

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

NOVEMBER 2022

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## Council considers in-town outdoor shooting range

At its October meeting, the Emmitsburg Planning Commission denied a zoning text change amendment to allow a shooting range within the Industrial Zone requested by Kirby Delauter.

The Planning Commission's decision comes on the heels of Liberty Township denying Delauter's request for a shooting range in Liberty Township. One month after Delauter withdrew his initial request for a range he has proposed building on land adjacent to new Rutter's service station, just across Rt. 15 from the Emmitt Garden and Silo Hill residential developments.

Town staff warned that the requested change in allowable use within the town's Industrial Zone, if approved, could mean shooting ranges would then be allowable on the west side of Rt. 15, directly adjacent to Emmitt Gardens and the residential areas of Emmitsburg proper.

Christopher Jakubiak, of Jakubiak and Associates, who has been retained by the town to assist in zoning reviews and land use studies, found that the shooting range was not a use consistent with intent of the town's comprehensive plan

which established the Industrial Zone for the purpose of attracting business to the town that would serve to 'employment centers' for the local residents.

Jakubiak's reported noted that the proposed range's size of 10 acres "would consume a large share of the land planned for the Town's Employment Center." In addition, a gun range "would create a noise impact that the Zoning Ordinance – now in effect – would not allow for permitted industrial use."

Planning Commission members keyed onto Jakubiak's findings, questioning the potential of any local employment the range would bring, or for that matter, any benefit Emmitsburg would gain, at all, from the range.

Commission members Glenn Blanchard and Mark Long echoed concurs of adjacent landowners who showed up to speak against the range, citing noise and safety issues. Resident Ed Egan said allowing a shooting range would subject "residents in their yards and people pumping gas to the pop-pop-pop of gunfire daily."

A representative of the new Rutter's service station also spoke



The Town Council will decide at their November 7 meeting whether to allow an outdoor shooting range to be located within Emmitsburg town limits.

against the proposed range, citing concern for the safety of their customers.

In his latest submission, Delauter's suggested change to the allowable use amendment expanded the list of allowable uses to include trap and target shooting, and the allowable types of weapons to include shotguns and black powder.

The sound of a shotgun can reach up to 160 decibels, while the shot from a 22 pistol is around 130-140 decibels. A handgun shot can be heard as far as 1 mile away depending on the conditions. Shotguns can be heard up to 2 miles away. This potentially allows the shots in

the range to be heard as far away as Brookfield, where quiet streets have a noise reading of 40 decibels.

A lawn mower generates 90 decibels, while a fire truck's siren tops out at 120 decibels. However, unlike noise from a firing range, the latter two examples are transitory.

The Planning Commission's recommendation to deny the amendment change and prohibit a gun range in town will now be heard by the Town Council at their November 7th meeting. The council can overrule the commission and vote, if they should so choose, to allow an outdoor shooting range within town limits.

## Fairfield & Fountaindale VFCs hold Open House

The Fairfield Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) along with the Fountaindale Volunteer Fire Department held their annual open house October 16 to provide local residents the opportunity to meet their local emergency responders and see all the equipment they use in the course of performing their emergency response and fire fighting duties.

Recently celebrating its 100th anniversary last year, Fairfield Fire continually demonstrates a dedication to community duty with regular training, and is always actively seeking new members.

The annual open house was held at the Fairfield firehouse and catered to the curiosity of both young and old. Fairfield and Fountaindale first responders provided fire truck rides to everyone who wanted to climb aboard—and even allowed children to try and put out a mock burning house using fire department hoses. The department's coloring contest saw 63 entries, with winners from each grade receiving a chauffeured ride to school in a fire truck.

Many residents and families turned out from surrounding communities to attend the event on what was an uncharacteristically warm fall day. Stormy weather conditions have been blamed for the

diminished attendance experienced over the last few years, but this year turned out to be sunny and pleasant for all to enjoy. Fairfield displayed its entire fleet of firefighting, medical transport, and fire police vehicles. Their water rescue team was also on hand to answer questions.

The open house is an annual event to allow the community to learn firsthand what the volunteers achieve together, according to Fire Chief Bill Jacobs, "So people can see what we do."

Open houses are an essential aspect to bring much needed support to the 100 percent volunteer fire departments of the area. "We serve a good bunch of people," Fountaindale Fire Chief Dave Martin said. Fountaindale celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2021, and as more local fire departments face difficulty maintaining 100 percent volunteer run, Fountaindale is immensely proud of its continual dedication.

The open house also allowed the public the opportunity to view the Fairfield VFW's museum, offering a glimpse into over 100 years of Fairfield firefighting history. Jacobs said Fairfield Fire is continually seeking artifacts and records of local firefighting history. The latest addition to the Fairfield Fire fleet is the return



While residents learned how fires were fought over the years, Fairfield's oldest fire truck was on display, and its newest took residents for a ride.

of the department's first motorized fire engine from 1928.

According to both Jacobs and Martin, the decision to once again hold a joint open house was done to re-enforce to the public how important each company was to the other's ability to successfully protect their assigned communities. "When one of us is out on a call, if a new call comes in, it's the other company that will be responding. So we need to support each other," said Jacobs.

Fairfield Fire provides coverage predominantly to the areas around the boroughs of Fairfield and Carroll Valley, Hamiltonban, Liberty and Highland townships. Fountaindale also provides to the west of Fairfield VFW areas, such as Jack's Mountain, as well as supporting Fairfield coverage of Carroll Valley, and Liberty and Hamiltonban townships.

For more information on how to become a volunteer of either company, visit fairfieldfire-ems.com.

