

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

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## Emmitsburg approves 36% water rate increases

The Emmitsburg Town Council approved, on a 4 to 1 vote, an increase of water rates by 36% per year for the next five years. If fully implemented, the five years of increases will increase the cost of water to residents by 363%.

Prior to approving the rate increase, Commissioner Amy Boehman systematically walked here fellow council members and members of the public on how she came to support the rate increase. She called a meeting with the town staff a "light bulb moment on why the rate increase was necessary and how all the pieces fit."

The new water rates, she said, will allow the water system to not only rebuild its 90-day cash balance to cover short term potential emergency expenses, but also cover its yearly expenses. While the 90-day cash balance is not a mandatory requirement, Boehman said, it is a critical ranking factor in awarding of grants by the USDA to communities seeking help in funding water system improvements – as is

the ability of the town to demonstrate that the water rates are covering yearly expenses of the water systems. Combined, the two factors will enhance the ability of the town to receive grants for necessary system improvements.

Commissioner Joe Ritz, in casting the dissenting vote, said that while he understood the need for the rate increases, he had hoped for an option where quarterly bills would be based upon actual usage, citing the fact that not everyone uses 6,000 gallons per/month, upon which the minimum quarterly payment is based. Ritz said that charging people for actual water usage could help soften the rate increase, which was going to hit those on a fixed income "in a bad way."

Frank Davis, in justifying his vote for the rate increase, said he would "sooner vote to do the 5 year rate now, and after three years, hopefully we will have enough money we can come back and say we don't need to do the last two rate



Revenue from rate increases will fund long overdue water system improvement.

increases. I think people have forgotten what we went through four years ago with the brown water. It's our job, our responsibly, to make sure it doesn't happen again. We can't kick it down the road anymore," Davis said, "we have to act. Water is essential to everything, we need to make it a priority."

Residents who chose to attend the April 3rd meeting were unanimous in their opposition to the rate increase, expressing concern over the negative impact it would have on those living on a fixed income and the ability to sell

their homes in fear buyers who would be turned off due to the high cost of water.

While a 363% increase may seem huge, only the water use portion of the quarterly utility bill will be subject to the rate increase. For an average resident with, with a water bill of \$35, the 36% rate increase will result in their quarterly bill rising to \$47.60 in 2024, \$64.74 in 2025, &c, until the increases stop in 2027 when the average quarterly water bill would be \$163, or slightly over \$1.50 a day.

## Adams County gears up for local elections

Registered Republicans and Democrats in Pennsylvania will head to the polls May 16 to decide their party's candidates for county, municipal, and school board races. Local elected officials decide on important issues that affect citizens' day-to-day lives but yet only 28.68 percent of registered voters participated in the last local primary election, in 2021. Few people run for office, and one southwestern Adams County borough has more seats open than people running.

Countywide offices in Adams have all but been decided with the minimum number of candidates seeking their party's nominations. Republican incumbents Jim Martin and Randy Phiel are once again seeking the two slots on November's ballot. Incumbent Marty Qually and newcomer Rob Smith will likely capture the Democratic nominations.

No Democrats are seeking other open countywide offices.

Similar to the commissioners' race, the Republican nominations are almost guaranteed. Political newcomer Tammy Myers is hoping to replace retiring County Controller John Phillips. Longtime Deputy Coroner Francis Dutrow is seeking his succeed his boss, retiring County Coroner Pat Felix. Beverly Boyd and Karen Heflin are seeking re-election to

their roles as prothonatary and register and recorder, respectively. District Attorney Brian Sinnett is running unopposed for the county's top law enforcement position. Magisterial District Judge Mark Beauchat is also running unopposed for the judicial district that covers the Fairfield area of the county.

The Fairfield Area School Board has five slots open. Pennsylvania law permits school board candidates to crossfile. Lauren Kaye Clark, Kelly Christiano, Lashay Kalathas, Jennifer Holz, and Lisa M. Sturges are seeking both the Democratic and Republican nominations for school board.

Fairfield Borough is facing a shortage of civic engagement. Four seats are open but only three are seeking their party's nomination - Republican Phyllis Gilbert and Democrats Sarah C. Thomas and Patricia Smith. Borough residents can seek to fill the fourth seat through a write-in campaign during the primary or by requesting their party's nomination after the primary.

Fairfield has more Democrats running than Republicans, but it is a different story over in the next borough to the west, Carroll Valley. No Democrats wish to sit on the borough council but four Republicans - John Schubring, Bruce Carr, L. Michael Wight,



County Commissioners Jim Martin, Randy Phiel, and Marty Qually, with Bill Jacobs, Chief of the Fairfield Fire Company, at this year's award banquet.

and Cody Gilbert - hope to represent their fellow citizens. Similar to other municipalities, Carroll Valley has as many candidates as seats available.

Ryan Picarelli and Edward Spence are likely locked-in to receive the Republican party's nomination for two seats on the Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors. No Democrats are seeking the chairs.

Liberty Township is an outlier in the Toms Creek Valley with three people seeking one available seat on the three-member board of supervisors. Incumbent Wal-

ter "Mickey" Barlow will face-off against Johnny Gereny and Adams Sanders for the Republican nomination. No Democrats are candidates for the slot.

Democrat and longtime supervisor Paul Kellett is seeking a six-year term on the Liberty Township's board of supervisors. No Republicans or other Democrats are hoping to unseat Kellett.

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., May 19. A list of polling places and sample ballots can be found at [www.adamscountypa.gov/departments/electionsandvoterregistration](http://www.adamscountypa.gov/departments/electionsandvoterregistration).

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# EMMITSBURG NEWS

## Silo Hill hostel off the table

The on-again, off-again "hostel/inn/liquor store," a twenty-room hostel above a new liquor store next to the Dunkin' Donuts in Silo Hill—proposed by Pradeep Saini, owner of Village Liquor—appears to be off again.

Back in June of 2022, Saini requested that the town code be changed to allow 'Hostels' within town limits. Hostels are defined as establishments that provide temporary (less than one year) lodging, for a specific group of people such as students, workers, or travelers. It is lower priced temporary accommodation that offers fully furnished basic rooms with linen service. Typically, a hostel may feature a large room with separate beds and a shared bathroom and kitchen. A commercial kitchen may also be located within the establishment to provide guest food services, Town Planner Zachary Gulden said.

At the time, Council President Tim O'Donnell raised concerns of students overtaking the building and turning it into a fraternity. Unlike hotels, guests in hostels don't have their own rooms; instead they live in dorm-style, meaning that there is one bathroom on each floor, just like in a college dorm. The party vibes (and the drinking and drug taking that goes with it) of hostels is seen as another drawback to the plan. Additionally, the fact that the proposed hostel would be built above a liquor store could be problematic, as it would make access to alcohol for parties much easier.

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

Saini told the town council at the June 2022 meeting that an employee

would be available at the downstairs liquor store when it is open, and on call at other hours. However, Saini was mum on how responsive the liquor store staff would be while customers were in the store or how long it would take to respond to noise complaints at night.

At its March 27 meeting however, the Planning Commission was notified that the plans for the building have been changed again, and that it now will only be a single story building used for retail purposes (presumably a liquor store) and will not be built to accommodate 'hotel/hostel' operations.

The Planning Commission never did modify the town code to allow hostels in-town as Saini withdrew his request last year following the concerns raised by the town council to the idea. Plans for the property have remained dormant since then.

## Farmers market opens

With springtime creeping up on us, it is time to dive into the staple harvests of the season. One great place to dive is the upcoming annual Emmitsburg Farmers Market, an event that has taken place for the last 19 years and counting.

Kadeem Brim, the Marketing Manager and Coordinator of the Farmers Market, wanted to make sure the town knows when and where the event will be taking place. It will occur in the same location as past years, beside the Town Hall at 302 South Seton Ave. However, the market is changing its hours to Fridays from 2 to 8 p.m., beginning June 23rd and ending October 6th.

The time change allows more opportunity for those who work later hours

or have conflicting schedules with the previously allotted time to make it to the market during the afternoon hours. Brim encourages people to go "as soon as you can and as often as you can."

When questioned on what he believes is worth mentioning about the market this year, Brim claims that because he is relatively new to the town, he is ready to start fresh with making the "best market." Hopefully, this approach will allow the community to see the effort in which the whole town is putting into the market.

Brim also mentions how the CAC and commissioner, and others, have been extremely supportive this year, since they are dedicated to putting in the work and making the market as

good as possible this year.

In the past years, the market has had a commitment from about 3-4 vendors total, which is a drastic contrast to the commitment for 2023: a total of 13-14 vendors, so far, including those that the town is looking to "feature and rotate." Brim notes that this is the first year in which the market is open to vendors aside from produce farmers and bakers—allowing new goods and local businesses to be showcased each week.

However, as registration for vendors this year are free, there will be a cut-off if the volume of vendors gets too high during the start. Brim suggests that potential vendors register online as soon as possible!

Brim explained that the Farmers Market is "looking to feature a differ-

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ent brewery or distillery or winery and a food truck every week," as well as different activities for children to partake in, to keep them entertained while their parents shop and sip—creating incentive for community members to come out more often.

Brim notes that the Emmitsburg community is seen as "really strong as far as the small town, small business kind of mindset" goes, so the Farmers Market allows "great opportunity for

the community to come together and support each other" while also enjoying themselves.

The goal for the Farmers Market this year is to grow, thrive and have the "life breathed back into it." You can expect flyers to be sent out the Sundays or Mondays highlighting the vendors and activities for the upcoming week's market. Brim, and the rest of the town office, hope to see everyone there this year.

## Emmitsburg celebrates Earth Day

Earth Day was first observed on April 22, 1970 in the United States to bring environmental issues to national attention. On Saturday, April 22, Emmitsburg celebrated Earth Day with a town Clean-Up and Earth Day activities. The town organized and ran the Earth Day activities while the Citizen Advisory Committee led Clean-Up Day.

"At 9 a.m., more than 30 people from Emmitsburg and surrounding communities showed up to work together to beautify our town and help the environment" said Town Commissioner Amy Boehman-Pollitt. "This was our largest turn-out for clean-up day by far," she continued. In fact,

only 3 citizens participated in the last Clean-Up Day, held before COVID!

Pollitt was also excited to see several families attend and express their gratitude for the opportunity to model community service for their children and instill respect for the Earth. "I'm so appreciative of the residents, businesses, organizations, and town staff that assisted in the planning, support, and participation for the event, and look forward to another successful event in the future," she continued.

Wayne Slaughter noted that more than 300 pounds of trash was collected. "I remember most of that litter has been lying around for a long time and has been ignored by people who have just

learned to live with it. So it takes a certain kind of person to help pick it up. Kudos to everyone who helped," he said. Slaughter added, "Picking up loose trash is the epitome of low-tech work; it takes very little effort but it makes a big difference in our community. We hope the Clean-up Day will encourage people to pick up some litter in their neighborhoods when they go walking. Every little

bit helps keep Emmitsburg Beautiful!"

During the clean-up, volunteer Dianne Walbrecker was stopped by a local citizen watching his grandson play baseball. He told her, "I really noticed how many people were out here today picking up the trash on the streets and parks. What a wonderful showing for our town."

Our local companies and organizations pitched in too. The gloves and poker sticks were donated by Emmits-

burg Tattoo while the trash bags were supplied by the Town of Emmitsburg.

After the town clean up, the town hosted Earth Day activities. Pizza and ice cream was served at no cost to all who attended the celebration. The town also offered seeds and soil to plant flowers. Children were also able to go across to the new Community Garden to plant vegetables and set up the new compost bin. Sadly, the rain that day cut the festivities short.



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## FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

## Hamiltonban opts not to donate to Land Conservancy

The Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors unanimously denied a request for funds from the Land Conservancy of Adams County during its April meeting.

Sarah Kipp, Land Conservancy conservation director, asked the supervisors for \$75,000 to purchase conservation easements on two properties near Michaux State Forrest. The \$75,000 would match funds Kipp planned to seek from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Conservation easements permanently bar land owners from developing properties, Kipp said. Easements are perpetual, Kipp said, so new owners must abide by their restrictions.

Kipp told the supervisors she annually inspects all properties that have Land Conservancy easements to ensure they are in compliance. Since its founding in 1995, the Land Conservancy has worked with over 130 landowners to preserve over 13,000 acres of farmland, meadows, forests, streams, and historical spaces.

Hamiltonban Township Supervisor Chair Edward Deardorff doubted the properties in question would ever be developed since they are landlocked by Michaux. Supervisor Coleen Reamer noted the township protected the Glatfelter Tree Farm in the early 2000s but expressed disappointment when the township was not consulted about land swaps that

took place with DCNR. Kipp reiterated that easements are permanent.

Reamer also questioned whether the \$75,000 Kipp requested would benefit all taxpayers and noted the township has roads and bridges that need repair. Deardorff motioned to deny Kipp's request, which passed unanimously.

In other news...

The Hamiltonban Fairfield Community Park is almost complete and ready for a summer full of community-building activities.

The park, located at 4020 Bullfrog Road, is a three-acre, ADA-compliant gathering place funded by grants and donations. It includes a solar demonstration panel, pavilion with

picnic tables and benches, pollinator garden, half-mile walking path, five exercise stations, train engine play unit, swings, and natural play area with sandbox.

The park also features five interpretive panels that highlight the history and culture of the Fairfield area.

The park's parking lot will soon be paved, Reamer said. A large pergola has been ordered, Reamer said, and a rain garden will be renovated based on recommendations from Redding's Horticultural Services.

The park's Joint Park Recreation Committee kicked-off spring with Kite Day on April 22. Competitive Kite Flyer Joe Whitmore demonstrated his kite skills while residents

brought their own kites to fly.

Music in the park will be held on the third Sunday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. throughout the summer. Performers include:

June 18 - Mark England will play his unique style of guitar and perform songs from the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. Fairfield Area High School students Noah and Elijah Wylie will open for England.

July 16 - Acoustic duo Neil and Shannon.

Aug. 20 - Band Cumberland Shakedown, which features a standup bass.

The park will also host a Christmas Tree lighting ceremony during the holiday season, Reamer said.

## Liberty auditors ignore request to hike roadmaster's pay

The Liberty Township Board of Auditors continues to ignore a request from the Board of Supervisors' vice chair.

Supervisor Bobby Keilhotz began February's meeting by criticizing the auditors for giving the road crew a uniformed 10 percent raise without knowing how much each person made.

Roadmaster Walter "Mickey" Barlow's hourly wage is currently the same as that of his crew. The auditors set Barlow's pay since he is a supervisor.

They also said the pay rate for Keilhotz, who is the assistant roadmaster.

"It has been my experience, throughout my working career, that a foreman, supervisor, or superior is at a higher rate of pay than a regular employee," Keilhotz said.

Keilhotz said Barlow is required to hold many more certifications than others on the road crew.

During April's board meeting, Keilhotz noted two months has passed since his remarks and he has yet to receive a response from the board of auditors.

Board of Auditors Vice Chair Richard Swiat was in the audience

and told Keilhotz that only Chair Kathryn Bostek can call a meeting of the auditors.

"She obviously didn't need the feeling to revisit it," Swiat said.

Swiat asked if the auditors were legally allowed to change Barlow's salary after the annual meeting in January. Township Solicitor John Lisko said he was not sure but would research the question.

"I don't want us to make a decision and have it thrown back into our face by the government," Swiat said. Swiat told Keilhotz he would

remind Bostek of his request.

In other business, Barlow announced spring-cleaning is underway in Liberty Township.

Township Administrative Assistant Hannah enrolled the township in PennDOT's Pick-Up Pennsylvania Program. PennDOT gave the township gloves, safety vests, and trash bags to distribute to volunteers. The program began March 1 and ends May 31. Anyone needing supplies should visit the township office at 39 Topper Road.

Barlow expressed appreciation for

volunteers who have been participating and noted some of them have been out almost every day.

The township will host an electronic recycling event on May 13 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Park's Garbage Service who live in Carroll Valley and Fairfield boroughs, and Freedom, Hamiltonban, Highland, and Liberty townships can dispose of items such as computers, copiers, keyboards, printers, and routers for no charge. A complete list of accepted items is available on the township website, www.libertytpadamspa.gov.

## Vacation rentals dominate council conversation

Carroll Valley residents in certain areas can now more easily rent their homes to vacationers.

During its April meeting, the borough council unanimously approved vacation rentals a use by right in the agriculture, residential low density (R2), and residential medium density (R3) districts. Previously, homeowners were required to seek a special exemption from the borough's zoning hearing board.

Some residents in the residential (R1) district now want the same right. The Senseney family, 201 Country Club Trail, requested the borough council amend its zoning ordinance, which currently prohibits vacation rentals in that area.

"We feel this is unfair," Beth Senseney wrote to the council. "Carroll Valley has many attractions for vacationers and the closest properties to these attractions and the ones that are exempt from providing short term rentals - vacation rentals to Carroll Valley's visiting guests while other properties in the borough are allowed to do this."

Hazlett said the Senseney's are not alone in their quest.

"We continue to be inundated with the popularity of vacation rentals in Carroll Valley," Hazlett said.

Hazlett said some people run afoul of the law and operate vacation rentals in the R1 district.

"I know of one that is being run in that neighborhood," Hazlett said. "I told them point blank they were not allowed to do it."

Hazlett, who also serves as the borough zoning officer, said he plans to more stringently enforce the rules. Hazlett told the council they could change the law if they wished.

"Those are the more marketable places because people are coming here for ski chalets and woody things," Hazlett said. "I don't have an opinion on it one way or another but I stressed and I continue to stress that I do not think it is good to allow it everywhere."

Hazlett noted he is not concerned about full-time Carroll Valley residents renting their home as much as he is about corporations buying properties and renting them.

The borough council will ask the planning commission to review the rules and recommend a change if they deem appropriate.

On a similar topic, Hazlett suggested the council require owners of permitted vacation rentals to register their property with the borough. The permit should expire either annually or biannually, Hazlett said, to ensure the contact information is up-to-date. Enforcement of the permit requirement would not be cumbersome, Hazlett said.

"Unlike other things that are hard to find, like home-based businesses, these aren't hard to find," Hazlett said.

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# THURMONT NEWS

## Contract awarded for North Church St. work

At its April 18 meeting, the town Council approved the awarding of a \$4,396,897 contract to replace the water and sewer lines on North Church Street from the railroad bridge next to Mt. Carmel Church all the way up to Catoctin High School.

The project includes rerouting and replacement of the existing water and sewer lines, upgrading of the water system's connection to the pipe serving Emmitsburg Rd. residents, removal of a dysfunctional water pumping station, and replacing the existing terracotta sewer pipe with modern PVC piping. New water and sewer service lines will be installed to each property.

The current galvanized iron 8-inch water main was installed in the 1960,

according to Director of Public Works, Harold Lawson, and while still functional, is "reaching the end of its life expectancy. It makes sense to replace it while the road is open to replace the sewer lines. It's better to get it all done at once that have to come back a few years from town and tear the road up again." The galvanized iron pipes will be replaced by PVC pipes with a 75-year life expectancy.

The current 3/4 inch water connection to homes served by the North Church Street main will be replaced by 1-inch pipes, which will support the installation of sprinkler systems—a mandatory requirement for new homes.

The big driver for the work is the

decaying sewer line to reduce the influx of 'wild water' or ground water that has to then be treated at the wastewater treatment plant, an expensive proposition for the town. The area around North Church Street has a high water table thanks to its proximity to the Catoctin Mountains and accounts for a significant amount of the wild water that the town waste treatment plant has to treat.

Fighting wild water intrusion into the sewer system is "a long hard battle; it's an expensive battle," said Randy Eyer, Superintendent of the town's sewer system, "but every gallon we can prevent of wild water going into the waste water treatment plant helps—it's far cheaper to stop wild water get-

ting into the pipes than increase the capacity of the waste water treatment plant to treat it."

Installed in the 1960s, the sewer line is comprised of 3-foot long terracotta pipes that are connected together. Many of the individual sections have decayed to such a point that they are collapsing, allowing entrance of ground water. Ground water also enters the pipes at the connections of each pipe to the next pipe—connections that over time have become loose.

Under the project, all the terracotta pipes will be replaced with 21-foot long PVC pipes. The longer pipes, which have a life expectancy for 50 to 75 years, will eliminate six of the

entrance points for wild water, while simultaneously eliminating broken pipes themselves.

Of the total cost \$4,396,897, \$3,442,570 will be paid by the COVID American Rescue Plan Act; this leaves the town on the hook for \$954,317.

Town staff recommend, and the council agreed, to draw the money out of the town's General Fund. During public comment, former Mayor Marty Burns recommend that the town considered issuing a \$1 million bond to cover the project and use the money out of the General Fund to other road repairs that are around the town. As the money will not be spent for months, the council said they would take his advice under consideration.

## Project Open Space wish list drawn up

The Thurmont Town Council discussed potential Project Open Space (POS) projects to submit to Frederick County for the annual grant funding. The deadline for the application is May 5.

POS funds open space projects through grants that Frederick County receives from the State of Maryland. Frederick County splits the grant 50-50 with the municipalities. Half is kept for County projects and the other half shared amongst the municipalities for new equipment, to maintain parks or to buy new park land area.

The Parks Commission and Town Council agreed that the Hunting Creek Pedestrian Bridge and a new parking area at the Eyer Road Park are the top two priorities for this grant funding. The pedestrian bridge is estimated to cost about \$75,000 and was one of the projects that was trimmed last year. Mayor John Kinnaird said he would like to continue acquiring property on the south side of Hunting Creek, as "there are some chunks in there that we don't own."

The new parking area at Eyer Road Park is estimated to cost about \$250,000 to will add 89 parking

spaces southeast of Morningstar Family Church. According to CAO Jim Humerick, the parking area will be gravel except for the paved exit to Emmitsburg Road due to highway requirements.

The Commissioners discussed three additional projects for this year in order of priority: expanding the East End Dog Park, the Mountain Gate Trail and additional pickle ball courts.

The East End Dog Park expansion is estimated to cost about \$7,500 and is hoped to bring more room for the dogs at their nightly events. The new Mountain Gate Trail will

be aligned with the currently defunct Thurmont Blvd roadway project. It will connect the stub at Thurmont Blvd to the Library Loop Trail. Since this project would be in-house, the town would only need to pay for materials, bollards and benches. Its estimate is \$47,000. Commissioner Wes Hamrick brought up the idea for an Eagle Scout project to cut the cost of the projects, though Humerick said the cost is mostly due to supplies, not labor.

The town also hopes to add two standalone pickle ball courts in East End park. This project is estimated

to cost \$100,000 and includes a fenced black top area with the pickle ball lines and some seating.

Commissioner Bill Buehrer suggested placing the pickle ball court in the East End Park, which is adjacent to the senior center. "It's all senior-related," he said, also suggesting adding a bocce ball court for more entertainment. Humerick, however, expressed concern that they would be too far from the senior center to be beneficial to its population.

Kinnaird said, referring to all five projects, "we'll probably put them all on the list and then when we get to the discussion, we can whittle out what's not critical."

## Town steps up efforts to recruit and retain police officers

While by all marks, the Thurmont Police Department is one of the best in any municipality in Maryland, it faces the same dilemma police departments across the country face: recruiting and retaining top talent.

At their April 18 meeting, the Town Council gave Chief Greg Eyer a very 'big carrot'—an enhanced pension

program, that will, as Eyer said, "go a long, long way in helping Thurmont not only fill the open slots in its police ranks, but fill them with the very best."

The Thurmont Police Department is authorized for a staff of 14, but currently has only 11 officers on the payroll. Eyer said that unfortunately there is a 'churn' at the 'new higher level' that has cost the town close to \$100,000

during his tenure. The cost comes from not only the hiring process, but the initial training the town invests in each officer, which is all lost when newly qualified officers leave for better paying positions at other police departments.

While Thurmont has gone to great lengths over the last few years to match or exceed the pay officers could get at other departments, recruitment and retaining has been hurt by the current pension system under which its officers serve.

Currently, as Town of Thurmont employees, police officers are enrolled in the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System. Under this system, employees, including Thurmont's police officers, are not eligible to retire until they have put in 30 years. Even then, the benefits they receive pale

in comparison to what other police departments can offer.

To address this issue, the Town Council voted to transition the police department out of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System and into the Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System (LEOPS).

"LEOPS is a defined benefit plan geared specifically for police officers," said Mayor Kinnaird. "Under LEOPS, Thurmont's Police Officers will now not only be allowed to retire after 25 years of service, but will be able to retire with much better benefits.

"We value our officers," Kinnaird said, "and we will stop at nothing to make sure we have the best police department going. We've given them their own building, ensured they have new cars every two years, the best

equipment, but this is an investment in them directly that will pay off handsomely for the town."

Kinnaird recalled the names of all the police officers that have served the Town over his life—officers, he said, who served their entire career in Thurmont. The list of names drew head nods of recognition from the council members.

Looking to the back of the council room, where the members of the police department sat, Kinnaird said he hopes the pension improvements would entice officers to stay and join the ranks of those he and his fellow commissioners fondly remember. His plea was met by head nods and broad smiles from all the officers, officers who were clearly proud to wear the Thurmont Police uniform.

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## TANEYTOWN NEWS

## Proposed hardware store met with concerns

A concept presentation to the Town's Planning & Zoning Commission, for a 15,000 square foot hardware and lumber store on the east end of town, was met with stiff push-back at the packed meeting, from adjacent homeowners who had limited knowledge on the endeavor.

David Lapp, who resides between Taneytown and Emmitsburg, told the Board that he wanted to build a hardware store that people will remember. "Its not going to be your average hardware store," Lapp said, "I want to go above and beyond with the building and the customer experience. I want to make it a great place to shop."

"I want people to shop there because they want to, not because they have to. I want people to come because we will have the very best in hardware selection anywhere."

Lapp, who is Amish, said the store will be built and operated based upon Amish principles; e.g., the store will not be connected to the electric grid, instead it will be lighted by

LED lights powered by solar panels. Check out lines will not use modern computers connected to the internet, but instead will be manned by "friendly staff that will provided customer service second to none."

10,000 square feet of the building would be dedicated to selling hardware, and the remaining 5,000 square feet will house lumber. Lapp's vision of the design of the exterior and interior of the store is more reminiscent of a high-end ski lodge than your average, run-of-the-mill hardware store. "I want the neighbors to look out their winds and see a pleasing building. Not some monstrosity," Lapp stated.

The location selected by Lapp for the store, a 15-acre vacant lot just off of Atrium Drive, however, drew a host of objections from homeowners who would be impacted by the business.

Throughout the meeting, Town Manager Jim Wieprecht tried valiantly to allay the fears of the residents, telling them that all the Commission

and they were getting that evening was a concept proposal. "Nothing is cast in stone," he said. "There are many, many reviews to be done, and state and environmental permits that need to be issued before a single spade of dirt is turned over." But while Wieprecht's words soothed some, many still felt the need to express simmering concerns.

Rhonda Burdou was concerned about the storm water runoff from the proposed property. She told the Board that her property is currently experiencing flooding and fears that it will only get worse.

Wieprecht tried to mitigate her concerns by pointing out that under current environmental rules, there can't be any more water runoff in the post development than pre-development. In addition, Wieprecht said, "under the current state requirements, the amount of water runoff can't be any more than the runoff from a forest in good condition. So the water quality may actually be better than it

is currently." He also added that this will limit the amount of rooftop (size) and pavement the business can have.

And while most customers will access the store via Antrim Blvd., several residents expressed concern with the increased flow of traffic that will result on Carnival Dr. from customers going to the store via a new connector road off Carnival Drive.

"Carnival Drive is a residential road, our kids play on it," said one mother. "If you allow this business to locate there, a kid is going to get killed." Another resident pointed out that Carnival Drive was not built to handle 18-wheel trucks that would use the connector road to access the back loading docks, and that Carnival Drive would quickly deteriorate under their wear and tear. "I didn't buy my house to sit on the front porch to watch heavy trucks pass by ... we are going to have problems."

Lapp said he agreed with the residents on issues that could come from traffic on a connector road between

Carnival Drive and Antrim Blvd. He also said he will be more than happy to work with them to see if the town felt the road was really necessary, and if not, not to build it, and have all traffic enter and leave the store via Antrim Blvd.

But the vast majority of those who spoke out against the proposed hardware store expressed frustration that they had purchased their homes adjacent to a track of land that they were told would never be developed, as it not only had a forest preservation easement on it, but was also considered a swamp, and now felt duped. "Now you're going to put a building there that will cause nothing but issues with the neighbors," said one frustrated resident.

Residents requested that the Town alert them, in advance, on every, and any meeting on the project so they can ensure they are present. Town staff said that a sign will be posted on the property 14 days before any meeting, but that if anyone would also like to be called, or e-mailed, the staff was more than willing to oblige.

## City seeks to avert stormwater violation fines

As a result of wastewater management plant violations of Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) requirements, the city was notified in at Fall by the MDE that fines would be imposed.

The City responded to the notification by advising the MDE of the various projects in place to work towards compliance, mostly the cities I&I reduction projects that are now being constructed. (I&I, or Inflow and infiltration, is when groundwater and stormwater enter a sewer system, which can lead to damage of the system.)

City Manager Jim Weiprecht said the staff was "hoping by demonstrating the City's progress and giving the MDE an updated version of their compliance plan, they would see the City's progress and the MDE would not levy any penalties." However, Weiprecht told the Council, that the MDE responded with a "thank you for the information, but they still felt it was a situation they could apply a bunch of fines to, but they are still willing to settle for \$75,000."

Attorney for the City Jay Gullo said, "When the City Manager

talks about a settlement, he is referring to a settlement of a lawsuit. Because if we wouldn't settle the MDE would file suit against the City and seek penalties and injunctions and things like that. That is what we are trying to avoid."

Mayor Wantz and Councilman Haines, both agreed that the MDE response was disappointing, as Wantz said, "when the Department of the Environment's goal is to improve environmental quality and environmental protections, that an arbitrary fine instead of

allowing the city to reinvest that money (into waste management improvements) seemed counter-intuitive."

The Mayor said the City would keep working with the MDE to find a way to wave the fines, and said he was reaching out to Senator Reedy to get his assistance with working with MDE on this.

Gullo said he couldn't stress enough how important what the Mayor was trying to do with the Senator. "Other client towns have similar issues, and they are hardly

ever resolved in court, but remediated by an elected official that has a good relationship with the Mayor and Council of the town," Gullo explained. "The Senator isn't going to wave a wand to make things happen, but he is the guy who is going to open the doors to make this happen."

At the March 13th meeting the Mayor announced that Senator Reedy had sent a letter to the MDE requesting that they postpone any decision on the fines. The Council supported Weiprecht drafting a letter requesting a similar postponement.

## Memorial Park expansion set to begin

The long-awaited expansion of Taneytown's Memorial Park is set to begin this summer, and town staff hopes to have it completed by the end of 2024.

The park consists of 40-acres, with open green space, athletic fields, tennis courts, a fishing pond, 2 playgrounds and pavilions.

The land for the 'expansion', which will add 21.43 acres to the south of the current park, was purchased by the town in 1999 and was originally scheduled to be added to the park back in 2009 but was put on hold due to the need for the city to focus its financial resources on completing important water and sewer projects.

As a result of discussions about field requirements between the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Taneytown Athletic Association in 2023, the long overdue 'expansion' was approved in the City's 2022-2028 Capital Improvement budget.

While still in the planning stages, the 'expansion' is centered around four new multipurpose fields intended for soccer, field hockey and lacrosse. While artificial turf was initially considered for the fields, the plan now calls for natural Bermuda grass as the most finan-

cially responsible and safer option.

Artificial turf requires \$7-20k of care per year, per field. It also requires a sub base and other materials that contain PFAs, which are carcinogenic chemicals that are known to leach into the soil and spread throughout the soil and groundwater. Artificial turf also needs to be replaced every 8-10 years and costs 800k per field to install, thus totaling 3.2 million.

Although natural grass requires mowing and must be rested when wet out, Park staff felt it a much safer and cheaper option than artificial turf. In terms of maintenance for the natural fields, discussions are planned with each association to determine who will be doing the mowing and line striping as required per sport.

Also included in the 'expansion' are two new parking lots, one long lot with 156 spaces and a smaller lot with 130, for a total of 286 new parking spaces. LED lighting is planned for both the fields and parking lots. Netting is also planned between the fields and the parking spaces just in case a stray ball gets sent the wrong direction to protect parked cars.

There will be a new multipurpose building in the center of 'expansion.' The 5,000 sq. ft. "fancy pole barn" will be divided into three spaces. One will be for storage of equipment, one as a kitchen/concession space, and one for indoor sports practices and community meetings.

The space intended for indoor practices will be 2,300 square feet

and have a minimum of 12' ceilings. There will also be one indoor bathroom for Athletic Association use only. Porta-Johns are planned for the general public.

Other items in the books include bleachers for the fields, a tot lot, and a pedestrian walking path around the 'expansion's' perimeter with solar

lighting. A second entrance to the full park is also planned from RT 194 just south of the new Evapco manufacturing facility on the west side of RT 194.

To control speeding in the park, the plans call for speed tables, which are asphalt or rubber mounds that go the full width of the road. Basically, they are speed bumps that have a flat top so they don't disrupt traffic too much, but effectively slow vehicles down.

