467. First-place winners' essays will advance to the District Level to compete.

"There are so many things I could have my pledge as. I could do service work for retired veterans. I could volunteer at a soup

kitchen," wrote Eva Doll in her essay. "Instead of choosing to do one of those I chose to remember what all veterans did for our country and all they lost while doing it."

Emma Simmons expressed a similar sentiment in her essay. "My pledge is to follow their example and stand up for what I believe is right. I pledge to remember all Veterans in my prayers." Meanwhile, Olivia Jaeger addressed the issues facing many veterans in her essay. She wrote, "My pledge's main idea is that (veterans) need to be seen. They need to be helped... They also need to be assisted in the sense that many veterans struggle with PTSD, depression, and homelessness."

The Patriot Pen is an annual nationwide essay contest sponsored by the national VFW. Mid-



Three middle school students won top honors for the Mother Seton School Patriot Pen Essay sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars. Emma Simmons won first place, Olivia Jaeger won third place from Emmitsburg VFW Post 6658. Eva Doll won first place from Westminster VFW Post 467.

dle school students are invited to submit an essay based on that year's theme to their local VFW post. Last year, three other Mother Seton School students placed in the top three at the local level.

## Fairfield school board changes meeting structure

Alex Hayes

The Fairfield Area School District Board of Directors is changing how it does business.

Beginning in January, the board will hold one study session and one business meeting each month. The board previously held two business meetings each month. Board President Jennifer Holz said the change will "allow the board more time to absorb and deliberate information that has been presented."

Study sessions will be held on the second Monday of the month at 6 p.m. and board meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m. The board will not meet in July and hold only one meet-

ing in November and December. A complete schedule is listed at [www.fairfieldpaschools.org](http://www.fairfieldpaschools.org). Board meetings and study sessions are live-streamed on the district's YouTube page, a link to which is available on the district website.

During its annual reorganization meeting on Dec. 5, the board unanimously voted to retain Holz as president and Jack Liller as vice president. Board Secretary Lauren Clark was absent.

### School System

#### Finances Pases Audit

Kevin Stouffer of Smith Elliott Kearns & Company, LLC presented "an unmodified audit opinion" for the 2020-21 financial year to the district's board.

"We feel the financial statements are materially correct and can be relied upon," Stouffer said.

Stouffer told the board its revenues and expenditures are comparable with other districts in the region.

"I think everything is in there within a percent or two amongst the different sources," he said.

Stouffer recommended the district assign someone other than the preparer to review bank reconciliations. He also noted the district was missing about two months of supporting documentation for credit card transactions because a previous business manager took the documents home and never returned them.

"We recommend you fine-tune that process to keep all support

related to the credit card transactions on-site. Do not allow them to be taken off-site," he said.

The board unanimously approved the audited financial statements. Liller commended Business Manager Tim L. Stanton for preparing the audit.

"I look forward to when you can start doing forward work instead of cleaning up messes of prior people," he said.

### Other business

The board also approved the following hires: Noel R. Robinson, full-time high school learning support teacher; Mike Ball, head boys' middle school basketball coach; and Owen Phelan, assistant middle school boys basketball coach. Ball resigned as assistant

high school basketball coach.

Superintendent Thomas Haupt expressed appreciation to the Fairfield AmVets Post 172 for donating \$500 to the Stars of the Knight Chamber Singers. The group recently performed at the post's Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration.

Holz noted the Fairfield Youth Basketball League donated \$1,000 to the girls and boys basketball teams in appreciation of the students' assistance at youth basketball camp.

"They were thrilled with the volunteers and student volunteers, they just did a bang-up job," Holz said.

The board's next meeting is a study session on Jan. 9 beginning at 6 p.m.

### continued from the previous page

Reflect and compile your own memories, by making an appointment to use the Memory Lab in Thurmont in the last week of January.

Frederick County Health Department Vaccination Clinics will continue by appointment at our Thurmont Regional Branch on January 9 and 23 from 5 to 7 p.m. You can make an appointment by either calling the library 301-600-7200 or visiting the Health Department's website.

Visit our website at [www.frederick.librarycalendar.com](http://www.frederick.librarycalendar.com) call us at 301-600-6329 for a complete listing of story times, programs and events at Emmitsburg Branch Library. Happy New Year from all of us at the library!

### Emmitsburg Branch Library:

January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Family Storytime (Birth to 5), 11-11:30 a.m.

January 12 & 26: Open Game Night with Wookie Walkers (teens), 5:30-6:30 p.m.

January 14: Create Story Terrariums (teens), 1-3 p.m.

January 18: Exploration Station (Elementary), 2:30-3:30 p.m.

### Thurmont Regional Library

January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Baby Storytime, 10:30-11 a.m.

January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Elementary Explorers (Elementary), 4-4:45 p.m.

January 4, 11, 18, 25: Toddler Storytime, 10:30-11 a.m.

January 5, 12, 19, 26: Musical Storytime, 10:30-11 a.m.

January 7: Exploration eSports (teens) 2-4 p.m.

January 9, 23: Preschool Storytime, 10:30-11am; Preschool School Skills, 11:15-11:45 a.m.

January 9, 23: Library Learners (elementary), 1-2 p.m.

January 12: Dungeons & Dragons: New Year, New You (teens), 6-8 p.m.

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January 19: Picture This (teens), 6-7 p.m.

January 11: Frederick County 275th: Trail building is Community Building, 7-8 p.m.

January 24: Frederick County 275th: Year of Anniversaries, 7-8 p.m.

January 26, 30, 31: Frederick County 275th: Memory Lab by

Appointment, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

January 27, 28, 29: Frederick County 275th: Memory Lab by Appointment, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

January 17: Tech 101 (offsite at Thurmont Senior Center), 10-11 a.m.

January 31: Using Technology to Stay Connected (offsite at Thurmont Senior Center), 10-11 a.m.

1 Terry's 03

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## FROM THE DESK OF CONGRESSMAN DAVID TRONE

---

Dear Friends,

Early this month I was sworn in to represent you in Congress. Taking the oath to serve you is an extraordinary honor for me. Thank you for making this possible.

Working together, we've made significant improvements in health care, Maryland's roads, bridges and broadband, modernizing our communities, creating jobs, and improving the economy during my previous two terms.

Looking forward, I am confident we can continue this progress if we continue working together. From the moment I moved from business into public service my pledge has been the same: I'll work with everyone, Democrats, Republicans, and Independents to get things done for Marylanders.

I'll continue taking this approach as we focus on improving mental health care and helping those with addictions. We've brought attention to these problems that affect so many of our family, friends, and neighbors, but much, much more needs to be done.

And I'll always work to improve our economy, create jobs, and reduce inflation.

Working together, we will continue to make Maryland an even better place to live, work, and raise our families.

Sincerely,

Congressman David Trone

**DAVID TRONE**

U.S. CONGRESS

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## Strawberry Hill's Animal Ambassador Program

Claire Doll  
MSMU Class of 2024

Strawberry Hill is an environmental foundation located in south-central Pennsylvania, promoting nature education through community outreach and hands-on, outdoor learning. As Adams County's only nonprofit environmental education center, Strawberry Hill, just near the Blue Ridge Mountains, provides access to different hikes, trails, and nature venues. Its mission statement says the program vows to "inspire stewardship of our natural world by connecting the community with educational opportunities."

One of the most exciting educational opportunities that exists within Strawberry Hill is the beloved Animal Ambassador program. Through this program, animal ambassadors—which are literally different animals native to the Pennsylvania area—from Strawberry Hill visit local libraries and community events to teach children about animal roles in the environment. Programs can be held at Strawberry Hill, located in Fairfield, or brought to a specific site. The current animal ambassadors include a variety of native turtles, amphibians, a skunk, and a barred owl. Upon visiting an animal ambassador, you will meet Strawberry Hill's trained naturalist-handlers that will bring enriching "biofacts" for the group to see, touch, smell, and hear. The handlers work with the animals one on one to get them comfortable interacting with other people. Although the animals aren't allowed to be petted or held,

they are still considered wild and must be under human care. The role of the trainers are to build a bond between the handler and animals as representatives to ensure comfort on both ends.

The four most popular animals in this program are Strix, Ollie, Shelly, and Bob.

Strix is a barred owl. "People love to see an owl up close—getting to see their feathers and the way they move is pretty amazing," says Anne, an environmental education manager at Strawberry Hill. Strix is pretty shy for short periods of time, but still a fan favorite.

Ollie is the striped skunk, and Anne's favorite animal in the program. "He tends to be very popular because most people don't want to encounter skunks in the wild because they spray," she says. Never having lived in the wild, Ollie is from an exotic pet trade and was born in human care. "There's almost like a mystery about them," she says. "He is very boisterous because he's a skunk. The handler has to very calmly pick him up." He loves snacks, including peanuts and other small treats.

Shelly is a spotted turtle, a species which is becoming less and less common in the wild due to habitat loss. The spotted turtle is rare to find in the wild, so featuring Shelly in the program is a key way to advocate for the environment and ecological education.

Finally, Bob is a boxed turtle, a species which is relatively common in this area. In fact, boxed turtles can live 60+ years old. Bob was estimated to be born in the 1960s. He was born

with a disability, and is in fact the program's disability advocate.

Strawberry Hill recently allowed community members to sponsor an Animal Ambassador for Giving Tuesday, which would help fund and support the ambassadors of Strawberry Hill, whether it be "Ollie our striped skunk, Strix our barred owl, or even Shelly (spotted turtle), Bob (Eastern box turtle), or Nelson (our American toad)" as stated by the foundation. Upon sponsoring an animal ambassador for Giving Tuesday, sponsors will receive a thank-you packet with information and a photo of the sponsored animal. All animals are provided with their own enrichment to ensure that they are treated with the best care. Ollie, the foundation's very own striped skunk, teaches children that skunks are essential to the ecosystem. Although it takes a lot of time and resources to care for the ambassadors, their contributions to nature education are entirely worth it.

Strawberry Hill promotes community outreach and engagement through this program. Schools, homeschooled students, camps, and scout groups often visit Strawberry Hill on field trips to embark on guided trail hikes, stream studies, and forest explorations. High school and college students take advantage of the program's promotion of stewardship, while younger students might explore macro-invertebrates or other outdoor features. The Animal Ambassadors program, however, can be scheduled in-school and enjoyed by all.

Field trips are not the only way to engage with the program. Strawberry





Ollie, one of Strawberry Hill's Animal Ambassadors, is a striped skunk who loves insects, veggies, and snuggling up on a soft blanket. Most of all, he loves teaching kids about the important role skunks play in keeping wild rodent populations in check. To sponsor him, visit [www.strawberryhill.org](http://www.strawberryhill.org)

Hill's animal ambassadors will also visit local facilities, such as libraries, to reach out to the community. Libraries surrounding the community including Alexander Hamilton Memorial Free Library and Adams County Public Libraries.

Typical Animal Ambassador programs are 45 minutes to one hour long. To schedule a visit with one of Strawberry Hill's ambassadors, call 717-642-5840 or email [info@strawberryhill.org](mailto:info@strawberryhill.org) to register. Animal Ambassador programs are \$10/participant with a minimum of \$100. For assemblies—groups over 30 people—Animal Ambassador programs are \$200. Travel fees, if applicable, are \$25 for locations between 30-60 minutes of Strawberry Hill, and \$50 for locations between 60-90 minutes of Strawberry Hill. There are no travel fees for locations within 30 minutes of Strawberry Hill. A minimum deposit of \$100 must be paid two weeks in advance, with the balance due the day of the scheduled program. Checks

made payable to Strawberry Hill can be mailed to 1537 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield, PA 17320, or you can pay with credit card over the phone. Registration is confirmed through a notice and invoice via email as well as a receipt that is available upon payment if requested. The Animal Ambassadors programs are held in all weather conditions, and cancellations will provide refunds depending on the time a visit is cancelled.

"The mission is to spread appreciation and awareness for local ecosystems through the connection of animals directly," says Anne. "When someone gets to see an animal up close—like a striped skunk or a barred owl—that they would never encounter, it gives them an appreciation of their role in the ecosystems and how to protect it." Visit their website at [www.strawberryhill.org](http://www.strawberryhill.org) or call 717-642-5840 to schedule a visit with an animal ambassador today, or to inquire for more information about this exciting educational opportunity.





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# HISTORY

## “O Tempora’ O Mores”

Ann ‘Inky’ Rodgers

The dinky tooted twice over the tussle, and stopped at the red-brick station gatehouse and deposited me in the care of the teachers of Saint Josephs College at the tender age of 10. I was lucky and had years of pre-boarding school routine received second hand from my two older sisters and brothers. They talked, laughed and acted school shop when home for the holidays and vacation. So it made me a veteran of the first order before I enrolled at the Valley school.

My two older sisters were students at St. Joseph College for seven years before they received their Associate Degrees in teaching degrees in June. I entered the following September with practical and acquired experience, self-educated to tricks and ready to illustrate my talents. I arrive bag and baggage with their second-hand navy blue uniforms, white net veils, under clothes and clothes members. Nothing new except a tuck or two for fitting purposes. From the moment I landed on the scene there were two strikes against me - I was neither pretty nor bright like my sisters. I didn't earn a degree but was honored magna cum laude with a perpetual nickname - Inky.

The gate and the two red brick gatehouses gave the entrance a very private and secluded dignity. We the students used to say we were “behind bars” looking through the small iron side gates.

The avenue was long, broad and bordered with four rows a beauti-

ful shade trees. A favorite past time was roller-skating up and down the driveway. We had leaders and teams for the chain races on skates. The avenue with its two rows of payment served as an excellent racecourse. We had to get special permission and a chaperone went with us.

The front door is the entrance to the marble hall, where the visitor's registration book was kept. The hostess greeted us and sent us on our way.

The parlors were a haven of rest. They had the best soft seats in the school. There was a round green sofa that reminded me of a merry-go-round. To be wanted in the parlor was the greatest thrill. Visitors were a rare occasion. We were so proud for the moment and hurried to make ourselves beautiful, to greet our guest.

The distribution hall also known as the commencement hall was just playing stage-fright hall to me. In all my years I never conquered the disease. Class plays, school plays, pageants, monthly concerts, and recitals were beautiful and great occasions for the talented students and the famous commencement marches and bows to the tune of a master-musician, throwing tantrums are events never to be forgotten.

Bishops, Archbishops and Cardinals where our most welcome and honored visitors. We collected holidays from them for souvenirs. The only trouble with the distinguished churchman was they didn't come often enough to please us.

The oratory was on the second floor above the parlor in Burlando.



St. Joseph's College, circa 1900

The students gather there for morning and night prayers and Children of Mary services on Sunday before dinner. It was very pretty and heavenly. The Madonna was completely surrounded with small electric lights, flowers and ferns. There was an organ in the rear near the Dean's kneeling place.

If one didn't show spiritual signs of devotion at least the physical signs of callous knees were present.

The museum also known as the old curiosity shop was on the second floor, located over the front door. It was filled with foreign and antique coins, jewels, precious stones, relics, souvenirs, and many dust collectors of historical value. We like to visit the museum; it gave us a view of the avenue and the visitors.

Room number 16 was near the museum. It was a very large college classroom, beautifully finished with bookcases, pictures, desks, ferns and various plants. It was the alumni teachers' room.

The classrooms were on the third floor. They were very neat and orderly, with individual combine desk and seats. The rooms were decorated with bookcases, ferns, plants and beautiful pictures. Prayers were said before each class to enlighten our minds. French prayers for the French class and Latin prayers for the Latin class and so with all the foreign languages.

I trotted to class with my pony disguised and enclosed in an English book wrapper. It was saddled before I left the study hall for classes. I felt very guilty, because there were several large “God Sees Me” signs on my way through the long corridors to haunt me “Suspicion Always Haunts the Guilty Mind”, (Shakespeare) and I would be too frightened to use the pony after I arrived for Latin class. A pony's pony's my kingdom for a pony (apologies to Shakespeare) sure gave me Latin security, and forbidden books were

always the most interesting and were guarded against rates.

The gong on the second floor corridor kept the classes moving on time.

The sewing room was on the second floor near the gong. All kinds of beautiful needlework, knitting and dressmaking were taught the students

Saint Francis' dormitory was on the fourth floor, above the classrooms. It had four rows of beds, alcoves and two cells for the two teachers who slept there. I quote the theme phrases of the day, “strip your bed and turn your mattress” and “don't sit on the beds”.

The nightly foot-tub baths, and one student took cold cream bath only - she was ahead of her time - beauty in advance. The foreign students took perfume baths - the heavily scented variety. But the teachers preferred us to take good old soap and hot water baths.

Often the lights would go out in the midst of the bathing plus the final night prayers. I often wished I were a cat or an owl so I could carry on after dark without handicaps, but I was blind as a bat and so was my baby sister. One night she was caught unaware and her washing continued after lights were out. She was struggling to carry out the Dean's motto, “cleanliness is next to godliness”, so she toiled on and split the black liquid shoe polish on her one and only bath towel, but was not aware of the damage. So when drying her body she felt the towel slightly damp but didn't realize it was the shoe polish being rubbed over her entire anatomy. Then she went to bed ignorant of the fact that she looked like the ace of spades. That was a very cold windy night. The windows rattled and I was chilly and couldn't sleep. So I gathered up my blankets and decided to join forces with my sister to sleep the rest of the night in comfort. In the morning was the grand

discovery of the shoe polish from head to toe and my sister in tears. At first she thought I was the cause of the disaster since I was her bed partner. She spent the morning soaping and soaking herself and crying her fate of woe. She look like a tar baby and was gray for days from the left-over ‘french gloss’ shoe polish.