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## EMMITSBURG NEWS

## Water and sewer rate increases

**A**t its October 3 meeting, the Town Council discussed the possibility of a water and sewer rate fee increase. A rate increase would cover the rise in day-to-day operating expenses, plus fund planned infrastructure improvement projects.

The last sewer rate increase was in 2015, following the construction of the new wastewater treatment plant, Town Manager Cathy Willets said.

Emmitsburg's last water rate increase was in 2013, as a 50 percent increase which was only applied to usage of 10,000 gallons/month and above, only affecting about five to eight percent of users, she said.

The need to thoroughly review water and sewer rates has been looming as the water system has been running at a loss for many years now, while the sewer system has had a slight profit in the last few budget years, according to town accountant Cole Tabler.

The ongoing deficit in town's water revenue is getting to the point where

the water fund will soon have to borrow cash from the other funds just to cover costs. Borrowing from another fund typically puts a black mark on audits, especially when there is no plan to repay the borrowed funds, said Tabler.

The town has been able to deal with decreasing water revenue by reducing expenditures, such as not performing needed infrastructure projects. But it can no longer delay repairs and upgrades to the water system. The five-year water system plan includes clarifiers and repairs to deteriorating water lines that will have to be paid for.

A presentation of water and sewer rates was provided by Mike Maker, Deputy Director of Water Practice of New Gen Strategies and Solutions.

Maker said water and sewer systems should be financially self-supporting and each system should maintain reserves to provide for contingencies and unplanned expenses. Factors that affect charges and rates include operat-

ing and maintenance expense changes and capital improvement plans. If connection fees are set at less than cost or anticipated growth does not occur, existing customers will have to make up the difference via higher user rates, Maker said.

One option placed before the council to increase revenue for the water system was to enact a onetime rate increase and continue to increase rates three percent each year. Another option was to spread the needed rate increase out over the next three fiscal years.

Maker recommended that the town council maintain connection fees of \$8,200 per water connection and \$8,000 per sewer connection, and to consider a full cost of service study for all rates, charges, and fees every three to five years.

The council will decide between the three-year rate increase plan or a one-year rate increase at its November meeting.

## Frailey Farm annexation talks begin

**A**t a special October 24 workshop, preliminary discussions regarding the potential annexation and development of the Frailey Farm property were begun.

The information only workshop presented ideas to the Emmitsburg Town Council to mull over with no decisions or public comment. Preliminary concept plans for the farm property include the development of a residential community on the property. They were presented by engineer Jeff Ott of the Frailey Farm Team.

Frailey Farm is a 118-acre farm on the western border of Emmitsburg currently identified by the town's 2015

comprehensive plan to be annexed for residential housing growth. Fifteen of these acres are within the town limits and the developers propose annexing the remainder.

According to the Comprehensive Plan, the farm is designated as a low-density residential community development. The R-1 range, or four units to the acre, will result in a total of 300 houses, attorney Bruce Dean said.

The developer looks to provide a range of housing types and price points, including townhomes, first time homebuyers, small and large single homes. The homes

would then also be able to accommodate different types of floor layouts including first floor living, Ott said. The developer would also look to contribute to infrastructure improvements for water & sewer.

Historically, the farm annexation has been tied to a southwest bypass to accommodate rising area traffic, with prior planning and zoning administrations seriously considering using the annexation to provide the land needed for a bypass to alleviate traffic congestion on the square. But Ott said he and his team have all but nixed that idea due to extensive costs and the sig-

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nificant density load it would bring.

Recognizing the congestion of Main Street needs to be addressed, one preliminary road connectivity concept presented by Ott might entail four points of egress, essentially extending Lincoln Avenue.

At the end of the day, considerably more development research would be needed in a number of areas including traffic study and school capacity before the annexation of Frailey Farm could be presented officially, Ott said.

While the annexation is part of the town's long-term plan, "it doesn't

mean it has to happen," Town Engineer Chris Jakubiak said. Annexations are unique aspects as they are completely voluntary by both the goals of the town and the developer.

Annexation consideration is a lengthy process so residents should not expect houses to pop up overnight. Annexation is also a very public process done in stages and as more opportunities for discussion are presented, residents are encouraged to participate every step of the way. "We want to make this a very collaborative process for all," Ott said.

## News Briefs...

### Davis, Pollitt Claim Council Election Victory

A "horse race" of four candidates vying for two seats brought victory to incumbent Commissioner Frank Davis and Planning Commission Secretary Amy Pollitt during Town Council election September 27. The two seats are three-year terms. Coun-

cil members are paid \$4,000 a year.

Hundreds of voters turned out for the town election for the council seats up for election previously occupied by Davis and TJ Burns. Burns made the difficult decision not to run for reelection, citing a growing family to put first.

A total of 290 ballots were cast,

with Davis receiving 246; Pollitt took 204; Mark Long, 64; and Planning Commission Vice-Chair Kevin Hagen the remaining 60 votes.

Following the swearing in of newly elected Council's members, the Town Council reorganized. Tim O'Donnell remains as the Council President; Joseph Ritz will serve as Vice President, and planning commission liaison; Clifford Sweeney will serve as the

Treasurer; Davis as Planning Commission liaison, and Pollitt the Citizens Advisory Committee liaison.

### Turmoil In The Town Office

Emmitsburg Town Office was left in disarray following the unexpected resignation of its town planner and code enforcer officer in October. Following the resignations of town planner Zachery Gulden and Code Enforcement Officer Amy Naill. Following the resignations, the town put a hold on town parking tickets and zoning enforcement for 30 days or until the office could be reorganized.