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## GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

### Congressman David Trone

You've probably heard me mention how lessons I learned in business guide my work in the public sector: focus on the long term, not just the next election; innovate and be open to new ideas; and use failure to inspire rather than to retreat. These lessons are the reasons I've found success in Congress, passing dozens of pieces of legislation that are making a difference in Maryland and across the country.

But the most important lesson I've learned in business that guides my work is that the customer comes first. As a member of Congress, the proper term is constituent, but the sentiment remains the same. My number one priority is serving you.

Unfortunately, constituent service isn't a priority for every elected official. Too often, the officials who are most vocal on television and social

media have overflowing voicemail boxes, don't respond to requests for assistance, and generally ignore the needs of those they were elected to serve. I came to Congress committed to doing better.

My philosophy is simple: answer every constituent message, whether it's a concern about legislation or a request for help. Answer it promptly. And do everything in my power to address their concerns. While the philosophy is simple, it takes a lot of planning and effort. But it couldn't be more important.

In an effort to fulfill my commitment to you, I was the first Representative in this district's history to open four constituent service offices — including one in Frederick. While the location of our offices has changed somewhat because the district has changed, my commitment hasn't. I'm

incredibly proud that at the beginning of this term, I moved my constituent service headquarters to the Golden Mile in Frederick.

These offices are staffed with people who truly care about helping those in need. The vast majority of the people who work in our offices are local, giving them special appreciation for the issues facing our communities. Many of them have experienced the same challenges themselves. They are experts in addressing these needs, and the needs can be quite varied — renew a passport on short notice, help a veteran obtain the benefits they are due, untangle a mess with the Social Security Administration, sort out unemployment claims — plus much, much more.

Each year, we answer thousands of requests for help, tens of thousands of comments and concerns, and

work with federal agencies to address the problems that you face. Last year alone, my team answered 31,263 calls, emails, and letters. Every one of them was answered within 72 hours. 1,520 of those were issues with state unemployment benefits. While issues with state government typically aren't addressed by Members of Congress, my team and I recognized the urgent need for help in the wake of the pandemic, so we worked hard to help everyone who was struggling to get the benefits they earned. In total, we delivered millions of dollars in unemployment benefits to Marylanders at a time when they were desperately needed.

But the impact of this work is so much greater than just dollars and cents. It's in the stories that we hear from those we've helped along the way. When David and Tex Mordkofsky finally got approval to adopt their daughter Sophia from the Phil-

ippines last year, they were told they would have to wait up to a year to get visas that would allow her to come home because of bureaucratic delays. When we found out about the problem, we were able to secure a visa for them right away. Back in November, my wife met the family at the polls. Sophia is happy as can be, and she sent me a congratulations video after I won the election. These stories fuel our mission to continue helping those who need it.

If you have any issues with a federal agency, concerns about a piece of legislation, or questions about benefits owed to you, please reach out to my team and me. Serving you and addressing these issues is incredibly important to us, and we are more than happy to help. You can reach us by calling 301-926-0300, visiting [trone.house.gov/services](http://trone.house.gov/services), or stopping by our office at 30 W. Patrick St., Suite 505.

### Thurmont Mayor John Kinnard

May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month and I want to help make you more aware of this common health issue. There are several different types of skin cancer, including melanoma, basal cell skin cancer, and squamous cell skin cancer.

Nonmelanoma skin cancer is a very common cancer in the United States, with more than 5 million people diagnosed each year. Basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma, which are nonmelanoma skin cancers, are the most common types

of skin cancer. Nonmelanoma skin cancers rarely spread to other parts of the body. Melanoma is an aggressive form of skin cancer.

It is more likely to invade nearby tissues and spread to other parts of the body than the more common forms of skin cancer. Melanoma is more common in men than women and among individuals of fair complexion. Unusual moles, exposure to natural sunlight or artificial sunlight (such as from tanning beds) over long periods of time, and health history can affect

the risk of melanoma.

Many skin cancers can be prevented by using sunscreen, wearing large brimmed hats, long sleeves, long pants, and by minimizing your direct exposure to sunlight. Be sure to keep these recommendations in mind for yourself and your family, especially your children. Sunburn can be the beginning of skin cancer that will not appear for many years.

Early detection is important for skin cancer and these are the things everyone should be on the lookout

for: A new, expanding, or changing growth, spot, or bump on the skin; A sore that bleeds and/or doesn't heal after several weeks; A rough or scaly red patch, which might crust or bleed; A wart-like growth or a mole (or other spot on the skin) that's new or changing in size, shape, or color. If you see any of these please see a dermatologist and have it addressed!

My experience with skin cancer began about 35 years ago when I had a ½" diameter piece removed from my upper back. I went to Dr. Warner who told me it probably started when I got burned as a youngster. He often told me cancer can take years to mature and that I would probably have a continuing relationship with cancer. He was right, after seeing him for about twenty years he ended up recommending that I visit the cancer center at Johns Hopkins and I have been going there ever since.

Over the years I have had several surgeries on my nose including two skin grafts, two surgeries that required my nose to be cut wide open, and countless sessions with topical chemo treatments. All the skin from the inside of my left ear was removed a few years ago and I still have issues with it. I have had at least eight surgeries on my cheeks and forehead including one in mid April and another scheduled for mid May. These have ranged in size from one to two inches in diameter.

My scalp has been the worst area for me, having at least a dozen surger-

ies. Many of those have been one inch in diameter but two of them were 3" across and went all the way to my skull. Those required me to change the dressing regularly and apply salve to the skin and bone. The first one was surgically closed after two months and my lymph nodes were removed when it was closed. I then had 28 radiation therapy sessions to kill cancer in my nerves the doctor could not remove. Since the radiation I experience constant pain in the front part of my head. The surgery last June took 9 months to close up by granulation, meaning 9 months of almost daily bandage changes and wound care.

This April I had another surgery on my left cheek and my lower left back, and I have more scheduled in May. I also have a shelf full of costly cancer drugs and creams I use every day to try to slow the progress of my cancers.

I used to tell people that I had 'pretend' cancer that could be treated and removed easily. After all these years it has occurred to me that my cancer is far from pretend, it is with me every day and causes a lot of physical and emotional pain. This is the result of not wearing sunscreen or hats for my entire outdoor working career. Please do not make the same mistakes I did. Always use sunscreen and wear protective clothing, it can make a big difference in your health for years to come.

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

## HELP STOP MEDICINE MISUSE IN FREDERICK COUNTY



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<b>Emmitsburg Community Center</b> 300 South Seton Avenue Monday–Friday, 8AM–4:30PM	<b>Frederick County Law Enforcement Center</b> 110 Airport Drive East 24 hours a day	<b>Frederick Police Department</b> 100 West Patrick Street 24 hours a day

**Acceptable Items:** prescription & over-the-counter medications (in pill form only), prescription patches (fentanyl & nicotine replacement), medication for pets (in pill form only)  
**Unacceptable Items:** needles/sharps, inhalers, thermometers, aerosol cans, ointments, liquids, lotions, hydrogen peroxide, medicine from businesses or clinics

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# GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

## County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

The single most important responsibility I have as your County Executive is to prepare the county's budget. I am proud to have submitted a budget that puts people first and moves Frederick County forward. After hearing from over 1,500 people from across the county, I shaped a plan that invests in our greatest asset—our people.

This proposal is fiscally responsible. It ensures healthy reserve funds, meets our long-term pension obligations, and makes tactical investments to protect our coveted AAA bond ratings, which save taxpayer dollars as we invest in essential services and capital projects. Most importantly, it lays a foundation for all of our residents to thrive.

One of the initiatives I'm most proud of in the budget is reducing the income tax burden for the most vulnerable in our community to the lowest rate allowed by law. Frederick will be the first county in Maryland to set the rate this low. The property tax rate remains unchanged. The budget invests in:

### Our Students

Making a record investment in Frederick County Public Schools.

— The \$405 million allocation is \$35 million more than required, but less than what was requested by the Board of Education.

Constructing new school projects to address enrollment growth and aging facilities.

### Our Workforce

Conducting a disparity study of Frederick County Government contracting—Results will help to shape the County's first Minority Business Enterprise program. Small businesses will be aided by new Ombudsman and Small Business Navigator positions.

### Our Growing Community

Focusing on housing needs—To help current residents stay in their homes and new residents afford to live here, the budget increases the Housing Initiative Fund, includes a housing needs assessment, and elevates the Housing Department to a Housing Division.

Connecting people through bikeways and trails—The budget makes a record investment of more than \$4.5 million in Frederick County's bikeways and trails system.

Investing in senior centers—A new and improved Brunswick Senior Center, a brand-new facil-

ity in east county, and renovations to the Frederick Senior Center are included early in the six-year Capital Improvement Program.

Building resilience and responding to climate change—The budget prioritizes the critical work needed to address climate change. It begins implementation of the County's Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan and the Climate and Energy Action Plan.

### Our Public Servants

Attracting and maintaining the best employees—A 5% cost-of-living adjustment for non-union employees helps Frederick County Government to be an attractive employer. The budget also honors the contracts with public safety unions.

Recognizing 911 emergency communications specialists—To support these front-line emergency responders, the proposed budget provides additional staff and supports the operations of a new state-of-the-art Next Gen 911 Center, funded through an increase to the 911 fee on cell phone bills. The budget also reflects key changes in classifications, shift differentials, and salaries for these workers.

I want to try to clear up some

confusion about the tax proposal. Here is what we expect the impact to be on Frederick County taxpayers, based on 2021 tax filings:

Most people will see no change in their tax rate. This is true for over 42,000 households that file joint returns and more than 27,600 "single status" tax filers.

The tax rate will drop for more than 9,000 joint and 25,500 single taxpayers. People who make \$25,000 a year or less will see their rate decrease from 2.75% to 2.25%.

Only the top earners—joint filers who earn over \$200,000 a year (approximately 9,750), and "single status" filers who net over \$100,000 (about 5,000)—will see their rate increase to 3.20%. This brings Frederick County in line with many other jurisdictions in the state. Two-thirds of all Marylanders are taxed at this rate.

Taxpayers who file "single status" returns include people who are single, married filing separate returns, and dependents. "Joint status" filers includes married couples who file returns jointly, heads of households, and qualified widows.

It's important to point out that changes still could be made to the proposed budget. County Council members will hold workshops on the budget May 3-5. The Council

has until the end of the month to adopt a final budget.

One important program funded through this budget is Frederick County's longstanding Community Partnership Grants. We see big community impacts from an investment of a relatively small amount of money, leveraging the incredible experience, expertise, and relationships our nonprofits have built in our community. This year, 39 local nonprofit organizations will receive grants totaling \$1.3 million. Grants will provide food to children; emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence; respite service for caretakers; home repairs for seniors with low income; job skills and education for youth without stable housing; and 2-1-1 crisis services for residents facing addiction, among many other services.

These nonprofits include familiar community partners: Mission of Mercy, The Seton Center, The Arc, Frederick Health Hospice, YMCA's afterschool program, Way Station, to name just a few.

We are blessed to live in a community with so many amazing organizations devoted to helping people reach their full potential. They are making life better and making it possible for everyone in our community to thrive.

## County Councilwoman-At-Large Renee Knapp

Last month on April 1st, I was happy to take two bus rides to areas in Frederick County that will now have expanded Saturday shuttle service. Residents living in Thurmont, Emmitsburg, Jefferson, and Brunswick can now access round-trip shuttle buses that depart from the Transit Center in downtown Frederick. In the morning, I joined Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird and Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs for one of the first trips on the Thurmont/Emmitsburg route. There were already some passengers using the new service that morning and we enjoyed hearing about how the expanded service will impact their lives.

Frederick County is the largest county in Maryland by area and it's difficult to get around the county without a car. This expansion will create opportunities for senior residents and those with disabilities to have more independence to attend appointments, shop for necessities, and take part in recreational activities. With a new stop at Mount Saint Mary's University, Mount students will be able to travel into The City of Frederick for the day to dine in a great restaurant or just take a walk along the Carroll Creek promenade. Frederick residents will be able to travel to Colorfest in Thurmont in the fall and not have to worry about parking.

In the afternoon, I rode the Brunswick/Jefferson route that also originates at the Transit Center. I got to talk with some regular

passengers who were excited about the Saturday service, and a couple of new riders. I learned a couple of important things to share while talking with Transit staff throughout the day. First, did you know that you can hail a Transit bus to stop and pick you up, if the trip is within the historic district in downtown Frederick? You don't have to be at a bus stop. Also, anyone can request to use the accessibility lift service to get on the bus. You don't have to pre-arrange anything and you don't have to prove a disability.

The staff at Transit Services continues to expand and elevate the public transportation experience in Frederick County. And it's still fare free to ride for 2023 and 2024!

### Sustainability

As the County Council liaison to the Sustainability Commission, I

joined the Commission on April 19th to honor recipients during their 2023 Sustainability Awards program. We were proud to recognize students from Middletown, Oakdale, and Urbana for their work to keep school cafeteria waste out of the county landfill. Students who participate in a Lunch out of Landfills program at their school recruit other students who are interested in sustainability to mentor and together they set up sorting stations in the school cafeteria to separate discarded items into categories that include: food that is wrapped and unopened, a bucket for liquids, a bucket for organic matter that can be composted, recyclable materials, and trash.

These efforts divert a large volume of waste away from the landfill. Additionally, students learn to work together and to incorporate sustainable practices into

their everyday routines. The honorees were also recognized for their advocacy for state funding from Annapolis so the program can be expanded.

### Budget Hearings

The County Council received the proposed 2024 Operating and Capital Improvement Budgets from County Executive Jessica Fitzwater on April 14th, and the Council held a public hearing on the budget on April 25th.

After the hearing, we will have Budget Workshops on May 3rd, May 4th, and May

5th. The workshops are from 9:00am-4:00pm at Winchester Hall and they will be open to the public. If you have any questions about the proposed 2024 budget, or would still like to offer public comment, you can email me at [rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov). You can also reach the entire County Council by sending your email to [councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov).

Hopefully by the time you are reading this, Frederick County will have received some much needed rain to help local farmers with the start of the growing season.

Have a safe and meaningful Memorial Day!



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*Certified Public Accountant*



*Happy Mother's Day to all!*

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## FROM THE DESK OF...

# Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

Remember to exercise your right to vote on Primary Election – May 16th. The last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot is May 9th. On May 16th, voting starts at 7 a.m. and ends at 8 p.m. at the Borough Office. For more voter information call 717-337-9832.

The Adams County Chiefs of Police Association will host the Adams County Fallen Officers Memorial Service on Friday, May 19th, at 10 a.m. at the Adams County 9-1-1 Center. Armed Forces Day, May 20th, honors all people currently serving in the U.S. armed forces. Memorial Day, May 29th, is a day set aside to remember those who have died in military service for our freedom.

On April 8th approximately 500 children succeeded in hunting for and picking up 5,000 eggs in less than 5 minutes – the speed record continues! The Easter Egg Hunt was very suc-

cessful. To see pictures, go to the Borough website; for the mayor's images, go to [ronspictures.net](http://ronspictures.net). Thanks to the CVB Parks and Recreation Committee, Borough staff, maintenance crew, Fairfield High School Baseball Team, and their coach Dave Hazlett, Easter Bunny photographers Jim & Jeni Jarrell, and special helpers Pat Feeser, Jayden Bell, and Josh Hazlett.

On April 22nd, our Carroll Valley Police Department, under the leadership of Chief Cliff Weikert, partnered with the Liberty Township Police Department and Collaborating For Youth organization to collect approximately 223.2 lbs of medicine during the "Medicine Take-Back" program. Thanks to everyone involved, especially those who brought in their expired medication.

The community is invited to the 2nd Annual Fairfield Area Middle and High School Art Exhibition

hosted by the Carroll Valley Borough. Approximately 200 pieces of artwork will be displayed on the walls and hallways of the Borough office. On Friday, April 28th, a reception was held to meet these young artists.

Freedom Township will host Device Recycling on Saturday, May 13th at 2184 Pumping Station Road. This event is open to Park's Garbage Services customers living in Carroll Valley, Fairfield Boroughs and Freedom, Hamiltonban, Highland, and Liberty Townships. No appointment is required. Electronics recycling includes cell phones, computers, copiers, gaming equipment units, monitors, printers, routers, scanners, stereo equipment, telephones, and televisions (removed from cabinetry). If you have any questions, call 717-642-8269.

This year Bullet Proof Roofing is sponsoring the Movie in the Park

series. The first Movie in the Park will be held on May 19th. Be sure to come a little early to get a good spot for your blanket, and also be sure to buckle in your children and yourself to watch "Top Gun: Maverick" under the stars. The Movie runs for approximately 2 hours.

The AG Explorer Youth Day Summer Camp is open to Adams County residents. This week-long day camp, sponsored by Penn State Extension from June 19-23, is full of fun-filled agricultural activities and field trips related to "Agriculture Over The Centuries." The kids will be able to plant, craft, and taste things kids would have in earlier times. The week will include local field trips and conclude with a trip to Port Discovery in Baltimore. The camp runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Call 717-334-6271 or email [adamsex@psu.edu](mailto:adamsex@psu.edu) to register. The cost is \$170, due upon registration, and the deadline is May 31st. The educational experience sounds great!

The Adams County Farmers Market launched their 2023 Farmers Market season on April 29th. The Market is now located at 545 Long Lane and has many attractive features that market customers will find appealing, such as an abundance of free parking, shady areas to sit, newly refinished restrooms, a fitness trail, a dog park, and playground equipment for children. To learn more about the Adams County Farmers Market, visit [www.acfarmersmarkets.org](http://www.acfarmersmarkets.org).

The May Borough meetings are Planning Commission, May 1st; Borough Council, May 9th; Public Sewer Advisory Committee, May 22nd; and Parks & Recreation Committee, May 25th. All meetings start at 7 pm. The Borough Office will be closed on Tuesday, May 16th – Election Day and May 29th – Memorial Day.

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

# Liberty Supervisor Walter Barlow

Happy May! The 2022 audit was completed in March and the report is now available on our website. The audit process went very smoothly, and we want to thank SEK, CPAs & Advisors for their diligence and timely completion. With winter behind us, maintenance on our roadways has begun. We are currently advertising for proposed roadwork for a bid opening in June. Contractors interested in bidding on these projects can contact the municipal office for a bid package.

Don't forget to bring your outdated electronics to our electronics recycle event on May 13th from 8-11 a.m. at the Liberty Township Office at 39

Topper Road. If you are unable to attend this event, another electronics recycle event is planned for October. All Southwest Group Parks Garbage customers are welcome to participate. Please see the flyer on our website for a list of items that will be accepted. There are plenty of supplies left for the Pick-Up PA event. Please call the Township Office to coordinate pickup of free trash bags, safety vests, and work gloves. Many of you are already performing spring cleanup of trash along the roadways near your homes, let us provide supplies to help you with those efforts. Filled bags can be placed in the township dumpster.

It looks like another busy year for the Zoning Hearing Board. There have been several inquiries for applications, and one has already been submitted. A Zoning Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24 at 5:30 p.m. to review an application for a variance. Liberty Township residents interested in historic preservation should join us on June 20th at 7:30 p.m. at the Liberty Township Building. The Planning Commission is hosting guest speakers from the Adams County Office of Planning and Development in and effort to gather feedback regarding historic preservation activities, regulations, and initiatives that the public would be

interested in seeing implemented over time. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings and events.

The municipal primaries are approaching, and I am running for re-election. My continuous goals are: striving to meet the needs of current and future residents; sustaining joint municipal agreements to build and maintain relationships with neighboring municipalities; working with Adams County to create more resources to offset costs in the growing economy; working with Adams County Office for Aging to implement and sustain efficient services for the elderly in our Township; Remaining vigilant about new laws that will affect

Liberty Township residents; and encouraging continuing education of all Township employees to stay on top of cutting-edge tools and techniques so we can better serve our residents.

I always encourage residents to come to the Township meetings the first Tuesday of each month to voice their feedback and concerns. I listen to new ideas and try to implement those for the best interests of all. The deadline for absentee or mail-in ballot applications is May 9th, and the primary election is on May 16th. Thanks to everyone for the opportunity to serve here for the last 6 years. Hopefully with your support, you will re-elect me for another term.

# Liberty Supervisor Candidate Johnny Gereny

My name is Johnny Gereny and I decided to run for the position of Liberty Township Supervisor in the upcoming May election. My life has been dedicated to public service & I believe I can help improve the community we live in.

My public service started in the Baltimore City Fire Department as a Firefighter in 1987. I served for over 30 years and retired in 2017 as a Battalion Chief. I learned many things in the department from how to interact with the public and how to make decisions

under pressure.

I know that in order to be a good supervisor or leader you must possess two important qualities which are; you must know how to solve problems and you must know how to deal with people. And of the two the most important is how to deal with people.

One of the biggest areas of concern that I have noticed over the years in government & the workings in local municipalities is the public officials in general forget that they are supposed to serve the public and a majority seem to think the public serves them. This is one of the many reasons our country is failing today.

I decided to run for this position for many reasons, but the first reason was the concern for my family, kids & grandkids that must grow up in the failures of Local, State & Federal Government. I want to do my part and be involved in decisions that affect us at the local level for the betterment of our community.

My understanding of how a local municipality is to function comes from taking a job as a Building Code Official and Zoning Officer. I currently serve in the Borough of Littlestown in this capacity. I serve on the Boroughs Planning Commission where I represent the Boroughs Zoning Ordinance

and work with the Solicitor and Engineer to address various issues.

I seek to work on behalf of the residents of Liberty Township and not the other way around. Each municipality's function is guided by Pennsylvania's Municipal Planning Code (MCP), and I would hope all that served are familiar with this code. The MPC is the state mandated guidelines for how each municipality is to function.

One of my goals is to improve the residence experience when dealing with the Township. As a public servant in a municipality, you have to ask yourself when the public comes to you with a question, problem, permit or any process outlined in the Ordinance, are we here to find areas of the ordinance to not help the public or are we here to find ways to help navigate the best possible outcome. Sometimes just plain "Common Sense" should prevail.

I believe it would be beneficial as a Township Supervisor to identify the top five most problematic areas in the Township and address them in order of importance and seek input from the community to help solve these problems.

I don't claim to have all the answers but with good counsel & input we can find the best possible outcomes in most situations.

I appreciate you considering myself when voting in the primary on Tuesday, May 16th,



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# GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

## County Commissioner Jim Martin

Adams County has no lack of administrative and business-related matters. All of our activity brings to mind an axiom from a sage administrator, “It’s not what you “expect”, but what you “inspect” that gets done”. Putting that principle into practice brought the commissioners together with our PNC debt council. PNC is the professional administrator of our major bond debt. A review of our debt load and repayment structure, indicated that in the near term our debt payments will begin to have a decreasing schedule. This is definitely the direction we want it to go.

Our meeting of the debt council further confirmed that the commissioners made a wise decision several years ago to consolidate a higher interest rate bond with other debt through refinancing. The refinanced rate was well below the inflated rates that are currently available. We have no intention of doing any business at current rates. However, we are taking advantage of much higher interest rates for investing reserve funds and available cash. This has produced welcomed higher revenues that were not anticipated when the 2023 budget was adopted in December. Through our County Treasurer’s watchful eye, we were able to capture what the commissioners consider great interest rates and terms to meet the county’s financial demands.

Through the professional and experienced work of our Budget and Purchasing Office, the commissioners stay abreast monthly of how funds are moving in and out of the county. Through this office’s research of past spending and current trends, we are able to get projections that provide guidance for managing business activity months ahead. This allows for more prudent action should unexpected events occur.

As many are aware Adams County has a very limited tax base from which to generate tax revenues and it is the commissioners’ goal to make the most of what is collected. In spite of limited revenues, the county’s Moody Bond rating has been on an upward trend since 2013. This is reflective of the county’s strengthening financial position. Despite our strong financial position, we have attained the highest

bond rating (Aa2) we are able. Moody and S&P cannot rate Adams County any higher than Aa2 until we develop a stronger economy through commercial and industrial growth.

Unfortunately, Adams County too often is regarded as a difficult environment for business growth and relocation of new businesses. To help counter this obstacle, the county supports the Adams County Economic Development Corporation in facilitating business growth and attracting new ventures. However, I do not support fracturing our economy through deliberate political action against businesses. The county has an activist group that seeks to damage businesses that do not support their political agenda. I consider this morally wrong, and it serves to create community discord. This activity will do nothing to strengthen our business environment and actually takes us in the opposite direction.

In spite of this unfortunate activity, I would like to draw your attention to a possible business idea and opportunity that could be fulfilled at

the Adams County Commerce Center. This park is a 305 acre campus, nestled in the intersection of Routes US 15 and US 30. Only two lots remain having a minimum lot size of four acres. Presently there is no storage warehouse on the campus for the storage of large items, short or long term; odd dimension construction pieces; emergency supplies; and winter storage of large items (i.e., motor homes and fifth wheel equipment). This is a mature campus with well paved streets with wide dimensions, a diversity of businesses, and major utilities available to all lots. As an added note, 40% of the US population is within one day’s drive of the location. Inquiries should be directed to Robin Fitzpatrick of the EDC, 717-334-0042.

Adams County is presently moving forward on several fronts. The Pennsylvania Dairymen Association, has selected Adams County for the site of their Agricultural Discovery Center. They are presently in the process of a feasibility study for the area selected. Also, the survey for the Adams/Franklin Broadband study is completed and being reviewed by our consultant,

Design Nine. This review will give an overview of the broadband capacity by regions of the county. Designers and engineers will then be able to develop a plan to provide more broadband service to Adams County. The cost of the system will also be analyzed as part of the initial review. Finally, the county is moving forward in acquiring a program provider for the Mercy House Recovery Center. The provider will be Managing Partner of Sober Living, LLC, known as Nicolas House. They presently operate multiple licensed recovery and counseling facilities. We are in the process of finalizing details with the Nicolas House team and the opening is anticipated for late May 2023.

Speaking about late May, on May 27 will be the Give It Up for Good fund raiser sale to benefit the programs of the United Way of Adams County. The sale will be held at Gettysburg College in the Hauser Field House. There will be plenty of good bargains with the Early Bird Sale from 7 to 8 a.m., giving shoppers first choice. To enter the Early Bird Sale requires a \$5 fee, a great opportunity for bargain

hunting. (No entry fee after 8 a.m.) As the end of the sale approaches a half price sales will begin.

And just around the corner for Adams County register voters is the primary municipal election. The last date to register or change your registration is May 1. Mail-in or civilian absentee ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on election day. Election Day is May 16; polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you are voting for the first time at a particular precinct, you must present an I.D. before receiving your ballot

As a reminder, since this is a primary, you will only receive a ballot of the party for which you are registered. Make sure as a Republican or Democrat you receive the correct party ballot. By the way, Pennsylvania does not have an Open Primary, so if you are registered Independent or Non-affiliated there will not be a voting ballot for you in this election. Please drive carefully when approaching polling places; there could be lines of voters near your path of travel. If you are a Franklin Township voter, your poll will be the Cashtown Fire Hall; precincts 1 and 2.

Have a wonderful spring.

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**RANDY PHIEL** **JIM MARTIN**

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## Vote Johnny Gereny for Liberty Township Supervisor

My goals, if elected are simple:

- Improve the residence experience when dealing with the Township.
- Identify the top five most problematic areas in the Township and address them in order of importance.
- Seek input from the community to help solve problems.
- Always ensure that ‘common sense’ prevails.

My life has been dedicated to public service and I believe I can improve the community we live in. If elected to the Liberty Township Board of Supervisors, I promise I will always work on behalf of the residents of Liberty Township and not the other way around.

# COMMENTARY

## Words From Winterbilt

### A tyrannical government

Shannon Bohrer

The last several years have been unusual and difficult, not just to understand but also to accept. Our politics have been divisive, which by itself should be expected, but the divisiveness exceeded anything that would resemble normal, at least from my expectancy of normal. Our political differences have always existed but the differences seemed to explode under the previous president. Many expected the differences and conflicts to subside after the last presidential election, but that did not happen. If anything, since the election in 2020, the conflicts and differences have continued and escalated in many ways.

Our differences are wider and more entrenched than most of us would have ever imagined. The divisiveness reflects continued beliefs in false narratives that are unexplainable. Normal differences in policy, rules, and proposed regulations are understandable. One's philosophy and political party affiliation have always been accepted as simply different opinions. However, when people disagree with science and known facts, as they have been for several years, that position is just unacceptable. How did we get here?

Early in the presidency of the "Very Stable Genius" we were given warnings that our common views and understandings were going to be ques-

tioned. "Alternative facts" and "truth is not always truth," were thought to be funny. After all, we were talking about our government. America has a history of criticizing our government, which is allowed because of the protections in the first amendment. In fact, criticizing and making fun of our government has always seemed to be a national pastime.

As President Teddy Roosevelt said, "When they call the roll in the Senate, the Senator do not know whether to answer 'Present' or 'Not Guilty.'" For many, too many, the jovial perceptions of the jokes have morphed into serious complaints, implying that our government is unjust and corrupt and should be eliminated or replaced. It was President Ronald Reagan that said, "Government is not a solution to our problem, government is the problem." Was that his belief or was he joking or maybe a little or both?

Our long history of citizens and political figures criticizing and making jokes about the Government seems to have transformed into a real hatred of the Government. This clearly happened over a long-time span but seemed to accelerate with the previous administration. We have a segment of our population that views the Government as the enemy and believes it should be dismantled. Far-right defenders of the second amendment have even made the argument that the second amendment

was created for the citizens to defend themselves against a tyrannical government. For discussion purposes, if that is true, who determines when a government is tyrannical?

Was the January 6<sup>th</sup> insurrection a failed attempt to overthrow a tyrannical government? That theme was prevalent during the insurrection. We saw many insurrectionists carrying Gadsden flags, a yellow-colored flag with a snake, and the words "Don't Tread on Me." The Gadsden flag was a symbol to the British during the American Revolution that Americans would not be denied their freedoms. The Gadsden flag is popular and is displayed in many homes. With a catchy phrase, like "Don't tread on me," they have an air of patriotism that sounds sensible. We, as citizens, have the right to question our government. However, attacking our government and assaulting police officers while trying to overthrow the Government is the opposite of being a patriot. In democracies, voting is how we change our government.

The principal reason for the insurrection was for the purpose of changing the outcome of the election. Our previous president asserted he won the election, which he did not, but many of the insurrectionists believed him. They believed him and also thought that the then vice-president could reject the Electoral College count. They believed that if the Electoral College counts were rejected, state legislators could reconvene and elect new repre-

sentatives. In essence, the state legislators would be overriding the votes that were cast by the citizens in their states. If state representatives rejected the votes of its citizens, would that not resemble a tyrannical government?

In normal or ordinary times, we would expect some differences in our politics that reflect the normal disputed social and spending issues in society. How much do we fund education, how much do we spend on national defense, and how will we ensure the continuation of Social Security and Medicare? What is the Government's role in ensuring citizens' safety? These and similar issues are normal and expected. However, the discord we are currently experiencing in our politics is a reflection of our country's deepening divisiveness surrounding other issues. Examples like book bannings, repudiation of science and scientists, rejection of vaccinations, even the opposition to even wearing a mask during a pandemic. If you don't believe in science, you may not think we had a pandemic, so you would think you don't need a mask. However, science is real.

Many that supported the insurrection and the former president often use the word "freedom" as a noun describing their cause. The word "freedom" is used in their talking points and in their speeches, and yet their actions often limit our freedoms. Banning books, restricting women's reproductive rights, prohibiting educational programs, and even requiring women to report their menstrual cycles is not

freedom. These actions are reflective of repressive governments and are expected with fascism, which is a tyrannical government.

Imposing one's will by banning books, eliminating educational programs, and limiting female reproductive issues is a reflection of control. When a group consistently touts the word "freedom" as a reason for protest and insurrection and simultaneously limits your freedoms, do they become the tyrannical Government they oppose? We do have a segment of one party that identifies themselves as the "Freedom Caucus," and they support book banning, limiting women's health issues, and even restrictive voting. That is not freedom, that is control.

Maybe their intent is not creating an oppressive or tyrannical government. Maybe the issue is control. Who is in charge? Telling us that "freedom" is their cause and then limiting or eliminating freedoms - is disingenuous. History tells us that dictators and fascist governments control the citizenry, limiting fundamental freedoms.

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

To read past editions of Words From Winterbilt, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

## Tumbleweeds

### Make nice and close the national debt divide

Mark Greathouse

A lot of money for the national debt. \$31,600,000,000,000! Dang, that's a lot of zeroes. It's our national debt. To get a visual handle on \$31.6 trillion, imagine 62 football fields stacked six feet high with hundred-dollar bills. Still having trouble grasping the number? Thirty-one trillion years ago, our solar system didn't exist.

Our national debt exceeds our gross domestic product (GDP) of \$26.3 trillion. The debt-to-GDP ratio stands at 120 percent. Oh, and unfunded liabilities of \$182.5 trillion exceed national assets of \$180.5 trillion. Gag!

Federal annual tax revenue is about \$4.6 trillion. Our government spends \$6.2 trillion. Is there a problem here? Now, you just might think that politicians of both parties could put their heads together cooperatively and start reducing the Federal debt. LOL. They really need to venture beyond smoke and mirrors accounting. I'm a writer, but I don't write fantasy.