When the lights went off we were supposed to be in our beds, but I was always late and would often find a ‘french bed’ en waiting. That caused disorder and laughter and early morning arising plus punishment.

The dormitories were small medium and large. In winter they were rated warm, cold, and freezing. The favorite and delicate students fell heir to the small warm dorms on the third floor near the Dean's room. They had late sleep and early bed as a reward for good behavior. The large freezing dorm was on the third floor. It was the nest for the hale and hardy; the Spartan spirit of students climbed the four-story building many times a day. No comfort thrown in for good behavior - just plenty of fresh mountain air plus ozone and on windy nights rocked us to sleep while the windows rattled, boards squeaked, student snored and talked in their sleep. Then a large mighty tower bell to disturb our slumber in early morning - followed up with a hand bell to ring in her ears.

The bells of St. Francis will always be remembered - and the awakening prayer. One of the foreign teachers who was quick in mind and body - called the girls for church one morning - rang the tower rope bell (that could be heard for miles), then the hand bell (enough noise to arouse the dead) and said the awakening prayer. I didn't arise on the first alarm but settled among my blankets for an extra snooze. The teacher was very much disturbed and pushed me and the mattress

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# HISTORY



out of bed - with the announcement of "wake up and get up - live Jesus - long ago." Then I had a great rush for the chapel so as not to be late for mass. I was never on time - such rushing, running and dressing en route - middy-blouse, skirt and tie in hand.

Midnight feast were great adventures. We picked some secluded spot and smuggle personal food and soft drinks from the break room. We conducted our own tour with flashlights hoping not to be caught. The night watchman often discovered us and split the beans to the Dean. Then the inquisition would follow in the morning in the study Hall. The guilty ones had batting eyelids, trembling voices, sweating hands and shaking knees who called on to confess. Then the punishment pronounced and carried out, such as memorizing long Gospels, literature, Latin or some difficult problem to solve and be kept from recreation and amusement indefinitely.

We were not allowed to use curling irons and 'make-up' or apply art to our faces. But we always return to school well supplied with beauty aids. 'Cosmetic Raids' were conducted during class periods. Then pale faces, lips and straight hair followed until a new stock could be smuggled in. In the meantime we

had to pinch our cheeks and bite our lips or blush our way to beauty with braids instead of curls. Larger ribbons and buster brown collars where the vogue. Bobbed hair was forbidden unless the student entered school with short hair. Hair was not supposed to be cut by amateur barbers.

One night I decided I would look chic with short locks instead of thick hair a yard long. It would be so easy to wash, comb and adorn. So I cut my crowning glory by flashlight. Next morning I felt lightheaded and on entering the oratory I was not greeted by the Dean with smiles but was ordered to the study hall to wait my punishment - it was quite drastic. I thought - "what mighty contests rise from trivial things" (The rope of the look) - Alexander Pope.

The catacombs were below the parlors and distribution halls in the basement. Costumes of all designs, ages and nations were stored there. It was very spooky when we would go in search of Halloween garb.

The music room was on the top floor above the study hall in the square building. Each music student was enclosed in a small room with only a piano and a stool. The teacher in charge of the music room made rounds and had a Hawk's view (through the glass window of

the door) of all the students when they were practicing - also an earful of their talent. My practice period preceded my geography class - so instead of playing a waltz in 3/4 time I studied my geography lesson and banged away. The teacher knew the difference - paid me a call and collected my schoolbooks and other distractions.

The music room also had vocal students. It was there that the do; re; me; and the fa; sol; la; ti; does; trilled out upon the air and lo - the valley echo. It was where the harp - harped; the violin - squeaked; the cellos - roared; the mandolins - jingled; the guitars - wailed; the saxophone - blared; and the drum - drummed; the ukulele - plunked; the traps - trapped and snapped all the many different musical instruments tried to get a note in edgewise.

The study hall was below the music room in the square building on the second floor. It was a large square room with the fire escape building at one side. It was bright and cheerful like a sun parlor filled with large beautiful ferns. A small table and chair on a platform amid

## Gerald Guarino



**G**erald Darren Guarino, 53, Fairfield passed away peacefully at his home on November 29 after a long illness.

He was born June 23, 1969 in Montclair, NJ the son of Gerald "Jerry" Guarino of East Hanover, NJ and Katherine Butler of Fairfield.

Darren was a graduate of East Hanover High School in New Jersey. He had various jobs in New Jersey before mov-

ing to Fairfield to be close to his mother. He had a long illness but knew he was loved by his family.

In addition to his parents he is survived by a sister, Allison Fitzpatrick of Annapolis, nieces and nephews; Mikaila Fitzpatrick, Ryan Fitzpatrick, Michael Guarino, Katherine Guarino Henderson, Nikki Guarino Jackson, Anthony Sokolova, great nieces and nephew; Alianna Henderson, Abel Henderson, Coraline Jackson. He was predeceased by a brother, Brian Guarino.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated on December 17 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Fairfield with Fr. Peter DiTomasso celebrant. Interment was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Fairfield. In lieu of flowers memorials the family suggest a donation to a local food bank.

Online condolences available at [monahanfuneralhome.com](http://monahanfuneralhome.com).

the firms in the front center was the Dean's throne for lectures, meetings and inquisitions. The individual desk and chairs were placed in long rows and filled the rooms. We sat according to class. The desktops were covered with green felt to promote silence. They were four large white pillars that supported our heavy class schedules. There was a piano for school and class singing and an organ for hymns.

The study hall was a general meeting place for the student body and the Dean's talks and school singing with the Dean playing the piano. Her favorite songs were: 1) The Minstrel Boy To The War Has Gone; 2) All Together, All Together; 3) Tenting Tonight, Tenting On The Cold Damp Ground; 4) Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, The Boys Are Marching; 5) Row, Row, Row, Your Boat and 6) The Battle Hymn Of The Republic.

For class signing one year we had a new young teacher. Some of our class decided to exchange names and at room call the teacher didn't know the difference. The Dean appeared on the scene one day and discovered the trick. The teacher was mortified. We were sufficiently punished by the Dean.

During study period familiar pranks of mine were reading for bidden books - covered with schoolbooks covers and writing letters home on composition paper. I managed to keep occupied and out of trouble until I was caught in action. Then out came the dry Latin and that would cause me to dose in an upright position. I translated the nap as resting my eyes. But I never got any sympathy from my fatigue. There were 'God Sees Me' pictures hung everywhere.

continued next month

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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## January 5

### Sterling Galt

The death of Sterling Galt, of Emmitsburg, represented more than the loss of an average good citizen to the community, for he was above the average man in intelligence, public spirit, and a general optimism that was contagious, and in that too little practice of the courteous gentleman. He moved to Emmitsburg in 1906 where he became editor of the Weekly Chronicle and continued as editor until 1918.

Emmitsburg was better, in many ways, for his having lived in it a little while, and will benefit from his good deeds that will live after him. He was a progressive in spirit and in practice, and led with his convictions as well as his financial support.

Galt died of pneumonia on Tuesday. He was educated at Gettysburg College, Columbia University Law School, and was awarded a Doctorate degree by St. Mary's College. He was a member of the State Board of Education and was the brother-in-law of Mrs. Woodrow Wilson.

### Stick In The Throat

The young son of Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes met with the misfortune while playing with his older brother. Upon a dare from his brother, he attempted to swallow a stick, but it got stuck in his throat. He was taken to the hospital and an operation was performed to remove it. Reportedly, Mr. Rhodes 'horse whipped' the older lad - as he should have.

### Home Burns From Unknown Cause

A fire broke out Sunday morning in the rear of the house of John Hellerman on Track Road. The farm is only half a mile from the barn of the Blue Mountain Orchard Co. whose barn burned to the ground last Saturday morning.

Mr. Hellerman was awakened by the frantic barking of his dog, and immediately awoke his wife and daughter. Together they manage to make their way down the front stairs, the fire being still in

the rear of the house. The flame spread so quickly that the occupants had barely time to escape in their nightclothes, and none of the contents of the house could be saved.

It is said that they were fortunate they stopped for nothing. A few seconds after the family had descended to the first floor, the stairway was in flames and smoke and heat throughout the building was unbearable. The dog, which had given the alarm, and was the means of saving the lives of the family, is understood to have been saved.

### Married In Jail

George Gaul, 29 years old, of Fairfield, and Miss Nelly McCoy, 22 years old, also of Fairfield where married in the Fairfield jail where Gaul is under arrest. It is understood that Miss McCoy is in the 'family way.'

## January 12

### Disturbing The Peace

Early last Saturday morning a strange man was arrested near Catoctin Furnace on complaint of residents residing in that section. It is said the man molested the people all night in various ways. The stranger - a foreigner - was brought before the Justice of the Peace. But the Justice was unable to understand much of his talk. It is said he came here from Bethlehem Pa., and did not know where he was now or where he wanted to go.

### Fire At William Fair's Farm

A narrow escape from a serious fire was made at the William Fair farm, near Taneytown, on Thursday morning. Mr. and Mrs. Myers, who live in the house, where awoken by the smoke and fought the fire as best they could until help arrived. The fire seems to have originated in the cellar and communicated to the kitchen and upstairs rooms. The Myers suffered considerably from exposure and their efforts. By their work, and remarkable good luck, the house was saved

from complete destruction. No cause has yet been discovered for the fire.

### Ball Player's Arms Broken

Leslie Fox, employed by the Emmitsburg Railroad, had both of his arms broken above the wrist while unloading a barrel of molasses from one of the cars. Fox was well known in the community, having been their main stay in the pitching department for the Emmitsburg baseball team in the County League last season. His right arm is injured so badly that it is doubtful if he will ever be able to pitch again. Fox received several offers last year from professional baseball teams.

## January 19

### Harney Roads To Be Stone

We are informed that the county stone crusher was brought up to Norman Hess's quarry and will begin crushing stone for the roads around Harney. For every hundred feet of stones the citizens put on the road, the county will put on a like amount. In addition, they will crush the stone, furnish the chips, oil it, and roll it. The proposition seems to be a fair one, and it might be a good thing for every person to get behind it and see what can be accomplished.

### Emmitsburg School Building Bought

The Board of Education has accepted George Kaufman's bid of \$4,130 to purchase the old Emmitsburg high school. Mr. Kaufman expects to turn the building into apartments and may make some other use of it in the future. The building is a two-story brick with modern improvements and the purchase includes an acre of land. The building is centrally located and opposite the garage now operated by Mr. Kaufman.

### Damage Rector's Car

While the Reverend Sullivan of Saint Mary's Catholic Church, Fairfield, was making a sick call at the home of John Dix, the gas-

## High Hopes for The Baby



oline line of his automobile was broken and numerous wires were ripped from the engine, which he had left parked outside the house. As a result, he was compelled to walk two miles to a telephone to summon arrangements to tow the disable machine back to Fairfield, a distance of 6 miles. A reward of \$25 has been offered for information that would lead to the arrest of the perpetrators of the offense.

### Auto Accident

Last Sunday afternoon the automobile of Mrs. Dotterer narrowly escaped a collision with another car when she started her machine she turned to the middle of the street in front of an oncoming car, which wasn't able to stop but succeeded in passing in front of her; but in doing so ran into a spring wagon standing on the side of the street. The harness on the horse was broken and the wagon pushed away but the horse that barely noticed the incident and continued to munch on his hay. The smart horse belonged to Charles Hoffman of Loys.

### Train Hits Auto Near New Midway

Austin Fogle, 17, had both legs broken and suffered internal injuries, and Raymond Daugherty 27, suffered a sprained shoulder and was bruised about the body when the Ford touring car in which they were riding was completely demolished when it was struck by a train at a railroad crossing near Keymar.

The two were returning from Detour, where they had taken some milk, and we're coming towards New Midway over the dirt road. High embankments being on both sides of the crossing where the accident happened made it impossible to see the train coming. The lay of the land is said to be such that it is often difficult to hear a train approach.

It is understood that the automobile was too close to the train to avoid the accident before the men were aware of it. Following the accident, the men were placed on the train and word was sent to Frederick to have the ambulance meet the train upon its arrival there. Both were considered fortunate in escaping with their lives.

### Coldest Day Of 1922

A word of cheer came from the weather forecasters late Thursday evening predicted that things would begin warming up this weekend. The cold wave has about spent itself, he thinks, and warmer weather is just around the corner.

While north winds continued to blow yesterday evening, and to hold sway the greater part of the night, keeping the temperatures low, the local sharp predicted fair winds will gradually shift to the south, bring in warmer weather.

The lowest temperatures for the new year of 1923 prevailed on Thursday, the mercury getting down so low as eight degrees. People who have been shivering with cold for the past few days may now draw sigh of relief - the cold wave is about to pass.

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

## January 26

### Commits Suicide By Shotgun

Apparently despondent over domestic difficulties, Melvin Buhrman, 24 years old, of Cragertown, shot and instantly killed himself sometime between Friday afternoon and Sunday morning. He shot himself through the chest with a 20 gauge shotgun and death was instantaneous.

Buhrman and his wife had separated about three weeks ago and since that time he had been living alone. It is thought that worry over his domestic affairs caused him to end his life.

Buhrman had apparently placed the butt end of the gun against the wall, the muzzle against his chest and then succeeded in exploding the charge. There was no way of telling the exact time at which the suicide occurred. He had been employed as a laborer in the vicinity of his home. His wife and two small children survive him.

# It isn't a question of if, but a matter of when.

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# Vote For Thurmont

The creation of new housing is important. The simple act of putting new roofs over people's heads, of creating new welcoming neighborhoods in existing small towns, is a necessary part of economic & societal growth. A Petition for Referendum circulated in Thurmont in October comes to a public vote in a special election on January 17 at the Guardian Hose Company Activities Building. Please do not let the truth about this new neighborhood in Thurmont be drowned out in "no-growth" & "not in my backyard" rhetoric. As a voting citizen, please consider the following FACTS as you vote FOR Thurmont.

The new neighborhood conceptually approved for the Simmers property will be "open market", not public subsidized, not government voucher, not set aside for any one group. Equal Housing Opportunity laws mean exactly that: equal opportunity for anyone at a price point suitable for Thurmont.

The concept plan approval was granted by the Planning Commission and the Board of Commissioners after four years of review. It deliberately provides the "missing middle" of housing opportunity in new townhouses and condominiums on tree-lined streets amongst opens spaces at a density less than any other existing Thurmont R-5 zoned multi-family neighborhood. The Town has planned other places in Thurmont as more appropriate for new single-family homes.

We will provide a new multi-family dwelling home for any customer, but we "Envision" our new residents as:

- The largest age cohort in America today, who wish to start their families but cannot afford or don't want a single-family home.
- Younger people who wish to remain in the small town they know, but not in their parent's basement.

- Empty-nester seniors who wish to downsize from their existing home in Thurmont to a ground floor condominium that is architecturally designed for their changing needs and in a neighborhood with all ages. **OBTW**, this frees up their prior home for a new family.

- Those who work for the society: "work force housing" for 1<sup>st</sup> Responders, Teachers, Health Care, & Military.

The Simmers property was designated in the Thurmont 2009 Master Plan as a Town Growth Area intended for development as high density residential. This was supported in the County Master Plan in 2010 and 2012 - for over ten years both the Town and the County have said this agricultural zoned fallow land should be annexed into the Town and should be developed as a high-density residential neighborhood. This intent was repeated in the 2022 Town Master Plan after numerous public meetings.

It's Smart Growth because there is surplus existing sewer and water capacity. The developer will pay over \$2 million dollars in utility user fees and proffers for the Town, plus rebuild a sewer pump station.

It's Smart Growth because Frederick County Public Schools has stated that enrollment in Thurmont schools is critically low. The new neighborhood adds children without risk of overcrowding, and the developer will pay over \$3 million dollars for school impact fees.

It's Smart Growth because two traffic studies, done to professional Maryland standards, state that the new community will not cause a loss in service at the studied intersections directed by the Town. The new neighborhood will add only a one second delay at Apples Church and Carroll Street. The developer is also paying \$505,000 for the Town to use for street infrastructure.

It's Smart Growth because it responds to the Thurmont Economic Development survey, which calls for a Senior Assisted Living Facility and Child Day Care Center, two critical parts of this new community.

It's Smart Growth because "cash registers" follow "roof tops." The economic revitalization of Thurmont with new restaurants and new stores needs the construction of more new homes to occur first. More residents mean more business and more opportunity.

**Please be our guest at an information session:  
Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.  
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# FREDERICK COUNTY HISTORY

Submitted by John Ashbury

## January 5

Frederick Countians have done some remarkable things through the years. A German immigrant, John Amelung, made some of the finest glass known in colonial times. McClintock Young invented a brush making machine that allowed a local company to send its product around the world.

But Horsey, who was born in 1819, made a name for himself and Frederick County in the distillery business.

In 1838 he built his plant on a 61 acre tract of land between Burkittsville and Knoxville. He was only 19 years old at the time, but his method of producing rye whiskey became the subject of conversation everywhere.

Horsey disliked the profession of his father, who was a Delaware senator for 12 years, and his grandfather, Maryland's second governor, Thomas Lee. So, he opened his Needwood Distillery. It later became known as the Horsey Distillery.

For years he experimented with various methods of distilling. His work was interrupted by The Civil War. As a matter of fact, in 1862, Union troops reduced his buildings to rubble.

In the three years that followed the destruction of his plant, Horsey studied

European distillation methods, experimenting with various elements of the process.

