

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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## Town prepares for upcoming election

Two Emmitsburg positions, one executive, one legislative, will be up for grabs, or not, as the annual town election, set for September 30, approaches.

The seats to be filled in the upcoming election will be that of the mayor, presently held by Don Briggs, and a seat on the board of commissioners, presently held by Chris Staiger.

Both seats represent three-year terms.

Commission members are compensated \$4,000 annually. The mayoral position is compensated at \$8,000 annually.

Briggs has indicated he will run for re-election, while Staiger told the *News-Journal* that he will not be running for re-election. Emmitsburg resident Joe Ritz indicated to the *News-Journal* he will run for election to the board of commissioners. Ritz has been a resident of Emmitsburg for over 31 years, and is the son of Emmitsburg resident Joe Ritz, Jr.

Briggs defeated then-incumbent Mayor Jim Hoover in a "surprise upset" in the 2011 election, the same election that incumbent Staiger was re-elected to the board

of commissioners.

By town code, candidates wishing to be listed on the printed election ballot must file 30 days prior to the election. Individuals interesting in becoming write-in candidates must file within 15 days of the election.

Voter turnout of Emmitsburg residents during the past five years has ranged from a high of 26 percent of 1,500 registered voters in 2011, to a rather dismal low of less than four percent of 1,657 registered voters in the following year. The high (26 percent) and low (less than four percent) voter turnouts were associated with two significant events as they relate to local elections, which could explain those two voter turnouts.

The 2011 election saw mayoral challenger Donald Briggs vying against incumbent Mayor Jim Hoover, while the 2012 election, with the lowest voter turnout, saw two incumbent board of commissioners run for re-election without any opposition. During the five-year period from 2009 to 2013, the 2011 mayoral contest was the only election in which the percentage of voter participation rose

about the teens.

In two of the five elections, the percentage of voter turnout did not even make it into the teens. In 2012, two incumbent board of commissioners members were reelected without challenge in an uncontested election. Commissioners Tim O'Donnell and Clifford Sweeney maintained their seats on the board with only 65 votes cast. O'Donnell received 59 votes. Sweeney received 55 votes.

Only 3.86 percent of the 1,657 registered voters cast ballots.

In 2013, four candidates, of which one was an incumbent, vied in 2013 for two seats on the board of commissioners. Incumbent Commissioner Patrick Joy and former Commissioner Joyce Rosensteel were defeated by former Commissioner Glenn Blanchard and candidate Jennifer Mellor. Ten percent of the 1,657



Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs has announced he will be seeking a second term.

registered voters cast ballots.

The town is also seeking election judges for the upcoming September election. In accordance with the Emmitsburg Town Code, judges must be registered and qualified voters and not hold or be a candidate for any other Emmitsburg public officer.

To apply, or for more information, call the town office at 301-600-6300, or by email at or e-mail townclerk@emmitsburgmd.gov.

## It's South Mountain Fair time!

The sweet aroma of cotton candy mixed with a whiff of grease laced with a little essence of manure, the throttling of tractors, the mooing of cattle and the screams of childish excitement can only mean one thing - the good old-fashioned country fair is in town.

According to the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, there are more than 3,200 fairs held in North America every year, but for Adams County, the only one that really matters is the Annual South Mountain Fair, which just concluded its 89th jamboree. The 92nd South Mountain Fair provides a chance for children to be acknowledged for their personal efforts ranging from hobby interests to animal husbandry, for local and national merchants to show off their wares, and for community members from far and wide to come together and set aside family differences for a plate of pulled pork.

The fair will be held this year August 12 through 16. Admission is \$6.00 for adults and free for children under 36" in height. All entertainment and amusement rides are included in the admission

price, and parking is provided for free. Livestock exhibitions scheduled to be held during the fair include sheep and swine competitions on August 12, goat, swine and beef competitions on August 13, dairy beef, calf and steer competitions on August 14, goat and dairy cattle competition on August 15, and a goat competition and livestock sale on August 16.

Other activities include a food auction on August 12, a draft horse pulling contest on August 13, a fireworks display on August 14, an antiques small gas engine demonstration on August 15 and 16, and a parade of antique farm equipment on August 16. Entertainment scheduled includes a Battle of the Bands beginning at 7:30 p.m. on August 13 featuring Richie Fields on August 22 at 7:30 p.m., John Conlee on August 15 at 7:30 p.m., and Ronnie McDowell at 7:30 p.m. on August 16. Other competitions, activities and events are also planned. Visit the association's web site at southmountainfair.com for a complete schedule.

The fair was officially kicked-off in 1922, and continued on annually until 1930, when it



The South Mountain Fair is undoubtedly one of the most kid-friendly events of the summer.

was cancelled that year because of a drought. The annual event picked up again in 1931 and continued until 1941, when it was

again cancelled, this time due to a polio epidemic, then World War II, according to the SMFA. The fair was resumed in 1948.

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## NEWS

# Republicans Gray & Sweadner endorse Gardner for Executive

As Frederick County voters head towards a historic general election, two key Republican candidates who lost their bids in the primary have endorsed Jan Gardner for county executive.

The voters in Frederick County approved the proposed change of governance from a board of commissioners form to a charter-based government in the November 2012 election, with the new seats created to be filled in the upcoming November election. Those elected to the new seats will assume their positions in December 2014.

Perhaps the most unique position created by the charter was the position of county executive. In the primary, three Republican candidates vied for the party nomination, including incumbent board of commissioners members Blaine Young and David Gray, and Mark Sweadner, while only Democrat and former member of the county Board of Commissioners Jan

Gardner ran for that party's ticket.

While Gardner was an unopposed shoo-in, Young pulled off a narrow victory over Gray and Sweadner for the win, resulting in a contest for the seat to be between Young and Gardner in the upcoming general election.

However, the unity of party began to disintegrate in the wake of the primaries as Sweadner and Commissioner Gray decided to back Gardner for county executive.

Sweadner stated, "I am extremely proud to say that I am supporting Jan Gardner for county executive. She is definitely the most qualified person for this office. She has been elected as a county commissioner for three terms and has served as its president for one of those terms. She performed outstandingly well all 12 years she served."

The actual vote count in the primary contest for party nominations for the county executive position was as follows: Gardner – 11,706, Blaine

Young – 10,260, David Gray – 6,722, and Mark Sweadner – 2,298.

The total Republican vote in the primary for county executive amounted to 19,280, while the total Democrat votes case for county executive of 11,706.

That spread between the two parties however may not carry over into the general election, and in fact could reverse totally, depending largely on the numbers of moderate Republicans in the county who are willing to join Gray and Sweadner and support a Democrat candidate.

"Jan Gardner may be a Democrat, but she is Frederick County's best hope for sound money management, said Craig Hicks, founder of the new political organization Republicans for Jan Gardner. ([www.RepublicansForJanGardner.com](http://www.RepublicansForJanGardner.com)) "We each have the right and responsibility to vote for the candidate we believe will do the best job."

## Emmitsburg area news briefs...

### Flood plain rules sent to planning

The Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners voted at their July 21 meeting to send proposed changes to the town flood plain ordinance to the planning commission to consider recommending the changes be put into the zoning ordinance.

Proposed changes that would allow for applicants to apply for variances under the flood plain regulations, or to appeal a decision relating to the flood plain ordinance, would need to be under zoning, as recommended by town Attorney John Clapp, town Planner Susan Cipperly stated.

"Because there's a provision (that) provides for variances, (and) mentions board of appeals, in order to that it has to be in the zoning ordinance in order for the board of appeals to be able to consider variances," Cipperly told the board.

Any change to the zoning ordinance needs to go to the planning commission, she said. "As to whether it goes into the zoning ordinance or not, they can make a recommendation (to the commissioners)"

Most of the remaining changes to the ordinance reflect a template provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, she said.

### Wild water still plagues system

More than 36 percent of the wastewater processed in June at the Emmitsburg wastewater treatment plant represented unpermitted discharges into the collection system


Town Manager David Haller reported that the plant treated an average of 475,000 gallons per day (GPD) in June, of which 301,110 GPD represented water that had been generated at the water plant, along with supplemental water purchases, for general consumption.

He said the difference in the number between the amount of water generated for use and the amount of wastewater taken in through the collection system was 36.6 percent, meaning the system took-in more than 170,000 gallons than it should have.

That difference is believed to be caused by "wild water" seeping into the system through cracks and breaks in the remaining older portions of the collection system, or through unpermitted connections to the system.

Haller has led an effort since being hired as the town manager to identify and replace degraded sections of the collection system, much of which had been neglected for decades.

Water supplies still in 'surplus' Rainwater received in the Em-



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## ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED FOR 2014 ELECTION

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners are seeking persons to serve as election judges for the September 30, 2014 Town Election.

In accordance with the Emmitsburg Town Code, judges must be registered and qualified voters and not hold or be a candidate for any other Emmitsburg public officer.

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## Hamiltonban rejects road bids

The Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors voted at their July meeting to reject bids received regarding a proposed road improvement project when the bids were thousands of dollars over estimate. One of the two bids received was for more than twice the estimated cost of the project while the second bid was some \$16,000 above estimated costs. Because of township requirements regarding soliciting bids versus advertising for bids, the two bids could not be

accepted because they exceeded the amount that would have allowed them to be approved as solicited bids.

According to the township Open Records Officer, Deborah Feiler, the bids were solicited in order to replace a section of pipe on Cold Springs Road. The proposed project would entail the cost of the pipe section and the expense of excavating, installing, and trench restoration. Additionally, it is intended to address part of storm water management

for the road. "Every single storm we have, there's been a lot of erosion because the water runs over the road," Feiler stated.

C.S. Davidson, a Gettysburg engineering firm which provides engineering services to the township, estimated the projected cost of the project to be around \$19,000. However, the bids came-in well in excess of the anticipated costs. Hobbs Excavating, LLC placed a bid of \$35,480 to do the job while Brett A. Bishard General Excavating placed a

bid of \$44,650.

Feiler said the work was not put out to bid because, under the township code, the project was estimated to cost under \$19,100, and the supervisors were able to merely solicit bids from prospective construction operations. If the project had been expected to come-in over that amount, the code would have mandated that bids would have to have been solicited through public advertisements. "We didn't think the project was going to be over \$20,000," Feiler stated, "(but) the bids came way over \$20,000. Because we thought it was going

to be less than that, we didn't advertise it."

As a result, she said, the board of supervisors decided not to accept any of the bids received. Further, she said, "We're not going to rebid it. We may work on this during the fall in-house (using township equipment and staff.)" The township installed a new cross pipe in the 900 block of Cold Springs Road in 2013, and completed several other road improvement projects on the road. The pipe section which was the subject of the rejected bids was to have been the second pipe section replacement.

## County looking at regional trail system

The Adams County Office of Planning & Development is working with several area partners assessing the feasibility for a trail system in the Fairfield Borough area. The project, referred to as the Middle Creek Trail Feasibility Study, would be predominantly contained within Hamiltonban Township. It could also include Fairfield Borough and would ultimately tie-in to Michaux State Forest.

Michaux State Forest is, itself, administered by the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). County Principal Planner, Robert Thaeler, told the News-Journal on July 11, 2014 that evaluating the possibility of a multi-jurisdiction-

al trail system is still in the early planning stages, with nothing "written in stone" at this point in time. "What prompted this," Thaeler said, "was the conveyance of what use to be the (Glatfelter) tree farm and possible public recreational use of that new land." Another factor which led to considering a trail system was Hamiltonban's proposal to create a "small municipal park."

"There was some very early informal discussions on how that (a regional trail system) might work," he stated. "There was sort of thinking back and forth that it would be interesting if we could facilitate trails through Camp Eder, Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve, and the state park

(Michaux State Forest), and ultimately to the Appalachia Trail." The vision began to pick up steam when Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve Executive Director, Chuck Reid, "ended-up partnering with Hamiltonban, Camp Eder, Michaux, county planning, and others" to pursue work on creating a trail complex concept.

As a result, the consortium was able to obtain a grant from the South Mount Partnership to initiate a Middle Creek Trail Feasibility Study for the proposed trail system. "The partnership has a small amount of grant funds they award on an annual basis," Thaeler said, who described the partnership as "one of seven conservation landscape initiatives

initially funded by DCNR."

One of the first objectives has been to contact "four big property owners" in the Fairfield area to see if they would be open to having trails cross their respective properties. Thaeler identified the four properties of interest as Camp Eder, the Roth Farm, and the Luntz Farm in Hamiltonban Township, and the Polley Farm in Fairfield Borough. To date, the county has met with representatives of Camp Eder, and the Roth and Polley farms, but had been unable to contact representatives of the Luntz Farm. As for the three that have been contacted and/or met with (a meeting with Camp Eder representatives will occur at a later date), Thael-

er said the county "had a good conversation with them, showing them the work we had done (regarding developing a possible trail system)."

As to the current status of the Middle Creek Trail Feasibility Study, Thaeler stated, "I know we'll be exploring a couple of other locations (properties). We're still doing some field work and coordinating with property owners to see if they are comfortable or not (with a portion of the trail system on their land)."

"It's too early in the process to say with any degree of certainty whether or not this will turn out," the planner said. "Ultimately we would need cooperation of all of them (property owners involved) to make sense for trail connectivity."

## County unloads Carroll Valley land holdings

More than a dozen Carroll Valley properties have been sold by the county for as little as \$100 each as the result of the county Tax Services Department ridding itself of accrued lots seized for delinquent tax payments.

Daryl Crum, director of the county Department of Tax Services, said that 25 properties located in Carroll Valley Borough had been listed in the county's land repository for final disposal. The lands represented properties that had failed to sell in two previous tax sales.

Two of those properties were removed from the list as their owners fulfilled their tax obligations before the bidding was closed on May 15, the director stated. The other 23 properties were sold through what Crum described as a "closed bidding" process. "The properties involved had failed two previous attempts (as required) to dispose of them through the open bidding process in September," Crum said.

As a result, they were put up for one final round with no minimum bid to anyone who had previously participated in bidding on any of the tracts being offered in the September sale. Since only previous bidders were permitted to participate in the final round, the process was considered a "closed bidding" one.

Crum said there were "quite a lot" of parcels that were seized by the county for tax sale among a number of municipalities. He said the quantity was "more than in the past." In fact, the county found itself in possession of so many tracts that they developed a policy of how to dispose of those that failed to sell through the normal auction process.

After the last round, in which all 23 remaining Carroll Valley lots were sold, "We took any offer," Crum stated. He noted that 13 of the 23 sold for \$100 each, "but that most of them were lot like that."

Crum said the premise behind the take-whatever-can-be-had final sales was to get these properties out of county hands and back onto the tax rolls, and with the

hope that they will be developed or otherwise improved to generate even more tax revenue in the future.

Both the borough involved and the applicable school district had to approve the list of sales before the sale was considered final. Crum said it appeared both entities in the case of the Carroll Valley properties had done so and those placing the winning bids would be notified soon.

Winning bidders will receive the deeds to the lands they won "divested of all claims" on payment for property in full in 60 days in addition to costs associated with closing the sale, once they are formerly notified by the county that the sale has been given final approval to the transactions.

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# NEWS

## SHA begins ADA compliant sidewalk work

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) is "upgrading" sidewalks in Thurmont to comply with federal Americans with Disability Act (ADA) mandates, a project that could run into December. The reconstruction would affect only sidewalks along state roadways, according to John Gover, SHA ADA coordinator. The ADA improvements will be implemented in two phases spanning several months and will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Phase One, Gover said, would take in sidewalks beginning "a little bit south of Center Street" and proceed to

Lawyers Lane. Phase Two would start in the area of Sheetz, proceed through the town square, and then to Route 77. Phase One will likely have commenced by the first of August and completed in September. Phase Two would commence as Phase One becomes completed, and would be done before Christmas.

Neither the carnival nor Colorfest will be impacted by this project, Gover said. "We've already spoken about stopping work during those times of the year. We have that on our calendars." "As you get closer down towards Lawyers Lane there's a couple of gaps

in the sidewalk," he said. "We're actually filling those gaps in and make a complete run of sidewalk all the way down."

"Wherever we replace the sidewalk we'll going to upgrade the curb and gutter," Gover said. "Through the main section of town we don't have a separate pour for curb and gutter. The curb and gutter is actually poured as part of the sidewalk."

"We're going to upgrade all the driveways entrances to be ADA compliant and all the sidewalks will be ADA compliant," Gover stated. The ADA coordinator stated that proper-

ty owners will be given a week's notice that they will be losing driveway access or the use of sidewalk along the state road for a specific day.

The state contractor will be using a fast-setting concrete that sets in about 12 hours, Gover noted. Sidewalks will be expanded to a five-foot width where they exist at a lesser width. However, where the sidewalks are already in excess of that width, no sidewalk will be narrowed where they are already wider. "We cannot have a negative impact on the width of the sidewalk," he stated.

Gover said he would look into how the state proposed to circumnavigate

existing street trees. The SHA presented an overview of their plans to the Thurmont Board of Commissioners at their June 24 meeting. Normally, businesses and residents are responsible for maintaining and upgrading public sidewalks located on their properties. However, because the state is performing the upgrades of sidewalks (and driveway entrances) along their roads, those affected properties are essentially getting "\$700,000 plus (worth of work) free," according to Thurmont Commissioner Marty Burns.

"This is the biggest gift horse this town has seen in a long time," he said.

## Plans for community show unveiled

The 58th Annual Emmitsburg & Thurmont Community Show, sponsored by the Thurmont Grange, Catocin FFA Chapter, Catocin FFA Alumni, the Maryland State Grange and the Maryland State Agricultural Fair Board,

will be held at the Catocin High School. The show will be held September 5, 6, and 7, and there is no entry fee.

On Friday the 200th anniversary of the Star Spangled Banner will be highlighted, and approximately 30

individuals will participate in the community flag ceremony. Bill and Andrew Douwes will be providing a bagpipe performance procession, and special recognition will be given to military personnel who are in attendance during Friday night's program.

Also on Friday night the 2014-2015 Catocin FFA Chapter Ambassador will be announced and a baked goods auction will start at 8 p.m. following the program, and the grand champion cake, pie and bread will be sold at 9 p.m.

On Saturday show will be open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Activities include a market goat, beef, sheep and swine fitting and showing con-

test from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ag Center at the school.

A black Labrador dog owned by the Thurmont Police Department will performing a demonstration at 10:00 a.m. in the outside area in front of the school near the pet show area. The pet show will be held at 10:30 a.m. outside the front of the school. The petting zoo, farm animals and pony rides will also be held on Saturday and Sunday.

The Thurmont Grange will serve their Fresh Turkey and Country Ham dinner in the school cafeteria from 3 to 7 p.m. on Saturday night. The Gospel Travelers will perform in the auditorium beginning at 7 p.m. There

will be no admission charged for this entertainment, but a free will offering will be held.

Activities begin on Sunday, at 9 a.m. with the goat show, followed by the dairy show and decorated animal contest. The decorated animal contest will begin at noon and any type animal may be decorated for the contest.

Also at noon, the Catocin FFA Alumni Chicken Bar-B-Que will be held in the cafeteria. The 35th annual Robert Kaas horseshoe pitching contest will begin at 1 p.m.

The Log Sawing Contest will begin at 1:00 p.m. under the show tent in the Ag Center area. The Catocin Mountain Boys will perform an Elvis Presley Show from 1:45 to 2:15 p.m. in the auditorium.

### Frederick County Government Boards and Commissions Volunteer Opportunities

The Frederick Board of County Commissioners invites interested persons to volunteer their time to serve on several boards and commissions that include the Commission on Aging, Containment Laboratory Community Advisory Committee, Interagency Internal Audit Authority, Social Services Board, and many others. To view a complete listing of the vacancies, please visit Frederick County Government's website at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/boards](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/boards).

Persons having a desire to serve must be residents and registered voters of Frederick County. If interested in serving, please complete the application that can be found at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/boards](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/boards) or by contacting:

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Applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Friday,  
August 15, 2014.

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## Local news briefs...

### Harney softball tournament slated for September

Representatives of the Harney Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Harney Volunteer Fire Department, and Saint Paul's Lutheran Church will hosting their third annual softball tournament at the ball field in September.

The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on September 13, and from 12 noon to 4 pm., and from 12 noon to 4 p.m. on September 14.

Frank M. Rauschenberg, an active member of the VFW, said that all neighboring fire departments, service clubs and local ball clubs are invited to participate in this Class low-D softball tournament at the Harney ball field. Food and drinks will be available at a nominal price.

The entry fee is \$125. Cash awards will be given to the top three teams in the eliminations, as well as gift certificates to all teams. First, second and third place trophies will be awarded to the respective teams. Participating medals will be awarded for each registered team.

The previous year teams have been very generous in support of the child and the family who are dealing with the child's serious illness and the mounting medical bills.

### Colorado fugitive arrested in Thurmont

The Thurmont Police Department reported that an "arrest team" organized by the local police force apprehended a fugitive on July 16 who was wanted out of Colorado.

The suspect, identified as Jack Lee

Wright, age 52, of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, was wanted for bank robbery in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

"The informant assisted the Thurmont Police Department by directing Mr. Wright to a location on Tippin Drive. The Thurmont Police Department staged an arrest team and took Mr. Wright into custody when he pulled into the area," according to Thurmont Deputy Chief of Police Lt. P. Allen Droneburg.

Droneburg reported that "Mr. Wright admitted committing the bank robbery in Colorado and also advised that he was involved in two more bank robberies; one in Gainesville, Florida, and one in San Antonio, Texas.

The suspect was subsequently transported to the Frederick County Adult Detention Center where he is being held on a fugitive warrant.

 <b>Bud &amp; Bud Light</b> 20 PK Bottles <b>\$15<sup>99</sup></b>	 <b>DOG DAYS OF SUMMER ARE HERE!</b> <b>COOL OFF WITH THESE DEALS!</b>	<b>Shock Top, Beck's, Beck's Sapphire, Black Crown</b> 4 PAK 16 OZ. CANS <b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b>
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# One hundred years ago this month

## August 7

### Preparing for Booster Week

Plans are being rapidly formulated for Emmitsburg's big Booster Week, September 14, 15, and 16 and interest being manifested by several executive committees is positive assurance that this will be a success in every way.

The instructive features of the three days entertainment will be interspersed by high-class amusements in the nature of musical numbers by the best talent in the country; by concerts by such organizations as the Metropolitan Glee Club and Trombone Quartet, the Swiss Bell Ringers, and by performances given by magicians, vocalist and humorist. In other words, there will be something going on all the time of interest to the old, the middle-aged, the youth, the child and even the baby.

On the first day it is proposed to have a monster parade. This term is used advisedly, for according to plans there will be floats emblematic of every industry in the district. There will be automobiles gaily decorated, there will be horseman galore, a children's division, a roughriders squad, and many other features diversified and entertaining; while on the grounds outside the big tent there will be tournament riding, baseball games, and contest of various kinds. There will be a merry-go-round for children and other amusements yet to be provided. There will be a baby show and a prize will be offered for the prettiest baby in the show. The judges will be persons not acquainted with Emmitsburg people so that the verdict will be absolutely impartial.

It is the intention of those in charge of the children's part of the big affair not to overlook, but to have something exclusively for, the boys. Accordingly it has been decided to form a Boy Scout company, and all the boys in Emmitsburg and the district are encouraged to join the marching practice.

### Automobiles

Those who have purchased automobiles from the Emmitsburg Motor Car Company recently are the

following: Harry Springer, a Ford; Charlie Walters of Thurmont, a Ford; Robert Long, a Pullman; Elmer Valentine, a Ford; Harvey Valentine, a Ford; and George McLachlan, of Fairfield, a Overland.

Every car in Emmitsburg, public and private was in use Wednesday accommodating the great number of Emmitsburg people who travel to Thurmont to watch our boys trash the Thurmont team.

## August 14

### Lady Hikers Journey to Harney

"We are not suffragettes but hikers." Was the comment of Misses. Ruth and Rhonda Gillelan last Thursday morning as they started for Harney on foot. It was their idea not to accept a ride, but to walk the entire distance. Strange to relate although they passed several teams, going and coming, they were headed in the opposite direction. The young ladies reached Harney about noon and saw what was remarkable to them - a number of men pitching horseshoes on the square. Their trip consumed four days and while away they visited "Camps Welcome and Idle While."

### Storm Does Much Damage

The storm that passed over Emmitsburg and the surrounding country on Saturday evening did considerable damage to crops and fruit trees of various farms. The chimney on the post office was struck by lightning but no serious damage was done. Many trees on the grounds of St. Joseph's Academy and Mount St. Mary's College were blown down.

A sign on Mr. Zacharias' store was blown off. A portion of the fence around the premises of Mr. Eckenrode, of near town, was also blown down by the heavy wind which accompanied the storm. A cow, calf, heifer, and sheep belonging to Mr. Robert McNair, of near town, was struck by lightning and instantly killed. A horse belonging to Mr. Jerry Overholser was also struck by lightning during the storm and died from the effects the following day.

Among the most heavily damaged farms were those in Harney. The

farms were those of Richard Hill, Judson Hill, Hiltbrecht Hill, Shoemaker Farm, Snider Farm, and Shriver Farm. It is reported that hail fell in Harney to the depth of about 5 inches.

### Former Former Boozers' Association Debate Name Change

After the ruckus caused by the Former Former Boozers 'appropriating' the horse that was supposed to pull the Suffergets float in the Forth of July parade, the organizers of Boosters Week have notified the Former Former Boozers that they will not be allowed to march - "or crawl" - remarked Mrs. Annan, head of the Emmitsburg Suffragette movement - in the monster parade.

Following the decision, members of the Former Former Boozers' Association retired to the Hotel Slagel's Bar to debate changing the name of the Association. "It's important that visitors to the festival see that men in Emmitsburg have a clear vision of the future - and that future has no role for women folk voting." Remarkd one Boozers, who requested his name not be used least his wife stop cooking him dinner.

Many members were for shorting the name to simply "Boozers' Association." While other wanted to change it to reflect the true nature of the Association - 'keeping women in their proper place.'

The debate was hard fought, with many breaks to cool off hot tempers with beer and liquor bought on the Association's tab. Unfortunately, not a single Boozers could recall the outcome of the debate the next morning. The Boozers have agreed to continue the debate every Friday night until a decision is made or the Association runs out of money for booze.

## August 21

### William Joseph Wivell

After a short illness of two weeks, Mr. William Wivell died Monday at the home of his son, Anthony, on Gettysburg Street of acute nephritis. Mr. Wivell was born in Carroll County in 1831 and for nearly 60 years was a resident of Emmitsburg. He was a



In the early 1900s, the Emmitsburg Motor Car Company sold all kinds of brands. In later years, it served as a car repair garage.

mason by trade and he erected several buildings at St. Joseph's Academy and other houses in town. He is survived by one daughter Anne, and in two sons Anthony and Joseph, all of this place.

### Automobiles

Automobiles from California, Vermont, New Hampshire, Florida and Georgia were in Emmitsburg during the past week.

### Harrison Palmer Released

Harrison Palmer, the fleet footed Negro, who escaped from officer Hoffman, and was later captured in Emmitsburg, prevented a wholesale delivery of prisoners in the Frederick jail, by informing Sheriff Conrad of a plan by some to saw the iron bars of the jail and escape. The sheriff caught Jim Slim, a Negro, who was in jail on a charge of larceny, sawing one of the heavy iron bars on the window on the lower floor of the jail. As a reward for notifying the sheriff, Palmer was given his freedom.

### Contract For New Thurmont School

A contract for the erection of the new Thurmont school building has been awarded. The winning bid was for \$32,000. The building will contain 13 rooms.

## August 28

### Creagerstown Rebuilding

Saturday morning marked the beginning of Creagerstown's rebuilding of

the area destroyed by fire. The first building was the barn of George Stevens. By noon Saturday the heavy oak timbers of the barn, 46 feet by 80 feet in size, had been placed in position as well as the rafters. During the evening the weatherboarding was put on, and by night the barn was almost completed. About 75 men assisted Saturday morning in the raising.

The Foundation is about completed for the new Clarence Valentine Hotel, which will occupy a ground space of 30 feet by 90 feet, and will be three stories high. Robert Ogle is pushing work upon the foundations of his new residence and store building and George Stevens will soon begin work on his residence. It is the general opinion that within a short time no trace of the work of the fire will be seen.

### Telephone Office To Move

Workmen have been busy this week installing apparatus for the changing of the C & P telephone exchange next Monday from the home of Mrs. Welty to the home of Mr. Felix on West Main Street.

### Improvements at Mount St. Mary's

A new stone wing has been added to the powerhouse at Mount St. Mary's College to make room for additional boilers and machinery. Stones are also being quarried for the new Juniors' building. It is expected that ground will soon be broken for the foundations.

To read past editions of 100 Years Ago This Month visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net

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FROM THE DESK OF . . .

# Blaine Young, Candidate for County Executive (R)

I was not sure if I was reading a fairy tale last month or not: Jan Gardner trying to portray herself as a fiscal conservative! When in fact she supported Barack Obama for President and supports Obamacare, which is the worst piece of irresponsible fiscal legislation ever passed. She also whole-heartedly supports and did support Governor Martin O'Malley and her former boss, Senator Barbara Mikulski, two of the most legendary tax and spend liberals in Maryland's history.

Jan Gardner never met a tax or fee she did not like and our Board was left with a financial mess to clean up. The Fire Tax was completely mismanaged to the point that the general fund was subsidizing it to the tune of over 10 million dollars per year. Taxpayers

were being taxed twice. We consolidated this vital core public service into the general fund with the support of the Volunteer Firefighters Association. Volunteer and career fire and rescue members asked for help in solving this problem created by the Gardner Board, but she ignored their pleas and the problems were left to fester until the Young Board took office. We had promised during the prior campaign to straighten out the County's financial turmoil, and we solved this issue. People expect fire and rescue service when it is needed, and politics should never be played when dealing with fire, rescue and police protection.

The Gardner Board bloated county government to its largest size in 2009, with approximately 2,650 budgeted

full-time employees. With these recurring costs of salaries, pension and benefits, it created a serious structural budget problem. Most businesses were retracting in 2007, 2008 and 2009. She grew county to its largest size during that same period.

Let's talk about the Bond Ratings. I will let them speak for themselves.

We have produced the best bond ratings in the history of the county with your support and the hard work of the county employees. This was attained by tough, good budgeting decisions and with conservative prudent budgetary strategies. While the size of the general fund has grown, that is misleading because of the consolidation of services: Fire/Rescue's \$43 million is now included in the gen-

**Gardner Board**

AAA/Negative  
Aa1/Stable  
AA+/Stable

Fitch Ratings  
Moody's Investors  
Standard & Poors

**Young Board**

AAA/Stable  
Aa1/Stable  
AAA/Stable

eral fund along with \$5 million from Permits and Code, instead of being maintained in a separate fund; these line items are not new spending. The current budget has 1977 budgeted full-time employees compared to 2,650 in 2009, a 25% decrease of county government without a reduction in your core county services. You be the judge.

**Taxes Eliminated**

- Excise Tax
- Fire and Rescue Tax (consolidated into the general fund)
- Trailer Tax
- Property Tax Rate reduced to constant yield in 2014
- \$100 Surplus rebate returned to tax payers
- Senior Tax Credit Expanded
- Admission and Amusement Tax
- Home alarm, garbage disposal, dishwasher and electric hot water fee eliminated

Speaking of the Senior Tax Credit, former Commissioner Bruce Reeder had long wanted to pass a meaningful Senior Tax Credit to help seniors stay in their homes. However under the Gardner Board it was completely hollow. There was a stipulation in the plan that a lien, in favor of the government, was attached to the property so that the taxes built up silently, to be paid when the property was sold. Not one person signed up for this ridiculous government idea—for good reason: It would have reduced the sales value of the home by the amount of the County's lien. We passed what former Commissioner Reeder proposed and passed it as a true reduction in property taxes, without any lien on the property. If you remember, this was a campaign promise made by us and it is a promise that was kept. To honor Commissioner Reeder for his compassion for our seniors, I arranged to have him brought to the meeting during which this credit was considered so he could personally witness the vote. This tax credit allows seniors to retire with dignity as he intended, and I am personally proud to have continued Bruce Reeder's legacy.

**Citizens and Montevue**

We as taxpayers have lost over 50 million dollars carrying these facilities since the year 2000. Astonishingly, we taxpayers built a new state-of-the-art facility for 38 million dollars with NO INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ANALYSIS ever being done to determine if the new facility

would be self-sustaining, as claimed then by Jan Gardner. All of this for 60 indigent seniors who MAY OR MAY NOT BE Frederick County residents at the time of admission. No other county operates a nursing home with this type of model. Only one other county is even involved in a nursing home and they are exploring opportunities to sell. We could have received 10 – 15 million dollars more in the sale of the facility but the community said they wanted the patients and employees protected. We listened and we did as they asked. No patient can be removed or transferred. Employee wages were maintained with comparable health care benefits. The nursing home will be there in its location and in operation for many years to come, but a private company can run it far better than the government can. Just as the federal government should not be in the health care business, neither should the county government. Previous administrations tried and failed. We cleaned up the financial mess.

We are planning for continued prosperity with the goal of maintaining Frederick County as the best county in the State of Maryland. We are one of the safest counties, have the best education system, and unemployment is at 4.5% in Frederick County. We have the best bond rating in the history of the county and we now have one of the friendliest business environments in the state. Controlled growth will happen in and around the City of Frederick and in southern Frederick County. We are charging developers and new residents now more than ever. More than \$40,000 per home in fees for needed infrastructure. Here are some questions I would love to hear Jan Gardner answer.

1. Does she support Sheriff Jenkins and the 287(g) Ice program?
2. Does she support Governor Martin O'Malley's gun grabbing legislation?
3. Does she support the Rain Tax?
4. Does she support the state's increase in the minimum wage?
5. What policies/taxes of Barack Obama, Barbara Mikulski and Martin O'Malley does she disagree with and did she ever speak out against any of them?

All of these impact our county and you should know where all candidates stand on these important issues.

BLAINE  
YOUNG

for County Executive

Congratulations

Frederick County

*We have achieved the highest Bond ratings  
in the history of the county!*

	Gardner Board	Young Board
<b>Fitch</b>	AAA/Negative	AAA/Stable
<b>Moody's</b>	Aa 1	Aa 1
<b>Standard &amp; Poors</b>	AA+/Stable	AAA/Stable

With tough budget decisions and prudent fiscal management, it has put Frederick County in a position of financial strength. Thank You to those who have stood by us as we have been criticized and attached with lies about spending and irresponsible budgeting. The highest authority in the land has spoken loud and clear on this issue with these incredible ratings.

HONESTY + TEAMWORK = RESULTS!

By authority of Blaine Young for Maryland, Carol Young, Treasurer

RE-ELECT

Cleopatra Campbell

Orphan's Court  
For Frederick County

Bringing Experience And Service To The Job!

By Authority Of Mark R. Williams, Treasurer



## GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

# Jan Gardner, Candidate for County Executive (D)

Residents living in Monrovia have been out in force vocally opposing a large residential development proposed in their community. They have expressed concern about road congestion and safety, school overcrowding, lack of planning for needed infrastructure and services, and the fact that water and sewer does not even exist in the area. Citizens have also expressed concern about the high density of the community and its incompatibility with the surrounding rural area.

All of these concerns have fallen on deaf ears. Existing residents have been ignored. The commissioners approved the development even though hundreds of residents, over an 18 month period of time, spoke out in opposition. Comm. President Blaine Young even wrote a letter to the editor of the Frederick News Post calling these citizens “whiners and refugees”! Citizens participating in

the process were regularly cut off and questions went unanswered. The voice of the public was dismissed.

### Why should you care?

You should care for two reasons. First, as a Frederick County taxpayer, you are now stuck with paying the bill for needed roads improvements, the new schools, and for the expansion of public safety. The developers have not been asked or required to pay their way. They are allowed to build even if schools and roads are overcrowded. Comm. Blaine Young publicly acknowledges that he is friends with the developer. He has gleefully given away your tax dollars.

Second, it could happen to you. The commissioners are approving development outside of planned growth areas. Approving growth outside of designated growth areas means that the State of Maryland will not participate

in the cost of providing roads and schools. The entire bill is on us – Frederick County taxpayers. It also means that the county comprehensive plan is not being followed. Statistics published by the county show that in 2013 that 41% of all residential lots recorded and 96% of the acreage for residential lots were outside planned growth areas – meaning in rural areas. Even if you live outside a planned growth area, a new development project could be coming your way, because the county plan is simply not being followed.

Residents living near Emmitsburg, east of U.S. 15, have been experiencing the impacts from an unapproved event venue located on a rural road. Even though the County Board of Appeals unanimously denied the application for the event venue, large events continue because the county is issuing the owner “one day event permits” over and over again.

connections and sidewalks. Finish the downtown and Square revitalization project by making more grants available to property owners and coordinating the approved funding from the State. Complete the Mount to Town sidewalk/trail with Mount - County - Town partnership and use of 80% funds from State.

This has disrupted the peaceful, quiet farm community in the area and raised concern about traffic on rural roads. Residents are legitimately upset that the public process has failed them and that county zoning laws are not being enforced.