To make matters potentially worse, rumors abound of shifting to a digital currency. It's bad enough we use "Federal Reserve Notes" backed by the good faith of our government rather than hard assets like "Silver Certificates" or even - gasp! - gold. The Fed? Secretively created in 1913 from a meeting at Jekyll Island, GA (creepy feelings of Jekyll and Hyde?)

by a bunch of bankers and politicians during Woodrow Wilson's presidency, we can arguably blame it as blessing and curse for its sway on our nation's fiscal policy. Doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure the next step from currency backed by thin air is to go digital. I referred to the Hamilton Project in my op-ed last month. The Boston Federal Reserve engaged MIT on a 2-year pilot study of a fully digital currency (CBDC). While some major banks may yet flirt with it, the Fed has nixed it for now. They reckoned that fears of lack of privacy, loss of the freedom associated with cash, lack of fungibility, and possible government intrusion into transactions would generate major pushback. Even the People's Bank of China has found that usage of the digital yuan has bordered on the totally inactive. If a communist dictatorship can't force feed digital currency, it's highly unlikely to take hold in a democratic republic. Even the venerable Bank of England is nearly ready to give up on its experiment with digital currency.

So, how bad can government-by-deficit get? Texas in 1836 had just gained independence from Mexico and taken on a massive debt of \$1.25 million (\$4.8 billion today) under the assurance by President Andrew Jackson that the Republic of Texas would quickly join the United States. By 1850, that debt had grown to \$12.4 million despite statehood in 1845. The Texas government couldn't rub two nickels together.

Texas suffered terribly. It took a dang-blasted U.S. war with Mexico (settled in 1848 with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo) and a bunch of financial wrangling of loans, bonds, treasury notes, land deals (Compromise of 1850), and more to pretty much hornswoggle and finagle Texas into a semblance of solvency. And then Texas was set back economically for another dozen years by the War Between the States and the rigors of reconstruction. It took hard choices to turn it into today's economic juggernaut of agriculture, oil and gas, and tech industry. My point? Short of the printing press, we have no big government to bailout the United States today. WWIII hardly seems an option, though WWII helped lift us from economic depression at a cost of many lives.

Can we expect a legislator gaggle comprised mostly of lawyers to fully grasp the potential disaster of continued deficit spending? How do we get them to overlook their partisan bickering and tackle perhaps the most important issue facing our nation today. You see, while money isn't inherently evil, the worship of it is. Most politicians of both political parties do worship at the altar of money. Solutions? First, elected officials must accept blame.

A quick look at the history of our spiraling debt is eye-opening. Back in 1982, our national debt stood at a mere \$1.1 trillion with a debt-to-GDP ratio of 34 percent. It quadrupled by 1992 while the ratio nearly doubled to 61 percent. This was getting ever uglier, as well-intended social program spending was on a budget-

ary rocket. By 2012, our national debt had reached \$16.1 trillion with a debt-to-GDP ratio of 99 percent! Today, it's 123 percent! Bailouts? Inflation? Recession? We seem to be trying to mimic the economic disasters of Lebanon, Venezuela, Myanmar, and the like

Whom does our government owe? Our biggest creditors (37.8 percent) are U.S. individuals and institutions holding U.S. bonds and notes. Social Security holds 13 percent, while the Federal Reserve holds another 12 percent of our debt. Communist China holds 5.7 percent, Japan 5.4 percent, and Belgium, Ireland, and Luxembourg hold 3.2 percent. Oh, and there's the printing press spewing inflationary currency.

The issue isn't about raising the debt ceiling! It's about America getting back to its roots as an exceptional nation of freedom and the opportunity for virtually anyone to succeed. We don't need a bunch of elected-for-life legislators and unelected bureaucrats playing games with our tax dollars while conjuring up wasteful adjuncts to programs of debatable value to the long-term welfare of our nation. Food stamps and welfare payments have ballooned way out of control, millions of COVID dollars are increasingly found to have been fraudulently applied, our underfunded military struggles to make force goals and maintain a strong defense posture, most of our education dollars line administration and union pockets rather than teachers on the front line, and government healthcare programs are a travesty of expensive influence peddling.

The solution isn't to raise taxes. We're already victims of the hidden tax called inflation. One answer to our nation's financial woes is trimming feel-good programs while offering tax incentives for business growth and curtailing agenda-driven regulations with little cost-benefit. Our Federal government has metastasized from 1.9 million employees in 1964 to 4.0 million today across fifteen agencies.

What can you do? Call, write, or email your legislators to demand reduced spending toward cutting our national indebtedness. It's a given that we dare not give Congress an effective blank check by raising the debt ceiling. It will only worsen our already critical fiscal situation. Tor-niquet, surgery, sutures, and healing are in order. We must close the national debt divide. It's time for legislators of both parties - sanctimonious Republicans and Democrats - to start replacing well-intended but ill-conceived political zealotry with the common sense to significantly trim our annual spending. It will not be easy, as our nation must overcome a gaping divide between reason and emotion. We had best heed Abraham Lincoln's words in 1862, "We shall nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope of earth." What political leaders will emerge who are capable of accomplishing such a prodigious task? Red pill or blue pill? Hope they wake up and take the red one. Just sayin'.

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

# The Bulwark

## Two big lessons of Dominion vs. Fox

Jonathan V. Last

We learned two lessons from the settlement of Dominion's suit against Fox. One about Fox and one about its audience.

What is the difference between "media" and "propaganda"?

There are a lot of ways you could make this distinction. One of them might be:

A media outlet is an organization whose biases are constrained—either well or poorly—by self-imposed codes of conduct. A propaganda outlet is an organization whose pursuit of an agenda is constrained only by the law.

Fox's statement yesterday made clear that it's a propaganda outlet. Here's the full text:

We are pleased to have reached a settlement of our dispute with Dominion Voting Systems. We acknowledge the Court's rulings finding certain claims about Dominion to be false. This settlement reflects FOX's continued commitment to the highest journalistic standards. We are hopeful that our decision to resolve this dispute with Dominion amicably, instead of the acrimony of a divisive trial, allows the country to move forward from these issues.

Fox makes no admission that anything it broadcast was untrue—either willfully or even accidentally.

Fox refuses to correct its public untruths.

And then Fox fully takes the piss by claiming that the settlement reflects its "continued commitment

to the highest journalistic standards." I've bolded "continued" and "highest" because these words are gratuitous except as middle fingers to the public.

It's Orwellian. Even in defeat—even when the law forces the company to spend three-quarters of a billion dollars—Fox goes out of its way to do propaganda.

The other big lesson is about Fox's audience.

I would not blame Fox watchers for feeling used and disrespected by Fox. It's clear that no one views Fox's audience with greater contempt than the people who work at Fox. They believe that the people who watch their channel are foolish, irrational, and infantile. They believe that these people cannot grasp reality and that if they were confronted with reality, they would react with anger and petulance.

The people who run Fox believe that the people who watch Fox are dim, emotional, and unpatriotic bigots who must be coddled like particularly malevolent children.

And here's the thing: Fox is right.

We know that they're right because Fox's audience hasn't abandoned it even as the texts and emails from discovery piled up. Even as the network was forced to cough up one of the largest settlements in media history.

A common explanation you hear about Fox's audience is that they can't possibly know better because they are trapped inside an echo chamber.

I reject this. Completely.

There is simply no way to move through the world as a functioning adult without having some sense as to what the biggest story in modern media history is about. Even if the

TV network you rely on for news doesn't cover it.

Big stories aren't siloed. They float around in the ether. They are part of our shared experience even if we don't want to know about them.

I find it impossible to believe that a majority of Fox viewers could reach April 19, 2023 without knowing that Fox was credibly accused of defaming Dominion Voting Systems; that there were a large number of internal communications in which Fox executives and stars admitted as much; and that Fox was forced to pay a large settlement to avoid a trial it was likely to lose.

The only way the median Fox viewer could avoid such information is if he or she made a conscious attempt to either (a) not learn about it, or (b) refuse to believe it.

In other words: Something like willful negligence.

There is a strange form of infantilization that happens solely around the subject of conservative politics.

In America we believe—rightly or wrongly—that nearly everyone has the cognitive ability to hold a job, drive a car, pay their rent, figure out healthcare, plan for retirement, raise a family.

Yet when it comes to politics, we suddenly reduce these grown-ass adults to the status of children.

Oh, Cletus couldn't possibly have known that COVID was deadly because he only listens to talk radio.

Don't blame poor Lurlene for not knowing that Fox was lying to viewers about 2020. She only watches Fox, so how could she have known?

This infantilization is a comforting explanation. It stipulates that, if you could just get the right information from the right messenger to Fox viewers, then they'd grasp reality.

And this view places a lot of faith in the art of persuasion because it sup-



poses that you can reach Fox viewers.

The alternative explanation is problematic because it assumes that Fox viewers believe only what they want to believe and that persuasion is impossible. That's the view Fox takes of its own audience. And just going by the ratings, it seems to be objectively correct.

### Unanswered Questions

There are a number of outstanding questions about what that \$787,500,000 settlement means.

Who's paying?

Does that money come from Fox itself? Or is it coming from the company's insurer? Media organizations carry libel insurance to regularize the costs of irregular legal claims. Libel insurance typically covers both legal costs and judgments. Does Fox's policy cover settlements? If so, what's the extent of the coverage? Will their insurer be on the hook for \$100 million? \$500 million?

When does payment take place?

Fox reportedly has \$4b in cash reserves. If they are required to pay out immediately, that makes a significant dent in their security and ability to weather the next round of defamation suits. But if payment takes place of a longer period of time,

they won't be under as much stress.

Is Fox insurable going forward?

The insurance and re-insurance industries are a mystery to me. But if I were an insurance carrier and I'd watched the Dominion discovery play out, there's no way in hell I'd write a libel policy for Fox. It would be the libel insurance equivalent of doing life insurance for a 400-pound, 80-year-old dude who smokes three packs a day.

I suppose there is theoretically some point at which the premium is so steep that you can write such a policy without too much exposure. But maybe not?

If you wanted to be as charitable as possible to Fox, you might say that the refusal to make corrections is a business decision. Because while paying \$787m hurts the company's immediate financial situation; admitting that it lied to viewers could put the company's future earning potential in jeopardy.

So I guess you could say that the refusal to admit fault was a business decision and not a political one? But I'm not buying it. The "continued" and "highest" give away the game.

To read past editions of *Bulwark*, visit the *Authors* section of *Walkersville.net*.

# Good Day, Neighbor

## The brain is invisible

Dorothea Mordan

The Miracle Worker tells the story of Anne Sullivan, a nineteenth century teacher who would not accept parents' lack of understanding the needs of their daughter, Helen Keller. Helen had been deaf, mute, and blind from infancy, was not fully able to communicate her needs, nor to understand how to interact with her family and the world around her. In 1887, when Helen was seven years old, Anne Sullivan, age 20, was hired as a live-in teacher to provide Helen with education and social skills. Anne was a recent graduate from the Perkins School for the Blind. No one expected progress, Helen's parents simply reached a point where they could not cope with her erratic behavior. Everyone was at a loss due to their limited ability to communicate social norms to Helen.

Anne created a routine of daily tasks for Helen, hoping to spark mutual understanding. Anyone who has seen the movie *The Miracle Worker* with Anne Bancroft as Anne Sullivan, and Patty Duke as Helen Keller, surely remembers the scene at the water pump. Anne is repeatedly using

American Sign Language to spell w-a-t-e-r into Helen's palm while pumping water from the family's well. Suddenly, Helen gets it! She fully understands the pump, the pump handle moving, and the water coming out to the spout. She fully understands that the sign language gestures Anne is showing to her are communications. Helen takes Anne's hand, and spells w-a-t-e-r back to her. Helen is instantly c-o-n-n-e-c-t-e-d to this person who simply seconds before was someone pushing her around and making her do stuff. From chaos and frustration comes a plan. With patience and perseverance comes success. From darkness, the light of understanding.

We find this barrier-crossing true story so compelling that we have told and retold it for over a century.

A lot of the stories from history that involve health care, or lack of care, are pretty dismal. They tend to be stories of the general public just throwing up their hands, not knowing what to do, and letting the state take over, or the church, or somebody to please take it off my hands. They are often about the devastating results for the patient. In fairness, caregiving is exhausting in the best of circumstances. When you have no possible path to communicat-

ing with a person who has a physical condition, developmental disability or a mental illness, going it alone is about as scary as life can be.

Consider the recent news story of John Fetterman. He, his family, and doctors have worked to find solutions to his own clinical depression. It is a contemporary tale of hope. It's a tale of how we can address our own issues, and really take care of them by stepping out of the zone of "keeping up appearances".

Any of us can face stress, developmental delays, or mental imbalance, in someone we know or ourselves. Some causes we don't commonly talk about are sneaky—frontal lobe underdevelopment, poor brain development because of lack of good nutrition, addiction from having one too many prescriptions of an opioid. In Helen Keller's case, she had scarlet fever as an infant which left her with no obvious way of communicating. Her behavior as she grew became erratic, and thus scary to her family. It is easier to look at behaviors as successes or failures and chalk them up to personal responsibility, rather than looking into a health issue. The brain is invisible. We think we know by a person's actions what they are thinking.

From January 1, 2023 to April 22, 2023 there have been 12,920 gun

related deaths in the US. Mental illness is a main topic after the fact for mass shootings, 169 in 112 days, and for suicide, 7,392 in 112 days.

Before the fact, every story has a root, an early warning point where some form of mental or physical health issue can be suspect.

Addressing our mental health and physical safety needs, basic steps include being open to improvements in our own education, communication between the mental health and law enforcement professionals, and communication between us (the public) and the professionals who commit to service for all. They deserve our input about how to address mental health conditions that impact all of us. County health and police departments with a good working relationship can better meet public needs before they become public crises. Early intervention is better for successful treatment, and for lessening the burden on law enforcement, whose members may not have the training and resources to deal with mental health crises.

We have a County Health Department. We need a County Police department. Five Maryland counties have larger populations than Frederick. Each of these has a county police department. Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery, and

Prince George's Counties each have a Chief of Police who is answerable to the County Executive. They are subject to hiring and firing policies, not an every four year election frenzy. In counties with a police department, the elected position of a Sheriff heads a separate department with a focused, limited set of duties.

To truly partner with health care providers and the police, we need to be able to ask for help in the first place. Social conditioning tells us that option #1 is always "go it alone, pick yourself up by your bootstraps, suck it up, take it like a man, boys will be boys". Each of these phrases are ways we say, "whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger." They also say "don't bother me with your problems."

We are supposed to debate about how to solve these bigger problems of society, but we have to recognize we have multiple ways to find solutions. It can start with simple conversations, remembering that you won't know what is really going on unless you take the time for conversation. The brain is invisible. You may not see it, but by reaching out you might bring someone a light.

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

# THE PASTOR'S DESK

## I waited patiently for the Lord...

**Pastor Richard Baker**  
Trinity United Methodist Church

...He turned to me and heard my cry. —(Psalm 40)

We just experienced the season of Lent. It was a time to prepare our hearts for God's greatest work. God is preparing our hearts for eternity, and Lent is a season of waiting. We started our wait six weeks earlier and were rewarded on Easter morning as we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There were highs and lows along the way but God equipped us for what was coming.

What are we to do when we go to God and are told to wait? Most folks don't like waiting. We've become "instant" people. Several years ago, the TV show "Sixty Minutes" brought together a group of young people and asked them to experience things that were in use when we were growing up. The first was a rotary dial phone. First,

they were amazed that a phone could be stuck to a wall. But then they expressed frustration in how long it took for the dial to go around. After that, they were shown an old fashion mechanical can opener. Again, opening cans seemed out of place to them, but using some hand-held device to open it by piercing the can and then cranking a handle around it was unheard of.

The same impatience they showed with those old devices is the same impatience we express when we go to the Lord and don't get an immediate answer. We accuse God of not answering our prayers but that is both untrue and unfair. God answers every prayer immediately, but it's the answers we find fault with. God answers all our prayers with a yes, or no, or telling us to wait. I was given an illustration of that with a TV show. A man was talking to a child and he asked him if he ever prayed to God for something. The boy said he asked God for a model train set. The man asked if he

had received the train and the boy said no. The man asked if he was disappointed that God did not answer his prayer. The boy said God did answer his prayer; God just said no. Sometimes being told to wait seems even more unbearable than being told no.

I was talking to a good friend recently who wanted to add to the conversation saying, we are to remain busy while we wait, meaning that waiting on God is an action. An action means not to remain idle. A monk, named Brother Lawrence, wrote a book entitled, "The Practice of the Presence of God." He wrote about his early frustration with monastic life. He found himself complaining out loud about his situation. A fellow monk told him he could find happiness by doing every chore, no matter how mundane by seeing it as a service to God. Taking out the trash or washing dishes can be a service to God. My friend said she has some of her best conversations with God while she's doing the dishes. She said that God often reveals God's self to us in the mundane.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, he left His disciples with a command. "Do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the gift My Father has promised, which you heard me speak about." (Acts 1: 4) The disciples were being equipped by God to be God's messengers to the world. They were to prepare themselves for the "gift" Jesus spoke of. That gift was the Holy Spirit, the infilling of God's presence in their lives. They needed to prepare themselves. They needed to get rid of any immorality in their lives. To be God's witnesses meant to be "an Ambassador for Christ." (2nd Corinthians 5: 29) To be that they needed to devote themselves to prayer and study. It didn't mean sitting around or even returning to their old livelihoods as fishermen. That way of life was meant to be left behind, and for God to use us, we must be willing to leave our old ways behind.

How do we reconcile that to Brother Lawrence's words? Brother Lawrence was serving God in the way God had instructed him, while the disciples were waiting for clearer instructions. But, like the disciples, as soon as we receive our instructions, after our period of waiting and discernment, we act on those



instructions. We don't go off in a different direction or return to our old way of life, like the disciples, no matter how comfortable it may seem.

Depending on which translation you use, you can read in Isaiah 40, "Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." God is telling us that there is a reward for patiently waiting for God to reveal God's self.

If God speaks to you while you are washing dishes, you are to act as the disciples did when they first met Jesus. They immediately left everything behind to follow Jesus. When God calls you to action, you leave those dishes behind. But until God calls, keep doing the dishes or whatever task God puts before you. As Brother Lawrence illustrated, we find God's presence in the work God sets before us.

Peter tells us in his second Epistle letter that "God is patient with you." (2nd Peter 3: 9) How can God be patient with such a group of unruly people? It's because God looks at the long game. God is clear on what God's game plan is. I heard a football analogy, that said, "How do you move the football down the field? One yard at a time. The players want that touchdown, but it requires them to patiently work the ball down the field. Reading that entire passage from Peter helps. " But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years,

and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." If God can be patient, so can we! How? By keeping our eye on the goal line. By trusting in God. We do that by emulating Paul. He wasn't always patient. He often plowed into God's work, but God taught him and at the end of his life he wrote, "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead. I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3: 14b- 15)

There was a fifty-day period between Christ's resurrection and the day we call Pentecost, the day the disciples went to work. The Bible says that Jesus used that time to teach and equip His followers. There were times when He was absent and the temptation to return to their old way of living came back. It's at the end of John's gospel, that the disciples decided to go fishing, and Jesus appeared to them on the shoreline with a reminder of what they were now tasked with doing? His appearance was a gentle reminder to remember who they were and their new way of life. Do you find yourself in that period of waiting? Ask yourself: How and why is God preparing you? What task is before you? What gift might be God preparing for you as you wait? Wait patiently and be ready to be amazed!

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## THE BOOK OF DAYS

## King Arthur



According to British story, at the time when the Saxons were ravaging our island, but had not yet made themselves masters of it, the Britons were ruled by a wise and valiant king, named Uther Pendragon. Among the most distinguished of Uther's nobles was Gorlois Duke of Cornwall, whose wife Igera was a woman of surpassing beauty. Once, when King Uther was as usual holding his royal feast of Easter, Gorlois attended with his lady; and the king, who had not seen her before, immediately fell in love with her, and manifested his passion so openly, that Gorlois took away his wife abruptly, and went home with her to Cornwall without asking for Uther's leave.

The latter, in great anger, led an army into Cornwall to punish his offending vassal, who, conscious of his inability to resist the king in the field, shut up his wife in the impregnable castle of Tintagel, while he took shelter in another castle, where he was immediately besieged by the formidable Uther Pendragon. During the siege, Uther, with the assistance of his magician, Merlin, obtained access to the beautiful Igera in the same manner as Jupiter approached Alcmena, namely, by assuming the form of her husband; the consequence was the birth of the child who was destined to be the Hercules of the Britons, and who when born was named Arthur. In the sequel, Gorlois was killed, and then Uther married the widow.

Such, according to Geoffrey of Monmouth, and the so-called British historians, was the origin of King Arthur. On the death of Uther, Arthur was unanimously chosen to succeed him, and was crowned at Silchester. No sooner had he ascended the throne than he was called upon to war against the Saxons, who, under a new chief named Colgrin, had united with the Picts and Scots, and made themselves masters of the northern parts of the island.

With the assistance of his nephew, Hoel, King of Brittany, Arthur overcame the Anglo-Saxons, and made them promise to leave the island. But, instead of going to their own country, they only sailed round the coasts, and landing again at Totness, laid waste the country with fire and sword till they reached the city of Bath, which they besieged.

Arthur, leaving his nephew Hoel

sick at Alcluyd (Dunbarton), hastened south-ward to encounter the invaders, and defeated them with great slaughter at a place which is called in the story Mount Badon. Having thus crushed the Saxons, Arthur returned to Alcluyd, and soon reduced the Picts and Scots to such a condition, that they sought shelter in the islands in Loch Lomond, and there made their peace with him.

Not content with these successes, Arthur next conquered Ireland, Iceland, Gothland, and the Orcaes; to which he afterwards added Norway and Denmark, placing over them all tributary kings chosen from among his own chieftains. Next he turned his arms against Gaul, which also he subdued, having defeated and slain its governor Frollo in single combat, under the walls of Paris. The conquest of the whole of Gaul occupied

nine years, at the end of which Arthur returned to Paris, and there distributed the conquered provinces among his followers.

Arthur was now in the zenith of his power, and on his return to his native land he made a proud display of his greatness, by calling to a great council at Caerleon all these tributary princes, and there in great pomp he was crowned again. Before the festivities were ended, an unexpected occurrence turned the thoughts of the assembled princes to new adventures.

Twelve aged men arrived as ambassadors from Lucius Tiberius, the 'procurator' of the republic of Rome, bearing a letter by which King Arthur was summoned in peremptory language to restore to Rome the provinces which he had unjustly usurped on the Continent, and also to pay the tribute which Britain had formerly paid to the Imperial power.

A great council was immediately held, and it was resolved at once to retort by demanding tribute of Rome, and to march an army immediately into Italy, to subdue the Imperial city. Arthur next entrusted the government of Britain to his nephew Modred and his queen Guanhumara, and then embarked at Southampton for the Continent. They landed near Mont St. Michael, where Arthur slew a Spanish giant, who had carried away Helena, the niece of Hoel of Brittany.

The army of the Britons now proceeded on their march, and soon encountered the Romans, who had advanced into Gaul to meet them; but who, after much fighting and great slaughter, were driven out of the country, with the loss of their commander, Lucius Tiberius, who

was slain by Arthur's nephew, Walgan, the Gawain of later romance. At the approach of the following spring, King Arthur began his march to Rome, but as he was beginning to pass the Alps he was arrested by disastrous news from Britain.

Modred, who had been left there as regent during the absence of the king, conspired with the queen, whom he married, and usurped the crown; and he had called in a new horde of Saxons to support him in his usurpation. On hearing of these events, Arthur divided his forces into two armies, one of which he left in Gaul, under the command of Hoel of Brittany, while with the other he passed over to Britain, and landed at Rutupiae, or Richborough, in Kent, where Modred awaited them with a powerful army.

Although Arthur lost a great number of his best men, and among the rest his nephew Walgan, Modred was defeated and put to flight, and he was only able to rally his troops when he reached Winchester. When the news of this defeat reached the queen, who was in York, she fled to Caerleon, and took refuge in a nunnery, where she resolved to pass the remainder of her life in penitence.

Arthur followed his nephew to Winchester, and there defeated him in a second battle; but Modred escaped again, and made his retreat towards Cornwall. He was overtaken, and finally defeated in a third battle, which was far more obstinate and fatal than those which preceded. Modred was slain, and King Arthur himself was mortally wounded. They carried him to the Isle of Avalon (Glastonbury), to be cured of his wounds; but all the efforts of the

physicians were vain, and he died and was buried there, Geoffrey of Monmouth says, in the year 542. Before his death, he resigned the crown to his kinsman Constantine.

Such is an outline of the fabulous history of King Arthur, as it is given by the earliest narrator, Geoffrey of Monmouth, who wrote in the year 1147. The numerous stories of King Arthur, and his knights of the round table, which now swell out the story, are the works of the romance writers of later periods.

There was a time when every writer or reader of British history was expected to put entire faith in this narrative; but that faith has gradually diminished, until it has become a matter of serious doubt whether such a personage ever existed. There are few indeed now who take Geoffrey of Monmouth's history for anything but fable.

The name of a King Arthur was certainly not known to any chroniclers in this country before the Norman period, and Giraldus Cambrensis, towards the end of the twelfth century, bears testimony to the fact that Geoffrey's stories were not Welsh. From different circumstances connected with their publication, it seems probable that they were derived from Brittany, and one of the opinions regarding them is that Arthur may have been a personage in the mythic history of the Bretons.

However, be this as it may, the history of King Arthur has become an important part of our literature; and as it sinks lower in the estimate of the historian, it seems to have become more popular than ever, and to have increased in favour with the poet.

To read other selections from the Book of Days visit [www.thebookofdays.com](http://www.thebookofdays.com).

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# ECOLOGY

## Connecting to our natural world

Anne Gageby  
Environmental Education Manager  
Strawberry Hill Foundation

It's an open secret in education that kids won't remember how deftly you executed a perfectly planned lesson. After fourteen years in the classroom, I can assure you they will never remember the day you broke down a broad and difficult topic into a bite-sized piece that planted the seed of understanding. They will only remember how you made them feel. Emotional connection to a topic is the keystone to caring about that topic. Math will be little more than numbers if a child doesn't love adding and subtracting. Reading is boring if a child can't fall in love with the look and sound of words as they float off the page. And a child won't care about the environment until they experience the joy that comes from smelling fresh skunk cabbage. I'm kidding – sort of.

I taught a program recently to elementary students who, according to their teacher, didn't spend much time outside. As we hiked the Nature Trail their energy was electrified as we encountered turtles, a butterfly, and yes, skunk cabbage. The kids took turns being absolutely horrified that a lovely green plant could smell so bad. They were still laughing about it halfway through our hike. Every time we passed a new section of wetland, the kids pointed out the wide rosettes of green leaves and dared one another to take a whiff. Two children

debated whether or not the stench could actually make someone pass out. Another asked if skunks ate it and if so, was that why skunks smell so terrible?

Genuine curiosity framed every mile of the hike and brought out more questions than even I had answers for. By the end of our program, we had put together an extensive list of researchable questions and topics for the kids to explore back at school. Two excitedly jumped up and down at the suggestion of going to the library to research – something they weren't known for, according to their teacher.

The beauty of environmental education is it provides an interactive learning experience that unlocks the imagination. And imagination, at its core, is infinite possibility. Today's child, stuffing their pockets with pretty stones, becomes the geologist of tomorrow. Songbirds calm the restless child who grows up to study migration patterns of threatened avian species. Traversing the mountainside in search of wild ginseng instills an appreciation for resource management and responsible foraging. These experiences are formative in building a person's character and mindset. They're also incredibly fun and memorable.

I know this not because I was a teacher but because I was that child who hiked the trails at Strawberry Hill and listened for great horned owls' calls. I ate summer berries by the handful, wondering at the vast differences between spicebush, hawthorne, and wineberries. My favor-



The beauty of environmental education is that it provides an interactive learning experience that unlocks the imagination.

ite school field trip was with Mrs. Tammy Deardorff's second-grade class at Fairfield Elementary. We hiked along the Nature Trail to search for signs of spring. Though I had grown up on Mount Hope and played along this trail countless times, the field trip experience was different. We learned about animal habitats, which birds had already made the trip north, and what Swamp Creek would look like with the coming spring rains. More than three decades later, I still remember the excitement of that afternoon.

You could say mine was the first generation to grow up surrounded by the enthusiasm and love of the Strawberry Hill family. My connection to nature began right here. It shaped who I became as I entered my teens and began teaching myself about wild edibles. It carried me through my time in the Army as I found field exercises and outdoor training preferable to stuffy buildings. And later, as a school librarian, I sought out ways to incorporate

environmental education into my lessons at every opportunity.

Environmental education improves critical and creative thinking skills and drives children to discover the world around them. It allows children to ask why the world works the way it does and fosters the desire needed to seek answers. It doesn't advocate a specific viewpoint. Instead, environmental education teaches kids how to weigh and compare different sides of an issue via critical thinking. This enhances their decision-making and problem-solving skills overall. It also gives a child ownership of their opinions and the freedom to express them. Furthermore, it facilitates a genuine appreciation for nature.

This connection to our natural world is a gift, one that our program at Strawberry Hill hands down to the next generation. Through our school field trips, homeschool, and public programs we build the emotional connection necessary to raising a new generation of environmental stewards. Those who come

after us will remember the joy of new discoveries – catching crayfish in the creek, searching for salamanders along the trail, and they'll cherish their memories of Strawberry Hill just as I have.

They say it takes a village to raise a child and that truth is evident within our program. None of the things I've mentioned here would be possible without the greater Strawberry Hill family – the donors and supporters. The families who come to our events and programs. The kids who laugh with excitement at seeing fresh animal tracks. And of course, readers like you. You make the memories possible. You make the love for our environment something tangible that circles back to all of us. Together, we will raise the next generation of environmental stewards and build a brighter world for everyone.

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

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# The lion sleeps tonight

Tim Iverson  
Cunningham Falls State Park  
Seasonal Naturalist

Lions don't generally call Maryland home, but it wasn't in the too distant past that we did in fact have a resident lion population – Puma concolor, or the mountain lion. Mountain lions can go by many names: cougar, puma, panther (in Florida), or catamount. It's a game of semantics, but in North America they all refer to the same big cat. Historically speaking these cats did roam Maryland and much of the rest of the country as well. While relatively common, even as recently as mid 1800's, they are virtually non-existent anywhere west of the Rocky Mountains with the exception of Florida (more on that later).

Mountain lions were extirpated (locally extinct) from Maryland sometime in 19th century. When the Eastern portion of North America was settled by colonists these big cats roamed free and were pretty common. If they were so common then you might be asking yourself where they all disappeared to. These cats suffered from a double blow – hunting and habitat loss. Early colonists saw cougars as both a nuisance and a threat, and arguably rightfully so. They had good reason to fear the animals, because they can be dangerous. They also preyed on livestock farmed by the colonists, which in turn caused a number of problems in terms of financial and basic survival needs. Without further need they turned their rifles on the cats and began to clear the land. However, they didn't just stop at clearing the land of the cats themselves. Logging was a major industry throughout much of the northeast and Appalachia, and as a result the mountain lions lost much of their habitat. This is a common story throughout much of the eastern United States, and the only known population of cougars remaining in the east is located in Florida.

The Florida panther is the only known population of cougars in eastern North America, and it is regarded as critically endangered. In the 1970's it was estimated that a total of 20 remained in the wild. Through serious efforts made by state and federal agencies that number is now believed to be between 100 and 160. This lone isolated population exists entirely in southern Florida, and faces threats mainly from habitat loss via land development.

As a top predator in the food chain in most areas they serve a valuable role in the ecosystem. Much like in the American political system (ideally at any rate) there are checks and balances, and the same is true in nature. Prey species keep their numbers up to ensure survival, while predators keep their numbers in check which ensures things like overpopulation, overgrazing, and more don't occur. Without a keystone species like mountain lions in the area anymore we can see a

marked difference in the ecology of the area. Species like deer, which would be prey for cougars, have and continue to explode though the population is managed through measures such as hunting. Inevitably though wherever a vacuum occurs it will be filled, and coyotes have found a niche here. Coyotes traditionally occupied territory west of the Mississippi, but have migrated since westward colonial expansion and can be found in much of the northeast. With the elimination of competing predators coyotes now function as the top predator in many places. Their expansion and reproduction has been so rapid that the state of Virginia estimates that there is an annual 29% growth rate for the population. Maryland is undergoing a similar study, but it stands to reason that similar patterns will be seen here as well.

The largest problem with this, as with any type of invasive or non-native species, is that the newcomers can and often out compete the native species. The red fox (which we'll consider the home team, as it is native) and the coyote (which we'll consider the away team, because it wasn't documented in MD until 1972) compete for much of the same resources. The coyote which is more resilient and adaptable has slowly been displacing the red fox, and there are significant and measurable impacts as a result. Similar results are expected with the gray fox and the bobcat, which is the only documented "big" cat in Maryland.

