

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 16, NO. 10

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

OCTOBER 2024

MYFAIRFIELD.NET • EMMITSBURG.NET • MYTHURMONT.NET • TANEYTOWN.NET

## NEWS

### Use Of Town's EV Charging Station Questioned

Priority for allowing free charging at town expense questioned. **Page 2**

### Carroll Valley Council Tensions Continue

Tension among Council members and its former President burst into the open. **Page 3**

### Thurmont Approves 15% Water & Sewer Rate Increases

Increase driven by need to cover increased costs and upcoming repairs. **Page 4**

### Dissolution of Main Street Board Haunts Taneytown Council

Tempers flared when the basis and validity of the dissolution was questioned. **Page 5**

### 60th National Apple Harvest Festival

Looking for something to do on a nice fall day? You can never go wrong with the National Apple Harvest Festival. **Page 25**

## COMMENTARY

### Words From Winterbilt

Is the Supreme Court bound by the law? **Page 10**

### The Bulwark

What does “Conservatism” even mean anymore? **Page 10**

### The Liberal Patriot

The battle for skeptical independents. **Page 11**

## ARTICLES

### The Book of Days

The life & times of Edgar Allan Poe. **Page 13**

### Ecology

Squirrels. They are sneaky and snap-quick at evading predators. They're also cute. **Page 14**

### In The Country

October is a month associated with things that go bump in the night. **Page 15**

### Science Matters

Figures don't lie, but they can mislead. **Page 16**

### Gardening

The care of fall shrubs and trees. **Page 18**

### History

The Contrato—a love story set in 1912 Emmitsburg. **Page 26**

### Cooking

Recipes that should have won at the Great Frederick Fair. **Page 32**

## St. Anthony Shrine's rectory destroyed by fire

Gracie Smith  
MSMU Class of 2027

In the early hours of Friday, August 29th, the St. Anthony Shrine's rectory off of St. Anthony Road faced complete and total burnout. According to Sarah Campbell, spokeswoman for the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services, roughly 60 firefighters and EMS personnel from Frederick, Washington, Carroll, Adams, Franklin, and York counties responded. The call was dispatched at 12:36 a.m.

Cambell says that the Frederick County Fire Marshall declared the fire to be accidental, with the fire originating on the exterior porch. Two priests and one seminarian were residing in the rectory at the time of the fire, and a smoke alarm alerted them promptly. Rev. Andrés Ayala received a number of second and third-degree burns, as well as cuts and bruises when trying to escape the fire. The priest was taken by ambulance in critical condition to a hangar in Frederick, then flown by helicopter to Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore for treatment, according to Vigilant Hose Company Fire Chief Josh Brotherton. At

this time, the priest is recovering and sustained no life-threatening injuries.

Of the 60 first responders who reported to the scene, two firefighters sustained heat-related injuries and were taken to Meritus Medical Center near Hagerstown and Gettysburg Hospital, according to Brotherton. Both firefighters were in stable condition, he said.

As for the recovery of the rectory, the Archdiocese of Baltimore is responsible for handling the reconstruction. At this time the only thing that has been done is cleanup and isolation of the area. The fire is estimated to have caused around \$400,000 worth of damage, according to Campbell.

After being notified the night of the fire, Emmitsburg Mayor Frank Davis commented on the punctuality and urgency of the first responders, saying, “They do a great job of being very quick to stop a fire.” For this, we should be especially grateful to our local first responders.

After the event of the fire, approximately 150 people, including Baltimore Archbishop William Lori, gathered on Saturday to celebrate Mass and pray for the quick recovery of Ayala. In addition to



In spite of Herculean efforts on the part of multiple fire companies, the 100+ year old rectory was completely destroyed.

the Archbishop, Mount St. Mary's University newly minted President Jerry Joyce attended the Mass with his wife and five children.

Local Emmitsburg resident Brian Reaver, a member of St. Anthony's church since 1972, said that like all members of the parish, he was devastated when he saw the rectory on Sunday morning.

Reaver said that while he understood that the Archdiocese had to handle the rebuilding of the rectory through their insurance company, he hopes that they allow

parishioners to lend a hand. “Every Sunday I sit in a pew surrounded by carpenters, masons, electricians, plumbers, roofers, and the like. Everyone with a skill that would be needed to restore the rectory is willing to pitch in, at no cost, to help restore the rectory. And those who don't have a building skill said they would be happy to work as laborers or put on meals to feed us as we work. It means that much to all of us. It's our parish. It's our second home. It means that much to all of us.”

## Graceham VFC ceases operations, closes doors

On Sunday, September 29th, devoted members of the Graceham Volunteer Fire Company joined together for one last time to recount and celebrate 69 years of memories of serving the community, as well as to mourn the closing of the venerable institution that for years has served as the glue that held the community together.

The closing of the company came at the end of a tumultuous and frustrating two years for the company. In June of 2022, the Graceham Volunteer Fire Company was operationally suspended by the County as a fire and EMS service provider based on the organization's inability to meet the minimum response criteria found in the Frederick County Code. This inability to meet response criteria was directly attributed to a lack of available volunteers.

While the Fire Company received over \$80,000 in financial support in FY-23, the County opted to cease financial support in FY-24 due to the organization's operational suspension. In addition to financial support, the Graceham Volunteer Fire Company received support for years from the County through insurance and equipment

that is provided to all local volunteer companies.

In the months that followed their operational suspension, the Company worked hard to get their organization in a position to again provide service to their community, but never achieved their goal. In November of 2023 the Graceham Volunteer Fire Company's membership made the incredibly hard decision to completely shut down operations, effective June 30.

The Company made their last “call” on June 22, 2022. Since then, the Company has been focused on disposing of its fire trucks and building.

The Company donated its main fire truck, Tanker 184, to the Edgewater Oklahoma VFD. The Company's rescue truck, Unit #8, was donated to the Stanley Valley Tennessee VFD. The Company's remaining unit, a “brush truck,” was purchased by the Benton Illinois VFD. Fire fighting related equipment, such as hoses, axes, breathing apparatus &c., was donated to the Rocky Ridge, New Midway and Lewistown VFDs. Finally, the fire hall was donated to the Catocin Chapter of the Future Farmers of America.

### OPEN HOUSE

August 31, 2024, 11am-3pm  
100 S Brookdale Rd, Apache, OK 73006



On August 31st the Oklahoma Edgewater Park VFC held an open house to welcome Graceham's engine 184 to its new home. May it serve them as proudly as it served Graceham.

According to Thomas Coe, Chief of the County's Division of Fire & Rescue, most of the remaining volunteers of the Graceham Fire Company have decided to continue their service by transferring their membership to one of the surrounding

volunteer fire companies.

Since its closing, residents formerly served by Graceham have received fire, rescue and emergency medical response from Thurmont, Rocky Ridge, Emmitsburg or Lewistown.

Postal Customer

PRE-SORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Gettysburg, PA  
Permit No. 53

# EMMITSBURG NEWS

## EV charging station use questioned

At the request of Mayor Frank Davis, the Town Council voted to approve an ordinance to amend the Town Code for reserved parking for electric vehicles. Davis said he received phone calls complaining about cars utilizing the four spots past the 10 p.m. curfew. The callers also asked to extend the allowed time a vehicle can park at the charging station spots.

The amendment will change the times a vehicle can park in the designated spots from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to a continuous 24 hours. The six-hour charging limit would remain for all vehicles except the Town's vehicle.

Commissioner Amy Pollitt asked about how the Town would enforce the six-hour limit and how difficult that would be? As they have always been on an honor system they will remain as such although it is easier to enforce during the day.

Davis mentioned that there is a video surveillance system set up to monitor the area which can be reviewed and if anyone is seen parking there overnight, they could be ticketed.

Pollitt pointed out that the stations are being used mostly by people that live within walking distance. "It's great because people are buying more electric cars but at the same time, I would hate for it to become monopolized by a select few," she said.

Town staff was unable to give the Council an idea of what the Town pays monthly for electricity used by the stations. At this time the Town currently does not charge for use of the charging stations however they are set up to accept credit cards, they just never got around to activate it the staff said.

Outgoing Commissioner Tim O'Donnell mentioned the EV sta-

tions are on the nations maps for use by anyone and suggested if the Town were to install any more, they should do so near retail to prevent overnight parking.

Charging stations on maps however are predominate commercial charging stations, like those at shopping malls, and charge \$10 and \$30 to charge an EV.

One frustrated resident, who attended the meeting, questioned why the town was using their tax dollar to pay for electricity to charge a private vehicle.

"They are raising my water rates because they claim they don't have enough money, yet they have enough money to pay for electricity to give away? If they are going to do that, then I think it only fair that they buy the closed Valero station and start giving gasoline away for free to the rest of us. Fair is fair."

## Brookfield lots to be given to HOA

Introduced to the Town Council in September was a resolution to decide if four open space lots should be dedicated to the Brookfield subdivision or kept for public use by the Town. The final plats for the development state that the four lots (totaling 8.7 acres) were offered to the Town by the developer, Richard Demmitt, in the mid-1990s but they were never officially dedicated or rejected. The development began construction in the early 2000s and is still under construction.

Town Attorney Clark Adams said he could not find any record of the dedication. He searched the Town records and was unable to confirm if

the dedication was accepted and the lots were transferred to the Town, just not recorded, or if nothing was done at all. "The original developer would have the deed because of the absence of the record, however the plat says it was supposed to be done," said Adams. "It's a grey area." Clark said that it's a common problem to have plats that are to be dedicated and no records of the dedication happening.

The confusion surrounding the ownership of the lots surprises many Brookfield residents, as they were told the lots belonged to the HOA already. Some even paid a premium price to have homes that were adjacent to the open space.

Clark was unable to confirm what the ordinance stated back when the final plats were approved, but per today's current ordinance, the developer can declare the lots as private parkland if the Town chooses to reject the dedication. However, since the Brookfield HOA has requested the lots be transferred to them, the developer can transfer the deed over to the HOA if the Town approves it through a deed of easement.

Commissioner Tim O'Donnell asked what the HOA intended to do with the lots. Per Town zoning, they are mandated to remain as "open space" but can be used for recreation purposes and as private parkland.

## Church request sparks water fee discussion

Joe Ceci of Fox and Associates; a Professional Civil Engineering, Surveying, and Land Planning Firm presented to the Town Council a request to reduce the Tap fees for the Christ Community Church's 10,500 square foot addition which will add 198 seats to the sanctuary and additional classrooms.

According to Ceci the church is looking at \$164,000 in water and sewer Tap fees, which is 8% of their total construction budget. "Their water usage compared to a lot of other places is minimal," he said. He pointed out that the church as a non-profit will

be using donations and loans to build the addition, so they felt the number to be excessive.

When Ceci compared the fees for Emmitsburg to other local municipalities he discovered a markable difference. For a church construction project comparable in size and purpose in Thurmont you would pay \$39,705, City of Frederick \$32,000 and Frederick County \$25,000.

Although Thurmont and the City of Frederick use a different formula for their calculations (they use Equivalent Dwelling Units EDUs and Emmitsburg and the County use Fixture

Units) the results net similar values. The difference is Emmitsburg is the only one that does not give 'discounts' dependent on the purpose of the building. Ceci shared his calculations with the Council showing that if Emmitsburg applied their fees with the County's adjustments for use the fee would be \$25,402.

Another option for the Church is to build the sanctuary and frame out the classrooms allowing them to develop them later to save money. However, if the classrooms are in the plans during approval the church will have to pay the tap fees in full anyway.

Although sympathetic, Com-



P.O. Box 543  
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727  
301-471-3306  
www.emmitsburg.com

Emmitsburg.net, Taneytown.net, Woodsboro.net  
Mythurmont.net, Myfairfield.net, & Walkersville.net

---

Covering the news, events, history; and culture of the Historic Toms Creek Hundred geographical area: Emmitsburg, Zora, Carroll Valley, Fairfield, Greenmont, Harney, Rocky Ridge, Detour, St. Anthony's, Zentz Mill, Taneytown and Thurmont. The Emmitsburg News-Journal is published the first day of every month by Toms Creek Hundred LLC.

Senior Advisors:  
Eric Glass, Taney Corporation  
Greg Reaver, Emmitsburg Glass

Executive Editor: Michael Hillman, editor@emmitsburg.com  
Managing Editor: Dolores Hans  
Assistant Editor: Devin Owen  
'Does It Make Sense' Editor: Katie Wherley  
English Editor: Rachel Sheehan  
News Reporters:  
Emmitsburg - Jamie Kahl  
Fairfield & Carroll Valley - Alex Hayes  
Thurmont - Tara Hayes  
Taneytown - Jamie Kahl

Graphic Design and Layout: Brian Barth, timebombstudios.com  
Advertising: Sharon Graham, advertising@emmitsburg.com

Letters to the Editor, notice of upcoming events, news stories, and interesting and creative articles are welcome and may be submitted via regular U.S. Mail to P.O. box 543, Emmitsburg, MD 21727, or by email to editor@emmitsburg.com.

Essentially, an open space area has as little buildings as possible so parks, playgrounds, athletic courts and gardens could be some uses.

Technically, the developer does not have to do the dedication of the lots until Brookfield has reached completion and with ten lots yet to be finished, there is no final date of construction. The Town wouldn't be

required to take ownership of the lots until the entire development was finished either.

After much debate and a vote of four to one (Commissioner Jim Hoover was the dissenting vote), the Town voted to formally reject the dedication and allow the developer to officially transfer the lots to the HOA.

a buildings use was something the Council should look into. "One size doesn't fit all," he said. Commissioner Valerie Turnquist agreed saying she felt the fees were 'excessive' and something should be done.

Unfortunately for the Christ Community Church nothing in Town Code permits the Council to decrease the fees. Since the Fixtures are based on what building Code say is needed for a structure of that size, a Code change would be required and that is a long process requiring multiple workshops and public hearings.

Town Attorney Clark Adams made sure the Council understood that they would not be able to do a 'one off thing' for this church, "What we are really talking about is a Comprehensive change to how you calculate your rates," he said.

The Council was unable to make a decision at this meeting however at the next workshop plans on discussing how the fees are calculated. Unfortunately for The Christ Community Church they will have to wait for a Code change to get a reduction in fees or accept what they have been given.



**EMMITSBURG**  
GLASS COMPANY

A reflection of quality

**A Proud Sponsor Of**  
**The Emmitsburg News-Journal**

www.emmitsburgglass.com 301-447-2245

### Halloween in Emmitsburg

This year there is a change to the Halloween festivities in Emmitsburg with trick-or-treating from 5 to 6:45, this extension is to allow all those in the outer reaches of town to make it to town parade line up. The parade will start at 7:15. Lineup will be at the Town Swimming Pool parking lot on West Lincoln Ave.

The parade route this year will be down West Lincoln to Patterson to West Main St. then to South Seton to enter the Vigilant Hose Building (from the back) for door prizes, gingerbread & cider, games, and costume prize awards. Judging will take place at the Town Square in the following categories: Cutest, Funniest, Scariest, Most Original, and Best Group.

# FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

## Tension between Council members bursts open

Tension remains thick between the Carroll Valley Borough Council and one of its members.

In July, Councilmember Cody Gilbert successfully motioned to vacate the office of Vice President, held by Councilmember John Schubring. The motion passed 5-2 without discussion. John Schubring and Councilmember Catherine Schubring cast the opposition votes. The Council then named Bruce Carr its new Vice President.

Gilbert's motion was not listed on the agenda and Council did not vote

to amend the agenda. The Emmitsburg News-Journal reported at the time that the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act dictates governing bodies can only add an item to its agenda if it meets one of three exceptions and the majority of Council votes to approve the amendment. The Carroll Valley Council did not vote to approve nor amend its agenda.

Council President Richard Mathews said in August that the council's attorney, Zachary Rice, advised him that the Sunshine Act was not

violated. "We take allegations like this seriously and steadfastly believe there were, indeed, no violations of our procedures," Mathews said.

Neither Schubring attended that meeting. In September, both were attendance and John took to the microphone to counter Mathews' statement.

"If this was serious about respecting the Sunshine rule, the council would not have tried to remove the vice president without putting the intent to remove on the agenda," he said.

John Schubring said he was surprised by the motion to remove him as President. He said he was not accusing the Council of violating the law, but rather expressing his opinion that he believes they violated the intent of the law.

Schubring said he believes his removal was due to his desire to publicly discuss a "formal, written complaint" against a police officer. In June, he asked Police Chief Clifford Weikert about an "officer tailing an individual." Rice advised against discussing a complaint in public.

During the June meeting, John Schubring's conventional nameplate was replaced with a large tent card that doubled the size of everyone else's, and he was referred to as Dr. Schubring in bold, underlined lettering. In July, the Council had new nameplates with everyone's honorific in front of their full name.

When the Secretary took roll call at the beginning of the June meeting, every member of council said "here" after his or her name was called. When the secretary said, "John Schubring," he responded, "Dr. Schubring is here."

## Carroll Valley to ease ordinance research

The Carroll Valley Borough Council is making it easier for citizens to research and understand the municipality's ordinances.

Borough Manager Dave Hazlett said Carroll Valley's official code book has not been updated since 2008. Council has approved many changes in those 16 years, Hazlett said, so the Borough adds addendums onto the ordinances to help people find the latest version. The system is arduous, so the Council is moving towards a process called codification.

"What you are doing isn't changing any of your rules," Hazlett said. "It's just putting them together in the same book."

When complete, all Borough ordinances will be together in one place. To make research even easier, they will also be posted online. The Borough currently posts ordinances online but the site also uses the cumbersome system of amendments.

Councilmember Bruce Carr voted against the motion because he was unclear of its purpose.

"Does anybody understand what

he is saying?" Carr asked.

Town Attorney Zach Rice clarified that all changes to the code of ordinances were outlined in a 12-page document contained in the Council's meeting packet and online at [www.carrollvalley.org](http://www.carrollvalley.org).

### Increased Enforcement Tilted Car Windows

Carroll Valley Police Chief Clifford Weikert said his officers are cracking down on tinted auto windows. Weikert said all windows on cars must allow 70% of light in. SUVs

and vans are allowed any amount of darkness on the back side and back rear windows.

"It's basically for our officers' safety, so we can see what is going on when we stop," he said.

Weikert said drivers are often confused because tint laws vary by state.

"If you are in our state, driving in our state, you must be up to our standards," he said.

Carroll Valley officers typically give a warning on first offense, Weikert said. One recent stop helped officers find a vehicle that

was reported stolen from the City of York.

Drivers who wonder if their vehicle is in violation can visit the Borough police department. Officers will test the window with a meter to determine compliance. Drivers whose poor eyesight requires them to have more tint than the allowed amount can seek a medical exception, the chief said.

Weikert said his officers are also increasing speed enforcement patrols thanks to a grant.

Responding to a question from Mayor Ron Harris, Weikert confirmed that drivers must come to a complete stop at stop signs.

## Liberty Commissioners propose ordinance changes

All vehicles will soon be welcomed on Liberty Township's Bullfrog Road.

At their September meeting, the Township's Board Of Supervisors announced their intention to remove weight restrictions on the road. Supervisor Walter "Mickey" Barlow, who serves as township roadmaster, said the restrictions were no longer needed due to work that was completed this summer. Barlow said he expects the ordinance change to have little affect on drivers' habits.

"It's not been adhered to for a long, long time," Barlow said.

While anyone will be welcome to drive on Bullfrog Road, they will be required to gain permission to peddle their wares throughout the township.

The Supervisors also plan to adopt a Peddling and Solicitation Ordinance at their October meeting. The proposed ordinance states "Any person who wishes to engage in home solicitation or any itinerant merchant

who wishes to solicit within the township shall file a written application with the township."

The permit will cost \$25 per month under the proposed ordinance. Solicitors will not be allowed to visit homes before 9 a.m. or after 8 p.m., or on federal holidays.

Supervisor Bobby Keilhotz reiterated the importance of following Township ordinances. He said he has seen several construction projects that did not follow the permit process.

### Personnel Changes

Supervisors welcomed Police Officers Jonathan Harvey and Ryan Morris to the Department at the beginning of their September meeting. Officer-in-Charge Terry DeWitt said he is still looking for an additional part-time officer.

The Board also accepted the resignations of Lieutenant James French and Police Administrative Assistant Donna Powers, both of whom accepted other jobs. Jessica Ilko will replace

Powers at a rate of \$23 per hour, Barlow said. Ilko is also the township's secretary/treasurer, Barlow said.

The board also named Ken Farabaugh as an alternate to the Township Planning Commission. Farabaugh replaces Brandon Lowe, who pleaded guilty in April, to indecent assault of a person less than 13 years of age and indecent assault without consent. Lowe also served as a township supervisor.

When Lowe resigned in August, Barlow said he was moving out of the area but did not state he would be spending six to 23 months in Adams County Prison.

Farabaugh comes to the Planning Commission with a decades-long record of public service including the Rotary Club of Gettysburg, Adams County Community Foundation, Adams County Economic Development Corporation, and Adams County Industrial Development Authority.

**Village Book & Table Restaurant**

• BREAKFAST  
• LUNCH  
(Including Platters)

29 W. Main St., Fairfield  
**717-642-5650**

Open 7 days a week  
Monday - Sunday  
6:30 - 2



**COLDWELL BANKER REALTY**  
**KIM MILLS**  
ABR®, SRES®, Associate Broker  
Cell: 717-752-4340 Office: 717-762-7111  
kim.mills@cbhomes.com  
kimmills@homes.com  
1814 E. Main St., Waynesboro  
Owned by a subsidiary of Realty Brokerage Group, LLC



 <p><b>Samuel Smith Craft Beer</b> Variety of Flavors Available</p>	 <p><b>Vodka Ice Tea</b> Variety PAK Available</p>	 <p><b>Tequila Seltzer</b> Variety PAK Available</p>	 <p><b>Seagram's Escapes</b> Variety PAK Available</p>
 <p><b>NUTRL Vodka Seltzer</b> 8 PAK - 3 Varieties Available</p>	 <p><b>BuzzBallz</b> Have a Ball!! 6 FLAVORS AVAILABLE!</p>	 <p><b>Goslings Dark &amp; Stormy COCKTAILS</b> 4 PAK Cans Ready to Drink - 4 Flavors</p>	 <p><b>BIG WAVE Golden Ale</b> 18 PAK Cans Available</p>
 <p><b>JACK DANIEL'S Country Cocktails</b> Variety 12 PAK Available</p>	<p><b>Paul's Pit Stop</b> DISCOUNT BEER, WINE &amp; LIQUOR Website: <a href="http://m.paulspitstop.net">m.paulspitstop.net</a> 150 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg <b>301-447-6262</b> Monday - Saturday 9 - 9 Sunday 11 - 7</p>		 <p><b>SUN CRUISER Vodka Iced Tea</b> Variety 4 PAK &amp; 8 PAK Available</p>

## THURMONT NEWS

# Goals for implementing Master Plan created

The Planning and Zoning Commission discussed their primary goals for implementing the Town's Master Plan at the August meeting. The Town is required annually to submit a report that includes how it intends to implement the many parts of the Master Plan. A master plan, AKA Comprehensive Plan, gives long term guidance on the future growth and development for the Town. It was last updated in 2020 and is reviewed and updated, if necessary, every ten years.

The first goal for the Commission will be to reduce regulatory barriers, such as reducing lot sizes and restrictions to building codes, in order to encourage more affordable housing. The second is the continued review of the Plan, as

it is an ever-changing document.

For a third goal, Vice Chair Greg Goodhart suggested that traffic studies be performed, something that hasn't been done in a few years. Intersections already outlined in the Master Plan for review include Main Street and Water Street/North Church Street because it doesn't have dedicated turning lanes, causing traffic to back up during peak times. Frederick Road, Water Street, and Park Lane are also on the list because of residential and commercial traffic. Emmitsburg Road made the list due to the number of complaints from single-family homes impacted by speeding vehicles. Emmitsburg Road and Eyer Road will also be studied because

of the developments currently in the planning process.

Town Planner Kelly Duty suggested the Town begin budgeting the money for the traffic study on Emmitsburg Road now and begin the study after a few houses are completed to see the true impact that a few homes will make on traffic. As for how much to put aside, Duty said it all depends on the goals of the study, how big the study area needs to be, and how many days it is expected to take. "It depends on the scope of the study," she said.

Goal four, suggested by Chair Meredith Wivell, is the revitalization of the downtown area. She would like to involve the community by "going back to basics and identifying our partners and

engaging with them." One of the ways to reconnect will be to do a "community needs assessment" that will identify the needs and the resources available to meet those needs for the Town.

Chief Administrative Officer Jim Humerick pointed out that Vicki Grinder, Economic Development Manager, would be updating the community needs assessment this fall.

Wivell also read a quote directly from the Plan regarding downtown zoning. "In critically evaluating the performance of the Town's zoning, the most significant finding to note is the mismatch between the goals of the downtown of Thurmont and the zoning rules in effect there." Specifically, the quote refers to the

goal of revitalizing downtown and how certain properties are not zoned to allow the effort to happen. She pointed out that there is no reference on what to do about vacant or blighted properties in the Plan, yet these properties do exist in Thurmont. Town Attorney Leslie Powell pointed out that dealing with vacant and blighted property ordinances are tricky because they would be dealing with the owner's constitutional rights.

Last of the Commission's goals included hosting two public workshops to gather input about the revitalization of the downtown area and ways to reduce the regulatory barriers. Through these workshops, the Commission hopes the public will vocalize their opinions on what's truly important to them in their town and how to implement the goals.

# Bids accepted for 2024 Colorfest services

The Town Council approved bid proposals for security, bus services and trash/portable toilets for the 2024 Colorfest. The town will be using the same clients as 2023.

A contract for \$27,528 was awarded to May Security Services of Frederick to provide security services for the event, an increase from last year's cost of \$20,640. This fee includes directing traffic, assisting the local police with traffic patrol. May will provide 27 security guards, two supervisors and two relief guards for both event days.

According to Town Manager Jim

Humerick, the town has used May at this event for "decades." "If I'm not mistaken, they're the only ones that have ever submitted a bid, aren't they?" Mayor John Kinnard said. The rest of the council agreed.

Rill's Bus Services of Westminster was awarded a contract for \$26,000 to provide bus services. Rill's will provide nine standard buses on Saturday and seven standard buses for Sunday, along with two wheelchair accessible buses for both days. "They've also been the same bus service who've worked with us for decades at Colorfest and we're

very secure with the services they provide," Humerick said.

Key Sanitation of Dickerson Maryland was awarded a contract for \$24,950 to provide both trash removal both days and portable toilets. They will also provide a truck for recycling. The bid includes pricing for 114 regular units and 16 handicap accessible units, as well as a pump truck on site both days. The pump truck will clean the portable toilets throughout the day.

According to Humerick, there was another bid for sanitation services that

was a little less but they chose Key because of its past performance at Colorfest. "When you drive through Thurmont at lunchtime on Monday, you wouldn't even know there was a Colorfest at all because they get all the trash," Kinnard said. "They haul it all away and they do a great job." He also mentioned the great job that Thurmont sanitation staff has done in the past.

One of the community's most popular and heavily attended annual events, Colorfest features street vendors, food, yard sales and more, attracting upwards of as many as 100,000 attendees.

Colorfest has been a tradition in the town since 1963, when Catoc-tin Mountain Park naturalist Duncan Burchard organized nature walks through the area, attracting 60 people each year. Over the years, the event expanded to include art exhibits, church dinners, and yard sales. By 1971, 30,000 people were attending the event.

Recognized as one of the top 35 arts and craft shows in the U.S., Colorfest takes its status as one-of-a-kind festival very seriously. Known for its dedication to the individuality of its vendors, officials continually verify vendor wares are authentic and handcrafted.

## News-Briefs . . .

**Water & Sewer Rates Increase 15%**  
The Town Council officially adopted the new ordinance to raise the water and sewer rates by 15% in a vote 4-0. The new rates will be reflected in res-

idents' Sept. 17 water and sewer bill. Up until this vote, rates for both water and sewer usage had remained the same for over a decade.

Currently, in town water rates are

\$6.65 per 1,000 gallons plus a \$10 base fee and out of town rates are \$9.98 per 1,000 gallons plus a \$15 base fee. With the 15% increase, cost will increase to \$7.65 per 1,000 gallons with a \$11.50 base fee and \$11.48 per 1,000 gallons with a \$17.25 base fee, respectively. Sewer rates would remain on a tiered system based on usage.

"We have talked about looking at a tiered rate for water, but we're not to that point yet and we'll have to revisit that at some point in the future," Town Manager Jim Humerick said. In town sewer rates for up to 3,000 gallons would cost \$69, a \$9 increase.

At a previous meeting, Mayor John Kinnard explained that the rates are based on a household's water consumption. Humerick added that, for the few residents who don't have town water, their sewer usage is determined by a meter in their wells.

Kinnard confirmed that the current rate increases have nothing to do with the PFAS chemicals in Thurmont's groundwater. Humerick said at a previous meeting that the expected 15% increase will only be used to cover increases in daily operations, not special projects.

### Gateway To The Cure Kicks Off Its 11<sup>th</sup> Year

Thurmont's annual Gateway to the Cure has kicked off its 11th annual fundraising efforts toward breast cancer research.

Economic Director Vickie Grinder announced at the kick off that the pink light bulbs will not be available for purchase this year as they have in previous years as the supplier is no longer able to produce incandescent bulbs. However, Grinder encouraged residents who

have bought the lights in the past to continue to turn on their pink lights from Oct. 1-31. Other merchandise such as t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc. will be available this year to support the cause. The town is also selling 'Gateway to the Cure' mugs for \$10. Of course, monetary donations by check can be dropped off at the town office.

Pumpkins for Pink, a pumpkin painting contest, will also return this year. "We're so appreciative of all the businesses, but this gives children a way to help," Commissioner Wayne Hooper said. The Town plans to display the painted pumpkins at Weis, where residents can vote for their favorite pumpkins for \$1 per vote. All pumpkins must be submitted at Weis by Oct. 7 to be in the contest.

The Covered Bridge 5K is scheduled for Oct. 19. Participants can register online or by calling the town office. Walk-up registrants are also welcome. Entrants can walk or run and strollers are permitted on the course. The registration fee is \$35.

Over the last 10 years, the Town of Thurmont has donated over \$160,000 to The Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund. The Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund began in 1999 and 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.

**THE FURNACE**  
HOT CRABS COLD BEER  
**Grill & Crab House**  
240-288-8942  
Sun. 12 - 8 p.m. ~ Tues., Wed., Thurs. 3 - 9 p.m.  
Fri. & Sat. 12 - 9 p.m.  
Closed Monday

**Delicious Steamed SHRIMP & CRAB LEGS!**  
Crabs available by the dozen, half bushel & bushel in season!  
**A.Y.C.E. EVERYDAY!**  
**Call For Pricing!**  
Tuesday - 80¢ Wings & Yeungs!  
Wednesday - Appetizer Specials!  
12841 Catoc-tin Furnace Rd., Thurmont

**Tracy's TNT Tag 'n Title**  
36 Frederick Rd., Thurmont  
301-271-2617  
Immediate tags, stickers, temp tags, tag returns ...and MORE!!  
Mon., Wed. & Fri. - 10 to 5  
Tues. & Thurs., - 11 to 5 Sat. - Call set up appointment

## TANEYTOWN NEWS

## Main Street Board dissolution haunts Council

Even after its disbanding, issues concerning the Main Street Advisory Board continue to haunt the City Council. At the September 4th City Council meeting, a month after the Board was dissolved, Councilman Christopher Tillman pushed for more descriptive meeting minutes regarding the August Main Street discussion. "A two-hour discussion was reduced to one non-descript sentence," he said. He demanded the minutes be more informative and reflect what was said and by whom, especially during public comment when both residents and Main Street Advisory Board members spoke. Mayor Christopher Miller pointed out that

there is a full video recording of the meeting for reference, so the need for detailed minutes would be unnecessary.

Miller also questioned City Manager Jim Wieprecht on how the City usually writes the minutes. Wieprecht said they usually reflect the actions taken and not discussion details. He mentioned the minutes also depend on how closely the Council wants to follow "Robert's Rules of Order," which are a set of rules for conducting meetings in an orderly and fair fashion.

According to Wieprecht, the Council used to have more detailed minutes a few administrations ago, but they were having issues with council members

being too particular. The Council could decide to make the minutes more detailed again if they believe it is necessary. He also pointed out that the minutes could be split between "New Business" and "Public Comment," since there was activity under both regarding the Board.

Another issue that concerned Tillman was the work Economic Development Director and former Main Street Manager Jay Meashey was currently doing. According to Miller, Meashey is working on free parking signs for the holidays and the framework on a study about Main Street for the Council.

Tillman, who is a Main Street business owner, voiced frustration over these activities when there is

no longer a board. "The appearance is that you use the process to remove the troublemakers and you're just moving on ahead with the people you like to work with anyway," he said. He was adamant that the Council was trying to brush the Main Street issues "under the rug."

However, even without a board, there is still a Main Street Taneytown and, as Economic Development Director, Meashey is responsible for boosting the City's economic health, thus the Main Street businesses. This means someone would need to continue some of the work the board was responsible for until a new board is formed.

Although Tillman left the Sep-

tember 4th meeting abruptly after Miller said he was creating unnecessary conflict, he was present at the following meeting and presented the Council with an amendment to the August meeting minutes.

His changes under "New Business" made sure to point out the extensive discussion regarding the Main Street Advisory Board's dysfunction and the reasons behind it, its resulting disbandment, and the intention to create a plan for moving forward; these were approved without edit. A compromise was struck under Tillman's second amendment under "Public Comment" to show that members of the public made comments regarding the Main Street issues instead of a more detailed version Tillman had originally suggested.

## Speed cameras considers for school zone

With school starting soon, complaints from concerned citizens sparked discussion between residents and the City about speeding in the city, specifically on Trevanion Road. Speed cameras were suggested as a possible solution. There are two schools, Taneytown Elementary School and Northwest Middle School, that are close to Trevanion Rd that would be impacted by a speed camera program if the City chooses to proceed with the idea.

Another location that could be a candidate for the speed camera program is the Baumgardner and East Baltimore Street inter-

section. However, before the City implements a speed program here, they must get permission from State Highways because East Baltimore is regulated by the State.

Councilman Christopher Tillman asked if Head Start programs and church school programs counted toward having a school zone. City Manager Jim Wieprecht was unsure and offered to research an answer.

Before the City can even install cameras, they would need to create legislation that officially designates school zones. By doing so they are creating a set of "rules" to go by that include an over-

all speed limit of 30mph in the school zone and 35 mph for school zones with a crossing guard present. To receive a ticket a vehicle would need to be 12 over the posted limits and tickets can only be given at certain times in the school day.

Wieprecht also pointed out that any revenue obtained from a speed camera, if uncontested, would be used to benefit the City.

Councilwoman Judith Fuller asked if the City even had a measurable problem with speeding. According to Wieprecht a speed study would need to be done first and one of the things they look at is whether speeding is a prob-

lem or not. He said speed studies have been done in the past but the City opted out of doing anything after the studies were done.

Mayor Pro Tem James McCarron spoke about the last time the Council discussed placing speed cameras years before. His opinion was that society is already overregulated. "Another device to capture revenue from unsuspecting townspeople isn't necessary," he said. He was in favor of "driver feedback signs" over installing cameras. Feedback signs use radar or loop detectors to measure the speed of an approaching vehicle and then show the driver their speed.

"They affect me," he said. "And they are a lot cheaper and just as effective."

Tillman agreed with McCarron and suggested the police department consider utilizing the decoy car, which has been used in the past.

Councilwoman Diane Foster asked if the studies would compare the feedback sign to speed cameras. Wieprecht said the chosen vendor would come out and do the study to see if the speeding problem is bad enough to warrant installing the equipment. They would also consider all options for the City to choose from. After this meeting he will follow up with the Council in a few months.

## Comprehensive Plan survey takes shape

The Planning Commission held a workshop in August specifically geared toward discussion of the Comprehensive Plan, a process that began the previous month. The Plan is an essential document outlining the current condition of the City's various elements of development, such as topography, resources and benefits, and includes future goals and aspirations. It is reviewed and updated, if necessary, every ten years and lasts for twenty years.

Last month, Craig Kologie, Senior Planner at Arro Consulting, reviewed the entire Comprehensive Plan process with the Commission and asked them to consider how they wanted the City to look in the future. He broke the process into four segments: research and analysis, review of the existing plan, development of goals and objectives and the legal process and adoption of the plan.

The August workshop was centered around the first phase, research and analysis, which will utilize a survey for the residents and a survey for key community members.

Both surveys will ask residents basic statistical questions such as, "Where do you live?" and "Where do you work?" but they will also ask things like "What do you like about

living in the City?" and "What roads or intersections do you find most problematic?". This will help guide the Commission in what direction the Comprehensive Plan should take moving forward.

The difference in the surveys is the key community member survey will be conducted in an interview style, allowing the interviewer to obtain face-to-face feedback from important City members. "We have planned for 10 to 15 people for the interview," said Kologie. "The City will be able to choose who these people are."

Commission members discussed who these individuals could be and determined that one person from

each of the following departments or businesses would be appropriate: the fire department, the police department, the Chamber of Commerce, the City Council, Evapco, Flow Serve, the Bowling Alley, the History Museum, the Lion's Club, the Senior Center and representatives of the Carroll Vista, Meade's Crossing and Meadowbrook HOAs.

The Commission felt the biggest challenge will be how to get the surveys distributed to as many residents as possible. Besides the obvious website, Facebook, and the Taneytown Connect app options, setting up a table at city events like the Fire Company fundraiser and

the Harvest Festival was a popular suggestion. Kologie said, "Having a tent at these events is more on educating people on what the Comprehensive Plan is and why we are doing it." He suggested they hand out postcards with a QR link to the survey online rather than offering hard copies of the surveys. His reasoning was twofold; by not offering a hard copy of the survey, residents would have time to really think about their answers rather than rushing through the survey at the event. He also pointed out that handing out the full survey in paper format would not guarantee residents will fill it out and return it.

Although an easier option, hav-

ing the survey online brought up concerns over the integrity of the responses they would receive. Darryl Hale, Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer, asked what would happen to homes with only one computer (thus one IP address) but more than one qualified adult. Kologie encouraged the survey be a household effort instead of an individual one because the survey provider, "Survey Monkey," will only allow one response per IP address anyway. After discussing options, the Commission decided to limit the survey to one per household or IP address.

The surveys will be available primarily online, but hard copies will be at events and in the City Hall until early November.

Proudly Serving the Thurmont and Emmitsburg Communities



**Elle Smith**  
REALTOR®

**J&B Real Estate, Inc.**  
301-401-8620 | 301-271-3487 x205  
elle@ellesmithhomes.com  
www.ellesmithhomes.com  
\*Licensed in MD and PA



Your local real estate expert.

Lock in a great auto rate with Erie insurance

**Barnes Drager Insurance**  
464 E. Baltimore Street  
Taneytown  
www.barnesdrager.com



 **Erie Insurance** **410-751-0001**

## FROM THE DESK OF...

## County Councilman Brad Young

The County Council voted unanimously on September 3, to send to the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) of their strong opposition to the current proposals for the alignment of the new 70-mile 500kV transmission line from southern Pennsylvania to the Doubs substation in southern Frederick County.

For the residents and property owners of Frederick County I wanted to reprint the letter here for your information.

As the elected leaders of Frederick County Government, we are writing to inform the members of the Public Service Commission (PSC) of our strong opposition to the current proposals for the alignment of the new 70-mile 500kV transmission line from southern Pennsylvania to the Doubs substation in southern Frederick County.

We understand these proposals, put forth by the Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) are part of the large regional utility system upgrade, being undertaken by Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland Interconnection (PJM). Ultimately, this upgrade is planned to address the long-term electrical needs of the entire region. As part of this effort, PSEG will need to file an application for the proposed transmission line alignment with the PSC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN). Furthermore, we understand this application may be filed as soon as September, but most assuredly by the end of the calendar year.

As the elected representatives for the residents of Frederick County, we are compelled to express our concerns regarding the lack of public information justifying the full extent of the necessity for the new lines, the devastating effect this project will have on many residents in the Frederick County community, the potential use of eminent domain by the utility to complete the project in a more time efficient manner, and the apparent dismissal of the possibility of using existing rights of way (ROW) or collaborating with Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) to either reconstruct or “reconductor” the existing lines, thereby significantly reducing the impact in all the Maryland jurisdictions.

We recognize that Frederick County has no authority or role in the approval or denial of this project, but as the elected officials we have a responsibility to ensure the voices and concerns of our residents are heard and acknowledged. We understand the need to improve the resiliency and reliability of the regional power grid. However, the new transmission lines for the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) as currently proposed, will directly and negatively impact current homes, businesses and farms (many of which are in agricultural preservation programs utilizing state and/or local funds), historical preservation sites, and will diminish the property values of thousands of Frederick County residents. Some impacts would severely curtail the use of the properties where people

presently live and farm and could actually force people off of their properties altogether. In addition, all the proposed alignments will impact environmentally sensitive natural resource areas at a time when counties are required to protect them to comply with federal and state law. Finally, these alignments will certainly threaten Frederick County’s nascent but growing agrotourism industry.

We have serious concerns about the use of eminent domain to expedite the completion of this project. The potential use of eminent domain strikes fear in the hearts of the community, frequently leads to the displacement of viable businesses and current residents and could seriously harm our farm community and the growing agrotourism sector of our economy. There are numerous transmission lines already crisscrossing Frederick County. To dismiss the idea of locating the new lines within existing rights of way seems extremely shortsighted. Furthermore, discounting the concept of partnering with BGE to either reconstruct or “reconductor” the current existing lines without any discussion, seems even more shortsighted. Partnering with BGE to replace current transmission lines either with new twin monopole towers or with upgraded, more technologically advanced lines could allow roughly twice as much electricity to flow through the current ROWs without massive disruptions to the com-

munity – a potential win-win for all.

We fully support the PSC’s public process that will occur before a CPCN can be issued. We support open, transparent and inclusive public processes, where the public has the right to be heard, and important information justifying the necessity of these types of utility system upgrades will be shared in a public forum. To date, the entire proposed upgrade project has been anything but open and transparent. The public only found out about the proposal through social media postings and word of mouth. There was little to no information from PJM or the PSEG to the public, even when the proposed transmission line alignments would directly impact a specific home or business. Information about the project itself, the justification for the upgrade, or any concern about its impact on residents by anyone with either PJM or PSEG has frankly been abysmal.

For these reasons and many more, we urge the PSC to deny PSEG’s application for the MPRP when it is filed, if the issues raised in our letter dated August 8, 2024, to Mr. Kalwa and Mr. Gilroy which was forwarded to the PSC, have not been addressed. Moreover, we further urge the PSC to undertake the following:

Urge PJM to re-examine its approach to the transmission line alignments though this area and prioritize solutions that maximize the use of existing BGE ROW, consistent with PJM’s recent decision (August 7, 2024) in the NextEra proposal in Loudoun County, VA, being built by

First Energy, Dominion and Excelon. Encourage PJM to collaborate with BGE to either reconstruct or “reconductor” the existing transmission line, to allow for more efficient use of the current ROW and infrastructure and less disruption for the residents.

Confer with the FERC to determine if PJM’s award of the project to PSEG was done properly and in the public interest.

Engage with FERC to ensure that PJM’s proposed application when submitted by PSEG complies with the requirements of FERC Order 1920, to ensure that the application accurately projects and anticipates the energy needs of the region, in accordance with Order 1920.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of our requests.

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

And as always, if there is ever anything I can do for you, please feel free to reach out to me and my office. You can contact me via email at [BYoung@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:BYoung@FrederickCountyMD.gov), or you can call my office at 301-600-1108.



**Dreaming Up the Ideal Retirement Is Your Job. Helping You Get There Is Ours.**

To learn more about why Edward Jones makes sense for you, call or visit a financial advisor today.