The timing of the unexpected res-

ignations comes on the heels of planning and zoning discussion including a potential shooting range and discussion regarding town-parking needs.

Until the Town Planner position can be refilled, the town will utilize Jakubiak and Associates in areas of annexation, development project review zoning and other development code, land use and related studies. The firm has been awarded a nine-month consultant contract. The on-call services are billed at \$205 per hour, with duties at approximately 16 hours a month, for 3,280 per month and for the nine-month trial total of \$29,520.



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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

# Liberty shooting range draws blanks

At its September 28 meeting, the Liberty Township Board of Appeals denied a private use shooting range to be built adjacent to Waynesboro Pike.

Shooting ranges are a permitted use in township conservation districts; however, they must be 1,000 feet from existing residential dwellings and in undeveloped areas of the township.

Thurmont resident Kirby Delauter had requested a special exception from the 1,000 feet requirement, instead asking for a 500 foot setback,

to allow him to install a range on a 14-acre property which is located south of Waynesboro Pike and right along the Mason Dixon Line.

Approximately 12 of the 14 acres of the property are densely wooded and the proposed range was to be located in the center, low point of the property, roughly 500-600 feet from existing adjoining residences. Mr. Delauter stated the slope and the topography would provide greater affordability of safety.

Delauter's sketch of the range detailed a 10 foot high and 10 foot wide berm sloping on either side with 4 foot straw bales on top. Delauter's said the range would be for personal handgun use only, primarily on the weekends.

The Liberty Township Board of Supervisors received the application for the range September 6, and it was reviewed by the Planning Commission September 20. Other than the special exception for 500 feet, the application

met all other criteria, and the planning commission had no objections, according to Board of Supervisor Chairman Walter "Mickey" Barlow.

Concerned citizens turned out to voice reservations regarding the proposed shooting range, seeking denial of the application based on the close proximity to nearby dwellings. Neighboring property owners presented testimony against the range stating concerns of noise, surrounding property value depletion, and what, other than Delaut-

er's word, would keep the range from potentially becoming public.

The gun range project would not have required public water or sewer and the area would be secured through a metal locked gate at the access road, according to Delauter. Original plans to develop a home on the property were halted due to rising interest rates, he said.

Delauter request came days after he withdrew his initial request to the Town of Emmitsburg's Planning commission for a change in current allowable use of land in the town's industrial zone that would allow him to build a range there.

# News Briefs...

## Weikert to become next police chief

Carroll Valley Police Corporal Clifford Weikert was approved as qualified for the position of police chief following the November retirement of Chief Richard Hileman, Carroll Valley Borough Civil Service Commission deemed to the Borough Council October 11.

Hileman began his career with Carroll Valley as a patrol officer in 1992 and was named chief in 1997. Hileman has been noted for a commitment to public safety, initiating and teaching the Fairfield Area School District drug education program, and serving on multiple county boards.

Weikert joined the Carroll Valley Police Department in 2001 and has received numerous commendations for exemplary service and successful investigations, according to the borough website.

The Carroll Valley Police Department is also currently accepting applications for the position of patrol officer.

## Community Media seeks financial aid

Raymond Gouker, founder of Community Media, a local non-profit broadcaster, asked the Carroll Valley council to consider donating 40% of the 'franchise fees' the borough receives for allowing cable to be strung in the county. Cable franchise fees were initially established to help local broadcast stations like community Media compete with big cable companies.

Community Media is a non-profit PEG station, (public education and government) founded as Adams County Television in 1988 by Gouker. The nonprofit's vision from the beginning has been to celebrate the people of Adams County and what they do as a community. "The goal was to take our neighbors that are doing awesome things in the community and give them a chance to be seen by all of Adams County and try to give them support," Gouker said.

In addition to current internship offerings, Community Media is currently working on new shows and programs including education curriculum for digital literacy. It also allows public use of their facilities he said. Community Media reaches thousands of homes in Adams County and has grown to telecast on two cable channels as well as live stream, and on-demand online. More informa-

tion about Community Media can be found at [communitymedia.net](http://communitymedia.net).

## Property Lot discussion continues

During the council's regular meeting Sept. 13, members declined a proposal of a lot swap made by Michael Capone and Mary Jo Vincent, who live at the west end of Friends Creek Trail.

Because no bridge carries the road over the creek, they rely solely on a concrete ford that becomes impassable when the water is high, they previously told the council.

In exchange for a borough-owned lot adjoining their property, the property owners had offered a lot they own nearby. Their 0.54-acre lot is at 66 Ranch Trail. The borough's 0.64-acre lot is at 82 Toms Creek Trail.

Due to subsequent evidence pointing to the lots not being of equal value and hot public comment against the swap, the council chose instead to go forward to explore alternative methods to bring access to the property owners.

Although the council decided not to proceed with the lot exchange due to a speculative appraisal, Capone said the appraisal had been conducted as if a percolation test, (a process that measures the water absorption of soil), had been performed on the borough lot but the parcel had never been tested. If the lot cannot pass perc, then it would put the lots at the same appraisal value, he claimed.

The council granted Capone's

request to have the borough lot perk tested at his own expense. If the borough lot tests negatively, discussion for the lot swap could potentially be opened again.

## Adams County Giving Spree Underway

Hosted By the Adams County Community Foundation, the Giving Spree is the county's largest non-profit fundraiser and provides donors opportunities to learn about and support local groups.

Thanks to a slew of dedicated community sponsors, nonprofits pay nothing to participate in the Giving Spree and only reap the benefits of local generosity.