Some of the county commissioners have gone on record opposing all zoning. They believe that people should be able to do whatever they want with their property and that no county approvals should be needed. Commissioners Blaine Young and Kirby Delauter have voiced their opposition to zoning of any kind. If they are elected again, will all zoning laws be eliminat-

ed? Could a major new development be approved in a rural area near you without adequate roads, schools, or services and without care for the impact on the lives of existing residents?

If you want to have a voice in your government, if you believe local laws should be fairly enforced, and if you want development to pay its way instead of existing residents, vote for county leaders who will listen to you. Vote for me, Jan Gardner, for County Executive. I pledge a fair and open public process, to protect county taxpayers from the cost of new development, and I will always put existing residents first.

## Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

Congratulations to the Emmitsburg 11-12 year old baseball team for hosting and winning the Cal Ripken State tournament. With that success in quick order the team moved on to Mid Atlantic regionals in New York to win one game and lose two close games; one in extra innings. Thank you players, coaches and supporters for the successful activity, entertainment and marketing of our town. Watch out for our next year team because this was young team.

Congratulations to Jayson Howard for attending and completing a five-day overnight Offensive – Defensive Bowl 2014 football camp this month. The camp held at Towson University drew more than 60 players from several states. Jayson, an Emmitsburg Elementary School graduate in June, was awarded MVP of camp. He will enter Thurmont Middle School. This fall he will play for Catocin Youth Association junior varsity.

Congratulations to town residents for participating in Community Heritage Day. Pleasingly the weather cooperated with the effort predicated on

many long hours of work by the organizers. Every year the event seems to get bigger and better. Thank you to the nucleolus group Lions Club for again sponsoring the annual event and the EBPA for the wonderful fireworks.

Thank you Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association (EBPA) for buying a TV for the library visual aid and reading room. The purchase fulfilled an immediate need so that kids could participate in a summer program hook-up, which includes a meal which for some children is more a need than a want.

Thank you to town intern, Marcus Bosche for the assistance you have provided the town this summer. Marcus, who attended Mother Seton School and Catocin High, will be a sophomore at the University of Maryland this fall. He is majoring in Political Science.

Many have asked if I will be seeking a second term as mayor and yes I will. I would like to finish what has been started during the last three years. Continuing to meet the budget while lowering the cost of government. Continuing to connect the town with road

### Adrian McC. Remsberg for Judge of the Orphans' Court

*I believe in the considerate and objective administration of the Court.*

*My long career in business, social and government service enables me to make the proper decisions.*

**Your vote for “MAC” Remsberg will be a vote for a reasonable & diligent Judge.**

[macremberg@comcast.net](mailto:macremberg@comcast.net)

By authority of Christine L. Brandenburg, Treasurer

## Leadership you can trust.

**Citizens deserve a County Executive who cares less about developer profits and more about protecting taxpayers.**

- ✓ Responsible Growth Management
- ✓ Controlled Spending
- ✓ Existing Residents First



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FOR Frederick County Executive

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### TOWN OF EMMITSBURG

### ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

22 EAST MAIN STREET

7:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Last day to register to vote at Frederick County is September 9, 2014. Registration applications can be obtained at the Town Office located at 300A South Seton Avenue. Candidates must file written application for candidacy with the Town Clerk no later than 30 days prior to the date of election. All candidates will be posted on the Town bulletin board in the way in which is appears on the certificate. One Commissioner seat and the Mayor seat is open.



## FROM THE DESK OF . . .

**Kirby Delauter, Candidate for County Council, Dis. 5 (R)**

This month I would like to go over some of the facts and results of the fiscal responsibility shown by the current BoCC. First, before I get into the details of our four years as Commissioners, I would like to take an opportunity to thank Ralph Whitmore. Ralph was my opponent in the Republican primary for District 5. You can see why Ralph is very well respected in the Walkersville area; he ran a clean race and his character and integrity show why he has been elected in Walkersville many times over to the local town council. After the primary I spoke with Ralph and we both admitted that people were trying to get both of us to go negative during the primary. We both decided we would run on our ideas and leave the negativity where it belongs, in the tabloids.

Now, on to what has been accomplished with the current BoCC. We have less than a 2% increase in the overall budget of Frederick County while including for the first time in six years, a 2% COLA and a merit increase for county employees. Overall increases in the budget during this Board's term are due to the actual consolidation of services and streamlining operations. The elimination of a separate fire tax and the consolidation of fire and rescue services into the General Fund accounted for an approximate \$43 million increase in the budget. The consolidation of the Division of Permitting and Development Review back into the General Fund in FY13 increased the budget by \$5 million since this was previously an Enterprise fund reported separately.

This \$48 million increase to the budget was NOT an increase in spending. The Gardner BoCC simply played a shell game with the old fire tax. The fire tax was losing upwards of \$13 Million annually, instead of coming to grips with the fact it was not self-sustaining, they simply moved funds from the General fund to make up the shortfall. This BoCC took some heat from some municipalities who were concerned that their taxes may have been raised by eliminating the fire tax and rolling into the general fund. My point to them is simple, you were paying the tax all along, Jan Gardner and her BoCC just weren't letting you know it. It was a shell game.

The previous Gardner BoCC cut funding to Frederick Community College we restored this

funding by \$1 Million along with providing funding for five additional Sheriff Deputies (\$650K). We expanded the senior tax credit which provides funding for the Dept. of Aging Case Manager position.

We added two LPN positions for the School Health Program (\$110K) to assist with critical nursing support. Also funding for pay increases for Part-Time Non-Benefitted personnel including School Resource Officers, School Crossing Guards, Developmental Center and after school program funding for Office of Children and Families. These services are part of the \$10.8 million of In-Kind Services provided by the County to the BOE.

We eliminated the amusement tax, the trailer tax and the excise tax. Just ask the Walkersville Feed

Store if he wanted the excise tax? It would have cost him \$4,800 to build his new pole barn just to pay the excise tax.

If you want to keep good government in Frederick County with fiscal responsibility as well as a central County Government that can work with local Municipalities as well, then you need to consider voting for the candidates that run on those terms. There are seven good conservative candidates running for offices in districts and at large. Do your research and vote for the conservatives that will allow you to do business in Frederick County while keeping more of your hard earned money along the way.

To learn more about Kirby Delauter visit his campaign website at [www.kirbydelauter.com](http://www.kirbydelauter.com).

**Bud Otis, Candidate for County Council at Large (R)**

This year's election on November 4, 2014 is going to bring big changes to our great county. With the new County Council system of government we will have five districts seats and two seats representing the whole county. We will also have the race for County Executive. What kind of campaigns are we going to see leading up to the general election

is the question? While I am running for an at-large seat, the citizens are telling me that they are tired of negative campaigns. Negative campaigns have led to the gridlock we have in Washington today. I do not want to see this rancor come to our county. You deserve better than that and I am not going to run a negative campaign.

If you honor me by electing me in November, I promise to work together with the others you chose to place in office to address the needs and fix the problems we face in Frederick County. While working as the Chief of Staff for our member of Congress I was able to work with those of different opinions to produce results that helped our District. We must work hard and together on the heart of our job: representing our constituents.

So as you are deciding who you will be voting for, remember to also see what kind of temperament those running have; are they able to get along with others and produce productive ideas for our county, or are they more interested in scoring political points?

When the election is over, serving the citizens of Frederick County will my one and only job. When you come to my office, I don't care which candidate

you supported in the election. My job is to see what I can do to solve your problems! I trust you as I believe you will see through the negative campaigns and sort out who you think can get the job done—which is serving all the citizens—not political cronies or favorites.

I promise you  
a campaign  
of ideas, not  
negative ads.

Here are some things I feel we need to address as a county.

We need to bring more jobs into our county that have a better pay scale than those we have

now. What kinds of jobs would they be? I have worked on bringing high-paying jobs to Fort Detrick. Fort Detrick has over 5,000 employees and many more doing contract work for the base. The county needs one person whose only job is working with the base and the county to make sure Frederick County has a seat at the table when contracts come up for renewal and new contracts are awarded. Millions of these contracting dollars are leaving our county every year because we don't have any organized way of tracking the flow of these contracts. Our businesses can compete if they are given a chance and I intend to see that they have that opportunity! The Fort is one our largest economic engines in the county and we need to make sure our workforce has a chance for those jobs.

Another area of concern to me, one I have picked up for the citizens while campaigning, is development and when and where it is going to come next. We need to control the pace and make sure we do not become another Montgomery County. I believe in the rights of landowners to sell their land and sometimes that conflicts with the planned development of an area of the county. We can work this out if we do long range planning and involve the citizens of the county so they do not wake and find it is coming and they were not involved in the process. The county is going to grow, we just need to make sure we are open and honest in how we allow growth to take place.

Over the next three months I will use this space to expand on my ideas and goals for Frederick County. I promise you a campaign of ideas, not negative ads.

To learn more about Bud Otis visit his campaign website at [www.budotis.com](http://www.budotis.com).

ELECT  
**Bud Otis**  
COUNTY COUNCIL AT LARGE  
*I share your values*

By authority of Friends of Bud Otis: Heidi Hecht, Treasurer

★ Kirby DELAUTER ★  
[www.KirbyDelauter.com](http://www.KirbyDelauter.com)  
for County Council District 5

**GOVERN LIKE  
A TAXPAYER  
TODAY**

By Authority Tina Delauter, Treasurer



## GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

# Mark Long, Candidate for County Council, Dis. 5 (D)

There will be changes to our landscape in Frederick County, but there won't be any more land.

The land we have is all we will ever have, and it's critical that we plan and manage the growth and changes in a carefully balanced and responsible manner. If land use, planning and zoning decisions continue to be made the way they have been the past three and a half years, we will lose much of what we love about Frederick County. When the only "plan" is to say yes to every development proposal, anywhere, and to let the developers write the terms of the approval, including a list of ways in which the development will be subsidized by the current residents and taxpayers of the county, you end up with the worst kind of sprawl.

Not just sprawl that envelopes our towns and fragments the countryside, though, but sprawl that far outstrips the county's ability to provide and maintain the necessary infrastructure. That means

worsening traffic congestion, overcrowded schools, inadequate parks, inefficient and expensive water and sewer systems, and more.

It means paying more for less, and sacrificing the quality of life we enjoy in Frederick County.

How and where we grow affects everything, and responsible leadership means planning growth in a manner that considers the best interests of the people and communities that are already here, now and in the long term. Sometimes that means having to balance conflicting interests. Frederick County needs county council members you can trust to fairly represent and consider — and responsibly balance — those interests.

The real question is not about being pro-growth or no-growth. Frederick County is going to grow. But there are many choices we can make about how and where and how fast that happens. In other words, how well it happens.

The current commissioners, including Kirby Delauter, have taken an irresponsible, developer-driven approach that isn't planning at all, except that it is a plan to fail. Blaine Young likes to say that "just because a development is approved, it doesn't mean it will be built." That is a hollow response to concerns about the lack of planning or the cost or inadequacy of infrastructure. The market may ultimately determine how fast some of the approved sprawl takes place, but the pace of build out won't make it a better plan, or reduce the long term costs and impacts and other problems associated with the lack of planning.

What it does mean is that we won't see or feel all the negative effects on our county all at once or right away. And then it is often too late.

We hear some commissioners say that the number of building permits has been down from historical highs. But that is the result of the economic recession and real estate collapse. It was not

from a lack of adequate land zoned for residential and business development. The 2010 Comprehensive plan included enough land planned and zoned to exceed population growth projections for the next 25 years.

The current commissioners did not change one word of the 2010 plan. They understood it was a set of guidelines, that they could ignore, and that it was the land use and zoning map that had the force of law. Since taking office, they have rezoned thousands of additional acres of farms and forest for many thousands of new homes, much of it where there is little or no existing infrastructure.

But effects of those changes will be even worse, because, as important as how and where development takes place, there is the question of how much the public facilities and services will cost, and who will pay for it.

A number of changes by the current commissioners now mean that hundreds of millions of dollars in costs asso-

ciated with the new development have been transferred, directly and indirectly, from the developers to county residents and taxpayers. This affects every resident and taxpayer in the county, whether the new development is near them or not.

I'm a home inspector and former home builder. I understand how hard builders were hit when the market collapsed. I understand the challenges and risks developers take. But we don't have to compromise our future to be fair. The financial crisis was largely the result of short-term thinking, and greed. That's no way to plan our future in Frederick County.

There are significant differences between me and Commissioner Delauter. One of them is that I will responsibly balance competing interests, and consider the real and long term consequences of our policy choices.

To learn more about Mark Long visit his campaign website at [www.marklong.us](http://www.marklong.us).

# Linda Norris, Candidate for County Council at Large (D)

I recently received a questionnaire asking me about issues in the North County, and I really found myself sitting down and pondering...because my 25 years spent living there (on Mountaintale Road, "between the two stores" as we all know it) gave me a lot to think about what we experienced as North County residents.

North County people are conservative, that's for sure, yet they're the first ones to jump up and help when a neighbor is in need. A few years after we moved to Mountaintale, an elderly neighbor who had begun to show signs of Alzheimer's disease disappeared from her home near midnight on a cold and windy January night—one of those kinds of raw nights when the little dust-

ing of snow we'd had recently was mainly gone, but the wind picked up little whirls of it and carried it into your eyes and hair. She'd reportedly walked out of her house wearing only a sweater.

People in the Mountaintale region, except for your next-door neighbors, pretty much keep to themselves, so we didn't all know each other except to have passed for sodas or BBQ (as it used to be!) at the upper store, or beer or milk at Ritas. But as soon as we all saw that MSP helicopter with the searchlights plying our backyards and fields, we all came out; before you knew it there were a couple dozen of us out there with flashlights and winter coats searching for her in the middle of the night. We finally found the lady a few hours later,

caught by her sweater on a wire fence in a field about a half-mile from her home. We all went back to our business, but knew if there was ever a need, we'd all be out in a flash once again.

North County people are independent, and they crave learning. I remember a Catocin High School guidance counselor once told me that he was meeting with parents of a senior who had not been coming to school; they felt that dropping out of school was not critical because he already had a business to run on the farm. Yet, the now five-year-old Thurmont Regional Library sustains one of the highest visitation rates of all the libraries in the system. (Take note, candidate Kirby Delauter, who said to me four years ago on a video inter-

view with me and Adam Avery that the Thurmont Library was a waste of money because "we could have given everyone in Thurmont a Kindle and a wireless connection" instead.

North County people are stoic, but know that their level of service is not equal to the rest of the county due to their distance from the County Seat, and the more scattered and less dense population. Catocin High School feeder parents have gotten used to how early their middle- and high-schoolers have to board the school bus because they share the school bus routes. My urban and suburban Frederick County friends used to be shocked when I told them my children had to be out waiting for the school bus at 6:20 on dark

winter mornings, and endure a 45-minute bus odyssey to school. Did we complain? Not much. We knew the practicality of the situation and proudly said, "Our kids can handle it."

So, North County, its election time. Its your turn to bring out your issues, especially now that you have Charter Government and an at-large candidate who knows your turf and two district candidates who hail from your own neighborhoods. Email me with your suggestions for legislation and the issues that the rest of the county never even considers! [Lindam.norris@comcast.net](mailto:Lindam.norris@comcast.net).

To learn more about Linda Norris visit her campaign website at [www.lindanorris.com](http://www.lindanorris.com).

# Susan Jessee, Candidate for County Council at Large (D)

The senior population in Frederick County is one of the counties most treasured gifts and deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Senior citizens are one of the fastest growing populations in the US and as the elderly population continues to grow in Frederick County it is our obligation to make sure that we provide the programs and services necessary for their daily lives.

Some seniors have worked and been in Frederick County all their lives and others move or return here for many reasons. Older adults want to age in place, in their own home and in their own community. They want to be near friends and family, in a community that they know, and one in which they can remain engaged. As the needs for nursing homes change, and the cost of private care facilities are often cost prohibitive the importance of housing, mobility options, access to community-based health care, nutrition, and many other support services increases significantly.

I am running for County Council At-Large because these issues hit very close to home for me. I have had the privilege of taking care of my parents recently and have seen first-hand the struggles they as

seniors face and on a daily basis. I see how seniors can become silent victims of emotional abuse and theft by caregivers. I see how seniors sometimes don't have enough to eat and the only option they have is the Meals on Wheels program.

I have seen how difficult it is for some seniors to get to their doctors appointment or get to the pharmacy to get the medications that they need. I see how seniors struggle with having or understanding their health care options. I see how seniors struggle with just writing check to pay their bills. I have seen how seniors become shut out and don't feel like a member of their community anymore which is why I am committed to make sure seniors do know how valuable they are to Frederick County. The services provided to seniors need to be evaluated based on the needs of where they live in the county. Two critical fundamental necessities that seniors absolutely need are access to affordable housing and food.

In 2005 my father, County Commissioner Bruce Reeder proposed a tax credit for senior home owners which failed to pass and property tax deferral program was enacted instead at the

time. I was happy to see in 2012 that this idea of my fathers was enacted and modified in 2014 to include more senior homeowners. This really helps those seniors that own homes and live on a limited income but what about the seniors that are renting? Do they need assistance in paying their monthly rent and if so how can they be helped as well? This is just one step in the process of providing adequate senior housing options and more work needs to be done to further develop ways in which all seniors can live comfortably anywhere in Frederick County.

Since 2010 the Meal on Wheels program has been cut over 20% from the county budget. Although there is a plan to create strategic alliances between public and private partnerships this takes time and in the meantime it scares me to think that seniors may be going without a meal especially since the senior population continues to increase. Providing meals to seniors in all areas of the county, with such a large land mass is a challenge but is a priority so that not one senior goes hungry.

There are initiatives in place to address these issues and others but more

needs to be done and it is the responsibility of our county government to be the leader in this effort. Older residents are a natural resource whose

talents and contributions to the life of the County are fundamental to its health and vitality. Let's not forget that!

**Open and Respectful Government**


- Restore ethics laws
- Listen to and serve people

**Responsible Growth**

- Pays its own way
- Preserves our farms and rural character

**Attract Strong Businesses**

- Good paying jobs



MARK

LONG

"For All the People of Frederick County!"

www.marklong.us mark@marklong.us

Visit me on Facebook at:  
**Mark Long for Frederick County Council District 5**

COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 5

Bill Long, Treasurer



## FROM THE DESK OF . . .

## Dan Rupli, Candidate for State Senate (D)

Dear Friends: There is an ancient Arab curse that says "May you be born in interesting times." We are living in such times now, and that should be a matter of great concern to men and women of good will, no matter what their political party affiliation. Our Nation, State, and County seem to be tearing themselves apart because of petty partisan division, and I dedicate my campaign for Senate to a promise of healing and unification in our County and District.

I am running for Maryland State Senate at a time in my life when most adults of my generation would be turning their attention to enjoying some "golden years", not the chaos and sacrifice of raising campaign money, banging on people's doors, marching in parades, and all the rest of the "hoopla" that we associate with modern American politics.

As voters, you are asked by those of us who seek public office to "trust us" with your votes. The frustration we all share in common is that we have all been burned before by politicians who seek to persuade us that they are somehow "different" from the others, and who turn out to be just the same as all the others, who sing from the same monotonous hymn, and who dull our minds and energy with tricky 30 second jingles.

So would it surprise you if the first words out of my mouth were to tell you that I really am different from the others? Because I am.

I am different first of all because I was blessed to have been born of extraordinary parents at a time when America was enjoying a kind of economic and spiritual rebirth. We had just come through a Great Depression, and that same Greatest Generation who suffered through those terrible years pivoted to fight the greatest war in history. They defeated Hitler and the Asian fascists who thought that they could impose their cruel heresy on the World, and the most magnificent Nation ever created. So the first reason that I am different is because I am blessed by the circumstances of my birth, and a special optimism that came out of an era produced by unprecedented economic growth, spurred by the GI Bill of Rights, the construction of the Interstate Highway System under President Eisenhower, and the race to the Moon that John Kennedy inspired.

Here we are now, and I am seeking to replace a distinguished State Senator, Republican David Brinkley, who was our Senate Minority Leader in Annapolis. Senator Brinkley was defeated in the recent primary by a highly energetic and ambitious young Tea Party enthusiast with a very thin resume named Michael Hough. He is a paid employee of ALEC, and a protege of the infamous Alex Mooney, and employing Mooney's slimy campaign tactics, felt it necessary to use lies and deceit, and crass personal attacks to achieve his victory over Senator Brinkley. And I fully expect my oppo-



nent to utilize these same underhanded tactics against me in the General Election, since he employed them in another race before against another very good Republican Candidate, Charles Jenkins.

I don't think that the voters of the 4th District will reward such bad behavior a third time in a row.

Here is what I am proposing to the voters of our District: Let us join together as Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, and through respectful ongoing discussions agree ahead of time on specific issues and programs that I will

take a solemn oath to champion as your Senator in Annapolis. I will scrupulously avoid any issue that would bring division, harm, and disquiet to our green and beautiful hills of Frederick County, which George Washington himself described as "among the fairest places in Creation."

Since announcing my candidacy, I have been conducting a "listening tour" of the twelve or so main subdivisions of our District. I am amazed at the number of issues that bind us across Party lines of affiliation. That is the territory upon

which I intend to plant my flag as your State Senator.

I look forward to broadening this message of unity and cooperation in further editions of this newspaper. I will never play to prejudice, misinformation, or petty partisanship. We are all Americans, Marylanders, and Fredericktonians first and foremost. There are problems out there that need to be fixed, and I am determined to do whatever I can do as a father, a grandfather, and as your State Senator to work with you to fix them. I make no promises beyond that.

## State Delegate Kelly Schultz (R)

I want to thank all of the voters that dedicated a few moments of their time to vote in the Primary in June. I know it was a long spring with candidates vying for attention and working to get their message out to you. I am honored to be one of the nominees that will be on your ballot again in November. Now that the Primary Elections are behind us, Marylanders have a few months to enjoy the summer!

However, it is important for every constituent to understand that this summer, like all others over the past 4 years, is not about a campaign or relaxation. There is still a great deal of work that needs to be done. The taxpayer hired the representatives to work for

them throughout the year – not just the 3 months we are in Annapolis.

That being said, there are a number of issues that I have been speaking to constituents about over the past few months while back in Frederick County full time. You have heard me talk about the drug abuse situation in the past, and that is a topic that I will continue to focus on. Specifically, authoring legislation that will help to control the distribution of drugs from a physician's office without oversight. Many other states have passed bills that require physicians to report who is receiving the drugs. Maryland law currently mandates pharmacies to report to a drug monitoring program, but not the physicians. Reports from

other states show a sizable decrease in overdose instances when the prescriptions can be tracked.

You may have read some of the recent stories in the newspaper. One stated that, during an arrest, a man was found to have over 900 pills in his possession. You and I both know that he did not legally obtain those pills.

I have also been working with a group of Veterans who have some great ideas to increase the number of jobs and opportunities to our military men and women as they prepare to leave service and transition back to civilian life. I will be submitting legislation that will support their business efforts across the state.

Research is ongoing to further de-

crease the number of business regulations that hinder the growth and potential of existing businesses in our state. I hear from many business owners about specific state regulations that could be eliminated with little effort, but would have a great impact on the business. If you have something specific that would lift some of the burdens from you, please let me know! My team has been successful in reducing regulations in the past, and we are ready for another round.

Of course, there are the very large issues that directly affect each of us as taxpayers. My office has been reviewing some of the programs that other states have used to help to decrease the tax burden on individuals, families and businesses. This is obviously a top prior-

ity for many legislators due to the constant feedback that we receive from our constituents.

There may be an issue that is close to your heart that you would like to discuss. I am here to listen! My office assists people every day with maneuvering a complicated bureaucracy. If you are frustrated with any state agency, we are here to help!

As the summer progresses, and you begin to think about our next legislative session, remember that you hire representatives to work on your behalf. Please do not hesitate to reach out with a specific problem, issue or idea that would make our state a better place to live, work and play.

To learn more about Kelly Schulz visit her official website at [www.delegateschulz.com](http://www.delegateschulz.com)

## Gene Stanton, Candidate for House of Delegates (D)

The Republican primary election results did some serious damage to the influence of Legislative District 4. The defeat of Senator Brinkley, who was the Senate Minority Leader, seriously undermined the influence that the citizens in District 4 have in Annapolis. Senator Brinkley had genuine power that Tea Party Republicans will not be able to even come close to matching.

The fact is, there is a greater than a 2 to 1 majority of Democrats over Republicans in Annapolis and with redistricting, the Democratic majority will only increase. Sending only Republicans to Annapolis, some of whom promise never to compromise, will seriously weaken our ability to get funds for projects in our area. The

funds that I am talking about come from your tax dollars.

Understanding how Annapolis works is critical to the financial health of Frederick County. By sending representatives with a no compromise attitude to a Legislature heavily controlled by Democrats, our voices will essentially be ignored. This will not only hurt our county financially, but it could be dangerous if we have an emergency and need financial assistance.

If you care how your money is spent – and you should care because, after all, it is your money - you need people who will work to bring that money back to Frederick County, for projects that will benefit Frederick County residents.

We have genuine needs here in Frederick County. We need state funds to expand I-270 and US15, to make many of our state highways safer, and to increase public transportation. We need to rebuild and upgrade many of our schools, make our recycling program more efficient, and bring high paying jobs to Frederick County, so our residents will not have to travel outside the county for work.

There is a way to combat this loss of power. Buy voting for me, Gene Stanton for Delegate, and Dan Rupli for Senate, you will have two people that will work hard for every single citizen in Frederick County. You will have two people that will have influence within the majority party and that will work with their fellow Republicans to

make sure your tax dollars that you send to Annapolis are returned to Frederick County for needed projects in Frederick County.

Dan and I will give the district a much needed voice that will be heard in Annapolis. We will also fight for tax breaks and financial relief for small businesses, farmers, and students attending state universities. The Tea Party Republicans make many promises, but what can they accomplish by being a minority within a minority party, that refuses to discuss anything except the fact that their views are never up for discussion?

Frederick County will not benefit by sending a legislative delegation to Annapolis made up entirely of people who have no access, no influence,

and whose favorite word is "no." The fact is, they will have no power and no voice, and neither will you if they are elected in November. We cannot all be on the outside looking in and expect to get more of our tax dollars back.

Please vote and vote with an understanding of how Annapolis truly works. We don't have to like how Annapolis works, but we need to put a team on the field that is willing to fight for Frederick County Residents. Vote Stanton and Rupli and make sure your voice is heard and your money is spent on projects in Frederick County.

To learn more about Gene Stanton visit his campaign website at [www.stantonfordelgate.org](http://www.stantonfordelgate.org).



## GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

### Karl Bickel, Candidate for Sherriff (D)

Frederick County is in the midst of a growing epidemic of heroin abuse, an epidemic whose emergence was ignored until record numbers of people began to die. Because it was ignored by authorities we are behind the curve and the problem and the deaths from overdose continue to grow unabated. The increase was predictable as deaths were trending upward and heroin abuse, particularly in suburban and rural communities, had been increasing for years.

According to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, last year, 2013 set a record for heroin overdose deaths in Frederick County. There were 21 overdose related deaths in 2013, up from 10 in 2012.

It has gotten so serious that the Office of National Drug Control Policy has labeled Frederick County as a

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). Frederick is one of only twenty-eight counties in the nation, out of over 3,000 counties with this distinction. Hardly a source of pride for those of us who call Frederick County our home.

It has been said by some that this HIDTA designation is a good thing because it will give our county access to federal funds to combat the heroin problem. This may or may not happen. Agencies are vetted before federal funds are distributed and the active civil rights pattern and practice investigation of our sheriff's office by the Department of Justice may be an obstacle to securing those federal funds. But the stigma of being labeled a HIDTA site and all that comes with it will remain with our community for some time to come.

Though we are playing catch up

and there are currently no signs of any serious efforts by anyone to take the lead in fighting this problem, we as a community can overcome it. To do so it will take a recognition by all that this is a communitywide problem in which all of us are stakeholders. We also need leadership and both have been lacking.

A few town hall like meetings where local politicians lay the blame on the victims of addiction and their parents are not going to solve the problem. Authorities patting themselves on the back for making some arrests for possession of heroin are not going to solve the problem either.

Our community as a whole must take ownership of the problem and unite to overcome it. It is going to take leadership, collaborative partnership building, and basic problem solving. We can start with a county-

wide summit with all stakeholders taking part, police, schools, medical community (private physicians), public health community, business community, prosecutors, judges, faith based community, local political leaders, students, parents, colleges and universities, all segments of our community. All are stakeholders and must partner to rid the community of the current heroin epidemic and associated crimes. We must take it serious and we must act.

From the summit the outline of a plan should emerge. The plan should include the establishment of a crisis command center, a central clearing house, to collect and disseminate information, assign tasks to individual stakeholders, measure results and monitor the activities and progress of individual partners while charting the overall progress in addressing the

crisis, the heroin epidemic and associated crimes.

During weekly meetings you can use the data provided from a variety of information sources to strategize and develop tactics to address the heroin problem and associated crime while measuring successes and making adjustments as called for. Making use of this approach, an approach that has been used to address other problems in other communities, we will get a grip on the growing heroin and crime problem.

Make no mistake, we will win the battle against the heroin scourge. The question is, how many will fall victim to addiction and death from overdose before progress is made? How many of will be victimized by a desperate addict trying to feed their insidious craving for the drug that is controlling their life?

To learn more about Karl Bickel visit his campaign website at [www.frederickcountysheriff.com](http://www.frederickcountysheriff.com).

### Sharon Keller, Register of Wills

At the Register of Wills' Office we often receive random questions regarding Inheritance Tax. It is a complicated subject and should not be confused with the Federal Estate Tax or Maryland Estate tax. The mere mention of the word "tax" causes a mixed bag of emotions, including immediate anger, confusion, frustration, to name a few. But the good news regarding Inheritance tax is for most Maryland families, the current zero percent tax rate for immediate family members results in no inheritance taxation. However, for families that do not have the protections afforded to married couples, the situation can be very different and very expensive. Maryland's Registers of Wills have sole oversight

of assessment and collection of inheritance taxes, and are most often visited by families only after the death of their loved one. Sometimes this can be too late.

As of January 1, 2013, Maryland has recognized same-sex marriage. As a matter of law, married couples gain the benefits of statutory preference regardless of gender. This enables the Registers of Wills to assess inheritance tax using the current total exemption for married couples. Prior to 2013, the only remedy that non-married couples had was to execute domestic partnership agreements. This format is still useful in cases where partners do not wish to marry.

Domestic partnership agreements are not limited to any particular rela-

tionship configuration. The requirements, which are set forth in Md. Code Ann., Health General §6-101, are that the partners be at least eighteen years old, not related to one another by blood or marriage within four degrees of consanguinity, are not married or in a civil union or domestic partnership with any other individual, and agree to be in a relationship of "mutual interdependence". This last term simply means that the partners should be able to demonstrate that each individual contributes to the relationship, although it is not necessary to show equal contribution from both.

In order to rely on the domestic partnership exemption, the statute also requires writing executed by both individuals supported by two or

more forms of proof. The allowable proofs range from mortgage documents and utility bills to beneficiary designations on life insurance or payable/transferrable-on-death accounts or jointly titled assets.

Even when all the requirements are met, domestic partnership does not offer the full panoply of benefits that the law accords to married couples. Only the partners' jointly titled residential real property is exempted from taxation. Any and all other assets, including jointly titled non-probate property, are completely taxable for inheritance tax purposes. The present rate for collateral inheritance tax is ten percent of the asset's clear value. If the decedent's will or trust provides for payment of the tax from the residuary for the benefit of the surviving partner, the rate is then accelerated to 11.1111%. The tax can

be a terrible shock to the unaware.

The Registers' offices in Maryland are charged by law with provision of basic instructional materials for the general public. As such, the Register of Wills has created an informational brochure on this subject that is available from our office. Unfortunately, by the time many people enter our office this information is no longer helpful due to the death of one of the partners. In order to get the message out, this information has to be provided while both partners are alive and can execute an Affidavit of Domestic Partnership. The most effective vehicle for getting this information where it can help the most people is through consulting with the attorney members of the Frederick Bar Association. Most forms and publications may also be accessed at [www.registers.maryland.gov](http://www.registers.maryland.gov).

### Lisa Munyan, Candidate for Clerk of Court

Most people have only a vague notion of what a clerk of the circuit court is or what the clerk of the circuit court is supposed to do. In this election year, it is not a hot topic in the County, yet, but it should be. It should be because the Clerk of the Court is funded by you, the tax payer, and it should be because the safety of your most important documents is at stake.

The Maryland Constitution requires each county to elect a clerk to its circuit court, and every four years there is an election to do so. It is not a politically partisan position, no clerk votes on bills or legislation, and his or her political affiliation has no impact on the day-to-day work product of the office.

In a nutshell, the clerk of the court leads a team of approximately thirty staff members and is responsible for three major areas: The safekeeping of all the important documents that county residents may hold, (land deeds, deeds of trust, marriage licenses, adoption papers, divorce and custody orders, business licenses, liens, criminal records, &c.), the timely and appropriate process-

ing of all documents presented to the clerk's office, and for providing knowledgeable and courteous customer service to anyone who needs assistance with retrieving or filing documents or applying for business or marriage licenses.

If the current clerk adequately and consistently provided these three services today, I would not be running for the office.

Today, the clerk's office lacks any visible leadership. The sixteen-year incumbent, while drawing a substantial salary at the taxpayer's expense, is not apparently returning the favor by being at work full time. The fact that she is not on the job all day, every day, adds to the already low morale of the over-worked and under-appreciated staff. Inevitably, this often results in inconsistent customer service and document mismanagement.

My work in a Frederick law firm brings me into regular contact with the clerk's office and I know firsthand that documents are not always handled expediently or with due care under the present clerk. Documents and checks have been

misplaced, misfiled or lost, orders signed by Judges can languish for weeks in her office before they are mailed out, and it can take weeks for a summons to be issued. All these inefficiencies affect real people and impact taxpayer's pockets and lives.

I am running for clerk of the circuit court for one reason: I believe that Frederick County residents deserve to have the best Circuit Court Clerk's Office in all of Maryland. I strongly believe that, with my work ethic, leadership and common sense that goal can be realized in short or-

der. I will roll up my sleeves and work full time alongside the staff to better serve the Frederick County community and to restore excellence and people's confidence in the clerk's office. I will not rest 'til Frederick's the best!

To learn more about Lisa Munyan visit her campaign website at [www.LisaMunyan.com](http://www.LisaMunyan.com).

**Elect**  
**Karl Bickel**  
**Sheriff**



Integrity  
Transparency  
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[www.FrederickCountySheriff.com](http://www.FrederickCountySheriff.com)  
On Facebook at Karl Bickel for Sheriff

Authority: Committee to Elect Karl Bickel, Jason W. Shoemaker, Treasurer



## FROM THE DESK OF . . .

## Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

The Carroll Valley Borough July 4th Celebration was a tremendous success this year with an attendance of approximately 10,000 people throughout the day and evening. It was "The Place To Be" on the 4th of July to enjoy our Nation's birthday. The weather worked out. No rain! The temperature was at 72 degrees without any humidity. I believe everyone had a great time and the evening fireworks were outstanding! This "family picnic" which only attracted approximately 500 people back in 2006 has evolved into what they call today a "Happening." We had visitors from Virginia, West Virginia, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Georgia, and a couple from Florida. They all commented on "how family oriented the event was" and they plan to come next year. They said "It was the highlight of their visit to the greater Gettysburg area."

The success of the day would not have been achieved without the continued involvement of many individuals and local businesses. It is through their participation that we were able to enjoy the day. Special thanks go to the Carroll Valley Municipal Services crew: Steve Fitez, Bruce Pecher, Donny Shaffer, Ster-

ling Shuyler, Terry Weikert, and Jeff Wise for their tireless efforts preparing the Carroll Valley Commons for the day's event. I would like to thank the members of the July 4th (J4) Planning Group who planned the event under the outstanding leadership of Gayle Marthers over a period of a year.

The J4 Planning Group members are: Brenda Colesanti, Charles Dalton, Lori Davidson, Mary Ellen Jester, Robert Jester, Gayle Marthers, Larry Noel, Dan Sanders, Marie Schwartz, Tim Skoczen, Chuck Whitlow and James Whittington. I would also like to express my appreciation to the following individuals for making it such a special day: Dave Baker, Steve Beans, Amanda Bell, Steve Bell, Frank Buhman, Jessica Christine, Kim Ewing, Pat Feeser, John Ferguson, George Fisanich, Ptlm Nathan Groft, Mary Hanvey, Mike Hanvey, Chuck Hayes, Charlie Hayes, Dave Hazlett, Noah Hazlett, Erika Hetlyn, Shannon Lewis, Councilman Ken Lundberg, Charles Marthers, Ptlm Dustin Miller, Hunter Paulus, Tyler Pyles, Morgan Reed, Emmy Rines, Tracie Rippeon, John Rollhauser, Brett Schmidt, Brianna Short, Makenzie Taylor, Councilman John VanVolkenburgh

and Pastor Dale Williams.

A special thanks to William McCleef Jr. and family. Mr. McCleef Jr. provides, at no charge, the July 4th Hayride. From what I have been told, he continued through the evening until 9 pm because he didn't want to refuse anyone from taking the ride. He also allows us to use his land for parking. Carl Keller and family make sure the farmland is ready for our guests. I would like to also recognize the generosity of our Fireworks Major Sponsors: Adams Electric Cooperative Inc., Borough of Carroll Valley, and Liberty Mountain Resort & Conference Center.