In 1865 he rebuilt his distillery using the most modern of methods and the best equipment he could find. The warehouse was tripled in size so that he could store up to 3,000 barrels. In short order his Very Fine Outerbridge Horsey's Rye Whiskey became a national item. Californians bought almost one-third of his production.

However, this rye whiskey wasn't cheap. It was Horsey's method of aging that ran up the price. He would store the product in his warehouse for from six months to two years. He would then ship it by rail from Knoxville-Brunswick to Washington where it was loaded on an ocean-going vessel. It would travel around the horn of South America and up the west coast to California. Some of it was even left on the ship and returned to Burkittsville.

This sea voyage, Horsey concluded, was why the Scotch and Irish whiskeys available in America were so much smoother and mellow than those produced in the colonies.

A year before his death in 1902, he began to distill corn whiskey. But the plant was just a few short years from its demise.

In 1919, the Volstead Act was passed and the distillery was closed forever. However, the story of Horsey's Distillery doesn't end here.

Old time residents of the Burkittsville area still tell the tale of the death of Dr. George Yourtee. It seems that after the government forced the closure of Horsey's plant, the warehouse and its contents were put under guard. Area residents frequently raided the warehouse and bribed the guards to get at the rye whiskey still in storage.

In the early morning hours of March 31, 1923, with a new guard on duty, a group of residents raided the warehouse. Not knowing of the prior arrangements with the guards, this new one fired into the crowd and Dr. Yourtee was hit. He died that evening.

Although the story cannot be confirmed by newspaper accounts, the reports in the press concerning the raid on the distillery warehouse and the death of Dr. Yourtee, who was a prominent physician and surgeon in Burkittsville, probably led to the speculation that he was involved in the raid. The cause of death for Dr. Yourtee was not included in the newspaper articles, but because of his position and reputation in the community it doubtful that he died of that ill-fated gunshot wound.

## January 12

In 1851, a new addition to the Old Hill Methodist Episcopal Church on East All Saints Street, believed to be the first church in Frederick to allow Negroes to attend, was dedicated.

Back in 1811, Richard Potts, a lawyer and prominent member of All Saints Episcopal Church, deeded a part of Lot #10 on East All Saints Street to a free Negro named William Hammond.

Seven years later Hammond deeded part of that lot to a group of trustees for the expressed purpose of constructing a new Methodist Episcopal Church which would allow Negroes to attend. That church became known as The Old Hill Church.

While many believe this church was built on the same property where All Saints Episcopal Church had stood, it was not. Old Hill Church was constructed on part of a lot adjacent to the three lots where All Saints had been. From its inception in 1818 to 1864, both whites and Negroes attended services together.

In 1850 the Old Hill parishioners constructed a large addition. It was dedicated in 1851. In 1864 Negroes, who had been attending the Old Hill Church since 1818, took full possession, and in 1868 it was incorporated as Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church.

The present facility at the northwest corner of South Court and West All Saints Streets was built in 1921 and continues today as a house of worship for black city and county residents.

## January 19

Marital difficulties are not a new thing in America. Today we have special facilities for battered spouses. We have a highly developed profession of marriage counselors. However, at the turn of the 20th century, they were few and far between.

In Brunswick, which was in the midst of its boomtown era, townspeople were shocked in January 1900, to hear of a shooting involving two Baltimore and Ohio Railroad workers over one of their wives.

On Saturday the 18th, Jerome Swartley, a conductor for the B&O, left his home, telling his wife he was going on his "run."

During the night he returned to Brunswick and early on Sunday morning he went home unexpectedly. He had suspected his wife of infidelity and had developed a plan to catch her in the act.

When he arrived home he found Charles Seeberger, an electrician for the railroad and a next-door neighbor, in a compromising position with his wife. A quarrel, and then a physical confrontation ensued.

Seeberger was hit in the thigh with the first shot from Swartley's gun, but he continued to struggle with the irate husband. Although he had his thumb over the barrel of the .38 caliber pistol, a second shot passed through it and lodged in Seeberger's abdomen.

The fight continued and finally Swartley pulled the gun away from Seeberger and fired a third shot. The bullet pierced his opponent's left side and passed through his lung.

Somehow Seeberger managed to take the gun away from Swartley and flee the house. He was taken by train to Baltimore City Hospitals where he under-

went three hours of surgery.

On January 16, Seeberger died of his wounds and Swartley was charged with murder. An autopsy showed that the bullet that hit Seeberger in the chest had pierced his heart as well as his lung.

A hearing was held in the Frederick County Circuit Court before Judge John Motter. Motter, after hearing testimony from Mrs. Swartley that Seeberger had attacked her husband as soon as he entered the house, ruled that the shooting was not murder and released Swartley on \$750 bail.

According to the newspapers of the day, after being released, Swartley walked to the Frederick train depot accompanied by his wife, "seemingly none the worse for the ordeal through which they had passed."

## January 26

From late August 1881 until the Spring of 1886, an epidemic of diphtheria raged in Frederick. During those awful five years more than 300 city residents died of the disease, a bacterial infection characterized by weakness, high fever and the formation of membrane-like obstructions to breathing. More than 3 percent of the city's children died.

Dr. Franklin Smith, Frederick County Health Officer, blamed the local canning industry, hog pens, stables, privies and the city's gutters and sewers. At the canning plants Smith said he observed acres of corn cobs, tomato skins and other vegetable products piled as much as three and four feet deep. He said manure was also mixed in with the garbage.

For most of the five years of the epidemic, city officials tried every conceivable solution. They ordered the canning plants to remove the vegetable waste on a more regular basis. Iye was spread in all privies; the gutters were cleaned daily; and everyone did what was possible at the time to cleanse drinking and bathing water.

However, the dread disease raged on, striking most city families. None did it hit with greater devastation than the Reverend Dr. Osborne Ingle, the rector of All Saints Episcopal Church.

He was visited by tragedy again and again during the epidemic. On April 5, 1881, the Rev. Ingle's 10-year-old daughter Elizabeth Dulany died, as so many children did in those days. However, her death was just a prelude to the suffering Ingle would endure over the next 21 months.

In January of 1882, just 10 months after Bessie's death, The Rev. Ingle and his wife, Mary, lost five more of their children to the disease. Gertrude, Osborne, Caroline, Susie and Antoinette all died in little more than two weeks' time. But for the Rev. Ingle the sorrow would continue. A year later, Mrs. Ingle died after giving birth to a son who did not live to be christened.

So it was that the Rev. Ingle lost eight members of his immediate family. A friend wrote later that "men stood awed and silenced before the noble courage with which Dr. Ingle went about his work. They wondered why a cup so bitter should be pressed to lips so pure." This dedicated pastor went on to serve All Saints for another 26 years before his death in 1909.

To read past selections for John Ashbury's *All Our Yesterdays* visit [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).



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# TANEYTOWN HISTORY

## A walking tour of Taneytown

David Bule

January can be a valuable time to pause, take stock, and reflect on the events and occurrences that have shaped and defined us as individuals and, more broadly, as a collective. Over the past year, this column has explored the people and places representing who we are as citizens of Taneytown. The upcoming year will welcome change to our community and how we view our town's past. With that in mind, I would like to introduce everyone to the Traipse App. Traipse can be downloaded from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

The user can tour historic Taneytown's Main St. using the Traipse App. Once the app is fully integrated, users can enjoy a detailed self-guided tour and find fascinating facts, riddles, brain-teasers, and puzzles about their surroundings. Readers of this column will get a brief overview of what will be presented in the January and February columns.

For this month's column, the tour will start in front of City Hall/Taneytown Volunteer Fire Company at 15-17 East Baltimore St. and end at The Opera House Building/Record Office at 109 East Baltimore St..

City Hall/Taneytown Volunteer Fire Company Building - 15-17 East Baltimore St.

This public building is an eclectic mix of informal and formal design. The first floor served as the City's first firehouse, while the second floor held the City's meeting rooms and offices. The central double doors allowed the two-wheel wagons and, later, the firetruck to exit the building. The large three-part window in the center bay of the second floor is the location of the Council meeting room.

In 1972, Taneytown bought the building on the west, formerly Burk's Barber Shop, to use as office space. An advertisement for Zile's Ice Cream is on the exterior wall, served at the Central Hotel, previously located at 1 York St. in

the early 1900s.

Kane's Hotel (formerly Buffington House), ca. 1875 - 25 East Baltimore St.

Around 1875, this building was constructed. It was acquired by William H. Starr (1831-1901), one of Carroll County's wealthiest and most influential men, and was run by James Buffington (1861-1930) until 1903. In 1903, John D. Kane (1856-1907) bought Buffington House and the adjacent property (27 East Baltimore St.).

Kane had been engaged in the hotel business in Emmitsburg before buying the property in Taneytown. Guests have described Kane as a courteous and accommodating person who runs the Hotel in the best way to ensure first-class service.

Like its adjacent building, it is a local example of vernacular Gothic Revival (pointed arch, used for windows, doors, and decorative elements like porches, dormers, or roof gables).

J.S Bower Hardware, ca. 1875 - 27 East Baltimore St. Like 25 East Baltimore St., 27 East Baltimore St. was owned by William Starr and later John Kane. Kane rented the building to John S. Bowers, who had been running his hardware on the second floor over the Taneytown Bakery as J.S. Bowers Hardware. When the hardware business and Bower's reputation grew, Bowers agreed with Kane to move his business. Again, Bowers' reputation as a fair and skilled businessperson grew the business into one of the largest in the county.

In addition to his hardware line, Bowers enjoyed a large trade in paints, oils, wagon-making supplies, leather, woodworking, and mechanical supplies. Bowers developed his mechanical skills and a reputation for repairing guns, locks, and bicycles, which he fixed for enjoyment and rarely charged a fee.

Bowers was active in the community, serving on the Board of Town Commissioners, Director of Taneytown Savings bank, and the

Carroll Record.

Like 25 East Baltimore St., 27 East Baltimore St. was built in the vernacular English Gothic Revival style (pointed arches as part of windows, doors, and decorative elements like porches, dormers, or roof eaves).

The Birnie Trust Company Building, 1899 - 103-105 East Baltimore St.. Originally a tiny brick building owned by James Reindollar (1872-1938). The Birnie Bank Trust Company was begun by Dr. George Motter (1842-1903), Edward Reindollar (1853-1921), and George Birnie (1845-1923). In 1884, when the three men discussed opening a bank at the site, the town hooted in opposition as they had during the railroad construction through Taneytown. According to popular opinion, the town could not support a bank at the time.

After Dr. George Motter stepped down and Henry Swope (1817-1897) and his brother Dr. Samuel Swope (1806-1897) took his place, the bank flourished. As the bank's business increased, it began to outgrow the small brick building in which it had begun. By the late 1890s, Birnie approached prominent architect J. A. Dempwolf to design the current structure. On July 4, 1899, the ribbon-cutting ceremony took place.

The left side of the building was Birnie's residence, while the right side of the building was the bank. The bank's more formal classical style, with its fluted Ionic columns, third-story dormer windows, and corner blocks, called "quoins," contrasts with the two-bay tower and balcony of



Zile's Ice Cream ad on the exterior wall of City Hall, formerly the old Central Hotel.

the house. The building has been remodeled several times, including replacing the original residential entrance with a window in the 1960s to accommodate a new lobby.

The bank closed in 1966 when it merged with First National Bank of Taneytown to become the Taneytown Bank and Trust Company.

The Opera House Building/Record Office, the 1890s - 109 East Baltimore St. The opera house served as the offices and plant of The Carroll Record. A large hall and stage on the second floor were used as a venue for plays and minstrel shows; the ground floor of the Opera House had the shop saddle and harness maker S.C. Reaver, the cigar shop of F.S. Staley, and The Carroll Record.

The Opera House Building is a classic Queen Anne Revival commercial structure. A typical Revival building always has

a steep roof with cross gables or large dormers, an asymmetrical front façade, and an expansive porch with decorative wood trim. A round or polygonal front corner tower with a conical roof is a distinctive Queen Anne feature on many buildings of this style.

The second double-hung sash window's original windows have 16 panes at the top and two at the bottom. Only the windows on the third floor keep the original panes.

In February, we will cross East Baltimore St. to Antrim. You can view the house and the grounds from the sign. Then continue up this side of the St. to the next house, the Hesson House at 202 East Baltimore St. and conclude at St. Joseph's Roman Church, located at 48 Frederick St.

For more information, contact David Buie through Downtown Taneytown's Facebook page or by email at [downtowntaneytown@gmail.com](mailto:downtowntaneytown@gmail.com).

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# COOKING

## Junk free January

Sonya Verlaque  
FCC Culinary Program

After overindulgence of the holidays many people like to start fresh, either with a whole 30 plan, Dry January, or go sugar free for the month. I feel like, sitting here on the 26th playing Junior Monopoly, that the entire family needs to be sugar rehabilitated. Making sure there is something flavorful to enjoy and full of protein and nutrients to keep everyone from snacking on leftover cookies.

### Chicken Tortilla soup

The spice can be adjusted to your taste and this freezes well and then can be defrosted for an après ski dinner quickly.

#### Ingredients:

2 tbs olive oil  
1 medium white onion  
4 garlic cloves, minced  
1 1/2 tsp cumin  
2 tsp oregano  
2 tsp salt  
3 (15 oz) cans Great Northern beans  
20 oz tomatoes with green chilis (2 cans)  
15 oz cream style corn  
15 oz corn  
15 oz black beans  
1 lb chicken (cooked and shredded) - pick up a precooked rotisserie chicken for ease.  
2 tbs lime juice

Preparation instructions: Heat olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add in the garlic and onion. Sauté for a few minutes. Stir in the Cumin, Oregano, and salt. Put two of the cans of northern white beans in a blender and puree, or add to the pot and puree using an immersion blender. Add in the tomatoes, creamed corn, whole kernel corn, and the cooked chicken. Mix in the remaining northern beans and black beans (do not drain), stirring to fully incorporate. Let soup simmer about 15 minutes and add in the lime juice.

### Chicken Cacciatore Sheet Pan Dinner

#### Ingredients:

1 lb cherry tomatoes  
12 cremini mushrooms, halved  
1 large red pepper, cored and cut into large chunks  
1 large onion, chopped  
2 celery ribs, chopped  
1 large carrot, chopped  
6 cloves garlic, halved  
1/3 cup vermouth or dry white wine  
1/4 cup finely chopped fresh sage  
3 tbs tomato paste  
2 tbs olive oil  
1 tbs finely chopped fresh rosemary  
3 bay leaves  
1 tsp dried oregano  
1 tsp salt, divided  
1 tsp pepper, divided  
1/4 tsp chili flakes (optional)

3 lbs bone-in skin on chicken thighs (8 pieces)  
2 tbs finely chopped fresh basil or parsley (optional)

1 baguette or rustic Italian loaf, for serving  
Grated Parmesan cheese, for serving

Preparation instructions: Pre-heat oven to 425F degrees. In a large bowl, toss together the tomatoes, mushrooms, red pepper, onion, celery, carrot, garlic, vermouth, sage, tomato paste, oil, rosemary, bay leaves, oregano and half of the salt and pepper. Add the chili flakes, if using. Pat the chicken dry with a paper towel. Toss the chicken into vegetable mixture to coat it. Transfer the vegetables to a parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Season the chicken all over with the remaining each salt and pepper, then arrange it on top of vegetables. Bake until the chicken is golden brown, cooked through and vegetables are tender, about 30 to 40 minutes. Sprinkle with basil or parsley before serving if desired. Serve with baguette and Parmesan cheese.

### Roasted Beets With Goat Cheese

These roasted beets with goat cheese are heaven! Earthy, tender beets paired with creamy goat cheese and topped with fresh chives? Perfection.

#### Ingredients:

beets (you can roast up to 8 beets at a time; use 4 for serving)  
olive oil  
kosher salt  
2 oz soft goat cheese (optional)  
thinly sliced chives, for garnish

Preparation instructions: Pre-heat the oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit. Wash the beets. Trim off all but about 1 inch of the beet greens. Leaving on the stem helps keep the beets from "bleeding" out red juice in the oven. Rub the beets lightly with olive oil. Place the beets in a covered oven proof dish. (You also can wrap each beet individually in aluminum foil and place them on



Chicken Tortilla soup

the oven grates). Roast the beets for 45 minutes to 1 1/2 hours, depending on the size and freshness, until tender when pierced with a fork. Check occasionally for tenderness, medium beets take about an hour. Allow them to cool for a few minutes. Then place them under cool water and rub off the skins with your fingers. You can serve immediately, or refrigerate the whole beets until serving and serve them cold. To serve, slice the beets into rounds or into cubes and arrange them on a plate. If serving hot, you can place back in the pan under the broiler for a minute to char the a little if you want. Drizzle the top with olive oil and sprinkle with 1 pinch kosher salt. Top with goat cheese dollops and thinly sliced chives.

### Healthy Carrot Cake Baked Oatmeal

#### Ingredients:

2 cups rolled oats  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 tsp cinnamon  
1/2 tsp ginger  
1/4 tsp salt  
1 3/4 cups milk  
2 eggs  
1/3 cup maple syrup or honey  
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract  
3/4 cup shredded carrots  
1/2 cup raisins  
1/2 cup chopped pecans or walnuts

Preparation instructions: Pre-heat oven to 375F and great an

8x8 casserole dish. If using a different size, adjust cook time. In a large bowl, mix together the rolled oats, baking powder, cinnamon, ginger, and salt. In a medium bowl, stir together the almond milk, eggs, maple syrup, and vanilla. Add in the carrots and half of both the raisins and pecans. Add the wet mixture to dry mixture and stir until combined. Pour mixture into baking dish and press down to make sure oats are soaked.

