

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

OCTOBER 2023

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Frank Davis elected Mayor in a landslide!

In spite of the rain, residents of Emmitsburg turned out in force to send a very clear message that they were ready for a change, handing Frank Davis a mandate to carry out that change.

Davis handily beat current Town Council President Tim O'Donnell. Davis took home 301 votes to O'Donnell's 62.

In the race for the Town Council seat being vacated by Joe Ritz, Valerie Turnquist also handily outdistanced her opponents, winning 212 votes. Glenn Blanchard received only 112, with Dale Sharrer receiving 27.

Davis said his first priority as Mayor will be to sit down with the Town staff, both collectively and as individuals, to get to know them. “I plan on asking each staff member that if they were in my shoes, what would they do to improve the Town's performance in general.”

“I also intend to take a good hard look at the Town's financial status. “We need to be more transparent on letting the residents know how much money the town has and what it is spending it on.”

As for Davis's goals for his first year, Davis stated he wants to fix the water rate issue. “At a minimum I want to figure out how to do away with the last two rate increases. There has got to be a way to do that, we just need to get all the right heads together to figure that out.”

Davis also wants to take a good hard look at all the matching grants the Town has been applying for. “While getting matching money from the State or Federal government for certain projects is good, the reality is the Town has to come up with half of the money, money that comes out of every resident's wallet. I want to look at what grants we are applying for to ensure they benefit everyone in town, not just a select few.”

Another key goal of Davis will be to get more residents engaged in helping solve the many problems the town faces. “We have a lot of really, really smart people, with a lot of practical experience, who live in this town. We need to find ways to engage them, to get them to help us solve the problems. I'm convinced that together



An emotional Frank Davis hugs his mother after winning the race for Mayor by the largest plurality of any candidate in a mayoral election in Emmitsburg's history.

we can put Emmitsburg on a better, more sustainable, path.”

The election of Turnquist, will help Davis in achieving his goals as the pair's views are closely aligned. Turnquist said she was committed to working with Davis to “right” the town's financial condition.”

With Davis's election to Mayor, the Town Council will now have to choose his replacement. “While

the Town Code says it's the Council's responsibility to nominate my replacement, it's not very clear on how they go about doing it, nor what happens if the Council can't come to a consensus. We are in unchartered territory here.” Davis said he has several people in mind who he would like to see fill his seat, but will wait to see what the Council recommends.

Tropical Storm Ophelia dampens turnout

With summer finally at an end, the shorter, cooler days that autumn brings can now commence. Just as summertime brings the carnival season, autumn brings the season of fall festivals.

Fairfield's ‘Pippinfest’ kicked off the Fall festival season, and for months its staff meticulously planned for the throngs of thousands who would be flocking to a plethora of yard sales, crafts, and food vendors from all over the region, but what they couldn't plan for was the remnants of Hurricane Ophelia that brought over two inches of rain on the first day of the event.

As a result of the rain and gusty winds, less than half the expected vendors made an appearance on Saturday and visitors were few and far between. The few festival enthusiasts that did attend Pippinfest were left with long walks between vendors through two-inch-deep pools of storm water. The rain was torrential at times and the wind blew strong.

Still, the vendors, visitors and volunteers remained cheerful despite the stormy conditions and were hopeful that Sunday, the second day of the event, would bring a reprieve. Unfortunately, it did not. Of the few vendors that were

there on Saturday even fewer came back to set up on Sunday and even fewer visitors attended.

Those who did brave the weather wondered at the choice to have the festival, even though it is listed as a rain or shine event. But with no rain date it came down to vendor choice as to whether to set up or stay home. One vendor said, “It is unfortunate there isn't a rain date because this is a great event when the weather is nice. Today is just awful.” She wondered if they would get their vendor fees back or if they would just be out of luck.

Committee member Nancy Wenschhof said: “we can't give refunds and we can't cancel the event.”

“We couldn't stop the weather, Ophelia had her own mind, and it is what it is,” said Nancy. “We had a lot of vendors calling, and visitors posting on social media asking if we were going to cancel, but we're too far into the process. Everything had already been paid for and set up. From the signs to the Port-Johns. All the costs were paid by vendor fees. So even if we cancelled, we would still have to pay those bills. So we hoped for the best. Unfortunately, what we got was the worse.”

She said the Pippinfest commit-



The streets of Fairfield were deserted Sunday afternoon due to the rain. Normally, they would be overflowing with tourists.

tee would discuss giving some sort credit to vendors who did come this year in spite of the weather for next year's event since a full refund is impossible.

Vendor Kevin Varish of Gettysburg, who braved the weather on both days to serve funnel cakes to those who dared to come out, was sanguine about the turn of events. “Normally my line is 20 people

longs, but today (Sunday) I can count customers on two hands. But I've been coming here for years and will be back next year. A little rain can't dampen my enthusiasm for this great festival.”

Planning for the 2024 Pippinfest will begin soon, and hopefully the weather next year will cooperate and we'll see a bigger and better event!

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Legacy grant SOP tabled—again

At its September 11 meeting, the Town Council once again tabled the Community Legacy Grant Program standard operating procedures (SOP) at the request of Commissioner Amy Boehman. She noted that the Town is on the cusp of an election and suggested holding off on the SOP's approval in order to give the new administration time to weigh in.

Based upon comments heard at the August meeting, an updated working document of the SOP was presented by town staff to establish rules and procedures for the Community Legacy Grant Program, but Boehman said that her review of the revised SOP found that it still did not address long-standing major issues related to the program, especially the need to address the difference between routine home maintenance items, which Boehman said the Town should not be paying for, and true 'façade improvements.'

Council President Tim O'Donnell pushed back against Boehman's stance on the Town paying for routine exterior home maintenance, like painting, stating that the original purpose of the program was to enhance Main Street and therefore supportive of paying for rou-

tine exterior home maintenance, but not paying for exterior home maintenance in any of the developments.

O'Donnell said that paying for exterior maintenance of homes within the Town's Sustainable Community Area (i.e. Main Street) would have a "ripple effect throughout the whole town." O'Donnell reasoned the value of routine maintenance was a way to preserve and stabilize a property.

Town Manager Cathy Willets said that going forward the SCWG will prioritize property projects in the sustainable community area that require aesthetic improvements that might be taking away from the beauty of the Town. Many projects in the past have been painting jobs that have "transitioned that piece of property from dull to vibrant and enticing," she said.

Updates that were made to the SOP included renaming the Legacy Grant the Emmitsburg Façade Restoration Program, to be more specific; requiring Town Council to approve all appointments to the SCWG; the addition of a section detailing steps to ensure grant approval transparency to include the amount of funds awarded and property locations.

However, Commissioner Joe Ritz said that the transparency requirements did not go far enough and that "the grant applications and funding awarded should be made public. This is a state program, the monies come from the residents of Maryland into the program to benefit communities that do this. Taxpayers should be able to see how the money is being allocated, and for what it is being used for."

Willets said, however, that she was against releasing the grant applications for public review for fear of releasing personal information. But when pressed by Boehman on what specific personal information she was concerned about releasing, she was unable to identify an example.

Willets said that the public could obtain information on grant applications by attending the SCWG meeting. But Ritz pushed back on that suggestion, noting that the SCWG meeting is not well publicized, not recorded, and held at a time most people cannot attend, and therefore pressed for releasing grant applications prior to the awarding of grants.

Town staff are expected to review additional council comments and present another revision at the Council's October meeting.

Emmitsburg
NEWS-JOURNAL

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Streetlight replacement contract awarded

At its Sept. 11 meeting, the Town Council approved awarding a contract to Catoctin Lighting for the purchase and installation of new light fixtures downtown. The council approved Catoctin Lighting by a 3-2 vote with commissioners Joe Ritz and Amy Boehman voting against the proposal.

The project will replace 103 total outdated Old Boston style streetlights including poles, fixtures and lenses. 97 lights are located on the East and West side of Main St. and six are located on South Seton Ave.

The current lights on Main Street are a semi cut-off design meaning some up glare is sent into the night sky, which has been an area of complaint by residents. The new proposed streetlights would have dimmable capabilities, minimizing this issue, according to Town Manager Cathy Willets.

Along with the age of the streetlights, many dating back to the 1980s, a driving force for the project was addressing concerns that Main Street was not bright enough, she said. Deterioration of the lights have been noted to

include cracking, rusting fogging globes and bowls that are fogging, Willets said.

The Town received a total of nine bids with four finalists. Town staff recommended the Council award the contract to Catoctin Lighting, whose bid, at \$266,140, was the highest submitted bid.

While the majority of the cost of replacing the lights will be covered by state grants, Catoctin Lighting's bid was \$38,000 over what the town had budgeted for the effort in its grant application process. To address the shortfall, the Town will have to dip into

the general fund to cover the extra costs not covered by grant funding, according to Willets.

In voting for approval of the Catoctin Lighting bid, a company that is based in Thurmont, Commissioner Frank Davis reiterated the value of supporting local businesses, and noted that the town's street department said having readily available parts in Thurmont would help them keep the light on. Going with one of the other finalists, who are located in Baltimore and Texas, would result in delays in fixing lights when they break.

"We can make up the extra cost of going with Catoctin by savings on just the shipping costs from Texas when we need a spare light," he said.

Ritz voted against the contract stating he would have liked to have seen more investigation into lights that are dark skies friendly - meaning all light is directed down and not causing an unsightly blinding glare even if dimmed.

Boehman voted against the light contract because Catoctin's bid was not only the highest bid, but that Catoctin's warranty was not as good and did not address light pollution as well as other bidders.

Town revises snow emergency parking

At its September 11 meeting, the Town Council unanimously approved returning the town to a pre-2015 snow emergency plan, prohibiting cars on town streets during a Frederick County declared snow emergency.

Pre-2015, the town had no parking allowed on any town streets to ensure snow plows could adequately clear the roads, according to Town Manager Cathy Willets.

The ordinance was changed in 2015 to benefit residents and allow

for certain streets to remain available for off-street parking in the event of a snow emergency. At the same time, the plan restricted parking on all the cul-de-sacs of Southgate, Northgate, Emmett Gardens, Silo Hill, Brookfield, Worthens Way, Waycross Court, and Creamery Way, she said.

However, Public Works Department staff has said it is challenging and hazardous to plow in those areas where cars are allowed to park, Willets said.

As always, residents will be given adequate time to move their cars off the streets once Frederick County announces a snow emergency. "It's

not the minute that it goes into effect. We're not expecting people to get out of bed in the middle of the night if the County declares an emergency when everyone is asleep," she clarified.

From an emergency services standpoint, Commissioner Frank Davis agreed with the ordinance wholeheartedly. "The less obstacles the crew has to work around, the quicker we can get streets open," he said.

Davis agreed to facilitate conversation with private businesses for parking alternatives for citizens in the newly allocated snow emergency restricted areas. "There's places out there, we just have to try to work with those people," he said.

Information regarding the snow emergency plan is expected to be presented on the town website, email, and water bill newsletters.

"The last thing we want to do is ticket anybody, we just want to keep the roads safe," Willets said.

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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Chicken discussion takes a turn in Carroll Valley

Carroll Valley Borough's ongoing chicken saga seemed to be near resolution in August, but the birds' future is still up in the air.

During their September meeting, the borough council voted 3-3 to direct the planning commission to craft an ordinance that a chicken coop can be placed anywhere on a property as long as it complies with the setback requirements of the land's zoning district. Council members Richard Mathews, Michael Wight, and John Schubring

voted against the motion. Bruce Carr, David Lillard, and Kari Buterbaugh supported it. Jessica Kraft was absent.

Since the vote was a tie, Mayor Ron Harris had to weigh in. Pennsylvania Borough Code states a mayor can only vote if there is a tie. Harris supported the chickens, so the motion passed.

The chicken controversy began in July when Fawn Trail residents Katlyn Weimer and Adam Colson approached the council after learning their chickens were illegal. The law of the land in Carroll

Valley states chickens must reside in the backyard of a property. That's not possible for Weimer and Colson, whose house aligns with the rear of their half-acre lot.

Fifteen people wrote to the council in support of Weimer and Colson's chickens. The borough's planning commission began discussing possible ordinance changes in September but did not come to a resolution, Wight said. Weimer attended September's meeting to again plead her case.

"They still exist, make noise, poop,

and my neighbors still have to look at them, whether they like it or not," Weimer said. "The only difference is that a car that drives by has to look at them for all of three seconds unless they slow down and stop."

Mathews said he opposes changing the rules because many, if not all, Carroll Valley homes have deed restrictions that prevent chicken ownership.

"I don't know why the borough ever took the action it did to do something contrary to our deeds," Mathews said.

Borough Solicitor Zachary Rice of Salzman Hughes said the borough can have rules that contradict deed restrictions. Deed restrictions can only be enforced through civil complaints, Rice said.

Carr said he supports chickens, despite the deed restrictions.

"Why can't you let people make their own minds up as long as it doesn't affect anyone else?" Carr asked.

The council will discuss the issue for the fourth consecutive month during its Oct. 10 meeting.

Carroll Valley News Briefs . . .

Borough Exploring Options For Green Lake

Carroll Valley's Lake Kay resembles a swamp more than a lake, so borough officials are investigating remediation options.

During the September meeting of borough council, Borough Manager Dave Hazlett said the municipality has been treating the lake for almost 20 years with no results. Hazlett said the contractor completing the work is applying the maximum amount of chemicals the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) permits. The

borough plans to ask DEP for an exception to the rule with hopes that the lake's algae will dissipate.

The borough also plans to seek grant funding for other treatment options, Hazlett said. Lake Kay can be accessed from Trout Run Trail and is open for public boating and fishing, according to the borough website.

Lot Sale Discussion

The council continued discussion on the possible sale of some of the many lots the borough owns. The borough

owns more than 200 vacant lots, many of which were gifted to the municipality after the ill-fated Charnita development failed in the 1960s. Borough officials suspect most lots would fail a perc test, which determines if a lot's soil will absorb water at the necessary rate. If a perc test fails, a septic system cannot be installed on the property.

Hazlett stressed no lots are currently on the market and the borough council has the right to sell or not sell any lot it chooses. If the council wishes to sell a lot, it must follow state guidelines.

One rule that did not sit well with many members of the council states the borough must accept the highest bid. Councilwoman Kari Buterbaugh has continued to express a desire to give Carroll Valley residents the right of first refusal.

Hazlett said he understood the appeal of such a move, but reiterated that the guideline is a state law, not Carroll Valley rule.

The Borough discussed the issue at length but did not come to any conclusions.

Trunk Or Treat Schedule

Carroll Valley Trunk or Treat will be held at Carroll Valley Borough Com-

mons on Tuesday, Oct. 31 from 5 to 8:30 p.m., Assistant Borough Manager Gail Marthers reported. Trunk or Treat gives residents the opportunity to enjoy the holiday within the safety of the borough park.

The event will include food trucks, a photo booth, and trick-or-treat opportunities. The borough will play "The Super Mario Brothers Movie" at 6 p.m. Residents who do not have children are invited to decorate their vehicle's trunk and distribute candy, Marthers said. To help staff properly plan, Marthers asks those who plan to attend to register for the free event by calling the office at 717-642-8269.

Liberty Township News-Briefs. . .

Supervisors Determine Homeowners Responsible For Stormwater Issues

Liberty Township supervisors are demanding residents bring their properties into compliance in order to end water backup on one of the municipality's major roads.

During their September meeting, the three-member board unanimously voted to enforce property owners on Strausbaugh and Rist trails ensure their land matches the stormwater management plan that was approved in December 2003 when the homes were built. During major storms, water flows from Strausbaugh and Rist trails onto Bullfrog Road, Supervisor Mickey Barlow said. The supervisors noted not every property is out of compliance.

"There may be some lots that have to do very little or nothing," Supervisor Bobby Keilhotz said.

None of the affected property owners attended the Sept. 5 meeting. In May, some residents pleaded with the township for help. A resident suggested the township install a larger pipe under Bullfrog Road. Barlow, who is also the township roadmaster, said engineers determined that Bullfrog's piping system is adequate. Township Solicitor John Lisko reiterated the owners of the private roads are responsible for ensuring water does not flow onto township roads.

"They are not public roads, it is really not a township matter," Lisko said.

Freedom Township Seeks Snowplow Assistance

Freedom Township residents may

see a Liberty Township truck plowing their roads this winter. Barlow said Freedom supervisors asked for help after the township's driver resigned recently. Barlow said the agreement will be similar to the contract that currently exists with the township police department. Liberty Township Police Department patrols Freedom for up to 25 hours per month.

Liberty Township is not guar-

anteeing Freedom it will complete the work, Barlow said. The amount of snow and available crew members will determine if they can assist.

"If they need our help, we surely will be able to help them if we can," he said.

In other road-related business, the supervisors unanimously voted to paint double yellow lines on Wenschof and Pecher roads at

a total cost of \$4238.64. Barlow said contractors recently paved a total of 3.35 miles of road. Previously, Wenschof and Pecher roads had single yellow lines but the township is working towards giving all roads double yellow lines to increase safety.

"We have had residents in the township say the double-yellow line helps them navigate the road at night," Barlow said.

Barlow added Pennsylvania law prohibits police from enforcing lane of travel laws if the road does not have a double yellow line.



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THURMONT NEWS

Hobbs Hardware closes its door

Hobbs Hardware, an icon of Thurmont for over 77 years, closed its door permanently on September 22.

The closure comes three years after Michael and Eddie Hobbs sold the family business to Scott Austin, of New Market, owner of Thurmont's Structural Building Solutions.

The closure came as a surprise to many of Hobbs' regular customers. It was no secret that Eddie and Mike were ready to hang up their hammers, but long-time customers feared when that day would come, just as it did for the

customers of Zurgable Brothers in Emmitsburg.

Over the years, the Hobbs brothers, just like the Zurgable brothers, built up a fiery-loyal customer base. This loyalty was not built on cheap prices, but exceptional customer service. The Hobbs brothers always greeted customers with first names, and if they were new customers, took the time to learn their first name.

If Mike and Eddie didn't have what you were looking for, they would pick up the phone and call either Zurgable Brothers or NZ Cramers to find out if they had it,

and if so, sent you on your way.

Forgot your wallet? That was no big deal to Mike or Eddie; your purchase was just jotted down in a book and added to your monthly bill.

No purchase was too big or too small for them. There was never a bait and switch. You never left their store thinking you could have saved money elsewhere. Sure, their nails cost a few cents more than Lowe's or Home Depot, but when you factored in saving on time and gas, you always came out ahead shopping at Hobbs. And that was before adding in the ben-

efits of shopping with someone you came to think of as a friend.

When the store was sold to Austin in 2020, and Mike and Eddie stayed on in a part-time basis, many regulars hoped the store had won a reprieve. And for a while, things looked good.

The store was completely remodeled, the once-bare shelves were soon overflowing with hardware, and the addition of a much-needed lumberyard made even thinking of a trip to Lowe's "crazy talk."

But that is all history now. The reason for the sudden closure is a source of much speculation; some point to the frequent complaints

related to large trucks carrying lumber entering and exiting the property, and blocking the road as they did.

Other says that the extension of life for the store was always temporary, and that from the start, its sale in 2020, was to make way for its eventual conversion into a restaurant that would be associated with a brewery that is in the works across the street.

What happens next, and when, will be the subject of much Town gossip. What is known for sure, however, is that a Thurmont icon, a gathering place where many friends and memories were made, is now closed.

Town Council introduces backyard chicken ordinance

The Town of Thurmont is discussing the ordinance for residents to raise chickens in their backyards. With the new ordinance, residents would have to obtain a license from Thurmont as well as the State of Maryland Department of Agriculture, as is so now.

While the ordinance was not yet passed, the Council discussed a 60-day grace period to allow residents to get "into compliance." This was also suggested by Thurmont resident Marty Burns during the public comment portion. A grace period also allows the Town time to make changes to

the ordinance if need be.

The Town received public comment to ensure the ordinance will work for residents, especially those who already own backyard chickens. Because so many already own chickens, the Town discussed, and largely agreed, that there would need to be a "grandfather" clause of some sort. They discussed the new policy applying only to newly adopted chickens. If residents already own chickens, or roosters, outside of the new policy, they would be permitted to keep them.

Under the new ordinance, residents would not be allowed to

keep roosters in their backyards, except for those who qualify for the grandfather clause. They also would no longer be permitted to allow the chickens inside the house or any dwelling.

If passed, the new legislation could prevent those living in shared spaces such as apartments, condos and townhouses. Commissioner Wes Hamrick suggested including duplexes since the dwellings are also close together. Commissioner Bill Buehrer said, "I agree because it might be okay with the current owners but if one sells and another moves in who

might be allergic or has problems then do they keep the chickens?"

To further eliminate bugging neighbors, the new ordinance would require that chickens are confined to the backyard with a fence. Mayor John Kinnaird suggested that residents also be required to keep the chickens' area, in addition to the coop, at least 10 feet from all four sides of the fence to separate them from the neighbors. "I know one of the problems we had here was the chickens were jumping over the fence and flying into the neighbor's yard," he said. "Although they had a four-foot

fence, the chickens were still getting over top of it."

The regulations would cover resident backyard chickens for personal-use only, prohibiting slaughter or selling eggs or meat from the chickens. Residents are allowed and encouraged by the town to take advantage of the eggs themselves, in addition to the chickens' companionship.

Licenses wouldn't transfer with the sale of a home, meaning that the new owner would have to register for a license. Renters would need the property owner's permission in order to apply for a license.

Contracts awarded for 2023 Colorfest support services

The Town Council approved bids to provide town services in support of the annual Catocoin Colorfest.

Services provided by the town

include security, bus transportation, portable toilets and trash collection. All contractors who provided a bid for this year's Colorfest are those who have worked

with the Town at the event in the past. Town Manager Jim Humerick is not concerned that the Town only received one bid per service because of the past work done by each contractor.

A contract for \$21,600 was awarded to May Security Services of Frederick to provide security services for the event, an increase from last year's cost of \$19,080. May will provide 26 security guards, two supervisors and two relief guards for both event days. While the price has risen, Mayor John Kinnaird said that May has done a good job in the past.

Rill's Bus Services of Westminster was awarded a contract for \$24,000 to provide bus services.

Rill's will provide nine standard buses on Saturday and seven standard buses for Sunday, along with two wheelchair accessible buses for both days. This is an increase of \$2,000 from last year.

Commissioner Wes Hamrick asked about the impact that inclement weather could have on the price of the contract. Humerick said that the Town could decrease the number of buses used in the case of inclement weather, which would lower the price of the contract. He noted that the \$24,000 bid is the maximum amount the Town will pay for the bus services.

Key Sanitation Inc. of Dickerson Maryland was awarded a con-

tract for \$23,650 to provide both trash removal and portable toilets. The bid includes pricing for 114 regular units and 16 handicap accessible units, as well as a pump truck on site both days. The pump truck will clean the portable toilets throughout the day. According to Humerick, the portable toilets will be spread around town for easy access for all.

It also includes trash services throughout the day, in addition to special trash pickup at 6 p.m. each day at the close of the event. Key will also provide a recycling truck and dumpsters. "They do a great job, always have," Kinnaird said. "I think they do outstanding service for us."

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TANEYTOWN NEWS

Proposal to change City charter erupts into feud

September's Council meeting erupted into an argument between Mayor Christopher Miller and Councilwomen Judith Fuller after Fuller requested a review of the town Charter and Code. The town charter defines the powers and functions of elected officials as well as the organization and procedures of local government.

Fuller told the council that she frequently hears people and say: "it's not in your Charter so I can do whatever I want" as being the main reason she wants to see the Charter reviewed." Fuller said she would like to update the Charter to make it clearer and easier to understand.

City Manager Jim Wieprecht pointed out that over the years they have made changes to the Code when the changes should have been made to the charter and they never went back and fixed the discrepancies. Fuller said, "Let's make sure the Charter says what we want it to say before we match it to the code".

City Attorney Jay Gallo explained process of making Charter amendments. First the council makes a resolution, which is essentially their opinion on what should be done. Then there is a public hearing giving citizens a chance to voice their opinion. After the hearing the Council can

either adopt the resolution or go back to the drawing board. If they adopt it and the people don't like the adopted resolution they can have a referendum which is a specific "yes or no" vote.

Fuller wanted to know when a good time was to start the review as Councilwoman Diane Foster pointed out they have been talking about doing this review for 5 years.

Gallo said, "your job is to guide the professionals by telling them what you want. It's the professionals job to tell you how you do what you want." He pointed out that although the Mayor is a member of City Council he does

not have the same powers as council members and vice versa.

After the topic was broached, Miller said he spoke with some Council members and some are questioning why they are going through the review at all. Miller feels that right now is not a good time for this review as the Council may believe they have the expertise to do it but he doesn't believe they do. Miller claimed that Fuller was really after his power as Mayor, which is why he wants to utilize a citizens' committee to make Charter amendments.

Fuller denied wanting to make any drastic changes to powers. She also disagreed with Miller

saying a committee isn't necessary, as citizens don't understand government enough for it to be worthwhile. Councilman James McCarron agreed with Fuller in that a citizens committee is contrary to what they are doing as they already have a Charter in place, it just needs reviewed.

Miller mentioned that other municipalities have committees to make charter amendments to which Fuller responded that other municipalities have also gotten rid of their Mayor completely. Millers response was that he still believes Fuller wants to remove his power and its something she has mentioned before.

Mountain Brook development concept plan approved

The developer of the 454 Home Mountain Brook development won approval from the Planning Commission on their proposed concept plans. The original plans were introduced at the July meeting and were well received by council members. Discussions surrounding the development go as far back as 30 years, when Mountain Brook Farm was originally annexed into city limits.

While the Planning Commission was supportive of the development, several concerns were raised, including the final width of the long-awaited Antirim Boulevard Expansion that will run approximately through the center of the property. Not

only will the road serve as the principle entrance and exit to the development, but it will also serve as a bypass around Town to help alleviate congestion in the square.

While the extension will be built and paid for by the developer, the last portion of the Boulevard expansion will have to cross the property of Flowserve. Flowserve will have to allow the construction in order for the expansion to continue onto 140, something it has not committed to doing so yet, which came as a surprise to the Council members.

The revelation of the need to cross Flowserve property, which may result in the expansion's

connection to RT 140 being years away, led to Commission Chairman James Parker asking, "How can we put 454 homes on a one-way development?" He urged the commission to wait to get a commitment from Flowserve to guarantee the road continuation onto RT 140.

A representative of the developer acknowledged the issue and said they plan on widening the boulevard's entrance, as well as the road, to compensate for the "one way road" during the building process. And while they are planning on using a traffic engineer to figure the best way to control traffic congestion, they could not guarantee that Flowserve will ever allow the Boule-

vard to be extended through the its property.

City Manager Jim Wieprecht told the Commission that the road through Flowserve property has been on the comprehensive plan for years and they will be discussing it with the property owners. However, he pointed out that the plan needed to be approved in order to address the traffic issues.

City Council Liaison Chris Tillman adamantly agreed that the planning commission must take the first step. "This project keeps being put on the back burner, we must approve this plan in order to move forward," he said. He pointed out that in order to get traffic off the square,

a bypass must be built—and the only way to do that is to move forward with the Mountain Brook project.

Resident Harry Mead cautioned the Commission stating, "this may be all we get, so how is it going to affect everything else?" He questioned, if Flowserve decides not to allow the Boulevard to be extended through their property to RT 140 then what will happen?

Wieprecht pointed out: "The volume of traffic that travels through the City on a regular basis has grown disproportionately to the growth of the City itself. If the City doesn't grow which opens the door to a bypass, the traffic still will."

Nuisance Ordinance under review

The City Council has begun discussions around implementing a Nuisance Ordinance - also called disorderly house ordinances or crime free ordinances - for properties which are site of a certain number of calls for police or alleged nuisance conduct. A key element of the ordinance would be a provision to force property owners to work with the Sheriffs Office or be penalized.

The reason for this provision, according to Major David Sims with Sheriffs Office is that they have noticed over the last few years that a handful of properties account for the majority of calls for service.

Major Sims told the Council that two businesses in Taneytown accounted for 75% of theft calls in the entire county, and that these businesses have proven to be reluctant or have flat out refused to work with the Sheriffs Office in finding ways to discourage the thefts. This is a drain on police resources and the states attorney and the commissioners have had enough of it thus discussions to implement an ordinance have begun.

The process begins with three "qualifying calls" that police will

respond to. These calls are at the discretion of the Police and the Sheriffs Department to choose whether a call is considered qualifying or not. The Definition of a qualifying call is still in the discussion stages. After a property has met the three-call limit they are put on probation and will be given five more chances. On the sixth chance they will receive a citation, which the amount is also still to be determined.

Taneytown's police department would be responsible for tracking the number of qualifying calls a property has as the Sheriffs Office doesn't track the calls themselves.

The ordinance identifies three property types: Residential which are single family homes, mixed or multi family residential which includes apartment complexes, motels, hotels, and Bed and

Breakfasts and Non Residential which is commercial businesses.

In response to the proposed ordinance, a concerned citizen asked, "Why are you penalizing people for calling 911". Major Sims assured that no one will be penalized for calling 911 and exemptions will be given for crimes involving the safety of a person. For example if a robber were to rob a gas station at gunpoint and someone called the police there would be no repercussions for the business.

Councilman Christopher Tillman was concerned for landlords asking, "what if a tenant refuses to cooperate? How does that impact the landlord?" Sims assured that the ordinance would give the police discretion in determining whether the call would qualify or not and landlords would be pro-

ted. Tillman also asked about the impact the ordinance would have on juveniles to which Sims replied that much discussion would be needed to answer that question.

Councilman James McCarron expressed support for the concept

but hesitated at adopting anything verbatim from other jurisdictions, "We need to review this and edit it for our use before adoption," he said.

The ordinance is still in the very early stages and will continue to be discussed before any final decisions are made.



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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

It is October. The leaves will start to change into brilliant colors – a last “hoorah” before they fall. The farmers in the area will finish harvesting their crops. The birds will migrate south. We honor Columbus’ arrival in America on Oct 12th, 1492, and celebrate this event on Monday, October 9th. Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9th in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8th, 1871, and caused destructive damage. Fire Prevention Week will be held this year from Sunday, October 8th, to Saturday, October 14th.

The theme is “Cooking safety starts with You.” According to the National Fire Protection Association, cooking, especially unattended cooking, is the leading cause of home fires and injuries in the United States. Some tips to consider when cooking: stay in the kitchen while frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food, and keep anything that can catch fire – oven mitts, wooden utensils, and food packaging towels away from your stovetop.

Do you have a 2.5 or 5-pound ABC fire extinguisher for the kitchen? Do you have the right fire extinguisher to extinguish fires involving cooking oils and

fats that can spread quickly? Keep the fire extinguisher accessible but not under the sink or anywhere hard to reach. Most importantly, if you are in doubt about fighting a small fire, get everyone and pets out of the house and call 911.

The Covered Device Recycling will be held on Oct 14th from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 39 Topper Road. Acceptable turn-ins are computers, copiers, and gaming equipment units but not their peripherals, keyboards, modems, monitors, printers, routers, scanners, stereo receivers, and televisions (note: TVs must be removed from wooden cabinets). This event is only for current Park’s Garbage Service customers in the boroughs of Carroll Valley, Fairfield, and the townships of Freedom, Hamiltonban, Highland, and Liberty. For additional information, email gayle@carrollvalley.org or call 717-642-8269.

Halloween Spooktacular will be held on October 31st in Carroll Valley Borough from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Once again, Carroll Valley is having its outstanding “Trunk or Treat” affair in front of the Borough Office complex. Decorate your trunk, and I love to see the participants in costume. Sign up to be a “Trunk” to hand out candy. See

Facebook for details – Parks & Recreation and then click the link to sign up. Call 717.642.8269 and talk to Amanda Bell if you have any questions.

The schedule of events: 5 – 8:30 p.m. Food Trucks (What’s Poppin Popcorn, The Mexican Food Truck, Cracken Catering, and Sarah’s Creamery Ice Cream); 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Costume Portraits in front of the Borough Office; 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Trick or Treat; 7 p.m. Movie-in-the-Park showing “Super Mario Brothers”. Hope to see you there – come out and join in the fun!

Medicine Take Back. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to misuse and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the United States are alarming, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that many abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. Flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away is a health hazard. A collaborative program between local law enforcement, adults, agencies, and businesses, the Adams County Environmental Services, and Collaborating For Youth will be held

on Oct 28, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of the Carroll Valley Community & Education Complex.

Community members are encouraged to participate in the disposal of any expired, unused, and unwanted prescription medications (liquids, pills, powders) during the disposal hours. The removal allows community members to dispose of their medicines correctly, reducing both the availability to youth and the contamination of water sources. Pet medications will be accepted. NO needles. For more information about the Medicine Take Back event, including volunteer opportunities, contact acsaprevention@cfygettyburg.com or call/text 717-357-4439.

When browsing online, be aware that several residents have received messages saying a virus is on their computer. It looks like a legitimate message titled “Windows Defender Security Center,” which specifies that a threat, known as DOSAttack Spyware, has been detected. This a phishing scam, a fake error message aimed to scare you into calling their “technical support hotline, and they will likely ask you to install applications that give them remote access to your device to steal your data and information. If you see this or a similar message, do not respond by clicking on the pop-up,

calling the phone number, or following any of the instructions they provide.

The easiest way to get rid of the Windows Defender Security warning is by closing the browser or the app you were using. If your computer is locked, meaning you cannot close the pop-up message or the browser, then press Ctrl + Shift + Esc on the keyboard to open Task Manager. Now, right-click on the app and select End Task. If that doesn’t work, perform a hard restart by turning off and restarting the computer system. The bottom line is don’t call and give them access to your computer. They are not Microsoft Help. They are a scammer!

Borough meetings to be held in October are Planning Commission (Oct 2), Finance Committee (October 9), Borough Council (October 10th), Finance Committee and Council Borough Workshop (October 17th), Public Sewer Advisory Committee (October 23), Finance Committee and Council Borough Workshop (October 24th), and Parks/Recreation Committee (October 25th). Remember, on Halloween night (October 31st), young people will be walking the trails that night – be careful. Please slow down. If you have any questions, contact me at 301-606-2021 or May-RonHarris@comcast.net. Keep well!

Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

I hope everyone had a good start to Fall. School is now back in session, so please be mindful of school buses in the early morning hours. Stay alert and be sure to stop for school buses when their flashing red lights are on. Until we “fall back” for daylight sav-

ings time on November 5, it can still be difficult to see that early in the morning. The Board of Supervisors voted at our last meeting to assist Freedom Township as needed during the 2023-2024 winter season. We look forward to continuing to

build upon intermunicipal relationships throughout Fairfield and surrounding areas. We are proud and fortunate to live in a community that promotes sharing resources and helping neighbors.