**Frank C Pizzuto, AAMS®**  
Financial Advisor  
249 York Street  
Gettysburg  
717-337-2556

[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com)  
Member SIPC

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

## Emmitsburg Mayor Frank Davis

Does anyone else get the feeling that fall is the busiest time of year? There are so many activities and happenings taking place, schools are back in full swing, and you begin to hear folks talking about the upcoming holiday season. I get such a great feeling after attending many of these events. I just want to highlight a few.

For sixty-eight years the Thurmont and Emmitsburg Community show has brought two towns together to proudly display home goods, livestock, and agricultural products. There is so much work

that goes into the planning and implementation of this momentous event, and it is never a disappointment. While it takes many hands to make this a success, there is one family that stands above the rest. The Rodman Myers family has been the backbone of this group since its inception. I want to personally thank the Myers family for keeping this great tradition alive, and I look forward to next year.

Organizations in Emmitsburg were invited to participate in the 4th Annual 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony hosted by the Thurmont Lions Club. Again, it

was great for two communities to come together to honor our country.

To touch on an upcoming event, Colorfest is right around the corner. While Emmitsburg is not directly involved in this festival, we do benefit from the many tourists that visit our community and support local businesses.

When I became Mayor a year ago, one of my goals was to collaborate closely with our neighboring community, Thurmont. This has become a reality. Some ask why and the answer is amazingly simple. We have so much in common. Our children go to school together, play sports on the same teams, and participate in many civic organizations together. In times of emergencies, our fire and police departments work closely to ensure the safety of both communities, and our town staff share resources and information daily. I want to thank Mayor Kinard and the citizens of Thurmont for embracing this concept. It will only make both communities stronger.

In closing I want to thank Commissioner Tim O’Donnell for serving fifteen years as a Town Commissioner. He has been instrumental in overseeing many projects over the years that have helped our town grow. With that being said, there is one project that he single-handedly developed, which is our Multi-Use Trails in the watershed area. With his hard work and dedication, our trails have become nationally recognized, continue to grow, and bring visitors from around the country to our beautiful town. While Tim has decided not to seek another term as Commissioner, he will be serving on several committees and will continue to be an integral part of our community.



**STRATEGIES FOR THE USE OF HOME EQUITY CONVERSION MORTGAGE (HECM) IN RETIREMENT**

**Call Today for More Information**

**James McCarron | NMLS: #134401**  
Home Equity Conversion Mortgage Specialist  
Office (877) 756-5006  
4 York St, STE. 3  
Taneytown, MD, 21787  
[jmccarron@mutualmortgage.com](mailto:jmccarron@mutualmortgage.com)  
[mutualreverse.com/james-mccarron](http://mutualreverse.com/james-mccarron)

**Pay Off A Mortgage**  
Eliminating a mortgage in retirement increases cash flow. A HECM does not require monthly mortgage payments. Borrower must occupy home as primary residence and remain current on property taxes, homeowner’s insurance, the costs of home maintenance, and any HOA fees.

**Stand-By Credit Line**  
A retirement strategy where the homeowner uses the credit line as a bucket to draw from during bear markets.

**Long Term Care Protection**  
Set up a credit line and let it grow untouched, to use only if needed.

**Emergency Back-Up**  
Set up a credit line to use only as needed.

**Tenure Payments**  
Tax-free lifetime income stream, thereby reducing the need to make withdrawals from tax portfolios. Consult a tax specialist.

**HECM For Purchase**  
Use the HECM to purchase a new home (“right-size”), and invest the difference for retirement.

**Divorce Settlement**  
Use the HECM to buy out a spouse’s portion of the home without selling or withdrawing funds from portfolio.

**Mutual of Omaha MORTGAGE**

Borrower must occupy home as primary residence and remain current on property taxes, homeowner’s insurance, the costs of home maintenance, and any HOA fees. The Lifestyle Home Loan is a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage for Purchase. Mutual of Omaha Mortgage, Inc. dba Mutual of Omaha Reverse Mortgage, NMLS ID 1025894, 3131 Camino Del Rio N 1000, San Diego, CA 92108. Subject to Credit Approval. These materials are not from HUD or FHA and the document was not approved by HUD, FHA or any Government Agency. For licensing information, go to: [www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org](http://www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org) Delaware Lender License 028535; Maryland Mortgage Lender License 21678; Pennsylvania Mortgage Lender License 72932; Virginia Mortgage Broker and Lender License, NMLS ID #1025894 ([www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org](http://www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org)) 100948702 Equal Housing Lender

# GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

## County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

With cooling temperatures and changing leaves, October is a season of transformation. It's a time to appreciate how far we've come and to plan for the future. In Frederick County, we have been focusing on initiatives that will impact us all. I'm excited to share updates on opportunities for civic engagement and ways you can help contribute to the continued growth and vitality of our community. Let's make the most of this season of change by staying informed, getting involved, and continuing to support one another.

### Critical Digital Infrastructure

Earlier this year, the Frederick County Data Centers Workgroup released recommendations intended to guide public policy so that any data center development occurs responsibly and in the best interests of Frederick County residents.

As a direct result of the recommendations provided by this workgroup, I recently unveiled two pieces of draft legislation that would put restrictions on where data centers can be built.

The first piece of legislation updates Frederick County's existing Critical Digital Infrastructure zoning law to consider visual impacts, noise, and

sustainability practices. The second bill creates a floating zone for Critical Digital Infrastructure that could only be applied to land zoned as general industrial or limited industrial and is within a community growth area, among other restrictions.

In the end, our goal is the same: to ensure data center development occurs responsibly.

While I have concerns about the floating zone, I respect the public process and the workgroup's final report. It is important that the discussion about data centers continues in a public forum.

As such, I have asked the County Council to hold a workshop on the legislation during its October 8 work session. Stay tuned for more information about this legislation and public sessions.

I appreciate the work of the Data Center Workgroup. They invested a substantial amount of time and effort to develop recommendations and worked diligently to find common ground, despite diverse and sometimes competing viewpoints.

### Transmission Line Meeting

Many residents have rightfully expressed concerns about the proposed Piedmont Reliability Project, a trans-

mission line that will cross Baltimore, Carroll, and Frederick Counties. I appreciate the community's input and share many of the same concerns.

It is incredibly important for us to understand this project and its potential impact on our neighborhoods, agricultural land, and historic landmarks. Right now, we have more questions than answers.

That's why the County Council and I called on the Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG), the company managing this project, to conduct a more inclusive and transparent process that is responsive to input from residents.

I am glad to report that PSEG heard our requests, and I am convening a public meeting with PSEG officials on Wednesday, October 9 from 6 to 10 p.m. at Oakdale High School. I encourage everyone to attend to learn more and share feedback. Together, we will continue working to ensure our communities are protected and our concerns are heard.

### Consolidated Transportation Program Meeting – October 16

It has long been a priority for Frederick County to improve safety on U.S. 15. The stretch from Interstate 70 to Md. Route 26 needs critical safety upgrades

to eliminate dangerous conditions and provide sound and safety barriers. I am committed to advocating for the funding needed for this project and to address other safety and traffic concerns in our community.

Unfortunately, the recently released Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) draft Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) for Fiscal Years 2025-20230 effectively halts the U.S. 15 safety project by not including \$14.3 million for its construction.

This project is vital to the safety and well-being of our community. I encourage residents to join me in sharing feedback with MDOT officials regarding the draft CTP during a public meeting on Wednesday, October 16, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in Winchester Hall 12 E. Church Street in Frederick.

Our voice is strongest when we advocate together, and the U.S. 15 project already has broad-bipartisan support in our community. I remain committed to ensuring we receive adequate funding to continue improving transit services so that all residents and businesses can thrive.

### Rural Broadband Meetings

As part of Frederick County's ongoing efforts to bridge the digital divide, we will be hosting meetings throughout

the county to share information with residents about various grant opportunities for expanding broadband access in rural areas. The first meeting was held in Emmitsburg on September 18.

The schedule for the remaining meetings is as follows. Each meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

- October 3: Libertytown – Liberty Volunteer Fire, 12027 South St., Libertytown
- October 10: Adamstown – Carroll Manor, 2795 Adams St., Adamstown
- October 16: Myersville – Myersville Volunteer Fire, 301 Main St., Myersville

I encourage interested residents to attend to learn how the grants can help bring high-speed internet to rural areas of the county. For those who cannot attend in person, a recording will be made available for viewing on FCG TV, channels 1072 and 19, and online at [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/FCGTV](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/FCGTV).

These grant opportunities are part of a broader County-wide initiative aimed at enhancing telecommunications infrastructure to ensure rural residents are not left behind in an increasingly digital world. Improving broadband access can help ensure equal opportunities for Frederick County residents, regardless of where they live.

## Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and the Town of Thurmont will be hosting the Gateway to the Cure fundraiser in support of the Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund at Frederick Health. "The Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund was established to provide the most innovative options in early detection and treatment of breast cancer for our community. This year will be the eleventh year for this amazing community wide effort and I ask that everyone participate in this year's effort.

In years past our friend Commissioner Bill Buehrer would always encourage us to raise more than we did the previous year. Sadly Bill succumbed to his battle with cancer last fall, and I for one miss his unwavering support of the Gateway to the Cure. I have often been asked why the Hurwitz Fund was selected, and the simple answer is that all the proceeds realized by our fundraiser is invested in Frederick County to support cancer research and to assist breast cancer patients. Cancer is an insidious disease that can affect any of us by causing damage to our organs, lungs, bones, blood, skin and brain.

Although each cancer may be treated differently the research for one can benefit others, I am an example of this. I am currently on a chemotherapy drug that was developed for the treatment of breast cancer. I have been prescribed the drug in an off label test application for the treatment of my squamous cell skin cancer. Sadly these drugs are extremely expensive, my treatment is listed at \$2,900 for each two-week course. I take it for two weeks and then stop for a week, get bloodwork and then take another course. I will be doing this for 8 months. I am fortunate and have managed to get the

chemo at a drastic discount, others do not have that option.

Not only can the drug treatment be unaffordable, but the surgical procedures, personal stress, and stress to your family and friends can be overwhelming. The cancer is fearful enough without having to worry about the financial and emotional impact on your life. Surgery is another giant issue for some cancer patients. In the last ten years I have had over three-dozen surgeries to my arms, neck, face, ears and scalp. The last four surgeries on my scalp required removing all the skin and tissue down to my skull. Each of those times Karen has had to change my bandages daily and apply ointment to my skull so the bone didn't dry out. It takes many months for the skin and tissue to grow

back, but it does.

My cancer can be removed with surgery but it continues to mature in other areas. Radiation therapy is another method of treatment. A couple of years ago I underwent 30 daily radiation treatments on my scalp to try to halt the growth of cancer in the nerves on my scalp. The radiation can cause side effects, mine included permanent hair loss, temporary lethargy and confusion, and nerve damage that has resulted in continued phantom nerve pain. I can live with the disfigurement and pain caused by surgery and radiation treatment, but others will struggle with these issues for years to come.

So you see, cancer can be a life-long issue for some patients and can include embarrassment, fear,

and continued pain. Cancer scares me as I imagine it does everyone who is diagnosed with one of its many forms, but we move forward. Donating to the Hurwitz Cancer Fund will help to ensure continued research into new treatment methods and improved care for those suffering with not only breast cancer,

but other cancers that will benefit from your support. Please participate in the many events and opportunities we will be offering over the next month, your neighbors, family, friends and even strangers thank you.

I can be reached at [jkinnaird@thurmont.com](mailto:jkinnaird@thurmont.com) or by phone at 301-606-9458.

**MELISSA M. WETZEL**  
CPA, PC  
— Certified Public Accountant —



~  
**Open for  
Appointments  
Only!**  
~

301 W. Main Street, Emmitsburg  
 **301-447-3797**  
[melissawetzelcpa.com](http://melissawetzelcpa.com)


**HOUSEHOLD  
HAZARDOUS WASTE  
DROP-OFF EVENT**

Saturday, October 12 • 8 to Noon

**NYMEO Field, 21 Stadium Drive, Frederick**  
Located in the baseball stadium UPPER parking lot -  
enter from New Design Road NOT South Market Street

No Walk Ups Accepted

**MATERIALS ACCEPTED INCLUDE:**  
Aerosol paints, automotive & household cleaners, brake fluid, flares, fluorescent bulbs/ballasts, garden chemicals, gasoline, mercury thermometers & thermostats, mothballs, pesticides & poisons, pool chemicals, photographic chemicals, radon & smoke detectors, rechargeable batteries, sealants, stains, thinners & solvents.

**THESE ITEMS ARE NOT ACCEPTED:**  
PAINT. Alkaline batteries, ammunition, antifreeze, tires, medical & biohazard waste, explosives, fire extinguishers, diesel fuel, hydraulic fluid, kerosene, lead acid batteries, medicine, motor oil, pressurized tanks (such as propane, butane, freon, oxygen, etc.), radioactive materials. NO regular trash or recyclables.

For detailed info, including proper handling of items not accepted at the event, use the **RECYCLE COACH** app, visit our website, or call 301-600-2960.

Sign up for automatic reminders for this event at  
**WWW.FREDERICKCOUNTYMD.GOV/HAZWASTE**

There is **NO FEE** to drop off materials.  
For residential items only, no business waste.

## FROM THE DESK OF...

# Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

On September 22nd approximately 100 people gathered in the Carroll Commons Park to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Carroll Valley Borough's incorporation in Adams County. The birth was formally recognized at all levels of government Federal, State, County, and local. The program started at noon with the Fairfield Area High School Drumline under the direction of Jason Cebulski. Their drum concert provided a musical performance that created a formal atmosphere. The program continued with the Fairfield Area High School Select Chorus, Chambers Singers, and Show Choir under the direction of Patsy Miles, entertaining those in attendance with various popular songs, one being an early 50s tune called "Lollipop."

This performance was followed by six elected officials and an appointed official who addressed the audience, recognizing the Borough and those who made the past 50 years successful. They were Borough Manager David Hazlett read the statement made to the members of Congress by Congressman Representative John Joyce on September 18th and

included in the Congressional Record on addressing the incorporation of Carroll Valley Borough on September 30th, 1974. Adams County Commissioner Randy Phiel officially proclaimed September 22nd, 2024, "Carroll Valley Borough's 50th Anniversary Celebration." PA State Representative Dan Moul provided a "Citation of Congratulations" from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. PA State Senator Doug Mastriano congratulated the Borough for providing an environment to grow in the past fifty years. David Hazlett, Borough Manager for the past 20 years, thanked his staff for their outstanding work in making Carroll Valley a place where people want to live. Mayor Robert Stanley from Fairfield Borough offered his congratulations. The President of the Council, Richard Mathews, provided closing remarks of praise, appreciation, and congratulations to everyone who made Carroll Valley a desirable and thriving community for the past 50 years.

Many people and entities were involved in the 50th Anniversary Celebration. Thanks to the Borough

Council (especially Councilor Cody Gilbert, Councilor Bruce Carr, Councilor Catherine Schubring from the Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Committee), Fairfield School District, David Hazlett, Gayle Mathers, Amanda Bell, Sarah Ginn, Brad Sanders, Chief Cliff Weikert, Adams County Library System - Carroll Branch Sherrie DeMartino, and Crystal Durbin, Charles Dalton, Collen Miles, Zach Miller, Kathryn Megyeri, Amy Walter, Hannah Beckett, Michelle Ritter, Bill McCleaf, Scot Walter, Charlie Frederick, Kathy Frederick, Jamie Groft, Keely Groft, Jale Dalton, Rob Olyphant, Lexi Welty, Adam Welty, Jeni Jarrell, Jim Jarrell, and Mayor Ron Harris.

Fire Prevention Week will be held this year from Sunday, October 6th, to Saturday, October 12th. The theme is "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you." This year, the National Fire Protection Association addresses the essentials of smoke alarm safety tips and installation, testing, and replacement guidelines on their website ([nfpa/events/fire-prevention-week](http://nfpa/events/fire-prevention-week)).

The Covered Device Recycling will be held on October 12th from 8 to 11 at 3641 Fairfield Rd. Acceptable turn-ins are computers, copiers, and gaming equipment units but not their peripherals, keyboards, modems, monitors, printers, routers, scanners, stereo receivers, and televisions (note: TVs must be removed from wooden cabinets). This event is only for current Park's Garbage Service customers in the boroughs of Carroll Valley, Fairfield, and the townships of Freedom, Hamiltonban, Highland, and Liberty. For additional information call 717-642-8269.

Free Shred Event sponsored by F&MTrust will be held on October 12th from 8 to noon at 5685 Fairfield Rd. (in front of Carroll Valley Borough Office). You are limited to 5 boxes per household. Items allowed include: office paper, paper clips, staples, rubber bands, folders, hanging folders, and binder clips. Items not allowed include newspapers, magazines, three-ring binders, heavy metal, heavy plastics, carbon, cardboard, and trash.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors will have their annual Fall and Winter clothing giveaway on October 19th at the

Liberty Worship Center. You can drop clothing off from 8 to 11. Come shop for free from 11 to 2.

Our Halloween Spooktacular will be held on October 31st in Carroll Valley Borough from 5 to 8:30. Once again, Carroll Valley has its outstanding "Trunk or Treat" affair in front of the Borough Office complex. Decorate your trunk, and I love to see the participants in costume. Sign up to be a "Trunk" to hand out candy. Call 717-642-8269 and talk to Amanda Bell if you have any questions. Costume Portraits will be taken in front of the Borough Office for 5:30 to 7:30; At 7 will be a Movie-in-the-Park showing "Beetlejuice" (the original).

Medicine Take Back. This event will be held on Oct 26, from 10 to 2 in front of the Carroll Valley Community & Education Complex. Community members are encouraged to participate in the disposal of any expired, unused, and unwanted prescription medications during the disposal hours. For more information about the Medicine Take Back event call 717-357-4439.

If you have any questions, contact me at 301-606-2021 or via e-mail at [MayorRonHarris@comcast.net](mailto:MayorRonHarris@comcast.net).

# Liberty Supervisor Walter Barlow

It has been a busy Summer here at Liberty Township, especially for the road department. We were happy to get the Bullfrog Rd. full depth reclamation done on schedule prior to the school year starting. Additionally, we were able to get the line painting done, including the double yellow lines down the center of the road and the fog lines on the sides of the road. We are continuing to work along Bullfrog Rd. completing shoulder work. Once the shoulder work is complete, we will start winterizing the road equipment for the upcoming winter season.

FY-25 budget planning is under way for Liberty Township. One project that we are considering, if finances allow it, is

tearing down our old salt shed building that sits along the roadway and replacing it with a new five bay structure that we can utilize for the road department. This project would extend through 2025 and possibly longer. We also recently requested a proposal to upgrade the outdoor lighting. The plan is to replace the old ballast lights with LED lights. The upgrade will help with loading materials at night in winter weather and provide better lighting in the parking lot. We are trying to upgrade and modernize our equipment and our structures here at the township to make them more suitable for today's world.

As of September 9, Tax Collector and Alternate Secretary/Treasurer Jessica Ilko

has taken on even more responsibility in the township. She is now working part-time as an administrative assistant to the police department. We appreciate her willingness to take on this additional position, so we could streamline the township working pool and consolidate the administrative support of the positions into one job.

Our two recently hired part-time police officers have been on the job in Freedom, Highland, and Liberty Townships since September. They have completed their field training and are out on their own. If you see them out and about, give them a welcoming wave. We appreciate them coming on board and we look forward to them interact-

ing with the residents in our area. Speed enforcement is one thing that they are enforcing daily to make sure that the traffic laws in our township are being obeyed for the safety of all our residents. If you witness any suspicious activity, please don't hesitate to reach out to the police department at 717-642-6103 and report those concerns, so that they can be addressed.

With the addition of these new officers, we anticipate almost daily coverage, not 24/7 coverage, but we are most certainly able to have police activity and police involvement in our community on more of a daily basis than we have had in the recent past. We thank all of our officers for their willingness to put in the time and the effort to be here to patrol and to give our residents a sense of security and protection on a day-to-day basis. Additionally, we thank Officer DeWitt for his continued support and reaching out to other officers and

bringing them on board to work for Liberty Township.

We are planning a trunk or treat even this month, so please check the Township's website for details once the date, time and location are set.

Carroll Valley's Police Department is hosting a National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Event on October 26 from 10 to 2 at the Carroll Valley Municipal building. This program is available to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the public about the potential for abuse of medications.

Tax season is upon us, please remember that we are currently in penalty phase for Municipal/County taxes and those taxes can be collected until December 31. We are currently in Face/Par collection for School taxes until October 31. The tax collector is currently available by appointment only.



**717-642-5844**  
5580 Fairfield Rd., Fairfield, PA 17320  
[www.mountainviewrealtypa.com](http://www.mountainviewrealtypa.com)  
[mountainviewrealtypa@gmail.com](mailto:mountainviewrealtypa@gmail.com)

*"We measure our success by your satisfaction!"*

<p><b>**** ACTIVE ****</b></p> <p><b>9 Sidetrack Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b> 1 acre sloping lot above the creek and the Carroll Valley Golf course. Close to the resort and ski slopes ..... <b>\$30,000</b> Identical additional lot is also available for purchase.</p> <p><b>55 Lightning Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b> Gently sloping perc approved lot on a quiet street in Adams County. Perfect location for getting away from the bustle of the cities. Survey was performed and corners are marked. <b>\$23,500</b></p> <p><b>524 Country Club Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b> Here is a great parcel by the Liberty Golf and Ski resort with an enchanting view of the mountains, the golf course and Lake May ..... <b>\$12,500</b></p>	<p><b>**** COMING SOON ****</b></p>  <p><b>2 Winter Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b> This inviting home has new paint, carpet, laminate flooring, and is in move-in condition. Full basement can be finished for additional rooms. Relaxing setting, nice views and comes with an additional wooded lot. <b>\$398,000</b></p> <p><b>**** SOLD ****</b></p> <p><b>13 Kern Tr. &amp; 13 Pinehurst Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b> 13 Kern Tr. &amp; 13 Pinehurst Tr. are being sold together giving you a 1 acre parcel for your home. Pinehurst Tr. already has a well drilled with 5 GPM at 260'. Lot is perc approved ..... <b>\$25,000</b></p>
--	---

<p><b>Jale Dalton</b> Realtor - Licensed in PA &amp; MD 717-420-0743</p> 	<p><b>Charles Dalton</b> Realtor - Licensed in PA 717-420-0744</p> 	<p><b>Doris Normand</b> Office Administrator 717-642-5844</p> 
--	--	--



**Thank You**  
for putting your trust in me as your State Representative thus far. I look forward to continuing to be your voice in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the next 2 years.

**Dan Moul**  
**Vote November 5**



## GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

# County Commissioner Randy Phiel

On August 21st, the Adams County 911 Center improved resident safety and customer service when they transitioned from a decades old legacy call delivery system to a state-of-the-art system. The cutover consisted of two parts: the first phase was to turn up our new Carbyne APEX call handling system within the 911 center. This new system has built in redundancy and failover capabilities as well as allowing the call takers an enhanced platform for dealing with callers. These enhancements include more precise location notifications, the ability to see transcription and translation in real time, and the ability to receive still pictures and real time video from a caller using a mobile phone. This APEX call handling solution is one that we share with Cumberland, Dauphin, and Franklin Counties and we are proud to note that we are the first in the Commonwealth to have this advanced solution.

On August 14, the Board approved the Subrecipient Agreement with Collaborating for Youth for utilization of Opioid Settlement Funds in the amount of \$16,000. The funds will be used towards two evidence-based substance abuse prevention programs for children in kindergarten through 6th grade. The Agreement is effective August 21, through August 2027. Adams County will receive a total of \$6.4 million over 18 years in Opioid Settlement Funding to be utilized for a variety of opioid related programs that meet the settlement criteria. More program approvals are anticipated in upcoming public meetings.

With the Presidential Election looming, getting all elections results tabulated in an accurate and timely manner is critical to the elections process. With the surging popularity of mail-in ballots in Pennsylvania, and the inability to process the mail-ins before 7 a.m. on election day, the Elections Board (Commissioners) is always seeking ways to improve the process.

On September 4th, the Board of Commissioners approved a sales order agreement with Election Systems & Software (ES&S) for the purchase of a DS950 High-Speed Scanner/Tabulator (to replace an older model), accessories, and a 5-year extended warranty at a total cost of \$129,230, which will be paid for from Act 88 Election Integrity Grant funds. The unit can process 280 ballots per minute and is very secure! It should be in service for this Presidential Election!

Getting out there and talking to students about their local government is important and always rewarding. Wednesday, September 4th, all three commissioners attended a Meet Your Local Government Day for Gettysburg High School Government class students. They were preparing for a debate on whether local government was more important than national government? We were joined by several Gettysburg Borough officials. We explained that local government probably impacts them more everyday than federal with the extensive menu of services. Also, local government is less politicized than state and federal government. We urged the students to become involved in their local governments, gain knowledge of the issues and candidates - and vote!

The Adams County Planting Partnership, the Adams County Conservation District, and the Watershed Alliance

of Adams County, have been working together since 2018 to distribute almost 80,000 native trees and shrubs to Adams County residents. Trees planted along streams help stabilize the soil, take up excess nutrients, shade and cool the water, and provide food and shelter to fish and wildlife. Trees can also lessen the impacts of stormwater runoff and provide community and environmental benefits in urban and suburban areas as well.

The Adams County Planting Partnership's Fall 2024 native seedling distribution is coming up. More than 8,000 trees and shrubs are being offered for free! The seedling request form will open at 9 on Saturday, September 14. The seedlings will be available for pickup at the Adams County Agricultural and Natural Resources Center. Pick up dates are tentatively scheduled for October 18 and 19. Go to [www.adamscountypa.gov](http://www.adamscountypa.gov) and then the Adams County Planting Partnership for the form and more information.

On Thursday afternoon, August 29, the Commissioners had the opportunity to meet with Congressman John Joyce and local fruit growers at Hollabaugh Bros. Farm in Biglerville. A major topic of the roundtable was Federal regulations relating to farm wages. Mandated farm worker wages are the largest cost and concern of our farmers. Also, various Federal regulations make it difficult for American farmers to compete with products coming in from other countries. For Adams County fruit growers, their ability to take fresh fruit to processors has greatly diminished causing product price and sales

issues. Congressman Joyce states that he stands firmly with the proposed Farm Bill that in brief provides mandatory funding and programs for rural farmers. He is advocating for the Farm Bill to be passed when Congress goes back into session. This was a very beneficial meeting that allowed fruit growers and their legislators to have an informal information exchange. Representative Torren Ecker was also in attendance.

Preserving our agricultural lands and heritage is an on-going priority of this Board. Recently, an Agreement for the sale and purchase of an Agricultural Conservation Easement for 275 acres with Hanover Shoe Farms was approved. The parcel is in Conewago and Union Townships. Adams County total purchase price of the conservation easement is \$823,860. The County will also cover the costs incident to the purchase of the easement in the amount of \$15,954, which is eligible for reimbursement by the State Board. This Agreement is effective September 4. This is the main farm of the Hanover Shoe Farm operation. There are 1264 total acres preserved to date on 11 farms at Hanover Shoe Farm which have gone to settlement and preserved to date. These totals do not count the farms preserved through the Land Conservancy of Adams County. There are two farms which will settle hopefully by the end of September, this farm (275 acres) and one that went to the state for funding of 161 acres. The entire project encompasses some of the best farmland in Adams County.

Many Adams County residents are not aware that the Brethren Home at Cross Keys is not only our largest county employer but is also a huge economic driver in Adams County both institutionally and for services required by residents. It is also a convenient and beneficial resource for our senior residents. At the September 4th public meeting, the Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 14 of 2024 approving the use of tax-exempt financing in the maximum amount of \$120 million for the project for The Brethren Home Community doing business as Cross Keys Village, for the acquisition, construction, and furnishing of 59 independent living units and a personal care facility with 100 units, in Oxford Township, Adams County, and for the refinancing of several series of Revenue Notes, each issued for the benefit of the Corporation. This Approval is

given by the Adams County Commissioners as the elected representatives having jurisdiction over the Authority and the geographic location of the facilities to be financed, and solely for the purposes of Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, following a duly advertised hearing held on August 26 at the offices of the Adams Economic Alliance. The Approval granted does not in any way pledge or obligate the credit or taxing power of the County, nor shall the County be liable for the payment of, or interest on the bonds. The Resolution was effective September 4.

I want to remind all readers that the nationally recognized National Apple Harvest Festival will take place at the South Mountain Fairgrounds October 5 and 6 & October 12 and 13. No matter what you do, get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural, and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!

**RANDALL ALEXANDER**  
**WELL DRILLING**  
**ALEXANDER'S PLUMBING, INC.**  
**PLUMBING & PUMPS • WATER TREATMENT**  
**4236 Fairfield Rd., Fairfield**  
**717-642-5285**  
 AlexanderWellDrilling.com

**BINGO!**  
**First Friday Every Month** | **Thurs. Night Bingo!**  
**Oct. 4** | **Oct. 17**  
**106 Steelman St., Fairfield**  
 Bring your Friends for a fun filled night!  
 \* Food Available  
**Doors Open @ 5:30**  
 Early Bird Starts @ 6:50  
**Kitchen opens at 5:30**  
 and at 1/2 time  
 **Fairfield Fire & EMS**  
**717-642-8842**  
[www.fairfieldfire-ems.com](http://www.fairfieldfire-ems.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/adamscountycompany2/>

**Giving Spree**  
**November 7**  
**ACCFGivingSpree.org**  
  
 Scan to visit us  


# COMMENTARY

## Words from Winterbilt

### The Supreme Court?

Shannon Bohrer

During Trump's presidency, he had the opportunity to appoint three justices to the Supreme Court. Since then, the court has made several decisions that are divisive and contentious, one of which reversed a previous decision that was thought to be settled law, and another creating a new and totally unexpected law.

On June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court reversed the previous *Roe v. Wade*, a decision made in 1973. In their ruling, the court left the decision to allow or ban abortions to each state. A states' rights issue! That decision has been contentious and has resulted in individual states either limiting, banning, or reaffirming a woman's right to an abortion. The opposition to banning and limiting abortion care is framed as health care, as it should be. In states that have held ballot referendums, the voter's choice has been to ensure a woman's right to have an abortion.

The decision to reverse *Roe v. Wade* is an important topic in the upcoming presidential election. It is thought to be the primary concern for many voters. However, another decision by the Supreme Court has the potential to restrict or even eliminate our democracy. Without a viable democracy, there would be no guarantees for any rights, including

women's health care.

On July 1, 2024, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that the former president was immune from prosecution for official acts. Additionally, the Chief Justice stated that the former president "*working with the justice department officials to push for investigations into certain state election results... fall under the umbrella of 'official acts'.*" The ruling refutes the long-standing principle that no one is above the law.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a Colorado Court decision to take the former president off the ballot. The Colorado Supreme Court was following section 3 of the 14th Amendment, prohibiting elected officials "*from holding future office if they took an oath to support the Constitution and 'subsequently engaged in insurrection'.*" The U.S. Supreme Court stated there would be potential issues of state disqualifications. So much for states' rights. The Colorado Supreme Court, in making their decision said the former president had engaged in an insurrection. The U.S. Supreme Court did not refute the conclusion that the former president had engaged in an insurrection, so that ruling still stands.

The U.S. Supreme Court refused to allow the states to make decisions that could affect the election, and then they made a decision that could affect the election. Special Prosecutor Jack Smith asked the court to accept the Immunity case on December 11,

2023. Then, on July 1, 2024, 203 days later, they gave a decision. Was 203 days a delay tactic by the court for the benefit of the former president? The reality is there is no other plausible explanation.

Virtually every judicial expert, which included current and retired judges, had predicted that the Supreme Court would affirm the lower court's decision that the president did not have immunity. Before reaching the Supreme Court, the trial court and the appellate court had decided that the president does not have immunity. So, what happened?

The Supreme Court's decision to involve itself in a presidential election is not new. When the Supreme Court decided *Bush v. Gore*, stopping a recount of election results in the State of Florida, it was considered a landmark decision. The Florida Supreme Court ordered a recount on December 8, 2000. On December 9, the Supreme Court ordered a stay, i.e., stop the count. Then on December 12, they decided in Bush's favor in just four days. While the Supreme Court likes to cite states' rights, and voting is a state right, yet the Court felt the need to intervene. Four days for Bush in 2000 and two hundred and three days for Trump, from late 2023 to 2024.

If voting is a state rights issue, then why interfere with the Florida and Colorado Case? We all believe we know the answer, but could there be other judicial justifications? Legal experts in various media outlets have denounced the decision.

In response to the Supreme Court's

decision on immunity, the American Bar Association (ABA) created a task force for "*American Democracy.*" The ABA obviously believes the President does not have immunity. Judge (retired) Luttig and Jeh Johnson chair the task force. Judge Luttig has an outstanding reputation in legal circles, and Jeh Johnson is a former secretary of Homeland Security.

The ABA president, Mary Smith, said the committee would study the issues and "*Provide actionable recommendations for reform.*" Adding, "*Clearly, our American Democracy is not as strong as we once thought and there are those who seem determined to push it to the breaking point.*" What factors need to exist for the American Bar Association to be alarmed?

The Society for the Rule of Law, a nationwide organization, is also concerned for our democracy. On July 12, just eleven days after the Supreme Court decision on immunity, The Society gathered more than 2400 signatures from attorneys, law students, judges, and concerned citizens on a "*New Statement of Principles.*" The principles affirmed the respect for the law, stating that the law and our legal institutions are being threatened.

The Society for the Rule of Law's "*Statement of Principles [is] to Preserve, Protect, and Defend the Constitution, the rule of law, and American Democracy.*" Accordingly, everyone enacting and enforcing the laws has a duty to do so. The principles include respecting elections, honoring the truth, and speaking the truth, supporting the principle that no one is

above the law, and opposing efforts to undermine legitimate courts and individual justices.

If Trump were to be elected, the safeguards, including the separation of power between the president, the judicial branch, could be in jeopardy. If the Attorney General classifies the actions of the president as official acts, then anything the president would do would be official business and protected with immunity. With no checks and balances, the office of the president could resemble an autocracy - and probably will if Trump is elected.

The revolution that created this country held the idea that no one was above the law. In England, the King was the law, and in America, the law was the King. The founding fathers structured a diverse government to prevent someone from holding too much power. They feared another king, and the Supreme Court may have upended that premise.

During Chief Justice John Roberts's Senate confirmation hearing in 2005, he said, "*the president in 'fully bound' by the law and he Constitution.*" Adding that not even the president is above the law. In future confirmation hearings, maybe we should ask if the Supreme Court is bound by the law?

*"A body of men holding themselves accountable to nobody ought not to be trusted by anybody."*

- Thomas Paine

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

## The Bulwark

### What does "Conservatism" even mean anymore?

Jonathan Last

In general, when people talk about "conservatism" they mean one of four things:

A conservative temperament - This is where I live. It usually starts from a place of humility, gratitude, and pessimism: A person with a conservative temperament or disposition will tend to believe that however imperfect a situation might be, we ought to be grateful for it because it can (and probably will) get worse.

The conservative worldview sees tail risk everywhere and views most progress as beset by unpleasant and unforeseen consequences.

A real-world example: I have written many times about the distortions and ill effects created by the Electoral College. At the same time, I am wary that any attempt at reform it would create different distortions and ill effects. And these might well be worse.

The liberal worldview believes that progress is possible—maybe even inevitable. The conservative worldview believes that we're always a step away from a cartoon anvil falling on our heads.

Conservative political theory - You could trace this back to the Greeks, but for our purposes it makes more sense to start around the Enlightenment. Often, the great minds of conservative political theory were recoiling from contemporaneous upheavals: Edmund Burke was reacting to the French Revolution.

Is conservative political theory operable today? That's a complicated question. For instance, conservative political theory has a lot to say about subsidiarity and the size of government: It believes that small government is best. But in practice, there is no movement or constituency in modern America for "small government." Absolutely none.

Meaning that people who cling to conservative political theory on small government have basically opted out of the real world. They're the equivalent of a Frenchman arguing that the Merovingian dynasty was better than the Fifth Republic. Maybe this is true! But it's also immaterial, because the Merovingians are a dead letter.

The other thing that's odd about conservative political theory is that, historically, it has grown during societal convulsions, when challenges arose to the established order.

Are there any "convulsions" at the moment? I suppose some would say that "wokeness" or immigration or DEI have represented a societal convulsion.

But I would argue that both of these progressive challenges fit firmly within established dynamics of reform and counter-reform.

Instead, I'd argue that the only true challenge to the established order comes from the movement that seeks to move us away from liberal democracy into what it calls illiberal democracy.

One of the great confusions of our time stems from the fact that conservative political theory has traditionally rejected radical change, but the people pursuing radical change today mostly emerged

from conservative political theory.

Conservative policy preferences - This is the most plebeian form of conservatism because it's almost entirely based on recent associations.

For 75 years the Republican Party has been the conservative party in America. So people conflate Republican policy preferences with conservative policy preferences.

Many Trump-skeptical conservatives claim that the policy preferences of the Reagan era are the "true conservative" policies. But I'm not sure why that should be.

Here's a list of Reagan-era policy preferences: Activist foreign policy built on robust alliances; In favor of large-scale immigration; Constitutional originalism and judicial restraint; Committed to free trade as an engine of economic growth. Today, those preferences are rejected (to varying degrees) by the "conservative" party and embraced (again, to varying degrees) by the "liberal" party.

The rump of Trump-skeptical conservatives mostly grew up in the Reagan era and they continue to insist that the policies from that time are the True Conservative policies, while the policies of the current Republican Party are not

The conservative movement - There exists in the world a number of people who professionalized "conservatism" and turned it into a small industry. Another common conflation is to equate professional operators with "conservatism." For instance: If Rush Limbaugh was touting some person or thing, then that person or thing was conservative by definition.

The ne plus ultra here is Donald Trump, who has come to personify "conservatism" to the point that whatever he

espouses at any given moment becomes the party line in the conservative movement—and hence the official stance of mainstream conservatives.

I'm skeptical of all four of these types of conservatism.

Let's start with the conservative movement, which has exposed itself as a partisan, rather than an ideological, enterprise. Movement conservatives have abandoned most of their previously stated positions over the last eight years as Republican voters shifted their own views.

Worse, in cases where movement conservatives have held on to a position and that position has been adopted by Democrats, the movement conservatives have refused to give Democrats credit or join with them.

For instance, there are many Reagan-conservatives who claim to care deeply about foreign policy. But their views on America's place in the world, the efficacy of intervention, and the importance of alliances now exist entirely within the Biden-Harris Democratic coalition. Meanwhile, the Trump-Vance Republican coalition is actively hostile to the foreign-policy views of Reagan-conservatives.

Show me the list of Reagan conservatives who credit Biden and Harris for their positions and recognize that the Democratic party is now the home for such views. I'll wait.

Many "conservative policy preferences" were redistributed between the two parties by realignment. And when it came time to choose between the policy and the party, nearly all of the movement conservatives chose the latter.

I'm skeptical of conservative political theory, too.

Don't get me wrong: There's wisdom to be mined in conservative theory. But also danger. You get Edmund Burke, but you also get Joseph de Maistre. To put it starkly: If we've reached a point where fascism has been brought to the fore not by runaway liberalism but by the conservative party and the conservative movement, then maybe we ought re-examine some parts of conservative political theory. I'm Ron

And any conservative who doesn't feel the need for such a reexamination, and thinks that the answer is something like "True conservatism has never been tried . . ."

Well, I'm skeptical of that as well. Why?

Because while I believe that the presence of temperamental conservatism is required for a healthy society, it's certainly not sufficient. We do make progress. The world does get better. We need the progressive impulse to push society in that direction.

Now, I think we also need engine governors to keep things like the French Revolution from happening. So in the end, people like me aren't totally useless.

At the end of the day, I guess you could say that I distrust anyone who believes that only one system of thought, or set of policy preferences, has all the answers.

And I'm doubly distrust anyone who holds themselves apart from the real world, as if they're the keepers of an ideological true faith, rather than understanding that society requires a cycle of reform and counter-reform; that human flourishing needs both engines and engine-governors.

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

# The Liberal Patriot

## The battle for skeptical independents

John Halpin

Independent voters come in several stripes. The bulk are traditional moderates who value pragmatism and core American values over radicalism and extreme positions that increasingly define the two political parties. Others are either right- or left-populist voters, Americans who disdain the political system for a variety of reasons due to incompetence and corruption, and desire a sometimes odd mix of changes to the status quo. The final group of independents are mostly disengaged and disaffected voters, those who keep up with politics and check in on elections only sporadically, if at all, as they pursue other things in life.

The one thing that unifies these diverse independent voters is skepticism of anything politicians say—across the board, independents feel politicians are basically full of it, have few principles, and will say anything to anyone if they think it gives them a leg up on the other party.

To win these skeptical independent voters, actions matter a lot more than words. Right now, both Donald Trump and Kamala Harris have hit a wall in terms of showing independents who they are and what they are about through their deeds rather than proclaiming more things these voters fundamentally don't believe.

The debate last night likely did little to assuage their doubts. Debates in general have lost their importance as defining moments in presidential campaigns,

with the exception of Biden's performance in June which drastically altered the internal dynamics of his own party. The pattern is always the same. Partisans defend their candidate and say he or she "obviously" won the debate. Analysts score points on style or substance. But most non-partisan voters either don't watch these things, tune in for a bit and leave, or wait to see what others are saying the next day before making a partial conclusion.

One of candidates might get a bump in the polls and the other a ding based on the performance, but a week from now most voters will have moved on from a night of bickering and fighting.

Looking at Adam Carlson's nice cross-tab aggregator, independent voters (including those who lean to either Democrats or Republicans) remain essentially split on their 2024 vote choice with 45 percent favoring Harris and 44 percent favoring Trump. Notably, the current head-to-head marks a significant decline in independent support for Democrats who backed Biden over Trump by nine points on average in 2020.

Donald Trump has been in the public eye for a long time, and still hasn't managed to significantly increase his national support to reach majority status. Why? For independent voters who aren't already aligned with him, his personal and presidential actions—particularly those after his election loss in 2020—define him in a highly negative manner. Nothing much he says in this campaign will be taken seriously by these voters since he's already proven himself to be an untrustworthy person and failed leader.

Has Trump done anything notable this campaign cycle to prove to voters that he has evolved personally and politically from his past behavior? Not really. He said a few things that suggested possible moderation on abortion, but then turned around and said he would vote no on a ballot measure to repeal Florida's six-week abortion ban after appointing the Supreme Court justices who overturned the national right to abortion in the first place. Trump continues to downplay and defend his efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss to Biden—and even promises "on Day 1" if elected president again to pardon the convicted people who attacked the U.S. Capitol on his behalf.

Not surprisingly, given his deeds and lack of tangible improvement, Trump is stuck at 46 to 48 percent nationally. Actions over words.

Kamala Harris, on the other hand, is basically a non-entity with many independent voters who are not already aligned with her. Although she has been vice president for nearly four years, many voters remain unaware of the concrete actions she has taken on domestic and foreign policy to help define and advance the Biden administration agenda.

For example, they haven't heard much if anything from her about why she took steps to cast tie-breaking votes in the Senate to advance major legislation like the American Rescue Plan and the Inflation Reduction Act—and what she hoped to achieve in doing so. It wasn't just that she was Biden's vice president, surely. She clearly believed in the substance of these bills and voted to pass them, and consequently, would be wise to defend these actions and their consequences to voters as evidence of what she will do as president rather than what



she says as a politician.

Likewise, people still know very little about Harris's time as a U.S. Senator and attorney general in California. What did she do in those jobs and what actions or steps would she highlight today to show—not tell—voters what kind of person and leader she has been and would be as president? It's a bit of a mystery honestly.

In terms of policy debates, particularly between the center and the left in the Democratic Party, where and how has Harris concretely broken with the progressive left as state attorney general, as U.S. Senator, and as the current vice president? Inquiring minds want to know. Calling yourself a moderate is not the same thing as proving to hesitant voters that you are a moderate. Actions over words—again.

What independent and other undecided voters have heard about Harris is a lot of back and forth about the out-of-the-mainstream positions she took in the 2020 Democratic primary that she has since renounced in the short 2024 presidential campaign following Biden's exit.