The whole checks and balances thing can be tricky, but once something is set in motion it can be hard to predict the end result. When colonists were exterminating those pesky mountain lions just 200 years ago they set into motion a line of dominoes that is persisting even to this day. Despite their extermination in the east more than a century ago there are still reported sightings here. From time to time people will



Without a keystone species like mountain lions anymore we can see a marked difference in the ecology of the area. Species like deer, which would be prey for cougars, have and continue to explode though the population is managed through measures such as hunting.

call local police departments or the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and say they have either seen a cougar or have video or photographic evidence of one in the area. Most of these are a case of mistaken identity and there have been no confirmed cases of a wild mountain lion in Maryland since their extirpation. Most often people describe seeing a brownish cat the size of a German shepherd jump across the road or dart across the trail. While there have been a few instances of escaped pet cougars caught over the years (unrelated but worth noting – police on the eastern shore actually found an alligator in a parking lot this past summer), what people usually see are either deer, coyotes, or bobcats.

At the moment I am currently working as a seasonal interpreter at Big Bend National Park in Texas. I was a bit alarmed when I went for a hike in the Chisos Mountains on my first weekend there and was greeted by a rather conspicuous sign that read "Please Do Not Take Children On This Trail" with a picture of a mountain lion plastered next to

the message. I can't speak for anyone else, but I received the message loud and clear. The sign gave me pause, and frankly made me pretty apprehensive the whole hike, but I never did see any lions. As a matter of fact I end my time at Big Bend and return to Cunningham Falls in mid April, and if I leave there without having seen one I am going to be sorely disappointed. Big Bend has done many rigorous studies over the past sixty years. Population studies, habitat assessments, and behavioral research are all integral parts of understanding how they work and interact with both the ecosystem and us. There are over 100,000 people who visit Big Bend on an average year, and since the parks inception in 1946 there have been less than a dozen attacks. I think it's important to note that no one has ever died from an attack in Big Bend, and more people actually die from dog bites in a single year than all mountain lion attacks in Big Bend (which as of this writing is 0). Here, as with everywhere else, better understanding will make life

better for both them and us.

While there is some evidence to suggest that mountain lions are gradually pushing their way back into the middle and eastern portions of the country they still face threats in their remaining home ranges. The largest key to their survival and any possible expansion into old territory is habitat protection. Repercussions from the elimination or introduction of a species, new or old, can have ecosystem altering effects, and the impact of their absence is still reverberating to this day. What we're experiencing now is a centuries old experiment that we're still grappling with. The checks and balances not only apply to the natural world, but applies to us as well. It's unlikely that cougars reappear in Maryland anytime soon, if ever, but if people take a balanced approach to development and conservation then a healthy and stable mountain lion population can continue to exist elsewhere.

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





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# SCIENCE MATTERS

## Global warming is changing the flow of ocean currents

Boyce Rensberger

As all observations show, global warming is happening faster at the poles than it is in our temperate latitudes. While the average annual temperature in our part of the Earth has risen by 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit since 1980 (yes, that's enough to contribute to the weather chaos we're seeing), the Arctic has had an increase of about 5.4 degrees during the same time.

If you want to see what global warming can do, ask the Alaskan natives whose seaside homes are sinking into the melting permafrost; they are having to move miles inland. Ask the people who race their sled dogs in Alaska's 1,000-mile Iditarod. There have been recent years with no snow; once-frozen lakes must now be bypassed.

Much the same thing is happening in Antarctica. There are places where the snow is gone, and grass and wildflowers are now established.

Even though we're not seeing such dramatic changes in Maryland, we eventually might. The cause could be the possible collapse of deep-ocean currents that flow all over the planet.

First a little background:

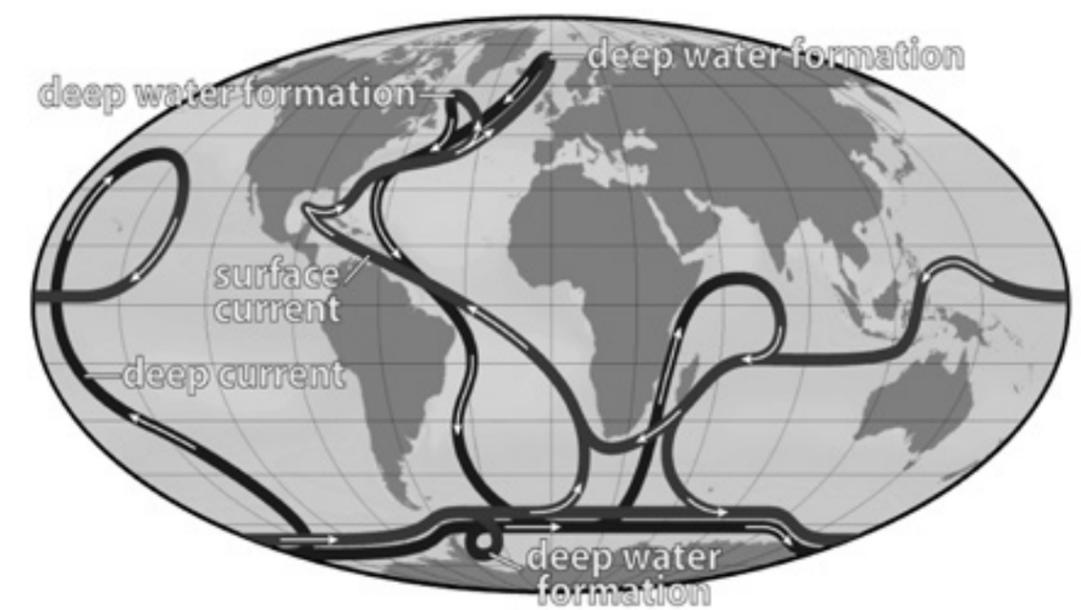
Most of Earth is, of course, covered by water, 70 percent of it. And that water doesn't just sit there, stagnant. It's laced with currents—massive rivers of water that flow within the oceans from one part of the globe to another. In our region, we're most familiar with the Gulf Stream, discovered long ago by Benjamin Franklin. Warm water from

the Gulf of Mexico flows along the surface between Florida and Cuba and then up along our East Coast at speeds between four and six miles per hour. The volume of water that flows is greater than that of all the world's rivers combined.

This oceanic river even has a tributary. Warm water from the Caribbean joins the flow a few miles off the Florida-Georgia state line. The current roughly follows the continental shelf northward and, a few hundred miles off the coast of New England, it turns eastward, bringing warm water to Britain and northern Europe. It's the reason that palm trees can grow in Scotland, and England, even though these countries are at the latitude of Hudson Bay.

As the Gulf Stream gives up its heat to the northern atmosphere, the water obviously becomes colder. But this is just one of two phenomena that make this water sink toward the bottom of the ocean. One is that cold water is more dense than warm water. Its molecules are closer together. The other phenomenon is that when the surface current reaches far enough north to freeze, it becomes saltier and this makes it still more dense. This happens because when salt water freezes, the water molecules crystalize in a way that pushes away most of the minerals that made the water salty. So, sea ice is basically fresh-water ice. The excluded salt atoms remain in the unfrozen water, making it still more dense.

This doubly dense water sinks, slowly diving into the depths of the North Atlantic and flowing south-



Dense cold water in the northern and southern portions of the Pacific and Atlantic sink to drive deep ocean circulation.

ward. As this deep, cold current moves toward the equatorial region, it picks up heat and, now less dense, rises back to the surface to repeat the cycle. It may help to think of the current as a conveyor belt. The water that is cooling and sinking, "pulls" the warmer surface water behind it. My explanation here is an oversimplification but it helps me get a mental grasp of the phenomena.

Similar currents flow in all the world's oceans. The scientific picture of all this emerged in the 1980s from the work of the late Wally Broecker, a scientist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. Broecker also foresaw a rise in global temperatures and coined the term "global warming."

He warned that as the Arctic warms, less sea ice will form. As a

result, Gulf Stream salinity would not increase as much and, therefore, its water might not become dense enough to sink as fast. This great conveyor belt—and one that does the same thing in the Pacific—could slow down. Global warming, in other words, could slow the Gulf Stream, causing northern Europe to become cooler. That's one of the counter-intuitive results of global warming. The global average temperature is not uniform across the globe.

Antarctica is warming almost as fast as the Arctic, but the latest report from the UN's IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) says that its deep-water circulation appears to be slowing twice as fast as that in the North Atlantic.

"[It's] stunning to see that happen so quickly," said Alan Mix, a climatologist at Oregon State University and a co-author of the IPCC report. "It appears to be kicking into gear right now. That's headline news," he told Reuters.

How might these conveyor-belt slowdowns affect us in Maryland? Nobody can say for sure, but scientists point to two global phenomena. One is weather. Because ocean currents redistribute heat around the planet, the resulting patterns of rainfall and drought can shift. Regions with established patterns of low

rainfall (deserts, for example) could become wetter. That could leave less rain to fall in areas that counted on regular rainfall to grow crops. I have found no research reports that venture to say how things might change in Maryland but change they certainly could.

The other global phenomenon is productivity of the fishing industry. The turnover of sea water brings nutrients from the deep—organic matter of all kinds—up near the surface where most fish live. The nutrients support food chains up to the species we humans like to eat. With a slowed oceanic turnover, there would be fewer fish to catch.

The overall effects will be slow to come. But since humanity's emission of greenhouse gases is still increasing—and is projected to keep increasing for years to come—those effects are essentially certain to arrive.

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

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## THE VILLAGE IDIOT

## The useless eaters

Jack Deatherage

*"In the ideology of Nazi Germany, a useless eater is a person with a serious medical problem or disability, seen as requiring help from society but giving nothing back."*

-wiktionary.org

The Utopian models I've read about tend to hint at useless eaters - their lack of productive skills and their being uneducable.

"In the 21st century we might witness the creation of a massive new unworking class: people devoid of any economic, political or even artistic value, who contribute nothing to the prosperity, power and glory of society. This 'useless class' will not merely be unemployed - it will be unemployable." - Yuval Noah Harari, historian, philosopher.

A couple of years before the DW and her aunt decided to shut down the factory that had employed me for nearly four and a half decades, a wholesale buyer of our leather goods came into the shop to show us a wallet made in China. Wholesale price? \$2.50. Our similar, better quality wallets were made from leather that cost more than the wholesale price of the imported wallet. I knew then that I had become useless - a factory drone replaced by similar drones laboring for considerably less money than I was being paid.

I began submitting applications to area restaurants in the hopes of getting hired as a dish washer, a task I had excelled at forty - three years earlier. Unfortunately, I was 60 years old and the kitchens thought they needed younger workers. Fortunately, the factory continued operating a few more years and I eventually signed up for early Social Security (SS) benefits, something I was furious about having to do. However, the DW pointedly asked if I'd like to continue eating. We lived off of that money for six months after the DW shut down the factory and she was finally able to sign up for early SS draws.

Uneducable, lacking marketable skills, surviving off a failing government handout program, we truly became useless eaters.

"Idle hands are the devil's workshop." - Proverbs 16:27 (depending on the translation)

These days I've n't the energy or the ambition to do much more than nap between pages of some novel or baking book. In spite of many of my clan elders living well

into their 90s, I avoid doctors and hospitals and expect to maybe survive through my 70s - barring the laughing gods interfering. The current economic system will likely support me to that end. And if the system collapses as many are predicting? Meh.

So what becomes of people decades younger than I? Those also unable to develop marketable skills? The useless class of eaters? Do the powers that are see those useless people as potential devil's workshops? A threat to their Olympian perches?

Past attempts at creating utopias provide the most obvious solutions for useless eaters: mass sterilization, extermination and starvation. Toss in laboratory engineered viruses unleashed upon cities and towns deliberately packed with useless eaters and the Utopians are well on their way to a better, brighter future.

"Welcome to the year 2030. Welcome to my city - or should I say, 'our city.' I don't own anything. I don't own a car. I don't own a house. I don't own any appliances or any clothes. It might seem odd to you, but it makes perfect sense for us in this city. Everything you considered a product, has now become a service. We have access to transportation, accommodation, food and all the things we need in our daily lives. One by one all these things became free, so it ended up not making sense for us to own much." - Ida Auken, a Danish politician, member of the Social Democrats political party.

I wonder if my parents, in the midst of The Great Depression, not yet teenagers, knew about the budding utopias that would dominate their lives - Germany's National Socialism and Russia's Soviet Socialism? If they had been aware of the coming nightmares could they, children of poor farming families, have done anything to stop the insanity of the Utopians? Of course not. Their task was to survive and secure the next generation.

Can I do anything to stop the new wave of Utopians from forging the next humanity shattering utopia?

Nope. (pronounced with a popping "p").

Until J. R. Kipling's "Gods of the Copybook Headings with terror and slaughter return", as they always have, best I can do is help prepare the next generation to endure. Mass sterilization and extermination are beyond my limited control. Avoiding starvation might not be impossible.

Yes, I'm coming across as a raving, maniacal conspiracy believing whack job, almost as insane as my leftist Utopian acquaintances. However, some of the delusional leftists are also end - of - the - world preppers and gardeners. In spite of our opposing beliefs as to which boogeyman is after us, we share the gardener's mantra - Next year's garden will be better.

The fact that I'm able to interact sanely with gardeners I know to be mentally ill, and who believe I'm also off my rocker, gives me comfort. Building gardens together means we're likely to survive the nightmare we believe is about to engulf us.

The really cool thing about being either a raving, maniacal conspiracy believing whack job or an insane, delusional leftist Utopian is the pea seeds from Sweden, the radish seeds from China, the tomatillo seeds from Mexico, the kale seeds from Europe, the mustard seeds from China, the cucumber seeds from Western Asia, the strawflower seeds from Australia, the 'Jacob's Cattle' bean - said to have been gifted from the indigenous people of Maine to Joseph Clark in the 1600s, the 'Rich Sweetness 132' melon seeds from the Soviet Union, the tomato seeds from South America's Andes, the Bulgarian, Hungarian, Macedonian, Syrian, New Mexican pepper seeds bred from their ancestors in South America that I'm hoping to plant this season DO NOT give a damn about my, or anyone else's hopes, dreams, or fears. They just need good soil, water and sun to do what they have done for centuries, nay epochs! - grow and pass on their



The DW, Tracy Lewis and Shawna Ruby size up the coffin they intend to bury Jack in.

genetics! A lesson the jabbering apes seem to have forgotten.

"Old jobs will disappear, new jobs will emerge, but then the new jobs will rapidly change and vanish. Whereas in the past human had to struggle against exploitation, in the twenty first century the really big struggle will be against irrelevance. And it is much worse to be irrelevant than exploited." - Yuval Noah Harari (World Economic Forum 2020).

Be relevant. Join a community of gardeners.

I can be reached via the post office:

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Ph: 301 - 447 - 2151 (if the answering machine picks up, please leave a contact number - speak slowly and clearly.)

Email: jackdeathjr@juno.com

Or check out the Facebook group - "Emmitsburg Youth/Community Garden" where I post under the DW's account as TOM (The Old Macaque). I stifle myself there as well as in the garden.

See? I'm harmless, mostly.

To read past articles by Jack Deatherage, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Mulching 101

**Diane Diffenderfer**  
Adams County Master Gardener

For some gardeners, applying mulch to garden beds in the spring is one of the most satisfying aspects of gardening. Why? Because in certain climates, fresh mulch means warmer days are ahead and soon fall-planted bulbs and cool season edibles will emerge, thus signaling another gardening season has begun!

In landscaped beds, mulch adds texture to and highlights the edges of the beds and certain design features, it also draws attention to woody ornamentals thoughtfully and artfully installed in the bed. In a vegetable garden, mulch is applied to keep the plants and edibles clean and reduce erosion by covering the soil. Mulch also helps to conserve soil moisture, moderate soil temperature, and suppress weeds in all types of gardens.

There are various types of mulch available to the gardener. While the decisions are not endless, it is larger than it was a few short decades ago. Gardeners are now faced with decisions such as what type of mulch to purchase; organic, synthetic, or living? Dyed mulch or natural? By the bag or in bulk? Free from my local municipality? Cost and time spent applying the mulch should also be evaluated. Where is the mulch coming from? For example, from a local nursery or garden center, from a big-box store or a hardware store, or a farm and garden store?

Even some grocery stores now carry mulch.

If the local municipality does offer free, bulk mulch/compost, the natural materials in the product may include pesticide (herbicide, insecticide, fungicide) residues. Is this acceptable?

Given the vast assortment of mulches, the purpose of this article is to survey the types of mulches available and considerations when deciding upon which mulch best suits the intended purpose.

### Organic Mulches

Shredded bark, bark chips, pine needles, compost, rice hulls, various nutshells, shredded leaves (intact leaves may form a mat that prevents oxygen and water movement and may stymie beneficial biological activities), straw, and cardboard are all organic mulches. Plastic sheeting is also available in a biodegradable form. However, it may take up to three years for this plastic sheeting to completely decompose and during that time, the remaining pieces of sheeting may be visible in the garden.

In addition to conserving water, moderating soil temperature, and suppressing weed growth, organic mulches improve soil health as they decompose. Since organic mulches decompose over time, they must be reapplied from time-to-time. Prior to adding a new layer of organic mulch, the old mulch may be removed or, in the case of vegetable gardens, may be incorporated into the soil. Mulch removal in an ornamental bed is



There is no surer way to kill a tree than to suffocate its roots with mulch.

important because the mulch layer should be limited to three to four inches deep. A mulch layer greater than three to four inches deep may threaten plant vigor by reducing the amount of oxygen and water available to the plant.

Free mulch may be available from local municipalities. One potential drawback in using these mulches is not knowing if any type of pesticide was applied to the grass, shrubs, trees, or other vegetative matter included in the mulch as these mulches are rarely tested.

“Volcano” mulching, as it is often referred to, is a huge problem. More mulch does not equal healthy trees. While piling mulch around the base of trees may look good to some people, it, instead, is slowly

killing the tree. When mulching, be sure the root flare is showing. This is the area of the tree that is naturally “flaring” at the base. Do not apply mulch against the bark of the tree, and only apply 2-4” of mulch around the tree. And, if possible, make the circle as big as the tree canopy. This will reduce water competition that grass poses. If that’s not possible, give the tree a circle large enough that a mower will not nick the trunk. Mulch around a tree is important, as it does reduce weeds, increases moisture retention and looks nice too.

Organic mulches for vegetable gardens and edible landscapes may include salt hay (no seeds), straw (fewer seeds), hay (seed heads intact). In addition, paper

mulch and, as mentioned above, biodegradable plastic sheeting is also available for vegetable gardens and edible landscapes.

### Synthetic Mulches

Rocks, gravel, plastic sheeting, woven landscape fabric are examples of synthetic mulches. Plastic sheeting and woven landscape fabric may be installed directly on the soil and subsequently covered with an organic mulch for aesthetic reasons.

Plastic sheeting and woven landscape fabric create impermeable and semi-permeable (respectively) barriers. These barriers prevent worms, water, and soil microbes from freely traveling throughout the soil. Limiting this movement interferes with the normal and customary biological soil activities. Over time, these barriers will increase soil compaction and form a secondary barrier of living roots above and below the inorganic barrier itself. These barriers, a combination of living and synthetics, can become very difficult to remove. Rocks and gravel absorb heat during warm days and can transfer the heat to the soil. The increase in soil temperature and reduced soil moisture may harm beneficial insects and microbes living in the soil.

Synthetic mulches are often more expensive than organic; however, they generally have a longer life span than organics and do not need to be replaced as frequently.

### Living Mulches

Living mulches offer an outstanding opportunity for gardeners to build soil health below the ground and enhance design aesthetics above the soil line. Living mulches are particularly useful around fruit trees. Crimson clover, borage, yarrow, lemon balm, and even kale can be used to create pollinator-friendly living mulches. As these plants grow, their leaves shade the soil and their roots create air and water pockets, necessary elements for good plant health.

In addition to adding select herbs as living mulch around fruit trees, native plants can also be designed into landscaped beds

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Blue Ridge Summit Free Library 3rd Annual Plant Sale

The Blue Ridge Summit Free Library will hold its third annual Plant Sale on the Plaza on Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m. to noon.

“The sale, which is a fundraiser for the library, features a large assortment of annuals, perennials, native plants, hanging baskets, vegetable plants, herbs, and houseplants,” said library board member, Barb O’Byren. “We will also have an assortment of locally made ceramic pots that can be used with potted plants as Mother’s Day gifts.”

In addition to plants and pots, shoppers can get advice from Pennsylvania Master Gardeners’ plant experts who will be on hand to answer gardening questions.

Fresh-brewed coffee from Eklectic Coffee and sweet treats from Krystal’s Cakes and Confections will be available for purchase during the sale.

In advance of the sale, plant donations of all kinds are wanted. The library can provide pots for those willing to pot up their donated plants. “Or, people can bring their bare root plant donations to us, and we will pot them up,” O’Byren said. “We are calling them ‘You Dig; We Pot’ events and they will be on Sat., May 6, noon–2 p.m. at the library. All plant varieties are welcome.

For more information about the plant sale or donating plants, email to: brsmtntn-board@gmail.com.

as living mulch. By using native plants to create plant communities in your landscape, your gardens will be more attractive and hospitable to songbirds, butterflies, bees, pollinators, and other creatures.”

### Dyed Mulches

Dyed mulch became popular in the 1960s. Dyed mulch can be found in a range of colors and textures. In answering a query about colored bark mulch the University of Massachusetts Amherst states that dyed bark is not toxic, but there are considerations when opting to apply dyed mulch to ornamental beds. This mulch is rarely used in gardens growing edibles.

The wood used in dyed mulch is frequently recovered from used pallets and construction and demolition (C&D) sites. From a production perspective, the cost of using recycled wood, rather than fresh wood, for dyed mulch is significant. Recycled wood is less expensive than fresh wood and dried wood readily absorbs the dye while fresh wood does not. However, determining if recycled wood from C&D sites and used pallets

has been treated with Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) or used in the transport of toxic materials is nearly impossible.

Much of the recycled wood collected from C&D sites and old pallets dates to pre-2003. This is relevant because in late 2002, a law was passed preventing the lumber industry from using CCA to treat lumber. Lumber produced beginning in 2003 was treated using a process that does not include arsenic.

The dye used in black mulch is derived from carbon-based material and the dye used in red mulch is derived from iron oxide. Each of the ingredients in these two forms of dye are not considered to be toxic to plants. However if colored mulch is preferred for a landscape, every effort should be made to determine the origin of the wood used. The carbon-based dye is similar to that used in cosmetics and ink and may lose its color when exposed to water, e.g., rain and irrigation, over time.

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

## Small Town Gardener

You can leave your hat on

Marianne Willburn

Very few of us can honestly say we look better naked. Fabric is a true and loyal friend, and that bond grows ever stronger as we age. Last winter I was pondering such truths as I stared unashamedly at my naked friend Harry Lauder every morning (or rather his walking stick – aka *Corylus avellana* ‘Contorta’) and realized that, unlike the rest of us, not only does this beautiful creature look better naked, the nakedness I have savored for four years now is swiftly coming to an end.

After an emergency garden rescue in the heat of summer several years ago. I re-homed this five-foot shrub in my garden on the edge of a stone wall, where it looked magnificent, but lost the will to live as anything approaching five-feet. Had I cut it back hard I may have saved more of the height of it, but I was weak and could not bear to. Surprisingly I was not too bothered when it failed to re-leaf the next year, as its round and contorted silhouette was so exquisite that it functioned as a piece of installation art.

The twisted branches and vase like shape of the contorted filbert make it a perfect specimen for dramatic impact in late fall and winter. In earliest spring, when delicate

two-inch yellow catkins hang suspended from light grey tendrils, the effect is more than dramatic – it is magnificent.

There were no catkins hanging from those dead branches for me, but I did not mind. A year later it resprouted from a point above the graft union and began a very slow process of regeneration.

And today I am face to face with the fact that it is well over-time to cut back the brittle but beautiful remains of the original shrub and let the new stems have a chance to make something equally beautiful someday. But they’re going to insist on growing leaves to do it. And there’s the rub.

Much like other filberts, the leaves are coarse when they come, and seem incongruous in a shrub that elevates floral nudity to an art form. The effect is much like throwing a heavy rumpled blanket over Michelangelo’s David during the height of touring season.

It is a shrub best suited to the naked life.

There are other taxa that share the state of Clothing-as-Catastrophe. Sycamore is a white winter monarch, but swiftly disappears into the summer woodlands and spends all summer throwing perfectly good leaves over perfectly clean beds. Citrus poncirus, the hardy orange, is a thorny, contorted beauty in deep green which is lessened by

non-descript leaves in spring (though redeemed by tiny oranges in fall). And who cares to notice yellow or red-twigged dogwood on summer walks through the garden? Even if you were determined, you’d be hard pressed to pick them out against a sea of green.

We delight in each of these winter blockbusters as the fall reveals form and color, and sigh deeply when May brings the mediocracy of foliage, but the alternative would be foolish. January must have a few ups for all of the punishing downs.

Over the last few years I have relished the silhouette of my mostly-dead contorted filbert. I threw uprights under it for winter evenings. The cats used it as a wildly complicated climbing tree. I wound a couple of homeless clematis on it – one for spring and one for summer. Winter aconite bloomed at its feet in February, forget-me-nots in May. It was the perfect bit of organic garden sculpture and never lost my affection. At one point I considered painting it in a bright glossy blue, but thankfully reconsidered. There was no need to gild this particular lily.

And now, much to my chagrin, it is clothing itself. I have used the old branches to provide support for the new ones – guiding them into equally complex poses that will delight the eyes in winters to come. In doing so, many of the old branches (now covered in lichen and florescent forms of jelly fungi), snap off in my hands and remind me that my days with this beautiful sculpture were numbered.

Yes. It is all for the best I know, but still there is regret.

Marianne is the author of *Tropical Plants and How to Love Them*, and *Big Dreams Small Garden*, and gardens from her home in Northern Virginia. Follow her on Instagram at @marianne.willburn.

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# PETS

## Saying I love you

Jennifer Vanderau  
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

**H**i. It's me. Your pup. I finally got the hang of this whole computer thing, with the keyboard and everything. You humans sure do spend a lot of time on this. Do you know there are balls that could be chased or bushes to smell or tulips to dig up?

Um. Maybe it's better if you forget that last one.

Anyway, I wanted to get my thoughts down here because sometimes I worry that you don't always understand how much you mean to me. You know those times where we're not really doing much of anything and you catch me watching you? I know you want to know so bad what I'm thinking but the whole talking thing, other than a bark or too, is kind of beyond me.

I figured if I could just get the hang of the keyboard, I'd be good.

So here we are.

Funny thing about words, huh? Just when you get the chance to use them, you kind of can't come up with any adequate enough to describe how you really feel.

I mean, I love you. A whole lot. You're easily the greatest thing that has ever happened to me. Remember the day you found me in the shelter? That was the start of the whole look-

ing in your eyes and the connection. Gosh, I knew, even back then, that if I could just be yours I'd spend the rest of my life so grateful and happy and doing everything I could to give you the same.

Wow, that was a long time ago, wasn't it?

You took me out of that cage and into your home and my chest actually hurt with how happy I was and still am.

The years sure have gone by. The kids are growing up so fast and they're getting involved in so many different things. You must be so proud of them. I know I am. They really are the perfect combination and the best of both of you, Mom and Dad.

I hope that didn't sound too cheesy. See, this word thing is getting me.

I could just fill up this whole sheet with the word love and I still don't think it would really give you a picture of what you mean to me. Maybe I'll try with memories.

I remember the reading nights, back when the kids were little. You had that whole stack of books and each one of them got to pick a story before bed and I'd lie on the floor at Mom's feet, listening to her voice and I knew, even though I was young back then, that I would die for every one of you.

I remember picnics and the barbecues and how I always got a taste of

everything on the plate, even though the kids weren't supposed to feed me from the table. Not sure if anyone ever knew how many bites Dad would sneak me, but maybe that's something just between us.

I remember, just recently, Mom and I watching TV one night – who is this Ted Lasso guy, anyway? My head was on Mom's lap while we were on the couch – my favorite place to be and an advertisement came on for people who rescue dogs from the life of dog fighting. I couldn't take my eyes off the television. Those poor animals.

I was a stray before coming into the shelter, but even that experience was nothing – nothing – compared to what dog fighting dogs go through. My heart hurt so bad for those animals and the life they'd known.

When the ad came to an end Mom leaned down and put her cheek against mine and I knew she'd been crying. She whispered, "I love you so much."

It was then that I knew I had to figure out a way to do this. This computer thing. To tell you the feeling is mutual and always will be.

Our lives will change – that's what lives do – but the one constant I can guarantee is my devotion to you and this family.

I know we get busy with baseball games and band practice and trips to the dog park and family commitments, but I just wanted you to know that through it all, I'll never leave your side.

A companion, a shoulder to lean on, a best friend.

Yeah. That sounds about right. Maybe I did manage to find the words after all.

Well, it's getting late and I've got a house and five people to protect and watch over. I'll just leave this here for you...

*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.*



**Kitt** came into the shelter as a stray and we found out that she loves attention and walks. She does pull a little on the leash, but does well with a "no pull" kind of leash. She's a 2-year-old terrier mix who is willing to work to both please and for treats! Due to no past history with children, an age restriction for children in the home may apply, so please discuss this with shelter staff.



If **Brayden** could talk, we are sure that he would have quite a story to tell. Brayden is a 9-month-old terrier mix who was brought into the shelter by the police after being found along the road with a dog who had passed away. Even though this sweet boy has had a tough past, he doesn't let it get him down. He loves attention and has discovered what toys are all about! Do you have the right spot for Brayden?



**Max** was dearly loved in his previous home, but sadly his owner could no longer care for him. Max is a 1-year-old Australian Shepherd mix who needed some time to adjust when he first arrived at the shelter. Max has come a LONG way since his arrival. He enjoys going to the play yard to play and loves people! He will need someone that will continue to socialize Max with the outside world to show him that it is not a scary place. Max has never been around children so an age restriction for children in the home may apply, please discuss this with shelter staff.



**Chancy** was surrendered to the shelter when her owner could no longer care for her. She is an 8-year-old Spaniel/Collie mix who is a sweet girl that is very people focused and loves to have you all to herself. She would do best as an only dog in the home as she does not want to share her people. Chancy enjoys attention and does know how to sit. She would love to have a second chance at a loving forever home!

For more information about Kitt, Brayden, Max, and Chancy, 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.

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown



# Don't judge a dog

Bethany Davidson  
FCAC Humane Educator

Whether they're walking through our adoption floor or scrolling through photos online, potential adopters quickly notice that many of Frederick County Animal Control's canines have large block heads, muscular builds, big goofy grins and that they fall into the category of pit bull type dogs. In fact, pit bull mixes currently make up 70% of our adoptable canine population and frequently serve as shelter ambassadors at events and facility tours. Despite being some of our friendliest, most tolerant, and well-behaved dogs, these mixes are sadly among the last to be adopted due to breed restrictions/bans and misinformation. Here are just a few facts about the dog that is simultaneously demonized and referred to as America's Dog.

First, Pit Bull isn't actually a breed at all but rather a term used to refer to a group of dogs that share similar physical characteristics much like the terms retriever, shepherd, hound and terrier. According to AKC/UKC breed standards there are four main breeds that fall into this classification. They are the American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier and American Bully. There are also a number of unique breeds and mixes that are often misidentified as pit bulls due to their physical characteristics.

Every dog is unique, but overall pit bull type dogs have a ton of favorable traits. While there is some variability between the four main breeds, pit bulls are known for being friendly dogs who are incredibly affectionate with family and good with children. They are strong, confident, and eager to please. Pit bulls can be couch potatoes, playful and energetic or a combination of both. This canine classification is also one that is adaptable to change and highly trainable.

Yes, pit bull type dogs have been bred and used for dog fighting both historically and presently, but they are so much more. The mix originated in England in early 19th century where

they were also bred as working dogs used to herd, protect and manage livestock. Once pit bull type dogs made their way across the ocean, they became a popular American family dog even serving as national mascots and the beloved canine companion of the Little Rascals. Today, pit bull mixes can be seen in communities not only as pets but as service dogs, therapy dogs, and police dogs. One former FCAC resident is now putting her ball drive and strong nose to work as a cadaver dog.

Given their history as dog fighting dogs, it is often assumed that pit bulls are dangerous and aggressive. After analyzing multiple peer-reviewed studies, the American Veterinary Medical Association concluded that "controlled studies have not identified this breed group (pitbull-type dogs) as disproportionately dangerous." In fact, pit bull type dogs have excellent temperaments. According to the American Temperament Test Society, pit bull type dogs score in the top 23% of all breeds tested and have an average score of 87.9%.

Locking jaws are also a myth. Dr. I. Lehr Brisbin of the University of Georgia says, "There is absolutely no evidence for the existence of any kind of 'locking mechanism' unique to the structure of the jaw and/or teeth of the American Pitbull Terrier." Pit bull type dogs don't even have the strongest bite among canines. Information posted on Pitbullinfo.org states that both German Shepherds and Rottweilers have stronger bites than any pit bull type dog and with the strongest bite belonging to the Kangal. Its bite has been measured at over three times stronger than that of pit bulls.

FCAC takes care to ensure that the dogs we adopt out into the community are safe regardless of breed. "The reality is that dogs of many breeds can be selectively bred or trained to develop aggressive traits," states the ASPCA. "Therefore the responsible ownership of any dog requires a commitment to proper socialization, humane training and conscientious supervision."