Sprinkle on the rest of the raisins and pecans and press down lightly again. Bake, uncovered, for around 40-45 minutes, until lightly golden brown. Let cool for 5 minutes and then serve. Store in refrigerator.

### Mango Vanilla Smoothie

Smoothies are a quick breakfast and made with vitamin rich foods, they are often an easy and tasty breakfast that keeps you (or little tummy's) full to lunchtime. Frozen fruits, frozen at peak ripeness for flavor and nutrients, and packed with fiber, are a great way to get fruit in your diet when its winter.

You can substitute other frozen fruits for the mango as well and add protein powder or chia seeds can also be added for additional nutrients. Because fruit is so sweet, and the added vanilla yogurt, no additional sugar needs to be added. You can adjust the amount of liquid to make it more or less thick.

#### Ingredients:

1 1/2 cups frozen mango  
6 oz greek vanilla yogurt  
1 cup milk (dairy or plant)

Preparation instructions: Put all the ingredients in a high powered blender and blend until smooth. This makes about 2 large servings.

### Blueberry Muffin Smoothie

#### Ingredients:

1/2 cup frozen blueberries  
1/2 banana  
1 cup milk (dairy or plant)  
1/4 cup rolled oats  
1 tsp of cinnamon

You can also add chia or hemp seeds for extra omega fats and fiber.

Preparation instructions: Put all the ingredients in a high powered blender and blend until smooth. This makes one large serving.

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# MOMS' TIME OUT

## Embracing News Year's resolutions

Mary Angel

I have survived another whirlwind year end holiday season. Thanksgiving, Christmas and all that leads up to it, and New Year's have come and gone and taken me for another ride and left me exhausted. There is something magical and yet overwhelming about the holidays.

Thanksgiving is all about friends and family and food. I don't have a ton of planning, just a bit of scheduling and working out conflicts. Everyone comes to our house, and we feast. We make the turkey and sides, while my mom makes her famous burnt bottoms (biscuits she overcooks) and store-bought pies, because as she says, "you don't want me baking a pie!" My brother brings some unusual beer for the adult beer-drinkers to try. We all enjoy a wonderful meal together and then sit around the television while the tryptophan kicks in. Some of us give into the overwhelming urge to nap, while others scream at the football game on the television.

As soon as Thanksgiving is over it is time to begin the Christmas preparation and helping the United States economy return to the black! Black Friday is all about shopping for Christmas, whether it be in person or on-line. In the past we would be out and about on Black Friday before the sun was up. Now that everyone is older, I choose to do my on-line shopping in the morning and then the girls and I will venture into the hysteria in the late afternoon when all the die-hard shoppers are at home regaling everyone with their spoils.

The next few weeks will be spent trying to find a good deal on the gifts everyone has on their lists, while also keeping my eye out for those little unexpected gifts that will surprise each person on Christmas day. This year proved especially challenging with inflation smacking me in the face with every price tag.

The week before Christmas I will wrap, wrap, wrap. A more accurate statement would be that my daughter and I will wrap, wrap, wrap, as she will take pity on me and help me accomplish that daunting task. As Christmas draws nearer, I will go into a panic over one of the children when I realize they have much fewer gifts to place under the tree. This will be immediately followed by some panic Amazon shopping and possibly me printing pictures of the items that will not arrive on time so that I have something to wrap.

A couple days before Christmas I will run out and get the few gift cards I forgot to buy and bake thousands of cookies (okay maybe it just seems like thousands). Then I will suddenly real-

ize I never ordered the year in review calendars that I give as gifts. Luckily, everyone knows these will come late, as they do every year. Wrapping paper will fly once again and then it will be Christmas night and I will have to accept that what I have accomplished is what it is going to be.

When the kids are in bed, yes they all know about Santa, but I still wait for them to go to bed, my husband will help me bring the gifts out and put them in little (very little this year) piles for each child. Christmas morning will be spent with my parents and brother opening gifts and eating breakfast together. Breakfast is bacon and a plethora of make ahead breakfast casseroles that we make the night before and pop in the oven in the morning. Then everyone goes about their business until dinner when we are all together again. Dinner is similar to Thanksgiving, only ham instead of turkey. I know, we are so daring and exciting!

There will be a few days where things are semi-back-to-normal, then we gear up for New Year's

Eve. Every year we get together with my best friend and her family and have an appetizer extravaganza! The past few years have been a major bummer because of covid. Her family has many health issues and they are extremely cautious. This year will be the same, a bit more laid back. The kids have asked to have a few friends over to either watch movies or play video games. They have also requested the same appetizer extravaganza that we would have had with our regular company. I am finding this a little more difficult this year. Normally after Christmas I get a little down. I am not sure if it is the winter blues or coming off of the Christmas high. I just know that I get a bit introspective and think about friends and family who were not with us at Christmas, the pitfalls I experienced the past year, and any mistakes I perceive as having been avoidable.

The good news for me is that I find great joy in New Year's resolutions. I treat the new year like a new beginning or a fresh start. I

try to make a New Year's resolution that is important to me and that is doable. None of this I am going to lose 50 pounds by summer, or I am going to work out every day. None of that is ever going to happen. Not only am I not that motivated, but there are not enough hours every day. I also feel like those are resolutions that would lead me to failure. So, my resolutions are more like eating healthier, snacking less, exercising more, or doing a kind gesture for someone without them knowing. I suppose they are all more feel good, be healthier resolutions than extreme ones.

I am so excited for this new year, this new beginning, and making life a little healthier! I hope your winter blues are short and mild and that your new year's resolutions bring you joy and good health for a lifetime to come.

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

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## FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

*Consider how important it is to give people the opportunity to grow—especially children. When is it the right time to tell children the truth about their way of thinking, even when their “brilliant idea” is wrong?*

### Freshman

#### Honesty is the only policy

Sarah Miller  
MSMU Class of 2026

Growth is vital in everyone's lives, especially when one is in the developmental stage of childhood. Coaching your child is straightforward as a parent, but when they start having their own abstract thoughts and ideas, saying no can be tricky.

When I was younger, I had an idea about making a dog hotel for all dogs in the SPCA. They would have a room dedicated to each dog and people who were a prospective adopter, and they would rent out the room for a night to play with the dog and see how they are in the real “at home” climate. I would say, looking back, it was a fantastic idea. Although I would not become a millionaire from the concept, and many dogs would be left alone in their room, neglected from time to time, there were a lot of grey areas in the plan. I proposed the idea to my mom, and she thought that it was very clever. My mom never turned down the dog hotel. She did realize, though, I was doing it with good intentions. I just wanted to get dogs out of the cages and into more people's hands. It was a brilliant idea that eventually phased out of my thoughts, but how my mom handled it was clever. I feel that if your child truly has good intentions when doing something, it deserves

to be up in the air for a child to think about. Good choices lead children to grow up living good lives, and being empathetic and kind to them is essential. We need more positive people with good ideas, and by raising our children with our future in mind, we can stretch the truth just so slightly so creativity can last.

When children start to have their phase where they have free thought, it is important to pay attention to what they say. From 4-6 years old, children have the ability to realize that parents are humans too, and they can say what they want to say, whether it is truthful or not. I think in these years, it is crucial to really listen to your kids so that you can critique them young. Verbal communication and interaction are important in development, and if the child doesn't know how to communicate with their peers truthfully, how will they know how to make friends in the long run? I understand that shutting children's thoughts down is also ineffective. Still, if children were educated early and parents utilized redirected learning, it is a passive way of teaching. For example, something along the lines of “honey, that is close, but this is better to say.” Dismissing is ineffective, but comparing things for your child makes more sense.

Sometimes when I think of young children and their development, I also think of Christmas time. Recently, one of my friends asked me what I wanted

for Christmas, and I didn't know what I wanted on the spot. She responded, “I was thinking that I could donate to a charity of your choosing in your name?” At the moment, I was surprised, but I also didn't realize how thoughtful that idea was. So many people need help, especially in these cold winter months, and giving back to the community should not be overlooked. Although my mom gets me some awesome presents, why not give other people support, mainly because I have everything I need? Children should be raised to think of others first during this time, especially because Christmas should be memorable for everyone, not just those fortunate enough to spend money.

I feel that children should be raised to realize the true ‘reason for the season,’ and that is to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Without thinking of Jesus's birth, we really just give gifts to give them. I feel that maxing out our credit cards should never be the case, and setting realistic expectations should be a factor. You can make the time special for kids when you prioritize meaning over tangible things. Making a child happy isn't hard; by just loving them and spending time with them, they are content. When children are growing up, I feel that being honest with them is the best policy, especially during the fun holiday times. Questions like, “how does Santa fit down the chimney?” or “how does Santa make it to every house



This tale of young George Washington chopping down the cherry tree emphasizes the importance of honesty.

in one night” can be avoided and better, more intellectual questions can be substituted for them. This can help children strengthen their faith. Once faith is lost during Christmas, many overlook the holiday. Traditions don't just have to be through presents, but it could be seeing a family member who is far away or baking a batch of cookies. Both are sweet, but overlooked because of the stereotypical Christmas traditions; and please don't get me wrong, I love a new pair of shoes once in a while.

All in all, children are brilliant. It is hard to tell your child they are wrong, but I feel it depends on how you are raising them and what kind of parenting style you choose. Sometimes kids do great with abstract ideas and thinking all of the time, but some kids do better with structure. It all depends on the child. You should never tell a kid that they are wrong or dismiss their hopes and dreams because of that idea of lost

potential. Your support of kids is the most important thing in their lives. Parents who support their kids and love them unconditionally make the best mentors. Usually, children want to model after and be like the person they look up to, who are most likely their parents. That's why I feel that support is one of the most important things in a child's development. Reality, though, is something that should always be kept in mind when assessing their hopes and dreams. Not everyone can be an astronaut or a Superman, but teaching the qualities that come with being those things can be important life lessons for them. Who knows? Maybe you are raising the next Superman or Superwoman, but just make sure to tell them they probably won't ever be able to fly.

To read other articles by Sarah Miller, visit the Author's section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

### Sophomore

#### We teach kids addictions

Joey Carlson  
MSMU Class of 2025

Psychology is notoriously preoccupied with childhood. Whether it seems funny or fitting, our habits form when we are young, and unless rerouted along the way, remain the same until we are old. The idea we have of what a habit is indicates how seriously we take them. When you think of that word, what do you imagine? Perhaps you think of something you read in a self-help book about setting good habits, or perhaps you think of that sin you've been trying to overcome for a long time. Most of us who are not psychologists, whether we imagined a positive or negative habit, thought of some particular action. My first thought was of my addiction to biting my nails, something I have halfheartedly been trying to overcome for years. Maybe that word seems a bit strong, “addiction”. Addictions are for drugs, or alcohol, or other unpleasant life-destroying things which some have the difficult experience of relying on for their happiness. Right?

There's truth to that schema, for sure. But what if I told you that a far more potent addiction, one which we all indulge, exists in the mind? In our very manner of thinking? It actually is just that, your manner of thinking: you're addicted to it, and you have been for a long time.

Children are taught how to think from an early age. Many educators and parents concern themselves with teaching their kids what to think, an obviously important task. The child needs to be told that the stove is hot and that it will hurt them if they touch it. What they do with that kind of information, however, is what will dictate the course of their life. Do they touch the stove on purpose in order to spite you, or because they don't believe you, or because they think that it is funny? Do they avoid the stove altogether? The stove is of course an analogy for moral boundaries, since all laws and rules of morality exist in order to preserve the human beings involved from suffering pain or disillusionment from their own dignity. The corruption of a child is very easy to accomplish: simply encourage bad behavior. We do this, far less often by rewarding our children for bad behavior, and

more often by leading by example.

I would like to give an example: A child has a brilliant idea! Children are smarter than most adults anyway. Maybe the child finds out that money is printed, and suggests that we just print more money to fix our financial problems. Maybe he has an idea for a science project that is just not quite complete, or maybe it seems smart but wouldn't hold up to standards we set for real science. These are examples from my own life, and I would like to narrate how they went wrong and how they went right.

The first idea about money was one that a friend of mine had when she was three or four years old. Her father did the right thing: he explained simply and kindly the idea of inflation, and in doing so, his daughter learned that money only represents real things, and is worthless on its own. I am sure that many children have this same idea when they learn money is printed, but most of them probably don't have this kind of conversation with their parents, so many never learn the most important truth about finances and the economy. She managed to be quite the saver actually, and treats money pretty well – that, however, is a habit that is only really communi-

cated by example.

The second example, where the child has an idea about something scientific that is true but not quite complete, was me. I had to do a science project in 5th grade, and after a lot of thinking, I decided that I would test different woods to see which ones burnt the longest. I had a vague idea that some woods burnt longer than others because my father had told me at some point that oak burns longer than willow and pine. A good idea, but beyond that I was lost. My father suggested that I try and see if there was a correlation between density and how long wood would last being burnt. I did the experiment with all the typical marks of a good experiment, and I proved my hypothesis right. I learned the actual process of scientific inquiry, and I've never forgot some of the standards set for me for proving something. I didn't get any awards or anything, and of course I couldn't say that it was all my idea; my dad essentially authored the entire thing. Still, I got to do it, and I learned. I did nothing very interesting or original, but no child should expect to ever discover anything original, or to have any kind of exclusive success.

To let any child indulge in the idea that they have done something new or that they have had success where others haven't is terrible parenting. No child invents anything new, especially not nowadays. They should, however, still try, and we need to love and be proud of them no matter what. If you let them think that they are more successful than they are, reality will be too cold a shock when it comes, and they will either be disillusioned from the truth or from trying. Or, God forbid, they won't get to fail, and they will love success far too much. If my wood idea had been false, the right thing for my dad to have done would have been to let me test my hypothesis for me to find out that I was wrong. I would have learned the process just as well as if I had been right.

As a parent, you should be most on the lookout for habits of thinking in your child. How do they view success? How do they deal with failure? Are they inquisitive or moral all the time, or only when it suits them? How you react will dictate most of their life.

To read other articles by Joseph Carlson, visit the Author's section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

# GIVING ONE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GROW

## Junior

### Grocery store flowers

Claire Doll  
MSMU Class of 2024

I've always loved cemeteries. There's a cemetery that's particularly beautiful and holds a very special place in my heart. It's located on the outskirts of Baltimore City, and as soon as you drive through the big iron gates, you have no choice but to follow the gravel road. It spirals up and down hills, and in the springtime, the chartreuse grass contrasts the bright, blue sky that stretches for miles. There's always flowers dotted next to the many gravestones, but they're never real—they're instead from grocery stores, from at-home gardens, from anywhere but the actual earth of the cemetery. And I think that's beautiful: a hand-picked collage of carnations and roses and baby's breath, coloring the world even in its darkest places.

My grandmother would often take my sister and me to the cemetery on drives. Margaret and I were young, only in elementary school, but I always associated the graveyard next to Mom-mom's neighborhood with beautiful spring days and lunches at Shannon's. It was the cemetery where my extended family was buried, the cemetery that

belonged to our church, the cemetery that went on and on forever, where you could just get lost in it. Even as a child, I associated cemeteries with peacefulness, with color and springtime.

When you're young, you think the world exists just for you. It's a naïve experience, a veil of innocence that slowly tears and chips away with each jolting milestone. When you're young, you come up with explanations and ideas that make sense, only in your mind. And when you're young, you create your own meaning. The thing about life, however, is that it slowly develops and unravels, and suddenly, you find that cemeteries are not just there for beauty and grace, but rather for deeper, darker reasons.

The first death I ever experienced was that of a baby—my cousin, eleven weeks old. The weight of my sadness was inexplicable; not only did I not understand the gravity of the situation, but I also felt the shock of a new meaning take over, filling my body. He was a baby, hadn't even lived two full months of his life, and he had passed. When you're young, maybe seven or eight years old, you simply can't process such a thing. You start to question life and make your own meaning and sense of things, even when reality says otherwise.

*He's still here, I would tell myself. Just napping, just sleeping.* Out of an inex-

plainable shock, I had somehow convinced myself that because my cousin was a baby, his death was temporary. That he would come back.

Death is not irreversible, however, and that's the point of cemeteries. To remember. To fill the world with grocery store carnations so that we can acknowledge the souls that have passed. This truth is meant to be learned over time, after years of experience and wisdom gained from adulthood.

Maybe my thoughts of my cousin's death could be considered "child-like" and "innocent." Perhaps when I expressed these thoughts to my parents and other family members, they might have brushed them off. *That's cute. That's good that she doesn't understand this. Children aren't meant to experience death this young, like this.*

But when is it right to tell children the truth about death? About these moments in life that are completely unexpected, that no one ever tells you about, until it happens, and you find yourself crying yourself to sleep and making new meanings of things? When do we figure out the right meanings to life? Are we meant to do this ourselves?

When my cousin's grave was put into the Baltimore cemetery I loved so much, it all became real. The very place I associated with peacefulness and spring-time had grown to the new meaning

of death and permanence and winter. Of silent tears and drab, gray skies that hung over you like a weight. When my mother had explained to me that my cousin wasn't coming back, had explained to me what a "funeral" was, I felt new meanings emerge. She had told me I was wrong in my beliefs, and suddenly, a large piece of my naivety had fallen away. I couldn't seem to get it back, although I reached for it. The veil of innocence was not chipped away; it had been shattered.