The Road Department finished the scheduled road projects for 2023 and line painting was added on a few township roads. In October, the Township will use a boom mower to clear out overgrown vegetation and cut back overhanging branches to mitigate road hazards throughout the township. Damaged signs were replaced throughout the Township and chevron signs were added to assist traffic on a sharp turn on Orchard Road. This was a measure used to address a concern brought to our attention at a township meeting earlier in the year.

The Orchard Road resident reported that their mailbox was frequently being damaged as vehicles were navigating the turn. LTAP Traffic Engineer Patrick Wright recently came out to perform road studies for several areas in the Township. His evaluation determined that a four-way stop sign is not needed at the intersection of Pecher Road, Crum Road, Topper Road, and Steelman Marker Road. The sight distance in both directions exceeds the minimum required PennDOT standards. The Township implemented the recommendation of placing stop line markings to give drivers the ability to pull forward to the line after stopping at the stop sign to get a proper view.

A study at the intersection of Tract Road and Orchard Road identified a sight distance problem caused by

a bush growing around a telephone pole. A study at the intersection of Stultz Road and Boyle Road also identified vegetation causing a sight and safety issue. PA state law Title 75, Section 6112 requires property owners to remove sight distance obstructions that are a traffic hazard. Within days of the study, Liberty Township contacted the property owners, and the issues were corrected.

I would like to thank both property owners for responding quickly and working with the township to remove the hazard and improve the safety of our community. We monitor the needs of the township with daily road checks, and input from the residents. Please join us at the Board of Supervisors Meeting on the first Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m.. We welcome public comments and use all available resources to address concerns to the best of our ability.

Local events happening this month include the National Apple Harvest Festival and Halloween on the Hill. The National Apple Harvest Festival will be taking place on October 7th, 8th, 14th, and 15th at 615 Narrows Road in Biglerville, PA. Halloween on the Hill will be taking place at Strawberry Hill on October 28th from 6PM-8PM. This event will include hikes, crafts, and much more! The cost is \$5 per person or \$20 for a family of 5 or more and you can register at strawberryhill.org.

Please remember to get out and vote for those running for office within Liberty Township and across the county at the upcoming Municipal Election on November 7. Polls are open on election day from 7 in the morning to 8 in the evening. The last day to register to vote is October 23, and the last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot is October 31.



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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Candidate Rob Smith

Even though I have written for this publication before, I would like to re-introduce myself. My name is Rob Smith, and I am running for Adams County Commissioner. I am employed by Abarta Coca-Cola Beverages as an Account Manager and have served on the Biglerville Borough Council since 2011. I also serve on the Northern Adams Regional Emergency Management Agency as a representative for the Borough of Biglerville.

While on the Biglerville Borough Council, I served as the Water Committee's Chairman. I have also served on the Planning, Ordinance, and Safety Committees. I have worked with other members of the Council and Borough Employees across party lines and through disagreements. What always mattered the most in our decisions was what was suitable for the people and the future of the Borough of Biglerville.

In February of this year, I entered the race for Adams County Commissioner. I decided to run because, as a husband and father, I care about the people and the future of Adams County. In these last seven

months of meeting and talking to the people of Adams County, the most frequently asked question is: What is a County Commissioner, and what does a County Commissioner do?

The Adams County Board of Commissioners has three members and is the main governing party of the County. As a Commissioner, the three members manage the County's finances and budget. The budget includes funds to maintain the Court of Common Pleas and the Adult Correctional Complex operation. They also represent the County's interests at the state and federal levels. In addition to fiscal management, the Commissioners are involved with policy-making and the administration of the County's affairs, which includes many departments and programs involved with human services, health, and public safety.

While this answer alone does not include all of a commissioner's responsibilities, those mentioned are important to the three main issues of our campaign: Fiscal Responsibility, Child Services, and Mental Health Services. These three issues are

essential to the people of Adams County—three issues that have been our campaign's focus.

Fiscal Responsibility should always be a priority. Spending should be controlled to keep taxes low. The money allocated for expenses should be monitored and directed transparently to the areas of the County Government where it can be most efficiently spent and effective, especially in areas of Mental Health Services, Children and Youth Services, the Adult Correctional Complex, and the Courts.

The Department of Children and Youth Services in Adams County is there to protect children from any form of abuse and neglect. Adequate funding is necessary to ensure no child goes to bed hungry and parents or temporary caregivers receive the support the County can provide. Hence, all children get the nutritional and emotional support they need and deserve.

Mental Health Services have never been more critical than now. Everyone will acknowledge that Mental Health Services need more funding, whether it involves one's work environment, home life, or everyday activities. The

Department of York/Adams Mental Health-Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, which a Joint Board of Commissioners manages, should receive all the required funding.

This is a positive campaign. I am not running against any individual. I am not running in crisis. I am running because I care about the people and the future of Adams County, and in that spirit, I would like to send out a message of hope and compassion. Hope for the future and Compassion for our fellow human beings. Every person in Adams County matters no matter who you are.

I can bring a fresh perspective to the Adams County Board of Commissioners. When something is the same for an extended amount of time, a sense of normalcy can set in, and people begin to accept the status quo when, in reality, more and new things could be accomplished. I have seen the hope and compassion in the People of Adams County over the years, and there is an amazing amount of potential for where that hope and compassion can grow.

Please remember to get out

and vote on Election Day, November 7. Polls are open 7 am-8 pm. There are four candidates for Adams County Commissioner. You are allowed to vote for two. You, the People of Adams County, have a voice, and your voice matters. Never let anyone take your voice away by telling you your vote does not make a difference. Let no one tell you they know how the election will turn out, so there is no sense in voting. Your vote always matters. Elections matter, and that is why we have them. To say to someone their vote does not count is just another form of voter suppression. Polls, numbers, or money should not hold us back. A person's vote matters more than any of those things, and it is a right that must be protected for everyone.

Suppose the people of Adams County give me the privilege to serve as County Commissioner. In that case, I will use my abilities and experience to serve the people of Adams County with Integrity, Trust, and Commitment. I will always listen to the people and what they have to say. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. I would love to hear what you have to say.

Giving Spree Planning Starts Now!

Ralph Serpe
Adams County
Community Foundation

We are at the starting gate for the 2023 edition of one of our community's greatest annual events. For more than a dozen years, the Adams County Community Foundation Giving Spree has been Adams County's day of giving: the day when everyone in the community comes together to learn about more than 120 local nonprofits and give them a financial boost.

In each of the last two years our Giving Spree earned the distinction of being the largest per capita giving day in the USA. Adams Countians gave more than \$3 million to support 100 nonprofits in 2021 and again in 2022. Let's break records again in 2023!

We're keeping the special Giving Spree features of the last two years: the giving options to "drop it off, mail it in, or give online." Plus, we'll once again host a live Giving Spree event on November 9 from 3 pm to 7pm at the Gettysburg Area Middle School, where you can meet up with the nonprofits you love best and discover some new favorites.

We make it easy for you to give to multiple nonprofits with one gift by check, credit card, or securities. If you choose to give with a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA,

please be sure your IRA administrator knows the gift is made to the Adams County Community Foundation and allow time for your gift to arrive.

Past donors received their Giving Spree Donation Form in the mail, but anyone can download the Donor Guide and Donation Form from ACCFGivingSpree.org now or

through participating nonprofit websites.

Donors decide how each gift they make is used by the nonprofits they support with a checkbox on the Donation Form. A "today" gift goes directly to the organization for its immediate use. A "forever" gift is added to your favorite nonprofits' endowment, to

provide an annual grant to the nonprofit for years and decades to come.

Nonprofits pay nothing to participate, and we increase donor gifts by providing an incentive match with each gift. Visit www.AC CFGivingSpree.org and download our Donor Guide to see if your favorite nonprofits are participating or learn more about the nonprofits who are.

There's room for everyone at the Giving Spree.

How can we help you be a part of this year's event? I'd like to know. Contact me at rserpe@adamscountycf.org or 717-337-0060.

Ralph Serpe is president & CEO of the Adams County Community Foundation, the producers of the Adams County Community Foundation Giving Spree. Learn more at www.AC CFGivingSpree.org

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Six running for two Town Council seats

Six will run in the upcoming town election for two open commissioner seats after residents officially nominated current Commissioner Bill Buehrer, former Commissioners Marty Burns and Bob Lookingbill, Grant Johnson, Ed Schildt and Christopher Stouter on Sept. 26 at the Town's Nominating Convention.

For all early indications, the upcoming coming town election set for Oct. 31 should have been a sleeper. Commissioner Wes Hamrick and Buehrer initially said they would not be seeking re-election; Burns and Lookingbill announced in August that they would seek the vacant seats, setting up a two-person race for two open seats.

But that all changed within a matter of days, and even as this paper gets ready to go to press, the field of candidates gets more and more crowded — It's now a horse race.

As noted in their candidate position papers submitted to this paper, both Burns, who served as Thurmont Mayor for 12 years, and Lookingbill, point to concerns over the town's recent handling of the contentious Simmer's Farm annexation, and the town's handling of growth and spending related issues in general as the basis for their decisions to run.

Burns also is concerned over the Town's fiscal position and says he is committed to crafting a town budget that prioritizes essential services while eliminating unnecessary expenses. "This means scrutinizing every dollar spent and ensuring that it serves the best interests of the entire community," he said.

Lookingbill concurred with Burns' concerns on spending and has taken aim at the proposed Thurmont Boulevard project. "They [Council] had proposed obtaining a six-million-dollar bond to pay for the project. The taxpayers would be burdened with repaying this loan. In my opinion, this is reckless spending," Lookingbill said.

Schildt, who was the third to throw his hat into the ring, says he will offer a "fresh view of the daily decisions of the business operations for the town of Thurmont. I want to take the time to listen to all our residents and their views on the issues being discussed by the board. It is very important to be accessible to our residents so that the beauty of our town remains the identity we want as a community in the future years ahead."

With Schildt's entry a three-man race for two open seats was in the works. But that all changed when commissioner Buehrer changed his mind and decided to seek reelection. Buehrer, who was first elected to the Town Council in 2011, and currently serves as liaison to the Board of Appeals, Economic Development and the Electric Department, said he changed his mind because

he feels he still has things he would like to accomplish. "I thank you for the opportunity to serve this community for 12 years and I'd like to continue to do so," Buehrer said. He also cited the good the Town Council has done, including the new chief financial officer saving "tens of thousands of dollars" in the budget.

Shortly after Buehrer announced his intention to seek re-election, Johnson threw his hat into the ring citing concerns over the Town Council's "focus as of late in increasing tax revenue through expanded tract housing projects, which is ruining Thurmont's small-town charm and creating a transient commuter community." Johnson wants to return the focus of the Council to

the many pressing needs of the current citizens of the community.

The last candidate to enter the coursed field was Stouter. As a mechanical engineer, Stouter hopes to focus on infrastructure if elected. At the Nomination Convention, he said he would be able to understand projects such as the substation repairs to make decisions and ensure the residents know what is going on in simpler terms.

The Thurmont Lions Club will be hosting a Candidate Forum on Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Town Office. All candidates have been invited to take part in the forum. It will be broadcast live on Channel 99 at the time of the event and live streamed on the town's website. The recorded forum will also be on the Town's website.

Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird

Fall has finally arrived and hopefully we will get a month or more of decent temperatures and some regular rain. Central Maryland is currently under a drought watch and residents are encouraged to conserve water wherever possible. Rains during the last week of September were helpful but we still need more.

Colorfest is coming up and will be here before you know it. Permits are still available and there are spaces still available around town. Colorfest will be held on October 14th and 15th. As usual Thurmont will be a hotbed for yard sales almost the entire week leading up to Colorfest. Be careful while driving around town that week and be sure to get out and support all of our local non-profits, Churches, civic organizations, and first responders. I hope everyone has a very enjoyable Colorfest weekend!

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and we will be raising money in support of the Patty Hurwitz Fund at Frederick Health. Our community has an amazing record of support for this annual event and we need to keep supporting this wonderful organization. The Gateway to Cure 5K Covered Bridge Run will be held at Eyler Road Park on Saturday, Oct. 21st. There is still time to register for this popular run through our beautiful countryside and across the Roddy Road Covered Bridge. The

GTTC Zumbathon will be held at the American Legion on Sunday, October 22nd from 2 - 4 p.m. Pink light bulbs, t-shirts, sweatshirts, pinwheels and other items are available at locations around town or at the municipal offices.

The Town of Thurmont will be holding an election for two Commissioners seats on Tuesday October 31st at the Guardian Hose Company Activity Building, 123 East Main Street. Voting opens at 7 a.m. and closes at 8 p.m.. Those in line at 8 p.m. will be able to vote. Oct. 3rd is the last day to register to vote, Absentee Ballots will be available on Oct. 18th, and the last day to apply for an Absentee Ballot is close of business on Oct. 24th.

Be watchful of the water and wastewater improvements starting on North Church Street in late October. Traffic will be restricted to one lane during work hours with floggers on hand to provide direction. Accommodations will be made for bus traffic and for heavy trucks. I encourage everyone to take alternative routes during this six-month project. Residents and businesses on North Church Street have been informed of the plans and will be updated regularly as the project proceeds.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable October! As always I can be reached at jkinnaird@thurmont.com or by phone at 301-606-9458.



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RE-ELECT

Bill

BUEHRER

FOR THURMONT COMMISSIONER

VOTE OCTOBER 31

★ Preserving Our Past, Shaping Our Future ★

FROM THE DESK OF CANDIDATE FOR THURMONT TOWN COUNCIL

Ed Schildt

As a lifelong citizen in the Thurmont area and a resident of the town since 1986, I am committed to making Thurmont a community that serves our citizens and businesses. This is important to me because of the support and opportunities given to my wife and I as we raised our family in the town of Thurmont. Now that I am retired, I feel as though I can dedicate my time to our beautiful community to maintain the lifestyle we know so well.

While growing up in Thurmont I participated in sports including Thurmont Little League Baseball and the Catocin Youth Association. I was a member of the initial group

of players to play on the new Leisner Field location still serving as the hub of youth baseball. Additionally, I was also a participant on the first football team in Thurmont known as the Thurmont Colts. Sports are a vital part of our community and the growth of the young citizens of Thurmont. It is an important that I continue to support the youth in our community.

After completing my eligibility as a player, I began coaching at the Thurmont Little League Baseball and Catocin Youth Association football as recently as 2021. I currently coach girls' softball for the Thurmont Rec Council 10U team. My involvement makes me feel young and vigorous.

I am deeply involved in several other organizations, commis-

sions and boards in the town of Thurmont. I currently serve on the Board of Appeals for the town of Thurmont. I also co-founded and currently serve on the Thurmont Addiction Commission (TAC), that addresses the disease of substance abuse in our community. We serve our citizens navigating active addiction, those seeking recovery services as well as those dealing with grief in our community. This is a passion for my wife and I after losing our son to an overdose a few years ago. I'm also currently serving as chairman of Trustees at Weller's United Methodist Church where we are responsible for the assets of the church.

After achieving my Bachelor of Science of Business Administration Degree at Shepard College, I entered the food

supply chain industry. As stated earlier, I recently retired after 40+ years in the food industry as a sales broker and marketing representative where I was responsible for multiple customers with multi-million-dollar budgets. I was personally responsible for the return on investments of all dollars spent to ensure positive sales revenue was generated for my company, while maintaining a professional relationship with our manufacturer partners. One of my most important assets was my ability to communicate with customers and business partners in a professional way in which everyone was satisfied.

If elected as Commissioner of Thurmont I will offer a fresh view of the daily decisions of the business operations for the town of Thurmont. I want to take the time to listen to all our

residents and their views on the issues being discussed by the board. It is very important to be accessible to our residents so that the beauty of our town remains the identity we want as a community in the future years ahead.

It is important that the core of our downtown remains intact but realize that sustainable growth is critical to maintain the infrastructure of the community for future years. I would encourage sustainable growth in a controlled and responsible manner and ensuring that urban sprawl is not the path we take as a municipality.

I would be honored to serve as Commissioner of Thurmont and serve the community that has given so much to my family and I. Please vote on October 31st so your voice is heard.

Marty Burns

I did not imagine just two years ago that I would ever seek political office again, however, over the last year or so, I have been very disappointed with the decisions the current Board has made and believe those decisions have been detrimental to our town.

Our community is experiencing

growth, and with that growth comes both opportunities and challenges. We need to ensure that as our community expands, we do so in a way that is sustainable and does not compromise our quality of life. Uncontrolled growth can strain our infrastructure, increase traffic congestion, and lead to environmental degradation. It is vital that we grow in a manner that preserves the unique character of our community.

In late 2022, the Mayor and Board approved the Simmer's Farm Annexation and with it approximately 192 high-density new dwelling units. This was in addition to the already planned 140 new homes in the pipeline. Before their decision, the Mayor and Board were presented a petition signed by 300 Thurmont citizens asking them to deny this development. Many citizens wrote letters to the Mayor and

the Commissioners and then attended the Public Hearing and pleaded for the Simmer's Farm Annexation to be denied. Their voices were ignored and the Annexation was approved.

After this action by the Mayor and the Board, the citizens of Thurmont banded together and exercised their constitutional right to collect signatures from the electorate and petition for a Special Election. The result of the Special Election was eighty-four percent of voters were against the Annexation and sixteen percent were in favor.

Controlled growth is not about stifling progress, but about finding the right balance between development and sustainability. I believe in smart, controlled growth that benefits our community.

Thurmont needs a Board whose sole duty is to represent the desires of the majority of the electorate. The Simmer's Farm Annexation decision clearly shows that members of the current Board are not listening to the citizens.

I served as your Mayor for 12 years and only raised taxes one time for a specific reason, to build a new Police Station. At that time, we held several public meetings away from the Town Hall and made a presentation to the citizens. The citizens voted to keep the Thurmont Police Department and invest in a new Police Station.

The Mayor and Board received \$6 million in COVID money from the Federal Government. Last year, they raised taxes and this year they raised taxes again. These tax increases were approved even though the bond for the Police Station was paid off, which gave them \$174,000 additional revenue per year. The town's savings account has been reduced from approximately \$3 million to around only \$1.2 million.

The Mayor and Board proposed the taxpayer's fund the \$6 million Thurmont Boulevard project, which had a \$500,000 elevated walking trail. That is not what I call being fiscally responsible. I firmly believe that efficient and

accountable management of public funds is not just a goal but a fundamental duty of any public servant.

There are Forever Chemicals in the town's drinking water which must be remediated. Experts say the cost is estimated at \$12 million to make our drinking water safe per EPA requirements. If elected, I will work to find innovative ways to deliver essential services without burdening taxpayers.

I am committed to Efficient Budget Management that prioritizes essential services while eliminating unnecessary expenses. This means scrutinizing every dollar spent and ensuring that it serves the best interests of the entire community.

We must have a clear, long-term vision for our community's growth. This includes investments in infrastructure, public services, and economic development that are strategic and forward-thinking and overtly inform the residents along the way. Thurmont needs Commissioners that critically think and ask detailed questions. We need Commissioners who protect and represent the interests of the citizens.

I will engage with citizens, businesses, and community organizations to ensure that everyone has a voice before the Board votes in shaping our community's future. Inclusivity in decision-making leads to better outcomes and ensures that growth is in line with our shared values. As Commissioner, I will advocate for transparency and accountability in government spending. It is crucial that our residents have confidence in how their tax dollars are being used.

My candidacy for Commissioner is driven by a commitment to controlled growth, fiscal responsibility and a vision for Thurmont that thrives economically while preserving its character and maintaining our unique identity. I am ready to work diligently, in partnership with you, to navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Marty Burns & Bob Lookingbill

for

Thurmont Commissioners

Two Commissioner seats will be open in the Thurmont General Election this October. Please Vote for Marty Burns and Bob Lookingbill. If elected, we pledge to use our Leadership Experience to be the "Voice for the Citizens of Thurmont."



Marty Burns

"Listening is the cornerstone of leadership, and I promise to be a leader who truly listens to the citizens and represents their voice with my vote."



Bob Lookingbill

"I want to advocate for Thurmont's Senior Citizens. We need to identify ways to increase senior housing opportunities to give seniors greater ability to downsize and stay in Thurmont."

Our Vision

Controlled Growth: We support low residential growth policies that maintain the small-town atmosphere that we value for ourselves and future generations. We opposed the nearly 200 townhouse Simmer's Property Annexation and actively worked to overturn the elected official's decision.

Financial Responsibility: We are committed to responsible budget accountability in the Town Council to assure that your hard-earned tax dollars are being spent wisely. We were opposed to the citizens being burdened with the cost of the proposed \$6 Million Thurmont Boulevard Project.

Transparency and Accountability: We are committed to improving transparency in our local government operations and decision-making. We will **increase** transparency and communication between the town government and Thurmont citizens.

Our Experience

Marty Burns served as the Mayor of Thurmont for 12 years. He also served as Thurmont Commissioner for 10 years. He is a long-time resident of Thurmont and served in the Marine Corps and federal government for more than three decades.

Bob Lookingbill served as Thurmont Commissioner for 4 years. He also served on the Thurmont Parks Commission, Thurmont Police Commission, Thurmont Board of Appeals, Thurmont Seniors Commission, and the Thurmont Board of Elections. He volunteered for the Thurmont Little League, Thurmont Lions Club, Guardian Hose Volunteer Fire Company, and Thurmont Community Ambulance Service.

Our goal is to listen to your concerns, represent your interests, and work to make Thurmont a better place for everyone. Please feel free to reach out by email at ElectMartyBurns@gmail.com or ElectLookingbill@gmail.com if you have any questions or suggestions.

"Together we can make a difference"
"Together we can build a brighter future for our community"

Vote October 31
Burns & Lookingbill
at the Guardian Hose Activities Building
Polls open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

J&B Real Estate, Inc.

Elle Smith
REALTOR

301-401-8620
301-271-3487

smith21788@comcast.net



Your Hometown Realtor

FROM THE DESK OF CANDIDATE FOR THURMONT TOWN COUNCIL

Grant Johnson

I was one year old when my family and I moved into our charming town of Thurmont. It's where I was raised by my loving family, made life-long friends, and made many memories. I love our town, it's history and our shared heritage

My name is Grant Johnson, I am asking for your vote for Town Commissioner.

It is because of those memories of what Thurmont was, my care for my friends and family that I am running.

Over the years I've seen numerous changes within our town, and many not positive which is affecting our quality of life within Thurmont.

Something particularly troubling is our lack of variety of businesses, lack of commercial space for businesses to occupy, and sup-

port of entrepreneurship in our community.

Historically Thurmont, has been a hub for industry hosting numerous manufacturing operations including the Hoke Furniture Company, Clare Frock, and the shoe factory to name a few. And while we are home to NVR and R.R. Donnelly, it would be great to see our residents be able to work in our community eliminating the need to commute long distances to work.

Keeping in the vein of history, Thurmont has been home to a plethora of family-owned businesses from restaurants, agri-business, personal services, and more. It's these family-owned businesses that make a small town successful and allow our friends and neighbors to realize their

own financial success via entrepreneurship while serving our community. Yet, the focus as of late in Thurmont is not the needs of the community and success of its citizens but increasing tax revenue through expanded tract housing projects, ruining our small-town charm, creating a transient commuter community all the while eroding the family-friendly small town that I knew growing up.

If we don't act to make a significant shift in policy, the small town we know, and love will be nothing different than the sprawling vastness of Montgomery County North.

Something also of importance to me is the management of stormwater in our community. Growing up on Lombard Street, my parent's basement along with many other neighbors would flood

when it rains. This was not due to the design of the homes but the poor planning for management of stormwater. This issue was not just unique to my street but to Walnut and Carroll Street as well. This issue cost our residents on these streets as well as others in town hundreds to thousands of dollars in damage each year, lowering property values and creating the recipe in these homes for dangerous mold conditions which can cause significant health issues. It is unacceptable that Thurmont Town officials have had years to address these problems with no meaningful solutions. Enough is enough.

Bringing economic opportunity to Thurmont does not stop with bringing in business, but ensuring our town is open for business with facilities for parking, safe and clean streets

and an inviting atmosphere. If we as a community wish to have a vibrant downtown that encourages people to linger, we must have parking.

While we need places for commuters to park, our municipal lot has turned into a park and ride that it was never meant to be. Leaving those wishing to shop or eat in town with no options to park and leaving town for other destinations with better parking. And while many in our town does not believe we need a police department because "nothing happens", I say nothing happens because they are here. I support our police and will work tirelessly to ensure that our town remains a town that is safe, clean and open for business.

So on Tuesday October 31, 2023, vote for me, Grant Johnson because our town is our future.

Bob Lookingbill

My wife and I decided to make Thurmont our home more than 50 years ago because we loved Thurmont's small-town character. We decided that Thurmont was the kind of place we wanted to raise our family.

Lately, the direction that Thurmont is headed in seems to be changing. Our town officials have made decisions in which they are choosing the big bucks from Developers over prioritizing the quality of life for Thurmont's citizens.

I was recently a part of a group that became known as Envision Thurmont. This group, as many of you know, came about because our town

government failed to listen to the many citizens that opposed the Simmer's Property Annexation and the large-scale townhouse development that came with it. The town government, by failing to listen to the citizens, cost the taxpayers both money and many hours of time spent obtaining signatures to force a Special Election to have their wishes heard. The results of the Special Election proved, without a doubt, that the citizen's voices were not heard when the Mayor and Commissioners approved the Simmer's Property Annexation.

I am running for Commissioner because I want to be a voice for the citizens of Thurmont. I want to be a

commissioner that will listen to concerns of our residents and be their advocate. It is important that our citizens have a voice and are heard. I am against large, high-density developments in Thurmont. Why, because I believe that Thurmont's residents choose to live here because they value the small-town atmosphere that Thurmont has and want to maintain it.

I am in favor, however, of ensuring sustainable growth and responsible planning that meet the needs of our citizens while preserving our community's character. We need to attract new businesses and stimulate economic growth in the Town. I understand that growth of any town is essential to keep it a vibrant and thriving community. Slow, well-thought-

out growth that suits the existing area is welcome. If elected, I will fight for slow, controlled growth. I will fight for the vision that the residents have for their community today and for future generations.

Recently, the Mayor and Commissions have been promoting Thurmont Boulevard. They had proposed obtaining a \$6 million bond to pay for the project. The taxpayers would be burdened with repaying this loan. In my opinion, this is reckless spending.

There are some complicated issues on the horizon for Thurmont that will require strong, experienced leadership. Thurmont has Forever Chemicals in our drinking water. Preliminary costs for treatment have been estimated to be around \$12 million. These Forever Chemicals will need to be remediated from the Town water supply to a level that the concentrations are within the new U.S. EPA and MDE drinking water guidelines.

Our town citizens deserve to have experienced Commissioners representing them that can work through these issues.

I served as a Thurmont Commissioner for 4 years. Marty Burns was Thurmont's Mayor at this time. Marty and I were able to work together and compromise, when necessary, to achieve good results for the citizens. Marty and I always agreed

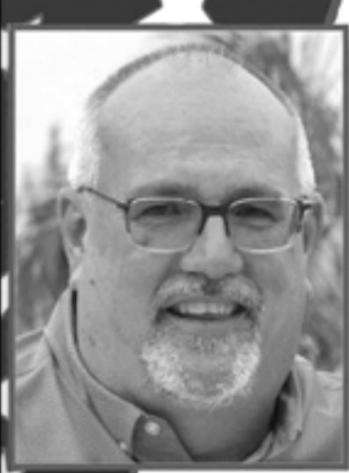
that the welfare of the citizens was our main priority.

During my term, I formed the Senior's Commission. If elected, I will continue to be an advocate for our seniors. I believe that Thurmont needs more single-level senior housing so that our town's seniors may have the ability to downsize and stay in their community.

I have had the privilege of volunteering with many Thurmont Commissions and local organizations over the years. I believe that these experiences have allowed me to have a unique understanding of our community.

My decision to run for Commissioner is driven by a desire to make a meaningful impact on the lives of our neighbors and friends. Marty Burns and I have discussed our concerns about the way the current board has not listened to the voice of the people. We feel that we have the Experience, Knowledge and Understanding to bring about change for the better. As your elected commissioners, we will strive to listen and understand the will of the people.

I humbly request your support in my campaign for Commissioner. Together, we can create a brighter future for Thurmont. My goal is to listen to your concerns, represent your interests, and work tirelessly to make our community a better place for everyone.



Elect Ed Schildt ★

Commissioner

Town of Thurmont '23

email: Elschildt36@gmail.com

240-285-8079

- ★ Life Long Resident
- ★ Serving on Zoning Appeals Board
- ★ Co-Founder of Thurmont Addiction Commission
- ★ Coach/Board Member CYA Football 30+ Years
- ★ Coach Thurmont Little League 58 Years

Vote Ed Schildt on Oct. 31

Working Together for a Sustainable Thurmont"

Town of Thurmont Election Notice

Two (2) Commissioner Seats

October 3 - Last day to register to vote
(Close of business)

October 18 - Absentee ballots available

October 24 - Last day to make absentee ballot
(Close of business)

October 31 - General Election to be held at:
The Guardian Hose Activities Bldg.
Polls open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Those in line at time of closing will be permitted to vote

List of Candidates Running for Commissioner:

Bill Buehrer
Martin A. Burns
Grant Johnson
Robert Lookingbill
Ed Schildt
Christopher Stouter

For more information contact the Town Office at 301-271-7313

THE PASTOR'S DESK

The Rock of Ages

Jay Petrella
Graceham Moravian Church

As I write this article, I sit at my desk, sipping a pumpkin spice coffee contemplating the signs of passing time. The heat of summer is waning. Halloween stores are opening up. Pumpkins and other squash are for sale in grocery stores and roadside stands. The scent of cinnamon, nutmeg and clove cling to the air in your favorite coffee shop. Fall is here.

It wasn't that long ago when stores prominently displayed sunblock, pool floaties, and sand buckets. Then snow shovels and sleds before that.

Go and open up a photo album or your phone's picture folder, and be reminded of that apartment you used to live in, of the time when your kids were young, or of that vacation you forgot about even taking.

My office here at Graceham Moravian Church is in what used to be the pastor's house. In those days it was common for churches to have living quarters for the pastor and family on church grounds, even attached directly to the church building itself as is the case here. There is a small brick fireplace just in front of my desk, my office once being a bedroom. I sometimes imagine Graceham's pastor 200 years ago sitting in front of this fireplace on a cold winter night with a heart and mind heavy with worry about whatever concerns the community was facing at the time. And now here I sit, completely oblivious to what those concerns even were.

Reflecting on the unrelenting passing of time can, for some, cause a bit of an existential crisis. We mourn what once was, but is no longer. We become saddened thinking about what we once had but have no longer. Time drags us along despite our best efforts to slow or stop it. We may feel out of control as we tumble headlong into an unknown future, leaving behind a well worn past.

Culture, language, technology, politics, the economy, nearly everything really, changes with time. But for some reason, there seems to be a tendency to feel as though things are generally always changing for the worse.

For example, I can't tell you how many articles I've seen blaming Millennials for ruining literally everything from the economy, to music, to society itself. Housing problems? Millennials. Population decline? Millennials. The death of job loyalty? You guessed it. Millennials. The thing is though, people have said this about younger generations for all of recorded human history.

Rev. Enos Hitchcock in 1790 wrote, "The free access which many young people have to romances, novels, and plays has poisoned the mind and corrupted the morals of many a promis-

ing youth." All you have to do is replace "plays" and "novels" with "video games" and you have a perfect modern adaptation to an age-old complaint.

Another writer, Horace, self-deprecates way back in the year 20 BC when he wrote, "Our sires' age was worse than our grandsires'. We, their sons, are more worthless than they; so in our turn we shall give the world a progeny yet more corrupt."

Here is what Aristotle had to say 2,300 years ago. "[Young people] are high-minded because they have not yet been humbled by life, nor have they experienced the force of circumstances.

They think they know everything, and are always quite sure about it."

All of these folks might be surprised and relieved to hear that human civilization still exists in the mysterious and distant year of 2023. One would think enough history has passed for humankind to have learned that times change, and it's not necessarily for the better or worse. Change can just mean different. So we can ease up on younger generations, as we were all once a part of the younger generation who also were getting blamed for the ruination of everything sacred.

Speaking of sacred, I don't know if you've noticed but the church has also been changing, and like everything else in the universe, it's been changing since its conception.

In the Early Church period, you have tight-knit clusters of Christians living and worshipping together. In various places and at various times, they endured per-

secution together and suffered the social isolation that comes with being different. They survived by helping and supporting each other.

Then in the 300's Christianity started to become more and more the religion of the Roman Empire. The politics of the empire, along with its legislative, judicial, and education systems began to blend with church politics and theology, with one shaping the other. Life and faith got more and more entangled with one's citizenship and civic duty. Faith in God became almost an obligation as opposed to a personal choice.

Within the last few hundred years in colonial and more modern America, the church took on a more central, social role in the community. Nearly every little town, borough and settlement had at least one church. It was where the people worshiped on Sunday mornings. It was also where they socialized, and likely where they met their spouse. The church was the center of the community. The churches would host the community dinners, festivals and dances as there might not have been any other public gathering spaces nearby. The relationships one formed in the church on Sundays were with the same people one worked with/for come Monday.

Nowadays, that is less and less the case. Historically, speaking, it wasn't that long ago when you'd be the odd one out if you weren't a church member and regular church attender. But in this day and age there isn't the social pressure, which kept the Early Church together. There isn't a governmental or ecclesiastical power demanding one confess to being



a Christian as in the middle ages. (Thank goodness.)

Because of modern technology like cars and the internet, almost no one is stuck within a geographical bubble that only extends a few miles from their home. Everyday people have options for communication, leisure and entertainment so numerous it's impossible to pursue even a small percentage of them. To compensate, some churches have tried to compete with the endless array of options by trying to make their worship services and events more exciting or entertaining in the hopes of attracting new crowds. Nevertheless, survey after survey in the US shows a decline in not just church attendance, but association with the Christian faith in general.

All of this leads some to believe the Church is coming to an end. "This new generation is destroying Christianity," they say. But before you entertain such an idea, remember our friend Aristotle from earlier. Before you pro-

nounce doom, consider perhaps things may not be better or worse, just different. Perhaps things are just still evolving.

