

# Woodsboro - Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 3, NO. 4

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

APRIL 2023

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## Election set to fill second Council seat

Four residents have thrown their hats into the ring to fill the seat formerly held by Commissioner Michael Bailey who resigned his seat in January following his decision to move his family to North Carolina. The candidates applying to fill the remainder of Bailey's seat are Betsey Brannen, David Toohey, Chris Ragen, & Bob Yoder.

Brannen, who also ran in the special election to February, garnered 149 of the 572 votes cast. David Toohey took the yellow ribbon with 42 votes. Regan and Yoder did not run in the February election.

During a candidate forum that was held in February for the first special election, Brannen said she was running for town council because, "the past few months have made me question the trajectory of the town. Walkersville is welcoming and open. Our elected officials owe each other and town residents complete honesty and transparency. These values should define Walkersville's governance. These are my standards for myself, and I expect

them of our chosen representatives.

"I know it may seem like a lot to ask these days," Brannen said, "that our government bodies—at every level—be open and honest with the people and try to do what is in the people's best interest, but I really do believe that. That's the type of Commissioner I'll be. Maybe I sound too old fashioned or idealistic, but as a Town Commissioner, I promise to put Walkersville first and always keep the best interest of the residents in mind."

Toohey told the audience that as a member of the Parks Committee and a 20-year resident, he was "committed to Walkersville, but wanted to solidify that commitment by becoming a Town Commissioner. I fully support an additional special election which would allow my neighbors to elect me to represent them, but if the town chooses to appoint someone, I want our residents to know I am committed to them and what they feel the town needs. My family and I have enjoyed building our lives and raising our



On April 23rd, residents of Walkersville will have the opportunity to settle a four-way race to fill out the Town Council. A Meet the Candidates Forum will be held on April 15, at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.

family in Walkersville and believe that others should as well.

"The residents here deserve transparency from their elected officials and I plan to continue that openness. I believe in smart growth that supports a community such as Walkersville, and want to bring Walkersville into the 21st century while embracing its rich history. We need more small businesses that will continue to bring our town together, such as a small coffee shop or bookstore, this would also improve

our already walkable community. Our town is on the cusp of greatness, and I want to work with our community to keep that momentum going."

Chris Ragen told the News-Journal that he was running because he was deeply concerned about the future of Walkersville. "I fear that overdevelopment and the encroachment of Frederick will rob Walkersville of its identity and charm. We have the opportunity with

continued on page 4

## Woodsboro Town Hall site plan approved

The Woodsboro Town Council voted unanimously to approve the proposed site plan for the much anticipated new town hall, to be located at the site of the old JR Sports Bar and Restaurant, a.k.a. The Hut, on Main Street.

The Town of Woodsboro has never had an official town hall to gather and conduct town business in. Town meetings are currently conducted in the back meeting room of Saint John's Church and Town business is being conducted in a trailer at the waste water treatment facility. "Finally having an 'official' Town Hall will address long pent-up hopes and dreams of the residents of Woodsboro," Burgess Barnes said.

Barnes said he has his fingers crossed that the old adage "third time is the charm" rings true for the latest design. The first design had to be thrown out when the town opted to not build the town hall on a lot originally purchased in 2018 that turned out to be too narrow to build a suitable hall on.

When the Town purchased the larger JR Sports Bar and Restaurant lot, the architects had to go back to the drawing board. While their second proposal was good, it didn't fully meet the expectations of the town's Planning & Zoning

Commission.

The current site plans, however, seems to have hit the nail on the head. In the proposed plan, the new town hall will have a circular one-way driveway around it, with a 22-car parking lot in the back. There will be five additional parking spots in the front, one of which will be designated for handicap vehicles.

Residents who choose to walk to the Town Hall will be able to access it via a walkway with grass borders running perpendicular from the walkway on the street to the glass front doors. "What I like about this," Barnes said, "is people will not be forced to walk through a parking lot to enter the building."

The grass strip in front of the town hall will also provide room for a flagpole and town sign, and maybe, some day, a bench for people to sit on.

While the layout of the hall is still early in the planning stage, the current design for the 2,960 square foot building has plans for a conference room on the right immediately upon entrance, with the town manager's office on the left adjoining the file room. The Burgess's office will be adjacent to the front conference hall.

The middle of the building will



After years of holding town meetings everywhere, including at local barber shops, Woodsboro residents will soon have a state-of-the-art town hall to call their own.

consist of a 'kitchenette' and bathrooms, with the back part of the hall set aside as a large conference room with the ability to seat 40.

Barnes' noted that one of the nice revisions to the plans was the segmentation of the hall into two parts, which would allow the front section to be locked while allowing the back section, including the bathrooms, to be used by groups like the Lions Clubs without worrying about the security of town

offices or records.

The site plan will now be reviewed by the County, and all necessary permits applied for. Barnes was unable to give the Council a firm guess as to how long the County approval process will take, but said that he "was already calling everyone he knew to fast track the process and was going to leave no stone unturned when it came to moving the project forward as fast as it could."

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# WOODSBORO NEWS

## Council seeks public opinion on chickens & grass height

The Woodsboro Town Council will hold a Public Hearing, to be held on April 11, allowing citizens to weigh in on whether to change the current town code to allow chickens within town limits. Additionally, input will be requested on changing the maximum allowable grass height from 18 inches to 8 inches.

In March, in a three to one split decision, the Town Council agreed to move forward with modification of the town code approving ownership of chickens within town limits.

Prior to the vote, the Commissioners reviewed and marked up the proposed 'Regulation of Fowl' ordinance, drafted by the town's Planning and Zoning Commission, which would govern the ownership of chickens.

As amended by the Town Council, property owners within the town who own less than an acre will be allowed to have 5 chickens. Owners of more than one acre will be allowed to own up to 12 chickens. Owner-

ship of roosters is prohibited.

The rights of adjacent property owners were also addressed by the proposed requirements. Specifically, when not in their pens, all chickens must be in an enclosed area to prevent them from being "free range chickens," according to Cutshall. In addition, the enclosure cannot be closer than 10 feet to an adjoining property. "While we want them to be able to move about, we don't want chickens to have the full run of someone's yard," Cutshall said.

Any odor from the chickens, including water byproducts, may not be discernable at the property line. Owners must dispose of all chicken waste, not used for fertilizer, properly. Disposal of chicken waste in the town's trash system is strictly prohibited.

Prior to issuing a permit, the property will be inspected by the town's zoning enforcement officer to verify that the chicken coop and enclosure are compliant with all requirements.

Owners who violate any of the

requirements within the new ordinance will be cited and fined, with fines increasing with each violation. An owner who is cited three times within a 12 month period will have their permit withdrawn and will be required to move their chickens outside of town limits.

Following public input, the Council will make the final decision to reject or adopt the ordinance. If adopted, chicken lovers can then begin the process of bringing their chickens home to roost.

Also in March, due to frequent complaints from residents related to adjoining property owners not cutting their lawns, town staff has recommended a change to the town code reducing the allowed height of lawns from 18 inches to 8 inches.

Public Hearings are required whenever there is a proposed change to the Town's code or ordinances. It allows the public to voice their opinions to the Council before a final vote is made.

## Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

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## Two council seats up for election

At the April 11 Town Council meeting, nominations will be accepted to fill the two seats on the Town Council currently held by Commissioners Dana Crum and John Cutshall.

Crum has announced that she will not be seeking re-election, opting to spend more time with her family. Cutshall said he will be seeking re-election.

Cutshall said he never thought

about not running. "I love this town. I've lived here all my life and one of these days they are going to carry me out of here in a box. I'm retired, so I have all the time in the world to serve the town. I love taking care of the town and serving the people."

"Woodsboro is one of the few remaining true small towns left in the County, and we need to preserve that small town feeling that makes it great. I served on the Council in the early 90s when we did the bypass, which allowed us to preserve our quant downtown. I also facilitated the rejection of the Coppermine North annexation on the old 'Johnny Reb Farm' that would have brought in over 155 new 'mc-mansions', placing an undue burden on our public infrastructure while returning nothing of value to the town."

Unlike other municipalities, Woodsboro uses a nominating pro-

cess to 'vet' candidates for town council. A candidate can nominate themselves, or have someone else nominate them; all that is necessary to get one's name placed on the ballot is someone to 'second' the nomination.

The only requirement, to be placed on the ballot, is proof of residency within the town limits for at least one year.

While it is preferable for a candidate to be physically present when they are nominated, it is not a prerequisite. Those interested in serving on the Town Council are encouraged to contact Burgess Heath Barnes or the Town manager.

Commissioners are paid \$3,000 per year. The town's election is scheduled for Saturday, May 13.

## Verizon seeks to install 5-G transmitters

Verizon has asked permission from the town council to lease space on the Town's water tower to install 5-G transmitters to enhance coverage in the Woodsboro area - which currently, according to the Verizon representative, has dead zones. The new service will not only help alleviate frustrated Verizon users asking 'can you hear me now?', but

increase download speeds by up to 10 times over current speeds.

Verizon offered to pay the town \$2,000/month for a five-year lease, with five, five year extensions, for a total maximum lease of 30 years. In addition, Verizon offered a 2% yearly increase on the monthly rate.

While the council was open to the offer, they noted that both AT&T

and T-Mobile, which currently lease space on the water tower for their customers, increase their monthly rate by 3% per year. "If Verizon was willing to up the annual payment to match the other two carriers," Barnes said, "I think it's safe to say you will get a positive response to your request."

Verizon said that given the central location of the tower, installing their transmitters on it was far preferable coverage wise, not to mention economically, then leasing land on an

adjacent farm and building their own cell tower.

Just last month, citing its recent merger with Sprint, T-Mobile requested the Town reduce the fees it charges the company for leasing space on the Town's water tower for cell phone repeater antennas from \$2,648/month to \$1,951/month.

Barnes suggested the Town call T-Mobile's bluff and reject the request. "What are they going to do? Go out and build their own cell tower? They are getting a great deal right now, and

the \$700/month loss we would take by accepting their requested reduction would be felt by the town."

In response to a question raised at the March meeting by a member of the public on the possible health effects from cell phones, Commissioner Jessie Case asked the Verizon representative about the possible health effects from not only 5-G, but cell phones in general. The Verizon representative methodically walked the Council through the history of the cell phone, the actual amount of energy in the form of radio waves, and the nature of the folklore surrounding some of the claims found on the Internet about 5-G health effects.

"The bottom line is if you were standing right next to the transmitters on the tower when they were working, you would get an exposure equal to a dental x-ray. At ten feet, you would get as much as you get from standing in front of your microwave." The representative then went on to note that as the transmitters are 80 feet or more in the air, the radiation at ground level would be undetectable, masked by natural background radiation.

The only possible show stopper was eliminated when, in response to Verizon's concerns about the towers ability to handle three carries, the Town informed them that until the T-Mobile and Sprint merger, the Town had supported the transmitters of three separate carriers.

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# WALKERSVILLE NEWS

## Street repairs lead to discussion on sidewalk ownership

A discussion concerning whether to approve a bid to resurface Maple and Maryland Aves., and their associated curbs, opens the door to what some have termed the 'third rail' of small town politics – the ownership of sidewalks within a community and who is responsible for their maintenance.

The issue of Walkersville assuming control of sidewalks grew out of a discussion over the proposed scope of the work to be done to repair those roads.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh expressed concern that the scope of the work included replacing the adjacent sidewalks, which he noted, under the town code is the responsibility of the homeowners. "I think it sets a precedent that we were unable to establish that the town was respon-

sible for homeowner sidewalks before," he explained. "We've had multiple studies [on this issue], and I think it sets a precedent for the rest of town to come forward and complain that their sidewalks are not covered [by the town]."

McNiesh recommended that the town change the code to make the town responsible for sidewalks and their maintenance.

Commissioners Mary Ann Ennis agreed that McNiesh's issue was in fact a dilemma, and said she had struggled with the sidewalk ownership issue, but said in the case of the Maple and Maryland Aves. repairs, the continuity of the project was enhanced by including the work on the sidewalks.

In most communities with a Home Owners Associations, side-

walks are typically owned by the Association if the streets/parking areas are private. Sidewalks within neighborhoods (regardless of HOA) that are on public roads are typically the responsibility of the towns and are considered public.

However, that is not the case with sidewalks in Walkersville, where residents are responsible for the maintenance of the sidewalks in front of their homes. The only exceptions to this rule are the homeowners in \_\_\_\_\_, where the Home Owners Association is responsible for the upkeep and repairs of sidewalks.

According to Town Manager Sean Williams, "the only sidewalks the town is responsible for maintaining or repairing are sidewalks adjacent to town property, like the sidewalk in front of the town hall, or adjacent to

town parks and facilities. Residents," Williams said, "are always surprised when they are informed that they are responsible for any necessary repairs, which depending upon the repair, can be costly."

Williams however caveated his comments by saying who ultimately is responsible for any sidewalk repair is based upon the cause of the issue. "For example," he said, "if the damage is due to something that the town may have caused or something outside of the homeowner's control, like a waterline breaking, or flooding from a poorly installed or failed storm water drain, then the town would more than likely do the repairs."

"But if the issue is uneven sidewalks due to the growth of roots from home owner trees, or just pure wear

and tear, either of which are capable of creating tripping hazards for residents, then the repairs are the homeowners' responsibility."

Uneven sidewalks from tree root growth caused a storm of complaints a few years back in Emmitsburg when that town planted trees along its main thoroughfare. A few years later, as the sidewalks buckled from root growth, the town began to issue citations to residents to repair, at their own expense, the damage done from the Town's actions. To say the citations did not ever go well by affected residents would be an understatement.

Only one bid was received for the reconstruction of the two roads, at a cost of \$1,144,396. The bid was subsequently unanimously approved by the town council.

## Public Hearing to be held on FoodPRO

The Town's Planning Commission has announced a public hearing on a Comprehensive Plan request submitted by FoodPRO for the inclusion of FoodPRO's 106 acre property, located on Fountain Rock Rd., in the Town's ultimate annexation limits with a land use designation of Limited Industrial. While this is not an annexation request, FoodPRO has pitched possible annexation to the Town previously.

The property is currently designated as Agricultural Buffer and Limited Industrial and falls within

the ultimate annexation limits of the Town. Located alongside Creek View and Spring View Estates, it is bisected by an area of the Glade Creek floodplain. FoodPRO plans to construct a new distribution center on the land and may also consider adding a retail food center in the future.

In order to be consistent with annexation plans, the entire property must be re-zoned for industrial growth during the update of the Comprehensive Plan, a process which has been ongoing for over two

years. The county must also approve the zoning change; without consensus from all parties, the property would not be developable for five years after annexation.

Town staff has held meetings with the County Planning staff and the Town Attorney for guidance and information regarding this property. A joint Town Council and Planning Commission informational meeting was held in January.

A Planning Commission hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25 to consider the request. At the meet-

ing, FoodPRO will present their plans as part of the Comprehensive Plan update process, Town staff will present a staff report, and Planning Commission members will have the opportunity to ask questions of the property owner. Public comments will also be accepted at this time.

Due to the potential for increased truck traffic and industrialization in an area which has otherwise remained historically pastoral, both town officials and residents have expressed concerns

about the FoodPRO request at previous meetings. It is likely that these concerns will be reiterated at the April 25 hearing.

After the hearing, the Planning Commission will vote on FoodPRO's request. Once the draft plan for the Comprehensive Plan updates is released, it will undergo a 60-day review period in which further public hearings will be held to consider new comments. Revisions to the Plan will be voted on before a new draft is submitted to the Town Council for amendment and adoption.

## News Briefs...

### Town Considers Addition of Second Entrance to Heritage Farm Park

For some time, the Parks Commission has been considering installing a second entrance to Heritage Farm Park. Navigating the current one-way looped road of Heritage Farm Park can be difficult, especially during sports seasons.

The possibility of a second entrance was initially brought up after the Park's interest survey was completed last fall, with Burgess Chad Weddle expressing interest in using grant money for another entrance rather than other suggestions like a skate park or dog park. However, it appears that this will be in addition to other ideas. "It is going to be an expensive proposition," said Commissioner Brodie-Ennis, "but as the burgess said to me, we have the money."

After potential plans are reviewed by engineers, the Town will decide whether the second entrance will be used for emergencies only or open for public access.

### Discussion Continues Over Parks Interest Survey

In the fall, the Parks Commission conducted an online interest survey regarding future park projects. Suggestions made by approximately 150 residents have now been narrowed down to several potential projects, including a skate park, dog park,

foot golf course, and improvements to walking trails. Foot golf currently lies at the top of the list, a game combining soccer and golf which consists of large "holes" or "buckets" placed in the ground which a soccer ball can be maneuvered into.

Parks Commission members have voted to install three "buckets" in order to determine whether the course will actually be used. In addition, commission member Kevin Conley questioned whether any additional sports fields for baseball or soccer are needed, but GVAA has expressed no such interest.

In addition, Commissioner Brodie-Ennis states that the town is in favor of keeping more open, multi-use space rather than adding more

fields. This may include transitioning certain parts of the park into "passive" areas, where visitors can freely walk, sit, read, or play.

### Ceremony To Be Held To Mark 1981 Plan Crash

On May 6, 1981, 21 souls lost their lives aboard the US Air Force Advanced Range Instrumentation Aircraft (ARIA), when the plane crashed near Heritage Farm Park. On Saturday, May 6, there will be a ceremony at the ARIA memorial at Heritage, to honor the victims. Weather permitting, there will be a flyover at 10:49am by the 167th Airlift Wing, out of Martinsburg, West Virginia, marking the time of the crash. Light refreshments will be offered at the Manor House following the ceremony.

### Town of Walkersville Real Estate Tax Credit for Seniors

The Walkersville Senior Real Estate Tax Credit was first introduced in 2021 and benefits qualified local homeowners age 65 and over. The homeowners qualify based on income and net worth limits. The amount of the tax credit is 50% of the net Town tax.

In addition to homeowners earning this tax credit, qualified homeowners can also earn the Maryland State Homeowner Tax Credit and Frederick County Senior Tax Credit. All three can be obtained by completing a single State Home-

owner Tax Credit application.

For information, homeowner can contact the Town office for information on the Town's tax credit or the County Treasury Department for information on the State, County, and Town tax credits. The County Treasury Department can be reached at 301-600-111 or by email at treasuryquestions@frederick-countymd.gov.

In addition, there are other tax credit programs available, among these for veterans and renters, in Frederick County.



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**WALKERSVILLE INFO**

Wed., April 5 - 7 p.m. - Parks Meeting  
 Fri., April 7 - Town Office Closed  
 Good Friday  
 Tues., April 11 - 7 p.m. - Planning Workshop  
 Wed., April 12 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting  
 Sat., April 15 - 7 p.m. - Meet the Candidates  
 Mon., April 17 - 7 p.m. - EDC Meeting  
 Tues., April 18 - 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Special Election  
 Tues., April 25 - 7 p.m. - Planning Meeting FoodPro  
 Wed., April 26 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting

website: [www.walkersvillemd.gov](http://www.walkersvillemd.gov)  
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 Walkersville: Our Town

## FROM THE DESK OF...

## Congressman David Trone

When I started my career in business, a stop at the payphone was a regular occurrence. I'd pull off of the turnpike, where I was on my way to deliver eggs from the farm, and make calls to negotiate prices with a vendor, check in with a customer, or, most importantly, let my family know that I'd be home late for dinner. I literally ran my business from a payphone and out of the notepad I carried. I applied for my student loans on paper, and I kept track of our kids' basketball practices with a note on the fridge.

A few decades later, things have changed. We're in the digital age. Unfortunately, our infrastructure hasn't kept up, and thousands of families and businesses are left behind and disconnected.

Access to reliable internet is critical to our way of life. It's how families stay connected, students learn,

and businesses stay open. While this has been a growing concern for years, the pandemic shone a spotlight on the importance of broadband access. Millions of Americans had to adjust to working and learning from home, and thousands of small businesses relied on e-commerce to stay afloat. That's why I was shocked to learn that more than half a million Maryland households — over 23% — don't have access to reliable, high-speed internet. It is simply not available where they live. This is unacceptable.

This is not only a problem for people living in remote and rural areas. Thousands of families in Baltimore and even the densest parts of Montgomery County can't connect to the internet. That's why a focus solely on rural broadband expansion will help, but it won't solve the entire problem. This is just as much an equity problem in our urban communities as it is in our rural ones.

Some folks suggest leaving it up to private enterprise to tackle the challenge of broadband expansion. I can assure no one is a bigger supporter of private enterprise than I am, but on this issue, this is not the right approach. Experience tells us that this will lead to higher costs and lower quality for all involved, including the very people who need access and for everyone else who subscribes to those services. Growing up on a farm in a rural town near the Maryland border, we relied on electricity and roads. That electricity and those roads were not constructed by private enterprise. It was the government recognizing that access to these was vital to our way of life. The same is true of broadband today.

I'm delighted to report that we're making great progress in expanding broadband access to every home and business across Maryland. Through

my position on the House Appropriations Committee, I've directed federal funds toward tackling this challenge both here in Maryland and across the country. We've secured over \$3 million in funding for broadband expansion across Western Maryland and Frederick County. Laws passed by Congress with bipartisan support invested more than \$60 billion in broadband expansion nationwide, hundreds of millions of which will come to Maryland.

This challenge also presents an opportunity to create good-paying jobs and encourage entrepreneurship and innovation. In my role on the House Appropriations Committee, I secured \$1 million for a 5G Training Bootcamp, creating over 100 jobs and apprenticeships for those who will support the next generation of infrastructure and investment in broadband.