"All participating nonprofits commit to using the money donated through the Giving Spree to serve the people of Adams County," according to Ralph Serpe, President and CEO of the Adams County Community Foundation.

The 2021 Giving Spree saw more than 90 nonprofits of all shapes and sizes participating including the Strawberry Hill Foundation and Fairfield Alumni Scholarship Fund and the trend of participating non-profit continues in 2022, with more than 90 local organizations pursuing donations of generosity.

Last season, Strawberry Hill sought the community's assistance in reaching its goal of \$25,000 to champion nature and environmental education.

Giving Spree results will be announced in December.

More information about the

Adams County Giving Spree can be found by calling 717-337-0060 or by visiting [ACCFGivingSpree.org](http://ACCFGivingSpree.org).

## Preservation partners to plant trees

Strawberry Hill Foundation partnered with Gettysburg Green Gathering to host a Plant a Tree for Adams County at the nature preserve October 22.

Donations of \$150 were accepted

to sponsor a sugar maple tree. The tree planting will help replace the native trees that have been lost at the preserve over the years. Memorial plaques were also available for an additional \$75.

Donations went toward offsetting costs of plantings and ongoing tree maintenance, and sponsors were welcomed to help with the plantings October 22.

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# THURMONT NEWS

## Petition started to stop Simmer Farm annexation

Following the Thurmont Town Council's September vote to annex 16.7 acres of farmland into town limits and rezone it high-density residential development, some residents are pushing for the decision to be put to a referendum.

Led by the Evasion Thurmont group, residents against the annexation have hit the streets to collect signatures from likeminded residents. As of the town's latest Oct. 26, 2021 election, Thurmont had almost 4,500 registered voters, meaning the group will need about 900 signatures.

Per the town charter, Thurmont

must put to vote any decision by the Town Council when a petition against the council decision receives signatures of at least 20 percent of registered voters. The council gave Evasion Thurmont until November 4 to submit the petition.

The farmland property owned by Patricia Simmers is located southeast of Apples Church Road, Roddy Road, and Elyer Road intersection. It borders Graceham Road and consists of approximately 24.5 acres. Seven acres are located in town and currently zoned R-5, while the other 17 acres lie in the county and are agriculturally

zoned. Thurmont's 2022 Master Plan has the property identified in its future growth area as high density residential.

Thurmont's Town Council narrowly voted in favor of the annexation and zoning change. Commissioners Bill Blakeslee and Wes Hamrick opposed the resolution, with Commissioners Bill Buehrer and Wayne Hooper in support with Mayor John Kinnard breaking the tie in favor.

Previously, resident Louise Schaffer had presented a petition to the council with allegedly over 300 signatures in opposition of the development. "I want to make it clear we are not

opposed to the annexation, but we are opposed to the R-5 high density residential," she said.

Developer Daniel Cross worked with the town for years to finalize the annexation agreement. Cross looks to build a residential community on the Simmers property with at least 172 residential units, as well as an assisted-living facility and a day care center.

If the petition drive falls short, the development now requires authorization from the county for the necessary zoning change and only then will the Thurmont Planning and Zoning Commission finalize development plans.

With a long road ahead before the development, Kinnard has urged public participation and community input involvement at all town meetings. "There will be plenty of meetings for you to come out and craft this project the way you think it should be crafted," he said.

Similarly, in response to the Taneytown City Council's vote on July 11 in support of the Sewell Farm annexation, a petition drive was started to subject that annexation to a public referendum vote. However even though the petition gathered over 1,000 signatures, it fell short of the mandatory 20%.

## Town asks for increased funds for recycling center

At its October 4 meeting, the Thurmont Town Council held a workshop session to discuss the future of the town's recycling services.

Mayor John Kinnard credited Thurmont as one of the first communities in Frederick County that required recycling. "And we've come a long way since those days," he said.

While many recycling drop-off sites were taken away by the county, Thurmont is one of the few towns that still retains one. The local recycling center

saves time for local residents by allowing them to drop off their bulk recycling locally, as opposed to driving down to the County's landfill.

A Memorandum of Understanding between Thurmont and the Frederick County Municipal Recycling Center was signed in 2014. The county provides both curbside recycling as well as operates a recycling center open to the public at the county landfill. In exchange for the town operating its own recyclable materials drop off center open

to all residents, the county pays the town \$10,000 a year.

From July 2020 to March 2022, the town's recycling was hauled to the county recycling center at \$170 a load. Total costs for the town to operate the center in FY-21 were \$11,480, of which \$10,000 was reimbursed by the county, for a total cost of \$1,480 for the town.

In January 2022 the cost of picking up recycling jumped to \$275 a load. The increased cost of having the recycling picked up resulted in the town's out of pocket cost jumping from \$1,480 to \$10,495. "At that time, our costs really started to skyrocket," Chief Financial Officer Linda Joyce.

Joyce said that the town can plan

on twice a week pick ups in next year, and that the cost per load is expected to increase to \$350 a load, due to additional vendor fuel surcharges. The projected total recycling costs for FY-23 is expected to be \$38,220, raising the cost to the town to \$28,220 after county reimbursement.

The town's recycling costs are estimated to continue to gradually rise over the years, and constitutes a hefty chunk of the town's budget that hasn't been accounted for, Joyce said.

Unfortunately, use of the recycling center is not limited to Thurmont residents, even though Thurmont residents are footing the bill. Many homeowners in the surrounding area, including some

from Pennsylvania, drop off recycling material at the center.