Other special contributors were: ACNB, AJ Photography, Alexander's Plumbing/Heating, Amvets Post 172, B & B Stump, Boyer and Ritter, Bergdale Insurance, Buchanan Automotive Inc., Buchart Horn, Inc., Carroll Valley Citizens Association, Comcast, CRS Insurance, Emmitsburg Glass Company, Excalibur Towing, Fairfield Borough, Fairfield Fire & EMS, Hamiltonban Township, Harrington's Equipment, Harrington and Sons, JEP Enterprises, Jester's Computers, Karen Graff, KPI Technology, Lockwood Business Support, McLaughlin's Heating Oils, Med One Pharmacy, Mel-

sa M. Wetzel, CPA, Mike Ball State Farm, Monahan Funeral Home, Park's Garbage Service Inc., Paul's Pit Stop, PNC Bank, Randy Smith Financial, Realty Leasing & Management Company, Salzmann Hughes, School Safaris Inc., SGI, Shealer's Septic Tank Service, Sites Realty, Strawberry Hill Nature Center, The Benecon Group, The Carriage House, The Leland of Laurel Run, Taverna 5450 and Wm. F. Hill & Assoc., Inc.,

Finally, I personally again would like to express my appreciation to Gayle Marthers who managed the day's event to a successful completion and to Dave Hazlett, our Borough Manager, for his outstanding managerial and technical skill in preparing all the marketing information, raising funds for the event and in creating a very attractive and intuitive July 4th website. As I have said before, Dave is definitely a "Man for All Seasons"! If interested, visit [www.ronspictures.net](http://www.ronspictures.net) to view the pictures taken that day.

Please mark your calendar for Carroll Valley Borough's National Night Out (NNO) event to be held on Tuesday, August 5th from 5:00 to 8 p.m. (rain or shine). NNO is celebrated each year across the United States to increase awareness for safety within the community, and to educate residents on how to protect

their families and familiarize them with available services. All events are FREE. Young people up to the age of 12 will receive a free meal consisting of a hot dog, a bag of potato chips and a drink. Children should bring their bikes and helmets for a bike rodeo. If available, the STAT MED-EVAC will make a visit; child identification packets and fingerprinting; children's games; fire and police displays; counseling services; food and much more. NNO is a time to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. The children should see our police officers as people who can help them in their time of need. I do hope you take the time to come and join us.

Our community has lost one of our dedicated leaders who served the borough for 19 years. Mr. Dennis M. Didio passed away on July 18th. He served on the Sewer and Water Authority from 1981 to 1996 and on the Borough Council from 1984 to 2003. I offer his friends and family my deepest condolences. The Borough meetings for August are: Planning Commission (Aug 4th), Borough Council (Aug 12th) and the Parks and Recreation Committee (Aug 27th). If you have any questions, call me at 301-606-2021 or email me at [MayorRonHarris@comcast.net](mailto:MayorRonHarris@comcast.net). Please slow down when driving in the Valley.

## State Representative Dan Moul

When labor unions were established in this country, they served a noble purpose. They brought sweeping changes to a labor culture that once had few rules. They improved workplace conditions for the American worker and bargained for fair wages and benefits. They led the fight to establish child labor laws to keep children from being enslaved in factories doing adult work at far lower wages, and often in deplorable conditions.

I raise the matter of labor unions for a couple of reasons. First, as a reminder of their origin and purpose, and to demonstrate how much unions and their mission have changed. According to the latest numbers from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, about 701,000 of the 12.8 million people who live in Pennsylvania belong to a

labor union. That amounts to fewer than 13 percent of all wage and salary workers and the numbers are declining. Once a strong source for positive change, recent examples show how labor unions are influencing policy in this Commonwealth to the potential detriment of all citizens.

Perhaps the most significant example has to do with union resistance to reforming the state's two public pension systems. The State Employees' Retirement System (SERS) and the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) are carrying a combined unfunded liability of more than \$50 billion. Each day, the debt on our public pension obligation increases by \$11 million. To further demonstrate just how rapidly this debt is growing, just five years ago, the state budgeted \$500 mil-

lion to keep the pension funds solvent. This year, the same Band-Aid cost state taxpayers \$1.7 billion! This is unsustainable, and if not addressed soon, analysts predict the systems will go bankrupt in as few as seven years. Pension reform is absolutely essential, and we must act right away.

A recent attempt at legislation to address the pension crisis failed to garner the traction needed – largely due to union misinformation and pressure. State lawmakers have been working on a plan to switch new state employees and teachers from the current defined benefit pension plan to a hybrid plan that combines elements of defined benefit and 401(k)-style plans. The hybrid plan would not affect current employees or retirees and would stop the bleeding in the current systems. In fact, it is estimated

the plan could save the Commonwealth about \$11 billion to \$15 billion over the next 30 years.

While the unions representing teachers and state employees are aware of the gravity of the pension crisis, they continue to fight changes to the current plan – even though it would not impact existing and retired members. However, doing nothing is not an option. Inaction is already forcing sharp increases in local school district property taxes to cover growing teacher pension obligations and the forecast is for more of the same.

Aggressive union lobbying was also used in an attempt to quell a recent paycheck protection measure that I co-sponsored. House Bill 1507 would reinforce state laws prohibiting the use of taxpayer resources for campaign purposes by ending a practice whereby union dues are automatically deducted from public employee paychecks and remitted to the unions.

No other private entity is afforded this privilege, and because a portion of this money is spent on political activity, it is a clear violation of state law prohibiting the use of public funds for political purposes. The bill has been criticized by unions as a "war on workers," but it is a clear attempt to protect taxpayer money from being used to support one candidate or position over another. This was the lesson of the recent Capitol corruption scandals. Labor unions are not exempt.

There is growing sentiment in this country today that unions may have outlived their useful purpose. The public pension issue and paycheck protection are just two of many examples of how far afield unions have strayed. An inability or refusal to find common ground on issues of public importance serves no one – not taxpayers and certainly not those who give up a portion of their paycheck for the promise of a brighter future.

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# GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

## County Commissioner Randy Phiel

One of the most significant and important projects to the quality of life and safety in Adams County that this Board will facilitate may be the new 800 MHz 911 Digital Trunked Public Radio System. The current radio system is over thirty years old with obvious transmission, parts, and equipment issues. The ability to talk to other agencies and continued federal and state funding were also major considerations. After years of review and delay, the current Board of Commissioners reviewed these findings prior to taking office and pulled the trigger as our first major initiative when we took office.

Fiscally the project has remained on track monitored by good management and a Fiscal Review Team comprised of the Commissioners, the County Manager, Emergency Management Staff and several public officials including Fairfield Mayor Ron Harris and Liberty Township Supervisor Bob Jackson. After months of frustrating delays as landowners leases for towers were negotiated and completed, further delays due to the necessity of going through municipal permitting processes, and one of the most severe winters on record, the construction process is now moving forward.

The tower site contractor is busy readying the co-location sites (cellular towers) and will soon begin work on

the new tower sites. Motorola, the radio equipment vendor and Alcatel-Lucent, the microwave link vendor have begun, or completed installing equipment at eight of the co-location sites and infrastructure upgrades are underway at the County Courthouse and the Emergency Services Center. There will be a total of 19 tower sites – 11 co-location sites and 8 County-owned tower sites – once the construction phase is complete by the end of 2014. As stated previously, bad weather earlier in the year and a prolonged period of leasing negotiations and legal proceedings have delayed the projected completion schedule. We anticipate the switch over to the new 800 MHz system sometime in mid-2015.

While we are on the subject of emergency services it is a given that we generally take our Adams County emergency staff and responders for granted as a service that will always be there for us. On Tuesday, July 8, a fierce thunderstorm hit Adams County with heavy rain and unusually heavy wind bursts. The storm caused heavy damage to utilities, trees and caused many road closures and blockages in a very short period of time. Adams County Emergency Service Director John Eline stated that in his eight years on the job he had never seen so many calls from both Adams & Franklin Counties in such a short peri-

od of time. In fact John and Assistant Director Mary Bowers determined it was the most phone calls in one hour in Adams County 911 history. Fortunately the storm occurred during shift change and the day shift stayed on to help with the extreme volume of calls. Thank you to Dispatch Team of Gary Bretzman, Phil Hagerman, Stephanie Crouse, Nick Shaffer, Jared Day, Lee Byers, Craig Hagerman, Matt Groft and Keith Whittaker for their effort during this situation. Kudos for doing a great job and as usual rising to the challenge to assist county residents!

Speaking of significant initiatives, the Adams County BLS/ALS Steering Committee has been meeting regularly since last fall to explore a regional EMS delivery model since Well Span - Gettysburg Hospital announced last year they would soon be getting out of ALS delivery business (Medic 28). The steering committee is comprised of myself, Council of Governments representatives Bob Gordon and Barb Underwood, several representatives from the Adams County Volunteer Emergency Services Association and the Chief Paramedics from Gettysburg & Hanover Hospital. We have formed committees to explore a list of discussion points for a regional concept including tax-exempt status, government agreements, governance, funding, hu-

man resources issues, scope of service, and additional sub-committees.

All county fire departments that provide ambulance ALS, BLS or QRS service are being urged to participate on a committee and attend the meetings. Participation requires absolutely no department commitment; but does insure individual department input and accurate knowledge of progress. At this time the steering committee is still putting ideas together to help guide the process.

Unfortunately, providing volunteer emergency services will only become more difficult with diminishing volunteerism, increased training requirements, and the escalating costs of equipment, training and insurance. Workman's compensation insurance alone is causing huge anguish for volunteer companies. Initiatives that have historically supported funding volunteer departments such as flipping hamburgers, hosting carnivals and organizing bingo is becoming less a part of today's society. Eventually regionalization and consolidation is on the horizon as a matter of practical necessity. It should be recognized that municipalities are mandated to provide adequate emergency services for their community and they are beginning to recognize this perfect storm they may soon have on their door step. Regionalization is smart, effective and eventually inevitable.

I would like to personally commend

the members of the Adams County BLS/ALS Steering Committee for exhibiting their unselfish commitment to the goal of providing sustainable and professional EMS service to the residents of Adams County.

Since 1923 the South Mountain Fair has been an Adams County tradition that showcases all that Adams County has to offer. What started as a church picnic with two churches in Arendtsville debuts again August 12-16 at the South Mountain Fairground near Arendtsville. There are plenty of things to do and see for young and old such as children's activities, rides, entertainment in the auditorium, food, merchandise vendors, livestock, agricultural competitions and so much more.

The fair is certainly a tribute to our Adams County's agrarian heritage. It is highly anticipated by Adams County 4-H members for exhibiting their livestock, projects and other accomplishments. The fair is a wonderful tradition and excellent family event that needs your support. There is a good chance you may run into me near the food pavilions having a fried ham sandwich, chicken corn soup and a milk shake.

The South Mountain Fair is only one of many events and activities you should consider attending this summer and fall. Get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer.

## State Senator Rich Alloway

A bill that would legalize cannabis in Pennsylvania for medical purposes only, recently cleared the Senate Law and Justice committee, on which I serve as vice chairman. Committee approval of Senate Bill 1182 clears the way for the measure to be considered by the full Senate. The vote was unanimous, 11-0.

After several Senate hearings on this issue in Harrisburg, and a listening session with local residents earlier this year, medical studies suggest that this legislation will provide a tangible benefit for those who suffer from serious chronic health conditions. It is encouraging to see my colleagues on the committee are willing to set aside any preconceived notions about cannabis to support this historic proposal on behalf of some of our most vulnerable citizens; particularly the severely ill and children.

Along with bill sponsor Senator Mike Folmer, and local Representatives Dan Moul and Will Tallman, we co-hosted an informational "Town Hall" meeting in May to take testimony on SB1182. The forum was held at Southeastern Adams Volunteer Emergency Services (SAVES), near Hanover, with nearly 300 people packing the social hall.

The panel received tear-inducing testimony from families that have children suffering from epilepsy, as well as doctors and medical experts. I wish other legislators from around the Commonwealth would devote this much effort gathering facts and data, instead of having tunnel vision with preconceived notions.

The Senate Law and Justice Committee thoroughly examined the issue of medical cannabis during two extensive hearings this year. An original pro-

posal was modified based on testimony offered during the hearings. During the extensive debate, lawmakers and community groups expressed reasonable concerns regarding the best way to avoid negative health effects, and keeping cannabis out of the wrong hands. We addressed those issues in the bill by creating a strict licensing and distribution system that would provide checks and balances to prevent unauthorized use.

Senate Bill 1182 is also known as the "Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Act." It is likely to be reviewed by the Senate's 26-member Appropriations Committee, where it will get a fiscal analysis. The committee is expected to examine whether or not any additional personnel may be needed to car-

ry out regulatory responsibilities.

Senate Bill 1182 would allow individuals who suffer from certain medical conditions to apply for a medical cannabis access card from the Department of Health. A licensed health care practitioner would be required to provide written certification in order for an application to the Department of Health to be considered.

The bill prohibits any person from growing, processing, or dispensing medical cannabis without a license. The legislation creates a new Board of Medical Cannabis Licensing within the Department of State that will be responsible for regulating growers, dispensers and processors.

With certification from a licensed physician, Pennsylvania residents

would be able to apply for a medical cannabis access card from the Department of Health. The bill also includes a strict regulatory framework that covers growers, processors, and dispensers. The legislation would not allow any individual or entity to grow, process or dispense cannabis without a state license.

Under the bill, patients who are prescribed medical cannabis would be allowed to use a variety of different delivery methods, including the use of extracted oil, edible products and vaporization, but not inhaled smoke. State residents would need a \$100 access card from the Health Department after proving they have a practitioner-patient relationship

and written confirmation of a qualifying medical condition.

Having researched the medical properties of this God-given plant and hearing the struggles of our neighbors, who so desperately need this natural product to live a life free of seizures or to combat their cancer, I have become resolute in my support for this legislation. I've had the unique opportunity to meet many of the families with epileptic children, many of whom live right here in the 33rd District, and fully understand that medical marijuana may be the best treatment for their illness. If there is an opportunity for us to improve the quality of their lives, I feel I have an obligation to try.

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## COMMENTARY

# Words from Winterbilt

## Sgt. Bergdahl – the problem is?

Shannon Bohrer

On May 31, 2014 Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who had been a prisoner of war, was released by the Taliban. The release was brokered by the U.S. Government and the government of Qatar. As a condition of his release, the U.S. Government released Five Taliban prisoners that were being held at Guantanamo Bay. Almost immediately, politicians and the experts told us why this should not have happened. And almost to a person, they said they were also glad that Bergdahl was released.

The experts told us that according to the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2014, if a prisoner is transferred from Guantanamo Bay, Congress is required to be notified 30 days in advance. So, according to the experts, the President broke the law. Conversely, the President said the prisoner trade was brokered at the last minute and needed to be carried out immediately. As the President said in a signed statement, the “unique and exigent circumstances” that existed justified his position. Which means there was not sufficient time to make the notifications as required by law?

The five Taliban prisoners were known as the “Taliban Five.” They included the Taliban army chief of staff, a former Tal-

iban interior minister, a Taliban deputy minister of intelligence and two other senior Taliban leaders. Sounds like an established bureaucratic list of government positions, the most common complaint about the five being that these individuals will return to the battlefield. The five were transported from Cuba to Qatar, where they will be required to stay for one year, and if they don't?

The experts have also told us that Sgt. Bergdahl was not captured in battle, but deserted his post and after leaving and/or deserting his post - he was captured. While the investigation into this matter has just started, there have been numerous former soldiers that believe this to be true. Added to this element is the claim that other soldiers were killed in action while searching for Sgt. Bergdahl.

While much of this information may have been known before the trade, very little was in the public media prior to the trade. As Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said “The questions about this particular soldier's conduct are separate from our effort to recover ANY U.S. service member in enemy captivity.” Our system of justice says that one is innocent until proven guilty. While the Army has started its investigation into this matter, it seems that many Americans have al-

ready come to their own conclusions. Even the home coming events that were to be held in Idaho have been cancelled, reportedly because of threats of violence against the Bergdahl family.

Of the many experts that have commented, a few have put forth a slightly different perspective. A former military lawyer was being asked questions about the Taliban five when he basically said they were eventually going to be released. The eventual release would occur when we leave Afghanistan. Since the Taliban five are prisoners of war, when the war ends the prisoners go home! And since the war is winding down, it may happen soon. When the expert was questioned about this, he further explained that segments of the Taliban are in discussions with the government. So if and when, the war is over and we are at peace, all POWs will be released. So according to this logic, we at least got something for the Taliban five, that we may not have gotten in the future. This expert also said that the U.S. Government cannot charge the Taliban five with any crimes because they do not have any evidence against them, NO EVIDENCE? Apparently the five were not taken and/or captured in battle, but they were taken because of their positions in the Taliban.

When another expert, a retired

CIA personage, was questioned about this, his opinion was similar. The U.S. Government will be releasing all of the POWs at Guantanamo, at least the ones that will not or cannot be charged with a crime. This expert added that the Taliban five have never been connected with the waging of war against the U.S. He also gave his opinion that they are old and will not return to the battlefield. These two experts seemed to have different perspectives than most of the other experts, at least regarding the Taliban Five.

If the investigation shows that Sgt. Bergdahl deserted then he should be punished. With the information that has been in the press, it is highly probable that he will be found guilty. The Bergdahl case seems similar to the wars that have divided our nation and should give us pause for thought. Do we sometimes pre-judge too fast without thinking? If the government did not negotiate for his release, what would the critics say? If the government was offered the release and they did not accept it, what would the critics say? If the government took the stance that since he just walked off from his post we should just leave him in enemy hands, what would that say? Would that not be pre-judging and/or jumping to the conclusion that he was guilty and therefore his punishment would be in the hands of our enemy?

I think we do pre-judge too fast sometimes and that includes going to war for what seems like very honorable principles. Then later we find our-

selves facing enemies that at one time were our friends. We also find that supporting one side can have unintended and unknown consequences. I don't know why we make fast judgments, maybe we want to be right and we feel that making a quick decision is the right thing to do. The problem is that sometimes one side is not totally right and one side is not totally wrong. Sometimes the problems we pre-judge don't offer a correct answer when examining the long term consequences.

As the problems in the middle-east have demonstrated, everything is interrelated and whenever the balance of power is disrupted, it is very difficult to predict what will happen. Military interventions seem to relate to short term goals but often create unintended long term problems. At one time we supported the Mujahideen warlords in their fight with the Russians. After the Russians left, we declared victory in a proxy war and we left. Afghanistan was in a state of shambles, no government, services and no social order. A civil war occurred and the newly created Taliban, created from the Mujahideen, was the biggest winner. Prior to 1989, the Taliban did not exist. There are “experts” that believe we should have stayed and other “experts” that would proffer that if we did stay, it could be worse today.

The Bergdahl issue - that's the easy problem, if we don't move too fast.

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

# Common Cents

## The China pivot

Ralph Murphy

On 7 May of 2014, Chinese President Xi Jinping broached the idea of a “new Asian security concept” as summit chair of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) which met in Shanghai. The organization has been in existence since its inception was proposed to the United Nation's General Assembly by Kazakhstan on 5 October, 1992. Fifteen states were involved in the initial 1999 Ministers of Foreign Affairs grouping whose goals were defined as “promoting peace, security, and stability in Asia.” The group spanned from China to Turkey and even included intractable enemies, Israel and Palestine (not defined), among its founding members.

Observer states included the United States and Japan as well as organizations such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Arab League, and the UN. Its mandate was initially so broad and embodied such disparate groups that the CICA gained little international attention, nor fulfilled a role drawing effective action or concern. China might use the body to change that equation having assumed its chair in 2014 with a leadership mandate to 2016. There are now 26 members of the body and it includes among other; Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Russia, Israel, Palestine, and west to Egypt.

China's accession follows Kazakh-

stan's rule between 2002-2010 and Turkey's from 2010-2014. Along with a nascent Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), it is being viewed by cautious western observers as the “China Pivot” to counter President Obama's “Asia Pivot” of military capacity in the Far East from traditional concerns in Europe and the Middle East. The AIIB, with initial proposed funding, would rival World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) projects, the latter two dominated by the United States and Japan respectively. It would give China more leverage in international infrastructure projects for which that nation would benefit, while masked as a multi-sourced provider though the PRC would be the primary contributor. They've proposed an initial 50 billion dollars for the endeavor.

The Obama Pivot was first announced in 2011 by the President to Australia during a state visit to that country. It highlighted a Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) treaty that would include Asian nations from Japan to Australia. Billed as a counter weight to North Korean belligerence, it didn't include Chin, and appears to have been eclipsed by bi-lateral deals and trade interests. Asian nations are key providers of commodities used in China's domestic production, currently the world's second largest economy at 8.3 trillion dollars in annual output. Tokyo also sends finished goods to that nation, though ties are strained

by territorial disputes in the East China Sea.

Japan and Australia are finalizing defense agreements which would upgrade the latter's aging submarine fleet with Tokyo providing Sorys Class (conventional) subs fitted with Swedish air independent propulsion systems to be produced in Adelaide or Japan itself. Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, has promoted a domestically popular vision of a “non-pacifist” constitution which would allow for a military build up. Beijing appears worried about the developments.

The United States currently provides just over 40% of the world's military spending. Its economy generated 16.2 trillion dollars in 2012. Its current debt approaches congressionally mandated levels of 17.3 trillion dollars. Debt is 106% of annual earnings per International Monetary Fund (IMF) statistics, but 72% of earnings per a stubbornly insistent CIA report. The latter doesn't include debt held by intra-government agencies in US securities broaching the novel concept that one can “write off” debt owed to oneself. Service providers dependent on future payments such as the defense industry would be sorely affected, but per the CIA if the funding is not available and deficit spending a “high risk” basis for production, it could happen.

CICA members in Afghanistan and Iraq have remained intractably divided along sectarian lines for centuries and remain so despite the allied military campaign which could cost upwards of 6 trillion dollars given the sophis-

ticated weapons systems employed against what was largely a primitive opposition. The Taliban appear to control much of the divided nation while Push-tan tribes fight them in opposition there much as they always have. July 2014 election results confirm this division.

Iraq was effectively neutralized militarily after it invaded Kuwait in August of 1990. The Second Gulf War was briefly contested with then President Bush declaring all hostilities had ceased there within a month of the March 2003 intervention. US troops remained until 2011, and advisors have recently returned, mostly Marines to guard the American embassy amid al-Qaeda linked battlefield gains in Sunni areas of that nation and Syria. The CICA, UN, nor any other player in the region has changed the hostility conflicting Muslim groups hold for each other as they continue to fight.

China while historically generally insular has been in direct economic conflict with neighboring Vietnam over oil interests, and the Philippines and Japan over fishing and territory disputes respectively. The nation has a powerful economy as described, but is hampered by a population of over 1.35 billion people somehow coexisting and competing for available resources.

The AIIB is an international banking effort apparently more transparent than the domestic structure which has incurred a “Shadow Banking” element, never clearly defined and of questionable assets. It can be viewed here as domestic entities which employ banking functions such as deposits and lending, but are not accountable to overt central government

regulation. China's national debt to GDP ratio is quite low per CIA data at 31.7%, but again higher per other sources which use differing accounting, and doesn't take into account regional debt up to 3 trillion dollars much of which appears used for functions western governments would consider federal.

Per China's National Audit Office (NAO), the local debt (regional) rose “70% to 17.9 trillion yuan, or 2.9 trillion dollars over three years” to December, 2013. Enter shadow banking and there's “Wild West” dimension to that nation's economy Beijing appears to increasingly want to control. Foreign investors there and elsewhere are highly vulnerable to domestic politics and business practices. They can find their investments simply “written off” per need and orientation with little recompense if no obtainable collateral is included in the dealing.

Where the CICA and Chinese banking “pivot” lead is largely conjecture at this point, though the economic component is more likely of international impact than the budding security alliance. It's of interest they can retain such heated enemies in a body outside the UN, but the alliance has a broad mandate, limited enforcement potential, or likely global impact. The banking component could lead to new infrastructure abroad and even eclipse traditional investment providers if it proves profitable to the PRC. Militarily and economically, the region continues to grow. Potential for growth or conflict can't be discounted.

*To read past editions of Common Cents visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*



# Pure OnSense

## The great reshuffling

Scott Zuke

Since October more than 57,000 kids, referred to as Unaccompanied Alien Children (UAC), have been apprehended illegally crossing the southern border into the United States. Estimates for the year project a massive influx of UAC—an increase of more than 800% from two years ago. The issue has stirred up an ugly political fight in Washington and renewed an already prickly debate over illegal immigration nationally as well as locally.

The UAC originate primarily from Central America, namely El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, and say they are trying to escape poverty and violence, and to reunite with other family members already in the United States. The New York Times reports that, since January, more than 2,200 of these children have been sent to live with sponsors in Maryland.

Many Americans have responded as people around the world always have to sudden, unregulated influxes in migration: “Not in my backyard.” Among their complaints are practical concerns about straining limited resources (jobs, infrastructure, public services, etc.), fears of cultural integration changing local identity, as well less tangible things, like erosion of the Rule of Law or even the creeping loss of national sovereignty.

As big a domestic policy issue as illegal immigration may be for the United States, one has to admit that we have the space, the resources, and the institutional capacity to manage the problem while better solutions are sought. The same cannot be said everywhere. Which brings me to the Middle East.

Three years ago we witnessed the spectacle of the “Arab Spring” uprisings

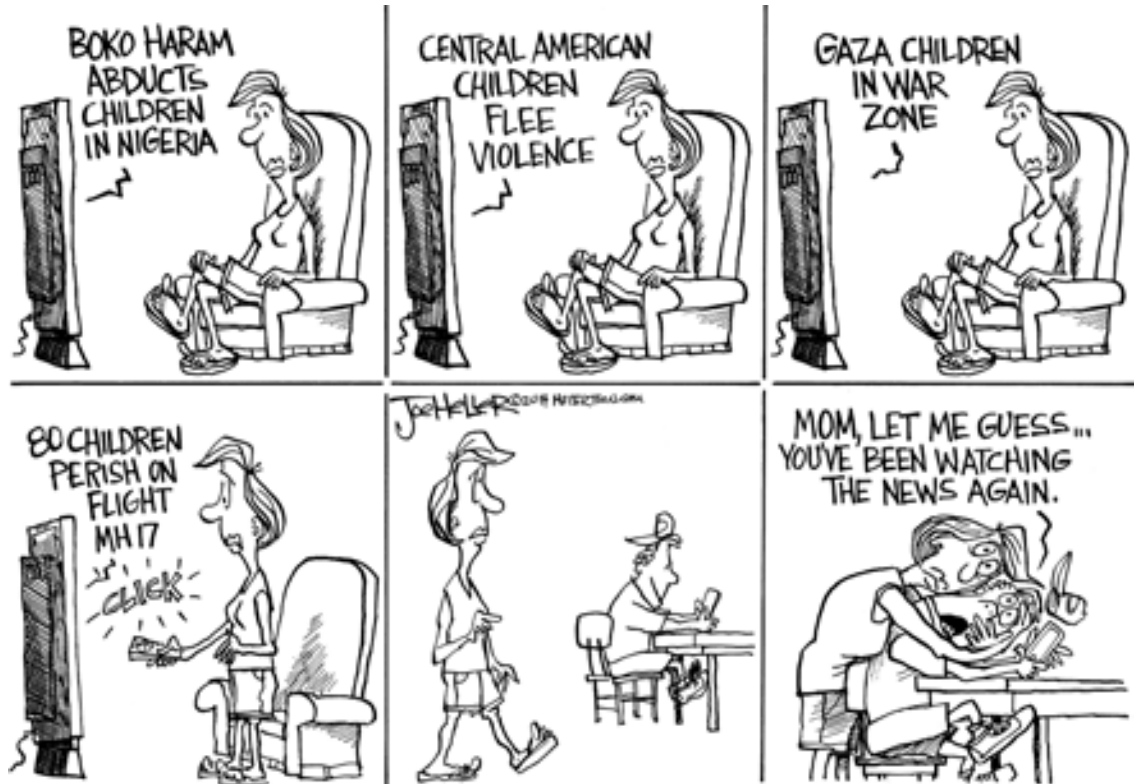
as youth took to the streets and toppled dictators. What is happening in the region now may be a far more impactful social, political, and economic upheaval of the old order, but unlike the mass protests of 2011, this event is not TV-friendly. It might be called the “Great Reshuffling.”

From Libya to Pakistan, much of the Middle East today is experiencing some manner of refugee crisis. Syria is ground zero, with more than 9 million civilians forced from their homes, about a third of whom have fled to neighboring countries. In Lebanon, the refugee population is on its way to representing a full third of the people in the country. The third largest “city” in Jordan now is a refugee camp. Boats full of refugees have ended up in Egypt, North Africa, and even in Europe.

The United Nations recently reported that humanity is having its largest refugee crisis since the end of World War II, with over 50 million people displaced. That figure was from before the ISIS offensive into Iraq that sent hundreds of thousands more into flight. It was from before Pakistan’s military began a sweep of Taliban tribal areas that sent thousands of civilians fleeing into Afghanistan—yes, Afghanistan—for safety.

Militia violence in the failed state of Libya not only led the United States to evacuate its embassy, but has also been literally driving people into the sea. This year the Italian navy has rescued more than 70,000 migrants from vessels prone to capsizing—more than 500 have died.

Part of the reason so many are risking the voyage is that Egypt has worked to discourage any further crossings of its border by refusing assistance and blocking resettlement efforts. A frequent crossroads for displaced persons on the



move, Egypt has been fortifying its borders against refugees from Sudan and, more recently, turning away Palestinians attempting to flee the violence in Gaza.

The difficult part of reporting the plight of 50 million displaced people is that the number is simply too large to comprehend. Figures are good for tracking trends, but may not be the best way to make the average person care about what those data points represent.

Try this, though, as you settle into bed in Emmitsburg, Thurmont, or wherever you are tonight: imagine what sounds would wake you up in the night, what historic and frightening events would have to transpire in the cities and spread unstopably out into the countryside, what breakdown of security and basic services would have to occur that would force you to persuade your family to quickly pack up and leave without anywhere to go. For us it’s the subject of an unpleasant dream that we would try to shake off by returning to our daily routine. At one time this scenario seemed

just as remote to today’s refugees—at least those not born and raised in the camps.

What is the point of raising awareness of refugee crises, though, when there’s really so little any of us can do to solve the problem? Perhaps it is worthwhile if only to facilitate some empathy for the victims of these conflicts. Consider the current flare-up between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is unique as being the only international conflict that doesn’t need an awareness campaign; most people are already too emotionally invested to carry on a polite conversation about it. Sympathies are sharply polarized, while empathy is too often lacking, and that has a real effect on how one understands each side’s actions.

Israelis and Palestinians both feel like refugees within their own borders—geographically constrained, surrounded by unfriendly neighbors, never allowed to feel comfortable or at home. The situation is compounded in Gaza

by humanitarian suffering and a blockade of their borders (it is a region roughly twice the size of D.C., with triple the population, and no easy way to get supplies in or people out). Driven to desperation, they have turned to Hamas, a terrorist organization, as their last hope of improving their condition. The Israeli people are scared too, and decades of violence and endless rocket barages have left their nerves frayed. They rally behind the strong leader who can deliver security quickly, relentlessly, just as Americans did when terrorism came to their shores.

In the end, empathy is not the solution to problems here, much less in the Middle East. But in the space of time between the onset of a problem and the adoption of a pragmatic policy response, it could have an important impact on how we respond when someone shows up seeking refuge in our backyard.

To read past editions of Pure OnSense visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

# Down Under

## Fundamentally flawed

Submitted by Lindsay!  
Melbourne, Australia

*Human beings are perhaps never more frightening than when they are convinced beyond doubt that they are right.*

—Laurens van der Post, “Lost world of the Kalahari,” 1958

One of the most fundamental rights for any citizen anywhere in the world is the right to hold an opinion. It does not matter if the opinion is based on evidence, experience, whimsy, illness, prejudice or foolishness, it is everyone’s right to have one about anything and everything at any time.

We generally treat each other’s opinion with the attention, disdain or nonchalance we feel they deserve. We go ruefully on our way if a trusted, or paid for opinion is no better than junk; after all, experts used to be little drips and there are an awful lot of them around. There are ways to sift the chaff, of course, and most of us who make it through the labyrinth of living to a certain age are gen-

erally wise enough, at least in the things that matter to us. We stop believing in hokum early on, we know that things too good to be true are just that, and recognize the guise of the con.

We also know that two and two equals four, no matter where we are or what we do. Likewise that the earth is round, that water consists of two atoms of hydrogen and one of oxygen and that if we sit in the sun we’ll get hot. These are facts, not opinion, and can be tested over and over, and hold true at all times for all people. Things which indeed no one doubts or argues about, and are just a few of the uncountable number of facts that exist.

Then there are the things that are neither opinion nor fact. They are called beliefs, and are firmly grounded in tradition, culture, writings and teachings, and are generally passed down through society, system, and family. Some beliefs are patently silly—unswerving belief will not win me the lottery—and some are vital: for instance, If we believe we do not need to look after our children, we and they will have a miserable life; If we believe our food will somehow come from heaven

we will surely starve. Beliefs are the fabric of society, for while we may know the facts and have opinions, what we say and do is largely based on the things we believe; these are often told to us by parents, friends, and organisations to which they belong, and, heaven help us, the media.

Many beliefs are by now so entrenched, so powerful and so important in the lives of great numbers of humans that they have become the source of conflict, mass slaughter, hatred and fear. The problem with such viewpoints is that their adherents cannot, or will not admit that differing ideas have merit. This is because many beliefs are not rational, not open to discussion, and are the power bases of their leaders. The most irrational are held by those we call fundamentalists, who believe their teachings are not only directly fundamental to the teachings of their God—or his representative—but are also fundamental to life. They are to be found in most belief systems, but the two most notable are from opposite cultures: Islamists and Christians.

The atrocities in the Middle East and Afghanistan are appalling examples of the first. The two strands of Islam, Sunni and Shia, have been antagonistic to each other for many decades; this has escalated to a terrible degree, and to an outsider the reasons behind it are puerile. To an adherent, however, they are vital, and a

cause for the worst kind of retribution. It has led to the formation of groups that are determined to not only see their own sect become the rulers of the faith, but of all faiths; hatred of everything not toeing the line to their particular version is fostered, all criticism is ignored, all pleas for reason and mercy fall on deaf ears; fear and loathing develop in all who are targeted by them, dismay and anger from everyone else.

This, because they know they are right. It is not opinion, fact, or supposition, to them it is unerring truth taught from childhood, based on tradition and encased in writings that, so far as they are concerned, can have no other interpretation. This is so powerful that Holy wars are being conducted to establish an area in Iraq, Syria and possibly Iran that would see a return to the religious state of a caliphate where only one law has rule, that of an unforgiving God. A Thousand and One Nights gives a romantic view of this old culture, but overlooks Scheherazade’s many unsuccessful predecessors. I do not believe we are ready to return to the days of the Harem, but that’s their aim, among others.

With Islam, the numbers are startling, and scary. It is about to become the religion of 29% of the world’s population. There is no analysis of the number of militant fundamentalists in that per-

centage, but even if it is one in a million, it is still an enormous number. And it is growing as jihadists in there ones and twos join the scourge from every country in the world. Militant Muslim teachings have spread like cancer, silently, unseen, and far more appalling.

I know many Muslims, and find them without exception to be interesting, smart, engaging, and so happy to be here. Many are great people, decrying the way their faith is headed at the behest of militant groups. We did not get to where we are today by trying to annihilate all those who differed with us, or by inducing government to wear blinkers. Aren’t we supposed to love our enemies? That’s something always ignored. No one professing to be Christian has ever done it, making hypocrites of all adherents. At least militant Muslims don’t pretend to love others, but are terrifying because they know they are right. They do not need proof.

Their beliefs are indeed fundamentally flawed and intractable. Our basic goodness, our beliefs in tolerance, love and care must become the counterweight. We are indeed known by our actions, and cannot sit back and hope; that will not ever be enough.

To read past editions of Down Under visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



## THE PASTOR'S DESK

# Sharing story

**Pastor Tracy Wiser**  
**Monocacy Church**  
**of the Brethren**  
**(Rocky Ridge)**

*Truth is more easily welcomed when dressed in story!*

*There is a Jewish teaching entitled "Story" that goes like this –*

*Truth, naked and cold had been turned away from every door in the village.*

*Her nakedness frightened the people. When Parable found her, she was huddled in a corner, shivering and hungry. Taking pity on her, Parable gathered her up and took her home. There, she dressed Truth in story, warmed her and sent her out again.*

*Clothed in story, Truth knocked again at the villager's door and was readily welcomed into the people's houses. They invited her to eat at their table and warm herself by their fire.*

—Annette Simmons,  
 The Story Factor

Jesus was the Master and a master at story telling!

We are still telling his stories and trying to figure out his parables. However, each of us has a story. The story of what has happened in our lives and how God is working in our lives. Your life's story can be summarized into your testimony.