These investments will create jobs far beyond just the telecommunica-

tions industry. More and more each year, businesses and entrepreneurs depend on the internet to innovate, connect with their customers, and participate in the growing e-commerce marketplace. If we want businesses to be able to take advantage of all that our communities have to offer, especially those in rural areas, we have to ensure that they have reliable access to the internet. Doing so doesn't just benefit the businesses, it benefits the communities by creating jobs and stimulating the local economy.

It's past time to put people over politics and stop waiting around for someone else to solve the problems that our communities — and my constituents — face. The pandemic showed us what's possible if federal, state, and local governments partner together to make these investments. If we continue with this mindset, we can ensure that every Marylander has access to reliable, affordable internet in their home.

## Woodsboro Burgess Heath Barnes

At our March 14th meeting I was happy to report on some great developments.

Our Planning and Zoning committee presented to the council an updated drawing of the plans for our new town hall. The council unanimously approved the plans and now I can happily report that they will be going to the county for the permit approvals. I am going to work as hard as I can to get it through the process quickly, because once those come back, we can break ground. This has been a long time coming

with the previous attempts to build on a smaller lot etc., but there is now light at the end. I have high hopes that we will be breaking ground by summer once again that is my hopes not the set timeline.

We have a couple of things coming up in town and more details will follow. The community Easter Egg hunt in partnership with the Woodsboro Volunteer Fire Department will be April 1st, at 3 p.m. sharp in the park. The rain date will be April 8th. Reminder Woodsboro has elections coming up on May 13th.

There will be two town commissioners up for election. To be eligible to run you must be 18 years old and a resident residing in the town limits for a minimum of 1 year before the election. If you have an interest in running, please reach out to Mary in the town office. To be placed on the ballot you will need to either attend the April 8th meeting and announce your intention to run or reach out to the town office prior to April 8th to appear on the ballot.

Just a reminder that there will be a public hearing at 7 p.m. on

April 8th directly proceeding the monthly town council meeting. The two items up for discussion will be changing the town code to allow chickens based on the paramotors voted on in February, and to change the towns grass height code from the current 18 inches to 8 inches.

As always, I encourage everyone to support Glade Valley Community Services (GVCS) if you have clothes or food donations as they are always in need of items for members of the community. For more information, please contact GVCS by email at gvcs.inc@verizon.net, or call 301-845-0213.

If you have any questions, concerns, complaints, or compliments please feel free to reach out to me at hbarnes@woodsboro.org or by phone at 301-401-7164.

Woodsboro Town meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. In addition, Planning and Zoning meetings are at 6pm on the First Monday of the month as needed. If you have an item for the agenda, it needs to be submitted 14 days before the P&Z meeting. The current location for meetings is the St. Johns United Church of Christ located at 8 N 2nd Street Woodsboro. The public is always invited to attend.

## Walkersville election set to fill second council seat. (continued from page 1)

the comprehensive plan process to secure Walkersville as a small town for at least ten years, protecting us from the current wave of development and keep Walkersville a livable place.

"Beyond growth, I believe that it is incumbent on the town government to ensure that our citizens have green spaces and community assets that make our town a complete community. In particular, while Walkersville has ample play areas for young children and outdoor areas for walking, bike riding and sports, I believe we can do more for teens and young adults for example. Adding a skate park to an existing park like Walkersville Community Park or sponsoring activities

like a battle of the local bands could provide social spaces for young people and offer alternatives to playing sports. We can also do more for our aged community as well.

"I have listened for years as my parents and grandparents lament at the overdevelopment and congestion that turned towns like Germantown and Damascus into acres of asphalt. I do not want to find myself and my community in the same situation in 20 years. Walkersville is an amazing community that I've been a part of for 33 years. I know that we can seize this opportunity and protect our town's identity as a small town. We can fortify our position as a semi-rural community and embrace all facets of

our community through age inclusive activities and facilities."

The New-Journal was unable to

reach Yoder for input on this article.

The special election will be held on Tuesday April 18 in the Town

Hall Meeting Room. Absentee ballots can be picked up at the town office.

## Former Walkersville Councilman Michael Bailey

Greetings from Wilmington North Carolina. It's been about 2 months since we made the hard decision to leave the town we love for new beginnings. Our family has settled in nicely made new friends, found our new parks, and have gotten plugged into with our local planning and zoning administrator to figure out what's happening. It's wonderful here, the beach is close, but it's no Walkersville.

The value that our town provides is immense. Our parks, our infrastructure, our community, our town staff create a perfect ecosystem that enables each resident to know and enjoy the town that they live in. We've heard a lot about the danger of forever chemicals (PFAS) in water sup-

plies across the nation. However, the forward thinking investment in a new water plant utilizing reverse osmosis is one of the only known methodologies for mitigating against these dangerous chemicals. It's astounding being on the outside and looking back at all the amazing parts of our town.

Vacating my office was the most difficult part in leaving town. I loved the work, the staff, and each of the commissioners and burgess. Mike is a trailblazer to progress. Mary-Anne a fierce advocate for frugality and updated parks within town. Tom a partner to combat blight in town and a financial subject matter expert. Gary a project manager asking thoughtful and probative questions. Chad, a cornerstone of tradition and stability.

The board is not defined by any single commissioner but rather by the sum of its parts. Nothing gets done without collaboration and negotiation. That's why it's important that my seat is filled by someone who is a collaborator and an innovator. It's why I fully support Betsy Brannen to replace me.

I first voted for Betsy in the 2018 commissioner election for a many reasons. Betsy will bring a unique perspective to the commissioner role. Being born and raised in the town gives her a foothold into understanding the historical context for issues the town faces. Pair this with a desire to innovate and modernize means that she can successfully navigate issues and propose meaningful solutions. She has also demonstrated herself to be intentional, realistic, innovative, and a collaborator. All things needed on the board and all reasons why I hope you will support her.

A few folks have told me that I'm now an "outsider" and should stay out of electoral politics within the town. I won't do that. Having sat in the seat, I know what it takes to be successful as a commissioner. Betsy has what it takes.

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## FROM THE DESK OF...

## County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

March 16 marked my 100th day as your County Executive. My team and I have spent the first few months meeting with staff and stakeholders to better understand where we've been and the course the county is currently set on. I have been so impressed by the dedicated work of our county staff at all levels, and I look forward to building a bright future with our amazing public servants.

Each one of us has a responsibility to do what we can, with what we have, where we are, to make our community a better place for all.

Our administration starts in a strong position thanks in large part to our first County Executive, Jan Gardner, who led the transition from a county commissioner form of government to a charter government. County Executive Gardner left the County on solid financial footing, and we are well positioned

to continue to build a government that meets the needs of a growing and increasingly diverse population.

When I took office, I appointed a Transition Team, co-chaired by Rick Weldon and Toni Bowie, to identify the community's priorities that my Administration can address over the next four years. We brought together more than 130 residents who gave freely of their time and talent to set shared goals for our administration.

Transition Team members served in committees that focused on seven key areas: Economy and Jobs; Education and Workforce Development; Government Innovation; Housing and Quality of Life; Public Health and Human Services; Public Safety; and Sustainability, Infrastructure and Transportation. The core values of inclusion, accountability, and sustainability guided the team's work.

The team included people from all parts of Frederick County. For example, from the Emmitsburg/Thurmont area, members included Mark Long, Sarah Laird, Eric Soter, Sister Roberta Treppa, and Sam Roop. The Woodsboro/Walkersville area was represented by Linda Thane-Morgan, Stephen Heine, Jon-Mikel Bailey, Jeff Griffin, the Rev. Ronnie Henry, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Veronica Henry, Shannon Aleshire, and Joel Rensberger.

The Transition Report was community-led and government-informed. Members spent 12 weeks examining data, hearing from county staff, listening to experts, and drawing on their own lived experiences. They also read through the nearly 200 responses submitted through our website dedicated to the transition. The site was viewed over 3,200 times. In the end, the team generated a

report that offers 64 recommendations to guide the actions of Frederick County Government.

Broad themes emerged throughout the report.

Build on a strong foundation.

- Be intentional about diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.
- Engage stakeholders, and identify and eliminate barriers to participation.
- Use data to inform decisions, drive outcomes, and measure progress.
- Understand the impact of decisions.
- Break down siloes within Frederick County Government and within the community.
- Innovate and "fail forward." In other words, be bold.
- Invest in people because they are a valuable resource.

The full Transition Report can be found online at [FrederickCountyMD.gov/Transition](https://FrederickCountyMD.gov/Transition). The report is the beginning of the process, not the end.

We will use this document to hold ourselves accountable as we continue the important work of serving our community." In the coming months, we will publish a tracker on our website, so everyone can see our progress and stay engaged. And we will ask the Transition Team to reconvene annually for a public meeting to receive updates and continue to lend their energy and expertise to our work.

I look forward to continuing to bring people together as we implement their recommendations. Together we are shaping Frederick County's future.

A final note: Expanded Transit service to Emmitsburg and Thurmont begins this month. We heard your requests and added rides and days of service. There will be two round trips between the towns and the City of Frederick every Saturday, and late-morning shuttles on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Remember, it's free to ride Frederick County Transit!

## County Councilwoman-At-Large Renee Knapp

This month the 2022-2026 Frederick County Council will receive our first budget. County Executive Jessica Fitzwater will be submitting her budget for fiscal year 2024 to the Council by April 15. After the budget is received, the County Council will hold a public hearing on the budget. At the time I am writing this month's article, that hearing has not been scheduled. Members of the Council can offer amendments to the County Executive's budget. We will hold budget workshops, which are open to the public, on May 3, 4, and 5. The Council has until May 31 to pass the budget with a majority vote. If the Council fails to pass the budget by May 31, then the budget submitted by the County Executive becomes law.

At this point in my first term, I've had the opportunity to attend several meetings of the boards and commissions where I serve as the County Council liaison. Serving on a county board or commission is a great way to get involved in the community and to learn how our county government works. You can find the list of Frederick County Boards and Commissions on the county website, and application information, if you're interested in being considered to

serve on one or more. Here are some recent highlights from a few of those commissions.

### Tax Credits for Seniors & Military Veterans

On March 9, the Frederick County Commission for Women held their annual RAW-Raving About Women Awards. I was honored to be there with many others to recognize these amazing women for helping other women and families in Frederick County. This year's awardees included Heartly House, Dr. Yewende Oladeinde, Ms. Rosario Campos, and SheLEADS Leader Ms. Olivia Yeatman. The Commission has also submitted letters of support for two issues that have come before the Council. In addition to supporting continuing recorded messages and public comment by phone during council meetings, the Commission supports recent bills to expand property tax credits for senior citizens and those who have served in the military.

These three bills were introduced by Council Member Steve McKay to amend certain sections of current county property tax code. At the County Council meeting on March 21, the Council discussed the bills and several proposed amendments.

After voting on the amendments, two of the bills will be returning for an additional public hearing. One bill (Amended Bill 23-03 Senior Citizens Local Supplement to Homeowners Property Tax Credit) would expand the income eligibility for senior citizens, revise the property tax credit to 30% and 50% for the two tiers of eligible income, and increase the home value limitation to \$500,000 for the senior citizens' supplement to homeowners' property tax credit.

A second bill, (Amended Bill 23-04 Elderly Individuals Uniformed Service Members Property Tax Credit) would expand the income eligibility for elderly individuals, increase the property tax credit to 30%, and remove the 5-year limitation for the elderly individuals and uniformed service members property tax credit. Both amended bills include a new automatic income qualification limit based upon the CPI (Consumer Price Index).

The third bill, (Bill 23-02 Amend the Tax Credit for the Surviving Spouse of a Disabled Veteran) would remove a five-year time limit to receive this credit, so long as the applicant remains eligible. This bill was approved by the Council on March 21.

### Sustainability Commission

At the most recent meeting, the Commission heard the preliminary results of the Frederick County Climate and Energy Internal Government Action Plan. This study identified 14 overarching strategies to increase climate resilience within county operations. Recommendations included assessing current county codes with respect to climate resilience and installing backup generators at critical county facilities.

We also had a presentation on current Critical Data Infrastructure regulations in Frederick County. Unlike some of our neighboring counties, Frederick County has taken the time to establish standards for cloud data centers before a significant number are built here. There are architectural and landscaping guidelines that must be followed to make data centers less obtrusive, so they won't detract from the beautiful landscapes in the county. Additionally, noise and vibration standards will mean less impact to residents living near data centers.

Currently, there are a relatively small number of data centers operating in the county. As the numbers increase, it's important to note that we already have these regulations in place and the ability to refine them,

if necessary, to protect the local environment and to strive for the most energy efficiency possible.

### Social Services Advisory Board

Currently in Frederick County, 68 children are living in foster care. Of those children, 41 are able to stay living in the county, and 27 are living out of the county. Those are a few numbers we heard during a presentation on foster care in the county. There are currently 45 licensed resource families, and more are needed to care for vulnerable children while their birth parent(s) work to stabilize the family living situation. Unfortunately, the number of children in the 0-5 years range who require foster care has increased.

If you have ever thought of becoming a resource (foster) parent, and would like more information, the Frederick County Department of Social Services holds monthly information sessions. You can call 301-600-2466 or send an email to [foster.careinfo@maryland.gov](mailto:foster.careinfo@maryland.gov) to find out when the next information session will be held.

April will be a busy month for the Frederick County Council. If you would like to contact me with any questions or concerns, my email address is [rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov).

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# COMMENTARY

## Words From Winterbilt

### Police reform and qualified immunity

Shannon Bohrer

The topic of police reform has been front and center in our national conversations for many years. Following the death of George Floyd the calls for reform grew and then gradually subsided. This was followed with other questionable and problematic deaths. Each time the calls for police reform grew and again with the passing of time they subsided. It appears that after horrific events, we elevate our national conversations on proposed police reforms. Then, as time passes, the conversations wane until another tragedy occurs. The latest tragedy, the beating death of Tyre Nichols by five Memphis Police Officers, has re-ignited the conversations and calls for reform. Will this time be different, or will the calls for reform follow the same pattern?

The death of Tyre Nichols was horrific, difficult to watch and difficult to comprehend. If there was ever a case that demonstrated the need for reforms, the films used by the major news media in the reporting of Tyre Nichols case, established that need. Will the Tyre Nichols case be the catalyst for change? This time the probability of change was bolstered with the quick response of the Memphis Police Department to fire the officers involved with Mr. Nichols's death.

Additionally, the prompt actions by the judicial system to charge the officers involved, could be an indicator that criminal justice reforms have some momentum. Or again - will the calls for change wane with the passing of time.

The pattern of calling for reforms after horrific events, then little to nothing being accomplished, is not limited to police reform. The mass shootings that we experience on a continuum fits the same pattern. When 20 children were murdered in Newtown, Connecticut, the calls for better gun laws seemed front and center. As one person said, "if the deaths of twenty children does not move the needle, then nothing will." Since Newtown we have experienced additional mass shootings and a few States and the Federal legislature have passed some gun safety laws. So change is possible. Sometimes the changes that are sought occur slowly in incremental steps.

The need for change in our criminal justice system that may seem obvious to many, strangely and conversely seems to frighten others. Overcoming resistance to any proposed changes in the criminal justice community is necessary for significant changes to occur. Some people view the issue of police reform as a binary choice. Maybe they think that the idea of police

reform is demeaning to the police - which it is not. Police reform and ensuring the rights of all citizens are not separate or independent goals. Supporting the police and the rights of minority groups is, and should be, aligned with supporting justice and equal rights for everyone.

In the Tyre Nichols case, the resistance to change was expressed in the national news in an inexplicable manner. As horrific as the Tyre Nichols case was, there was push back in an attempt to downplay the seriousness. Tucker Carlson, talking about the Tyre Nichols case, said, "Ashley Babbitt was murdered ... more clearly' than Tyre Nichols." Since Ashley Babbitt was breaking into the capital during an insurrection when she was shot, and Tyre Nichols was driving a motor vehicle before being stopped and then dying from the actions of police officers, Tucker Carlson's comparison is nonsensical. The comparison of a justified shooting to an unjustified beating death of a human is unreasonable and illogical. Overcoming resistance with some people may not be possible.

In fairness to the topic of police reform since George Floyd, a few changes for police reforms have been made. There are close to 150 civilian police oversight boards around the country. The boards generally have limited authority, but their intent is to hold the officers, and the agencies accountable. While the con-

cept is relatively new, the boards appear to have a positive or favorable appearance with the public. Obviously there will always be some push back on both sides. Some in the law enforcement community feel the oversight is not justified, believing they should only be judged by other officers. On the other end, some civilians want more oversight, believing the police ignore poor behavior within their own ranks.

On the federal level congress proposed several bills, including the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021. The bill passed the house and stalled in the Senate. The sticking point in the bill was the proposal to limit the qualified immunity as a defense liability in a private civil action against the police. Senator Tim Scott from South Carolina said that eliminating qualified immunity was a "poison pill" for law makers. The bill failed to pass.

It does seem strange that limiting qualified immunity is such a large sticking point in that the immunity is limited and only for civil actions. Having a career in criminal justice and listening to lawyers explain the immunity, I would not have thought it would be the obstacle it has become. The immunity is a court related doctrine that gives immunity for all government workers from frivolous lawsuits. When an officer makes a minor error or mistake, or when any government worker makes an unintended mistake, the doctrine prevents the officer of government

employee from being sued.

It was always taught that officers that intentionally violate the law, or continually make mistakes, were not protected. However, recent court interpretations of the court doctrine have not followed that theory. Some courts appear to have applied "the doctrine aggressively to shield officers from lawsuits." In a 2019 case a Court of Appeals ruled that police officers, who stole over \$225,000 in cash and gold coins could not be sued. The court said the "officers were entitled to "qualified immunity." This ruling was not unique, in that other courts have made similar rulings in cases where police were accused of criminal behavior.

The qualified immunity doctrine was created to protect government workers from frivolous law suits, not to protect them when involved in criminal behavior. The police are supposed to protect the public from criminals, and yet some rulings on qualified immunity have protected the police, after they commit criminal acts - against the public. Maybe qualified immunity should be codified, with provisions that eliminate any civil protections for police involved in criminal acts. Otherwise, not eliminating civil protections for police involved in criminal acts, becomes a poison pill for police reforms.

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

## The Bulwark

### The paradox of Republican pain

Jonathan V. Last

Republicans will defend Trump even while secretly hoping he gets indicted and then convicted.

Roughly speaking, there are six things an elected Republican could say about an indictment of Donald Trump:

Trump's alleged actions are deeply concerning.

Let the legal process play out; I have faith in our justice system.

No comment.

Yes, Trump's alleged actions are concerning; but because of various externalities, the wiser course of action would have been to not indict.

Democrats and this Soros-backed prosecutor are out of control. We will fight this to the bitter end.

Donald Trump is innocent of all charges; this is a miscarriage of justice.

This is not science, but my sense is that the distribution of these positions among elite Republicans will look basically like this:

The two unlabeled slivers are "These allegations are troubling" and "wiser not to indict." I peg them at 1% positions.

Maybe I'm off at the margins but this is close enough for the purposes of our discussion. So let's move on.

Now this also isn't science, but

here is my rough sense of the percentages of elite Republicans who secretly wish Trump would disappear versus the percentage who really want more Trump.

Do I have this exactly right? Probably not. But we're in the ballpark. Give elite Republican veritas serum and the majority of them will tell you that they want Trump to go away and it doesn't matter how.

This creates an obvious tension with the first chart. If a strong majority of Republican elites want Trump gone, then why is a supermajority of them going to the mattresses to either proclaim that Trump is innocent or attack the legal case against Trump?

What we have here is a paradox of pain.

And now we get to the part that is science. Because we have lots of polling on how Republican voters feels about Trump. They approve of him. They want him leading the party. And they want him running for president in 2024.

The source of the paradox becomes clear now, yes?

Republican elites are desperate to get rid of Trump. But they know that their own voters are deeply invested in keeping Trump. So they will respond to an event which could achieve their objective by visibly trying to prevent it

from achieving their objective.

And all the while secretly hoping that their efforts at intervention will fail.

Which is something we've seen before:

On Monday, Jan. 11, Mr. McConnell met over lunch in Kentucky with two longtime advisers, Terry Carmack and Scott Jennings. Feasting on Chick-fil-A in Mr. Jennings's Louisville office, the Senate Republican leader predicted Mr. Trump's imminent political demise.

"The Democrats are going to take care of the son of a bitch for us," Mr. McConnell said, referring to the imminent impeachment vote in the House.

Which brings us to a second paradox: If Republicans have been here before, and tried this strategy, and seen it fail, then why are they doing it again?

There are a couple plausible explanations: principle or negative polarity, for instance.

But my best guess is it's because elite Republicans are at such a disconnect with their voters that they simultaneously disdain and fear them.

That's why you're forever seeing anonymous Republicans quoted in news reports giving their true feelings about Trump. That's why you saw all of that private correspondence in the Fox / Dominion lawsuit.

And then remember this?

On the House floor [on Jan. 6], moments before the vote, Meijer

approached a member who appeared on the verge of a breakdown. He asked his new colleague if he was okay. The member responded that he was not; that no matter his belief in the legitimacy of the election, he could no longer vote to certify the results, because he feared for his family's safety. "Remember, this wasn't a hypothetical. You were casting that vote after seeing with your own two eyes what some of these people are capable of," Meijer says. "If they're willing to come after you inside the U.S. Capitol, what will they do when you're at home with your kids?"