Kinnard said Thurmont should not have to pay so much for a service that is provided for free to all county residents, and the town can either work with the county for additional reimbursement or remove the dumpster completely, and let the County handle recycling.

Kinnard said he would be sorry to see the center go, noting the essential services provided to residents as well as the substantial amount of money the town has put into acquiring the area for the dumpster. The council agreed to draft a note to the send to the county outlining the issues and request additional financial assistance running the recycling center.



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## News Briefs...

### Thurmont places first electric vehicle in service

In a continual dedication to environmental stewardship, the Town of Thurmont placed its first all-electric fleet vehicle into service in October.

The 2023 Chevy Bolt was purchased from Criswell Chevrolet, of Thurmont.

Partial funding for the vehicle come from a Maryland Smart Energy Grant from the Maryland Energy Administration.

The new vehicle is assigned to the Town of Thurmont Municipal Offices and will be utilized by office staff for administrative functions.

"As a Sustainable Maryland Certi-

fied Community and a Smart Energy Community, sustainability is a vital component of the job that we do," Chief Administrative Officer Jim Humerick said, "This new electric vehicle is another way we can continue to achieve these lofty sustainability goals and objectives."

The town also received grant funding for two electric vehicle charging stations from the Maryland Charge Ahead Grant Program, which is funded through the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust.

The town-use only charging stations are located at the Municipal Offices and the Thurmont Police Department.

The town plans to apply for additional grant funding later this year to purchase and install public use electric vehicle charging stations.

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# TANEYTOWN NEWS

## Ethics ordinance updates introduced

At its October 5 meeting, the Taneytown City Council approved updates to the city's ethics ordinance.

The city has a "robust" ethics ordinance that is mandated by the state, according to City Attorney Jay Gullo. Taneytown's regulations have been developed over time and like any municipal ethics ordinance, it has to be approved by the Maryland State Ethics Commission.

In years past, the city for all intents and purposes adopted the state code on ethics, tweaking them to cover disclosures

not necessarily required by the state. The city's latest ethics ordinance was approved approximately ten years ago. This year the state legislature passed changes to the state code "that are not necessarily applicable to us," Gullo said, but an update to the city code was overdue.

The updates to the ethics ordinance are intricate, "none of them seem to really apply to anything we've ever dealt with," he said, with the most complicated changes dealing with owning varying percentage pieces of businesses. These issues are found primarily in larger towns and cities,

according to Gullo.

Revisions incorporated into the updated city ethics code include provisions governing the lobbying of elected officials and the lobbying by elected officials. "We don't have a lobbyist practicing in front of us so it's kind of a moot point, but it needs to go in there," Gullo said. Despite the city not having lobbyists practicing, it is now a required aspect and there is not much room for choice on the city's part, he said.

Other changes included housekeeping aspects regarding acceptance of

gifts. Updated language now prohibits a town employee or elected official from accept gifts from an association acting on behalf of another that is engaged only in representing municipal corporations. Most changes are relatively straightforward, said Gullo, including prohibition against retaliation against an employee for reporting an ethics violation.

The "draft" ordinance will be sent to the state ethics commission for official review and action before returning to Taneytown Council for adoption potentially in December. The city's

ethics commission will then act and make any necessary changes to the city's policies by January to implement the changes, according to Gullo.

According to Gullo, local governments' ethic laws must be equivalent to or exceed the requirements of State law with respect to conflict-of-interest provisions and financial disclosure provisions.

While the State Ethics Commission may exempt certain small municipalities from the requirement to enact ethics laws, or certain parts of ethics laws, for their jurisdictions. Taneytown is not on the exemption list, hence the need to adopt a local code.

## News Briefs. . .

**Police receive defibrillator donation**  
Thanks to a generous donation in October, all Taneytown Police Department patrol vehicles are now equipped with automated external defibrillator (AED) and Bleeding Control Kits.

Valued at over \$20,000, this life-saving equipment was provided to the department by Mission 10-42 Incorporated in partnership with Rescue One Training for Life Incorporated.

An AED is a medical device designed to analyze the heart rhythm and deliver an electric shock to victims of cardiac arrest. Chances of survival from cardiac arrest diminish each minute without immediate CPR or defibrillation, and after 10 minutes, resuscitation rarely succeeds.

Bleeding control is paramount to survivability in cases of traumatic injuries, and having readily accessible bleeding control equipment is essential when providing emergency casualty care.

Taneytown police officers are frequently the first to respond to medical calls involving cardiac arrest or severe traumatic injuries and city officers are now fully equipped to provide emergency care when minutes are the dif-

ference between life and death. More information about Mission 10-42 Inc. can be found at [mission1042.org](http://mission1042.org).

### Arrest made in fatal pedestrian hit and run

Public assistance aided in the apprehension of alleged fatal hit and run driver in September. On September 17, at approximately 9:39 a.m., Carroll County Sheriff's Office Deputies, along with the Taneytown Police Department, and Emergency Medical Fire and Rescue crews, were dispatched to the area of Trevanion Road and Otterdale Mill Road for the report of a pedestrian struck by an automobile. Despite all attempts at life-saving care, the victim succumbed to injuries sustained and was pronounced deceased on scene.

The involved suspect vehicle fled the scene of the collision Northbound towards Taneytown.

The vehicle was believed to be a dark burgundy metallic 2019-2021 Chevrolet Traverse. On the evening of September 17, a suspected driver was located and taken into custody as Timothy Carter, 34, of Westminster. Carter was charged with manslaughter, and more charges likely after the conclusion of the investigation and con-

sultation with the State's Attorney's Office. Carter is currently being held at the Carroll County Detention Center.