I would argue that there's never a right time to tell the truth to children about these kinds of experiences. The thing about life is that it is constantly moving, constantly changing its route and course and speed, and if we don't accept this, then we will arrive at these experiences unexpectedly, unprepared.

Children have growing, expanding minds—not stagnant, nor unchanging. When we see things like beautiful cemeteries with flourishing, colorful flowers, we are inviting ourselves to understand *why* those flowers exist. Why they are bought from grocery stores. Why people kneel at graves for hours until the sky grows pink. Why the smallest-size grave is given to my baby cousin.

And maybe, there's a certain beauty in unveiling these meanings. To tell kids, simply, that they're wrong in their beliefs. To help children to understand

and grow from even the darkest life experiences is to allow them a deeper, clearer insight into the world. Innocence is beautiful but temporary—and although life is dark and filled with difficult truths, we can discover a truer beauty beneath all of this.

Flash forward to sixteen. I'm learning how to drive, and my mother takes me to the spirally backroads of our favorite cemetery to perfect my right- and left-hand turns. It's an April day, and the entire world is chilled and stirring in peace. You can tell that spring is trying its very hardest to emerge, but the trees surrounding are still barren, stretching their limbs into the oil-painted sky. If you look closely, there are buds growing. And I'm sixteen. Full of truths and understandings of the world, but still new to many things. Like learning how to drive.

Humans constantly cling to their innocence because, to us, being exposed to some parts of life is terrifying. But I would say that innocence is the opportunity to be suspended in between meanings that we create for ourselves, and meanings of the world. For children to grow and flourish fully, they must be guided through their childhood with an upmost respect for the truth.

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

## Senior

### Growth is a result of kindness and honesty

McKenna Snow  
MSMU Class of 2023

If someone gives you a dessert they made just for you, you graciously say thank you and take it home. When you taste it once you're home, one of three things happens: you absolutely love it; you think it's a good, average dessert; or, you taste it and find that it is no good, at least not to your subjective taste buds. The majority of it gets discreetly thrown away.

In the third case, the next conversation with the friend who gave it to you tends to be an awkward one. They ask what you thought of the dessert. Not wanting to hurt their feelings, and not wanting to lie by saying you loved it, you say cheerfully, "Oh, a pie like that didn't last long in our house!"

Whether this is a good way to handle this situation or not, the clever response illustrates the difficulty of handling conversations with friends or loved ones that necessitate honesty and kindness at the same time.

A unique difficulty arises when such a circumstance involves having a conversation with a child. At first, one might think that such conversations might be easier with children than with adults, perhaps because there appears to be less at stake. Children don't remember very well, do they? They're not very good at reasoning yet, right? They definitely don't associate you, their parent or teacher or older sibling, with conversations you've had with them.

All of the above is false. The reality is, children are much smarter than adults often give them credit for. Their memory is often much sharper than we realize, and often it doesn't hold onto even

big moments as prominently as it holds onto short conversations, brief reactions, and small gifts either given or received. Note that this also means they often hold onto adults' disinterested reactions, belittling dismissals, outbursts of frustration and anger (especially when it is directed at them), and when it appears that something is more important than them as a person.

The point is, what we say and do for children matters to them. Whether we are honest or not when we talk to them matters. Whether we are kind or not when we talk to them matters. I argue that a good conversation with them about hard things is a composite of both kindness and honesty. In the case of honesty without kindness, a great deal of hurt can be caused, not only short term but also long term. Children remember instances when they are telling their parent or sibling about a "great idea" they've had, and when the adult shoots it down with the cold unamused reality of the idea's uselessness. In such cases, the shooting down of the idea often shoots down the child's desire to share anything with the parent, harming the relationship. Or, the shooting down of the idea also takes with it the child's desire to be creative, since the last time they tried their invention or idea was so poorly received. Sometimes the shooting of the idea down takes both the trusted relationship and the desire to create and think with it.

The other case, kindness without honesty, is just as dangerous. The child's idea might not have been shot down so harshly—instead, it was praised without criticism, encouraged without any dialogue. The problem with this dynamic is the adult's failure to acknowledge the child's need for knowing the truth. A parent who never tells the truth to a child insults the child's right to reality. The child exists in the world and deserves to know himself or herself according to reality, not accord-

ing to fantasy, fiction, or outright lies.

On the child's side as well, the problem with this instance is that he or she will be unable to handle constructive criticism and will grow up entitled, believing all their ideas and thoughts are always "amazing." Further, this lack of dialogue and respect for their capacity to reason will result in the child having extreme difficulty engaging in critical thinking. Not to mention, the child might eventually realize that the adult was dishonest towards them, which consequently will hurt their relationship and leave the child feeling as though they cannot trust adults to have a genuine conversation with them.

Thus, children should be spoken to with kindness and honesty. They notice when one is honest, and they notice when one is kind. Conversations that have both can have a powerful and positive impact on them, through which they learn to trust and cherish the words of the adults they look up to. Moreover, they are able to truly grow from these conversations. Children can learn from these conversations that tackle difficult topics or are important to their processing.

Further, in cases of more whimsical topics such as whether unicorns and elves exist, it is important to allow the cultivation of one's creativity and imagination so as to foster wonder for the world around them. However, the importance of raising children in reality doesn't mean cut out all fairytale stories and fiction from their lives; quite the opposite. To paraphrase G.K. Chesterton, "Fairy tales do not tell children dragons exist. Children already know the dragons exist. Fairy tales tell children that dragons can be beaten." Let children dream and play; and tell them whimsical stories, and let them think up many of their own. But teach them how to appreciate and be inspired by such stories in right order with reality, allowing them to see the deeper truth,

beauty and goodness of them.

Children need patience, engagement, and encouragement as they uncover the world around them. Some things they will have misshapen ideas about, and that is a part of being a child; here, however, the responsibility of the adult is to tell them the truth when they are wrong and give them the tools on how to think about it in the future. Honesty and kindness are cru-

cial to any conversation with children. Certainly, such conversations that have both may be more difficult, but they allow for the child to grow and to have a greater respect for themselves, and for the adult who loves them enough to graciously tell them the truth.

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

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## HEALTH

# Frederick Health moves service lines to The Village

Joshua Faust  
Frederick Helath

The Frederick Health Village, a large, sprawling facility located just north of downtown Frederick, used to be the State Farm Insurance regional complex. When the insurance provider began to restructure their operations and planned to sell the facility, Frederick Health started discussions about a serious expansion of its network. In 2019, Frederick Health purchased the property with plans to expand and develop the location into a hub of service rivaled only in size by their hospital on Seventh Street.

Fast forward to early 2020, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic threw a wrench in those well-developed plans.

Frederick Health, the largest healthcare provider in the county,

was forced to pivot and quickly established “The Village” as a critical piece of their COVID-19 response. While some service lines and departments that did not require inpatient contact, such as Frederick Health Home Care or the organizations Call Access Center and Finance Department, were moved to the location, the outside of The Village became familiar to many residents of Frederick County for its large outdoor COVID-19 testing tent.

From the earliest days of the COVID-19 pandemic through April 2022, this drive-thru testing tent provided hundreds of thousands of COVID-19 tests to community members. While the tent may be gone and Frederick Health does still offer COVID-19 testing inside of the Village, the healthcare system has begun to develop the building for treating patients.

In the summer of 2022, renovations began on a portion of The Village that will house three separate service lines, all unique but all focused on providing award-winning care as unique as the patients that walk through the doors. The locations will be housed in the same area of The Village, making it easy for patients to move from one provider to the lab, for example.

The Precision Medicine & Genetics Program, the Medical Weight Loss Program, and a new Laboratory Services location are all scheduled to occupy the renovated space and start treating patients in January of 2023. This marks the first-time patients will be treated inside the building. This expansion to treating patients inside The Village has always been the goal, according to Cheryl Cioffi, Senior Vice President & COO of Frederick Health.

“We are very pleased to begin offering outpatient services at our Village location. Since acquiring this property in 2019, our goal has been to continue developing this site into a premier healthcare facility,” said Cioffi in a recent statement.

While each of these services offers something different, residents of the northern part of Frederick County have seen an increase in Frederick Health’s presence in recent months. These facilities, which sit a short drive south, complement the healthcare systems Emmitsburg location, which opened in the fall of 2022 and offers a robust list of services and treatment options. Developing more locations in the north of Frederick County has been a strategic goal for the healthcare system.

“Frederick Health Emmitsburg and our Village location offer vital and accessible health-

care services,” said Tom Kleinhanzl, President & CEO of Frederick Health. “These locations are a testament to our dedication to residents of northern Frederick County and beyond.”

But what exactly do each of the new services offered at The Village do and how do residents benefit from this change?

The Precision Medicine & Genetics Program is a first for area residents in developing a care plan based on their unique genetics. Medical providers have known for decades that individuals respond to different medications and treatments differently. By testing and analyzing your unique genetic code, the Precision Medicine & Genetics Program can identify elevated risks in things like cardiovascular health and cancer, as well as what medications work best with your body’s physiology. In addition, a patient’s unique genetic profile is fully incorporated into a patient’s electronic health medical records and can travel with the individual from visit to visit. Frederick Health is the first community healthcare system in the nation to implement such a program.

“The future of medical care is customized medicine based on patient’s genetics,” said Pat Rice, Clinical Director for the Precision Medicine & Genetics Program. “In developing this location, we can increase awareness and participation in this award-winning program.”

The Medical Weight Loss Program, formerly located at Frederick Health’s Crestwood location in Buckeystown, assists patients with nutrition and lifestyle changes without surgery but can offer surgical consultations when needed or required. This program helps hundreds of individuals work towards a healthier lifestyle by pairing them with dedicated nutritionists and clinical experts. Support classes, peer support groups, and weekly weigh-ins are just a few options Medical Weight Loss offers.

Frederick Health’s Laboratory Services offers comprehensive testing in several specialties and is accredited by the prestigious College of American Pathologists. The facility at The Village will be the ninth lab collection location in Frederick County, with a team of phlebotomists and technicians to process hundreds of tests.

“As we continue to develop and reconfigure The Village, more patient treatment programs will be moved to this facility,” said Cioffi. “The Village has a bright future.”

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For more information, visit [www.Frederickhealth.org/locations](http://www.Frederickhealth.org/locations).



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# COMMUNITY NOTES

## Emmitsburg Water System Rate Increase Q&A's

*Editor's note:* Following the December 6th town workshop held to discuss the proposed water and sewer rate increase, it became obvious to us that it would benefit everyone if the town staff was given the space answer certain questions that appeared on many people's mind – and in doing so, alleviate any concern residents had on the necessity of the rate increase and correctness of the proposed increases.

Rate increase, when done in percentages, can often skew people's perceptions on what the true cost increase is. So yes, while the water rate will increase by 44% next year and 200% over three years, the reality is that the actual increase in the cost of water next year, when measured in dollars, will only go up \$18.80 per quarter, or \$6.27 per month, or 21 cents per day. Over three years, the cost of all the water one uses during the day will increase by 89 cents per day, less than half the price of a 12 oz can of soda. Which makes us ask - is that too high a cost to pay for clean water? (These calculations are based off 6,000 gallon base amount for both water and sewer sides.)

The proposed rate increases are a result of almost a year's worth of work between NewGen Strategies and the town staff. The town staff did not haphazardly come up with the proposed rate increase. NewGen Strategies was approved by the BOC in January 2022 and is an expert in the field.

Please take the time to review the Town staff's responses below to our questions. We thank the town staff for taking the time to answering them.

### What water system improvement projects will the rate increase fund?

DePaul St. and North Seton Waterlines plus a 16" main line down the mountain to increase our fire flow capabilities. Also, planned is a portion of the West Main St. waterline and dependent on growth a new Water Treatment Plant. It will also fund ongoing maintenance of our current system and necessary improvements to the current system including water meter replacements and water digital upgrade. We also need to replace the 30" storm drain on Hampton Valley Road.

### How much money will need to be spent over the next xx years to bring the water system up to standards? How much of that has been funded by grants and COVID recovery funds?

So in the recently approved budget we were at a loss (revenue and expenses) of \$173,433. It is recommended that each water/sewer system has a 90 day emergency fund to cover contingencies and unforeseen emergencies with the system.

As of FY23, we budgeted \$739,683 per year so that breaks out to \$61,640.25 per month to cover the basic costs of maintain

the water system. For sewer, it is \$953,523 per year or \$79,460.25 per month. So just a three month emergency fund for water for basic expenses would be \$184,920.75 and for sewer \$238,380.75.

The 16" line down the mountain is already estimated at nine million dollars. Our hope is to get the majority funded through grants and loans but the Town will bear some expense.

Funding Town has received at \$3.2 million in American Rescue Plan monies with the first tranche designated for the water clarifier and the pump station. The second tranche will be designated at the January 9th town meeting. I will recommend as we took this into consideration on the water/sewer rate study that the money go to water infrastructure projects such as the above-mentioned waterlines.

We are set to receive MDE funding of some sort for the North Seton and DePaul St. waterlines. Announcements from MDE occur late January/February. We are also applying for the Community Development Block grant for the DePaul St. waterline. Any shortfalls in funding we will apply to USDA or other venues. Senator Hough at the time was able to get the Town of Emmitsburg \$1 million in State Funding for the water clarifier. We received funding from MDE/USDA for the \$17.8 million wastewater treatment plant that was completed in 2015.

### People ask why the town was not spending some of its \$9 million cash hoard - can you give me a sound bit on how the water and sewer systems are set up financially? In many municipalities the systems are run as an independent 'authorities' - and their finances are kept separate from the town's main budget. Is this the case for Emmitsburg?

The cash activity report ending in November 29, 2022 shows an operating balance forward in the amount of \$9,079,179. The ARPA money at \$3,152,039 is included in that. ARPA monies are earmarked strictly for water. The remaining amount (\$5,927,140) included \$2.3 million general and capital improvement fund monies that cannot be used for water and sewer. It also included \$3.7 million in sewer funds without the ARPA monies the water fund is \$0 balance. The water and sewer funds are two separate enterprise funds that are managed like a checkbook. You get revenue in and you spend it on your expenses in each respective department. Can't mix pots of money.

We've heard rumblings suggesting that the town reduce the amount of water 'allocated' to residents per month to say 4,000 gallon - but I suspect that have a negative impact on the Waste Water System funding, as the billing rates for that are based upon 6,000 gallons also - is that correct?

If we reduce the minimum (6,000 gallons per quarter), then all the rates have to change and be increased to make up the difference. Your minimums are considered flat rate for service. It is designed to cover operational and maintenance expenses. There are some municipalities that use lower minimums or don't have minimums and charge for usage only. Their rates seem to be much higher to incorporate the fixed costs of maintaining the system.

Sewer rates are only being recommended to increase by 3% yearly because of the significant increases in 2012 and 2015 we



ended up not very far behind.

Just to recap the situation ... approximately 95% of our users have a 3/4 meter. Approximately 55% of those use 10,000 gallons or

less and 87% use less than 20,000 gallons. Here is a quick breakdown of what your bill would look like if the BOC had approved the changes:

### Rate increase for homeowners who use 6,000 gallons and below (3/4 inch water line)

	Now	FY-23	FY-24	FY-25
Water	\$35	\$54.40	\$72.60	\$104.55
Sewer	\$113	\$116.40	\$119.90	\$123.50
Total	\$148	\$170.80	\$192.50	\$228.05
\$ Increase per quarter		\$22.80	\$21.70	\$35.55

The overall 3 year increase is \$80.05 per quarter or 54.09% overall. In FY26 and beyond, we are recommending a 3% water rate increase to keep up with inflation and costs.

### Rate increase for homeowners who use 10,000 gallons or more (3/4 inch water line)

	Now	FY-23	FY-24	FY-25
Water	\$35	\$50.40	\$72.60	\$104.55
Overage	\$9.60	\$13.84	\$19.92	\$28.68
Sewer	\$113	\$116.40	\$119.90	\$123.50
Overage	\$9.60	\$9.88	\$10.16	\$10.48
Total	167.20	\$190.52	\$222.58	\$267.21
\$ Increase per quarter		\$23.32	\$32.06	\$44.63

The overall increase in the bill for residents who use more than 10,000 gallons a quarter is \$100.01 per quarter or 59.81% overall.

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## ARTS

## Annual Mountain Film Tour Showcase set for January

Jessica Rudy  
Majestic Theater

The annual Mountainfilm on Tour showcase of films from the 2022 Mountainfilm festival returns to Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater for one night only on Friday, January 20 at 7:30 p.m. bringing a selection of culturally rich, adventure-packed and inspiring documentary short films curated from the Telluride, Colorado gathering.

"Majestic patrons love Mountainfilm, but you don't have to

take my word for it," commented Jeffrey Gabel, the theater's executive director. "The Majestic's post-film survey last year received these quotes: 'We enjoy going to Mountain Film each year. Please bring it back next year!', 'Mountainfilm - love it so much!' and 'We brought our 13 year old and he loved it too'."

Mountainfilm on Tour made its Gettysburg debut in January 2020. With the 2022 tour installment, audiences can expect to enjoy two hours of short films on topics ranging from aging,

trauma, and relationships, to family, disability, and inclusivity. Featured sports will include mountain biking, skiing, skateboarding, and thru-hiking. Introductions and context for the films will be provided by the evening's emcee. The evening's films are rated PG-13 for language and themes.