And this?

[Gonzalez] made clear that the strain had only grown worse since his impeachment vote, after which he was deluged with threats and feared for the safety of his wife and children.

Mr. Gonzalez said that quality-of-life issues had been paramount in his decision. He recounted an "eye-opening" moment this year: when he and his family were greeted at the Cleveland airport by two uniformed police officers, part of extra security precautions taken after the impeachment vote.

"That's one of those moments where you say, 'Is this really what I want for my family when they travel, to have my wife and kids escorted through the airport?'" he said.

Also this:

"If you look at the vote to impeach, for example, there were

members who told me that they were afraid for their own security - afraid, in some instances, for their lives," [Liz Cheney] said.

Or this:

Asked if she would have signed it [a letter urging the state's congressional delegation to reject President Biden's win], [Kim Ward] indicated that the Republican base expected party leaders to back up Mr. Trump's claims - or to face its wrath.

"If I would say to you, 'I don't want to do it,'" she said about signing the letter, "I'd get my house bombed tonight."

There are so many more.

Whatever you want to say about Democratic elites and their voters, the two groups are basically in-sync. And to the extent that Democratic elites are out of sync with their base, they aren't terrified of these voters. Joe Manchin had kayakers yelling at his house boat. Kyrsten Sinema was followed into a bathroom by rude college students. Neither are concerned about militia dudes with long guns.

Republicans have discovered that their voters are bullies. And rather than stand up to these bullies, or switch parties, they hope that someone else will deal with them on their behalf—even as they enable the bullies and make a show of defending them.

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

# Country First

## Politics and the Golden Rule

David Marshall

Criminal felony charges against a former U.S. president would be unprecedented. As a Manhattan grand jury hears evidence concerning Donald Trump's role in a criminal case involving hush money payments to adult film star Stormy Daniels, it represents uncharted territory for our nation. After informing supporters of his possible imminent arrest, Donald Trump's 2024 presidential campaign received \$1.5 million in grassroots contributions. Meanwhile, top Republicans, including some of Trump's potential rivals for the party's nomination, rushed to defend the former president.

The idea of indicting a former president of the United States is deeply troubling to me, as it is to tens of millions of Americans," said former vice-president Mike Pence. House speaker Kevin McCarthy said a possible indictment would be an "outrageous abuse of power by a radical DA [district attorney] who lets violent criminals walk as he pursues political vengeance" against Trump.

While the responses from Pence and McCarthy are not surprising, there are several critical questions which should be asked. Was Mike Pence and Kevin McCarty, along with tens of millions of Americans, objective by considering the fact that Michael Cohen, Trump's former lawyer, could be telling the truth? Cohen has said that the hush money was paid at Trump's direction. Federal prosecutors charged Cohen with campaign finance crimes related to payments to

Daniels in addition to Playboy model, Karen McDougal, arguing that the payouts amounted to impermissible gifts to Trump's election efforts. Cohen pleaded guilty, served prison time and was eventually disbarred. In other words, Michael Cohen was held accountable for his illegal actions.

Would an indictment from the New York County District Attorney's office be considered a "witch-hunt" as Trump claims or is it the application of Democracy's rule of law, in which the laws and procedures are meant to apply equally to all citizens? The rule of law means independent courts can (and should) punish corruption, no matter who is guilty. The rule of law means no one is above the law, not even a former president. It is about ethics, and ethics is what guides us to tell the truth, keep our promises, or help someone in need. It refers to well-founded standards of right and wrong.

Our society pays a heavy price when too many good-willed people become numb and turn a blind eye resulting in corruption being allowed to exist with little or no accountability. In light of our toxic political environment, America is becoming a nation where partisan politics redefines what is right versus what is wrong. We see it in the manner unethical behavior conducted by members of the opposing political party is called out in order to gain political points. While the same behavior by members of one's own party is downplayed in order to avoid political damage.

The Lady Justice Statue, which is seen often in many courthouses, has become the most recognized symbol of American justice. It is portrayed as a blindfolded woman carrying a sword and a set of scales. She represents the morality and fairness of the legal system. The blindfold tells us that justice is blind in its impartiality and objectivity of the law. External factors such as partisan politics, wealth, status, race, or fame should be removed so they do not prevent the execution of an honest and objective process and decision by the courts.

Justice does not see who is before her, regardless if they are rich or poor, black, white or brown, friend or foe; everyone has equal treatment. Balance is the key, and the scales represent the balance of justice. The scales implies we have a systematic rational process of fairness where both sides of a case will be considered even-handedly. It counters the reality of a shameless segment of society with its 'thumb on the scale' approach to justice. An approach where too much weight (or biased influence) on one side will cause the scales to tilt unfairly in one direction. This is what makes America great where justice works with ethics the way it was intended without interference and abuse of power.

When the House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan sent a letter to New York County District Attorney Alvin Bragg demanding his sworn testimony on the "politically motivated prosecution" of Trump, was this an unethical move on the part of Jim Jordan? Unfortunately, the answer for many people



will depend if they are Republican or Democrat. Truthfully, Chairman Jordan has no constitutional oversight over an elected county district attorney, therefore his actions were simply a move to wrongly intimidate local officials, ignore the rule of law and to tip the scales on behalf of the former president.

It is the inconsistency which also makes Jordan's letter unethical. Most likely, if the former president was Bill Clinton rather than Donald Trump, such a letter to the DA would not have been sent. The Republican Party still remains the party of Trump, and he knows it. He has claimed that "death and destruction" potentially awaits the U.S. if he is criminally prosecuted. Trump's words matter and they have already proven to be deadly.

Regardless of your political persuasion, this is a sad moment for our country to have a former president make these dangerous threats and intimidations while his allies sit back and condone it. It is especially sad knowing that many good-willed voters will remain silent despite the events surrounding the January 6 insurrection. When dealing with

politics and the uncharted territory we face, as responsible citizens we should remind ourselves of the Golden Rule.

The Golden Rule is a rule of ethical conduct and reciprocity (mutual benefit). It is a moral principle that denotes treating other people as one's self would prefer to be treated. If we want justice for ourselves, then we should want it for others. If we want democracy to work for ourselves, then we should want it to work for others.

By standing on the Golden Rule, a person will always find themselves first supporting what is right instead of supporting what benefits their political party.

*David W. Marshall is author of the book "God Bless Our Divided America" and member of Country First. Country First is focused on recognizing that Republicans, Democrats and Independents don't have to be enemies because they have different experiences and perspectives. To learn more about Country First visit [www.country1st.com](http://www.country1st.com)*

*To read past articles by David Marshall, visit the Author's section of Walkersville.*

# Good Day, Neighbor

## The bot who cried wolf!

Dorothea Mordan

My mother was a really good home cook. To this day, when I make her potato salad, people compliment it. Eating a meal with your community—family, friends, a church pot luck—includes conversation. The news of the day, the latest gossip about guess who, and did you hear the one about grandma's adventures ages ago?

At our picnics we told and retold stories of our grandparents' life in China. My grandfather was a doctor who helped found Peking Union Medical College. He and my grandmother spent their adult professional life there. Beijing and Shanghai were where they raised their children. They arrived in 1911 and left once the Communists made it impossible to stay. One particularly difficult time was the Japanese occupation during WWII. We heard a few stories of living in an occupied city, and of the death of their eldest child in one of the Civilian Camps operated by the Japanese. One story we did not hear was of the radio messages sent to them by their children back in America during WWII. I

recently learned that there was one station, KGEI in San Francisco, that broadcast via short wave, to Asia. One private station connecting people to each other with real messages in real time.

There are scores of historical references on radio broadcasts of propaganda during wartime. If they were broadcast on the Internet today we would call them bots. Tokyo Rose and Lord Haw Haw, among others, were human tools, the analog bots of our history—propagandists of WWII. This was a time in history when the things, real or imagined, that one group despised in another group, were used to attack each other. We have lived through other such times, and we are living through one now.

The second half of the twentieth century brought social changes that we could see in the news reports, and discuss at length without being swamped by more news reports. We had time to think about the stories of the day. We still have time. Do we use it?

A lot of people are upset and unhappy, as shown by an increase in diseases of despair. The fear that life is getting worse and that they won't do as well as their parents. Diseases of despair thrive

on a perceived lack of options or answers. Is the noise of the Internet a self-medicating fix?

Instant access that the Internet has to our eyes and ears is the opiate of the manipulators. Clever human coders write programs to send messages on targeted paths to our devices. The breathless meme on Facebook or Twitter is repeated on a popular network news website. Is it "breaking" news on a real and present danger, or just a click-bait scenario? A constant barrage of statements or opinions about dangers that never happened, and will never happen, leave the listening public upset over nothing. Like the boy who cried Wolf! just to get attention from his village. He got their attention, they came to help, but found the boy was only playing a trick on them. The boy had his fun, only to learn that when there was a real wolf no one trusted him, and no one came to help.

Political leadership has become a contest between trust something and trust nothing. Ideally, politicians manage words to reach the most people, and accomplish governing for the maximum benefit. There are too many of us with individual needs for each of us to be happy with our government. But the line crossed by Fox news personalities and a select few Republican-elected members of Congress,

when they say that the attack on our Nation's Capital was a tourist visit, is like a bot playing a trick to get our attention. When the people, trying to sell us a story opposite of what we saw with our own eyes, need our help for real, will we believe them?

Words have become targets of other words. Woke, a slang term for understanding something from a different perspective than a white European-American, draws word-fire as though empathizing with another person, and trying to understand their point of view are bad things.

The ability to repeat messages online has stolen so many real conversations and real reading from us. For the return on our online investment of time we get bots declaring:

Someone woke up! but not about anything I care about, so heck with them!

Someone loves a person who is unapproved, tell them they are wrong!

Some books hold ideas that some people do not like, throw them out!

Life is a zero sum game. If someone else is raised up, you will be cast down! Verily you shalt be canceled!

Don't look up the real meaning of terms like zero sum game. Trust your bot!

And yet, summer is coming. Picnic and cookout season is upon us. Here is something you can trust. Potato salad, my mother's potato salad.

Everyone makes it differently. Every version is delicious because you add till it feels right. Trust. Never made potato salad? I'll bet someone you know has, and that they have definite ideas for these ingredients. Make it with a friend or for a friend. Cooking isn't just about nutrition. It's where communication, and thus community, starts. Talk to your friends and neighbors, and eat some potato salad. It pairs nicely with red or white wine, and lamb. Make it often, it deserves practice. Summer is coming.

### My Mother's Potato Salad - Ingredients:

One 5 pound bag of potatoes  
6-7 hard-boiled eggs  
a couple of decent size onions  
a few stalks of celery  
a bit of parsley  
a bunch of mayonnaise, till it feels right  
a bunch of pickle relish  
dijon mustard  
pepper

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

# PASTOR'S DESK

## Christ is risen... no foolin'

Rev. Mike Henning  
Walkersville United  
Methodist Church

Easter's exact date varies from year to year because it actually depends on the moon. The "formula" used to determine when Easter occurs is; it is the first Sunday after the full Moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox. Because of this equation, Easter can come as early as March 22, and as late as April 25. When I was asked to write this article, for some reason I remembered in 2018, Easter fell on April 1, April Fool's Day.

Because of this pairing of two completely different themes that fell on the same day I chose for my sermon title, Christ is Risen...No Foolin'. Now I am fully aware Easter does not fall on April 1 this year. However, I feel the topic of foolishness as it pertains to the Easter story is good topic to delve into. So bear with me, and hopefully I will make my point clear.

April Fool's Day for some is about doing pranks, trying to catch people unaware, or trick them to doing something. When the person is tricked, the response from the trickster is, "I got you, April fool!" That first Easter day carried with it a wide range of emotions for Jesus' disciples and faithful followers. From experiencing fear, confusion, despair,

hopelessness, denial; to trusting, believing, and an overwhelming sense of relief and exuberant joyous celebration when they finally realized Christ is risen, He is risen indeed... no foolin'.

Some folks on that first Easter, however, when they heard/learned Jesus was alive may have thought it was all a prank, some kind of sad joke being pulled on them. It took some time for the fact that Jesus was raised from the dead to sink in for many people, including Jesus' own disciples. Most people would eventually come to understand Jesus was who He said He was; God's Son, the promised Messiah, King of kings and Lord of lords, who came to die for our sin, and be raised on the third day.

The Apostle Paul made a declaration to the church in Corinth, as recorded in 1 Corinthians 15:54b-55, 57, "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where O death is your sting?" Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Jesus proved the naysayers, doubters, and non-believers to be wrong - might we say they were foolish.

We can see how this foolishness ties in with the Easter story from Paul's explanation to the people of Corinth, "The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved,

it is the power of God." "...but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength." (1 Corinthians 1:18, 23-25, emphasis mine).

Throughout Jesus' earthly ministry, He told His disciples on numerous occasions He would be crucified, die, and be resurrected on the third day. The disciples lived with Jesus for three years, they were in ministry together with Him. They witnessed the miracles and the healings He performed, and they heard His preaching and teachings. Yet when Jesus needed them the most, in His darkest hours, they betrayed Him, denied Him, abandoned Him, doubted Him. Were they foolish not to believe what their leader told them? They trusted Him enough to give up their careers, livelihoods, and leave family and friends to follow Him. Why was it so difficult for them to accept what Jesus told them about His future suffering, death, and resurrection over death? Why is it still such a difficult concept for many today to understand God's Truth when there is so much evidence and proof to back up the claims? Could it be there are still many doubters, skeptics who will not accept these things unless they see and experience them first hand?

A few of the events that took place that first Easter, we can see some actions and reactions that could lend themselves to a degree of foolish attitudes of not believing, or doubting that Jesus was alive. One example;



very early in the morning, around dawn, several women (depending on which Gospel writer you read who those women were) went to the tomb to properly prepare Jesus' body with herbs and spices. Since His body was hurriedly placed into the tomb because Sabbath was quickly approaching and no work was to be done on the Sabbath.

In Mark's recording, we are told "a young man dressed in a white robe" (Mark 16:5) told the women who arrived at the tomb to go and tell the disciples that Jesus has risen. It states, "Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid." (v.8). So was this fear, or possibly some foolishness as well since they did not tell anyone, keeping what they had been told to themselves? The book of Luke, says the women believed what they saw and heard, and they shared with the disciples all of those things, "but the disciples did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them to be nonsense" (Luke 24:11). Foolishness on the part of the disciples?

And in John's account, in the evening of that first Easter, Jesus went to the place where the disciples were hiding for fear of what the authorities

might do to them. He appeared to them, talked with them, showed them His hands and side, and breathed the Holy Spirit into them. All of this proving He was alive and not a ghost or a figment of their imagination.

For some unknown reason Thomas was not there at that time, but even with the other disciples being overjoyed by Jesus' visit and explaining to Thomas all that happened, he refused to believe their stories. In fact, he said, "Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe it." (John 20:25b). I don't know what was running through Thomas' mind at that point, but his attitude seems a little foolish to me. According to Scripture, Jesus returned again one week later to the same place and spoke to Thomas. This time Thomas redeemed himself proclaiming Jesus as his Lord and God. (John 20:28).

My point is not to point out any 'character flaws' in any of those first century people as they experienced that miraculous event. Remember their emotions were very raw from what they had gone through and witnessed, especially that last week of Jesus' life. What I would like us all to ponder is; are we any different today, all these years later with our doubts, fears, skepticism, and yes, our foolish thinking and actions at times? We have so many resources at our disposal, especially the Bible itself with its recordings of those eye witnesses to that event and to many, many others.

My hope and prayer is that someday, "every knee should bow, ...and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:10a-11). And also, that every person on earth will confidently say, "Christ the Lord is risen, He is risen indeed... no foolin'!

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# THE BOOK OF DAYS

## Richard Coeur-De-Lion



The outlines of the history of Richard I are tolerably well known to all readers. After a very turbulent youth during the reign of his father, Henry II, Richard succeeded to the throne of England on the 6th of July 1189, though he was only crowned on Sunday, the 3rd of September following, when his reign is considered as beginning. On the 11th of December he started for the Holy Land, and spent nearly two years on the way, engaged in a variety of adventures in the Mediterranean.

At length he joined the King of France in Syria, and they took the city of Acre on the 12th of July 1192; but the two kings soon quarrelled, and Philip returned home, while Richard remained, performing marvellous exploits against the Saracens, until the latter end of September, when the King of England made a truce with Saladin, and embarked on his return to his own dominions. He was wrecked near Aquilcia, and fell into the hands of his enemy, the Duke of Austria, who sent him prisoner to the Emperor; and the latter, as we all know, kept him in close confinement until the beginning of February 1191, when Richard's subjects paid an immense ransom for his release. The remainder of his reign was occupied chiefly in profitless wars with France; and at last, on the 6th of April 1199, this brilliant hero perished in a paltry squabble with a continental feudatory, who, having found a treasure in his own lands, refused to give more than half of it to his suzerain, who claimed the whole.

Richard Coeur-de-Lion had spent no more than a few months in his own kingdom, and he had never been anything but a burthen to his subjects; yet, for some cause or other, perhaps partly

from comparison with his still more worthless brother John, the strange brilliance of his exploits, and particularly his efforts to wrest the Holy Land from the infidels, his tyranny and vices have been thrown into oblivion, and he takes the place of an imaginary hero rather than of an ordinary king. He furnishes us with the example of a king whose whole history actually became a romance within half a century after his death.

The romance of Richard Coeur-de-Lion is supposed to have been composed in French, or Anglo-Norman, towards the middle of the thirteenth century, and a version of it in English verse was composed about the end of the same century, or at the beginning of the fourteenth. From this time we frequently find, even in the sober chronicles, the incidents of the romance confounded with those of history.

This romance furnishes us with a curious instance of the case with which history becomes perverted in popular tradition. Richard is here a mythic personage, even supernatural by his mother's side; for his father,

King Henry, is represented as marrying a sort of elf-woman, daughter of the King of Antioch (of course an infidel prince), by whom he has three children, named Richard, John, and Topias, the latter a daughter. As was usual with such beings, the lady was unable to remain at the performance of Christian worship; and one day, when she was obliged to be present at the sacrament, she fled away through the roof of the church, taking with her youngest son and her daughter, but John was dropped, and broke his thigh by the fall. Richard, the eldest son, was no sooner crowned, than he proclaimed a tournament, where he jousted with his knights in three disguises, in order to discover who was the most worthy, and he selected two, named Sir Thomas Multon and Sir Fulk Doily, as his companions, and engaged them to go with him in the guise of palmers to see the Holy Land, preparatory to his intended crusade. After wandering through the principal countries of the East, they returned overland, still in their disguise, and one day, on their way, they put up at a tavern, and cooked themselves a goose for their dinner.

When they had dined, and 'had well drunken,' which appears to have been their habit, a minstrel presented himself, and offered them minstrelsy. Richard, as we know, was himself a poet and loved minstrelsy; but on this occasion, perhaps through the effect of the drinking, the king treated the minstrel with rudeness, and turned him away. The latter was an Englishman, and knew King Richard and his two knights, and, in revenge, he went to the King of Almayn (Germany), who is here named Modard, and informed him who the three strangers were. Modard immediately seized them, and threw them into a loathsome prison. The son of the King of Almayn, who was an insolent fellow,

and thought himself the strongest man in the world, insulted the King of England, and challenged him to fight with fists, and Richard struck him down dead with the first blow.

The king, enraged at the loss of his son and the heir to his kingdom, condemned his prisoner to be put to death, but Richard was saved by the king's daughter, the Princess Margery, with whom he formed an illicit intercourse. King Modard discovered by accident the disgrace done to him in the person of his daughter, and was more firm than ever in his resolution to put the King of England to death; and a powerful and ferocious lion which the king possessed was chosen as the executioner, was kept three days and nights without food to render him more savage, and was then turned into the chamber where Richard was confined. Richard fearlessly encountered the lion, thrust his arm down his throat, tore out his heart, and killed him on the spot. Not content with this exploit, he took the lion's heart into the hall where King Modard and his courtiers were seated at table, and dipping it in salt, ate it raw, 'without bread!' Modard, in astonishment, gave him the nickname of Richard Coeur-de-Lion, or Richard Lion's-heart.

Modard now voluntarily allows Richard to be ransomed, and the latter returns to England, where he immediately prepares for the crusade, which occupies the greater part of the romance, in the course of which Richard not only kills innumerable Saracens with his own hand, but he cooks, eats, and relishes them.

Such is a very brief outline of the earlier part of the romantic history of Richard Coeur-de-Lion, which was extremely popular through the middle ages of England, and exercised a wide influence on the popular notions of history.

We know well that Richard's nickname, if we may so call it, of Coeur-de-

Lion, was intended merely to express his characteristic bravery, and that it meant simply the Lion-hearted; but the old legendary explanation continued to be received even as late as the time of Shakspeare, and still more recently.

Richard was slain by a quarrel from a cross-bow, shot by Bertram de Gordon from the castle of Chalun, in Aquitaine, which the king was besieging in order to put down a rebellion. He was buried at Fontevrault, at his father's feet, whom he confessed he had betrayed. His heart was buried in Rouen, in testimony of the love he had ever borne unto that city, for the steadfast love he always found in the citizens thereof, and his bowels at the foresaid Chalun.—Stow.