After all, what's so wrong about people having the freedom to choose to be active in their faith community because they, in and of themselves, choose to make it a priority in their lives as opposed to being pressed into it by some outside force? This was one of Jesus' beefs with the Pharisees. Their religion was all empty obedience with no heart or compassion.

Clocks tick. Seasons change. Technology and culture evolves. Times, good and bad, wax and wane. The only constant is God's presence and God's love. We can make peace with this chaos because the Rock of Ages has clefted for us.

To learn more about Graceham Moravian Church visit them online at www.gracehammoravian.org or better yet, join them for Sunday service.



Emmitsburg
Community Baptist Church



Pastor Joe Engel

Sunday Worship - 10 a.m.

Come, be a part of our family! We welcome you to worship with us as often as you can! God loves you and made you one of a kind. He has great plans for you, He wants the best for you.
Come, discover His goodness!

Seton Square Office Complex
17750 Creamery Rd., Suite 8B, Emmitsburg
301-447-2100
Emmitsburgcbc@outlook.com • www.EmmitsburgCBC.org

Look what's happening at

First Baptist Church of Thurmont

Sundays - 10 a.m. - Classes for Pre-K to Adult
11 a.m. - Worship Service
Kids Church Pre-K - 5th Grade

Tuesdays - Starting in October 10:30 a.m.
In Depth study of the book of Daniel.

Wednesdays - Bible Study for Adults
Elevate for Middle and High School
Good News Club for Children
(NURSERY PROVIDED FOR ALL EVENTS)

COMING SOON - Trunk n' Treat - Sat., October 28th
For more information see our website: www.fbcthurmont.org



CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH
Connecting God & Community

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

Meeting in person with children's ministry,
as well as online on Facebook and at ccaog.org

PLEASE JOIN US!

ccaog.org
301-447-4224

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



John Talcott
Senior Pastor
Dana Talcott
Children's Ministry

Graceham Moravian Church

October 2 - Served with Grace Dinner
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Website: www.gracehammoravian.org • 301-271-2379
8231A Rocky Ridge Rd., Rocky Ridge



Oct. 12, 13 & 14
Thursday, Friday & Saturday
HUGE YARD SALE
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Indoor & Outdoor - Rain or Shine
Saturday Food Sale - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Vegetable Beef Soup, Ham & Bean Soup, Chicken Corn Soup, Fried Oyster Sandwich, Chicken Salad Sandwich, Hot Dog, Chili Dog, Hot Beef, Chips, Drinks, Baked Goods.

COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

“Sweetest Corn in Three States” and Politics

Recently, I was driving on U.S. Route 15, traveling south between Luckett’s and Leesburg. There are numerous roadside vegetable stands on that route, and I took notice of one large sign that read “Sweetest Corn in Three States.” My first thought was that from the number of vehicles and persons at the stand, it must be good corn. The thought was quickly followed with a smile, thinking of the marketing genius of the proprietor. No one could disprove the sign, which was intentional. Of course, the whole purpose of the sign was to sell sweet corn, and given the number of vehicles and people, it was successful.

Marketing is important to any commercial enterprise selling a product. A good product is a good start, but advertising drives the sales. A very well-known successful advertising executive once gave a speech on successful advertising. In his remarks, he said that half of everything his firm does is successful. When questioned about the remark and the unsuccessful advertising parts, the executive responded that the firm was not sure which parts were not successful and which parts were successful. So, marketing is not an exact science.

In a free market society, advertising is everywhere. We are blasted with television advertising, newspaper sales ads, and even pop-up ads

on our electronic devices. While we often complain about the ads, without the ad revenue, many newspapers and electronic news would not exist. Advertising affects our decisions to buy products and engage in services, sometimes more than we understand. Even our political engagements, which party we align with, and the candidates we support are influenced by political marketing.

When politicians run for office, they are selling or marketing themselves as a better product than their competitors. A common marketing tool in politics - is to vote for me because I am not as bad as the other candidate. While this strategy has been around for a long time, recently, it has morphed into divisiveness that often divides voters. Instead of building bridges and connecting people, the intention seems to divide the electorate. It has often been said that politicians promise much but deliver little. Of course, not unlike the sweet corn marketing, politicians have been known to stretch a few facts and sometimes alter the reality.

A well-known and creative example of one successful candidate telling the constituents that he was better than his opponent occurred in Florida in the 1950 senate race. George Smathers, a well-known state politician, defeated the better-known U.S. Senator Claude

Pepper in a primary race. It was reported that Smathers gave a speech or wrote an article saying, “Are you aware that Claude Pepper is known all over Washington as a shameless extrovert? Not only that, but this man is reliably reported to practice nepotism with his sister-in-law, he has a brother who is a known homo sapiens, and he a sister who was once a thespian in New York, Worst of all, it is an established fact the Mr. Pepper, before his marriage, habitually practiced Celibacy.”

The wording of this speech has often been questioned. In the 1950’s, television ads were almost unknown, and most political ads were in newspapers or heard on radio programs. Later, Senator Smathers denied that he ever gave the speech, but it was also reported that the speech was given to a radio station by a campaign worker. Either way, Mr. Smathers was successful and went on to win the Senate seat. Of note, the sister, who was reported to be a thespian, later identified herself as the actress. It was also reported in Time magazine that “Smathers had a little speech for cracker voters, who were presumed not to know what the words meant...” They also printed the speech.

Name-calling and attacks on candidates are not unusual, and when asked, people say they do not approve of the tactics, “...yet election results demonstrate that such negative campaigning is frequently successful.”

In Smathers’ case, at least with the reported speech, he never said anything that was not true, but an argument could be made that the words could be misleading.

The questioning of what is factual and true has become very common in politics. Misleading the public can be deceitful and yet may not include lying. Not giving all the facts, like the meaning of words or unsubstantiated facts, does not always give one a fair representation. Of course, politicians can be deceitful without lying, which is often the intent. Outright lying was thought to be not good for the candidate until the 2016 presidential election. Trump’s lies were so frequent that news organizations counted them daily; it did not seem to matter to those who voted for him.

In 2023, when Geroge Santos was elected to Congress from New York, it was only after his election that the numerous lies he told were revealed. George did not just lie; he created an entirely false background for himself. At one time, any elected official who created an alternate self would be sanctioned by his party. That did not happen. You might think that his party would be embarrassed, but they were not. His party ignored him and any press questions about his lack of truth-telling.

“A lie doesn’t become truth, wrong does not become right and evil doesn’t become good just because it’s accepted by a majority.” Booker Washington

The lack of rebuke by Santo’s

party says as much about the party. Has it become normal and accepted to lie? The former president, who lied repeatedly, is still in good standing with his party, which is becoming normal. Normal because he is charged with serious crimes in four separate cases. He is facing ninety-one felony counts, with a maximum incarceration time of 712 years. Allegedly, his untruthfulness about the previous election and his attempts to subvert the results is why he has been charged. He had also stated that his party should suspend part(s) of the constitution so he could be reinstated as president.

On August 23, a debate was held for eight Republican presidential candidates. The candidates were asked if the former president were the party’s nominee and if he were found guilty of crimes before the election would you vote for him. Six of the eight candidates would vote for him, even if found guilty. The charges against the former president, who wants to suspend part of the constitution, are serious, and yet six of the candidates would still vote for him. What does that say about these candidates?

“I prefer someone who burns the flag and then wraps themselves in the Constitution over someone who burns the constitution and then wraps themselves up in the flag.”

—Molly Ivins

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

The Liberal Patriot

Normie voters want common-sense politics!

Ruy Teixeira

In the wake of the first GOP primary debate, it would not seem that Republicans are making a strong case for their party as America’s common-sense, normie voter alternative. And the craziest one of the lot, Donald Trump, wasn’t even there!

But how much stronger is the Democrats’ case in this regard? For partisan Democrats, the answer is “infinitely stronger”—but it is not among partisan Democrats that the next election will be decided but among more persuadable voters for whom this is a tougher call. This is reflected in the continuing failure of Biden to open up much of a lead over Trump, his probable general election opponent, and even tighter polling in the generic congressional ballot for 2024.

This should worry Democrats a great deal. Given the dysfunctional and weakened nature of today’s Republican Party, why isn’t their party an easier sell? The simplest answer is that they, themselves, are not that attractive. What might it take for Democrats to get over the hurdle and make themselves the clear and easy choice as America’s common-sense, normie voter party and not just in the friendly environs of the country’s cosmopolitan metro areas?

Below are ten statements that I first formulated a couple of years

ago that encapsulate some of what “Common Sense Democrats” might stand for.

Here are the results:

Equality of opportunity is a fundamental American principle; equality of outcome is not. (73 percent agree/13 percent disagree)

America is not perfect but it is good to be patriotic and proud of the country. (81 percent agree/14 percent disagree)

Discrimination and racism are bad but they are not the cause of all disparities in American society. (70 percent agree/24 percent disagree)

No one is completely without bias but calling all white people racists who benefit from white privilege and American society a white supremacist society is not right or fair. (77 percent agree/15 percent disagree)

America benefits from the presence of immigrants and no immigrant, even if illegal, should be mistreated. But border security is still important, as is an enforceable system that fairly decides who can enter the country. (78 percent agree/14 percent disagree)

Police misconduct and brutality against people of any race is wrong and we need to reform police conduct and recruitment. More and better policing is needed for public safety and that cannot be provided by “defunding the police.” (79 percent agree/15 percent disagree)

There are underlying differences

between men and women but discrimination on the basis of gender is wrong. (82 percent agree/12 percent disagree)

There are basically two genders, but people who want to live as a gender different from their biological sex should have that right and not be discriminated against. However, there are issues around child consent to transitioning and participation in women’s sports that are complicated and far from settled. (73 percent agree/17 percent disagree)

Racial achievement gaps are bad and we should seek to close them. However, they are not due just to racism and standards of high achievement should be maintained for people of all races. (74 percent agree/16 percent disagree)

Language policing has gone too far; by and large, people should be able to express their views without fear of sanction by employer, school, institution or government. Good faith should be assumed, not bad faith. (76 percent agree/14 percent disagree)

It could be argued that these statements are too easy to agree with and are just common sense. But if they’re all just common sense, why do so many Democrats have trouble saying these things? Indeed, how comfortable would most Democratic Party politicians be endorsing the full range of these views? Would Joe Biden? I don’t think so.

Here’s another common-sense proposition:

Climate change is a serious problem but it won’t be solved overnight.

As we move toward a clean energy economy with an “all of the above” strategy, energy must continue to be cheap, reliable and abundant. That means fossil fuels, especially natural gas, will continue to be an important part of the mix.

This common-sense approach, and the Democrats’ failure to clearly embrace it, is likely to loom ever-larger in coming months. The Democrats’ energy and general economic strategy as instantiated in the misnamed Inflation Reduction Act is heavily invested in a rapid transition to a renewables-based energy system. It is becoming increasingly obvious, and not just in Europe, that this strategy does not, in fact, produce energy that is cheap, reliable, and abundant, and therefore virtually guarantees voter backlash.

We’ll see more of this as Democrats continue to press the accelerator on their preferred energy approach, instead of the public’s preferred common sense approach. So... on this, as on all the other issues mentioned above, what is preventing Democrats from embracing common sense and meeting voters where they are, as opposed to demanding that voters abandon their common sense and meet Democrats where they are?

The answer has a great deal to do with the shifting base of the Democratic Party and its increased domination by liberal, college-educated voters. But it’s not just the demographics of these voters and associated activists, it’s the style of politics they tend to practice.

As Matt Yglesias has pointed

out, it’s the moralization of political choices, which has made sensible, pragmatic positions increasingly difficult for Democrats on issues favored these voters. Everything has become a matter of principle and cannot be compromised on because compromise is immoral on matters of principle:

In particular, I think it’s worth considering the impact of this way of thinking on cross-pressured voters. Imagine a Texan who favors Medicaid expansion but thinks student athletes should play on chromosomally-appropriate sports teams. Well, you could tell that person that Medicaid has enormous concrete stakes for 1.4 million uninsured Texans while the sports issue impacts a tiny number of people.

But if progressives take the view that identity issues are fundamental moral principles and are too important to brook any compromise, that encourages people with the non-progressive view to see it the same way....

As Democrats have become more upscale they have become less interested in forming big tent electoral coalitions and more interested in ideological purity and uncompromising moral stands.

That’s today’s Democratic Party. And that’s why Democrats are not yet the common-sense, normie voter party despite their abysmal competition. That’s too bad, since America could really use one about now.

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The Dispatch

The party's over

Nick Catoggio

Farewell to Mitt Romney and the right as we knew it.

In an interview with the Washington Post explaining his decision to retire, Romney pointed to the fact that the anti-vax slobberer DeSantis and the tinpot authoritarian Ramaswamy are outpolling traditional conservatives like Mike Pence and Nikki Haley. "It's pretty clear that the party is inclined to a populist demagogue message," he said.

Although he cited his advancing age and the need for generational change as key to his calculus, one suspects he might have given the Senate another go if he thought the GOP was trending away from demagoguery. He hung on through two impeachments, four indictments, and an insurrection that nearly got him killed, hoping that that series of blows would finally knock some sense into the voters of his party about their choice of leaders. What he got for his patience was Trump leading the GOP primary by 50 points according to the latest national poll.

Having searched hard for glimmers of hope, he found none. And so his retirement feels like a capitulation, not just on his own behalf but on behalf of whatever is left of classical liberalism within the GOP. The party's over.

I suspect he won't be a Republican much longer. The question is how many other conservatives will follow him out when he leaves.

Romney biographer McKay Coppins published an excerpt at *The Atlantic* from his forthcoming book about his conversations with the senator over the past two years. No sin-

gle quotation here can do justice to the picture it paints of the cowardice and moral corruption of congressional Republicans as Trumpist demagoguery consumed the party. But this one is worth flagging:

"After January 6, a new, more existential brand of cowardice had emerged. One Republican congressman confided to Romney that he wanted to vote for Trump's second impeachment, but chose not to out of fear for his family's safety. The congressman reasoned that Trump would be impeached by House Democrats with or without him—why put his wife and children at risk if it wouldn't change the outcome?"

"Later, during the Senate trial, Romney heard the same calculation while talking with a small group of Republican colleagues. When one senator, a member of leadership, said he was leaning toward voting to convict, the others urged him to reconsider. You can't do that, Romney recalled someone saying. Think of your personal safety, said another. Think of your children."

Romney recognized the risk to his personal safety and his children's, then voted to convict Trump anyway. And not for the first time: A year earlier, after Trump's first impeachment, he became the first senator in American history to vote to convict a president from his own party.

Despite the threats and expense, despite the fact that all but a handful of his fellow Republicans in Congress rolled over to appease Trump's fascist base, he insisted on doing his duty—twice. We should be so lucky as to have a leadership class full of people with the righteous mettle to follow their conscience while being intimidated by feral degenerates. You don't need to like him to recognize that Mitt Romney has

struck a profile in remarkable political courage over the last four years.

Longer than that, actually. The truth is that no prominent figure on the American right has been as clear-eyed about Trump's unfitness for office for as long as Romney has.

As admirably as Liz Cheney behaved during her final term in the House, she voted for Trump for president twice. Not until the mob came for her on January 6 did she recognize that he couldn't conscientiously fulfill the duties of the job. Romney was ahead of her by nearly five full years in that assessment—and not off the record, behind closed doors like his gutless colleagues. He was in front of the cameras, making enemies within his party for the sake of speaking the truth.

In 2016, Mitt Romney warned the nation about Donald Trump. His words are true still today: "Donald Trump is a phony, a fraud. His promises are as worthless as a degree from Trump University... He has neither the temperament nor the judgment to be president."

I've said before and will say again here that policy differences are a second-order concern in American politics. We mistake them for first-order concerns because we have the luxury of living in a country where first-order concerns were traditionally taken for granted. Shall we have liberal democracy or autocracy? Does character matter in leadership or not? Both sides broadly agreed on first-order questions until recently, so we turned to second-order questions to decide which side should govern.

Mitt Romney has been cynical and opportunistic on second-order questions during his career. But on first-order questions, he's the best the American right has to offer.

"A very large portion of my party really doesn't believe in the Constitu-



tion," Romney said, identifying a quintessential first-order concern. With the departure of Romney himself, skeptics of the Constitution will likely gain more influence inside Congress.

That being so, one wonders how much longer a man who does believe in the Constitution can last in this party.

While Romney mused repeatedly about leaving the GOP, he'd stayed long after he stopped feeling at home there—long after his five sons had left—because he felt a quixotic duty to save it. But lately "it was hard to dispute that the battle for the GOP's soul had been lost."

I wonder how many other traditional conservatives now staring down the barrel of not just a Trump nomination but a Trump coronation—despite the insurrection, despite the impeachments, despite the indictments—might also be nearing the point where enough is.

Last week Mike Pence called right-wing populism a "road to ruin" and declared the gap between it and conservatism "unbridgeable." If the populists running for president this year end up squashing the conservatives, then Pence

might also be forced into a hard conclusion about whether he still has a place in the GOP.

Think of it: The last Republican vice president and the last Republican nominee for president before Trump could each be former Republicans sooner rather than later. A landslide Trump victory in the primary might finally convince them that the party in its current form is unsalvageable. And if that's enough to convince them, it may be enough to convince a meaningful number of rank-and-file conservative voters.

It could break the party.

Most rank-and-file conservative partisans will do the same. The right's information gatekeepers have worked very hard to persuade them that the most corrupt, amoral, unfit Republican remains preferable as a leader to any Democrat. Tribalism will keep them in line.

But Mitt Romney, God love him, really is on his way out. And a small but hopefully decisive number of traditional conservatives may be going with him.

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Good Day Neighbor

The other social safety net

Dorothea Mordan

Once upon a time the first person was identified as different. Maybe it was autism, maybe it was some other behavior that was unaccepted, maybe it was rooted in a neurological idiosyncrasy yet to be understood.

For centuries as humans struggled to survive, many people were left behind or otherwise shunned. For the most part, our society today tries to include everyone in the quest for a long and better life. We have made great leaps in medical knowledge, food production, housing and the economic means of distribution to get these things to as many people as possible. But with all of our modern innovation people still get left behind. Many people can relate to having a family member or friend who first falls through the cracks of our economic system and then our social safety net.

My husband and I raised a child with "unspecified learning delays", a child who, until recently—in relation to human history—would have been hidden, out of

the sight of genteel society. A few years before the pandemic we joined with two other families in Frederick County to form a non profit organization, Kitsune, Inc, to address the need for solutions for independent living for adults with developmental disabilities, but without intellectual disabilities. In short, the people who do not get services when they age out of the public school system. In Maryland a person with a measurable IQ of over 69 is ineligible for many long term support services after aging out of the public school system and/or reaching the age of majority. These are the young adults who "fall off the cliff" of support after high school.

As we three households raised our children we came to understand that they would have difficulty maintaining a safe home of their own. We brainstormed ideas on how to recreate the back up that we provided to our kids, what we envisioned they would need to live independently. We kept coming up against the same speed bump. Our social safety net provides several pieces of support, but there is noth-

ing that fills the gaps between services. The gaps that we fill for our family and friends when we take a call in the middle of the night—a car breaks down, help is needed to interpret everyday things such as bus schedules, or other small but confusing details of life.

I don't know if society is required to fill gaps for everyone. I do know that where there is a problem there are solutions. The developmental disability likely most discussed in our day is autism. Over decades of knowing people with autism or caregivers for a person with autism, I have developed my own perspective on the growing definition of the "spectrum". I see it as part of the fabric of humanity. As such we the founders of Kitsune viewed our mission as how to recreate, or expand on the back up that we provided our kids.

Kitsune is a 501c3 educational non profit. We are focused on two projects, independent living and a database of resources for caregivers and people in need.

The residential project: A location where small group of individuals would live in their own apartments, with their back up person living on site, in their own apartment. This is envisioned to be a group of twelve two bedroom

apartments in the same building. Ten would be for independent living, one would be for the director as part of a professional salary, and one would be for community gatherings, workshops, whatever was needed. The component that most differentiates the Kitsune model from others, is the on site director to support independence. Having a supervisor to check on residents on a schedule was not useful for our kids. Life does not happen on a schedule that we can each fit into. The back up needed is for that call for help that comes once a month or once a year. When it comes it is mission critical.

The idea has changed over the these past few years. We have learned from several similar projects popping up around the country. Parents like us had been working on various independent living situations for their children. Two examples are, Home of Our Own (homeofourown.org), in Wisconsin, and Main Street (livingatmainstreet.com), in Rockville, Maryland.

The social safety net of our great country, the United States of American, from local to federal resources, has limits that we elect representatives to organize

and declare on our behalf. Each of us knows how hard it can be to get follow through from a government agency when we have a need. But as citizens we each have a super power, the nonprofit sector. Anyone can create a non profit organization to fill a need, to more fully realize our social safety net. It takes planning, and several steps to complete, but it is available to each of us.

So that is what we did in creating Kitsune, Inc. Creative solutions for independent living. The model we started with is an agile one that can be applied to many types of need. We are expanding the method of implementing the idea of a director within a small group of neighbors. There are several ways 11 or 12 apartments can be connected in one location, and we are looking for input from the community—what do you think is needed for independent living?

We will be at the Woodsboro Music Festival on Sunday October 22, at the Woodsboro Park. You will have the opportunity to meet some of the Kitsune members, and tell us what is important to you.

To read past editions of *Good Day Neighbor* visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

ECOLOGY

Wildfires

Anne Gageby
Strawberry Hill Foundation

Wildfires shaped the summer of 2023 in a variety of ways. The Canadian wildfire smoke traveled down the East Coast and brought orange-tinted skies. We had multiple days of code red air quality alerts because of the smoke-filled air. And then came the tragedy in Maui. Every news cycle seemed to have another round of stories and it begged the question: does Pennsylvania have wildfires? The answer is a resounding yes.

Over the last few years, it seems as if the news has covered all sorts of wildfires - Australian and Canadian, wildfires out west, and of course, Maui. But we rarely hear of wildfires in our home state. And yet, over the last three years, the number of Pennsylvania wildfires has nearly doubled. 1,507 wildfires burned a total of 3,033 acres in 2020 alone. This year Pennsylvania experienced three major wildfires. A fire in Centre County burned thousands of acres back in April. A month later, a fire burned 162 acres near Shade Mountain. And let's not forget the April 12th Crystal Lake Fire, which burned over 4,000 acres in the northeastern portion of the state and caused the Pennsylvania Turnpike to temporarily close its northeast extension.

The greatest danger of wildfires occurs in spring - March through

May. And then again in the fall during October and November. For wildfires to occur, conditions must be just right. It must be dry overall with low relative humidity. There needs to be an available fuel source such as dried leaves, grass, and debris. In Pennsylvania, people cause 99 percent of all wildfires, usually from activities such as burning debris like yard waste and trash. One moment of carelessness with a backyard burn pile can quickly become a woodland tragedy as fire spreads through dead grass and leaves into neighboring forests.

Wildfires can, and do, occur at any time of day and during every season. However, spring and fall are peak fire seasons. Bare trees in early spring allow more sunlight to reach the forest floor which dries surface fuels such as leaves and forest debris. Add in a warmer-than-usual winter in which little snow has accumulated, and it creates a perfect environment for sparks to take hold. Similarly, in autumn, falling leaves pile high on the forest floor and create a deep layer of debris. Windy days hasten the drying process and create a hazard.

Unfortunately, climate change is creating a perfect storm of hotter and drier weather patterns which, in turn, creates longer and more dangerous fire seasons. This past summer is a perfect example of that. Little precipitation put Pennsylvania on a statewide drought watch. By the end of August, twenty counties, including Adams, remained on watch.



An intentionally lit controlled fire burns intensely in an effort to contain a larger fire nearby. Most wildlife escapes the initial blaze of a wildfire. It's the aftermath of scorched habitat that poses the more grave threat.

As September rolled in, things were looking pretty dire from where we stood at Strawberry Hill. Swamp Creek, which runs through Strawberry Hill's campus and joins Middle Creek at the edge of our property, had dried up. It was a terrible sight and something those of us who live on Mount Hope recall never seeing in our lifetimes. The bone-dry creek looked like something out of a wasteland. Middle Creek was only slightly better with a small ribbon of water still flowing. The bit of rain we've experienced over the last two weeks has been blessing - for the creeks and the forest alike.

As destructive as wildfires can be, fire as an element is an important part of maintaining a healthy and diverse ecosystem. When fires burn appropriately, they consume leaf litter and forest debris such as dead wood and understory brush which benefits the forest as a whole. It helps maintain native plant species and provides an opportunity for fire-dependent plants and trees

to flourish. Almost every region of the United States has such species. Here in the Northeast, pitch pine "barrens" are home to a variety of rare insects and animals that are dependent upon fire to shape their habitat and cut down competition from non-natives.

Generally, natural fires occur in pine barrens every six to 25 years. A variety of pine species have adapted to not only resist fire with a thick, armor-like bark but also have come to depend on fire to reproduce. Mountain pine, which grows on dry, rocky land around Appalachia, reproduces via serotinous cones. These cones are sealed shut with pine resin and can only be opened when a fire rolls through the forest, melting the "glue" holding the cone together.

In Pennsylvania, oak and hickory forests are a common sight. Natural fires occur every 25 years or so. Most oaks have adapted to survive surface fires by growing thick bark and sprouting from the base of trees after fires have

become memory. Because oak and hickories don't reproduce well in shade, fires can help control the competition by eliminating shade-producing thick canopy cover as well as dense underbrush.

The benefits of fire are well-known, if not always appreciated. Native Americans have used controlled burns for ages to protect and nurture healthy forest ecosystems. However, the United States government implemented a policy in 1886 that banned all fires in national parks. This policy was incorporated in the National Parks Act of 1916. The general belief at the time was that fire killed seedlings, created erosion-prone environments, destroyed vital soil nutrients necessary for new growth, and destroyed wildlife habitats. It wasn't until the 1920s or so that the US Forest Service began to acknowledge that certain areas of the US actually benefited from prescribed burns. Opinions didn't change until the 1950's when researchers, foresters, and government officials began to accept controlled burns as a management tool.

Today, Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources utilizes the Pennsylvania Prescribed Fire Standards which outlines procedures and planning for the use of prescribed fire. The Pennsylvania Prescribed Burning Practices Act of 2009 further defines prescribed fire as a management tool that benefits the entirety of the Commonwealth.

Fire is one of the most important instruments of change, one that humans have harnessed for ages. Using fire for heating and cooking was one of the first major developments in civilization. As an element, it is both beautiful and terrifying. And to the forest around us, it can be merciless, unyielding, and very much necessary.

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




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IN THE COUNTRY

Squirrels and forest ecology

Tim Iverson
Naturalist

With the onset of fall comes cooler temperatures, changing leaves, and acorns by the dozens. Acorns can make a hazardous nightmare for a hiker or anyone just enjoying the outdoors. The forest floor becomes one giant tripping hazard covered in a blanket of marbles and dodging these falling projectiles is nearly an olympic feat of agility and acrobatics. Acorns are much more than bombs and slip hazards. Our native oak trees prepare for the future by producing and dispersing these seed packages.

Acorns are the nut produced by oak trees. An oak tree can produce up to 10,000 acorns in a single year. These durable casings contain a single seed, which under the right conditions can germinate and eventually grow into a tree. Typically oaks will produce acorns in two to five year cycles. These boom and bust cycles are called mast years, the last of which occurred regionally in 2015 and 2016. Scientists aren't sure about how or why this occurs. Research shows it could be triggered by chemical signalling between the trees or environmental conditions. However, there doesn't seem to be a strong connection between weather patterns and production.

Evolutionary biologists suggest that it could be the best way to ensure the overall success of seed distribution and growth. By staggering production cycles it allows the predator population (chipmunks, squirrels, mice, deer, jays, etc.) to thin out. Then all at once the trees collectively produce millions of acorns that blanket the

forest floor. The numbers produced are simply too overwhelming and abundant to be eaten by the diminished animal populations. Another reason could be that it's taxing on the trees to make the acorns, so by alternating production years it allows them to recover for the next round of production cycles. Either way, the animal populations that do rely on these calorie packed snacks do very well those years. Typically, those dependent animals see population numbers explode the following year.

Most trees and plants rely on the wind to spread seeds, but acorns are just too heavy to get around this way. This is where biological vectors come in - in other words, animals. Acorns are a favorite meal of many different kinds of animals. They are a great nutritious high calorie snack to fatten up animals before a long migration or a long cold winter. Some animals, like squirrels, will cache, or hide, thousands of acorns for later use. Initially, squirrels don't seem all that intelligent. Frequently they're spotted darting across roads meeting untimely ends. However, they are the unsung heroes of forest growth. When it comes to forest ecology they are the primary agent in acorn dispersal.

In forests with oak trees there can be hundreds of acorns in a square foot during mast years. Squirrels can differentiate between species of oak acorns often preferring to eat acorns produced by White Oaks immediately and storing acorns produced by Red Oaks for later. This is because the White Oak acorns spoil faster, usually within a few months, while the Red Oak acorns can last up to 16 months in

storage. These discerning rodents are also deceptive.

Concerned by opportunistic spies, squirrels will trick others by creating fake caches. If a squirrel thinks it is being watched it will dig a hole, pretend to place the acorn in it (while actually leaving the acorn in its mouth), cover the hole back up, then scurry off elsewhere to actually hide its treasure. A single squirrel is estimated to create hundreds, possibly up to a thousand, of caches each season.

Remarkably they can remember where each and everyone is located. Researchers have demonstrated that some of this is done by memory, but as they close in on the specific location scent can help them hone in on the specific spot. For the acorns that don't get eaten that season they can germinate and sprout. By carrying the acorns further than the tree would be able to disperse them squirrels help expand the boundary and the genetic diversity of the forest.

The eastern gray squirrel, while native, at this point is considered an invasive pest. People with bird feeders would've agreed with this sentiment long ago, but it's their ingenuity and evolutionary adaptations that have given them this edge. Their tails are one of the remarkable features that have secured their niche. Squirrels dart, dash, and dive throughout the forest canopy.

Like a child walking astride a



The eastern gray squirrel is crepuscular, meaning they are most active during dawn and dusk, allowing them to avoid the heat of midday.

curbside with their arms extended for balance the tail of the squirrel keeps them balanced through all their aerial acrobatics up in the branches. Additionally, their tails are basically a thermostat helping to regulate their core body temperature. During the cold winter months it directs blood flow back into the core of their body, while during the summer body heat is radiated away as the blood circulates through the tail. Squirrels are one of the only mammals that can climb down a tree face first. Incredibly their wrists allow their hands to rotate a full 180 degrees backwards. This ability allows their claws to securely grip tree bark making their descents rapid and smooth.

Primary predators include hawks, owls, and foxes. Squirrels are incredibly agile and have excellent peripheral vision that makes it difficult for predators to sneak up on them. The eastern gray squirrel is crepuscular, meaning

they are most active during dawn and dusk allowing them to avoid the heat of midday. Maryland is also home to flying squirrels too. Flying squirrels are rarely seen though, as they are nocturnal. The flying squirrel nests in tree cavities making them more difficult to spot, whereas gray squirrels create visible nests high in the tree tops. Flying squirrels, despite their name, can not actually fly. They can glide up to 300 feet from tree to tree using folds of skin between their front and hind legs.

To homeowners and drivers squirrels can be bothersome. They are, however, a remarkably adaptive species that is truly beneficial for the overall health of a forest ecosystem. While we may occasionally have to swerve around them or sacrifice some seed from our feeders we need them for the services they provide for forest growth.

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

**Thurmont Lions Club
2023 Ornaments For Sale!**

Once again, local artist Rebecca Pearl has created a masterpiece, this time featuring the large Christmas tree that was suspended over the square from the mid 1950s to the early 1960s.

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REAL SCIENCE

Caterpillars

Michael Rosenthal

Everyone who spends time outdoors eventually sees caterpillars. Caterpillars are the larval stage of members of the order Lepidoptera, the insect order that includes butterflies and moths. Caterpillars do not attack human beings (!) as do some other insects, and they eat plant material, often, but not always leaves. About 1% of caterpillars eat insects, and some are cannibalistic or feed on products of other animals, such as clothes moths who feed on wool, and even hooves and horn moths who feed on hooves and horns of dead ungulates, a category of critter that includes deer, camels, elks and reindeer, as well as a number of others who largely live on grasslands. Caterpillars have soft bodies that can grow rapidly between moults. Their size varies from one

millimeter (0.039 inches) up to 14 centimeters (5.5 inches).

Because caterpillars are typically voracious feeders, many of them are among the most serious of agricultural pests. Some of them who become moths cause harm to fruits and other agricultural produce. Moths are generally obscure and do no direct harm. On the positive side, various species of caterpillar are valued as sources of silk, as human or animal food, or for biological control of pest plants. Caterpillars have an interesting place due to their metamorphosing into butterflies. This quality has led to references in Lewis Carroll's *Adventures in Wonderland* and in an episode of the popular television show *Mad Men*, and also in an episode of Season 5 of *The Sopranos*.

Woollybear festivals are held in several locations in the fall. One festival in Vermillion, Ohio, has costume contests for chil-

dren and pets. A festival in Banner Elk, North Carolina, features crafts, food, and races. The Woolly Worm Festival in Beattyville, Kentucky features food, vendors, live music, and a Woolly Worm Race, in which people race the woollybear caterpillar up vertical strings.

Other Woolley Bear events are held in Oil City, Pennsylvania, and Little Valley, New York. Caterpillars seem rather innocuous, but some have evolved more aggressive self-defense measures. These measures include spiny bristles or long fine hair-like setae with detachable tips that will irritate the aggressor by lodging in the skin or mucous membranes. Some birds swallow hairy caterpillars. Highly aggressive caterpillar defenses are bristles called urticating hairs which produces poisonous venom. The venom in the South American silk moth, genus *Lonomia*, produces anticoagulant venom powerful enough to cause death from hemorrhage in a human being.

Some caterpillars have evolved countermeasures which enable them to eat the leaves of toxic plants! In addition to harm being done to them from the toxins, they sequester it to protect them from predators. The species include cinnabar moths and monarch caterpillars.

There is quite a variation in caterpillar impact. Some of them are indeed poisonous or distasteful, and their bright coloring serves as a warning to predators. Others mimic more dangerous caterpillars while not being dangerous themselves. Many caterpillars are cryptically colored and resemble the plants on which they feed. There are caterpillars that look like other things in the environment such as thorns or bird droppings.