But barring some deeper awareness of what Harris has actually accomplished

as a political leader, it's hard to believe that these new words and policy positions will be convincing to a range of skeptical independent or undecided voters.

In the few remaining weeks of the election, it would be helpful for both Trump and Harris to spend more time proving to voters—through their past and current actions and serious future pledges—that they genuinely mean what they say and that they possess the personal character and leadership qualities necessary to serve the American people well.

To win over remaining skeptical independents, many of whom are still making up their mind about the two candidates, it's critical for Trump and Harris to concretely challenge public assumptions about who they are and how they might govern.

Ultimately, their actions as leaders will matter more to independents than empty campaign rhetoric and partisan cheerleading that voters won't believe anyway.

"Talk is cheap, it takes money to buy whiskey," as the old proverb goes.

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

# Good Day Neighbor

## The fabric of our county, our country

Dorothea Mordan

Woodsboro was founded in 1786 by Joseph Wood (1743-1800). Our little town was built along ancient footpaths, growing with the country into a home to generations. Home school to public school, local business and churches that fostered the community found in small towns. Human migration and trade grew by traveling roads started from trails worn into the earth by native Americans, becoming dirt roads for settlers with their horses and wagons. Railroads appeared for early mass transit. The horse and buggy fell out of favor, making way for our beloved automobiles—mini-fiefdoms on wheels.

Our nation thrives on healthy competition in business and sports. A century of Woodsboro's Rosebud Salve is testament to ingenuity, product loyalty and good old fashioned hometown pride. No doubt more than a few folks from Woodsboro would buy no other salve over the years.

Woodsboro and Walkersville have a blend of everything that makes neighbors into a community. Our children attend the feeder schools, graduating together from Walkersville High School. We have locally owned businesses that make buying local part of daily life. We

are close enough to Frederick to get all the Big City Stuff we desire, but having hometown merchants and great schools makes this a Community.

Trout's Market, on Main St. in Woodsboro, is a priceless asset for our towns. It has been here over sixty years, nourishing us everyday, and saving dinner time on super busy workdays. Trout's as a small, full service grocery store is a lifeline for many residents who don't have a vehicle to get to distant grocery options. Over the years we have had many friends from around Frederick County come to Trout's because of its personal feel, and the dependable selection seafood, meat and vegetables. Communities all over the country are losing the businesses that hold them together, and grocery stores are particularly vulnerable. Our grocery store supports us in this community, and it takes us to support our grocery store.

Our country is built on small communities woven together by our needs. Countries fray when a few poor leaders convince the public to feel threatened, taken advantage of by "those people" from "somewhere else". Just ask anyone from Springfield, Ohio. (I have yet to hear any Republican from Maryland denounce—UNEQUIVOCALLY—the false claims about pet eating or any other raving claim made by current GOP leadership.)

In our public schools there is a fraying of trust between the grownups. We each

have our own story and perspective—teacher, current student, a parent of a student, or our childhood as a student. The Special Education Department is uniquely delicate, trying to navigate the needs of students and concerns of parents. All of us in that arena have a steep daily learning curve when it comes to communication challenges, such as with a nonverbal child.

On the ballot in the general election are candidates who have built their careers on understanding how leadership impacts communities and trust. Each understands that education and community together form the backbone of any town, county or country. Education brings access to information, inspires curiosity, and advances our problem solving and critical thinking skills. Our community connections deepen with opportunities to understand other perspectives. A strong economy depends on an educated public with a sense of community. Each of these candidates understands that education and community are the path to, and inspiration for, the resilient economy and society we have.

Angela Alsobrooks, US Senator. [angealsobrooks.com](http://angealsobrooks.com).

"Angela firmly believes that the investments made into the education system reflect the value society places on its children and how these children feel valued by their community."

As County Executive, "Angela spearheaded the construction of 10 new schools in Prince George's County,

accomplishing this feat with the help of a public-private partnership (P3) model that can deliver schools 10 years faster and at a cost of 15-20% less without the need to raise new taxes."

April McClain Delaney, MD 6th Congressional District. [aprilmcclaindelaneyforcongress.com](http://aprilmcclaindelaneyforcongress.com)

"April supports the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, which makes critical investments in Maryland's public education by increasing funding for public schools, expanding access to pre-K, addressing resource disparities, and applying new standards for college and career readiness. Once elected, April will work with state leaders to ensure Blueprint for Maryland's Future is fully funded, so our public education system continues to have the critical resources it needs."

Janie Monier, Board of Ed. Candidate. [janiemonier.org](http://janiemonier.org). Has a comprehensive approach to supporting Parents, Families, and Teachers that includes real improvements to education such as managing class size, and funding the staff and resources to achieve realistic goals.

Chad King Wilson, Sr. Board of Ed. Candidate. [chad4boe.com](http://chad4boe.com)

"... a 17-year veteran educator, coach, and educational activist with a background in Special Education, Social Studies, and Alternative Education programs..."

Mr. Wilson believes that every child should have access to an inclusive, diverse, world-class education

that is, as Nelson Mandela stated, "the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Josh Bokee, Board of Ed. Candidate. [joshbokee.org](http://joshbokee.org)

"...All students deserve to be challenged, encouraged, supported and presented with opportunities that lead to success"

Let's not forget the top of the ticket, [kamalaharris.com](http://kamalaharris.com)

Kamala Harris, whose career path is illuminated by battles she won to keep our communities safe, and our economy and personal finances stable.

"...went up against predatory for-profit colleges and won — delivering a \$1.1 billion settlement for students and veterans who got scammed."

Tim Walz, who has seen education and community from his many perspectives as a veteran, teacher, Congressman, Governor.

Yes we all want a strong country and economy, but it all starts with community. There is a real attempt to unravel the fabric of our communities, voting is the repair. When this election cycle is just too overwhelming, take a break and buy a nice meal or a snack at Trout's. We are almost there.

2024 is the year of the vote. Please make yours count.

To read prior editions of Good Day Neighbor, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net) or visit her website: [ChandlerDesignsLimited.com](http://ChandlerDesignsLimited.com).

# THE PASTOR'S DESK

## Saints: perfected in the divine life

Father Timothy Barkley  
St. James Orthodox Church

The traditional churches of the West celebrate the Feast of All Saints on November 1st. In the Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Synaxis of All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost. Christians from time immemorial have commemorated saints known to us and known only to God together on All Saints.

We are "called to be saints". What does that calling mean? How do we walk it out in our daily lives? And what is a "saint"?

The word "saint" comes from the same root as the word "holy." Saints are those called to be holy (I Pet. 1:15-16). God is holy, and we are made in his image and likeness, formed according to the archetype of Christ. Holiness is often understood as being "set apart to God" or "set apart for God." I suggest that holiness is more than that. Holiness isn't something we become; holy is who we become. It's not something extrinsic to us that we attain; it must become who we are. We are holy, not by becoming something foreign to our nature, but by fully becoming who we were always meant to be.

Holiness is becoming by grace what Jesus is by nature, rising from the baptismal font in newness of the resurrection life of Christ, partaking of the divine nature as he is formed in us not as an abstraction but as a reality. By receiving the gratuitous outpouring of God's energies ("grace"), and engaging with those energies all of our being ("faith"), we become all that he is. We do not become a divinity, a member of the Holy Trinity, but we do become "little Christs," which is what it means to be a "Christian." We are filled with all the fullness of God, having Christ, who is the fullness of the godhead formed in us and dwelling in us.

The Orthodox Church teaches that this happens literally, by grace, and not just figuratively, allegorically, or juridically. It's not that if we become holy, we are moved into a category of things that now belong or pertain to God. Rather, by being re-formed into the fullness of the person and nature of Christ who is fully God, we take on the nature of the God who is holy. We become filled with his life, so that we live that life in our human nature just as Jesus did. All that the Father is by nature, the Son is by nature; and all that the Son

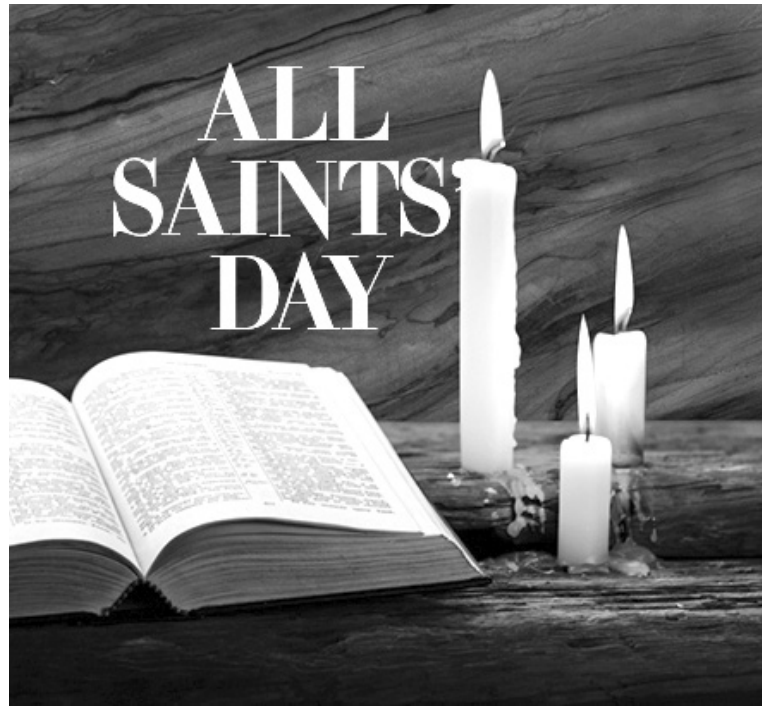
is by nature, we can become by grace, thereby becoming by grace what God is by nature. We can thus be holy, precisely because by receiving the gratuitous outpouring of his energies we take on the nature of the One who is holy.

Sainthood, then, is godhood, becoming the very light, life and love of God in the earth by grace. That sounds suspicious to some Christians. But this is not a syncretistic and heretical blending of truth and falsehood. The truth is that we can become divine, but we are not divine by nature, as the heretics claim. Rather, we become divine by grace. The falsehood is that we are divinities by nature; the truth is that we become partakers of the divine nature by grace.

The saints are those who took seriously the call to live the divine life in this life. They let nothing stand between them and the "one thing needful" fixing their eyes on Christ and running with endurance the race marked out for them, persevering until the end, that they might be saved.

The saints weren't saints until they were saints. The saints didn't walk around on a cushion of air, their feet not touching the ground. They didn't — at least, most of them didn't — exude a special aroma or act spooky or weird. They just took their faith very seriously, like it was the only thing that really mattered. Everything else was either a means to faith and embraced, or a hindrance to faith and eschewed. And they were right.

When pastors hold up saints as an example of the Christian life, people often object, "but they were saints," seeming to believe that saints had an unfair advantage over the rest of us ordinary people. Not so. Saints didn't start as saints with an easy road to holiness; they chose to be holy and became saints. They made a choice, the same



choice that we can make, if we want it badly enough. How badly do we want to fulfill our calling?

Some saints are saints because of one event at the end of their lives, when for the first time they saw clearly the glory of God in the face of Christ's martyrs and embraced martyrdom for themselves. They were perfected in the divine life in an instant. Other saints persevered in the marathon of the Christian life over their entire lifetime. They show us what it means to "run with perseverance" or endurance. They were perfected in the divine life throughout their lives.

Classically, there are six categories of saints: apostles and equals-to-the-apostles, who dedicated their lives to the spreading of the Gospel; martyrs and confessors who died for the faith or made extreme sacrifices rather than deny, obscure, or compromise the faith; prophets of the Old Testament and the prophet, forerunner and baptizer John who prepared the people of God to receive their salvation in Christ; bishops and priests who served the churches

well; monastics who withdrew from the world to embrace communion with God as their one aim; and "the righteous" who lived holy lives in the world.

Any of us could be described in any of these categories, but the last gives me hope for myself. I am a priest and pastor, a husband and father, and I work a "secular" job in the world. I am encouraged at the example of the righteous such as St. Juliana of Lazarevo, who was married and ran a large household, raised seven children, and set an example of the Christian life; and St. Emilia, who raised ten children, five of whom were numbered among the saints.

My family obligations and workaday life are no excuse. I am called to the same calling. I, too, am called to be a saint, to be holy as God is holy, to be his life, light and love in the world. I'm not called to be spooky and weird; I'm called to be truly normal, living life according to the "norm," the archetype Christ, who showed us what it means to be fully human.

The life of the saints isn't remarkable; it's ordinary. It's the way we're all supposed to live. The reason it strikes us as different is that we are messed up. What the Church offers us, among many blessings, is the opportunity to get cleaned up, reoriented, and energized with the life of Christ so that we can live his life in the world. For we are "called to be saints."

To learn more about Taneytown's St. James Orthodox Church, visit them online at [stjamesorthodoxchurch.org](http://stjamesorthodoxchurch.org), or better yet, join them for Sunday service.

**FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH**  
717-642-6767

Sunday School - 9 a.m.  
Fellowship Time - Refreshments and Fellowship - 10 a.m.

Please join us! Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.  
(Check our website for online streaming)

Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study - 7 p.m.

**DR. WILLIAM BURCHER, SENIOR PASTOR**  
110 Mt. Hope Road, Fairfield  
admin@fbc-pa.org www.fbc-pa.org

**Huge Colorfest Yard Sale!**  
Benefiting Apples Church and the Community

Join us Thursday, Friday, and Saturday  
October 10th, 11th, and 12th

Tons of great stuff for sale!  
Awesome hot dogs and baked goods available!

**YARD SALE**

Apples United Church of Christ  
7908 Apples Church Rd.  
Thurmont  
301-606-2169  
Service every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

**Graceham Moravian Church**

Sunday Worship hours  
Sunday School 9:15  
Worship Service 10:30

No Served With Grace  
Dinner in October

301-271-2379  
8231A Rocky Ridge Rd,  
Thurmont  
Facebook Live - You Tube  
admin@gracehammoravian.org

**Yard Sale**  
October 10, 11 & 12  
8 to 4

**Food Sale!**  
Friday October 11  
from 11 to 6  
Saturday October 12  
from 9 to 4

Fried Oyster Sandwiches,  
Hot Dogs, Hot Beef, Ham  
Sandwiches, Chicken Salad, baked  
items, and OF COURSE Soups!  
(HOT & COLD)

Keymar Wesleyan Church Presents their annual  
**Trunk or Treat**

Wednesday, October 30th at 6:30  
1011 FSK Hwy., Keymar

FREE Candy, Hayrides, Games,  
Prizes, Food & so much & more!

[www.kewc.org](http://www.kewc.org)

**CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Connecting God & Community

**Celebrating Sundays at 8:30 a.m.  
10:30 a.m. & Wednesdays at 7 p.m.**

Children's Ministry at 10:30 a.m. as well as 7 p.m.  
Watch online at [ccaog.org](http://ccaog.org) or on Facebook

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

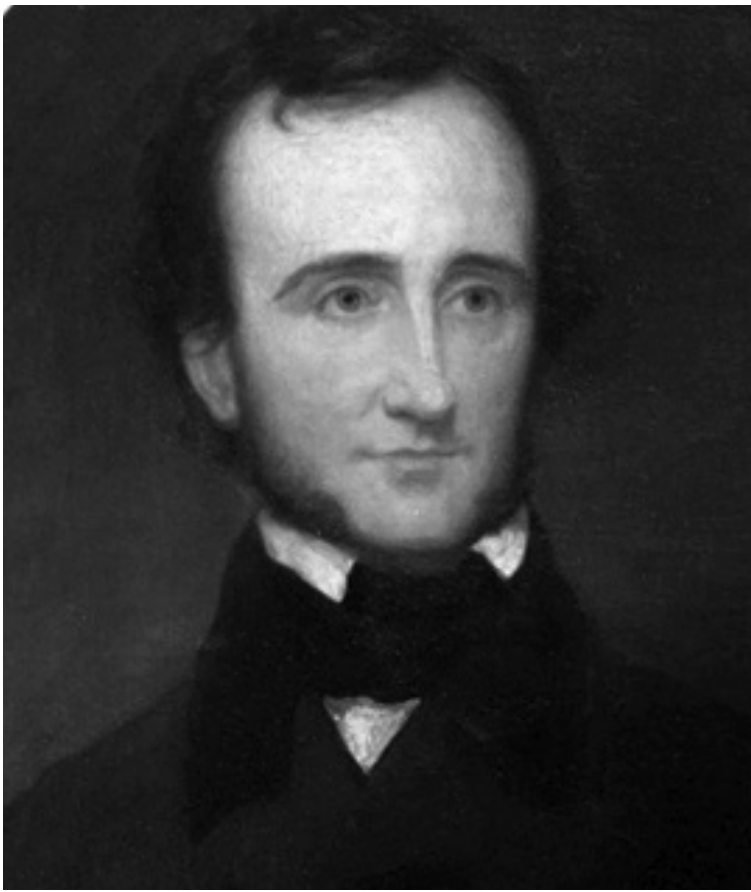
[ccaog.org](http://ccaog.org)  
301-447-4224

303 West Lincoln Avenue  
Emmitsburg  
(Next to the town pool)

**John Talcott**  
Senior Pastor  
**Dana Talcott**  
Children's  
Ministry

# THE BOOK OF DAYS

## Edgar Allan Poe



On Oct 7, 1849, Edgar Allan Poe, an eccentric American poet died. It may seem absurd to say that he belonged by birth to the aristocracy, in a country where no aristocracy is recognised. Still, it is a fact that Poe was an aristocrat, and it is also true, that no people are more proud of the advantages of birth and breeding, than citizens of the United States, especially those who belong to the southern division of those states.

Poe was a Southerner in manners and feelings, as well as by birth; and there is little doubt, that the greater part of the infamy which was heaped upon him after his death, was owing to the fact that as a man of taste he despised, and as an aristocrat, treated with contempt, a tradesman in literature, who lived by making books of biographies, generally laudatory of living literary persons. This man took his revenge when the opportunity came, as any one may kick a dead lion with impunity. Many have echoed, no doubt honestly, the evil fame which was made for the poor poet by this man, whom he had despised and insulted during his life.

Poe's grandfather was a soldier in the war of the American revolution, and a friend of Lafayette. His father was a student at law. He fell in love with an English actress, named Arnold, and married her. They both died young, and at nearly the same time, leaving three orphan children. Edgar was adopted and educated by John Allan, a wealthy merchant of Virginia. At the early age of five years he was brought to England, and was sent to school near London, till he was ten years old.

Poe's life was a series of eccentric adventures. The reason of this is to be found in his temperament, or physical constitution. He lived, from the cradle to the grave, on the verge of madness, when he was not absolutely mad. A half-glass of wine intoxicated him to insanity. His brain was large, almost to deformity, in the region where phrenologists place the imaginative faculties. Under the influence of slight stimulus, such as would have been inappreciable by a person otherwise constituted, Poe

able for aquatic and gymnastic performances. He was able to leap further than most men, and he once swam seven miles and a half against the tide.

In 1835, Poe was employed to write for the Southern Literary Messenger, and about this time he married his cousin, Virginia Clemm, who, at the time of their union, was about fourteen years old. After this, we find him engaged on Benton's Gentleman's Magazine, at two pounds a week. This engagement was of brief continuance, and he next was connected with Graham's Magazine, and wrote Some Strange Stories, nearly all of which seem tinged with a sort of semi-insanity. We next find him engaged with Mr. Briggs, in establishing the Broadway Journal. This was soon discontinued. About 1844, he wrote The Raven, which has enjoyed a more extended reputation than any other production of his pen.

After the appearance of the Raven in trans-atlantic periodicals, Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote to Poe, that 'The Raven had excited a fit horror in England.' He was delighted with the compliment. Indeed this sort of impression appeared to be an object of ambition with him. Poe always seemed to consider The Raven as his master-piece, and he was fond of reciting it in company, in a sort of sing song tone, which was very unpleasant to some.

It would be difficult to calculate the amount of fame that Poe might have earned, if he could have lived, and written one year in undisturbed sanity. After the fame of The Raven had brought his name upon every lip, he was invited to lecture before the Boston Atheneum—the highest honour the Athens of America could bestow on the poet. He went before an elegant and most intellectual Boston audience, and instead of giving a lecture, he repeated a juvenile poem that had been published! His friends had no doubt of the cause, or occasion of this strange proceeding, but the audience were indignant. Poe declared that 'it was an intentional insult to the genius of the frog

pond, a small pond on Boston Common 'a further evidence of the madness that he often induced, by taking stimulants, though he knew his fearful liability. After this, his irregularities became so much the rule of his life, that Mrs. Clemm, who acted the part of a good genius to the poet and his young wife, her daughter, took a cottage at Fordham, near New York.

Here she devoted herself to the care of both with tender and unceasing assiduity. Mrs. Poe was dying of consumption. Poe was plunged in a deep melancholy, which did not admit of his writing anything. They were in a state of almost utter destitution, and the malady of the poet was constantly aggravated by witnessing the suffering of his fading, lily-like wife, to whom he was tenderly attached. Friends came to their help the moment their condition was known, and it was subsequently brought against Poe, that he took a bribe at this time for a favourable review, which he afterwards wrote of a miserable book of poems. In speaking of this violation of his literary conscience, after he had somewhat recovered the tone of his mind, he said, 'The author gave me a hundred dollars, when my poor Virginia was dying, and we were starving, and required me to write a review of that book. What could I do?'

Let those who have judged him harshly for this, and other sins of his life, place themselves in his condition. When sober and sane, Poe was a gentleman of pure taste and elegant manners, whose conversation was always interesting, and often instructive. He had great personal beauty, and the aristocratic manner and bearing of a south-

ern gentleman, and a descendant of the Cavaliers. In 1848, Poe published Eureka, which he first gave as a lecture. It is impossible to give a characteristic description of this and other literary performances by Poe. The same sort of extravagance pervades all, and those who knew him most intimately, and were best qualified to judge, believed that he lived and wrote with a shade of madness in all that he did—and yet few men were more methodical and orderly in their habits than Poe. His handwriting was delicately beautiful, and at the same time clear and plain. His study was the perfection of order and neatness. But his fearful proclivities might change all this in a moment. The world cannot believe that half a glass of wine could make a man lose all self-control, and hurry him on to madness, and its fearful consequences. But there is abundant proof that this was true of Poe.

After the death of his wife, Poe gradually recovered from the deep melancholy which had palsied all his mental power during the last portion of her life, and engaged again in literary occupation. Subsequently, he entered into correspondence with a lady of fine genius and high position, with a view to marriage. But here, again, his destiny was against him. The marriage was broken off, and soon after Poe died of delirium tremens, at the age of thirty-eight; that critical period at which it seems natural for an irregular life, combined with excessive brain-work, to bring its victims to an end.

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

was led on to commit acts, the consequences of which were often distressing, and might at any moment have been fatal, as was finally the case.

At an early age he entered college at Charlottesville, Virginia, but he was expelled for dissipation. He also entered the military school at West Point, New York, but he left in a year. During the excitement in favour of the independence of Greece, he started for that country; but he was next found at St. Petersburg, where he fell into distress, as was his fortune almost everywhere, and some friends sent him home.

Soon after his return, he published a volume of poems, entitled *At Aaraaf, Tamerlane, and Minor Poems*. These were written from the age of sixteen to eighteen years.

At one time he enlisted as a soldier, but he soon deserted. He had much partiality for active exercise, and very little for discipline, though he was exceedingly methodical and orderly in all the details of life. He was remark-

**LIGHT THE NIGHT**

**TRUNK OR TREAT**

Victory Tabernacle Church  
6710 Kellys Store Road  
Thurmont

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 20**

**5-7**

**Free:**

Hot Dogs  
Snacks  
Treats  
Crafts  
Door Prizes

Registration  
begins at 4:45

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
8619 Black's Mill Rd., Creagerstown  
**301-898-5290**  
Or Visit Us At: [www.emmitsburg.net/gjlc](http://www.emmitsburg.net/gjlc)

---

**October 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 12<sup>th</sup> - Estate Yard Sale**  
In the Parish Hall starting at 7:30 a.m. to benefit the building fund/window project. Pulled Pork Bar-B-Que by Jake and other food for sale.  
**Apple Butter - Quarts \$7 Pints \$4**

---

**October 19<sup>th</sup> - Drive-thru Dinner & Bake Sale**  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Order deadline: 10/13  
Fried chicken, green beans, pepper slaw, biscuit & piece of cake..... **\$15**

Buckets of chicken: 8 pc. \$10, 12 pc. \$15, 16 pc. \$20  
Call Carmi Saylor at 301-401-0633 or the church 301-898-5290 with your name, phone number and order.

---

**October 27<sup>th</sup> - 3 p.m.**  
**Clustered Spires Brass Band Free Concert**  
In St. John's Union Church Building  
A goodwill offering will be collected - Light refreshments

**TRUNK 'N TREAT**

**Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>**

**4 to 6**

First Baptist Church of Thurmont  
7 Sunny Way, Thurmont

- Decorate your trunk (no scary scenes please)!
- Enjoy treats, games and free food!
- Trophy awarded for best trunk!

Bring a non-perishable food item for the Thurmont Food Bank.

Register online at:  
[www.FBCTHURMONT.org](http://www.FBCTHURMONT.org)

# ECOLOGY

## Squirrels

**Anne Gageby**  
 Director of Environmental Education  
 Strawberry Hill Foundation

Raise your hand if you have a bird feeder. Give it a wave if you've ever dealt with squirrels getting into said bird feeder. It seems like there are a hundred ways of preventing the pesky rodents from stealing bird food and just as many ways squirrels find their way in anyway. Squirrels are sneaky, tricky, and snap-quick at evading predators. They're also kind of cute.

Sometimes, when I'm out on the trails, I'll stop and watch as these small to medium-sized rodents scurry along the forest floor or across branches. It's fascinating to watch them bolt then stop to look around and swish their tails, before bolting again as if spooked by the dappled sunlight or maybe their own imaginations.

Not that squirrels don't have real predators. Hawks, foxes, snakes, and owls are the most common predators though they are most successful when squirrels are young. As adults, all squirrels are incredibly adept at evasive changes in direction and disappearing. Gray squirrels are especially quick, much faster than reds. Unlike many other animals, adult squirrel populations are not usually impacted by predators as food accessibility is a bigger determining factor. A bad year makes a more noticeable impact on population density.

Grey squirrels consume mast such as hickory nuts, beech-nuts, walnuts, and acorns. The quintessential image of a squirrel is of one holding or hiding a nut. They're famous for burying extras and inadvertently growing a forest. But they eat other foods, too. Berries, mushrooms, corn germ, insects, and amphibians round out squirrels' diets. Yes, squirrels are technically opportunistic feeders that will consume animal parts alongside the more typical nuts and fruits. Foods such as bones, bird eggs, and even dead animals are consumed when season and availability call for it.

As for water, squirrels consume high-moisture foods such as buds and flowers though gray squirrels will drink from ground-water sources as needed. They've been known to scratch at maple trees until sap flows and indulge in a tasty drink. Hobbyist maple sugarcers can often spot the little rascals sneaking drinks from winter maple taps. Work smarter, not harder, after all.

Pennsylvania is home to four native arboreal, or tree, squirrel species – the gray, fox, red, and flying squirrels. The gray is the most common species found in Pennsylvania. Squirrels are members of the family Sciuridae; a family that includes the previously mentioned tree squirrels, ground squirrels including chipmunks, and flying squirrels. They have keen senses of hearing and smell. All species are most active during the day except for flying squirrels which are noc-

turnal. Unlike many animals, these interesting little rodents only see in black and white. Like many other mammals, however, they're born hairless and blind and are dependent upon their mothers for the first two months of life. Upon maturation, squirrels become incredibly agile and able to care for themselves.

They're one of the only mammals that can descend a tree upside down due to two unique adaptations. First, their tiny claws are hook-shaped and are able to grab tree bark with ease. Second, their wrists and ankles can turn 180 degrees which allows them to climb, hang, and flee as needed, no matter the direction. They are among the most skilled tree-climbers in Pennsylvania. They have the added advantage of having powerful abdominal and back muscles which make climbing a breeze. And even non-flying squirrels have the ability to jump about seven feet at a time as they move from branch to branch.

Interestingly, the northern flying squirrel doesn't actually fly. It travels by gliding, reaching an average distance of about 65 feet. They can also reach eight miles per hour in ground speed. Unfortunately, the northern flying squirrel is listed as endangered here in Pennsylvania as it's becoming more and more rare. Its home range is now limited to northern conifer forests. The smaller southern flying squirrel is not endan-



**If you've ever dealt with squirrels getting into bird feeders, you know there are a hundred ways of preventing them from stealing bird food, and just as many ways squirrels find their way in anyway. Squirrels are sneaky, tricky, and snap-quick at evading predators; however, they are also kind of cute.**

gered as is more widespread in both habitat and range. Fortunately, the northern flying squirrel is considered secure nationally so that's a positive checkmark for the species.

If you've ever seen a squirrel up close, you might notice how gray squirrels are only partly gray. They are often silver-gray on top and off-white on their bellies. There are usually rust-colored markings on their sides that add interesting visual contrast. Like many creatures, albino squirrels do occur though they are considerably more rare than melanistic squirrels. In fact, dark gray-black to jet-black squirrels are fairly common.

Their long, bushy tails are iconic and useful. They aide squir-

rels in maintaining body heat when temperatures drop by acting like a fluffy blanket to curl up under. They help keep rain and snow from the main body and when necessary, can signal to other squirrels if danger is close by. Probably the coolest use of squirrel tails is parachuting. Squirrels are just as adept at landing as they are jumping. That's because they can flatten their bodies and use their tails like a parachute to help slow their fall. Squirrels are fantastic showmen when it comes to feats of falling.

Just today I was out on the trail and watched a gray jump between branches. He lost his balance just enough to slide sideways before catching himself and scurrying up the tree trunk. It was pretty impressive and definitely took skill. I continued to watch him as he paused, looked around, and climbed back down to his previous spot. It made me wonder what exactly was going through his mind. Do squirrels have thoughts and if so, do they operate at the same warp speed as the rest of them? Better yet, do they understand how interesting they are to watch as they scramble across yards, backtrack, and bound playfully around as if physically unable to sit still? They're adorable and fascinating. Although, I'm quite certain birds trying to get to feeders would disagree.

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

**Vinores FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Plan for Tomorrow

Vinores Financial Services is committed to helping people, business and estates pursue their financial goals. We offer access to a wide range of financial products and services. By working with a skilled financial professional, you will be able to identify your needs and make sound financial decisions to help work toward those goals.

Once we understand your long-term plans, we will customize strategies to implement your vision and objectives. By illustrating your current financial situation we can better work with you in developing the road map best suited to reach your goals.

**Call Us Today & Let's Start Planning For Tomorrow**

Meet our investment team including a Financial Planner and Advisors.

David Rectenwald  
 Eric Vinores  
 Ed Gills

**Vinores FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**Services**  
 Retirement Planning  
 Estate Planning  
 Personal Finance  
 Financial Planning  
 Exit Strategies  
 Annuity Products  
 Income Planning  
 Farm Estate  
 Transition Planning  
 Retirement  
 Education Savings Accounts  
 Investment Management

209 E. Main St., Thurmont • 301-304-6004  
 VinoresFinancial.com

View Form CRS

Securities offered through Grove Point Investments, LLC, member FINRA/SIPC. Investment Advisory Services offered through Grove Point Advisors, LLC. Grove Point Investments, LLC & Grove Point Advisors, LLC are subsidiaries of Grove Point Financial, LLC. Vinores Financial Services is not affiliated with Grove Point Financial, LLC or its subsidiaries.

**Go play outside!**

**Fallfest**  
 October 11 - 12  
 10 to 4 Free

Enjoy fall colors, apple butter boiling over an open fire, blacksmithing, tours of the old Fraley Store, fun and games and more!

VISIT **Frederick** CITY & COUNTY

**CATOCTIN FURNACE**  
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CatoctinFurnace.org • 12610 Catoctin Furnace Road, Thurmont

**CRUISE PLANNERS®**

MORE THAN JUST CRUISES

**Railroads and Castles of Wales** **Swiss Splendors by Train From Lake Geneva to Zurich**

**August 2025** **May 2025**

**Barb Cline, ECC**  
 Your Personal Travel Professional  
 240-575-5966  
 BarbClineTravel.com  
 CruisePlannersFrederick.com

**Kimberly Mogard**  
 Associate  
 240-415-8186  
 kimberlymogard.barbclinetravel.com

## Serpentine Aspirations

Tim Iverson, Naturalist

October is a month associated with things that go bump in the night and ghoulish or nightmarish creatures. For many of us, snakes embody that idea year round. Slithering, hissing, forked tongues, and the like evoke different visions and meaning for all of us. In my line of work I've found that most people either love or hate snakes, rarely are people indifferent. Whether they're venomous or not, snakes are truly a vital part of the ecosystem. There is a great deal of mystery and misinformation surrounding snakes so with our proverbial flashlight let's plunge into the darkness and illuminate the darkness.

Snakes the world over get a bad rap. We might trace this to a Biblical tradition where a deceitful snake spring boarded humanity into a descent towards chaos. Perhaps it's something engrained into our DNA from our universal African heritage, where virtually every snake from the continent that birthed early humanity is fatally venomous. In children's stories snakes are usually depicted as villains so we start off early knowing snakes are bad guys. No matter the root cause it's something societies young or old or separated by oceans share – fear of the serpentine. This fear causes all snakes to be killed indiscriminately.

Maryland is home to 27 different species of snakes, only two of which are venomous. The Timber Rattlesnake and the Northern Copperhead, both of which can be found in our area, are the only venomous snakes that call Maryland home. Contrary to popular belief we do not have the Water Moccasin (aka Cottonmouth). There are a few simple ways to differentiate between a venomous or non-venomous snake here in Maryland (disclaimer – these methods do not hold true to all areas of the US or worldwide). First, you can go by the shape of the head. Venomous snakes, in our area, will have a triangular shaped head. Whereas,

non-venomous snakes will have a cylindrical shaped head that runs almost seamlessly into the rest of the body. So, if you see a snake and its head looks like the shape of your thumb it is non-venomous. If its head looks like a spade, then tapers off into the body it could be venomous. Many snakes however are aware of this feature and will flatten their heads out to pose as venomous snakes in order to scare off potential predators. Another method of differentiating between the two is by looking at the shape of the iris. A non-venomous snake will have a rounded pupil, just like you or I. A venomous snake, however, will have an elliptical shaped eye. It will resemble an eye like a cat.

By this time of year though snakes should be relatively inactive and if not already hibernating should be preparing for it. When temperatures fall below 50 degrees is their cue to nestle down. As the temperatures rise in the spring, or even warm fall or winter days they may reawaken for short periods. This helps conserve energy during the winter months when food sources may be scarce.

Just like people growing up, or out, that need newer bigger clothes snakes do too! Snakes will shed their skin anywhere from once a month to just a few times a year depending on many factors. The skin will begin to look ashy and eyes may look blue or "cloudy". Their eyes appear this way because they actually don't have eye lids and the scale covering the eye is beginning to pull away from the eye itself. After a few days of this the skin will begin to flake and resemble sunburn on a person. Snakes will rub their nose and mouth on a rough surface like a rock and the skin begins to peel backwards and inside out. Snakes will wiggle their way out until they shed that skin and don their new threads.

Snakes will kill prey in one of two ways, either through venom (if that's an option) or by constriction. Once a constrictor snake locates prey it will strike and sink



There is a great deal of mystery and misinformation surrounding snakes. Whether they're venomous or not, snakes are truly a vital part of the ecosystem.

their fangs into dinner. Then they will begin to wrap their bodies around the meal and squeeze until their prey is no longer moving – it's like the worst hug you've ever had. All snakes can swallow food that is actually bigger than their heads. A human jaw is attached to the skull so movement is fairly constrained. The jaw of a snake is joined to the skull by muscle, tendons, and ligaments. Because of this extra flexibility snakes can open their mouths to about a 150 degree angle. They can stretch their jaws open wider than the width of their bodies to swallow larger prey, but that doesn't mean you're on the menu! Snakes generally want to be left alone. So if you happen to stumble upon one on a hike or even just in your yard they will want to go the other way. A person is way too big to be eaten by any of our native snakes so the only reason it is going to strike is if it feels threatened. So the best way to avoid being bitten is to just back away and give it plenty of space. If you are bitten you may want to seek medical attention whether it is venomous or not, because an infection could still occur from any bite.

Snakes are crucial to pest and rodent control for the environment and us. Most of what snakes eat is largely rodents. Rodents, like mice for example, are prone to spread-

ing disease. Often they are carriers of ticks. In case you live under a rock: ticks can transmit a plethora of pathogens to people including (but not limited to) Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Lyme disease. By indiscriminately killing snakes we are limiting their natural ability to help defend us from these illnesses. Mice don't need help from ticks to spread disease though. They are effective enough at it on their own. Through urine and fecal excrement mice are known to transmit salmonella, hanta virus, and of course plague. Bites or scratches from mice or mites that live on mice can cause rat-bite fever, typhus, and types of pox. We of course can't forget that mice are prolific breeders and chew incessantly, so it can be costly to repair or replace damaged wiring. The last thing I need is for a mouse to chew through my X-Box cables! Snakes are glad to lend a helping hand in protecting us from all this.

Aside from being hugely beneficial, reason alone not to kill them, it is also illegal to kill any snake in Maryland. They are protected by the Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act. This act

states that that native snakes cannot be killed, possessed, bred, or sold without first acquiring the proper permit from the Department of Natural Resources, and a permit is required for the possession, breeding, and sale of native reptiles and amphibians in the state. When encountering snakes in the wild it is best to leave them alone. If they enter a home you can either attempt to remove the snake yourself or call animal control. You can discourage snakes from becoming a problem by rodent proofing homes, keeping lawns mowed short, making sure entry points (doors, cellars, windows) are sealed tightly.

Snakes are a remarkable and highly beneficial species. Remember snake bites in Maryland are rarely fatal, and if left alone snakes pose no threat to people. While there is a cultural and literary history that vilifies snakes, they are actually our friends. By valuing their assistance and knowing the difference between venomous and non-venomous snakes we can aspire to all get along much better!

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

**CATOCTIN WILDLIFE PRESERVE**

**A NEW ADVENTURE AWAITS**

**SELF-DRIVEN SAFARI**

**COMING FALL 2024!**

**THURMONT**

**CERENSBERGER AND Family LLC**

**BUILDER**

1 South Main Street, Woodsboro

Joel Rensberger, Owner  
MHIC# 4286161 • MHBR# 6677  
www.cerensbergerbuilder.com

**301-370-4042**

**Custom Homes  
Historic Restorations  
Major Home Remodels**

**FrederickCustomHomes.com**

## SCIENCE MATTERS

# Figures don't lie, but they can mislead

Boyce Rensberger

Numbers don't always mean what they seem to mean. Consider these two examples:

- The average salary of the 145 women who work at Widget Inc. is \$60,000. Widget's 100 men are paid salaries averaging nearly 60 percent higher—\$95,000. Is this an obvious case of sex discrimination?
- Mercy Hospital has a 50 percent higher death rate among its surgery patients than does General Hospital in the same town. If you need an operation, you'd be safer at General, right?

Not necessarily. Not in either case.

Impossible as it may seem, Widget actually pays women significantly better in every job category than it pays men. And your chances of dying during surgery would be lower in Mercy Hospital despite its statistically higher death rate.

This is because, in some cases, numerical data can work in a perverse way that experts say often is ignored in public debates.

"These problems come up again and again in public debate, and because most people have a fairly weak grasp of statistics, the debate just gets muddier," says David S. Moore, a statistician at Purdue University.

Statisticians are well acquainted with situations in which the same raw data can be represented in different ways, both of them technically honest and both accurate and yet point to opposite conclusions. It's called Simpson's paradox, named not for Homer, the cartoon character, but for the late Edward Simpson, a British statistician.

Let's take a closer look at whether Widget Inc. has a sexist pay scale. The company could point out that, in all three of its

categories of employment, it pays women higher salaries.

For example, women in Widget management average \$160,000 while the men average \$150,000. In the engineering department, women get \$110,000 to the men's \$100,000. And in the clerical ranks, women average \$35,000, compared with \$25,000 for men. Widget's salary practices can hardly be sexist if it pays women better at every level. How can this be?

The thing that misleads people is what's often called a lurking variable, which is some other feature underlying the data that you may not realize is there. The trick is to pull apart the numbers and look at smaller categories that might be more relevant.

The lurking variable in the Widget case is that women are not evenly distributed through the ranks. Hardly any women are in management, so the salary advantage of those who are there does little to boost women's average for the company as a whole. By contrast, women dominate the clerical staff, and even though they are paid better than men in the same department, they are paid so much less than the male-dominated management staff that the company's overall average for women drops.

Clearly, a closer analysis of the data indicates that Widget's situation is more complex than either side might think.

Here's a closer look at this same kind of paradox in the hospital comparison. Stick with me here, this involves arithmetic. Statistics can be that way.

In one year, Mercy Hospital has 2,100 surgery patients, of whom 2,037 leave the hospital alive and 63 die. Its overall death rate, therefore, is 3 percent. General Hospital has 800 patients, of whom 784 live and 16 die—a death rate of 2 percent. Thus, Mercy's death rate is 50 percent higher than General's.



"Numbers don't lie. That's where we come in."

On the face of it, General would seem the safer bet. In fact, the safer choice actually is Mercy. That becomes obvious only when you break the data into smaller categories.

At Mercy, 600 patients were in good condition. Of these, six died, creating a 1 percent death rate for this category. General also had 600 patients in good condition but eight of them died, giving a death rate of 1.3 percent—higher than at Mercy.

What about the patients in poor condition? Mercy had 1,500 of these, and 57 died, a death rate of 3.8 percent. At General, only 200 patients were in poor condition, and eight of them died, a death rate of 4 percent. Again, General had the higher death rate.

In other words, no matter whether you are in good condition or poor, you should go to Mercy Hospital, the one with the higher overall death rate.

In the hospital case, the lurking variable is the difference in the type of patients. The great majority of Mercy's patients arrive in poor condition, and many are simply too ill to survive even the best medical

care. That raises its average death rate for all patients by more than it is lowered by Mercy's good record with patients in good condition.

General's patients are in better shape to start with, which means that, although it does a poorer job with them than Mercy would, the proportionately high number of those patients significantly boosts the overall average.

Simpson's paradox is not confined to hypothetical comparisons like these. A famous real-life situation emerged in the 1970s when the University of California at Berkeley was accused of bias against women seeking admissions to its graduate departments. About 44 percent of male applicants were admitted, but only 35 percent of female applicants.

Those numbers were so different from what would be expected in an unbiased selection process that critics calculated the odds of the difference emerging by chance as "vanishingly small."

It turned out there was a lurking variable.

The women tended to apply to

departments where competition is much stiffer for both sexes. Men, on the other hand, were more likely to apply to departments with fewer applicants and easier acceptance.

When the numbers were examined for each department separately, admission rates differed only slightly and, in fact, about as many departments favored women as favored men.

Three Berkeley statisticians who examined the case pronounced it "a clear but misleading pattern of bias against female applicants." Their analysis, after searching out lurking variables, led to a more profound conclusion.

"The bias in the aggregated data," they wrote in a report, "stems not from any pattern of discrimination on the part of admissions committees, which seem quite fair on the whole, but apparently from prior screening at earlier levels of the educational system."

Women, they said, are shunted by their socialization and education toward academic fields that are more crowded and less well-funded. But since so many people apply for them, they are harder to get into. These include such "soft" teaching fields as English or history.

Men, by contrast, are more likely to aim for "harder" fields such as science or engineering, where fewer people are competing for acceptance.

So, how can you guard against being misled?

Statisticians recommend a simple starting point: Don't be too quick to accept any interpretation attached to a set of figures, especially if the numbers lump several categories of the thing being studied. Try to obtain the numbers for each of the categories and see whether the interpretation holds true for each.