The visitor of the cathedral of Rouen sees a recumbent full-length statue of the lion-hearted King. An English gentleman informs us, in the work quoted below, that, on his visiting the Museum of Antiquities at Rouen, in 1857, he 'observed a small portion of dust, having a label attached, marking it to be the dust of the heart of Richard Coeur-de-Lion from the cathedral.'

That lion heart now transformed into 'a little dust,' exposed in a paper with a label, in a Museum, for the gratification of the curious!

The case, however, is not unexampled. In the last century, a stone coffin was dug up in front of the mansion-house of Eccles, in Berwickshire. 'As it had been buried above two hundred years, every part of the body was reduced to ashes. As the inside of the stone was pretty smooth, and the whole portrait of the person visible (though in ashes), Sir John Paterson had the curiosity to collect the whole, and (wonderful to tell!) it did not exceed in weight one ounce and a-half.'

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# ECOLOGY

## Education through representation

Anne Gageby  
Environmental Education Manager  
Strawberry Hill Foundation

The last hard frost is just on the horizon and with it, spring, as our seasons officially switch gears. Maple season is over for the year. Trees are beginning to bud alongside early-blooming hellebores and daffodils. Biting insects will soon ride in on the tide of warmer weather. And the Animal Ambassadors of Strawberry Hill are prepping for springtime programs. Each Ambassador represents a different aspect of our local ecosystem.

Ollie, Strawberry Hill's resident striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), has been slowly emerging more regularly from his den. Despite living in human care, Ollie still displays regular skunk-like behaviors, especially when it comes to his winter den. He loves thick, warm blankets to burrow into as the temperatures drop and often hesitates to come out of his winter den if the weather outside is particularly cold. Ollie seems to sense coming storms and bad weather and will often retreat to his den right before a cold snap, emerging as the temperatures rise. On warmer days, Ollie spends his time exploring his enclosure and rearranging his den to suit his tastes.

Contrary to common belief, skunks don't hibernate. They go through torpor or long periods of inactivity that can mimic hibernation. Because of these long stretches of inactivity, wild-born and raised striped skunks must survive off thick layers of fat they accumulate throughout the summer and fall. Skunks periodically leave their dens during the winter in order to scavenge

food, especially if the temperatures are warm enough. Since winter resources are pretty lean, skunks will search for and feed on everything from fruit and seeds to carrion and backyard compost piles, often leaving distinct anthill-style mounds behind.

February was the start of skunk mating season. This season brings with it a flurry of activity and increases the chances of seeing skunks out in the open. With gestation between 62 and 66 days, the first litter of kits isn't far away. By early summer, we'll see, and smell, the newest members of forest society.

Skunks spend the winter nestled in dens under porches, inside barns, and existing burrows. Skunks have been known to make dens in attics though this isn't common. Despite being excellent climbers, most skunks avoid making dens high up unless it's absolutely necessary. Ollie, for example, prefers a burrow at ground level.

On the other hand, Strix, Strawberry Hill's resident barred owl, enjoys his late-winter days on a perch with a view of the pond and forest. Despite being primarily nocturnal hunters, barred owls are frequently active during the day and will often be heard throughout the afternoon. They often call to each other across Strawberry Hill's pond and the grove of trees behind the office. Barred owls prefer to nest in tree cavities and are known to take over empty hawk, squirrel, and crows' nests. For this reason, knowledgeable bird watchers will often pay attention to abandoned nests in hopes of spotting new neighbors who just moved in.

Mating season for barred owls begins

around March and can go until August. Some owls will begin courting as early as December in preparation for mating and nesting later in winter. Owls generally start nesting earlier than some birds because it takes longer for owl young to develop. A clutch of one to five eggs are laid in the nest and incubated for 28-33 days. Because eggs are laid over a period of time, young do not hatch all at the same time. Males hunt on behalf of their incubating partners.

Barred owl are generalists, meaning they feed on amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates, birds, and small mammals up to the size of rabbits. These incredible raptors have been observed fishing from perches and wading into shallow water. A particular favorite, especially as the weather warms up, is crayfish.

Like Ollie, Nelson, Strawberry Hill's American Toad ambassador, has also spent a good portion of the winter in torpor. Nelson, like all American Toads, digs himself backwards into his dirt home. Sometimes, he burrows so deep it's hard to spot more than his eyes. Wild-born and raised toads hibernate in similar fashion. They dig into leaf litter, under rocks or fallen logs. In areas with harsher winters, toads dig deeper underground, backing into the soil and pushing out dirt with its hind feet. As the temperatures rise in spring, toads begin to emerge and make their way toward breeding grounds, usually slow-moving streams, ponds, and wetlands. The American Toad's breeding season occurs between March and April but can occur well into July. By early summer, the drawn-out trills of American Toads will become a deafening chorus alongside wood frogs.



Ollie, Strawberry Hill's resident striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), has been slowly emerging from his winter den.

Strawberry Hill has two turtle ambassadors – Bob, a box turtle, and Shelly, a spotted turtle. Box turtles like Bob typically hibernate until mid-March or until the daily temperatures are consistently above 50 degrees. Brumation is a cold-weather slow down and period of inactivity fueled by colder nighttime temperatures paired with decreasing daylight hours. It's a natural process that's often confused with true hibernation. Brumation is the period of dormancy experienced by ectothermic or "cold-blooded" animals, and hibernation is the period of dormancy experienced by endothermic or "warm-blooded" animals. Brumation is usually a much shorter period than true hibernation and is usually sporadic, depending on the outside temperatures.

Spotted turtles, interestingly, become active as soon as the ice and snow melt. In our area this usually occurs around late March to mid-April. As a species,

spotted turtles prefer cooler temperatures and tolerate water temperature as low as 37 degrees. Early in spring, spotted turtles can be spotted basking on logs and in grassy areas close to water. By early summer, spotted turtles will likely be harder to spot due to decreased activity as the outside temperatures rise. The most active period for this species is when air temperatures hover between 56 and 64 degrees. By June or July they will become mostly dormant as an escape from the heat, a process known as aestivation.

As days grow longer, if not quite yet warmer, we are reminded that "it is spring again" where "the earth is like a child that knows poems by heart" (Rainer Maria Rilke). Just like our Animal Ambassadors – for they know spring by heart.

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# Trees, trees everywhere

**Kay Deardorff**  
**Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve**

Spring is bursting all around us. The grass is growing; the trees are budding; and flowers are breaking through the once frozen ground. It's good to see nature coming to life again. Can you imagine living in an area with no trees? Prior to the 1800s the plains of Nebraska were treeless. This is what led to the founding of Arbor Day (from the Latin word arbor, meaning tree).

In 1854 a 23-year-old gentleman named Julius Sterling Morton was among the pioneers making their way to the Nebraska Territory. The lack of trees was unappealing to Morton and his wife, Caroline, who were nature lovers. Soon they planted shrubs, flowers, and trees. As a journalist, he became the editor of Nebraska's first newspaper which enabled him to touch other nature lovers with his enthusiasm for trees. The pioneers sensed the importance of planting saplings not only because they missed the trees from their native lands, but also because of the need for wind breaks, orchards, and shade trees. Trees were also needed to be used as building materials for homes, fencing, and farm buildings.

Impassioned by his value of trees, in 1872 Morton suggested to the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture a tree-planting holiday known as "Arbor Day". Favorably the idea 'took root' (pun definitely intended) and the date was set for April 10, 1872. Many individuals and counties participated as prizes were offered to whomever properly planted the largest number of trees that day. It is estimated that Nebraska had more than one million trees planted on that first Arbor Day.

Arbor Day had not yet become an annual event. The second tree-planting celebration was in 1884 and by 1885 the state of Nebraska proclaimed it a legal holiday to be observed yearly. It was planned April 22nd to coincide with J. Sterling Morton's birthday. Not to be outdone, other states such as Kansas, Tennessee, Minnesota, and Ohio announced their own Arbor Days. Today the holiday is celebrated

in each of the 50 states, but the dates may vary according to the climate of the individual state.

Arbor Day in Maryland is celebrated on the first Wednesday of April.

Arbor Day is a perfect opportunity for the homeowner to take stock of trees on their property. Planning for the future of your plants allows the chance to view the future of your environment.

As Arbor Day approaches this year, consider planting a tree at your home or in your community.

President Richard Nixon proclaimed, at the federal level, the last Friday of April as National Arbor Day. It is also recognized in other countries including Australia. There are even variations of the observance: Japan has "Greening Week"; Israel celebrates "The New Year's Days of Trees"; Korea observes "The Tree-Loving Week"; Yugoslavia has "The Reforestation Week"; Iceland acclaims "The Students' Afforestation Day"; and India enjoys "The National Festival of Tree Planting".

Morton was pleased with the success of Arbor Day. Imagine the pride he would feel today! He preferred to use trees as memorials to persons or events as opposed to erected marble statues. "How much more enduring are the animate trees of our own planting," he noted. After his death in 1902 there was a memorial set up for

him at his home, Arbor Lodge. This memorial was dedicated by President Grover Cleveland in 1905 and is adorned with Morton's quote, "Other holidays repose upon the past. Arbor Day proposes for the future."

Two states in whose future we are directly intrigued with is Maryland and Pennsylvania. Arbor Day in Maryland is celebrated on the first Wednesday of April. The state tree is the white oak (*Quercus alba*) which is a sturdy, handsome tree named for its whitish bark and grey twigs. White Oaks are large, long-lived trees that are slow-growing. They can reach the height of 60 - 150 feet with diameters between 3 to 4 feet. Sometime around its fiftieth year, it begins to produce acorns and may produce 10,000 annually. These seeds are beneficial and are the dietary mainstay for over 80 species of birds and mammals. Native Americans ground them into flour and taught the early settlers the process.

The last Friday in April marks Arbor Day in Pennsylvania. Here the state tree has been the eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) since 1931. Also known as the Canada hemlock or hemlock spruce it has been used by early settlers to build log cabins and for a source of tannic acid to tan leather. It has been considered the most picturesque and beautiful of the world's evergreens by A. J. Downing, the father of landscape gardening in America. This slow-growing, long-lived tree can take up to 250 - 300 years to reach maturity. A healthy hemlock may live for 800 years or more. However it is being threatened and killed by the woolly adelgid aphid-like insect that is attacking the hemlock trees in our region.

Arbor Day is a perfect opportunity for the home owner to take stock of trees on his or her property. Planning for the future of your plants allows the chance to view the future of your environment. It is also a great way to learn about disease and insect infestation that you can "nip in the bud." (OK, another pun!) Planting trees cannot only improve the appearance of your home; it can also help with



heating and cooling, or provide wind protection.

As Arbor Day approaches this year, consider planting a tree at your home or in your community. Research on the Internet will show many suggestions about how to plant and care for trees, shrubs, and flowers. Also consider the upcoming nature programs offered at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve. There will be valuable information given at

such times as the Edible Plants programs, Mother's Day Walk, Summer Tree ID, etc. Visit the website at [www.StrawberryHill.org](http://www.StrawberryHill.org) or call 717-642-5840 for information regarding these and other nature programs. It's never too late to invest in the future of your community, your home, and your environment. Plant a tree!

To read past Ecology article, visit the author's section of [walkersville.net](http://walkersville.net).

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## REAL SCIENCE

# The nutritarian diet

Michael Rosenthal

As I have written before, the Environmental Nutrition newsletter contains scientifically sound information on "Food, Nutrition & Health". It is published by Health Information Network, Inc. of Norwalk, CT.

A recent issue discusses The Nutritarian Diet. The accompanying book for this plan is Eat for Life by Joel Fuhrman, MD. This diet is plant-based and encourages consumption of both raw and cooked vegetables, at least four fresh fruits per day, but not juice, and one cup of beans per day. Dr. Fuhrman recommends salads as your daily main dish and on eating what he calls G-Bombs: greens, beans, onions, mushrooms, berries, and seeds.

Dr. Fuhrman recommends limiting cooked, starchy vegetables, animal protein, full-fat dairy, and eggs. The diet also suggests relegating wild fish and organic meat to side dishes rather than presenting them as entrees. He recommends that alcohol be consumed "in less than moderation" and to avoid it if possible. His recommendation tolerates one alcoholic drink daily. He recommends substituting caffeine-free herbal tea in place of coffee.

Dr. Fuhrman has a list of foods that he recommends avoiding. In

this list are sugar-sweetened soda, grilled, cured, or processed meats, all other processed foods, white flour, sugar, sweeteners, and oils. He suggests one begins with an initial six-week plan where one cuts down on carbs, including bread, pasta, sugar, and oil. His diet requires eating meat and dairy for at least six weeks and that salt nit be added to foods.

The diet discourages multivitamins and supplements containing folic acid, beta carotene, vitamin A and vitamin E. After completion of the first six weeks on the diet, you may choose to reintroduce fat-free dairy meat, fish reined carbs, and olive oil in very small amounts. In another book written by Dr. Fuhrman entitled Eat for Health, he suggests a more gradual transition into this diet plan following a six-week introductory phase. This plan is great for vegans and veggie lovers who enjoy large volumes of raw and cooked produce, says Kathleen Zelman, former nutrition director of WebMD and a current podcast host named True Health Revealed. As you probably recognize from the description, people who love sweets, dairy, meat, and eggs will not be satisfied with this plan.

Dr. Fuhrman promises that if you follow the Nutritarian Diet, you will be able to lose at least 20 pounds. There are no clinical stud-

ies at this writing that specifically evaluates the effectiveness of this diet, but general studies of plant-based diets indicate that the diet should be beneficial for managing and reducing the risk of developing diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and some types of cancer.

US News and World Report in its annual review of diet programs rated this diet as safe and effective, but defined it as being "medium to hard" to follow.

As with all diets there are aspects that introduce some difficulty for the dieter. The requirement for daily salads, the elimination of certain food groups, no caffeine, and the discouragement of snacking may make sticking with the diet difficult for many people. The diet may cause trouble tolerating the volume of fruits, vegetables, and beans in the plan. The specificity of the diet will require a lot of time in food preparation. But you might just decide that the potential benefits are worth the revisions in your preparation patterns. (559 words)

The same issue of Environmental Nutrition (September 2022) has a very good article on Iron in the diet. We've written about iron in the diet before in this column, but this article is worth a current review on the topic.

Iron is a necessity in our diets to produce hemoglobin and myoglobin. This is necessary to carry oxygen throughout the body. Low levels of iron will leave you physically tired and weak, impair brain



function, and weaken the immune system which hinders your ability to fend off illness. Anemia is a condition resulting from an insufficient number of red blood cells. It has been determined that the rate of iron deficiency among Americans has been rising since 1999, and thus rising is the rate illness and even death due to iron deficiency anemia. Much of this rise has been attributed to dietary changes that lead to less iron intake in food, such as consumption of chicken replacing consumption of beef. There has also been a drop in iron levels in a large percentage of iron levels in both animal and plant-based foods. It is also speculated that the body's demand for iron may have increased. The World Health Organization has determined that one-third of all women of repro-

ductive age in the world are anemic. Poor iron absorption and anemia can result from various digestive diseases, including celiac disease or bacterial overgrowth.

To obtain iron through diet one should eat animal-based foods that contribute heme from animal-based foods including meat, poultry, fish and eggs or nonheme foods such as legumes, whole grains, spinach, dark chocolate, and fortified foods. Pairing plant foods with foods high in Vitamin C such as strawberries, citrus fruits, and dark green leafy vegetables like collard greens and broccoli improves absorption of iron. Certain cereal grains in the millet family including sorghum and teff have been shown to help people raise their hemoglobin and serum ferritin levels. Molasses is surprisingly fairly high in non-heme iron.

If a blood test an inadequate ferritin count (ferritin is a blood cell protein that binds with iron), your physician may suggest a supplement. The level is hard to raise through diet alone. It is wise to do this with a physician's guidance, since too much iron is not good for you either.

Here is a short but significant item that appears in this same edition of the September 2022 edition of the Environmental Nutrition newsletter. Plant based diet, it is reported may lower the risk of prostate cancer. In the study the plant based diet did not produce any increase risk of prostate cancer, but in some men it did produce a reduction in such risk.

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



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# Public Notice

## Town of Woodsboro

Notice is hereby given that the Burgess and Commissioners of the Town of Woodsboro will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at the hour of 7 p.m. in the social hall of St. John's UCC, 8 N. Second St. (parking and entry in the rear off 3<sup>rd</sup> Street), for the purpose of changing town code Sec. 58-93 to allow chickens in town, and Sec. 14-23, changing the height of brush, grass and weeds to eight inches.

Individuals will be given an opportunity to speak at this public hearing. Persons requiring special accommodations are requested to contact the town office at 301-898-3800 to make necessary arrangements no later than 3 business days prior to the public hearing.

Mary E. Rice  
Town Clerk



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# PETS

## Post-pandemic animal abandonment

Sergeant Maggie Hill  
Frederick County Animal Shelter

At the beginning of 2020 animal shelters across the country regaled the public with reports of something seldom seen in the sheltering world — empty kennels. Lots and LOTS of empty kennels! Entire animal shelters emptied of their former residents! Remote work, homeschooling, canceled events and vacations and limited social opportunities left folks feeling lonely in quarantine and so they sought out companionship with a pet. We who work in this field, we get it.

There is nothing that makes my home feel more “homey” than the pets that I share it with. Share your living space with an animal and you will never be truly alone again- which includes never being alone in the bathroom again and losing all your leg room at night to the critters curled up at the foot of the bed (plus all that pet hair floating around really gives the house that “lived in” quality).

Sadly though, those working in animal welfare also knew what this would mean when quarantine measures were lifted... Life goes on and the pets come back to the shelters in droves. I first began working in this field during the 2008 housing crisis in a part of the southern United States that was particularly hard hit by the economic collapse.

The animal shelter was overflowing with pets who lost their homes when their owners did. Some rescues in this country are still assisting with relocating the pets displaced by the 2017 hurricane in Texas. In the realm of animal sheltering these trends are well known-

during times of economic or social upheaval, after weather related disasters, or just in certain seasons of the year—we see an influx of animals with no home.

Another concerning trend is becoming all the more apparent too. Not only did we see an increased rate of pets coming into the shelter post-pandemic, but we are also seeing a staggering number of pets, mostly dogs, that we suspect of being abandoned by a previous owner.

We’ve found these dogs in Frederick City Parks, in Gambrill State Park, on the Fairgrounds, outside the watershed, in business and industrial areas and on lonely and secluded country roads. Some are skinny, some are injured, some display obvious signs of neglect and they are all frightened and they all hesitate to trust us at first meeting.

I know what you may be asking... what are the statistics here? That figure is more difficult to substantiate. Our intake procedures track owned animals, returned animals, stray animals and wildlife. Based on our collective experience, staff is recognizing the signs of abandoned pets in an increasing number of animals found as “strays” but without an eyewitness account and no owner identification we are not able to definitively prove the pets were abandoned and therefore have no definitive statistical figures to support this presumption.

ACO Alex Burrell recounts an experience that is becoming all too common for Animal Control Officers.

“On 10/30/2022 an Officer received a phone call regarding a stray dog described as a very skinny white

and black dog that would not/ seemed unable to get out from underneath a box truck near an intersection in Frederick County, just outside of city limits. The dog did appear very nervous at this time, however did not flee as would be typical of a dog that would be used to running at large. The Officer coaxed the dog forward with some treats and was able to snare the dog and slowly remove them from underneath the box truck.

The Officer was then able to observe the total body condition of the dog, which was later determined to be a BCS of 1/9. A Body Condition Score of 1/9 would be very indicative of consistent lack of nutritious food for an extended period of time, or some other health condition that would be life threatening if left unattended. The

dog was also covered in feces and urine stains that are typical of a dog that is confined to a crate for extended periods of time and not cleaned. The nails of the dog were extremely long, again typical of a dog whose care had been neglected for a considerable amount of time and that did not have the ability to wear the nails down naturally (such as by running around outdoors).

The dog did have some ambulatory issues regarding its rear hips, and its conformation was again very typical of a dog that had been confined to a crate for most of its life. The dog did remain quite nervous and aloof while this Officer moved it, however once this Officer was able to touch the dog after a few minutes of coaxing the dog very quickly became very friendly and attached to this Officer. This is not typ-

ical behavior of a dog that is truly feral nor is this progression of behaviors typical of a dog that had simply escaped their home.

The dog’s behavior, combined with its body condition it is very apparent that this dog was likely dumped in a nearby area and had taken refuge under the box truck. The Officer then transported the dog to Animal Control where he was eventually named “Joey”. “Joey” quickly became very friendly to the staff and began putting weight on immediately, again all indications that this dog was likely neglected for a long time and then dumped instead of a dog that had simply escaped his home.”

“Joey” had no collar, no id tags, no microchip and no one ever reported the dog missing to our agency nor was there an eyewitness to how the dog arrived at the location he was found. The dog quickly recovered in our care,



Bruce Wayne is not the caped crusader but he would love to be your super hero. He was found by the Common Market on 7th street and brought to the shelter by a Good Samaritan. Bruce knows a few commands such as sit, down and paw, so he must have been someone’s beloved pet. He can be a little shy meeting new people but a few treats and patience win him over quickly.



The shelter often does not have puppies available for adoption. Monopoly has been on our adoption floor since March 1, and it surprises us that few people have inquired about him. He is undeniably cute, silly and approaches everything in life with youthful exuberance. At only 6 months old, he needs a family that is committed for life and willing to training him to be the best dog he can be.

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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.