This arrest was made with the assistance of tips from the public, as well as investigative resources from the Maryland State Police and the Taneytown Police Department. "Thank you to everyone who assisted," the department Facebook page read.

As the investigation continued, the Carroll County Sheriff's Office requests anyone with additional information to contact the Sheriff's Office at 410-386-5900 or email [Mprushinski@carrollcountymd.gov](mailto:Mprushinski@carrollcountymd.gov) or contact the Maryland State Police Westminster Barracks at 410-386-3000.

At public comment during the Oct. 5 meeting, the Taneytown City Council heard from Chris Tillman, owner of George's on York Bed and Breakfast, presenting concern of speeding and traffic in the city, and seeking more enforcement for pedestrian safety.

### Recycling artists and enthusiasts welcome for showcase

Carroll County Department of Land and Resource Management presents its first annual environmental symposium at the Carroll Community College November 12 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Showcasing Carroll County community groups focused on environmental stewardship, everyone is encouraged to learn how to promote and implement practices to sustain the county's natural resources.

The event will also feature a Recycled Art Contest for high school students where attendees can vote for their favorite artwork utilizing salvaged materials.

Entrants can also enter pieces in the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Recycled Sculpture Contest to be held on November 18 at Montgomery Park in Baltimore. For more information about MDE's contest, visit [Maryland.gov](http://Maryland.gov). For more information email Kelly Martin at [krmartin@carrollcountymd.gov](mailto:krmartin@carrollcountymd.gov) or phone; 410-386-2566.

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## NOVEMBER

What a wonderful month to enjoy. The leaves will have changed and the Fall colors abound. The harvest is in full swing and the farmers are getting ready for the Winter coming soon. This is a month for family and friends to gather and give thanks. This has been a trying year for sure and we need to get together with folks and enjoy life. We need to step back and take inventory of ourselves. We have many reasons to be thankful. Please enjoy this time before the real chill of Winter sets in. Get out, enjoy the sights, take a ride to nowhere just for fun. We will make sure your vehicle is ready and raring to go.

This Thanksgiving, be sure to look around the table at those in your life, for if we were not for them, you would be a different person.

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# GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

## County Councilman Michael Blue

**A**fter four exciting, memorable, and productive years of being your Frederick County District 5 representative, it is time for me to say goodbye. Before I move on, I would like to take a moment to go over a highlight from my time on the Council.

Looking back, my Bill 19-16, Scuba Facility in Mineral Mining Districts, must be my favorite and most interesting piece of legisla-

tion. This bill, an act to add “scuba facility” to the list of permitted uses within the Mineral Mining Districts, was passed by a 7-0 vote and became effective on February 15, 2020.

In 2019, Matt Skogebo, Owner of Aquanautics, LLC., talked to me about his idea for turning a 17-acre quarry lake in Woodsboro into a premier scuba diving destination in the mid-Atlantic region. His project was called Juturna Springs and

included creating a diving recreation area in conjunction with Laurel Hill Quarry, an active mining property. Mr. Skogebo’s mission was to build an educational facility to promote aquatic conservation and education, as well as support the military, local first responders, and disabled diving programs. The project sounded exciting to me and a perfect fit to promote Frederick County in District 5. I worked with Matt Skogebo, Brad

Hill of Comus Construction, and Jerry Walker of Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC), along with the Council’s legislative staff, the County’s legal staff, and Planning and Zoning to help make his dream a reality.

I spoke to Mr. Skogebo recently to get an update on Juturna Springs and was happy to hear that his plans are still moving forward. Unfortunately, COVID issues, closures, and delays has slowed down Mr. Skogebo’s project. The site plans

were not approved until late summer of 2021. Currently he is gathering investors to finish building the facility and open to the public. If anyone is interested in learning more about the Juturna Project they can contact Mr. Skogebo at [info@aquanauticsllc.com](mailto:info@aquanauticsllc.com).

It has been my pleasure to interact and try to get to know each one of you. Thank you all for your patience and support. The folks of “north county” are a special group and I will definitely miss working with you.

## Mayors

### Thurmont Mayor John Kinnard

November will be a busy month, there are many events to participate in this coming month, and opportunities to spend time with family and friends.

November 8th is Election Day. Elections can be confusing especially with all the ads we are hammered with day and night. I ask everyone to look closely at each candidate you will be voting for and to select those that you feel will represent us with dedication and honor. Each of us

old enough to vote has the right to register to vote in local, state and National elections, and I encourage everyone to vote on Election Day. Remember, your vote does count!

The Pop Up Shops are now open each Saturday from 10 until 2 at the Thur-

mont Plaza Shopping Center, 224 N. Church Street. Stop in for a great selection of jewelry, baked goodies, Color-street nail polish, Scentsy, hand crafted seasonal gifts, hand made decorative signs and other offerings. Each Saturday will feature a different food truck thanks to

the good folks at Dirty Dawg DIY Dog Wash! This is a great opportunity to pick up Thanksgiving housewarming gifts, stocking stuffers, and Christmas gifts for family or friends.

The Thurmont Community Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on Saturday, November 26th at 6 p.m. at the Mechanicstown Square Park. Join us to sing a couple of Christmas songs, see the Christmas Tree lighting, and see the street Christmas decoration lighting. Also be sure to check out the lighting at Community Park. Keep at watch out for the Annual Christmas Decorating Contest. It’s a month off yet, but take time to drive around Thurmont in December to see the amazing Christmas decorations on every street in town. Christmas in Thurmont will be held on Saturday, December 3rd, details will be made available in a couple of weeks!