Mountainfilm is a documentary film festival that showcases stories about environmental, cultural, climbing, political and social justice issues. Mountainfilm is held every Memorial

Day weekend in Telluride, Colo. Along with exceptional documentaries, the festival goes beyond the film medium by bringing together world-class athletes, change makers and visionary artists for a multi-dimensional celebration of indomitable spirit. Mountainfilm's mission is to use the power of film, art and ideas to inspire audiences to create a better world. To learn more about Mountainfilm, visit [www.mountainfilm.org](http://www.mountainfilm.org).

Tickets for Mountainfilm on Tour are \$15 in advance, or \$20

on the evening of the show, and are available at the Majestic Theater Box Office, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, by calling 717-337-8200 or online at [www.gettysburgmajestic.org](http://www.gettysburgmajestic.org). Free parking and roundtrip shuttle service for the performance is available from Gettysburg College's Constitution Parking Lot. Shuttle starts one hour before each performance and is ADA accessible.

The presentation is made possible by the Majestic's 2022-2023 Celebrity Season sponsor, The Vesta Fund.

## Way Off Broadway kicks off 2023 season

Justin M. Kiska

The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre's 2023 Season – theatre's 29th of bringing live Broadway-style entertainment to the Mid-Maryland region – kicks off in January with the classic musical that brings the Arthurian legend to life on the stage, Lerner and Loewe's Camelot. The show begins its run January 13th at the theatre located in the Willowtree Plaza along Frederick's Golden Mile.

In the show, an idealistic young King Arthur hopes to create a kingdom built on honor and dignity, embodied by his Knights of the Round Table. His ideals, however, are tested when his lovely queen, Guinevere, falls in love with the young Knight, Lancelot, and the fate of the kingdom hangs in the balance. The legendary love triangle of King Arthur, Guinevere and

Sir Lancelot leaps from the pages of T.H. White's novel in Lerner and Loewe's award-winning, soaring musical.

The legend of King Arthur first appeared in Welsh poetry in the 6th Century as a Celtic Briton who led his men against the invading Saxons. But much of the Arthurian legend we know today comes from Geoffrey of Monmouth's 12th Century work *Historia Regum Britanniae* (History of the Kings of Britain). As for Sir Lancelot, it was not until around the same time that he became a part of the tale when French writer Chrétien de Troyes published *Lancelot, Perceval*. Since then, King Arthur, Lancelot, and the Knights of the Round Table have appeared in countless forms and stories, which is why it has been difficult discerning fact from fiction. Though most historians agree that the characters in

the Arthurian legend are just creations of folklore and poetry and were not, in fact, living historic figures.

Way Off Broadway's production is led by Rory Dunn as King Arthur, Megan Elizabeth West as Guinevere, and Wil Speth as Sir Lancelot. They will be joined onstage by Justin Barish, Tina M. Bruley, Bekah Burgoon, Steve Burgoon, Dana McNemar, Pete Meyers, Zane L. Oberholzer, Jr., Estefany Rivera, Caleb Whitcomb, and Matthew B. Withers as all of the knights and ladies of the court.

Camelot has a book and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner and music by Frederick Loewe. Way Off Broadway's production is directed by the theatre's Executive Producer, Bill Kiska, with music direction by Zane L. Oberholzer, Jr.

The musical is based on T.H. White's novel *The Once and*

Future King, first published in 1958 by the Collins publishing house.

Lerner and Loewe's stage adaptation of the book premiered on Broadway at the Majestic Theatre on December 3, 1960. The production was directed by legendary director Moss Hart and starred Richard Burton as King Arthur, Julie Andrews as Guinevere, and Robert Goulet as Lancelot. At the 1961 Tony Awards, the production took home four trophies out of the five for which it was nominated, including Best Leading Actor for Burton. The original Broadway production closed on January 5, 1963 after more than 870 performances.

Immediately following its closing in New York, a national tour was launched, running for two years followed by a production in London's West End. A film version of Camelot was released

by Warner Bros. in 1967 starring Richard Harris as Arthur and Vanessa Redgrave as Guinevere.

King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table would not return to Broadway until a limited revival of Camelot opened at Lincoln Center in 1980 with Burton returning to the role of Arthur alongside Christine Ebersole as Guinevere. As Camelot opens Way Off Broadway's 2023 Season, a new revival of the classic tale has been announced by Lincoln Center for later in the year.

*The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre, under the direction of the Kiska family since 2002, is preparing for its 29th Season of producing live theatre. Since it first opened in 1995, the theatre has been a leader in the area's theatre community, proudly bringing both classic musicals, as well as regional and area premieres to the Frederick stage. To learn more about Way Off Broadway's visit [www.wayoffbroadway.com](http://www.wayoffbroadway.com).*

## Tivoli Discovery Series lineup at New Spire Arts

The Weinberg Center for the Arts announces the 2023 lineup for their Tivoli Discovery Series. This concert series features emerging artists from across the country, in a Pay-What-You-Want format, that allows concert goers to experience new artists and their music, at little to no cost.

Taylor Ashton - January 5. A Vancouver native who now lives in Brooklyn, Taylor alternately accompanies himself on clawhammer banjo and electric guitar,

crooning poignantly clever lyrical insights. His music takes influence from the emotionality of Joni Mitchell, the vulnerability of Bill Withers, the humor and heartbreak of Randy Newman, and old-time and Celtic folk music. To learn more about Taylor visit [www.taylorashton.com](http://www.taylorashton.com).

Marielle Kraft - February 2. The indie pop singer/songwriter, based in Nashville, displays craftsmanship beyond her years, following suit to artists like Shawn

Mendes, Maisie Peters, and Taylor Swift. Her gift for storytelling is evident through her use of salient detail, raw emotion, and poignant word choice describing moments "exactly as they feel." To learn more about Marielle visit [www.mariellekraft.com](http://www.mariellekraft.com).

Shane Guerrette - March 2. It's the old way of doing things that inspires a new sound for upstate NY based artist, Shane Guerrette. Drawing influence from classic soul and roots rock genres, Shane

has only just begun to craft his own retro flavored sound reminiscent of the past while still finding a way to make it feel new again.

To learn more about Shane visit [www.shaneguerrette.com](http://www.shaneguerrette.com).

Ashley Ray - April 6. One of Nashville's most nuanced voices, creating a modern sound without chasing after modern trends as a solo artist, and an in-demand songwriter for Little Big Town, Lori McKenna, Lady A's Charles Kelley, and others.

To learn more about Ashley visit [www.ashleyray.com](http://www.ashleyray.com).

Zach Person - May 4. The new face of indie rock out of Austin, Texas, Person plays loud, raw, and connects with his music fans on a primal sonic level. Person has a swagger, talent and grit beyond his years. With the poise of a seasoned veteran on stage and the stylings of a mega star, he commands an audience in seconds.

To learn more about Zach visit [zachperson.com](http://zachperson.com).

Concerts are the first Thursday of each month and this season will be held at the Weinberg's new venue, New Spire Arts located at 15 W. Patrick Street, directly across from the Weinberg Center. Advance tickets are available now for the suggested donation of \$10, or audience members can pay what they want at the door. Tickets may be purchased online at [WeinbergCenter.org](http://WeinbergCenter.org), by calling 301-600-2828, or in person at the Weinberg Center box office at 20 West Patrick Street.

A complete listing of artists and performers scheduled for the 2022-23 season can be found at [WeinbergCenter.org](http://WeinbergCenter.org).

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# Mount professor returns for poetry reading

Ashley Walczyk  
MSMU class of 2024

On the 30th of September, the Mount English department had the opportunity to welcome back Dr. William Heath, a professor of the Mount who taught between the years 1981 to 2007. During his time, he produced several works, including *The Walking Man*, published in Icarus Books in 1994; *Blacksnake's Path: The True Adventures of William Wells*, published in Heritage Books in 2008; *Devil Dancer*, published in the Somondoco Press in 2013; *William Wells and the Struggle for the Old Northwest*, published in the University of Oklahoma Press in 2015; and his edition of *Conversations with Robert Stone*, which was published by the University of Mississippi Press in 2016.

His latest work titled *Steel Valley Elegy*, published by Kelsay Books, tells the narrative of his life in Youngstown, Ohio. The narrative starts with his move to the valley, opening up the story with descriptions of the steel- and coal-mining town. The elements of creative nonfiction and historical narratives tie in to create this beautiful poetry book. He reads several of his poems from the book, including the first and last poems, "Steel Valley Elegy" and "The Raft."

Of the sixteen poems that Dr. Heath, a favorite that he has read is "Dylan," which describes a poem of a young boy who resembles that of a walking dead figure. Many lines refer to the physical appearance of Dylan, using descriptive words like "tousled," "sharp-featured," "in tangles and knotted," giving an eerie tone to the poem and of the character in the narrative.

The last lines of the poem—which is a large favorite due to the beauty of the diction—goes as followed: "this sunken- / eyed seer back from / a badlands death trip / looks into the dark / like a night hawk / with grim wit he whines / with rhymed visions- / the poetry of apocalypse." This poem, located on the 59th page of *Steel Valley Elegy*, is filled with commas as punctuation marks except for the ending, which is replaced with a period. This is intentional as the story flows and creates more vivid descriptions of who Dylan is and what his personality is like. This story is one of the favorites, as this is a boy that has influenced Dr. Heath's life in some way or another; furthermore, with the depiction of Dylan in his poetry, he shows the readers the fear of this monster-like creature lurking in the town of Steel Valley.

To conclude the reading, Dr. Heath talked vividly of his experiences writing this story. He said how he wanted it to be different from his other poems he had previously written, which he had for sale at the event, as well as was able to personally sign copies of books students had or bought. He revealed to the students an upcom-

ing poetry book he is releasing in spring of 2023. It is unclear if he will come back to reveal and read this new book; however, it would be an honor for him to return to the campus. The English department would always be fortunate to have the professor visit again.

## More about Dr. Heath

Dr. Heath, as mentioned previously, was born on the 27th of June in 1942 in Youngstown, Ohio. He attended Hiram College and studied history. He holds both an M.A. and Ph.D., in American Studies from Case Western Reserve University, where his focus of study was on the American novelist John Hawkes. He came to the Mount in 1981, where he served as the faculty advisor for the college's award-winning literary arts magazine, *Lighted Corners*. Some of our previous and current staff members of *Emmitsburg News-Journal* have also worked on the literary magazine. Dr. Heath has also previously edited a national literary magazine titled *The Monocacy Valley Review*, and he has won awards for the excellence of the magazine.

The professor had also previously taught American Literature and creative writing at Kenyon, Transylvania, Vassar, and the University of Seville. At the university, he was a Fulbright professor; the Fulbright scholarship is the most widely recognized and prestigious international exchange program in the world, which is an honor to be awarded to college students. When he retired in 2007, an award was built around his name: the William Heath Award. This award is given annually to any student following the creative writing path in his honor. He currently resides with his wife in Frederick, where she teaches Spanish at Hood College.

## Poetry

What exactly is poetry? Poetry is a literary work in which special intensity is given to the expression of feelings and ideas by the use of distinctive style and rhythm; poems are considered either a collective/collection or as a genre of literature. 'Poetry' comes from the Greek word poiein, or "to make," which is essentially what poetry does. A common comparison of poetry is beauty, as the flow is musical and entices an immense feeling of emotion when spoken. Poetry is used to tell a story but utilizes three different formats: narrative—which is what Dr. Heath's *Steel Valley Elegy* is—dramatic, and lyrical.

Why should we care about it? Poetry incorporates linguistics and lyrical arrangements to tell a story or thought. Some poetry talks of simple objects, like the poem "This Is Just To Say," written by William Carlos Williams—which follows the story of a small letter written to another person about eating a plum out of an icebox, describing the coolness and taste of the fruit. Other poems can be more complex, such as Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven"—which follows the story of a man losing his wife, Lenore, and falling into the pits of madness after realizing he will never forget her. Many symbols are found in the piece to represent the struggles of grief, a main one being the raven itself.

Poetry is used as a form of speaking and consequently is complex. Each word picked by the poet is purposeful to the thought or idea they are attempting to paint a picture in their readers' minds. Poetry, if taught correctly, can be a powerful tool in a writer's toolbox and literacy. It allows expression of emotions for both poet and reader; it is connected to aesthetics, or the



Our Assistant Editor, Claire Doll, with Dr. Heath, who is signing her copy of *Steel Valley Elegy*.

exploration of what is beautiful in the natural world. Romanticism figures are well-known for their utilization of poetry, with some famous poets being William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, John Keats, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Lord Byron, and Victor Hugo.

## Conclusion

Within poems, we can find the true beauty of nature and natural things, as seen in Dr. Heath's "Dylan," which explored the essence of a person simply placed in the natural world. Although this poem might have been eerily creepy to some, to others, it explores a darker side of the beauty

in nature, which we lose more of in our constantly changing world. These various interpretations speak to the nature of poetry writing and ask us to reflect, as a society, on what poetry means to us both internally and externally. Turning to the aesthetics found in poetry, we allow poetry to touch our hearts and influence picturesque images that some written words cannot achieve in prose. This is seen both in Dr. Heath's work, and in other works of poetry all throughout history as well.

## Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for the spring 2023 semester schedule coming next month!

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## CATOCTIN SPORTS & ACADEMICS

### Winter sports' vigorous debut

Gina Lin  
CHS Class of 2024

Winter sports are well past transition from the fall season. FCPS officially commenced the winter athletic season on November 15th, although competitions didn't start until December. After much training, in anticipation for the eminent season, the Cougars are showing off their athletic prowess on the courts, tracks, and pools. Several Catoctin sports teams have lived up to their expectations, such as girls' basketball, the track team, the swim team, and unified bocce.

Girls' basketball overwhelmed the courts during their first game of the season, on December 6th. Both JV and varsity teams played Francis Scott Key High School, and prevailed. Freshman Kelsey Troxell led the team with 13 points. Freshman Harley Fitzpatrick contributed 12 points, and freshman Kassiy Kreitz scored 10 points, for the Cougars. The final score was 58-30 for the JV Lady Cougars. While the JV girls easily dominated FSK, the girls' varsity team won by a narrow margin, with the final score being forty eight to forty seven. Junior Grace Williams led the team with 11 points and 8 rebounds. Sophomore Taylor Smith secured 11 points, and freshman Brooke Williams added 12 rebounds. Additionally, Smith hit two foul shots at the conclusion of the game, giving the varsity Lady Cougars their hard-earned victory. Girls' basketball at Oakdale High School on December 9th. Taylor Smith, who played a double-double, led the Cougars with 18 points and 11 rebounds. Junior Kylie Perhach scored 13 points and sophomore Kayden Glotfelty contributed four assists. Freshman Brooke Williams dished out 10 rebounds, fol-

lowed by Grace Williams with 8 rebounds. The JV girls' team lost to their opponent. The Lady Cougars continued their formidable campaign on December 14th, against Middletown High School. JV girls' basketball swept the Knights in a thirty nine to twenty nine victory. Kelsey Troxell ran the show with 13 points, six steals, and seven blocks. Harley Fitzpatrick followed, with 12 points. Varsity girls' basketball narrowly defeated the Knights in their forty six to forty three win. Taylor Smith scored 15 points and 7 steals. Brooke Williams contributed 12 rebounds. Williams blocked the game with time expiring, as well.

Catoctin High's track program continues their top-notch performance—setting local, state, and even national records! The indoor track team had their first meet of the season at Hagerstown Community College, on December 9th. Starting with the girls, junior Ava Thompson carried the ninth fastest time in the 55-meter dash, of 8.15 seconds, in the 1A division. A novice runner, sophomore Karlie Hood, finished the 500-meter run with 1:41.5 minutes; this is impressive considering that it was her first meet. Junior Paula Cofrades pulled off 10.03 seconds in the 55-meter hurdle. Cofrades's score placed her in first for best time in 1A west and second in the state. Freshman Olivia Baker competed in the 800-meter dash. Baker ran a time of 2:53.20, and placed third in 1A west. Overall, the girls placed fourteenth at the Terry Baker Invitational. The boys' track team also attended the Terry Baker Invitational and placed nineteenth overall. The Cougars took fifth place in the 4x800 relay, with runners Dennise Lease (sophomore), Chris Sanchez (senior), Gab Rilling (junior), and RJ Etzler (junior).

The team completed the relay with a time of 9:43.39 minutes. The boy's track team also participated at the Ed Bowie Invite, which was held at the Prince George's County Sports Complex. Although they placed eighth out of 31 teams, notable individual performances from the boys that should be highlighted. Junior Furious Trammel competed in the 300 and 500 meter dashes, and placed second in both—becoming the fastest 1A runner in those events. Senior Alex Contreras became the fastest 1A miler runner, and placed fourth in the competition. In the 55-meter event, senior Brody Buffington placed second. Additionally, Buffington took first in the long jump, with an incredible distance of 23 feet and 5 ¾ inches.

The Catoctin High School wrestling team has started off the season strongly. They faced the Walkersville High School Lions on December 14th. Cougars captured the match with a final score of forty two to thirty three. Lions prevailed in the 113, 120, 126, 132, 145, and 170 weight class. Cougars dominated seven weight classes. Senior Braden Bell won in the 138-pound weight class. Thanks to Bell's tilts, he was able to pin Lion Rhys Ferguson in five minutes and 28 seconds. In the 152-pound weight class, junior Evan Burd pinned his opponent at the 2:53 mark. Senior Nathan Kovalcik won by forfeit in the 182-pound class. Freshman Ethan Williams (195-pound weight class), senior Grant Kelly (220), and junior Braden Bagent (285) also won by forfeit.