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

To read other articles by Boyce Rensberger, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

## The Ultimate Wood Heat.

Set the thermostat where you want for a more comfortable home.

- **Highest Efficiency Certified by EPA**
- **Peace of Mind** - Keep the fire outside and eliminate the dangers associated with indoor wood heating.
- **Save Money** - Wood is a renewable, inexpensive and often free energy source.

**UP TO \$2,000 TAX CREDIT\***  
\*On qualifying models and installation. Call for details.



Classic Edge HDX models are U.S. EPA Certified



**CLASSIC EDGE**  
TITANIUM HDX  
Outdoor Wood Furnaces

**Nevin Eiker Masonry**  
17318 Nevin Ct.,  
Emmitsburg  
301-447-6543

**CentralBoiler.com** 23-0502

\* US Internal Revenue Code Sec. 25(C) effective Jan. 1, 2023, for heating a residence. For more details visit [CentralBoiler.com](http://CentralBoiler.com). Consult a tax professional with any questions.



## Business Service



### Personal & Business Taxes

**Monday 9 - 6**  
**Wednesday & Friday 9 - 7**  
**Saturday 9 - 2**



### Tags & Titles

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
**By Appointment**  
**Extended Hours**  
**During Tax Season**

## 717-457-0551

12 Water St., Fairfield

We are a proud supporter of the Emmitsburg News-Journal



## THE VILLAGE IDIOT

## Melon headed

Jack Deatherage

Having chosen the main theme of the 2025 Cedar Avenue Community Garden in September is not unlike asking the laughing gods "Whatcha got?" It took a week to find out just how bad next year's garden is going to be. Amy Goldman's book- "Melons- for the passionate grower" arrived within that week. Excited to begin perusing the book I skipped a nap the day it arrived!

Quickly skimming the full color plates I found the pages briefly describing the arrayed melons. Interested in the higher brix (a measure of sugar content) melons I eagerly sought out the list of catalogs that carried the melons I thought worth trialing. Eagerness changed to dismay as seed company after seed company proved to be either out of business or absorbed by some other company.

Frustrated, I went on to chase down those companies with online catalogs only to discover the melons in Goldman's book are no longer carried by the companies she listed twenty some years ago. Okay, okay. Twenty years? Of course things will have changed. Still, Google will turn up seed sources for the melons I'm looking for! Surely the laughing gods will give me a break. Right?

I found articles written twenty years ago about the melons I wanted, but no seed sources. Calming myself, I began visiting every seed catalog I've placed an order with over the last forty years. Someone must be selling the seeds passionate melon growers plant!

I lost touch with Brook Elliott, an associate editor with Mother Earth News magazine, back when Yahoo closed down its "group" boards. Brook warned a gardening group- Heirloom Growers Garden -which I was a member of, that two things were going to happen in the near future. Seed companies would consolidate rapidly. And many of the open pollinated varieties of fruits, vegetables and flowers we enjoyed would vanish from the market place as the few remaining seed companies focused on the hybrid seeds they could make the most profit from.

It didn't take much of a deep dive to discover the dozen or so catalogs I buy from are all carrying

basically the same offerings with an occasional "oddball"- to keep things interesting. Brook certainly knew what he was talking about!

Having invoked the oddballs, I'm reminded there are more options than the old standbys of Burpee, Gurney's, Johnny's, Territorial and their like. Adaptive Seeds, Mary's Heirloom Seeds, Experimental Farm Network and Seed Savers Exchange, among others, offer cultivars the bigger companies do not. Seed Savers Exchange alone has a gardeners yearbook that lists over 15,000 varieties of vegetables, fruits, grains, herbs, and flowers available this year!

As much as I'd like to get back into saving open pollinated varieties that large seed companies are no longer selling, I'm aware of two major problems- 1, Keeping the seeds of a variety pure, either by isolating them or hand pollinating them. 2, I'll never keep track of what I'm saving. Chaos may be one of the gods I recognize, but as a child of, I'm simply too chaotic in my habits. Umm... 3, and most important! I'm lazy. Which brings me to some saviors. Joseph Lofthouse, Carol Deppe and David The Good- all promoting the creation of landrace fruits and vegetables.

Landrace- a cultivated, genetically chaotic variety that has evolved in a specific area and has adapted to the soil and climate conditions as well as the cultivation habits of the gardener. Basically, an heirloom. (David the Good is hardcore! Sows seed and walks away. The plants survive or not!)

Melons (Cucumis melo) seems the perfect starting place to teach kids about pollination, cross pollination and the creation of landraces. Landrace melon creation would require the kids to eat the melons- melon seeds being viable when the melons are ripe. The kids would save the seeds of the melons they like best for the following year's garden. Toss in the native bees that have been working this year's melons, add the topics of soil health, composting, weather, water sources/conservation, and we've got multiple STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) possibilities the librarians can work with.

If everything goes the way I

have it plotted out in my mind- Oh, that's rich! Anyhow, I figure another patch of the town's current farmers market lot, say 50 feet by 20 feet, would be adequate for the first year's melon experiment. Given we've spent close to \$7,000 (less than half of which came from the town and private donations) the first two years on long lasting garden items- metal raised beds, foam stock tanks, rain barrels, garden hoses, watering cans, purchased garden soil, T-posts, fencing, cattle panels, perennial flowers, bird baths, rocking chairs, cordless mower and string trimmer, batteries, straw bales, seedlings and seeds- we needn't dump anywhere near that much money into a melon patch.

Based on today's prices and on what I think the melon patch will need... I'm guesstimating \$240 for cattle panels and T-posts to trellis the melons on. About \$400 for straw bales to be used as mulch throughout the entire garden and maybe \$300 more for four yards of garden soil to top off the current raised beds. Melon seeds? I can't see me spending more than \$100... Well, actually I can see me spending way more than that, but the DW and First Sister won't let me.

\$1,040 into the garden's expansion is doable, probably without me asking the town for help next year. I found someone who's volunteering to haul panels and T-posts for me. The place we have been buying garden soil from is



Jack was awed to discover that he grew a melon that was bigger than his brain.

giving me a break on delivery, though I might cut costs there by getting mushroom soil to add to the soil in the lot and to top off and mix into the current raised beds. Assuming I'll be allowed to build the expansion.

However! The laughing gods will have their momentary guffaw so I'm also working out a melon experiment within the confines of the current garden, which would be the smarter thing to do anyhow. But why would I start doing smart things this late in my life?

Not getting the melon patch would free up the money I've already spent, in my head, for some books the librarians can use to expand their STEM program to encompass elementary and middle school kids. "The Maryland Master Gardener Handbook" would be the first of several books I think would be useful. Currently, not one of the Freder-

ick County libraries maintains a copy of the tome.

I think the copy I borrowed from Montgomery County Public Library is a 2016 reprint of the 2012 publication. Amazon has a used copy of the 2012 version for under \$60. The University of Maryland Extension has the newer 2016 copy for \$69, plus shipping. Wonder Book has a copy, though which one is unclear, for under \$30 if I'm willing to drive to Frederick to fetch it home. Or I can preorder the latest revised and expanded edition from John Hopkins University Press for \$90, plus shipping.

If I buy a copy, it will be on loan to the librarians. I've seen donated books leave the Emmitsburg branch library and never return.

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

# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Fall shrubs and trees

Mary Ann Ryan  
Adams County Master Gardener

As fall approaches, we can reflect on the crazy spring and summer that we just experienced. There was nothing usual about it – our work environment changed, how we interact with friends and family changed, the way we shop has changed, and the weather was just terrible for a summer garden. But one thing is normal: autumn will come, as it has every other year, and the weather will cool, as it always does. So let's take a break as fall approaches and look at the beautiful gardens nature has provided. Ever wonder what those plants were that are holding their berries? Or the tree that has bark peeling from the trunk? How about those shrubs with red or yellow stems by the creek?

Many plants will come to life through colorful leaves and bark beginning in late September. Fall

is the second best time to plant, so why not design a fall/winter garden? Many garden centers will receive fresh stock in August and September, so you may have a great selection to choose from. It is important to carefully choose, place and plant your trees and shrubs. The trick is to know what the effect is that you may want, design the area for an all-season garden focusing on the fall and winter, and choose the right plant for that particular location.

We can create these gardens with just a few good choices of plants that will thrive in our climate. When thinking about designing a fall and winter garden, let's look at texture and form. Unless you choose an evergreen shrub, leaves will be leaving us this time of year. So bark, color and form become very important.

If you are in the planning mode, measure the area that you will be working and commit it to paper.

This will allow you to see the space you are planting and work through the design of the garden. When you do this, it also allows you to learn about the plants, see on paper the potential size of the plants, and therefore determine the right plants for the location.

Visit nurseries and garden centers and check out what is available. Many trees, like sweetgum, sourwood, red maples and serviceberry offer wonderful color in the fall. Shrubs, like oakleaf hydrangea and foothergilla are also beautiful during the fall and winter months.

Many shrubs offer beautiful berries, like red chokeberry, inkberry holly and callicarpa that may hold their fruit through the winter. Consider mixing plants that have fall and winter interest with the plants that you enjoy in the spring and summer. Here is a short list some plants you may want to try.

Hydrangea quercifolia, oakleaf hydrangea, is a large shrub that not only has summer interest with its big, white conical flowers, but also has terrific red to purple fall color. The bark on the shrub is a cinnamon color and peeling. A native shrub it is grown best in part shade, this plant will be generous with its fall color. Typically reaching a height and spread of 6', this plant should be sited in a shrub border or as a specimen plant. Dwarf cultivars are available as well. Well drained soil is its preference.

Fothergilla gardenii is a great native small to medium sized shrub reaching 4 -6 feet in height as well as spread. It's not only showy in the spring with its white, bottle-brush flowers, but the yellow, orange, and red fall colors are spectacular. This plant is a slow grower, making it a good choice for foundation plantings. It does prefer an acidic soil with good drainage and part sun to full sun.

Aronia arbutifolia, red chokeberry, has proven to be another spectacular native plant for fall and winter interest. You can enjoy this plant's bright red fruit from September through January as well as its red fall color in Octo-



This blackgum provides great color in the fall landscape.

ber. It tolerates most soil types, but does prefer well drained soils. It will reach 5'-6' and is a good selection for the shrub border.

Lindera bezoin, spicebush, shows a great yellow fall color. This plant is known for its fragrant stems when broken. However, the yellow color mixes wonderfully with the oranges and reds of the fall palette. It likes part shade to full sun, but becomes more open and wild the more shade you provide it. It is a large shrub, potentially reaching 8', making it a good native plant for the shrub border.

Nyssa sylvatica, or blackgum, is a tree often overlooked. This native tree has a habit very similar to the pin oak. The canopy is pyramidal in shape, like the pin oak, but the leaves are oval. The fall color is one of the best of our native trees, changing from dark green in the summer to a brilliant scarlet in the fall. It will stretch to 30 - 40 feet, but is slow growing, making it a good street tree and nice large specimen tree.

River birch, Betula nigra, a native tree to river and creek banks as well as marshy areas, has interesting bark. The cinnamon colored peeling bark is exciting in all four seasons. The leaves on this

tree are small, and the canopy is not dense, allowing the bark to be visible in and out of leaf. This tree will reach 50'. This tree will thrive in moist soils, but lucky for us, it is very versatile, adapting to drier locations as well. In a grouping of three or five, this selection is outstanding. Use it as a plant grouping in the yard, or as a single tree as a specimen in a foundation planting. Grown in clumps or single stemmed allows for a variety of design styles, from a more natural look to a formal appearance.

The paperbark maple, Acer griseum, is one of my favorite trees. Although not native, it is a great selection for a small tree. This slow-growing tree offers a cinnamon colored, peeling bark on the trunk and branches. It is a slow grower that likes part shade to full sun and reaches about 20-25'. It's not fussy about soil, but don't place it in a really dry location. Well drained soils are best. This is a great selection for a specimen tree or focal point in the garden where the tree bark and color will be visited on a more personal level.

So why plant in October? Warm soils in the fall will encourage root growth of plants and typ-

**Kubala & Son**  
Landscaping and Lawncare, LLC.

Mulching · Mowing · Patios · Garden edging · Weeding · Hedge trimming  
Landscape design · Brush clearing · Junk removal · Power washing  
Milled asphalt & gravel driveway installation

**717-321-4866**  
KubalaLandscape@gmail.com  
Veteran-owned & Operated

**Cub Cadet**

**YOUR BEST YARD AWAITS.**

**ULTIMA™ ZT6™**

**ULTIMA SERIES™ ZTX™**

**ZTX™ ENDURO SERIES™**

**ULTIMA™ ZT™**

**Ultima™ ZT2 60 ZERO-TURN**

- 24 HP™ Kawasaki® FR730V V-twin OHV engine
- 60" reinforced AeroForce™ fabricated triple-blade deck
- Dual Tuff Torq™ TZ 350 transmission
- Continuous 2" x 2" tubular steel frame with protective e-coat on lower end

**\$5,099\***

**XT1® LT50 LAWN TRACTOR**

- 24 HP™ Kohler® 7000 Series V-Twin OHV engine
- 50" AeroForce™ fabricated triple-blade deck
- Tuff Torq™ foot-controlled hydrostatic transmission (K46)

**\$2,799\***

**Ultima™ ZT1 50 ZERO-TURN**

- 23 HP™ Kawasaki® FR691V V-twin OHV engine
- 50" AeroForce™ fabricated triple-blade deck
- Dual Hydro-Gear® EZT-2200™ transmission

**\$3,599\***

FOR FULL PRODUCT SPECS **Cub Cadet**  
VISIT [CUBCADET.COM](http://CUBCADET.COM)

**HARRINGTON & SONS**

427 E. Main St., Emmitsburg

**301-447-6666**

[harringtonandsons.com](http://harringtonandsons.com)

Mon. - Wed. 8 - 3, Thurs. & Fri. 8 - 5, Sat. 8 - Noon

**Middle Creek Nursery**

A long, hot, dry summer always turns into  
**"A Great Fall Sale!"**

• Flowering Shrubs • Deciduous Shrubs • Evergreen Trees & Shrubs

**All 3 Gallon Shrubs** Including "Proven Winners"

**Now Sale Priced: \$19.99**

And some are even LESS! *Now that's a serious sale!*

Check our website for details

**We grow our own plants right here in Adams County!**

**717-334-8605**

"Nice plants at sensible prices since 1980"

860 Middle Creek Rd., Fairfield

[www.middlecreeknursery.com](http://www.middlecreeknursery.com)

"Grower's Prices!"  
No more middle man!

\*Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes are additional and vary by location. Freight and PDI charges may be additional and vary by dealer. Models subject to limited availability. Images may not reflect dealer inventory and specifications. To learn more, call your local dealer or visit us online at [www.cubcadet.com](http://www.cubcadet.com). © 2024 Cub Cadet LLC. All rights reserved. "The quality's never been better" is a registered trademark of Cub Cadet. "The quality's never been better" is a registered trademark of Cub Cadet. "The quality's never been better" is a registered trademark of Cub Cadet.

# THE MASTER GARDENER

ical rainfall in our area reduces the amount of watering that gardeners need to do - and - the weather is so much cooler to work in the garden. Because of better root development in the fall, when spring arrives, the plants have a much better start when compared to plants planted in the spring. Then when the hot dry weather of summer hits, the fall planted plant will be well established and therefore, can withstand the tough summer environment.

Container grown plants as well as balled and burlapped plants do well planted during this season. If planting a container grown plant, be sure you break up the root system before placing it in the hole. This will encourage the roots to grow into the existing soil. A balled and burlapped and container plants can be planted well into the late fall until the ground freezes. These plants move best

when they are going dormant, because the roots are disturbed when digging. Just be sure to roll back the burlap from the top of the ball, and cut all string from the ball, especially around the trunk.

Whether planting a container or balled and burlapped plant, be sure you don't plant it too deep, the top of the soil ball should be level with the existing grade. Be sure to water the plant well after planting.

Imagine your garden with a variety of plants for fall color. The plants discussed here are just the "tip of the iceberg"! Many more plants are available on today's market and many more selections will continue to become available to us. Enjoy your garden, whether old or new, and always continue to learn about nature's wonders!

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

## Small Town Gardener

It's October. Got berries?

Marianne Willburn

Autumn berries are colorful. They are abundant. They are also incredibly difficult to define. Many edible fruits that we culturally consider berries, botanically speaking, just aren't (such as blueberry). Still others that we consider fruit, or even vegetable (such as avocado), are botanically, berries.

Fortunately, enjoying a spray of holly berries in an autumn wreath is not dependent on whether or not you know they are actually multi-seeded drupes. Let's leave such pedanticism to hard-working botanists, and instead work with the commonly held definition of berries as small, often very colorful fruits that adorn the branches of some of our most beloved shrubs and small trees.

If a quick scan of your garden proves you to be sporting a severe deficit in that department - I'd like to change that with a few suggestions for fall planting.

Callicarpa - The common name beautyberry describes the many species of this purple, white and pink-berried genus with precision; and though I love the darker foliage of some hybrids such as 'Pearl Glam' & 'Purple Pearls' and enjoy them in flower, I do not find the berrying to be as abundant as that of our native *C. americana* or non-native (and gracefully arching) *C. dichotoma*. Self-fertile.

Celastrus - Bittersweet is a fall favorite - if also a high maintenance choice for the gardener. The long, girdling, woody vines and scarlet red berries sheathed in papery yellow packaging can make wreath-makers out of the most reluctant among us. But take note: Oriental bittersweet (*C. orbiculatus*) is invasive and

gardeners are urged by those that urge to choose *C. scandens*, our native species, when buying (you'll need male and female plants). Got some and not sure which it is? The American species holds its berries in terminal clusters where Oriental species sprout copious berries along the leaf axils.

Cornus - The red berries adorning our common Florida dogwood (*C. florida*) are some of the brightest of winter, but they don't take well to being brought inside on a severed limb (I've tried). Instead, enjoy them outside and if you're planting a new dogwood, find a place with a generous amount of morning sun to encourage those blooms and berries without leaf scald. *C. kousa* also fruits well and edibly, but the rough-skinned pink fruits rarely last through September. If you can get them past the deer, redosier dogwood (*C. sericea*) bear bluish-white berries in late summer which can last into fall. Self-fertile.

Ilex - Most people are familiar with the evergreen boughs of American or English hollies, but many assume that the heavily berried, leafless stems seen in wreaths must be florist magic. They're not - they're cultivars of the species *Ilex verticillata* and they'll add much to your garden and arrangements. I'm particularly fond of the generous tight clusters in 'Winter Red' and 'Winter Gold' but you'll need a male cultivar that matches bloom time for the female you've chosen (in this case 'Southern Gentleman'). Sadly, the male plants are not much to look at, but at least you'll only need one for up to ten plants. For those two winter girls look for 'Southern Gentleman.'

Lindera - A prolific native in our part of the world, spicebush decorates the edges of woodlands and other part-shade areas with grace and color. Tight clusters of chartreuse blossoms are some of the earliest signs of an awakening landscape, and birds love those fall berries. So

do foragers - who use them in peppery dry-rubs and adventurous ice creams. Though the berries start to redden by late August in the Mid-Atlantic, they come into their own when spicebush leaves brightly yellow and begin to fall, and are found more heavily on plants that receive a good amount of sunshine in moist soils. This is also a male/female party, so be aware when you buy.

Pyracantha - I grew up with a pyracantha scrambling up our stone chimney in California and fought the thorns each November to bring heavily berried branches in to drape over the Thanksgiving table. Here in the East, I still consider it a fall staple - though I am aware that hardness can be marginal if not in a sunny location in very free-draining soil. 'Mohave' now scrambles up my barn, and I grow 'Silver Lining' for its variegated foliage in a mixed border. Flowering (on old wood) is showy, if malodorous, and the resulting berries ripen in September and persist well into winter. Self-fertile (an understatement).

Viburnum - So many species and cultivars, so little time. Viburnum is a large shrub that sometimes holds its own as a specimen, and is sometimes better growing within a mixed border where it doesn't have to be everything to everyone. For berries, my very favorite has to be the orange red clusters of *V. dilatatum* 'Asian Beauty' but next on the list are the deep reds of 'Cardinal Candy.' *V. nudum* 'Brandywine,' is a true stunner with pink purple berries to match pink-tinged foliage. *V. trilobum*, or American cranberrybush viburnum is a native miracle in the landscape - bringing rich, reddish orange foliage to fall with those equally rich bracts of berries - but boy do I have to fight the deer on this one. Viburnum is self-fertile, but growing more than one ensures a better fruit set.

Other genera to explore - *Aronia*, *Cotoneaster*, *Skimmia*, *Crataegus* - and if you can expand the already dodgy definition of 'berry' to include the equally dodgy one of 'fruit' - hip-forming species of rose, such as *Rosa rugosa*, the tiny crabapples of some *malus* species, and *poncirus* for dramatic crops of tiny yellow oranges held between beautifully lethal spines.

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

### Frederick County Master Gardeners October Seminars

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

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

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

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

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

**Coleman's Lawn & Tree Service**

- Lawn Cutting
- Tree Cutting
- Junk Hauling
- Brush Hauling
- Stump Grinding

717-357-5866  
Mike & Robin Coleman



**BAKER TREE SERVICES, INC.**

1-800-383-4595  
147 Water Street, Thurmont

Licensed & Insured  
MD Tree Expert Lic# 904 • CTSP Cert# 1437 • ISA Cert. Arborist# MA-4258A

www.bakertreeservices.com  
treecare@bakertreeservices.com



**PATRICK ARENTZ GENERAL SERVICES**

Landscaping & Light Excavation Services  
Topsoil & Mulch Sales • Lawn & Field Mowing  
Shrub Trimming  
Junk & Debris Hauling  
Lot Clearing & Demo  
Storm Clean-Up

www.arentzs.com  
717-642-6802  
License # PA002802



**HAWKINS LANDSCAPING**

- Patios/Walks
- Firepits
- Retaining Walls
- Outdoor Landscape Lighting
- Paver Driveways
- Planting
- Outdoor Kitchens
- Seeding/Sodding

301-898-3615  
Fax: 301-898-1150  
Email: DavidJr@Hawkinslandscaping.com

8408 Links Bridge Rd.  
Thurmont  
HawkinsLandscaping.com

**Environmental ENHANCEMENTS**

LAWN & LANDSCAPE

Contact us:  
301-241-3719  
www.eellserves.com



# PETS

## Refeeding Syndrome



Jemma

Jennifer Vanderau  
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

I learned a new term today. It's called refeeding syndrome and it can happen to either humans or animals who are malnourished.

Unfortunately, working at an animal shelter, we see animals come through our doors in need of all kinds of help and this time, it's a little terrier mix we named Jemma.

She's about 11-months-old and when we got her, she'd been found running around the area. She was severely underweight, and I mean severely. She was so bad off we had to be incredibly careful how much and when we fed her.

Over the years since I've been at the shelter we've had animals come in from time to time in this bad of shape. It's bizarre because there's some part of me that wants to just dump an entire bag of food into their kennel and let them gorge themselves, just have at it honey, and fill that empty tummy.

But medically, that's a really bad idea.

Ever since the shelter staff taught me about refeeding syndrome, I've really looked into the physical aspects of mal-

nutrition and it dawned on me how serious this really is.

For a person or an animal who hasn't eaten in long enough that it affects their physical, not only appearance, but ability to move and walk correctly, there has been a whole lot that has gone on inside in terms of lack of nutrients.

As I understand it, your body wants you to continue to live, no matter what may be happening and it will fight to do so. When you're malnourished, your body reacts in a way that changes your overall metabolism and how you convert food into energy.

The body will also naturally reduce the amount of energy you use when at rest – by as much as 20%, according to reports.

This whole body slow down is all in an effort to keep you alive.

The same thing happens in animals.

So when we get a little squirt like Jemma into the shelter, her body has been so used to metabolizing what little she has eaten that to suddenly give her a huge meal could run the risk of actually shutting her body down. Tons of food would have the opposite affect of

helping her simply because her body isn't used to it.

There's some part of my brain that says that seems counterintuitive, but once I learned what really happens when people and pets are malnourished, it makes more sense.

Because there are so few nutrients in the body, digestion becomes slower, so adding a ton of food actually makes the body work harder, particularly since the normal electrolytes aren't there.

It really is about biology.

Refeeding syndrome can cause symptoms in both human and animal that include kidney problems, low blood pressure, trouble breathing and even confusion and disorientation. Introducing food again can have serious effects on the heart, lungs, brain and muscles.

So it's best to start with incredibly small amounts of food over a specific time.

That's exactly what we did for Jemma. We were incredibly careful what kind of food she ate and how much of it we gave her.

Eventually, she began regaining her strength and energy. She's still quite skinny, but she's so much better than when she first arrived and she's ready to find her forever home.

If you want to see an adorable little girl who is most definitely in need of a second chance, check out Jemma at [cvas-pets.org](http://cvas-pets.org).

She's been through a lot in her short time on this planet, but she's a fighter and we know there's someone out there who will show Jemma that this life can be good and loving and have quality food on a consistent basis and that she'll never have to starve again.

This sweet, tough little girl deserves that so very, very much.

Could you show it to her?

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



Patchwork came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about her, but she is one sweet girl. This 3-year-old tortie girl loves getting her ears rubbed. She also enjoys treats and lounging on a nice soft bed.



Quarter is a 1-year-old playful guy that has a shorter than average tail. He loves to play with the feather toys and enjoys getting treats! Quarter would love to find out what a loving forever home is all about!



Judge is a handsome 2-year-old Husky who can be a bit aloof when he first meets you, but Husky people will understand that. He does enjoy getting treats though, so he can be won over that way. Judge knows sit and shake, in fact he will shake with either of his paws! Someone that has had Husky experience would be best for Judge and he needs a home without cats. True to his breed, Judge can be on the stubborn side at times, as well as vocal. He's not in our adoption area at the moment but will be shown with approved applications.



Tuck is a shy but sweet 1-year-old terrier mix who came into the shelter as a stray. He loves to go out to the yard and play with the rope toys! He is a bigger guy at 65 pounds and does know sit. Because of his shyness, a home with older children may be best. Tuck would love to know what a forever home is all about!



Aries was surrendered to the shelter when his owner could no longer keep him due to landlord issues. He's 1-year-old terrier mix who needed some time to adjust to shelter life, but has come out of his shell and enjoys treats and going on walks! He can be shy at first with new people, but treats are the key to his heart! Aries knows sit but will need some work on other commands. Aries has lived with children but may be too much for small children so an age restriction for children in the home may apply, please discuss this with shelter staff.

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



**Catoctin Veterinary Clinic**  
Caring vets for your family pets  
Jonathan S. Bramson, VMD  
Susan P. Keane, DVM

**Grooming Services Available**

**4 Paws Place, Thurmont ♥ 301-271-0156**

[catoctinvetclinic@gmail.com](mailto:catoctinvetclinic@gmail.com) ♥ [www.catoctinveterinaryclinic.com](http://www.catoctinveterinaryclinic.com)  
[www.facebook.com/catoctinvetclinic](http://www.facebook.com/catoctinvetclinic) ♥ Fax: 301-271-3242

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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


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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown



PETS

# Microchips

Shawn Snyder  
Frederick County Animal Shelter

It can happen in an instant. Despite all of an owner's efforts to keep their pets safe and sound, sometimes they still get lost. Curiosity gets the better of your cat and she wanders out that back door that your kids left open again. Or your beagle chases the bunny that's been taunting him for days straight through your invisible fence and out of sight. But there is a way for owners to be prepared for that distressing moment when a beloved pet goes missing before it even happens. That method is microchipping.

Microchips are small radio transmitters that are placed beneath an animal's skin between the shoulder blades. These chips, that are approximately the size of a piece of rice, contain unique identification numbers. When properly registered, veterinary offices, animal control centers and other animal welfare organizations can use universal chip readers to find an animal's number, which will then lead them to contact information for an owner.

A 2009 study by researchers at the Ohio State University found that microchipped dogs are 2.4 times more likely to be returned to their owners than their unchipped counterparts and stray cats with microchips are 21.4 times more likely to make it back to their homes. The benefits of microchipping are seen regularly at Frederick County Animal Control as staff reunite stray pets with their families, however, chips are not a replacement for other methods of pet identification. Microchips work best as a back up to proper identification tags and are only helpful if owner contact information is kept current.

Microchipping and chip registration is a part of every animal's adoption fee at Frederick County Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center. For owners who adopted their pets elsewhere, FCAC provides low-cost microchipping clinics every Wednesday from 10am to 3pm. Appointments are



A microchip can be easily reprogrammed while in your pet to reflect your current address.

not required and the fee for chip implantation and registration is \$20 (Cash Only).

This October FCAC is teaming up with our friends from Frederick Subaru once again for Subaru Loves Pets. Not only will they be helping us promote our wonderful adoptable pets, thanks to a generous grant from Subaru and the ASPCA all our microchip clinics in the month of October will be free. If you can't make it to a Wednesday clinic at our Rosemont Avenue location don't worry. We'll also be hosting a microchipping clinic and adoption event on Saturday, October 12th from 9am to 1pm at Frederick Subaru (1417 W Patrick Street). For additional information about FCAC's microchip clinics, call 301-600-1546.

not required and the fee for chip implantation and registration is \$20 (Cash Only). This October FCAC is teaming up with our friends from Frederick Subaru once again for Subaru Loves Pets. Not only will they be helping us promote our wonderful adoptable pets, thanks to a generous grant from Subaru and the ASPCA all our microchip clinics in the month of October will be free. If you can't make it to a Wednesday clinic at our Rosemont Avenue location don't worry. We'll also be hosting a microchipping clinic and adoption event on Saturday, October 12th from 9am to 1pm at Frederick Subaru (1417 W Patrick Street). For additional information about FCAC's microchip clinics, call 301-600-1546.

## BUDDY'S PLACE

**Dog Grooming For Every Buddy**

9 Middle St., Taneytown  
(Right next to the Taneytown Post Office)



**Stephani Rickerd & Aslan**

Tuesday - Saturday By Appointment Only!

**410-756-1200**

Check us out on Facebook @BuddysPlaceDog Grooming



Bo & Meatball are two peas in a pod; therefore, the shelter considers them a bonded pair and they must be adopted together. Bo, grey and white, is outgoing and loves to meet new people. Meatball, orange and white, is friendly but a little more reserved; having his big brother Bo around boosts his confidence. Unfortunately, their owner was no longer able to financially care for them, so they were relinquished to the shelter.



George Washington, or G.W., lost his lifelong home when his owner suffered a medical emergency and was no longer able to care for him. G.W. is shy when meeting new people, but once you earn his trust he enjoys being pet and will accept any attention you are willing to give. George hopes to find a quiet home and new owners that are patient while he settles in. In his previous home, he lived with other cats as well as small dogs.



Gia is a spunky, two-year-old terrier mix. Found as a stray, by an Animal Control Officer, not much is known about her past. She loves to be pet, play with her toys, and can be a ball of energy. Gia's adoption fee is \$92.50 and as always includes spaying, microchipping, routine vaccinations/preventives, a vet wellness visit, and a Frederick County dog license.



Found as a stray, Mr. Wiggles likely got his name because he wiggles from tip to tail when meeting a new person. At ten years old, he still loves to go for walks and will even run and play for short periods of time. Mr. Wiggles has a few minor health challenges, so he will need a family that is willing to care for him in his golden years. Mr. Wiggles likes people of all ages and would likely do well with another dog and/or a cat.

For more information about Bo and Meatball, George Washington, Gia, or Mr. Wiggles, call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac).

## Reifsnider's Farm Supply & Hardware Store

**Wood Pellets In Stock Now!**  
Call for Pricing!



**We Sell DRYSHOD WATERPROOF FOOTWEAR Boots**

**Animal Bedding Saw Dust & Shavings Animal Health Supplies**

**TREBUTE EQUINE NUTRITION Feed For Horses**

**Kalmbach Feeds For Dogs, Cats, Sheep, Goats, Chickens and Cattle.**

**Animal Bedding Saw Dust & Shavings Animal Health Supplies**

We carry everything from tools to paint! • Tools • Household Goods • Fencing & Gates • Plumbing & Electrical Supplies • Paint & Painting Supplies

2080 Francis Scott Key Highway, Keymar • 410-756-6066  
Mon. - Fri. 8 to 5 ▪ Sat. 8 to 1

# FROM THE DESK OF ...

## Janie Monier

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter about why I am seeking a seat on the County Board of Education.

I want to expand the options available to public school students in every Frederick community. Children who live in town, suburban developments, or in low-density rural areas—like I did when I was growing up—deserve equal opportunities to learn and succeed. We should do more than ask students what they want to be when they grow up; let's help them define the adults they want to be.

Getting all our kids a seat at the table of their choice requires them learning about themselves and about the options available. As with individuals, communities have unique needs, which must be met to achieve success.

Determining what these needs are and intervening early improves outcomes. So does parental involvement, which means we must keep lines of communication open and easy to navigate for busy parents like her own, who worked countless hours to keep their career, farm, and family going.

I know what it's like for students to hike across fields, rely on drivers, or ride a bike several miles just to catch that bus. I pursued a career in nursing, worked for Johns Hopkins until the death of her father when she started caring for her mother, and I have served as President of her sons' school PTA in New Market, where I put together a hard-working team that created events and opportunities for parents to get inside the schools, volunteer and celebrate milestones throughout the year.

Still, many parents struggle to find time to participate or monitor their children's progress. Some folks clock long hours to maintain a farm, grow a business, or earn enough to keep up with rising expenses. They need to feel as secure about their child's education as those who spend hours in schools or logged onto Schoology. When all parents and guardians can rest assured our public school system is appropriately assessing and meeting their child's needs, students succeed.

I prioritizes early intervention, but I doesn't limit that to getting kids excited to start school. In addition to early testing to determine if students require additional services, she believes it's crucial for students entering middle and high school to feel equally valued in comparison to those attending newly built facilities in brand-new districts. Our older communities have tradi-

tions that instill pride in students, such as Catocin High's blacksmithing and metalworking program and Walkersville High School's excellent agricultural education program in partnership with Future Farmers of America.

Students must be free to learn inside spaces that are not overcrowded. Buildings may be constructed in different eras, but all must be fully-staffed, welcoming, safe, and clean in order for students to succeed.

Frederick schools offer a variety of studies that can serve our diverse population so long as families know about them and can access them. In conjunction with Maryland's Workforce Development Board, Career Coaches are giving hands-on demonstrations and getting kids to think about careers to explore earlier than ever. This is the type of expansion I will fight for if elected, expanding and strengthening

the services provided by our Career and Technology Center.

The CTC's focus on employment preparation, training and apprenticeship complements traditional academic and college prep programs. Obtaining excellent jobs is just as important as getting kids accepted into great universities. But right now, only half the kids who apply to CTC are accepted. Those who aren't often don't know about similar programs available at other schools. So the school system must ensure families have relevant information as well as help with transportation. For kids to make the most of valuable opportunities FCPS offers, we must first meet them where they are.

If elected to the Board of Education I will strive to improve transparency and accountability in school funding and fight to increase accessibility to programs across Frederick County.

## Josh Bokee

My name is Josh Bokee and I am a candidate for one of the three open seats on the Frederick County Board of Education. I am respectfully asking for your vote in the November election. Every student should attend a school that is safe, inclusive and has a positive learning environment. We should expect success for all students and prepare each one for high academic achievement and life itself by the time they are ready to graduate. I am a parent of a blended family of three teenagers, the oldest of whom is now a

junior at Frederick High School. He is receiving an excellent education. I am running for the school board because every student throughout Frederick County should have an excellent education, helping to unlock future opportunities in both college and career.

It's important to have highly qualified teachers and staff in our classrooms; school buildings that are not overcrowded and are not falling apart; parents who are true partners in education and our community be fully invested in the success of our students. We are one Frederick County in our shared desire to see our students do well; but our needs

are varied. In the more rural areas of our county, we need to ensure students have equal access to AP courses, engineering programs and to the Career Technology Center (CTC). We need to engage our local businesses and skilled-trades organizations so more students have access to internships and apprenticeships.

I bring relevant professional and life experiences that I will be ready to effectively apply on day one, if elected. I have spent the majority of my career in the technology sector and now work on projects across the country on helping to bring affordable high speed internet access to homes and businesses that

cannot obtain it today. All families need access to home technology (such as laptops and internet) no matter where they live; because education requirements do not end with the school day.

I also serve on our highschool PTSA (I help organize restaurant fundraiser nights) and see how important it is that parents and guardians are partners in helping to determine the outcomes in our schools.

Teachers and staff play a critical role as partners as well, and I am proud to have their positive recommendation for this election.

There is much that unites us as Frederick County residents. I am ready to focus on the essentials, help bring partners together and do everything possible to see that all students are successful. I hope to earn your vote this November. Thank you.

## Heather Fletcher

I am excited to announce my candidacy as a write-in candidate for the Frederick County Board of Education. My husband and I have called Point of Rocks, our home for over 15 years, and we're proud parents of three amazing school-aged kids. It would be a true honor to serve our community and promote academic excellence, parental rights, and fiscal responsibility in Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS)!

My experience in high-pressure environments has equipped me with the skills to navigate complex challenges and prioritize the needs of our students and community. With specialized training in problem-solving, critical thinking, leadership, and team building, I believe my skills will be an asset to the Board of Education.

After starting my family, I decided to leave my position at the FAA and dedicate myself to being a homemaker. This choice has given me the opportunity to be involved in many different school environments alongside my children including preschool, public school, homeschool, and private school. I'm very grateful for the time I've been able to dedicate to supporting the educational needs of children and for the insights I've gained through this involvement.

When schools closed at the start of the COVID-19 response, we chose to homeschool our children. Once FCPS reopened, I re-enrolled them and took the opportunity to explore the policies and regulations impacting their education and well-being. This inquiry uncovered significant concerns that I believe all residents of Frederick County should be aware of.

**Critical Gender Theory in Education:** Since 2018, FCPS has integrated Critical Gender Theory into the Family Life Curriculum for middle and high school students. The Maryland Comprehensive Health Education Framework, adopted in March 2022, also incorporates this theory. Many parents, doctors, and mental health professionals have expressed concerns about

the potential impact on children's health and well-being. Unfortunately, it seems only Nancy Allen from the Board of Education is open to discussing these issues.

**FCPS Policy 443:** This policy requires that students are asked for their pronouns, which must be used consistently. It also allows students to access bathrooms, locker rooms, overnight stays, and sports teams that align with their gender identity. Importantly, teachers and staff are prohibited from disclosing if a student is socially or medically transitioning at school.

**Library Materials:** FCPS currently has materials in its libraries that some consider explicit or obscene, raising concerns about compliance with Maryland Criminal Law regarding the display of obscene items to minors. We are committed to advocating for the removal of 35 books approved by Superintendent Dyson, as well as addressing other titles that have yet to be challenged.

**MCAP Testing Concerns:** The Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) tests established new baselines in the 2022-2023 school year, resulting in only two years of comparable data. The Maryland State Board of Education adopted new achievement standards in December 2022, which include shortened and computer-adaptive assessments. While FCPS may perform better than some districts, it still fails to meet our children's needs. Last year, over 40% of students failed in English Language Arts, 68% in Math, and 66% of 8th graders failed Science. FCPS cost taxpayers nearly a billion dollars last year, yet these are the results we are seeing.

I am committed to guiding FCPS in a new direction focused on academic excellence, parental rights, and fiscal responsibility. Together, we can create a brighter future for our children!

For more information and to support my campaign, please visit [fletcherforboe.com](http://fletcherforboe.com). I truly appreciate any help you can provide me with! Thank you!

# Teacher Recommended



L to R: Wilson, Bokee, Monier

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Josh Bokee Janie Monier

### Chad King Wilson

**We believe every student deserves an environment that is safe and supportive for learning, every family deserves transparency to access needed resources for their child, and every school community in our county deserves equitable and accessible academic opportunities.**

- Funding** for needed school construction to meet the needs of all facilities throughout the county
- Attracting** world-class educators and staff with compensation, autonomy, & respect
- Expanding** access to career preparation, apprenticeship, & academic programs
- Creating** learning environments that are safe & inclusive for all students, educators, & staff
- Ensuring** transparency of resources to address the needs of our special education students.



**VOTE EARLY** → OCT 24 - 31  
**ELECTION DAY** NOVEMBER 5

To Learn More visit:  
**BMW4BoE.ORG**



Authorized by BMW 4 BoE State, Treasurer Joshua Pedersen

# ... CANDIDATE FOR FREDERICK COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

## Colt Black

Government does nothing well. That is just a solid fact. Government does not create jobs, advance the human condition, nor is it benevolent. With that in mind I pen this article to say what many folks who both have children in Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) or not know, our government run schools and the system itself is failing our children.

For starters one must look no farther than the budget of FCPS approaching just shy of \$1 billion dollars, and for all that money what do we as a community have to show for it? The school budget is approximately half of the county budget total, yet we have crumbling school infrastructure especially in our schools in the

distant areas of the county away from Frederick city such as Brunswick High School, with leaking pipes and roof, mold, and other major issues that have not nor will be addressed until at least 2029 when a new high school is slated to be built.

If you were a teacher, knowing the school system is not investing in maintaining its infrastructure ensuring your safety and pride in your workplace, I ask the question would you work for FCPS? Yet teacher recruitment is another issue frequently mentioned as a hurdle for the school board to overcome. As many points to lower salaries in Frederick County for teachers and other support staff than that of our neighboring jurisdictions, to me even if we increased pay, who wants to work for FCPS when your work envi-

ronment is poor?

Refocusing the school boards commitment to maintaining the facilities we have is tantamount to both fiscal responsibilities, creating a better environment for staff, students, and then community at large, and restoring public trust to the school system as good stewards of monies received. I question how the current school board can ask the county and ultimately the taxpayer for more funds to build new schools when they can't even properly maintain what they have. By ensuring fiscal responsibility we will afford to recruit and retain quality staff, maintain and grow our school system to keep pace with our population and expand educational opportunities with increased offerings for students.

The next elephant in the room is in relation to parental rights in

the schools. I, nor most folks reading this article agreed to co-parent with the government. Yet our schools here in Frederick County is promulgating policy that both infringes on the sacred relationship of parents and their children while giving increasing control to government actors in matters related to students' health. I will never lose sight that without the permission of families across Frederick County trusting their children's education to FCPS, our schools would cease to exist. I will work tirelessly to eliminate barriers to parents ensuring their children are cared for and receive only services that parents request and approve. Quite frankly as I mentioned in the beginning of this article government does not do much at all well, we must ensure the school system is only

doing what we as taxpayers and parents expect: education of our children, nothing more, nothing less. And by this assurance we will ensure positive student outcomes for all, increased confidence in our schools, and reduction in cost of operation.

In closing, while there are numerous points to discuss relating to getting back to teaching the basics of reading, writing, math, science, and history; ensuring our schools are safe from those who seek to do harm, and expanding career and technology programs I will leave you with this thought: I will not seek to raise your taxes or your kids. That is the most important take away, so on election day I ask for your vote, Colt Black for Board of Education. For more about me and my policies please visit [www.coltblack.com](http://www.coltblack.com).

## Jaime Brennan

At a recent forum put on by Black Advancement, Inc. I was surprised that my opponents got many facts wrong and misunderstood key issues. The moderator asked about the five main issues in this campaign—academics, budget, school choice, women's sports, and parental rights—and in each of these areas my opponents' ideas were unclear, would not work, or were well out of the mainstream.

For academics, none of my opponents acknowledged that nearly 7 out of 10 students cannot pass their graduation exams, and all of them blamed the tests, claiming they were "biased". While it's true that decades ago some tests were biased, modern psychometricians have largely addressed these concerns. Students from every demographic are performing poorly, so our poor results cannot be explained way by claiming "bias" or "text anxiety" (which does not affect most students). We need real solutions like simplifying our math curriculum and using scientifically-based reading instruction, not following instructional fads as FCPS has done for decades.

For the budget, all of my opponents claimed that our schools aren't spending enough money and one even claimed spending decreased. In reality, over the last four years school budgets increased by \$263 million, faster than enrollment and inflation combined. Over the last 10 years, our budget has grown from \$539 million to \$940 million, an increase of \$401 million.