Environmental Nutrition, the newsletter from the Health Information Network, for which I promote ongoing enthusiasm, has an article in the August 2021 issue entitled *Frozen Treats on a Stick*. It reminds me of the days when ice cream trucks came rolling down the street in the summer, and you ran inside to find someone who would give you the money needed to buy an ice cream treat. My hometown, Youngstown, Ohio, (also known as Crimtown USA) is



Legend holds that the length of a woolly bear caterpillar's color bands can be used to forecast how severe the winter weather will be. The myth dates back to colonial American folklore.

the home of Isaly's, a chain of family-owned dairies which started in Mansfield, Ohio.

It was very popular in the years of my youth, and I still maintain my passion for their ice cream bars. Their products are pretty much purchased now in supermarkets in the frozen food aisle. Like all treats, a consideration of the ingredients is useful in making a healthy diet for you. These frozen treats do not contain much, if any salt, so sodium is not an issue. The main area of nutritional concern is calories, fat, saturated fat, and added sugar. Some of these products encourage multiple ingestion at a single serving.

As Mel Brooks says, "Everything is Show Biz". Hard as it may be, it is wise to limit your treat to one bar at a time. In more recent times, Greek yogurt has been used as an ingredient, which is healthier, by giving a protein boost. There are a few other options to consider. One can look for smaller bars rather than larger ones. Favor those made with genuine fruit, rather than flavored sugar substitutes. Avoid those treats containing sugar alcohols. They can be sources of gastric distress. Those treats that are non-dairy contain no more than 60 calories and 7 grams of added sugar. Dairy choices contain no more than 150 calories, 7 grams of fat, and 10 grams of added sugar.

The same issue of Environmental Nutrition has an article on caffeine-containing drinks. I rarely start the day without coffee, for better or for worse. Let's see which

dominates! Caffeine is of course the ingredient that creates the effect, besides that of flavor or just encouraging your habit. Energy drinks have been a major source of caffeine.

Though caffeine is not generally thought of as a dangerous drug, excessive consumption can lead to nervousness, headaches, nausea, cardiac arrhythmias, and seizures. Most of us who drink coffee can relate to a time when we drank a lot of it, and felt nervous and shaky. Excessive coffee input can increase blood pressure. Also increasing with excessive coffee drinking is the stress hormone norepinephrine. Caffeine containing products often contain other substances that contribute to health effects. I still have coffee in the morning and occasionally during the day, but I've learned not to drink too much and get these unpleasant and unhealthy side effects.

So how much coffee is too much coffee?

A noted sports cardiologist, John P. Higgins, suggests that a person should limit his or her amounts of caffeine. A noted rise in blood pressure and the stress hormone norepinephrine came with energy drinks. The Food and Drug Administration has not taken a very active role in this topic. It is well, says the article's author to limit your consumption of coffee and energy drinks, and undertake a good diet and life-style.

To read past editions of Real Science, visit the Authors section of Emmits-

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Rolling into October

Jack Deatherage

I hear it's been a summer, though having napped through most of it I wouldn't really know. Usually I'm up before 5 AM and grumbling as I todder around the park for the 8:30 a.m. mile. (For those wondering, [todder - the act of swaying wildly due to inebriation just before falling down, the toddler does not actually occur until the "todd" hits the ground. - nghialagi.net] It's been decades since I was last an actual toddler, but the growing aches and pains cause me to move as if I've a gallon or two of alcoholic brew on board.)

After the morning walk we stop at the Cedar Ave Community Garden to water, weed, tidy up and pick anything ready to be picked. Back home in the air conditioning I check my library account to see if I can go hang out in the library's air conditioning. If not, it's upstairs to sleep under some novel until it's time to water the garden- usually after 7 PM during the hotter days and closer to 6 PM as the days shorten and cool. About the only day I'm outside after noon is farmers market Friday.

If the Knights of Columbus chapter has a table set up offering free cotton candy I tend to hang around the market from open to close. Brian, master sugar spinner (he tells me he studied the craft for most of 5 minutes), is also the muscle and more than half the brains in the community garden. We sit in what shade we can find and talk of strings and things- "Of shoes and ships and sealing-wax. Of cabbages and kings. And why the sea is boiling hot. And whether pigs have wings." (Thank you Mr. Carroll) Occasionally I'll notice someone wandering about the garden. With a groan I'll stand and crackle, creak my way over to see if they have any questions about the adventure.

Generally, the out-of-towners and the newly-moved-to-towners have been politely inquisitive and thanked me for my time and efforts. The locals? Well, with some of them I have to curb my thoughts and be polite no matter their rudeness. How do I know they are locals? They're rude. The laughing gods send them to test my resolve. Could have been worse I guess- flea beetles, swarms of locust, drought- Wait, they did provide a drought!

A visitor demanded, actually demanded, to know if I was taking the vegetables to the food bank!

I experienced one of those rare moments when my brain managed to stop my mouth from trying to swallow both my feet. After a moment's thought that encompassed- you don't know who this person is, don't burn a bridge you haven't crossed- be polite- be diplomatic, you can do it- avoid a bunch of vulgarities best not let loose at this moment, I managed to say, "We're just getting the garden started. Everything we've planted is more to draw attention to what's possible here."

That didn't satisfy. "Well, you should be taking it to the food bank."

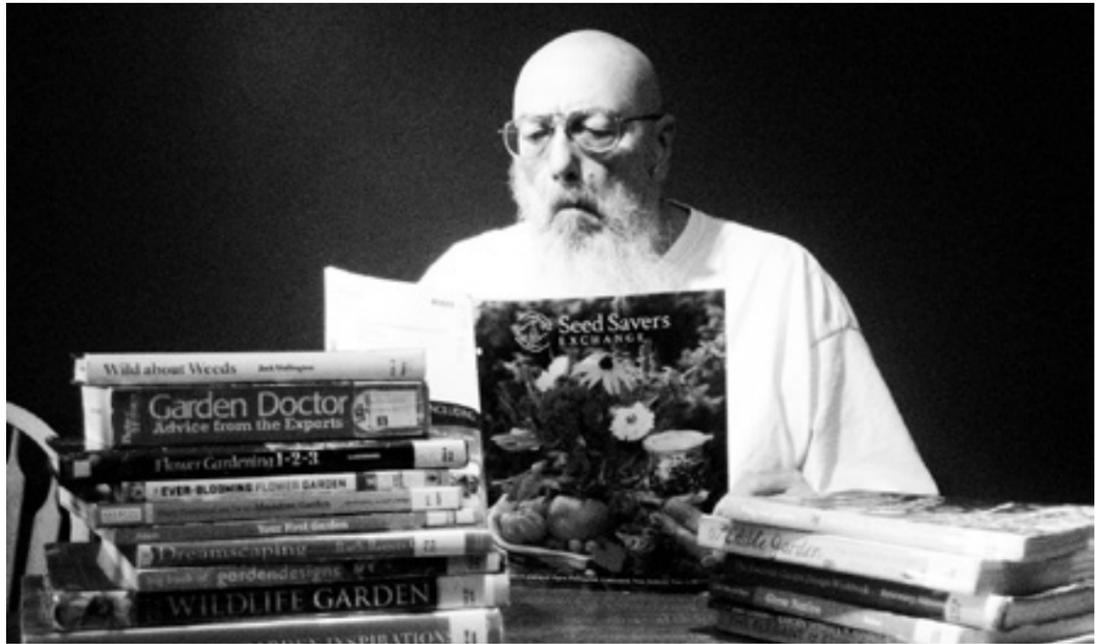
I remember thinking, I've spent more than a thousand dollars of the DW and I's money on the garden so far and I'm planning on spending at least a thousand more next year. The DW and I have been hauling water from home in buckets to the garden almost daily. We're buying and applying fertilizers, pulling weeds, planting seeds, dealing with the insects, birds, rabbits, people leaving trash about the garden, tending the compost bins, mowing and weed trimming (occasionally), trying to get more people involved and you, whom I've not seen near the garden before today, have the gall to tell me what to do with what little we'd managed to harvest from all that effort?

I've taken a few hand sized melons and a few cherry tomatoes up to the town offices as a token of gratitude for the help and encouragement the people working there have given us. They also have made demands. "Let us help you! Tell us what you need."

I'd take every scrap of edible vegetation to the farm and feed it to the pigs before I gifted a single tiny 'Sun Gold' cherry tomato to the food bank. The pigs would be grateful and their owner would load a truck full of manure and bring it to the garden, no charge, if I asked him to.

I'd willingly help anyone who wants to grow vegetables for the food bank. I'd probably gift them some of the seeds we have stored against the day I decide to trial them. Hell, I might even haul water for them, probably would help with the weeding if needs be. But to be told what I should be doing? Don't anyone hold their breath waiting for me to do anything I'm told to do!

The goal from the beginning was to build a larger, highly visible, easily accessible, community garden I could play in until I got



This year's community garden hasn't even been put to bed yet and Jack is already hard at work studying up on what he wants to do next year.

distracted by some new idea and wandered off knowing there was a community of gardeners in place that would continue making the garden better each following year. While I haven't made much headway with the community aspect of the garden, I have had some successes with the actual garden.

I have a better understanding of the location and what I need to change for next year's attempt. I'm planning on dropping at least \$600 worth of raised beds into the garden for the DW to organize and plant flowers she wants - I already hear the gods laughing. If I can squeeze another \$400 out of our budget I want several round raised beds for the library's use- maybe mini herb beds the kids can plant for projects the librarians can put together later in the

season - the gods are rolling now.

"The garden looks fantastic! You and your wife have done a great job."

Meh. There wouldn't be a garden if the board of commissioners, the mayor and the town staff hadn't stepped up to make it happen. If some of the members of the Emmitsburg Walking group hadn't helped, if the librarians and their kid groups hadn't gotten involved, if the fire department hadn't kept the rain barrels filled there certainly wouldn't be a garden! If Brian hadn't taken a pounding from the donated rototiller all anyone would see are 3 raised beds and some compost bins! All me and the DW have done is pump some money, time and effort into it - minimal effort on my part.

Still, imagine what ten more people could accomplish. Why, they

might even overflow the food bank with fresh veggies so's I'd have to take the excess to the farm's pigs.

Interested in the garden? I can be reached via the post office:

Deatherage
PO Box 417
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Ph: 301-447-2151 (if the answering machine picks up, please leave a contact number - speak slowly and clearly, English ain't my strong suit. All other languages are a mystery to me.)

Email: jackdeathjr@juno.com

Or check out the Facebook group - "Emmitsburg Youth/Community Garden"

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

THE MASTER GARDENER

Different plants, different places

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

Life takes different turns. And as we take these turns, we see differences in the places we go. Let me explain. A recent trip to western Maine visiting my daughter brought to the forefront the differences from where I live to where she lives. I doubt I ever would have visited this part of Maine if it hadn't been for her move. Why would I ever have made that trip if she hadn't taken the turn in the road that led her to her new state, her new home.

And what a difference it is. Having never been to the western part of the state, the experience was new. Her husband said to me "be sure to get gas before you cross over from New Hampshire". That was my first clue to the differences.

We've been to the east coast of Maine. There are many rocks to climb, and the plants living there naturally are very different than in South Central PA. But even in western Maine, we saw many differences.

Although forests are predominant (logging seems to be a common business), and we have a few of our own forests, the plant material that make up those forests are different. The first thing I noticed was the lack of invasive plant species. Here we see Japanese stiltgrass, multiflora rose, ornamental pears, ailanthus, barberry, and the list goes on. There, I saw Japanese

knotweed, and that was it. I saw it along wood's edge, not in the forest. It was so nice to see a forest with no invasive understory.

Why? My best guess is that there's so little disturbed area, and not a lot of people. The less disturbance, the less space the invasives have to take hold. I would imagine as a person gets closer to the towns and cities, there will be more introduced plants, whether invasive or not.

I took a guided walk in the woods. For starters, there weren't any rocks on the trails. Especially not like what we have here in PA. Just try and go for a walk in PA and not trip on a rock. The soil was sandy. Although there were many rocks stacked to make low walls, the stone just wasn't like it is here. There were lots of understory, and not because of invasives – the plants were native to the area. There wasn't any indication of deer browsing. As a matter of fact, there I didn't see any deer... hmmm... I guess lots of places for them to spread out.

The plants, although there are similarities, are different enough to indicate that I was someplace other than home. Goldenrods were in bloom. Although that is a plant we see here quite abundantly, they weren't as colonized there. I saw Canada goldenrod, but many other species were just as prevalent. Although I didn't have a resource to key out these plants on site, I'm guessing there were some seaside goldenrod, definitely white gold-

enrod and blue-stemmed as well as early goldenrod. Although these different species are found here, I can honestly say I haven't seen many in the wild, excluding Canada goldenrod.

The white goldenrod, in particular, caught my attention. In full bloom at the time of my visit, its unique color set it aside from all other plants. Its habit and floral structure are very similar to the typical goldenrods, but the white is unlike many fall plants.

Another plant that was exciting to see in nature was the withered, *Viburnum cassinoides*. This plant is typically found in wet, marshy areas. And although it wasn't wet or marshy, it was growing happily. As typical of most viburnums, they do get quite large. However, the plants I saw were just little, just starting out. I have never seen this one in our woods.

During this hike, we walked along a very large lake. Along this lake, we found... cranberries! It was so cool to see that plant in the forest. The leaves are particularly small, and the plant creeping. There were a few unripe cranberries hanging on to the plant, and they seemed so large compared to the leaves. Kind of odd seeing such large berries on such a tiny-leaved plant. Although we typically think of cranberries growing in bogs and very wet areas, these plants were not in a bog, and the soil was well drained. Although we found them along a lake, they were on the edge, not in a particularly wet spot.



Seaside Goldenrod, or Salt-Marsh Goldenrod, is a plant species in the genus *Solidago* of the family Asteraceae. It is native to eastern North America and parts of the Caribbean.

Winterberry holly was also growing along the lake, right along side the cranberries. In addition, there were some meadowsweet, one of our native spireas, *Spiraea alba*. All these plants were growing in the same plant community.

I have seen meadowsweet, blueberries, and cranberries in central PA near Huntington, but that ecosystem was much different. It was more of a flat, wet, marshy meadow, not along a lake and it was in full sun, not a wood's edge in partial shade.

Bracken ferns (*Pteridium aquilinum*) were everywhere, as were sweetferns (*Comptonia peregrina*). Bracken ferns look like any other fern (sorry fern lovers) but the sweetfern is considered a woody shrub. It has an aromatic fragrance when touched. It will take over disturbed areas if the soil is right. Although these two plants are also found in

PA, I haven't seen them here in the large colonies and understory as I did in Western Maine.

In addition to the plant life, the management of properties seemed much different. A very relaxed feel to the landscape along the roadsides was dominant. Grasses were allowed to grow along the roads. Very rarely did I see cut grass, which allowed for many wildflowers to grow and bloom. Asters were a common flowering plant when I was there, particularly new England aster. The bracken ferns and sweetferns were everywhere.

The homes also had that relaxed feel as well. In that part of the state, I didn't see lots of plants around the foundation of the homes. Whether they were million-dollar houses or smaller places, this was a common theme. Mowed grass wasn't manicured like you see here. Diversity in plants within the grass was the norm. Herbaceous gardens with flowering plants were the most common type of gardening, and typically I saw native perennials, very little in the way of introduced.

This trip drove home the idea of planting plants that naturally grow in your area. Here's the thing. If you are planting what is supposed to grow in your area, then by looking at your property, a person could recognize where they are by identifying the plants living there. The insects, birds and other critters that have evolved with these plants will all live happily together. When we plant so many non-native plants that can be grown anywhere in the country, then there is nothing unique or identifiable about the landscape or the places we live. Therefore, the food source for these critters that evolved with the native plants will die, and many already have.

Although I am comparing plant life with where I live, hopefully where you live there are different variances, making your community unique. The moral of the story: Plant natives. Allow grass to grow, don't mow as much, and monitor invasives. This will reduce the decline of insects and birds and help the food chain (ours and the wild ones).

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THE MASTER GARDENER

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October 21: “Fall & Winter Pruning” - Learn what to prune in the fall and how to prune to get the most out of your plants.

October 28: “Honey, I Shrunk the Lawn” - Small changes to our yards can have a big impact on our environment. Join the grassroots movement to restore biodiversity by turning turf into a part of the Homegrown National Park! Learn more at homegrownnationalpark.org.

All seminars are free unless otherwise stated. Seminars are held at the University of Maryland Extension office at 330 Montevue Lane, (off Rosemont Avenue) in Frederick, from 10 to noon.

You can register online for these and other events at <https://bit.ly>

Small Town Gardener

No way is there one way to garden

Marianne Willburn

There's more than one way to do everything.

In gardening, in life. In planting an apple tree, or peeling apples over the sink. Certainly there are rules that guide us (don't use a dull knife), and experts that sway us (use a 3 ¼ inch Victorinox, says the team at Cook's Illustrated). But the earlier we start to play a little and discover the ways that work well for us, the more flexible we become to take on new challenges – including the challenge of sharing what we've learned without ramming it down the throats of others as *The Only Way*.

Last month, I was fortunate to have another conversation with Margaret Roach on her excellent podcast *A Way to Garden*. We discussed what Margaret calls “The Mad Stash” – which is my new favorite term to describe the imminent autumn frenzy of finding winter homes for tender plants before the first frost.

What she does...What I do... What we've seen done in the gardens of others... We also discussed some overall guidelines for gardeners who insist, as we do, on playing with plants that require life support in cold winter months.

After comparing notes and laughing a lot (my apologies to Margaret's editor) it struck me how perfectly she has named her long-running website and podcast. Not, *The Way to Garden*, but *A Way to Garden*. I highly recommend it.

Rolling With the Punches

Gardening is not a precise and sterile process that happens in a lab. (Well, at least the kind of gardening I do.) There are hundreds of variables at play, from the pH of your soil; to the dappled light you get on one side of your porch but not the other; to the dry weather you had in July and August; to the flood you had in June; to the day of the month you chose to plant those clearance bulbs; to just how ‘clearanced’ they looked when they went into the ground.

All these things come together in thousands of permutations to make this the “best X ever” or the “worst X ever.” The year you started gardening – or the year you gave up all together. (Until next spring.)

We're all of us playing on a different field – quite literally. Even your neighbor, on a different ridge line or flood plain, or battling the compacted clay gifted by a disinterested developer, may have gotten all the rain you got this year, but doesn't share your soil – or your sun.

Comparing Notes

At the time of our conversation, Margaret (in New York) was tired



of rain. I (in Northern Virginia) was tired of no rain. We're facing the same job of bringing things indoors, but her tropicals might be a little stronger after a wetter summer than mine.

Most of my bananas look like they've been intermittent fasting towards a lean beach body – I'll need to keep a sharper eye on them over the winter months than I normally do. Hers might be shedding some water weight in the cellar and need a different kind of monitoring so they don't rot in cold conditions.

She was curious as to what I do with my bromeliads, and I was curious how badly she treats her canna. Here I thought I was the cruellest canna wrestler out there, but it turns out I've got competition. And a license to get crueler.

So guidelines and experts are great, but we need even more. We need curiosity to help us identify and care about nuanced variables, and the courage to play with those variables, conquer them, be bested by them, and learn from them.

Hands on Experience Matters When Finding a Way

I can't help feeling that, as our media moves increasingly toward 30 second reels and one minute listicle reads, not to mention a gardening culture more heavily weighted toward garden designers (as discussed by Anne Wareham on *GardenRant.com* recently), it becomes easier to believe that there is One Way. Gardening is easy. Gardening is simple. Here's how to do it (or have it done). Here's what to plant. Here's The Solution.

No. If you're all in, you're in for a thrashing. Mentally and physically.

Because it's not about one year (like 2020). Or two years, or three for that matter. Because the things that may have been true during that three year period – lets say, our first three years gardening or the first three years in a new garden — might not work so well when one of the moving parts mentioned above changes. And no matter how much you read or watch on YouTube, you need to experience that for yourself. And then you need to experience it again. And quite frankly, again.

Know Why It Works

For instance, I know that I can store

dahlias in their quart pots in a frost-free basement in the dark. I water every four to five weeks and rarely lose one tuber.

I know this, not because I was told by a dahlia expert (I was), but because I failed at it the first time and paid more attention the second, third, and fourth times. I also know that I can store them in damp sand, or painstakingly wrap them in Saran wrap, or leave them in the ground and hope the voles don't get hungry and the winter goes more 7a than 6b this year. I've done all those things, and they are all variations on a baseline of light humidity, frost-free temps, and dark storage.

There's more than one way. I store dahlias in pots because I grow them in those pots – plunged into the soil – so storage is a quick dig, a cutting of feeder roots, and a stacking on racks until spring when they are divided and freshened. (If you're interested, you can read about this in my book *Tropical Plants and How to Love Them*).

Granted it's lazy. But it works amazingly well. It's A way, not THE way to play with dahlias. If I was selling dahlias, or indeed the blooms, I might do something different.

Experimentation is Play

Yes there are rules you probably don't want to break. If we're talking tropical storage, gingers sitting wet in a cold garage would be one of them. Begonias sitting over a heating vent is a poor idea. A three-foot agave in your bathroom is just stupid and someone's going to lose an eye. But when it does go wrong, if you've done a bit of research, or have smart plant friends, you'll be able to identify why, and how you can tweak things going forward.

A way to garden. Isn't it fascinating to figure out what works?

Marianne Willburn is the author of Tropical Plants and How to Love Them, and Big Dreams, Small Garden. She writes from her home in Lovettsville, Virginia. Read more at GardenRant.com.

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She's my person

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

Some days I'm not sure how she could still love me. She tells me she does and I have no reason not to believe it, but my muzzle has turned so gray and it takes me time to get up to greet her at the door when she comes home from work.

We've been together since I was a young pup. The early days of "us" were so much fun. We would go to the dog park and she'd show me off like she was proud of me. I even heard her talking to people on the telephone about me and how much she loved me.

It took a while, but I began to realize those feelings were real. She was proud of me. And she loved me. Sometimes I couldn't believe it, but it made me feel so warm inside.

I was her constant companion. When she got off work, we would go for our nightly walk – no matter the weather. She didn't complain once, just put the appropriate "human wear" on

so as not to get totally soaking wet if it was raining or freeze if it was snowing or sweat like a crazy person if it was hot.

She always took good care of me, made sure my paws weren't too cold or hot and that I had enough water.

When we were done with our walk, it was dinner time for both of us. We would eat together and either watch something on TV or listen to music. Sometimes when we were finished, we'd even dance around together.

She talked to me about her favorite shows and when she couldn't believe one of the characters did something. She cried at movies and told me why she was upset. She'd laugh out loud at some shows, too, like ones called Seinfeld and Friends.

She would take me on her annual vacations. She found a place that allowed dogs and we'd spend just about every day on this place she called the "beach." At first, the waves were something I couldn't really figure out, but when I chased them, she would laugh, so I just kept doing it.

I love when she laughs at my antics. She's such an amazing person. I'm in awe that her hair is still the same beautiful auburn it was when we first met and she's just as eager to go for a walk as she was at the beginning.

My joints have started to ache and I can feel my age creeping up on me. Sometimes I wonder why we can't grow old at the same rate. I'd love nothing more than to spend decades with her, making memories together.

We still take our beach vacations, but I'm slower getting down to our spot in the sand.

I try to walk for her each night, but I can't go as far as I used to.

I know there will be a day – probably sooner than I'd like to admit – where I'll have to say goodbye and the thought of not seeing her anymore just breaks my heart.

She told me one night when we were getting ready for bed about a place called the Rainbow Bridge. She says it's a place where animals go when they can no longer exist on the earth. It's a beautiful place where all the four-legged friends gather to wait for their humans.

I wanted so badly to talk right then because I wanted to ask why we had to be separated at all. Why couldn't we spend all our days together?

But the Rainbow Bridge sounded like a real nice place. She said no animal is in pain there. No animal is old. They are all young and love to run and play – and I'd be same, nothing would hurt.

She told me to wait for her there. She said she'd be along and we'd be together again and we'd never let each other go ever again. We'd be together forever. She promised.

So I know it's real. She's my person and I'm so lucky. I'm lucky to have known her and had her care for me. I'm lucky she loves me as much as she does.

I'm lucky we found each other that day so many years ago at the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter.

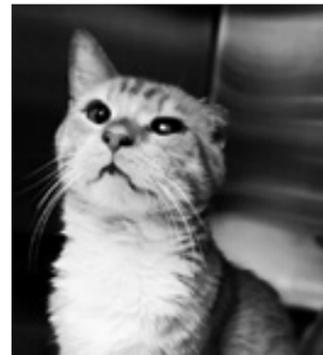
Jennifer Vanderau is the Publications and Promotions Consultant for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter and can be reached at cvascomm@cvas-pets.org. The shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit the website www.cvas-pets.org.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



Penny came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about her, but this is one happy-go-lucky pup! She is a 3-year-old terrier mix who doesn't seem to realize how big she is when she gets excited. Penny is an active girl who will need someone that can provide her with regular exercise. She loves to play ball! Penny does need some work on her manners but with regular exercise and consistency, Penny will make someone a loving companion! Penny may be too much for small children so an age restriction for children in the home may apply, please discuss this with shelter staff.



Bison is a 3-year-old Chow Chow who came into the shelter as a stray. He is one handsome boy, who can be reserved. Adopters experienced with the Chow Chow breed will be helpful for Bison. He is aloof at first with new people but does eventually accept them. Bison is incredibly loyal and would love to find his new person. Because we have no past history with children, an age restriction may apply. Please discuss this with shelter staff. Could Bison be the one for you?



Instant Noodles was brought into the shelter after being found abandoned in a house with 20 other cats. He was covered in fleas, skinny, and was missing a lot of fur. Since his arrival at the shelter, he's been doing much better. He's about 3 years old and would love to find out what having a forever home is all about. Could you give Instant Noodles a second chance?



Kairo came into the shelter because his owner was moving and couldn't take him along. He's a 1-year-old Chihuahua mix. Kairo loves belly rubs. He would do best in a quiet home. He has been around older children, but not small children, so an age restriction for children in the home may apply. Could you give Kairo a second chance?



Samson was surrendered to the shelter with his brother because his owners could no longer care for him. Samson is a 3-year-old black-and-white boxer who loves to play. Samson does tend to jump up when he is excited but is working on his manners. Because of his energy, Samson may be too much for small children. Please discuss this with shelter staff. Samson would be best as the only dog in the home and he will chase cats. Is Samson the guy for you?

For more information about Penny, Bison, Instant Noodles, Kairo, or Samson call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791, or visit them online at www.cvaspets.org or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter.

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown

petco foundation

Canine speed dating



Monkey can be a bit reserved when meeting new people, but give her a few moments to get comfortable, and you will have a new friend. At six months old, she is playful and loves to be outside. Monkey has attended a weeklong manners class and will have a good training foundation for her new owner to build upon. She arrived at the shelter as a stray, and her owner was located; however, they declined to reclaim her.

Shawn Snyder

Shelter life is stressful for any animal. Despite all the love and care we provide them, it's simply not a home. Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center has seen a surge in our canine population in the last year or so, something that is being seen and felt in shelters and rescues across the country. Although this rise in population may mean more dogs for adopters to choose from it has inevitably increased levels of stress and anxiety for our canine residents. As a result, this Fall we are trying something new and eliminating the stressful kennel from our canine adoption process in the hope that our animals will not only be more comfortable during their shelter stays but will also get into forever homes more quickly.

Closing the dog kennels may seem counterproductive, but the reality is that dogs aren't their true selves in a kennel environment and sadly great pets get overlooked due to their kennel behavior. We want potential adopters to see what we see every day when making decisions about their new family members; our mix of loving and playful dogs who can't get enough of fetch or love a good cuddle session. Not dogs barking

and jumping up on kennel doors.

While the well-being of our dogs may have been at the forefront of this decision, FCAC visitors were also considered. The kennels aren't just loud and overwhelming for our four-legged friends. Visitors can also be stressed by the kennel environment. Some, especially children, are even too scared to walk through and look at the dogs.

We're calling this program Fall for Me Canine Speed Dating and here's how it works. Instead of walking through the kennel looking for a dog to meet, you'll browse our catalog of fantastic adoptable dogs either online through our Facebook page or in person. You can choose up to 3 dogs per visit to meet with for ten minutes. You'll meet the dogs outside in one of our many play areas or in our education room.

If you'd like to meet additional dogs or spend more time with one particular dog, just book another visitation. Visitors will still be required to read profiles via the QR codes and the application process has remained the same. The only part of our process that has changed is that visitors no longer walk through the dog kennels.

Since we began this new process in early September staff and

volunteers have seen a noticeable difference in the behavior of our canines. They are much calmer, quieter and happier. Additionally, we have received tons of positive feedback from our visitors and have not seen a decline in our number of adoptions. For now, FCAC plans on continuing Fall for Me Canine Speed Dating into October, but whether it will become permanent has not been determined. You can find our catalog of adoptables in the features section pinned at the top of our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fcacmd.

Reducing stress on dogs in shelters

The dog kennels at any animal shelter can be a stressful place for both the dogs and the visitors looking to adopt. The kennels tend to be loud and overwhelming. Dogs aren't their true selves in this environment and sadly great dogs get overlooked due to their kennel behavior.

Some visitors, especially children, are even too scared to walk the kennels and see our canines. As a result, this September we are trying something new and eliminating the stressful kennel from our canine adoption process. The dog kennels will be closed and visitors will only meet adoptable dogs outside the kennel environment.

Here's how it will work. Instead of walking through the kennel looking for a dog to meet, you'll browse our catalog of fantastic adoptable dogs either online or in person.

You can choose up to 3 dogs per visit to meet with for ten minutes. You'll meet the dogs outside in one of our many play areas. If you'd like to meet additional dogs or spend more time with one particular dog, just book another visitation. Visitors will still be required to read profiles via the QR codes and the application process has remained the same.

Check out the profiles of our awesome adoptables below or visit FCAC's Facebook page to see all available dogs.

If you have any questions, feel free to call us at 301-600-1564.



Leo arrived at the shelter with wounds of an unknown origin and was required to spend several months in a foster home. He is approximately two years old and considered a domestic short haired cat. Leo's foster mom completed a personality profile which indicates he is calm, playful, friendly and particularly fond of his stuffed toy unicorn. His laid-back personality will make him a great companion for almost any family.



Eleven-year-old Gypsy finds herself having to start over and hopes a family with a big heart is willing to give her a chance. Unfortunately, her lifelong owner passed and there was no one to take care of her. Gypsy is a sweet, older lady who likes attention. She arrived front declawed and has no known health issues. Gypsy would be a good match for families with children of any age and will likely transition to a new home with ease.



Blue can't catch a break. She arrived at the shelter on August 7 as a stray and was adopted on August 22. Three days later Blue's new family returned her because she was too active, and they did not have the time to train her. Blue loves to be doted on and will cuddle up beside you. At only one year old, she enjoys walks and playing outside. Blue is seeking a committed family that can incorporate her into their daily activities.



Draco is such a good boy! He recently attended a local dog event and did a wonderful job greeting people as well as other dogs politely. Draco can be playful but also enjoys lounging around. He loves to be petted and will sit as close to you, or on you, to show his appreciation. Draco's easy-going personality will make him a great fit for families with kids and/or other dogs. However, he does prefer a home without cats.

For more information about Leo, Gypsy, Blue, Monkey, or Draco, call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac.

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PETS

Kit – the hard luck horse

Mike Hillman

Continued from last month

The change in Kit was amazing. Within five days he was once again sound. On the Thursday following the treatment I turned Kit out, and as I watched him trot away decided I was going to get on his back that evening. Eight hours later, when I went out to get him, I found him standing on three legs. He was unwilling to put any weight at all on his front right leg, the leg that had been shock waved.

My first assumption was that he had developed an abscess, so he was treated for that, but after the fifth day with no sign of improvement, I asked a local vet friend who was over for dinner to look at him. He too thought it manifested as an abscess – that is, until he pressed into the tendons on the backside of the pastern.

“I don’t know, Mike, he is definitely sore there—something is not right. You need to get that spot ultrasound.”

Three days later, my regular vet was staring in disbelief at the screen of her ultrasound machine. “There are major holes in both his deep flexor and superficial tendons, and all the supporting ligaments... are well Just not there anymore. He did something bad, really bad. We need to immobilize him and get him to Leesburg (Virginia Tech. Equine Emergency Medical Hospital (EMC)) ASAP.”

As luck would have it, as I was a member of the EMC Board, I was able to get an expedited appointment for Kit. The assigned Vet, Dr. Jennifer Barrett, confirmed my vet’s diagnosis and gave me the bad news.

“Yes, we can save him, but the chances of you ever riding him again is next to zero, and even if we can get him to that point, his road to recovery will not only be long, but painful, and expensive. No one would fault you if you decided to put him down.”

“On the other hand, if we get lucky, and everything goes perfectly, you could have a hacking horse, but more than likely you’ll end up with a very expensive pasture pet.”

While I appreciated Jen’s ‘get out of jail’ option of euthanizing him and using the money saved to buy a new horse I could compete, I seized onto her last statement of getting lucky.

I did like the horse and wanted to give him a fighting chance to live out his life. So Jen drew up her battle plan,

and I checked my bank account.

I sat in numbed silence as Dr. Barrett laid out her plan. From what I got out of her briefing, without the support of the tendons that ruptured, Kit’s pastern joint, which usually has a three-degree range of motion, now had a 20-degree bend in it, and it was only going to get worse. Unless and until the joint was stabilized, any effort to repair the torn tendons would be a waste of time, because, with the bend in the joint, Kit would simply re-tear them and we would be back to square one.

The only way to repair the joint, however, was to fuse it by performing an arthrodesis: a surgery where all the cartilage in the joint would be scrapped out, screws inserted to pull the two halves of the joint together, and a plate inserted on top of the upper and lower pastern bones to take out the bend.

While that may sound evasive, I kept having to remind myself that the joint only had a three-degree range of motion, and that the loss of the that motion as a result of fusing it, would not have that much effect upon his gate. I drew solace in the fact that I had had another horse which had a fused ankle, which has a much larger range of motion, and that that horse lived a long and happy life.

That evening, as I sat with my regular vet, I got a warning message: “the surgery will be no big deal, but the recovery is going to be [tough]. Horses don’t tolerate casts very well. I’ve had to treat one too many cases with casts that went south very, very fast. Be prepared for some [awful] sores. And if that is the only complication you get, count yourself lucky.”

As my vet talked, I realized I picked a bad time to give up drinking...

On January 4th, six weeks after the shock wave treatment to make Kit rideable again, I dropped him off at the EMC for his surgery the next day. He barely made it to his stall, he was limping so badly.

Normally, I watch my horses’ surgeries—yes, surgeries. I’ve had that many at the EMC, but for some reason, I opted not to watch Kit’s, which was fortunate, as it proved to be the longest of them all.