If you're interested in learning more about pit bull type dogs, visit Pitbullinfo.org.



Albany & Brooklyn arrived at shelter in late March as a result of their owner's declining health due. Albany is your typical cat. She enjoys attention and comes to greet visitors if she's not too sleepy. She really loves to play with her ball tower and is interested in toys. Brooklyn's favorite activities are napping and more napping. She enjoys petting sessions too, but this diva expects you to come to her. Albany and Brooklyn seem to draw comfort from each other's presence; therefore, they are better together.

If you visit the shelter's cat adoption room, the first cat to greet you will be Georgia. She was placed there because of her cool, calm and out-going personality. Georgia loves to be pet and will nuzzle you to get your attention.



During his first week at FCAC, Abraham was very scared, so much so our Humane Educator wrote "I walked by his kennel and observed him at the back trembling and trying to hide under his bed. His body was very tense, ears pinned back, tail tucked tightly." Fast forward three months, Abraham has become comfortable with the shelter routine, staff and volunteers.



Hudson is a friendly guy and seems to like everyone he meets. He loves attention and will put his head in your lap to let you know he wants more petting. When he is not snuggling by your side, Hudson likes to play with his toys and run free in one of the shelter's off-leash areas. Hudson has lived with another dog and would likely enjoy having a dog friend in his next home.

For more information about Albany, Brooklyn, Georgia, Abraham, and Hudson call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac).



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- May 27: Coco's Grill 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- June 3: Coco's Grill 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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# 2022 Thurmont Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The Town of Thurmont is pleased to present this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, for the Thurmont Water System, PWSID #010-0023. This report is designed to inform you about the quality and sources of the Town's drinking water. Our goal is to provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We work continually to improve our treatment process and to protect our water resources. The drinking water provided by the Town of Thurmont during the past calendar year met all of the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Maryland health standards for drinking water contaminants.

Our drinking water source is ground water consisting of five wells, 3, 4, 9, 7 and 8, with three treatment facilities. Wells 3, 4 & 9 are treated at the same plant. Wells 3, 4 & 9 are in the Frederick Limestone aquifer and Wells 7 and 8 are in the Gettysburg Shale aquifer. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has categorized through testing, that Well 3 is ground water under the influence of surface water and it is treated the same as a surface water source. MDE has completed source water assessments on the vulnerability of all State water sources to contamination. For more information on specific assessments you may call the MDE Source Water Protection Division at 410-537-3714.

The Town of Thurmont routinely monitors for contaminants in our drinking water in accordance with federal and state laws. Not all contaminants are tested annually. The table below shows results of contaminants that were detected for the previous year January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022, unless otherwise noted. As water travels over land or underground it can pick up contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals along with radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer, undergoing chemotherapy, who have undergone organ transplants, have HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## Definitions of Abbreviations and

### Terms used in this report:

**MCLG** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety. These goals represent a target level for a contaminant that is not necessarily achievable with standard treatment.

**MCL** Maximum Contaminant Level, the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water based on present regulations as set by the EPA to protect the public health. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible, based on the best treatment technology currently available.

**TT** Treatment Technique.

**NTU** Nephelometric Turbidity Unit, a unit of measure for the cloudiness or turbidity of drinking water.

**PPM** Parts per Million or milligrams per liter or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

**PPB** Parts per Billion or micrograms per liter or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

**PPT** Parts per Trillion or nanogram per liter or one ounce in 7.5 billion gallons of water.

**pCi/L** Picocuries Per Liter, A measure of radioactivity in water.

**NA** Not Applicable.

**ND** Not Detected.

**MRDL** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level.

**MRDLG** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal.

**AL** Action Level, The Concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Information about lead in Drinking Water:** Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of Thurmont is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home's plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact The Town of Thurmont's Water superintendent Harold Lawson at 301-271-7313 for a list of laboratories in our area that can provide water testing services. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Beginning in 2020, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) initiated a PFAS monitoring program. PFOA and PFOS are two of the most prevalent PFAS compounds. PFOA concentrations from samples taken from our water system in 2022 ranged from 4.73 to 13 parts per trillion (ppt); PFOS concentrations taken from our water system in 2022 ranged from 10.5 to 40 ppt. In March 2022, the EPA announced proposed Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) of 4 ppt for PFOA and 4 ppt for PFOS, and a Group Hazard Index for four additional PFAS compounds. Future regulations would require additional monitoring as well as certain actions for systems above MCLs. The EPA will publish the final MCLs and requirements by the end of 2023 or the beginning of 2024. Additional information about PFAS can be found on the MDE website: [www.mde.maryland.gov/publichealth/pages/pfas-landing-page.aspx](http://www.mde.maryland.gov/publichealth/pages/pfas-landing-page.aspx).

**Information about PFAS:** PFAS - or per-and polyfluoralkyl substances - refers to a group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain and water-resistance fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, ground water and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.

Beginning in 2020, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) initiated a PFAS monitoring program. PFOA and PFOS are two of the most prevalent PFAS compounds. PFOA concentrations from samples taken from our water system in 2022 ranged from 4.73 to 13 parts per trillion (ppt); PFOS concentrations taken from our water system in 2022 ranged from 10.5 to 40 ppt. In March 2022, the EPA announced proposed Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) of 4 ppt for PFOA and 4 ppt for PFOS, and a Group Hazard Index for four additional PFAS compounds. Future regulations would require additional monitoring as well as certain actions for systems above MCLs. The EPA will publish the final MCLs and requirements by the end of 2023 or the beginning of 2024. Additional information about PFAS can be found on the MDE website: [www.mde.maryland.gov/publichealth/pages/pfas-landing-page.aspx](http://www.mde.maryland.gov/publichealth/pages/pfas-landing-page.aspx).

The Town of Thurmont Water Department works around the clock to provide quality water to our residents. With water being our most precious resource, we asked you to not only conserve water but to help us in protecting our water resources for future generations. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Harold Lawson at 301-271-7313. Town meetings are held on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the town office, 615 East Main St.

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2022	3	1.8-3	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Arsenic	2020	1	0 - 1	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Barium	2020	0.02	0 - 0.02	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	2020	5	0 - 5	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits discharge from mines.
Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	6/14/2021	0.3	0.3 - 0.3	0	5	pci/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	6/14/2021	2.3	0-2.3	0	15	pci/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Turbidity	Limit (Treatment Technique)	Level Detected	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination				
Highest single measurement	5 NTU	.15 NTU	N	Turbidity is a measurement of the cloudiness of water caused by suspended particles. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration.				
Lowest monthly % meeting limit	1.0 NTU	100%	N					
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2022	1	1 - 1	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	10/4/2022	1.3	0-1.3	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	10/4/22	14.3	6.73-14.3	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>NOTE: Not all sample results may have been used for calculating the highest level detected because some results may be part of an evaluation to determine where compliance sampling should occur in the future</b>								
Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	#Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2021	1.3	1.3	.24	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2021	0	15	3	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Unregulated Contaminates	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)	2022	40	10.5-40	N/A	N/A	ppt		Non-stick cookware, water resistant clothing, personal care items, firefighting foams.
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	2022	13	4.73-13	N/A	N/A	ppt		
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)	2022	5.5	5.4-5.5	N/A	N/A	ppt		
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)	2022	3.9	3.3-3.9	N/A	N/A	ppt		

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Contact me if you have a problem with a  
federal agency or program."**

## CONGRESSMAN **DAVID TRONE**



### **Solving Problems for Marylanders**

The most important lesson I've learned in business is the customer comes first. My number one priority is serving my constituents. Unfortunately, constituent service isn't a priority for every elected official. My philosophy is simple: answer every constituent message, whether it's a concern about legislation or a request for help. Answer it promptly. And do everything in my power to address every constituent's concerns.

### **Local Offices to Better Serve You**

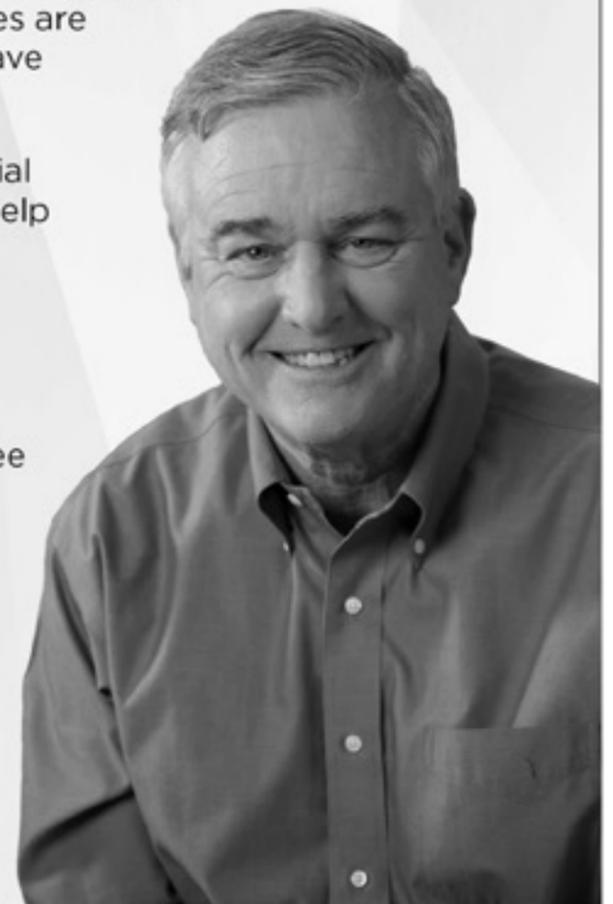
To serve you better, I was the first Representative in this district's history to open four constituent service offices — including one in Frederick. My offices are staffed with people who care and are experts in helping those who have issues with the federal programs or agencies.

Please contact one of our offices if you are having problems with Social Security or Medicare, veterans issues, passport issues, IRS issues, or help with federal student loans or grants.

### **A Record of Success**

Last year alone, my team answered 31,263 calls, emails, and letters. Every one of them answered within 72 hours. While we can't guarantee success, we'll fight hard for you. When David and Tex Mordkofsky finally got approval to adopt their daughter Sophia from the Philippines last year, they were told they would have to wait up to a year to get a visa and bring her home. We were able to secure a visa for them right away and celebrate their joy of having a new daughter.

*You can reach us by calling 301-926-0300, visiting [trone.house.gov/services](http://trone.house.gov/services), or stopping by our office at: 30 W. Patrick St., Suite 505.*



**DAVID TRONE**

U.S. CONGRESS

Paid for by David Trone for Congress, Inc.

## Catoctin Furnace Historical Society's Maryland Iron Festival

Elizabeth Comer

The Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. will present the fifth annual Maryland Iron Festival during the weekend of May 20 and 21, 2023 in partnership with Cunningham Falls State Park, Catoctin Mountain Park, Harriet Chapel, Frederick County Public Libraries and Visit Frederick.

Families and festival attendees of all ages will enjoy blacksmithing, a live iron pour, log hewing, woodturning, and casting demonstrations; ranger-led tours in Catoctin Mountain Park; tours of historic Harriet Chapel, "Feats of Strength" games and challenges; an artist and maker market; children's activities; activities from the Frederick County Public Libraries; Scales & Tales birds of prey program; an interactive display from Hagerstown and Frederick Railway Historical Society and more! The Museum of the Ironworker, featuring our new forensic facial reconstructions, will be open.

The event will feature live music. Saturday's lineup includes The Honey Dew Drops at 11 am, Eric Byrd Trio at 2 pm, and Van Wagner at 4:30 pm. Sunday's offerings include Slim Harrison at 12 noon, Shana Oshiro at 1 pm and Ken Kolodner at 2 pm.

Food trucks including Sourced Savage BBQ, Fryzaholic, and Snowball Waterfalls will be onsite over the weekend. A bake sale with homemade delicious treats from heirloom recipes will be set

up both days. A wine and beer garden will be open on the Furnace green near the ruins.

Festival visitors can also enjoy a hike along the Catoctin Furnace African American Cemetery Interpretive Trail, which links the furnace to the historic village with a trail extension into Cunningham Falls State Park and visits to Catoctin Furnace's historic kitchen and pollinator gardens.

Catoctin Furnace was built by workers owned or employed by the four Johnson brothers in order to produce iron from the rich deposits of iron ore found in the nearby mountains. At least 271 enslaved people of African ancestry made up the bulk of Catoctin Furnace's earliest workers. In the decade before the Civil War, European immigrants began replacing the enslaved and freed African American workers as it was more economical to hire cheap labor than support an enslaved workforce. Descendants of the immigrants still live in the village.

The iron furnace at Catoctin played a pivotal role during the industrial revolution in the young United States. The furnace industry supported a thriving community, and company houses were established alongside the furnace stack. Throughout the nineteenth century, the furnace produced iron for household and industrial products. After more than one hundred years of operation, the Catoctin Furnace ceased production in 1903.

In 1973, the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc., was

formed by G. Eugene Anderson, Clement E. Gardiner, J. Franklin Mentzer, and Earl M. Shankle to "foster and promote the restoration of the Catoctin Furnace Historic District...and to maintain the same exclusively for educational and scientific purposes...to exhibit to coming generations our heritage of the past."

Today, the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. is undertaking groundbreaking research, including bioarchaeological research of the African American cemetery in Catoctin Furnace. In partnership with the Smithsonian Institution and the Reich Laboratory for Medical and Population Genetics at Harvard University, this project is analyzing ancient DNA and the human genome of revolutionary-era enslaved African American workers at Catoctin Furnace.

Such research, in conjunction with other technologies such as stable isotope analysis, could tell us where these workers were born, where they lived throughout their lives, and what constituted their diet. We believe that every life mattered, and every past matters now. By studying and disseminating the results of this research, we hope that people everywhere will get to meet some of these early workers and understand the critical roles they played in the development of our young nation, as well as appreciate the varied trajectories of their lives.

An important part of the historical society's preservation work are its seasonal festivals



The iron furnace at Catoctin played a pivotal role during the industrial revolution in the young United States. The furnace industry supported a thriving community, and company houses were established alongside the furnace stack.

and heritage tourism holiday events. This year we are hosting:

Special thank you to event sponsors: First Energy, Visit Frederick, and Woodsboro Bank.

The event is free but donations

are welcome. All proceeds will be used for the ongoing restoration of the historic village structures, a critical need. For more information contact [info@catocctinfurnace.org](mailto:info@catocctinfurnace.org).



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# HISTORY

## Insights of Emmitsburg's social past from those who lived it

John Miller

Part 2

### The Economy

In 1910, the Emmitsburg Chronicle reported in the words of those merchants about Emmitsburg's economy. They all stated, for the most part, that the crops were great and that money was apparently easy. Good investments were eagerly sought and more buildings were erected in the neighborhood than in previous years. During the late 1800's, the Emmitsburg Chronicle published a market value that summed up what the goods were worth. Items ranged from hides and meats, to grain, not to mention that a half of page was full of advertisements for Emmitsburg's businesses.

One of the most interesting facts in Emmitsburg's history is that the business section was so much bigger then than what is today. Throughout the 19th and the early part of the 20th centuries, Emmitsburg was very dependant on itself. Businesses ranged from manufacturing and markets to ice and farming needs. During Emmitsburg's early years, people were able to make it in life by supporting local businesses. Sim-

ply put, the town was self-sufficient. The town's people generated all the money raised by the businesses. That money went right back into the town. Thus, making Emmitsburg very prosperous.

It must have been an impressive sight. Knowing you could walk into a general store and the clerk knew who you were and had your order ready without you even asking for it. The service one received must have been awesome. The days of the friendly sales clerk that everybody knew has seen it's time and has about passed because of the introduction of major department store chains. More people are willing to travel to Wal-mart to pay less for something that might be in a general store in town. When this happens it puts the smaller businesses out of business.

Recently, someone asked, "What kind of growth does Emmitsburg need, if any, as far as jobs are concerned?" My answer was, "None, because there are no major jobs in Emmitsburg and most of the people I talk to work down the road in Thurmont, Frederick, or D.C. because they can't survive on minimum wage locally. The reason this is so is because of today's world where

traveling to work has become a breeze. This is also so mainly because the American corporations have grown considerably. If a job down the road in a major city pays \$16 an hour vs. a job in Emmitsburg that pays only \$10 an hour, people are most likely to take the higher paying job. Unfortunately, this has had a big impact on Emmitsburg's economy.

With store fronts filled with senior citizens swapping stories of days gone by, these stores must have been a social gathering of their own. Stories were told and folklore was passed down to the kids from the old-timers who were sitting on the storefront chairs, while smoking their pipes. Gossip and rumors were told by the ladies of the town about their neighbors. These places were a magnet for hours out of the day.



It's hard to imagine now, but at one time Main Street was quiet enough for horse-drawn floats in community parades.

### Emmitsburg's Appearance

Communicated on July 5, 1879, a writer complains about the sanitary conditions of Emmitsburg. The town authorities answered the author with criticism. The writer seems to have enough information to back up his claim; however, the town authorities do not feel he is right. You see, these sorts of complaints today are lodged with those who are in an office of the town. The use of the Emmitsburg Chronicle to address problems and complaints is nothing new with the town, even in today's standards. Public interest has always been a top priority and, when satisfaction is not met, then Emmitsburg citizens have a way of expressing their disappointments. In many aspects, as petty as these claims and the response received may be, Emmitsburg citizens have always wanted their town to be kept in a good manner.

The writer states: "Mr. Editor, allow me through your columns to call attention to the sanitary condition of our village. The time has arrived when the utmost purity and cleanliness, to

prevent the rise in spread of malaria to diseases. The town authorities would do well either in person or by means of properly appointed agents to make a thorough inspection of every place where the seeds of disease may be in danger for though carelessness, neglect, or ignorance.

Our bank alleys in places are in such a condition as to invite the approach of fever, whilst the odor arising from many of the cellars is enough to warn the passerby that death and disease are lurking there. At the corner of the public square and a very midst of the town, the stench arising from the rear of buildings is disgusting and sickened all who come near the premises. There must be something altogether wrong about localities that emit such odors.

If a load of wood is left on the street after certain time, a little harmless coal ashes is thrown out, the offender is speedily fined to teach him that duty he owes to the community, whilst nuisances that endanger of health and outrage, destine, or suffered to exist unno-

ticed by the authorities. No wonder our town is becoming less and less a place of resort for strangers, and that those who are obligated to come among us leave as soon as they can get away. Timely Warning"

The town's reply was published by the Emmitsburg Chronicle on July 26, 1879, stating in return:

"Official! At a meeting of the town council held at Messars. Isaac Hyder and Son's, on Monday, July 21, 1879, it was resolved to reply to a communication and the Emmitsburg Chronicle of July 5 but over the signature of 'Timely Warning', which article rather reflected on this body has being derelict in their duty. We would respectfully request 'Timely Warning' hereafter or any other person or persons to be more careful in making charges of negligence, as regards the sanitary condition of our neat and much improved village. As upon thorough investigation by our worthy Burgess and town council, the corner of the public square being in such deleterious condition, it has not yet been found. Not a single party has left the town for the reason assigned by 'Timely Warning.' By order of the town council John Gelwick's secretary."

To fix the problem and to keep Emmitsburg clean, during the 1880's the town had a general cleanup day. Citizens were asked to clean out their cellars, remove obstructions from the yards, clean their attics as precaution to help fight against the spread of fire and to

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keep the sanitary problems as best at a low risk. The town meeting minutes from May of 1886 states:

"The energy and activity displayed in our village of late in a general clean up, repairs, white washing, &c., are highly commendable, and the Summer will reach us in full preparation to maintain the good name of the place for its healthful surroundings. Prevention is not only better, but much easier than cure, against the inroads of disease, let no one be remiss. Every offence against good order should be promptly reported as the duty of a good Citizen."

It seems that Timely Warning was right after all. Even though the town authorities did not admit to such problems with the health of Emmitsburg.

#### A Problem

In 2004, the Emmitsburg Dispatch wrote about the floods that were caused by Hurricane Ivan. Many people who lived near Flat Run were insulated for several hours, as they could not get into the only entrance to the housing development. If the town knew about the problems in that area from before, the problem could have been fixed a long time ago. On August 8, 1885, the Emmitsburg Chronicle published an article about the floods during that week in 1885. The flood water caused a great loss to Emmitsburg, by washing out the roads, destroying bridges, and a course property damage. The Bridge over Flat Run on the Gettysburg road was completely insulated by the high water that surrounded, and the abutments were washed out. The losses being distributed over considerable territory, have not been so great in Emmitsburg's history.

This is the first recording of the same situation that we read about today when a major storm system passes through our area. I thought it was very interesting that if one remembered to read the accounts, the situation could have been

played out differently and the entrance never placed so close to a small creek.

#### Fun Time?

As people complained about the noise generated by the exhaust systems of motor vehicles in today's society, and how teenagers race through town in their cars, what would you say if I told you they used to do it at night time during the 1800's with horses. Some would probably think I was crazy. On July 12, 1879, the peaceful town of Emmitsburg was disturbed by a horse race through town. It was understood at the time as a grand spectacle. The contestants were a horse from livery-stable of Messers. Guthrie and Beam, and Mr. J. A. S. Tawney's horse. Fifty dollars was given to the winner.

Nevertheless, not all things were as fun, especially when the Emmitsburg town elections were due. Apparently, elections were somewhat interesting when the voters mixed a little liquor with their voting. In 1879, the town elections went quite smoothly as voters came to vote and left as soon as they were done. It was quite grand as peace was had because of a law requiring the liquor saloons to be closed on Election Day, and it again proved its efficiency.

#### Outside Influences

Outsiders are what Emmitsburg calls them. That is the definition of someone who is from another area and who has located his or her family in Emmitsburg. This also defines someone who tries to do something he or she thinks is great for the town, but the real Emmitsburg citizens show their ideas in the belief that these people do not have a say in matters because their families were not living here before. The prejudice of some has always condemned the many because of their ideas of improving the town. Many Emmitsburgians are skeptical of change. You see it today as well as back then. This ideology can be traced back to 1886

when someone wrote to the Dispatch giving a newly elected body of the town council the idea of confinement from the outside world by building a huge wall engulfing Emmitsburg.

The writer wrote on May 8, 1886:

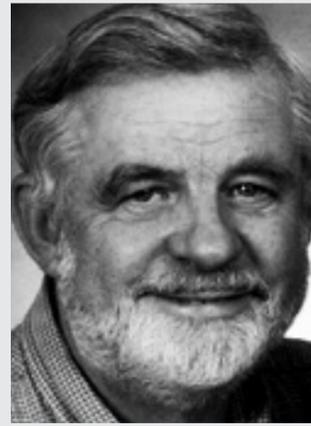
"In the first place, being responsible for the safety of our venerable town the best and surest way to protect it from outside influences, and shut out any possible innovation on it's time honored usages, would be to build a high strong wall around it as soon as possible, after which they will be able to proceed at their leisure to remove or destroy."

It seems that this Emmitsburg citizen had forgotten that a hundred years before, Emmitsburg was founded by immigrants from Germany and Ireland who we know as Dutch and Scot-Irish. But why? Maybe its because Emmitsburg's interest has been a private issue that is only to be shared with it's hardcore citizens. One could imagine all the great ideals people over the years have brought forth to better Emmitsburg, but because of their social status among it's hardcore citizens, because they are considered outsiders, their ideas would never be given consideration.

#### Some Final Thoughts

The Emmitsburg Chronicle served the public well and even, in such cases, the Chronicle itself was attacked by Emmitsburg Citizens because the violence, sandals, and rude editorials being published were considered offensive to children reading the news. The Chronicle released a statement in 1879 stating that it's sole purpose was intended to get the news to the people and that maybe younger eyes may not want to be subjected to the ways of a modern world by reading about murder and horse accidents, etc. It seems that not many of the town's residents realized or cared that so much has happened here in Emmitsburg. However, these individuals make up a small portion of

## Michael Topper



On March 29, Michael A. Topper, of Prescott, AZ, went to be with the Lord after blessing this earth for 83 years. He leaves to cherish his memory and honor his legacy, six children, eighteen grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren. A man of strong faith and solid compassion, he lived his life guided by his commitment to God, family, and community.

He was born to the late Francis and Shirley (Goss) Topper, on September 15, 1939, in Geneva, IL. His middle school, high school, and college years were spent in his paternal ancestral town of Emmitsburg, after helping his father build the family home. From a young age, Mike aspired to move West and was able to realize this dream in 1978 when he moved his family to

Prescott, after residing in Maryland, New Jersey, Texas, Illinois, and Pennsylvania.

Professor Emeritus and a modern renaissance man, his professional career spanned over 60 years as a college administrator, university mathematics/computer science instructor, calculus textbook author, church pastor, and memoir writer. He retired in 2019 from his final academic position of 20 years as a member of the Prescott Campus Mathematics Department at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

His children Matthew Topper (Cindi), Paul Topper (Ingrid), Derek Huff (Diana), Christine Topper Kalinich (John), Frank Topper (Chandelle), and Laura Topper Costanzo (Joseph), and surviving sister, Patricia A. Topper, will remember his gentle countenance as he sipped a mug of coffee while exchanging snippets of life stories. He was a man of nostalgia who cherished family memories while always looking forward to creating new experiences with loved ones. He relied on his life verse, Proverbs 3:5-6, to guide his earthly journey.

We invite Mike's friends to join his family at a celebration of life service to be held May 20 at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Prescott Campus.

the towns official population.

Nevertheless, on a more personal note, Emmitsburg.net and the Emmitsburg Historical Society has made it possible for people to read about Emmitsburg's outstanding and rich history. A history that continues to grow and blossom with every page that is being uncovered. There's no telling where new topics and research may take us and what we will uncover. New puzzles will present itself, filled with riddles and controversy. It will be up to us to learn more about these topics as they present themselves to us. These little facts and opinions I have listed and discussed are only a few of the

many examples that are there for our discovery.

Many aspects contribute to a small community such as Emmitsburg. Like all communities, you have to take what I call "The good, the bad, and the ugly." It adds curiosity and charm that arouses people, such as myself, to dig deeper into Emmitsburg's lifestyle. What may be good for one, will be rejected by others. It's how opinions are formed and how they generate "the best of times and the worst of times."

To read other articles related to Emmitsburg's history, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net



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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## May 3

### Burned While Fighting Fire

Bradley Stull, of Mountindale, who was badly burned one day last week while fighting the forest fire in the Catoctin mountains, has developed blood poisoning and was taken to the Frederick City Hospital for treatment.

Stull was burned while fighting the fire along Fishing Creek. It is understood that he was trapped between a double line of fire and his clothing ignited. Several people went to his assistance and distinguish the fire. He was compelled to walk more than 3 miles to his home before receiving treatment.

His leg, from his ankle to his knee, was badly burned. Blood poisoning set in and it was deemed necessary to take him to the hospital without delay. Stull, who is advanced in years, was on duty most of the week fighting the fire.

### Taneytown Election

#### Returns incumbents

The corporate elections for Taneytown on Monday lacked interest, with all the current council members being re-elected with a small vote. Burgess Albert Ohler, Commissioners Allison, Bankerd, Long, and Stauffer were all reelected without opposition.

### Citizens Urge Work

#### On Harney Road

A number of citizens from Harney went to Westminster on Monday to urge the completion of the Harney road. They say that there is not more than one and three quarters miles to be built, and then the road would then be good from Taneytown to Gettysburg. Of course, as usual, the commissioners said that money is the issue and it cannot be done this year.

This may be true; there are other things that are also true. It is certain that if every dollar spent could, or would, be converted into \$.75 worth of honest work, actual road mileage could be greatly increased; certainly \$.25 on the dollar should be sufficient for any necessary graft. We have often heard it remark by close observers that a dollar did not, at the highest calculations, do more than \$.50 worth of work.

But let this be as it may, it is the general conclusion of nearly all, that it would pay the County big to have a man on every job to look after the work according to the contract, and make a

daily or at least weekly report on the progress made. We are informed that this is done in many states and counties and the results have been better and more lasting work. This, at least, would be one step nearer the line of true businesslike principles.

### Spring Isn't Happening

Spring is trying to function in a traditional manner, but the cold nights and cold breezes continue to delay the growth of crops. Many farmers are predicting a short hay crop.

### How Radio Code Is Recorded

A machine that would take down telephone conversations in the absence of anyone in the vicinity of the instrument was placed on the market a number of years ago, but was not successful financially. A similar machine is now being developed to register radio broadcasts. It is quite possibly physically to construct a machine that will register radio conversation. The day may be near when a whole concert can be received during the absence of the owner of a set and reproduced at his pleasure.

## May 10

### S'More Snow

Between the hours of one and three o'clock Thursday morning a severe wind and rain storm shook buildings, rattled and banged shutters and made our metal roof sound like a load of scrap iron hurrying over a dilapidated wooden bridge. Wind, rain, hail and snow, all made their appearance and their present felt. A light covering of snow was visible on the mountains when daylight came. One inch of snow was reported from Highland, about 10 miles west of Thurmont.

Many small branches were broken from trees, leaves almost covering the street at places. It is said that thunder and lightning was seen and heard during the night.

### Six Girls Compose F airfield Graduating Class

With the graduating class composed entirely of girls, Fairfield High School undoubtedly set a record this year. Those in the class are Esther Brenizer, Edna Kittinger, Elizabeth Newly, Emma Nedly, Nelly Sanders and Elizabeth

Seabrooke. The 14th annual commencement exercise will be held Tuesday evening, June 5.

In connection with the ceremony, an announcement will be made that beginning next year the eighth grade work of the Fairfield Grammar School will be combined with the high school in order to relieve the congestion existing in the grammar grade school. It is believed that the proposed arrangement will also be a benefit to the pupils from the rural sections who attend the grammar school at Fairfield, and making a step between the grammar and high school less difficult.

### An Appeal For A Clean Town

The Civic Club is aiming to make Thurmont an ideal one in every respect, and at this time, especially so, as to cleanliness and sanitation, and to this, the Town Commissioners have promised to place receptacles on the street corners as receivers for all kinds of litter and refuse. After such receptacles are placed, we appeal to the children and adults to deposit all debris in the receptacles instead of throwing it haphazardly on the streets and pavements. We have a fine, neat, orderly town, as is noticed and remarked by visitors. Let us all have sufficient local pride, not only to keep it so, but to make it more so, for the sake of health and to satisfy our aesthetic natures.

## May 17

### More Mountain Fires

A fire in the Catoctin Mountain, three miles west of Catoctin Furnace was sighted on Monday afternoon. The heavy rain on Tuesday afternoon put the finishing touches on the work of the firefighters.

The fire near Catoctin Furnace started in a remote section of the mountain and was very difficult to reach. There were reports of several smaller fires but the locations of these could not be ascertained. The fires are in the same localities as the fires of last week and incendiarism is suspected.

The County Commissioners Monday afternoon offered a reward of \$100 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone starting a fire in the mountains.

The Fire Warden said that failure of persons to notify wardens of the exis-



tence of a fire is punishable by a fine of \$10. He added that he had heard of the Monday afternoon fire two hours before persons residing in their immediate neighborhood had informed him. He also said the law provided that owners of timberland on fire are not released from fighting the flames.

### Women's Club Holds Meeting

The regular meeting of the Emmitsburg Women's Club was held Thursday in the auditorium of the new high school with an attendance of 75. The Emmitsburg club was formed only a comparatively short time ago but is rapidly growing to be one of the biggest and most active of the Frederick County clubs. Three new members were added to the list at the last meeting, making a total membership of 66.

The New Midway, Libertytown, and Walkersville clubs were asked to send members to attend the meeting and all responded by sending delegates. During the meeting refreshments were served by seven Emmitsburg High School girls. Some of the finished work of the club was also shown, including gowns, aprons, hats, wool and organize flowers, &c.

Meanwhile members of the Former-Former Boozers Association, met at their super secret still in the train station warehouse to sample their last batch of 'hooch'. Member of the association pledged \$25 to help boozers in Woodsboro to upgrade their still to meet the growing needs of hard working men in that community under the condition that if the Emmitsburg still is ever discovered and destroyed by revenue agents, Woodsboro would share its 'supply' with hard working men in Emmitsburg until a new still can be made up and running.

### Radio Set Installed

In keeping with the progress of the day, Thurmont residents are installing radio sets in their houses and places of businesses. Perhaps the first installation was the home of Mr. Charles Gall, the next at the home of Mr. Charles Waters, and one at the home of Mr. O'Toole: the two last named were placed Monday of this week. This writer, along with others, enjoyed listening for the first time to a concert broadcast from somewhere. Having no codebook was

the reason for not knowing were the music came.

No doubt sets will be purchased by other persons around the town and before long many will be enjoying entertaining friends and at the same time receiving entertainment themselves.

## May 23

### Emmitsburg Will Decorate Graves

All ex-service men are most cordially invited to assist the members of the Francis Elder Post 75 of the American Legion of Emmitsburg in a street parade and the decoration of the graves of the dead. The parade will form at the Square at 9:30 a.m..

### Decoration Day in Taneytown

The customary Decoration Day observance will take place in Taneytown next Wednesday afternoon.

There will be the usual parade of school children, ex-servicemen, and the various lodges, to the three cemeteries. Music will be furnished by the Taneytown town band. The parade will start at 1 p.m..