The Catoctin swim team opened the season against Brunswick High School Railroaders on December 8th. Both boys and girls swim teams set personal best times in the seasons' first meet. The girls team was led by senior Molly Parsons and junior Kay Burh-



Unified Bocce's Senior night

man. Burhman set the school record for the 200-yard freestyle and won the 300-yard freestyle. Parsons won both of her individual events. The final score resulted in a narrow defeat for the Cougars of seventy eight to sixty three. The boys' team swam hard and managed a 65-55 win over the Railroaders. Freshman Jack Fordham won the 100-fly individual. Wayne Person and Thomas Bower both won the 200 yard-freestyle.

The Catoctin Unified Bocce team has also begun the season off strong. Their first game was played against Middletown High School. Key players of the first team included: Lucas Phelan, senior Siddah Robbins, senior Hailey Sier, and sophomore Chad Zimmerman. Robbins led the team by scoring two goals, and Sier and Zimmerman each contributed a goal. Team one won five to three, in both the first and second matches. Team two was led by Ashton Merritt, who scored three goals. Senior Jazmyne Howard made one goal, and junior Shay Johnson added another. The Cougars secured the second game with a score of five to four. Afterwards, a tie-breaking game was played. The Knights only scored in the first frame, and the match would be decided on overall team points. Combined scores handed the Cougars their victory against Middletown with eighteen to

sixteen. Unified Bocce played Urbana Hawks and held their senior night on December 15th. They honored seniors Alex Flohr, Jazmyne Howard, Siddah Robbins, and Hailey Sier. The Hawks carried the game at first, but Cougars team one recovered. The score tied at three during the fourth frame. After the fifth frame, Cougars triumphed by securing two more points than the Hawks. Robbins led the second match with repeated signature bank shots. Flohr and Johnny Waslter contributed to the Cougar victory in the second match of four to two. All players scored during the final match, leading to a decisive win for Catoctin with a score of seven to zero. Phelan ushered in court two with a score. Additionally, Zimmerman and Merritt added two points. Howard gave the Cougars another point during the fourth frame. The first court two match sided with Catoctin, six to three. The Hawks pulled themselves together and secured the two final matches. Overall, the Cougars prevailed by winning four out of the six matches.

The Catoctin athletic program has much potential, and fans are eager to see the remainder of the winter season play out!

To read past Catoctin Sports and Academics articles visit the Current Events section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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MOUNT SPORTS

# Mount legend and NBA veteran, Fred Carter

Steve Morano  
MSMU Class of 2024

The game of basketball runs deep in the fabric of Mount Saint Mary's University. The game, along with the Mount, has grown since the sports inception at the school. In 1953, coach Jim Phelan arrived at the Mount after a short career in the NBA and would go on to rack up a record of 830-524 in his 49 years as head coach, earning him a spot in the College Basketball Hall of Fame and ninth in the all-time wins as a coach in NCAA history. In 1962, Phelan led the Mount to a College Division National Championship (now Division II). In 1989, the Mount made the leap to Division I, and as of 2022, has made the National Tournament on six occasions. But no other moment in the history of the university or the basketball program is as important as in 1965, when Fred Carter stepped into Memorial Gym: he was the first African-American athlete to play for the Mount and one of the first African-American students at the school.

Carter, a native of Philadelphia, was discovered by coach Phelan, another native of the City of Brotherly Love in the early 1960's. Phelan was in the city scouting another player by the name of John Baum (who would go on to play at Temple and win Mid-Atlantic player of the year twice) in a city all-star game. Carter, who went to Franklin High School, was also selected for the all-star game, and when he won MVP of the game, Phelan then shifted his attention to Fred. Phelan asked Carter if he wanted to play basketball at the Mount, but on one condition. Before playing in the all-star game that garnered Phelan's attention, Carter had dropped out of high school, and Phelan wanted him to go back and earn his diploma. After mailing his high school grades to Carter in the summer of 1965, he was accepted to the Mount and was on his way to play ball in Emmitsburg.

"Basketball was a mainstay at the school," Carter said. In 1965, the Mount was still riding high

on the 1962 National Championship and Carter was coming into a storied program that was already established. After the beginning of the 1965 season, Carter became a favorite among the fans, garnering the chant "In Fred We Trust"—and rightfully so. Carter was a very physical player, especially under the basket, which was exceptional because he was a guard. This mirrors a very different time in basketball history: before the inception of the three point line, players were expected to perform every role on the court, but Carter's defensive prowess did not overshadow his offensive performances. Mount records are hard to come by for the 1960's, but Carter's NBA statistics speak volumes. Carter averaged a career 15.2 points per game, 3.9 total rebounds per game and 3.5 assists per game. He had a monstrous 42.5 career field goal percentage and was automatic from the line, having a career 69.3 free throw percentage. If these numbers from the professional circuit are any indicator of his offensive output, then one can only imagine what his stats were like in the old College Division.

But throughout everything at the Mount, Carter still had to face a plague that had been ingrained in American society: racism. In western Maryland, the Mount was a standalone institution, finally integrating in the early 1960's, but things were slow, and by the time Carter arrived in 1965, he was not only the only black athlete, but he was the only black student at the time. Before he even arrived at the Mount, he had concerns. On the same drive down from Philadelphia, Carter asked Phelan how many African American students there were at the school. "He said, 'Fred, look in the rear-view mirror, you would be the only one.' And I was undaunted by that," Carter said. He went on to say, "It was different, being the only black guy on the team, being the only black guy at the school, that wasn't the hard part. The hard part was when we travelled, when we went to schools like Randolph Macon, Roanoke College, schools in the

south were very difficult." It was at a tournament held at Randolph Macon where things boiled over. At halftime, the Mount was up by five points heading into the locker room, and as the teams headed in, Carter walked back out onto the court to get his warmups off the bench. "Everybody is passing me going to the locker room, and I am by myself walking and I got punched twice." Carter went onto comment on his team's reaction saying, "I went back to my coach, and Big Bob Sutter, who was from Philadelphia and a good friend of mine, he was ready to go into the stands."

"Different things happened, but let me pause and say this, being at the Mount was the best experience of my life, it had its ups and downs, but I would do it again in a heartbeat," Carter said. Along with tackling the racism of the south at the time, Carter had to break down the stereotypes held in the minds of students at the Mount, who had learned these horrible things from their families and environment, and he did. All throughout this time, Carter was not alone; Coach Phelan and his wife, Dottie, were Fred's surrogate parents. When he was being recruited to go to the Mount, Fred's mother asked coach Phelan if he would take care of her son; he, without hesitation, said yes.

In 1969, after his career at the Mount was up, Carter was drafted with the 43<sup>rd</sup> overall pick by the Baltimore Bullets of the NBA. With the Bullets, he spent the most time in the post season, reaching the playoffs in both the 1969-70 season and the 1970-71 season. One game during the 70-71 playoffs stood out in his mind: Game 7 of the Eastern Conference Finals against the New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden. The game finished 93-91, which, in a time before the inception of the three-point arc, was fast paced and high scoring. In a Game 7 scenario, no visiting team has done that to the New York Knicks since, giving Carter and his team a tiny piece of basketball history. Carter would go on to play another season in Bal-



Mount alumnus Fred Carter

timore; he then spent six seasons with the Philadelphia 76ers, playing in the playoffs one more time. He finally retired at the end of the 1976-77 season after playing for the Milwaukee Bucks.

Fred said that people, fans of the various NBA team he played for, would have simply notched his career potential up to being a journeyman. Maybe this was because he was drafted out of tiny Mount Saint Mary's College. In 1975, he finished 10<sup>th</sup> in scoring and points per game, in the 1975-

76 season he played in 82 games, the second most in the entirety of the NBA, and through most offensive stats throughout the 1970's, Carter ranks in the Top 20 in many categories. The Journeyman that fans thought he would be helped the Bullets to their one and only NBA Finals appearance. Not bad for a kid from tiny Mount Saint Mary's.

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## COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

# 2023 – The Year of the Rabbit

Jefferson Breland

The Chinese New Year (also called the Lunar New Year or Chinese Spring Festival), one of the traditional Chinese festivals, is the grandest and the most important festival for Chinese people. It originated during the Shang Dynasty (about 17th - 11th century BC), and it is an important time for families to gather, similar to Christmas Day for Westerners. It is also a time to hope for the return of Spring, to welcome prosperity, wealth, and longevity, and a time to remove any negative Qi (pronounced "chee"). It is a tradition prior to the New Year for every family to thoroughly clean the house to sweep away any ill-fortune to make way for incoming good luck.

The Chinese calendar was originated by the Yellow Emperor, Huang Ti. It has been used for centuries. It is called a lunar calendar but is really a based on both the moon and the sun. The Gregorian calendar which the world has used for the past 430 years is purely a solar calendar. The Chinese Lunar New Year always begins on the second new moon after the winter solstice, in case you were wondering why it's on a different date every year.

The twelve animals of the Chinese calendar: The Chinese calendar is made of five, twelve-year cycles. Each of the twelve years of the Chinese calendar is appointed one of the following 12 animal's names (in this order): rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon (the only mythological animal), snake, horse, goat/sheep/ram, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig/boar. The animal that rules the year of your birth is said to exercise a major influence over your life, and that year in general.

There is a legend of how these animals came to be in the Chinese zodiac. In it, and there are a num-

ber of versions, either the Buddha or the Jade Emperor (the Emperor of Heaven), held a competition open to all animals to see who would take their place in the twelve positions of the zodiac. How these animals competed gives clues to their strengths and their inner natures. Some people take the meanings of the animals more literally and base life decisions on their interpretation. Others, use the concept or lens of the animals' natures as a way to live more fully and become more aware of certain aspects of their lives.

On January 21, 2023 the year of the Tiger will come to a close. January 22, 2023 through February 9, 2024 is the Year of the Rabbit.

The fourth sign of the Chinese zodiac, the Rabbit, as one might expect, represents quite a different set of qualities than that of the daring, powerful, and passionate Tiger.

I find it very interesting the year of the Tiger is followed by the more measured, sensuous, and polite Year of the Rabbit. This can be seen as an example of Yin - Yang Theory applied on a cultural level. The Tiger with its outgoing and powerful nature represents qualities of Yang energy. The Rabbit's calm nature represents Yin energy.

### The Rabbit

*I am in tune with the pulse of the Universe.*

*I set new trails ablaze,*

*In my quiet and solitude*

*I hear the melodies of the soul.*

*I float above the commonplace*

*dissent and decay.*

*I subdue by my ability to conform.*

*I color my world*

*in delicate pastel hues.*

*I epitomize harmony and inner*

*peace.*

*I AM THE RABBIT.*

—(Lau & Lau, 2007)

Tiger Personality: If you were born in one of the following years, your sign is the Tiger

February 2, 1927 – January 22, 1928; February 19, 1939 - February 7, 1940; February 6, 1951 – January 26, 1952; January 25, 1963 - February 12, 1964; February 11, 1975 – January 30, 1976; January 29, 1987 - February 16, 1988; February 16, 1999 – February 14, 2000; February 3, 2011 – January 22, 2012; January 22, 2023 – February 9, 2024

Rabbit is considered to be very fortunate. He serves as the symbol of longevity and is said to derive its essence or spirit from the moon. Rabbit is the soul of graciousness, good manners, sound counsel, kindness, and sensitivity to beauty. The Rabbit's soft-spoken, graceful, and elegant ways embody the traits of a successful diplomat or statesman. A person born in the year of the Rabbit will lead a tranquil life if he chooses to adopt a peaceful and congenial environment. He is naturally reserved, artistic, and likely to possess good judgment. This thoroughness will also make them a good scholar.

When detached from his environment and indifferent to those close to him, a Rabbit person can also be moody. While outwardly indifferent to the opinions of others, inwardly he withers under criticism.

The Rabbit person is lucky in business and in all kinds of monetary transactions. He is astute at striking bargains and can always come up with a suitable proposal or an advantageous alternative.

The Rabbit's gentle nature may be deceiving. They can be deviously cunning when necessary. A Rabbit person may be kind and obliging to loved ones and can be superficial and ruthless in his dealings with outsiders.

Generally speaking, Rabbit people are suave and self-indulgent. He enjoys his creature comforts and likes to put his wishes first. He is irked by inconvenience. Rabbits are considerate, modest, and thoughtful and would like others to be the same. He thinks it costs nothing to be nice to each other and chooses to be civil, even to his malefactors,



abhorring brawling and any overt animosity or belligerence.

While apparently calm and still on the outside, the Rabbit person has a strong will and an almost narcissistic self-assurance. He pursues objectives with methodical precision in an unobtrusive manner. While others are running themselves ragged, the Rabbit knows the world will be still be here tomorrow. In any situation, the Rabbit person will be in control of himself. The guiding principle of the Rabbit is "ease."

The best Chinese zodiac animals for the Rabbit to befriend are the Pig/Boar and Sheep/Ram. These three are emotionally and artistically guided. They are expressive, intuitive, eloquent, and talented in fine arts, architecture, design, fashion, and innovative computer software. Diplomatic and compassionate in nature, they have calmer natures than other animals of the Chinese zodiac. The Rabbit, Sheep, and Pig are dependent on others for stimulation and leadership. They are flexible because they are tuned in to their environment and are drawn to beauty and the higher aspects of love.

The least compatible animal for the Rabbit is the Rooster. They simply do not see eye to eye. They are worlds apart in their way of thinking because they occupy directly opposite positions on the zodiac wheel. It is best if they work through intermediaries and mutual friends.

Notable people born in the Year of

the Rabbit; Cary Grant, actor; Michael Jordan, athlete; Orson Welles, actor, director, & writer; Sallie Ride, astronaut; Ali MacGraw, actor; Ingrid Bergman, actor; George C. Scott, actor; Queen Victoria of England; Michael Buble, musician; Kate Winslet, actor; Henry Miller, writer; Albert Einstein, physicist; Billie Holiday, musician; Josef Stalin, dictator; Bradley Cooper, actor; Marie Curie, scientist.

### General Predictions for the Year of the Rabbit: 2023

In the company of a fellow Rabbit, he will enjoy a very happy year of serenity and security. This environment will provide the necessary conditions be more productive and popular. He will renew connections easily. It is also an auspicious time to rekindle past relationships.

At work, the Rabbit is in a strong position to move forward. His creativity and productivity will be noted and may be influential.

Most of the information used for this article is taken from The Handbook of Chinese Horoscopes by Theodora and Laura Lau, 2007.

Jefferson Breland is a board-certified acupuncturist licensed in Pennsylvania and Maryland with offices in Gettysburg and Towson, respectively. He can be reached at 410-336-5876.

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# FITNESS & HEALTH

## Happy New Year

Linda Stultz  
Certified Fitness Trainer

Everyone looks forward to the future and works toward making the most of moving ahead with their work, talent, family, health and whatever they enjoy. Setting goals is a good way to work toward changing the things you are hoping to improve in your life. People that make New Year's Resolutions have the best of intentions in mind when they decide what they are going to do for the New Year but so many times the goals are not specific enough. Setting a goal to lose weight, stop smoking, exercise more or whatever they choose is a big undertaking without thinking about how to achieve the goal.

The doctor may tell someone they need to lose weight but if he doesn't tell you how to get started it can be a difficult concept for some people. Deciding to do something may be the easy thing. Knowing how to get started, who you may need to help you and charting steps to getting there is a good way to be successful.

Picking a goal and talking to someone who knows how to get started or researching it with a professional can make the task seem much more doable. Deciding to start exercising to lose weight sounds easy, right. Just exercise more. I know from talking with many of my clients that it's not as easy as it sounds. One thing that may make you stick with what you have decided to do is to pick something you like about exercising. Going to a gym and using all the machines and taking a lot of classes may confuse you more.

Pick one thing you know you can be motivated to do for at least 4-6 weeks. Walking is a great first step. Walking is not too much for most people and it can really be fun once you set your mind to it. Walking may already be part of your daily routine and if it is that's great. Pick another activity like swimming two times a

week or maybe lifting weights to strengthen your upper arms two times a week. Start with bicep curls until you feel you have conquered them, then move on to triceps. Using all the machines at the gym when you first start may be too much for you to keep up with. Burnout is a big concern when starting any new routine.

Most people tell themselves they don't like to exercise and the more you repeat that the more you believe it. You would be amazed how many people tell me that they don't like exercise but when they start exercising they change their minds after they see how much better they feel. Sticking with whatever you decide to do for at least 6-8 weeks is the trick to seeing if you chose the right activity for you.

Don't put so much pressure on yourself to even make a new year's resolution. Just because it's the beginning of a new year doesn't mean it's the right time for you to start something new. I'm not saying put off starting something to improve your mental, physical or emotional health if you feel it's the right time for you to get started. The doctor may tell you it's time you have to do something or you may have problems in the future.

The doctors recommendation is important and should be listened to carefully. I'm just saying don't let the pressure of the time of year or other people's opinions push you into something you know you won't keep up with. When the time is right you will know it and you will be much more willing to really put your time, heart and soul into improving your well being.

I hope this article has given you some things to think about. Starting a new routine is never easy but sometimes necessary. Picking the right changes to make for yourself is what will keep you committed and motivated to your new daily routines.

The most important thing to start with is "Keep Moving" and that

will take you to future endeavors to make you happy with your choices.

I am happy to report that you can find the advertisement for my Open House in this edition of the Journal. Due to the pandemic, this is the first open house I have held since January, 2020. If you have been thinking about starting a healthy exercise routine come see what I have to offer.