These increases have not found their way into teacher salaries, and the growth in administrative and other non-teaching positions has reached the point where less than half of our staff are actually teachers. We don't have a revenue problem. We have a spending priority problem.

In terms of school choice, all of my opponents said on the "Community for Frederick Candidate Questionnaire" that they did not support school choice options like charter schools. (See <https://tinyurl.com/applepositions>). When asked about whether home school students should be allowed to participate in high school sports, my opponents did not provide a clear answer. My answer is yes, families who homeschool should

be allowed to have their children play on high school sports teams, and all parents need more schooling options, including charter schools

In terms of girls' sports, none of my opponents support fair and safe competitions for girls by guaranteeing girls' sports remain female only. My opponents' views are not mainstream. A recent Gallup poll showed that nearly 70% of Americans support keeping women's sports female only. What's more, my opponents support boys being allowed into girls' bathrooms, changing areas, and rooms on overnight stays. Shouldn't women have the right to privacy and safety?

In terms of parental rights, I agree with my opponent Mrs. Monier's position to not have "sweeping book bans" but to give parents the right to limit their children's access to library books that contain material that many families consider inappropriate. Some of the materials FCPS has approved for its libraries contain graphic illustrations of sexual acts, and it's hard to see how these materials improve academic achievement.

Setting school policy is the primary job of the Board of Education. My opponents talk in generalities about setting goals but have not proposed a single policy change or specific goal. I've written and several policies requiring

FCPS to use proven reading and math approaches, which you can read at [www.brennanforboard.com](http://www.brennanforboard.com). Ranked #1 in Maryland, the Frederick Classical Charter School (which

I served on the Board of) uses these approaches. It achieves a 90% algebra passing rate, in comparison to FCPS' 75% failure rate.

Knowing what works really matters

for students. My opponents have not offered concrete solutions and misunderstand basic facts about education. I hope parents who want better schools for their children will consider voting for me.

## JAIME BRENNAN

CANDIDATE FOR FREDERICK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

**BRENNAN FOR BETTER SCHOOLS**

**A COMMON SENSE CONSERVATIVE SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION**

**JAIME WILL ...**

- Increase teacher pay through budget efficiency
- Protect parental rights
- Focus on academics, not political or social agendas
- Expand our career and technology center
- Increase genuine transparency & accountability
- Promote educational options for all ages

**Election Day: Tues, November 5**

**Visit [jb4boe.com](http://jb4boe.com) or scan the code**

**Certified Public Accountant with 22 years' experience**

**Former Board member of #1 charter elementary school in MD**

**Current FCPS parent**

## Write-in FLETCHER for Frederick School Board

- ★★★★★
- Academics
  - Parental Rights
  - Fiscal Responsibility
  - School Safety

**fletcherforboe.com**

Authority: Citizens for Heather Fletcher; Treasurer Michael Fletcher



DID YOU KNOW?

68% of Math students at FCPS failed last year!  
— 2024 MCAP Results

## HEALTH

# Frederick Health on leading edge in robotic-assisted surgery

Michael Hillman

One of the nicer aspects of being an Editor of a local paper, is sometimes you get invited to events that will help shape the community at large for the better.

Such was the case with Frederick Health's invitation for me to attend the unveiling of their new da Vinci 5 robotic-assisted surgical system with hands on demo. I freely admit the "hands on demo" got my attention – after all, who in their right mind would turn down an opportunity to control a robot with their hands?

While I admit, I went in their to play with the robotic-assisted controls (which I did) I came away blown away with the depth of the philanthropy that allowed the hospital to obtain a leading edge medical instrument that will serve our community well for years to come; the depth of knowledge and skill sets of Frederick Health's deep bench of surgeons that will utilize it – not to mention their

people skills; and, the management that pulled this all together. In the military we use the term – "Bravo Zulu" when someone does a great job.

Frederick Health deserves multiple 'Bravo Zulus' for putting Frederick County on the cutting edge of robotic-assisted surgical options.

But I digress. Joshua Faust, who usually writes this column, allowed me to play with the da Vinci 5 for over 25 minutes provided I write a review of it ... so let me get on with the review.

The first question most people have, as I did, was "what is the benefit of a robotic-assisted surgical system?"

"Compared to traditional open surgery, robot-assisted surgery offers benefits like less pain during recovery, lower risk of infection, reduced blood loss, shorter hospital stays, and smaller scars," said Dr. Shyam Jayaraman, a general surgeon with Frederick Health Medical Group.

"The main difference between

open, traditional surgery is instead of making one large incision, I will make a few small incisions in which to insert the robotic arms that hold the tiny instruments I will use. Another difference is that the surgical instruments require less space to do their job. This limits the need to push tissue, muscles and organs aside."

"Traditional surgery and robot-assisted surgery takes about the same time, but with robot-assisted surgery, the patient can often walk out the door and head home to get on with their lives hours after the surgery, as apposed to days, if not weeks of recovery from traditional open surgery," said Jayaraman.

Frederick Health's new da Vinci 5 includes a camera and mechanical arms with surgical instruments attached to them. The surgeon controls the arms while seated at a control center near the operating table. Surgeons like Dr. Natalia Kubicki, also a general surgeon with Frederick Health Medi-

cal Group, will see a magnified, high-definition, 3D view of the surgical site and using hand controls, perform some of the more complex surgeries without getting a drop of blood on their hands – and very little on the patient!

Some of the most common types of robot-assisted surgeries Frederick Health's da Vinci 5 will support include appendectomies, colectomies, gallbladder removals, gastric bypasses, hernia repairs, hysterectomies, and mitral valve repairs to name just a few.

The da Vinci 5 allows Frederick Health to deliver improved outcomes with minimally invasive procedures, offering its patients precise and exceptional care. The da Vinci 5 achieves this by providing the surgeon with a first-of-its-kind feedback technology that provides greater tactile response – allowing the surgeon to actually 'feel' the instrument as it moves within the patient. "With this new system," said Dr. Jayaraman, "I'll be better able to feel any resis-

tance from tissue or muscle as I'm working. The 'better' I can feel, the faster and more successful the operation will be."

The da Vinci 5 visual displays are leading edge, providing surgeons with truer colors and higher resolution for delicate dissections and reconstructions. Besides its state-of-the-art displays, the da Vinci 5 control station offers improved ergonomics, reducing surgeon fatigue.

One of the most frequent questions Dr. Jayaraman said he hears is "what is the difference between robotic-assisted surgery and laparoscopic surgery?"

"In traditional laparoscopic surgery," Dr. Jayaraman said, "the surgeon performs the procedure standing next to the patient holding rigid instruments while viewing the surgical area through an endoscopic camera that projects the images onto a monitor."

With the da Vinci 5, the surgeon sits at a console while viewing a high-definition 3D image of the targeted area inside the patient's body. The surgeon grasps the master controls connected to the robotic arms, which hold a camera and surgical instruments. The da Vinci 5 seamlessly translates the surgeon's hand, wrist and finger movements into precise, real-time movements of the surgical instruments positioned inside the patient's body.

The 'arms' can bend and rotate at far greater degrees than traditional laparoscopic instruments and the human wrist. More importantly, the robotic arms also filter out any hand tremors the surgeon may have, ensuring that no matter how old Dr. Jayaraman is when my left groin muscle decides to go and I wake up with another hernia – which he told me I had a 25% chance of, he'll be able to take care of it and ensure I'm back on my horse in a few days!

"We've become a destination for surgical excellence and innovation," said Mike McLane, Vice President of Surgical & Support Services with Frederick Health. "This new system speaks to the investments we are making to provide expert surgical care to our community."

As shown by their investment of the da Vinci 5 system, Frederick Health continues to invest in the future of healthcare delivery; ensuring access to expert providers; family-centered communication; and a seamless delivery of care. And Frederick Health accomplished this, in no small part, thanks to the philanthropy of many great residents in the community, who donate not only their money, but also their time to ensure Frederick Health provides a level of care second to none.

To learn more about Frederick Health's da Vinci 5 robotic-assisted surgical system, as well as how Frederick Health's exceptional team of surgeons and care options can get you back on track with your life, visit [www.wegetyouback.org](http://www.wegetyouback.org).

## Advanced care.

# Get Back.

The first in the state to offer the da Vinci 5 robotic-assisted surgery system. Innovative surgical procedures, like minimally invasive surgery can improve patient outcomes, reduce recovery times, and make surgeries more effective.



**Frederick  
Health**

SURGICAL CARE

[WeGetYouBack.org](http://WeGetYouBack.org)  
240-566-SURG





## National Apple Harvest Festival celebrates 60th year

The National Apple Harvest Festival is celebrating its 60th old-fashioned family event in October over the weekends of the 7 & 8 and the 12 & 13, at The South Mountain Fairgrounds, Biglerville, in the heart of Apple Country USA. The event is held all four days, Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. rain or shine. October, proclaimed National Apple Month, is when the Upper Adams County community celebrates apple season with an apple festival.

The festival's roots date back to October 14, 1961, when The Adams County Fruit Growers Association held an Apple Harvest Holiday to celebrate the apple harvest. After the fruit growers decided not to run the holiday again, The Upper Adams Jaycees—a new chapter in need of a fundraiser—organized and sponsored the very first Apple Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 10, 1965. Admission was free. The Jaycees earned a profit of \$297 that first year and voted to try it again.

In 1967, the event grew from one day to three days. Saturday's admission was \$.25 and Sunday's was \$.50. The first Apple Harvest Ball was held in 1968 at the Holiday-Inn Gettysburg. In 1969, the first Miss Apple Queen USA Contest was selected at the ball held in conjunction with the festival. The tours of the processing and fruit packing plants, that were proven crowd pleasers, were discontinued in 1970 because the plants could no longer handle the crowds.

The festival's 10th Anniversary was held in 1974 and had become so popular that all the cars could no longer be parked on the South Mountain Fairgrounds. And, with the profits from the festival, the Jaycees voted to build a community park. Then in 1975, it became a two-weekend event held the first two full weekends in October. The name was changed to the National Apple Harvest Festival in 1977 in honor of the National Apple Queen Contest it sponsored from 1969 to 1986.

The Upper Adams Commu-

nity area benefits most by the community park that was begun by the Jaycees in 1975 funded from profits of the festival. The 92-acre Oaks Community Park, located outside of Biglerville on Route 394, is open to the public April 15 to November 1 each year. The park features an amphitheater, six baseball/softball fields, five rental pavilions, a catch-and-release fishing pond, a soccer complex, a dog park, a three-mile walking trail, and a covered bridge. In 1989, the Jaycees built an office complex at the entrance to the park that houses offices for Oaks Community Park, The National Apple Harvest Festival, and The Upper Adams Jaycees.

The Upper Adams Jaycees use profits from the festival for all types of community, member and individual projects. A fifteen-member board of directors of current Jaycees and Exhausted Jaycees (no longer can be an active member of the organization when they turn 41) guide the festival each year. The board meets every month and is responsible for improvements to the festival.

Of course, what would an apple festival be without apple-delicious products? Apple bread, an apple butter boil, a cold cider press, cider

slushies, hot cider, apple desserts, daiquiris (nonalcoholic), fritters, jellies, pizza, sausage, sauce, candies, apple syrups and pancakes, sliced caramel apples, apple ice cream, and fresh Adams County apples can be found here, there, and everywhere as one strolls the grounds. Besides Apples, there are various other delicious foods available. As you step onto the fairgrounds, smell chicken barbecuing, the pit beef and pulled pork, sweet potato and regular French fries, homemade soups and sandwiches, homemade scrapple, and "fair" food.

With admission, entertainment is included on six stages—Apple Auditorium, Appleseed, Bluegrass Hollow, Cider Barrel, Cortland Circle, and Rockin' Apple—with music of all genres included—Bluegrass, Country, Rock and Roll, and Celtic. In the Exhibition Area view the Native American Dancers and listen and learn at Van Wagner's Tall Timber "Lumber Heritage" Program.

Take a hayride; stop at Kid Country—storytelling, apple pie eating contests, and a petting zoo. Enjoy the Orchard Tours, craft demonstration area, and shop at over 200 arts and crafts vendors. Don't miss the operating steam engine and shingle mill, listen to the hit 'n miss engines, and enjoy



Once again, Adams County-grown apples of all sorts and sizes will be front and center at the National Harvest Festival.

the antique autos! Check out the National Apple Harvest Festival Gallery with displays of old-fashioned apple production equipment and past festival memorabilia. The Pennsylvania Apple Queen Contest will be held Sunday, October 13, at 11:30 a.m. with the Coronation at 2:30 p.m. in the Apple Auditorium.

For more information including the full four-day schedule, food vendors, and to buy tickets online, visit [www.appleharvest.com](http://www.appleharvest.com) or call 717-677-9413. General admission is \$10, \$9 for Senior Citizens 60 and older, \$9 for Military and Veterans with proper ID, and free for children under 12. Parking and shuttle services are included.

### Fall Classic Road Rally Saturday, October 19

Register at [www.PreserveAdams.org](http://www.PreserveAdams.org)



Exploring the beautiful back roads of Adams County

Proceeds benefit the  
**Land Conservancy of Adams County**

670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg  
717-334-2828 LCAC@adamscountypa.gov



### BENEFITS ROCKY RIDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

## RIDGEFEST

### Food Sales

OCTOBER 12-13

6AM - 5PM

BREAKFAST SANDWICHES  
FAMOUS FRIED HAM SANDWICHES  
FRIES  
DRINKS

\*\*AUXILIARY ON LOCATION SELLING  
DELICIOUS DESSERTS AS WELL.

YARD SALE SPACE AVAILABLE. - SPACE IS LIMITED  
INSIDE SPACE - \$20 PER SPACE  
OUTSIDE SPACE - \$10 PER SPACE  
VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE  
INFORMATION OR REACH OUT TO PENNY  
STONESIFER @PENNY.STONESIFER@GMAIL.COM  
OR CALL (240) 674-9834

Location:

13516 MOTTERS STATION ROAD  
ROCKY RIDGE, MD 21778

[www.rockyridgevfc.com](http://www.rockyridgevfc.com)



## 60<sup>TH</sup> Annual National Apple Harvest Festival

October 5-6 & 12-13 • Held rain or shine

Apple Bread, Cider, Fritters, Syrup, Caramel Apples, Apple Ice Cream  
and fresh Adams Co. Apples. Homemade Soups & Sandwiches, Regular &  
Sweet Potato Fries, BBQ Chicken, Pulled Pork, Pit Beef and much more!

Hayrides, Music, Pie Eating Contest, 200+ Crafts & Vendors, Petting Zoo.

South Mountain Fairgrounds, 615 Narrows Rd., Biglerville • 717-677-9413

Buy tickets at [appleharvest.com](http://appleharvest.com) Facebook.com/AppleHarvestFestival

# HISTORY

## The Contralto

Rev. Charles Maloy, C. M.  
St. Joseph's Parish, Emmitsburg  
Published in 1912

### Chapter 6

Ride over the adjacent battlefield, which necessitated the spending of a whole day in the saddle, rendered the Professor disinclined to further strenuous physical exertion for some time, hence he was seated under the large horse-chestnut tree in the yard of the rectory, pad in hand, sketching notes for the "Question and Answer" column of the Chronicle. Reviewing the scenes of carnage enacted by the flower of American manhood had not tended to lighten his spirits. His survey of the three days combat, of the heroic assaults and repulses between men whose brother love had turned to hate, caused the names of "The Wheatfield," "Bloody Angle," "Devil's Den," to run through his brain in harmony with the beat of his horse's hoofs. The famous charge which men have whispered was the outcome of the order of an insane commander, what would it have been called had it succeeded? The abandonment of their almost impregnable position by the Union forces, which it is said was seriously contemplated after the first day, would have led to what results?

Riding home in the dusk, as he pulled up the jaded Admiral for breath at the top of a steep hill, he repeated to himself, for he was an egoist, his summary of the day's impressions couched in the words of the hero who prayed while others fought, "With charity towards all, malice towards none; to do the right as God gives me to see the right."

Throughout the day deep in his subconsciousness, the effort to puzzle out an explanation of Marion's dissection of his character accompanied, and now as he wrote vexed him. He was surprised to find such astuteness in a young woman of Emmitsburg.

"Oh! I say Professor, just a moment."

It was the manner of Mr. Halm, in opening a conversation though the person addressed were giving no signs of haste to reach a particular point. Harry lowered his feet, which were planted against the tree, arising to greet his visitor, at the same time brushing ashes from his waistcoat and cravat. Though the elderly man appeared to have but a moment to spare from some pressing duty he thankfully accepted the proffered cigar, seating himself leisurely.

"What I was going to say, Professor—don't you think it's a beautiful morning?"

"Glorious," offering a match.

"What I was going to say—these are very good cigars, you don't buy them in Emmitsburg."

"No, I have not, so far, patronized the home market in its tobacco phase."

"Don't, my dear Professor, the grade they make here is abominable; old Whitmore sells them for a dollar a hundred."

"Whitmore? Oh, yes, he is Uncle Bennett's theological antagonist."

"That's he; at one time the Deacon was a preacher and exhorter through the county but resigned to manufacture cigars for local consumption."

"Yet critics say the Gospel comes high," laughed Harry.

"But what I was going to say—have you read this week's Chronicle?"

"Even to the advertisements, some of which I have been reading in country papers since my primary school days."

"I think Mr. Galt a wonderful man," ignoring the sarcasm. "Take that article on 'Love and Humor, Wit and Hatred,' that I think could grace the pages of any New York paper."

"Yes," endeavoring to hide his elation.

"Yes, indeed," went on the old man enthusiastically, "and what I liked particularly was the strong appeal for mutual help, charity for the shortcomings of one's neighbors, and especially that phrase: 'We laugh with those we love, we laugh at those we hate and despise.'"

"I presume the writer felt deeply on that point." "Do you think the editor had any local reference?" "I really couldn't say."

"What I was going to say—don't you think you could take tea with us some evening?"

"Thank you, Mr. Halm, it will give me great pleasure, I assure you."

"The pleasure shall be all mine, but what I was going to say—don't you think there could be a better social spirit amongst the people here?"

"I am not very well acquainted with the social atmosphere, being as you know, almost a total stranger."

"You know they have very little money, that is most of them."

"I have not remarked a Metropolitan chase after the filthy lucre, nor a Pittsburgh lavishness in spending it, yet I don't see that the lack of money should constitute a barrier to social harmony," said Harry dryly, amused at the other's tendency to stray from the point.

"What I was going to say, Professor—that is don't you think something like theatricals, amateur theatricals, what I was going to say, theatricals in which we could interest the young folks, would help to promote social concord?"

"Beyond doubt, could we arouse interest." "What I was going to say—what do you think of Miss Tyson's voice?"

"Disclaiming all critical ability, for my musical education is represented algebraically by zero under the radical, I would say that Miss Tyson has the most beautiful voice I have ever heard."

"Wonderful! Charming! Superb!" enthused the musician, and then launched into a disquisition on pitch, timbre, tone, color, and a hundred other things about which the Professor was in infantile innocence. Breath failing him at last, the other to fill the gap said:

"Miss Tyson's rendition of the lullaby was the sweetest thing I ever listened to."

"But you should hear her at the classics—what I was going to say—don't you think we might get up an entertainment?"

"I haven't the slightest doubt of it, but if you will pardon me I don't see exactly



Emmitt House - 1900

where I come in, that is what part I am to have in it."

"You must do it all, that is, what I was going to say—you must organize it."

"Really you flatter me by overrating my abilities. I have never made an attempt in that direction, at least since I left college."

"It is easy enough, that is, it will be easy for a young man of your attractiveness, the boys and girls shall flock around you as a center of cohesion, so to speak."

The flattery was not lost on the younger man, the idea making appeal to him. He had already reached the conclusion that in his search for moral equilibrium it might be better to get away from himself as much as possible. The long nights wherein he wrestled with his malady convinced him of the hopelessness of contending with the demon in a hand to hand, silent contest. The Rector was sympathetic, but Harry had never made his weakness a direct subject of discussion between them. After a few moments thought during which Halm watched him closely he said:

"I am willing to do whatever I can to make life pleasant for the people of this village, the one thing I fear, however, is the animus of some towards me. Were I to be prominent in the movement it might cause friction."

"Friction, nonsense! What need you

care? The parties who dominate this town may raise objections covertly, but they dare not openly oppose what is elevating for the village folk."

"By the way, don't they do anything for the social uplift here?"

"Yes, that is, they allow certain selected ones to attend the commencement exercises, and during the holidays they have a distribution of clothing at the Academy for the poor of the town. The most heart-rending sight I ever beheld, my dear Professor, worse any day than New York's bread line. The tramps of the city are fighting for a dole, here it is a people accepting as a charity what rightfully belongs to them," and the old man's indignation rendered him for the moment coherent of speech. Observing the pain and not wishing to prolong it, Harry turned the conversation back to a former channel by asking:

"What would you suggest as our first line of endeavor in theatricals?"

"What I was going to say—would it not be well to begin with a minstrel show?"

"Perhaps, but as I understand the situation we shall have difficulty in getting a sufficient number of young men together."

"What I was going to say - I have written a little opera, that is an operetta - nothing serious, a few tunes and jingles strung together - but there are several numbers

# Chaz's

## Used Auto Parts

### U-Pull-It

### Over 10 acres to pull from!

\* Bring your own tools \*

## We buy junk cars and scrap metal!

Pick up or drive in available

**Monday - Friday 8 - 5**

**Saturday 8 - 2**

Emmitsburg

Rt. 15 to Thurmont

Chaz's Used Auto Parts

Rt. 149

Taneytown

6035 Taneytown Pike, Taneytown

888-212-8775

License # J085900

## Thank You

### 2024 Pippinfest Supporters!

**Sponsors**

Fairfield Auto Service, MR Glaziers, Jester's Computers, Specialty Granules, Ventura's Restaurant & Pizzeria

**Patrons**

Lockwood Business Support, Melissa Wetzel-CPA, Mountain View Realty, Scott's Auto Body

**Supporters**

A&D Business Services, Alexander's Well Drilling & Alexander's Plumbing, Battersby Law Office, Fleetwood/York Gasket & Seal, Gettysburg Transmissions, Hickory Bridge Farm Restaurant - B&B, Main St. Cutique, Taverna Inc., Village Table & Book

**Friends**

Another Chance Thrift Store, Caterpillar Clubhouse, El Vista Orchards, Summit Signs and More,

**Contributors**

Wastler's Barber Shop, Emmitsburg Osteopathic Primary Care Center, Needle & Thread

**Apples**

Boyer's Nurseries & Orchards, Bream's Orchard, Hollabaugh's, McDaniel's Fruit Farm & Market, Oyler's Organic Farms & Market, The Historic Roundbarn & Farm Market, Sandoe's Fruit Market, Woerner's Orchards

**Other**

Fairfield Fire Department, Kevin Brown, Grant Bryanr, Ron Harris, George (Butch) Harbaugh, GSC Fairfield Commons, Mark Keller & Carl Keller, Jr., Brandon & Amy Knoess, Monahan Funeral Home, Tractor Supply - Gettysburg

# HISTORY

just suited to Miss Tyson's voice. Of course, we could not offer it as our first venture."

"The very thing, let the people know they have a rival of Mascagni and Herbert in their midst, that shall be an assertion which will tend to social uplift surely."

"Oh, no, no," entering a modest disclaimer, "I only wrote it with reference to Marion's voice." "I shall speak to the Rector, I am sure he will approve, in the meantime let us consider our forces, have we a soprano?"

"Miss Lansinger, the organist, is very good, if she will take part, somewhat doubtfully."

"Why would she not?"

"She will I'm sure and we can have Doctor Foreman for basso, and young Marion is a very dear tenor, we shall get along famously," the musician was pleased at the prospect.

"Then all that remains is to draw up incorporation papers; in a few days we launch 'The Emmitsburg Opera Company,' then let the Metropolitan impresarios look to their laurels. Have another cigar."

"Oh dear! No, thank you, my wife sent me for something for dinner, I forgot, I must hurry along."

The Professor sat for some time in deep thought wondering if there were a place on earth in which contentment reigned. His mind wandered back to his own college world, wherein the outsider thought he beheld the supremest peace and goodwill. He recalled the petty jealousies, struggles for place, desire for the plaudits of students and all the other miseries that college flesh is heir to. The review was not calculated to hearten him. Men, he pondered, who are set aside to think world-thoughts, who are supposed to seek truth at any cost, and yet whose every action is overlooked by the "green-eyed monster." He was inclined to blame himself that, as most of his classmates, he had not gone into the big business world where the fighting is on a scale worthy of a man's man.

As he thought of his present position he shuddered. The recollection of the story that would, long ere this, be afloat at his college brought tears to his eyes. He was down and out; every student would know the facts embellished by the fancies of his fellow-professors. "There is a certain subtle pleasure for us in the misfortunes of our dearest friends," he quoted to himself from the old French cynic, before realizing that he was becoming morbid. Shrugging his shoulders, he picked up his pad from the ground and started for the Chronicle

office.

On Main Street he came upon Miss Tyson and Halm talking. A thrill of pleasure at the young lady's improvement was followed by speculation as to when Mrs. Halm would get her things for dinner.

Coming up to them he congratulated Marion, while the musician, again announcing his need for haste, made off. Offering his arm to the girl who told him she was testing the strength of her ankle, they sauntered up the street.

"Isn't Mr. Halm an old darling?"

"Rather, he is several old darlings rolled into one."

"He was telling me of the operetta you are going to produce and humming some of the parts he has written expressly for me. I am afraid, however, you are making a mistake in giving me a prominent part, my popularity is somewhat dimmed in Emmitsburg."

"What other young ladies shall be willing to take part?" ignoring her self-criticism.

"I think they shall all be willing, as the rehearsals will give them something to do in the evenings."

"Will they be satisfied with places in the chorus? As I gather from the composer there will be but four or five leads, that is solo parts, and two of those for men."

"There should be no difficulty in that, for me I shall be more than pleased with a minor position."

They had come to the Emmitt House where the roads fork and the Professor looked inquiringly. The girl assured him she was fully equal to a longer stroll, so they passed out the road on which they met a week before. The mountain chain stretching along to right and left and towering into the clouds filled their vision. The fields of ripening corn unstirred by any breeze suggested the fruition of a life well-spent. Over all was infinite calm, with a buzzard soaring lazily in the blue, as a discord emphasizing the harmony. Both young beholders felt the spell and searched their minds for something appropriate to say. At last Harry uttered the common-place:

"How calm and peaceful this is. I love it."

"Love it!" echoed the girl with scorn, "I hate it. I enjoy spring with its riot of new life, I find pleasure in the July sun though it scorch me, but autumn with its peace and calm, ugh! I hate it."

"You are young yet," said he sententiously. "You are not a patriarch yourself."

"No, but I have seen enough of the strenuous to enjoy a period of calm."

"I always thought the life of a college

professor was one of humdrum and routine."

"The traditional idea," a little bitterly, "a bespectacled, long-coated pedagogue, strong on Greek and higher mathematics, short on worldliness and horse sense; moving through life with the soft pedal on his voice and no red blood in his veins, drawing a stonemason's salary and apeing the living of a millionaire. One who would be a joke in a man's world, hence is wise enough to be a pussy in a world of women."

"Not so bad as that," apologized Marion glad to have stirred him so deeply, "but one who went the even tenor of his ways, living in an atmosphere of abstractions, not condescending to the common-places of everyday existence."

"You do not like the calm of autumn," he said anxious to turn from a painful topic.

"I hate calm of any kind, it has been preached at me ever since I was able to understand. I was fired from the St. Joseph's Academy because I could not appreciate the value of calm and pose and womanly dignity. I finished at a school in Washington amidst the predictions of the faculty that there was a stormy future ahead of me. I am leading a terribly perilous existence now, don't you think?"

"You had the honor of being fired? I don't know how it is looked upon in female schools, but to be fired from college is the open sesame to distinction amongst men. One of the leading lights of the country today was dismissed from the college over there."

Reaching a grassy spot beside the road, he invited her to sit and rest. There in the lazy September sun they talked of boy and girlhood days without the least restraint. He told of his record in school, how most of his chums had quit before graduation and gone into business. To everyone's surprise he had finished, adopted the teaching profession, had gone to a German university, learned to drink beer, returned and accepted a chair. She told of her constant warring with the authorities at St. Joseph's, how she could never see any

## Sara Taylor Miller



Sara Taylor Miller, 82, passed away peacefully on August 27. Born October 31, 1941 in Baltimore, Sara always enjoyed the magical, whimsical and "witchiness" the Halloween celebration exudes, along with an affinity for Star Trek and its memorabilia, and colorful butterflies. Her family moved to Emmitsburg during the mid-1950's where her mother opened a Tailor shop on

Main St.. Sara was a part of the Emmitsburg High School class of 1959 then attended Salisbury State College for a time pursuing early education. Once married she moved to Blue Ridge Summit, then to Shady Side, Md until 1979 when she moved back to Emmitsburg.

She worked for the Office of Planning and Zoning for the town of Emmitsburg for 14 years, Hechinger's in Frederick and retired from Fitzgerald Auto Mall. Later in life, Sara enjoyed discussing the latest shenanigans of the daytime "soap operas" with her sister Regina who predeceased her in June.

A celebration of life will be held on November 2nd at 2 p.m. at Tom's Creek United Methodist Church. Internment to follow on a later date at St. George's Church, Pungoteague, VA. Donations may be made to the Emmitsburg High School Scholarship Fund.

wrong in being her natural self, and how many punishments she had to undergo because she could not make convention of equal importance with the Ten Commandments. She never received a medal nor honor as her deportment was a constant minus. At last with much show of feeling she asked:

"Do you know why I was dismissed?"

"For something very heinous, I am sure," laughing.

"We were up the mountain one day on a picnic, and after lunch we wandered along the bank of the creek to where it was quite deep. Someone dared me to wade in. Of course I did it, and that was the very head and front of my offending."

"Very scandalous, indeed," he commented with mock gravity, not appreciating the depth of the girl's feeling.

"And it shall be told to their chil-

dren's children unto the fourth generation. Do you wonder that I am weary of calm, of pose, of dignity? It may seem a laughing matter to you to flout the conventions of a village like this but a girl must live. There is only one person in this town who is sincere with me, that's Vinny (Vincenzia) Seabold."

"A very charming friend, but cannot I be a second sincere person?"

"Prove yourself," simply, and rising to return. The walk back was rather a silent affair, observed by the knowing ones of Emmitsburg, who wagged their heads and tongues. Passing the Chronicle office the editor waved out the window and wondered if his assistant had found more attractive occupation than journalism.

continued next month

**"Your Community Cemetery"**

Traditional Plots  
or  
Columbarium  
available for your  
loved ones final  
resting place.

**EMMITSBURG MEMORIAL  
CEMETERY**  
ESTABLISHED 1845

**301-456-3233**

**MYERS-DURBORAW  
FUNERAL HOME**

*Dedicated assistance for families during times of loss.*

We provide a dignified and meaningful funeral or memorial service for every family's loved one.  
*We view our service as a sacred trust!*

- Compassionate Care • Knowledgeable Guidance
- Attention to Detail • Unparalleled Professionalism
- Grief Counseling • Pre-Planning Available

• All Services and costs are clearly itemized and explained at the time arrangements are made.

For Questions, more information or to schedule an appointment  
Call: 410-756-6688 or 301-447-6244

	136 E. Baltimore St. Taneytown 410-756-6688	210 W. Main St. Emmitsburg 301-447-6244	
--	---	---	---

Licensed in Maryland and Pennsylvania  
[www.myersdurborawfh.com](http://www.myersdurborawfh.com)

# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## October 3

### Farm Show To Open Today

The South Mountain Farm Products Show to be held Friday and Saturday, October 3 and 4 at the Biglerville community auditorium only awaits the snapping of the barrier for its getaway.

Farmers, residing in the upper end of the County are actively engaged in grooming all manner of farm products for exhibition at the show in competition with those of their neighbors. All housewives are baking bread, cakes, and pies, and making candies and rummaging for jars, preserved fruits and jellies, which are likely to be judged the best.

Cash prizes amounting to approximately \$60 will be awarded to first and second prize winners in the various classes. The prizes were donated by the Biglerville National Bank, sponsor of the show, after a decision was made to abandon in the south mountain community fair this year.

Almost every product conceivable on a farm will be on display and unusual exhibits will not be rare. On Saturday morning there will be a potato-judging contest for boys and girls, a prize of two dollars to be given the winner, and a prize of one dollar to the next best.

Those in charge of the Farm Product Show, the first of its kind ever attempted in Adams County, are urging the farmers to exhibit their corn and potatoes, although they may not be fully matured, owing to the lateness of the season and unfavorable weather conditions.

### Observe The White Line

"Show me the automobilist who fails to keep to the right of the white line and I'll show you a careless driver," said Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, Edward Baughman in commenting on the alleged practice of automobiles who drive in the center and wrong side of the road, while rounding curves on the state highways.

"I will venture to say that approximately 80% of motorists pay no attention to the white lines appearing in the center of all curves," said the Commissioner. "And I will say that up this 80%, at least 60% are violating other automobile laws; such as failing to have their operator's or registration card with

them, improper headlights or obscure license tags.

"A careful motorists, when he sees a white line on the road, realizes that it is put there for his safety. By keeping on the right side of the road while rounding curves, and in doing so, collisions are less likely."

Members of the State Police force have been ordered by the Commissioner to warn all motorists of the danger occurred by their failing to observe the white line.

Baughman also encouraged towns to enforce the regulations for parking cars that are in use in most towns having a main street - that of running cars to the curb on an angle, and not broadside. The angle parking not only accommodates fully a quarter more cars, but permits backing out easily without disturbing other cars. By marking white angle lines on the bed of the street, the plan could be adopted without trouble, and still leave room in the center of the road for two cars to pass.

### Bad Wreck On Emmitsburg Road

A bad wreck occurred at the bridge over Piney Creek on the Emmitsburg Road last Sunday, when two autos, going in opposite direction, attempted to use the one-way bridge at the same time. It is possible for two cars to cross the bridge at the same time by carefully driving, but this was not exercised.

Both of the cars were driven by women - neither of which was paying attention to the road - instead they were too busy gossiping with their passengers - all women - hence the accident.

Both drivers were fined, one for not having a driver's license, and the other for reckless driving. The Sheriff said he would have like to have charged them for being wasting their husbands hard earned money by wrecking their cars, but was unable to find a citation in the motor vehicle code for that. None of the occupants of either car was seriously hurt, but both made extremely narrow escapes. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about the cars.

## October 10

### Car Damage in Crash

When the driver of the delivery truck of the People's Cash Store failed, it is

said, to signal that he was about to turn into an alley off the Main street of Fairfield, Mrs. Joseph Codori, who is following the truck, crashed into the rear of the machine, with the touring car she was driving.

According to Mrs. Codori, the driver of the truck failed to extend his hand as a signal that he was about to turn into the alley. She was taken unaware that he was stopping as she said she was busy checking her makeup and was not looking at the truck. As a result, the right front fender of her car crashed into the rear of the truck.

The truck driver is said to have stopped his car, rather suddenly as he was about to make the turn into the alley, to avoid running down a little girl who was crossing the alley at the time. The damaged to both machines were slight.

### Harney At Work

Harney is on the job putting away the local tomato crop. About 40 people are working in the canning factory, taking the peel off tomatoes and canning them. This employees the people of the town and community during the fall season, but what we need is something to give the people permanent employment.

Our newly built road will be a great improvement in this place, when completed. The road from Harney to the Pennsylvania line has been graded, and when it is completed, it will not be bad; but it should have been stoned while the machinery was all here. Unfortunately, The Taneytown end of the new road appears to be in need of patches, already, in some places, or it will be torn up into bad holes next Spring.

### Rare Old Paper Money

Robert McKinney, in going over old papers that belong to his father, Andrew McKinney, the well-known Taneytown teacher of years ago, found a package of old time Continental Currency; seven notes as follow:

Two Dollars, entitling the bearer to two Spanish Milled Dollars, or the value there of in gold or silver, according to resolution of Congress passed in Philadelphia, November 2, 1776

Two and two thirds Dollars, gold or silver, at the rate of four Shillings, and six Pence per Dollar, according to the Provincial Convention, held in Annapolis, December 7, 1775.

One Dollar, conditioned as above, same date.

**The HOOVER**  
It BEATS...as it Sweeps as it Cleans

**You'll Enjoy Life--  
With a  
HOOVER**

When you say "I can't afford a Hoover" you admit that your time and strength is not worth even 21c a day--for only a few months. For that's all it costs to own a Hoover.

**Pay Only \$6.25 Down and Get Your Hoover Now**  
**MULLINX & BENTZ**  
THE RUG STORE

One Dollar, entitling the bearer to receive one Spanish Milled Dollar, or an equal in gold or silver, according to resolution of Congress, January 14, 1779.

Three Dollars, as above, by active Congress, February 26, 1777.

Two Dollars, according to a resolution of Congress past February 1776.

Twenty Shillings, according to the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, passed in the 13th year of the reign of his Majesty, George the Third, dated October 1, 1773.

These notes are in fair state of preservation and are perhaps still redeemable but are probably worth more than their face value to collectors.

## October 17

### Thurmont Man Pleads Guilty to Bastardy

Allen Willard, of Thurmont, pleaded guilty to a charge a bastardy, and was in order to pay the prosecution witness, Maude Wolf, the sum of \$12 per month for the support of his children, twin boys. Willard was also ordered to post \$533 bond as security and this was provided by his father.

The judge ask Mr. Wolf if he wished to arrange a 'shotgun wedding' for his daughter while the pair was in his courtroom, but Mr. Wolf declined the offer. "It's bad enough I have to support the no good's offspring, but I'm sure as hell not going to support a useless drunk who hasn't the capacity to even walk a straight line if it was painted in the middle of the road for him. Let his useless

parents pay for him. What my daughter ever saw in him I'll never know, nor do I care." He told the judge.

Wolf asked the judge if he could shoot Willard based upon "justifiable homicide". The judge said that while he was supportive of Wolf's request, he doubted higher courts would support such a decision and recommend Wolf not shoot Willard.

Joseph Smith, of Libertytown was also found guilty on a charge of bastardy, and was ordered to pay seven dollars a month to Helen Horton, also of Libertytown for a period of 12 years.

### Church Improvements Completed

On Sunday, a reopening service was held at the Mount Tabor Union Church in Rocky Ridge, after making repairs and improvements by way of the laying of a new hardwood floor with a fine wax finish, painting the interior of the church, and carpeting the aisle and the pulpit platform.

Reverend Stogmister, President of the Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg, preached the sermon. That evening, Reverend Helmer, preached a sermon that was inspirational in nature with a special appeal to the young to return to life and service of the church. There was also a special concert given by the large community choir of the church.

### Boy Hurt By Cross Bull

Virgil Lescaleet, son of Charles Lescaleet, of Keymar, met with a very serious accident, on Sunday evening. While his father was feeding his cows in the stable,

Licensed Insured

## REAVERS WOODWORKING

Quality Hand-Crafted  
Cabinets/Furniture  
Brian P. Reaver, Sr.

**We Now Offer  
Natural and  
Engineered Stone  
Countertops!**

- Kitchens, Armoires
- Hutches, China Cupboards
- Computer Stations
- Entertainment Centers
- Fireplace Mantels
- Vanities, Gun Cabinets
- Children's Furniture
- Corner Cabinets, Bookcases
- Dressers, End Tables... etc.

**Shop: 301-788-7143**  
**Fax: 301-447-1750**

Visit us online at: [www.emmitsburg.net/woodworking](http://www.emmitsburg.net/woodworking)

## Tony Little & Jane Moore with

### Real Estate Teams LLC Broker: 301-695-3020

It's a great time to buy or sell!  
Call us and see how we can help!  
Don't settle for less...Get a Little-Moore!

**302-662-2468**

UNDER CONTRACT

16644 Toms Creek Church Rd.,  
Emmitsburg

The view from this large 2 story home is a 10! This home has lots of space with 4 BR & 2.5 BA. Solid construction with wood floors, recent roof. Attached 2 car garage. Very large deck to enjoy with all your friends.

MDFR2053814 **\$450,000**

# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

**The Logical Choice of the Careful Buyer**

The Ford car delivers more useful, care-free, economical service per dollar invested than any other car. Its sturdy, rigid construction is striking evidence of enduring materials. Every minute operation is scientifically tested and accurately checked.

Control of natural resources and complete manufacture in large volume have made possible value that is the one standard by which every motor car must necessarily be judged. The Ford car is the logical and necessary choice of the buyer who wants to get the utmost from every motoring dollar.

**The Touring Car \$295**

**Ford**  
THE UNIVERSAL CAR

**Ford Motor Company**  
Detroit

SEE THE NEAREST AUTHORIZED FORD DEALER

he told Virgil to get the bull and tie him as he was becoming very cross as a result of the railroad employees teasing him. The bull turned on the boy, knocking him down, and gourd him. Dr. Diller was called at once. No bones were broken, but the boy was badly bruised.

### Wife Finds Aged Man Dead In Bed

Samuel Sanders was found dead in bed by his wife at 2 o'clock on Wednesday morning. Mrs. Sanders had woken up to place a cover on her husband when she discovered that he had died. A physician was summoned and said death had taken place about an hour before. He was 74 years old. Dr. Miller, the County Coroner, was notified of the death, but said that an inquest would not be necessary since the Sanders' family physician said death was due to a heart attack.

## October 24

### Emmitsburg Boozers Found Guilty

Edward Wetzel, of Emmitsburg, was found guilty on two counts of selling liquor, receiving a six-month sentence on one count, and a suspended sentence in the other. His wife, Lucy Wetzel, was found guilty of four counts, and find \$100 and cost on one charge, sentence was suspended in another, and the remaining counts were settled at the request of the state.

According to testimony, Wetzel and his wife had been engaged in the illicit liquor business for sometime, and one witness testified that he had a large still at his house. Both of them had on several occasions sold intoxicating liquor at their home. Both denied having made any transactions with the prosecuting witnesses, but the court handed down a verdict of guilty in each case nevertheless.

In sentencing Wetzel, the court stated that it was evident that the home of Wetzel was known as a place to obtain liquor, and that almost anyone could obtain the illicit beverage there. The Judge stated that he intended to

break up the practice at the Wetzel home, and that he would have to send Wetzel to the lockup in order to stop it.

In suspending sentence on the second count, he stated that at any time the defendant returned to his old practice after he was released from the institution at the end of six months, he will be brought back into the court and sentence to an additional 6 to 12 months.

The court showed a degree of leniency to Mrs. Wetzel, and refrained from passing a jail sentence, stating that it was evident that the woman had only negotiated the sale because she was placed in a position where she had to, or she would have been beaten. A warning however was metered out to Mrs. Wetzel, concerning any further attempt to violate the law.

In another cases, Edward Krug, colored, of near Emmitsburg, was found guilty on one count of selling liquor and acquitted on another. Krug was fine \$50 and cost and ordered to refrain from any illicit sales in the future. Craig was unable to pay his fine but later provided bond and was released.

Alvie Hess, of Hornets Nest Road, Emmitsburg, was found not guilty on a charge of larceny of the property of Mrs. John Eyler, also of Emmitsburg. Hess, however, was found guilty on charges of assault and battery upon both Mrs. Eyler and Martha Stouter, on two separate counts. Final disposal of her case will be made after she has been tried on two counts of selling liquor, which will come before the court next month.

### Taneytown May Lose High School

The following article on the Taneytown high school situation, has been handed us for publication by one who is fully acquainted with the facts, and we recommend careful reading and consideration:

"On Monday afternoon of this week, Dr. Samuel North, stay superintendent of high schools, accompanied by Superintendent Unger, made his annual visit to the school at Taneytown.

"After his inspection was completed, Dr. North announced that under the no circumstances would he recommend the continuance of a four-year high school at Taneytown, unless by the opening of school next September, adequate room is provided for the operation of the school.