Members of the American Legion, soldiers of all wars, and members of the lodges, are requested to enter the parade. Officers of the various Sunday schools are to marshal their children and to give announcement on Sunday of the event. Flowers should be delivered at the high school building no later than noon.

All places of business are requested to close until after the program in the Opera House. We know this is a busy time, but it is hope that the community will show its interest in keeping up such observations and encourage the few who will take an active part in the arrangements for the day.

After the program in the Opera House, a game of baseball will be played between Taneytown and New Midway.

### Koons' Brothers Store Robbed

Sometime early on Tuesday morning robbers entered the general store of Koons' Brothers in Taneytown and made off with all the men suits in stock, a lot of shoes, about

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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

10 watches and a lot of jewelry and other merchandise.

Entrance with made by cutting out a lower panel from the side door opening on the backyard. The door is unused and is up about three feet from the ground. Empty boxes were piled up under the sill in order to work on the panel. As none of the other doors were unlocked, it is evident that one worked on the inside and passed the goods through the opening to another on the outside. A lot of suit hangers were left in the yard and a portion of the goods, perhaps due to someone passing, or some noise that scare the robbers away before they had finished the job. The plunder was likely carried to the alley in the rear and a quick getaway was made by auto.

### Another Crash Finds Victims

It is estimated at about 400 persons, some women, the majority of the laboring classes, with deposit ranging from \$50 to \$400 will lose every penny in the collapse of the banking firm of Annan, Horner & Company, members of which are being investigated in bankruptcy proceedings.

The affairs of the old time banking firm, which many years ago held a fine reputation, have been before the authorities for several months following the filing of suits by depositors who sought to recover their savings. All sorts of litigation started and bitter feeling was aroused among supposedly good friends. Affairs in the community were gradually coming into an unhealthy state, the town was getting a bad name for unfair methods and the good people had to suffer.

At a hearing in Frederick, conducted by trustees for the creditors, it was learned that the liabilities of the bank was over \$200,000, of which \$140,000 represents interest and checking accounts.

The assets, yet undetermined, comprise notes and equity in real estate and mortgages on dwellings in Emmitsburg.

The banking firm members gave as its principle asset the property of the Blue Mountain Apple Orchards, which they valued at \$68,000, other properties valued between \$20,000-\$25,000, and notes of doubtful value.

Witnesses at the hearing brought out that the 1920 statement of the Annan-Horner & Co. show the bank insolvent then, having absorbed its capital and surplus of \$20,000 and was about \$40,000 short of accounts.

Being a private bank the firm was not required to publish a statement and consequently the creditors of this institution were in the dark as a state of affairs.

It is generally believed that the bank's depositors will lose practically every penny. There seems to be some hope for secured creditors, those secured by notes in mortgages.

Whatever the outcome in the final settlement, it is a rather sad state of affairs, especially for the many poor people who will lose every cent they have in the world.

## May 31

### Emmitsburg Broom Factory Sold

The property of the Emmitsburg Broom Company, located at the southern edge of Emmitsburg, was sold at sheriff sale last Saturday to Dr. Birley of Thurmont. The property consist of 1/3rd of an acre of land and a two-story frame factory building 30' x 70' containing broom making machinery. We do not know the doctor's plans, but we hope he may see his way clear to move the plant to Thurmont.

### Memorial Day In Thurmont

Memorial Day was celebrated here last Saturday by a parade, the strewing of flowers up on the graves of those who have passed on, and appropriate exercises at the Town Hall. The parade formed at the Hall and marched to E. Main St., to Alamonte Ave., then to the United Brethren cemetery, then counter marched back to the town hall. It was headed by the Thurman High School Band at 31 pieces, followed by automobiles carrying the old soldiers of the Civil War, about 150 school children carrying flags and members of almost every organization and group in Thurmont. A clear day with a bright sun tempered by a slight breeze made the day and ideal one for this occasion.

### Harney Decoration Day

Decoration services in Harney will take place on Friday evening. The parade will start promptly at 6 o'clock from the public school grounds. A band of music will enliven the occasion; also a firing squad of the American Legion will be present to fire the salute at the graves. Sunday schools, lodges in societies and all persons who are enjoying a true spirit of patriotism and a true

love for the country are urge to be present and join into an honor to our fellow heroes. The march will be from the school grounds to the Lutheran Cemetery, then to the United Brethren cemetery, and then return to United Brethren Church where speeches will be given. It is asked that everyone come with flowers and help make this a great occasion for our little town.

### Keeps Head About Himself

Dalbert Spangler had quite an exciting and rather dangerous experience last Wednesday morning while driving John Snyder's big milk truck. He had just started down the big hill to the Monocracy, when the brake rod broke releasing the brakes. At once, the big truck started to roll and by the time it got halfway down it was flying, but very fortunately Delbert did not get excited and managed to keep it on the road and no one was hurt.

### Youth Falls 200 Feet To Death

John Andrews, who lived between Thurmont & Emmitsburg, was fatally injured while working at the quarry of the Blue Mountain Stone Company early Friday morning. He died a short time after being found at the bottom of the quarry where he had fallen from a height of 200 feet.

Andrews was on the night shift at the quarry and was working alone at the foot of a large mountain, dumping from a bucket, which was sent to him over a cable. Upon arrival, Andrews shoveled the stone and other material in the buckets to the side.

The buckets travel over a long steel cable stretch from a stone crusher, at the top of the mountain, to the foot of the Mountain and is operated by electricity.

At 2 o'clock Friday morning, Carl Warren, the youth in charge of the electrical apparatus controlling the bucket, heard a shout as the bucket was about 300 feet from the station on its return trip from the foot of the mountain. Instantly the youth stop the bucket and a fraction of a second later heard a faint thud at the bottom of a deep valley over which the cable was suspended.

Warren ran from the building and down the side of the mountain and there found the body of Andrews, lying across the narrow gauge railroad track and on a solid floor of rock between 150 and 200 feet below the cable. He called for assistance and several men hurried to him. It was found that the youth was yet alive, although unconscious. How-

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ever life became extinct at 3:25. Andrews remained unconscious all this time.

The theory that Andrew's clothing might have caught on the bucket hooks is suspected when it was found that his

clothing was of heavy material and was torn at several places.

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

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# ALL OUR YESTERDAYS - FREDERICK COUNTY HISTORY

## May 3

Few names remain in the memory of longtime county residents like that of M. Etchison. For most of the first half of the 20th Century he operated the Etchison Funeral Home in Frederick.

McKendree Etchison was born September 15, 1864, in Jefferson where his father, John Etchison, and his mother, Julia Ann Etchison, established a funeral home and cabinet making company in February of 1848.

When his father died in 1880, Riley's two older brothers, Eugene and Louis Etchison took over the business. When Eugene died, Riley purchased the interest of both of his brothers and

became sole owner of M. Etchison Funeral Home.

In 1922 he rented a room at the rear of 122 West Patrick St. and opened a branch of his undertaking business. He then moved to 214 North Market St. in 1925, and, when his son entered the business as a partner in 1927, he changed the name to M. R. Etchison and Son.

In November 1939 he purchased The Trail Mansion at 106 East Church St. and the firm, and its successors, have operated from there since. Hart Etchison lived in the house while Riley Etchison remained for many years at his West College Terrace home.

Riley Etchison was active in what-

ever community he lived. He was an active mason and The Jefferson Council No. 127, Junior Order of United American Mechanics. He loved to fish and to build small boats. He was for many years the chaplain of the Frederick County Fish and Game Association. He was a devout member of Calvary (United) Methodist Church and also served the Methodist Church in Jefferson as its Sunday School superintendent for 40 years.

In 1891, he married Ann Kessler and they were the parents of five children. When Riley Etchison died in 1952, he and his wife were living at 11 West Second St.. He was 87. After services at his church, he was buried at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. His son, Hart, continued the family business until 1971 when it was sold.

Today the Keeney, Basford Funeral Home operates from The Trail Mansion, continuing this business into its 150th year. (Now it's 175th year.)

## May 10

When Frederick County was separated from Prince George's in 1748, a court was also established in Frederick. The honorable justices settled every possible dispute, including claims for welfare and tax relief.

In the early history of Frederick "... the county court of the Right Honorable Charles, Absolute Lord and Proprietary of the Province of Maryland and Avalon, Lord Baron of Baltimore," was in session only four times a year, in March, June, August and November.

The sessions were usually called on the third Tuesday of the month. In the March 1750 session, after several postponements from previous meetings of the court, Charles Wood, "late of Frederick County, planter," was tried by jury for "breach of promise."

Miss Lydia Dent contended that Wood, on February 25, 1747, proposed marriage and she accepted. Miss Dent told the jury that at all times afterwards she was ready, willing and able to perform as she had promised. It was also contended by

Miss Dent that Mr. Wood "fraudulently intended to deceive and defraud" her.

Evidence also revealed that on May 10, 1748, Charles Wood married another, namely Sarah Brightwell, contrary to his promise to Miss Dent. The plaintiff asked the court for damages in the amount of 100 pounds "current money."

The case was decided in favor of Miss Dent and Mr. Wood was ordered to pay her 30 pounds "current money" plus 1,443 pounds of tobacco for her costs and charges.

## May 17

On May 17, 1943, two famous world leaders stopped at a Frederick historic landmark.

At the height of World War II, Winston Churchill, prime minister of Great Britain, came to Washington to confer with President Roosevelt, one of many occasions the two world leaders met during those tumultuous years.

On a bright, sunny afternoon in mid-May, the pair, along with cabinet members and advisors, left Washington by motorcade for Shangri-La, the presidential retreat near Thurmont.

When they arrived in Frederick, coming up Market St., they stopped at the Square Corner and asked Officer Marshall Murray for directions to the Barbara Fritchie House.

Secret Service men cleared the way as the six-car motorcade pulled up to Dame Barbara's home. Churchill was hatless and was wearing a zipper suit, similar to that worn by aviators when he emerged from the limousine.

Others who observed the visit, reported that Churchill had a cigar between his fingers and Roosevelt was holding a rather long cigarette holder in his mouth.

The chauffeur for the two statesmen, recalled years later when he made a return visit to the Fritchie home, that Churchill recited John Greenleaf Whittier's famous poem from memory as he drove them up Market Street.

## May 24

When Frederick County National Bank officials arrived for work on May 24, 1841, they discovered the bank had been robbed during the weekend. Missing from the vault was \$185,000, consisting of \$135,000 in bank notes, \$10,000 in gold, \$32,000 in State of Maryland bonds, and \$8,000 in other negotiable instruments. The robbers had to pass through seven locks to effect their crime.

In June bank officials received a letter from William Wiley, a New York lawyer and judge. He said he could "negotiate" the return of some of the stolen funds in return for a fee of eight percent of the value of the recovered funds.

At a meeting in New York City with several prominent Empire State citizens, and two representatives of the bank, Wiley brought in some of the stolen property and was paid his commission.

The thieves retained the \$10,000 in gold and a small amount of C&O Canal scrip. Wiley refused to provide any information about the robbers or how he had "obtained" the stolen funds.

Sometime later Wiley was convicted in another case in a New York court of receiving stolen goods and was removed from the bench.

## May 31

On May 31, 1871, the cornerstone was laid for the first new building at the Maryland Institution for The Deaf and Dumb.

Thousands of local residents, along with numerous state and national officials attended the elaborate ceremonies at the Cannon Hill school grounds.

The corner stone was of "Connecticut brown stone of a superior quality, 21 feet long, 22 inches wide and 18 inches high, with a niche 13 inches in width and 4 and a half inches deep in the center to receive the box, and bears the inscription "1870."

The box is of copper, 8 x 12 inches, and 4 inches deep, and has on the top of it a silver plate with the following inscription: "Institution for the Deaf and Dumb of the State of Maryland, May 31, 1871."

Into the box was placed a Bible, a copy of the state's constitution, the act incorporating the institution, the bylaws of the institution, and numerous other documents and a listings of prominent citizens associated with the school.

The daylong ceremonies included speeches, choral presentations, and the actual laying of the cornerstone by the Grand Lodge of The Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland.

When the building was demolished in 1967, the cornerstone was recovered. Most of the documents were in good condition and were placed again - along with accounts of the history of the school - into the same cornerstone and box. It was then used as the cornerstone for the Ely Building, which replaced the original structure, and is today the primary building on the campus.

*From John Ashbury's '... and all our yesterdays: A chronicle of Frederick County'*



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## TANEYTOWN HISTORY

## The election of 1999

David Buie

May is an election month in Taneytown, and few people can forget the surprising turn of events that occurred twenty-four years earlier on May 4, 1999, when Taneytown elected its new Mayor with only one candidate on the ballot. Henry Heine, a former town council member, won the election by a margin of just 22 votes, despite facing no opposition from other registered candidates.

The unusual election circumstances drew attention from local and national media, as they raised questions about the democratic process and the role of political competition in small-town politics. Some observers criticized the lack of choice for Taneytown voters, while others praised Heine's leadership qualities and commitment to the community.

Heine, a former council member, had announced his candidacy several months earlier but faced no opposition from other registered candidates. This meant he would be elected by default, without needing a formal campaign or a vote from many of the town's eligible voters.

The news of Heine's victory was met with mixed reactions from the Taneytown community. Some residents expressed relief and satisfaction that a familiar and experienced leader would be at the helm of the town, while others voiced disappointment and frustration that they had not been given a choice in the election. "I don't like the idea of only having one candidate," said John Martin, a resident. "It doesn't seem fair or democratic to me. We should have had a chance to vote for someone else, to express our opinions and preferences."

Others, however, praised Heine's character and credentials and argued that he had earned the right to be Mayor by his long service to the town and his commitment to its welfare. "Heine has been a good council member," said another resident, Anne Ford. "He knows what the town needs and how to get

things done. I trust him to lead us in the right direction."

The lack of competition in the election was seen as a reflection of the unique character and dynamics of Taneytown politics. With a population of just over 4,000 people and a small-town atmosphere, the town was known for its close-knit community and its tradition of civic engagement.

Many residents had deep roots in the town and were actively involved in local affairs, serving on boards and commissions, attending town meetings, and volunteering for community events. Unfortunately, this meant that elections were often contested and spirited, with multiple candidates vying for each office and competing for the attention and support of the voters.

However, in the case of the mayoral election in 1999, no other candidates had stepped forward to challenge Heine. This was partly due to his reputation as a well-respected and influential public servant and partly to the need for more interest or resources among potential opponents.

Some observers speculated that the absence of competition was also linked to the town's recent political turbulence and conflict history. In the years leading up to the 1999 election, Taneytown had seen several high-profile disputes and controversies, including a divisive debate over a proposed Walmart store, a bitter dispute over the appointment of a town manager, and a contentious legal battle over the validity of a previous election.

These events had polarized the town and created a climate of distrust and hatred among some residents. As a result, some speculated that potential candidates for Mayor had been deterred by the prospect of entering a political arena fraught with tension and conflict.

Despite the lack of competition, Heine's victory was not without its challenges and controversies. Some residents had raised concerns about the election's legitimacy, arguing that having only

one candidate on the ballot was unfair and undemocratic.

Others had criticized the lack of transparency and openness in the election process, arguing that it had been too easy for Heine to be declared the winner without serious scrutiny or debate.

So, who was the write-in vote? W. Robert "Bob" Flickinger, the outgoing Mayor. Some say the write-in campaign was born at Grace United Church of Christ, where Flickinger was an active member and his wife, Fairy, the organist. "That just stands to reason, because Bob is active in the church," Charles Barnhart, a Trinity Evangelical Church of Christ deacon, told the Baltimore Sun.

However, state officials had confirmed that the election was valid under Maryland law, which allows unopposed candidates to be declared winners if they receive at least one vote. This meant Heine's victory was technically legitimate, even if it had not been entirely satisfactory to some residents.

Henry Heine passed in 2018 but will always be remembered by friends, colleagues, and community members as a dedicated public servant who went above and beyond to help others. Throughout his tenure in Taneytown, Heine was known for his willingness to lend a listening ear and guide those who sought his assistance.

According to several residents, Heine was an excellent mentor who was always willing to share his knowledge and experience with others. In addition, he was known for taking the time to get to know his employees and community members and for his friendly and approachable demeanor.

In addition to his city manager role, Heine was a dedicated volunteer and community leader. He was involved in numerous local organizations, including the Taneytown



Henry Heine (1947-2018), his greatest love was serving the City of Taneytown as the City Manager from 2010 until his death in 2018. Henry also served as a Councilman and Mayor.

Lions Club, and was always willing to lend his time and expertise to help others.

Overall, Heine's legacy is one of service and leadership, and he will be greatly missed by those who know him.

Bob Flickinger passed in 2023, Flickinger, who served as a City Councilman for sixteen years and Mayor for three terms, is remembered as a dedicated public servant who worked tirelessly to improve his community.

According to friends and colleagues, Flickinger's commitment to Taneytown was unparalleled. He was deeply invested in the city and its residents and was always looking for ways to improve the lives of those around him.

Flickinger was also known for his strong faith and devotion to his family. He was an active church

member and passionate about serving others. His love for his family was evident in everything he did, and he was a constant source of support and encouragement to those closest to him.

Throughout his life, Flickinger remained committed to his values and principles, and his legacy will continue to inspire and guide those who knew him. One Taneytown resident said, "Taneytown is better because he lived there."

*Dave Buie is a resident of Taneytown with a deep love for the town's historical significance. He can be reached on his Downtown Taneytown Facebook page or at [downtowntaneytown@gmail.com](mailto:downtowntaneytown@gmail.com).*

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# COOKING

## Swinging into spring

Sonya Verlaque

As the spring progresses, inspiration for new meals is all around us. With fresh fruit and herbs and vegetables starting to sprout the gardens and at the farmers markets wonderful meals will abound.

### Strawberry Spinach Salad

*Ingredients - For the salad*

- 1 ½ cup pecans
- 16 ounces baby spinach
- 16 ounces strawberries quartered or sliced
- ½ red onion, finely sliced
- 4 oz goat cheese, crumbled

For 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

- 1-2 tbs honey more or less depending on how sweet you like it
- 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 garlic clove minced
- 1/4 tsp kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp fresh cracked black pepper

Preparation instructions:

For the Dressing: Place the Dijon mustard, honey, olive oil, balsamic vinegar, garlic, salt, and pepper in a glass jar and shake or stir until fully combined.

To assemble the salad: Toast the pecans in a dry pan until they become fragrant, then let cool completely. In a large bowl, add spinach, sliced strawberries, and chopped pecans. Top with red onion sliced and crumbled goat cheese. Add salad dressing and toss until evenly coated right before serving!

### Pasta e Piselli

Pasta with peas always feels like a springtime, light pasta dish. Fresh peas are always sweet and crunch but you can use frozen peas for convenience as well. Pasta e piselli recipe is a flavorful dish that's like a cross between a pasta dish and a soup.

*Ingredients*

- 1 tbs olive oil
- 1 large shallot, finely chopped
- 500 g (1 lb) fresh or frozen peas
- 320 g (11 oz) ditalini or another type of small pasta
- 50 g (1 cup) freshly grated parmesan, plus extra for serving
- Handful fresh basil, optional
- Salt and pepper to taste

Preparation instructions: Heat the olive oil in a Dutch oven and sauté the shallot for 3 to 4 minutes

until softened. Meanwhile, bring a pot of water to a boil, salt it generously, and cook the pasta for half of the time indicated on the package. Before draining, reserve at least 4 cups of pasta water. Add the peas over the onions together with 1 cup of pasta water and simmer for 10-15 minutes. Transfer the pasta to the pan and gradually add some extra pasta water until the pasta is cooked al dente. This should take about 5 minutes, and you should still have some liquid when the pasta is al dente. Turn off the heat and stir in the grated Parmesan and basil if using. Season to taste with salt and plenty of freshly ground black pepper and serve with extra grated Parmesan on top.

### Mushroom Galette Recipe

To the dismay of my family, I love mushrooms. A galette is a rustic tart made from piecrust folded around the edges. Apple galettes are a great sweet treat, but a savory tart made with flaky pastry and a delicious combination of cheeses, mushrooms, and caramelized onions makes a great dinner.

*Ingredients:*

- 1 sheet of pie dough
- 1/3 cup whole milk ricotta
- 6 oz. crimini mushrooms, cut into slices
- 1/4 of a jumbo white onion, cut into thin crescent-shaped slices
- 1.5 oz gruyere cheese, shredded
- parmesan cheese, for grating as a garnish
- pinch of salt and freshly ground pepper
- pinch of nutmeg
- 1 egg, separated into white and yolk
- olive oil
- 1 sprig of thyme

Preparation instructions: Pre-heat the oven to 400°F. To a pan, add about a tablespoon of olive oil.



Pasta e Piselli - Pasta with peas always feels like springtime.

Warm over medium heat and once hot, add in the onion slices. Cook until the onions begin to become golden along the edges and caramelize. Add the mushroom slices to the pan and cook for another few minutes until the mushrooms are tender. Turn off the heat and temporarily set the pan aside. Unroll the pie crust onto a baking sheet fitted with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat. Brush the egg white over most of the pie crust, leaving about a 1 1/2 inch perimeter bare. Let the crust rest for a minute for the egg white to slightly dry. Spread the ricotta cheese all over the area covered with the egg white. Use a zester to finely grate a little bit of Parmesan cheese as a slight garnish over all the ricotta cheese. Add a small pinch of salt and freshly ground pepper, as well as the pinch of nutmeg, over the cheese. Distribute the mushroom-onion mixture all over the ricotta cheese, and then top with the shredded gruyere. Add the thyme leaves all over the top. Fold the edges of the piecrust over the mushroom filling, all along the edges. Brush the egg yolk over the pastry, then top the pastry with some of the finely grated Parmesan. Bake the galette for 20-30 minutes. If you're using store-bought crust, it will typically look golden and be ready in the 20-25 minute mark, whereas homemade pastry can take

up to 30 minutes. Let the galette rest for 10 minutes on the baking sheet, then transfer to your serving plate.

### Lemon Ricotta Cookies with Lemon Glaze

These light and fluffy cookies were developed by Chef Giada De Laurentiis and are a family favorite in our house. They are so full of citrus flavor you can almost pretend that they aren't a desert but maybe not quite "healthy."

*Ingredients*

- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour (310 grams)
- 1 tsp baking powder (4 grams)
- 1 tsp salt (4 grams)
- ½ cup 1 stick unsalted butter, at room temperature (113 grams)
- 2 cups granulated sugar (400 grams)
- 2 eggs
- 1 15-ounce container whole-milk ricotta cheese (425 grams)
- Zest of one lemon

### For the Glaze

*Ingredient*

- 3 tbs freshly squeezed lemon juice (45 grams)
- 1 ½ cups confectioners' sugar (180 grams)
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 3 tbs freshly squeezed lemon juice (45 grams)

Preparation instructions: Preheat the oven to 375°F. In a medium bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, and salt. Set aside. In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat the butter and granulated sugar until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add the eggs, 1 at a time, beating until incorporated. Add the ricotta cheese, lemon zest, and lemon juice and beat to combine. Stir in the dry ingredients. Line the 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Spoon the dough onto the baking sheets using 2 tbs for each cookie.

Bake for 15 minutes until slightly golden at the edges. Remove from the oven and let the cookies rest on the baking sheet for 20 minutes. While they cool, combine the confectioners' sugar, lemon zest, and lemon juice in a small bowl and stir until smooth. Spoon about ½ tsp of the glaze onto each cooled cookie and use the back of the spoon to spread it to the edges. Let the glaze harden for about 2 hours. Pack the cookies in an airtight container

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# MOMS' TIME OUT

## Notebooks are for notes?

Mary Angel

“Hey mom, I’m going to go study,” This is a quote I have heard all too often in my house. With four kids, homeschooling, elementary, middle, high school, and college, I actually couldn’t even count the number of times this phrase has been bellowed, as a child sulks back the hallway to their room. What I am really unsure of is what this actually means in the world we currently live in.

Let’s face facts, things aren’t the way they were when we were young. Yes, I know that statement automatically makes me sound old. Seriously though, everything is technological nowadays. Instead of flash cards kids are using apps, like Quizlet. This is an amazing little app where you can pick a subject and then narrow your topic down even further and use electronic flashcards. It takes it a step further by offering games with the information on the flashcards. You can also make your own flash cards if the specific subject you are looking for doesn’t already exist. So super helpful and amazing.

The kids also turn everything in online. There are no papers, actual papers, due to be turned in anymore. When my oldest was in high school he would still, every once in a great while, ask me if we had ink in the printer because he had an assignment that needed to be printed to be turned in. God forbid your internet is down, you can count on a lot of stress, tears, and a “0” in the grade book. The rest of the kids have had different school appointed programs for turning things in online. Although the programs have changed over the years, they are all about the same. Some of them you “write” the paper in word and then turn it in, but now some of the teachers use a program where you have to type the paper in the program itself.

The other thing that has gone to the wayside is note taking. You have heard me gripe about this over the years. The kids are given papers or digital versions of information, they watch videos, or the teacher talks, but there are little to no notes taken. My concern as the shift has been away from note taking is then how, or what are they studying. I also question whether they are studying or cramming. When we were young you had homework every night and class work every day. The information you were being taught was constantly being reinforced. Reading notes, completing homework, and doing activities in school, all on the same topic is studying. Taking a preprinted worksheet provided by the teacher and reading over it the night before an exam is cramming. I do not see that happening anymore.

My kids do not have a ton of homework, they don’t even have an average size amount of homework. They do have to write a paper now and again, but still not that often. I remember reading an article that said the best way to learn and retain information is to hear it, see it, write it, and say it. So if your teacher is teaching a lesson (hear it), you are taking notes (write it) while she is talking, you go home and do an activity to reinforce that (see it, write it), and you read over your notes out loud (say it), then you will store that information in as many places as possible in your brain and therefore have a much better chance of retention and recollection than if you aren’t doing all of that.

My most recent conversation with an education specialist ended with us discussing this very thing. She said they are way more concerned with kids being able to apply information than retain information. I appreciate this philosophy, but when you sit down to take a test you need to be able to do both. If you can’t remember what you

have learned, then you have nothing to apply. I believe these two skills are not exclusive of one another, but rather need to go hand in hand. It reminds me of some lyrics to an old song called love and marriage. It goes like this, “You can’t have one without the other!”

I think the simple skill of note taking is a lost art. I remember when the new school year was about to begin and my oldest would get so excited to go buy school supplies. Every teacher, from elementary to high school, required a notebook. By the end of the semester that notebook was full of, you guessed it, notes. Then we took the turn to the teachers supplying handouts that would get glued or taped into the book, so no note taking on that information. Now there are handouts and digital notes, but no note taking. The kids are missing a valuable skill. I was in a meeting the other day and took four pages of notes. Without the skill of note taking, I would have missed out on some valuable information I needed for my job. I am not saying every job involves extensive note taking, but good note taking skills can certainly benefit every job.

This doesn’t even touch on college. There have been many instances in college, when my boys have assignments, there is always an opportunity for a better grade if you have taken good notes and can apply them to your writing or test taking. The boys have certainly run in to their fair share of professors who do not have handouts or digital “freebies” in place of note taking. They expect the student to write down what they are saying. They also expect them to be able to discern what is important to write down and what isn’t. This is what I mean when I say note taking is a skill. You have to listen, analyze, and write down. This is the original multi-tasking and puts patting your head and rubbing your belly at the same time to shame.

I am not suggesting that the learning apps, like Quizlet, are useless or to be



ignored. They have their merits. What kid doesn’t love having a fun way to study. But they are but one tool in the education arsenal. None of these tools should work independently of the others. After all, if you haven’t taken good notes and there isn’t a Quizlet on the information you need to study, then what will you do? The bottom line is that note taking is important and not just for school. It is also a skill, and skills are, for the most part, learned.

So, whether the school system is or not, make sure you are teaching your kids how to take notes and how to use them to study, not to cram. Lastly, please don’t tell your kids that I am the one that said they should study more, have more homework, and take more notes. It will be our little secret!

To read past editions of *Moms' Time Out*, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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## FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

*This month, we asked our writers to ponder the goodness of their fellow student columnists as they say goodbye to graduating senior, McKenna.*

### Freshman

The friends you meet along the way

Sarah Miller  
MSMU Class of 2026

McKenna has many different roles in my life; in truth, she does them all well. She is a Residents Assistant on my floor, a classmate in my Drawing 101 class, my boss for the news-journal you are reading, and my friend. I have seen her do her very best in her many roles in my life, and for the following 900 words, you will hear about the impact she has on me as well as the people and things around her.

On my first day at the Mount, I already had an established relationship with McKenna. As an incoming freshman, often the first person you know as a hall resident is your RA. As I moved my things in on the bittersweet day of August 18th, nostalgia and sad feelings were looming in the air. I realized that it was the last few hours with my mom and my sister that I had for the next few weeks; however, McKenna happily came by, making her rounds, and she

stopped by my room.

McKenna greeted my family and me with a smile and introduced herself. She informed me of her position and duties around the hall and asked if she could assist with anything throughout the day. That was my first encounter, and whenever I approached her with something during my time at Mount Saint Mary's, she was so helpful; I have been very blessed to have her as an RA. But even though McKenna was incredible, and I couldn't ask for a better RA, you know how freshmen act. Initially, we feel that the reason that the RA is there is to ruin our fun or rain on our parade; but once you get over that childish mindset, you can actually develop a relationship with them, and that is what me and my other friends needed—a new outlook on the people around us.

As the year went on and the freshman ignorance of my RA melted away, I got to know McKenna. She texted in the group chat on our floor and asked if anybody wanted to write for a news-journal based in Emmitsburg. I took her up on the offer right away, and after we spoke about the opportunity, McKenna invited me to

interview for the News-Journal. We met in the Mount Café with Claire Doll, another writer and Assistant Editor, and we discussed the logistics and skills of the job. It was your basic interview, and they both seemed impressed with my skill set; later, they found that I would be a good fit for the team.

As I stared at this new News-Journal job, McKenna helped me tremendously. I had never had a writing job, and I didn't know how to format or edit the articles, so she sat down and talked with me to show me the basics and things that I should be looking for in the articles. She was such a good teacher to me, and I truly grew after the opportunity of talking and being with her.

After my mini-lesson with McKenna, she showed me the ropes for the newspaper and writing in general; ultimately, with her guidance, I became a better writer. I had a passion for writing, especially with the wonderful staff beside me, and I realized how rewarding of a job it is.

McKenna mentioned that she wants to write for a newspaper as a full-time job when she goes out of college. She expressed that she would like to write for a Catholic News Journal because of the background and passion for the-

ology that she has. She is the type of person to truly have an impact anywhere she goes, especially when doing something she cares about deeply, and I am honored that she sprinkled some of her talents onto me.

McKenna is a lively member of my Drawing 101 class. We both took this class and started with no prior drawing experience, which was a hard thing to conquer. We started with these abstract still-life pieces where we had to draw what we saw and take the time to delve into the picture. For a vivid example of what we were drawing, my drawing had a deer skull placed on a table with a wheel above it, and a baby doll's head on top of a statue. This was not an easy task, and my drawing was not as good as I thought it would be. However, McKenna took time to conquer her tasks in the most efficient way possible. Her drawing was stellar and although this drawing didn't make it into the art show, two of her others did, which is a huge accomplishment. My art teacher was frustrated when she saw how unique McKenna's art was because she wished she would have taken her classes sooner. McKenna's hidden abilities show so much about her well-rounded, talented person, and that the peo-

ple around her, day by day, are impressed with her work ethic and passion that she approaches every new thing with.

Later, she was granted an opportunity with Mike, our newspaper owner, to take some equestrian lessons. She jumped on the opportunity, and I was able to watch her start and participate in the first lesson. Every week, I take McKenna to ride, and we have some time to talk and catch up on our weeks before she gets to delve into one of her favorite hobbies. Seeing McKenna so excited and happy to go ride horses is a great gift. I am happy that I can help her could go and ride because it is something that she truly does care about, and I am sure something that gives her so much joy to do.

She is more than just an artist, boss, and RA to me. She is my friend, too. I am delighted that Mount Saint Mary's allowed me to meet McKenna and learn from her. She is very wise, thoughtful, and hardworking, and I genuinely wish that I had just about half of her qualities. Thank you, McKenna, for all you do for me, and most importantly, good luck!

*To read other articles by Sarah Miller, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.*

### Sophomore

Every morning invites the question

Joseph Carlson  
MSMU Class of 2025

One of the first conversations I remember having with McKenna was when I was in the sandwich line in the cafeteria. I was the new hire on the team, so I was scared to say anything. She made it easier by talking first, tolerating my pale attempt at small talk with a smile, and managing to ask a genuinely interesting question that probably required more time than the 90 seconds I

was in line for. I figured out then that McKenna was one of the kind people on campus.

At the beginning of this semester, there was a particular moment I found striking: a group I was with were all making fun of a person, but McKenna went out of her way to defend this person! She did this, not because she and this person didn't have disagreements, but because she had already forgiven them, and she cared for their dignity. In a situation where I and good people were willing to laugh at another's expense, she was not. It came with a kind of humility; she knows she herself has her own problems, and just as she would not want another to make fun of

her, she will not do so to any other human person.