As you prepare to gather with family for Thanksgiving dinner remember our friends and neighbors less fortunate than we are. Consider donating to the Thurmont or Emmitsburg Food Bank, cash or non-perishable foods will go a long way to helping our entire community realize a Happy Thanksgiving. With cold weather coming think about donating any wearable warm clothing, coats, gloves, hats or winter footwear you may have to the Thurmont Clothes Closet located on Long Road at the Thurmont United Methodist Church. Karen and I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions I can be reached by cell

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# VOTE *Chris* **Manners** for Register of Wills

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*By authority of Heather Manners, Treasurer*

# JESSICA FITZWATER

## FOR COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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By Authority: Friends of Jessica Fitzwater, John Daniels, Treasurer



## GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

## County Executive Jan Gardener

Get out and vote! If you haven't already taken advantage of early voting or dropped off your ballot at a drop box, make sure you have a plan to vote on November 8th. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you don't know where to go to vote, you can find your voting location at [www.Frederick-county.md.gov/elections](http://www.Frederick-county.md.gov/elections).

In this election, I am endorsing Jessica Fitzwater for County Executive. I am confident that she will carry on the good work of county government delivering strong schools, safe communities and a thriving economy. She will also treat county employees with dignity and respect and will listen to all sides of every issue.

I have been disappointed and disturbed by the outright dishonest and negative campaign ads from her opponent Michael Hough. So, let's set the record straight.

Let's start with taxes. Jessica Fitzwater has never voted to raise property taxes. Property tax rates have remained the same over the past 8 years. Jessica has voted to reduce the income tax rate by 7% for households earning less than \$100,000 in taxable income; supported a veteran's tax credit; and voted in favor of an expanded senior tax

credit. Jessica Fitzwater is the only candidate for County Executive who has successfully voted to cut taxes. Some will say that assessments have gone up, so tax bills have gone up. While that is true, it is the case for both county and state property taxes. At the county level, property taxes are capped at an annual rate of 5%. As a state Senator, Michael Hough, never submitted a bill to reduce or "freeze" the state property taxes to offset assessment increases. He has also not proposed a cap on annual state property tax bills. Hough's actions do not match his rhetoric. Hough has done nothing to reduce state property taxes.

Education. Jessica Fitzwater has a solid record of supporting public education with a focus on securing our children's future. Michael Hough has a solid record of not supporting public education and even voted against school construction funding specifically designated for Frederick County. Hough seems more focused on criticizing teachers, administrators and Board of Education members and has led people to believe that as County Executive he will exercise authority and oversight over decisions that rest solely with our elected Board of Educa-

tion members. Hough clearly wants to fight with our education leaders rather than work with them. If you want outstanding public education and recovery from the pandemic education loss, the only candidate in the race who will deliver is Jessica Fitzwater.

Policing. Michael Hough would have you believe that Jessica Fitzwater has voted to defund the police. That allegation is simply false. Nothing could be further from the truth. Over the past 8 years, Jessica has voted for every salary increase for our sheriff deputies and has supported hiring additional deputies. Twice in the past 8 years, the salary of our sheriff deputies was increased by 10% in one year to ensure competitive pay and to attract new hires. Most importantly, Jessica has actively supported the creation of a mobile crisis team to support our police on calls that involve mental health crisis, addiction, suicide and more. This effort has been supported by Sheriff Jenkins and has proven successful.

Dense Housing. How the county grows, and changes has long been controversial. It is very clear that people do not want urban sprawl to consume our beautiful farms and scenic vistas and

express legitimate concerns about overcrowded schools and roads. Over the past 8 years, the county has approved very little new development - only two senior housing projects. All the development you see under construction in recent years was approved by either a municipality or the last Board of County Commissioners between 2012 and 2014. The last BOCC approved over 20,000 new housing units, waived many development requirements, disregarded the need for schools and roads, and locked these approvals in place with developer contracts. Frederick County residents will continue to see the approvals of the past build out for several more years. These contracts cannot be undone.

Meanwhile, Hough claims he will "ban" dense housing. The County Executive does not have the authority or ability to ban high density housing. Land use decisions rest with the County Council not the County Executive and the county has to comply with federal fair housing laws. Hough also claims that Jessica Fitzwater has approved massive dense housing. This is factually wrong and totally untrue. Hough is trying to instill fear and lay claim to future actions that the County Executive does not have the authority to implement.

Managing growth will take both vision and consistent public policy. The next County Executive needs to keep the county focused on implementing the Livable Frederick Master Plan and continue the accelerated investment in agriculture preservation. Jessica Fitzwater has supported Livable Frederick and the acceleration of agriculture preservation and agriculture innovation grants to help our farms stay economically viable. I am confident that Jessica Fitzwater will work with the citizens and the county council to implement Livable Frederick.

Honesty. Citizens deserve elected officials who will tell them the truth. Citizens deserve to know what their county government is doing and that decisions are being made in the best interest of the public good. It is very clear that Michael Hough is not telling voters the truth. If he cannot tell the truth in a campaign, he will not tell you the truth if elected. Fundamental to good government is honesty and integrity. Citizens can rely on Jessica Fitzwater to tell them the truth and to deliver honest and open government.

All elections are important. Get out and vote! I encourage you to vote for Jessica Fitzwater for County Executive to secure a bright future for Frederick County.

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phone at 301-606-9458 or by email at [jkinnaird@thurmont.com](mailto:jkinnaird@thurmont.com).

## Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

Congratulations to newly elected Commissioner Amy Boehman-Politt and Commissioner Frank Davis re-elected to a second term. Thank you to candidates Mark Long and Kevin Hagan for stepping forward and running good races.