"The announcement from Dr. North creates an emergency in the school situation here. Our high school, our president, is a first group, state aided, four-year high school. and appropriation of about \$2,500 is made annually by the state port of education towards the operating expenses of the school. After this year, no appropriation will come from the State. The local high school will drop from first group rating to third; that is, at best, the high school will give only two years of instruction instead of four. Pupils who desire to complete the high school course, will be compelled to go to Westminster, Union Bridge, or New Windsor. In response to an inquiry, Mr. Unger stated that Carroll County pupils can not be received at Emmitsburg.

"In view of Dr. North's announcement Mr. Unger stated that on account of the situation at Taneytown; namely, that the building in which the school is operated is condemned, and cannot be used after March 1st, and because there is not sufficient land at the present school, even to erect any more portable buildings, no high school attaining town can be expected after this year, unless the new building is erected. At best, only two rooms in the old building are safe, namely, the addition that was erected about eight years ago. These, along with the portable building of one room, makes three rooms available for schoolwork next year.

"Under the law, Mr. Unger, stated he is compelled to provide rooms for the elementary school first, before he can make provisions for high school. Pupil of the first six grades will need the three rooms at present available for next year, so that unless the new building is built, very probably it will be impossible to have at Taneytown even seventh grade. In a word, as the situation stands, unless the County Commissioners provide the money for the erection of a new school building, Taneytown's school will probably drop five grades in rank after this year and all pupils of this community, after com-

pleting the sixth grade will be required to go to school someplace else."

The local committee feels that the citizens and school patrons are not willing for the situation to arise. The committee has therefore arranged for a meeting of all citizens on Monday evening, October 27, in the Fireman hall, to take immediate and action to secure for this community a proper school facility."

### Emmitsburg Man Injured In Fall

George Florence, of Emmitsburg, is recovering from serious injuries, suffered when he fell 25 feet while working at Gingle's stone quarry in Zora. His injuries consisted of a fractured left wrist, a badly bruised hip, and a possible fracture of the left anklebone. After the accident, Mr. Florence was removed to his home in Emmitsburg, where he is receiving treatment.

Rumor has it that once word was circulated that Dr. Jamison had provided Florence with a prescription for a healthy supply of high grade drinking alcohol to ease his pains, other boozers in Emmitsburg have been actively looking for ways to injure themselves to obtain their own supply.

## October 31

### Radio To Broadcast Election Returns

The C&P Telephone Company has authorized each of its local exchanges to broadcast over a 'party line' the returns on election night, as received by radio, providing the night is good for clear reception.

All customers of each exchange who request it, will have their phone be connected to the line carrying the results, but no conversation can be carried on with this number, as the receiver will necessarily be down in order that the voice of the radio may be broadcast through the transmitter to the phones of the subscribers.

No returns are likely to be given before about 9 o'clock, and it is quite probable that this service will be discontinued about one in the morning - no all night session, no matter how the returns may be.

Phones with weak batteries, or otherwise, not in first class order, are not likely to reproduce the voice of the radio very clearly, but good hearing, and close attention may enable all to

get at least the substance of what is going on. As the loudspeaker of the radio will be about 10 to 12 inches away from the mouthpiece of the operator's phone, the volume of sound will not be equal to voice close up to it.

Customers must asked the exchange to connect with the 'return line,' and C&P will do its best to give the phone subscribers, the returns as they come in. This arrangement, of course, will be subject to telephone regulations related to the lines that may be used, and not interfere with the rights of subscribers who want to use those phones for regular purposes.

The United Press Association will broadcast the election returns that will be transmitted by C&P, beginning at 7 p.m. Special wire and telegraph instruments will be run into the broadcast station, and a special staff will be working to receive and edit the latest returns, coming from all sections of the United States. Those listening in will be afforded the privilege of hearing the latest up to the minute tabulations.

Never again, said the head of the United Press Association will Americans have to go to bed on election night without know who won the Presidency.

### Fairfield Plans Chamber Of Commerce

Another borough of Adams County will have a Chamber Of Commerce organization, if plans of residents of Fairfield, now, in a tentative state, materialize.

At a recent meeting of the Fairfield citizens at the home of Reverend Ralph Baker, Pastor of the Lutheran Church, a temporary organization, to be known eventually as the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce, was affected, with the Reverend Baker as President, and Howard Harbaugh, Secretary.

After discussion of the need and possibilities of a commerce organization in Fairfield, a committee was appointed to place before another meeting of citizens, the purpose and intent of the organization, as well as submit a constitution and bylaws to govern a permanent association to the citizens of Fairfield on November 7 at the Fairfield high school building.h

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

# Mountain Fire

## Firearm Training - Sales & Service

### NRA Classes, Personal & Defense Training

"Contact us for everything firearms! Sales, Repair, Training, Fundraising Events, Customization and more. Local father and son business focused on customer service and high standards!"

**Multi-state  
Wear & Carry  
MD HQL  
NRA Classes  
Personal  
Defense**

**Class 07 FFL  
NRA, MSP, USCCA  
Certified  
Instructors  
Gunsmithing &  
Restoration**

"Stay Safe, Stay Secure, Protect Your Freedom!"

**240-772-1523**

Mountainfirellc.com • mfers2021@gmail.com

## TANEYTOWN HISTORY

# Resilience and reconnection: the story of Hugh Birnie



Upton Scott came to Annapolis in 1753, accompanying Horatio Sharpe, the last Royal Governor of Maryland, as his physician. This role enabled him to establish a substantial medical practice, and he also served as the "Court Physician" in the capital.

David Buie

In the late 18th century, communication for foreign-born colonists in America was sporadic and uncertain, made even more difficult by the American Revolutionary War. The restoration of peace in 1783 allowed families and friends to reconnect, as shown by a letter from Hugh Birnie (1746–1822), a Baltimore cooper, to his mother in Ireland. This correspondence provides a unique glimpse into the experiences of an Irish immigrant during a transformative period in American history. Birnie's letter reveals the per-

sonal and familial challenges faced during the war, including divided loyalties, while also expressing hope for the future of the newly independent nation. It also underscores the resilience and determination of foreign-born colonists in the face of such adversities.

Hugh Birnie was one of eleven children born to Clotworthy Birnie I (1765–1845), a tenant farmer on the Upton family estate in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, and Margaret Scott Birnie (1717–1803), who came from a prominent Presbyterian middle-class background. Margaret's brother, Dr. Upton Scott

(1724–1814), was a notable figure in colonial Maryland, serving as the personal physician to Horatio Sharpe (1718–1790), the last Royal Governor of Maryland. This prestigious role enabled Dr. Scott to establish a thriving medical practice and hold the "Court Physician" title in the capital. After completing his medical training in Ireland and Scotland, Dr. Scott joined the British Army as a surgeon's mate before accompanying Governor Sharpe to Maryland. Once there, Dr. Scott married Elizabeth Ross (1730–1819) and integrated into the colony's political and social elite, eventually shifting from his medical career to administrative positions, including serving as the final clerk of the proprietary government before the Revolution.

Despite Dr. Scott's success and connection to the Birnie family, he disapproved of his sister's marriage to Clotworthy Birnie I. Nonetheless, he occasionally supported his sister and her children, providing education and opportunities for several of his nephews, including arranging a medical education in Britain for John Birnie and securing merchant berths for Francis Upton Birnie. However, both sons met tragic ends—John died during his medical training, and Francis perished at sea during the Revolutionary War. Young Clotworthy II eventually emigrated to America, settling in the Taneytown area in 1810.

Despite Dr. Scott's disapproval, Hugh Birnie emigrated to Philadelphia in 1763. His uncle was critical of Hugh's decision, expressing skep-

ticism about his abilities. Dr. Scott's letter to Hugh's father detailed his attempt to help Hugh find respectable employment. However, he noted Hugh's reluctance to pursue opportunities like going to sea or working in a counting house. Ultimately, Hugh found work as a servant to an innkeeper. Over time, he learned the cooper's trade and settled in Baltimore.

Birnie's correspondence with his uncle was infrequent and strained. He later explained that political differences during the Revolution, where Birnie supported the Whigs while his uncle aligned with the Tories, further distanced them. Birnie also mentioned his cousin, Captain Hugh Scott, who had similarly fallen out of favor with both Birnie and the Taneytown community for his pro-Tory sentiments. After the war, Captain Scott sold his Frederick County lands and moved to Virginia before disappearing from records after 1798 in the Pittsburgh area.

In 1783, as peace returned to the American colonies, Hugh Birnie wrote to his mother in Ireland, expressing relief that the war had finally ended. With the conflict over, communication could resume, and the promise of prosperity in America seemed within reach. He reflected on the difficulties Irish immigrants like himself faced during the war, citing fluctuating business, high prices, and the constant disruption caused by the British. Despite these challenges, Birnie was optimistic about the future, particularly the poten-

tial for trade in the newly established republic. He shared that his cooperative business in Baltimore was thriving, though he remained unmarried.

The letter also touches on Birnie's strained relationships with his uncle, Dr. Upton Scott, and his cousin, Captain Hugh Scott. Despite their differences, Birnie expressed his continued respect for his uncle and his duty to him, though Dr. Scott had been distant and unresponsive to Birnie's letters. Birnie believed Captain Scott's coolness toward him stemmed from their opposing political allegiances during the Revolution. Birnie provided updates on other family members, inquired about relatives in Ireland, and expressed concern for his younger brother, Clotworthy II.

He advised his mother to ensure that Clotworthy II received a proper education and was placed in a suitable trade. Birnie believed that business success depended on education and connections, and he hoped his brother would be guided by someone experienced in commerce.

Despite the optimistic tone of his letter, hardship marked Birnie's later life. After remaining in the Baltimore area for some time, a permit from 1791 allowed Birnie and his apprentice to travel through the state for business. By 1798, Birnie had moved to Pittsburgh, where he worked in flour mills. However, around 1805, he suffered a severe leg injury in an accident, which left him unable to work. He settled in Freeport, Pennsylvania, facing financial difficulties because of title issues with his small land holdings.

He maintained some contact with Captain—now Dr., having returned to the medical profession—Hugh Scott, Dr. Upton Scott, and Clotworthy Birnie, II, his younger brother who had recently immigrated. The latter two occasionally sent him money. Eventually, after Clotworthy inherited much of Dr. Upton Scott's estate and established himself in style at "Thorndale" on Big Pipe Creek outside of Taneytown, he brought his elder brother, who was in poor health and financial ruin, to live out his final days in comfort by the family hearth. A gravestone in the family plot at Piney Creek Presbyterian Church near Taneytown marks his passing: "In memory of Hugh Birnie, a Native of Ireland, who died August 21st, 1822. Aged 76 years."

Hugh Birnie's letters provide a rare and valuable insight into the life of an ordinary artisan during and after the Revolutionary War. His reflections on family, politics, and business offer a personal perspective on the challenges and opportunities many foreign-born colonists face in America. While Birnie's optimism for the future of the new republic shines through, his later life illustrates the enduring struggles of many who sought a better life in post-Revolutionary America.

To read other Taneytown History articles, visit the History section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

ahh...  
**OCTOBER**  
 Such a wonderful month!  
 The end of the harvest.



The days are getting shorter and the nights are looking good for stargazing. Many places will be holding events...Colorfest, hayrides and of course PICK YOUR OWN PUMPKIN!! Ghosts will be running around at the end of the month too!

Get out and try one or more of the fun things around.

We're finding ourselves driving more in the dark as the days get shorter. Having good headlights is very important. We offer refinishing of headlights and most of the time we can get them almost like new. If they're really trashed, we can replace them with new buckets at a reasonable price. Now is the time to have your belts and hoses checked. As we start the slow march into Winter, now is the time to make sure your vehicle is ready. Don't wait until it snows to replace your tires or wipers.

**Prevention is always your best repair!**  
**Call and set up an appointment...**  
**We'll try not to scare you too much!**

**Taney Service Center**  
 94 York Street, Taneytown  
 410-756-9256 or 410-840-9029  
 "A little hard to find, look for a cheesy sign"




**The Taney Corporation**  
 Manufacturers of Wood Stairs & Stair Parts  
 Locally owned continuously  
 for over 50 Years  
 5130 Allendale Lane, Taneytown • 410-756-6671  
 Visit us at [www.taneystair.com](http://www.taneystair.com)  
 A sponsor of the Emmitsburg News-Journal

**Battlefield**  
**Transport & Recovery**  
 We tow everything: Light, Medium, Heavy Duty  
 Transport Vehicles, Buses, Cars, Machinery, Equipment



Licensed, Professional  
 Friendly Drivers  
 Available 24/7  
 MD, PA, VA, WV

1221 Bruceville Rd., Keymar 410-984-2082  
 Charles Mehring - Owner [charlie.battlefield@comcast.net](mailto:charlie.battlefield@comcast.net)

## TEACHER TALK!

## When I grow up

Claire Doll  
MSMU Class of 2024

"A little about me"

It might be no surprise seeing my name in this paper by now. I've written for the Emmitsburg and Woodsboro-Walkersville News-Journals since I was a sophomore at Mount St. Mary's, back in 2021. While I wrote mainly for the Four Years at the Mount section, I also produced tons of feature articles, traveling around the area and meeting notable members of the community. Now, as a graduate of Mount St. Mary's, I am super excited to have my own column! Each month, I'll be reflecting on my journey as a new teacher and my post-grad life in all its entirety, and my writing will have a home in my favorite publication.

I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English. While I could recount all the extracurriculars and courses I involved myself in at the Mount, I'd rather reflect on the amazing experiences and friendships that have led me here today. I enjoyed drives down Annandale Road in the fall, solo trips to Gettysburg (shoutout to my favorite Starbucks on the Square!), eating dinner on the floor with my roommates, and capturing the sunrise on my way to the gym. I feel as though the Mount has given me memories to last a lifetime, and I am eternally grateful.

And I love writing. It's one of my favorite things to do. Whenever I'm journaling, writing fiction, or crafting an article, I'm in my happy place (especially in a café). I write nearly every day in some shape or form, and it's something I plan on pursuing for the rest of my life.

"Why teaching?"

When I was little, I owned American Girl Dolls. Lots of them. I'd ask for a doll every Christmas, and I'd give each one a personality. There was Kit, the writer, and Felicity, the rebel, and

Molly, the smarty-pants. As my collection of dolls grew, I would set up desks in my basement (the little fold-out TV tray tables) and chairs. This would be my first ever classroom as a teacher. I would teach my dolls lessons on grammar, on chapter books, on writing (never on math). And even though my students couldn't talk, I found great joy in rambling on and on about content that I loved with all my heart.

Fast forward through years of being a student. I encountered teachers who I still remember fondly today: my elementary school librarian who first introduced to me the beauty and magic of reading; my fifth-grade teacher who would stay after school with me to help me get into gifted math class; my seventh-grade science teacher who challenged me in my least-favorite class; my high school music teacher who showed me how joyous playing an instrument can be; my creative writing teacher, who has undoubtedly brought me into the whimsical world of writing. All the best educators, I've realized, teach more than content. They instill confidence and curiosity and creativity while nurturing bonds with students. Honestly, the very best teachers rarely specialize in content; they are devoted to fostering the well-roundedness of all their students.

In high school, I dabbled in different career choices. Everyone asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" as if "growing up" was an abstract, far-away thing. Only, it was just years away, and you don't realize how the years speed up as you get older. I loved writing, so there was always the editing and publishing route. Or, professional writing. The truth was, however, I hated writing essays, and I despised any form of academic or research writing. I also couldn't imagine sitting in an office all day. I thought about psychology, but then I'd have to take biology in college (seriously, I am not a science girl). There

was really only teaching. I have been wanting to teach for as long as I can remember, even before I realized it was a real occupation.

I completed my student teaching in both local middle and high schools, and I truly do love many things about both age groups. In high school, I love that teachers can work with interesting, meaningful content. When I was in twelfth grade, we read Charlotte Brontë's "Jane Eyre," and I was super engaged the entire novel. I also love how high school English can also be journalism, or film, or creative writing. In my internship, I learned that the students are skilled enough to not only read and write well, but also write to a particular theme, prompt, or audience and deeply engage with the text. I really enjoyed working with my eleventh graders and watching them interact with novels like "The Great Gatsby" or stories from "The House on Mango Street," where they could identify certain themes and find ways to relate the text to other elements, or themselves.

But when I student taught middle school, I absolutely loved how much personality, independence, and drive these students had. Although they're learning more technical skills—skills that can grow mundane, such as reading comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and grammar—the students are bright, energetic, and often ready to learn. One of my favorite parts of teaching eighth grade was reading "The Outsiders" and watching the students marvel at the novel's theme and its 1960s setting. Their classroom was always colorful, resourceful, and welcoming. My mentor teacher constantly kept the room adorned with plants, posters, and books, no matter if the kids read them or not. It was the best place to spend my four months last fall.

Although I also love younger kids, my observations and internships have helped me discover that I want to work with secondary students. I also have such a passion for reading and writing. I still hope



While looking about our archives for photos for this article, we stumbled upon this photo of Ruth Richards. As a former English teacher, for years she had no problem pointing out the grammar errors in the paper. Because of her, we strive for grammatical excellence, a role Claire was at the center of.

to write creatively and publish my own works—this has always been a goal of mine. But part of me feels that my role as a writer will never be complete unless I devote my time to helping others write, too. Unless I ensure that the generations of writers after me are fully equipped to succeed, and unless I inspire others to read constantly and avidly.

When I look back on my childhood spent teaching American Girl Dolls, I smile and think of how life naturally creates these full circle moments. I have always had the passion to spread my love for writing, long before I chose my teaching career path.

"So, where next?"

Just recently, I have accepted a 7th grade English/Language Arts teaching position

with Carroll County Public Schools. I am super excited to be close to both home as well as my former college community! As I spend the summer buying classroom decorations and preparing for the academic year, I also plan to keep this column as a "journal" of not only my teaching experiences, but also my post-grad life as well. What is it like to graduate college, then months later begin a full-time, life-altering job? How can I balance career, travel, and life? How can I also maintain my individual passions, coupled with my personal relationships? While I have already begun to miss some aspects of college, I feel excited and prepared to return to the classroom, this time as a real teacher. It's all I've been waiting for, and I'm very thrilled to bring some of my favorite communities along for the ride.

## Thurmont Community Ambulance Service

Proudly Serving Northern Frederick Co. for Over Half a Century

YEAH!

Friday Night

YEAH!

**BINGO**

**Bring your Friends & Family  
for a fun filled night**

**Doors Open @ 5 Bingo begins @ 7**

**No Bingo Friday, October 11th**

**Thurmont Event Complex**

13716 Strafford Drive, Thurmont

**301-271-7550**

[www.thurmonteventcomplex.com](http://www.thurmonteventcomplex.com)

## FARM HOUSE RESTAURANT AT THE BARN RESORT PA. The area's most extensive traditional BUFFET



**Lunch \$17.99\*\* Dinner \$22.99\*\***  
Plus Tax and Beverage

\*\*Certain days/times prices will vary

Tuesday to Thursday 11:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Friday & Saturday 11:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Sunday 11:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Featuring handcrafted cocktails & spirits from Cellar 75

717-334-7580



75 Cunningham Rd., Gettysburg

[www.thebarn.com](http://www.thebarn.com)

# COOKING

## Great Frederick Fair fiasco

Sonya Verlaque  
FCC Culinary Program

We have been living in Frederick for about 6 years and finally entered the Great Frederick Fair. The boys entered each a piece of art and something they baked. We went the very first day it opened to see everyone's entries, and each kid was in the ribbons. I, on the other hand, was a big loser. My littlest one was sad and said "Mama, I'm sorry you didn't get anything" but, really we had lots of fun. So, continuing on our fair adventure, here are a few of our entries.

### Second Place Chocolate Cake

I asked Ry what he wanted to bake, and he said a chocolate cake. And then of course, while searching recipes he found possibly the most complicated chocolate cake recipe that existed on pinterest. We did tweak it a little and also made the cakes on Wednesday and refrigerated them, and iced the cake on Thursday before taking it in the enter in the fair. After all that effort he was disappointed to win second place, but the cake is delicious and worth the effort.

#### Ingredients - Chocolate Cake

1 3/4 cups (230g) all purpose flour  
1/4 cup (30g) cornstarch  
1 cup (100g) unsweetened cocoa powder  
2 tsp baking soda  
1 tsp baking powder  
1/2 tsp kosher salt  
1 cup (200g) granulated sugar  
1 cup (205g) dark brown sugar, packed  
1/2 cup (108g) vegetable oil  
1 cup (230g) mayonnaise  
3 large eggs + 1 egg yolk

1/2 cup (128g) buttermilk  
2 tsp vanilla extract  
1 cup (240g) instant espresso

#### Ingredients -

##### Chocolate Fudge Frosting

2 cups (450g) unsalted butter, room temp  
1 1/2 cups (165g) powdered sugar  
3 tbs corn syrup  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
Pinch of kosher salt  
3/4 cup (177g) warm water  
3/4 cup (75g) dutch process cocoa powder (or unsweetened cocoa powder)  
10 oz dark chocolate chips (one bag), melted and cooled slightly

Preparation: Chocolate Cake - Preheat the oven to 350F and prep 3 8inch cake pans. Grease the inside and line the bottom with parchment paper. If you have them, wrap the pans in damp cake strips and set aside. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, cornstarch, cocoa powder, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. Set aside. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the sugars, oil, and mayo, followed by the eggs and egg yolk, and then milk and vanilla. Pour in half of the dry ingredients and whisk to combine. Pour in the hot coffee and whisk to combine, followed by the remaining dry ingredients. The batter should be very thin and liquid. Evenly distribute the batter between the three pans. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until a toothpick in the center comes out clean with a few moist crumbs. Allow the cakes to cool in the pan for about 10 minutes, then run a knife around the edges and turn out onto a cooling rack. Cool the cakes completely before frosting, either at room tempera-

ture or in the refrigerator. You can wrap the cake in plastic and store to frost and decorate the next day.

Chocolate Fudge Frosting - Using a hand or stand mixer with the paddle attachment, beat the butter until smooth. Then mix in the powdered sugar, corn syrup, vanilla, and salt and beat so it is fluffy and pale. In a measuring glass, whisk together the warm water and cocoa powder. Pour into the frosting and mix to combine, scraping down the sides and bottom of the bowl as needed. Then pour in the melted chocolate and mix to fully combine. The frosting should now be smooth and glossy but somewhat thin. To thicken, place the bowl in the refrigerator for about 45 minutes. Once chilled, whip again either by hand or with the mixer. If the frosting holds its shape inside the bowl, it's ready to go. Before assembling, make sure the cake layers are completely cooled. Level off the top of each cake layer if needed. Lay one layer down on a cake turntable and spread a layer of frosting on top. Lay the next cake layer on top, repeating the process. Once all the layers are stacked, place the cake in the refrigerator for about 20 minutes to allow those layers to set. Once set, cover the entire outside of the cake with frosting.

### Blue Ribbon Coconut Macaroons

Hudson is in kindergarten and so excited for his big win with these 5 ingredient macaroons. These are fast and so easy our 5 year old can do almost every step by himself.

#### Ingredients

14 ounces sweetened condensed milk  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 teaspoon almond extract  
2/3 cup flour  
5 1/2 cups sweetened coconut



Second place is first loser.

flakes, 14 ounce bag  
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/2 cup chocolate chips melted

1 cup powdered sugar  
4 tps lemon juice

Preparation: In a large mixing bowl, mix the extracts in with the condensed milk. Add the flour, coconut flakes, and salt and mix until well combined. Cover and refrigerate for one hour. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Use an ice cream scoop to scoop 18 macaroons onto parchment paper and bake in a preheated oven for 12-15 minutes. When baking they are done when the edges are just a little golden brown. After the are cooled, drizzle with the melted chocolate using a spoon.

### Underappreciated Earl Grey Tea Cookies

One of our babysitters said she thought these cookies were "fire" when I made them. Then proceeded to eat a few more throughout the day. Although we won no ribbons for these cookies,

#### Ingredients

1 cup unsalted butter softened (2 sticks)  
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar  
2 large eggs  
1 tbs vanilla extract  
1 1/2 tps baking powder  
1/2 tps salt  
3 cups all-purpose flour  
1 tbs earl grey tea leaves about 3 bags

Preparation: Preheat the oven to 350°F. Set out several baking sheets and line them with parchment paper. Set out a stand mixer. Add the softened butter and sugar to the mixing bowl. Beat on high for 3 to 5 minutes until the butter is extremely light and fluffy. Scrape the bowl, then turn the mixer on low and beat in the eggs, vanilla extract, baking powder, and salt. Scrape the bowl again, then turn the mixer on low and add in the flour, 1/2 cup at a time. Quickly add in the Earl Grey tea leaves with the last portion of flour. As soon as the flour is fully blended, turn off the mixer. Use a cookie scoop to measure the dough portions out in 1 1/2 tablespoon scoops. Roll each scoop into a ball. Place the balls on the cookie sheets, 2 inches apart. Bake the tea cakes for 10-12 minutes until puffy in the center and just barely golden around the edges. In a small bowl, combine the powdered sugar and lemon juice. Whisk well until the glaze is smooth. Once the tea cookies have cooled, dip the top of each cookie in the glaze and set them back on the parchment paper to dry.

To read other cooking articles, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

**Catoctin Mountain Orchard**

U.S. Route 15 - 15036 N. Franklinville Rd.  
**301-271-2737**

7 Varieties of Apples  
Bartlett & Seckel Pears  
Sweet Plums, Kiwi Berries  
Concord Grapes

Swiss Chard, Kale, Peppers, Broccoli  
Cabbage, Cauliflower, Pumpkins, Gourds  
White Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes

Apple Cider Slushies  
Apple Cider Donuts, Fresh Apple Cider  
Jams, Jellies, Honey  
Fresh Baked or Frozen Fruit Pies

Fall Mums

Pick Your Own Apples Every Saturday &  
Sunday during October!  
Weather permitting. Call for picking information.

**Open 9 to 5 daily**  
[www.catoctinmountainorchard.com](http://www.catoctinmountainorchard.com)

## FREDERICK KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

- Complete kitchen & bathroom remodeling
- Designers on staff
- Personal attention

**\$600 OFF**

**COMPLETE**

**KITCHEN**

**REMODEL**

**\$300 OFF**

**COMPLETE**

**BATHROOM**

**REMODEL**

Visit Our Showroom

47 W. Frederick St., Walkersville

MHIC # 146736      **301-845-7070**      License # 144542

FKandB.com      **ENJ**



# MOMS' TIME OUT

## To pet or not to pet?

Mary Angel

Dog, cat, hamster, guinea pig, snake, but which pet is the right one. The American family has 2.5 children and a dog and a cat, right? So, when do you get a pet. Are you ready for the responsibility?

I grew up with dogs, cats, goldfish and guinea pigs. When I was young my mom was known as the rescue lady. Every time someone had unexpected puppies or kittens, they would magically drop them in front of our house. My mom would take them in and sometimes find a home for them, other times we had a new pet. Over the years we had multiple dogs and a cat that appeared in our front yard. My dad would always grumble that they couldn't stay and in only a month or two he would have a new best friend that never left his side.

When I got married my husband wanted a bulldog and I wanted a kitten. So, we each got what we wanted, sort of. My kitten was amazing, and the English bulldog, Sarah, was a sweet little ball of fur and rib cage. They were both so young and grew up together. Since they were inseparable the cat ended up acting more like a dog. This was perfect for my dog-loving husband who wasn't convinced he could be a cat person. Unfortunately, our cat passed away at a very young age. The dog lived for many more years and was so gentle and loving with our children when we started having them. My kids have wonderful memories of our dog and asked for another dog for years.

When we came home on Christmas night, after visiting family, we found our sweet dog on the floor in the kitchen. We knew something was wrong when she didn't come running when we opened the front door. My husband and I were devastated when she passed away. We didn't tell the kids it happened that night. It was Christmas and we didn't want them to make that association every year. It was a long time before we could even consider another pet.

When we finally got another pet, it was a goldfish that one of the kids won at the carnival and named Squidward. That carnival goldfish lived for almost 10 years. A few years after Squidward arrived we decided it was time for a puppy. We opted for a rescue because that was how I was raised. It was an adorable little dachshund mix puppy, and oh so tiny. We quickly found out it had one bad habit. If you smiled at him, he would bite you in the face. Actually, I watched my friends' kids for them at the time and discovered this issue the hard way. I mean, who doesn't smile at a puppy? Luckily, he was little enough, or it could have ended much worse. After trying to change the behavior for a while, I contacted the rescue, and they said to bring

him back immediately. He was rehomed to a family with no children. We decided once again that it was not the right time for us to have a dog.

A few more years past and we moved, and this time we were adopted. On our doorstep every day was a kitten. After a few weeks I decided if the kitten was going to hang around, I was going to take it to get its vaccines. While there I also had her spayed. Although my husband wasn't on board with a new pet, I mentioned that after the surgery she should recuperate in the house. That was all it took. We were all in love by the time the little patient was allowed to go back outside. She, Rudy, was a great mouser and very cuddly kitten at the end of her life. She passed away right before Christmas last year after she developed a very aggressive cancer.

After having Rudy for a few years, we decided to try another dog. I had been told that golden retrievers have the best personalities and are great with kids, so it was a no brainer. We were only a week in with Bailey when my youngest said she kept trying to bite her. I figured she was just a rambunctious puppy who was playing a little rough. Boy, was I wrong! It turns out she had food aggression. After speaking to a dog trainer and working with her that improved, but then she developed toy aggression. We worked a little longer and were eventually told this dog should not be around children under the age of 12. So, after many tears we actually found a dog trainer with no kids that agreed to take her. For the next two years she would send pictures and updates on Bailey. She continued to have issues, but she was with someone who had the skills to work through them.

After a few more years, our oldest daughter asked for a dog, and once again we went the route of the rescue. This time we got exactly what we should have known we were getting. Our only issues this time were breed specific and if we had done a little more research, we would have known what we were in for. This puppy was half Shih Tzu and half Jack Russell terrier. Baxter was adorable, but his personality was mostly Jack Russell. He chose who his favorite human was and that is who he wanted. Actually, he spent the most time with my dad and as of today he lives in my parents in-law suite and is spoiled rotten. The two of them are two peas in a pod. They go on walks together, are grouchy together, and nap together.

Move forward a few more years and the youngest daughter wants a puppy, so once again we begin the process. This time we ended up with George, a labradoodle. George is like one of the family. He sits next to my chair and waits for pets, goes to my sons room to lay on his bed and look out the window, goes to my youngest's room to do homework after school, and heads outside when he knows Poppop is walking Baxter because he wants desperately for him to play. Baxter loves to run next to the fence, but he refuses to engage with George.

Our last pet was a gift this past Christmas. After we lost Rudy just before Christmas, our daughter's boyfriend showed up a few days before the big day and he had a furry little friend in tow. Although we weren't even thinking about getting another cat, we have fallen in love with Walter, even though he is an orange psycho kitty!

Pets can be a challenge, but they are also a blessing to our family. A pet isn't necessarily for every family, maybe someone has allergies, or maybe the



Nothing is as rewarding as adopting a senior pet from a animal shelter. They know how to return affection.

cost would be a burden to the family. I would recommend you do your research and make sure you have the supplies and space you need before you bring your furry friend home. Then discuss whether a dog, cat, guinea pig, snake, fish, etc. would be the best fit for your family. If you adopt a pet who ends up being a bad fit for your family, or your family is a bad fit for them, do

what is best for the animal and find them a new loving home. If you are in a position to offer a loving home to a sweet little furball or scales of love, go for it and by all means contact some rescues to give these animals a second chance!

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

**Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company**  
 **COUNTRY BUTCHERING & PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
**Saturday, November 23**  
**6 a.m. to 10 a.m.**   
 Activities building - 13516 Motters Station Rd., Rocky Ridge  
**Advanced Meat Orders Required for Butchering**  
 For more information visit our website at:  
[rockyridgevfc.com](http://rockyridgevfc.com)  
 Pick up orders November 23 - 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.

**The Upholstery Shop**   
 Custom Upholstery  
 Furniture Repair & Restoration  
 Wide Selection of Top Quality Fabrics  
 ~ Family owned and operated for over 50 years ~  
 Michael Woodhams - Owner  
 5810 Taneytown Pike • Taneytown  
 Look for the Blue Sign!  
**410-596-1935**  
 MichaelWoodhamsUpholstery@gmail.com  
 ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED 

 **Shampoo Cut ~ Color Perm**  
**Men and Kids Cuts Too!**  
 121 N. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg  
**301-447-6600**  
 Veteran owned & operated!  
 Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday  
 House Calls Available!  
 Call to set up appointment!

**Wayne & Brenda Starkey are retiring!**  
 But you may see Wayne puttering about anyway!  
 Our son Paul will be continuing our family run business with his 2 daughters, Sami and Sarah.  
**Fantastic sale on selected items**  
**25% to 65% savings!**  
**Olde Towne Jewelers**  
 36 E. Frederick St., Walkersville • **301-845-2200**  
 Mon., Tues., Thurs. 10 - 5 • Fri. 10 - 7 • Sat. 10 - 5  
 Closed Wed. & Sun. • [oldetownejewelers.store](http://oldetownejewelers.store)

**Needle & Thread - Wooded Hamlet Design**  
 FABRIC - NOTIONS - PATTERNS  
 2215 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg  
**717-334-4011**  
[www.needleandthread.biz](http://www.needleandthread.biz) • [www.woodedhamlet.com](http://www.woodedhamlet.com)  
 Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat. 10 - 5  
 Closed Sunday, Monday & Tuesday  
 Darlene Grube  Proverbs 31: 10-31

## FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

*This month, our writers will take you to a moment in time to tell a story, filled with historically accurate details, that will make you feel what it is like to have lived in the past in various locations. In addition, we have a new freshman writer on our staff, and he would like to introduce himself.*

### Freshman

Introducing our freshman writer

Cameron Madden  
MSMU Class of 2028

Greetings to all readers of the Emmitsburg News! My name is Cameron Madden, and I am so gracious for the opportunity to be writing for all of you readers out there. Today will be a day in which we will discuss (I promise in the least narcissistic way possible) me, and who the person behind the ink and paper wishes to be. My hope is that you come out of this with perhaps a better understanding that the words you are reading now come from another soul, just as yourself, that's trying to figure out where he will fit in the world. Or maybe a chuckle, I feel like the chuckle would be apt enough for a life story.

To begin, let us establish a crucial detail about myself that I need you to remember for the rest of this introduction; yes you will be tested and if you remember it by the end you will get the reward of knowing that your

memory is working just fine, and that your medical provider is treating you just fine. The fact is that I was born in New Jersey and have lived there my whole life up till now. I was born the middle child of eventually four children (an older brother, and two younger sisters,) and in my youth I can say confidently that my childhood is something as you can expect from a kid born in 2005.

My youth primarily featured growing up alongside my family and technology. On one hand, I would live in a divorced household and live in a reality of two separate places to call home, and on the other, a new laptop or Playstation 3 that would take up all my attention. During my childhood, I look back and realize that I took an affinity to things past my own environment. I liked the stars of the night when I was supposed to be in bed, the stories of heroes and villains that a child simply could not have embodied, and the worlds described in stories from books, movies and games. In other less inspirational words, I was a nerd. My days were spent with games, movies, shows, chores with parents, and always hanging around with my best friend who lived next door.

As time moved on, and I breezed through elementary school, middle school defined much more about myself than I would like to admit. It cemented the friends that I carry with me to this day, established that I was, in fact, good in school, and mostly pushed the love of stories further upon me. It turns out when your English teacher makes you read any book from the library as a semester-long project, you find yourself picking the books that interest you. I would pick up books describing wars and battles of the past, and of historical figures that lived alongside them. Trust me, you do not expect a 7th grader to tell you about Louis Zamperini, the 1936 US Olympic Runner and WW2 Pilot. I think from this moment on, and with the encouragement and enabling from my older brother, that history took precedence in my life. I was surely interested in storytelling, and while Star Wars and the Hunger Games were interesting stories, they ultimately have less substance than in the stories that are written everyday and by every person.

It is obvious that you can confidently call me a nerd by this point now; I would counter this assump-

tion by saying I played many years of tee ball/baseball and one of soccer during my childhood, but I would also admit that I never was the best, nor had the greatest of interests in them. By high school I was set on the historical path, but when going to pick a career class I had to establish an actual career path. I thought arguing with my siblings was enough of an inspiration to be a lawyer, and thus I would spend my high school years sitting mostly in a class where I would type up legal papers. It was more boring than you realize for a high schooler to go through; I honestly am surprised I do not have carpal tunnel by this point. At least by the end of that I found a best friend only through that class, so I am going to say I prevailed from that.

Regardless, high school let my love of history expand into that of literature, simply because you can not talk about history or its beauty without writing accordingly for it. This is clearly where my interest in writing comes from, and if you can not tell, it is why I may seem more personable in retelling this, because I like when writers long gone or distant can connect through the ink they preside over.

In fact, I think in all things about myself I can identify that every hobby or action I wish to take part in is some reflection of a connection or extension of who I am. I enjoy older music and play the bass and piano accordingly for this music I love; writing is a fulfillment of how I wish to express any thoughts or inspiration; service to my friends and strangers is how I want everyone to act; and I make dry, cynical jokes because it connects to the stories and past to which I grew up in. In truth, I myself am a history major because some part of me wishes to be connected to the stories I grew up with. This drive to express myself has landed me here, to be read by you, a wonderful reader.

Think kindly to yourself and how you became the person who picked up this paper. I am sure that you and I will go to great places with that mindset. But just to make sure, I hope you can remember where I was born! If you can not, I have some real concern for you.

To read other articles by Cameron Madden, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

### Sophomore

The Innocent Casualty

Gracie Smith  
MSMU Class of 2027

It was the hottest summer I'd seen in all my days. Not only were the crops feeling it, but so were the livestock and the people who occupied the small town. It had been some time since our town was what it used to be, all from the war that didn't seem to have an end in sight. The Confederates claimed victory at Chancellorsville in May, while the Union seemed to continue their back peddling. I pushed away the thoughts of war and wrapped my hair up in my mother's old bonnet. The soft, now off-white lace complimented my pale, soft skin.

It was my turn to run into town and gather food for the women in my house, that is, my mother and my sister Georgia who had just given birth a number of days ago. Rumor had it that the Confederates were coming here. I wondered what would make our town such a desirable location for them. We were known for hardly nothin'; why wouldn't they head for the capital? I found myself lost in the thought of war again. I sighed, as this usually happened. I mustn't focus on things I do not understand, that's preposterous.

As I walked to the center of town, I could sense the town had an eerie, uneasy feel to it. Where were the children running in the street? Where were the carriages hauling people around the town? Even the train station seemed bare with only two people occupying the inside. The thought did cross my mind

that the rumors of the Confederates' intentions were, in fact, true. I exercised my self-discipline and refused to think anything of it. That's when I saw the Union Cavalry.

The sound of the horses marching in the streets was enough to intimidate anyone. I turned my head and without thinking, found my legs hurrying back to the edge of the pathways, making room for the cavalry.

Why were they here? What could they want? What are they looking for? Can I trust them?

I unintentionally found my eyes glazing over all of the men in uniform. It would be unreasonable to deny their attraction. Surely, every woman felt some sort of desire for a man in a fresh uniform. By their appearance alone, I wouldn't have taken them to be any copperheads.

I notice a particular set of eyes on me. Unfazed by it, I look up to meet his gaze. He looks rough... like he'd seen the effects of this war. But this was also admirable, it meant he was wise. Looking at his uniform, it was evident that he was of a higher rank. What rank, well I wasn't so sure. My eyes looked back at his for a moment before I realized that he and his men had slowed their pace to all look at me. At this point... I began to feel slightly anxious.

When had they last seen a woman? Are these men married?

I decided to play coy, it'd been a long time since I'd seen a Union officer, or even a soldier for that matter.

"Is there going to be a disturbance in our town?" I say, pulling out my fan to cool myself down from the heat. My eyes glossed over the soldiers and their uniforms, only one name looked familiar, Buford. I'd seen it somewhere...

I could feel the perspiration forming on the back of my neck. The sun's heat was not very accommodating as of late.

"Nothin' the calvary can't handle," A soldier, what looked to be an aid to the officer, lowered his cap to me. I nodded in return, giving a soft smile.

I watched as they rode on, pondering on the name Buford. Suddenly it clicked, I'd seen it in a letter from my fiancé who too was off fighting in this great war. Then, my thoughts were quickly interrupted by the sound of church bells from the seminary.

On my walk back to my sister's home, I saw the cavalry once more talking to the bank teller. Though I couldn't read their lips, I could read their expressions... and something told me that the war was close to home.

The next 2 days were almost unbearable.

Trapped in a home, sheltering my mother, my ill sister, and her newborn child from the war that raged just outside our door. Every few minutes the floorboards would rattle mercilessly from a nearby canon, leaving us all shaken at what could be next. Every second hearing gunshots, some louder than others indicating how close the action, the violence, was to us. Though my composure remained sturdy for the sake of my family, my insides were torn up with fear. Just because there was a battle occurring just yards outside our home, didn't mean that our daily operations had to come to a halt. My mother and I did our part and fed the local Union soldiers what we could, mainly leftover food from our table and freshly baked bread.

Though a small contribution, my mother and I could see in the

soldiers' eyes how much it meant to them. They were just as frightened by what was happening, if not more so than I. They most likely weren't from these parts, and a part of my heart ached for them, as they reminded me of my own beloved; In unknown territory... unsure of whether or not he will ever make it home...

Thoughts such as this made it possible to keep going... for the sake of innocent, meek soldiers such as my fiancé.

On the morning of the third day,

it was evident that the morale of both armies was thinning. The air was quiet, hardly a bird chirping. I took solace in this peace, for the fighting hadn't begun yet for the day. I stood in the kitchen, enjoying normalcy for a few brief moments before the soldiers fired up their weapons again in the distance.

"Jennie," I heard my mother call from the other room, "it's s-"

To read other articles by Gracie Smith, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).



**Casual Dining**  
**301-447-2625**  
5 WEST MAIN STREET  
EMMITSBURG



**Happy Halloween**

**Open Wednesday  
thru Monday  
11 to 10  
(Closed Tuesday)**

**Daily Lunch Specials  
Carry Out Available**

**Full menu available on Facebook**

# IF WE COULD GO BACK IN TIME ...

## Junior

The Highlands in 1746

Devin Owen  
MSMU Class of 2026

The winds howled as they swept across the hills, carrying the scent of peat smoke and a whisper of rebellion. The Highlands stood as they always had—unyielding, wild, wrapped in ancient mist that held the history of the Highlander culture. However, the men who walked the rugged path here were restless, anticipating the change they could feel whipping through the air in their midst.

Amongst these men stood Brodie Mackenzie, a young man of only twenty-three summers, ready to swear his life to the Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobite cause. Brodie was no stranger to battle, being a Scot entitled him to that, but the air felt different this time around leaving a pit that gnawed at the man's stomach in anticipation and dread for what was to come in the next few hours.

It was the late hours of April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1746, and the Mackenzie boy did not find himself graced with sleep. Instead, he spent those hours thinking of his wife Caroline and daughter Ailee, of his brothers and sisters and nephews back home, and of what was to become of him once he went

through with this battle. As ready as he was to give his life for the Young Pretender's cause, he never considered what else he would be giving up within that.

It had been two years since the Bonnie Prince had returned to Scotland, raising the banner of rebellion against King George. For Brodie, the decision to join the Jacobite cause wasn't a simple one. He did not care much for the politics of distant kings. But the Mackenzie's had sworn fealty to the Stuart line for generations, and when his clan chief called them to arms, he could not stand idle, regardless of the family he was leaving behind.

Brodie's wife Caroline was a bonnie lass, but a sassenach. Their marriage wasn't something that originally sat well with other members of the Mackenzie clan, but Brodie was entranced when he first laid eyes on her. He knew she was the one for him and has'na let her go since. He thought back to the last conversation they had, where she begged him not to leave, her eyes filled with sorrow and loss. "You don't have to fight for Kings Brodie. This land and your family, that's what's important," she cried. He tried to believe her but, loyalty to clan and country weighed to heavy on his shoulders. Leaving Caroline and Ailee behind to fight this fight was the hardest choice he's ever had to make, but a choice he made nonetheless.