McKenna cares very deeply about truth. She, like everyone else, is not perfect, but she tries to be aware of what she does not know. It seems like this is why she asks a lot of questions in class, which always benefits me because she fills the awkward silence that comes after a professor asks a question related to the reading (which I did not read). I know that that seems silly, but it saved me once when I had to present my paper to the class. It was a difficult project; the professor had me write and present an opinion I disagreed with in order to elicit a reaction from the class and to get them talking. I was comforted when McKenna was visibly upset at my heresy, though she managed to still speak with tact. Everyone else was comfortable with the status quo, but characteristically McKenna, she could not let a falsehood slide by without it first being subjected to the Socratic method.

She is graduating early. I am also graduating early, so I know that this on its own is not that impressive; anyone can work hard and graduate early. But it takes real virtue to do so and simultaneously uphold all other commitments in one's life with love and generosity. McKenna does that, and that is why she is impressive. Graduating early, it is actually more difficult to love people, because I can easily convince myself (and I do convince myself) that I am too busy. She is as busy as I am, yet she is much kinder than I am, and for that I respect her.

McKenna is able to be kind in difficult circumstances because

she loves Jesus—He makes up for her weakness with his own capacity. You will see, in her own words that, for her, every morning invites the question of where in that day she can love God and human beings. Here is a quote from McKenna at the close of her first semester, originally describing a weird semester for her, though I think it probably describes her whole Mount career:

"I refuse to be ungrateful or complaintive of this unusual first semester. I want to look back and focus on what was good about this semester. How could I let negativity overpower these happy memories and friendships that were made? I learned so much and made so many wonderful friends. I deepened my relationship with Jesus through the sacraments available on campus, and through trusting in Him amidst all struggles. He drew me to pursue virtue when I didn't always want to, and I am so glad of that. From this semester I know and understand these things all the more fully: Joy is a choice. Perseverance is a choice. Now, more than ever, these virtues cannot be thrown out the window just because times are frustrating. Actively choosing joy over negativity can bring about some of the best memories and friendships one could ever know, even in the most atypical of situations—or in my case, even the most atypical of semesters." (12/2020)

I want to close with her own closing from her very first article for ENJ; it says a lot about her character that this is how she

chose to introduce herself:

"The question 'what gets you up in the morning?' yields an answer that begins with my greatest passion: love of Jesus Christ, and love for His Church. Every morning invites the question of, 'What is God going to ask of me today?' I always discover that the answer varies. Sometimes the answer is simply that He wants me to do homework, or to spend time with a friend, or to spend extra time in prayer. And other times, the answer is to write an article for the Emmitsburg News-Journal! No matter what it is, I strive to arise happily with the intention to live my day wholly for Him."

It is fairly obvious to me and to most people who have had the privilege of knowing McKenna that this is all still true; she cares for people because she desires to do the will of God. I wish I asked this question! Too often, even on good days, my attitude is identical to Les Mis's Jean Valjean's when he was let out of prison: "The day begins, and now let's see, what this new world will do for me!" McKenna asks what she can do for God, not what God can do for her, and that is inspiring.

Thank you, McKenna, for your witness to the love of Jesus Christ. I am sure that most of these moments of kindness were not easy, and that they were intentional. Wherever you end up, I am sure that you will keep loving Jesus Christ your whole life through.

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

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# SAYING GOODBYE, BUT NOT FAREWELL

## Junior

### McKenna's kindness

Claire Doll  
MSMU Class of 2024

I was a freshman at the Mount when I met McKenna, and I was immediately taken back by her kindness.

Not to say that her beautiful, wide grin and sweet, smiling eyes weren't noticeable—because they are. McKenna radiates joy, and anyone can tell that from a mile away. Or the way she always dresses in bright, long skirts and takes pictures that capture the beauty of autumn or the blossoming of spring. That was noticeable, too. Or even the way her name sounded: McKenna Snow. It's adorable!

But it was McKenna's kindness that really stood out to me—the sort of kindness that comes so effortlessly from her, but in some small way, it transforms you. Whenever McKenna would smile at me in the hallway, or exchange small talk while brushing teeth before bed, I always wondered, How can she be so friendly? How is this even possible?

I even have a memory from the first class we had together—Western Civ-

ilizations. On the very first day, we were all asked to share a fun fact about ourselves. When McKenna spoke, she told our professor that she loved to write. She loved to write essays and papers for fun, and she wanted to write her own book, someday. I remember thinking how awesome that was, and how McKenna's hobbies aligned with my own.

I longed to be her friend, and when sophomore year came around, I felt so lucky to join the Emmitsburg News-Journal team. Only then did I notice my friendship with McKenna grow. She welcomed me to the staff so kindly, and she willingly proof-read my articles and helped me find a comfortable, great place in my journalism writing. And while she might not know this, after every issue of the Emmitsburg News-Journal would come out, I would always flip right to the Four Years at the Mount page and read her article first. Because not only was she a kind person, or a beautiful soul, but she was also an amazing writer (as you all might be aware of)!

McKenna uses words so effortlessly to paint lovely images and write about her family. From her articles, I know she has lots of siblings who she loves, and parents who she looks up

to, and I find it so beautiful that she dedicates her words to the things and people that mean the most to her. In her writing, McKenna prioritizes love and meaning. She takes a prompt—any prompt at all—and manages to turn it into something heartwarming, something that matters within our souls, something that captures the mind and keeps it thinking. We've even had to write about the most eclectic and unique topics out there, and McKenna still makes it hopeful and inspiring.

For example, I'll never forget when we had to write about what we do with the rest of winter. McKenna had asked me to edit her article, and I simply remember reading it and relating to every single word. As a reader, I found truth and value in each word, and I thanked McKenna for being so honest with her writing. Rather than dwelling in the cold, despair of winter, she chose to reflect on finding its beauty and learning from the lessons that winter might give her. If you read anything at all from McKenna, you will find that she is an inspirer. That her words give hope and reflect faithfulness.

As sophomore year passed and my junior year began—McKenna's senior

year, since she is graduating early—I found that we both make a hard-working and great team as Managing Editor and Assistant Managing Editor. One night in December, we were rushing to get edits done before publishing the January paper. McKenna and I both happened to be editing at the same time that night, and we ended up leaving each other notes on our shared Google doc, as if texting through it. It was hilarious, and we caught so many little edits while encouraging each other on the way (it was pretty late that night). McKenna is always willing to edit articles, and the ones that she sends my way, she'll always thank me and praise me for my work. I just hope she knows how happy I am to do it, and how grateful I am for such a good leader to guide me through the news-journal.

Mount St. Mary's will surely miss the presence of McKenna on campus. She is a kind soul, a faithful woman, a beautiful writer, and a happy, loving friend. Although we never grew super close during our time together, I still value her for all of these things, and I always wanted to be like her. As I said, she is an inspirer. McKenna leads others with grace and effortlessly makes her mark on so many people.

As she wraps up her time at college and as she prepares to make her way in the real, scary, adult world, I know many things for certain: McKenna will go into this life with an enduring, loving soul that will touch so many people. She will keep her family close to her, and she will keep inspiring. It is easy to assume all these things, because she does it already. And she will keep doing it.

But I also hope and pray that she keeps writing. McKenna's use of language is stunning, and her writing is so unique in that she can use her kindness and inspiration to reach so many people. I hope she will continue to write about family, about her friends and loved ones, about the beauty of nature in the fall, and about her strong, enduring faith. And I hope she will look back on her time at the Emmitsburg News-Journal with a smile, because she has contributed so much to the staff. I am confident that McKenna will make a lasting impact on this world, and that she will be remembered at the Mount for her kindness, above all else.

To read other articles by Claire Doll, visit the Author's section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

## Senior

### This wonderful team

McKenna Snow  
MSMU Class of 2023

Working with the Emmitsburg News-Journal has been one of the most rewarding jobs; it is surreal to think this is all coming to a close for me, and soon I'll be saying farewell to my team. Each of the students I have worked with has put in so much effort, heart, and friendship. I am sad to say goodbye, but humbled that I am able to do so to such good people. Each student here is worth recognition, support, and resounding applause.

I'd like to first recognize my wonderful Assistant Editor and friend, Claire Doll. She has such an intentional and engaging personality, and I can say truly that Claire builds up those around her. I feel encouraged after talking to her, and my day is brightened even after brief conversation. Not to mention, Claire is so very organized, and disciplined in her schedule; last year, I loved seeing her at the café early in the morning, when it seemed like she had gotten half of her work done for the week before 8:30. Claire has been incredible to work with because she is reliable and so on top of things. She is patient with me when I get behind on work, offers a helping hand when I need it, and always has a joyful attitude.

Claire also captures the whimsical beauty of seasons, everyday adventures, and town happenings with her words, which paint pastel pictures of beautiful moments in the reader's mind. Claire has steeped herself in the Mount community not only through her dedication to Lighted Corners, but more importantly through her radiant joy and welcoming personality. The News-Journal is so blessed to have her as the Managing Editor next year!

Now, whenever Joey responds to a prompt, he amazes me with his prose. Joey takes the prompts and responds from angles I wouldn't have ever thought of, but they are inspiring and poignant. He writes with humility often unexpected, but in a moving way that calls the reader to look in the mirror and consider where they too might need to grow. Joey and I took Senior Seminar this semester, and his wealth of historical knowledge and connections to various philosophers and theological questions enriched the class significantly. Joey puts deep consideration and reason behind each word chosen—a thoughtfulness rare and good.

Sarah has been such a joy to know this year, both on and outside the team. Sarah is a resident on my Honors freshmen floor, and when I met her, I was instantly greeted with a happy hello. Later into last semester, I was taking my lunch to go, but saw her sitting at a table. I asked to join her, and we had a wonderful, random conversation about theology. From there, it was almost like I saw Sarah everywhere, even taking an art class together this semester unintentionally. And we also ended up working together here at the Journal! The genuineness, kindness and dedication Sarah has brought to the role, as well as just to me personally, I will never forget.

Devin is also a member of our Honors freshmen hall community, and has been joyful, optimistic, and hardworking in taking on several feature articles for the Journal. Attending town-hall meetings online to write articles is no small thing for a freshman, and yet Devin stepped right up to learn how to do it! But this is a dedication I have seen within the Journal and out of it; Devin has shown me a heroic love for her family and a generosity of heart that will continue to impact and inspire.

Steve has repeatedly wowed me with his depth in writing sports articles. He sent me an article about the history of

baseball—my favorite sport—and the extensive care with which it was written was remarkable. Steve did thorough research, packed a significant amount of information into it, and crafted it into a compelling story about the human condition—showing that he doesn't just report on sports, he brings out why they actually matter to human persons, especially at the Mount. He does this through the enthusiasm he brings to all of his projects and articles, and the continual cultivation of genuine love for what he does.

Ashley's presence on the team is irreplaceable; she brings professionalism, honesty, and vision to the team. She also brings connectedness, especially, through the prompts she chooses—they always highlight the most beautiful aspects of the Mount and the artistic programs, concerts, and shows hosted here. She vibrantly details what is happening in the artistic corners of the Mount, but doesn't just highlight the big events—she chooses those which are less seen, but just as worthy of recognition and support. I think this is telling about her character; she doesn't overlook the smaller person, or that which might be considered “lesser.” She elevates and appreciates, and loves the beautiful things of this world well.

Finally, Mike has been a great mentor to me, and has built up my confidence going into post-graduation life through a cultivation of various skills. It is clear from our staff meetings that Mike values sincerity more than perfection; he values honesty, good communication, and especially, love for God's creatures. Mike has a love for all animals; those as large as horses and as small as birds, and he cares for them with an enthusiastic generosity. But he has cared for his staff all the better. Mike doesn't just want our work to be well-done, he actually wants to make sure we are all doing well. Mike builds us up, encourages us, gives us honest feedback, and lets us know when we

did something well. Mike has helped prepare me for working in the “real world” by the high standards of journalistic excellence he has held me to these past three years, and for the practical advice he's given me about working in journalism. I have grown so much through his mentorship and kindness, and through all of the opportunities the News-Journal has given

me. I will miss this team very much, and the whole town of Emmitsburg. Thank you very much, dear readers, for being such a significant part of my time here at the Mount. I am so grateful for each of you, and for this wonderful team.

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



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# SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

## Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

On March 25 the library will be holding its annual Indoor Vintage Book Sale from 10:30 to 1:30. The book sale consists of vintage books we have saved over many years of donations.

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

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

Thursdays – Teen’s Night. The community room is reserved for teen use from 4:30–6 p.m.. just hang out or play WII, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

Saturday - Join us at 10:30 a.m., for an hour of Story Time and all of

its festivities! What could be better than a great book and a fun craft?

Scherenschnitte Night at the Library – May 9th at 6:30 p.m.. Learn the German art of paper cutting design. The artwork often has rotational symmetry within the design, and common forms include silhouettes, valentines, and love letters. The art tradition was founded in Switzerland and Germany in the 16th century and was brought to Colonial America in the 18th century by Swiss and German immigrants who settled primarily in Pennsylvania.

The Summit Stitches Quilt Club meets at 5:30 p.m. on May 16th. New members and new projects are always welcome! Any skill level may attend. If you have always wanted to learn how to quilt, now is the perfect time to start! The group is currently working on this year’s gorgeous raffle quilt.

The BRS Book Club will meet May 15 at 5 p.m. This month’s

book is the Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller.

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

## Frederick County Libraries

The gorgeous month of May is here! May is the perfect month to take a moment to celebrate mothers, mindfulness, growth and reflection through nature and the stories of our families, ourselves, and our communities, past and present. On May 2 at 10:30 a.m.. Seniors are invited to Thorpewood to enjoy the morning experiencing the joy of nature with a Forest Therapy Walk or Nature Art/Journaling activity, then transitioning to visiting Farm Animals or simply breathe and enjoy nature with a Seated Forest Therapy. Everyone is welcome to bring a lunch to end the morning in Thorpewood’s beautiful, mountain surroundings.

On Wednesday, May 10 at 7 p.m., join us at Thurmont library, where Jane Nutter, President of the Gettysburg Black History Museum will share her stories and those of some of Gettysburg’s oldest Black families as she walks attendees through Gettysburg’s often forgotten history. Jane will also share her personal story of how the Gettysburg Black History Museum came to fruition. It’s an extraordinary journey of family, friends and community joining together to create this decades long project.

At Emmitsburg Library on Thursday, May 11 at 5:30 p.m., teens are invited to create a painted rock photo holder for personal use or a Mother’s Day gift.

At Thurmont Library, take a moment for personal mindfulness and reflection this month with Catocin Mountain Park Artist in Residence, Jeff Lockwood, who will lead two programs about composing a “minute memoir”—one for kids and teens and one for adults. On May 13 at 1 p.m., Jeff will provide a creative and playful 1 - hour workshop where kids and teens will learn to compose a memoir, a very short memoir—like 10 words short! A great Mother’s Day gift! Then on May 17 at 7 p.m., adults will have their chance to work with Jeff to compose no fewer than three memoirs (keeping in mind a memoir is not an autobiography but reveals a particular aspect of one’s life). Jeff says, “All that you need to bring is a sense of pucky possibility and some moving memories.”

Genealogy can be exciting and overwhelming when you’re first starting out on your family history journey. Join us at Thurmont Library as Mary Mannix our resident genealogy expert and manager of FCPL’s Maryland Room, gives an overview of researching the sources and methodology of your 18th century Germanic Ancestors of Western Maryland on Thursday, May 25 at 7 p.m.

## Emmitsburg Branch Library

Monday, May 1 & 15: Little Adventures, 11 - Noon.

Tuesday, May 2, 9, 16, 23: Family Storytime, 11 - 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 17: Exploration Station, 4 - 5 p.m.

Thursday, May 11: Read to a Therapy Dog with Wags for Hope, 6 - 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 20: Exploration Station, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 2, 9, 16, 23: Teen Study Lab, 5 - 8 p.m.

Thursday, May 4 & 18: Open Game Night with Wookie Walkers, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 11: Create a Photo Rock Album, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

## Thurmont Regional Library

Tuesday, May 2, 9, 16, 23: Baby Storytime, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 3, 10, 17: Toddler Storytime, 10:30 - 11 a.m.

Thursday, May 4, 11, 18, 25: Musical Storytime, 10:30 - 11 a.m.

Monday, May 1, 8, 15, 22: Preschool Storytime, 10:30 - 11 a.m.

Monday, May 1, 8, 15, 22: School Skills for Preschool, 11:15 - 11:45 a.m.

Monday, May 1, 8, 15, 22: Library Learners, 1 - 2 p.m.

Tuesday, May 2, 9, 16, 23: Elementary Explorers, 4 - 4:45 p.m.

Friday, May 5, 12, 19: Ancient Civilizations, 1 - 2 p.m.

Saturday, May 13: Minute Memoirs with 2023 Catocin Mtn Park Artist in Residence, Jeff Lockwood, 1 - 2 p.m.

Sunday, May 21: Frederick County 275th, History Walk on the Trolley Trail, 2 - 3 p.m.

Wednesday, May 24: Read to a Therapy Dog with WAGS for Hope, 6 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 4: May the Fourth Star Wars Party, 7 - 8 p.m.

Thursday, May 18: Snack and Study, 4 - 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 27: Exploration eSports, 2 - 4 p.m.

Wednesday, May 3: Preparing to Buy your Next Home, 6 - 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 10: Gettysburg Black History – Telling Our Story, 7 - 8 p.m.

Wednesday, May 17: Minute Memoirs with 2023 Catocin Mtn Park Artist in Residence, Jeff Lockwood, 7 - 8 p.m.

Thursday, May 18: Digital Learning at the Thurmont Senior Center, 10 - Noon.

Wednesday, May 24: Foods to Boost Your Brain at the Thurmont Senior Center, 10 - Noon.

Thursday, May 25: Researching Your Western Maryland Germanic Ancestors, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

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# SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

## Frederick County Public Schools

**Karen Yoho**  
Board of Education

The final day for FCPS students will be June 2, and will be a 2-hour early dismissal day. Looking ahead, the first day of the 2023-24 school year for students will be Wednesday, August 23 with a projected last day of June 5. The calendar-handbook is available online as well as a printable version on the FCPS website under "About Us".

May looks to be a busy month. The 36th Annual Honors Chorus Concert will take place on May 3 at 7 p.m. at the Weinberg Center for the Arts. Due to graduation week, May

22-26, our meetings are the first and third Wednesdays instead of our more usual second and fourth. Balancing the budget will be our focus. Please contact us with questions or thoughts on funding priorities.

The Earth and Space Science Lab will have special evening programs on May the 4th. For details, check the FCPS website under Schools, Special Programs.

May 8-12 is National Teacher Education Week. May 9 is National Teacher Day and May 10 is National School Nurse Day. We love all our staff members who work so hard for our students each and every day. A note of thanks is always appreciated.

On April 26, the SurPRIZE Patrol

gathered at Windsor Knolls Middle to congratulate Nicole Rhoades, 7th grade science teacher, in front of a packed cafeteria of students, staff, and family years FCPS Teacher of the Year.

Apparently, Ms. Rhoades had started to put some pieces together and may have begun to realize what was going to happen, but she still seemed surprised, especially to see her husband and three children there, as well as her mother who had driven five hours from New York to attend the ceremony. The middle school audience played their part perfectly and made just the right amount of noise to help celebrate.

Ms. Rhoades' message to the stu-

dents was that even if they do not end up being scientists; learn to question everything the way a scientist does. We are very proud of Ms. Rhoades and all our teachers. Ms. Rhoades' packet will move on to the state level competition. Our fingers are crossed as we wait to hear who will be named the Maryland State Teacher of the Year early in the fall.

The SurPRIZE Patrol also visited Dr. Suzanne Dashiell Elder, science teacher at Urbana High School, to let her know she is the recipient of the 2023 Charles Tressler Distinguished Teacher Award. This award is presented to an FCPS teacher who has had a significant impact on young people. We congratulate Dr. Elder for all her hard work and dedication.

Textbook Review Week is May

15-22. The books are available virtually or in hard copy form at the C. Burr Artz Library.

The PTA Council of Frederick County will hold its general meeting on May 15 at 7 p.m. They are currently meeting virtually. A slate of new officers will be presented. President Traci Tatum will move on to continue her PTA work and serving students at the state level. We wish her all the best.

The annual Hugh Nolan track meets will be held on May 16 and 17, weather permitting. The high school all-county jazz festival will occur on Saturday, May 6. Check with your child's school for details on these events and many more.

Good things are always happening in FCPS. Here's to a safe and happy ending to the 2022-23 school year for all.

## FASD looks to expand transpiration options

The Fairfield Area School District is moving closer to providing transportation to and from a local daycare center.

The district currently does not offer transportation for middle and high school students who live less than one and a half miles from the Fairfield Road campus. Superintendent Thomas Haupt told the board during its April study session district leadership recommends changing the policy to allow the board to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

No board members expressed concern for the policy change, opening the door for students attending Caterpillar Clubhouse on Fairfield's Main Street to receive a bus ride.

In February, Caterpillar Clubhouse Owner Melissa Cavey said next year she will have possibly four students in her before-school program who will attend the middle

school. Parents are uncomfortable allowing 10-year-old students to walk to school, Cavey said.

"It would be hard just to have a staff member exclusively walk the kids down," she said.

Board Vice President Jack Liller expressed understanding for Cavey's concern in February but said he fears transporting students who attend Caterpillar Clubhouse will lead to vastly expanding who can ride a school bus. Liller did not attend April's study session meeting.

If the board approves the policy change, Cavey will need to formally request transportation to and from her daycare. Others who care for middle and high school students within a mile and a half from the school may do the same.

In other business, District Business Manager Tim Stanton told the board an upcoming roof project may be less expensive than anticipated.

The board granted permission in March for district administration to seek bids to replace sections of the middle/high school roof and the elementary school roof. The board expressed a desire for the total project not to exceed \$1.8 million.

Stanton said Detweiler Construction Company of Harleysville submitted the lowest bid for each project, totalling \$1.705 million.

"Detweiler is a very well-respected company," Stanton said.

The district's solicitor is currently reviewing Detweiler's bid. If it meets legal requirements, Stanton will present it to the board for review at a future meeting. Construction is expected to begin this summer.

Fairfield Area School District residents who are unable to attend study sessions and board meetings in-person will soon have a better at-home viewing experience.

The district livestreams all of its meetings on YouTube, which are available later for on-demand viewing. The current camera is placed in the back of the room so only half of the board members are visible. It is often difficult to hear people speak-

ing, and determine who is the one speaking.

A new system with improved audio was recently installed in the board room. The system will zoom in on speakers' faces so the public is clear as to who is commenting. The board plans to use the system at its next meeting.

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# ARTS

## Totem Pole Playhouse announces Summer lineup

Totem Pole Playhouse, America's summer theatre, located in Caledonia State Park between Gettysburg and Chambersburg, has announced its 2023 summer series. Kicking off the season on May 26<sup>th</sup> – June 11, will be the musical *Honky Tonk Angels*, combining over 30 classic country tunes with a hilarious story about three gutsy gals who are determined to better their lives and follow their dreams to Nashville. The all-hit song list includes "Stand by Your Man," "Coal Miner's Daughter," "Ode to Billy Joe," "These Boots Are Made for Walking," and "I Will Always Love You." This charming, foot-stompin' musical has played to sold-out audiences across the country.

The second selection of the season will be the comedy whodunit, *Baskerville* a Sherlock Holmes mystery. The play unites humor with Holmesian mystery to the delight of audiences. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson must

crack the mystery of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" before a family curse dooms its newest heir. Watch as our intrepid investigators try to escape a dizzying web of clues, silly accents, disguises, and deceit as five actors deftly portray more than 40 characters. Can our heroes discover the truth in time? Join in the fun and see how far from elementary the truth can be. *Baskerville* plays from June 18 – July 2.

Totem Pole Playhouse will premiere the family-friendly and popular heartwarming musical, *Annie*, enchanting patrons as our third offering of the season. The beloved book and score is based on the popular comic and features some of the greatest musical theatre hits ever written, including "Tomorrow." *Annie*, a plucky orphan, finds adventure after fun-filled adventure and a new home and family in billionaire Oliver Warbucks and a lovable mutt named Sandy. Come bring

your family to *Annie* from July 7 – July 23.

Back by popular demand will present the exciting *Million Dollar Quartet*, bringing that legendary December night to life when an extraordinary twist of fate brought Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Elvis Presley together at Sun Records in Memphis for what would be one of the greatest jam sessions ever. Featuring an incredible score of rock 'n' roll, gospel, R&B and country hits including "Blue Suede Shoes," "Walk the Line," "Sixteen Tons," "Great Balls of Fire," "Folsom Prison Blues," "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On," "Hound Dog," and more. Get ready to jam with the greats of rock-n-roll in *Million Dollar Quartet* from July 28 – August 13.

Closing out the season, *On Golden Pond* returns after more than thirty years. A classic American comedic drama that's every



bit as touching, warm, and witty today as when it debuted off-Broadway in 1978, the play explores the turbulent relationship between father and daughter, the generation gap between young and old, and the difficulties of a couple in the twilight years of a long marriage, all combined in a

play that effortlessly illustrates the hilarious, heartbreaking, human moments of which life is made. Join us at *On Golden Pond* from August 18 – September 3.

Tickets and subscriptions are on sale now by calling the Totem Pole Playhouse Box Office at 717-352-2164.

## Catoctin Forest Alliance's new Artist in Residence

Mr. Jeffrey Lockwood from Laramie, Wyoming will be the Catoctin Forest Alliance Artist in Residence at Catoctin Mountain Park May 8 to the 27.

Some 40 years ago, Mr. Lockwood earned a BS in biology and a PhD in entomology. The choice of the latter field was motivated

by a fascination with the life forms which were disturbingly and enchantingly 'other'. He was hired as an insect ecologist at the University of Wyoming in 1986, and for 15 years he immersed himself in the lives of insects. His work focused on grasshoppers and locusts, taking him to the steppes

of Asia and the Tibetan plateau, the savannah of Africa, the outback of Australia—and back to the grasslands of North America.

With time, however, he found himself no longer fulfilled by applied research, which had become a euphemism for the wholesale killing of grasshoppers, creatures that had grown close to his heart and mind. This led to his first book of essays, "Grasshopper Dreaming: Reflections on Killing and Loving". Over the next 5 years, he transitioned (or perhaps metamorphosed) from the College of Agriculture &

Natural Resources into the College of Arts & Sciences, where he settled into a split appointment between the Department of Visual & Literary Arts (focusing on creative nonfiction in the realm of nature and environmental writing) and the Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies (focusing on environmental ethics and aesthetics).

Mr. Lockwood will be presenting two free public writing workshops at the Thurmont Library while serving as the Catoctin Forest Alliance Artist in Residence.

The first workshop will be a

Children's writing workshop titled *Spring Rains and Cinquains*, May 13. Kids love poetry (even if grownups tend to take the fun out of creative writing by imposing silly rules about rhyming and whatnot). And kids love the outdoors (even if grownups tend to take the fun out of poking around in ant hills and dung piles). So what could be better than combining these two, fundamentally fun ventures?

You've probably heard about short forms of poetry, such as haiku and limerick, but in this workshop we're going to play with an unusual form called the cinquain. So join Jeff Lockwood, the Catoctin Mountain Park artist-in-residence, who's conducted poetry-writing workshops with kids from 6 to 12 (and older—or for that matter, anyone who still has a child inside of them!). The "rules" for a cinquain are few and invite writers to explore the natural world using short, evocative lines that capture their sense of joy and wonder.

The second workshop will be an adult writing workshop, titled *Minute Memories*, May 17. Writing the story of your life is a common goal for many people, but one that is rarely achieved. This workshop will absolutely assure your success in this regard. Of course, a 200-page memoir is a bit daunting, so we'll start smaller. Much smaller. Like 10 words. Really.

For a creative and playful 1-hour workshop in which you'll compose no fewer than three memoirs (keeping in mind a memoir is not an autobiography but reveals a particular aspect of one's life). All that you need to bring is a sense of puckish possibility and some moving memories.

# The beautiful correlation between art and nature

Ashley Walczyk  
MSMU class of 2024

“Why are we limiting art to something that is crafted by a human?” This is a valid question, worthy of consideration. Being a part of the creative community, you learn that you can create art as an emotional escape, or a means of communicating feeling to your designated audiences. The language of art is meant to relate one person to another. Look at a contemporary painting in a museum and describe the feeling of it. Someone might look at a balloon-animal sculpture by Jeff Koons and reminisce about your childhood, creating a nostalgic feeling inside of you. Or look at a painting by Kara Walker, who specializes in exploring race, gender, sexuality, violence, and identity in her work. One might feel empowered, one might feel offended, one might feel sorrowful for the history embedded within the piece. However you feel about it, art is supposed to entice a feeling out of you, a reaction, a means to get you to contextualize and analyze the piece and take away the impact of such.

Nevertheless, when we think of art, we think of something crafted by a human being. When we hear about art, we are immediately inclined to the idea of creation or crafting with the hands. Looking back on the Creation story from Genesis, God created light, the Earth, created the land and the sea, the sky, animals, plants; and on the sixth day, He created both Adam and Eve from mud, constructing man with His hands. Since the beginning of time, we have associated creation with our hands. Many jobs in ancient times craft weapons, clothes, art with the hands they were given. Some of the greatest monuments in the Eastern hemisphere were created by the hands of human beings, such as the Great Wall of China, the Eiffel Tower, the Taj Mahal, and our very own Statue of Liberty.

Humans can craft and create with their hands and their minds. However, the true understanding of art can be stifled when thought of only as human creation, instead of the world around us. Famous transcendentalists, such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, encourage the minimalist lifestyle, subjecting oneself to the world and beauty around them through nature. A transcendentalist is someone who follows a philosophy that emphasizes the conditions of knowledge and experience through the natural and physical world. To further this philosophy, a transcendentalist believes that one can find God in nature, and nature can teach us a higher level of spirituality that limited knowledge cannot. A popular idea of Emerson's was that “nature is beautiful because it is alive, moving, reproductive.”

Human creation of artistic things limits us to believing that our created inanimate objects are the definition of beauty. To an extent, this is how these things receive their beauty: through human beings. A sculpture, a painting, even music on a sheet, is inanimate unless someone makes it “alive.”

A string-instrument cannot play itself, yet we see the beauty in that particular style of art because of the people who uses it to create.

However, Emerson's argument is that all music and art can be beautiful through nature. Birds sing around us, creating melodies, and their ways of singing can be categorized as art. The art of a bird is used to find a mate, much like humans do with talking. A beautiful flower created in a meadow might look beautiful to the artist, but the artist's replication of the flower through art is more accepted and well-liked over the flower itself.

Appreciation for natural beauty comes on its own. People can find beauty in art and what was created by humans, or they can expand their ideas of what creates art and see the beauty and appreciation in art that was made naturally. When I looked up this question about beauty on Google, a lot of sources say art is limited to the frame in which it was produced. By this definition, also, the fine arts also become limited to the idea that art, like painting and drawing, is what we view as beautiful. This idea immediately hits a plot hole, since, by that definition, art cannot include theater and music. But this is not the case, as many musicians and playwrights are created beautiful crafts that expand on knowledge and beauty from within. Shakespeare is a prime example of this. Unfortunately, the limiting of art to human craft is what depreciates the beauty found in everyday life.

As a student of fine arts, we learn that there is a specific understanding of what art can be, and what art cannot be. For example, a math equation cannot be art; however, a picture of someone doing math, such as a student stressed about one problem, can be interpreted and viewed as artistic, because of the approach the creator took when either photographing, painting, or sculpting. However, when it comes to natural things being beautiful, like a bee flying around, doing a dance for the other bees to follow (known as the “waggle dance”), the idea of art being created by human beings becomes challenged. The “waggle dance” is one that should be considered artistic, even though it is a natural occurrence, because it still emotes the same feelings experienced when beholding art, if not more so. Art is supposed to entice you, make you feel a certain way. Dance is another example of an



The flowers can bloom with the help of the pollination of the bee; the interdependence of nature creates beautiful and picturesque moments.

art form that uses emotion to convey a message, like a painting itself.

We are told that nature is beautiful, and yet, we also say that art is beautiful. Is there a correlation between the two? Yes, but when we limit our ability to see art as a human concurrence, we lose the appreciation of finding art and beauty in nature. Birds sing and bees dance. Those are two art forms that humans can do; both events of birds and bees are a natural occurrence, yet they use art forms to live and create.

Dance and art are not limited to people, but extend even to the natural world. The ways in which an animal expresses certain thoughts through song, or dance, can help us understand the ways nature works. Even nature is about structure-based, and yet that itself breaks barriers and is beautiful; the birds singing, and the bees dancing, is art. We cannot limit art to what we can create with our own hands, but we must believe that art is created by all living things. Even the wind howling in the wind can be musical when you listen to it with an open mind.

Upcoming Events:  
Stay tuned for Fall 2023 for upcoming events happening on campus!

To read past Mount Arts articles, visit the Author's section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

## Gettysburg Choral Society's “Let Freedom Ring!”

The Gettysburg Choral Society will present a spring/summer series of patriotic concerts entitled “Let Freedom Ring!”

Featuring some of America's favorite songs, the program will highlight a popular musical rendition of “The Gettysburg Address.” There will also be a time of special recognition for America's veterans.

The chorus will be joined by Gettysburg's own Flute Flock, directed by Georgia Hollabaugh.

The choral society, under the direction of John McKay, will present the first of three concerts at Trinity United Church of Christ, 60 East High Street, Gettysburg on Friday, May 26th at 8 p.m..