When Dr. Barrett called me with the results, I could hear concern in her voice. “The surgery went well. The joint came together nicely and the plate was perfect, we got the bend out of the joint and the two halves of the



Vets always say surgeries always go well - it's the immediate recovery from anesthesia that keeps them up at night. In Kit's case, their worse nightmare came true. Kit's failure to recover resulted in a 9-day around-the-clock effort to keep him alive. By the time he was stable, he was only a shadow of his former athletic self.

pastern joint are now aligned straight as they should be...”

But there was a ‘but’ in her voice ... and it came next. “Kit had a hard recovery. He didn’t want to get up, and I had to go into the recovery stall and get him to stand up. Because he was lying down so long, I’m concerned there might be muscle damage, so I got him on heavy duty fluids and we are watching his liver enzymes. We’re not going to take any chances.”

When I hung up, my veterinary nurse wife interpreted what had just been told to me – “Kit is tying up, (a term every event rider worries about after a hard cross country run) which will release toxins into his blood stream, that unless diluted and flushed out of his system, will cause liver failure, and they will lose him.”

My mind immediately flashed back to another horse I had once taken to the EMC, alas too late, who died in his stall there, in front of me, due to his body’s inability to cope with the release of muscle toxins. But unlike that horse, Dr. Barrett was way out ahead of the issue and was leaving no treatment option off the table.

Knowing she had her hands full, I waited five days before I went down to see Kit. I was not prepared for what I saw. Kit looked like a ghost. In just a few days, he had dropped an enormous amount of weight. But bad as it was, the sight of five IV bags hanging in the overhead and hooked to a catheter in his neck, and a machine pumping God only knows what into him

made me question if I had made the right decision. But there was no turning back now. The old saying “in for a penny, in for a pound” soon became my mantra.

It would be seven days before Dr. Barrett breathed a sigh of relief and I was told that he was out of the woods, and the staff could now get on with actions to help him recover from the surgery.

Before Kit was taken off the table following surgery, Dr. Barrett had put a fiberglass cast on his leg to help minimize movement of the joint. And while doctors can tell their human patients not to move around after surgery, horses don’t comprehend not moving. Add in the fact that Kit was on heavy duty pain killers, including a fentanyl patch, 60 Tylenol tablets a day, and bute, he wasn’t feeling much pain, so he moved around. But with no ‘padding’ between the cast and his leg, as predicted by my local vet, he quickly developed sores, [awful] sores, that Dr. Barrett struggled to contain.

No matter what she did, no matter how many times she took the cast off and reset it, the sores grew. Soon they were oozing. It was now a race between getting the joint to stabilize enough to allow the hard cast to be replaced with a soft cast versus the complications that were beginning to manifest from the sores.

While Dr. Barrett did her best to reassure me things would be ok, I struggled with the nagging feeling I had made the wrong call. But I had

thrown my lot in with Dr. Barrett and trusted her, and in the end, that was what kept me going.

It would be amiss if I didn’t mention I always had one eye wearily on Kit’s ever increasing vet bill, and while I knew all the money was being well spent, at times I felt like I was hemorrhaging money, and the only way to stop the hemorrhaging was to bring Kit home.

After three long weeks, Dr. Barrett determined Kit was stable enough to come home. Dr. Barrett’s decision was based in part on my wife’s and my 90 combined years of horse experience – a huge chuck on my wife’s a result of her being the head of nursing at the University of Pennsylvania’s New Bolton Equine Emergency Hospital. Everyone, including my wife and I, felt Kit would be in safe hands with us.

He walked out of the EMC looking good. Yes he had a limp, but given all he had been through, it really wasn’t of any concern to me.

Everyone was happy Kit was finally home, especially Kit. Unfortunately, he wasn’t happy when his stable mates went out during the day and he was stuck in his stall, but that’s why drugs are a horse owner’s best friend.

My wife’s time was spent tending to Kit’s wounds from the cast rubs. I spent my time throwing grain at him to help him regain some of his lost weight. Everything was going as planned ...

Continued next month

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Orthopedics in Frederick County: keeping us moving

Therlinsie Fleurizard, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon
Frederick Health Medical Group

Frederick County is moving. People around here know we are one of Maryland's fastest-growing counties, and as we keep moving, it's important to prioritize the health and wellness of our diverse, growing community. Keeping with this theme, and because November is a month to give thanks, let's spotlight the people and resources that help keep our community moving.

Quite literally, orthopedic surgeons do just that. Orthopedics is a medical specialty that focuses on treating the musculoskeletal system. This means your bones, joints, ligaments, muscles, and tendons. Orthopedic surgeons treat a wide range of conditions from arthritis to dislocated joints to hip and back pain. They aim to reduce pain and enhance mobility, helping you to get back to the activities you love sooner whether it's biking along the C&O Canal or taking a walk through Baker Park.

This is one of the reasons why Dr. Therlinsie Fleurizard decided to specialize in orthopedics.

"I became very interested in orthopedics after seeing how it can change people's lives for the better," she says. "In many medical fields, it's hard to pinpoint a disease and then automatically have a treatment for it. With orthopedics, you can see the disease firsthand and offer a treatment that can effectively alleviate what the patient is experiencing."

Her decision to practice in Frederick is one the community should be thankful for. She is 1 of 8 fellowship-trained Black women in the country performing joint replacement or joint reconstruction surgery. She learned from Dr. Martin Roche, her fellowship director, source of inspiration, and world-renowned orthopedic leader who performed the world's first-ever Sensor Assisted and Robotic Assisted Knee Surgery. After completing her residency at Howard University, Dr. Fleurizard interviewed across the DC Metro Area and felt connected to the people in Frederick, her colleagues, and the community of patients.

Dr. Fleurizard practices at Frederick Health Medical Group Orthopedics & Sports Medicine in Frederick. She is part of a team of board-certified and fellowship-trained orthopedic experts focused on high-quality, patient-centered orthopedic care backed by the latest medical technologies. Patient-centered care means a focus on you (the patient) rather than your condition and the reciprocal relationship between you and your provider.

When you make an appoint-

ment with an orthopedic specialist at Frederick Health you can expect a collaborative patient journey that starts with a conversation based around you - your concerns, your needs, and your treatment goals. As a patient, you are fully aware of what is going on; what your exam will entail, and most importantly your treatment options.

"As a patient under our care, you'll leave each appointment very informed about your diagnosis and treatment options so that you can make the best decisions for you," says Dr. Fleurizard. "You (the patient) need to be included in your care management and that's how our practice runs. We're making

decisions together for the best way to treat whatever discomfort you're feeling."

First, you and your provider may explore conservative options, such as physical therapy or pain management. If surgery is the best option for you, Frederick Health specializes in minimally invasive techniques that ensure a faster recovery.

Patient education can help improve your surgical outcome. "We want patients to be well-informed about joint replacement procedures, which have benefits but also risks," says Dr. Fleurizard. "We educate you about these surgery risks, pre-and post-surgery precautions, and how to achieve positive outcomes. Addi-

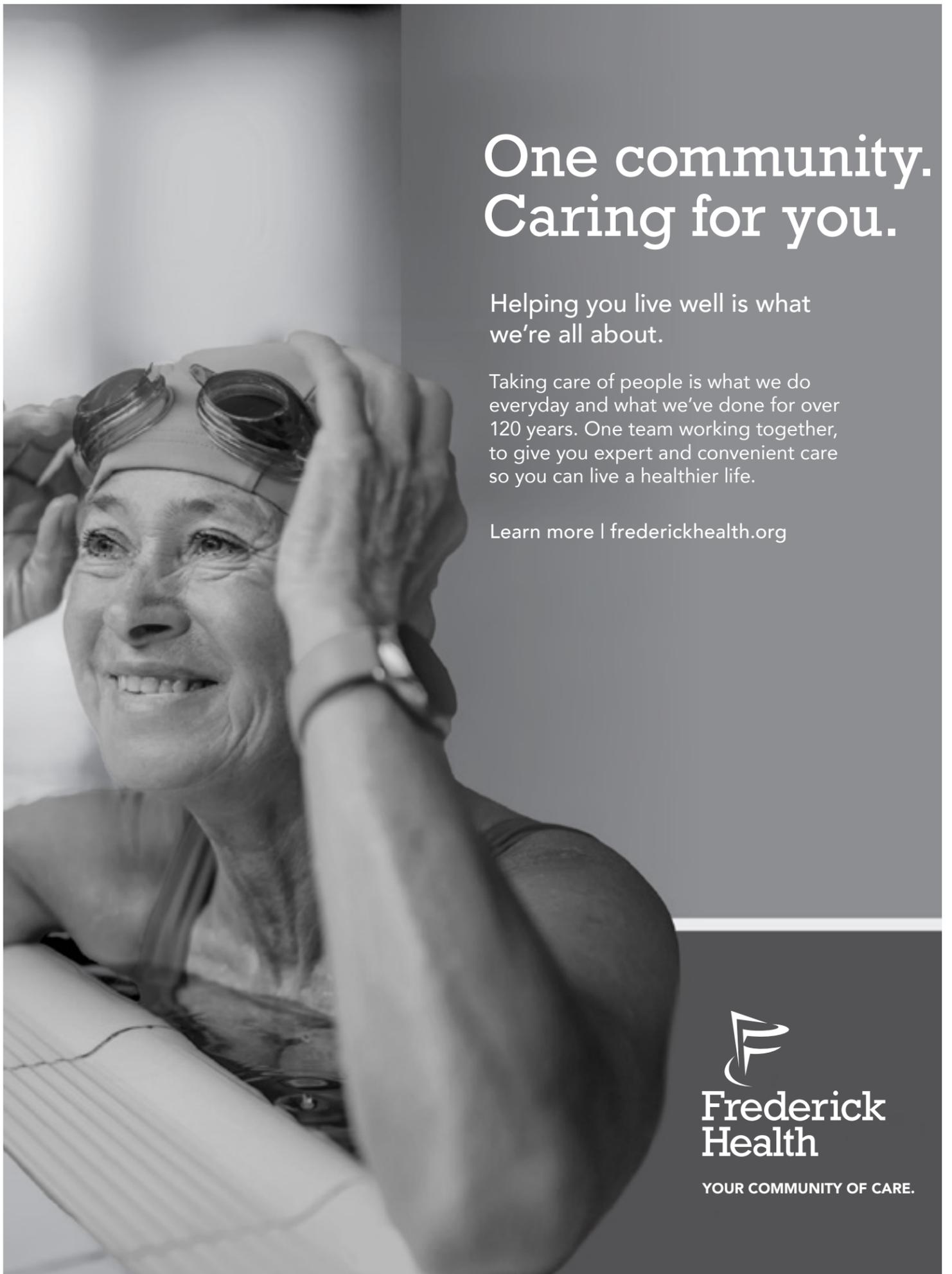
tionally, we advise you to address modifiable factors like alcohol, smoking, and weight to improve results."

In 2005, Frederick Health started Joint Works, a patient-friendly clinical program developed for joint replacement patients and their families. Core elements include pre-surgical patient education, pre-surgical rehabilitation, perioperative services, and discharge planning with a team of experienced and expert providers, nurses, and rehabilitation therapists who treat joint replacement patients every day.

"Every patient gets exercises to try to strengthen whatever extremity you're having surgery

on before your procedure. This helps with recovery afterward," explains Dr. Fleurizard. "After 18 years, the program continues to improve surgical outcomes and recovery time. Many patients notice the difference and realize how effective it was when they did rehab and exercises before surgery."

Keeping Frederick County moving and getting you "back to better" is the goal of Frederick Health Medical Group's Orthopedics & Sports Medicine team. Providers will work with you to understand your movement goals and develop a personalized treatment plan and post-operative care to achieve positive results.



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"Why I'm Running for the U.S. Senate"

CONGRESSMAN **DAVID TRONE**



My Roots, My Values

I grew up in a working family on a 200-acre farm. I worked hard on the farm, cleaning up chicken manure, working the fields, and helping my Dad. But my Dad lost the farm to bankruptcy and our family went through tough times. I learned the value of hard work, the value of getting a good education, and the value of dealing with problems and getting things done to fix them. I started a small business to support my family. It's grown to be the largest private wine retailer in the country with over 12,000 team members in 28 states. I'm proud that the headquarters for Total Wine & More is still in Maryland. And in 2018, I was elected to be your Representative in Congress.

People Are Fed Up With Pay-to-Play Politics

Everywhere I travel in Maryland I hear the same thing: people are tired of being pawns in a system stacked against them. They are sick of politicians making promises they don't keep. They are disgusted by PACs and lobbyists paying politicians to stop progress in its tracks. I agree, and that's why I'm running for the United States Senate. And as always, I'll never take a penny from any PAC, Lobbyist, or Corporation.

People Want Action and I've Delivered

The truth is, I'm fed up with the inaction I see in Congress. This is like my experiences throughout life. I was fed up when the bank took our parents' farm and our family home. I was fed up when my nephew Ian told me that he couldn't find effective treatment for his addiction. I was fed up when I faced bogus criminal charges and realized that the color of my skin dictated the outcome of my case as much as my innocence did. So, I've rolled up my sleeves, worked with members of both parties, and gotten results to:

- Make our Economy Work for all Marylanders
- Expand Mental Health Care Services
- Help those with opioid and other addictions
- Lower the cost of prescription drugs
- Make our Criminal Justice System More Fair

DAVID TRONE

U.S. SENATE

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Vicki Grinder & Thurmont's Main Street Program

Mia Ferraro
UMD Class of 2026

It has been almost 20 years since the start of the Thurmont Main Street program, and 2023 marks the 10th year since Vickie Grinder, Thurmont Main Street's first manager and one of the program's founders, returned to the program as Economic Development Manager.

Thurmont has been a designated Maryland Main Street community since 2005. Maryland Main Street is the statewide program out of Main Street America.

In 2002, Grinder, John Kinnaird and Bill Blakeslee came together as volunteers to propose the idea of applying for a Main Street designation to at the time Mayor Martin Burns. The application was approved three years later.

It was in 2017 when Grinder committed to the program full time, "that's when the action really started to happen," according to Grinder. Just in the past five years, over 27 businesses have received facade grants, which totals over half a million dollars in private investment funds from the Department of Community Housing and Development. The grants fund renovations for buildings in the Main Street area. "It's contagious," Grinder says. "Somebody sees someone fixing up their building, and they will think about doing the same."

The popularity of Main Streets has fluctuated since the national program's founding. Main Streets were a significant source of commerce before malls appeared on the scene. Now a large amount of shopping is done online. "There's been a lot of culture changes over the years with the way people shop, and the services they expect," Grinder says. "It's become very difficult for smaller towns to attract any type of retail due to the popularity of online shopping."

But Grinder feels there is a large support group in the community for Thurmont businesses. "We are very fortunate in Thurmont that we have a large pool of local people that truly shop and eat local." Another factor in the businesses' success is the number of services that make up Main Street, according to Grinder, because "more than likely, you won't go online for a service." She also credits the Catocin Mountain Park and Cunningham Falls State Park for attracting tourists to Thurmont. "That's our asset: our outdoor recreation," she says.

There's a lot more to bringing new businesses to town than filling empty storefronts. "They just don't tell someone 'Hey come to town, Thurmont's a great town,'" one of Thurmont Main Street's founders Commissioner Bill Blakeslee says, referring to the Economic Development staff. "They walk them through the pro-

cess of becoming organized and legitimate here in town."

The Main Street program connects people looking to start a business with the Small Business Development Center of Maryland (SBDC). The SBDC offers a variety of free services including matching a business to an SBA lender. Grinder says. "There's more to running your business than hanging out a sign open for business, and we try to assist them along the way because if they don't succeed, we don't succeed."

Thurmont Main Street runs 8 annual events. The Art & Wine Stroll is one of Grinder's favorite events, which she calls the "best party in Northern Frederick County." It is an event where attendees walk through the downtown enjoying art and live music from local artists, eating from food trucks, sampling wine and beer from local wineries and distilleries, and browsing Main Street shops. The Stroll is volunteer-run.

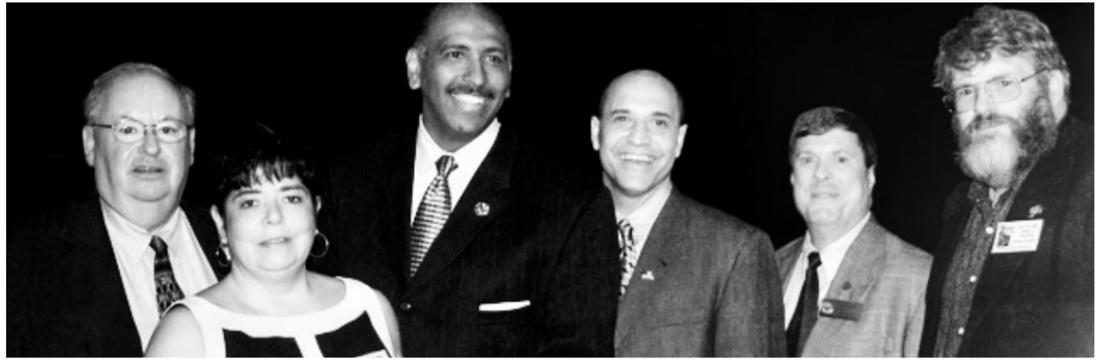
"We have a great core volunteer base of all ages," Grinder notes. She points out that there are times when she's actually declined offers for extra help because there are already enough volunteers. Grinder recognizes one volunteer in particular, Missy Grimes, as an asset in organizing the Art & Wine Stroll.

Grinder considers her favorite aspect of her job to be the camaraderie of the Main Street businesses. "They start out as businesses, then you become acquaintances, and then friendships follow... and well, that's the best part of the job," she says. "They say, if you love what you do you never work a day in your life... and there's probably never been a truer statement said."

Grinder has watched the town and the program transform in the last nine years. Among the notable improvements Grinder points out is the amount of grant funding the program receives today, and making it easier to fill empty storefronts quicker. She also notes the change in the town's appearance. "Our picturesque Main Street is nestled at the foothill of the Catocin Mountains, and there's nothing more beautiful than coming up East Main Street and looking at those mountains right there in front of you." But Grinder feels the program has "enhanced" its beauty, she says. "Thurmont is, at heart, still a small town that is trying to aesthetically preserve the core of what a Main Street should be."

Looking back, is there anything Grinder would have done differently in the program? "No," Grinder laughs at the question. "We were in uncharted waters then and now we're really in uncharted waters today because everyday's new and exciting."

Grinder feels that the arrival of new businesses this year like 10Tavern, and Studio 24E, a retail estab-



Bill Blakeslee, Vickie Grinder, & John Kinnaird receive their Maryland Main Street Designation in 2005 from Lt. Governor Michael Steele.



Eighteen years later these three volunteers are Commissioner Bill Blakeslee, Economic Development Manager Vickie Grinder, & Mayor John Kinnaird.

lishment, will change the landscape for the future of Main Street businesses to come. Blakeslee's vision for Thurmont involves filling the vacant storefronts in the Thurmont Plaza Shopping Center, where CVS

is located, with thriving businesses.

"It's amazing that 20 years have passed, and John's the mayor now and I'm a commissioner again, and Vickie's the Economic Development Director," Blakeslee says. "So, it's won-

derful that we're all there to support Vickie and work towards the same goals as far as the businesses in town go, and that's what our aim was 20 years ago when starting our journey, and here we are. We're still here."

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HISTORY

Reminiscing with Bill Meredith

McKenna Snow
MSMU Class of 2023

Continued from last month

When Bill Meredith, his wife Betty-Jean and their child moved to Emmitsburg, Maryland in 1957 for Bill to teach science courses at Mount St. Mary's University, it wasn't yet known to them how many stories Bill would have to tell about their time there—and their time spent traveling out west as Bill got his doctorate! Thanks to Bill giving a full interview with the News-Journal staff this summer, all of Emmitsburg has the privilege of hearing the treasury of stories Bill collected during his 41 years at the Mount.

Once Bill accepted the position as a science professor at the Mount, he and his family moved to a faculty house. Bill explained that there used to be six houses for faculty to live close to the Mount, but now there is only one. Bill and his family lived in one of the two-bedroom houses for the first three years of his career. "We could walk across the road to school," Bill said.

At first, getting students to participate in class was a challenge. "I started teaching science, and nobody was interested in it," Bill said, laughing. Bill explained that the previous science professor hadn't cultivated much enthusiasm for science in the classroom, and didn't take as much time for the students. When Bill came, he got to know the students. "They would come down to the house sometimes, and visit to see my wife and see the baby," he said.

"They weren't interested in science, and after the first month of

school I was really having trouble keeping them interested—I mean they were polite, but they just obviously weren't interested," Bill said. But then, something happened that changed everything.

"When the Russian spaceship went up—Sputnik—the first spaceship, the United States panicked," Bill said. Suddenly, "there was a demand for people who knew science, and demand for science teachers, and demand for students who majored in science. And all at once, things changed. From then on, enrollment went up in terms of majors, and the students who wanted to learn something about it who weren't majors were required to take a science course of something, and that's what they took." Bill was able to teach science full-time due to the demand—except for one year, when a slight interlude of teaching occurred.

It was the third year into teaching. "I was beginning to see that things were starting to change at the Mount, the new faculty were getting better educated. And I thought, 'I'd better get a doctorate,'" Bill recalled. "So I got a grant from the National Science Foundation to go to the University of Colorado for six weeks, to study mountain ecology." By that year, Bill and Betty-Jean had had their second baby, a son. The family of four drove off to Colorado. Similar to their journey to the Mount, Bill explained that it was hot, and their car wasn't air conditioned.

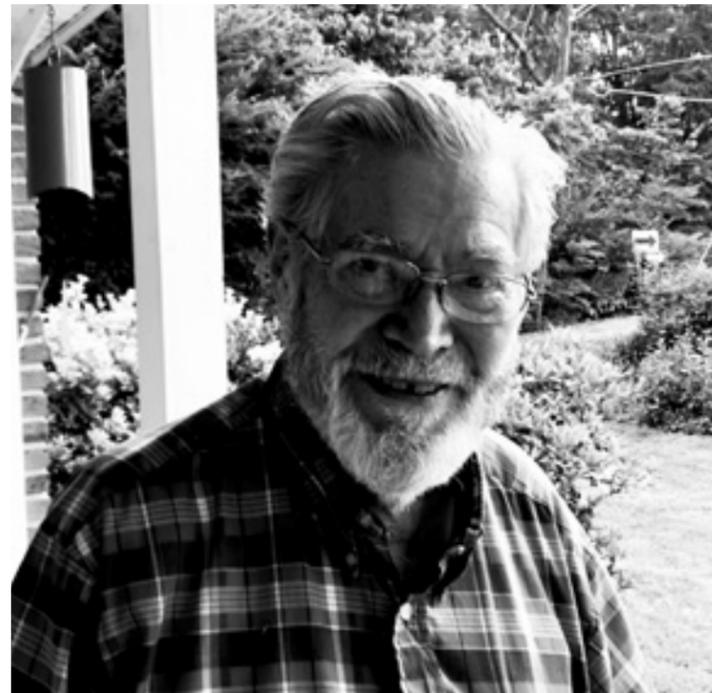
"It was funny, because there weren't seatbelts then," Bill said. "So, in the front of the back seat, I built two boxes, one for each side... filled that with clothes and books and whatever else we needed

for the baby, and we put blankets on top, and the little girl sat back there and looked out the window, and the little boy sat back there and went to sleep. And that's the way we went to Colorado." With no seat belts, the children would stand up, and look out the windows.

"Once we got there, that was just a different world. It was a nationally-known university, much higher level than West Virginia University where I got my Master's degree. And I was with a class of 40 people—all college teachers—and some of them were in their fifties, most of them in their forties and thirties, and I was twenty-six," he recalled, laughing. "And we went all over the mountains there. We would have field trips and we would have two special lectures every day each week." Bill explained that he learned so much, got to know so many people, and then shortly after, the program was over and the family started back home.

"A funny thing happened when we started home," Bill continued. They began driving east early in the morning. "[We] drove till noon, and I looked at the gas tank and it was still full. 'Something must be broken there,'" he said. "So I stopped at a filling station. And it only took a gallon of gas, and we had come over almost fifty miles. A car in those days got maybe twenty miles to the gallon, if you're lucky. But what was going on was, we were going downhill. We were coming down the Rocky Mountains," he explained. The downhill-trip home was certainly one to remember.

Once the family returned to the Mount, Bill received another grant to study genetics at the



University of North Carolina. "That was the same thing," Bill said. "People of all ages, I was the youngest one there." Many genetics professors were there to study the updated science on genetics, since only four or five years before, DNA was more fully understood.

"So everything was chemistry now, in genetics," Bill said. "So the genetics they had been teaching didn't fit anymore. That was a great thing for my education, knowing all those people. Friends stayed in touch for a long time after we left there." Upon returning to the Mount, Bill received a third grant, to go to Arizona to study desert biology for six weeks.

"The Cold War was on, and they wanted teachers to know everything," Bill explained. "And that was just great; field trips two or three times a week. We'd be out in the sun, and it was hot—and everybody was used to it." By that time, they had gotten a new car, but Bill said it wasn't air-conditioned either. When the family got to Arizona, they went into the hotel. Within an hour, the baby's toys had melted in the car in the parking lot of the hotel!

"And it was like that all the

time in Arizona," Bill said. "You got used to it after a week, and it didn't bother me anyway, because I had grown up working in the hayfield when it was in the 90's when you're pitching hay."

Returning to the Mount after this third trip, Bill still needed to complete his doctorate. Upon realizing this, he explained to the Department head that he might not be able to return to the Mount.

"I said, I'm afraid I'm gonna have to leave the Mount, because I'm gonna have to get a job somewhere where I can go to school while I'm working." The department head, a priest, responded, "Let me check on something."

Bill continued, "And he called me back in the next day, and he said, 'If you will agree to stay at the Mount for five years after you get the degree, we will pay for a year down there.'"

Though the original agreement was five years, Bill's 41-year career at the Mount means there is clearly more to the story—so stay tuned for part three!

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



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Of fall and passing



Bill Meredith

Editor's Note: We had such a great response to running Bill's retired Ecologist Column article "Will Rill" that we thought it would be fitting to run one related to fall. This was originally published in 2001.

The most newsworthy event to report may be that fall has come. In ordinary times this would not be news, especially when the season is already half gone, but these are not ordinary times. The perky young announcers on local TV stations, who ordinarily would be gushing about fall colors and reminding us to set our clocks back, have been busy trying to project an image of gravitas as they breathlessly repeat "breaking news" that CNN announced several hours earlier. Meanwhile, the country's collective attention has been directed toward anthrax spores rather than the passing of another season in our lives. No one seems to have noticed fall.

My wife is somewhat typical of the majority of our citizenry; she has been mesmerized by the little band of headlines that runs across the bottom of the TV screen. However, she did manage to tear herself away long enough to join me on the porch one day shortly after we had the first hard frost of the season. There she was the first to notice an ancient Daddy Longlegs as it crept out of the wilted remains of a potted plant and hobbled across the floor. Three of its eight legs were missing, and a fourth was crumpled and useless; whether it was the victim of an accident or a birth defect was impossible to tell. When I picked it up I could see several bright red parasitic mites clinging to its body, sucking blood like miniature leeches. I set it down and it limped to the edge of the porch, tumbled into the remains of the flowerbed, and disappeared.

Arachnid locomotion is not one of my wife's fields of expertise, but she could tell something was seriously wrong with it. More

from the emotion of the moment than from analytical thinking, she asked, "Will it die?" And, more from the certainty of general principles than from the particulars of this individual case, I replied, simply, "Yes."

Simple things can be profound, as Robert Fulghum reminded us. One of the "things he learned in kindergarten" was that the goldfish in the aquarium, the hamster in the cage on the table, and the geranium in the styrofoam cup on the windowsill all will die; and so will we. The only difference is that the goldfish, the hamster, the geranium and the Daddy Longlegs are not aware of it.

When I was a child we did not have antibiotics or vaccines for flu and polio, and funerals were a common experience; I learned that people die before I learned to read. But times changed. When my father was born, the average life expectancy in this country was less than 60 years; when he died at age 87, the average had risen to 74, and it is now nearly 77. Backed by the success of modern medicine and nutri-

tion, the advertising industry has convinced modern Americans that Fulghum was wrong, and when someone dies it is either some sort of cosmic mistake or a failure on someone's part. Most adults have become like teenagers with their first experience at drinking and driving; it couldn't happen to them. This is one reason the anthrax scare has terrorized the country so completely. It reminds us that we are not immortal.

Being aware of one's mortality is probably a component of mental health on an individual scale, but when a whole nation starts dwelling on it obsessively, it isn't healthy. At one extreme, something like mass paranoia results—witness the recent surge in sales of gas masks, and the rush across the border to Mexico to buy cheap antibiotics. At the other extreme people are paralyzed by pessimism. One can only hope that the mass of our populace will come to their senses and settle somewhere between these extremes, reminded of their mortality and resolved to live fuller lives as a result.

The Daddy Longlegs is surely dead by now; even if it'd had a full complement of legs and been free of parasites, the season was

over and its life expectancy was expended. But somewhere in the leaf litter under the boxwood by the porch are masses of eggs that will carry its genes on to a new generation of Longlegs next spring. Nature looks forward, not back; so I will too. Considering the drought we've been through, this fall's colors have been sufficient to add a lot to the enjoyment of my weekly rounds of golf; and while I have spent the

past weeks cleaning and mulching the flowerbeds for next spring's bloom, my wife has been canning quarts of apples to add to the supply in the basement. There will be apple pie for Christmas; winter will pass, and spring will come. Mortality is what you make of it.

To read other articles by Bill Meredith visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

October 5

Fall Holds Sway, Trees Coloring

Cool temperatures, falling leaves, and fading flowers still remain the principal sign of the times. These are Fall days for fair and the passing of Summer has now become an established fact. No killing frost has as yet played havoc with vegetation and ice has not as yet formed on the surface of the County streams.

The weather has not been wintry to date, but there is a touch of Winter in the morning air. There have also been light frosts here and there in the County, but they have so far done no damage. The temperature prevailing during the past two days have been uniform. The high on both Tuesday and Wednesday was 71, while the minimum Wednesday was 44 and 1° warmer than on Tuesday.

September brought with it many variances in temperatures. The highest marks reach what is 95° on the third and the lowest was 40° which was registered on the 16th and 17th. There was said to have been frost in the County on the latter day.

Last year the highest mark reached by the mercury was 90° and this was registered no less than four times during that month. In 1921, September had a maximum temperature of 93° and the official thermometer rose to 90° three times.

September 1923 put it all over the same month in the preceding year in the matter of precipitation. The month just passed was very moist, no less than 3.53 inches of rain falling, while in 1922 there was only 2.51 inches. Normally, precipitation for September is said to be about 3.35 inches. There was rainfall on 16 days during September. The heaviest in 24 hours was 1.19 inches on the 21st, and the second heaviest on the sixth was .69 of an inch.

There were thunderstorms on September 3, 7, 12 and 29th and lightning and a shower on the 23rd. The entire month was characterized by heavy dews. September had 20 clear evenings, three partly cloudy, six cloudy and one stormy.

Many Thrilled As Big

Dirigible Sales Through Air

Her huge white hulk glistening in the rays of a faultless Autumn sun, the giant dirigible of the American Navy, the Shenandoah, glided majestically over Frederick County this week.

Emerging from the blue background of the sky enveloping the northern mountains, the leviathan of the air pointed her nose southward and following the Catocin Hills slid peacefully through the air.

Hundreds of Frederick County people, gazed in awe as the huge craft sailed in state through the air. Her tremendous white bulk glistening in the sun light and flying scarcely higher than the mountaintops, the airship was plainly visible to everyone in the County.

Many people, learning the giant dirigible was sailing over a portion of the County near them, sought a vantage point from which to view the spectacle. So clear was the atmosphere that a times puffs of smoke from the exhaust were visible, even at great distance.

The dirigible sailed over the western edge of Emmitsburg, then followed a route that took it over Thurmont, Woodsboro and eventually Libertytown At which point it turn west and headed down to the Shenandoah valley to its final destination, Richmond Virginia.

Emmitsburg Boy Freed By Court

Indicted for illegally selling and dispensing liquor, Rudy Warthen, 21 years old, of Emmitsburg, made a very narrow escape from conviction. The fact that he had a previous good record, and the view taken by the court that there was no criminal intent on his part, was responsible for getting him out of an otherwise tight place.

Donald Knott, 16 years old, said that Worthan gave him a drink of whiskey on the night of September 3. It develop that Knott had been in the habit of drinking and his testimony did not favorably impressed the court. The judge advised Knott to stop drinking before he got into serious trouble.

Warthen testified that while walking along the road near the college

he was approached by a stranger, who looked like a bum, who asked him for some money. Upon being refused, the stranger offered to sell him a pint of whiskey for one dollar. After paying the price and receiving the liquor he hid it along the road. Later, when he met Knott, the two drank the whiskey.

Some days afterwards he found a \$.50 piece in his pocket and I thought occurred to him that Knott had placed the money in his hip pocket. The next time he saw Knott he returned the money to him. Warthe testified that he was not in the habit of drinking or dispensing liquor and two well-known citizens of Emmitsburg gave him a very good name. It was also brought out that he worked regularly at his trade and never before had been arrested, which sat favorably with the court.

School Building Erected

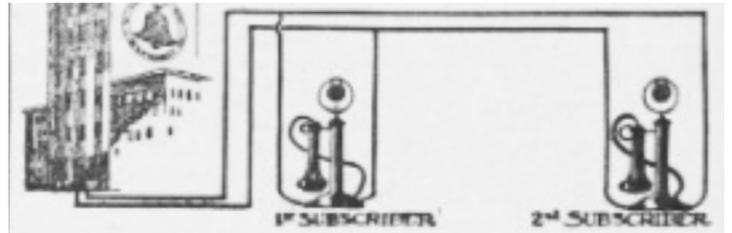
The portable school building being erected in Thurmont is being pushed along rapidly. The roof was finished last Saturday. Carpenters are in now busy on the inside work. The front of the structure is in line with the east front of the main building and it is almost entirely of glass.

October 12

Moravian Church At Graceham Celebrates 165 Years

On Sunday, October 7, the Moravian church at Graceham, celebrated its 165th anniversary. The highlight of the event was the Love Feast at which the anniversary sermon was preached by the Pastor Samuel Redman.