A testimony is a shorten version of what God has done in your life - the evidence of a change of character, conduct or attitude that has happened by the Holy Spirit's work in your life resulting in faith in Him and the value of what it means to you.

The Apostle Paul's "testimony" is found in Acts 26 - his defense before King Herod Agrippa. Truth is more easily welcomed when dressed in story so Saul shares his story of how he came to be Paul - a believer in

Jesus as the Messiah!

Note that he almost convinces his listeners to come to faith too! If you have never taken the time, do put together your testimony in a short paragraph that you can present briefly. Recount what your situation was and how God intervened to bring you to repentance and faith. Include the Gospel in your presentation to share the reason of the hope within. Your story is apart of what God has done and is doing in your life and it can't be refuted. Our stories together make up the history (His-story) of God's loving relationship with people He has created for fellowship.

As Christians, we should as the old hymn title reminds us to "Love to Tell the Story" of Jesus and His love. The Bible also says to let everything be confirmed by two or three witnesses. Your testimony confirms the Word in the hearing of another and can influence others, even many years later.

Last July, I took my youngest son who is a history buff to Gettysburg for the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. It was Sunday, so we stopped first at the tent for worship as an evangelist shared in first person the story of a Jewish surgeon who operated after the battle. It was really the testimony of Charlie the Drummer Boy who expressed his faith in Jesus and prayed for the doctor who operated on him.

Years later that man became a believer as a result of his encounter with the lad who he operated on and faced death bravely while lovingly expressing his faith and desire for others to be saved.

The doctor's conversion happened years later in New York and as he attended a church meeting, a mother mentioned her son named Charlie, who had died in the war and prayed for his doctor to be saved. The doctor stood up and said, "Mam - I am that man who operated on your son and now I believe."

As Rene the Evangelist shared

that story, it touched the hearts of the re-enactors and tourist who happened to be in attendance that humid morning under the tent on the sidewalk not far from where the original incident took place.

As the sweat ran down the speaker's face, he gave an invitation to accept the Christ that Charlie confessed and believed in. Three men in their retirement years raised their hands to receive Jesus as Lord for the first time! The story that day shared the testimony of a little drummer boy who shared his faith many years ago and it still touched three souls in their later years!

Like the Gospel, the most wonderful love story ever told, your story might touch the heart of someone you will never meet on this side of heaven.

God can and might use your testimony to point a person to the Savior and change a life for eternity. Your story doesn't have to be dramatic but it is significant! Let others know of your faith and love for the Lord Jesus Christ and what he means to you. God just might use you and your testimony to touch others.

"Every happening, great and small is a parable whereby God speaks to us, and the art of life is to get the message." - Malcom Muggeridge

Pay attention to the details; recognize the important events in your life. Remember the people God brings across your path and the lessons God has taught you in the process.

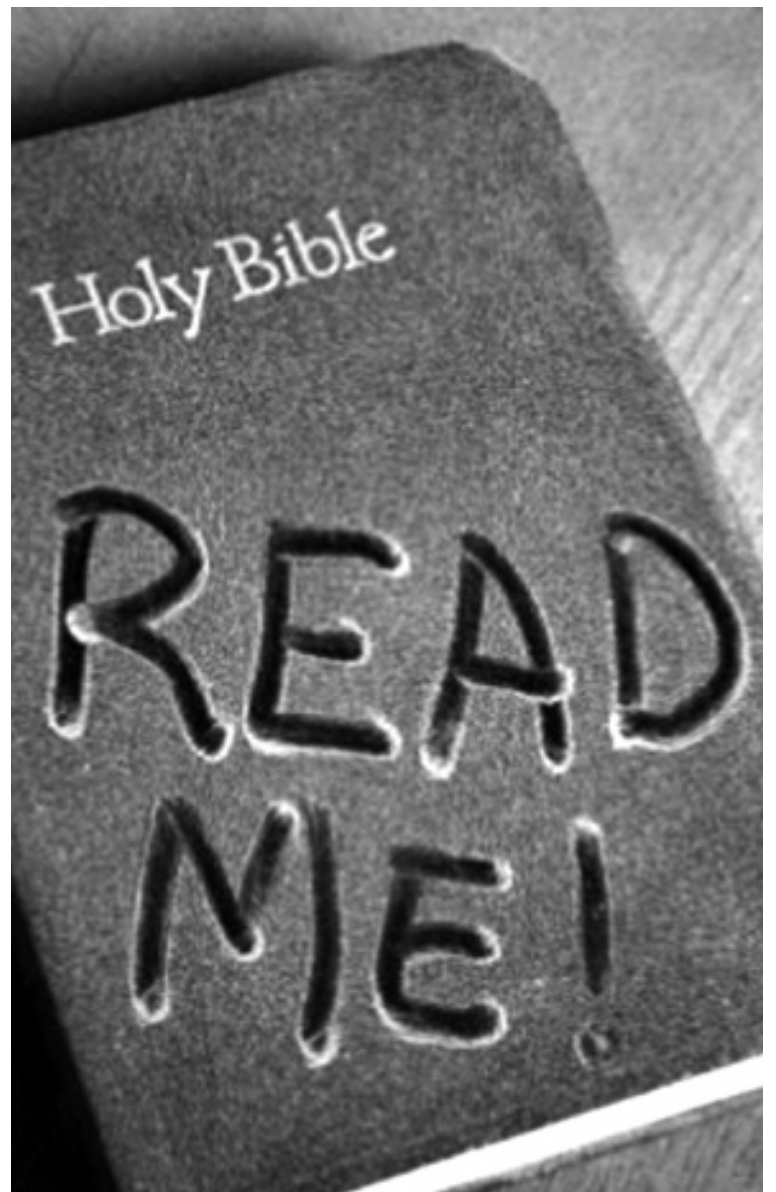
Then share those truths in story form so that the others who God brings into your life or even the next generation will know of His grace, mercy and love in your life.

Your story is significant and can't be refuted.

And pass on the story of Jesus, not just a good story, but The Story of all time. His story - the most significant and irrefutable!

Jesus is Lord - Love to Tell The Story! The Gospel is God's love story to you and me! Remember...

Truth is more easily welcomed when dressed in story!



Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Hunger does not take a vacation in the summer, yet people often forget to make donations to our food bank when the weather is warm. Actually, in the summer families with children need more food since the children are not receiving breakfast and lunch at school. Right now there is a critical need for food and financial assistance at the Thurmont Food Bank.

Today many of the shelves are bare and we can't keep purchasing food at the pace we have been forced to keep up. Our financial resources are at a low point because people think the recession is over, but many people in our area are out of work or cannot work because of poor health, lack of transportation or because they are elderly.

Please start a food collection in your neighborhood, place of business, place of worship, your own home or in your club or organization. Donations can be dropped at the Town Office on Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. or at the Thurmont Food Bank located at St. John's Lutheran Church, 15 North Church Street on Tuesdays from 5-7:30 p.m. or Fridays from 2:30-5:00 p.m. Financial Contributions can be sent to The Thurmont Food Bank, P.O. Box 74, Thurmont, 21788.

Thank you for your much-needed and appreciated support! The Thurmont Food Bank is a place where neighbors help neighbors.

Sincerely,

Pastor Sally Joyner-Giffin, Thurmont Food Bank Coordinator and Members of the Thurmont Ministerium



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# The tenth of August



The 10th of August 1792 is memorable in modern European history, as the day which saw the abolition of the ancient monarchy of France in the person of the unfortunate Louis XVI. The measures entered upon by prince and people for constitutionalising this monarchy had been confounded by a mutual distrust which was almost inevitable. When the leading reformers, and the populace which gave them their strength, found at length that Austria and Prussia were to break in upon them with a reaction, they grew desperate; and the position of the king became seriously dangerous. In our day, such attempts at intervention are discouraged, for we know how apt they are to produce fatal effects. In 1792, there was no such wisdom in the world.

It was at the end of July that the celebrated manifesto announcing the plans of Austria and Prussia reached Paris. The people broke out in fury at the idea of such insulting menaces. Louis himself was in dismay at this manifesto, for it went far beyond anything that he had himself wished or expected. But his people would not believe him. An indescribable madness seized the nation; and 'Death to the aristocrats!' was everywhere the cry.

During the night between the 9th and 10th of August, the tocsin sounded all over Paris, and the rabble were invited to scenes of violence by the more unscrupulous leaders—against the wish of many who would even have gone so far as to dethrone the king. Danton gave out the fearful words: 'We must strike, or be stricken!' Nothing more was needed.

The danger to the royal family being now imminent, numbers of loyal men hastened to the Tuileries with an offer of their swords and lives. There were also at the palace several hundred Swiss Guards, national guards, and gens d'armes. The commandant, Mandat, placed detachments to guard the approaches to the palace as best he could. When, at six o'clock in the morning, the insurgent mob, armed with cannon as well as other weapons, came near the Tuileries, the unfortunate Louis found that none of his troops were trustworthy save the Swiss Guards: the rest betrayed their trust at

the critical moment. A day of horror then commenced.

The lives of the unhappy royal family were placed in such peril, that they were compelled to take refuge within the walls of the Legislative Assembly, hostile as that assembly was to the king. Louis, his queen, and their children walked the short distance from the palace-doors to the assembly-doors; but even in this short distance the king had to bear the jeers and hisses of the populace; while the queen, who was an object of intense national hatred, was met with a torrent of loathsome epithets.

All through the remainder of that distressing day, the royal family remained ignobly cooped up in a reporter's box at the Legislative Assembly, where, without being seen, they had to listen to speeches and resolutions levelled against kingly power in all its forms; for the assembly, though at this moment protecting the king, was on the eve of dethroning him. Meanwhile blood was flowing at the Tuileries. None of the troops remained faithful to the royal cause except the Swiss Guards, who defended the palace with undaunted resolution, and laid more than a thousand of the insurgents in the dust. A young man, destined to world-wide notoriety, Napoleon Bonaparte, who was in the crowd, declared that the Swiss Guards would have gained the day had they been well commanded. But a fatal indecision ruined all.

The poor king was persuaded to send an order to them, commanding them to desist from firing upon 'his faithful people,' as the insurgents were called. The end soon arrived. The rabble forced an entrance into the palace and the Swiss Guards were butchered almost to a man; many of the courtiers and servants were killed while attempting to escape by the windows; some were killed and mutilated after they had leaped from the windows to the ground; while others were slaughtered in the apartments.

This terrible day inaugurated the French Revolution. The king and queen were never again free.

## Napoleon Bonaparte August 15

After all that has been said and written on the subject of Napoleon Bonaparte,

the conclusion is forced upon us, that he had few of the elements in his composition which go to make up the character of a true hero. Of unbounded ambition, perfectly unscrupulous as to the means by which he might accomplish his ends, and tinged throughout by an utter selfishness and regardlessness of others, we can deem him no more entitled to a real and intelligent admiration, than a previous occupant of the French throne, Louis XIV, brilliant in many respects though the reigns of both these men undoubtedly were.

That the first Napoleon was in many ways a benefactor to France, cannot reasonably be denied. By his military and administrative abilities he raised himself to supreme power at a time when the country was emerging from the lawlessness and terrorism to which she had been subjected after the death of Louis XVI. The divided and profligate government of the Directorate had succeeded the anarchy and violence of the leaders of the Convention. Some powerful hand was required as a dictator to hold the reins of state, and arrange in a harmonious and well-adjusted train the various jarring and unstable systems of government. Had he conducted himself with the same prudence as his nephew, the present emperor, he might have died absolute sovereign of France, and the history of that country been written without the narrative of the Restoration of the Bourbons, the Three Days of July 1830, and the Revolution of February 1848. But vaulting ambition with him overleaped itself, and his impetuous self-willed nature, or what he himself used to consider his destiny, drove him headlong to his ruin.

Regardless of the warnings addressed to him by the most sagacious of his counsellors, contemptuously defiant of the coalitions formed to impede his progress, and careless, lastly, of the odium which his tyrannical sway in the end excited among his own subjects, he found himself at length left utterly destitute of resources, and obliged to submit to such terms as his enemies chose to impose. His career presents one of the most melancholy and impressive lessons that history affords. And yet how eagerly would a large portion of the French nation revert to a policy which, in his hands, overwhelmed it only with vexation and disaster!

Napoleon's character may be contemplated in three phases—as a statesman, as a commander, and as a private individual. In the

first of these capacities, he displayed, as regards France, much that was worthy of commendation in point of political and social reform. A vigorous administration of the laws, a simplification of legal ordinances and forms, a wise and tolerating system in religious matters, many important and judicious sanitary measures, the embellishment of the capital, and patronage afforded to art and science, must all be allowed to have been distinguishing attributes of his sway.

But how little did he understand the art of conciliating and securing the allegiance of the countries which he had conquered! A total ignoring of all national predilections and tendencies seems to have been here habitually practised by him, and nowhere was this more conspicuous than in his treatment of Germany. That system of centralization, by which he sought to render Paris the capital of a vast empire, at the expense of the dignity and treasures of other cities and kingdoms, might flatter very sensibly the national vanity of France, but was certain, at the same time, to exasperate the degraded and plundered countries beyond all hopes of forgiveness. And the outrages which he tacitly permitted his troops to exercise on the unfortunate inhabitants, argue ill for the solidity or wisdom of his views as a governor or statesman.

The military genius of Bonaparte has been, and still is, a fruitful theme for discussion. In the early part of his career, he achieved such successes as rendered his name a terror to Europe, and gained for him a prestige which a series of continuous and overwhelming defeats in the latter period of his history was unable to destroy. But in the game of war, results alone can form the criterion, and the victo-

ries of Marengo, of Austerlitz, and of Wagram can scarcely be admitted in compensation for the blunders of the Russian campaign and the overthrow at Waterloo. One qualification, however, of a great general, the capacity of recognising and rewarding merit, in whatever position it might be found, was eminently conspicuous in Napoleon. Favouritism, and the influence of rank or fortune, were almost entirely unknown in his army. Few of his generals could boast much of family descent, and the circumstance that bravery and military talent were certain to receive their due reward in promotion or otherwise, gave every man a personal interest in the triumph of the emperor's arms.

An inquiry into the personal character of Bonaparte exhibits him perhaps in a still less favourable sight than that in which we have hitherto been considering him. Of a cold-blooded and impassible temperament, and engrossed exclusively by the master-passion, ambition, he betrayed no tendencies towards any of those aberrations by which the characters of so many other great men have been stained. But the very cause which kept his moral purity inviolate, rendered him totally insensible to the promptings of love and affection when his interest seemed to require that they should be disregarded. His ruthless abandonment of Josephine is a proof of this. And the insensibility with which he appears to have regarded the sacrifice of myriads of Frenchmen to his lust for power, leads us to form a very low estimate of the kindness or goodness of his heart.

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## THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

# Mayflies in August

Bill Meredith

*"And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life. ...'"* Genesis 1:20.

*"When the wind is in the south, it blows your bait into a fish's mouth."*

—Izaak Walton, *The Compleat Angler*, 1653.

The Editor's deadline was fast approaching, and I was sitting in front of my computer with a completely blank mind and a growing sense of desperation when a barely audible beep informed me that an e-mail message had arrived. It was from my daughter, who shares my love of the odd and arcane aspects of life and often sends me articles from the Minnesota newspapers when such things occur. This time it was a report about a swarm of mayflies that emerged from the upper Mis-

issippi River. There were literally billions of them; they started coming out of the water around 8:30 one morning and continued until nearly ten o'clock that evening, and the air was so full of them that they were mistaken for a rainstorm by the radar at a local weather station. Visibility on local highways was cut nearly to zero, and the roads became slippery from the bodies of the insects. At least one collision, involving three vehicles, occurred.

For the past several decades, mayflies were rarely seen by anyone except ecologists, trout fishermen, and readers of Izaak Walton's 1653 classic, *The Compleat Angler*, but there was a time when most people were aware of them. Back when nearly half of the population still lived in the country and there was no television or air conditioning, we used to spend evenings playing in the yard while our parents sat on the porch; and one of our favorite things to do was to

keep an eye on the window screens. Most of the lights in the house would be off, but there were always a couple of 20-watt lamps left on so we wouldn't trip over things when we came in, and as the dusk deepened an amazing variety of insects would accumulate around any source of light.

In those days the term, "insect," was rarely used; most folks just called them bugs. Window screens and spider webs would be full of them, and we would catch the most colorful or bizarrely shaped ones in Mason jars. Moths were the favorite prizes; they varied from tiny brown "millers" to giant Lunas and *Cecropias*, but there were also hordes of beetles, horseflies, craneflies (which everyone thought were giant mosquitoes), crickets, katydids... and, occasionally, mayflies.

I remember the first one I saw; it was over an inch long, and so beautifully fragile that it looked as if it would fall apart. Unlike the other insects, it did not try to get away; it sat on my finger and allowed me to look at it. I was anxious to see it in daylight, and carefully put it in my jar; but it was dead the next morning. My father had grown up on the bank of Prickett's Creek in the days before it became polluted, and he knew what mayflies were. So my knowledge of insects began early.

In my first college Zoology course, Prof. Davisson began his lecture about mayflies by telling us the word "ephemeral" meant "short-lived." He then explained the irony that while immature mayflies live in streams for one or two years, they are called Ephemeroptera

because the adults of most species live less than a day. They develop wings at their last molt, emerge from the water, mate, lay their eggs, and die. I dutifully made drawings of them and memorized their general features, but it wasn't until I started graduate school that I really got to know them.

At West Virginia University, my major professor was a specialist in the ecological distribution of fish. Although we were in Morgantown, he had somehow become interested in the Roanoke River in Virginia, and every two weeks he took a carload of his students there to collect samples of their populations. He assigned me to study the life cycle and food habits of a minnow called the rosy-faced shiner; it was a small fish, no more than four inches long, and abundant in that area.

In the course of the next two years I examined and dissected some 750 individuals, and determined their age, the numbers of eggs produced, and what they had eaten. It was tedious work, but the result was that most of the food these minnows ate was insects that were caught at the surface of the stream. About 8% of them were adult mayflies. This surprised me, because I knew that the immature mayflies (naiads) were among the most abundant insects in the stream. Where the water flowed rapidly, they lived under rocks; in quiet water, they dug shallow burrows into

the sand or mud. I was amazed to learn that there were over 30 species of fish living in that stream, and they were able to reduce the competition among themselves by living in different zones and eating different things.

My minnow was a "top-feeder;" it stayed up near the surface and fed on small insects that fell into the water from surrounding trees. That included adult mayflies, but not the naiads. Naiads were eaten by other species of fish which stayed near the bottom of the stream. So I finished my Thesis and got my Master's degree. But as I look back on it, I am embarrassed to admit that it was years later before I came to understand that this pattern of dividing the habitat into different zones is the basis of biodiversity, and my work had contributed part of the evidence for why ecosystems are able to support so many different animals and plants.

The recent outbreak of mayflies in Minnesota and Wisconsin provides an interesting case study. The species that live in lakes can reproduce in unbelievable numbers, and in the 19th century when street lights became common in cities like Chicago, the mayflies that emerged each summer would accumulate around lampposts in piles four or five feet high every night.

The old biology books had photos of workers shoveling them into horse-drawn wagons to be carried away; it was noted that if they were not removed every day, the stench of their rotting carcasses became unbearable. But the naiads require clean water, and as lakes and streams became more polluted, their numbers decreased. By the mid-1900s, the great swarms became less common, and disappeared completely in many areas. The general public were not much concerned about losing mayflies, but they did demand clean drinking water, and when Environmentalism became popular in the 1960s and '70s, both local and federal laws began to restrict the release of pollutants into streams.

Today, our streams are not pristine by any means, but progress has been made; pollution levels have dropped, and populations of "indicator species" like mayflies have rebounded in many areas. In recent years several localities in the Midwest have noticed increasing swarms of mayflies; two years ago they came in such numbers that the highway department had to bring out snowplows to clean the roads.

Ecologists don't see many victories, so we like to celebrate when the chance arises. So as soon as I can find the time, I will dig out the fly-tying kit a friend left to me several years ago, and spend an afternoon with it. And if my hands are too unsteady for fly-tying, I can still spend an evening or two with old Izaak Walton. It matters less whether I catch any fish with my ersatz mayflies; it's the thought that counts.

*To read past editions of the Retired Ecologist visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*



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# Butterfly blitz

Tim Iverson  
Naturalist

When you conjure up images of a butterfly you may think of one listlessly flapping its wings and gently gliding through the air, or perhaps it's resting elegantly on a surface nearby. Chances are though the archetype you imagine is one with orange wings and black stripes. That butterfly would be the Monarch Butterfly. This proverbial king of the butterflies once reigned supreme, but troubled times rest at the throne for this regal insect. The Monarch Butterfly has an incredible life cycle and journey every year, and has proven its chops to the natural world through and through.

Monarchs will begin their annual life cycle in their overwintering sites in central Mexico. They spend their winters hibernating in fir forests. In February they'll awaken and shake off that groggy feeling and immediately begin to seek out a suitable mate. Shortly thereafter they'll begin their wayward journey to points north. Some will fly as far north as Canada and the adjacent border states. This will be the first of four generations in a calendar year. Sometime in March or April these butterflies will lay their eggs on milkweed plants in the northern latitudes they've journeyed towards. It will only take a few days for these eggs to hatch and this will begin the second generation.

This newly hatched caterpillar will spend approximately the next two weeks doing nothing but eating milkweed plants and seeking out more milkweeds to eat. Over the course of this time the toxins from the milkweeds will accumulate in the caterpillar causing them to taste foul to would be predators. After this 14 day gluttony binge the corpulent caterpillar will be ready to enter its next stage of development – the chrysalis stage! The caterpillar will attach itself to the plant leaf or stem using silk and transform into a chrysalis. From the outside things seem pretty lackluster, dull, or even stagnant. On the inside, however, there is a whole lot of change going on. Over the next 10 days rapid growth and development is underway! At the end a newly changed insect will emerge as a beautiful butterfly.

This second generation, born in May or June, will begin the process anew and will live its short life over a period of about two to six weeks. The third generation will be born in July or August and will go through the same life cycle and stages as the previous generation, while the fourth will be born in September or October. The fourth generation of the year is unique compared to the previous generations. This final generation will live considerably longer than the second and

third generations. While the second and third live only a few short weeks, this last generation will become the first generation for the next year. Unlike the previous generations that die off after about two months this one can live for six to eight months. This generation is responsible for retracing the route south that their great-great grandparents followed north. They instinctively know to begin moving south when the weather begins to cool, and many even find the very same forests and trees that were used by their very own progenitors. The migratory instinct is poorly understood at the moment. There are a few theories about how it most likely works though.

Scientists believe that Monarch Butterflies, like turtles and birds, possess an inherited geomagnetic compass. This compass relies on the magnetic field generated by the earth which works like a built in GPS to tell them where to go. It is also reported that within their antennae there is a special protein that reacts with UV light emitted from the sun. When the sunlight reaches a certain wavelength it sets off an internal alarm clock that tells them it's time to move south. It's at this point that their internal GPS, aided by the earth's magnetic field, guides them to the overwintering sites that have been used by generations of ancestors before them.

There is some trouble in the kingdom though. All indicators point to steep population decline.

Monarchs historically covered approximately 50 acres worth of fir forests at wintering sites in Mexico. Based on recent research conducted during 2011-2012 winter by the WWF-Telcel Alliance and the Mexican National Commission of Protected Areas it appears a total of nine colonies occupied about seven acres of total forest. A similar study conducted over the 2012-2013 winter showed a sharp decrease of Monarchs occupying just less than 3 acres of total forest. These are drastic decreases, and there are several factors contributing to these heavy losses.

Habitat loss is the leading contributing factor in the sharp drop in population. Milkweed is exclusively what the Monarch caterpillar feeds on. Increased use of pesticides at farms, along roadsides, and at home has taken its toll. Milkweed tends to grow on roadsides, fields, and prairies. Development over decades has destroyed much of this valuable land. The use of new genetically modified crops allows farmers to use new pesticides that have destroyed millions of acres of milkweed.

Another issue causing problems is a plant known as the Black Swallow-Wort. The introduction of this non-native European plant is taking its toll. This plant is a relative of the milkweed, and has similar features which attract Monarchs to lay their eggs on this plant. However, even though it is in the same family it is actually toxic for monarch caterpillars and poison these newly hatched larvae.



They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, but this imposter is wreaking havoc on an already unstable population. These two compounding factors, along with some natural disasters along migratory routes have attributed to the spiraling population size for this royal butterfly.

The alarming rate that this butterfly is disappearing has raised some to action, and you too can rally to the cause. Monarch Watch, based out of the University of Kansas, is a nonprofit education, conservation, and research program that focuses on the monarch butterfly, its habitat, and its spectacular fall migration. They host a citizen scientist project that allows interested people to sign up for population monitoring. They also provide tiny little stickers that are placed on the wings of the butterfly (when done correctly will not cause any harm or detriment to the bug). These stickers allow researchers in Mexico to see where these butterflies are migrating from, and they will update a website so you can see if your butterflies made it all the way there!

Milkweeds are the host plant for the Monarch butterfly and occur naturally throughout the conti-

nent. Planting more of these in our area and yards will greatly increase the likelihood of regional success. By planting areas of milkweeds you can create "way stations" that will provide necessary resources for their long term survival. These habitats can be planted in home gardens, schools, along roadways, and any where there is open and available land. The greater number of way stations that are created and maintained the greater the chance of survival Monarch Butterflies will have.

For most people the quintessential image when we conjure up a butterfly in our heads is the Monarch. With a little help from us it may be able to continue to flutter and fly through the sky, but that will require some leg work from us. Seek out opportunities at state and local parks to get involved and learn about projects that can have a positive impact on our natural world. This kind of the butterflies needs some help to restore the throne, and with some small tangible gestures we just may be able to do so.

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

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## PETS LARGE & SMALL

# Finding the barn...

## The best thing that ever happened to me

Jennifer Vanderau  
Cumberland Valley  
Animal Shelter

For years, I wandered the fields and streets and towns and when I first stumbled upon the big red barn, I hesitated. I've been around enough people to know that not all of them are friendly toward cats. I watched for a while from the perimeter and saw how nice the man was to his horses and his dogs and there were even some other cats already there.

The decision was made for me when the storm hit. I hadn't had a chance to see if I could find any food and the rain was bad. Really bad.

The barn beckoned. I snuck in between the slats and kept a lookout, knowing I could make a dash back outside if I had to. Thankfully, what I found was Eden.

The barn was warm and dry and there was food that someone put in a bowl and fresh water and at first, I couldn't believe what I was seeing.

The other animals welcomed me with open paws and hooves and told me about how great the man and woman were who owned the barn.

It felt like a dream. I was really scared the next day when the man opened the barn door, but some instinct in me told me not to run. I huddled under a shelf and watched as he dished out the food and took care of the horses. He seemed nice; his voice was soft and kind.

I poked my head out for a second and was rewarded with a warm welcome from the man. I took a chance and walked toward him and I've never known such a kind touch. I started purring for the first time in what felt like forever.

It was Nirvana. Over the next few weeks, I acclimated myself to the routine of the barn – feeding times, when the doors were closed for the night, all of it.

I made friends with the other animals and we kind of look out for each other when we can, but no one is more conscientious of us than the man and woman who own the barn. They always have food for us and make sure we're all inside for the night.

Three weeks after I'd first arrived at the barn, I fell asleep one night with a funny feeling in my chest. As I looked around me at the other slumbering

four-legged souls who were safe and locked inside where it was warm and dry, my eyes burned a little and my heart was kind of stuck in my throat.

I'd been on my own for so long, I didn't know it was possible to find a place like this. A place where I could be part of a family.

It was only a few days later that the man brought something for me to wear. A collar with my name and his name on a tag, so that if I was ever lost, I could be returned safely. At first, it felt funny around my neck. I wasn't used to having something against my fur like that, but the thought of what it meant to have it stopped me from trying to take it off myself.

At night, the man – I started to call him dad in my head, but I didn't mention this to any of the other animals because I worried they would think I was being silly or too clingy – would take my collar off when he put us all to bed and he made sure to scratch my neck.

Man, that felt so good. I couldn't help but rub against his hand and purr.

Now I've reached the point where the collar is a source of pride for me. After breakfast in the morning, I make sure to hop up on the counter so dad can put my collar on. It gives me a warm feeling in my belly to have it around my neck because it means I'm my dad's boy. It means that someone cares.

When I make my rounds in the fields, I sometimes see other cats on the edges of the property. They look like I used to – scared, hungry, alone.

I feel bad for them, but I learned the hard way not to make contact unless they want it. They can get pretty territorial and mean. I try to tell them what it can be like, but they're too afraid to really hear me.

I know they sometimes look at my collar when I'm near enough for them to see. At first, their expression is curious, but once they realize what it means, I can tell they're a little jealous.

I walk different now. I know this. I feel more confident, more sure of myself. Especially when I have my collar on.



The transition from living outside in the cold to calling the barn a home has been much to the liking of Will Weaton.

I know it's because dad made that commitment to me. I never had anyone do that for me before and it makes me proud.

Proud to wear it, proud to be his, proud that he took me in and saw something in me no one else did.

It all changed for me when I took a chance and stepped into the barn. Now, when I go to sleep at night, warm and safe and with a full belly, I know how lucky I am that dad made the effort to help me.

With every click of the collar around my neck, I think how nice it is to be

long to someone and finally have a place to call home.

Jennifer Vanderau is the Director of Communications for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter, Chambersburg, Pa., and can be reached at [cvasoc@innernet.net](mailto:cvasoc@innernet.net).

The shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at (717) 263-5791 or visit the website [www.cvas-pets.org](http://www.cvas-pets.org). CVAS also operates thrift stores in Chambersburg and Shippensburg. Help support the animals at the shelter by donating to or shopping at the stores.



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For more about adopting Felix contact the Adams County SPCA/Meyers Animal Shelter at 717-334-8876 or visit [www.adamscountyspca.org](http://www.adamscountyspca.org)



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## PETS LARGE &amp; SMALL

# Buying the perfect horse

Kimberly Brokaw, DVM

One of the biggest challenges for a rider is finding the perfect horse. For starters, the perfect horse doesn't exist and if it did exist you can bet that it wouldn't be for sale. Hence, your average sales horse has some degree of lameness or a temperament issue. The challenge is determining if the temperament issue is too much for the rider or if the horse is too lame for the rider's goals. Like many things in life, horse ownership is about compromise and in what aspects you are willing to compromise.

When deciding to go purchase a horse, the rider should have clear expectations of what they want. There is room to compromise later but at least initially; you should know what you are looking for. It will save you time and sometimes prevent you from being injured. One client told me that when they were horse shopping they would always ride every horse they looked at. I told them that was a bad idea. If you are shopping for a kid safe horse and when you show up to look at the horse, if it is rearing and striking in the stall, don't waste your time riding the horse. Even if the horse rides beautifully and is calm and quiet under saddle, his stable vices make him unsafe for a kid.

I currently have two clients who are very actively seeking horses. One client is an experienced event rider. He can train horses and is willing to deal with a bit more spunk and excitability than the average person. However, he is not willing to compromise on soundness



If a horse doesn't make you say, "Wow!" when you see it for the first time, it's probably not the right horse for you. "Wow" horses will wow you every time you sit on them, no matter how many times you sit on them.

and athleticism. So while he doesn't want one that is rearing in the stall, if the horse is sound and a talented jumper he would compromise if it was a little spooky. While one would think this would be an easy horse to find, he has been looking for months with no luck. In fact we haven't even made it to the pre-purchase phase where I get to tell him that the horse he thought was perfect, is in fact lame.

While lameness is going to be a deal breaker for my eventing client, my second client would consider a lame horse depending on how lame the horse is. A little bit of hock arthritis or a touch of heaves (COPD) wouldn't be a problem for this buyer. Even with being willing to compromise on soundness, she is still going to have difficulty finding her ideal horse. She is looking for a dual-purpose horse. This horse needs to be for a child who is just learning to ride

as well as be suitable for guests to ride. The guest horse is usually similar to the child's horse in that a quiet calm and sweet disposition is essential. Smooth gaits would also be desirable for both a kids pony and a guest horse. However, the size of the horse is in conflict. Children tend to do well on ponies simply due the better size ratio. Guest horses usually need to be larger to accommodate riders of varying heights.

Think carefully about what health or management issues you can tolerate. If you buy that calm, experienced, 20 year old pony for your 6-year-old child, you may have to give or have the vet out to give injections of joint medications to keep that pony sound. If you have your heart set on an appaloosa with beautifully spotted markings, remember that they have an increased incidence of uveitis/eye problems and blindness. That lovely Impressive line quarter horse should have been checked to be sure there is no HYPP muscle disease in his line. Talk with

your vet and get a good pre-purchase exam so you can review the potential health problems of your possible purchase. If you buy a horse who wears special shoes, make sure you have a farrier who does therapeutic shoeing, or that you are willing to trailer to Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center or another therapeutic farrier, every 5 weeks.

Have a trainer or experienced horse person evaluate the horse for you. As a vet, I can tell you about health problems. A trainer can tell you that the horse will likely be able to do the discipline that you want. If you buy a Tennessee Walker and expect him to do dressage and upper level eventing, you may be disappointed. Think about how versatile the horse needs to be and get the trainer's opinion on versatility. If you want to do long quiet trail rides, do some eventing, and also ride on a polocrosse team, you need to find a very versatile horse. My family had an Irish Draught Sport Horse who did those three disciplines. It is an unusual horse who will pack 2 kids, double bareback, down for a swim in the river on one day, event the next day, and do a polocrosse match that weekend. He came to my family because he was a terrible foxhunter, and had been purchased by his previous owner for foxhunting.

Knowing what you are looking for is just the start of finding a horse. There are multiple websites listing horses for sale. You can search by zipcode, bloodlines, style of riding, and appearance of the horse. You can gain a lot of information in reading the ads. While the seller isn't ever going to describe their horse as being "lame with a strong desire to bite and kick," they will use code words

that can help the buyer decide if they should go look at the horse. "Strong at times" tends to mean he has run off with a rider who was unable to make the horse stop. Other phrases such as "needs a confident rider" also tend to mean the horse is a bit spooky or strong. Omissions in the ad can also be informative. If the only thing listed is a physical description of the horse and nothing about temperament, he's probably not very nice. Same thing applies if the ad doesn't mention if the horse has any training, whether it be trails, dressage, jumping, or cow cutting.

After you have read through the advertisements and picked a horse that looks nice, contact the seller and ask about the things that are important to you. If the horse has to be breed registered, then ask that before you waste the seller's time by looking at the horse if it's not registered.

Seeing the horse and riding is, in my mind, essential. I've known several people who have bought horses sight unseen. While it has worked out really well for a couple of clients, the majority have regretted that choice. I tend to be forgiving if a seller cancels an appointment to see a horse because of lameness. Horses step on rocks, get bruises and abscesses that can temporarily make them lame. However, if I show up to ride the horse and the seller then "discovers" the horse is lame, I'm less forgiving. I tend to be suspicious that the horse is always lame or this is an ongoing issue and that is why they didn't cancel our appointment. The same goes for behavior issues on the test ride. Maybe the horse is being the worst behaved he's ever been in his life. However, if that is too much horse for the rider to handle, then don't buy the horse. You need to be able to handle the horse at his worst even if that only happens a couple times per year.

Buying a horse is a challenge. I strongly recommend that people take their time when purchasing a horse. A lame horse that's dangerous and kicks needs farrier, vet care, and hay and grain just like a calm and kind horse. If you're going to be spending money on a horse, it may as well be on a nice one that you can enjoy riding.

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

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Bugs in the garden

**Mary Ann Ryan**  
**Master of Bad Bug Management**

Are the Japanese beetles driving you crazy? I think I've picked off more beetles on plants this year than I have for the past several years. They cause the leaves of plants to look like lace...not the best conditions for a plant that needs to photosynthesize.

What can you do about these nasty beetles? Let's first review the life cycle. As with any insect problem, it's important to understand how they grow: when they feed, mate, lay eggs and overwinter. In the case of the Japanese beetle, they overwinter as grubs, the larval stage of the beetle. They make their way to the surface in May and feed on grass roots until they emerge as the adult beetle in late June through July. At that point, they feed on about 300 different host plants, from roses and hibiscus, to apple trees and birch.

The adults will feed and mate for about a month, then lay 40 - 60 eggs in the soils.

In about 10-12 days, the eggs will hatch into tiny larvae, or grubs. They will feed on the grass until late September. When the temperatures begin to cool, the larvae (grubs) will bury deeper into the soil to overwinter. Then when the temperatures warm again in the spring, the cycle begins all over.

Knowing this cycle gives us a good idea about how to control these insects. Right now we're concerned about the flowers, shrubs and trees as the adults keep chewing and chewing and chewing. Hand picking is the most environmentally friendly way of controlling the beetle. Drop them into a bucket with a soapy solution and you'll greatly reduce the population. This should be done as soon as you begin to see the beetles.

If this isn't an option for you, some pesticides that can be used are Carbaryl, Malathion, and Rotenone. When using pesticides, always read the label prior to applying and follow the label's recommendations. Don't overuse or over-mix the pesticides.