On Friday, June 30th, the chorus will perform at the First United Methodist Church of Hanover, 200 Frederick Street, Hanover at 8 p.m..

On Monday, July 3rd, also at 8 p.m., the chorus will present its final concert of the spring and summer season at The Church of the Abiding Presence on the campus of The United Lutheran Seminary, located on Seminary Ridge, in Gettysburg.

All concerts are free and open to the public. Tax-deductible contributions will be received to help defray expenses. For more information about the Gettysburg Choral Society visit [gettysburgchoralsociety.org](http://gettysburgchoralsociety.org).

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## Family Fest at Gambril State Park May 10 5 p.m. - sunset

Activities Include:

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Meet this year's Artist in Residence.

Artwork will be displayed and available for sale.

Donations to the CFA Youth Group programs will be greatly appreciated.

Come, have fun, relax and enjoy the music along with the beautiful sunset.

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## Emmitsburg Community Chorus

# Spring Concert

Sunday, May 7th - 3 p.m.

In the Union Church Building

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(Take 194 N. or S., turn onto Rt. 550 at Woodboro to Creagerstown.)

# CATOCTIN SPORTS & ACADEMICS

## Robots race to the finish line

Gina Lin  
CHS Class of 2024

Hundreds of spectators are gathered in an arena, among them family, friends, and sponsors, anxiously waiting to see which team will triumph. After months of strenuous labor and painstaking attention to detail, not to mention additional months of off-season skill refinement, young engineers are ready to display their creation.

For some background, competition themes for robots are released at the beginning of the season, in early January. Then teams are given six weeks to design, construct, and improve their robots, before competing at district tournaments. Robots are tasked with moving objects from one end of the arena to the other to earn points, through a series of obstacles. During competitions, alliances between the teams are randomly chosen. During each round, there are two alliances competing: the blue and red alliance.

Each alliance is composed of three different teams, for a total of six teams in the arena at once. In the alliances, teams work together to develop the most effective strategies at scoring points. Much like athletics, bots from their respective teams can work together by dividing into different play positions, such as defense, offense, and the scoring bot. The final part of a match, called the Charge Station, requires at least one bot to be parked on a balance. This part earns the most points, as it is the most difficult aspect of the match. Additionally, this is the only time the opposing team can't interfere with earning points.

Numerous teams from all across

Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, form the FIRST Robotics Chesapeake District (CHS). Teams congregate in an arena, to partake in district competitions. The district competitions will qualify them for District Championships and ultimately World Championships. Bovine Intervention Team 686 represents several schools in Frederick County, including Catoclin, Linganore, Oakdale, and Walkersville High School. Although Team 686 is relatively small, consisting of only 9 members, compared to other CHS teams with around 20 members, they made their mark in the past and continued to do so this year. Freshman member Will Kimbark commented, "Our robot was pretty good even compared to larger teams, so we had high expectations for ourselves."

The first event took place at Hayfield High School in Alexandria, Virginia, from March 17th-19th. The first tournament of the season is a series of qualification rounds, with new alliances in each round. Teams will earn points upon successful completion of obstacles. Afterwards the points will be tallied up as ranking points and teams will be given their ranks. The first day of events featured 80 qualification rounds, in which Team 686 played in 12 of them. The team began in Qualification Round 5 of the blue alliance, which consisted of team 9033 and 9072. The red alliance pulled away with 54-40. During their second round of competition, the team was paired with much better teams in the red alliance. The score was 108-49. Bovine Intervention continued to fall and rebound throughout the 12 matches. The team ended

qualification rounds strong, with a 103-67 win against the blue alliance. Part two of the district event included multiple rounds with established alliances. There were 13 matches and the two prevailing alliances would battle in the finals. Team 686 served as captain of the third alliance. Their counterparts were Team 4472- SuperNOVA of Woodbridge, VA; and Team 3748- Ragnarok Robotics of Ellicott, City.

Bovine Intervention began District Playoffs as the blue alliance in March 4. The final score ended in a win of 89-69. The team continued to win the remaining three rounds and advanced to finals. 686 was the blue alliance, the red alliance was composed of Team 2421, 1727, and 8592. The team lost both rounds against the opposing alliance, but the alliances were head to head the entire time. There were a total of 40 teams in attendance at the first district tournament, and Team 686 placed second overall— a huge accomplishment! This earned them the title of district event finalist.

The second district event took place at Dulaney High School in Timonium, on March 24th to 26th. Each group is allowed to play in 12 of the 72 qualification rounds. Team 686 won 7 out of the 12. Round 51 was very close as the team only lost by four points. The team's ranking score was 2.08. To give some perspective, the highest ranking score was 2.58 and the lowest was 0.41. In the end, Bovine Intervention ranked 10th out of 36 teams. But, the team still served as captain, as points from the first event carried over. For the district playoffs, they were partnered with Team 2421-RTR of Burke, Virginia; and Team 2849- Ursa Major in Columbia.

The layout of the matches including finals were the same as the district competitions in Alexandria. Team 686 lost two out of their three matches. The first match was really close, the blue alliance only lost by 14 points. Bovine Intervention clapped back in their second match with a 39 point lead over the opposing team. The final match was



Catoclin High School's Team 686 getting ready for a match at the District Championships.

extremely close, as the opposing team only pulled away with a five point lead.

John Murtaugh, the advisor of Team 686 explained the circumstances of the game. There were connection disruptions between the monitoring systems, where the referees were stationed, and the driver stations, where teams were maneuvering the bots. This caused the robot's system to crash and become paralyzed. Team 686 had to reboot several times and prove to the referees of errors in the monitoring systems. But, Bovine Intervention wasn't the only team affected by communication problems; several exceptional teams experienced technical difficulties which impacted their team's performance. Murtaugh added, "We definitely would have done better if the monitoring systems were functioning properly." Indeed, as the narrow leads from the opposing team demonstrate that.

With the combined performance at the two district events, Bovine Intervention qualified for the CHS District Championships. The Championships took place at George Mason University from April 6th-8th. There were a total of 120 matches played over the course of three days. Team 686 played 12 matches— winning five of them. Their alliances would lose and recover— usually swinging in their favor and vice versa.

The CHS District Championships greatly demonstrates a flaw in the game rules. The alliances composed of higher performing teams earned more points. Bovine Intervention got

the short end of the stick, as they were consistently teamed up with lower teams. Murtaugh discussed, "In my opinion, the alliances weren't really fair. We were performing well individually, but being matched with lower teams impacted us and gave us lower scores." On a positive note, the team did win the Creativity Award for their unique design. They were awarded for their tank drive base, as a majority of other teams used swerve drives.

Murtaugh explained the reason behind their decision to implement the tank drive, "It is very costly to invest in that type of mechanism and we didn't have enough sponsors." Speaking of sponsors, Team 686 is looking for donors that can provide the team with a new operation base. They are looking for a building with a minimum of 2000 square feet of open space. High ceilings are preferable, as they need ample height and width for the construction and testing of their bots.

Focusing on STEM is important, as there are so many real world applications of the field. It also encompasses the intersectionality of other fields like natural sciences, business, and healthcare. Not only does FIRST Robotics teach critical thinking through engineering, but the program also nurtures the next generation of leaders and innovators, who will go on to create meaningful change in the world.

To read past Catoclin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.



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12:20 - \$500	2:05 - \$500	3:50 - \$500
12:25 - \$500	2:10 - \$500	3:55 - \$500
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12:35 - \$500	2:20 - \$500	4:05 - \$500
12:40 - \$500	2:25 - \$500	4:10 - \$500
12:45 - \$500	2:30 - \$500	4:15 - \$500
12:50 - \$500	2:35 - \$500	4:20 - \$500
12:55 - \$500	2:40 - \$500	4:25 - \$500
1:00 - \$1,000 + \$500*	2:45 - \$500	4:30 - \$500
1:05 - \$500	2:50 - \$500	4:35 - \$500
1:10 - \$500	2:55 - \$500	4:40 - \$500
1:15 - \$500	3:00 - \$1,000 + \$500*	4:45 - \$500
1:20 - \$500	3:05 - \$500	4:50 - \$2,000
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## MOUNT SPORTS

## Men's lacrosse named regular season conference co-champions

Steve Morano  
MSMU Class of 2024

On Sunday, April 23rd, the Mount Saint Mary's men's lacrosse team was named co-champions of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference as their record was tied 7-2 with Manhattan. A loss to Sienna on April 22nd cemented their No. 2 seed status as they begin their pursuit of an inaugural MAAC title on Thursday, May 4th when the first round of the conference tournament commences. This unprecedented first season of success in the new conference comes with a slew of both academic honors and conference honors for the players and coaches of the Mountaineers.

The season started out rough for head coach Tom Gravante and his players as they ended 1-6 in their first seven games, with their only win coming in a 13-10 win away against the New Jersey Institute of Technology. But this wasn't the full story, as their schedule was packed out with games against Navy, Towson, UMBC and No. 12 Delaware, all powerhouses in an already-richly talented area for lacrosse in the United States. A 9-3 loss in the first conference game of the year to the assumptive co-champions, Manhattan, set a bad first game in the MAAC for the Mountaineers. But this was an outlier in the grand scheme of their season, as they went onto win their remaining games by a record of 7-1, winning seven in a row and outscoring their opponents 116-83 in the process.

A statement win for the team came away at VMI, where the Mount won out 20-5 against the Keydets. Senior, Cormac Giblin bagged a hattrick with Kyle Cullen, Kelly Gouin, William Vandergrift, and Noah Persing all contributing two goals a piece to the win in Lexington. Limiting the Keydets to only five goals was in part due to the shot stopper Griffin McGinley, who made five total saves during the game.

McGinley has been an outlier for the Mountaineers this season, as the junior has not only played in all fifteen games for the Mount this year but he has started all of them as well. He has notched a record of 8-7 in the crease, as he has 140 saves from

547 shots faced and a save percentage of .458 in 852 minutes played for the Mountaineers this season. Senior, Andrew Preston has also filled in for McGinley from time to time as he has notched 7 saves from 28 shots faced.

On offense, the Mount is very aggressive, with 165 goals coming from 339 shots on goal. They have also racked up 97 assists on offense to give their shot takers better opportunity within the third half of the field. Graduate student, Jared McMahon, has scored 32 goals and 14 assists during the regular season, accruing 46 points in total. He has 68 shots on target and .687% shots on target percentage, making him a menace in front of goal. Another graduate student, Kelly Gouin, has scored 26 goals this regular season, with 6 goals coming against LIU on March 18th and 5 goals coming against Quinnipiac on April 1st.

Senior, Cormac Giblin, graduate student, Jake Krieger and freshman, TJ Gravante all rounded out the top half of team scoring with 17, 15 and 13 goals, respectively. Gravante is a very interesting case, specifically because his shots on goal percentage of 615% is the sixth highest on the team. If the freshman keeps it up, he will be a useful asset for the coaching staff in the next three years to help build on the offensive side of the ball. This comes with a common theme for the Mountaineers this year, as the overall team SOG% rests at .551, almost matching their opponents percentage of .558.

In the defensive portion of the field, the Mount has been ruthless in conference games, causing 146 turnovers in games while limiting their opponents to 126 turnovers in the regular season, advertently



The Mountaineers won seven games in a row to be named regular season co-conference champions; photo via Bob Kimble.

helping the offense get the ball back faster in redirection. However, the team as a whole turned the ball over 272 times, to their opponents 260 turnovers against, but this is overall team statistics and not a strictly defensive stat. They were forced into 522 groundballs; this was another limitation that teams forced them into, as the Mountaineers only forced their opponents into 422 groundballs in the regular season.

Overall, the team had many highs this regular season. With everything from points per game, goals, shots, and shots on goal all going up this season compared to seasons prior. The shots and shots on goal high are interesting in that 55 shots were taken by the Mountaineers on two separate occasions against NJIT and Sacred Heart and a high of 39 shots on goal against VMI. The Mount also had seventeen turnovers against Canisius on April 12th, but the rebuttal to that would be Delaware forcing them into 27 turnovers in a single game stand. This is accept-

able, especially when you factor in that Delaware is a nationally ranked program and are 6-0 in the Colonial Athletic Association this year.

With a first successful season in the books for Gravante and his players came a slew of conference awards in the process. Freshman, TJ Gravante and junior, Jackson Phillips were named to the Rookie's second team. Five players were named to the First Team All-MAAC team, Jake Krieger, Conor Beals, Steven Schmidt, Jared McMahon and Mitchell Dunham, with Schmidt winning Long Stick Midfielder of the Year, Dunham being named Defensive Player of the Year and Beals being named Face-off Specialist of the Year. The crux of it all was in TJ Gravante winning MAAC Rookie of the Year, in the process of a very award-laden team.

A 8-7 record on the year and a 7-2 conference record leads head coach Gravante, his coaching staff and his players to the No. 2 seed into the conference playoffs starting in early May, where they will most likely play the likes of Sienna, Marist, or a lower seeded team in the conference tournament in pursuit of an unprecedented first year success for Mount lacrosse in the MAAC. With the future looking bright with players such as Gravante and other recruits poised to come in next year and rebuff the team after a slew of exits from graduate students, the men's lacrosse program is in good hands.

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.

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## COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

# Spring is still springing

Jefferson Breland

Today I continue the introduction of new ideas about wind from the perspective of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM).

In case you missed part 1, I shall describe a few of the high points from that article.

I also encourage you to visit the Emmitsburg News Journal archives on their website to read part 1 and to look at other past editions. You never know what gems you will find.

In part 1, I offered this advice based on Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) theory: Until mid-May: Cover your neck. Keep your feet and ankles warm. Don't wear shorts or skirts that expose your lower legs. Wear a bit more clothing than you think you should. The reasoning behind this recommendation is the coolness of the earth and the wind in the

air that can have a negative effect on our health, according to TCM.

Last month, I explained wind means different things depending on which lens you look through. In this case, the two lenses are modern science and TCM.

According to science, wind occurs due to atmospheric pressures caused by temperature differentials between land masses and water, the rotation of the earth, and cows. Bovine methane production is representative of the many factors involved in the global weather system. I also like cows. A quick internet search of the scientific causes of wind will provide you with hours of entertainment. If that is your idea of a good time, I say, "Go for it."

With relation to our health, modern science limits itself to the physical effects of wind on the body like wind burn, wind chill factor, being knocked

off our feet by a sudden gust, and being tossed in the air by a tornado.

Now begins the Chinese medicine portion of the article, so I will define a few terms I use which may not be familiar to you.

Firstly, I will mention Qi (pronounced "chee") a few times in this article. Qi according to TCM is a vital form of energy that composes pretty much everything in the Universe. A "close but not quite right" way to look at Qi is how modern scientists look at the subatomic energy of quantum mechanics or quantum physics.

Secondly, wind is viewed differently in TCM. Wind can affect the health of our body as well as our mind in a variety of ways. Wind affects our Qi, so it can affect any part of us. TCM also makes a distinction between external wind which starts out side of us and internal wind which starts on the inside



A sure sign of Spring is the arrival of Barn Swallows.

of us. Wait, what? Confused? Good, now we can learn together.

TCM's external wind is similar to the thing out there in nature that we feel against our skin, just like the science thing, but without all the sciencey stuff.

But wait, there's more. To the ancients who discovered TCM, wind is considered a vehicle for the "External Pathogenic Factors" (EPFs) to enter our body.

EPFs are all caused by the extremes of the seasonal climates: cold, wind, heat, dampness (humidity), and dryness. EPFs can enter slowly or quickly.

In this radically different framework of TCM, we can get something called "Wind Invasion." This is the sudden effect of an EPF trying to enter the body. And get this, the wind doesn't even have to be blowing. The concept of "wind invasion" refers to the quickness of the onset of symptoms. Sometimes the "wind invasion" is the subtle action of the movement of the EPF. We may barely notice the effect. Other times, "wind invasion" can be the obvious onset of an illness.

Have you ever experienced a sudden chill or flush of heat? Have you ever suddenly become more sensitive to a cold or warm draft? Have you ever been annoyed by the wind blowing against your skin?

Do you ever feel a chill around your neck when it is windy, even on a warm day? According to TCM, this was an external pathogenic factor trying to get in your body and your body's response to it.

A simple example is we might feel a cold wind blowing against our neck and we have a stiff, achy neck the next day.

We rack our brain trying to remember what we did physically to hurt our neck when the culprit according to TCM is an invasion of wind-cold. This wind-cold affects the muscles in our neck the same way our hands feel stiff on a Winter's day when we make snowballs without gloves. (The cold in our snowball-making hands is an example of a relatively slower way of an EPF entering our body.)

Have you ever felt the moment you think you came down with a cold or flu? It doesn't even have to be windy and you may suddenly feel like you're on the verge of being ill.

This is what I mean by external wind affecting our Qi. It can be the sudden cause of aches and pains we can't explain as well as the cause of a more serious illness.

Many of us have had these experiences. Years before I studied TCM, I was standing in line at an airport and, wham!, I felt a sudden sensation on the surface of my belly, as if someone had

gently poked or jabbed me.

Then I noticed a cool sensation on the back of my neck at the same time feeling my face get warm. I thought, "I think I just got sick." And sure enough, that night I came down with a fever and all the other symptoms of stomach flu.

When I heard about TCM's description of the action of "wind invasion," I thought, "Yup, that was it."

Earlier, I mentioned an internal wind that starts inside of us. How many of you thought I was talking about flatulence? Come on, admit it. You know you did. Okay, maybe it was just me.

I have mentioned before in these pages that emotions play a big role in our health. Internal wind is often caused by our emotions. Internal wind can also be caused by conditions inside our bodies that generate heat like a fever.

According to TCM, emotions can lead to energy imbalances in the body responsible for approximately 90-95% of all illness. These imbalances will then affect the energy pathways (meridians) in our body and can lead to a variety of symptoms.

If we get really upset with any of the emotions, this can affect our health in good or not so good ways. The phrases, getting wound up, spun up, pumped up, flying high, grief-stricken, down in the dumps, butterflies in the stomach, petrified, etc. all describe a bodily feeling that results from strong emotions.

We can be overcome by fear, anger, joy, worry, and sadness. Each of these strong emotions can create symptoms like hives, sweating, paralysis, numbness, and convulsions.

Most commonly, internal wind is generated by the emotion of anger or frustration. Internal wind could be considered the cause of "seeing red." It can be the source of migraine headaches, vertigo, tremors, tics, or blurred vision.

I am introducing you to the concept of "wind" from a TCM perspective to expand your understanding of different factors that can affect our health. When we realize there is more than one way to look health, we might find solutions to our health challenges.

I have found when we pay attention to the messages our body sends us through our symptoms, the path to feeling better is often right under our nose. Quite often the answers are as simple as covering our neck and keeping our feet warm. Prevention is the best medicine. Take care.

To read past Complementary Corner articles, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).



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## FITNESS & HEALTH

# Natural ways to improve health

**Linda Stultz**  
**Certified Fitness Trainer**

Always consult your physician for any medical condition you are having. Changing of seasons can have a positive or negative affect on people. Not everyone handles this change in the same way. Warmer weather usually improves our mood because we cannot get outside more. Even if you like the warm weather, just the change in routine can upset our emotional balance.

Talking with friends and family can be a good way to work through the feelings and concerns you may be having. Going for a walk, run or ride on your bike will raise your endorphin level and boost your mood. Now that the temperature is getting warmer outside it's a good time to think about your summer exercise routine.

Some people like to go to the gym and pump iron to release tension while others can feel better with less exertion. Whatever works for you is worth setting aside time for. Everyone knows exercise can improve high blood pressure, lower cholesterol and improve flexibility but not everyone thinks of improving emotional and mental feelings with a good workout.

Many doctors have prescribed exercise, both cardio and weight training, to help patients with depression or other diagnosis. Our body has many ways to heal itself and often we think of medication before self-help. I always recommend seeing your doctor for a professional diagnosis. It's a good idea to talk to the doctor about anything you can do on your own that may help.

Today medical doctors are working together with professionals in alternative medicines to treat the complete patient. Medication is often needed to treat a disease but alternatives treatments like acupuncture, meditation and even exercise can ease the symptoms. Everyone is different and you need to consult with your doctor for your specific situation

but it may be helpful to check into the new recommendations.

People have learned that keeping active can sometimes keep their spirits up and having a positive attitude always seems to help when you are facing any hardship.

Having someone to talk to usually gives you a release and may even give you a better outlook on the situation you are facing. Finding a partner to take a brisk walk with while you talk about what is troubling you may be the answer for

some. Walking by yourself and having the time alone may be just what others need.

I think the most important thing is sharing your concerns with someone. Being there to listen to someone's thoughts is how most of us can get through life's challenges. I've said before, a true

friend is one that will put your needs first and present ideas to help you through whatever you are facing. This is the time you find out who your real friends are and believe me, they will be there for you no matter what.

Remember, Keep Moving, we now know how much it can help.



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# ASTRONOMY

## The night sky of May

Professor Wayne Wooten

For May, the full Flower Moon occurs on May 5th. It is last quarter on May 12th, rising about midnight, when it is passing just south of Saturn. In the dawn sky, the waning crescent passes just north of Jupiter on May 17th, Mercury will lie just south of them in twilight. The new moon is on May 19th. The waxing crescent passes two degrees north of brilliant Venus on May 23rd, and four degrees north of much fainter Mars the following evening. It is first quarter on May 27th.

Mercury passes between us and the Sun on May 1st, and is the dawn sky near Jupiter by month's end. Venus chases Mars in the west, but will not catch him. She reaches greatest eastern elongation on June 4th, 45 degrees east of the Sun and appears half lit as viewed from earth. Mars lies just above her then, but she will turn around and retrograde westward between us and the Sun in July, while Mars continues moving eastward as it orbits the sun. Mars will be lost in the Sun's glare by the end of summer, but by then, Venus will pass between us and the Sun and become a morning star for the rest of 2023. Jupiter is just emerging low in the SE dawn sky, while Saturn is at quadrature, 90 degrees west of the Sun in the SE morning sky.

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away



Illustration of SpaceX's Starship human lander design that will carry the first NASA astronauts back to the surface of the moon by 2025 under NASA's Artemis program.

from any bright lights, is a wonderful instrument to stare up into deep space, far beyond our own Milky Way, binoculars are better for spotting specific deep sky objects. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about April 30th, visit the [www.sky-maps.com](http://www.sky-maps.com) website and download the map for the new month; it will have a more extensive calendar, and list of best objects for the naked eyes, binoculars, and scopes on the back of the map. Also available is wonderful video

exploring the sky, available from the Hubble Telescope website at: [www.hubblesite.org/explore\\_astronomy/tonights\\_sky/](http://www.hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/tonights_sky/). Sky and Telescope has highlights at [www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts/](http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts/) for observing the sky each week of the month.

The winter constellations will soon be swallowed up in the Sun's glare, but Orion is still visible, with its famed Orion Nebula, M-42, seen below the three stars marking his famed belt. Dominating the southwest is the Dog Star, Sirius, brightest star of the night sky. When Sirius vanishes into the Sun's glare in two

months, this sets the period as "Dog Days".

The brightest star in the NW is Capella, distinctively yellow in color. It is a giant star, almost exactly the same temperature as our Sun, but about 100X more luminous. Just south of it are the stellar twins, the Gemini, with Castor closer to Capella, and Pol-lux closer to the Little Dog Star, Procyon.

Overhead, the Big Dipper rides high. Good scouts know to take its leading pointers north to Polaris, the famed Pole Star. For us, it sits 30 degrees (our latitude) high in the north, while the rotating earth beneath makes all the other celestial bodies spin around it from east to west.

If you drop south from the bowl of the Big Dipper, Leo the Lion rides high. Note the Egyptian Sphinx is based on the shape of this Lion in the sky. The "regal" star Regulus marks the heart of the celestial lion.

Taking the arc in the Dipper's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of spring. Cooler than our yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its strange motion reveals it to be an invading star from another smaller galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky Way, Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley. Just east of Arcturus is Corona Borealis, the "northern crown", a shapely Coronet that Miss America would gladly don, and one of few constellations

that look like their name. The bright star in the crown's center is Gemma, the Gem Star.

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo, then curve to Corvus the Crow, a four sided grouping. The arms of Virgo harbor the Virgo Supercluster of Galaxies, with thousands of "island universes" in the Spring sky. We are looking away from the place of thickly populated Milky Way, now on the southern horizon, toward the depths of intergalactic space, where even amateur telescopes can spot quasars billions of light years distant.

Because we live farther south than most Americans, we get a fine view of the closest and brightest globular star clusters, Omega Centauri, on May evenings. From a dark sky site, you can spot it with your naked eyes about 12 degrees above the southern horizon when it is at its highest in the south, about 9 P.M. at the end of the month. It is fine in binoculars, and resolves beautifully into about a million sun with larger scopes.

To the northeast Hercules rises, with his body looking like a butterfly. It contains one of the sky's showpieces, M-13, the globular cluster faintly visible with the naked eye. Find it with binoculars midway on the top left wing of the cosmic butterfly, then take a look with a larger telescope and you will find it resolved into thousands of stars! Still, it is smaller and farther away than omega, and pales in comparison, but is high enough to be observed for observing it for several hours. Omega is only out for about two hours an evening in the far southern sky.

## Farmers' Almanac

*"The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness."*

—Honoré de Balzac (1799—1850)

### Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Dry and mild, then heavy rain (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); dry, then turning warm and slightly humid with isolated PM showers (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); dry again, near record warmth developing (11, 12, 13, 14); frequent afternoon & evening showers and thunderstorms followed by cooler and more seasonable conditions (15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); frequent afternoon & evening showers and mild (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); seasonable with occasional showers (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

**Extreme Weather Watch:** The Almanack sees heavy rains in the Mid-Atlantic Region (3, 4, 5, 19, 20)

**Full Moon:** May's Full Moon will occur on Friday, May 5th. Many flowers emerge and blossom during this month so many Native American tribes called it

Flower Moon while the Huron tribes specifically chose to call it Budding Moon for the very same reasons! The colonial farmer called it Milk Moon because of the noticeable increase in milk produced by his dairy cows in the month of May.

**Holidays:** Cinco de Mayo is celebrated on Friday, May 5th. Mothers are honored on Mother's Day, Sunday May 14th. Treat that "very special lady" to a nice dinner out, a sentimental card and/or nice flower arrangement, or just a telephone call to say, "I love you"! Memorial Day falls on Monday, May 29th. On this day, we honor those who have died in defense of our freedoms, who suffer from injuries suffered in combat, and to all those who are currently serving today. Their unflinching service and sacrifice protect our way of life every single day

**The Garden:** Once your last frost data has passed, warm season crops can be planted. When the ground temperatures reach 70 degrees Fahrenheit, it is safe to begin planting Okra, Pump-

kin, Sweet Potatoes, Eggplant, Peppers, Peanuts, Watermelon, Cow Peas, Black-eyed Peas, Crowder Peas, Butter Peas and Butter Beans. With a little luck, you may begin to see the first fruit on your strawberries by late this month. The birds will enjoy them very much if you don't provide some protective netting over them! Newly-planted strawberries should have the blossoms picked off until they become well-established.

**The Farm:** Best for planting root crops (18, 19); weeding and stirring the soil (20, 21, 25, 26); planting above-ground crops (22, 23, 24); harvesting all crops (7, 8); best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); slaughtering and butchering meat (19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26); harvest and store grains (12, 13, 14, 5, 15, 16, 17, 18); transplanting (19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26); weaning of small animals and livestock (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14).

### J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living:

*"While the truth may be painful to hear today, the wise man will benefit from it tomorrow"*

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# COMPUTER Q&A

## Making the most of your PC

Aysë Stenabaugh  
Jester's Computer

Technology users are aware of the seemingly endless possibilities the internet brings to our devices but what about when the internet goes out? There are lots of things you can do with your computer even if you don't have internet access. The next time you find yourself with no internet access or are experiencing an outage, give one of the following suggestions a try.

**Organization** – Clearly this is not the most exciting idea but taking the time to do so can leave you with more time for other fun activities. First, focus on your computer's desktop, it can be enticing to place files here so you can remember and find them later. After a while you may discover that your desktop has transitioned into a black hole, making finding anything there a daunting task.

To combat this, move documents and pictures into the documents and pictures folders within your user folder. Any shortcuts (or icons that have an arrow in the corner that point to a program or file that is stored in another location) that are not being used can be deleted or moved into a new folder on your desktop for "unused desktop icons" or "junk" whichever you personally fancy. Not only will this make your desktop look nicer, but you'll also find that your computer will load a little bit faster after a restart if it no longer has to load those unused icons.

**Easier Accessibility** – In Windows 10 there are lots of ways that you can make it easier to find the things you most commonly use. Instead of placing shortcuts on your computer's desktop, you can try pinning the programs you use most frequently to either your start menu (the menu that appears when you press the windows icon in the bottom left corner of your screen) or your taskbar (the bar that goes across the bottom of your screen).

To pin an application to either location first locate the program that you wish to pin from your start menu. Next, right click on the application and select "pin to start" or if you would prefer it to be always visible on your taskbar, choose "more" and then "pin to taskbar". If there are specific files that you frequently access in an application, you can right click on the application which will then display files you recently opened. To always have a recently opened file appear in this list, you can press the pin icon (which looks like a pushpin).

**Store your music library** – If you still have CD's and have not yet taken the time to copy them to your computer you should. Ripping your music to your PC can both preserve the integrity of your cd's and allow you to move that music to other devices. Today, some vehicles are not including a CD drive which means that to listen to your music your stuck with radio or using another device like an mp3 player or a cell phone. To store your collection on your Windows computer, insert the cd you wish to save then open Windows

Media Player (to find it, press the start button then type media and click on Windows Media Player). When your CD is in the drive, you will have the option to "Rip CD" toward the stop of media player. Once you choose that open you can select which songs you want to "rip" to your computer by clicking on the checkbox beside the songs you want to save or, you can select them all by clicking the checkbox above the list beside the # symbol. By default, your music should be saved in your "My Music" folder separated by each artist and albums' name.

**Editing photos** – One of the best parts of Windows 10 is how easy it is to edit and organize photos. While we recommend that you organize your photos from file explorer, the photos

application can make it really easy to locate photos that contain the same people or subjects. When using the photos app you can create albums to group photos from different storage places together without ever actually moving the photos.

For example, if you have photos in a folder located on your desktop and also had a photo in your pictures folder, you can create an album within the photos program that will display both photos together even though they are stored in different locations. If you find a photo that you wish to crop or edit you can click on the photo to make further changes. We strongly recommend that you create a copy of the edited photo unless you're sure you want to overwrite the original.



If you need help with your computer or would like one-on-one assistance with performing any of the tasks above or more consider reaching out to Jester's Computer Services at 717-642-6611. At this time we are continuing to offer remote support when

internet access is available and we are continuing to accept drop-offs and pick-ups by appointment only. For more information or free computer tips and tricks including our video tutorials, visit us on the web at [www.jesterscomputers.com](http://www.jesterscomputers.com).



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# COMMUNITY NOTES

## Harney Memorial Day observance

On Saturday, May 27, the Monocacy Valley Memorial VFW Post 6918 will host its annual Memorial Day observance at the Post at 3:30 p.m.

Post Commander Larry Harris said "Memorial Day is a time to pause, to reflect and recognize the challenges and sacrifices of veterans who have given the ultimate sacrifice while serving their country in the United States Armed Forces".

Our guest speaker will be

Chief Petty Officer, Katie Clothier, US Navy and a combat decorated veteran.

Members of the Monocacy Valley Memorial Post 6918 have embraced the Post Memorial wall with names of our fallen comrades. The name on the memorial will be read during the program followed by the ringing of the bell.

At the conclusion of the program, Post Commander Harris

and the VFW President of the Auxiliary will participate in the laying of the wreaths at the post memorial.

Veterans of the Post are pleased to have the Young Marines participate in the program by raising and lowering the flag at half mast in honor of our fallen veterans.

Distinguished members of the Harney VFW Post 6918 Honor Guard will give a 21-gun salute to honor all of our veterans and the sounding of taps for our fallen veterans.

The public and all veterans and their families are invited to attend the program and to participate in this special occasion.

Following the Memorial Day Observances, the Harney VFW Auxiliary, the Harney Lions Club and the Harney Fire Department will host their annual Good Old Days celebration in the pavilion at 5:30 p.m.

The Good Old Days will feature food and drinks at the Good Old Days prices. In the tradition of the Good Old Days, the Auxiliary will have their famous walk, an auction given to the highest bidder. The sale of homemade cookies and many other delicious deserts will be available.

This event has been enjoyed for many years by the Harney VFW and our surrounding communities. All proceeds from the Good

Olde Days goes to the maintenance of the community cemeteries. All are welcome to attend.

For further information, contact Frank Rauschenberg at 240-367-6110 or call the post at 410-756-6866.

### The origin of "taps"

We have all heard the haunting melody of "Taps." It's the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But do you know the story behind the song?

If not, I think you will be pleased to find out about its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing, Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Elliscombe heard the moans of a soldier who was severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward the encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier

was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light he saw the face of the soldier.

It was his own son!

The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status.

His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was denied since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him one musician.

The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted.

The haunting melody, which we now know as "Taps" used at military funerals, was born.



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