For the benefit of those who are not acquainted with a custom of the Moravians, a word of explanation is given about the Love Feast. Love Feasts originated in a gathering of the Christians after Pentecost. Believers met to break bread together. This fulfilled a double purpose. It united the believers as a family, signifying their unity and equality in the sight of the Lord. It also reminded them of the last meal of their Lord, when he ate with his disciples. These meals of the church family were associated with



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If you are on a party line and desire to be considerate of the other person on the line, we would suggest that you eliminate as far as possible lengthy telephone conversations. They are annoying not only to your neighbor, but also to persons desiring to reach him, and sometimes may result in delays of serious consequence.

When you pick up the receiver on a party line and find another person talking, the courteous thing to do is to replace the receiver as quietly as possible and wait a reasonable length of time before trying again to use the line.

The observance of these suggestions by party line users will result in better telephone service and better feeling between those on the same line.

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the Lord's Supper, and so generally are the Love Feasts in the Moravian church. The Love Feast consists of a bun and a cup of coffee, which is distributed while hymns are song, and eaten during the singing by the choir.

The Sunday was the 165th anniversary of the organization of the congregation. The work of the church however dates back to the year 1745 when John Henzer was sent as a schoolteacher and lay reader, upon the invitation of the residence of the locality. He labored faithfully until 1756 the first organized minister, George Neike, was

sent from Bethlehem PA., the center of the Moravian activity in the United States, then as now.

The work in those early days was carried on in conjunction with the Lutherans and Reformed Churches, later a disruption occurred, separating the denominations. The Brethren were obligated to find another place of worship. For a time they held services in the home of Jakob Welley, but soon, Daniel Delaney gave them 10 acres of land from his estate for the site of a church and a schoolhouse.

In 1753, the congregation was

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

organized, and a permanent minister appointed. In 1772, the ground was staked off for a new church building, which was dedicated on October 16, 1773. (A log building had previously been used since 1749.)

Almost half a century later, in 1822, the second building was removed, and a new brick structure was begun. The church is joining to the parsonage, also a brick building, which was erected in 1797. The parsonage is there for 126 years old and the church just over a century. At the present time plans are underway for the renovating of the church and parsonage. The congregation plans to spend between 1,200 and \$1,500 for the work.

Auto Misses Bridge

Late Thursday night, as a carload of colored folks were returning from the Hagerstown Fair, the driver failed to make the turn at the approach to the covered bridge over the Monocacy, at Bridgeport, and went over the embankment throwing the six occupants out, some of them into the water. Five of them were more or less seriously hurt.

The car, a big Packard, must have been running at a high speed, and the curved approach to the bridge was seen too late to avoid. As indicating the high rate of speed at which the car must have been running, it appears to have made a clear jump of about 36 feet from the bridge wall before it touched the ground, were it turned over and made another plunge of the same distance into the bed of the stream where it now sits, upside down, a complete wreck.

This is a dangerous spot on the road, especially at night, and to a driver unacquainted with the situation. This old one-way bridge — one of the few covered bridges yet remaining on modern roads, rest on high foundation walls, and is approached on a curve at each end. It is one of the many bridges that needs replacement by an open, wide structure with guardrails.

Struck By Bicycle And Killed

William Roberts, 56, of Taneytown, was fatally injured when he was struck and knocked to the ground by a bicycle written by Charlie Booker, 17, Thursday evening.

Roberts was walking along the left side of the road on the Baltimore Pike near his home on Hamilton Ave., and Booker was riding

on the right side. It being dark and Booker's bicycle not being equipped with a light or a bell, neither Robert nor Booker saw the other coming.

The bicycle struck Roberts in the stomach and the force of the impact throw Roberts back on his head with such force that he suffered a concussion of the brain. Shortly afterwards William Albaugh, who was returning to his home, past and saw Roberts lying by the roadside with his head in Bookers arms. Mr. Albaugh, together with Booker, placed the injured man in his machine and rushed him to Frederick City Hospital, where he died an hour later.

Democrats Rally In Emmitsburg

The Woman's Democratic Club of Emmitsburg, Mrs. Andrew Annan, President, met at the Hotel Slagle Saturday night. It was a large and enthusiastic gathering. Democratic workers reported the results of Tuesday's registration in Emmitsburg. Of the 25 new voters, 23 declared themselves Democrats, two Republicans.

October 19

The Bridgeport Bridge

The Bridgeport Bridge over the Monocacy, must go. It is no doubt the purpose of the State Road Commission to replace the old covered structure, and that delay has been due to lack of funds, or perhaps because no pressure has been brought to bear on the officials for its removal — at least, not strong enough to cause action to be taken.

That more mishaps like that of last Thursday night have not occurred, has largely been due to pure luck; and perhaps to the fact that many travelers have been acquainted with the situation, and to the further fact that while the road is heavily traveled, most of it is in daylight.

The old tunnel like structure, always a back number and always a danger spot, should have been torn down when the state road was built, as conditions have materially added to the dangers of the bridge since auto travel has increased so greatly.

Accidents have occurred at this old bridge many times in its long history, Sometimes connected with floods, sometimes not. It is also true that under the old plan a bridge, joint between Frederick in Carroll Counties have been built at other points, not half so important as at Bridgeport. It is perhaps just as well

that there is no modern structure there, because at some point, one-way bridges are no longer sufficient. Had this bridge been located in Pennsylvania, instead of Maryland, it would likely have disappeared long before this.

\$600 In Loot Taken From Store

Merchandise, to the value of about \$600, was taken from the general store of Frank Frailey, near Thurmont, late Monday night, by thieves, who drove up to the store presumably during the early morning hours, forced an entrance, and secured quantities of sweaters, sheets, shirts, aluminum ware, groceries and numerous other articles. The thieves covered their tracks so well that no trace of them has yet been discovered.

The robbery was not discovered until Mr. Frailey opened the store on Tuesday morning. Everything was torn up, shoeboxes were scattered all over the floor, and the thieves completely turned everything topsy-turvy. Sheriff Jones has called and made an investigation, which did not, however, result in clues. Marks where the thieves had driven their automobile to the door were playing the evident.

Rider Thrown 16 Feet

In Accident

And unusual accident, in which a rider was severely bruised and a horse was so badly injured that it had to be killed, occurred late Saturday night at the new concrete bridge over Willoughby Run on the Gettysburg-Fairfield Road.

Daniel Cool was returning from Gettysburg to his farm about midnight on horseback. He was riding at the side of a buggy in which some companions were driving. As they approach the Willoughby Run Bridge at a rather rapid pace, Cool began to rain in his animal so as to allow the buggy to reach the bridge first. In his effort to check the gate of the animal, it bolted, becoming unmanageable, and ran with great force into the concrete wing wall of the bridge.

Cool was thrown a distance of about 16 feet by the impact, while the horse rebounded in the opposite direction. The rider suffered numerous bruises about the body, but fortunately escaped without serious

injury. After the accident, the horse was unable to arise, having apparently suffered some injury to his spine. Later in the night, it was shot

October 26

Civil war veteran dies

Joseph Spangler, an aged and highly respected citizen of Harney, and a veteran of the Civil War, died at his home on Monday morning. Mr. Spangler had been seriously ill sometime ago, from a complication of diseases, but had apparently recovered and was able to get out and about, and seem to be as well as usual. A little more than a week ago he was again taking seriously ill, and in his weakened condition was unable to stand the attack. Following the funeral he was buried in the Mountain View Cemetery, near Harney. He leaves a wife and 10 children. Thus we note the passing away of another old Civil War veteran, to be missed by his few remaining comrades.

5,000 Make Pilgrimage To Saint Anthony's

Between 4,000 and 5,000 members of the Holy Name Society from Baltimore, Washington, Frederick, Hagerstown, Westminster, Gettysburg, Taneytown and other places made a pilgrimage to Saint Anthony's Shrine, near Emmitsburg, last Sunday, mostly by automobile. Streams of cars passed through adjoining towns nearly all day, up to the middle of the afternoon.

Arriving at the Shrine, the members moved in a body to the lawn in front of the rectory where an altar had been erected. At an open air service, the pledge of the Society was taken in a number of new members were received in the Society

A sermon was then preached by Reverend Edward Hughes, with the right Reverend Monsignor Bradley, President of Mount Saint Mary's College, co-celebrant. The choir of Saint Mary seminary, composed of about 300 voices, sang the Holy Name hymn.

At the conclusion of the religious exercise, members visited Mount St. Mary's College, Saint Joseph's College, and the grave of Mother Seton and other points of interest.

Cold Weather Arrives

There was another big drop in the temperature Tuesday from a high of 71° around noon. It fell by 11° by 6 o'clock, induced by the rain which began to fall around 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

With the continuation of this rain, the liquid fell 20 more degrees overnight, being caught at the 41° mark. If the drop in temperature was brought on by the rain, it was not hard to understand why there was such a big drop, for the raindrops amounted to .7 of an inch in that time.

The weather has been checked ever since the reaction from the annual October dry spell set in last Tuesday. All the dry weather of the first half of this month almost reach the proportions of a drought, it has since not only rained enough to make up for any last time, but also enough for the total rain for this October to far surpass that of last year.

A heavy frost is predicted for tonight. While there have, of course, been several heavy frost this fall, we have escaped a 'black' frost, as the temperature has not been lower than 30° this month. The temperature must go down to 29 or 30 before there is a killing frost. The nights of this October have been warmer than those of last October, yet the days during this month have been colder.

Special Services At Saint Mary's Fairfield

Special mission services, which will continue throughout the coming week, were inaugurated Sunday morning at Saint Mary's Church, Fairfield, with the Reverend Joseph Schmidt in charge of the exercises.

Father Schmidt is described as a forceful and convincing orator and draws large crowds wherever he laborers. The Fairfield church was crowded to capacity at all services Sunday. During the coming week of services, mass will be held at 6 and 8 o'clock with evening services at 7:30. The formal close of the Mission will take place on Sunday.

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

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AND ALL OUR YESTERDAYS: A CHRONICLE OF FREDERICK COUNTY

Submitted by John Ashbury

October 5

Each day we hear about accidents, particularly those which cause traffic jams. Many people listen to radio and TV news for word on accidents they witnessed.

Much as in today's newspapers, accidents were reported by the press in earlier days of our local history. Seems people were as interested then as we are today in what befalls others.

The Frederick News reported on October 5, 1893, that two young men riding a spring wagon on East Patrick Street had escaped injury when their horse bolted.

William Kolb and a friend, identified only as "Smith," were bringing two hogs to town. Near the fairgrounds the horse "shied over an embankment," throwing the two men - and the hogs - to the ground. The frightened animal then ran up Patrick Street.

At Carter Street, which no longer exists, the horse took to the sidewalk, first striking the steps of the W. D. Bowers Lumber Company. It next hit the porch of Mrs. William Retch's home. After this collision the horse was dragging only the running gears of the wagon. At Market Street the horse was stopped.

The two men were only slightly injured, but - as the newspaper

reported - "the wagon was badly demolished."

The next day The News reported another runaway. This one occurred on West South Street. Adam Notnagle was driving some cattle and had stopped his "no-top buggy."

Some neighborhood boys began playing near the cattle and caused them to bump into the horse. This frightened the animal, which immediately bolted, turning the buggy over. The horse took off down South Street to Broadway, hitting porches and trees with the dragging harness. It was finally stopped at John F. Stein's barn near Mount Olivet Cemetery.

October 12

In taking note of his death on October 12, 1864, the New York Times said that Roger Brooke Taney would forever be "associated with the famous decision in the case of Dred Scott, which has gained special prominence from its bearings on some of the most important political issues of the age."

Taney, who died at the age of 87, had been a Frederick resident from 1801 to 1823. Even though he will be chiefly remembered for writing the majority opinion in the Dred Scott case, which held that slaves were not citizens, he abhorred slavery and had, in fact, freed all his own

slaves long before he moved to Baltimore in 1823.

During the last several years of his life, Taney was in failing health and infrequently made public appearances except for those of the Supreme Court itself. Many years before his death he had asked a Frederick friend to be certain that, when he died, he be buried beside his mother, Monica Taney, in the St. John's Cemetery on East Third Street.

His remains were brought to Frederick on October 15 by a special train from Washington, arriving just before 11 A.M. Many government dignitaries accompanied the body.

From the station on South Market Street, the body was taken to St. John The Evangelist Catholic Church, followed in solemn procession by the Frederick County Bar and a large number of friends and relatives.

At 11:30 a.m., a Requiem Mass was celebrated, with the funeral sermon being preached by Father Maguire, of Washington. Afterwards there was another solemn procession to the graveyard where the rector of St. John's conducted the burial service.

Despite the fact that he personally opposed slavery, there are those today who still lay the blame for the Civil War at his feet.

October 19

When Charles Lord Cornwallis surrendered his forces at Yorktown, on October 19, 1781, bringing to a close the fighting of the Revolutionary War on American soil, there were several hundred Germans among



Thomas Johnson

them. These prisoners consisted of two Hessian and two South German regiments.

They traveled to Frederick Town - arriving on January 31, 1782 - and were housed in the barracks on Cannon Hill, built in 1777 by order of the State Assembly, and in 100 huts constructed by other British prisoners of war captured earlier.

These German soldiers were loosely guarded and even allowed to work for area farmers. Some deserted and purchased their own land, even marrying local women.

In September 1782 Congress ordered all the prisoners who were working on area farms to report to Frederick Town, where they were permitted to "ransom" themselves with the payment of 80 Spanish dollars. Those who were able to do so had the money paid by German kinsmen or friends, mostly through loans.

One of the barracks which housed these prisoners still stands

on the grounds of the Maryland School for The Deaf on South Market Street between South Street and Clarke Place.

October 26

He was a member of the Continental Congress, the first governor of Maryland, and an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Yet Thomas Johnson once said that George Washington's friendship was his most cherished accomplishment.

When he died October 26, 1819, at Rose Hill Manor, the home of his daughter, he was 87. He was a native of Calvert County and early demonstrated a unique ability in politics.

The Frederick Town Herald said in acknowledging his passing: "Mr. Johnson was among the first in the Union to assert the just claims of his country against the tyranny and oppression of Great Britain, and was early in life honored with the most important and arduous trusts which his countrymen could confer. He was the first governor of the state after the Declaration of Independence, and successively enjoyed without solicitation every honor which his native state could bestow, until the executive council of the Union selected him to fill a seat in the supreme judicature of the nation, a station which his ill health obliged him to relinquish after a very short tenure.

"Since that period he retired himself entirely into the bosom of his family and the society of his nearest connection. His deeds are inscribed in the imperishable archives of his county; his wisdom, impartially and integrity in the records of justice; his worth and virtues are preserved in the hearts of his countrymen; his kindness, affection and friendship in the memory of his family, relatives and friends; his trust for immortality rested in his Savior and God. Washington Was His Friend - Eulogium can add no more."

One of his last public appearances was to deliver an eulogy for his friend Washington at the German Reformed Church on February 22, 1800.

He was buried in the cemetery of All Saints Episcopal Church on East All Saints Street and was later moved to Mount Olivet Cemetery.

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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

The Rainbow Roller Rink

David Buie

Nestled along the serene banks of the Big Pipe Creek, Big Pipe Creek Park was once a haven for local residents and visitors. In 1936, the ambitious George and Marlin Shriver embarked on an endeavor that would forever change the landscape of this rural retreat, constructing a 28-acre private park that promised respite, recreation, and entertainment.

Historically, the park's lush greenery and tranquil waters offered a perfect backdrop for a myriad of recreational activities, making it a beloved destination for generations. Swimming, boating, and fishing became commonplace here, as did family reunions, dancing, and picnics under the warm summer sun. Located conveniently between Taneytown and Westminster, along the Old Taneytown Road, it was easily accessible to residents of the surrounding rural areas.

The Shrivens had grand aspirations for their park, envisioning it as a high-end summer resort. In 1939, they took significant steps towards realizing this dream. Plans were set to construct a two-story brick building near the state highway. This building, equipped with an office, restaurant, and caretaker's residence, became the cornerstone of the park's expansion. Attached to it was a clapboard-clad, barrel-roofed structure featuring a gleaming hardwood dance

floor, setting the stage for countless social gatherings and events.

The park's improvements continued. A gas pump catered to passing motorists along the highway, while a small barn was home to a flock of sheep that helped maintain the park's landscape by limiting undergrowth. Bungalows and cabins became available for rent, enticing visitors to stay and savor the park's natural beauty. Plans also included planting a grove of black walnut trees and road enhancements, enhancing the park's aesthetics and accessibility.

In 1939, the Rainbow Restaurant welcomed patrons, quickly followed by the opening of the Rainbow Skating Rink in 1940, a feat that cost \$12,200 at the time (equivalent to \$265,000 today). The skating rink was famous for its live organ music, providing a unique experience for visitors. The Smith family, including John, Edna, and their daughter Mary, managed the rink and restaurant; further solidifying Big Pipe Creek Park as a community hub. By 1945, the barrel-roofed building had transformed into the Rainbow Skating Rink, complete with a bowling alley and restaurant on the lower level. The roller rink even boasted its hockey team, the Tom Cats, in 1949.

Big Pipe Creek Park was not just a local gem. Residents from neighboring towns and, astonishingly, as far as Baltimore, flocked to the Rainbow Skating

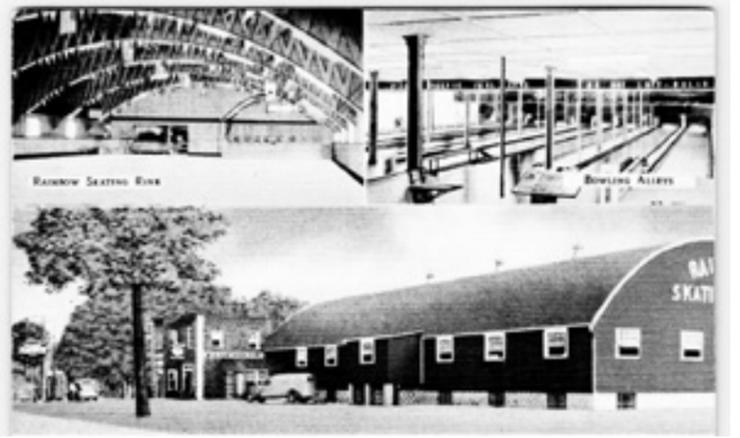
Rink, drawn by the live organ music and the sense of community that thrived within its walls.

However, the park faced its darkest hour in 1972 when Hurricane Agnes unleashed its fury, causing extensive flooding and damage. The Big Pipe Creek cabins were devastated, and the bowling alley beneath the skating rink was submerged. Despite attempts to recover, the park was always different, and in 1975, it closed its doors.

Yet, the spirit of Big Pipe Creek Park endured in a different form. A Baltimore company purchased the rink and transformed it into "Noah's Ark," a dance hall that quickly became the go-to destination in Carroll County for weekend revelry. According to a March 10, 1978, Baltimore Sun article, Noah's Ark welcomed an impressive 200 patrons on opening night, which would soon surge to over 400. Bands from all corners of the country graced its stage, drawing enthusiastic crowds.

The rise of Noah's Ark was not without controversy. Local residents voiced concerns about parking issues, increased traffic accidents, fights, and drug use. The club's reputation took a severe blow on February 8, 1978, when the lifeless body of 17-year-old Timothy Weaver of Westminster was discovered in a nearby field. Weaver and two other teenagers were last seen leaving the dance hall before the tragic incident. The incident prompted the county commissioners to deny the renewal of Noah's Ark's gathering permit, and the Taneytown City Council voted to oppose the hall's reopening.

The dance hall was rebranded as "Showcase" in June 1978, operating as a BYOB Private Club with a membership and admission fee. The dance hall's downfall was aided by two incidents. In November 1978, David Campbell, one of the owners, was charged with assault and battery. Then, in December 1978, a fight involving four men



occurred, leading to the arrest of two individuals. Despite staying open until mid-1979, the dance hall was eventually put up for sale along with the land and building. By August 1980, everything was advertised for sale.

The Shriner repurchased the property and operated as the Rainbow Farm and Home Center. What was once the park now houses the Big Pipe Creek Paint Ball Adventure Park, while the main building and skating rink house Fun Events and an antique car repair business.

In the chronicles of Carroll County's history, Rainbow Skating Rink and its subsequent transformations remain a testament to the enduring power of community and the ever-changing nature of entertainment and leisure. While the park's physical presence may have faded with time, its legacy lingers on in the memories of those who once found joy, laughter, and adventure within its picturesque confines.

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COOKING

Non-pumpkin recipes

Sonya Verlaque

I have a long commute for work and am wholly impressed with people can listen to podcasts and learn things on their drives. I often listen to the same song on over and over again without it feeling repetitive, and then it goes on a hiatus for a while. I think the same could be for the pumpkin spice latte (PSL) of Fall, it can be a regular occurrence and then go on a break until next fall. People may call it “basic,” but sometimes things are popular because they are good.

Fall is my favorite season and I do love a good PSL, but I think you probably have or are able to get plenty of pumpkin recipes. So here are some easy non-pumpkin recipes for the beginning of autumn. And people are usually pretty pleased when you bring some Autumn Bread with caramel as your commuting co-pilot.

Butternut Squash Soup

I suppose this is in the vein of pump-

kin-ing since its also a gourd, but this soup is warm and light if you use fat free milk, and more filling or rich when using whole milk or cream. For thanksgiving one year I served this in prefilled cups for service, so there weren't big bowls on the table and everyone was able to “drink” their soup as a little appetizer.

Ingredients

4 cups butternut squash, peeled and cut into 1 inch cubes
4 cups fat free milk, divided into 1.5c and then 2.5c
¾ cup diced onion
½ cup flour
2 tbs butter
2-3 tsps salt
¼ tsp celery salt
¼ tsp cumin
optional: 1-2 tsps smoked paprika
optional: fresh green onions or parsley

Preparation: Place squash in a large microwave-safe container with a lid. Fill with about 1 inch of water. Place lid on top of con-

tainer, slightly off-set so that one or two corners are uncovered. Microwave on high 3-4 minutes or until squash is very tender. Strainer liquid from container. In a blender or food processor, blend squash with 1 1/2 cups milk until well pureed. Add diced onion, pulse 30 seconds more. Transfer squash and onion puree to a large pot. Add remaining milk, butter, and flour. Cook over medium high heat 5-10 minutes, whisking throughout. Stir in salt, celery salt, cumin, and optional paprika. Garnish with chopped green onions or parsley if desired. Serve warm.

One Skillet Chicken with Green Beans

Ingredients:

1/2 lb. French green beans
1 Tbsp olive oil
1 Tbsp butter
4 boneless skinless chicken thighs thinly sliced
Salt and lemon pepper (to taste)
4 cloves garlic minced
1 tsp onion powder
10 oz. mushrooms
½ cup chicken broth unsalted
½ cup heavy cream (or half-and-half + 1 tablespoon flour for lighter version)
2/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese more for garnish

Preparation: Arrange green beans in a microwave-safe dish with ½ cup (125ml) water. Cook in the microwave for 8-10 minutes, until almost done but still crisp. In a large skillet, add olive oil and butter to the pan and heat it over medium high heat. When the pan is hot, add sliced chicken, season it with salt and lemon pepper



right in the pan, and cook for about 4 minutes on each side until chicken slices are slightly browned. Next add garlic, onion powder, precooked beans and mushrooms. Cook for 4 to 5 minutes, stirring regularly, until cooked to your liking. Add chicken broth and heavy cream and reduce the sauce for a couple of minutes, until slightly thickened. Next add parmesan cheese into the pan. Stir until cheese is incorporated with the sauce. Taste and season with more salt and pepper. Serve warm and garnish with extra cheese, if desired.

Autumn Pear Bread

You can also make this with all the apples you pick this fall, just substitute them for the pears and add 1 tsp of cinnamon, because: apples and cinnamon.

Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup sugar

1 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp salt
1/8 tsp ground nutmeg
1/2 cup cold butter
2 large eggs, room temperature
1/4 cup buttermilk
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 cup finely chopped peeled ripe pears

Preparation: In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt and nutmeg; cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Combine the eggs, buttermilk and vanilla; stir into the flour mixture just until moistened. Fold in pears. Spoon into 2 greased 5-3/4x3x2-in. loaf pans. Bake at 350° for 35-40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks to cool completely.

Caramel Icing Glaze for your Autumn Bread

You have to make this with attention or the sugar can burn. Put the kids on tablets and don't walk away from the stove. The longer this cools the thicker and stickier it becomes, so pour it when your bread is cooled completely and when the glaze has cooled down some so it doesn't just slide off. If you do cool it too long, just put it back on the burner to re-warm slowly.

Ingredients

1½ sticks butter ¾ cup
1 cup brown sugar packed
packed
½ cup milk
2 tsps vanilla extract

Preparation: Melt butter in a medium saucepan over medium-low heat. Add the brown sugar to the melted butter and cook, stirring constantly, for 1 minute (be sure the butter and sugar are completely combined and you can't see any separated butter in the mixture). Bring to a boil over medium heat. Continue cooking, stirring, for 2 minutes. Add the milk and vanilla. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Continue cooking, stirring, for 3 minutes. Remove from heat and set aside to cool for use

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A 6-pound hole!

Mary Angel

Life has many ups and downs and some sharp turns as well, but no matter what it is an amazing ride! This past month has been a bit of a whirlwind for my family. We are trying to look on the bright side, but it is a bit too grey to see the light some days.

Thirteen years ago, this coming Thanksgiving (ballpark), a tiny little kitten showed up on our doorstep. We weren't sure if she had been abandoned or just found us and was a barn cat from across the field. In any case she loved coming to our door. I suppose the fact that I ran out and purchased cat food for her was probably not the best way to deter her visits. A very short amount of time passed when I started hinting to my husband how nice it would be to have a cat again.

Eventually, I convinced my dog-loving husband that if she was going to be roaming around our property, I wanted to have her seen by the vet and vaccinated. He agreed, as long as she didn't come into the house. Fast forward a few months and I suggested we get her spayed, so we didn't have kittens everywhere. He was once again all for that, "As long as she doesn't come in the house". When I went to pick her up after the surgery, they encouraged me to keep her calm and comfortable for a few days. She has been in the house ever since.

It wasn't long and my husband suggested if she was sticking around she would need a name. One of the kids, I do not recall which one, suggested Rudy after a family viewing of the Cosby Show. That was all it took, the name

stuck. When she was being particularly difficult, her name would be lengthened to Rudy Huxtable.

Although Rudy has been a mix of an inside cat and an outside cat, she definitely preferred to be outside as much as possible. She was also an amazing 'mouser.' There were not too many days, when she was young, that we didn't find a "gift" at the front or back door.

In the last year Rudy has definitely enjoyed a few more days in the house sleeping on my bed. She was becoming more particular about the weather she wanted to be out in. Don't misunderstand, she was still the best mouser I have ever had. In actuality, I loved her slowed down pace. Suddenly she would be on my bed every night when my day was over. She was completely content to sit on the arm of my chair and let me pet her for hours. In a word, she was much more lovey! I am not sure the rest of my family would agree, as they referred to her as, "Mom's Cat", but I was loving all the purring!

Fast forward a few more months and I guess Goldilocks had decided my bed was not a good fit, but my youngest daughter's room was "just right". Rudy didn't care if she got the bed or the chair, as long as she was in her room. There were many days I would come home from work and go back to give my daughter a kiss on the head and Rudy would be snuggled up against her helping her with her homework. They loved to sit in the chair and watch White Christmas. Their latest thing was for my daughter to put her fist out and say fist pump and Rudy would head butt her fist. They were inseparable.

In the last month we have all noticed that Rudy has looked a little more disheveled. Her fur has been a bit of a mess, even after she cleaned herself. Then about 3 weeks ago she started eating less and less. When she would go outside it would only be for a few minutes and she stayed close to home. There were very few gifts at the door, and something was beating her up. I called the vet and made an appointment. They were able to come to the house in just a few days. Which was a good thing because in that time she stopped eating.

The day before the appointment we noticed a lump on her jaw which everyone suspected was an abscessed tooth. When they started the exam, the doctor immediately began with, "Oh, my!" The lump on her jaw was extremely hard. Upon further examination that found that it was an extremely fast-growing tumor and had most likely spread to her liver as she had signs of jaundice. Being the strong woman I am I held it together, not! I bawled like a baby. I could not believe we went from not noticing a lump a few weeks prior to this ginormous growth taking her life.

The long and short of the situation was that she was suffering and starving. After making our peace with what was about to happen, we asked the vet to come to the house and euthanize her. My husband and I were there and completely wrecked. Keysville Mobile vet was amazing to say the least. They walked us through every step and gave us all the time we needed. Our youngest daughter had been crying for days, as we all knew she wasn't in good shape. That morning she had texted me from school several times to say she couldn't keep it together.



Rudy and her person.

When it was over, and we were able to compose ourselves enough to drive we went and picked her up from school. She said she had seen on Life 360 that I had left work and gone home, and she just knew why. She got in the car and saw me crying in the side mirror and then we both started bawling again. From her perspective she had lost her best friend. They had become so close over the last few months that they were inseparable. My husband and I tried to comfort her, but the truth is we were all inconsolable. That tiny 6-pound cat left an elephant sized hole in our lives.

A couple days later my husband

was talking about kittens and our daughter said she might be ready someday, but for now she just wanted to remember Rudy. Family pets, whether dogs, guinea pigs, bunnies, or tiny cats are members of the family. Their passing is a great loss and a hard pill to swallow, but the love that they give is completely worth it. When my daughter felt like she didn't fit in and didn't have a friend in the world 6-pounds of bombastic-side-eye kitty made all the difference in the world!

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

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

In researching this month's 100 years ago column, we came across several headlines that caught our attention, so we decided to challenge our writers by asking them to create a fictionalized story around a headline of their choice.

Freshman

The anthem of unity

Gracie Smith
MSMU Class of 2027

I never understood why people enjoy music over the satisfaction of a good book. The very thought of being surrounded by the haunting sounds of old metal being banged against rusty pans made my spine shiver. My eldest sister, Miss Marie Senseney, was responsible for my agony one particular evening.

I struggled to focus on my novel as people were chanting and cheering all around me. I felt my palms begin to perspire in correlation with my rapid heart rate. My eyes struggled to focus on the words in front of me. The people began to shout the lyrics to My Old Kentucky Home, "Weep no more, my lady, oh! Weep no more today! We will sing one song!"

Before I could react, I felt the cool sensation of whiskey brush upon my bare. The gentlemen to my left had had far too many drinks to begin with; I was not surprised that this was the result.

I reached for the nearest cloth, careful to protect my novel, when I felt a soft hand land overtop mine. "Why

aren't you dancing? Don't you like it?" A woman, young and energetic, stood before me. Her smile seemed to radiate enough enthusiasm for the two of us combined. Her blonde braids loosely draped down her back and her blue eyes beamed with excitement saying, "More. More. More."

"I'm Margaret, Margaret Sneijder," she greeted as I snatched the cloth out of her grasp and dried the whiskey off me, purposefully avoiding eye contact—her emotions not impaired by my actions. Her name sounded familiar. I glazed around the room for any hints, and sure enough, it came to me—the coordinator of the event. Marie had mentioned a thing or two about her eagerness for our cooperation with the parent-teacher association here in Emmitsburg.

Parents in the area grew a peculiar interest in their children's education and decided to start an association for the ultimate benefit of the children. Naturally, Marie couldn't refuse.

To my relief, the band ended their song and stepped off the makeshift stage for a quick intermission. I couldn't help but sigh when I saw Marie dart toward me. I tried to sneak away but my attempts were unsuccessful.

"Miss Sneijder, how good to see you," Marie smiled tiredly as she locked arms

with me, "I do hope our playing is what you had hoped for?"

"Hoped for? It's sensational! It's hardly half past 8 o'clock and we've already raised almost thirty whole dollars!" Margaret could hardly contain her excitement between her breaths.

"I see you've become acquainted with my younger sister, Claire." Marie nudged at my side softly. I stood up quickly in response hoping my earlier actions would keep from being the next conversation starter.

Margaret beamed, "This is your sister? I would have never guessed!"

"Yes, Claire was the one who helped recruit some of my bandmates. She isn't too bad herself when it comes to singing," Marie nudged me a bit harder, this time with a grin.

My stomach dropped, "I much prefer to watch" I said with a soft, bashful smile when I really wanted to scream at my sister for such a comment.

"I completely agree," Margaret added, "I was speaking with some members of the organization, and we were hoping to make this an annual event here in Emmitsburg."

My eyes locked on Marie who responded, "I think that would be a wonderful idea! Anything to raise a few extra dollars for the children."

"I do have a couple of people asking for certain songs, do you think you and the others are able?" Margaret asked with a sort of hopefulness in her eyes.

"Of course, what songs?" Marie and Margaret had exchanged a few songs I wasn't familiar with. I took the opportunity to sneak my way out.

I wandered around the small house for what felt like ages and took in the audience; Men and women reunited after the war, children running around with rag dolls, friends catching up on old times. The energy in the room seemed to radiate a theme of unity, togetherness, and family.

I couldn't help but envy them. Their family came back from the war, but mine didn't. Mine got blown up as a human sacrifice that only ended in a battle lost. I watched husbands lock hands with their wives, and children cling to their fathers. My jealousy only fueled my hatred for this evening.

I found a stool in the corner of the room and claimed it quickly. Marie had finally ended her conversation with Margaret and hurried back to the makeshift stage in front of the brick fireplace.

Watching her every move, I prepared for the impact of another song. Instead, her eyes locked with mine and she waved me up on the platform. The

color drained from my already pale face. Before I could stop myself, I began to walk towards her.

"Sing with us," Marie said with a small smile.

The words couldn't come to me, I simply shook my head no. I felt my eyes begin to swell.

No, not here. Marie took my hand and gave me a wooden rolling pin—I mean—microphone. I grasped it so hard I could feel the wood molding to fit my hand.

Knowing I didn't have a choice, I turned to face the audience; the same husbands and wives as before, the same children running around, the same friends telling old tales... and a widow... dressed in all black standing by the open window. Her face matched mine: empty, lonely, desperate. Suddenly all over I could see people without their loved ones: a lonely mother holding her baby in the corner of the room; a husband without his wife standing by the door.

I have been such a fool. For the first time since the war ended, I could see that I was not alone. Everyone had suffered loss, and everyone experienced grief—it insisted on being felt.