As we move into August, we are entering the tail end of the adults. Our next line of defense for Japanese beetles is to control the larvae. Remember the adults are laying there eggs throughout July, so the best time to control these critters is late July through August, as the larvae hatch and begin feeding on the turf. An interesting thing to note: if you are in a dry spell and the ground is hard when the beetles are laying eggs, the chances of a high grub population are reduced. In contrast, if there is plenty of rain at the time the eggs are laid, the grub population will increase.

There are many options when controlling grubs at their earliest stage. If you want to use chemicals, Carbaryl, Malathion and Rotenone can be applied. Always read the label when using these and all pesticides.

If you are looking to use a more "natural" method of control, nematodes and milky spore are two options. Nematodes are microscopic worms that feed on the Japanese beetle grubs. These are alive, so are typically shipped and must be used immediately. These can be found through biological mail order catalogs.

Milky spore is a bacterium that as the grubs ingest. The spores ruin their grub's stomach and



**Soldier Beetle**

then enters the blood stream. As the grub dies, the spores are dispersed throughout the soil, increasing the amount of spores. As far as control of grubs, instant depletion of the larvae will not happen as the spores need to build up in the soils. But as the years go on, grub control will be successful. The use of milky spore works best when communities use this as a control measure. The idea is to get the spores built up in the soils so as the adult beetles lay the eggs and the larvae hatch, they will feed and die.

Whether using chemical or biological controls, application rates and how to's are listed on the labels. Also on the labels are things like disposal, first aide, and other important information. Remember whether it's chemical or organ-

ic, it's still a pesticide as it is killing an insect, so caution is important when using.

Four-Lined Plant Bugs has also been an issue this year and last. These little bugs will suck plant juices from the leaves and leave sunken brown spots. In heavy feeding, the bugs can cause distortion of the leaves causing cupping and crumpling. The Four-Lined Plant Bugs has one generation per year, however, other plant bugs may have up to four generations per year.

Four-Lined Plant Bugs will overwinter as eggs that have been inserted in the plant tissue. The nymphs will hatch in April through early May and then turn to adults by late May through early June. They feed as nymphs and adults. They will feed for about a month, mate, lay eggs then die.

To control these pests, spraying with summer oil or insecticidal soap has proven successful. Begin application as soon as you see any damage to reduce the amount of potential adults. Be sure to dispose of fallen leaves and dead branches in the fall to reduce the overwintering habitat of the four lined plant bug. The plant parts that are cleaned up should be composted or disposed of.

On a positive note, the Firefly, or lightning bug, is a common insect found, or should I say "seen" in the summer. This is a beetle, not a fly or a bug. They cause no damage to our plants, but put on a great light show in the summer.

The Firefly will lay up to 500 eggs in damp soil in late summer. The larvae will hatch in about a month and will feed on worms and slugs for one to three years! It then goes into the pupa stage and will emerge as an adult in late June - early July. These insects are fascinating and wonderful to watch as they use their "lights" as adults to signal from one to another. Both male and female light up. The males are typically the ones flying around flashing their lights to attract a female. She is usually sitting, watching for a light that

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Small Town Gardener A garden is only as good as the cook

Marianne Willburn

Back in the early days of planting my last garden – a garden I would live with for the next ten years – I wanted thick growth, fast. There was an oasis to be created and patience was in short-supply. Consequently, choices were made that every gardener has made before me, and that each has lived to regret. Many years later, the reversal of these decisions made for many days of hard work, made harder by the fact that I was solely responsible for my back-breaking misery.

However, at the time I couldn't be told. I couldn't be told by the books, by the websites, by gardener friends who had committed the same crimes in the past. Not one of them understood my particular garden and my particular needs. Well, it turns out, they did. Some truths are universal; but like learning not to date the impossibly gorgeous guy with a vintage Karmann Ghia, can only be learned with age.

I in turn have tried to counsel others in smarter planting patterns, and predictably have met with the same resistance. I do not push the issue. We all have our road to walk, and the hardest learned lessons are perhaps the most valuable. But now when I talk with someone considering the absolute wrong plants for their garden, I take a different approach. I ask them to wait a year.

A year is not a long time in the life of a garden. Sure, it's an age-an-a-half when you are trying to potty-train your two-year old, or recovering from a horseback accident, or waiting for your hair to grow back after an unfortunate shearing – but in a place that has seen hundreds of seasons and hundreds of caretakers, it is laughably short.

With Type B gardeners, I am usually successful. They really didn't want to do anything anyway right now, and it's hot outside, and oh, is that a black widow under that shrub? – you know

I'm horribly allergic, and etc...etc...etc... I don't have to say much to convince them that it's a good idea to live with the space for a year and make big decisions when they understand the terrain better. The fact that they might never get back out to the terrain again is neither here nor there, but at least I've stopped them from putting in a fifty foot Norway maple right on the property line.

The Type A's are a bit more difficult to convince, but I have an edge. I understand the personality type, having suffered by it all my life. Distraction is key. So, as we discuss the fifty-foot

privacy hedge of Leyland Cypress running up the line of their property and under the power lines, I need only point out that the corner of their lot would be a great place for a cute cedar shake shed with shutters and window boxes, and hey, lumber's on sale by the way, and wow, if you planted a couple Pink Drift roses on either side of the door...etc...etc...etc...

By the time they finish that project, it's winter, there's no digging possible and they have a season to watch the neighbors' deteriorating Leyland and realize what snow, wind and ice does to a twenty-foot monster with impossible lateral growth. Result.

Take your time, live with your space. Watch the patterns of the sun on the house, on the back yard...on the deck. Figure out where your wet spots are and where it's dry more often than not. You may need some privacy on the west side, but not the entire west side. You may want a wind break on the east side, and a break from neighbors on the north.

And then there are the plants that are already in situ. Trees you may think an anathema might just be doing a bit of good. Moving into a house and immediately cutting down a fully laden fig tree because you "needed a lawn" will only tick off neighbors who wanted to beg a few figs in September. Live with it a year and come August next you might just be praising the last owner who thought to bring a bit of Italy to the mediocrity of the American suburbs.

When you are weak, and your soul cries out to plant and damn the consequences, remember Prufrock, and the line I love to quote more than any other: "...there is time for decisions and revisions which a minute will reverse." After ten years, only a weary back reversed some of the dumb decisions I made.



Four-Lined Beetle

she likes. Once she finds that pattern that turns her on, she'll begin flashing as well so the male can find her. Then the life cycle starts all over again.

Another beneficial insect is the Soldier Beetle. It is considered beneficial because the larvae feed on eggs and larvae of other bad insects. The adult will feed on aphids and other soft bodied insects. Their main diet as adults being nectar and pollen.

These beetles overwinter as pupae in the soil. They turn into beetles in early summer and mate. The eggs are laid in the soil where, after hatching, the larvae begin to feed for up to a year on other insect larvae and eggs. It's very easy to spot a Soldier Beetle when checking out the goldenrod. They tend to

hang out in the flowers waiting for mate. While waiting, they may take in some nectar and pollen, making them good pollinators.

These are four very common insects we will see this time of year. These can be found on many different species of plants, and knowing life cycles and what the damage, or not damage, they do to plants will increase our effectiveness of pesticide usage. We will have better control of the bad bugs because we are using the pesticides at the right time to control a particular problem and have a better appreciation of the good bugs that require no control at all.

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



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## CIVIL WAR

# The Battle of Fort Stevens

John A. Miller  
Emmitsburg Historical Society  
Civil War Historian

Two hundred years ago, on August 24, 1814, the battle of Bladensburg erupted as British troops under the command of Major General Robert Ross engaged the American forces. Once he drove off the American army led by Brigadier General William Winder, the road to Washington was open. That same day, Maj. Gen. Ross and the British army occupied the American capital, and began to set fire to the city. By August 26, the British army moved out of Washington. For the first time in American history, an enemy force had taken Washington. Fast forward to July of 1864, almost fifty years to the day, it looked as if another enemy force would do the same.

After a temporary delay along the banks of Monocacy River the day before, Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early led his army down the Georgetown Pike early in the morning on July 10. As Brigadier General John McCausland cleared the way for the Confederate army, he ran into resistance at Rockville, skirmishing with Union cavalry. The Confederate army had marched with-

in four miles of Rockville in the unbearable summer heat. By the time the men laid down for the night, the temperature was still holding in the 80's.

Meanwhile near Fort Stevens, Company K, 150th Ohio National Guard was on picket duty during the night. They watched as civilians fled for safety in the advance of the Confederate army. By dawn of July 11, the landscape became silent and empty. Washington was not prepared for what was coming, similar to the situation in 1814. Most of the Union troops that were there defending the city were sent to Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant in Virginia. By 9:00 a.m. civilians and quartermaster officers, along with militia were reporting for duty. The Veteran Corps was enacted and reported for duty. Soon thousands of men began preparing to meet the Confederate army. Lieutenant General Grant also sent reinforcements to Washington, which consisted of the VI Corps and a portion of the XIX Corps. They boarded steamers and headed for the capital city.

Brigadier General John Imboden's brigade moved in the advance of the Confederate army with Major General Robert Rodes' division taking 7th Street Road from Rockville. Major General John C. Breckenridge



President Lincoln visits Fort Stevens during a Confederate attack, July 12, 1864.

brought up the rear of the Confederate army. Brigadier General McCausland continued his movement down the Georgetown Pike, headed toward Fort Reno and Fort De Russy. Brigadier General William Jackson's cavalry brigade was positioned between the 7th Street Road and Rockville Road.

By noon, the main body of the Confederate army was in Silver Spring. Between the forced marches of the campaign and the summer heat, the Confederate ranks were fatigued. Lieutenant General Early sat upon his horse urging his men forward without delay. To make matters worse, the Union cavalry had formed another skirmish line across the Rockville Pike, and skirmishing continued throughout the day.

Upon seeing the first Confederate soldier in the distance, the Ohioans quickly moved to the safety of Fort Stevens, firing at the Confederates. Skirmishing quickly broke out along the rifle pits, as the 62nd Virginia Mounted Infantry was fully in view. The Confederate sharpshooters quickly went to work, engaging the picket line. By 1:00 p.m., portions of the 2nd District of Columbia Volunteers and the 25th New York Cavalry formed the skirmish line in front of Fort Stevens. Artillery from nearby Fort De Russy opened on the Confederate line, in support of the skirmish in front of Fort Stevens. Soon, Union reinforcements from nearby Camp Stoneman arrived and deployed in a line of battle. After a half an hour, the Confederate line began falling back. Lieutenant General

Early delayed a major attack until he could see if the defenses were fully operational with Union reinforcements.

By 3:00 p.m., Maj. Gen. Rodes was ordered to take his division and advance on Fort Stevens, probing the defenses. Confederate artillery came up on his right and deployed in support of the attack. Confederate sharpshooters took up position in several of the buildings in front of Fort Stevens and Fort De Russy. The 9th Veteran Corp was ordered to relieve the dismounted skirmishers of the 25th New York Cavalry. The Union XXII Corps and the Department of Washington were among the front line of defenders during the attack. Heavy and siege artillery began to fire from the nearby ring of forts that were in range of the Confederate army.

Skirmishing was kept up during the evening and into the night. As darkness fell upon the battlefield, the fighting got intense. Flashes of musketry illuminated the ground for a second or two. While, the Confederates kept on through the night, Lt. Gen. Early decided to hold a council of war with his commanders to decide their next move, and what options they had. The Confederate army was tired, as the summer heat took a toll on the men. The decision was tabled until daylight the next morning. During the night, Lt. Gen. Early received word from Brigadier General Bradley T. Johnson, who was outside of Baltimore, about two Union corps coming to reinforce the defenses of Washington.

During the night, Fort Stevens was reinforced by civilian contractors and other troops arrived, ready to go work the next day in the defense of the city. Veteran troops who were sent up from Virginia also began taking their positions. The Confederate high command would be faced with a major decision come daylight, as to whether they should attack Fort Stevens.

As dawn lightens the battlefield on July 12, hopes of taking Washington quickly faded. For Lt. Gen. Early, realized that his army was at the high water mark of the campaign. With additional reinforcements of Union soldiers, came the realization that if the Confederate army got into a situation that turned for the worse, Lt. Gen. Early had no reinforcements of his own to come to his aid. Lieutenant General Early decided not to launch an all out assault. Instead he would maintain a defensive position and wait till nightfall to begin withdrawing from Fort Stevens. Lieutenant General Early would keep the pressure on the Union defenders with skirmishers and sharpshooters.

Major General Rodes and Major General John Gordon would deploy their divisions to cover the retreat that would later come. During the morning, the artillery at Fort Stevens and Fort De Russy opened on the Confederate skirmishers but no Confederate attack came. The morning was spent with sharpshooters and artillery.

By noon, President Lincoln, his wife, and Secretary of War Edwin Stanton took a carriage ride to Fort Stevens for observation purposes. As President Lincoln watched, a minie ball hit the parapet, and then struck surgeon Crawford standing next him. Major General Horatio Wright, commander of the Department of Washington was there and quickly ordered Lincoln off the parapet. Other men were also telling Lincoln to get to safety. Later in life, Captain Oliver Holmes claimed to have yelled "Get down you fool!" to Lincoln.

To be continued next month

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# THE GREAT WORLD WAR

## Europe divides

**August 14**  
 Now that the great European clash has finally begun, and the various nations are at each other's throats, it is interesting to note the motives they have for taking the different sides in the struggle.

All of Europe is divided into two armed alliances, the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente. The Triple Alliance was formed in 1883 between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy for the purposes of checking encroachments by Russia and France. The three powers are bound to support one another in certain contingencies.

The exact provisions of the alliance have not been divulged, but are said to have been modified as between France and Italy in 1893. In 1902 and in 1907 the agreement was renewed for certain periods, and the last annual extension ended on June 14, 1914. For many years Great Britain, though not a party to the alliance, was closely linked to it through apprehension of French and Russian aggressiveness, but later, becoming disquieted by the growth of German naval power, adopted in 1902, a decided change of policy with a view to seeking in the balance of power greater security against invasion. In pursuance of this policy Great Britain entered into an agreement with France in 1904 and with Russia in 1907.

In both the forces of land and sea, as far as numbers go, the Triple Entente would seem to have a considerable advantage. The Army exceeds that of the Alliance by one million men, while its fleet in ships, tonnage, armament and number of men exceeds the naval strength of the Alliance. This is especially true since Italy has preferred to disregard her part in the Alliance, and has so far refused to be drawn into the conflict. To some extent however, this advantage in numbers is offset by the splendid German fighting machine, which is conceded to be the best in the world in training and equipment.

### War Dispatches

On Saturday, the most prominent bankers of Europe headed by the Rothschilds, announced that they would refuse to finance a general European war. It was authoritatively stated that President Wilson would pursue a course of absolute non-interference in the European war crisis. Germany and Russia severed diplomatic relations.

On Sunday, Russia began the invasion of German territory of Schwinden.

On Monday, Germany appealed to Great Britain to remain neutral in European struggle. That same day German troops captured three Polish cities near the Russian frontier. The advance guard of the French army repulsed the Germans near Petit Croix.

On Tuesday, Great Britain declared war on Germany for not observing the Belgians neutrality. The English House of Commons voted \$525 million for emergency purposes. President Wilson formally proclaimed the neutrality of the United States.

On Wednesday, the German Embassy at St. Petersburg, Russia, was wrecked, and bonfire made of the fur-

niture and pictures by an angry crowd. The police prevented the mob from fire in the building. An attempt was also made to destroy the Austrian Embassy but that building was too strongly guarded. Several thousand Germans were killed or wounded in their attack on Liege, according to a cable from Brussels. President Wilson has offered his good offices to all European powers and has sent a message to that effect.

### August 14 Causes of the War

Questions are being asked concerning the great European conflict now being waged—a devastating conflict greater than the world has ever before witness. By consensus of opinion, it is believed that the German Kaiser sought war; eager for war for years past, he has been quietly preparing for it - waiting for a pretext, no matter how flimsy. Why? To carry out the aim of Germanizing everything; to prevent the advancement of political reforms; to express by the cannon's mouth its hatred of the Slavs.

There is no other realm in the world that is so mixed and diverse a composition as Austria. That is true of its political divisions as well as of its population. It consists of 17 states. Each of the 17 states has its own local legislature. These bodies elected for six years, meeting yearly and legislate like American state legislatures on all matters not specifically reserved for the Imperial Parliament. They control taxation, education and public works.

The total population of the Austrian Empire is 29 million, of which 9.5 million are Germans, and the rest Slavs or Italians. Thus the Slavs, with whom the empire is fighting, form an overwhelming majority in the empire. Why, then, it may be asked, do they not rule the empire instead of permitting the German minority to do so?

The answer is found largely in the fact that the Slavs are subdivided into a number of tribes, between which there is little cooperation and not much sympathy. First of all they are divided into two great classes, the Northern and Southern. The former comprise the Czechs, the Ruthenians, the Poles and the Slovaks. The southern

Slavs comprise the Serbs, the Croats, and the Slovenes. Thus there are the six distinct divisions of Slavs, and while together they outnumber the Germans about two to one, not one of the divisions comes anywhere as near to equaling the Germans. The Germans, therefore, while they are in the minority, form a strong plurality, and have been able to maintain their control over the Slavic tribes.

Within the last generation, the Slavs have come forward to be fully the equals of the Germans in education and prosperity, so that for the latter to look down upon them as inferiors has become absurd. It was this realization that led the late Archduke Ferdinand to contemplate transforming the empire into a federation, in which the Slav states would have equal rank with the Germans. But with his death that design perished, and the empire is now under the control of those who deem it the divine right of the Germans to lord it over all others.

### War Dispatches

On Thursday, Belgium reportedly repulsed German invaders in a severe battle near Liege.

On Friday, in the reply to another demand for aid made by Germany, Italy emphatically reaffirmed its neutrality. That same day Germany began the invasion of Russia with an army of 40,000 men supported by artillery and cavalry.

On Saturday, French troops invading Alsace-Lorraine won the first victory of the war in a light engagement near the frontier.

On Sunday, it was reported that Germany had taken Liege. The Belgians lost 24 guns, 5,000 men and one general. That same day Russia began the invasion of Austria with an army of 50,000 men. On the approach of a large French army, the Germans evacuated the greater part of Luxembourg.

On Monday, 600 Germans were reported to have been arrested as spies in Belgium. Austria ceased its invasion of Serbia and began defensive tactics. German losses at Liege amounted to 8,000 men killed and 1,700 captured. The German liner Kron Wilhelm was captured by the British cruiser Essex.



### August 21 War Dispatches

On Sunday, the first sentence of death by a French court martial in the present war was announced today. It was pronounced on a French tradesman. It was proved that he sent reports on aviation, on the defense of the country and on the wireless telegraph stations on the Eiffel Tower to a French secret service agent, believing him to be a German spy.

On Monday, Japan sent an ultimatum to Germany demanding the withdrawal of German warships from the Orient and evacuation of Kiauchau and giving Germany until Sunday, August 23, to comply with the demands. Otherwise, the ultimatums stated Japan would take action.

On Tuesday, more than 1,600 passengers, most of them Americans, who scurried out of Europe at the outbreak of hostilities, reached New York today on the Cunard Liner La-

cona. 2,500 Americans are waiting in Italy for transportation home and another 5,000 have been evacuated to Switzerland.

On Thursday, what is thought to be the beginning of the first big battle was indicated in a Brussels' dispatch to London: "A fierce battle is in progress between Belgians and Germans along an extended front. Large numbers of refugees are arriving from the front."

### August 28 War Dispatches

On Tuesday, the city of Brussels paid \$4 million towards a war indemnity of \$40 million demanded of that city by the Germans. Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria reported to be dying, issued a decree ordering Vienna to prepare for siege.

On Thursday, the German steamship, Kaiser Wilhelm Grosse was sunk off the west coast of Africa by the British cruiser High Flyer.

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## HISTORY

# The history of Catoctin National Park

Edmund Wehrle

Part 4

## War and Industry on the Mountain

In 1841, The Baltimore Phoenix and Budget carried a long article reflecting on a half-century of change having occurred in the shadow of the Catoctin mountains. The piece began by recalling the idyllic state of the mountain and environs in the late eighteenth century: "At that period . . . almost uninterrupted forest; and game of various descriptions. . . the frightful shrieks of the howling wolf were heard at night." But "a few years brought the woodman's axe in fearful conflict with the mighty oak that had withstood the blasts of many winter, and the majestic trees whose towering height almost pierced the clouds all were laid low." By the early nineteenth century, explained the author: "Now how changed the scene! The p'ough is seen gliding o'er the horizontal plain, attached to furious steeds, and the husbandman is heard merrily whistling, as the chargers fling the foam--now the clank of busy mechanic, and the rattling of chariot-wheels, and the hum of business are always heard." The once peaceable

mountains, according to the writer, had changed forever.

This chapter covers the evolution of the area, later to become Catoctin Mountain Park. It carries the story through a time of tumultuous change--from the time of the American Revolution through to the 1830s. While the region remained primarily agricultural, industry, in the form of the iron works, increasingly changed the face of the area both environmentally and socially. To the already diverse Catoctin population was added a new group--African slaves who worked in the furnace. Their work was often brutally hard. But industrial slavery at Catoctin appears to have been a fundamentally different experience from the plantation slavery also practiced at the time.

### Forging a Revolution

In 1775, a band of western Marylanders, led by Michael Cresap, marched off to join their colonial brothers under siege in Boston. This was not unexpected. Most residents of the upper Monocacy and Catoctin region were strong supporters of the movement for American independence. The English-descended elites in the region had plenty of reason to resent their colonial overlords. Many were in debt. Others were angered by high taxes. Still

others were beset by the mercantile regulations imposed by the British Parliament that circumscribed their businesses. Nor did the Germans in the area have any great allegiance to Great Britain. Many had come to America to escape religious persecution, and efforts to tighten imperial control did not sit well with a population that prized religious and political freedom. Rumors freely circulated that the British planned to impose Church of England practices on all dissenters. Likewise, the Germans--barred by colonial law from voting--felt alienated from the civic life of the region.

Many in the Catoctin area contributed both materially and with their lives to the American cause. Unlike the previous French and Indian War and the future Civil War, there was to be no fighting in the immediate Catoctin vicinity. Nevertheless, western Marylanders volunteered in large numbers to aid the new nation's cause. With an estimated 130,000 colonists of German origin, the continental army organized special German regiments. Most members of the special force came from Maryland and Pennsylvania. German regiment officers were bilingual, but German was the spoken language among the ranks. These special regiments saw action in both the



This historic shot of the furnace was copied from the display in the Manor Area Visitor Center of Cunningham Falls State Park.

Trenton and Princeton campaigns and spent time at Valley Forge.

Germans from Frederick County and newly-formed Washington County (created out of the western portion of Frederick County in 1776) served in the German regiments. A survey of the German regiment muster rolls, however, turns up none of the prominent family names from the Catoctin area. However, members of the Frederick County--Middle District regiment did include a few familiar family names including Vallentine Creager, Ludwick Moser, and Michael Fox. Members of the Frederick Company Third District organized out of Emmitsburg included Philip and John Weller, Lawrence Freagers, and Peter Shover (who owned a

small farm on what would later become parkland). First Lieutenant Frederick Nicodemus (ancestor of a Nicodemus who owned the furnace property in the twentieth century), headed up the Flying Camp in Washington County.

The paucity of Catoctin-area names among the ranks of Maryland's soldiers may have been due to incomplete records, but also may have related to religious strictures against war. For instance, despite their sympathy for the American cause, Moravian beliefs forbade the taking up of arms. Nevertheless, the Graceham Church recorded that patriotism led some members of the congregation to join the Continental army despite their pacifistic convictions.

American officials viewed those Marylanders who did fight, in-

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6th Prize - \$100 - Tim Humm - Taneytown

7th Prize - \$100 - Amy Crowl - Taneytown

8th Prize - \$100 - Scott Davis - Union Bridge

9th Prize - \$100 - Sam Hoff - Westminster

10th Prize - \$100 - Linda Stockman - Mt. Airy

11th Prize - \$100 - D. Williams - Taneytown

12th Prize - \$100 - Dean Zumbrum - Hanover, PA

13th Prize - \$100 - Mike Bowers - Harney

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This historic shot of the iron master's house was copied from the display in the Manor Area Visitor Center of Cunningham Falls State Park. The ruins of this house can still be seen near the furnace.

Brigadier General of the Militia. In this position Johnson had the challenging duty of raising supplies and money to arm the new army. The job kept him so occupied that he missed the debate and signing of the Declaration of Independence. His work was demanding and allowed Johnson to utilize his immense network of business interests and contacts. On February 13, 1777, the Maryland legislature elected Johnson the first governor of the state. He was inaugurated amid a lavish ceremony in Annapolis on March 13, 1777.

By the time of the American Declaration of Independence, Johnson's long-planned furnace at the foot of the Catoctin mountains was nearly completed—just in time to meet the demands of war. Continuing uncertainty exists as to the exact contribution made by Johnson's Catoctin Furnace during the Revolution. With few surviving records of the operations of the furnace (even for the late nineteenth and early twentieth-century), current research can do little beyond pointing to probabilities. In the case of the Revolutionary War, it does appear that some war materials were produced from iron manufactured at Catoctin. On July 17, 1776, the colonial Council of Safety contacted Thomas Johnson and his brother, James, a colonel in the Continental Army and proprietor of the furnace about the possibility of producing cannon balls and shot from the furnace. The Council of Safety was the revolutionary body in charge of virtually all elements of war preparation and life in the new nation, and it needed the Johnson's help:

"Sir. We are in want of about 20 41b Cannon, 20 31b and 20 21b and 40 Swivels for the use of the Province and desire to know whether you will engage to fur-

cluding those in the German regiments, as among the best soldiers in the continental army. After fighting with distinction in the northern campaigns, the Maryland soldiers were redeployed. They passed through their home state on their way south to the Carolinas. This would be the next theater of the war. In the Southern campaigns, General Nathaniel Greene exalted that, "nothing could exceed the gallantry of the Maryland forces as having "the hottest blood in the union."

Frederick County was not the scene of much fighting, but it made invaluable contributions to the war effort. With its rich wheat fields, the county, claimed one historian, became the "breadbasket of the Revolution," supplying hungry troops and making up for crops destroyed in the many military campaigns of the war. The emerging industries of the region also provided for the military needs of the war. An important powder depository and gunlock factory was situated in Frederick City. There was also a prison camp in the city which held captured Hessian

soldiers. Other important powder mills could be found in Antietam and along the Monocacy River.

#### Revolution and the Furnace

Frederick County's important role in the war could be credited in part to Thomas Johnson's increasingly central role in the government of the new nation. Johnson, along with his brothers, had numerous business interests in Western Maryland—including the brand new Catoctin iron furnace. Earlier he had helped draft many of the early colonial protests to the King's imperial policies. As a wealthy, well-connected patriot, Johnson was elected to the Continental Congress where, in turn, he nominated his friend George Washington to be commander-in-chief of the continental army. Johnson proved to be a well-respected and important member of congress. Fellow congressman John Adams commented that although not a great orator, "Johnson of Maryland, has a clear and cool head . . . He is a deliberating man."

In January 1776, Johnson's home colony tapped his talents when its Provincial Convention elected him

#### Blanche Orner



Blanche Rebecca Orner, 91, of Emmitsburg, died Sunday, July 13 at her home. Born February 21, 1923 in Frederick, she was the daughter of the late Charles and Maude Byers Harbaugh. She was the wife of the late Robert Calvin Orner, to whom she was married for 62 years.

Blanche worked for many years at Cambridge Rubber Company in Taneytown and later for St. Joseph Provincial House in Emmitsburg. She was

a member of Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church in Emmitsburg. She enjoyed sewing, helping at church functions, and spending time with family and friends.

Surviving are son, Douglas D. Orner and wife Patricia of Emmitsburg, and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a son, R. Craig Orner in 1997, a sister, Hilda Gutshal, and a brother, Lewis Harbaugh.

A funeral service was held Thursday, July 17 at Elias Lutheran Church, 100 W. North Ave. in Emmitsburg with Pastor Ron Reeves officiating. Interment was at Emmitsburg Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Elias Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 465, Emmitsburg, MD, 21727. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at [www.myersdurborawfh.com](http://www.myersdurborawfh.com).

nish us with those quantities immediately—if you can, be pleased to favor us as soon as possible with your terms and the time by which you will have them made, then it will be such more agreeable to us to see you upon the occasion. We shall likewise want 200 Iron Potts, some to contain 4 and other 2 Gallons, with Gales or Handles to supply the place of Camp Kettles, and should be glad you would advise us whether you could also cast them for us and by what time, likewise the price."

On behalf of his brother, Thom-

Johnson replied to the Council. He explained that "our furnace is not yet in blast," but there was on hand "a few potts of about the size you describe." Johnson promised an effort to meet the Council's needs. Meanwhile, he assured the council that his "brother is getting his furnace into Blast with all Diligence and hopes to effect it within a fortnight. You may then have any number of potts and kettles that you please within a short time." Johnson also promised "to cast such guns as are wanted but cannot contract for them in all Events because the metal may not suit, although we have every Reason to expect it will."

Most interested in the guns, the council quickly replied: "If your Brother's Iron is suitable for casting Guns we could contract with you for fifty three pounders, fifty four-pounders, and seventy five Swivels to Carry one point Ball." With the Council's offer to purchase guns, the paper trail ends. By September 1777, the Johnson furnace was fully functioning and the partners were advertising for the sale of "[s]alt pans, ten feet square and fifteen inches deep with crews ready to join an fit them up made at Catoctin Furnace about 10 miles from Frederick Town at 551 per ton."

Presumably the Johnson's Bush Creek Forge, built in the mid-1770s near the mouth of Bush Creek, three to five miles from Frederick City, forged the iron produced at Catoctin. The Johnson Forge included a rolling and slitting mill, although these might have been added later.

To be continued next month

To read more articles on local history visit the Historical Society section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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**Sept. 9 (Tues.) Choptank Riverboat Cruise.** We head to the Eastern shore, do some sightseeing and head on to Hurlock to board the Choptank Riverboat for a 2 hour cruise and a lunch which includes a crab cake & fried chicken combo! **Price: \$96, Lv Thurmont 8:00 am, Lv Frederick 8:20 am.**

**Oct. 13 - 16 Jamestown and Erie, PA Adventure.** Jamestown is the home of **Lucille Ball**. We'll travel NW and stop in DuBois, PA for lunch and then continue to Jamestown to visit the **Desilu Studios** and the **Lucille Ball Museum**. The following day we visit sites where **Lucille Ball** visited and then drive to Chautauqua to have lunch at the Antebacum and then enjoy a guided or walking tour of the area. In the evening we'll do a sight-seeing **Cruise on Chautauqua Lake** while enjoying dinner. On day #3 we drive to Erie to visit the **Maritime Museum** and tour the **Warner Theatre**, have a guided tour of **Presque Isle**, and finally **Historic Union Station** where we have a buffet dinner. On Day #4 we visit the **Zippo Center** and the **Kinzua Gorge**. We take Route #6 east which is a very scenic drive, especially in the fall. **Price: \$795 PP DBL, \$1,030 SGL, Deposit \$125, Final Payment Due August 28. ETR 8:00 PM.**

**Oct. 23 - "Crazy For You".** This high-energy comedy of mistaken identities, plot twists, fabulous costumes, dances and Gershwin music is a classic. Memorable tunes include *I Got Rhythm, They Can't Take That Away From Me* and *Someone To Watch Over Me*. **Lunch and show at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre. Price: \$99, Lv Frederick 9:00 AM, Lv Thurmont 9:20 AM. Final Payment Due Sept. 23. ETR 6:30 PM.**

**Nov. 4 (Tues.) & Nov. 28 (Fri.)** The lunch on these dates will be at **Plain & Fancy. Price: \$115 PP.**

**Nov. 6 (Thurs.)** On this date lunch will be at **Miller's Smorgasbord. Price: \$118.** American Music Theatre has put together a nice Christmas Traditions program for the season. It begins with an **Amish Country Homestead** tour, followed by an **Interactive Amish School Christmas Program** and then a **Christmas Farmlands Tour**, lunch and show.

Check your schedule or the website for details on two great Christmas overnight tours. **Nov. 15-23 Branson & Dec. 9-13 Myrtle Beach.** Early deposits recommended!  
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### Catoctin High School class of 1994

The Reunion will be September 13, 7 p.m. at the Ott House. Come early to socialize. Sunday the 14 there will be a family picnic in Fairfield, PA.

Sign on to Facebook page class of 1994 Catoctin High School to RSVP or call Kerrie Ott at 301-447-3684.



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## COLD WAR WARRIORS

# My life in Cold War submarines



Captain William Hicks, USN Ret.

Part 8

### Squadron Commander

As the end of my second year on the Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board approached, I was informed that I was to become a Squadron Commander by forming the new Squadron Eleven in San Diego. So, my family and I retraced the actions and the challenges of leaving Norfolk and returning to San Diego. Our house in York County was not sold by the time we had to depart, but it was in the hands of an agent who lived across the street and there was activity in the housing market so I was confident it would sell, which it did within a couple months. We headed back across country with our camper and a car in tow. Within 100 miles the camper acted up which caused a couple days delay in the repair shop until it was determined the gas line flexible hose had a hole which was causing the indications

of clogged gas filters. That being fixed, we resumed our trek taking a southern route through Nashville, and route I 40 past the Painted Desert, Petrified Forest, Grand Canyon, Albuquerque and Phoenix and into San Diego.

Our housing in San Diego was provided since we would have a house on Submarine Base, San Diego. However, even that was a problem since our house was occupied by the Commander of another squadron and would not be vacated for a month or more after our arrival. In the interim, we had a suite and a room in the Bachelor Officer's Quarters. The boys were happy since they had their own room away from us across the hall from the pool table with a patio door onto the beach. We parked the camper and moved into the BOQ.

Unlike in Norfolk, we did not have to move out on weekends. Our household goods went into storage. Mary met her challenge of finding a school for the boys. For the oldest it was not a choice. He went to Point Loma High School. For the fourth grader it was a choice as to which elementary school to apply to since there was no specific, designated school for the base. That also meant that Mary would be in charge of school transportation since there were no school buses from the base.

I got busy reacquainting myself with the commands and activities on the base and setting up the new squadron. Squadron Eleven was to take operational responsibility for the submarines which had been assigned to the Flotilla under the Admiral who was also responsible for two other squadrons and coordination of the San Diego Area. The decision made at

high levels was that there needed to be a squadron staff to oversee the submarines while the Flotilla, or Group as it was officially known, oversaw the activities of the squadrons, the base, and interest of the Pacific Fleet Submarine Force commander.

On a personal level, I knew the current Group Commander was not happy to lose the operational responsibility for the submarines. It was viewed by some as a result of inadequate attention to the individual submarines by the Group staff. From my time on the USS Bates that was part of this Group, I did not feel a lack of attention or help from the Group Commander of Staff. Throughout the period including the change of command, the Group Commander was extremely helpful and supportive for which I was most appreciative.

Starting a new squadron had a unique set of challenges from writing the organizational and operational documentation to deciding on a logo for the squadron. The staff was pulled together from elements of the Group staff and new additions, so there was a core group who had formed the midlevel managers of the Group staff. This included the squadron engineer and his staff and the squadron weapons officer and his staff and the communicator. The senior staff of the Squadron—the commander, chief of staff, and deputies were all new. However the old and the new blended together well and we were up and running as a squadron very quickly.

Submarine Squadron 11 had as many as twelve nuclear submarines, the last operational diesel electric submarine (USS Blueback SS 581), a tender (USS McKee AS 41), and a floating dry dock (ARCO ARDM 5). Squadron 11 had the newer submarines of the SSN 637 and SSN 688 class. As a new SSN 688 class submarine transferred to San Diego, we would transfer one of the older units to the other squadron in San Diego, Submarine Squadron 3. We had a couple submarines transfer to the shipyard for over-



Author and actor Alec Baldwin following a tour of a nuclear submarine during the filming of the movie "Hunt for Red October."

haul at which time they became the responsibility of a different group or squadron since none of the west coast shipyards were geographically close to San Diego.

The responsibilities of the squadron commander are simply to make the elements of the squadron function effectively and to encourage improvement in all aspects of operations from the repair department on the tender, to the dry dock, to nuclear operations, and tactical proficiency on the individual submarines. The challenge was to know where to focus my energy and attention and to see the issues before they became problems. The Squadron Commander also had a more visible role in the civilian and broader Navy communities.

As with my experience in Squadron Six, some ships required more attention than others since some commanding officers were more mature and experienced than others. One of the significant surprises was how much direction some commanding officers required up to and including formal letters of instruction. I was not prepared to be as corrective and forceful as I found to be necessary. On the other hand, some of the commanding officers were exceptional and ran a ship that required little attention by the staff to maintain

continuing excellence. Determining which commanding officer was in which group was an early challenge for me and my staff. It seemed like the challenge for the Squadron always revolved around oversight and assistance of a unit in gaining readiness for some key event. Events such as the start of a deployment, an Operational Reactor Safeguard Examination (ORSE), or a Nuclear Weapons Readiness Inspection.

During the period 1986 to 1989, the Cold War was in full focus and the Soviet submarine threat was at its peak. With benefit of the information gained from the treason of the John Anthony Walker spy ring, the Soviet Submarines were quieter and operated in a manner to make tracking and locating most difficult. In order to enhance our ability to know where they were, how they operated and to increase our own capabilities, we conducted a lot of deployments for surveillance as well as to detect and track individual units of the Soviet Submarine force.