Happy New Year to all. I am always available to answer questions and always looking for suggestions to help people. So many of you have shared your ideas and successes with me and that helps me pay it forward to others that may need some fresh ideas. Thank You.



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<b>Emmitsburg Community Center</b> 300 South Seton Avenue Monday-Friday, 8AM-4:30PM	<b>Frederick County Law Enforcement Center</b> 110 Airport Drive East 24 hours a day	<b>Frederick Police Department</b> 100 West Patrick Street 24 hours a day

**Acceptable Items:** prescription & over-the-counter medications (in pill form only), prescription patches (fentanyl & nicotine replacement), medication for pets (in pill form only)  
**Unacceptable Items:** needles/sharps, inhalers, thermometers, aerosol cans, ointments, liquids, lotions, hydrogen peroxide, medicine from businesses or clinics

Stay In The Know by visiting [stayintheknow.org/opioids](http://stayintheknow.org/opioids)  
A collaborative effort of local law enforcement, local government, and the Frederick County Health Department with funding from MDH and SAMHSA, 2022.

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# ASTRONOMY

## The night sky of January

Professor Wayne Wooten

The waxing gibbous moon passes below Mars on January 3rd. At month's end, it will not miss, but occult Mars for 41 minutes! The full moon is January 6th. The last quarter moon is January 14th. The new moon is January 21st. The waxing crescent lies just to the upper left of the fine pairing of brilliant Venus just above much fainter Saturn in the twilight on January 23rd. The waxing crescent moon lies just below Jupiter on the evening of January 25. It is first quarter on January 28th.

The fun begins in the SW sky at 11:32 p.m. on January 30, when the dark side of the waxing gibbous moon suddenly blots out bright red Mars as it passes in front of it for the next 43 minutes, as seen from Pensacola. These events will vary in other locales. The occultation will end when Mars reemerges along the moon's north west limb near the craters Atlas and Hercules at 12:13 a.m.. This will be a spectacular photo opportunity for folks with large telescopes. In a preview, here is the close call back on December 7th, when the Full Moon just missed Mars in our area. Note how tiny Mars appears compared to the Moon; in reality, it is twice as large as our satellite.

Remember that starting at 11:32 p.m. on January 30th, the moon's dark eastern limb will cover the planet for 43 minutes! It will take about a minute for the planet to completely disappear behind the moon, so this will make a very dramatic video with your smart phones through large telescopes. Catch it!



The famed Pleiades cluster lies about 400 light years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. The blue color of the Pleiades is enhanced even more by the beautiful reflection nebula, where the dust accompanying this cluster is "so young it is still running around in its diapers." This spectacular photo was a result of a ten hour time exposure.

Mercury appears briefly at mid-month in the dawn sky. Venus returns back to the evening sky for most of 2023; she is low in SW an hour after sunset on January 1st. Moving away from the Sun, she overtakes slow moving Saturn, passing only .3 degrees south of the ringed world on January 22nd. If it is clear enough, you may see the very thin crescent moon on the horizon beneath them then; look about 40 minutes after sunset. By month's end, Saturn is lost in Sun's glare, but Venus still higher and brighter in west.

As noted, Mars is in Taurus, well up in eastern sky at sunset, and the Moon's target for the occultation of January 30-31! Now is the best time to observe it, since it just passed opposition last month, and is well up in the sky for northern hemisphere observers now.

Jupiter is also getting lower in the

west, to follow Saturday behind the Sun by March. But still worth watching for the Great Red Spot, which is unusually prominent and quite red of late, and its four Galilean moons. As noted, Venus laps Saturn on the 22nd, and the Sun swallows it up by month's end.

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away from any bright lights, is a wonderful instrument to stare up into deep space, far beyond our own Milky Way, binoculars are better for spotting specific deep sky objects. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about December 30th visit the [www.sky-maps.com](http://www.sky-maps.com) website and download the map for January; 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.

The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus' Square, and goes NE with two more bright

stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda that we precede about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million light years distant.

Overhead is Andromeda's hero, Perseus, rises. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth.

Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light-years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance. The blue color of the Pleiades is enhanced even more by the beautiful reflection nebula, where the dust accompanying this cluster, "so young it is still running around in its diapers."

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini.

UWF alumni can associate the pair with Jason and the Golden Fleece legend, for they were the first two Argonauts to sign up on his crew.

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the eastern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. It is part of a huge spiral arm gas cloud, with active star birth all over the place. You should be able to glimpse this stellar birthplace as a faint blur with just your naked eyes, and the larger your binoculars or telescope, the better the view becomes.

While M-42 is an emission nebula, shining reddish from the ionization of its hydrogen gas by hot young stars forming inside it, at Orion's right foot is brilliant Rigel, one of the most luminous blue super giants in the Galaxy, about 50,000X more luminous than our Sun.

Last but certainly not least, in the east rise the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky by 7 PM, and as it rises, the turbulent winter air causes it to sparkle with shafts of spectral fire. Beautiful as the twinkling appears to the naked eye, for astronomers this means the image is blurry; only in space can we truly see "clearly now". At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye. Below Sirius in binoculars is another fine open cluster, M-41, a fitting desert for New Year's sky feast.

## Farmers' Almanac

"Every year, you make a resolution to change yourself.

This year, make a resolution to be yourself."

—Unknown

### Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Quite mild with rain, wet snow west (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); mild and fair, then turning seasonably cold and brisk with occasional periods of light snow or flurries (6, 7, 8, 9, 10), 11-15 fair, then turning milder with rain showers (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); occasional rain showers, mixed with wet snow at times and breezy (16, 17, 18, 19, 20). Fair and chilly (21, 22, 23) turning stormy with snow and wintry mix (24, 25, 26, 27); colder and brisk, followed by a light wintry mix, with fair and milder weather thereafter (28, 29, 30, 31).

**Severe Weather Watch:** Wintry mix in central parts of the region (24, 25, 26, 27 with heavy snow in the north.

**Full Moon:** The first Full Moon of 2023 will occur on Friday, January 6th. It has been called Hun-

ger Moon because of the extreme difficulty finding food at this time. It has also been referred to as Wolf Moon because of the increased presence of wolf packs that boldly wander close to tribal villages and encampments searching for food.

**Holidays:** New Year's Day falls on Sunday, January 1st and Epiphany follows on Friday, January 6th. Martin Luther King, Jr., famed civil rights activist leader, was born on January 15, 1929. His birthday is celebrated on the third Monday of the month. In 2023, that is Monday, January 16th. MLK will be forever remembered for paying the ultimate sacrifice pursuing unity and racial harmony which still eludes us today.

**The Garden:** Start planning now! Collect nursery and seed catalogs and remember to place any orders early. Before you order, check out return policies, guarantees, and shipping charges. Time your early gardening and lawn activities with anticipated sales at local merchants. Be sure to shake or brush off heavy snow

from the branches of your evergreens and shrubs. The light fluffy snow poses no real threat, but if it should become wet and frozen, the weight dramatically increases. Branches are more brittle when the plants are dormant, and the weight of the snow may snap them off.

**The Farm:** Best for planting root crops (13, 14, 15); weeding and stirring the soil (30, 31); planting above-ground crops (6, 7, 24, 25); harvesting all crops (18, 19); the best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 28, 29, 30, 31); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27); transplanting (21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27); the weaning of all small animals and livestock (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); harvesting and storing grains (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20).

### J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

"The next twelve 12 months offers a world of promise; it all depends on each of us and how much we are willing to give of ourselves to help make it a better world."

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# COMPUTER Q&A

## To Mac or to PC?

**Ayse Stenabaugh**  
**Jester's Computer Services**

Determining whether or not you should get a Mac or a PC is a personal decision. As a repair technician I often find users feel pressured by family or friends to switch to a different platform. It's easy for a long time Apple user to say that Macs are better than a PC. A user who is more comfortable on a PC is likely to say PC's are better, so which is it? The truth is there are benefits of using either operating system and those are not the only options, many new devices come pre-installed with yet a third alternative - Google's Chrome OS. Having a little background knowledge on what to consider can be helpful while deciding what is right for you.

### Know your limitations

Windows computers are going to provide the most flexibility because there is a much larger market of compatible hardware and software. Mac users often find the support offered by Apple to be superior to alternatives with Apple stores and Apple Care extended warranties. Not all software available on PC is available on a Mac, it is advised to know ahead of time what you're going to need and to ensure that you will be able to obtain any specific software that you don't want to part with. Chrome OS will offer the least flexibility since it will only run Google apps. If you're already using Google Chrome's web browser and don't require any software outside of Chrome the limited OS is a great affordable option.

### Switching to a new OS

Whether or not you've had any experience with a different operating system, you will have a learning curve when getting acclimated with the features and differences between the various systems. For example on Mac OS users will find themselves with access to a variety of preloaded software including Safari, Apple Mail, Photos, iMessage, Facetime and iCloud - all developed and designed by Apple. Those who use Windows will find similar Software developed by Microsoft that provide the same basic functionality - Edge, Mail, Photos, Teams and OneDrive. The features that the software contains are different and those who are already iPhone, iPad users will be familiar with functions and software installed on Mac OS but that doesn't necessarily mean that Windows users don't have access to the same or similar functionality. Windows doesn't have iMessage (which syncs your messages between devices) but it does have My Phone which similarity lets Android users sync messages and notifications between devices. Determining which OS is right

for you may be easier if you think about the compatibility between that and your other devices. If you are not planning on using your computer in conjunction with other devices, we wouldn't recommend making your decision based on things you won't use or need.

### Avoiding Problems

It is a common misconception that Apple computers get no viruses and don't ever fail or crash. In reality, all devices that are connected to the internet have the possibility to become infected. As for system crashes and issues, the most common issues among Mac users recently have been due to increased security. Macs with older OS's either can't meet the requirements to install newer compatible versions of web browsers or due to a software glitch they weren't installed properly which has caused users to be unable to visit secure websites. This means that for those

users you can't visit banking websites do online shopping or even access email in some cases. While I deal primarily with PC users I've had a lot of Mac users lately who have become frustrated with the lack of support for software that would run on older Mac OS's but not newer ones. Both Mac and Windows PC's have offered free upgrades to the latest OS's on compatible devices. Time and time again I see users frustrated with the changes that new operating systems bring, since 2001 when apple first released OSX there have been an additional 17 OS's that have been released. On Microsoft's end, Windows XP was released in 2001 and there have only been 6 operating systems released since that time. Windows 11, Microsoft's latest OS has recently been released and for at least the first year we won't be recommending upgrading or purchasing new devices with Windows 11 pre-installed.

*If you find yourself unsure of what device or operating system is best for you or if you are looking for tech-*



*nology related support, consider tricks as well as self-help support contacting us at Jester's Computer Services located at 5135 Fairfield Road in Fairfield. For free tips and visit us on the web on Facebook or on our website www.jesterscomputers.com.*

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# NEW YEAR'S HUMOR

**With only slight modifications - I make the same New Year's Eve resolutions every year...**

**Resolution #1**

- 1999: I will read at least 20 good books a year.
- 2000: I will read at least 10 books a year.
- 2001: I will read 5 books a year.
- 2002: I will finish The Pelican Brief
- 2003: I will read some articles in the newspaper this year.
- 2004: I will read at least one article this year.
- 2005: I will try and finish the comics section this year.
- 2006: I will scan the headlines on the front page this year.
- 2007: I will bring the newspaper in from the lawn this year.

**Resolution #2**

- 1999: I will get my weight down below 180.
- 2000: I will watch my calories until I get below 190.
- 2001: I will follow my new diet religiously until I get below 200.
- 2002: I will try to develop a realistic attitude about my weight.
- 2003: I will work out 5 days a week.
- 2004: I will work out 3 days a week.
- 2005: I will try to drive past a gym at least once a week.

- 2006: I will buy clothes that fit, but without too much room to grow.
- 2007: I will finish the chocolate.

**Resolution #3**

- 1999: I will not spend my money frivolously.
- 2000: I will pay off my bank loan promptly.
- 2001: I will pay off my bank loans promptly.
- 2002: I will begin making a strong effort to be out of debt by 1999.
- 2003: I will be totally out of debt by 2000.
- 2004: I will try to pay off the debt interest by 2001.
- 2005: I will try to be out of the country by 2006.

**Resolution #4**

- 2002: I will try to be a better husband to Marge.
- 2003: I will not leave Marge.
- 2004: I will try for a reconciliation with Marge.
- 2005: I will try to be a better husband to Wanda.

**Resolution #5**

- 2002: I will stop looking at other women.
- 2003: I will not get involved with Wanda.

- 2004: I will not let Wanda pressure me into another marriage.
- 2005: I will stop looking at other women.

**Resolution #6**

- 2002: I will not let my boss push me around.
- 2003: I will not let my sadistic boss drive me to the point of suicide.
- 2004: I will stick up for my rights when my boss bullies me.
- 2005: I will tell Dr. Hodger and the group about my boss.

**Resolution #7**

- 2002: I will not get upset when Charlie makes jokes about my baldness.
- 2003: I will not get annoyed when Charlie kids me about my toupee.
- 2004: I will not get angry when Charle tells the guys I wear a girdle.
- 2005: I will not speak to Charlie.

**Resolution #8**

- 2002: I will not take a drink before 5:00 p.m.
- 2003: I will not touch the bottle before noon.
- 2004: I will not become a "problem drinker".
- 2005: I will not miss any AA meetings.

**Resolution #9**

- 2002: I will see my dentist this year.
- 2003: I will have my cavities filled this year.
- 2004: I will have my root canal work done this year.
- 2005: I will get rid of my denture breath this year.

**Resolution #10**

- 2002: I will go to church every Sunday.
- 2003: I will go to church as often as possible.
- 2004: I will set aside time each day for prayer and meditation.
- 2005: I will try to catch the late night sermonette on TV.

**New Years Wishes ...**

May you get a clean bill of health from your dentist, your cardiologist, your gastro-enterologist, your urologist, your proctologist, your podiatrist, your psychiatrist, your plumber and the I.R.S.  
 May your hair, your teeth, your face-lift, your abs and your stocks not fall; and may your blood pressure, your triglycerides, your cholesterol, your white blood count and your mortgage interest not rise.

# NEW YEAR'S HUMOR

May New Year's Eve find you seated around the table, together with your beloved family and cherished friends. May you find the food better, the environment quieter, the cost much cheaper, and the pleasure much more fulfilling than anything else you might ordinarily do that night.

May what you see in the mirror delight you, and what others see in you delight them. May someone love you enough to forgive your faults, be blind to your blemishes, and tell the world about your virtues.

May the telemarketers wait to make their sales calls until you finish dinner, may the commercials on TV not be louder than the program you have been watching, and may your check book and your budget balance - and include generous amounts for charity.

May you remember to say "I love you" at least once a day to your spouse, your child, your parent, your siblings; but not to your secretary, your nurse, your masseuse, your hairdresser or your tennis instructor.

And may we live in a world at peace and with the awareness of God's love in every sunset, every flower's unfolding petals, every baby's smile, every lover's kiss, and every wonderful, astonishing, miraculous beat of our heart.

### New Year Resolutions You Won't Be Able to Keep If You're a Nerd

I resolve... I resolve to... I resolve to, uh... I resolve to, uh, get my, er... I resolve to, uh, get my, er, off-line work done, too!

I will stop checking my e-mail at 3:00 in the morning... 4:30

is much more practical.

When I hear a funny joke I will not reply, "LOL... LOL!"  
I will stop sending e-mail, ICQ, Instant Messages and be on the phone at the same time with the same person.

I will try to figure out why I \*really\* need 9 e-mail addresses.  
I will stop sending e-mail to my roommate.  
I will not buy magazines with AOL disks bound in just to get another 1.44MB disk.

I resolve to work with neglected children... my own.  
I will answer my snail mail with the same enthusiasm I answer e-mail.  
When I subscribe to a newsgroup or mailing list, I will read all the mail I get from it.

I will stop using, "So, what's your URL?" as a pickup line.  
No more downloads from alt.binaries.\*  
I resolve to back up my new 400 GB hard drive daily... well, once a week... monthly, perhaps...

I will spend less than five hour a day on the Internet.  
I will limit my top ten lists to ten items.  
I will read the manual... just as soon as I can find it.  
New Year's Resolutions you can actually keep!

Are you sick of making the same resolutions year after year and yet you never keep them? Here are some resolutions that you can actually accomplish! Enjoy! :-)

- Read less.
- Put on at least 30 pounds.
- Stop exercising. Waste of time.
- Watch more TV.
- New Years Resolutions

- Procrastinate more.
- Drink. Drink some more.
- Start being superstitious.
- Spend more time at work.
- Stop bringing lunch from home: Eat out more.
- and last but not least...
- Take up a new habit!

### New Year's Eve Dad Jokes

My New Year's resolution is to be more optimistic by keeping my cup half-full with either rum, vodka, or whiskey.

Every year on New Year's Eve, when everyone's counting down the final 10 seconds to ring in the new year, I get up off the couch and stand up. I stand up and raise my left leg and just leave it raised for a little while until the countdown finishes and midnight strikes, so that I always start the new year off on the right foot.

New Year? I just got used to this last one!  
My wife still hasn't told me what my New Year's resolutions are.  
"I promise not to make any bad jokes for the rest of the year."

### A New Year's Wish

On New Year's Eve, Marilyn stood up in the local pub and said that it was time to get ready. At the stroke of midnight, she wanted every husband to be standing next to the one person who made his life worth living.

Well, it was kind of embarrassing. As the clock struck - the bartender was almost crushed to death.

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