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

Sophomore

The journey of the Shenandoah

Devin Owen
MSMU Class of 2026

As the wind blows the recently changing leaves through the cool autumn air, the giant dirigibles of the American navy—known as "The Shenandoah"—glides through the air with ease, towering over Frederick County; the sun shining brightly causing the white hulk to glisten for all to see from below. In a small town near the western edge of this county, called Emmitsburg, residents gathered on the streets, their faces upturned to the sky. Children pointed excitedly, and adults shared stories of the last time they had seen such a marvel. The Shenandoah sailed majestically over the town, casting a shadow that rippled across the town like a gentle breeze. It was a sight that would be etched into the memories of those fortunate enough to witness it for years to come. Among those gathered to see the airship, a young girl aged only fourteen, pushed her way to the front of the crowd with her older sister trailing behind in attempts to catch the teenager before she gets lost. As Raelynn pushed her way through the crowd, she finally made it to the front, getting a good look at the airship soaring through the air. At last, her sister Nikki made her way to the front of the crowd too, finally able to see what the fuss was about.

The girls had been sent out by their mother to gather supplies for their road trip that they were taking that afternoon; their destination being lovely Richmond, Virginia. Their mother, still (somewhat) patiently waiting in the car for her daughters to return, checked

her watch for a third time. Once she finally notices the large crowd forming, the girls' mother decided to push her way through to find her kids and usher them back to the car. After pulling, ushering, and finally begging for her girls to return to the vehicle, they were able to continue their journey forward to their destinations. Snacks and beverages in hand—and laps, mostly—their drive continued.

Raelynn sat in the backseat staring in wonder out the window, following the dirigible as much as she possibly could; allowing herself to be overtaken with discomfort and stiffness in her neck as she decided to lay her head on the window and fall into a slumber, leaving her mother and sister to watch the dirigible through the windows. The dirigible continued its journey, following a precise route that took it over Thurmont, where, as pointed out by Nikki, the townsfolk had assembled with binoculars and cameras in hand, snapping pictures to keep for the years to come. Families picnicked in the nearby parks; their eyes glued to the sky as the Shenandoah passed overhead. The quiet hum of its engines filled the air, creating an almost surreal sense of serenity as it sailed, although that hum couldn't be heard by anyone on land. Woodsboro, too though, was graced by the Shenandoah's presence. The townspeople here as well, watched in wonder as the massive airship carried through the air above them.

Eventually, the Shenandoah approached Libertytown, where the anticipation was at its peak. News of the 'blimp' had been shared from one family to the next, with phones ringing from relatives calls of "Have you seen it?!" or "Look up! It's the Shenandoah in the sky! Look! Look! Look!" At this point, the airship made a graceful turn to the west, heading towards the

Shenandoah Valley and its final destination, Richmond, Virginia. The small family of three was following the same path as the blimp, the girls unaware of the plans their mother held for their arrival in Richmond.

The car ride continued, with the excitement and anticipation enveloping the atmosphere of the vehicle. The daughters were waiting to hear what the point of this long trip was—why would anyone want to be stuck in the car for so long at a time? Their mother, bubbling with joy, was so beyond ready to surprise her daughters with the gift of a lifetime. They made their way towards a private airport, getting oddly closer to the final destination of the dirigible, leading the girls to realize that they are going to get their own personal close up of the airship as it lands. As it landed on the tarmac, a grand welcome awaited the airship. A crowd had gathered at the airship terminal, and a brass band played lively tunes to mark the occasion. The Shenandoah descended gracefully, its massive bulk settling gently on the landing platform. Sailors in crisp uniforms and officers in their finest attire disembarked, greeted by cheers from the crowd. The captain of the Shenandoah, Captain Foraker, stepped off the airship and was met by the mayor of Richmond. They shook hands, and the mayor declared, "Captain Foraker, you and your crew have made history today. The Shenandoah's flight over our great nation is a testament to American ingenuity and progress."

Captain Foraker smiled and replied, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. It's an honor to have been a part of this journey. The Shenandoah and her crew are proud to serve our country." A particular officer though, was patiently waiting to surprise two out of three loves of his life.

Officer Tracy, after waiting an excruciating 19 months, finally gets view of his wife and daughters walking up through the crowd of people. Pure joy and love flowed through the cheers of excitement called out by both Nikki and Raelynn, while their mother followed behind with a smile from ear to ear and tears threatening to leak from her eyes. As they reached their father, the girls leaped into his arms, hugging him as tightly as they could, as if they would never get to hug him again. As

the festivities of reunion continued into the night, Officer Tracy looked up at the starry sky, thinking about this incredible journey. The Shenandoah had brought joy and wonder to the people of Frederick County and beyond, and it had shown them that the sky was no longer the limit; but the real joy for this officer was his return to home, a return to his heart.

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



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REFLECTIONS ON NEWS STORIES FROM 100 YEARS AGO

Junior

The best time of year

Dolores Hans
MSMU Class of 2025

I woke up this morning to a cool breeze coming through the crack in my window and the smell of my neighbor baking spice cake. That's when I knew it was the best time of year! Autumn! Summer was over, and the leaves were changing colors. The faint sound of Mama's humming put a big smile on my face. She always hums in the morning. I raced out of my room knowing Mama was probably reading the newspaper. I wrapped her in a big, warm hug when I saw her. She kissed me on the forehead and started calling me all the nicknames she could think of that had to do with autumn: pumpkin, cutie pie, sweetheart, boo, honey, buddy bear and sugar. I laughed and blissfully walked to the other side of the room to look out the window.

Mama got up and began getting my things ready for school. I waved and made silly faces through the window at Mr. Frank. He was our neighbor.

He always came over to rake our leaves during this time of year. I love autumn because not only did I get to help him rake the leaves, but Mrs. Frank, his wife, always brought us some delicious spice cake. I watched her walk up the sidewalk slowly because she was old. She knocked on our door, and as I ran over to open it and let her in, I could hear the conversation she was having with Mr. Frank. Mr. Frank said he worries about Mama this time of year, and she responded smiling, saying that's why she always brings over something sweet. She entered our house and always pointed out how big I was getting. She calls me "Mama's little man." Mama comes to meet her from the kitchen. As Mrs. Frank hands her the cake, she tells Mama that the cake is left over and she doesn't want it to go to waste, that's why she gives it to us. But I know that she bakes it early in the morning and brings it right over, and only keeps a few slices for herself. She must forget because she is old.

When it's time for me to go to school, Mama goes to work. School is good sometimes, and Mama's work is hard sometimes. She says we all have our respon-

sibilities, but I would rather go to work than school. Although, Mama works in the school, so I guess either way I am stuck here. Mama teaches the little kids art. I think having her as a mom is really cool because she taught me all kinds of things about seeing the beautiful things in the world, even the things that don't seem beautiful at first.

In school, our teacher wanted us to write about the things we love. I started to think about my morning with Mama. I knew immediately what to write about. I loved autumn. I loved it because I liked to spend time outside playing in the leaves. The best part was when Mama lets me wear my jacket with all the patches, that way I never have to choose just one color to wear. It got so many patches over the years that the jacket is like five jackets in one. Also, it's like camouflage when I hide in the leaf piles because the patches of the jacket match the different colors of the leaves. My teachers told me I needed a new jacket, but Mama knows how much I love it, so she never tries to buy a replacement. Nothing can replace my patchy jacket. Mama knows me so well.

I also love autumn because I

get to have "Auntie days" twice a week! If you don't know, Auntie days are when my auntie picks me up at school and she brings me out to dinner. I even get to sleep at her house while my mom goes to her other job. Auntie brings me to school the next morning. When mom sees me at school the day after one of my Auntie days, she always says she is sorry she couldn't be there to have fun with me. I say she is silly since Auntie days are the best because we get to eat out, which Mama and I don't do very often.

Mama and I go out for walks all the time. Usually when she is the busiest, she stops and wraps me in a hug, and then asks if I want to get my jacket and go for a walk. She knows I love the leaves, so she asks me, but sometimes I think she also asks because she needs a break. Mama grabs her little art kit and her journal while I get my patchy jacket and shoes. She buttons my jacket, and we head out on our usual path. Mama starts asking me if I am excited for the holidays coming up.

Thanksgiving is the best because Mr. and Mrs. Frank come over for breakfast before they go to their family's house,

and Auntie comes over with my baby cousin and Uncle John for dinner. Mama lets me help make the potatoes, and Auntie brings the turkey and stuffing. We usually get one of Mrs. Frank's pies when she comes by in the morning.

For Christmas, Mama and I do a gift exchange. We always spend time making a present for each other. I already know what I'm going to do this year. Mama used to tell Auntie about how she craved "James' risotto". I don't know who James is, but apparently, he used to cook whatever risotto is for mama all the time. Auntie says that before I came along, the best part of her night was dancing in the kitchen and eating James' risotto. Now the best part of her night is singing me to sleep. Anyway, I am going to ask Mrs. Frank to give me cooking lessons so that I can make risotto for mama this Christmas. She always makes my days happy; I think I can try to make hers happy too. This really is the best time of the year, all because of my Mama.

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

Senior

My obituary writing career

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

Writing obituaries is a fascinating career. Of course, when I signed up to be a writer, I didn't think that I'd be writing about dead people. I went to college to investigate news stories, to actively interview people and see my articles on the front page. A big headline, bolded and black, followed by my name, in print.

But the thing about being a writer these days in the twenties is that you cannot choose where or what the jobs are. While I wanted to do the top headlines of the week, I was given the task of writing obituaries.

What kind of news is that?

I've found that, time after time, I actually like writing these articles. You know for a fact they are being read, and you also feel like you're making some type of contribution. They're informative but emotional—personal, yet fact-based. Plus, it's good money. A cent a word for some of my articles, but obituaries are more. By just a bit, but still.

But my first obituary—that was something.

Her name was Margaret Mehring. She died in October 1923, just when the leaves were turning. I remember because I had just graduated college, and I had landed this job in the Emmitsburg Paper. My editor told me that I'd begin with an obituary of Margaret Mehring, who had died peacefully in her sleep at age 70. "She's lived here her entire life," my editor said, "Go to town."

With a pat on the back, I was left to my own little desk in the corner of the office. I overlooked the mountains, and October was slowly painting its way through the mountains. Autumn-touched leaves and chilled air. Tonight, the sun would set earlier than it has been.

70. That was old. My editor's words floated around me: She's lived here her entire life. In Bruceville, Maryland of all places. It was an ordinary town, a creek driven through the soil, and the stone-arch bridge over the creek. Woods painted with autumn and road signs and such. It was normal. How could Ms. Margaret Mehring have lived in Bruceville her entire life? I was only 22, a young journalist fresh out of college. I dreamed of travel and writing from all types of countries and cities. I couldn't fathom staying in Maryland forever.

70 was also beyond the life expectancy these days. It was normally in the fifties or sixties, if you were lucky.

Ms. Margaret Mehring was born in 1853. She lived through the Civil War, through the first world war. With just a little research, however, I learned that the last name "Mehring" had a fine reputation in this small town.

Margaret's father, George Mehring, bought a house, stone grist, and sawmill in Bruceville just on the banks of the Big Pipe Creek. The house was called Myrtle Hill; it was big and beautiful and white, with a wraparound porch and swaying trees all around. Mehring was a rich man as well. He wanted the best for his children Frederick, Johanna, and Margaret (called Maggie, back then), but he also built houses for

his workers and located his house near the store, school, and blacksmith shop. Right in the center of the village. However, he died in 1860, when his youngest daughter was just seven years old.

Margaret 'Maggie' Mehring. Already so young and without a father. Her mother wasn't in the picture, at least from my research. Maggie is remembered best for her diary, one she kept during the Civil War while she was at boarding school. Come to find out, the Union troops marched through her town towards Gettysburg in June of 1863. She wrote of her cousin Annie and the movements in her town and how it was a beautiful sight, with the moonlight and the horseman and the flashing clatter of the swords.

An excellent writer and also, later, a teacher. With her sister she taught in the one-room stone school and joined the Women's Christian Temperance Union. She was a "fine lady," and that is all that is remembered of her. A fine lady.

As an obituary writer, I am required to only write facts. I'm also supposed to be as generic as possible. But with an entire life lying before me, especially all confined within one town, I am inclined to know more. She kept the last name Mehring—was there ever a man she loved? Did she write love letters? What about Myrtle Hill? Research and files show that Maggie died there, in the same house her father raised her in. Frederick died nine months before her, and Maggie was keeping the house for him. Did Maggie even like living there? Did she dream about travelling like I do

now, or even about a career? Did she have friends?

But I also know that she was a noble woman, both sincere and accomplished. She was cheerful and had great energy. At least, these are things I'm supposed to write about. The words that, here in the obituary business, we call filler words, because you can put them anywhere in an obituary and someone will relate to them. "Ah, yes, Maggie Mehring was sincere." "Oh, how cheerful she was." "Yes, so accomplished, too."

And suddenly I realized how far away from the truth I was. How far away all obituaries are from the truth. All facts and generalizations and filler words, with no emotion or meaning. I didn't even know Mag-

gie Mehring, so how was I supposed to write a summary of her life? A notice of her death?

It was money, though, my editor reminded me. These days both jobs and money were hard to come by, if you weren't the wealthy. I wrote the obituary, and it was perfectly emotional for those who could relate, but also entirely generic for anyone to glance at and say, "Oh, what a shame." I wrote it and got a couple of dollars. But for Margaret Mehring—Maggie—I still always think about her. Every obituary I write. I wonder how she is doing. If she finally left Myrtle Hill.

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

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LIBRARY NEWS

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

Mondays – 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.

Wednesdays – 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!

Saturdays - 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 – October 10 at 6:30 p.m.. Learn the German art of paper cutting design. The artwork often has rotational symmetry within the design, and common forms include silhouettes, valentines, and love letters. The art tradition was founded in Switzerland and Germany in the 16th century and was brought to Colonial America in the 18th century by Swiss and German immigrants who settled primarily in Pennsylvania.

The Summit Stitches Quilt Club meets at 5:30 p.m. on October 17. New

members and new projects are always welcome! Any skill level may attend. If you have always wanted to learn how to quilt, now is the perfect time to start! The group is currently working on this year’s gorgeous raffle quilt.

The BRS Book Club will meet October 17 at 5 p.m.

For more information on the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library visit www.fclspa.org or call 717-792-2240.

Frederick County Libraries

We continue to explore the history of Frederick County with several Maryland history programs this month. In a special “Living History” program at the Seton Shrine at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 7, Emmitsburg Library invites children ages 5 to 14 to discover what it was like to attend school in the early 1800’s. At the Thurmont Library, local history researcher Tracy Lewis brings tales of the “Pirates of the Chesapeake Bay” on Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. and on Oct. 18 at 7 p.m., discover the fascinating history of the “Cabins of the Catoctin Mountains” with Park Ranger Katie Wackrow.

As part of the “Frederick Reads” programming, Emmitsburg Library has “Farm to Fermentation” on Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 6 p.m. and a special program at the Thurmont Library with The Kombucha Lady, who will explore “The History and

Art of Kombucha” and invite patrons to taste her delicious blends of kombucha on Saturday, Oct. 21 at noon.

Both branches will also celebrate October with fun, spooky events for all. At Emmitsburg, teens can learn the tricks of “Special FX Makeup Studio” on Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 5 p.m. and children can enjoy a special “Not so Spooky Storytime and Costume Party” on Monday, Oct. 30 at 11 a.m.

At Thurmont Library, the biggest event “Trunk or Treat” is on Tuesday, Oct. 24 from 5 to 7 p.m. where local businesses will have trunks full of spooky treats, and in the library, families can enjoy spooky games and activities. Don’t forget to come in costume! Teens have a series of scary DIY activities on Thursdays throughout the month at 6 p.m. and on Oct. 26, Teens are invited to Fright Night from 6-8:30 p.m. to share popcorn and watch a scary movie with friends! The littles are invited to come in costume on Halloween, Oct. 31 at 10:30 for a special Storytime. And finally, our favorite porcine guest, Eddie the Pig will visit on Oct. 20 at 10:30—we’ll share porky games, stories, and activities.

Visit the library website at Month Calendar | Frederick County Public Libraries (librarycalendar.com) to discover so much more. Any questions,

call Emmitsburg Library at 301 600-6329 or Thurmont Regional Library at 301 600-7212.

Emmitsburg Branch Library:

Oct. 2, 16, 23: Family Storytime (Birth to 5), 11-11:30 a.m.

Oct. 30: Not So Spooky Storytime & Costume Party (Birth to 5), 11-11:30 a.m.

Oct. 2, 16, 23, 30: Little Adventurers (Birth to 5), 11:30-Noon.

Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26: STEAM Discovery (Elementary), 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Oct. 12: Read to a Therapy Dog with Wags for Hope (Birth to 5, Elementary), 6-7 p.m.

Oct. 7: Off-Site: Frederick County 275th, History Kids (Elementary, Teens), 11 a.m.-Noon.

Oct. 12, 26: Tween Fiber Arts Workshop (Elementary, Teens), 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Oct. 5, 19: Game Night with Wookiee Walkers (Teens), 5:30-6 p.m.

Oct. 14: Upcycled Art (Teens), 1-3 p.m.

Oct. 24: Special FX Makeup Studio (Teens), 5-7 p.m.

Oct. 10: Frederick Reads: Farm to Fermentation (Adults), 6-7 p.m.

Thurmont Regional Library

Oct. 2, 16, 23, 30: Preschool Storytime (3-5), 10:30-11 a.m.

Oct. 2, 16, 23, 30: School Skills for Preschoolers (3-5), 11-11:45 a.m.

Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Baby Storytime (Birth-18 months), 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Oct. 31: Not So Spooky Baby Storytime & Costume Party (Birth-18 months), 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25: Toddler Storytime (18 months-3), 10:30-11 a.m.

Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26: Musical Storytime (Birth-5), 10:30-11 a.m.

Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28: Family Storytime (Birth-5), 11-11:30 p.m.

Oct. 3, 10, 17: Elementary Explorers (Elementary), 4 -4:45 p.m.

Oct. 6, 13: Beyond Earth: Space (Elementary), 2-3 p.m.

Oct. 18: Build a Putt Putt Course @ the Library (Grades 4-7), 4-5 p.m.

Oct. 20: Happy Pig Day!! with special Guest Eddie the Pig (All Ages), 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Oct. 20 Maryland STEM Festival: We are All Stars (Elementary), 2-3 p.m.

Oct. 24: Trunk or Treat (Birth-5, Elementary, All Ages), 5-7 p.m.

Oct. 5: Teen DIY Spooky Garland (Teens), 6-7 p.m.

Oct. 12: Teen Spooky Origami (Teens), 6-7 p.m.

Oct. 19: Teen Pumpkin Painting (Teens), 6-7 p.m.

Oct. 26: Teen Fright Night (Teens), 6-7 p.m.

Oct. 11: Pirates in the Chesapeake Bay (Teens, Adults), 7-8 p.m.

Oct. 3: (Off-site) Trivia at 10 Tavern (Adults, All Ages), 7-8 p.m.

Oct. 18: Medicare 101 Educational Session (Adults), 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Oct. 18: Frederick County 275th: The Cabin Camps of Catoctin Mountain Park (Adults, All Ages), 7-8 p.m.

Oct. 19: Digital Learning (Adults), 10-Noon.

Oct. 20-Sunday, Oct. 22: Frederick County 275th: Memory Lab by Appointment (Adults), All day.

Oct. 21: Frederick Reads: History and Art of Kombucha with The Kombucha Lady (Adults), 12-1 p.m.



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SCHOOL NEWS

FASD seeks public input on comprehensive plan

The Fairfield Area School District seeks the public's input into its educational program.

The district is forming its "Profile of a Graduate" to determine what skills a Fairfield Area School Graduate should have in order to succeed in today's world. To create that profile, Superintendent Thomas J. Haupt asks parents, citizens, and business owners to complete a survey that will be available on the district website.

Haupt said during the school board's Sept. 11 work session that

he and his staff want to align Fairfield's curriculum to meet not only state standards but the community's needs. The "Profile of a Graduate" will be used to revise the district's comprehensive plan, Haupt said. The initiative has three goals:

Clear and consistent curricula standards across all schools for all students.

A commitment to focused and comprehensive professional development.

Effective instructional practices

across all classrooms in each school.

Haupt said it is important for everyone to complete the survey because a strong educational system is important for a thriving community.

"A well-defined profile of a graduate will guide our educational programming and equip our graduates with the essential skills needed in the 21st Century job market," he said.

The anonymous survey will ask participants to list up to three skills they believe graduates

should possess, Haupt said. The district kept the questionnaire simple to achieve its goal of high participation. Those who want to share more information can volunteer to join a focus group that will be held in the future.

Board member Lisa Sturgis, a former district teacher, expressed concern about the district creating a comprehensive plan it never uses. Sturgis cited several initiatives the district began with good intentions then later stopped without results. Haupt acknowledged the

concern, but assured the comprehensive plan will become the district's "North Star." Haupt is in his second year at Fairfield.

"These are skills employers, universities, and the military are expecting kids to have when they leave us," Haupt said. "This is not something that just sounds great. It is embedded into research and we have to embed it into our curriculum."

The "Profile of a Graduate" survey will soon be available at www.fairfieldpaschools.org.

FCPS Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program

Gary Randall
Frederick County
Public School System

on helping every student achieve at high levels."

Some highlights:

Elementary results:

- 57 percent of test-takers achieved a proficient or distinguished score on the ELA assessment – 6-12 percentage points above the state average.
- Elementary math scores improved by 3-7 percentage points, depending upon grade level.
- FCPS ranked third in the state on the Maryland Integrated Science assessment results.

Middle School results:

- English Language Arts scores increased by 5-7 percentage points. Math scores improved 3-4 percentage points.

High School results:

- 76 percent of test takers scored

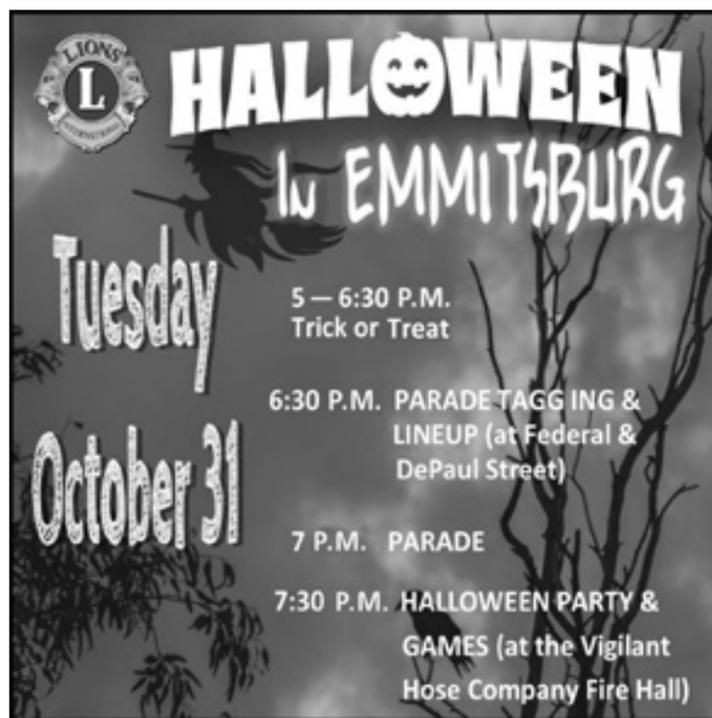
proficient or distinguished on the English 10 assessment – an improvement of 7 percentage points from last year's data.

A substantial percentage of students scored just below the proficiency score cutoff and are considered on the cusp of proficiency on many assessments. FCPS, like districts across the state, are facing achievement gaps for students receiving special services, including those with special needs, multilingual students, and students who receive free or reduced meals.

The district maintains a commitment to using data from a variety of sources, including local assessment measures, to evaluate student progress in our schools. The only assessment with lower student performance from prior years was eighth grade Science, which mirrors results from other

districts in Maryland. The 8th grade Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) is a comprehensive

assessment of content from grades 6-8.



LIONS CLUB HALLOWEEN IN EMMITSBURG

Tuesday October 31

5 – 6:30 P.M. Trick or Treat

6:30 P.M. PARADE TAGGING & LINEUP (at Federal & DePaul Street)

7 P.M. PARADE

7:30 P.M. HALLOWEEN PARTY & GAMES (at the Vigilant Hose Company Fire Hall)



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ARTS

Gems in our backyard

The Sunderman Conservatory and Majestic Theater in Gettysburg

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

On Friday, September 8th, Gettysburg College's Sunderman Conservatory presented Time for Three, a musical group whose repertoire intersects between classical music, Americana, and singer-songwriter. Musicians Charles Yang on violin and vocals, Nicholas "Nick" Kendall on violin and vocals, and Ranaan Meyer on double bass and vocals join to provide the experience of various eras and styles of Western music. This performance took place at the renowned Majestic Theater in downtown Gettysburg.

Time for Three, a musical trio, produced a Grammy-winning album which can be found on all platforms. Letters for the Future includes seven songs and features Kevin Puts, The Philadelphia Orchestra, Jennifer Higdon, and Xian Zhang. Previous performances include the Geneva Music Festival in Geneva, New York, the Princeton Festival in Princeton, New Jersey, and the OKM Music Festival in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. After performing in Gettysburg, the group will perform with the Indianapolis Symphony in Indiana and will tour venues such as The Paramount Theatre in Austin, Texas and Mann Center for the Performing in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Gettysburg College's Sunderman Conservatory of Music fosters the art of music within the greater liberal arts college. There are several impressive and unique opportunities to get involved with music, including meeting renowned guest artists and lecturers, travelling semesters and summers abroad, and studying under the exceptional faculty of

Gettysburg College. A wide range of classes are offered each semester, including "Video Game Music: Style, Technology, and Culture," "Wind Symphony," and "African Music: Juju to Hip Hop," to encompass the vast cultural and flexibility of musical study itself.

Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater is just one venue within the Jennifer and David LeVan Performing Arts Center. Also including cinemas, an art gallery, and more, the complex promotes such performances and serves the surrounding community as a place for different shows, concerts, etc. In a documentary produced by Carlee Mayo, '22 who interned at the Majestic Theater from 2022-2023, "Art for Art's Sake" overviews the theater's purpose and operations. Professor James Udden, Department Chair of Cinema and Media Studies at Gettysburg College, notes that the Majestic Theater operates on a hybrid model of "both live performances and movies" which works best for the facility. However, "even then, it can't really survive without patrons—local people who are interested in local culture."

Jeffrey Gabel, Founding Executive Director of the Majestic Theater, notes the extraordinary history of the small-town theater. In 1925—almost one hundred years ago—the Majestic Theater opened for the first time on November 14th, serving as the largest vaudeville and silent movie theater in south-central Pennsylvania. Today, the theater is located conveniently next to the historic Gettysburg hotel, the Lincoln Diner and other restaurants, and just on the edge of the Gettysburg Square, a hotspot for tourists and locals alike. The theater seated 1,200 patrons when it opened and promoted commerce, college, and community, as it still does today.

The theater survived the Great

Depression and thrived during World War II, where locals would come to watch news reels. A true local community was fostered during the 1950s, followed by the "glory years" of the 1960s. President Dwight D. Eisenhower and First Lady Mamie Eisenhower adored the theater, regularly attending performances and promoting the facility even more. After surviving the great fire in 1983, the decision was made to "chop up" the theater into a multiplex, leaving it deconstructed and deprived of its original beauty. From 1990-2005, a grand renovation project, under the ownership of Gettysburg College, restored the theater to its majestic presence.

"There are so many generous patrons here in the Gettysburg area. This is an incredibly generous community, for being such a small community," says Gabel, reflecting on the endurance of the theater and the giving community surrounding it over the past years.

The Majestic Theater, restored to its original beauty, is one of many venues within the center. Two nightly cinemas serve as the region's premiere destination of award-winning independent films. The complex also has an art gallery, fit for any social gatherings to enjoy with friends and community members. The Gold Patrons' Lounge is perfect for business meetings or luncheons within the arts community, and the balcony lobby houses receptions, social events, cocktail parties, etc.

How do the Gettysburg Majestic Theater and the Sunderman Conservatory of Music interact? Both are owned by Gettysburg College and not only foster student pursuits of the performing arts, but



Time for Three, a musical group whose repertoire intersects between classical music, Americana, and singer-songwriter.

also promote community engagement and serve as fundamental for the artistic scene of Gettysburg as a historic town. The Sunderman Conservatory offers plenty of opportunities for students to flourish in their musical study, being distinctly apart of the Gettysburg College music curriculum. As written on the college's website for this program, "Sunderman unites professional artistic standards with the intellectual and academic breadth of the liberal arts in an environment of creative inquiry." The Majestic Theater, so historically rooted in Gettysburg while fostering student and community arts, serves as an extension to the conservatory, as another opportunity for students to perform and apply their musical studies.

"It's this sort of cultural Mecca in Gettysburg that has nothing to do with the Civil War," says Professor Udden at the beginning of the documentary, before any images are shown. "And that's what's so great about it," he adds with a laugh. And

while Udden might be joking, the historical significance of the theater adds an artistic and extraordinary characteristic to Gettysburg, a town most defined by the Civil War.

The Majestic Theater's upcoming October events range greatly. On October 2nd, "Great Art on Screen: Titian – the Empire of Color" premieres at 12 p.m. On October 6th, "Mom Foolery" brings a comedic scene to the theater. Other musicals, including Prom and A Christmas Carol, are featured later in the year as well.

To learn more about the Sunderman Conservatory of Music at Gettysburg College, search the "Sunderman Conservatory" under "Academic Programs" at www.gettysburg.edu and explore the opportunities available for students.

Lastly, if you missed the experience on September 8th, be sure to attend a performance by Time for Three or find their newest album Letters for the Future on any streaming service.

Mom Foolery comedy to Majestic

Four funny moms bring the laughter to Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater on Friday, October 6 at 7:30 p.m. with clean comedy show Mom Foolery. Celebrating the hardest job on the planet, professional comedians Karen Bergreen, Karen Morgan, Sara Shea, and Nancy Witter create a hilarious night out all moms deserve.

"Mom Foolery is more fun than a cell phone full of TikTok jokes," quipped Jeffrey Gabel, the Majestic's founding executive director. "Motherhood is hard, and that's probably why moms are the best

at poking fun at life. These funny moms share extremely relatable stories about babies, toddlers, and especially teens!"

"Mother knows, err, jest" as the funny ladies behind Mom Foolery remind us, and their silly behavior and hilarious anecdotes are sure to help mothers in the audience maintain their sanity. Each of the professional comedians brings decades of experience in comedy – and motherhood – to the Gettysburg stage.

Hailing from New York City, Karen Bergreen graduated from Harvard and worked as an attorney

before making her parents proud by quitting to become a nationally touring stand-up comic. She's appeared on Comedy Central, the Oxygen Network, and Law & Order. Fellow attorney Karen Morgan is a native of Georgia and now lives in Maine with her family.

Appearing as a finalist on Nickelodeon's "Search for the Funniest Mom in America," Morgan can be heard on Sirius XM Radio and Dry Bar Comedy. Soft-spoken Sara Shea offers her fun and unique perspectives, and has starred in her own Bananas! Clean Comedy special. She can be heard on iHeart Radio and Tunein Comedy Radio.

Nancy Witter grew up in a large Irish "Cathaholic" family before becoming a single mother – giving her a trove of material to fuel her long comedy career which has taken her to Las Vegas, the Ms. Senior America pageant, and the Rachel Ray Show. She's based out of Wilmington, N.C. and has toured nationally as a comedian, coach, and motivational speaker.

Tickets for Mom Foolery start at \$30 and are available now at the Majestic Theater Box Office, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, by calling 717- 337-8200 or online at www.gettysburgmajestic.org.

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Mount theatre director Dr. Kurt Blaugher retires

Ashley Walczyk
MSMU Class of 2024

Earlier this year, in spring, Dr. Kurt Blaugher officially retired from the Fine Arts Department, ending his 36-year career.

Since his time from entering the program in 1987, he has directed over 70 shows, including that of musicals and plays. The range of shows includes anything from Shakespeare, modern music, tragedies, comedies, etc. Throughout his time, there have been only a handful of repeated shows.

In an interview with Dr. Blaugher, he started with a topic that was covered prior to this article. A large concern of his was the lack of people, mostly males, auditioning for shows. When talking, he exclaimed that many high school programs are struggling to form cohesive shows due to the lack of funding of programs. A lot of school has since closed theater programs and productions since the first round of COVID-19 lockdown began.

A lot more issues arose with theater productions, and not just in high schools. Dr. Blaugher believes that professional theater has not come back since COVID-19. A lot of shows have catered to a newer version of theater, one that could be found over Zoom or recorded for an audience. While the shift in live theater might be upsetting for some, playwrights have responded in a way that helped create an easier directing experience. Many playwrights have accommodated or written plays that utilize the technological environment. Some colleges and professional theater companies use special effects to create settings and props in these new plays online.

While COVID-19 can be to blame for a lack of theatrical performances, Dr. Blaugher made it known that while we have a small program on campus, he did the best with it. One of the first things mentioned was how he could not pick a favorite or most-memorable show. In his words, he exclaimed the question felt similar to asking a parent to pick over their children. Reminiscing on the previ-

ous shows, he had produced a few stories to tell.

When he was first hired by the late Father Nusbaum, he was to establish a club similar to high school experiences, and then some. His goal was to not only create a place for reminiscing on high school productions, but also for people to go beyond and experience theater at its core value: conveying the story of the playwright to an audience. Dr. Blaugher also served as department chair from 1998 to 2008.

He reminds us of what the liberal arts education is all about. When discussing the root of the education, Dr. Blaugher reveals that storytelling is what has prospered over the course of human history. The connection an audience member has with an actor is one of the best feelings, and from personal experience, can be the best moment in a show entirely. Storytellers connect with their audiences, allowing for the imagination to prosper and thrive. Pathos connects humans together, allowing for us to express our emotions. Some of the best storytellers engage with the human emotion, which is why theater can be so effective when moving an audience to sudden joy or sadness.

In all of the shows, Dr. Blaugher describes a handful of memories. One of the most memorable encounters he had with an audience member was a father of a girl performing in *A Midsummer's Night Dream*. The bond between a father and daughter is well-known as a bond that is unbreakable. For this father, he still saw her as a little girl. The daughter played Hippolyta and Titania, which is a common pairing for the show. Dr. Blaugher remembers sitting next

to the father as he is watching his little girl on stage. When she came out, she appeared in a beautiful, floor-length, empire-waisted purple gown. Dr. Blaugher remembers feeling a shift in the father sitting next to him. He saw his little girl in a new light, as a woman on stage. A change in an audience member makes a show memorable for good.

Another show he remembers is a sequence of performances done in COVID. This was unfamiliar territory for a lot of people, especially directors. During this time, shows were written to accommodate to the unfamiliar territory of live Zoom shows and recorded theatrical productions. To reiterate a previous point, this caused a large shift in theater, which changed a lot of productions in the last three to four years. The first show that Dr. Blaugher did, after COVID-19 regulations ended, was *The Wolves*.