Deployments came in two flavors. The formal deployments were nominally for six months in the Western Pacific under the operational control of Seventh Fleet with special operations under the direct control of COMSUBPAC.



A nuclear submarine broaching following a test of its emergency blow system. High pressure air is used to force water out of the sub's ballast tanks, resulting in the sub becoming so buoyant that it is almost thrown out of the water.

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# COLD WAR WARRIORS



The heart of the Naval Submarine Base in San Diego was Ballast Point. Its single pier was home to all the ships and submarines assigned to Squadron 11.

the pier and many of us went to watch. The setup to film the scene was impressive. The movie also provided opportunities for officers and sailors to act as extras and in at least one case a lieutenant from one of the Squadron submarines had a speaking part as a naval officer controlling an attack. I guess it was easier to train the officer to be an actor than train an actor to be an officer. We also provided a day at sea for the cast on a 688-class submarine to see how things really happened at sea. Unfortunately Sean Connery did not make the trip, but most of the other key actors and directors for the film were aboard. It was a different and interesting change from our normal routine.

While the tender is normally in port supporting the squadron submarines, there were opportunities and requirements for it to leave port. Periodically, the tender must go to sea to empty the tanks filled with radiological effluent that they had collected from the submarines alongside. This was normally a couple days at a time with minimum impact on the upkeep schedule for the squadron submarines. Other at sea taskings were longer and more disruptive to the submarine upkeep schedules.

In one case, the tender went to sea and anchored in relatively shallow water to demonstrate its ability to provide support to an SSBN at sea. In another situation, the tender was tasked with transit to Seward Alaska to provide support to the USS Alaska, SSBN 732 as it made a visit to its namesake state.

The tour as a Squadron commander is normally a two-year assignment. As the two-year point approached, I was told I was going to Washington for my first shore tour since my Nuclear Power School staff assignment in Mare Island. My relief was identified and Mary and I took a trip to look for a house. Not so fast: still an apparent slow learner, I was told after our house hunting trip that the orders for my relief were cancelled and that there was no one else to relieve me - so I was to stay for another year.

That was good news for a couple of reasons: Our oldest son was getting ready to enter his senior year in high school and it would have been a significant sacrifice for him to miss his senior year in the school where he was established. Also, since my tour in Washington was not one from which I could expect to be selected for Flag Officer, I was in no hurry to get started. Finally, Squadron commander was a pretty good position in which I was comfortable and from which I felt I was doing some overall good for the Submarine Force and the Navy.

## Shore Duty At Last- Beware What You Ask For

So, the transfer was on hold and I spent an additional year at Submarine Base San Diego. Now that our oldest was to complete high school in San Diego and my next assignment was not clear, the choice of a college became interesting. Should he apply on the West Coast or the East Coast? To cover all bases, he did both and he was accepted on both coasts. When my third year was coming to an end, I was given a choice of several senior Captain billets in either Pearl Harbor or Washington none of which were particularly appealing. Since it was bad form to retire from the position of Squadron Commander, I decided to delay retirement for one more tour but to pick the one that seemed the most convenient for my family. As a result, I agreed to my first tour in the Pentagon as a senior Captain. What a learning experience that was not always fun and not always successful. I got orders to the staff of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) for Logistics, OP 04. This assignment opened a whole new area of challenge. But first we needed to get from here to there.

With no house to sell in San Diego, one of the major headaches of transfer was removed. Having had time for house hunting trips to the Washington area allowed us to buy a house before arrival removed an additional stress. We decided that the camper was no longer the conveyance of choice across country

since we had two cars and our oldest could drive one with his brother that they thought was a wonderful idea; no one to criticize their music choices. We sold the camper in San Diego and made the plans to drive cross-country. On the day before we left it became apparent that one car had a problem that we could not trust on the trip so the evening before departure I was in Mission Valley to buy a new car.

With the boys in the new car, we headed out of San Diego. We had two-way radios in each car to keep in contact and keep the boys on track. Our small convoy stayed relatively close together and the trip was mostly uneventful. After visits to family on the trip, we arrived in Burke Virginia to start my last tour in an entirely new environment. Our youngest entered the local high school as a freshman and the oldest made a choice of the five colleges he had been accepted. He chose to attend Penn State to which he moved soon after our arrival.

With the family details on track, I looked towards the new challenge. Rather than being the squadron commander with a car and driver on call and a staff to carry out my agenda, I now rode the bus and was a worker on the staff of two admirals with a shared secretary and no staff. I even had to learn how to use a computer for email.

I had decided at the squadron that I could see no advantage to email since hand written notes served very well. I had noticed that the younger guys on the ships had computers and that some networking was occurring for things like work orders and supply requests. I also remembered the attempts while I was at Squadron Six to use bar code technology to maintain inventory control on the tender. Also, both my boys were very computer literate doing programming and games on an Apple IIC which I had bought, but never learned how to use due to lack of interest. For me, the computer revolution had not yet occurred, but the time had come.

To be continued next month

Mini-deployments directly from San Diego and returning to San Diego were usually 59 days and did not officially count as deployments to comply with a number of rules associated with operational tempo. However from the point of view of the ship and the Squadron, whether it was a six-month deployment to WestPac or a 59-day port to port ASW deployment, the preparations and the definition of readiness were essentially the same.

Readiness was defined by minimal material deficiency, fully stocked repair parts, consumables, and food, and operational and tactical proficiency. Tactical proficiency was monitored through a session in the attack trainer at the submarine training facility on the base as well as during operations at sea. In preparation for deployment, we always developed a focused week of exercises which included the types of scenarios the ship might encounter. This included tracking exercises as well as exercise weapons firing. The Squadron responsibility was to develop the operational orders, provide the exercise participants, ensure proper submerged separations, provide observers to ride the ship during the exercise week, and manage all aspects of the exercise weapons events.

During my three years at the Squadron, we refined and improved the various elements of the pre-deployment exercises that enhanced the challenges for the crews and improved their ability to fight their ship. One of the most challenging exercises involved both submarines being able to actually fire exercise torpedoes. The safety controls for this event were particularly critical since it would develop that there were two submarines and two torpedoes within the same area of water, protected from physical interactions only by depth limitations. When we could get the correct mix of submarines for an exercise it worked and it significantly enhanced both the tactical skill level and the awareness of the decision challenges to actually fire a torpedo at what might or might

not be an actual target.

As in Squadron 6, either I or one of the deputies spent time in preparations for each ORSE. Again, some commanding officers required more help than others and we planned our time to respond accordingly. We also worked with the tender's commanding officer and his wardroom to prepare for Radiological Controls Proficiency Examination (RCPE), nuclear weapons, and propulsion plant inspections.

The following anecdotes reflect some of the more challenging or unusual experiences during my three years as squadron commander: The movie Top Gun had provided significant recruiting benefit for Naval Air and the submarine force was looking for a similar opportunity to showcase itself. Hunt for Red October became that vehicle. The filming of Hunt of Red October was focused in San Diego and used the ships of Squadron Eleven in the movie. The dry dock scene was filmed in the Squadron Eleven Dry dock, ARCO.

The submarine emergency surface scene was accomplished by USS Houston. Most other scenes were conducted in a studio set. During the filming of the dry dock scene, Alec Baldwin was on



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## SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

# What's new at the library

Tara Lebherz  
Frederick County Library

### Summer Reading

Have you been to the Thurmont Library lately? We've had quite a summer so far! Summer Reading is in full swing; we've got nearly 9,000 kids signed up already and we have another month to do. If you haven't signed up your kids or teens yet, drop by and register for this free game. There are many prizes that you could possibly win.

Are you looking for something fun to do? Summertime is also one of our busiest times for programs. Check out all of our program offerings at our website:

www.fcpl.org. Here are a few interesting highlights for the month of August.

### Play Date on the Deck

August 8th from 10:45-11:45. For kids 6months – 5 years. We've partnered with Frederick County Infants and Toddlers to bring you a fun outdoor playdate activity. We set up the toys, the blocks, and the water table. You and your kids just drop in and have a good time making friends and playing.

### Jump Into Kindergarten

Monday, August 18 at 2pm and at 6:30pm. For kids entering Kindergarten in the fall. This program is geared to be a gentle introduction

to what Kindergarten is going to be like. Mrs. B will tell fun stories and set up stations (just like in a real kindergarten class!) so that kids can get a feel for what's coming up the following week. Space is limited, so call or drop by the library today to register for this free program.

### Music on the Deck:

#### Kenny Ray Horton

Sunday, August 17 at 2pm. For all ages, birth-100+ Our final installment in our "Music on the Deck" series this summer is featuring Kenny Ray Horton. Kenny Ray Horton honed his craft in Nashville before returning to the mid-Atlantic area. His years

of entertaining and songwriting have made him a seasoned musician that music lovers and musicians alike love to be entertained by. No registration necessary—just drop in.

### Goodwill Job Assistance

If you are unemployed or underemployed or just wanting to change your career path, you can get personalized free help at two libraries. Patie Elsberry Goodwill of Monocacy Valley now partners with both the Thurmont Regional Library and Emmitsburg Branch Library to provide free job counseling. In Emmitsburg, those interested in this service can stop in on August 13 anytime between 3 and 5 pm. Patie will be

at the Emmitsburg library every month on the 2nd Wednesday. In Thurmont, Patie will be available in the small meeting room on August 12 and 25 from 3-5 pm. She is at the Thurmont library every other Tuesday. As part of the Goodwill job-seeker assistance session, Patie includes one-on-one help with interviewing, resume writing, online application help and computer training. She will meet with clients more than once if necessary. If you have questions, you can reach Patie at 301-662-0622, ext. 209. Directions to both libraries can be found at [www.fcpl.org](http://www.fcpl.org).

FCPL will be closed all day on Sunday, August 31 and Monday September 1

For more library events visit the Frederick County Public Libraries website at [www.fcpl.org](http://www.fcpl.org).

# Here come the big yellow buses!

Katie Groth  
Frederick County  
School Board

August in Frederick County marks the time when students head back to school after summer vacation. School begins on Monday, August 25. For this year, attendance areas remain the same.

Freshly sharpened colored pencils introduce the Back-to-School theme topic of the website for Frederick County Public Schools: [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org)

For other important information, including supply lists, you may

go directly to [www.fcps.org/backtoschool](http://www.fcps.org/backtoschool). The FCPS website is a comprehensive information source for all things FCPS. Learn to navigate it and you will find almost all the information you and your students might need to get the 2014-15 school year off to a successful start. Below is an overview of the topics you can find by using the website. By clicking on topics you see on the home page you can find detailed information.

Tabs at the top of the page will assist you in finding basic information about such topics academics, board of education, meals, schools, and others. Click on each for drop-down

menus and detailed information.

There are important dates to know, such as dates and times for Back-to-School nights, orientation nights and other activities that are part of the celebration of the return to school. You can also sign up for FindOutFirst, a handy information source for all FCPS students, families and staff. [www.findoutfirst@fcps.org](mailto:www.findoutfirst@fcps.org). This service provides useful and important email notifications as they are set from your child's school or from FCPS. Check this one out if you haven't already. You can also investigate all the FCPS social media connections as well.

This year we are welcoming a new deputy superintendent, Dr. Michael Markoe, even as we bid goodbye to Dr. Steve Lockard who will become the new deputy superintendent at Fairfax County (Va) Public Schools (the "other FCPS"). Dr. Markoe comes "home" to Frederick County after serving as an administrator for Washington County Public Schools.

Results for Frederick County students on the Maryland School Assess-

ments (MSA) were announced the second week of July. Drops in scores were expected as students were tested using the old assessments that did not align with the new curriculum. This has occurred all over Maryland as local school systems design new curriculum to meet the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards (also called Common Core Standards). Although Frederick County student scores were somewhat lower than last year, our students remained above the state average. As the new PARCC assessments go online this year, we will see an alignment with the curriculum that will probably yield better scores. Stay tuned for more information about this.

Also in connection with new curriculum and assessments are some new graduation requirements that go into effect during the 2014-15 school year. Information will be available in county schools through the school guidance offices, but website information is available by clicking on the button on the right hand side of the FCPS home page.

Through this site, you can also access information from the Maryland State Dept. of Education.

New school construction is an important topic for the upcoming school year. New schools are being planned and built even as a newly constructed and expanded North Frederick Elementary School opens for students this August. A new Frederick High School is still in the planning and design stage, but the new state-of-the-art high school will be opening for students in the fall of 2017. Another new school is needed in Urbana due to serious overcrowding issues in that community. A new elementary school is now being designed and will be built just north of the Urbana Community Park along Rt. 355 in Urbana. This new school has been named Sugarloaf Elementary School for the prominent Sugarloaf Mountain near Urbana. Sugarloaf Elementary will open for students in the fall of 2016.

All bus route information for the 2014-15 school year will be available through FindOutFirst as well as on the FCPS web page ([www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org)). Each year, our transportation staff works to ensure that our bus routes and schedules conform to the numbers and locations of students throughout the county. Using a state-of-the-art computerized routing program, times and bus stop locations may be adjusted from what they were last year, so it is good to check and make sure of times and stops before the first day of school. This efficient new system has saved the school system significant amounts of money.

So, students! Sharpen those pencils, dust off those backpacks, and spruce up those sneakers. The opening day of school for the 2014-15 school year is fast approaching. The above information should get you started. You can find details on the website or through FindOutFirst ([www.findoutfirst@fcps.org](mailto:www.findoutfirst@fcps.org)). Have an over-the-top great year. The people of FCPS are all there to help you make this new school year your best ever.



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SCHOOL NEWS

# Mother Seton School for ENJ

Lynn Taylor

When you're a teacher, parent, or anyone else involved in education, January isn't the month for fresh starts and new beginnings. It's actually August—when the suffocating heat sucks the last of the energy from camp-weary kids and they're practically begging to go back to see their friends. And when the stores have their back-to-school versions of "Black Friday", and teachers start heading back to wrap their bulletin boards in cheerful papers and decorations. The day my kids start breaking out the new school supplies to load up their backpacks looks like Christ-

mas morning. When they're done, papers and packaging are strewn about, and inevitably, something is missing or broken before lunchtime.

Too bad there's not a "School Supply Claus"—I'd love for someone else to make the supply list and check it twice.

The beginning of each school year promises new adventures and experiences. It's like a brave new world. At Mother Seton School, that will never be more true than this year. We have said farewell to several treasured faculty and staff, and we are welcoming new members to our little family. First is our new principal, Sister Brenda Monahan, D.C. She comes

to us from the Diocese of Birmingham, and we are very excited to get to know her. She replaces Sr. JoAnne, who had been our leader for the past eight years. In next month's column, we'll help you get to know her a little better.

We also said goodbye to two of our beloved teachers. Kay Palkovic, who taught in our primary unit, has decided to retire from teaching and move on to an even greater pursuit—full-time grandma. We're sad to see her leave, but we understand the importance of family and hers is very lucky to have this time with her. Meanwhile, our middle-school will also be experiencing a shake-up. Social Studies teacher Amy Incaprera is also starting a new adventure of her own; she is leaving MSS to take a position at Harrisburg Area Community College. We wish her the best



and we know it will be great year for HACC students with her on campus.

With all the changes happening, this year is bound to be anything but boring! We hope you'll join us as we

start our new chapter in our school history; maybe you will even help us write some of it. To quote from an old comic strip, Calvin & Hobbes, "It's a magical world, Hobbes old buddy—let's go exploring!"

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## FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

# Sophomore Year

## An answer

Leeanne Leary  
MSM Class of 2017

When asked why I do the things I do, an easy response is often, “Because I like to” or, “Because it is fun.” These answers may suffice, if they are only questions asked in small talk or a casual conversation, but the truth is, I don’t actually know why I do most of the things I do.

I go to work because I need to work for money. I go to school because it’s what is expected of me. I run because I’m in training. I go to PT in the mornings because it’s required. I read because I have always read. I write because I’ve always liked to write.

These are easy answers, answers that require no thought and don’t exactly exude a lot of emotion or passion. With answers like that, I’m realizing it looks like I don’t enjoy my life very much, but I do. So now I need to articulate better answers, answers that will show my passion and love for what I’m doing, show why it makes me happy, and show others what is so great about it. So today, I will focus on why I write.

10 years ago, my 9-year-old self would have responded:

I like to write because I hate math. Really, math is no good. I know we need it to function and live and whatnot, but it just seems

too restricted and I don’t have any room for creativity.

Then I would have gone to middle school and my 12-year-old self would say:

I really like my English teacher Mrs. Doria, so that is why I like to write. Today, she let me write a story about why I love bacon as long as I used all my vocab words.

High school came next and I would have said:

Well I thought I liked to write, but these summer assignments didn’t get done until the day before the deadline, so maybe it’s not that fun.

So you’re getting the point. I went through years of not really having a reason to write, but just knowing I liked it better than other subjects. I didn’t journal or do anything outside of my required schoolwork; I simply noticed a significant difference in stress level between doing a math problem and writing an English essay. I didn’t start to love to write until after I realized how important it is.

This realization happened slowly and several different times before it stuck. The process began sophomore year of high school when I joined the yearbook staff. It was there that I fell in love with journalistic writing. I was never the best because I wasn’t the most creative, but I loved the way that I

could capture things in my copies that I couldn’t in my photographs. I could take a stunning picture of a touchdown on a Friday night, but I couldn’t at the same time capture the sound of the coach’s scream, or the emotion because that touchdown had just made the team district champions. I couldn’t show the tears in the father’s eyes as he watched his son win the game or the excitement from the student section. The only way I could put all of this into one spot and one memory was in writing, so that’s what I did. I started to write down smells, sounds, and emotions to go along with all of the pictures I took. I started to realize that when people see these photos they want to know the story behind them. So this was my gateway into writing—yearbook copies and photo captions. So my 17-year-old self would have said I write to capture and preserve memories.

So my love for journalistic writing was born, and it grew as I grew into the yearbook world and continued after I left. Last month I went on a mission trip to Haiti and had the best week of my life, but I was afraid I was going to forget things. I knew I wouldn’t forget the sights or the love or anything major, but I was afraid to forget the orphans’ names, ages, what they liked to do, which kids warmed up to me on which days and which ones didn’t like crafts but only wanted to play outside. So for the first time, I took the advice of my team leaders and I wrote in a journal. I hadn’t put

my feelings down in a journal before, mainly because I don’t often read my own writing, so a journal seemed kind of silly. But it wasn’t silly, it was exactly what I needed to keep all of these memories in one place. And here, just last month, I fell in love with the way I can write whatever I want down to remember exactly how I felt in each moment. So in this way, I write to capture and to remember.

Discovering this side of writing was certainly incredible, but as an English Literature major, my passion for analytical writing is what drives all forms of creativity. Although it may not be the most creative of all writing, it is my foundation for my work. Having an English teacher as a mother, I always said I liked the subject, and also always said I wanted to be an English teacher, but it wasn’t until 11th grade that I fell in love with this sort of writing. My English Language and Composition teacher tortured us from the beginning of the year with constant writing assignments and analytical tasks that she promised “would feel easier soon.” I didn’t believe her, but soon those four-hour assignments began to only take three hours, then two, and by the end of the year I was doing them in 20 minutes. Over this time where I was improving without realizing it, I began to love the way that I could read this text and have a thousand ideas running through my head, and I could somehow make sense of them by simply writing them down. I realized that what had been torturous months ago, I now

got excited about doing. I actually looked forward to doing homework for the first time in my life. It was then that I fell in love with the way that I could finally make sense of things through writing.

Now I know if somebody asks me why I do anything I can probably come up with better answers with a little thought. I don’t just work because I need money; I work because I enjoy being productive and love my co-workers. I don’t just go to school because I should; I go because I really love to learn and I want to better myself. I run because it’s freeing, I go to PT because it’s motivating and the other cadets are amazing people, I read to enter another universe and I write for so many reasons. I still probably won’t have the best answer as to why I write unless anyone wants to hear me talk for two hours—which nobody does—but at least now I have an answer myself. Well, I have several answers. Although my younger self didn’t know why I wrote, I write to capture memories, my own and those of other people. I write to remember details that would never stick in my head otherwise. I write to make sense of things, all things from texts and passages to life problems. I write because it doesn’t matter if I’m good at it, if I have the best structure or the best word choice. It doesn’t matter if I can’t figure out where to start or where to end, because it’s all mine – my memories, my thoughts, my view on the world.

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

# Junior Year

## The power of a pen

Lydia Olsen  
MSM Class of 2016

“That’s not even what I was saying!” Jillian shouted as she grabbed the paper from her mother’s hands and stormed up the wooden stairs. “You just don’t understand!” She marched into her bedroom and closed the door behind her before opening it again and slamming it much harder to get her point across. Jillian crumbled up that dumb sheet of paper that was supposed to mean so much and threw it across the room. She flopped onto her bed, and put her face in her pillow. “Ugh!” she cried. She had so many emotions and thoughts running through her mind and had no idea how to sort them all. Why did high school have to be so stressful?

While Jillian was lying there, she began to hear scratching at her door. She ignored it at first but then realized that it wasn’t going to be stopping anytime soon. Reluctantly, Jillian got up and opened her bedroom door just enough for her cat Addie to push her way into the room.

Jillian sat back down on her bed and Addie jumped up beside her. Jillian tried to formulate her thoughts

and think through the situation but couldn’t figure out where to begin.

“What do you think, Addie?” Jillian asked. Addie just looked at her and begged for her ears to be rubbed. “You’re no help either,” Jillian said.

Thinking it was the only activity that could help, Jillian decided to grab her journal from the bedside drawer and pick up a pen. She flipped it open to an empty page and stared at it, wondering where to begin and if writing anything down would even help. Addie, who had started to doze off at the foot of the bed, got up and walked over towards Jillian. She started to nudge Jillian’s hand as if encouraging her to just write already. Jillian rolled her eyes but took the hint and let her hand flow freely across the page.

The pen glided effortlessly along the lines of the notebook as they carried Jillian’s thoughts. Her emotions poured out through each word she wrote. Her left hand slid quickly from one side of the page to the other, smearing the ink along the curve of her hand. Once she began to write there was no stopping her, and soon Jillian had filled multiple pages with everything from journaling, to poems, to short stories. Taking a deep breath, she looked down at what she’d written. In a way she felt

as if the things she’d made were not her own. It was almost as if when she wrote she transcended herself, or maybe it was when she was most completely connected with her inner self. She wasn’t quite sure, but she didn’t want to question it too much.

Jillian looked across the room at the red numbers on the clock and realized that she had been writing for over an hour. It was so easy for her to get swept away in words that she could easily forget everything else. Maybe that is why it was such a good stress reliever for her.

Feeling much better, Jillian got out of bed and went to pick up the piece of paper she had crumbled. She found it and flattened it out to reread its contents. In big bold letters across the top it stated, “SAT Test Results,” three words that were more than enough to give anyone a heart attack. Jillian looked back down at her scores. Yes, her parents were right that she didn’t do that well in math and that colleges might predict her to be unfit for their university because of it, but she did decent in critical reading and her writing score was outstanding. Jillian was honestly proud of herself for achieving such a high score and wished that her parents would be proud of her as well. She sighed once again with disappointment.

Just then there was a knock at her door. “Finally”, Jillian thought, “It took them long enough.” She let her parents into her room and they

all sat down on her bed. “Jillian, we are sorry for what we said. We realized that it came off with a lot more anger than we felt or even intended,” her mother said, trying to comfort her. “We really are proud of you and we understand that you don’t want to have to take the test again. We are fine with that now if that is still your decision,” Jillian’s father said reassuringly. Jillian accepted their apology but also thought that retaking the test might not be such a horrible idea after all.

She sat and talked with her parents for a few moments, relieved that they were on good terms once again and that her emotions were no longer controlling the situation. Previously her parents had been upset when Jillian mentioned her dream of becoming a writer, but now they spoke with concern out of love. “Jillian, are you sure that’s what you want? You might not be able to find a job or make any money,” her mother said. “Mom, I love it. When I write, everything just seems okay. It’s like my therapy and I am good at it. It’s truly what I am passionate about. The world makes more sense when I have a pen in my hand and a piece of paper in front of me,” Jillian continued to explain. Luckily Jillian’s parents responded with support for her and whatever her dreams may be. As Jillian’s parents got up to leave the room, her father turned around and smiled at Jillian, “I think you’re an excellent writer and I always want you to fol-

low your dreams no matter what they may be.”

Jillian’s eyes widened and a smile broke out across her face. She had finally gotten her parents to see how important writing was to her and how much she loved it. Filled with joy, Jillian slammed her journal shut that had been lying open on her bed. “Until next time,” Jillian mumbled as she closed her problems, passions, and dreams away between the pages. She giggled with excitement, thinking of the possibility that one day some of her writings from that journal could be published. “One day,” she said as she held tightly onto her dreams. With a smile still on her face, Jillian scooped Addie up from the end of her bed. She hugged her cat closely and Addie began to purr quietly as if to say, “I told you it would all work out in the end.”

*I chose to write my article this month as more of a creative writing piece than one of personal reflection to reveal my passion for writing in a unique way. Much like Jillian, writing has always been a go-to for me. When life becomes stressful and I feel like I can barely tread water, I know that if I reach for a pen and paper I will soon feel better and everything will somehow work out. A pen holds so much power, but it can only be released when held in the hand of someone who appreciates and loves it as much as Jillian and as much as me.*

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



## WHY I WRITE...

# Senior Year

## Sending out a message

Kyle Ott  
MSM Class of 2015

This month I am tasked with answering a rather difficult question; "Why do I write?" It's a question that is as intrinsically linked to the creative process as any I've ever answered. I pride myself on my skill with the English language and I love having a plethora of words available at any point, so it is with some shame that I say, and you'll have to pardon the joke, I truly have no words for why I write.

What I do have is a simple feeling. It was best summed up by a game designer named Edmund McMillen. McMillen, who talked about his artistic drive for the award winning documentary, Indie Game, summed up his need to make games as a desire to connect with other people, people that he was afraid he wouldn't like or who wouldn't want him. His desire to make something was driven by a need to create a dialogue with the people who experienced the finished product as much as it was about the product itself.

That's where I come in. For the longest time, I've known that I want to be a writer and a storyteller. Everywhere I look I see the inspiration for a story, article, or fiction piece. I love the world. Really and truly I do. I have never found or heard of a more interesting place, with a more fascinating set of characters than the world in which we live. I would look around, watch people interact with each other, and see the world that they inhabited. I would make notes of the things they did and said in my head and I was continually blown away by just how compelling everything was when I could take a step back and let it sink in. When I was little, I used to get in trouble for sneaking out of my bed at night just to go write at the old desk in our toy room. I was surrounded by all manner of action figures, yet I found myself

drawn to a blank page rather than Stretch Armstrong.

Here's a perfect example: a few years back I was driving to the local Taco Bell with some friends after a long day of school. I didn't intend to find any inspiration that day or do any sort of mental writing, but as we pulled into the parking lot I took notice of a young couple walking out of the restaurant hand in hand. They couldn't have been much older than I was at the time, making them somewhere in their early twenties. The man had a scraggly tuft of hair growing out of his chin that made him look a lot like a goat. He wore the kind of beat up hat you see advertised alongside Levi jeans and punk rock bands. His girlfriend was thin, but not unhealthily so, with hair that looked like it had been dyed so many times that the natural color was long since forgotten. On that particular day it was stained a dark magenta. Every inch of their bodies from their wrists to their shoulders, from the space where their Doc Martins ended and their cargo shorts began was covered in tattoos. Both of them had the kind of gages that stretched their earlobes into mini Hadron Colliders. But above all else, they were happy. Blissfully happy. Their hands were wrapped tightly around one another, and each step that they took bounced with the steady, pleasant gait of two people who had been comfortably in love for quite some time. I stood there for only half a second, trapped in the space between my beat up

Nissan and the asphalt, watching their progress and marveling that in a world with so many billions of people, two humans could find themselves in someone else. They could find their mirror image, hold hands with that person, and eat greasy, terrible, food together. In that moment, they were more than a tattooed couple to me; they were a moving marvel.

Then one of my friends muttered, "Weirdos," under his breath, taking the moment and the marvel away as quickly as it came. The problem with taking the world in one breath at a time is that not everyone else does, and more importantly, very few people understand that view. I have a hard time connecting with other people and I honestly think that's part of the reason behind it. In that instant, I saw untold beauty and purpose in two people who were just looking to share a cheap meal together. Regardless, I found something in them that I truly appreciated. The sad thing is that there really isn't a great way to articulate the things that I see and the little stories I write in my head. More often than not, my mouth just kind of hangs open or the wrong words spill out to the point where I very rarely try and say those things anymore. It's not that I don't have friends or social nuances; it's that forging deep, lasting connections with other people is difficult when you know that the world they see and the world you see are so drastically different.

How do you tell your poker buddies about the quiet joy of watching a little boy clamber up the slide by himself for the first time, how his face burst into a smile of triumph more akin to Hercules than to a three-year-old? Is there any real way to explain to your blind date about the heartbreaking vignette that happened when you passed

by the retirement home? How an old woman verbally accosted a jogger, pulling them into conversation, and realizing from the loneliness that punctuated her words that it's the first real conversation she's had in a while. You can't really bring up how it felt like you got punched in the gut when she mentioned her dementia-riddled husband just as the jogger trotted away, leaving her confession to the open air. I wish there was a way to tell someone about it, but the truth is, sometimes it feels like you just can't.

But that's the amazing thing about writing. Of all the mediums of art, it's one of the few that actively requires two participants to be fully successful. When somebody paints or sculpts, there's always a finished product. Whether it's a lump of clay or a piece of canvas, the work of the artist has fruit. For someone who writes, however, the art is made when someone else picks up what we've written and takes it in. The beautiful images and scenes don't occur in the physical world, but in the thoughts and feelings of the people who read. It is in that ac-

tion, the author putting something down and the reader transforming that into emotions and images, that a real connection occurs. Think of all the people in the world who relate so earnestly to the characters in Harry Potter or Huck Finn. People don't just read these tales; they relate to them. A part of what the author wanted to say fused with the conscious thoughts of the reader, and in that instant there is an understanding.

That's why I do what I do. So that everyone who picks up a poem, or reads the first two sentences of an article, or just glances at the title of one of my works connects with me in some small way. If they read for an hour, half an hour, or even 5 minutes, they can see what I see, hear what I hear, and hopefully feel what I feel. In that time I can make the tattooed couple as real for them as it was for me, and in that moment we fully understand each other. I'm Kyle Ott. Won't you sit and read for a while?

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

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## THE GRADUATE

## Shh! I'm hunting apartments

Nicole Jones  
MSM Class of 2014

Life after the Mount—and after a short stint abroad in Austria—has been all about preparing for graduate school. In August I will be attending the University of Virginia for a solid 7 semesters straight of studying, summers included. This, of course, means that I need a home. More precisely, I need an apartment.

The idea of striking out on one's own and renting an apartment, living in the city, and paying one's own way through life is highly romanticized in the minds of young people everywhere. We want our independence, and college has given us a taste of it. Now it's time to move out of our parents' basement and really stand on our own two feet. Well, easier said than done.

First of all, there's just narrowing down the list of apartments in which you are even interested, which means determining your search criteria. Do I need granite countertops? Not so much, but a nearby bus stop is essential for daily transportation and saving on gas. Then there's the big roommate question: to have or not to have? I have lived in a private apartment for two years and need peace and quiet for studying. The suite-style apartments are cheaper, but are mostly housed with underclassmen who want to live, shall we say, a louder lifestyle. A single-bedroom apartment is more expensive,

but I have my privacy and my quiet study space. In the end, I'm there for school, so the single it is. I clicked "search" and crossed my fingers. After sifting through a thousand results on five different websites, 16 were left for me to nitpick through. Perfectly timed, I received an email from University Housing offering me an on-campus apartment, but I had to accept within 24 hours. *Brilliant!* I thought. No more apartment hunting, just a nice simple campus apartment. Then I realized that the lease starts *after* I need to be on campus. I double check with the office to make sure I can move-in a few days earlier. "We're sorry, but we cannot allow you to move in sooner than the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There are some local hotels at which you could stay until the apartment is ready." How aggravating, I needed to be in Charlottesville by the 20<sup>th</sup>. What was I going to do with an apartment's worth of belongings while I waited, spending more money I don't have on a hotel room? Guess on-campus housing wasn't the simplest fix after all. I let the school's offer rot in my inbox and continued to wander the tangled jungle of off-campus housing.

Though I still poked around a few websites, I figured the 16 apartments listings I had "favorited" were my best options. I began comparing the listings to each other. This one was an efficiency, that one didn't have a bus stop nearby, those couple came with furniture, while these included

all utilities in their prices. It was an endless balancing of pros and cons. Ultimately, it came down to the phone calls.

I called the managers of my favorite choices first. It was mildly intimidating at first. I'm not sure if it's a curse of the texting generation to be nervous of using a phone for actual calls, but there's something about not knowing who is on the other end that bothers me and many people my age. Texts have some security. You either know who it is and respond, or delete it and move on. There's no interaction and therefore no risk. However, the more places I called, the easier it became. I developed a basic formula to start the conversation: "Hi, my name is Nicole Jones. I saw your ad for the apartment at 123 Road and was wondering if it was still available?" Some answered their phones, some didn't. Others were out of town for the weekend that I planned to visit and couldn't schedule a tour with me. I ended up with a whopping three appointments.

My parents and I made the 3 ½ hour drive to Charlottesville that Saturday. First stop, an apartment suite with four private bedrooms and a shared kitchen. The building towered above us and circled around us, forming a small courtyard where we entered. The agent showing us around, Tanashia, led us up narrow wooden staircases to tour the two available rooms. The building was older, with narrow hallways, but well-kept and in the process of various renovations such as the installation of more energy-efficient windows. Inside I met Mackenzie, one of my potential suite-mates, and asked her what she liked and disliked about living there.

"Well, I've lived here for six years, so it can't be that bad." True, but I didn't like the looks of the beer cans hiding in the grass outside or the fact that mostly underclassmen lived there. Typically underclassmen have different priorities than graduate students. I continued to ask Tanashia some questions I had compiled.

"What's the typical rent increase in the past 1-3 years? What's the building's turnover rate? Under what conditions is it acceptable to break my lease?"

"Girl, you sound like you're shopping! These are great questions that I don't usually get," she complimented. Thank-you, Internet.

I jotted Tanashia's answers down in the notebook I brought with me, thanked her for her time, and headed to the next apartment. This one was very different from the first: a private efficiency, fully furnished, and in the basement of Ms. Hoffman, an eclectic frazzled lady spattered in paint. I was excited about this one based on the pictures and the description I had found. All utilities were included for a low fee, I wouldn't have to lug my own furniture across the state, there was free off-street parking, and I'd have the apartment all to myself. Yet, when I walked in, I couldn't help but

be underwhelmed. The space was tidy and exactly as advertised. There was a fully made bed in the corner and electric logs in the fireplace with built-in bookshelves lining the walls. It was like remembering how large and scary your favorite childhood amusement park ride was, only to revisit it as an adult and realize it was much smaller than you remember. I had built it up too much in my head and the excitement was wearing off with each detail, but the deal breaker was the "stove top"—a hot plate she stored under the sink. On to the next appointment.

The third one was the one I had expected to like the least, mostly because it was the most expensive and included the least utilities. As we pulled up to the Shamrock offices my dad speaks up, "I like this better already. It's built better." Okay, Dad. I walk inside and it's awkwardly quiet. I instantly recognized the manager, whose name I still don't know—we'll call him Stewart—by his voice. His extraordinarily lack-luster, defeated, and monotone voice. He drove us across the street to a different cluster of apartments belonging to Shamrock Corporations. He droned on about the three one-bedroom apartments that were available, the laundry facilities, and the off-road parking. I nodded and snuck a word in when I could.

On the second floor of the complex, we were ushered into an empty apartment. The tan carpet still had tracks from the vacuum cleaner and white walls stared at me from all sides. It wasn't overly glamorous, but it was well-maintained and had what I was looking for: no roommates, a nearby bus stop, and a full kitchen. It didn't blow me away, but it was comfortable, sturdy. I could live here. The best part? Shamrock has a strict noise policy.

Stewart droned, "Our noise policy is well-enforced. We allow up to 55 decibels. That's about how loud I'm talking right now. If you can hear your neighbors, that's okay, but if you can understand every word, go ahead and call-in a complaint." It was the perfect study environment.

On the drive home I contemplated the three places I had seen. Really, I contemplated the first and the third. Paint-spattered Ms. Hoffman was nice, but a hot plate does not a stove-top make. For a while I thought maybe I had made a mistake by rejecting the school's housing offer. It had certainly been one of the cheaper options and I wouldn't have had to deal with setting up utilities. Then I realized that's exactly what my undergrad apartment had been like—prepackaged and worry free. I wanted a step up from that, even if it meant more responsibility and more hassle. I was taking baby-steps into adulthood. I could manage a few phone calls to set up my utilities, I could manage to write a few separate checks every month, and I could do it all on time without incurring the wrath of late fees. I realized that

Shamrock was the way to go, not only because it was the best study environment, but also because it was the best growing environment.