The hours passed on and Brodie

Mackenzie found himself standing shoulder to shoulder with his fellow Highlanders, each man bristling with anticipation for the coming battle. The rising sun barely broke through the thick clouds, casting the day in a cold, grim light, as if even the heavens have turned their backs on the Jacobite cause.

Brodie glanced over at his older brother, Callum, whose face was etched with determination. The Mackenzie plaid was wrapped tightly around Callum's broad shoulders, and his claymore hung at his side, its blade kissed by a history of blood and honor.

Brodie gripped his dirk tightly, the cold metal biting into his palm. His mind wandered, for a brief moment, to the days of peace in the glens of Kintail. He remembered the bright streams that trickled down from the mountains, where he and Callum fished as boys, their only worry being whether their mother would scold them for staying out too late. Those were simpler times—before the call to war, before the cause of Prince Charles Edward Stuart.

Beside him, the men muttered prayers in Gaelic, the ancient words rising like mist from their lips. Brodie's heartbeat quickened as he gazed across the moor, where the red-coated British soldiers were assembling in rigid lines. They looked as though they belonged to another world

entirely—a world of cold steel and gunpowder. The Highlanders, by contrast, were an untamed force, their swords and shields imbued with the fierce independence of the north.

The Jacobites had no choice but to charge. It was all or nothing now.

Brodie caught Callum's eye. They exchanged a nod—no words were needed. Blood of the same blood, they had fought side by side through the skirmishes in Falkirk and Prestonpans. If today was to be their last battle, they would face death as they had faced life: together.

The signal was given. Brodie's heart leaped into his throat as the men surged forward, their war cries rising above the howling wind. He ran with them, his feet pounding against the sodden earth, his dirk raised high. Around him, Highlanders shouted, screamed, their faces twisted with the savage determination of a people fighting for their very existence.

The first crack of cannon fire split the air, followed by a barrage of musket shots. Men fell—some silently, others with cries that curdled your blood. The smell of gunpowder grew thick, mingling with the iron tang of blood. Brodie ducked, narrowly avoiding a volley, and kept moving. His muscles burned with the effort, his mind a blur of instinct and adrenaline.

He turned, searching for Callum.

The battlefield was a nightmare of mud, blood, and smoke—it was nearly impossible to see more than a few feet ahead. "Callum!" he shouted, his voice hoarse, but there was no answer. Panic gripped him. He pushed through the throng of men, desperately seeking his brother.

And then he saw him.

Callum was on the ground, dark-red spreading across his chest. Brodie rushed to his side, dropping to his knees. "Callum!" he cried, his voice breaking. Callum's eyes fluttered open, his face pale. "Brodie..." he whispered, his voice barely audible over the din of battle.

"No, ye cannae leave me," Brodie said, his hands trembling as he tried to stem the flow of blood. "We'll get ye home. Ye'll be fine. We'll get ye home to yer family brother." But Callum shook his head, a faint smile tugging at the corner of his lips. "It's over, Brodie," he said, his voice weak. "The clans... we're finished." And then he took his last breath.

The Battle of Culloden was lost.

But Brodie Mackenzie would live to tell the tale. He would be the only of the Mackenzie boys to leave Culloden Moor still breathing. He would go home to his wife and children, carrying the weight of two losses and his own survival.

To read other articles by Devin Owen, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

## Senior

It takes a village

Dolores Hans  
MSMU class of 2025

Beyond the aroma of Florentine papppal pomodoro and the feel of the warmth radiating from the cobblestone streets, and magnificent flow of colorful buildings throughout the hills of Campobasso, there's a maze-like old town containing the chill of the seaside breeze and the subtle strength of the Alberobello. This town was once a home for a young orphaned boy who had only his village and God to depend on. They called him LeProtto, Antonio LeProtto, meaning "wild rabbit". No one knew his family, no one knew him, just that he was courageous. He would do small jobs for the people of Bari, in exchange for hospitality. They became his family. There was this one woman, he called her Nonni but she was of no blood relation to him, who would look after him when he was most in need. She had little to give him, as she had no one to provide for her either. But what she had she shared with him, and what he provided in return was someone to run her errands and listen to her stories.

He wasn't the most talkative boy, and as he got older he spoke even less. However, his humor and courage always remained strong.

"Manga mio figlio, eat you supper", Nonni pleaded gently with Antonio.

"Ghimnone- I'm so full" he said, sliding down into his chair and onto the floor. "It been long day. Let me be".

He rose from the floor quite slowly, aching and moaning the whole way until he was on his feet, jokingly trying to get sympathy from the woman after rejecting more food. He stood, smirked, kissed her on the cheek and went out the door. "A presto", he said as he threw on his hat.

The next morning, as Nonni was hanging the kitchen towels to dry on

the clothesline, she heard the rustling of papers somewhere behind her. She turned, saw nothing, and went back to her chores. A moment later, Antonio jumped out from behind a sheet and yelled in an attempt to frighten her. She jumped back, placed her hand on her chest, and nearly fell backwards. "LeProtto! Gocciadavè! Don't you ever..." she began to lightly hit his arm repeatedly as she went into a verbally profane frenzy. Antonio just laughed, gave her a big hug, kissed her hand, and helped hang up more linens. She scoffed.

"You know something," she began to say in a soft spoken tone, "you are kind, and you are wild, and you work hard. But you are never going to get anywhere if you stay around here. You'll be doing chores for the rest of your life. That's no life." He stood there quietly, thinking about what life she could've been picturing for him. What she meant when she said "if you stay around here". Did she want him to go to another town?

"A younger like you should be thinking about you future. You need to make something of yourself, mio figlio." She held his face in her hands, examined him lovingly, then shoved his head downwards and scoffed once more.

A few months later, LeProtto was sitting just outside a market in town, hoping someone would offer him a job or a snack. Almost everyone there looked so thin, and even the produce looked like it hadn't been properly nourished by the earth. People spoke to each other in grunts or gestures, or spoke just a few words. Even more people couldn't read what the signs said. Poverty was never an experience left un-lived by LeProtto, or much of Italy for that matter. As people walked by, he would think of their stories. He saw a man in a hat using a cane, and he wondered if he had a good job. He saw a woman and a child and it reminded him of the family he used to dream of. He closed his eyes and tried to picture a future for himself, but it was

too difficult, all he could think of was his past. Here he was, a nineteen year old boy, consumed by his past, and stuck in a time where it feels impossible to escape the effects of natural disasters and poverty.

As he wandered back to the village, he waved hello to the people who took care of him the best, and thought about how he loved it there. Sure, it was tough and by anyone else's standards it might have been a sad excuse for family and career, but for Antonio, it was all he knew, and he wasn't sure if he wanted to know better. Even if he somehow came out on top of the world one day, he knew that it would mean nothing if he wasn't giving it back to Nonni and the village who raised him. They sacrificed so much to keep him going, and that seemed like a pretty good place to be.

"Antonio," he heard a soft voice from behind him, and felt a hand rest on his shoulder. "It's a time to listen," said one of the men from the village, "we make a you an opportunity. You no been anywhere but Bari, you whole life". A woman approached him as well saying, "there's more out in the world for you. Bring your skills and wits along. They will service you a good somewhere else". Antonio listened to what they were saying, but he didn't understand. Nonni came through what was now a crowd of people, and put her hand in his. "It's a time," she said with tears in her eyes, "America. Go." Antonio was even more confused now. He looked at her bewildered. "Whatta you mean, go? America, it a too much. I no money, no people over there, whatta you mean?"

"We sponsor you, whole village, we raise money, we get everything in place. You go, live well, use skill to make living. You better over there than here now," explained another man from the village, "don't you see, best opportunity over there."

Antonio didn't know what to think. He did hear about some people who went to America to live the same way but

make more money and over time they would get more and more, and eventually come back to Italy to live better. Antonio wondered if the reason he couldn't see a future for himself is because that future didn't exist based off his current circumstances. He looked around at the village who had done so much for him. He thought that he could go to America,

make a lot of money, then come back one day soon, and give the money away to the people. He got close to Nonni, put his arm around her, picked up a potato sack from the ground, and said "when I getta on thata boat, imma cry".

To read other articles by Dolores Hans, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).



**SPIKE'S**  
TIRE EMPORIUM & AUTO CARE

**TIRES! TIRES! TIRES!**  
Servicing all your tire needs!

**Free Front End Alignment & Lifetime Balancing and Tire Rotation with purchase of 4 tires\***  
\* Call store for details

**We work on all makes & models**

Wheel Repair, Brakes, Oil Changes  
Engine & Transmission Repair  
Factory Scheduled Maintenance  
Maryland State Inspection

**CALL DANNY TO SCHEDULE**  
**301-447-4734** ASE  
17307 N. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg  
Visit us online at [www.SpikesAutoCareInc.com](http://www.SpikesAutoCareInc.com)

# LIBRARY

### Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

The Blue Ridge Summit Free Library will be hosting a Silent Auction Fundraiser, on Sunday, October 13 from 3 to 6 at the Top Secret Taproom located at Fort Ritchie. Live music will be provided by local artist, Rich Fehle. Food and beverage will be available for purchase at the Top Secret Taproom. Proceeds from auction sales benefit the library.

“We will have more than 50 auction baskets with appeal for the whole family” said event organizer and board member, Katie Lehr. “These include Coach, Tory Burch, Michael Kors, Vera Bradley, Kate Spade, Stanley, Yeti, Legos, Pampered Chef, Scentsy, Rae Dunn, Pandora, spa baskets, Lowe’s, pet supplies and gift certificates from local businesses. We are

grateful to the Tap Room for partnering with us. This beautiful new facility celebrates one of the latest features of the Ritchie Revival project to redevelop the former military base into a vibrant community hub.”

Parking is available adjacent to the Tap Room. For more information email to: [bsmtnboard@gmail.com](mailto:bsmtnboard@gmail.com)

**Mondays** – Children’s Story Time from 4 to 5. Children and parents can join us for a weekly story, craft or coloring sheet, or play time. We will be running two identical 30 to minute sessions in an attempt to accommodate busy schedules.

**Wednesdays** – Coffee Club from 3 to 4, 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 to 6, just hang out or play Wii, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

**Saturdays** to Join us at 10:30 for an hour of Story Time and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book and a fun craft?

The Summit Stitches Quilt Club meets at 5:30 on October 15. 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 October 21 at 5.

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

### Frederick County Libraries

The Library is hosting a Fall Fest on Saturday, October 19 from 11 to 1. Join us at the library to celebrate the beautiful season of fall! There will be live animals including goats, rabbits, and a miniature horse. Come meet a Frederick County dairy princess and Milkshake the cow!

Voting season is upon us – make sure your voice is heard. On Saturday, October 12th at 11, the League of Women Voters will host Learning Cafe: The 5 W’s of Voting. Come learn with the community how and why to vote!

Did you know you can meet with a navigator for Maryland Access Point (MAP) at the Emmitsburg Library? Each Thursday from 10 to 2, staff is onsite to help the community get services they need. MAP is a trusted source of information and assistance for Frederick County residents who need or want to plan for their immediate and future needs. MAP serves adults 50 years and older, adults 18 years and older with a disability, family members and other caregivers, and health or business professionals.

All are invited to a Sip and Paint Night with local artist Rebecca Pearl on Sunday, October 20th from 3-5 p.m. This fundraising event is hosted by Friends of the Emmitsburg Library, costs \$50, and takes place at The Manor Visitor Center of Cunningham Falls State Park, 6709 Cunningham Falls Park Road, Thurmont. Only 15 tickets are available and can be purchased with cash at the Emmitsburg Library. Call 301-600-6329 for more information.

Visit the library website at Month Calendar | Frederick County Public Libraries ([librarycalendar.com](http://librarycalendar.com)) to discover so much more. Any questions, call Emmitsburg Library at 301 600-6329 or Thurmont Regional Library at 301 600-7212.

### Emmitsburg Branch

#### Library Activities:

**Mondays**, Family Storytime, 10:30 a.m. & Little Adventurers at 11.

**Wednesdays**, Trash to Treasure: Recycled Art Program, 3:30 to 5.

**Tuesday, Oct. 8:** Teen Animanga Club at 4:30.

**Thursday, Oct. 10:** Read to a Therapy Dog WAGS for Hope, 6 to 7.

**Saturday, Oct. 12:** Learning Cafe: The 5 W’s of Voting with the League of Women Voters at 11.

**Tuesday, Oct. 15:** Friends of the Emmitsburg Library Meeting at 6:30 – all welcome

**Thursday, Oct. 17:** Maryland Writer’s Association Teen Writer Club, 5:30 to 7

**Saturday, Oct. 19:** Fall Festival, 11 to 1.

**Thursday, Oct. 24:** Tween Fiber Arts Workshop. 5:30 to 6:30.

### Thurmont Regional

#### Library Activities:

**Mondays**, Baby Storytime at 10:30

**Tuesdays**, Preschool Storytime, at 10:30

**Tuesdays**, Let’s Get Ready for Kindergarten at 11:15.

**Wednesdays**, Toddler Storytime at 10:30.

**Thursdays**, Musical Storytime at 10:30.

**Thursdays**, Elementary Explorers at 4.

**Saturdays**, Family Storytime, at 11.

**Monday, Oct. 7:** Teen Black Light Pumpkin Painting at 6.

**Tuesday, Oct. 8:** A Conversation on International Affairs with Shaun Donnelly at 7.

**Wednesday, Oct. 9:** Building Community Habitat for Humanity at 6.

**Tuesdays, Oct. 15, 22 & 29:** Open Chess Play for Elementary and Teens at 3.

**Monday, Oct. 21:** Create Boo-tiful Tiny Art! at 6.

**Wednesday, Oct. 23:** Why Vote? At 6.

**Monday, Oct. 28:** Teen Create your Own Haunted House Luminary at 6.

**Frederick County PARKS & RECREATION**

**October Programs**  
**Thurmont Rec Center, Emmitsburg Community Center & Utica District Park**

History & Agricultural Programs | Art Clinics  
 Preschool Sports | Adult Volleyball  
 Gymnastics | Storytime for Kids

301-600-2936  
 RECREATOR.COM

FOLLOW US: [f](https://www.facebook.com/frederickparksandrec) [i](https://www.instagram.com/frederickparksandrec) [@frederickparksandrec](https://www.tiktok.com/@frederickparksandrec)

Serving Maryland since 2000  
 CHRISTIAN BASED TO-DO-LIST SPECIALIST

**MR FIX IT SERVICES**

Interior/Exterior Installations & Repairs  
 Call or text Ed 443-326-4871  
 MHIC #78710 PA #114771

**LNG Contracting Inc.**  
 30 years roofing experience

Roofing is our specialty

Contact  
 Claude “Jr” McIntosh  
 for estimates

**301-748-7483**  
 MHIC #132583

**Thurmont Community Ambulance Service**  
 Proudly serving northern Frederick Co. for over half a century

**Coach Bag & Money BINGO**  
**Sunday, October 27**  
**Doors Open: 11**  
**Bingo Starts: 1**  
**\$25 Per Person**  
 28 Games Total ~ 12 Games at \$100  
**14 GAMES OF COACH BAGS**  
 Half Time Game \$500 ~ Final Game \$1,000

**Tickets - Available at the door or call:**  
**Jim or Tammy Wolf at 717-642-5075 or 717-420-0209**  
 Cash Bar & Kitchen Non-profit event to benefit the Thurmont Ambulance Company

**Thurmont Event Complex**  
 13716 Strafford Dr., Thurmont 301-1271-7550 [www.thurmonteventcomplex.com](http://www.thurmonteventcomplex.com)  
 Both events will benefit the Thurmont Community Ambulance Service

# LIBRARY & SCHOOL NEWS

## Frederick County School System

Jason Johnson  
Frederick County School Board

Congratulations to Catocin High School for receiving national banner recognition from Special Olympics North America for its commitment to fostering an inclusive environment through sports and activities for students with and without special needs. The school earned this honor by meeting 10 national standards of excellence in inclusion, advocacy, and respect.

Catocin High joins Twin Ridge Elementary and Tuscarora High as the third FCPS school to earn this prestigious recognition. Additionally, Catocin High, along with Urbana High, Gov. Thomas Johnson High, and Tus-

carora High, was awarded 2024 Special Olympics Maryland Unified Champion School status. Special Olympics Maryland, a longstanding partner of FCPS, continues to support inclusive physical activities across more than 250 participating schools statewide.

Congratulations to the nine FCPS Career & Technology Center students who recently excelled at the 60th annual SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference in Atlanta! This prestigious event, recognized as the world's largest skill competition, brought together over 6,500 of the nation's top students—each a state gold medalist—to compete in 115 hands-on skill and leadership contests. This year, 26 talented students from

FCPS Career & Technology Center stepped up to showcase their skills, with nine finishing in the top ten nationally!

Additional recognitions went to other FCPS students and teams, including participants in Robotics: Urban Search and Rescue, Entrepreneurship, Related Technical Math, Plumbing, HVAC, First-Aid/CPR, and the Health Knowledge Bowl.

The FCPS Career & Technology Center provides specialized training for students in grades 10-12 from any Frederick County public high school, focusing on career-specific skills and broader professional competencies essential for employment. Approximately 700 students enroll each year, splitting their time between CTC programs and their

home schools. For more information, contact Principal Michael Conception, Assistant Principal Jack Newkirk, or Chapter Advisor Lera Straits at (227) 203-3650. Further details on the competition can be found at SkillsUSA.

There are so many wonderful things happening around FCPS to be excited about this school year. I look forward to the continued success of our students!

As we approach the midpoint of the first quarter, the excitement and energy that marked the start of the school year have now settled into a steady rhythm of school activity, with the all-too-familiar routines of homework, projects, and tests setting in. We encourage our community to help students remember that the midpoint of the quarter is a pivotal time—a checkpoint where they

can assess their progress and recalibrate if necessary.

We urge our students to dig deep and finish strong. The effort you put in now can set the tone for the rest of the year. If you have encountered bumps along the way, now is the perfect time to communicate with your teachers, reflect, adjust, and move forward with renewed focus. If you have been doing well, maintain that momentum and avoid complacency. Think of this as the first leg of a marathon—pacing yourself is key, but so is pushing through when the going gets tough.

Remember, the habits you form now will shape the rest of your school year. Stay organized, and most importantly, believe in your ability to succeed. Every small step you take now moves you closer to your dreams.

## Fairfield School District explores facility fees

Proposed fees associated with a Facility Use Policy initiated a lot of discussion at a recent meeting of the Fairfield Area School District Board of Directors.

Superintendent Thomas Haupt told the board in September that the district does not charge outside groups anything to use its facilities. The district, in turn, then loses money because it pays for maintenance and personnel costs.

Haupt proposed that the district have set prices to rent various spaces, including classrooms, the library, auditorium, cafeteria, gyms, and fields. Under Haupt's proposal, Fairfield area youth recreation teams would not be charged unless the fields need to be

repainted before use, sound systems or scoreboards are used, custodians must work beyond their regularly-scheduled shift, locker rooms need to be cleaned, or admission is charged for the event. Several directors said those stipulations would lead to the youth recreation teams being charged for almost every use.

Haupt said Fairfield's current free-for-all practice is unlike any other district in the area. He noted documentation shows Fairfield once imposed charges but then discontinued the practice.

Board Vice President Jack Liller expressed strong support for Haupt's proposal. Liller noted the district has

worked to improve its facilities in recent years and it must have the funds to maintain them in the future. Liller said he has previous experience with youth sports and believes the organizations can afford the fees.

"I'm not trying to bankrupt anybody but I don't think programs should be running around with NFL microphones on their head, talking up and down like they are in a professional game and using professional equipment and not even paying for tearing up the fields," Liller said.

Board President Candace Ferguson-Miller was not as supportive.

"I don't like it at all, I don't like any parts of it," she said.

Some board members suggested only charging leagues if they charge admission to the events. Haupt pointed out that free events still come at a cost to the district. He said administrators will discuss the board's feedback and return with a revised proposal.

"Remember, our job is to bring items for you to consider—good,

bad, or indifferent," Haupt said. "I knew this was going to be a challenge."

Another proposed policy change was much less controversial. Haupt said the district currently does not have guidelines on how it discards of unusable equipment. Administrators propose managers must sell, scrap, or donate items they no longer need.



# The Y on the Fly

## YMCA Programs in Thurmont

### Fall II Session

### Oct. 20–Dec. 20

**Painting & Drawing Class**  
Age 18+  
Thurmont Senior Center  
Monday, 7 to 9

**Barre Fusion Group Ex**  
Age 14+  
Thurmont Senior Center  
Tuesday, 5 to 5:45

**Small Group Training**  
Age 16+  
Thurmont Senior Center  
(6 wks: 10/20–11/20)  
Tuesday, 7  
Thurs., 6 to 6:45  
Thurs., 6:45 to 7:30




Scan QR code to register





# HALLOWEEN

## IN EMMITSBURG

### Thursday

### October 31

- 👻 Trick-or-Treating  
5 - 6:45
- 👻 Parade Tagging & Lineup  
6:50 - 7:15  
At Town Swimming Pool (parking lot) on W. Lincoln Ave. (Parking avail at pool, Community park or W. Lincoln)

- 👻 JUDGING CATEGORIES  
Cutest  
Funniest  
Scariest  
Most Original  
Best Group.

Parade Route: from W. Lincoln, to Patterson, down W. Main Street, thru square for Judging, South Seton, to Vigilant Hose Fire Station for Halloween Party  
Gingerbread & Cider, Games, Door Prizes and Awards  
Following the parade at the Vigilant Hose Fire Station  
All are welcome!

## QUALITY AUTO REPAIR!

# 24 HOUR TOWING

Before



After



WE REPAIR DENTS AND DINGS FROM SCRATCHES TO ROLL OVERS!

PROFESSIONAL, COURTEOUS SERVICE FROM THE OFFICE TO THE SHOP!

Complete Auto Body Service!

SERVING OVER 20 YEARS IN THURMONT

All Major Insurance Carriers Accepted  
Lifetime Warranty On All Repairs  
Car Rentals Available On-Site  
All Makes And Models



## MIKE'S AUTO BODY

### Collision & Towing, Inc.

12917 Catocin Furnace Rd., Thurmont



301-271-7626



## ARTS

## Music, Gettysburg! presents Sirotin-Chang

The next Music, Gettysburg! concert will feature violinist Peter Sirotin and pianist Ya-Ting Chang on Sunday, October 6 at 4 at the chapel of the United Lutheran Seminary at 147 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg. From Mozart's joyful exuberance and Grieg's Nordic musical landscapes to Tchaikovsky's wistful melodies and Wieniavsky's virtuosic brilliance, Sirotin-Chang Duo presents an eclectic program of music for violin and piano showcasing the expressive richness of these instruments. Soaring "Romance" by Amy Beach and dazzlingly inventive "Tzigane" by Maurice Ravel will conclude the program.

The husband-and-wife duo began their artistic collaboration at Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University in 1997.

Mr. Sirotin has performed hundreds of concerts as a chamber musician, soloist and concertmaster since his debut at the age of 14 performing the Paganini Concerto No. 1 with the Kharkiv Philharmonic in his native Ukraine. He has toured extensively as a member of the "Moscow Soloists" chamber ensemble, performing in major music centers such as the Royal Albert Hall in London, Pleyel Hall in Paris, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and Beethoven Hall in Bonn, among others.

Taiwanese-American pianist, Ya-Ting Chang, has performed extensively throughout the United States, Germany, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Ms. Chang appeared as a soloist with the Messiah University Orchestra, Gettysburg Chamber

Orchestra, Shippensburg University Festival Orchestra, as well as the Hong Kong Chamber Orchestra. She has collaborated with many instrumentalists including members of the Razumovsky String Quartet, principal flutists of the Memphis and Harrisburg Symphony Orchestras, as well as renowned cellist, Ronald Leonard.

Together, this husband-and-wife team co-founded the Mendelssohn Piano Trio, which has performed over 500 concerts in the US, Europe and Asia, and has released 15 CDs including most recently the complete Haydn Piano Trios on Centaur Records. They have given masterclasses in the US and abroad and have also served as adjudicators in competitions. Critics have described

their performances as "impressive," "stylistically refined" and "electrifying." In 2006, they co-founded "Chamber Music in Grantham," a summer program for young performers and composers. Mr. Sirotin and Ms. Chang are Artists-in-Residence at Messiah University.

Music, Gettysburg! is a premier concert series featuring international, national, regional and local musical artists for the greater south central Pennsylvania region. The United Lutheran Seminary Chapel is at 147 Seminary Ridge in Gettysburg. For more information about this and other concerts in the Music, Gettysburg! schedule, call 717-339-1334, visit [www.musicgettysburg.org](http://www.musicgettysburg.org), or email to [info@musicgettysburg.org](mailto:info@musicgettysburg.org).



## Gettysburg Choral Society fundraiser

The Gettysburg Choral Society is having a Gettysburg Eddie's restaurant fundraiser! 10% of food and alcohol sales on Tuesday, October 8th will go to Gettysburg Choral Society to aid in our mission of providing quality choral music for the community, so please come eat at Gettysburg Eddie's from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.! This also applies to takeout orders.

There will be a special showcase fundraiser event from 5:30-7:30 upstairs in the Jewel Box Lounge featuring a silent auction, 50/50 cash raffle, guest bartenders and more! Gettysburg Eddie's is located at 217 Steinwehr Ave., Gettysburg.

If you are able to donate an item for our silent auction, please let us know! We appreciate goods

from local businesses, gift cards, etc. Thank you in advance. Items are needed no later than October 3rd! Contact Julie at [mayfair25@gmail.com](mailto:mayfair25@gmail.com) if you have a donation.

The chorus will present a series of three Christmas concerts entitled "Sing We Noel." The first two concerts will be held in the Church of the Abiding Presence on the campus of the United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg--on Friday, December 6th, at 7 and on Saturday, December 7th, at 3. The seminary is located at 61 Seminary Ridge in Gettysburg.

The third and final concert in this year's Christmas series will be held on Saturday, December 14th in the Basilica of the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg.

The thirty-voice chorus, under the direction of co-founder and artistic director John McKay, will celebrate the season with some of the most beloved Christmas selections. Each concert will end with a popular sing-along of favorite carols, accompanied by organ.

The two Gettysburg concerts will feature guest organist Peggy Haas Howell. In addition to accompanying the chorus on several selections, she will give a mini-recital of Christmas organ favorites, demonstrating the power and majesty of the seminary's magnificent Andover pipe organ.

Ms. Howell is a consummate organist who has given recitals throughout America and Europe. In addition to serving as Organ-



The Gettysburg Choral Society

ist and Choirmaster at St. John's Episcopal Church in Lynchburg, VA, Ms. Howell is the Music Director of Cantate Children's and Youth Choir of Central Virginia. She was recently elected as national Vice President/Councillor for Competitions and New

Music for The American Guild of Organists.

As always, the concerts are free and open to the public. Tax-deductible contributions will be received to help defray expenses. For more info, visit [www.gettysburgchoralsociety.org](http://www.gettysburgchoralsociety.org)

## ACAC's The People Project community exhibit

The Adams County Arts Council (ACAC) is accepting submissions from local artists for a community art exhibit being

mounted as part of The People Project 2024: At Home in Adams County. This showcase of visual art is a new addition to the pop-

ular storytelling and performance event, which will be presented for the sixth time since 2017 on October 19, 2024 at The Majestic Theater's Cinema One.

The art exhibit will be on display at the Arts Education Center following the event for the month of November. Visual artists are invited to share their interpretations of the theme "At Home in Adams County" using the medium of their choice. The performance event will feature personal narratives, music, and dance and will unveil five mural panels inspired by Adams County residents' stories and created by local artist Sarah Jacobs.

The panels will be a visual representation of the diverse community and culture of Adams County as reflected in resident stories and illustrated and painted by Jacobs and members of the Adams County community. The five panels will be installed on the front of ACAC's Arts Education Center following the October 19 event and will remain on display through 2025.

The community exhibit will be on display throughout the month

of November in the Jennifer Levan Reception Hall at the Arts Education Center, opening November 1 with a First Friday reception sponsored by Scott & Co. Fine Jewelers. Submissions for this art show are welcome from artists of any age who live and/or work in Adams County.

Up to 60 pieces will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis pending space availability for display. Both 2-D and 3-D artworks no larger than 36" in any direction are welcome to be submitted. To plan for the exhibit and include visual artwork and artist information in the October 19 event program, artists should submit a brief artist bio/statement and description of submission(s) along with a high-resolution headshot and photograph of the artwork no later than September 27.

Interested artists are encouraged to share their intent to participate as soon as possible. Artists may list their artwork for sale if they would like, but this is not required. Sales from the exhibit will follow ACAC's current commission policy for members and nonmem-

bers. A full list of guidelines and submission details are available on our website at [adamsarts.org/people-project/](http://adamsarts.org/people-project/).

Community members and small businesses who would like to support ACAC and participants in The People Project are also welcome to sponsor the event or purchase advertising space in the program. Visit ACAC's website for more information or to purchase ad space. Tickets for the event are now on sale on the Majestic Theater's website. To make the event accessible to all, tickets are priced "pay as you can," at \$5, \$10, or \$15 each. Anyone who is unable to purchase a \$5 ticket and would like to attend should reach out to the Arts Council at 717-334-5006 to reserve a spot.

If you're interested in sharing your story, playing music, or want to get involved in this collaborative community event in any way, please contact [lcadigan@adamsarts.org](mailto:lcadigan@adamsarts.org) for more information.

The mission of the Adams County Arts Council is to cultivate an arts-rich community.

*Petrella Piano Studio*

**Erin Petrella, B.A. Music, SPC**  
Piano Teacher, Accompanist, & Organist  
Accepting students / clients for piano lessons,  
accompanying, & religious services / events.

Thurmont & Hagerstown

(610) 984-5075

<https://petrellapianostudio.com/contact/>

*Journey to the past...*

Now - November 2, 2024

# ANASTASIA

THE MUSICAL

**THE Way Off Broadway**  
 DINNER THEATRE

5 Willowdale Drive | Frederick  
 Box Office: (301) 662-6600 | [www.wayoffbroadway.com](http://www.wayoffbroadway.com)

# The history of live musical performances

Emelie Beckman  
MSMU Class of 2026

In the past month, Mount St Mary's Fine Arts Department has offered a variety of different live music performances, most notably was the Lab Band concert. Hence, I thought it would be interesting to provide some history of live music performances to see how music and technology have evolved whilst humans and the passion for art have stayed the same.

## Live performance in the prehistorical era

Researchers of human history believe that music and live performances date back to the origins of man and that the development of music has gone hand in hand with that of mankind. However, prehistoric music might not have been very similar to the kind we know today. Most likely the musical performances of that time were created using a variety of stones, hand clapping, and vocals to create rhythm along with impersonations of different animal sounds.

On the other hand, as time progressed, evidence was found of early versions of modern instruments, which suggests that even prehistoric man participated in some form of instrumental music. Ancient artifacts of carved flute-like gadgets have been found and concluded to be one of the earliest forms of musical instruments.

## Ancient Greece and Rome

During the time of the ancient Greeks as well as Romans one can observe the first clear milestone in musical development. This is because musical performances were being used as mass entertainment for a much larger audience than a close-knit community. Now humans from all over gathered in big amphitheaters and all enjoyed the same performance.

## Middle Ages

With Christianity and the power of the church increasingly sweeping over middle age Europe, much of music and culture was centered around the church. Music and live performances were mostly held in religious contexts and the spread of religion served as a place for music to grow. The churches were the new centers of society, and hence much of the art created at that time sprang from the same place.

## The Baroque era

This era can be seen as the peak time of many of the famous composers we still know today, like Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. This was the grand time of the orchestras and the composition of grand orchestrated music. This was also the first time in history that humans were putting together administrative concerts, once where you had to pay an entry fee to go and see the orchestra.

These types of concerts ranged in style and price. In 1678, for example, Thomas Britton was holding weekly concerts at Clerkenwell. Eventually, he started demanding a yearly fee from his visitors, so once you had paid you had free access to as many live performances, held at his house, as you wanted to attend.

## 1700s

The 18th century was the opera era. Opera became the big performance type of the time, and it initiated the construction of massive opera halls all across Europe. Although the operas were open for anyone who was able to pay, the price often made it into an activity for the upper class. If you were very rich, or even nobility, however, you could enjoy opera performances in the comfort of your own home.

## Early 20th century

During the early 20th century, one could observe the rise of jazz and blues. This new musical art form was present in the newly founded bars and nightclubs located most densely in New York City. Jazz and blues, which were predominately performed by African American artists, enabled the first more widespread acceptance of minorities in the scene of music in modern America.

The birth of the audio speaker also took place in the early 20th century. This tool allowed musicians to, for the first time, amplify the sounds of their instruments and voices electronically with the help of, for example, the microphone.

## 1950s and 60s

Seen as the birth year of the popular musical genre Rock and Roll, these years were also the birth years of the modern concert model we have today. Additionally, these were the decades when concerts became a widespread standardized activity in America.

## 1970

The concerts of the 70s started to become bigger than anything ever

seen before. The expansion across the states increased drastically and soon you had massive music festivals taking place all across the country. This was the time and rise of groups such as Pink Floyd who brought pyrotechnics and synthesizers, which made concerts more presentation-focused than in earlier years.

## 1980 to the present

Concerts and live performances have in the present time become one of the most widespread and popular forms of entertainment in America, creating a multimillion, and even billion-dollar business. However, lately, humans have faced a very differentiating abscess of live performances in our common history. This came with the two long periods of the COVID-19 pandemic, an event that continues to change how we think and interact with large crowds and live performances.

## Mount St Mary's Lab Band concert

On the 14th of September Mount St Mary's group called the Lab Band held a series of two live performances next to the campus' MacGowan Fountain.

Surrounded by cheering family members and friends the five students indulged the audience in a series of popular songs ranging from Hozier's "Too Sweet", to Coldplay's "Viva la Vida", even including songs like "Stand by Me" by Ben E. King. The students, full of energy, delivered a striking performance while enjoying their time, sparkingly providing commentary and cracking jokes between each number. One joke went something like: "What did the drummer name his two daughters?" There was a long pause before the answer came: "Anna 1, Anna 2." The



The Mount's Lab Band, featuring Andrew Spielman, performs next to McGowan Fountain, captured by Michael Miller.

jokes were accompanied by laughs from the audience and a classic joke sound effect from the drums. A "ba dum tss" sound would be the best way to describe it.

The band consists of singer and pianist Andrew Spielman, guitarist Manav Nair, bassist Jayden Hadley and drummer Thomas Stokes. They were all led and taught by Mount St Mary's Dr. Mark Carlson, who himself has had a long history with music. He is currently teaching music as well as core classes at the Mount but has previously earned a Doctor of Musical Arts and a Master of Music in Music Performance from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as well as played himself.

During the performance, Dr. Carlson took the opportunity to present the group. He told the audience that the performance was supposed to serve as a sort of presentation of what the group had worked on so far this semester. He followed by stating that the point of forming the group was to get students from all across the school's different majors engaged in music without them needing to take classes. Hence the initiative enables students,

no matter their major, to get together and appreciate the art of music, without needing to use their credit for it. The student's actual academic areas of study varied from history to psychology, computer science, and of course music.

The Mount's Fine Arts Department have many exciting things planned for the upcoming month of October.

While descending deeper into the fall darkness the Makers House plans on hosting more events for students and faculty at the Mount to get together and enjoy the process of creating things. Additionally, they will most likely, keep hosting events which involve cozy snack making.

On October 19th at 7 there will be a Wind Ensemble Alumni Concert, scheduled to take place in The Mount's Knott Auditorium.

Then from October 25th to 26th, also at 7, performances of Freud's Last Session will be held at Horning Theatre.

To read other articles by Emelie Beckman visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

**Kramer's**  
PIANO SHOP  
Family-owned & operated since 1974

**SALES • TUNING • LESSONS • MOVING**

12049 Woodsboro Pike, New Midway  
301-898-3245 [www.kramerspianoshop.com](http://www.kramerspianoshop.com)

**Entertaining Made Easy!**

Entertain with our newest additions from Kate Spade, Cambridge, Lenox, Pimpernel, Portmeirion, and Spode.

Create unforgettable moments with friends and family in style.

**Studio 24E**  
Lifestyle Boutique  
Custom Framing  
Make-up Services

**Individual Style...**

[www.studio24e.com](http://www.studio24e.com) 21 E. Main St. Thurmont - Call/Text 443-679-7916

## CATOCTIN SPORTS

# Fall sports are starting with a bang!

Richelle Zheng  
CHS Class of 2025

As pumpkin spice flavors start to come back into season, so are the Catoctin Cougars, as they have a lot to show for this season. The golf team, boys soccer team, cross-country teams, and football team have their heads in the game this season with their numerous triumphs so far to start the season off!

Catoctin's golf team is off to a great season, starting with their first game of the season on August 29 at Black Rock Golf Course. The Cougars played hard and did not fall far behind Boonsboro High School, but lost 165-160. Justin Mehall and Jordan Moore had the lowest scores for Catoctin, with each of them ending one over par while shooting 37. Junior Griffin Hench shot 45 and Senior Bryont Green shot a 46, completing the team. However, in this match the Cougars took two wins against the other two schools, beating Williamsport High School 200-165 and Clear Spring High School 208-165. During the next game, held at Oakmont Green Golf Course in Hampstead, the Cougars fought hard during the tri-

match against Manchester Valley High School and Century High School on September 4. Unfortunately, they dropped the win 183-176 against Century High School and 183-160 to Manchester Valley High School. During this match, Mehall was the low-medalist for the team, shooting 41. Moore added 43, and Green shot a 47. Additionally, Keagan Savage contributed 48 points. This loss did not deter the Cougars from continuing to work hard as they made a comeback at their next game against Governor Thomas Johnson High School on September 5. Mehall led the team with the lowest score of 40 and Green scored his personal lowest for this season with a 42. Moore followed closely with 46. Junior Connor Smith added 48 points to the team's record and Hench and Delaney Hench aided the team's success with 48 and 49 points, allowing the Cougars to take the win 176-187. On September 19, the Catoctin Cougars went head-to-head against 16 schools at the Central Maryland Conference Championships. The team placed sixth overall and third in the "small schools" division with a total score of 335! Moore tied for third overall with a score of 75, and Mehall shot



Varsity soccer boys are ecstatic after their first win of the season.

78, tied in 11th. Green added 88 points and Hench with 94, totaling the team's score. Delaney Hench competed in the female category and shot 95, placing fifth! Catoctin can not wait for what more the golf team will bring for them!

Catoctin's varsity boy's soccer team started their season with their first game on September 10 against St. James High School. The boys lost 4-0 with a rough start to their season, but they quickly recovered at their next match on September 18 against Highland View Academy. Senior Michael Metz and Junior Zack Kerr led the team with two goals. In addition, Trey Glass and Kevin Pacheco-Martinez also scored, aiding in the team's 6-1 victory. On September 20, the boys went head-to-head against Williamsport High School. Both teams were determined to take the win, resulting in two 10-minute overtime periods. At the last minute, Kerr shot the final goal, putting the two teams in a tie 2-2.

Catoctin's cross-country team blasted off their season on September 7 at the Interstate Classic held at Clear Spring High School. Catoctin placed third overall as a team with a score of 69 in the three-mile junior varsity category. In this category, Freshman Noah Riling placed first out of 63 runners with an incredible time of 18:05.6 minutes! Grady Abruzz-

ese came in 16th with a time of 21:07.2 minutes, and sophomore Sean Hoyle finished in 17th at 21:18.8 minutes. Freshman Logan Holden also competed in the same category finishing in 21:47.4 minutes. From the girl's team, Freshman Olivia Hoyt finished on top with a time of 21:52.2 minutes, starting her season off strong! Sophomore Isabel Brodsky was not far behind in second place, finishing in 22:44.5 minutes!

Catoctin's varsity football team has had a rocky start to their season. The team started their season with their first game on September 6. This game was between Catoctin High School and Boonsboro High School. The Boonsboro Warriors stole the win from the Cougars 14-0. The boy's next game occurred on September 13 against Mountain Ridge High School. The Mountain Ridge Miners took the win against the Cougars during this intense match. In the first quarter, the Cougars ended with six points, closely following the Miners with seven. Then, in the second quarter, the Cougars were unable to score any touchdowns, leaving them with zero points against the Miners, who scored six points. The next quarter, the Cougars regained their strength scoring six points, and the Miners had also scored six points. In the last quarter, the Miners took over the

field once again, preventing the Cougars from scoring any points while they scored twelve, ending the game with a Miners' victory of 29-12. Even though the Cougars had dropped two games, they did not let those losses deter them. Instead, they continued to train hard and persevere, which showed in their next game against Williamsport High School on September 20. The Cougars had a great start to this game, leading with 19 points against the Williamsport Wildcats, who had seven. Then, the Cougars continued to wipe the floor with the Wildcats, leaving them with no points scored, as the Cougars scored 14 points. However, the Wildcats came at the Cougars in the third quarter, showing them a taste of revenge by leaving the Cougars with zero points as they managed seven points. The Cougars did not let the Wildcats get away with last quarter's results and fought hard scoring 14 points and leaving the Wildcats with zero. This allowed the game to conclude with a Cougar victory of 47-14, marking the first time in five years that the Cougars had won with more than a 19-point lead. The Catoctin Cougars are really showing their game this season!

To read past Catoctin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).



**GATEWAY  
AUTOMOTIVE**

**24 Month / 24k Mile Warranty**

**Full Service Auto Repair  
Tires & 4 Wheel Alignments  
Custom Exhaust Bending  
& Repair**

**ASE Certified** 

Family owned & operated for over 45 years  
**210 BOUNDARY AVE., THURMONT**  
**301-271-4444**

Find us on  Facebook  [www.gatewayautomotiveinc.com](http://www.gatewayautomotiveinc.com)

# Sportsman's Calendar Gun Raffle 2025

**The 12 Days of Christmas is a \$1000 a day prize!**  
**Annual Fundraising Event to support the Emmitsburg  
Vigilant Hose Company #6 Fire & Rescue**

**Calendars available in early October at:**  
**The Vigilant Hose Company & Stateline Gun Exchange, Emmitsburg**  
**For more information contact The Vigilant Hose Co. at:**  
**301-447-2728 or visit [www.VHC6.com](http://www.VHC6.com)**





## MOUNT SPORTS

## Men's Water Polo readies for new season of possibilities

Steve Morano  
MSMU Class of 2024

After a grueling 2023 season where the Mount St. Mary's men's water polo team recorded a 7-23 record, the team under the command of second year head coach, Justin Vink, looks to make a splash with new faces and better play. But with the new season naturally comes challenges for the team as they have faced ranked opponents in No. 10 Fordham and will continue to face tougher competition from California later this season. The season will be both a test and a tell of what is to come for both the players and the program.

In last year's edition of the Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Conference, the Mount played ranked opponents on three occasions during the regular season, with losses to No. 6 Pacific, No. 17 Fordham and No. 18 Navy. Losses to ranked opponents during the playoffs in No. 3 Bucknell, No. 7 Johns Hopkins and No. 5 George Washington rounded out a tough season for the Mountaineers. But with blocks to build on for this upcoming season, spirits were high as the program entered its fifth year in existence as a varsity program at the Mount.

With the Mount opening their season at the Navy Open on September 7<sup>th</sup>, they faced tough competition in the form of No. 17

Navy, Biola, Gannon, Occidental and McKendree. With a 18-14 win against McKendree to open the season, the Mountaineers dropped their next four against the rest of the field. But with the Navy game, which ended 21-7, rounding out the only blowout of the weekend, the Mount's losses amounted to games only lost by two or three goals. A 15-14 loss to Biola ended the weekend for the Mount as they held onto a 1-4 record to start the year.