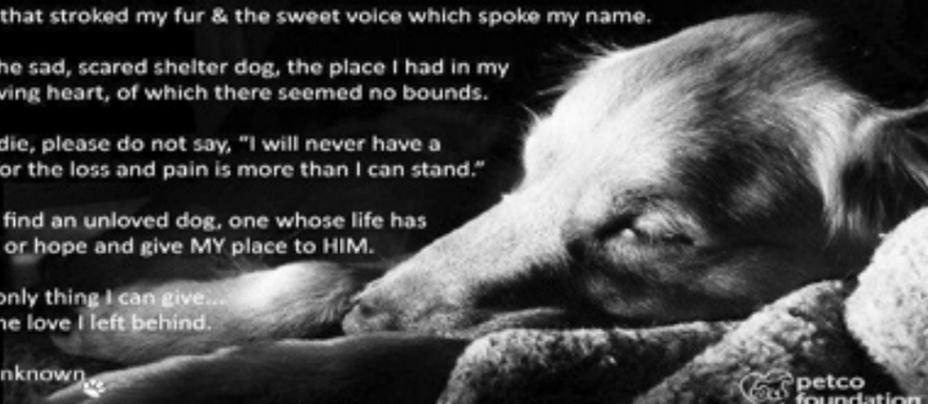
I'd Will to the sad, scared shelter dog, the place I had in my human's loving heart, of which there seemed no bounds.

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



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**PETS**

gaining over 12 pounds in less than a month and was adopted to a local Frederick County family.

This story has a happy ending thanks to the ACO who secured the puppy on the scene, the staff that gave him healing care while at the shelter and the family that committed to bringing "Joey" home as a furever pet. We will likely never know how "Joey" got to be under that box truck in such poor condition that day, but we do know that he has a much brighter future after being rehabilitated at our facility.

The story of "Joey" is not an uncommon story these days. We used to have to educate the public that not every dog found as a stray was purposefully abandoned by a previous owner (sometimes they really just do get lost and are not found) but we are encountering circumstances that resemble abandonment far more frequently in the post-pandemic world.

What can pet owners do to help? Acquiring a pet is a major commitment and we want potential adopters to consider it a commitment for the natural life of the animal. Plan ahead and budget and consider what types of challenges you may face and how you would still provide for an animal if your life circumstances change. This is exactly why we screen applicants and sometimes get the feedback that the screening process is too stringent. We have seen it time and again, an adopted pet returned because the owner is moving, or had a loss of

income, or had a baby, or "have no time" for the pet any longer.

If you must rehome a pet, plan as far in advance to do so as possible and don't wait until the last minute. Seek out community resources to still provide for the pet during the transition period. It can take up to two weeks to get an appointment to bring the pet to the shelter, so contact us right away if your last resort is surrendering the pet to the shelter.

Claiming the pet is a "found stray" and denying ownership only serves to make the pet stay in the shelter system longer waiting for an owner that is never coming to reclaim them and we must make adoption determinations without the benefit of any background information on the pet. Be honest and be accountable as a pet owner.

Abandoning a domestic animal is a criminal offense and Frederick County Animal Control does investigate suspected abandonment of animals and will seek criminal charges against a defendant should we corroborate the allegation with probable cause. A person who violates Maryland State Code § 10-612 is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$100.

What can the public do to help? If you have first-hand eyewitness information about an animal that you suspect to be abandoned calls us immediately. Reports can be made "anonymously" however that report will be much more difficult to substantiate. Donate to the animal shel-

ter and other local animal welfare agencies. Encourage honesty and accountability in all other pet owners that you encounter. Adopt and don't shop. Consider volunteering or fostering a homeless pet.

Maryland State Code § 10-612. Abandoning domestic animal. (a)

Prohibited.- A person who owns, possesses, or has custody of a domestic animal may not drop or leave the animal on a road, in a public place, or on private property with the intent to abandon the animal. (b) Penalty.- A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor

and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$100.

For additional information call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1546, the Frederick County Humane Society at 301-694-8300 or the Animal Welfare League at 301-663-5855.



Frankie is a sweet girl who is affectionate and loves attention. Sadly, Frankie's owner had to relinquish her when she was not able to move to a new residence with her family. She shared her last home with children and her profile indicates she is calm and enjoys being brushed. Frankie is a bit overweight and she will need help managing her diet to ensure her good health.



What a beauty! Souffle has such a regal look. She arrived at the shelter in early February as a stray and was adopted eight days later. Her new family kept Souffle for about a week and then returned her because they felt she was not getting along with the resident cat. Like any cat, Souffle needs time to settle into a new home. She is extremely affectionate, loves to be brushed and will make a great companion.

For more information about Bruce, Monopoly, Frankie, and Souffle call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac)

**Woodsboro Volunteer Fire Company**  
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**Easter Egg Hunt**  
**Woodsboro Regional Park**  
 Presented by  
**Woodsboro Volunteer Fire Company & The Town of Woodsboro**  
**Saturday, April 1st - 3 p.m.**  
*(Rain Date April 8th)*  
**Pictures with the Easter Bunny!**  
**Over 1,000 eggs!** **9 Grand Prizes!**

**Vigilant Hose Company's**  
**2023 Spring Fling**  
**65K GIVEAWAY**  
 Drawing to be held  
**Saturday, May 13**  
 Drawings begin at noon

**NO PAYOUT LESS THAN \$500!**

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3 - \$500	19 - \$500	35 - \$500	51 - \$2000
4 - \$500	20 - \$1000	36 - \$500	52 - \$500
5 - \$1000	21 - \$2000	37 - \$500	53 - \$500
6 - \$500	22 - \$500	38 - \$500	54 - \$500
7 - \$500	23 - \$500	39 - \$500	55 - \$500
8 - \$500	24 - \$500	40 - \$1000	56 - \$500
9 - \$500	25 - \$500	41 - \$2000	57 - \$500
10 - \$500	26 - \$500	42 - \$500	58 - \$500
11 - \$2000	27 - \$500	43 - \$500	59 - \$500
12 - \$500	28 - \$500	44 - \$500	60 - \$1000
13 - \$500	29 - \$500	45 - \$500	61 - \$1000
14 - \$500	30 - \$1000	46 - \$500	62 - \$2000
15 - \$500	31 - \$2000	47 - \$500	63 - \$3000
16 - \$500	32 - \$500	48 - \$500	64 - \$4000

**Grand Prize Drawing #65 - \$10,000**

**Early Bird Drawing**  
 Purchase and submit your ticket by March 1 for chance to win a \$1,000 cash prize!  
**(2 winners - \$1,000 each)**

**\$100 Per Ticket**  
 Good for two people. Includes food, drinks and chances in the drawing.

# CONGRESSMAN DAVID TRONE

## My Top Priorities, And a New Frederick County Office to Help You



### My Top Priorities

My top priority in Congress is working for you. Each and every day, I'll fight to deliver health care for all Marylanders including mental health care, help those with opioid and other addictions, reduce inflation and improve our economy. I'll always put Maryland first and work to secure federal money to improve roads, bridges, highways and broadband to Frederick County and all of Western Maryland.

### My Work on the Appropriations Committee Helps Maryland

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I am in a unique position to deliver for Frederick County. In the last Congress, my role on the Appropriations Committee brought millions of federal dollars to our area of Maryland. In Frederick County, I successfully fought for millions of dollars to mitigate floods and prepare for natural disasters, provide much-needed help to those struggling with substance use and mental health through the Crisis Stabilization Center, invest in Mount Saint Mary's University to expand their research facilities, and help build a new Center to serve Asian American and other minority populations that are in need. And I'm proud to have successfully fought for \$4.6 billion to improve roadways and bridges across our nation, like Route 15 in Frederick County.

### New Frederick County Office to Help You

To better serve you, we have a new office in Frederick County. If you are having any problems with a federal government agency, or need help getting the benefits you're entitled to, please contact my office. We are here to help!

**Frederick County Office:**

30 W Patrick St., Suite 505

Frederick, MD 21701

301-926-0300

Office Hours are Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

**DAVID TRONE**

U.S. CONGRESS

# Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL SECTION 2

## GVAA - supporting student athletes since 1952

The Glade Valley Athletics Association has been serving the Walkersville and Woodsboro Community for over 70 years, offering 11 different sports for ages as young as four and, in some sports, all the way up to High School. Among these are soccer, football, baseball, lacrosse, wrestling, softball, cheerleading, basketball, field hockey, and track and field. The organization provides opportunities to about 1,600 kids every year.

Laura Lebo, GVAA Board Treasurer, said, "GVAA does a whole lot more in the volume of activity and number of athletes, it's much greater than people realize."

Most of the sports teams practice outside using the fields at Heritage Farm Park. The only deviation is seen with track and field, which uses the track at the high school, basketball, which uses local gyms and courts, and wrestling, which often uses the Whitmore-Zimmerman Building located within Heritage Farm Park. Whether indoors or outdoors, GVAA programs help students stay active and build community.

GVAA Board Secretary, Wrestling Commissioner, and GVAA mom Amanda Bowen said, "I have kids involved in many different sports: football, lacrosse, soccer, cheer, wrestling. It has kept my kids very active and my husband coaches so it gets us involved in the community more and keeps us busy."

The year has also been a success for many of the sports. In 2022, the PONY football team won the Mountain Valley Youth Football League (MVYFL) Super

Bowl. The Soccer program also had a successful fall season, with two teams making it to the championships.

But GVAA also has some sports in which athletes can take time to really enjoy the learning process. "Our fall season is more relaxed to help kids learn as they move up the next year so it is less competitive," said Baseball Commissioner and Coach Steve Gessner. "I enjoy coaching and playing with the kids, watching those who start out with T-ball and then stick with it for the whole way through."

This approach must be working, as baseball enrollment numbers have been consistent even after Covid, with about 200 students participating this season. This applies to other sports as well. Said Bowen about wrestling, "This year has been great with parents contributing and good enrollment. It's been built over the past few years since Covid shut things down. [The wrestling team] went from about 20 kids to 60."

Enrollment is also benefited by GVAA events where families are able to meet the coaches. Recently, the Walkersville Public Library hosted a meet-and-greet for fifteen families with children participating in soccer. All around, the program is hoping for a higher attendance rate and plans to hold similar events earlier in the year.

GVAA Soccer has been doing well overall. Co-Commissioner for Soccer Kevin Conley said, "Enrollment has been great; we have on average 270 kids participating. For the younger soccer groups we practice one day a week, and for grades higher than

1st it is two days a week with both groups having games on the weekends."

Brian Roub, another Soccer Co-Commissioner, said, "It's exciting to see kids grow over time in a sport. You see little kids who might be very shy, but then years later whether you are coaching them or you see them play at the high school, it is amazing to see the transformation and watch this kid grow up, become more confident, and just really enjoy the sport. That's really why I do this. It's one of the most rewarding things about coaching."

There are so many great people who both work at and grow alongside the GVAA program. It is a keystone of the Walkersville community, providing a variety of opportunities for children to engage with each other, and for the greater community to support young people as they attend games on the regular. "It's much more rewarding to be out with my community than sitting in a basement and kids playing video games, it's just a great opportunity," said GVAA Board President Michelle Fyock.

The program has a lasting impact on all those involved, even into adulthood for many student athletes. Said GVAA Director Angela Coleman, "I've been a director for two years and I have been involved with the cheer program for five years. I



The Glade Valley Athletics Association is a keystone of the Walkersville-Woodsboro community, providing a variety of opportunities for children to engage with each other in a fun and fulfilling environment.

have kids in their twenties who were in cheer when they were five, and I still go to those cheer practices on occasion to help out with the little ones."

GVAA relies on continued enthusiasm and support as it builds connections across the community it serves. Residents

of the Glade Valley area will soon have the opportunity to cheer on spring athletes competing in baseball, softball, track and field, soccer, and lacrosse. There are still opportunities to register athletes and even just to catch a game and enjoy the greatness our local youth have to offer.

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# HISTORY

## Woodsboro Remembers

Francis Meehan Smith  
Continued from last month

### Part 4- Business

#### The Pennsylvania Railroad

Just after the Civil War, the national economy was expanding in all directions including the many branches of the railroad network. The line from Frederick to

York, Pennsylvania passed through the outskirts of Woodsboro. Originally the survey intended for the tracks to pass directly down the valley from the north and through the Main Street of Woodsboro. Fortunately, in retrospect, some landowners objected to having their farms bisected and the route went over the hill to the west of town.

The trains were a vital part of Woodsboro's life from the 1870's to 1948 when the last passenger run was made. Long distance travel was limited by the existence of rails and new towns sprang up at intersections (for example, Keymar) much as towns developed around inns where stage-coaches stopped in the preceding century.

Businessmen could now go to York or Frederick in one day; students began to attend high school in Frederick; shopping became a bit more sophisticated, and local shops began to feel the pinch as their customers bought outside the town in city stores for large household purchases, dry goods, and clothing. Whole new horizons came to Woodsboro in terms of goods and services.

Trains were conveniently scheduled with two short runs (from Keymar to Frederick) for connecting with the Western Maryland Railroad. Other trains made the full round trip between York and Frederick. Passengers were assured of a ride to and from their local destination morning and evening as sixteen trains passed through the town daily. Residents literally ran their households by the trains - "There goes the Short

Run" - promptly checking the clock on the mantel and adjusting it to the proper hour. Or a familiar phrase "We can't have supper until papa gets home on the five-twenty."

The automobile was the final blow to train service, plus the antiquated equipment which was

beginning to need replacing on a large scale. Since Hurricane Agnes (1972) washed out the Monocacy Bridge. The most humiliating misfortune yet has taken place - the lone surviving freight engine must back in and out from Keymar with its two or three cars. No longer does anyone set a clock by the infrequent whistle of Woodsboro's trains.

One of the early Station Masters was Jacob Willis "Will" Reddick, fondly remembered by several generations of travelers. "Wil" Reddick, born May 22, 1872 near Walkersville, the son of James Z. and Sarah & Anders Reddick, began work for the Pennsylvania Railroad at the age of eighteen years in 1890 in what is

Now is known as Keymar, but was then called Bruceville.

He worked as Ticket Agent and Railroad Telegrapher at Hanover, Pennsylvania. Walkersville, Maryland, and for approximately twenty five years, at Woodsboro. He sent and received all telegrams at the station in Woodsboro until about 1937 at which time the telegraph equipment was removed from the railroad property and donated to Walkersville High School. He died suddenly on August 5, 1938, at the age of sixty-six and is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Hanover.

Lynn Smith (beloved pitcher "Peggy", of local baseball fame) was next, followed by Donald Schaeffer and John "Cap" Drenning. The station was completely abandoned on October 1, 1962.

#### The Woodsboro Warehouse

The Woodsboro Warehouse was built in 1869 by Jacob Dorcus, who used dowry money from his wife, Ellen Thomas from Jefferson, Maryland. It was constructed by Mr. David young (Mr. Clyde Young's grandfa-



N. Z. Cramers has been an integral part of Woodsboro history and still provides a necessary service to the community as it has done for more than one hundred years.

ther) and Mr. William Barrick (Mrs. Abbey Stimmel's father).

Originally the warehouse consisted of a large front room with an ample storage room in back. In the front room stood a huge pot-bellied stove with two dampers and spittoons for the convenience of the customers. A large sugar barrel and a molasses barrel also were in the front room, the contents of which were imported by the railroad newly constructed in 1870.

Originally the warehouse was used as a ticket of office for the new railroad until the station was built in 1883. William Miller was the first ticket agent and the first post office in Woodsboro was located there before being moved downtown to the building of Lester Long's barbershop.

In 1880 Jacob Dorcus took on a partner, George David Shank. In 1894 W.B. Cutshall and John Hough were the owners. Charles J.F. Miller, W.B. Cutshall, and John Thomas Fogle managed and owned the business from 1900-1905. In 1906 John Stimmel built on an office addition and Mr. "pap" Long had a lumber yard on the site of the mill around

1907 to 1913 Charles J.F. Miller and N.Z. Cramer operated the business until Mr. Miller died and Mr. Cramer took in his son, Steiner as a partner in 1922. The firm then became N.Z. Cramer and Son.

In 1930 the firm established a delivery service in the community which was a complete innovation as previously the customers picked up their own purchases. During this time a large lumber shed was added and a building along the Creagerstown Road, which was always covered with circus posters, was torn down.

A new machine storage building also built about this time.

In 1947 a new corporation was formed with Steiner Cramer and Michael Pue Sr. In 1951 Annie Cramer, Michael Pue and Earl Hawkins became owners and managed the business until 1964 when the firm was sold to the Cavetown Planing Mill Co. The business has been an integral part of Woodsboro history and still provides a necessary service to the community as it has done for more than one hundred years.

The Woodsboro Savings Bank  
The Woodsboro Savings Bank of

**Happy Easter!**  
As we all prepare for warm weather, it's a good time to go through your jewelry box! Notice a broken chain or an earring missing a partner? We can help! If you'd like something to add to your jewelry box, we have plenty of options!  
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# HISTORY



The Woodsboro Banking House was erected in 1901, a handsome, substantial edifice, three stories high, built of brick and equipped with vaults and safe of the latest design, being fire and burglar proof.

Frederick County, Maryland with its banking house in Woodsboro, Maryland, was organized at Woodsboro, May 1, 1899, with capital stock of \$25,000 and was chartered under the banking laws of Maryland. Officers and directors of the bank at the time of its organization were president.

Dr. William Wagner; Vice president, Josephus Long; and Directors William H. Wagner, Josephus Long, James M. Smith, George W. Huffman, George W. Shank, Edwin Devilbiss, John S. Newman, A.H. Etzler, Robert L. Ogle, William C. Boteler, John Q. Lough, and E. Marshall Gilbert

The Woodsboro Savings Bank is one of the strong financial institutions of Fredrick County. It does a general banking business and has paid-semi-annual dividends from its organization to the present time. The officers and directors of the institution are among the most honorable and substantial citizens of Frederick County. It was one of the very few financial institutions completely solvent in the bank closings of the early depression of the 1930's

In 1910 officers were president, James M. Smith; Vice President, George W. Huffman, Cushier, A.H. Etzler; and directors George F. Smith, James M. Smith,

George W. Huffman, Charles V. Dorcus, W.B. Cutrhull, A.H. Etzler, James W. Long, Robert L. Ogle, Frank L. Stoner, Charles S. Snook, Joseph L. Shank, and J. Harry Kling.

Other presidents elected through the years were George W. Huffman, in 1920, George F. Smith, in 1936, Gail L. Cutshall, in 1952, and George W. Smith, in 1965. Other directors who served over the years were William B. Cutshall, William H. Dorcus, Leonard C. Barrick, Jacob P. Feiser, Benjamin W Saxten, Gail L. Cutshall, Harry C. Dorcus, Maurice J. Albaugh, W. Clinton McSherry, Webster R. Smith, and Roger L. Kling.

In 1975 the present officers are President, George W. Smith; Vice President, Russell N. Flanagan; Secretary, W. Sherman Powell; Assistant Secretary, W. Cash Smith; Cashier,

Glenn D. Smith; Assistant Cashier, Shirley L. Butt; and counsel, James McSherry.

Current directors are Raymond L. Smith, Russell N. Flanagan, W. Sherman Powell, James McSherry, W. Cash Smith, George W. Smith, Steiner W. Smith and L. Sheridan Barber.

The Banking House was erected in 1901, a hand some, substantial edifice, three stories high, built of brick with a fine pressed brick front, and equipped with vaults and safe of the latest design, being fire and burglar proof. Everything about the office was thoroughly up to date, and nothing had been omitted that would add to the safety of the building. In 1954 a new annex was added to the bank which included a new directors' room, vault, and indoor rest rooms. In 1965 the main banking room was completely remodeled. Today the landmark building is a modern banking facility.

### Dorsey Pork Products

Present owner Lawrence Dorsey is the third generation of his family who has operated this business John Dorsey, grandfather, and Owen Dorsey, father of the present owner, started the business back in 1890. Eight hogs were slaughtered that first year. In 1974, the business has grown until 3,800 hogs were slaughtered recently.

John Dorsey, along with Luther Winters and then James Stimmel, in a "kind of partnership" would sell their meat by going door to door. Dorsey and Winters, and then Dorsey and Stimmel would purchase a beef or hog together, they would kill the animal at night, and because of lack of refrigeration, they would get up early in the morning, load one-half of the animal on their respective wagons, and sell the one-half on their routes. They would keep their respective receipts and sell the meat at their own prices and thus became competitors

A dating wagon pulled by a horse was used. It was without refrigeration and had only a canvas cover. They would start on their route at 4 a.m. in

the cool of the day and the people on their route would be waiting for them.

These men had many humorous remarks. Mr. Stimmel was a fast figurer. He told his customers that "eight times eight is eighty-eight but you can have it for 75 cents," and his customers paid that price. The customers who owed large bills would tell him "our bills are as good as gold" but his reply was "to hell with gold. it is green backs I need".

Sometimes, his customers would ask for calves' livers. He would tell them calves were not all liver and then tell his horse "Get up Maude" and drive away without trying to sell them anything else.

After John Dorsey retired, Owen Dorsey continued the business along with his sons Emory and Lawrence. Owen and Lawrence became partners and ran the operation on the family farm on the Delaplaine farm a mile north of Woodsboro until Owen retired in

## Walkersville Senior Citizens

The Seniors, after a three year hiatus, will meet on Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Town Hall, 21 West Frederick Street. The first meeting is scheduled for April 20.