A show they did twice was *The Trojan Women*, which is a show based on the fallen queen of Troy and her family at the end of the Trojan War. The entirety of the show has a women cast, which is interesting due to the fates of each of the characters. The first show performed was in translation and the second version was more modern. The cool part about this show was the engagement of not only theatrical students, but other students in the fine arts department. Some of the music students go to write chorus music for the tragic moments in the play, which also made it on the memorable moments list.

He wishes to encourage students, given the current situation, that as an actor, there are moments that you really connect with your audience on stage. The ability for one to act and move an audience is mem-



Dr. Blaugher talking to the cast of Fall 2006's *Antigone*.

orable entirely. Theater is all of the thing that aren't, it's all the things that make you a human being.

In my first year, I participated in the fall semester play *The Wolves*, and the spring semester play, *Silent Sky*. Both of my roles were casted by Dr. Blaugher, and during both shows, I got to know him as a director. He is passionate in what he does, and the choices he makes as a director are wonderful. He is a great mentor for someone who takes theater seriously or does it for fun. Dr. Blaugher created a wonderful environment and has made the theater into a place of storytelling. We will deeply miss him and all the won-

derful things he has done for the department.

Although he is retired, you can still catch Dr. Blaugher on campus. He is still under contract with the institution, and for the semester, he will be holding a couple of classes as well as directing the semester play. This will most likely be his last directed performance, so if you can, go out and enjoy the show in November. It will be a Thanksgiving themed show, with a modern twist. The dates for this show will be from the 16th through the 18th. More information will come out next month.

To read past Mount Arts articles, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

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CATOCTIN SPORTS

Fall sport festivities

Gina Lin CHS Class of 2024
 Richelle Zheng CHS Class of 2025

Everyone can agree that the start of school can be rough, as we have to hibernate the easy going practices of summer. But, there are positives to look forward to such as fall festivities! While we are still adjusting our sleep schedules and daily routine, Catoctin sports teams have been training hard, and are well into their season making headlines.

This year, there are different Catoctin sports teams, such as soccer and shining in the limelight such as the golf and soccer teams. This makes sense as the playing field has changed due to seniors having graduated and a new wave of freshmen players.

Catoctin boys soccer team debuted powerfully this season with a win against St. James. Their first game commenced on September 5th. Elias Irons led the team with two goals. Erick Lopez, Patrick Morlan, and Matthew Offut also

contributed goals. Irons also led the team in two assists. Cody Faulkner and Franklyn Peña added a few assists. The teams next game took place on September 7th. After a hard fought game, the Cougars fell to the Fort Hill High Sentinels. Some highlights from the defense and offense include a corner kick from Offut assisted by Peña. The Cougars defeated James Buchanan High School 3-1 on September 12th. In the first half goals were made by Irons and Offut with assists from Morlan and Peña. The second half was secured by a goal from Matthew Offut. Defense honorable mentions include Cody Faulkner, Brayden Grable, Erick Lopez, Michael Metz, and Robert Ruch.

The Catoctin golf team has also experienced notable achievements in the onset of this season with several wins and a successful fundraising event. The golf team has had numerous wins so far this season, the first being against Brunswick High School

on August 23rd, with a score of 198-169. Peyton Cramer took the lead for Catoctin with a 38, which also consisted of two birdies. Justin Mehall, Griffin Hench, and Delaney Hench contributed to the score as well, with Mehall shooting a 41; and Griffin and Delaney Hench shooting a 51 and 53 respectively. Then, at the teams next game on August 24th, Catoctin won a hard fought match against Frederick High School Cadets and Linganore High School Lancers. Catoctin secured a win against the Cadets, 170-223. After a close match against the Lancers, the Cougars were one point short. The final score ended with 169-170. The highlights of the match include Peyton Cramer shooting a one under par 35, he became the low medalist of this match. Jordan Moore shot a 44 with Griffin and Delaney Hench both each scoring 49. On August 31st, the golf team had another tri-school match against Smithsburg High School and Boonsboro High School Warriors. The Cougars prevailed against Smithsburg with a 178-168 win but fell to the Warriors, 155-168. In this match, Mehall shot an even par of 36, which consisted of one eagle and two birdies. This game marked Mehall's lowest career match score ever. Peyton Cramer shot a 38, including one birdie during his third, and a 40 in the following round. Griffin Hench and Keagan Savage also made some career lows during this match with Griffin Hench scoring a 47 and Savage scoring a 48. Jordan Moore came through with a 41 followed Delaney Hench with a 57. The Catoctin golf team then played a tough match against Middletown High School on September 13th, with the score being, 156-170. However, the team still went all out during this fierce match, with Moore leading the team with a score of 39. Cramer shot a 41 and Mehall scored a 42 in this match. Moreover, Griffin Hench finalized the team's score with a 48. Although the Cougars lost against Middletown on Septem-



The Catoctin Cougars soccer team shows great potential this season.

ber 13th, Catoctin rebounded with two wins the next day against North Hagerstown (164-205) and Clear Spring (164-220). This game was a nine-school match. The team came through and finished strong, placing Catoctin third out of the nine schools. Peyton Cramer was the low medalist of the whole event with a 2 over par round of 38 shot. Mehall and Moore both shot a 40 and Savage scored a 46 with a chip in birdie on the last hole of his turn. After this momentous match, Catoctin's golf record increased 5-4 with the Cougars having a winning record for the first time in ages. Adding onto the golf team's great success so far this season was their Putt-a-Thon fundraiser that occurred on September 12th. Their fundraiser event had great success with the help of Jason Moore and the amazing donors who donated to help support this program.

Catoctin football played their first game of the season on September 1st against Boonsboro High School Warriors. After a back and forth game, the Cougars conceded to the Warriors, 20-24. The Cougars faced Mountain Ridge High School during their second game of the season on September 7 and lost 12-43. But, the Cougars saw improvement in their next two games. Catoctin football's first win of the season occurred on September 14 against the Williamsport High School Wildcats. Quarterback Haydn Mathews made passes at 258 yards and made four touchdowns.

On the receiving end, Shaymus Stull contributed 144 receiving yards and two touchdowns. Charles Dougherty and Vince Reaver also contributed touchdowns. Alex Hauk, Logan Malachowski, Vince Reaver each contributed an interception respectively. Finally, Jorge Dias-Nicholas added three field goals and four extra points after touchdowns.

The Cougars took on Tuscarora High School Titans. Cougars dominated the field and swooped up a win against the Titans. Haydn Mathews made one touch down at 95 yards. Later on, Mathews added two more touchdowns. Shaymus Stull had 29 receiving yards and Vince Reaver contributed 51 receiving yards and one touchdown. Jacob Bell managed 62 yards with rushing plays. Hunter Bradshaw scored a touchdown with 33 rushing yards. Additionally, Dylon Grey contributed one touch down with 43 yards of rushing plays. Moreover, Logan Malachowski and Hunter Bradshaw added an interception. The score totaled 35-6, Catoctin to Tuscarora.

Some highlights from the girls field hockey team include a hard fought win at Tuscarora High School. Goals were scored by Madison Ball and Annalise Abruzzese, with assists from Grace Williams. 15 saves were made by Natalie Hoyt. Some shootout goals were added by Grace Williams and Josey Schafer.

To read past Catoctin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.

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The Year of the Snake—Mount Men's Soccer

Steve Morano
MSMU Class of 2024

On August 24th, some of the most bizarre events to ever happen at Waldron Family Stadium occurred. After a lighting delay dispersed both the Mount and Bucknell teams back into the locker room, a two-foot black snake crept onto the field, coiling itself up, cementing its place on the field. Eventually, line judge Scarlett Agrawal was able to grab the snake with the aid of her line flag and throw it off the field. But by the time the serpent made its way onto the field, the Mount was down 2-1, eventually losing to the Bisons by the same scoreline. But much like the weird events of the night, there are many things in store for the team.

At the end of the 2022 campaign, the Mountaineers had a record of 7-9-1, with a conference record of 3-6-1, with their wins in the MAAC coming from Canisius, St. Peter's, and Rider. Defensive woes held the team back, with opponents outscoring them 40-23. This may have held the offense back, as they had to constantly worry about the opponents' level of attacking prowess. But so far in this year's campaign, opponents are only outscoring the Mount 15-7, with the ratio between goals scored and goals given up much closer than this time last year—specifically in the game against James Madison University (No. 6 in the nation), where the Mount lost 6-0, which makes up for many of the conceded goals this year. If you take those six goals out of the equation, then the Mount is only outscored 9-6.

But what makes up this defensive upgrade from last year? Well, the level of defenders has drastically gotten better. With the addition of freshman, Maks Czyz of Alesund, Norway, Gavin Watt, a graduate student from Duquesne, and graduate student, Mackie Sacarellos, formerly of UMBC, the defense has been completely overhauled. And with Ethan Russell, the senior goalkeeper having much more experience after playing in 15 games last season for the Mountaineers, his confidence has surely gone up. But with all the defensive upgrades, what has the offense been up to, and how can they further help with goal-support to help give their defenders a cushion?

Although he is listed as a midfielder/defender, graduate student Ammit Bhogal is the team's top goal scorer, notching two goals in six games. After him, freshman Junee Lee, sophomore Bobby Marsteller, junior Dominik Topolsky, senior Erick Villatoro, and the aforementioned Sacarellos all have one goal apiece for the Mountaineers. Some defenders are amongst the goal scorers; this will offer a diverse amount of scoring options for the Mountaineers

this season. With such a spread of goals amongst all members of the team across positions, it is hard to say that there will be a lack of goals scored. With that, they will create difficulties for opponents across the pitch. This is what head coach Bryan Cunningham will expect of his team in the season going forward.

But how has the team been doing so far this season? Currently, the Mountaineers are 1-4-1, with their one and only win coming in a 2-1 win against Fairfield in their first conference game of the year on September 16th. Before then, the Mount went five games without a win, with a 2-1 loss to Bucknell, a 1-1 tie with Radford, a 2-1 loss to Longwood, a 3-2 loss against Delaware and the aforementioned 6-0 defeat against JMU constituting their tough start to the season. As their conference play begins, they play Manhattan, St. Peter's Marist, Canisius, Quinnipiac, Siena, and Rider in a one-month span from September 23rd to October 25th. They round out their season with a game away at Iona and a home game in Emmitsburg against Niagara on November 1st.

The difficulties in their schedule lie in that month span, where they play Quinnipiac, the conference champions of last year and Manhattan, who finished third in the conference as well. But in their final two games of the year are up against the 2nd and fourth placed finishers in the 2022 season in



Graduate student Ammit Bhogal scored the 90th minute winner for the Mount in the 2-1 win over Fairfield.

Iona and Niagara. This packed schedule may be the shortcoming of the team this year, as the team will have to play great competition with little rest in between games.

Although the MAAC overall is a tough soccer conference, there is resilience within this Mountaineers side. This is ever more present if you consider the win against Fairfield. The freshman Lee played an amazing volley by grad student, Raimondo Partito past the Stags goalkeeper the 18th minute to give the Mount a 1-0 lead. And although a great appearance in front of the sticks by Russel, which included a saved penalty to keep the lead, Fairfield drew it level 88th minute, making it 1-1. But with their teams confidence behind them, the Mount drew

a free kick on the outside of the box a minute later. Grad student, Luc Holden put an excellent free kick into the box, which initially punched out by Fairfield's goalkeeper, found the foot of Bhogal who made it 2-1 in the 90th minute in favor of the Mountaineers. Waldron went crazy.

"It's great, to help the team secure the three points." Bhogal said post-game. He was particularly emotional after the game, dropping to his knees and grabbing the "M" badge on his shirt when the siren sounded to end the game. "Listen, we haven't had the best start, but they [the fans] have been here every single game supporting us and to get those three points, it was all for the fans." He added. With this last-minute win for the Mount, this will surely

bring confidence for the rest of the season. Cunningham said after the game that, "It's going to be the end of the regular season really fast, and the goal is just trying to get into that top six, that's our goal right now with this group."

With these games coming thick and fast for the Mountaineers in the 2023 MAAC campaign, these games will of course become more challenging as they play tougher competition. But with an overhauled team full of veteran talent, the rarity of a lonely black snake will be heavily outweighed by the great performance of the Mount and what is to come. (Photo via Tyler Kraft/Mount Athletics)

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.



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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Fall cleaning... what?

Jefferson Breland

We have Spring Cleaning? Why not Fall Cleaning? It makes so much more sense.

Toward the end of last month's column, I suggested you do a Personal Energy Audit.

"Do you get enough sleep." "Do you drink iced beverages." "Do you wear enough clothing to stay warm." "Do you take regular breaks from working, even at home?" I proposed eating a little bit less.

What I did not do was offer reasons for these questions other than the context of "to take advantage of nature's energy and use it for your healing."

On September 23, 2023 at approximately 2:49 am the Autumnal Equinox occurred.

Now this is actually a big deal. Only twice a year is daytime and nighttime the same length. Everything in our solar system has to be just so for this balancing act to occur.

If you were awake, did you feel different? Did you wake up around 3:00 am and not know why? Did you notice anything different about yourself when woke up later on Saturday morning?

Sure, there are many reasons we might wake up at 3:00 am. The equinox only gives two opportunities a year to use it as a reason for waking up. There are also the Winter and Summer solstices that may interrupt our sleep.

Well, there are also the transitions between seasons. According to Chinese medicine, there are transitions between Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall that last 18 days each. During these 18 days, the earth's energy gradually shifts from one to the next. This makes sense as it would be very strange and uncom-

fortable if there was a sudden energetic shift from one season to the next.

Sometimes it feels like Nature does this. We might say something like, "Wow, today is definitely a Fall day." And this is misleading, it simply means the day feels like what we think a Fall day should feel like.

In truth, the seasons shift gradually. This slow daily transition is necessary for nature to prepare for the next season. I would also venture the virtually undetectable shift is necessary to prepare for the next day. We know our health can be effected by a cold snap or a sudden heat wave.

In last month's column, I bet you dollars to donuts you already have an embodied experience of Nature's energy. My question was, "Do you have a favorite season?"

Chances are everyone has some preference for a particular time of year. Some people like all the seasons. These people are annoyingly accommodating.

Each season has a certain frequency which we align with or not. When we don't align, we may experience signs and symptoms of that "disharmony" such as allergies, emotional shifts, decreased energy, or weight gain/loss. Western medicine diagnoses some of these signs and symptoms as Seasonal Affective Disorder, or "SAD."

Quantum mechanical theory is the closest Western science has come to describing the ancient fundamental concept of Chinese medicine called Qi (pronounced, "chee").

According to Chinese medicine, everything is Qi. According to Quantum theory, everything is energy. Where the concept of Qi goes further than Quantum theory, is the belief that

Qi and therefore all energy has purpose and therefore consciousness.

Another unique distinction Chinese medicine offers is the belief that different types of Qi have different purposes. It is as if the electricity that powers your home has different purposes. Some electricity would only work the lightbulb. Other type of electricity would only work with your refrigerator. Another type would only work with a television.

According to Chinese medicine, Qi has these different purposes or functions. There is Lung Qi, Liver Qi, Stomach Qi, Kidney Qi, and Heart Qi to name a few. Each of these Qi has specific functions to support our bodies health in relationship to each of the others. Qi is part of a unified whole.

Our society's foundational scientific models and therefore our culture doesn't think this way. Long before the discovery of quantum physics, scientists developed theories about our planet, solar system, and by extension, our bodies as being mechanistic. Early branches of science did the math on this concept and got the calculations close enough to match their beliefs so then proposed it as fact and created "The Laws of Physics." They pronounced, "This is the way the world works."

Embedded in the mechanistic view of the universe and our bodies is linear thinking expressed as "cause and effect" and the smallest component of our "reality" is matter, some particle of something solid.

These tiny bits of matter make up the bigger things of our world like atoms, chemicals, rocks, bacteria, and animals such as ourselves which are essentially interchangeable.

If we have a symptom, Western medicine practitioners look at the indi-

vidual bits of us to see what is causing the effect. When they can't figure out what the cause is, they treat the symptom, replace the bits that can be replaced, or cut the bits out entirely.

The "alleged" fact of a mechanistic world has misinformed hundreds of years of science and therefore, medicine.

Back to the personal energy audit.

The questions I asked (and the one suggestion) pertain to relationships in the body that effect our health. Sleep, digestion, and fatigue are common concerns with all of us. The seasonal allergies I mentioned in last month's column affect the quality of life of millions of people.

Chinese medicine does not look at each of these areas of health concerns as separate concerns. Every symptom occurs in relationship to the whole body as well as the external world and very, very, very, rarely has one cause. It is so rare, I can't think of any symptom that has one cause. (Please see my earlier column(s) on epigenetics.)

Symptoms emerge from a constellation of factors or influences. Any one of these factors, on their own, is not necessarily significant enough to effect our health.

Our body's various forms of Qi work to balance these influences on our health. The goal of our Qi is to support life. When our body's Qi becomes depleted, we will experience subtle signs and symptoms.

If we do not recognize or address our body's subtle messages of imbalances, our body will express louder and louder messages until we have a full-blown condition or disease.

The questions of the personal energy audit offer a beginning understanding of how we might use the energy of the Fall season to help us help our health.

The questions can be the beginning of a "Fall Cleaning."

The very nature of Fall is about letting go and preparation. The trees let go of their leaves. Various birds and mammals will cache or hide food they will use in the coming months. Humans make (or buy) warmer clothes. Historically, we harvest crops and prepare to store them for Winter.

All of these activities involve some storing or conserving of energy. Generally speaking, it is easier to "let go" to conserve energy than to work harder to gain more energy. With regard to getting more sleep, it is a practice of letting go of a bit more of the day in order to not only conserve Qi, but also to build Qi. As I have said before, babies do not grow by going to the gym. They grow by sleeping.

In the Fall, trees teach us what helps is to let go of what no longer serves. They let go of their leaves which have served their purpose and it is simply time to let them go.

In humans, these "letting go's" might include old clothes, 8-track tapes, extra helpings of food, negative stories we tell about ourselves and others, "unhealthy" relationships, and/or beliefs that limit the possibility of healing.

Nature teaches us life that continues by moving from one season to the next. The natural energy of each the seasons offers us a blueprint to how we might discover those energies in ourselves and how to use them. We need only pay attention or ask your local acupuncturist.

Jefferson is a board-certified, licensed acupuncturist who has been studying philosophies of healing for the past 15 years. If you want to learn more about how to help yourself, contact him at 410-336-5876 or jeffersonacupuncture@gmail.com



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FITNESS & HEALTH

Positive thinking!

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

Positive thinking is the most powerful thing we can do for ourselves. I have been working with someone who has changed my thinking and life in a very positive way. She has taught me to always look for the good and the positive in everything. I will admit, sometimes it is not easy and I have to think about it for a little while but there is always something. Don't beat yourself up if those negative thoughts still come to you, just try to have them less and less and hopefully they will be replaced by positive ones more and more.

If we tell ourselves something is going to go wrong or something is bad then we start to believe it. I didn't realize how even small thoughts or words like "I'm worried sick" can impact how we feel and our overall health if we keep thinking that way. Losing weight is a positive and healthy thing. Thinking about it can be daunting and thinking about how to do it can be even harder but thinking about the final outcome is a very positive pleasure.

Positive thinking can help us in so many ways. People have found new employment by believing in themselves and portraying that at an interview. If you go into that interview

with the idea that you are not going to get the job then chances are you may not because the boss saw too. Of course, I don't mean be overly boastful and say you can do anything just be honest and be willing to work hard to learn what you don't know.

If you go into an interview with a positive attitude and show the person you are enthusiastic about the company and show you are willing and interested in learning that may just be what they are looking for. Positive thinking will always have a better outcome than being negative and down on things. Even if you don't get the outcome you hoped for you will have that experience and knowledge going forward to the next adventure.

Energy is all around us. It can be negative energy or positive energy. The positive energy is what we need to tap into and keep around us at all times. Positive thoughts, words and feeling are what keeps us going in the right direction. I know sometimes it's hard to stay positive when things are not going as we hoped they would. During these times we need to dig deep into ourselves to find whatever we have to keep going.

Surrounding ourselves with positive people is also very important. We may not realize how other people's feeling, attitude and energy can affect us. I'm sure you can think of a

person or two that always leaves you feeling down or discouraged when they are around. On the bright side, I'm sure you also know someone that makes you feel better when they are around. Some people just brighten a room when they come in or just make you feel better when you are with them. These are the ones you want to see often.

Energy, either negative or positive can transfer from others to you. We may not realize it but think about how you feel when you know someone is coming for a visit. If you are thinking, oh I dread seeing them, then you may want to consider changing your plans. On the other hand, if you are always happy to see someone because you have a good time with them and feel good during and after their visit



these are the people you want to have in your life. We all have to deal with negative people and events but it is how we let them affect us that can be harmful to our lives.

Positive energy is all around us, we just need to look for it and figure out how to use it for our benefit. Find a few positive affirmations and keep them tucked in your mind. When-

ever you find yourself feeling down or doubtful, recite some positive words and you will feel better. We can not have negative and positive feelings at the same time so when the negative thoughts creep into your mind chase them away with happy, positive thoughts. Stay positive and motivation will keep you going. Remember to keep moving!



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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of October

Professor Wayne Wooten

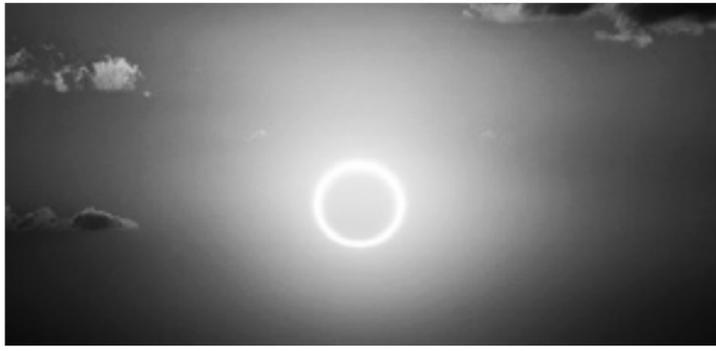
For October 2023, The waning gibbous moon rises just north of bright Jupiter on October 1st, about 9 p.m.. The last quarter moon is on October 6th. The waning crescent moon passes just above brilliant Venus, with the star Regulus in Leo sandwiched between them (great photo op!).

The big event is of course the partial solar eclipse at new moon on Saturday, October 14. The eclipse begins at 10:41 a.m. 70% of the Sun will be covered about noon, and the moon leaves the sun's disk about 1:50 p.m.. You will need to use safe filters, such as eclipse viewers, to visually or photographically observe this event.

But farther west, in Texas and New Mexico, the moon will pass directly in front of the Sun. But this time it is not a total eclipse, since the moon is near apogee in its orbit, too distant and small to over the whole sun. Next April 8, the closer moon will give much of the central US up to four minutes of totality. As about 10% of the Sun is still visible round the rim of the moon, this ring of fire is called an annular solar eclipse.

The most dramatic of all is the broken annular eclipse, such as Merry photographed on May 30, 1984, then the sizes match so closely that only tiny bits of sunlight (Bailey's Beads) leak through the lunar valleys, while the rest of the Sun was blocked. This perfect alignment only lasted eleven seconds, so Merry was delighted to take this shot that made the cover of the Astronomical League's Reflector magazine in June 1984.

Mercury lies too close to the Sun for visibility from Earth this month. Venus by contrast is at its greatest brilliancy at



A partial solar eclipse at the new moon on Saturday, October 14. The eclipse begins at 9:41 a.m. 70% of the sun will be covered by about eleven, and the moon leaves the sun's disk about 12:50 p.m.

a waxing crescent in the dawn as October begins. It reaches greatest elongation west of the Sun on October 23rd at 48 degrees in front of the rising sun. On the edge of her orbit, Venus will then appear exactly half lit. Mars is now lost behind the Sun as well. Jupiter and Saturn are both well placed for evening observing. Jupiter reaches opposition in early November, and rises about 10 PM in the northeast in Taurus at mid-month. But Saturn is well up in the SE at sunset in Capricorn. Its rings are now tilted about six degrees to our line of sight, and closing become edge on at its equinox in May 2025, almost invisible from earth for weeks.

The Big Dipper falls lower each evening. By the end of October, it will be only the three stars in the handle of Dipper still visible in the northwestern twilight. By contrast, the Little Dipper, while much fainter, is always above our northern horizon here along the Gulf Coast.

To the southwest, Antares and Scorpius also set soon after twilight, and will be gone by month's end. East of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way galaxy. Saturn lies above of the pour spout now. Looking like a

cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout is the fine Lagoon Nebula, M-8, easily visible with the naked eye.

The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the sky overhead. To the northeast of Vega is Deneb, the brightest star of Cygnus the Swan. To the south is Altair, the brightest star of Aquila the Eagle, the third member of the three bright stars that make the Summer Triangle so obvious in the NE these clear autumn evenings. To the east of Altair lies tiny Delphinus, a rare case of a constellation that does look like its namesake.

To the south, Saturn is in the head of Capricornus, and Jupiter above its tail. Aquarius and Pisces are among the faintest of the zodiacal constellations, and need dark skies to pick out. Fomalhaut is the only first magnitude star of the SE fall sky, and stands alone above the SE horizon now.

To the east, the square of Pegasus is a beacon of fall. If the southern skies of Fall look sparse, it is because we are looking away from our Galaxy into the depths of intergalactic space. The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W, rising in the NE as the Big Dipper sets in the NW. Polaris lies about midway between

them. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying 2.5 million light years distant.

Look closely at this superb star city. Bigger than our own Milky Way, it too has companions like our own Large and Small Magellanic Clouds. The one closest to it, M-32, lies above the core in this shot, while larger M-110 lies to the left of the disk here. All three are visible in small telescopes. The core appears redder, due to aging population II stars near its core, but the outer regions are rejuvenated by continuous star birth of bright population I is the hot pink H-II regions that outline the leading edges of the spiral arms. Because we see this great galaxy almost edge on (as it would also see US), we also note the dark clouds of gas and dust mixed among the spiral arms and providing the fuel that make new stars (and with the dark carbon dust) and new life (?) form in the H-II regions. All the critical elements and basic amino acids needed for life here have been found in these stellar nurseries, so the building blocks of us are indeed out there. It is moving toward us, and may sideswipe our smaller spiral in perhaps three billion years, so be sure your galactic collision insurance is paid up now.

South of M31 is the other great spiral in our Local Group of Galaxies. M-33 in Triangulum is seen from a higher viewing angle, so the spiral arms are even more striking. It too is about three mil-

lion light years distant. About 50 smaller elliptical and irregular galaxies accompany the three big spirals in our own cluster of galaxies.

Below the head of Pegasus is Aquarius, the Water Carrier. Below his western foot is the only bright star of the southern fall sky, Fomalhaut. It means the "mouth of the fish", and carries on the watery grouping of Pisces the Fish (home to Jupiter now), Capricornus the sea goat (with Saturn in its tail), Cetus the Whale in the SE, and Grus the Crane due south now.

Below Andromeda is her hero, Perseus. In his hand is a star most appropriate for Halloween, Algol. This star "winks" at us for six out of every 70 hours, which Arabic astronomers centuries ago found spooky, hence naming it "the ghoul". We know today it is an eclipsing binary system, an orange giant covering most of its blue companion.

At the foot of Perseus, the hero of "Clash of the Titans" is the fine Pleiades star cluster, the "seven sisters" that reveal hundreds of cluster members in large binoculars. This might be the best object in the sky for binocular users. The giant planet Jupiter now sits just west of this famous group in early evenings.

Winter will be coming soon, and in the NE we see yellow Capella rising. It is the brightest star of Auriga the Charioteer, and pair of giant stars the same temperature as our sun, but at least 100X more luminous and about 10X larger than our sun. It lies about 43 light-years distant. A little farther south, below the Pleiades, orange Aldebaran rises. It is the eye of Taurus the bull, with the V shaped Hyades star cluster around it making the head of the bull. This colorful giant star is only 2/3 as hot as our yellow sun, but 44X times larger and at 65 light years distant, one of the closest of these monster stars.

Farmers' Almanac

*"The trees are in their autumn beauty,
The woodland paths are dry,
Under the October twilight the water
Mirrors a still sky."*
—William Butler Yeats
(1865-1939)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Dry, turning very warm (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); very warm and dry at first, then period of rain, followed by cooler temperatures (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); dry, then showers followed by seasonably cold temperatures and return to dry weather (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); dry and warm, then showers followed by seasonably cold temperatures (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); occasional showers and mild (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); dry, warm days and cool nights (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

Severe Weather Watch: The Town and Country Almanack sees heavy rains hitting the region (7, 8, 9, 10, 22, 23, 24, 25). Stay dry!

Full Moon: October's Full Moon will occur on October 28th and is the Hunter's Moon of 2021. Named because of the extra light the moon provided to many Native American tribes, giving them more time to hunt for. The Cree Tribe referred to as and Yellow Leaf and Falling Leaves because of the many leaves turning bright yellow (an many others,

as well!) and because most trees have lost the last of their leaves during the month.

Holidays: Columbus Day is observed on Monday, October 9th, United Nations Day is celebrated on Tuesday, the 24th, and Halloween falls on Sunday, October 31st.

Special Notes: October is Fire Prevention Month. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) named the second week of October Fire Prevention Week in 1922 in commemoration to the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. Today, we celebrate Fire Prevention Week and Month by educating families, students and communities across the United States raising fire safety awareness. During this month, local and regional fire departments provide education to their communities and encourage parents and loved ones to practice fire safety. Remember to have an evacuation plan ready for your family to follow, check smoke detector batteries often, and always, always respect the power of fire.

The Garden: Mulching fall planted perennials will keep the soil warmer longer, allowing root growth to continue, however, the plants do need time to harden off for winter. Spread a thin layer of mulch after fall planting, and then add

a thicker layer once the ground has frozen. Shredding leaves, along with lawn clippings, dead plant stalks from the vegetable garden make a fine addition to the compost heap. And try this simple trick: remove all large vines and spent plants from the vegetable garden. Mix 1 can of cola (not diet), 1 cup of dish soap, and ¼ cup of ammonia and add to 20-gallon hose end sprayer and fill to top. Saturate the layer of mulch that's left on top of the garden's soil and then say, "Good Night" until the next growing season!

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (1, 2, 13 14); weeding and stirring the soil (8, 9, 10); planting above-ground crops (15, 6, 17); harvesting all crops (18, 19, 26, 27); the best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 22, 2e, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); transplanting (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20); weening of all small animals and livestock (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); harvesting and storing grains (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13).

John Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

When a boy passes through a graveyard, does he whistle to keep his own spirits up or to keep the spirits of other people down?



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COMPUTER Q&A

Laptops: caring for your device

Aysë Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer

Properly caring for your laptop is slightly different than how you would care for a Desktop PC. Given a laptop's portability, you may be moving your device around more frequently. Even if you do use your laptop in one primary location, continue reading to learn a few tips that you can utilize to help your device last longer.

If you will not be using your laptop for an extended period, it is best to shut your device down completely between uses. While sleep mode can be nice, if your battery depletes completely or if a program is not functioning properly sleep mode can cause more trouble than it's worth. When moving your device from one location to another, unplug your power cable from the laptop to avoid damaging the connection where the plug attaches to your laptop. Laptops that have mechanical hard drives installed are more susceptible to data damage or loss due to physical damage to the device. It is recommended to use a good-quality padded bag when transporting a laptop. You can protect your data by always having a second copy of important data stored on a second device or storage location.

Screens and hinges are two laptop parts that are commonly damaged. There are a few things that users can do to avoid potential damage to these areas. When opening and closing your laptop lid you want to avoid putting tension on potential stress points on your device. To do this it is recommended that you use the center of the computer to open and close the lid without putting any pressure on the outside edges of the laptop at all. To open the laptop, use one hand to hold the bottom half of the laptop down while using the other hand to gently open the lid from the center of the device. If you are not moving your laptop away from your desk and are not concerned with pets, small children, or liquid spills you can leave your laptop open even if you shut it down between uses. Laptop screens can be damaged and easily broken. Ensure that nothing is left inside your laptop before closing the lid. Avoid placing anything on top of your laptop screen when the laptop lid is closed. Laptop screens cannot be repaired if they are damaged, the screen will need to be replaced with a compatible screen.

Laptop battery capacity and life expectancy can vary greatly depending on how you use your device. Some laptops have features that enable you to preserve battery life by turning on battery optimization features which may limit your battery life but ultimately extend the life of the battery. Users should take caution

and consider disabling quick-charge battery settings when applicable. Quickly charging your battery comes with downsides which can include premature battery failure and physically expanding batteries potentially causing damage to your device.

Most devices will display the current battery life by the clock in the corner of your device screen. To extend your laptop's battery life consider discharging your device until the battery meter reads between 30-60%. Once within the recommended range, plug your device in and let it charge back up to at least 80% (100% on devices with battery optimization features turned on). The reason you want to do this is because when your battery is constantly discharging just a tiny bit and recharging that tiny bit your battery will lose the ability to charge the cells within the battery that are no longer regularly being used. By allowing your battery to discharge and recharge your battery can use

and reuse those cells and in turn, will last longer. If you choose to leave your laptop plugged in, over time the battery will hold less and less of a charge. Eventually, you will unplug your laptop, the battery will not be usable, and it will die within a few minutes or less. Always use a surge protector with your laptop computer to avoid power surges that could damage sensitive electronic components.

Heat is a major concern on all laptops, especially among devices with dedicated graphics which typically generate a lot of heat when in use. Best practices include keeping your laptop on a flat surface which will help the device to receive proper airflow on all sides of the device promoting cooling. Users should avoid using laptops on fabric surfaces such as blankets. Laptops have sensitive electronic components that can be damaged when exposed to prolonged heat. Always make sure that your laptop is left in an area with sufficient cooling and avoid leav-



ing your device in a vehicle where temperatures can quickly rise. If your device is overheating it will lead to premature failure, should you notice that your device is not cooling properly it is recommended to have a trusted repair technician investigate the cause and attempt to remedy the issue before complete failure occurs.

If you find yourself with a laptop needing attention or if you need technology support, consider reaching out to us at Jester's Computers. Not sure what you need? Our friendly staff will help you determine what you need and get you on the right track! Our shop is located at 5135 Fairfield Road in Fairfield or, visit us on the web at www.jesterscomputers.com.

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For more information on the Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund go to: www.pinkribbonfrederick.org.



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