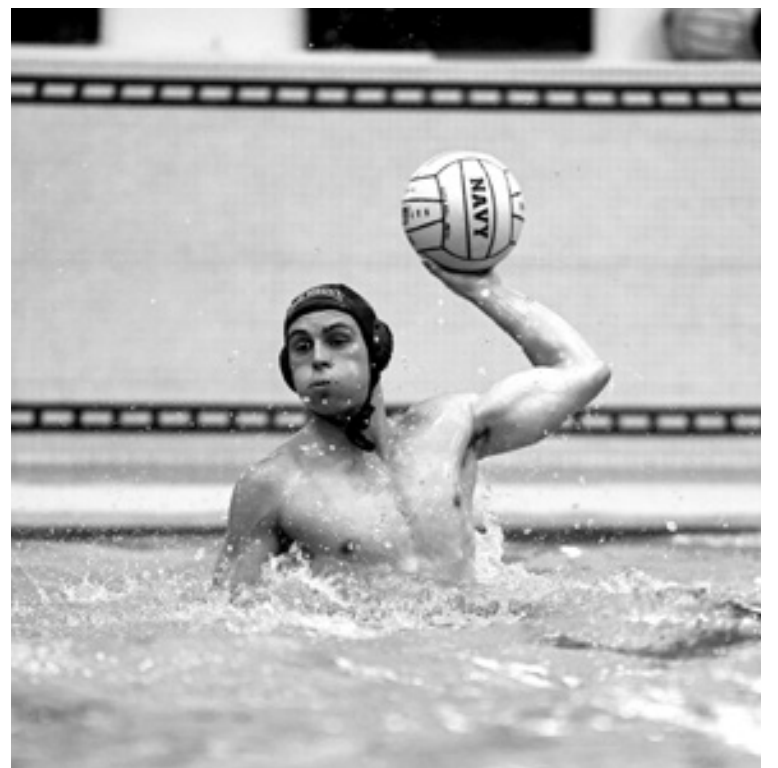
Their next batch of games came at the Salem Invitational in Morgantown, West Virginia, the Mount faced Gannon, LIU, Salem, and Mercyhurst, with their final game against the Lakers counting towards their conference record. With losses in their first three games of the Invite, they jumped out to a lead against Mercyhurst where they held onto win 17-10. Graduate Student Vasilije Marinkovic set a program record for 25 saves in a single game for the Mount against LIU, but the team still fell 14-13. Even with their losses in Morgantown, they still came down to a two or three goal difference.

Entering into the Bucknell Invitational, the mount played the hosts to open their weekend. Goals came quick in the first quarter as the teams exchanged goals back-to-back ending in a 5-4 Bison lead through the first. In the first two minutes of the match,

junior Alexandros Bellesis scored a goal that gave him sole ownership of the programs all-time goals scored, overtaking the 2021 record of 159 goals set by Jason O'Donnell. Senior Michael Lemishko scored thirty second into the second quarter to tie the game before Bucknell rattled off three unanswered goals to take a 10-6 lead into the halftime break. Goals from sophomore Aaron Tarr, and junior Chrysostomos Valavanis helped the Mountaineers rebound in the third to trail by four goals to start the final quarter. Spirits were high as the players dove into the pool for the final bit of action, but two quick goals from Bucknell extinguished their hopes. But the team did not give up, answering back with goals from Valavanis and Bellesis. The Mount went onto lose the game 18-13 against the hosts.

The rest of the weekend continued to be tough for the Mount as they lost to No. 10 Fordham 21-5, Wagner 16-15, and Saddleback 13-12. The Wagner game provided some controversy at the end, however. With fifteen seconds left in the match, the Mount scored to tie the game 15-15, but with three seconds on the clock, Wagner scored to make it 16-15. But the umpire officiating the game ended the game early, not seeing that the goal was scored with time still left on the clock.

After a 2-10 start to the season, the Mount travels next to California, where they will play Biola and Concordia before taking on California Baptist, Loyola Marymount, Air Force and Pomona-Pitzer at the Gary Troyer Tournament starting on October



The Mount Men's Water Polo looks to build on offensive power and transitioning from defense.

4<sup>th</sup>. On the weekend of October 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, they begin their home MAWP matchups taking on Salem, Mercyhurst, George Washington and Johns Hopkins before traveling to Providence Rhode Island to take on Brown, UC Merced, Chapman and Salem once again. They then round out the rest of their conference away games before the start of the conference playoffs.

Through the tough results that have come in the past couple of weeks, there have been silver linings in the games played. Alexandros Bellesis has scored 29 times followed by Valavanis' 21 goals and Lemishko with 18. Aaron Tarr has provided 31 assists in 12 games played so far this season, showing crucial drive inside the six-meter

line. And Vasilije Marinkovic has made 74 saves in six games started for the Mount, proving to be an impervious stopper in between the sticks.

Even with the early tough tests to start the year, the men's water polo team has the potential and the drive to be successful when the season gets into the dog days. But they have shown that they have the statistics on paper to get things done. Once a lineup comes along that has been tested, games will once again become easier for the team to play in. With the skills and experience that occupies this team, there is little doubt that they will eventually find their feet and begin to win games.

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

## Catoctin Mountain Fútbol Club Formed

Devin Owen  
MSMU Class of 2026

The Catoctin Mountain Fútbol Club, also known as the Catoctin Mountain Soccer Club, held its Board meeting on September 5<sup>th</sup> in front of a packed audience at the Emmitsburg Public Library to discuss the 1st season of the new club.

The club currently has 78 kids registered for the season, and more have been expressing interest as of late. The club is made up of 6 teams and a total of 13 coaches divided accordingly. The teams consist of kids from Emmitsburg, Fairfield, Thurmont, and other surrounding towns.

Alicia Weber, the club's treasurer, told the audience that the Board has organized some fundraising events in order to support the teams and to get the club everything that is needed for success. So far, the club has raised close to \$13,000 from fundraising, donations and registration, which has gone towards league registration fees, equipment expenses, uniforms and other needs for the club. "We will be paying our tournament fees over the season," Weber said.

President Andy Crone talked about how important fundraising will be this season, as they still have needs for field maintenance, game necessities, and upkeep for the increasing number of kids joining the club. A key priority for the club is getting lights for the field they will be playing on. Board members said they brought this up at the last town meeting but have yet to receive confirmation as to whether or not the Town will help fund installing lights on the field.

In an effort to show the benefit of the league to local business owners, the Board will be sending out a survey to parents asking how likely they are to visit local businesses in town. The Board made it clear that the club cares and supports local business and wants to build a bond with them, which hopefully encourages the club with team sponsorships.

In addition to the survey, the Board also plans on sending out a donation letter to families and businesses. "It's going to be a team effort making sure we keep everything put together," says Crone. The Board emphasized how extremely grateful they are for all of the effort that has been put in to make

this club possible and that they are always open to suggestions from the community to make it better!

While eager to get the club up and running, some parents raised concerns as to how long the board members plan on carrying out their roles, not wishing to lose the momentum as a result of departures. Crone noted that the commitment of the Board is for two years and following that period, an election will be held to elect a new board while the old board will switch to "Board Directors." However, he also emphasized that none of the current board members have any intentions to quit on the community—they will be seeing this through.

"We will keep this club what it was intended to be" said Crone, "You're stuck with us." The goal of the club is to create a bond and share a love for fútbol within the community. All members of the Board are excited to see how this season will play out.

They encourage everyone to come support the club and local businesses in town and watch some fútbol this fall!

**Keeping your wheels rolling**





**GETTYSBURG BICYCLE**  
EST. 1991

**We sell Trek and Specialized bikes and work on ALL types of bikes**  
M-F 10-6, Sat. 9-3  
[www.gettysburgbicycle.com](http://www.gettysburgbicycle.com)  
**717-334-7791**



*Join us for Thanksgiving*  
**November 28**  
**Buffet - 11 to 4**  
**Served Thanksgiving Menu 11 to 5**  
**Take Out Family Plans Available**

**301-447-2366**  
200 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg  
Full menu & online ordering  
@ chouseinn.com

# COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

## Health, your ability to respond

Jefferson Breland

Last month, I shared with you a basic method of “checking in” with your body.

How do you use this body scan or “check in” to help you improve your health?

Well, most simply it allows you to become a better observer of your body and mind. With practice, you will begin to notice more subtle shifts and develop more awareness of who or what influences your health.

I suggest doing a body scan daily. Now I am talking about doing a full body scan, not just a daily noticing of what hurts. Getting up off the couch, and noticing your knees or back hurts, doesn't count.

When all you do is focus on “problems,” you will separate your body into the good parts and the bad parts. Looking at your body this way, you reinforce a “problem” or disease-based approach to assessing your state of being. This habit of observation has a bias which reinforces the idea of pathology.

I had a patient who had polio as a child. The musculature of her right leg was less developed than her left leg. For over 60 years, she had called her right leg, her “bad leg.” Now she was experiencing pain in her right knee. Now she said her “bad leg” was worse.

She never considered that her right leg was doing the best it could. She compared it to her

other leg which had a higher level of function.

I suggest this is akin to judging your children. You have the smarter one, the more athletic one, the more creative one, and so on. Children will believe the stories that are told about them even to their detriment for the rest of their lives.

The same is true about your body. It believes the stories you tell about it. It doesn't have a choice independent from your mind. I have talked about this in terms of the medical field of epigenetics in previous Complementary Corners. Please refer to the issues of August 2021, December 2021, May 2024 on the archive page of the website.

The goal of the body scan is to practice paying attention without judgment. A regular body scan helps us create a context for the health of our body and mind which is independent of an urgent or immediate health concern.

You may notice your back doesn't hurt as much as the day before. This offers you the opportunity to think about what you did differently the week, the day, the hours before you noticed that you are experiencing less discomfort. You hopefully will begin to notice the effect emotions, big and subtle, have on how you feel.

As I have said before, emotions play a huge role in your health. Emotions are contagious, even more contagious than a virus or

bacteria. You don't even have to be in the room with someone for them to affect your emotions as you do with those aforementioned germs.

It could be the emotions of someone you are on the phone with. It could be someone in a different car yelling at you because they disagree with how you drive. You could be watching something like a scary movie and the emotions of the actors create emotions in you.

When you get emotionally charged, it affects your biology. It affects your neurochemistry and therefore it affects every cell in your body.

The body scan is not specific to any one health care system or set of beliefs. It is a helpful way to access how you are doing and what you might shift. You might even become aware that you choose your emotions. You might even learn to choose different emotions than you did before. This, my friend, is called emotional freedom.

When I was in junior high school, I watched the television show, Kolchak: The Night Stalker starring Darren McGavin. He was a newspaper reporter who investigated mysterious crimes that were invariably linked to monsters, demons, and the like.

I would watch each episode for about the first 45-50 minutes. I would become so scared by what happened in the climactic last 10

minutes of the show, I would turn the tv off.

All of this happened in the presence of some moving, black and white images on a television screen.

I chose every step of this event. I chose the tv show. I chose to watch the build up of the story. I chose how long to watch. I chose to anticipate what I would see in the last 10 minutes. I chose when to turn the television off.

What I did not have was an awareness of how I knew when to turn the television off. I thought my mind did the choosing. How did my mind know?

What I know now is that I, using my imagination, my mind, created the emotion of fear.

What I know now is that my body communicated to my mind it was time to turn off the television after my mind created the emotions that affected my body.

My heart beat increased. My thoughts raced. My body might even have tremored from the adrenaline released in the presence of the fear I created to scare myself. I chose to manipulate my body's neurochemistry by watching a fictional television program. I chose to create a form of physical and emotional suffering in the guise of entertainment. When my body did not want to tolerate effects of the emotions, it signaled my mind to turn off the television.

I got something out of it surely. I did this week after week. I must have enjoyed the fear on some level. I don't know for sure.

To make sense of this example of my adolescence, I offer that we do this unconsciously daily. We choose to whip ourselves up about all manner of things. Social media is simply the latest cauldron for our emotional stewing.

My responsibility as an acupuncturist is to observe how energy moves in your body and help you by suggesting lifestyle changes and using the tools of acupuncture to help your body heal itself.

Your health is your responsibility. The body scan is a tool to empower you to make your own observations of yourself and be more responsible. Only you can

fully understand what it is like to be you or what you feel physically or emotionally. Responsibility is simply the ability to respond.

The body scan offers you the opportunity to take a few moments for you pause during your day. During this pause, you can tend yourself. As I mentioned in last month's column, you may feel more peaceful after doing a body scan. Your breath may slow down and become deeper.

When you begin to practice taking time to pay attention to yourself, you practice taking care of yourself.

As a better observer of all aspects of yourself, you can take earlier, perhaps more effective, steps to improve your health. It may be as simple as going to bed an hour earlier. It may be as simple as turning your phone off an hour or so before going to bed.

I find it curious we continue to outsource our awareness of our own body to electronic devices like smart watches, smartphones, apps for our smart phones, Fitbits, and the like.

It may seem like we are paying more attention to our health, but we only pay attention to the data of the watch when we look at it.

“Ha!” you may say, “We are not doing the body scan constantly. So, we pay attention to our body when we do the body scan. Ha! Got you!”

To this I reply, our bodies are highly sensitive and give us information we can use to help ourselves every moment of every day. The body scan is a practice of paying attention to this continual feedback so that we can become more aware, more often.

As we begin to participate more fully in our health before issues arise, we are able to enjoy life more fully because we are more present to everything in our life and respond accordingly.

Jefferson Breland is a board-certified acupuncturist licensed in Pennsylvania and Maryland with offices in Gettysburg. He can be reached at 410-336-5876.



**SEMPER SERVING YOUR MEDICARE AND RETIREMENT NEEDS**

- Specializing in insurance and financial needs for retirees
- We practice “Safe Money” principles for retirement plans
- Offering most major insurance carriers
- Our services are FREE

Providing our clients with hands on personalized service

Ask for Karen or Shawn

112A Main Street, Thurmont • 301-271-4040



**Catoclin Dental**  
Neil H. Feldman, DDS, FAGD

*Convenient, comfortable and exceptional care for the whole family!*

Preventive Care • Implants • Root Canals • Fillings • Crowns • Bridges  
Extractions • Cleaning and Periodontal Care • Clear Aligner Ortho • Dentures

**New smiles always welcome!**  
10 Water Street, Thurmont  
**(301) 271-2811**  
CatoclinDental.com



Neil H. Feldman, DDS, FAGD



**EMMITSBURG DENTAL CENTER**  
Dr. Olumide (Olu) Bolarinwa, D.M.D., MSc  
Continuing care for current patients!  
**WE ARE ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!**  
101 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg • 301-447-6662  
Emmitsburgdental@gmail.com

- **Pressure Washing**
- **Painting (Interior & Exterior)**
- **Roofing & Siding Repair**
- **Handyman Services**

Call or text Ed for details  
**443-326-4871**  
MHIC #78710 • PA #114771



Farm or Residential

# HEALTH AND FITNESS

## Stretching is as important as exercise!

**Linda Stultz**  
**Certified Fitness Trainer**

We are always told that exercise is important to keep our bodies healthy and keep us moving. While that is true, stretching is just as important. As we age our muscles can get tight and that tightness can cause many symptoms that present as aches and pains.

I think the muscles that get tight and cause pain in areas you would not think about are the hamstring muscles. I find many people experience pain in their back and legs but don't relate it to coming from tight hamstrings. Any activity we do in our daily life can cause our muscles to tighten. Pulling weeds, walking, jogging, mowing the lawn, cleaning the house or any of the many jobs we do each day contribute to wear and tear on our bodies. Hamstrings are not the only muscles that tighten from daily activities. Upper back and neck muscles can cause arm pain, headaches and numbness.

Before even getting out of bed in the morning we should take a few minutes to stretch. Maybe this will help with

those little aches and pains we feel first thing when we get out of bed. Many people tell me their back aches until they move around for a while. Laying in bed, sometimes in the same position all night, can cause the muscles to tighten up. Even if you are a person that rolls around to different positions it is not like being up and moving around during the day. Sitting in the same position in your chair can also cause muscle tightening. That's why it is recommended to get up from your chair or desk every half hour or so and walk around.

Many people have arthritis in their back and that can cause pain, which in turn cause them to sit more and that results in more tightness and pain. It can be a vicious circle of not moving because we are in pain, but not moving can cause more pain. Usually, the more you move, the better you feel.

Some doctors send people for rehab to see if that can help their symptoms and prevent or prolong a possible surgery. Once people see the effectiveness of stretching and exercise they are amazed at how much it can help. I'm

not saying you may not need a procedure or surgery later but trying exercise first may help strengthen your muscles and body which will help you recover faster if you do need surgery.

Stretching can give you energy, flexibility, better balance and mobility. Starting a stretching routine each day may just give you the boost you've been looking for. Start slowly, it will take a while for your tight muscles to stretch out and become more flexible. I know we all want instant results

but when it comes to stretching, slower is better. Pushing to hard and to quickly can result in torn muscles or injury. If that happens it will take even longer for the results you were working toward. If you are not sure how to get started, work with a trained professional or at least do some research online or with someone who has been stretching and exercising that has knowledge on the subject.

I think if you are feeling the aches and pains of getting older or working

too hard on those projects around the house or being too sedentary you will be surprised how a little stretching will make you feel younger, healthier and just better over all.

I know I keep saying in my articles to "Keep Moving". People tell me all the time they read that but don't always do it. Moving is one of the very important activities that will keep us feeling our best. I know it's hard to get started some days but it really pays off in the long run. Good luck with making a stretching routine and maintaining it daily.

**Timber Ridge Apartments, Inc.**  
**& Ridge Residences, Inc.**  
 Offering Studio, 1 and 2 Bedroom Apartments  
**ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**



- Rental Assistance • Utility Allowance • Maintenance FREE
- Laundry Facilities • Community Center • Park-like Setting
- Individual A/C & Heating Units • Wall-to-Wall Carpeting
- On-Site Parking • Local Bus Transportation • Activities

**AFFORDABLE SENIOR LIVING**  
**CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN**  
**WESTMINSTER FOR LOW INCOME**  
**SENIORS 62+\***

For information or to request an application,  
**Call 410-876-2550**  
**or 410-876-5200**  
 Weekdays 8:00am-4:00pm  
 \*INCOME LIMITS APPLY



**Mick's Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning**  
*Installation, Service & Repair*

Oil & Gas Furnaces ~ Heat Pumps ~ Well Pumps  
 Water Heaters ~ Drains ~ Leaky Faucets ~ Bathroom Remodels

**No Job Too Small - 24 Hour Service**



**The Harry & Edith Show!**  
**Commercials Air on WFRE!**

**Heat Pump Inspection**  
**\$89<sup>95</sup>**

**Duct & Dryer Vent Cleaning**  
 1 Year Interest Free Financing Available  
 We Offer HVAC Service Agreements  
 Call For Details!



27 Howard Street, Thurmont  
**301-271-2488**



**EVERGREEN ADULT MEDICINE**  
**New Patients Welcome!**



We offer a wide range of services from preventive care and routine checkups to management of chronic conditions focusing on overall wellness and disease prevention for adults.

*Most major insurances accepted*  
*(Full list available on website)*

20 Frederick Road, Thurmont • 301-979-9636  
 Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
[www.evergreenadultmedicine.com](http://www.evergreenadultmedicine.com)



**amber hill**  
**THERAPY CENTERS**  
 Comprehensive Adult & Pediatric Therapies

- Adult Physical and Occupational Therapy
- Pediatric Physical and Occupational Therapy
- Aquatic Therapy
- Neurological Rehabilitation
- Amputee Rehabilitation
- Running Gait Analysis

Open Early Mornings, Evenings and Saturdays  
 Private Treatment Rooms  
 New Patients Seen Within 24 Hours  
 In-Network with Most Insurance Companies

THURMONT 301-271-9230 • 120 Frederick Rd., Suite D  
 FREDERICK 301-663-1157 • 187 Thomas Johnson Dr., Suite 6  
 PROUDLY SERVING FREDERICK FOR 36 YEARS

THURMONT 301-271-9230    DAMASCUS 301-253-0896  
 FREDERICK 301-663-1157    URBANA 240-529-0175  
 JEFFERSON 301-473-5900    NEW MARKET 301-732-4771

**Certified Medicare and Medicaid Outpatient Clinics**

 [amberhillpt.com](http://amberhillpt.com)

# ASTRONOMY

## The night sky of October

Professor Wayne Wooten

For October 2024, the moon is new on October 2nd. The waxing crescent makes a nice pairing with bright Venus in twilight on October 5th. The first quarter moon is on October 10th. The waxing gibbous moon is just west of Saturn on the evening of October 13th, and to the left of it the following evening. The Hunter's Full Moon on October 17th is also a "supermoon", the closest full moon of 2024. In the morning sky, the waning gibbous moon passes north of bright Jupiter on October 21st. The last quarter moon is just below reddish Mars on October 24th in the dawn. No moon this Halloween, alas; it will be new on November 1st.

Mercury lies too close to the Sun for visibility from Earth this month. Venus pulls away from the Sun, higher in the southwestern sky, and passes just above Antares on October 25th. It appears gibbous in the telescope, still on the far side of the Sun. Mars is in the dawn sky in Gemini, and is also now gibbous in the scope. It passes south of the Twins, Castor and Pollux, with the moon joining the group on October 23rd. Jupiter reaches opposition in early November, and rises about 10 PM in the northeast in Taurus at mid-month. But Saturn is well up in the SE at sunset in Aquarius. Its rings are very thin and closing, become edge on at its equinox in May 2025, almost invisible from earth.

While T Corona borealis has still not flared as expected at this writing, we do hope it will soon. Its position on the comet finder chart, between



Photo of the Pillars of Creation taken by NASA's James Webb Space Telescope. The pillars look like arches and spires rising out of a desert landscape, but are filled with semi-transparent gas and dust, and ever changing. This is a region where young stars are forming.

the crown and Hercules overhead, is noted. Ideally it will flare when the comet is at its best! The big question is just how bright Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS 2023 A3 will be in the evening skies this month. So far, it has stayed intact and brightened more than predicted, and will get closest to the Sun at the end of September. When it passes between us and the Sun in mid October, it may become the best naked eye comet for most of us living now. Stay tuned!

The Big Dipper falls lower each evening. By the end of October, it will be only the three stars in the handle of Dipper still visible in the northwestern twilight. By contrast, the Little Dipper, while much fainter, is always above our northern horizon here along the Gulf Coast. Here is the little bear in the woods at Big Lagoon at our August Gaze. The app is called "Nocturne" and it is free for iPhones and ideal for shooting the comet in October. Note you can add the constellations and labels to the original, a great

way to teach kids the constellations

To the southwest, Antares and Scorpius also set soon after twilight, and will be gone by month's end. East of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way galaxy. If it lives up to expectations, the comet will move up and to the east each evening through Ophiuchus above them this month.

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

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

It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying 2.5 million light years distant. South of M31 is the other great spiral in our Local Group of Galaxies. M-33 in Triangulum is seen from a higher viewing angle, so the spiral arms are even more striking. It too is about three million light years distant Both are visible in good binocs.

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

Crane due south now.

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

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

Winter will be coming soon, and in the NE we see yellow Capella rising. It is the brightest star of Auriga the Charioteer, and pair of giant stars the same temperature as our sun, but at least 100X more luminous and about 10X larger than our sun. It lies about 43 light years distant. Again, binoculars come in handy to reveal three fine Messier open clusters, M-36, M-37, and M-38, all within the pentagon of Auriga.

A little farther south, below the Pleiades, orange Aldebaran rises. It is the eye of Taurus the bull, with the V shaped Hyades star cluster around it making the head of the bull. This colorful giant star is only 2/3 as hot as our yellow sun, but 44X times larger and at 65 light years distant, one of the closest of these monster stars. Jupiter is now near the lower horn of the bull.

## Farmers' Almanac

*"O hushed October morning mild,*

*Thy leaves have ripened to the fall,  
Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild,  
Should waste them all."*

—Robert Frost (1874-1963)

**Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:** Dry and milder at first, then turning breezy and colder with rain east and snow west (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); seasonably cold and dry, then breezy with light snow (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); dry, turning milder, then rain, possibly mixed with wet snow West (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); dry and mild at first, then showers, turning breezy and cooler (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); seasonably mild with periods of rain (21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26); dry, turning cooler but more seasonable; flurries possible west (27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

**Full Moon:** October's Full Moon will occur on October 17th and is the Hunter's Moon of 2024. Named because of the extra light the moon provided to many Native American tribes, giving them more time to hunt for. The Cree Tribe referred to as and Yellow Leaf and Falling Leaves because of the many leaves turning bright yellow (and many others, as well!) and because most trees have lost the last of their leaves during the month.

**Holidays:** Columbus Day is observed on Monday, October 14th, United

Nations Day is celebrated on Thursday, the 24th, and Halloween falls on Thursday, October 31st.

**Special Notes:** October is Fire Prevention Month. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) named the second week of October Fire Prevention Week in 1922 in commemoration to the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. Today, we celebrate Fire Prevention Week and Month by educating families, students and communities across the United States raising fire safety awareness. During this month, local and regional fire departments provide education to their communities and encourage parents and loved ones to practice fire safety. Remember to have an evacuation plan ready for your family to follow, check smoke detector batteries often, and always, always respect the power of fire.

**The Garden:** There is still time left to plant perennial seeds and bulbs! With a little effort at Fall planting time, you will speed the timing of that first new growth by as much as a month. During the fall months, after soil temperature drops below 60°F, the bulbs of spring flowering Tulips, Daffodils, Hyacinths, Siberian Squill, Dwarf Irises, Anemone, and Crocus should be planted. Most spring flowering bulbs should be in the ground

by the early part of this month, except for Tulips, which can be planted up until early November. Select healthy, disease-free bulbs. Add bone meal or bulb fertilizer into the planting hole, as you prepare the soil. One last effort at weeding will help to improve the appearance of your garden throughout the winter. Any weed that you can eliminate from the garden this fall will possibly prevent thousands of weed seeds from sprouting in the garden next spring! The longer your house plants were allowed to remain outside in the fall, the more shock they will go through when they are finally moved indoors. If you haven't brought them in yet, do it now!

**The Farm:** Best for planting root crops (1, 2, 13, 14); weeding and stirring the soil (8, 9, 10); planting above-ground crops (15, 6, 17); harvesting all crops (18, 19, 26, 27); the best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 22, 2e, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); transplanting (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); weening of all small animals and livestock (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); harvesting and storing grains (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13).

**J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living**

*"A true friend offers a helping hand without expecting thanks in return"*



**Catoctin Mountain Motorsports**  
REPAIR & SERVICE

"30 years in the automotive field!"

**Fall is here and Winter is on its way!**  
Don't get left out in the cold!

We do Oil Changes on ATVs, UTVs, Motorcycles, Cars & Trucks!

MD Inspections, Alignments, Factory Maintenance, Tires, Tune-Ups, Check Overs, Even those lights on the dash!

**We do it all!**

Give us a call and schedule your appointment TODAY!

609 E. Main St., Thurmont  
301-678-9023

M-F 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

CatoctinMountainMotorsports@comcast.net

# COMPUTER Q&A

## The average life of a PC

Aysë Stenabaugh  
Jester's Computer

No, this isn't a reference to what your computer does all day although, chances are if it's a desktop or an all-in-one device it probably doesn't get out much! Seriously though, we often get the question of how long the average computer lasts, so here's some insight into what the average lifespan is, what affects the life of your device and how those things affect PC performance.

As an average, devices last between three to five years but the answer isn't so cut and dry. In the over 20 years our repair shop has been in business we've found that all-in-one computers, laptops, and smaller desktop computers have a higher failure rate which we largely attribute to the lack of airflow and increased heat. In general, we recommend desktop owners to keep their computers turned on to help keep their devices at a constant temperature because a consistent temperature is better for the components inside the device. Leaving your computer on isn't necessarily a good idea for smaller devices which can overheat more easily because of cramped space around components.

Laptops and all-in-one devices have limited repair options compared to standard size desktop computers. Only some parts like hard drive and memory can be replaced on those devices. To make matters worse, manufacturers are intentionally making it more difficult to get access to these components at times using parts that are not removable. Other parts like keyboards, touchpads broken power jacks, and screens can usually be replaced but the cost of labor for the repairs is much greater than repairing/replacing desktop components. Even if your device can be repaired the cost of labor will be higher than the cost of labor for the same repair on a desktop computer.

We are firm believers in keeping good devices up an running rather than throwing them away and replacing them completely. The majority of our clients that experience problems with their devices can be attributed to software issues or hard drive failure. Occasionally we find that the cost of a repair or upgrade isn't worth it but that doesn't happen often. The hard drive in your computer is comparable to the tires on your vehicle. You wouldn't go out and buy a new vehicle just because you need new tires right? The cost of a hard drive replacement or upgrade is typically a third of the cost of a new computer and even if you purchase a new computer you still have to consider having to re-install all of your software, transfer your data, install devices like printers and reconfigure them else either transferring important files manually from your old failing devices or incur even more expense paying someone to transfer the data for you.

If your computer is running slowly you might benefit from a hard drive replacement/upgrade or increased memory. The average life of a hard drive is three to five years which is probably why the average is so close to this number despite many devices having the potential to last much longer. Often when hard drives start failing users replace their devices without ever knowing that they may have had other options that could have saved them money and headaches. If your comput-

er's hard drive is still functioning properly your old hard drive can be cloned to a new one preventing you from having to re-install any software or re-configure any settings. Replacing your hard drive will provide a performance boost not only if the hard drive was failing but also because technology has advanced and solid-state hard drives which are becoming the new standard are much faster, more reliable, and have become more affordable in the past few years.

Realistically though, hard drive failure can occur at any time, especially on older drives that still have moving parts (unlike the solid-state hard drives commonly used today). In reality, potential defects increase the failure rate of hard drives during the first 12 months making it not unheard of to have to replace hard drives prematurely. This is one reason manufacturers provide warranties on their hardware – the life can be unpredictable and many factors go into the rate at which your device will fail. We always recommend that you keep all your important data in TWO places so that if one storage device fails, you have a backup of all your files.

Some hard drives will decline in per-

formance over time when they begin to have issues but others can fail suddenly with no warning signs. One thing you can do to check your hard drive to see if it may have issues is to open file explorer on your computer and to right-click on your c: drive. When the menu appears left click on properties and then on the Tools tab in the window that appears. Now left-click on the "check" button under error checking. If it takes more than 5-10 minutes to scan your hard drive for errors you likely have some kind of issue with your hard drive. Minor errors can be corrected or bad spots on the hard drive avoided being used by the operating system. Significant errors indicate that the hard drive should be replaced or if you plan on replacing your device instead, at least backing up all important data if you haven't already done so.

*If you are having computer trouble or require technical support you can reach Jester's Computer Services at 717- 642-6611 or visit us on the web at www.jestercomputers.com. Currently, all services are being done by appointment only during our regular business hours. Please call to make arrangements for contactless drop-off and pick-up or email us at customerservice@jesterscomputers.com*



**INKED** APPAREL SIGNS  
**240-357-6441**  
 Info@InkYourBrand.com  
 www.InkYourBrand.com  
 1 North Carroll St. Thurmont

**CUSTOM APPAREL**  
 SCREENPRINT EMBROIDERY  
**SIGNS BANNERS**  
**VEHICLE LETTERING**  
**BUSINESS CARDS**  
**DECALS CANOPIES**  
 SPORTS JERSEYS SUBLIMATION

**THE HANDYMAN EXTRAORDINAIRE**  
*I Make To Do Lists Disappear!*

Handyman Services  
 Home Improvements  
**240-315-2935**  
 dfrock68@gmail.com

Serving Frederick for over 50 years  
 Family Owned & Operated

**ZEBROSKI MOTOR CO.**  
 Specializing in RV & Motor Home Repair & Inspections

**Winterize \$10 Off**  
**Your RV! Now thru November 10**  
 Schedule an appointment and mention this ad!

10518 Woodsboro Pike, **301-845-8460**  
 Walkersville jzebroski0404@gmail.com

**Gettysburg Transmissions LLC**  
 Automatic or Maunal  
**Most Makes, Models & Years**  
**Automotive Repair & Services**  
**Certified State Inspection Facility**  
**Custom Exhaust Systems**

Over 15 Years Experience ~ All Work Guaranteed

22 Weikert Road, Gettysburg  
**717-642-9700**  
 Bill Eiker

**JESTER'S COMPUTER SERVICES**

**Visit us at our new location**  
**We are now located 1 mile away**  
**on Main Street in Fairfield**

**Get ready for Windows 11!**  
 Support for Windows 10 ends October 2025  
 We specialize in providing a wide range of support services for individuals who struggled with technology including basic computer classes starting in October

<b>Call / Text us:</b> 717-642-6611	<b>105 W. Main Street</b> Fairfield	<b>Open Weekdays</b> 9 to 5
--	--	--------------------------------

**www.jestercomputers.com**  
**customerservice@jesterscomputers.com**

**Battlefield Hearth & Solar**  
 Visit us!  
 1745 York Road, Gettysburg  
 717-334-1232

**Be Warm and Toasty This Winter**  
 SALES • INSTALLATION • SERVICE

**WE HAVE WOOD PELLETS & BAGGED COAL IN STOCK!**  
 WE CARRY:  
 Alaska Coal Stoves • Vermont Castings Woodstoves  
 Blaze King Stoves & Fireplace Inserts  
 Kozy Heat Gas Stoves & Fireplaces  
 Sunair Retractable Awnings  
 Enviro Pellet Stoves  
 www.battlefieldhearthsolarpa.webs.com

**MADE HERE IN THE USA**  
 PA RICE FURNACE

**AFFORDABLE SELF STORAGE**  
**NOW WITH PORTABLE STORAGE UNITS!**

**Need Room? Let Us Store It For You!**  
 Storage Units For The Public & For Business!  
 12917 Caloclin Furnace Rd., Thurmont  
 Conveniently Located On Maple Drive, Across From Thurmont Feed Store  
 Mike Jensen, Owner  
 VISA & MC ACCEPTED

**301-271-7455**

MOTORCYCLES, CARS, TOOLS, FURNITURE, ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, OLD FILES, NEW FILES, APPLIANCES, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS & TOOLS, CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT, LANDSCAPING TOOLS, LAWN MOWERS, POOL SUPPLIES, BUILDING MATERIALS, SPORTS EQUIPMENT, MEMORIES...  
**WHATEVER YOU CAN THINK OF INCLUDING THE KITCHEN SINK!**

**CHRISTMAS FOR COMMUNITY KIDS**



**ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF  
NEW TOYS  
CLOTHING  
AND  
NONPERISHABLE  
FOODS**




**CHRISTMAS FOR  
COMMUNITY KIDS**



**Feeding the  
Community**

Wantz Chevrolet is proud to kick off "CHRISTMAS FOR COMMUNITY KIDS" Tuesday, October 1st at Wantz Chevrolet in Taneytown. Please stop by and drop off a new, unused, unwrapped toy or new items of clothing for school age children up to age 18. We will also be a collection site for Non-Perishable foods through the holidays.

Help us to brighten Christmas for those in our community who can use a little Help!

**Donations will be accepted now through December 12th at the following locations:  
Wantz Chevrolet, Taneytown Bowl & Grill, Taneytown Liquor Barn, Kennies Market  
and Carroll Vista Club House.**



**WANTZ CHEVROLET**  
1 Chevro Drive, Taneytown  
410-751-1200

Visit us at [www.WantzChevrolet.com](http://www.WantzChevrolet.com)

*"Don't take a chance, buy from Wantz"*



**FIND NEW ROADS™**



**Family Owned and  
Operated Since 1997**

**Reliable & Affordable Trash Service**

**Services Offered:**

- Trash & Recycling Dumpsters in any size capacity (2, 4, 6 & 8 yds.) Any Service Frequency Desired!
- 96-Gallon Toter Service
- 15, 20, & 30 yard Roll-Off Dumpsters
- Bulk Collections

*Get a free custom tailored quote  
for what your business needs!*

**NO HIDDEN FEES!  
NO EXTRA YARDAGE CHARGES!  
NO MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENTS!**

*The Best Customer Service  
Available in our Industry!*

[www.jandjinctrashservice.com](http://www.jandjinctrashservice.com)

**301-898-2109 • 800-465-2350**

Servicing Frederick, Montgomery, Carroll  
and Washington Counties



**2504 Back Acre Circle, Mt. Airy**

# FREDERICK COUNTY NOTES

## Residents Encouraged to Attend Upcoming MDOT Consolidated Transportation Program Meeting

County residents are encouraged to attend an upcoming public meeting to share feedback with State officials regarding transportation and transit needs in Frederick County. The meeting will take place Wednesday, October 16, at 7 p.m. at Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church Street in Frederick.

Representatives from the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) will be in attendance to share information and receive public feedback regarding the recently released draft Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) for Fiscal Years 2025-2030. The CTP is Maryland's six-year capital budget for transportation projects and programs.

"My administration will continue to advocate for the transportation funding needed to address safety and traffic concerns in our community, particularly on the U.S. 15 corridor," said County Executive Jessica Fitzwater. "This draft CTP effectively halts the U.S. 15 safety project. I encourage residents to attend the upcoming meeting to learn more and share comments. Our voice is strongest when we advocate together."

"The U.S. 15 project is vital to the safety and well-being of Marylanders and the economic development of surrounding areas," County Council President Brad Young said. "This project has broad, bipartisan support as

Frederick County's top transportation project."

The draft FY 25-30 CTP highlights significant shifts in transportation funding that will directly impact priority projects in Frederick County, including a \$14.3 million decrease in funding for the U.S. 15 safety project. This project targets a section of U.S. 15 from Interstate 70 to Md. Route 26 for critical safety upgrades that would eliminate dangerous weave conditions and provide important sound and safety barriers.

Last year, the State put the U.S. 15 project construction funding on hold but retained funding for engineering and design, making it unclear when the project will break ground. The newly released version of the draft CTP reduced funding for planning the project in FY25 and no longer includes any additional funding in future years for design, engineering, or construction. The U.S. 15 project has long been a priority for Frederick County. Fitzwater noted that while the County understands the fiscal challenges of the current State transportation revenue model, the defunding of the U.S. 15 improvement project will have significant safety and quality of life impacts for Frederick County residents and visitors.

Other components of the draft CTP that impact Frederick County include funding for Highway User Revenue and Locally Operated Transit Systems. Although Highway User Revenue funding was maintained in the draft, it remains signifi-

cantly below historic funding levels. Frederick County officials will urge MDOT to explore ways to enhance Highway User Revenue funding sources and for additional funds to be added to Locally Operated Transit Systems.

"Frederick County is proud to serve our residents with our public transit system, which is vital to our community's growth and well-being," said Fitzwater. "My administration remains committed to ensuring that Frederick County receives adequate State funding to continue improving transit services so that residents and businesses can thrive."

For members of the public who plan to attend the October 16 meeting via public transportation, there are several Frederick County Transit options that serve Winchester Hall. The 51 and 61 Connectors serve Market Street and Church Street, less than two blocks from Winchester Hall. The 40, 50, 60, and 65 Connectors, and the Brunswick/Jefferson, North Frederick, and Emmitsburg/Thurmont Shuttles operate nearby. For additional information, visit [www.frederick-countymd.gov/transit](http://www.frederick-countymd.gov/transit).

## County Program Helps Homeowners Maintain Independence at Home

Residents who need to make their homes more accessible may be

eligible for zero-interest loans through Frederick County's Accessible Housing for Homeowners program. The Division of Housing offers loans of up to \$40,000 to eligible homeowners. The loans are forgivable over time.

"The Accessible Housing for Homeowners program helps remove barriers to affordable, accessible housing by ensuring that Frederick County residents have the resources they need to safely remain in their own homes," said County Executive Jessica Fitzwater. "This program is a great way for homeowners of any age to make accessibility improvements for themselves and their families."

Home improvements through the Accessible Housing for Homeowners program may include projects such as widening doorways, building exterior ramps, modifying kitchens and bathrooms, and installing stairlifts. To be eligible for the program, residents must own and occupy the home as their principal residence and earn less than 80% of the County's median income as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Currently, income must be \$97,800 or less for a household of four to qualify.

The program helps to fulfill a recommendation of the community-led Transition Team. Their report calls on the County to develop opportunities that enhance housing and quality of life, including ways for low-income seniors to age in place.

The Accessible Housing for Homeowners Program is funded through the Community Development Block Grant program of HUD. The goal is to help people maintain independence and enhance quality of life by financing modifications needed to make houses accessible.

"Home renovations to improve accessibility can seem overwhelming, but we want to help simplify the process," said Vincent Rogers, Director of the Division of Housing. "We encourage those interested to contact our office to see how this program can help make critical improvements for homeowners to maintain independence and enhance quality of life."

The Frederick County Division of Housing can help homeowners apply, choose a contractor, and ensure that improvements are completed safely and efficiently. For more information, please contact the Frederick County Division of Housing at 301-600-3531.

Serving the area for 61 Years!

# McLaughlin's Energy Services

Specializing in Propane and Heating Oils Delivery and Service

**McLaughlin's Products**

- Gas and Oil Furnaces and Boilers
- Oil and Gas Parts and Fittings
- Gas Logs and Fireplaces
- Custom Order Premium Grills
- Gas Emergency Generators
- Tankless Water Heaters
- Outdoor Living Products

**No Worries with our easy switch over service.**

- Low cost or no cost installs
- No hidden costs or fees
- Automatic or Will Call delivery
- Equal Monthly Payment Plans
- 24 Hour Emergency Service
- Lowest competitive price possible
- Can service almost ANY application

Over 30 Working Gas Logs, Fireplaces and Heaters on Display.

McLaughlin's offers a wide range of tank applications for all your gas needs, from 5 to 1,900 gallons. Inquire today!

We are a Generac Generator sales and service dealer. Let McLaughlin's take care of all your power needs from home standby to portable!

We also offer free quotes and estimates for any application you may need for your home or business.

[www.MclHeat.com](http://www.MclHeat.com)

Located Just Over the Mountain in Rouzerville!  
A family owned and operated business since 1954!  
Dedicated to providing your propane and Heating Oil needs!

11931 Buchanan Trail East, Waynesboro,  
717-762-5711 | 1-800-463-5711



**JE Turnbaugh**  
Plumbing & Heating, LLC  
& A/C

## Now Offering: HVAC Services!

- Air Conditioning
- Furnaces
- Heat Pump
- Maintenance
- Mini-Splits & More



Eric, Service Manager



James, HVAC Specialist

**Welcome Our New Team Members!**



**From the Well House to the Out House, - NOW - We Do It All!**

- Water Heaters
- Well Pumps
- Water Treatment Systems
- Boilers
- Drain Cleaning & Inspection
- High Pressure Water Jetting
- Water Service

**-EST- 2008**

**New Installation, Service & Repair for All Your Residential & Commercial Plumbing & HVAC Needs**

**Authorized Dealer for:** Goulds Pumps • Well-X-Trol Tanks  
Bradford White & A.O. Smith Water Heaters • Burnham Boilers  
Aker Maax Bath Products • Moen, Kohler & Delta Products • Rheem Pro

**VISIT OUR SHOWROOM:**  
92 YORK STREET  
TANEYTOWN

**410-848-2305**  
Licensed & Insured  
[office@jetplmb.com](mailto:office@jetplmb.com) | [www.jetplmb.com](http://www.jetplmb.com)



Serving the Emmitsburg Area  
For 83 Years

Less Than 30 Minutes From:  
Thurmont • Sabillasville  
Fairfield • Emmitsburg



Great Selection!

## 2024 FORD MAVERICK



2.0L Ecoboost  
or  
2.5L Hybrid

## 2024 FORD F-150



As low as  
**1.9% APR Financing**  
36 Months

**THE BEST-SELLING TRUCK FOR 47 YEARS STRAIGHT**

**CROUSE FORD** SINCE 1941

11 Antrim Blvd, Taneytown  
(410) 756-6655

Showroom Hours:  
Monday - Friday 9am - 7pm  
Saturday 9am - 3pm



## 2024 Ford Bronco Sport

Weekly Specials at  
CrouseFord.com