If you have cabin fever or want to meet new people, why not join the Walkersville Senior Citizens for morning games, cards, or just conversation? Lunch, catered by Trout's Market of Woodsboro,

will be served at noon. The afternoon program will feature Harold Staley of Woodsboro. Harold, a well known musician, composer, and singer will be entertaining the group with country music, patriotic songs, jokes and funny stories.

For more information about the Walkersville Seniors or to make a lunch reservation, please call 301-845-7174.

1935 Lawrence continues to own and operate the business.

After serving as Town Burgess for 13 years and serving in his third term as County Commissioner of Frederick County in 1975, his brother Carroll Ray Dorsey has taken over the managing of the business.

Dorsey products has been a byword in pork products in Frederick County and in many parts of the State. Dorsey

meats are known for their fresh country sausage and country hams as well as for their other products such as scrapple and pudding.

Most of the business is wholesale where the meat is sold to independent and chain stores in several counties.

continued next month

To read other history articles, visit the History section of Walkersville.net.



## April 27 - 1 p.m.

Woodsboro Lutheran Church on Main St.



Presents

### "Spies, Hostages & Armies on the March"

There is a 237 year history of the Town of Woodsboro. Dahl Drenning has published a monograph on Woodsboro during the Civil War which details the direct impact of military events about the Town in 1862, 1863, and 1864. The presentation on April 27th will highlight those events placing the Town of Woodsboro in the broader context of the four year conflict that divided the loyalties of Frederick County citizens and changed the course of a nation. At the conclusion of the presentation the local band 'Home Comfort' will perform several period pieces of bluegrass music.

[woodsborohistoricalsociety.org](http://woodsborohistoricalsociety.org)

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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## April 6

### April First Coldest On Record

Sunday was the coldest April First in Frederick County on record. The temperatures range from 12° to 29°, and Saturday was the coldest March 31st on record, the range was from 12 to 33. These are the official figures from Frederick, but reports from around Thurmont give 10° for the lowest.

### In Goldfish Industry

Frederick Tresselt has leased the fishponds at Lewistown, which had formally been leased to the State of Maryland for the State's fish hatcheries, and will use them for the purpose of propagation of goldfish.

### Missionaries Returning

Mrs. Hannah Gardner and family, near Union Bridge, are anxiously looking forward to the arrival of her son, Holly Garner and his wife, who have been missionaries of the Church of the Brethren to heathens in India for over six years. They plan to leave India April 3 and arrive in New York about May 10. They will make a short stay with relatives in Union Bridge and afterwards they will go to Mrs. Gardner's home in Illinois and settle down.

### Walkersville Christian Temperance Union

The monthly meeting of the Walkersville Women's Christian Temperance Union was held Monday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Charles Trout. The Union pledged \$10 to the Near East Fund.

Monday night, members of the Walkersville's Boozers Association met at their super secret still in the train station warehouse to sample their last batch of 'hooch'. Member of the association pledged \$25 to help

boozers in Woodsboro to upgrade their still to meet the growing needs of hard working men in that community under the condition that if the Walkersville still is ever discovered and destroyed by Revenue Agents, Woodsboro would have its 'supply' with hard working men in Walkersville until a new still can be made up and running.

## April 13

### For County Commissioner

Roscoe Brown, who has announced his candidacy for the office of County Commissioner for Frederick County, resides between Deerfield and Sabilasville, and has had about ten years experience in modern road building, being one of the pioneers of the "two-to-one" plan of road construction, and it is largely through his efforts that his home district is among the leaders in the county for safe public highways.

Mr. Brown, now in the prime of life, being in his 35th year, is recognized by all who know him, as honest, intelligent and energetic, and if elected, will bring unusual ability and experience to the office for what he aspires, and will fully realize and perform his duty to the people of Frederick County. He has been a party worker for many years, is a liberal in his views and merits your support.

### No Oil For Liberty To Union Bridge Road

Plans for the resurfacing of the old Johnsville Pike, which extends from Liberty to Union Bridge by the way of Johnsville, is up in the air as a result of the refusal of the State Road Commission to furnish oil for the construction work. The

County Commissioners of Frederick County asked that oil be furnished by the State, but the State replied that they would be unable to do so because of lack of funds.

The County board had voted to make the improvement which would have connected Liberty to Union Bridge with a modern highway, the resurfacing being of oil and macadam costing \$2,000 a mile. But the plans for the resurfacing were dependent upon the State supplying the oil for the work.

It had been expected that part of the work could be done this summer, but since the State is unable to furnish the oil it is not considered likely that any work will be undertaken within the next two years.

## April 20

### More Snow

Fruit grower in the County became very uneasy last Saturday. With snow falling practically all day, and the temperature slightly below the freezing point towards evening, some were planning to protect buds on trees by building fires on the windward side of the orchards. Icicles clung to leaves until late Sunday afternoon when they, together with the snow, disappeared, and another menace to the fruit crop had passed.

### 14,000 Killed By Autos Last Year

14,000 people were killed in automobile accidents in the United States last year, according to statistics of the National Bureau of Casualty and Security Underwriters.

This is an increase of 1,600 over 1921, and according to the Bureau, the increase is a direct result of women drivers, which every man knows does not have the mental capacity to handle the complexities of maneuvering autocars. Women drivers, more than men, were at fault, according to the statistics. The chief causes of accidents were listed as follows: reckless driving was responsible for more than half of the accidents, improper lights, broken mechanisms, intoxicated driver, weather conditions, and narrow culverts.

During the same period, the number of fatalities due to horse accidents decreased to less than 12, or by 98 percent. The decrease, the Bureau noted, was due to the fact that only experi-

enced horsemen still used horses, and that the horses in use were now "seasoned trusty old souls."

### Women's Club Meets

The women's club of Walkersville, met and its fortnightly meeting at the home of Miss Courtney Stafford, on Maple Avenue. After a short business session, and instructive and enjoyable program of fine arts was given. Mrs. Robert Clapp gave a pleasing talk on the meaning of art, in which she refer to some great women artist and briefly to some of their work. Mrs. Robert Town sang very beautifully several songs. Mrs. Carrie Holland, President of the Women's Club of Mount Pleasant, read an instructive paper on the history of literature, its beginning and development in England, the influence which was felt by early American writers, aiding the development of great American literature. An interesting reading of minor and major arts was given by Mrs. Devilbiss. After singing America the Beautiful, the club adjourned.

## April 27

### Mountain Fires

A pall of smoke from one of the worst forest fires in the history of Frederick County hung over the County Wednesday night. Fanned by a heavy gale, the fire swept along the eastern slope of the Catocin Mountains, and practically the entire section from Yellow Springs to Thurmont was affected.

The fire, which broke out on Sunday evening, and which had flared up a fresh in unexpected places in at least a dozen times since, was not brought under control until Thursday night. The origins of the fires are unknown, but all are suspected to have been the work of an arsonist.

Several hundred men were said to have fought the fire. Much difficulty was experienced in getting men to fight the fires, for this reason, the State Forester deputized a number of men, which allowed him to order them to fight it. Soon after, the fire was brought under control. While most of the men have since left the scene of the fire, some have remained on guard as a precaution.

The extent of the fire damage will not be known for several days. It has been estimated that an area of about six or seven thousand acres of timber have been damaged. All the sections in which the fire burned are comparatively thickly settled, but no homes, as far as it can be known, however, have been destroyed.

### Accident At Union Bridge

A serious accident occurred at the Western Maryland Railroad crossing at Union Bridge early Monday morning. John Eline, Theodore Crouse, Philip Weller, Orville Hamberg and Earl Hahn, all of Uniontown were going into Union Bridge to go to work in a car. In attempting to cross the railroad tracks, they crashed into the engine of the fast mail train going West. Our information is that the fast mail was late, and the safety gate was not down, which led the driver of the car to think the crossing was safe.

Mr. Crouse was the most seriously hurt, receiving injuries about the head. The others were more or less bruised, but not seriously. Had the car been two seconds faster, all five might have been killed. This is an extremely dangerous grade crossing, no matter which way it is approached, and especially where the train running late, should be most carefully guarded.

### April Weather

April has been remarkable, throughout, for its continuous cold winds and near freezing nights. Very little real Spring weather. The snow that fell last Saturday nearly all day would have given the ground a considerable covering, had it not been for the big rain that preceded it. Evidently, Old Man Winter is not lingering up in Michigan.

### Attempted Hold Up In Daylight

Henry Eyley, a Thurmont, a well-known dealer in horses was held up on the public road, near Lewistown, Friday afternoon by two men at the point of a revolver. While it is supposed that the objective was robbery. It is understood that no money was obtained.

For a little information, however, could be obtained about the hold up. It was said that no report of the attempted robbery has been made to the authorities. It was said that soon after the men interrupted Mr. Eyley they made a hurried retreat. No description of the pair could be obtained.

### Death of Raymond Long

Raymond Long, a well-known resident of Woodsboro, died Saturday morning, age 64 years. Mr. Long was born and had lived for many years on the home farm near Rocky Ridge. For 29 years he was engaged in the farm implement and carriage business in New Midway. For the past five years he had lived in Woodsboro, dealing in automobiles. The past year he had led a retired life. He was a member of Grace Reformed Church, and the Monocacy Tribe I. O. R. M. of Union Bridge.

To read past editions of 100 Years Ago this month, visit the History section of Walkersville.net.



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# WALKERSVILLE HISTORY

## Walkersville School celebrates 100th anniversary

Elizabeth Anderson

On April 4, Walkersville will celebrate the centennial anniversary of the opening of the oldest building in FCPS. The Walkersville School, which has taken on many names and uses over its lifetime, has remained a pillar of the FCPS community and its values since its construction in the early 1920s. In more recent years, the building is familiar to most as the FCPS Staff Development Center and the Learning & Leadership Center.

“The idea for a ‘Walkersville School’ arose from the 1918 influenza pandemic,” said Margaret Lee, FCPS Director of Organizational Development. “Parents in the community were concerned about the close quarters of some of the very small community schools.”

Records from the Town Office and the Walkersville Historical Society reveal that the majority of planning and construction for the building occurred between 1920 and 1923, with the school opening during the 1922-23 school year. Providing education for first through eleventh, and eventually, twelfth grades, the school’s first graduation ceremony was held in the summer of 1929. Thirteen students received diplomas.

After nearly 40 years spent educating the best and brightest of

Walkersville’s youth, including Walkersville Burgess Chad Weddle and Commissioner Tom Gilbert, the Walkersville School began to serve new purposes in 1960. Since that time, the building has housed Walkersville Middle, Langanore High, and Urbana High students during school renovations, as well as participants in the FCPS SUCCESS program, which serves as a transitional program for students ages 18-21 with disabilities. In 2019, it became a “full-time home” for the Department of Organizational Development, according to Lee.

The building has also undergone many physical changes, including the construction of an auditorium and cafeteria five years after the school opened and, eventually, a transition from coal furnace heating to a modern HVAC system. In 1980, the structure underwent a complete remodeling after it was affected by extensive water damage, committing the building to many more years of safe service.

Now, both FCPS faculty and students utilize the building for meetings and events which promote leadership and collaboration. Langanore graduate Elizabeth Anderson recalls a countywide initiative prior to the 2020 pandemic shutdown which strove to connect students from different schools as potential redistricting was considered. Gather-



Walkersville First Aid Club, 1942-1943, standing on the front steps of the building.

ings of selected students were held at the then-Staff Development Center and included numerous team-building exercises and discussions.

As the newly redesignated Learning & Leadership Center, the Walkersville School building provides a space for the continued support of the entire FCPS student body, regardless of academic standing, ability, interest, or talent. According to FCPS All-Stars, meeting rooms within the building have also been redesignated with the names of county high schools, and “every room will

soon hold a canvas with artwork representing that school’s community, created by the students from that particular school.”

Following its own model of community involvement exemplified by the many uses of the Walkersville School building, FCPS welcomes Walkersville residents to the 100th Birthday Open House at the

Walkersville School on Monday, April 3. The event, co-sponsored by the Walkersville Historical Society, will take place between 4 and 5:30pm and include refreshments and tours given by current building employees. Says Lee, “People are welcome to share their photos, stories, and artifacts to display in person or virtually.”



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# SCHOOL AND LIBRARY NEWS

## This month at the library

The Walkersville Public Library is ready to hop into April with a roster of great programs for all ages.

Are you ready to get into a new fitness routine this spring? We have some great fitness offerings this month. Get moving with Freedom BANG every Saturday in April at 10 a.m. Freedom Bang is a pre-choreographed fusion of boxing, HIIT, hip hop, world dance, optional weighted gloves and just a touch of attitude. It offers a wide range of intensity options to help you customize your workout.

For something with less intensity, join us on Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. for a free yoga class. Be sure to wear comfortable clothes! Seniors can join us on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. for Senior Fitness, a low impact class designed specifically for seniors. This class will show you exercises to work on your core and help your strength, balance, and posture.

Are you interested in improving your green thumb or learn a new and fun way to decorate your space? Join the members of the Green-walled Garden Club of Frederick for "Creating a Terrarium" on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at

11 a.m. during which they will give a demonstration on how to make foliage and succulent terrariums. This will include types of containers, popular miniature plants, creating a theme, planting, and maintenance.

Families can join us Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> for a morning of fun and prizes during our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. This rain or shine event will include photos with the Easter Bunny from 10:30-11:30 a.m. and a different egg hunt for each age group. The hunt for ages 0-2 will begin at 10:15 a.m., ages 3-5 can join the fun at 10:30 a.m., ages 6-8 at 10:40 a.m., and ages 9-11 will begin at 10:50 a.m.

Come one come all as we celebrate the season with our Fling into Spring Carnival! Get your fill of fun by playing carnival games outside! Head inside the library between 1-3:00 p.m. to play a round of mini golf and see a performance by local lyra hoop artist and dancer, Jenn Berardi. The fun takes place Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

As a part of the year-long celebration of Frederick County's 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the library will be having an Earth Day Celebration. Celebrate Earth Day

and learn about sustainable practices we can all partake in to show our earth some appreciation. Information on a variety of eco-friendly practices will be available, as well as a take-home seed planting project for kids. The fun kicks off at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will also be presentations from the Frederick County Division of Solid Waste and Recycling who will talk about composting at 1:15 p.m. and the Master Gardeners talking about pollinator gardens at 2 p.m.

For those who love to be outside and foraging for wild mushrooms, and those who just enjoy learning about these culinary delights, we present All About Mushrooms. This is a fun and educational program presented by William Needham, CAPT, USN (ret), who will be sharing his vast knowledge of mushrooms (both edible and nonedible) on Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

We are charging full STEAM ahead with our Teen STEAM program this April. The first three Tuesdays of the month at 3:30 p.m., teens in middle and high school can join us for fun activities that explore the

worlds of science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

Are you a teen that is looking for a fun way to relax after a long school week? Join us on Fridays at 3:30 p.m. for Teen Connect! We will be offering a variety of different activities including video games, VR, and tabletop games. Come have a good time and hang with good friends.

Elementary age children and their caregivers can join us on the first three Mondays in April to jump back in history with our "All About Me" series. With fun, hands-on activities, kids will be able to learn all about the lives of mathematician Isaac Newton, Frederick's own Francis Scott Key, and playwright William Shakespeare. The fun begins at 1 p.m. in front of the fireplace.

For even more fun the library is continuing our Fri-Yay! Program on Friday's at 11 a.m. Each Friday is a different themed activity geared toward children from birth to elementary.

The library is continuing with its weekly story times throughout the month of April. Our youngest patrons and their caregivers can join us on Mondays for a morning packed with stories, songs, and fun. The fun begins at 10 a.m. with Infant Storytime,

designed for children 0-12 months and their families. This is followed directly at 10:30 a.m. by It Takes a Village, a caregiver-led discussion and playgroup for tips and tricks to help navigate raising little ones. Then bring your energy to explore songs, stories, and fun designed for children 0-18 months and their caregivers with Baby Storytime at 11 a.m.

Our toddler tots get to join in on the fun every Tuesday at 11 a.m. with Toddler Storytime. Bring your wiggles for songs, stories, and fun for toddlers and their grownups. Stay for Toddler Skills directly after at 11:30 a.m. which introduces toddlers and their caregivers to a variety of preschool-readiness skills including fine motor development, social emotional skills, and early literacy activities.

And we didn't forget about our 3- to 5-year-olds. Every Thursday at 11 a.m. we have Preschool Storytime filled with songs, stories, and fun for our preschoolers and their grownups.

Looking for something that the whole family can enjoy? Join us every Wednesday in April for Family Storytime at 6 p.m. Wear your pajamas and join us inside for songs, stories, and fun for the whole family.

## Top reasons to send your kid to summer camp

Fawn O'Hara  
Frederick County YMCA

Summer Camp is a staple in childhood. It is a place and time to enjoy being a child, exploring, making new friends, and new memories in a safe, fun, and educational location. However, many parents do not realize how important and vital the lessons taught, and experiences of a summer camp truly are. It offers a fun

getaway for their child and gives them the stepping-stone to grow into who they truly are.

**Discover Special Interests and Skills**  
Summer camp brings the opportunity to find activities, interests, and skills that your child truly likes. They often have a variety of activities and even can specialize in a specific interest, like basketball or soccer. Summer camps can include activities like canoeing, hiking,

archery, team challenges, and more!

**Get Active and Involved**  
One bonus of summer camp for kids is the fact that it is full of physical activity that doesn't really feel like physical activity. With activities like canoeing, hiking, archery, and others, your child will constantly be moving and having fun while doing it! At summer camp, their brains are constantly stimulated with new experiences, building last-

ing relationships, and their bodies are getting the activity and workouts they need to stay healthy!

**Empower and Encourage Growth**  
Camp not only offers opportunities to get active and find and pursue their special interests but also empowers and encourages growth in every child. Summer camps often encourage and push children to make new friends and be open to new experiences. Camps build confidence and independence through team-building activities and focusing on personal

growth. With constant challenges every day, children can realize their potential and ability to do things on their own, boosting self-esteem, perfecting responsible decision-making, and empowering them.

The YMCA of Frederick County offers a variety of camps (Day and Overnight) that fit any child's interest. Camps are safe, educational, fun, boost self-esteem, and encourage growth. Whether your child is interested in space and science or soccer and golf, we offer the camp perfect for them! Check out our 2023 summer camp program guide at [www.frederickymca.org](http://www.frederickymca.org) and register for camp today!



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# SCHOOL AND LIBRARY NEWS

## Frederick County Public Schools

**Karen Yoho**  
Frederick County School Board

Students in Frederick County Public Schools have entered the final stretch. School should end by the first Friday in June. Once the system is certain, the final date for students will be announced.

On the subject of the calendar, the BoE reviewed three 2024-2025 school calendar proposals from the Calendar Committee at the March 22 meeting. Please contact us with your thoughts about the proposed calendars at Board&Student-Member@fcps.org.

For our ten comprehensive high schools, Graduation Week is May 22-26. All high schools will oper-

ate a virtual learning day schedule with assignments posted in Schoology. Please contact your student's home school for more detailed information. You can also access specific dates on the FCPS website, 2023 Graduation Dates link on the bottom of the home page.

The Board heard from the consultant group performing the special education audit. The representatives from PCG explained their methodology and answered questions. They will return in June with final recommendations after they have compiled and analyzed the results. For a full overview, look at the PowerPoint presentation on Board Docs from the March 22 BoE meeting. There is also a link on the bottom of the

FCPS home page – Special Education Audit Updates.

And if you are the parent or guardian of a special education student, there is a link to the MSDE Parent Involvement Survey which is open through May 19.

After 25 years with FCPS, Chief Legal Counsel Jamie Cannon will be retiring this month. We wish Ms. Cannon all the best. Mr. Steven Blivess, Esq has been named to the position and will begin on April 11. We look forward to a strong working relationship with Mr. Blivess as he joins our FCPS family.

Budget season and negotiations with our three employee bargaining units are ongoing. On April 18, County Executive Fitzwater

will hold a hearing on the BOE Budget at 6 p.m. at Winchester Hall. We always look to complete the parallel yet overlapping processes in a timely fashion.

Maryland school systems just received the 2021-22 state report card. According to the FCPS website, "The report card evaluates academic performance in reading, math and science, academic growth, English language proficiency, chronic absenteeism, school climate and well-rounded curriculum. For high schools, the state also measures students "on-track" in ninth grade and graduation rate."

Over 75% of FCPS schools were identified at the top of the rating with either 4 or 5 stars. None of our schools were below 3 stars. FCPS ranks in the top third of the state in overall stu-

dent performance. Dr. Dyson is quoted as saying, "Our students' academic performance, on this and other measures, speaks to their perseverance and commitment." We are so proud of our students and will continue doing everything possible to help meet their needs so that every student can be successful.

Finally, FCPS has many wonderful community partners. We thank Batelle National Biodefense Institute for providing \$34,000 in mini-grants directly to classrooms through teacher applicants looking to provide STEAM experiences in their classrooms.

The FCPS Board of Education wishes a happy Easter, Passover, end of Ramadan, and many other April observances to those who celebrate, not forgetting Tax Day and National Poetry Month.

## GVCS trade/technical scholarships offered

A trade/technical/vocational educational assistance scholarship is offered to any resident of the Walkersville- Woodsboro area ("Walkersville feeder school pattern area") who may need some help affording their educational expenses.

These funds are offered through Glade Valley Community Services and The Community Foundation of Frederick to be used for any age person for the purposes of furthering themselves with certification, trade tools, tuition, tutoring, testing fees, etc. through the Bourland Educational Assistance Fund. The application process is very easy. Simply download the application, or pick up a hard copy at one of the many locations, or call 301-845-0213 for an application or information. The application requires a description of educational goals, expenses/fees (cost) associated with educational need, a description of financial need and 2 personal reference letters.