The next day I sent an email to Shamrock, thanking them for the tour and stating that I was interested in leasing with them. I received a PDF of the lease and was given five days to mail in the security deposit. As I began to look over the lease, I noticed something wasn't right. There was only one page but the document referenced four more pages. I emailed them pointing out the error and quickly received the full document. Simple mistake I suppose, but it made me even more scrupulous as I read over the rest of the document. There was nothing unreasonable, but I needed to do one more thing before I signed on the dotted line.

"Hey, Mom, I'm about to sign a lease with Shamrock. Is there any reason I shouldn't?"

"Does the lease state your rent?"

"Yes."

"Does the rent include the grad student discount they mentioned?"

"Yes."

"And it doesn't include most of your utilities?"

"Correct."

"And you've considered that into the total cost?"

"Yes."

"Do they steam clean the carpet before you move in?"

"Yes."

"It's your call."

"Alright. I'm signing. Love you. Bye."

I looped my John Hancock onto the page, scanned it onto my computer, and attached it to an email. I received it back the same day with the manager's signature squiggled beneath mine. Digging through my nightstand, I found my checkbook and wrote my first check to Shamrock. I sealed it in an envelope and went to the post office.

"I want to overnight this." I'd rather it made it there sooner than later. Leaving that little envelope in the hands of the postman behind the counter, I walked out feeling very satisfied. It was a crazy whirlwind of a week, but I had a new home come August 8, and that is a new adventure worth looking forward to.

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## CREATIVE WRITING

# Helper of mankind

Alexandra Tyminski  
MSM Class of 2015

Last month we celebrated the Fourth of July, and I wrote an article about the 56 men that signed our Declaration of Independence. I asked you all to use your imagination and think about what those men would be doing to celebrate America's Independence Day. When I submitted my article, I got an email from the owner of the paper about what I had written. He placed in front of me two pictures. When I chose the one from last month, he emailed me again and said, "Do you want to know why I like the other one? I'll call you tomorrow and explain what I think."

I knew that this meant he probably had another suggestion that was different from mine. Skeptical, I waited to hear what he would have to say. Sometime during the next day, he called me and discussed a topic with me that I now feel I must bring to your attention. He shared with me that the picture I did not originally choose had more meaning behind it than just what you and I may see. After we hung up, I dug the email back up from my overflowing inbox and took one hard look at it.

The picture beside this article with the woman holding the American flag over the globe has a story tell you. She wants you to hear her voice.

• • •

In addition to my article being published last month, there was an article we ran that was originally published on June 5th, 1973. "America: The Good Neighbor," was written by a Canadian journalist, writer, and commentator named Gordon Sinclair. Sinclair states in his commentary the role of America in the world. "When the French were in danger of collapsing in 1956, it was the Americans who propped it up, and their reward was to be insulted and swindled on the streets of Paris. I was there. I saw it." He later continued by saying, "When earthquakes hit distant cities, it is the United States that hurries in to help. This spring, 59 American communities were flattened by tornadoes. Nobody helped." Sinclair saw America's role in the world as a positive action. In his eyes, they were seen as helpers of mankind. They were much more than an example. However, Sinclair encountered, heard, and then wrote about those who very much disagreed with him. He said in America's defense, "I can name you 5,000 times when the Americans raced to the help of other people in trouble. Can you name me even one time when someone else raced to the Americans in trouble?"

You may say, thanks for bringing this to my attention, now what? Where do we go from here? What is the point of this article? If you are intrigued by a twenty-year-old's passion to dive into a topic that not many are willing to discuss, then I encourage you to keep reading.

Recently, I've found myself in situations of no words, shock, fear, thankfulness, confused, hopeful, and inspired. I'm not sure if you have felt the same, but maybe you have. With all of the

striking news going on, I've been left with a lot of raw emotions and they have only fueled what I'm going to discuss with you. In the process of writing this article, I've reached out to my very first fan, let's just call her Hannah, and gave her a "sneak peek" into what I was writing about and this is what I told her as well as what I'm going to say to all of you. This topic is without a doubt controversial, but I've learned that those who raise valuable questions help create a more educated society. My mind and heart have been focused on one thing that the woman over the globe is also focused on: what is America's role in our world? Where do we stand?

Many of us may align with Gordon Sinclair's thinking that America is the helping hand. We are the one who steps in when others are in danger. We are the moral examples, the right decision makers, and the nation that will provide assistance in times of desperate need. However, I think that there might be many who think America is not the greatest power in the world. They question America's ability to rule in the best way possible. They might wonder if America is even doing enough to help its own people. There are possibly those who watch our national news stations and question when we are going to stop wasting time and help other countries in such disasters.

Now, I'm not saying that each of these opinions is the right one, but I do believe there is something to be said about each. According to the PEW Research Center, "young people are far less likely than older Americans to say that the U.S. stands above all other nations. Just 15% of those under 30 express that view today, down from 27% three years ago." It seems as though some young people doubt that America stands above other countries in the world. Why is that? Maybe one factor might be because they see education is less in other countries, maybe they see that other countries aren't necessarily involved in wars, or it could be that they simply like to travel and other places are more fun. It could be a combination of all of these things, but every night as I watch the news and hear about more tragedies, I can only think to myself: what are we going to do now? Who do we help? I can't help but wonder if my fellow Americans, or my fellow young people, feel the same way. Night after night, it seems as though terror strikes some area of the world, and it feels as though the obligation always lands on our shoulders. Is this good or bad?

This leads me into the next possible view of America's role in the world: is America doing enough to help its own people? Hannah, the woman I mentioned earlier, brought this to my attention when I told her about my article. She expressed that this might be a side worth digesting. While reading through the Washington Post and enjoying my blackberry jam on rye toast, I couldn't help but think if she was right. In college, your professors teach you how to present in front of a class or have class discussions with other students who may not necessarily agree with your opinions. I've found that as you reach the higher level courses, these dis-

cussions tend to get a bit more real. By real I mean that you get to see how the older you get, the more important these discussions become to young people like myself. I have never encountered a class discussion on a topic much like the one I'm writing about, but I do foresee many students thinking that America is doing too much. Now, it's safe to say that staying strong during the face of any world challenge is important, but what about America's own unresolved problems: healthcare, unemployment rate, involvement in wars, and the list goes on. Maybe many Americans are empathizing with their neighbors who struggle to put food on the table every week, or watching a family member suffer for not getting the proper healthcare. As Hannah asked me, is it selfish to think that we should take care of our own people first?

By no means are Hannah or I choosing that this is America's role in society, but it is just another ingredient to the recipe. However, the ultimate point of why I'm writing this article is to be the voice of the woman over the globe standing right beside these black words. Are you wondering what side she agrees with? None. She doesn't agree with anything I've written so far. In fact, she agrees with Gordon Sinclair when he said, "It is time to speak up for the Americans as the most generous and possibly the least appreciated people on all the earth."

Wow—that sounds a bit harsh. However, it may seem true at times as America is constantly stepping in to help other countries and everyone is constantly watching. Other world leaders may look at us and think, geez, those Americans never mind their own business! They always want to be involved. I'm here to reassure those world leaders that yes that is correct. But, we aren't in it for the fame, the money, or the grand affirmations. Rather, we are helpers of mankind because in our hearts we believe it is the right thing to do. We help because we believe in human rights. We protect because we believe in human purpose. We provide because we believe in human security. We love because we believe in human dignity.

I'm not saying that other countries don't believe in those things, but Americans feel a necessary duty to help those who are not provided basic needs or should I say, basic freedoms. Why should we be punished with words of harassment or embarrassment for good deeds? Abraham Lincoln once said, "He has a right to criticize, who has a heart to help."

I just recently watched the movie Hotel Rwanda, and I was on the edge of my seat the whole time. One quote and conversation got me, and I couldn't stop thinking about it. The scene went something like this: the leader in Rwanda who was helping his people out of their suffering went up to an American news journalist and thanked him for recording the massacres going on in the villages. He said, "I am glad that you have shot this footage and that the world will see it. It is the only way we have a chance that people might intervene. How can they not intervene when they witness such atrocities?" The journalist



looked at the man in desperation and said, "I think if people see this footage they'll say, 'Oh my God, that's horrible,' and then go on eating their dinners."

I'm here to proclaim that although it might be some young people who think America isn't the greatest country in the world, there are many who still believe it is. Not because of selfish pride, but because of a chosen love that America seeks to help the world. Whether it's earthquakes, tsunamis, economic crashes, or war, America will stand tall and stand strong for those who cannot. I watch as there is fighting for peace in Israel and Palestine, strain and distress in the Ukraine, broken hearts over the 298 people killed on Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, frustrated families that lost their 4

sons in Gaza, and pain of the mothers who yearn for the return of their kidnapped daughters in Nigeria. I just think to myself, if we don't help, then who will? If we do help, does that make us the greatest power in the world? If not, then what else needs to be done? Let us remember that loving others and helping them, for America, means using our freedom to get there. Maybe the truth lies in this: there might be no greater country over another, but "no one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another." Thank you, Charles Dickens, and thank you, Gordon Sinclair.

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



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# ARTS

## Almost Blue Mountain City

Kathryn Franke  
MSM Class of 2013,  
MBA Class of 2015

Thurmont has a significant amount of history embedded in its roots, and Christopher Haugh, the Scenic Byway & Special Projects Manager with the Tourism Council of Frederick County, has captured this history on film. *Almost Blue Mountain City: The History of Thurmont, Maryland* is a documentary that delves into the comprehensive history of Thurmont, spanning centuries worth of generations to show how our town has developed into what it is today.

The three-hour documentary has been in the works on and off for years until recently when funding and support from the Delaplaine Foundation, the Tourism Council of Frederick County, and the Thurmont Historical Society kick-started the project to its completion. Haugh explained that the idea for the project initially came about in 1994 when he

worked for the cable company GS Communications, long before Comcast came about in Frederick County. Around the year 2000, the project really started to take off and he began interviewing commentators in 2001. The project was put on hold when Adelphia Cable bought GS Communications and then again when Haugh left the cable company, but throughout the past two years, Haugh received the funding and support he needed to turn his vision into a reality. After 20 years of hard work and creativity, the documentary is finally complete.

Haugh looked through a number of local documentaries, former research and books to gain a better understanding of how to go about creating the film. He looked at what work other historians had already done and studied town lore and stories so that he was able to either back up or refute them through his findings. He studied common family names like Weller and Harbaugh that still exist in the area today, the town's found-



Frederick Tourism Office's Christopher Haugh

ers and how they came to be, and the formation of farmsteads, villages and religions that ultimately held the community together.

Haugh was happy to have been able to interview Thurmont historian George Wireman prior to his death. "It was neat to have him be a part of the project and get his insight," said Haugh. Sterling Kelbaugh, who was influential in starting the Thurmont Historical Society, is a prominent student of history whose ancestors go back through generations of Thurmont residents, so his role in the documentary is another great addition that depicts how the town has evolved over time.

The title of the documentary, *Al-*

most Blue Mountain City: The History of Thurmont, Maryland, refers to the history of the town's name. Thurmont was originally named Mechanicstown, and after a debate between renaming it Blue Mountain City or Thurmont, Thurmont was ultimately the victor.

This chronology of Thurmont starts with the town's earliest settlers and spans history to cover what would eventually become the town of Thurmont, Maryland. The documentary discusses many crucial periods of history and their impact on the development of the town, including the colonial period, the early 1800s, the Civil War, and post Civil War. It touches on

the various industries and parks in Thurmont and how they came to be. It explores how Camp David came to be located within our town. It discusses the Catoc-tin Furnace and its impact on the economy of Thurmont, as it contributed to the growth of the village, brought work for the people, such as blacksmithing and leather making, assisted in the production and delivery of iron, and ultimately led to the creation of many parks and other developments within the town. As you can see, there is a plethora of history about the town of Thurmont that Haugh uncovers through this documentary.

Haugh explained that many of the people he interviewed for the documentary have since passed away, but he is happy to have been able to "capture their remembrance, research, stories, and legacy for future generations to see, learn, appreciate, and understand." According to Haugh, that is the nice thing about documentaries: they allow you to capture a moment in time and show its significance for years to come.

"You'll learn everything you need to know about Thurmont, and there are great visuals from the Thurmont Historical Society," said Haugh. "We tried to illustrate the history the best we could, but the crux of the documentary is the stories of the commentators."

"This documentary is a preservation of history and an education about our town," said Haugh. "It's a great story about a great town."

The premiere of this wonderful documentary will occur on October 26 at Springfield Manor (11836 Auburn Road Thurmont). For more information, call 301-271-0309 or visit [www.visitfrederick.org/events](http://www.visitfrederick.org/events).

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# Thurmont Lions Club mural project

Caroline King  
MSM Class of 2015

Truly, readers, there is no such beauty as the beauty to be found in nature. I'm sitting on my first air plane ride ever as I type this, and I am astounded not only by the clouds that sprawl into infinity outside the window next to me, but also by the landscapes we passed as we fly over our country. The greens and browns, the rivers and roads, nature in and of itself is art. I'm heading to California for part of the summer, and flying over the entirety of the country is astounding. I cannot imagine a landscape I haven't seen from this bird's eye view. And yet, I cannot think of much (even the beaches of California) that rivals the beauty of our own set of mountains.

One of my favorite quotes from living around the Emmitsburg area is, "We are among the clouds." The beauty we get to experience every day while living on these mountains is something we can sometimes take for granted. Flying over the desert definitely reminded me of how lucky we are to live where we do. If nature is art, then we live in a masterpiece. Our location in the mountains is the Mona Lisa of landscapes, and flying over the United States only serves to cement that idea. If you've read the article I produced last month, you're already familiar with an artist who shares my sentiments on the beauty of our town. Yemi is a local artist who moved into the Thurmont area from the city of Manhattan. To quote Yemi from my previous article, "We live in the most beautiful place."

Yemi works to help to community come together—uniting us "brick by brick." He strives to expose the beautiful nature and extensive history of the area. In case you missed last month's issue, Yemi is a local artist who recently did a mural for the Timeless Trends Boutique, owned by Virginia LaRouche and located on Thurmont's Main Street.

If you're interested in seeing Yemi's murals and large installations, they can be found in several locations including the Courtyard by Marriott lobby in Frederick, the Common Market in Frederick, as well as in the Creekside Plaza building glass walkway and the Pillars of Frederick, which is one of the biggest murals in Maryland at 1280 square feet. Yemi is an impressive artist who finds his home in these mountains.

Yemi's most recent work is a tribute to the beautiful area, creating his own masterpiece of nature. Five murals depicting some of the areas of interest around the Thurmont area will be unveiled on Saturday, August 23 at 1 p.m. at the Trolley along East Main Street at the entrance of the carnival grounds in Thurmont. These 5 new murals, aptly named the "Crowning Jewel Mural," will feature much of the local area's points of interest. If you read the last article on Yemi, you'll

already be aware of the Thurmont's Lion Club teaming up with Yemi to produce these murals, featuring the "crowning jewels" of our community. "I want to show people how beautiful it is here," Yemi said. "There's such a rich vein of history here, and I want to make the community aware of what we have. From waterfalls to forests and beaches, these murals will cover entire walls and help the community find what's here."

These murals will serve not only as a gorgeous addition to the Thurmont area, but also as a giant map. The geographical locations featured are being kept a secret until the unveiling at the end of August, but it promises to highlight some of the region's well-kept secrets as well as include directions as to how to get to the locations featured. The murals are really ingenious way of getting the community involved in everything our area has to offer, as well as offering a fun way to get involved in the art scene. Yemi's murals serves as a monument to nature, but it also serves to educate the community about what's around us in a fun and interactive way.

The mountains are a beautiful place to live, with many hidden secret areas that are great for exploring and picnicking, and we are fortunate enough to live in an area chock full of historical background. However, unless you have the time to go exploring every inch around the area, there's a lot even born and raised locals might have missed. Yemi's new murals hope to expose and introduce the community to some areas of interest they may have missed. As Yemi said, "I want to make people aware of what we have. Some people live here all their lives and don't know the beauty or all the history."

If you're around on Saturday, August 23 at 1 p.m. at the Trolley Substation, you could be among the first to see these larger than life murals that Yemi has created for our town. It promises to be beautiful and informative. Yemi strives to bring the community together through his



A mural depicting the old Western Maryland Railroad and the Frederick & Thurmont Trolley Line Station in Thurmont.

works of art. Thanks to this sponsorship from the Thurmont Lions Club, he's one step closer to his goal. Living in Emmitsburg, I find new and amazing history and nature every time I venture out (sometimes just by glancing out the window!). Having a mural mapping out these areas is an amazing opportunity to find out more about our community and the surrounding areas.

If you had the opportunity to see the Timeless Trends Boutique Mural Yemi recently unveiled, you'll know his talent as an artist and his beautiful works of art. If his past unveilings are anything to go by, this new "Crowning Jewels Murals" will not be something to miss. Yemi is a talented artist, a dedicated member of this community, and a nature enthusiast, a perfect combination for an artist living in our community! If you enjoy good art, adventure and exploration, or simply want to support the community, this unveiling should definitely be on your Saturday "to do" list. It's not something to miss and we hope to see you there! Again, Yemi's "Crowning

Jewel" murals will be unveiled on Saturday, August 23 at 1 p.m. at the Trolley Substation along East Main Street at the entrance of the carnival grounds in Thurmont. It's going to be a wonderful opportunity and we hope to see you there!

If you want to learn more about Yemi, visit his webpage [yemi777.wix.com/yemi-artist](http://yemi777.wix.com/yemi-artist). For more information about the Thurmont Lions Club, visit [thurmontlionsclub.com](http://thurmontlionsclub.com).

The Thurmont Lions Club is the oldest service group in Thurmont having been chartered by Lions International in 1929. The Thurmont Lions Club will be celebrating 85 years of service to the Thurmont Community. Our primary focus is making life better for our neighbors by helping those in and around Thurmont.

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

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## COOKING WITH LOVE

## August in Maryland means corn!

Brooke Hagerty  
The Food Chick

Corn is in abundance this time of the year and sometimes it seems that there are just not enough ways to prepare it! There is the tried, true and traditional boiled Corn on the Cob, there are the twists on that original recipe. There are also a plethora of recipes for corn bread, corn chowder, toppings for your corn and just about anything else you can think of! This month I decided to pull recipes from my new favorite APP, Specialty Produce, to share with you in addition to some different ways to prepare your traditional boiled corn.

Let's start with the best way to choose your corn. Short of growing your own corn or picking your own from your local farmer there are a couple of tell tale ways to choose the fresh-

est corn possible. First, pull back the top about an inch or two of the corn and take a look at the silks. The silk should be loose and a bright, light gold color; it should be loose on the cob. If the silk is hard to slide off then the corn is either very young or has been off the stalk for a longer period of time. The kernels should be bright and close together (but not too close). The very tip of the corn should not be browning; it should also be tender to the touch with a little give similar to the feeling you get if you press on the area at the point where your thumb and wrist meet.

There are many different ways to prepare traditional Corn on the Cob.

First, the traditional boiled corn on the cob. Remove all of the husks and silk and rinse with cold water. Start of pot of water boiling and add salt to taste. Once to a rolling boil add the corn and boil for four to five minutes.



Remove corn with tongs or pour water out into sink. Place the corn on a platter and serve with butter, salt and pepper to taste.

Second on the list is grilled Corn on the Cob. This can be done two ways; remove the silks and corn as above OR pull the husks back but not off, gently remove the silks and slide the husks back up to cover the cob. If you are leaving the husks on be sure to soak for about 30 minutes so the husks do not burn on the grill. Prepare either your gas or propane grill to a medium hot temperature. Place the corn on the grill away from direct flame. For the husked corn turn after about three minutes or until grill marks just begin to appear. For corn with the husks on you will need to cook for about five to seven minutes per side.

Third, do you love the idea of grilling the corn but don't have a grill? Pre-heat your oven to 400 degrees. Remove the silks and husks as above. Place corn on a sheet tray and brush with either melted butter or your favorite oil and salt and pepper. Roast your corn for about 15 minutes. I like to add either fresh parsley or cilantro to my mix above for additional flavor.

Don't be afraid to experiment with different toppings for your corn. Cilantro and paprika add a southwestern feel; Parmesan cheese and Italian seasoning give it that Italian feel, both of which are huge favorites of mine! Be creative and raid your herb garden and/or spice shelves!

The following recipes are from Specialty Produce, my new favorite APP. Let me know what you think!

#### Gluten Free Corn Bread Ingredients

1 lb butter, softened  
kernels from 6 ears of corn  
1/2 yellow onion  
6 whole eggs  
14 oz. sweet condensed milk  
1-1/2 c. sugar  
2 c. rice flour  
1 T baking powder

#### Directions

Set butter out at room temperature for an hour. When butter is soft, preheat oven to 350 degrees and grease an 8"x10" baking pan. Using a blender, blend the corn kernels, onion, and eggs until smooth. Add the condensed milk and butter and blend. In a separate bowl, mix sugar, flour, and baking powder together. Add the dry ingredients to the corn mixture and mix until smooth. Pour into a greased pan and bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Let cool a few minutes, cut and serve

#### Corn On The Cob With Chili Lime Mayonnaise Ingredients

Corn on the cob  
Mayonnaise  
(about 2 tablespoons)  
One lime, or about  
2 tablespoons lime juice  
1/4 teaspoon chili powder  
Salt and pepper

#### Directions

Start a grill. Shuck the corn. Put the corn on the grill and cook until it begins to blacken (4 to 5 minutes), then turn. Continue cooking and turning until all sides are blackened. Add about 2 tablespoons mayo, 2 tablespoons lime juice, and 1/4 teaspoon chili powder (all to taste). Season with salt and pepper if desired. Slather chili-lime mayo on corn and enjoy!

I hope you enjoy these fantastic recipes as much as I have!

As always, if you have an idea for an article or have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at brooke@thefoodchick.biz!

The Food Chick has gone retail. For details, please visit my website at [www.thefoodchick.biz](http://www.thefoodchick.biz) and/or follow me on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/theoriginalfoodchick](http://www.facebook.com/theoriginalfoodchick).

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# Emmitsburg All-Stars shine

Michael Donahue

Emmitsburg proved how talented its athletes are in this year's 12U baseball skill competition. Colton Devilbiss won the Emmitsburg All-Stars Home-run Derby with an outstanding 13 homeruns, which was more than double the score of his closest competitor. Emmitsburg also won the Around the Horn competition with a time of 20.5 seconds. The All-Stars grabbed two of the three skill competitions on Friday night, showing that they were the favorites heading into the weekend.

The real fun of the tournament kicked off Saturday morning when Emmitsburg took on Frederick in its first game. Emmitsburg's lead started early, led by Colton Devilbiss' three RBI homerun. The All-Stars had a great second inning, showing off their power by taking an 8-0 lead over Frederick. However, Frederick responded quickly with nine unanswered runs throughout the tops of the 3rd and the 4th innings. Emmitsburg fans were on the edge of their seats, but not for long because in the bottom of the 4th, Dylan "Clicky" Click hit a grand slam to give Emmitsburg a 13-9 lead. The All-Stars' bats were sparked again and they went on to win the game by a score of 20-10.

Emmitsburg's next opponent was Smithsburg. Led by their pitcher Cuevas, Smithsburg started off with a great defensive inning. Cuevas struck out Emmitsburg's first three hitters on his way to six strikeouts and only two runs given up in his four innings pitched. Cuevas was on fire on offense as well. He hit a three-shot homerun to give Smithsburg a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first. After four innings, Emmitsburg was down 3-2 but the All-Stars' offense had shown promise the inning before and looked ready to explode. Alex Wivell tied the game at 3-3 with a long shot into right field for a RBI double, and he would cross the plate later in the inning to give Emmitsburg a 5-3 lead after a Devilbiss homerun. Emmitsburg's players never looked over their shoulders once they had the lead, scoring six unanswered runs to give the All-Stars an 11-4 win.

On Sunday morning, Emmitsburg had the chance to lock-in the number one seed with a win over Northeast. Emmitsburg jumped to an early 5-1 lead and added to their lead in the top of the 4th with a Johnny "Baseball" Glass solo homerun, sparking great offense by the All-Stars. Emmitsburg increased the lead to 18-4 with Colton Devilbiss earning the last run on a solo shot over the center field wall. Northeast started a rally in the bottom of the 6th inning, but it was too little and too late as the game ended 18-6.

Later on Sunday, Emmitsburg would play their last game in pool play versus UMAC. Their defense was flourishing. Isiah "Bubba" Wivell was on the mound for the All-Stars and pitched a no-hitter through three innings before being replaced by Johnny "Baseball." While Bubba was pitching, Emmitsburg scored six unanswered runs. Yet, UMAC stayed consistent, and in the top of the fifth, they rallied to one run down to make the score interesting at 7-6. Garner gave Emmitsburg a cushion in the bottom of the 5th with a RBI double to give Emmitsburg an 8-6 lead. Garner's run turned out to be the game-winning run with the final score being 10-7 in the All-Stars' favor. With all four games won, Emmitsburg had clinched the first place playoff spot and locked in a bye into the championship game.

Monday night, Smithsburg met Emmitsburg for the 12U Maryland State Championship. With the title on the line, Emmitsburg's ace, Colton Devilbiss, was on the mound pitching for the All-Stars with his counterpart being Smithsburg's star pitcher, Cuevas. Smithsburg took an early 1-0 lead in the top of the first, taking advantage of the nervous Emmitsburg defense, whose two wild pitches allowed two back-to-back steals and an easy RBI single. Emmitsburg's hitting wasn't much better in the bottom of the 1st with all three outs coming as strikeouts. However, Emmitsburg settled back into the game in the 2ndinning. They didn't allow a run on defense and led by the Wivell brothers on offense they scored five runs. With strong defense from Emmitsburg, the top of the third was also a scoreless inning for Smithsburg, who left men on the corners. In the bottom of the third, the All-Stars increased their lead by one run to make the game 6-1. Without consistent defense around him, Cuevas' seven strikeouts through three innings seemed to have less of an



Emmitsburg All-Stars

effect than it should have had on the All-Stars.

With the game nearing the close, Smithsburg needed to start an offensive rally. In the top of the fourth, Biden crossed the plate off of a RBI double to decrease the lead to five. Nevertheless, Emmitsburg responded with two runs of their own to give them an 8-2 lead. In the top of the fifth, Smithsburg needed to add confidence to their side with only two innings left. With two men on, Franklin was at the plate and ready to answer Smithsburg's pleas for runs. He smashed a three-run shot over the wall to give the game a bit more spice at 8-5. One out later, Devilbiss was taken down from the mound and Isiah Wivell moved from catcher to pitcher. The birthday boy, Colton Devilbiss finished pitching with six strikeouts and 42/3 IP. Coming from the catcher position, Bubba Wivell struggled in the first inning pitched. Smithsburg connected two hits and three RBIs to

tie the game at 8-8 before Walter was struck out by Isiah Wivell.

Now in the bottom of the 5th, Emmitsburg players and fans were starting to feel the pressure. The tension was thick. The first half of the inning started with back-to-back singles by Isiah Wivell and Dylan Click before Alex Wivell gave Emmitsburg back the lead with a three-run homer over the right-center field wall. The roar from the Emmitsburg fans was electric. Emmitsburg wasn't able to muster anymore runs in the 5th as Cuevas got his 9th and final strikeout of the game.

To start the 6th inning, Franklin was at bat for Smithsburg. Franklin repeated his 5th inning success with a lead off solo homerun. Franklin was followed by a dramatic offensive inning, including a RBI single and a RBI triple where Rohrer had to beat out a pickle to reach base safely.

With the game now tied, the game moved to the bottom of the last inning. Isiah Wivell reached

base with one out. After another out, Alex Wivell stepped up to bat. Two wild pitches consecutively moved Alex's brother from first to third. After a mound visit, Alex Wivell and Colton Devilbiss were intentionally walked to load the bases. Johnny Glass came up to bat with two outs and looked down Cuevas. After the fourth pitch the at-bat count stood at 2-2; Isiah Wivell took off for home plate. Franklin (C) threw the ball back to Cuevas who immediately threw it back. Isiah Wivell slid into the home as Franklin caught the ball and went for the tag. After the dust cleared the ball was rolling on the ground and Isiah "Bubba" Wivell had stolen home to win the 12U Maryland State Championship by a score of 12-11. Commenting on the exciting victory, Wivell said, "I was hopin' that they [Smithsburg] didn't realize I had tried to steal. I just slid in and hit the ball out... after that I jumped up and started yelling!"

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## IN THE COUNTRY

# Building an environmental legacy

**Mark Berg**  
Board President of  
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

Perhaps you, your family or friends have experienced what Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve has to offer. Each year, more than 10,000 people – students from pre-school to college, hikers, birders, fishers, runners, and others who enjoy the outdoors – visit Strawberry Hill.

Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve was established in 1986 by Frances Morton Froelicher to protect a high-quality cold water watershed and to offer environmental education. The Preserve encompasses 600+ acres just above the Mason-Dixon Line in Hamiltonban Township, Adams County. The Preserve is managed by a non-profit conservation organization; its mission for the last 25 years has been to protect the Swamp Creek Watershed and to connect the surrounding communities with the natural world by teaching, inspiring, and promoting stewardship of the environment.

As the only non-profit environmental education center in Adams County, Strawberry Hill offers a variety of programs for children and adults, as well as schools and community groups, throughout the year, both on and off site. Experienced teacher-naturalists lead guided hikes and innovative nature programs that provide hands-on discovery activities.

Strawberry Hill offers more than twenty grade-specific as well as multi-age group programs, and a variety

of programs for the surrounding community. The goal of the educational programs is to provide local schools and the surrounding community with hands-on, active outdoor programming that is educational as well as fun. The focus of the programs is on the local environment. Strawberry Hill hopes that after attending a program, participants will have a better understanding of the ecosystems that surround them, leading them to become better stewards of the environment. All Strawberry Hill academic programs conform to the Pennsylvania State Educational Standards for Ecology and Environment as formulated by the State Board of Education.

Strawberry Hill provided low-cost environmental education programs for more than 14,000 school children in just the last three years. Each program provides a “hands on learning experience” that encourages children and their families to become long-term stewards of the environment.

There is also an internship program for college juniors, seniors, and recent graduates. Interns are afforded the ability to gain valuable full-time experience working with a non-profit nature preserve. The interns are immersed in every aspect of the Preserve, from teaching, managing operations, conducting research, and learning about forest and facility management.

Community participation in Strawberry Hill's educational and recreational resources also saw a significant increase. The increase is a result of many factors, including quality and dynamic programming, and the inte-

gral role that Strawberry Hill fills in county- and township-level plans to provide green space and recreation to the growing community.

In 2009, a successful school program about the process of developing maple syrup was expanded to full public participation. Strawberry Hill began to host two full maple sugaring weekends for the general public and organized groups. Also in 2009, in partnership with Gettysburg College, new trail-running activities were developed for recreational and health-conscious adults. They include the Twisted Turkey Trail Tussle 10-mile, 10k, and 1-mile runs.

Since 1986, Strawberry Hill has encouraged children to connect to nature, to conserve and protect the environment, and to become wise stewards of the earth's natural resources by participating in summer camps. In 2012, the camp programs were restructured to offer parents who have more than one child the ability to enroll their children in multiple age groups. The number of campers has doubled every year for the last three years.

In addition to managing its 600+ acres of forest land, Strawberry Hill made major improvements to the educational center and campus area. Improvements began in 2010 with renovation of the Nature Center and have included small educational projects such as the installation of a new sensory garden, an educational habitat pond, bird feeding stations, stormwater management demonstrations, replacement of 150 yards of fencing for safety, and improved access to the parking area.

Renovation of the interior of the Nature Center provided better space for classes and meetings, enhanced the animal and educational exhibits, and resulted in a better classroom environment. The Pennsylvania Bee Keeper's Association donated a live demonstration honeybee hive. The hive is enclosed in glass and provides a way for the bees to leave the building and manage the hive. Covers can be opened for display or for programs to view the live bees working within the hive. Since its installation, the hive split eight times, introducing new colonies of pollinators to the forest.



Hans and Frances Froelicher

Now, Strawberry Hill is embarking on a Capital Campaign to carry out the Master Site Plan that will further enhance the facilities and enable Strawberry Hill to offer more programs and resources for visitors of all ages.

A Master Plan Steering Committee made up of several Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve Board members, a District Forester from Michaux State Forest, the Conservation Coordinator for the Land Conservancy of Adams County, staff from the Adams County Office of Planning & Development, and a Hamiltonban Township Supervisor began meeting in 2010. Throughout the summer and fall, consultants interviewed staff, inspected the preserve, and with the help of the Office of Planning & Development, began mapping the existing site features and resources.

The Strawberry Hill Master Site Plan contains information about the existing Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve site and the use of the facilities by visitors and by the staff of Strawberry Hill. The Plan envisions the development of the preserve in a way that is respectful of the site's environment, is cost conscious, and most important, satisfies the need to grow and improve the facilities for the programs and uses of the site.

Although the total area of the preserve is more than 609 acres, the Plan focuses primarily on the 10-to-12-acre area which contains the administrative offices, the Nature Center, parking areas and a large pavilion. This central operations area is referred to as the “Campus”. An important goal is to

maintain the character of the campus by continuing to use a collection of smaller buildings to house the various functions such as nature study classes, meetings, and administration. Being able to accommodate different visitors and uses such as hikers, special events, and school classes simultaneously and with minimal conflict was an important consideration.

Specifically, the enhancements called for in the Master Site Plan include: expanded and improved classroom facilities; a nature playground; increased parking capacity; a Country Store novelty/gift Shop; a new pond deck and gazebo; renovation of the Nature Center deck; restoration of the foundation of the Lane House and Sawmill; and installation of composting toilets.

This Master Site Plan also recommends upgrades to walkways and the addition of features such as a new perennial garden, an educational produce garden, a strawberry patch, better signage, and general landscaping improvements. Many of the proposed developments incorporate environmental enhancements and/or demonstrations such as the proposed composting toilets, a wetland demonstration for wastewater cleanup, enhancement of vernal pools to facilitate stormwater management, and a pond for habitat education near the Lane House. All new facilities will be handicapped accessible with older facilities being upgraded to meet or improve handicapped accessibility.

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

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IN THE COUNTRY

# Create a sanctuary in your backyard



Stacie Zelenka  
www.PondscapesMaryland.com



One of life's most harmful feelings is stress. Quite often this stress is felt from that dreaded thing that we all have to do each day called work. Of course stress can be derived from any other number of culprits. There are many healthy remedies to help combat stress... yoga, meditation, going for a walk. My favorite stress reliever is simply walking into my very own backyard paradise. I literally feel the stress melt away as I step foot into my backyard sanctuary. My shoulders gently release pressure and drop a bit lower. My face releases all tension. And my breathing instantly becomes deeper and more relaxed. I have never worn a blood pressure cuff into the backyard, but I would be willing the bet that you could watch the numbers drop.

There is just something majestic about surrounding yourself with nature. Butterflies fluttering and birds chirping create an instant feeling of wonderment and peace. Fragrant flowers and blooms in all the colors of the rainbow can leave you feeling truly euphoric. Imagine adding to the mix gently moving water like the sounds of a bubbling mountain stream. It is the perfect recipe for feeling stress-free, ultimately relaxed and peaceful.

A majestic personal sanctuary can be achieved easier than you may think. You do not need to have acres of land. A relaxing oasis can be cultivated with as little area as a small patio. It truly is amazing what a little moving water and some blooming waterlilies can do for your soul. Of course if you do have more area to work with, having a larger pond with goldfish or koi can be a wonderful addition, or a great place to start. Watching the gentle fish circle and swim in harmony has a way of letting all your worries melt away.

Gardens filled with beautiful blooms and butterflies fill your heart with joy. Sounds of gently moving water literally melt your stress away. Let yourself experience some nature. Plant a flower, watch it bloom. Enjoy the wonderment. Create a sanctuary in your own backyard.

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## FITNESS AND HEALTH

# Complementary Corner

## Daily energetic self-care

Renee Lehman

Included under the umbrella of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) are the practices of acupressure, acupuncture, qigong (pronounced "chee gung"), massage, and herbal medicine. All are used as a way to open the door to healing and allow the body's organ systems to work in harmony, thus promoting optimal health and well-being. This month's article is focusing on the use of acupressure and massage on four powerful energy centers to create harmony and balance within the body (to treat the root or underlying issue rather than just the symptom).

However, let's first review some of the principles of TCM:

TCM is the oldest continuously practiced medical system in the world (more than five thousand years). TCM deals with balancing the flow of the universal life force, or Qi (pronounced "chee"), which

flows through all living things. This Qi flows through the body on specific pathways called Meridians, and is essential for health. Acupuncture points on these meridians are places where the Qi can be tapped into and balanced.

When the Qi is balanced, moving smoothly, and in sufficient quality and quantity, health and wellness are promoted. When the Qi is unbalanced or blocked in any way, disease or dis-ease, will occur. This dis-ease may show up as symptoms on a physical, mental/emotional, or spiritual level. It is important to realize that these symptoms are only the end result of an imbalance, and not the illness itself.

A real life analogy of this flow of Qi through the meridians would be the New York City subway system. Think about how in New York City, the subway system is mostly under the ground. You cannot see it. The meridians in your body are under

the skin and cannot be seen. To get onto a subway train, you must enter the system via a station. Most times, you must go down steps into the subway station from street level.