This scholarship is intended for those folks seeking a 2-year degree or less and not intended for those seeking a 4 year degree. It is open to any age person needing financial assistance for their educational goals and the awards range from \$300 to \$1,000 dollars. Applications and awards are available throughout the year and are awarded until funds for the year are depleted. Applications are due a minimum of 30 days prior to funds being needed and the monies are paid directly to the vendor.

This scholarship is offered through the Bourland Educational Assistance Fund through the Community Foundation who tapped Peg and Orley Bourland as recipients of their 2008 Wertheimer Fellow Award for Excellence in Volunteerism program. The fund's purpose is to provide need-based scholarships for post-secondary education to

help underwrite costs associated with these goals.

Hard copy applications are available at the following locations: Glade Valley Food Bank,

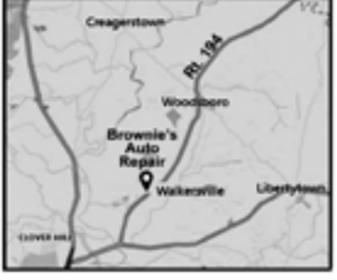
Glade Valley Thrift Shop, Walkersville High School, Walkersville Town Hall, Woodsboro Town Hall, Career and Technical Center (CTC), Frederick

Community College, Walkersville Public Library or they can be downloaded from our website GladeValley.org or by calling us at 301-845-0213. Completed

applications can be mailed to Glade Valley Community Services, P.O. Box 655 Walkersville, MD 21793 or emailed to gladevalley.org@gmail.com. Successful candidates will be notified by email or phone.

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Get ready for this year's Master Gardener plant sale

**Maritta Grau**  
Frederick County Master Gardener

It's not too early to plan for this year's spring and summer gardening adventures, so start gathering your landscape plans, shovels, trowels, and gardening gloves—and join us at the upcoming Frederick Master Gardeners Plant Sale on Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year's sale will again be at the Frederick Fairgrounds.

Master Gardeners will be showcasing more than 100 varieties of annuals, perennials, vegetables, and herbs, all well suited to Frederick growing conditions. Both old favorites and new varieties will be featured, with Master Gardeners ready to assist you in making the best selections for your situation. Here are some highlights from each of our plant categories:

### Annuals

An important component in any garden, from small balconies to large flower beds, annuals show off with long-blooming color and interesting foliage from spring through frost. If chosen wisely, they can thrive in a number of light and soil conditions, resist rabbits and deer, and provide nutrients for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. Planted in drifts, in containers, or as focal plants, annuals include a wide array of choices for any garden spot. Here are just a few of the annuals featured at the plant sale:

Add magnificent colors for sunny gardens with geraniums, lantana, and

marigolds. For those shadier areas, choose impatiens, torenia, begonias, calibrachoa, and lobelias.

As pointed out earlier, some annuals are especially noteworthy for their long blooming period from spring through fall. Consider verbena, portulaca, and salvia for a profusion of color throughout the seasons.

Spikes, fillers, and drapes create dazzling combinations for containers. One striking example for a sunny spot is a mix of spikey dracaena, colorful snapdragon-like angelonia, and draping portulaca with profuse, rose-like flowers.

### Perennials

Are you interested in creating an easy-to-care-for garden that will benefit the environment? Think perennials! Perennial plants return to the garden year after year. We expect to have more than 40 species of perennial plants at this year's sale. Some "must haves" are:

Penstemon, which forms three-foot-tall spikes of white or lavender bell-shaped flowers in late spring. It loves the sun and, once established, will tolerate dry conditions and occasional flooding.

Mountain mint, a must for pollinator gardens, has tiny pink flowers that attract a wide variety of insects. The foliage, which reaches a height of about three feet at maturity, appears to have been dusted with powdered sugar and has a minty fragrance.

Summer-blooming coneflowers are wonderful daisy-like flowers that attract bees and butterflies. The large seedheads

are a favorite of goldfinches in the fall.

"Fireworks" goldenrod, often referred to as autumn forsythia, has sprays of small golden flowers that line the stems.

Most of the perennial plants at the sale are native to our area. They have adapted to our climate and soil, and as a result require little supplemental watering or fertilization. They are more disease-resistant than nonnatives. All of the plants we offer are attractive to pollinating insects and will increase over time to form large clumps that crowd out weeds and improve the soil.

### Herbs

Small seed-bearing plants, herbs have leaves that are typically used for culinary, medicinal, aromatic and sometimes spiritual purposes. These easy-to-grow plants, whether in containers or garden plots, add beauty and fragrance to any location you choose. In our region, many herbs are annuals, surviving only one season. However, a few herbs, such as bay, rosemary, thyme, lavender, and sage, are hardy enough to survive our winters if sheltered or brought inside and treated as houseplants during the cold months.

This year's plant sale features more than 50 varieties of herbs, offering both traditional herb favorites, as well as new and exciting varieties. Some of the all-time favorites to be featured at the plant sale include:

Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*). Easily propagated by cuttings rooted in water, basil can be grown inside as a



The Frederick County Master Gardener plant sale is a great place to pick up native plants that will attract bees and butterflies all Spring, Summer & Fall long!

kitchen house plant in the winter.

Lavender (*Lavandula* species). This is a wonderful plant to have near a patio or sidewalk. Every time you brush by, touching it, its perfume is released in the air.

Oregano (*Origanum vulgare*). Oregano, sometimes called wild marjoram, is a fast-spreading herb originally from the Mediterranean, and has naturalized in the Southwest.

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*). A tender evergreen, this herb has long, narrow needles and blooms in white, pink, and purple; some species grow knee-high or taller.

Sage (*Salvia officinalis*). Sage is a savory herb used in recipes for almost all types of food, from vegetables to seafood, to meats and even in various breads.

Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*). Like the other herbs mentioned here, thyme is very fragrant; thyme has many species including creeping, English, broad leaf,

and lemon, among others.

For more information about growing, preserving, and enjoying the health benefits of eating herbs, visit <https://extension.umd.edu/resources>.

### Vegetables

We will have an assortment of both spring and summer crop seedlings, such as broccoli and tomatillos, in various sizes, including six-packs, four-inch pots, and one-gallon pots. Please note that several of the heirloom and patio varieties of tomatoes and peppers sold out in the first 90 minutes last year, so it's good to be an early bird. Look for these varieties:

Spring—Lettuce, kale, cabbage - Lettuce was first cultivated by the Egyptians and quickly spread to Greece and Rome. Now grown all over the world, it's used in salads, sandwiches, and wraps.

Summer—Tomatoes, broccoli, peppers, melons - Our selections this year will include broccoli and tomatillo. Although Mayan in origin, tomatoes can now be found in recipes around the world. Chili peppers are also a New World crop, originating in South America. Melons were first cultivated in Southwest Asia but are now enjoyed around the world.

Vines—Cucumber, squash, zucchini - Cucumber was first cultivated in India. Squash is one of the original North American foods. Zucchini came from Mesoamerica as well. The vining crops can be eaten raw, roasted, steamed, baked, and in soups or stews.

### Flea Market

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at our plant sale is our garden-themed flea market. You'll find an array of flower pots, planters and containers, as well as decorative items for your home, patio, garden, and yard. Shop for gardening books, tools, trellises, bird feeders, and other gardening items you can't live without! What will you spot—a butterfly pin, honeybee pillow, etched glass vase, or even a pull wagon? Come see what treasure we have for you!

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

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## Small Town Gardener

Let the games begin

Marianne Willburn

By the beginning of April, seed starting has been featuring heavily on the gardener's weekend-to-do list, claiming what little time we have between catch-up laundry and filing the dreaded 1040. By the time we finally draw breath and look around at the new life perhaps springing out of the front walkway, it has already sprung, and seedling flats must take second place to a good pair of pruners.

This may be a huge job, or a small one, depending on what you did last fall.

There are two schools of thought at the end of autumn. One, that the gardener puts the garden 'to bed' and also puts his back out in a final, pre-Christmas wrestle with Nature; or two, that he ignores it and goes to Puerto Rico for a long, well-deserved holiday.

The brilliance of the second plan is that, correctly spun, the gardener is merely showing great deference for the wild creatures that inhabit his garden during the winter - giving them the food, lodging and general

succor that is less and less available as our wild spaces fall prey to the developer's magic re-zoning pencil. It is rare thing when our altruistic moments coincide with our more self-interested ones, and thus I embrace this plan wholeheartedly. Including the bit about Puerto Rico.

Before the job starts there is a mental adjustment to be made however. I have gotten quite used to the shapes of last year's garden in all its muted, disheveled sweetness, and have a hard time letting go - even with the promise of new and better growth ahead.

The grasses are the hardest to see go, with their punctuated rhythms that create flow and echo tawny color throughout the garden. But they need to go soon - last month in fact, before new growth starts and you've got a mess on your hands. The fertile fronds of the ostrich and sensitive ferns are also mourned. They are present in such abundance and mark territory that will be dormant for a few weeks yet. I also hate to see the hard prune of the panicle hydrangeas (which bloom on new wood) as I grow so many and their peachy pale dried flower

heads act almost as furniture in the garden.

Thus it is a final goodbye to last year and a trust that all will return in even greater glory in the season ahead. I trust, therefore I shear.

Here are a few tips for your shearing - hopefully making the process easier and faster.

1) Create small accomplishments. It's usually a big job. Make a decision to work on a section of your garden or a particular type of plant and see that job through to the end. Don't go on to another if you finish early. For example, cut back all the roses, or all the grasses, or all the ferns - or simply deal with the area around the front door. Don't move on to the fertilizing, or the dividing, or the whimpering in a corner.

2) Run a little hand-held sharpener over your pruners and loppers and keep it with you for periodic re-sharpening (You can find them at any big box, independent garden center or online.) Sharp pruners make all the difference for the health of your plant and for the speed at which you can prune. When moving between plants, it's helpful if you can wipe the blades to contain the spread of disease - known or unknown. Clorox wipes are good for this.

3) Keep a wheelbarrow with you to contain the debris before it goes on the ground and makes piles you "need to get to" in another four weeks. Clean as you go and you'll feel better about what you did.

4) Add a few plastic trugs to your tool shed, allowing you to bring them into beds, fill them and dump them into the wheelbarrow instead of flinging bits from the middle of the beds in the general direction of the wheelbarrow.

5) Cutting back grasses can be a tiring job. If you have many, you may want to invest in a small battery operated hedge trimmer which makes extremely short work of a large job (I use the Ego 56V series and adore it). Make it easier still by looping a bungee around the waist of the grass, and then cutting low at the base. You'll have an easily managed bunch of dried grass to dispose of.

6) Our whacky weather killed many new buds last month, but plants such as hydrangea may yet have life below the killed layers in the bud itself. Take a wait and see approach.

Cutting back can be a satisfying spring job, but you may want to make changes in your timing (fall/winter) depending on what you're seeing out there now.

Marianne Willburn is the author

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# ARTS

## Way off Broadway's Church Basement Ladies

For the spring, The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre will be bringing a hilarious little musical to the stage that it has been looking at bringing to Frederick for some time now. Audiences have asked about the show, and the theatre's producers have always been interested in mounting a production. After working out all of the details and finding the perfect spot for it in the theatre's 2023 line-up of shows, the musical comedy Church Basement Ladies will be taking to the stage for a fun filled spring run beginning March 31st.

In the show, audiences find themselves in 1965 rural Minnesota, where the ladies of the local Lutheran church fortify their flock with love, wisdom, and the food they prepare in the church's basement kitchen. In Church Basement Ladies, we meet the pastor, three cooks, and one daughter

who run the kitchen and care for the congregation. This funny musical comedy sees the four women handle a Lutefisk Dinner, a funeral, an Easter Fundraiser, and, of course, a wedding.

Based on Janet Martin and Suzann Nelson's book Growing Up Lutheran, first published in 1997, Church Basement Ladies premiered in 2005 at the Plymouth Playhouse in Plymouth, Minnesota. The show was so popular with audiences that it went on to spawn seven sequels and a prequel. Most of which also premiered at the Plymouth Playhouse prior to touring the United States.

Church Basement Ladies has become an audience favorite among regional theatres with well over three million people seeing the musical and its sequels to date.

Way Off Broadway's cast of Church Basement Ladies includes Beka Burgoon as Signe Engel-

son, Melissa Ann Martin as Mavis Gilmerson, Hannah Pecoraro as Vivian Snustad, Laura Walling as Karyn Engelson, and Jordan Stocksdale as Pastor Gunderson.

The show was written by Jim Stowell and Jessica Zuehlke and has music and lyrics by Drew Jensen. Way Off Broadway's production is directed and staged by the theatre's Executive producer, Bill Kiska, with music direction by Jordan B. Stocksdale, and will be stage managed by Betsey Brannen.

"Church Basement Ladies is turning into the hottest ticket of the season," says Justin M. Kiska, Way Off Broadway's President and Managing Producer. "We have had so many groups book tickets for the show and the way the tickets are selling, we anticipate the show could very possibly be sold out before it even opens."

Church Basement Ladies will run March 31 - May 20, with



performances every Friday and Saturday evening and matinees on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of each month. A special matinee has been added for Mother's Day on Sunday, May 14th. Tickets for a Friday evening or Sunday Matinee performance are \$55, with Saturday evening tickets costing \$59. Tickets may be purchased

by calling the Box Office at 301-662-6600.

To learn more about Way Off Broadway, or any of its productions, including the theatre's upcoming presentations of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*, or *Jingle Jingle All the Way*, visit at [www.wayoffbroadway.com](http://www.wayoffbroadway.com).

## Weinberg Theater presents Three Dog Night

Grammy-nominated 1970's chart toppers Three Dog Night are embarking on a national tour for 2023 and making a stop at the Weinberg Center for the Arts in Frederick, Sunday, April 16

The legendary band, now in its 5th decade, claims some of the most astonishing statistics in popular music. In the years 1969 through 1974, no other group achieved more top 10 hits, moved more records or sold more concert tickets. Three Dog Night had 21 consecutive Top 40 hits, including 3 #1 singles, 11 Top 10's, 18 straight Top 20's, 7 million-selling singles and 12 straight RIAA Certified Gold LPs.

The hits appeared on best-selling charts including pop, rock and country. Their records continue to sell around the world, reaching beyond the borders of the U.S. into Japan, Canada, Holland, England, Germany, Spain and elsewhere.

The band's now-famous name refers to native Australian hunters in the outback who huddled with their dogs for warmth on cold nights; the coldest being a "three dog night."

Marking over 50 years on the road, Three Dog Night maintains an aggres-



sive, year-round touring schedule of over 90 dates a year, performing their hit filled concerts for generation-spanning audiences. Since 1986, the band has performed over 2,500 shows including two Super Bowls.

Tickets may be purchased online at [WeinbergCenter.org](http://WeinbergCenter.org), by calling the box office at 301-600-2828, or in person at 20 West Patrick Street.

The Weinberg Center for the Arts is one of the region's premier performing arts pre-

senters, offering film, music, dance, theater, and family-focused programming. Located in the historic Tivoli movie theater in downtown Frederick Maryland, the Weinberg Center strives to ensure that the arts remain accessible and affordable to local and regional audiences alike. Weinberg Center events are made possible with major support from the City of Frederick, the Maryland State Arts Council, Plamondon Hospitality Partners, and other corporate and individual donors.

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# April showers

Sonya Vertaque

It is raining cats and dogs while I write this, and dreaming of warmer weather and breezy skies. I feel like the winter hibernation has led to comfort cooking and our family is also looking forward to lighter meals, and maybe a picnic or two. Spaghetti and meatballs are a regular winter meal, but is starting to feel too heavy. These Greek meatballs are quick and easy, and paired with the lemon orzo that can be made ahead of time, makes an easy one bowl meal to take outside for al fresco dining.

## Greek Lamb Meatballs

This is a great Mediterranean flavor packed alternative to beef meatballs. It feels more spring like with the parsley and oregano.

### Ingredients:

- ½ cup panko breadcrumbs plain
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tbsp finely chopped fresh parsley
- 2 tsp grated lemon zest
- 1¼ tsp dried oregano
- ½ tsp ground coriander
- ½ tsp ground cumin
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp black pepper
- 1 pound ground lamb
- 1 egg

Preparation direction: Preheat your oven's broiler. Set the oven rack about 7 inches from the heat. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil and lightly grease it with vegetable oil. In a large bowl, stir together the breadcrumbs, garlic, parsley, lemon zest, oregano, coriander, cumin, salt, and pepper. Add the ground lamb and egg and use your hands to mix until combined. Divide the mixture into 12 equal portions, roll into balls, and arrange on your prepared baking sheet. Broil until browned and cooked through, flipping halfway, 10 to 12 minutes. (Internal temperature should read 145F)

## Orzo Salad

### Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups orzo
- ⅓ cup lemon juice
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- ½ cup water
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 1 cup grape tomatoes sliced
- ¾ cup zucchini sliced
- ¼ cup basil chopped
- ¼ cup feta cheese

Preparation direction: Cook pasta as you normally would in a pot of salted water, until it's al dente. Reserve ¼ cup of the pasta water (you probably won't need it), then drain the orzo and set aside. While the pasta is cooking, combine lemon juice, olive oil, lemon zest, ½ cup water (not pasta water), salt, and pepper in a bowl and set aside. Then, slice the tomatoes, zucchini and basil and set aside. Transfer the cooked orzo to the bowl with the lemon juice dressing and let it set for 10 minutes. In that time, the pasta will soak up the lemon juice, olive oil and water. If after that time, it looks a little dry, you can add a tablespoon or two of the pasta water. Then, add in the tomatoes, zucchini, basil, and feta cheese and stir to combine. Enjoy as-is, or add extra feta or black pepper on top. You can make this ahead of time to serve with your Greek meatballs and put in the refrigerator. The flavors will continue to develop.

## Carrot Cake

My husband loves carrot cake, and actually his groom cake at our wedding was a fire truck made of carrot cake. His go-to desserts are lemon meringue pie and carrot cake. Of course, it can't be something less labor intensive. I just made this cake for my family and it got 4 out of 5 thumbs up. The disenter had his 7-year-old heart set on chocolate cake with caramel frosting, so it wasn't the fault of this carrot cake. Which is the best recipe for carrot cake I have found so far. It was given to me

by a friend and we are not sure where it came from but there is a scribble on the top that reads "Blue Ribbon Carrot Cake" so, let's get baking.

Buttermilk is a very important part of the cake because baking soda is used as the leavener and needs an acid to activate it. Instead of going out and buying buttermilk, you can make it at home with 2% or whole milk and vinegar or lemon juice. Pour one cup of milk, and then add in 1 tablespoon of distilled white vinegar or lemon juice and stir. Let the mixture sit for about 10 minutes before using it, the vinegar or lemon juice will curdle the milk and thicken it just slightly. That is exactly what you are looking for.

### Ingredients:

- 2 c. all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3 eggs, well beaten
- 3/4 cup buttermilk
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 2 cup grated carrots
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 2 tsp. soda
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 cup sugar
- 1 (8 oz.) can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 (3 1/2 oz.) can flaked coconut

Preparation direction: Combine flour, soda, salt and cinnamon and set aside. Combine eggs, oil, buttermilk, sugar and vanilla and beat until smooth. Stir in flour mixture, pineapple, carrots, coconut and chopped nuts. Pour batter into 2 greased and floured 9 inch round cake pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes or until wooden pick comes out clean.

Immediately spread Buttermilk Glaze evenly over layers. Cool in pans 15 minutes. Then carefully remove from pans and let cool completely. Spread Orange-Cream Cheese



Frosting between layers and on top and sides of cake. Store cake in refrigerator.

## Buttermilk Glaze

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- 1 tbsp. light corn syrup
- 1/2 tsp. soda
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 tsp. Vanilla

Preparation direction: Combine sugar, soda, buttermilk, butter and corn syrup in a Dutch oven. Bring to boil, cook 4 minutes stirring often. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla. Let cool some.

## Orange-Cream Cheese Frosting

Yes, you can just make a regular cream cheese frosting, but trust me, you

want to make this one. It also makes extra, and when warmed up makes a nice drizzle for pancakes or waffles the next day.

### Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. orange juice
- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 2 cup sifted powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. grated orange rind

Combine butter and cream cheese, beating until light and fluffy. Add vanilla, powdered sugar, juice and rind beating until smooth.

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



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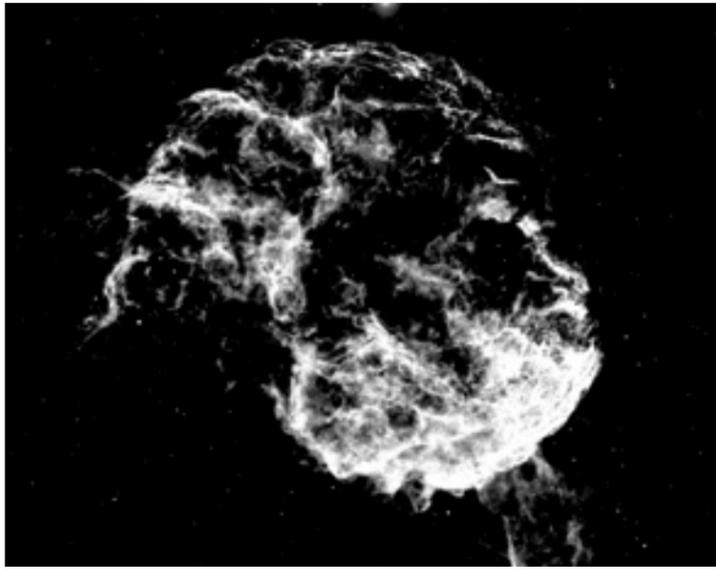
## The night sky of April

Professor Wayne Wooten

For April 3, the full moon, the Paschal Moon, is on April 6th, and sets the next Sunday as Easter. This is the first full moon after the Vernal Equinox. The Last Quarter Moon is on April 13th. In the dawn sky, the waning crescent moon passes below Saturn on April 16th. New moon is on April 20th. The waxing crescent lies just below brilliant Venus on April 22nd. The first quarter moon sits just to the right of Mars on April 25th. The moon is again full as May begins.

Mercury is visible just below Venus on the western horizon the first two weeks of April, with the greatest eastern elongation, 19 degrees from the Sun, happening on April 11th, when it will be half lit in our scopes. It fades fast as it laps us in retrograde as a thin crescent. Venus dominates the SW as a gibbous disk, growing larger as it overtakes us; it appears half lit at GEE on June 4th, and passes between us and the Sun at inferior conjunction in August, to spend the rest of 2023 in the dawn sky.

Mars is overhead in Taurus; it was at quadrature, 90 degrees east of the Sun, in the last week of March, so appears gibbous now in the telescope, reminding us that all planets are only half lit at any given moment, but only for Mercury and Venus are the phases easily observed from Earth. It will get lower in the west in coming months. Jupiter disappeared



The Jellyfish Nebula, also known by its official name IC 443, is the remnant of a supernova that occurred 3,000 - 30,000 years ago lying 5,000 light years from Earth in the constellation Gemini. It created a neutron star - the collapsed remnant of the stellar core.

behind the Sun at end of March, to reappear in the dawn in early May. Saturn has returned to the dawn sky, and will remain in the morning sky until it is at opposition in October.

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the northwestern sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini. South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the southern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse

marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee.

Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. The bright diamond of four stars that light it up are the trapezium cluster, one of the finest sights in a telescope. In the east are the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye from West Florida.

To the southwest, we are losing the constellation Eridanus in the sun's glare. With it, disappears my favorite galaxy in the sky (except for our home Milky Way, of course). NGC 1300 is a barred spiral galaxy, visible in moderate sized scopes, some 61 million light years distant. I first photographed it with my new eVscope on November 27th, and was delighted to see the familiar "S" shape. Then came the news on December 6, 2022 that the DLT 40 survey at University of

California Davis announced that a magnitude +15.7 supernova had been found between the nucleus and upper spiral arm of the galaxy.

By determining the shape of this light curve, we can decide if this was a Type Ia supernova, where the whole white dwarf star was blown completely up, or a Type II core collapse, where the core shrinks into a Pensacola sized neutron star, such as the famed Crab Nebula, which we will meet later. The first curve comes to a sharp sudden peak but fades rapidly, as only about 1.4 solar masses are blown up. The latter gives an extended and very slow decline, since dozens of solar masses must gradually cool off and spread out; it is this death of massive stars (like Betelgeuse eventually?) that recycle the "us" stuff back into space!

Overhead near Mars in Taurus is the remains of the most famous recent supernova, M-1, the Crab Nebula. This star was seen to explode in July 1054 AD, becoming visible with the naked eyes in broad daylight for weeks! Look closely at the chaotic tendrils of hydrogen, moving fastest and glowing red on the outside of the nebula. Other heavier elements, newly created and liberated from the core of the collapsed supergiant star, glow with their won characteristic colors as well. Now look at the core, and you will see a central star that is no longer one. This is a magnetar, spinning thirty times per second, literally "pumping iron" (the last abundant element formed before the core collapse) and just to the right of it, the arc of the shock wave transferring energy via its strong magnetic field to the glowing, expanding cloud of star stuff.

To the northeast, look for the Big Dipper rising, with the top two stars of the bowl, the pointers, giving you a line to find Polaris, the Pole Star. Look for Mizar-Alcor, a nice naked eye double star, in the bend of the big dipper's handle. Take the pointers at the front of the dipper's bowl south instead to

the head of Leo, looking much like the profile of the famed Sphinx. The bright star at the Lion's heart is Regulus, the "regal star". Now take the curved handle of the Big Dipper, and follow the arc SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of the spring sky. Recent studies of its motion link it to the Sagittarius Dwarf Galaxy, a companion of our Milky Way being tidally disrupted and spilling its stars above and below the plane of the Milky Way, much like dust falling away from a decomposing comet nucleus. So this brightest star of Bootes the Bear Driver is apparently a refugee from another galaxy, but now trapped by our Galaxy's gravity.

Now spike south to Spica, the blue-white gem in Virgo rising in the SE. Virgo is home to many galaxies, as we look away from the obscuring gas and dust in the plane of the Milky Way into deep space. To the southwest of Spica is the four sided Crow, Corvus. To the ancient Greeks, Spica was associated with Persephone, daughter of Ceres, goddess of the harvest. She was abducted by her suitor Pluto, carried down to Hades (going to Hell for a honeymoon!) and when Jupiter worked out a compromise between the newlyweds and the angry mother-in-law, the agreement dictated Persephone come back to the earth's surface for six months of the year, and Mama Ceres was again placated, and the crops could grow again.

As you see Spica rising in the SE, it is time to "plant your peas", and six months from now, when Spica again disappears in the sun's glare in the SW, you need to "get your corn in the crib".... so was set our calendar of planting and harvesting in antiquity. There is indeed a rich harvest in Virgo, of galaxies. The supercluster that lies in the arms of Virgo has more than a thousand members visible in our telescopes, and actually gravitationally bonds our own Milky Way and Local Group of Galaxies to it.



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## Farmers' Almanac

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—John Gruber (1768--1857)

**Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:** Rain, then turning breezy and colder (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); hard freeze, then milder with rain showers (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); dry and warmer, then turning breezy with rain (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); dry and chilly with a hard freeze (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); dry, turning milder with scattered showers (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); dry and warm (26, 27, 28, 29); showers and thunderstorms (30).

**Severe Weather Watch:** The Town and Country Almanack forecasts hard freezes (6, 7, 8, 16, 17) with below average precipitation in the western part of the Mid-Atlantic

Region and above average in the Eastern part.

**Full Moon:** Because of the many pretty flowers blooming during the month, April's Full Moon has been called Pink Moon, and will occur on Wednesday, April 5th. It has also been called Fish Moon, because fishing typically improved due the warming weather.

**The Garden:** Now is the time to do some serious Spring "cleaning" in the garden. Trim back dead foliage and gather up winter's detritus, such as small branches and excess leaves. Trees and shrubs like Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Spiraea, and Viburnums, if planted now, will provide some beautiful late Spring color. If you have one, test your underground sprinkling system by monitoring a full cycle just to make sure

it is still operating correctly. Inspect all sprinkler heads for cleaning, adjustment, or replacement.

**The Farm:** Best days for planting root crops (5, 6); weeding and stirring the soil (22, 23, 24); planting above-ground crops (25, 26); harvesting all crops (10, 11); to set hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 28, 29, 30); the slaughtering and butchering of meats (19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26); transplanting (19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26); harvesting and storing of grain (13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18); weaning of animals and livestock (10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17).

### J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

*Gardens are for all ages: the young for hope of the future, the elderly, for fond memories of the past, and for those in between, the rewards of a good life, now.*

# FITNESS & HEALTH

## Skin and eye sun protection

**Linda Stultz**  
Certified Fitness Trainer

Try to remind people how important protection from the sun's harmful rays is. We all see the advertisements on TV and hear how protecting ourselves from the sun is but do we really listen and use sunscreen? Each year we seem to hear about a new product that is supposed to be the best. I'm sure, like everything else we see and hear advertised, some things work for some people and not as well for others. Each company tries to improve or at least change their products and advertising to attract more buyers.

They also try to make the products that are not greasy or leave a film so that people will like them better and hopefully use them more often. The best products are the ones you will use. If you don't like them you will look for any excuse not to use it. Another choice for protection from the sun is a hat or clothing made to repel the sun's rays. I bought some of the sun protection shirts for my family and my husband really likes them. He thought because of the long sleeves they would be hot to wear but was pleasantly surprised how they felt.

Since most of the time spent outside is in the sun there are several products out there to keep our skin protected from the harmful sun rays. We need to protect our skin from the sun even in the winter months but summer is the time we

can burn quicker and really damage out skin. Sunscreen should be a part of our everyday routine when getting ready for the day.

Some moisturizers contain SPF but if you are going to be out for a while it is a good idea to use a sunscreen along with your regular moisturizer. Men usually don't use a daily moisturizing cream so it is important for them to get in the habit of putting on sunscreen before they start any outside activities or work. The recommendation is to use a sunscreen with a SPF of 30 or above, a broad spectrum and is water resistant. These three items should protect our skin as well as we can. Applying every 30 to 60 minutes is something we forget about when we are out working on the lawn or just enjoying a day outside in the beautiful sunshine.

Another way to protect yourself is to work, exercise or whatever you are doing in the shade of a canopy or trees but I realize that is not usually possible. Wearing a wide brimmed hat is also a good way to protect your face, ears and back of the neck, many people don't think about those areas. My dermatologist said he sees the most skin problems on the ears, nose and chin because these areas extend out from the face and people don't think to protect them.

There is so much information out there today to help prevent skin problems but sometimes we don't utilize it. There are different SPF

strengths and different types of sunscreen and it really pays to do a little research to find the one that is best for you. One thing I question is the sunscreen staying on and at what strength after you have been in the water or after sweating a lot.

We especially need to remember to reapply sunscreen to the kids. They are outside playing and time passes faster than we realize. Their skin is more delicate than adult skin and usually burns quicker. There are sunscreens out there for children that claim to have a higher level of protection. Getting a child in the habit of always using sunscreen is the best way to prevent future problems for them. Kids remember things very well and if you can get them in the habit they will tell you to apply their sunscreen before they go out to play or even better, make a game out of it and let them apply their own. Thanks to research we know more about the problems sun damage can cause and we have more to protect our children from problems in the future if we train them now.

Putting enough sunscreen on is also something many of us have a problem with. Read the label so you know how much to use or check with a doctor or dermatologist to use the proper amount. Using any amount is better than nothing but you may as well use enough to give you the best protection you can get.

Eye protection from the sun is just as important as skin protection. The

sun's rays are very hard on your eyes and can cause damage. Wearing sunglasses is the best way to protect your eyes from the sun. Putting your sunglasses on before leaving the house should be something you do everyday. We remember to put the sunglasses on if the sun is completely blocking our view in the windshield but we should wear them even when the sun is not shining brightly. The damaging rays are still out there.

I always want you to exercise and the summer is a great time to be working in the yard or going for a long walk to get a little extra exercise in if you can. Being outside usually makes you feel better and is a great time to be with family and friends, just remember to protect yourself from the sun's harmful rays while getting the most of your exercise time. If you have any questions or suggestions you can contact me at 717-334-6009. Enjoy the summer and remember to keep moving!

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## COMMUNITY NOTES

# Reflections on student teaching at Walkersville High

Claire Doll  
MSMU Class of 2024

I don't remember the exact moment I wanted to be a teacher, but I do remember certain things that led me to where I am today. In fifth grade, I was given monthly book reports and I fell in love with creating PowerPoints, researching novels, and presenting to my class. In middle school, I began writing my own lesson plans and teaching them to my sister and friends, just for fun. In high school, I held leadership roles in countless extracurricular activities. And when I finally applied to colleges, I knew I wanted to go to the Mount because of the spectacular education program.

During my senior year, I toured Mount St. Mary's University and immediately felt at home among the autumn dappled mountains and the endless fields surrounding the campus. I originally applied as an elementary education major because I loved children, and I wanted to make school a fun, exciting place for younger students. The Mount's education program appealed to me because teacher candidates instantly began observing classrooms and gaining teaching experience.

In the fall semester of my freshman year, I took an education course and learned how to write and teach a lesson plan. In the fall semester of my sophomore year, I started observing classrooms once a week, taking note of different teaching practices and researching human development and learning theory. I even wrote mini lesson plans for individual students and actually taught them.

However, that semester, I realized that I had a strong love for

reading and writing. After my observations in a first-grade classroom, I learned that teaching elementary—while extremely fun and entertaining—was simply not for me. I still wanted to teach, and I loved working with students, so I decided to change my major to English with a certification in secondary education. This would allow me to teach students from grades 7-12.

"We need more writing teachers," my adviser had told me. I began the second half of my sophomore year observing at Walkersville Middle School, and I loved it. I loved the middle school students and the independent and energetic dynamic. I also took more English classes at the Mount, and I joined extracurriculars related to my passions, including the Education Honor Society and *Lighted Corners*, our university's literary magazine. I fell in love with the balance of my coursework; I would write lesson plans, read novels, and write creatively.

The conclusion of the Mount's education program is Internship I and Internship II, two separate internships where teacher candidates begin their student teaching, and eventually lead a classroom full-time. While Internship I is only two days a week—requiring 20 full days of teaching—Internship II is every single day during our senior fall semester, requiring 80 full days. To be a certified teacher in Maryland, you need 100 days total.

In the fall semester of my junior year, I applied to Frederick County Public Schools as an intern, and I learned at the very beginning of my spring semester that I would be placed in an English classroom at Walkersville

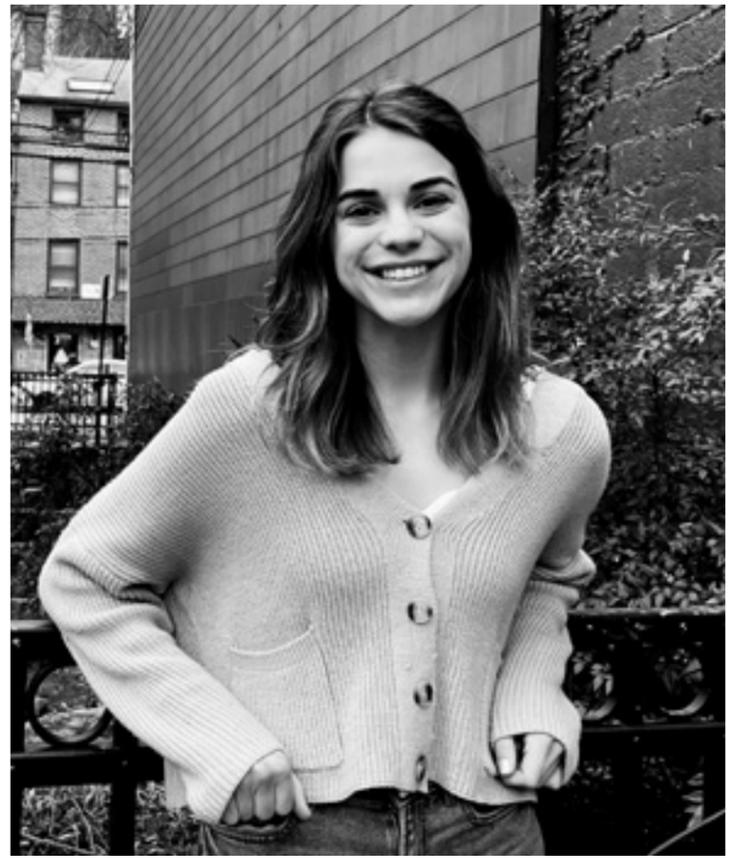
High School. As a teacher candidate who only had experience in elementary and middle school classrooms, I was a little nervous about this placement; I had never worked with teenagers before.

However, upon entering my classroom for placement, I immediately fell in love with the amount of independence given to students. I loved my mentor teacher's classroom, decorated with musical posters and filled with young adult books—books that I would read, books that I still love to read. The students are passionate, involved in theatre and band and sports, and they are lively, too.

I realized that even though I was years apart from these high school students, and even though an entire pandemic transformed these students' lives, they still come to the classroom with interest and enthusiasm in learning, which is super rewarding for a student teacher to witness.

Every week, I teach a lesson, and it is such a fascinating experience. I used to write lesson plans only as assignments, for classes and my professors to grade. Now, I write them to *teach* them. Designing lesson plans is a tedious process. They require the inclusion of state standards, the lesson objective, and a detailed description of engaging assessments which are either formative or summative. To teach these to actual students is such a learning curve, but it is a joy. I also have learned how to expertly reflect on my lessons, thinking about what I did well and what I could improve upon.

I am lucky to teach in Walkersville, because this town is beautiful and animated by so many incredible citizens. I have been fortunate enough to interview many



When not studying at the Mount and student teaching at Walkersville High School, Claire spends what is left of her time putting out this paper!

citizens for several feature articles in the Woodsboro-Walkersville News-Journal, and now I go to Walkersville twice a week to student teach as well. Now that it's that time of the year where the sun rises just before seven o'clock, as I drive down Route 15, I get to watch the sun rise and color the sky with shades of pink and lavender and clear blue. Thinking back to my very first day of student teaching here, the sunrise was gorgeous, stretching over the town of Walkersville.

I still don't know if I want to teach middle or high school English, but my time at Walkersville High School so far has allowed me to gain invaluable experience working with students of different levels, which is more than I could have asked for with this first internship. Not only do

I get to teach lessons, but I also get to assist my mentor in planning, observe other teachers in their classrooms, and build relationships with students.

Because of my teacher education from the Mount, I feel well prepared for Internship I, which will in turn prepare me for Internship II. These internships, the culmination of my time at college, are a glimpse of the professional world, and it excites me more and more as I step into the classroom every day. I know that a younger version of myself, who wrote lesson plans and taught my friends, would be so excited for my current self. I am so thankful for the town of Walkersville and for the Mount's education program, which have both given me such a wonderful teaching experience.

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# WBPA MEMBER OF THE MONTH

## Chandler Designs

Alan Rugh  
Walkersville Business  
and Professional Association

Local Business Spotlight is a joint venture between the Woodsboro-Walkersville News-Journal and the Walkersville Business and Professional Association showcasing area businesses and the people behind them.

This month's business is Chandler Designs Limited, a photo restoration, archival framing and design business located in Woodsboro, owned by Dorothea Mordan. This year marks Dorothea's 40th year in business, so we wanted to extend a heartfelt congratulations on this incredible milestone, and here's to many more years of continued success!

**What motivated you to (start, get into) this (business, field)?**

2023 is the 40th anniversary of Chandler Designs, chandlerdesignslimited.com. I decided to start right out of college, with a degree in Fine Art and emphasis on print-making. At that point in time,

there was very little detail taught about the presentation of art, and I felt compelled to gain the skills needed for archival framing. Those skills became the foundation of my business. We are in an area that has access to world-class galleries and museums, with the added bonus that the national galleries and museums are free to the public. Another perk of public access is that there was a direct phone line to the staff of the National Gallery of Art, which gave anyone access to state of the art best practices for conservation of works on paper, canvass, textiles, &c.

**What's the best career decision you've ever made?**

Expanding my work skills to digital restoration and archiving. Restoring a memory for a family is uniquely rewarding.

**How would you describe life in (Walkersville, Woodsboro, Glade Valley)?**

We have the best of everything America has to offer—great schools and libraries, access to major high-

ways, national and international transportation. A variety of communities, small town to big city. Lots of farmland. Mountains, rivers, and a crossroad of American history.

**Where do you see yourself in 5 years?**

Still framing and restoring family photos, with extended services for helping clients tell their stories. Consulting on self-publishing projects is a natural progression for Chandler Designs.

**When did you move to the Walkersville area? What made this area a good choice for you?**

We moved here in 2002. Frederick County offered a lot of flexibility for having a home office and studio. With the proximity of Washington, DC and Baltimore, staying connected with established clients went smoothly.

**What do you like most about your job?**

Having a set of skills that can be used for my own family archive. I have a collection of thousands of letters, photos, and artwork from relatives from around the world. Preserving this collection uses all of my skills in digital restoration and archiving.

**What's the career highlight you're most proud of?**

A four year run of donating framing to Big Sisters of Washington's annual Just Doodle It Celebrity Doodle Auction. Each year Chandler Designs donated about 125 custom frames and mats for this event. Celebrities as varied as Ronald Regan to Candice Bergen, donated original work to be auctioned for Big Sisters.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

Scenic hikes, museums & historical places, First Saturday is a great way to spend a day in Frederick. Frederick has a vibrant art scene, and it's a short drive from Frederick County to get to some of the best Museums and cultural venues in the world.

**What advice would you give to our youth?**

Read all the books you can before your spare time is taken up by commitments of a career and family.

**Who do you admire most in the world?**

There really are so many stellar human beings throughout history, picking one is just not possible. But you are asking today so I say Jimmy Carter as a superlative example of a life well lived. And I have to add his mother Miss Lillian as the person who inspired his open-minded world view, backbone and humility.



Dorothea Chandler also contributes every month to this paper through her well reasoned and thoughtful commentary column - 'Good Day, Neighbor'

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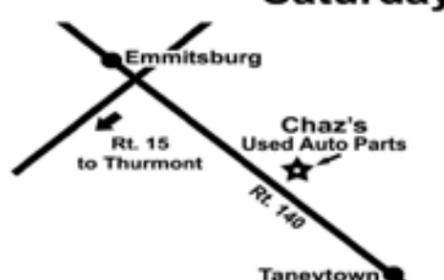
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