The acupuncture points on the meridians is where you access the energy (Qi) traveling through the meridians, and are analogous to the subway station. Once on the subway train, if the train is running smoothly, you probably would feel happy if you arrived at your destination on time. This would be like the Qi moving smoothly and in a balanced way within your meridians. This would promote wellness. However, if there was a situation that slowed the progress or stopped the subway train altogether, and you did not make it to your destination on time, you probably would feel "stressed/frustrated/etc."

This would be analogous to the Qi being stuck or stagnant within your meridians. This would then result in dis-ease. So, the dis-ease that shows up is only a symptom of



an underlying problem and NOT the illness itself! TCM's goal is to treat the root or underlying issue, not just to treat the symptom.

### The Four Energy Gates

The Four Energy Gates are powerful places (acupuncture points) along specific meridians in the body. Daily self-massage of these four basic energy gates can help you to maintain good health, balance your energy (Qi), stimulate your body's own innate healing ability, and support your body/mind/spirit. The following information on the Four Energy Gates is from Nan Lu, OMD (Founding Director and President, Traditional Chinese Medicine World Foundation and the Tao of Healing; New York, New York).

The First Energy Gate helps to provide relief from headaches. Place your left thumb along the side of your left index finger. Now, place the left hand over your belly button. Look at where the crease ends on the web space between the thumb and index finger (towards the wrist). With your right thumb, place firm pressure at the end of the crease (on the web space) between the left thumb and index finger. Make small circles with the right thumb. Do this for 4 – 5 minutes, and then repeat on the right hand. Keep your shoulders relaxed.

The Second Energy Gate helps to provide relief from anxiety. Place your left palm on the center of your chest between your breasts. Place the right palm flat over the back of the left hand. Using light pressure, circle in a clockwise direction at least 200 times. Repeat counter-clockwise at

least 200 times.

The Third Energy Gate helps to support balanced hormonal functioning. Find the area along the body's centerline, four finger widths below your belly button. Alternately tap the area with both of your index and middle finger's fingertips. Tap this area for 3 minutes.

The Fourth Energy Gate helps to provide relief from back pain. On each buttock area, in the center of the "dimple" that is in the main muscle of each buttock: alternately "punch" this area. Do this "punching" with a loose fist, and keep your arms, shoulders, and hips relaxed. "Punch" this for 4 to 5 minutes.

Through this daily routine of self-care, you are giving your body/mind/spirit the opportunity to regain balance and harmony naturally. Honor yourself, and begin today!

To see the video of the Four Energy Gates, and to print out a handout of the Four Energy Gates (with pictures), go to [www.taofhealing.com/selfcare](http://www.taofhealing.com/selfcare).

Information in this article is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended as a substitute for the advice provided by your physician or other healthcare professional. You should not use the information in this article for diagnosing or treating a health problem or disease, or prescribing any medication or other treatment.

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with over 25 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg, PA. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.

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# FITNESS AND HEALTH

## Keep moving

### Finding the right exercise for you

**Linda Stultz**  
**Certified Trainer/  
 Fitness Therapist**

Exercise is talked about so much today. Advertisements in the newspapers, books and TV try to get you to purchase their machines or programs. They present their product as the best. Their programs promise to make you loose weight and look great in a short amount of time. I'm sure these products will help you work toward your goal if you keep using them. The problem with buying products like these is that we use them for a couple of weeks or maybe even a couple of days and do not see the results promised in the advertisement. We loose interest in them quickly and do not continue to use them. I have said and written much about this before but I really feel it is important to repeat

again. The first time you read something it may not be a time in your life that you need or are ready to use the information. You may come across it months or years later and now the information may pertain to your current needs. Finding the right program at the right time in your life will help you look better, feel better and stick with it. As we get older we realize that keeping our good health or improving it is the way we feel better about ourselves. I know as we age sometimes we gain a few pounds and that may be the motivator in getting started with an exercise program but we soon realize that our health is far more important than how we look in that swimsuit or those shorts.

Any good program to loose weight or improve your health will not work in only a few days or weeks. Our health is something we need to continually work

on. We want instant results and forget that we did not instantly gain that extra 20 or 30 pounds in a few days or weeks and we can not loose it that quickly. A good program helps you learn to eat properly. By that I mean healthy, nutritious foods in proper portions. A good program also teaches you how to start slowly with an exercise routine and gradually build up to your max. Each person must find the exercise that they will enjoy and therefore continue. If you start a program that you do not enjoy or if you start by pushing yourself too hard, you will not stick with it and it will be just like buying the equipment and not using it.

Someone once told me that a Bad Habit is picked up in a week or two, but a Good Habit takes at least six to eight weeks to stick with you. When it comes to exercise and nutrition, I really believe this is true. No matter how much you want to start a program, your mind must be the first place that is ready. If you are not committed to helping yourself, you will not contin-

ue, you will get discouraged and quickly find yourself back where you started. Start slow, try different kinds of exercise and keep plugging away. Try a few exercises that are in season. By that I mean in the summer try swimming or tennis or some outside sport that you enjoy. In the winter you still may enjoy an outside activity or you may choose something inside depending on the weather. Whatever you decide, make sure you enjoy it and is something that you can continue not matter what the weather brings.

Exercise is not easy. Remember to Try, Try Again. Once you see how great you feel, you will be addicted. This is the kind of addiction you want and

the kind you will be so glad you have. Use all the advertisements on TV and all you read about to give you ideas to see what works for you. Use them as a tool, to decide what works best for you and what you will continue for the rest of your life. A lifestyle change is the key to achieving and maintaining a healthy body, mind and soul. Looking good is great but improving your health will be the result that will keep you on track with your program. You will achieve your goal and once you are there you will never think about stopping.

If you have any questions about how to start, call me at 717-334-6009.

Remember, Keep Moving, You'll Be Glad You DID!

## Fitness matters

### Expert answers to your health questions

**George Puvel**  
**Anytime Fitness Owner**

**Question:** I've been following a high-protein diet, but I recently read something about this adversely affecting my kidneys? I plan to ask my doctor about this, but do you know of any correlation?

**Answer:** Good question, and one that used to come up pretty frequently when high-protein diets were all the rage. There are essentially two different scenarios that we need to address here. The first one involves those with a pre-existing kidney condition. In this instance, following a high-protein diet, and specifically the induction phases of some of the most popular programs, can lead to a steeper decline in function. For these individuals, high-protein diets are not recommended. The second scenario involves people with normal kidney function. There isn't any research indicating that high-protein diets negatively impact these folks, but there's an important caveat here that we can't ignore. How do you know if you have normal kidney function? Do you really know if your kidneys are working as well as they should be? Many with renal insufficiency (an early condition of declining function) are asymptomatic, and completely unaware of the potential for problems down the road. And, unfortunately, most folks don't see a doctor before starting a high-protein diet. Therefore, if you've committed to losing weight with this type of regimen, it might be a good idea to get your labs checked.

**Question:** I know stretching is incredibly important, but someone told me not to stretch before working out. This doesn't sound right to me at all. Can you clarify?

**Answer:** Whoever told you this is pretty smart. We all grew up with the notion that stretching prior to exercise would loosen up our muscles and help prevent injuries; however, recent research has proven otherwise. It is now generally accepted that doing static stretches prior to a workout will likely make you slower and weaker during your exercise sessions, and might actually increase your risk for injury. Your best bet would be to do some active, sport-specific movements beforehand to adequately prepare your muscles for work. Then, you can focus on stretching after your workout, when your muscles are warm and much more elastic.

**Question:** I've noticed that sugar alcohols appear on the labels of some of my favorite foods. What are they, and do I need to count them as traditional sugars when tracking my calories and carbohydrates?

**Answer:** Sugar alcohols are basically hydrogenated carbohydrates, and are often used to replace table sugar in a wide variety of foods. In general, they are not as sweet as regular sugars and typically contain fewer calories as well. This is because they are incompletely absorbed in the small intestine, which makes them popular additions to many different diet and diabetic foods. On average, sugar alcohols provide about two calories per gram consumed, as opposed to traditional sugars, which provide 4 calories per gram. It's important to note that some of them (sorbitol and mannitol specifically) can cause gastrointestinal upset in high doses, but people can also develop a tolerance these issues over time. Some sugar alcohols are classified as food additives, while others have been given GRAS status by the FDA, which means they are Generally Recognized as Safe. The most common sugar alcohols include sorbitol, xylitol, maltitol, mannitol, and erythritol.

*About the author: George Puvel is the Club Owner. To submit a question for future articles, please contact the author at [ThurmontMD@anytimefitness.com](mailto:ThurmontMD@anytimefitness.com).*

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## ASTRONOMY

# The night sky of August

Professor Wayne Wooten

For August 2014, the first quarter moon passes two degrees north of Mars on August 3rd, and will occult Saturn for all of Australia on August 4th, but we will only see a close miss here. The full moon, the Green Corn Moon in American Indian tradition, will be on August 10th and thus interfere badly with the peak of the Perseid meteor shower on the mornings of August 12-13th this year. The moon is last quarter on August 17 and rises about midnight. The waxing crescent moon passes five degrees south of Jupiter and Venus in the dawn sky on August 23rd, and is new on August 25th. The waxing crescent moon again occults Saturn on August 31st, but only in northern Africa does it appear after sunset. Here they will just be rising as it happens in morning daylight.

Mercury is not well placed for northern hemisphere viewers this month, lost in the sun's glare. Venus continues to dominate the morning sky, but is still on the far side of the sun, appearing as a bright, featureless gibbous disk in the telescope this month. She passes by Jupiter in the dawn on August 18, only .2 degrees north of the second brightest planet for one of the closest groupings of



The M-22 globular cluster marks the top of the teapot shape of Sagittarius.

bright planets in your lifetime, so set your alarm clocks for this! Mars is fading on the far side of its orbit now. It catches and passes just 3.4 degrees south of Saturn on August 25th. Saturn lies in Libra now. Enjoy the rings, now 20 de-

gree open and tilted toward earth and sun; the most beautiful planet falls closer to the western horizon each evening, to be lost in the sun's glare in September.

The Big Dipper rides high in the NW at sunset, but falls lower each evening. Good scouts know to take its leading pointers north to Polaris, the famed Pole Star. For us, it sits 30 degrees (our latitude) high in the north, while the rotating earth beneath makes all the other celestial bodies spin around it from east to west.

Taking the arc in the Dipper's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of Spring. Cooler than our yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its strange motion reveals it to be an invading star from another smaller galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky Way,

Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley.

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo. From Spica curve to Corvus the Crow, a four sided grouping. It is above Corvus, in the arms of Virgo, where our large scopes will show members of the Virgo Supercluster, a swarm of over a thousand galaxies about 50 million light years away from us.

Hercules is overhead, with the nice globular cluster M-13 marked on your sky map and visible in binocs. It is faintly visible with the naked eye under dark sky conditions, and among the best binoc objects in the night sky.

The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the NE sky. Binoculars reveal the small star just to the NE of Vega, epsilon Lyrae, as a nice double. Larger telescopes at 150X reveal

each of this pair is another close double, hence its nickname, the "double double"...a fine sight under steady sky conditions.

Below Vega are the two bright stars of the Summer Triangle; Deneb is at the top of the Northern Cross, known as Cygnus the Swan to the Romans. It is one of the most luminous stars in our Galaxy, about 50,000 times brighter than our Sun. To the south is Altair, the brightest star of Aquila the Eagle. If you scan the Milky Way with binocs or a small spotting scope between Altair and Deneb, you will find many nice open star clusters and also a lot of dark nebulae, the dust clouds from which new stars will be born in the future

To the south, Antares rises about the same time in Scorpius. It appears reddish (its Greek name means rival of Ares or Mars to the Latins) because it is half as hot as our yellow Sun; it is bright because it is a bloated red supergiant, big enough to swallow up our solar system all the way out to Saturn's orbit! Just above the tail of the Scorpion are two fine naked eye star clusters, M-7 (discovered by Ptolemy and included in his catalog about 200 AD) and M-6, making one of the best binocular views in the sky. Your binoculars are ideally suited to reveal many fine open star clusters and nebulae in this region of our Galaxy.

East of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way galaxy. Looking like a cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout is the fine Lagoon Nebula, M-8, easily visible with the naked eye. In the same binocular field just north of the Lagoon is M-20, the Trifid Nebula. Just east of the pair is the fine globular cluster M-22, faintly visible to the naked eye and spectacularly resolved in scopes of 8" or larger aperture. It lies just to the upper left of the star that marks the top of the teapot shape of Sagittarius, so it is easy to spot in binocs as well. Our featured shot of the month is of M-22, and you can see why it is one of our favorite objects to show the public in big scopes!

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## Farmers' Almanac

**Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:** Hazy, hot, and humid (1,2,3,4) with scattered storms (5,6,7,8,9,10). Remnants of Gulf hurricane, heavy rain (11,12,13) turning hot and humid (14,15,16,17); heavy rain and stormy (18,19) with more scattered STORMS (20,21,22,23,24). More storms from the North and a bit cooler (25,26) turning fair, windy, and cooler (26,27,28,29,30,31).

**Tornado Watch:** The Almanack sees no tornado activity in the Mid-Atlantic Region in the month of August.

**Full Moon:** Those 'Dog Days of Summer' end on Monday, August 11th and hence, August's Full

Moon is aptly named Dog Moon. It has also been called Full Ripe Moon or Fruit Moon as well as Sturgeon Moon because of the many summer vegetables and fruits that come ripe at this time and because sturgeon is plentiful in many parts of the world.

**Holidays:** Summer is a fun time but as the old saying goes: 'all good things must come to an end'. Labor Day is a just few weeks away and signals the end of summer, the promise of cooler days ahead, and the start of school for many. Begin planning now and make a list of things that need to be done and when to ensure a successful 'first day' (schedule immunizations and/or physicals, purchase new clothes, assess school sup-

plies that are needed, etc.).

**The Garden:** August is the peak of the hot and dry season and your plants will need water more than anything during this time. If watering is limited or restricted in your area, concentrate on getting the most to newly planted trees and shrubs. If you use thick mulch, water will be retained much better. To ensure a happy harvest, pick vegetables in the morning hours when the sugar content is highest. Be careful in the garden. Bruised or scratched vegetables spoil quickly and damaged plants are targets for pests and diseases. Use clippers or a sharp knife to harvest tough- or brittle-stemmed crops such as broccoli, cabbage, eggplant, peppers, and squash. They can be damaged if pulled or torn from their stems.



# COMPUTER Q&A

## Computer cleanup

**Ayse Stenabaugh**  
**Jester's Computer Tutor**

Many times computers will lock up, bog down, or just plain don't work right. Some people assume that they need a new computer without ever considering regular maintenance. We recommend a clean up once a year. Here at Jester's Computer Services we offer a clean-up special twice a year (spring & fall), to promote the importance of computer maintenance. Below is a list of what we do in a cleanup and why we do it to keep your computer running optimally.

**What is a computer virus?**

A computer virus is a computer program that can copy itself and infect a computer. The term "virus" is also commonly but erroneously used to refer to other types of malware, adware, and spyware programs that do not have the reproductive ability. A true virus can only spread from one computer to another (in some form of executable code) when its host is taken to the target computer; for instance because a user sent it over a network, on the Internet, or carried it on a removable medium such as a CD, or USB drive.

**Adware, spyware, and virus removal**

Even if you are running an antivirus program, most computers that come into our shop have several viruses. Your antivirus may be doing a good job, but programs that you legitimately install may have bad software bundled along with it. Your antivirus will not stop you from installing software that you agree to install. Also, you may be running anti-virus but it may not have protection against adware, spyware, or the worst of all: Root kits. Leaving viruses and other bad software on your system can be extremely dangerous.

- Viruses left on computers have the possibility of:
- Using up valuable system resources causing your computer to slow significantly.
- Logging your keystrokes and passwords.
- Taking over your system and sending out spam.
- Causing system crashes and blue screens.
- Erasing all personal and system data leaving the hard drive blank.
- Wiping out your desktop icons.
- Corrupting the operating system.

**What about all those temporary files?**

Programs create temporary files primarily for backup purposes. Many programs, such as those included with Microsoft Office, will save a temporary version of a file every few minutes while the original file is open. Then if you have not saved the file and the program unexpectedly crashes or the computer shuts down, there will be a temporary file

that was recently saved. Temp files are typically deleted automatically when the program is closed normally, but if the program quits unexpectedly, the temp files are not deleted.

**Remove all temporary Internet files**

Over time surfing the internet causes an accumulation of temporary internet files. While your web browser has the ability to clean out these files, it doesn't do a very good job of getting all temporary files. Cleaning your temporary Internet files can save space on your hard drive and help ensure you are viewing the most recent version of websites.

**I didn't install that!**

Many programs are designed to start automatically when Windows starts. Software manufacturers often set

their programs to open in the background, where you can't see them running, so they'll open right away when you click their icons. That's helpful for programs you use a lot, but for programs you rarely or never use, this wastes precious memory and slows down the time it takes Windows to finish booting up.

**Turn off programs that run in the background**

You may notice that anytime you install a program it either asks you if you would like the program to load when the computer starts, or the program runs automatically when the computer starts up. Many times programs run in the background, which are not visible without viewing your task manager. The majority of the time computers have many unnecessary programs running when the computer boots.

Turning off programs that run in the background will

Lower the amount of time it takes to start the computer up.

Allow you to be able to use the computer faster when it boots.

Free up resources, speeding up the computer.

Visit Jester's Computer Services September 1st through September 30th to save \$20 off your computer clean-up. We rec-

ommend having your computer cleaned at least once a year. Heavy users sometimes require a clean-up more often. We will also perform a free diagnostic to determine if you are in need of any hardware upgrades. No appointment is necessary for our clean-up. We generally complete work within one to two business days. If you have any questions please call us at 717-642-6611. We are located at 5135 Fairfield Road, Fairfield.

continued next month

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 22 miles north of Frederick, MD

**Fall Clean-up Special!**  
 We recommend your computer be cleaned up annually to diagnose any potential problems and to keep your computer running optimally.  
 The following services are included in our clean-up:  
 ✓ VIRUS REMOVAL  
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 ✓ ADWARE REMOVAL  
 ✓ WINDOWS UPDATES  
 ✓ TEMP FILE REMOVAL  
 ✓ TURN OFF UNNECESSARY PROGRAMS  
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# UPCOMING EVENTS

### Wednesdays

Summer Classic Movies at the Majestic. For more information visit [www.gettyburgmajestic.org](http://www.gettyburgmajestic.org)

### August 1

2nd annual Community Back to School Party sponsored by Christ's Community Church on Friday, August 1st from 6-8 PM in the Emmitsburg Community Park. Free school supplies provided by the Knights of Columbus Brute Council. Food, Kiddiepillar, bounce house, barrel train, and games! For more information call 301-447-4224

### August 8

Totem Pole Playhouse presents – Godspell. Contemporary hippies relive the story of Christ's ministry and crucifixion. Totem Pole Playhouse, 9555 Golf Course Road, Fayetteville, Pa., 17222. For more information call 888-805-7056 or visit [www.TotemPolePlayhouse.org](http://www.TotemPolePlayhouse.org)

### August 9

Rocky Ridge Annual Big Picnic - "Home of the Big Slide." Soup/sandwiches/pies/ice cream, car show, baby show, bingo and games for all ages during day. Jr. County Band playing from 6 to 9 pm.

### August 9 & 10

Hollabaugh Brother's annual Peach Fest - two afternoons of peachy fun, featuring: home-made peach ice cream sundaes, wagon rides, kids play area, delicious food, peach samples galore and many peachy deals on peach products. Guests can enjoy special music by: Klinger McFry Band on Saturday, featuring: bluegrass, cajun, rock, celtic, swing, country, gospel and mariachi and The Willy's on Sunday, featuring classic rock and beyond!

This year's featured non-profit is the Adams Rescue Mission. A por-

tion of the day's proceeds will go towards supporting their worthwhile cause! No admission fees. Please also consider bringing a donation to benefit the Adams County Rescue mission. For more information visit [www.hollabaughbros.com](http://www.hollabaughbros.com) or call 717-677-8412

### August 10

St. Mary's Church's all you can eat spaghetti dinner. Dinner \$7, \$4 children 6-12. 256 Tract Road, Fairfield. For more information call 717-642-8815.

### August 12 & 13

Perseids Meteor Shower

### August 12 - 17

92nd Annual South Mountain Fair - A small country fair featuring rides for the kids, barns filled with farm animals, many homemade needlework exhibits, photography, home canned fruits and vegetables, fresh produce and fruits, and beautiful flowers, all on display and lots of food! South Mountain Fairgrounds, Route 234, Arendtsville, PA. For more information see article on front page or visit [www.southmountainfair.com](http://www.southmountainfair.com)

### August 13

Adams County Master Gardener's Summer Garden Chat at the Ag Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettys-



## 9th Annual Benefit Poker Run SCOTTY'S RIDE

IN THE NAME OF ONE CHILD WE RIDE FOR MANY

Sponsored by: MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS HAIR DESIGN & SAL/AMERICAN LEGION POST 121

### Saturday, September 27, 2014

(RAIN OR SHINE)

**Start: Jubilee** (PARKING LOT)  
Rt. 140 & 15, Emmitsburg, MD

**Register: 7:30 AM-9:45 AM Ride Starts: 10:00 AM Sharp**

**Finish: KERRY & VALERIE'S**  
11322 Harney Rd., Emmitsburg, MD

(Food, Drink and Entertainment To End Your Ride)

**LIVE MUSIC FEATURING THE BAND: RED LINE**

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or  
WORK  
(301) 447-6600

**Per Player: \$35**  
(eligible To Win)

**Non Player: \$20**

**Ages 7-12: \$10**

**6 & Under FREE**

**Checks payable To:**  
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**For Those Who Don't Want to Ride  
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**Sat., Aug. 16 - 10am-3pm**

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For more info or to make donations please call:  
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# South Mountain Fair Information

## 92nd Annual Fair August 12 - 16, 2014

**Admission: Adults – \$6.00 – Children under 36" Tall - Free!**

Unlimited carnival rides are included in the admission! Children under 36 inches tall ride FREE!

All entertainment is also included in the price of admission!

**Tuesday through Friday 4:00 pm-10:00 pm; Saturday 1:00 pm-10:00 pm**

Located along Rte 234, Arendtsville, PA • Phone 717.677.9663  
Website: [www.southmountainfair.com](http://www.southmountainfair.com)

**FREE PARKING**

### DAILY ACTIVITIES:

#### Tuesday, August 12, 2014 - \*\*4-H Day\*\*

8:00 am Poultry Judging  
3:00 pm Open Sheep Judging, Show Arena  
4:00 pm Fair Opens & Exhibit Buildings Open  
5:30 pm 4-H/FFA Market Sheep Judging, Show Arena  
TBA Monster Energy Motocross Stunt Rider Show (3 Shows)  
7:00 pm 4-H/FFA Market Swine Judging, Show Arena  
7:30 pm Food Auction in the Auditorium to benefit an Adams County Charity  
10:00 pm Exhibit Buildings Close

#### Wednesday, August 13, 2014

3:00 pm Open Goat Judging, Show Arena  
4:00 pm Fair Opens & Exhibit Buildings Open  
5:00 pm Open Swine Judging, Swine Barn  
5:30 pm 4-H/FFA Market Goat Judging, Show Arena  
5:30 pm Archery Sharp Shooter Show  
4:00 pm - 10:00 Rides Open  
6:30 pm Draft Horse Pulling Contest, Rear Arena  
7:00 pm Open Beef Judging, Show Arena  
7:30 pm Peak 98, Battle of the Bands - Auditorium - Free  
10:00 pm Exhibit Buildings Close

#### Thursday, August 14, 2014

4:00 pm Fair Opens & Exhibit Buildings Open  
4:00 pm 4-H/FFA Dairy Beef Feeder Calf Judging, Show Arena  
4:30 pm 4-H/FFA Dairy Beef Finished Steer Judging, Show Arena  
5:00 pm 4-H/FFA Steer Judging, Show Arena  
6:30 pm Archery Sharp Shooter Show  
7:00 pm Chainsaw Carving Show  
10:00 pm Exhibit Buildings Close  
10:00 pm Fireworks Display Visible from the entire fairgrounds

#### Friday, August 15, 2014

4:00 pm Fair Opens & Exhibit Buildings Open  
4:00 pm South Mountain Tennessee Goat Show  
4:00 pm - 10:00 pm Antique Small Gas Engine Demonstrations  
4:00 pm 4-H/FFA Dairy Judging, Show Arena  
5:00 pm Dairy Showmanship Judging, Show Arena

#### Saturday, August 16, 2014

10:00 am South Mountain Myatonic Goat Show  
1:00 pm Fair Opens  
1:00 pm Exhibit Buildings Open  
1:00 pm - 10:00 pm Antique Small Gas Engine Demonstrations  
3:00 pm South Mountain Falling Fainters Goat Show  
3:30 pm Chainsaw Carving Show  
4:00 pm 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale  
(Steer, Dairy Beef, Goat, Sheep, Swine, Poultry, Rabbits)  
4:30 pm Parade Of Antique Farm Equipment  
1:00 pm - 10:00 pm Rides Open  
6:30 pm Chainsaw Carving Show  
7:30 pm Ronnie McDowell - Auditorium - Free  
10:00 pm Exhibit Buildings Close  
(Only Livestock May Be Removed)

#### Sunday, August 17, 2014

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Fairgrounds Open To Remove Entries From All Remaining Departments



Route 234, Adams County,  
1 Mile West of Arendtsville,  
8 Miles West of Gettysburg



# UPCOMING EVENTS

burg. Learn about the plants in their gardens. There is no fee for this event! Come enjoy our gardens and get ideas for your own garden! For more information call 717-334-6271.

**August 14 - 17**

69th Gettysburg Bluegrass Festival. Granite Hill Camping Resort, 3340 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg. For more information visit [www.gettysburgbluegrass.com](http://www.gettysburgbluegrass.com)

**August 16**

1st Annual Frederick County Run For Recovery 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run.... or Walk! The mission of this race is to raise awareness and educate others about any kind of addiction, as well as promote health & wellness and healthy lifestyle alternatives. Everyone knows someone who is, or has had a problem with some kind of addiction. Addiction does not discriminate.

The 5K will begin at 9am sharp followed by the 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk. There will be music and chances to win lots of door prizes from businesses throughout the county. Also, there will be goodie bags and T-shirts available to those who preregister. Several vendors will be set up to promote health & wellness as well as healthy lifestyle alternatives.

All revenue generated through this race will go toward incentives for the Frederick County's Drug Treatment Court Program Participants. To register visit [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com)

**August 16 & 17**

WW II Weekend at Rose Hill Manor Park. Encamped "soldiers" and "civilians"; displays; family activities; living history demos; veterans; "Ike's" mini golf; geo cache activity; parachute jump mock up. 40's musical concert and

dancing & play "War on the Home Front. "Swing" over to WW II Living History for an afternoon of WW II and '40's USO type musical entertainment (even children's tunes) Learn dance steps with instruction at 2 pm; then drift back to the 40's to enjoy the show. On Sunday, join us for an antique car show. 1611 North Market St., Frederick. For more information call 301-600-1650 or visit [www.rosehillmuseum.com](http://www.rosehillmuseum.com).

**August 23**

Unveiling of Thurmont Historical Murals at the Thurmont Trolley Substation along East Main Street at the entrance of the carnival grounds in Thurmont.

1st annual Gettysburg Brew Fest - A distinctive sampling experience, featuring an impressive array of craft brews and hard ciders from Pennsylvania, the Mid-Atlantic and the U.S. Take in

spectacular views of the historic Gettysburg Battlefield, set against the backdrop of the Seminary Ridge Museum. Lutheran Theological Seminary. For more information call 717-334-0853 or visit [www.GettysburgBrewFest.com](http://www.GettysburgBrewFest.com)

**September 1**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Par-

ish's Annual Labor Day Festival. Family Style Fried Chicken and Ham Dinner. Live music by the Home Comfort Bluegrass Band, Bingo, large White Elephant Sale, Bake Sale and Raffle. Carry outs available. Enjoy a day with us! For directions visit our website: [www.emmitsburg.net/sasolmc](http://www.emmitsburg.net/sasolmc).



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Great Food! Huge Jackpot!  
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1st Friday Of Every Month!  
Food! 3 Jackpots! Larger Payouts!  
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**EVERY SATURDAY**  
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**Taneytown Memorial Park - 9:00am - Noon**

Master Gardeners table available to answer your gardening questions  
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For More Information or If Interested In Being One Of Our Vendors  
Call LaVerne Sokolowski: 443-918-8100

**Join Us At Our Brand New Farm Market For Our Annual Peach Festival**

**BIG 2 DAY EVENT!**  
**August 9th & 10th**  
**12 Noon to 5:00 p.m.**  
*Rain or Shine*

- Live Music
- Lunch Stand
- Samples Galore
- Free Parking & Free Admission
- Peach Ice Cream Sundaes
- Wagon Rides
- Kids' Area
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**Rocky Ridge CARNIVAL**  
**AUGUST 11TH - 16TH**

13616 Motters Station Rd., Rocky Ridge, MD  
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**GOOD COUNTRY HOME COOKING....**  
*Fruit & Custard Pies, Soups, Sandwiches, & Of Course Our Famous FRIED HAM SANDWICHES!*

**ENTERTAINMENT**

Mon., Aug. 11 - FRIENDS CREEK PICKERS  
Tues., Aug. 12 - BRUSHFIRE  
Wed., Aug. 13 - PARADE at 7:00 PM  
THE PAUL LEDFORD BAND  
Thurs., Aug. 14 - LOST HIGHWAY BAND  
Fri., Aug. 15 - THE RIVER'S BEND BAND  
Sat., Aug. 16 - THE SILVER EAGLE BAND

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For More Info: [www.rockyridgevfc.com](http://www.rockyridgevfc.com)

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# MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Mount St. Mary's has no strength greater than its people. In the best tradition of DuBois, Bruté, and all of those who have followed in their footsteps, the faculty, administration, and staff of the Mount today exhibit levels of devotion, caring and expertise that are reflected positively in every area of its operations.

The Mount celebrates the start of a new academic year by honoring our employee anniversaries, and welcoming new employees to our community!

## 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Rita L. Beard, Business & Finance  
Sandra H. Feeser, Physical Plant, Aramark  
Sara M. Laird, Office of Information Technology  
Fr. Thomas J. Lane, Seminary  
Professor Cynthia R. Maubert, Business/Accounting/  
Economics  
Dr. Christine S. McCauslin, Science  
Dr. Thane M. Naberhaus, Philosophy  
Dr. Luca Petrelli, Math & Computer Science  
David M. Sheads, Center for Instructional Technology  
Dan S. Soller, Executive Vice President  
Dr. Jennifer L. Staiger, Science  
Deborah A. Wentling, Seminary

## 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Raymond E. Faulkner, Sr., Physical Plant, Aramark  
Traci D. Hurley, Associate Provost Office  
Lisa K. Rhoads, Science  
Brenda L. Rigby, Admissions

## 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Connie E. Barnes, Athletics  
Fr. Lee W. Gross, Seminary  
Linda L. Northrup, Business & Finance  
Linda A. Shaffer, Physical Plant, Aramark  
Dr. J. Kristen Urban, Political Science

## 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Dr. Carl W. Glover, Communication Studies  
Cynthia L. Lenhart, Dining Services, Aramark  
Dr. Frederick J. Portier, Math & Computer Science  
Dr. Diana M. Rodriguez-Lozano, Language  
Linda Jinker Sites, Institutional Research  
Dr. Timothy J. Stanton, Business/Accounting/  
Economics

## 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Melissa M. Gladhill, Human Resources

## 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Lorrie A. Clabaugh, Registrar  
Dr. Gertrude D. Conway, Philosophy  
John H. Dayhoff, Physical Plant, Aramark  
Denise L. Ditch, Campus Recreation  
Anna R. Eyster, Post Office  
Diane M. Kelly, Public Safety  
Gloria J. Myers, Library  
Susan J. Sanders, Health Services  
Deborah A. Springer, Physical Plant, Aramark

## RETIREES

Professor John W. Balch, Business/Accounting/  
Economics  
Brenda L. Curtis, Health Services  
Dr. D. Kirk Davidson, Business/Accounting/Economics  
Carol A. Kortisses, National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady  
of Lourdes  
Philip G. McGlade, Seminary Development and  
Alumni Relations

## NEW EMPLOYEES

Stephanie Asper, Registrar, Administrative Assistant  
Paul Barbour, Patrol Officer/Dispatcher  
Stasi Boudreau, Financial Aid, Administrative  
Assistant  
Mary Bridenhagen, Health Services, Administrative  
Assistant  
Oliver Brown, Graduate Manager, Men's Basketball  
Dr. Christa Bucklin, Psychology, Assistant Professor

Dr. Alejandro Canadas, Business/Accounting/  
Economics, Associate Professor  
Sinclair Ceasar III, Assistant Director of Residence Life  
Kathy Criasia, Assistant to the Dean of the College of  
Liberal Arts Office  
Amanda DeFalco, Advancement, Administrative  
Assistant  
Theresa d'Epagnier, Education, Administrative  
Assistant  
Dr. John "Jack" Dudley, English, Assistant Professor  
Erin Emory, Admissions Counselor  
Dr. Layton Field, Sociology, Assistant Professor  
Megan Franz, Assistant University Counselor  
Dr. Ralph Frasca, Communication Studies, Professor/  
Department Chair  
Rachel Fries, Certified Athletic Trainer  
Lauren Hagan, Associate Director of Marketing/  
Graduate Adult Programs  
Kaitlin Hallahan, Assistant Director of Alumni  
Relations  
Tackie Huff, Admissions Counselor  
Kimberly Johnson, Director of Development  
Melissa Kolbe, Assistant Women's Basketball Coach  
Dr. Abigail Kula, Science, Visiting Assistant Professor  
Dr. Sean Lewis, English, Assistant Professor  
Gayle Luksic, Honoring Community Leadership and  
Alumni Relations, Administrative Assistant  
Lydia Mason, Grotto Organist  
Patrick McAuliffe Jr., Director of Gift Planning  
Catherine Miller, Patrol Officer/Dispatcher  
Dr. John-Mark Miravalle, Seminary, Assistant Professor  
Carly Myers, Assistant Director of Leadership Institute  
Emily Myers, Assistant Director of Annual Giving  
Sanjiv Nayyar, Controller  
Michael Neuman, Assistant Director of Outdoor  
Adventures  
Stephen Notebaert, Head Strength and Conditioning  
Coach  
Dr. Garth Patterson, Science, Visiting Assistant  
Professor  
Michael Paulus, Director of Athletic Development  
Matthew Pouss, Assistant Director of Career Center  
Lucas Reetz, Director of Seminary Development and  
Alumni Relations  
Patricia Rosensteel, Purchasing Clerk  
Rev. Pietro Rossotti, Seminary, Assistant Professor  
Kaitlin Schwarzmamm, Assistant Women's Lacrosse  
Coach  
Lauren Schwarzmamm, Head Women's Lacrosse Coach  
Julie Shenk, Information Technology Librarian  
Elizabeth Smith, Recreational Facilities Supervisor  
Sean Smith, User Support Technician  
Dr. Ernest Solar, Education, Assistant Professor  
Ryan Spevak, Patrol Officer/Dispatcher  
Kenneth Stonebraker, Purchasing Warehouse Clerk  
Rebecca Strevig, Admissions, Administrative Assistant  
Edwin Superczynski, Recreational Facilities Supervisor  
Lucy Witt, Advancement, Administrative Assistant/  
Data Entry  
Irene Wunderlich, Seminary, Administrative Assistant  
for the Lilly Grant



## MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY—FREDERICK

### Instant Admission Event

Tuesday, Aug. 5, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., 4–6 p.m.

Frederick Campus, 5350 Spectrum Drive

Learn more about the Mount's undergraduate programs in business, criminal justice, elementary education and human service—all designed for working adults. Bring your transcripts and learn how close you are to completing your degree.



## NATIONAL SHRINE GROTT OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

### First Saturday Mass and Devotions

Saturday, Aug. 2, 9 a.m.

### Annual Pilgrimage for World Peace

Thursday, Aug. 7, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

### Mass for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin

Friday, Aug. 15, Noon–12:30 p.m.

### Book Signing—God Doesn't Play Zone Defense

Sunday, Aug. 24, 2–4 p.m.

Author Jeff Balistere will sign copies of his unique guide to developing a one-on-one relationship with God. The easy-to-read book combines profound Bible quotes and inspirational messages from basketball legends, with a pinch of humor mixed in. Ideal for any individual, young or old, seeking a deeper understanding of the peace and strength that a personal relationship with God can provide both in the game of basketball and in life.

For more information and Mass times, visit

[www.msmary.edu/grotto](http://www.msmary.edu/grotto)



## PNC SPORTS COMPLEX

Pool Reopens Monday, Aug. 18

Fall Hours Begin Monday, Aug. 25

Group Fitness classes begin Wednesday, Aug. 27

For more information,  
pool hours and fitness class schedules,  
visit [www.msmary.edu/recreation](http://www.msmary.edu/recreation)