Presented at the October 12<sup>th</sup> Town meeting for consideration by the Commissioners, and subsequently approved, was a proposal to retain Jakubiak & Associates, Inc., a Towson, Maryland based planning consultant firm. Duties will include assisting in planning and zoning functions, annexations, project review, development code amendments, land use and related studies, and comprehensive plan review." Chris Jakubiak comes with significant years of experience in working with municipalities that includes assisting the town in its 2009-2010 Comprehensive Plan update.

At the same meeting a presentation was made by consultants of a study of town water rates. The study was prompted by the USDA opinion that town water rates are too low and need to be raised if

the town should seek any further USDA financial assistance. The town has the ongoing deficit in the town water account. The study recommendation to raise rates was given, but by over 100% was a shock to many. If an increase was needed, why were they not raised gradually, is a good question. Here is some reasoning. In the last decade, to accommodate construction of new wastewater treatment plant, sewer rates were incrementally raised significantly in two steps. During the same time raising water rates was considered repeatedly. But it was felt that coming out of the 2008-2009 recession, already raising sewer rates, getting through cleaning up discolored water from aged pipes, weathering the COVID 19 pandemic, any increase in water rates would impose too much of a burden on residents. So now we are dealing with an inflation surge that has not been seen in forty years.


Town new business / development update: Emmitt Ridge 2, potential residential subdivision, east side of Irishtown Road, no development plan. Federal Stone - proposed industrial building east side of US 15 off Creamery Road. Forest & site plans approved/awaiting on submission of improvement plat. Frailey Farm - 100 + acres, annexation request.

The property borders Meyers Community Park to the west, southside of Frailey Road, eastside of Annandale Road. Mason Dixon Logistics Park, 185 +/- acres, eastside of US 15, north of State 140. Concept plan submitted- commercial / industrial park/potential zoning text and/or map amendment. State Park & Ride east of US 15, south of State 140, MDOT/SHA restarted design on July 1, 2022, 30% of the project expected to be completed by the end of 2022. Ripleigh's Creamery on East Main St. working on building permit from County for renovations. Rutter's - Expected completion end of October/ early November 2022. Village Liquors & Plaza Inn - Property owner plan phasing the project - Phase 1) 1<sup>st</sup> story convenience area; and Phase 2) 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> story hotel. Working on zoning permit submittal. Warthen's Court proposed 5-unit townhomes - Sketch plan submitted.

For the calendar: Veterans Day, Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, join tour of local cemeteries, Doughboy, local Legion and VFW with honor guard. Thanksgiving Day, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>, morning the annual Turkey Trot. December 5<sup>th</sup>, is the Evening of Christmas Spirit, celebrated on the first Monday of December as always.

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"I stand for law and order"  
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on November 8th for a safe Frederick County



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Authority: Gary L. Jenkins, Treasurer

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Thank you

AUTHORITY: JOANN M. HEVEY, CPA, PFS, TREASURER

## FROM THE DESK OF CANDIDATE FOR ...

### Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive

As I was greeting a group of supporters last weekend just before we started canvassing a neighborhood, a volunteer reminded me that I had been knocking on doors for 12 months now! Those first few weekends last November and December were bracing, and they contrasted strongly with the hot and humid days this past summer when we took plenty of water with us (and were offered drinks by so many kind voters we talked to).

In both my successful campaigns for County Council in 2014 and 2018, and during the eight years I've now served on the County Council, I have made outreach to and feedback from Frederick families a centerpiece of my service; and that is a priority I will maintain as the next County Executive.

To be a strong candidate for office, it's essential to meet voters where they work and where they live, so I've devoted long hours to knocking on doors in neighborhoods all across Frederick County. If I'm feeling a little tired from the toils of the campaign trail, talking to voters always gives me a positive jolt of energy. They are welcoming, they are engaged, and — like

me — they care deeply about the future of Frederick County.

Likewise, to be a successful officeholder, it is essential to hear from the people who are so directly affected by the decisions made by the County Executive and County Council. I always pay careful attention to comments from the public. But on more than one occasion, I've thought, "Why is it we always seem to hear from the same ten people during our public comment sessions on any of our agenda items?"

Well, the answer is obvious: Frederick residents and families have full and busy lives, so most can't undertake the trek to Winchester Hall in downtown Frederick and sit through an hours-long County Council meeting just so they can take a turn during a public comment session. That's why I'm committed as the next County Executive to expand outreach to our Frederick County communities, to conduct listening sessions at times and places accessible to people who live there, and to use social media and other mechanisms effectively to get a much wider range of thinking and feedback about the many important decisions made

by county government.

What's on the mind of voters as I knock on doors several days a week? Well, the issues can be varied, and detailed: the impact of a construction site on a nearby intersection, the status of or need for a crosswalk, the mental health services supplied by the county's public health department, offerings by and access to the nearest public library, a desire for more bikeways and trails. The cost of housing, the price of gas, a doctor's bill. You name it — I've heard it.

Some things I can't do anything about — like a crosswalk under the jurisdiction of the City of Frederick. But as you'll notice, most of the issues have something to do with the quality of life in that neighborhood, and what steps government might take to address it. Because that is what local government is here for — to make life better for people.

And, of course, when voters who answer their doors hear that I've been a music teacher in Frederick County Public Schools for almost 17 years, I quickly hear great stories about their own children, what schools they attend or once attended, and poignant tales

where a particular teacher made a profound difference in the life of their kids and their family.

Education is the real foundation that the future of Frederick County stands upon. We know a first-rate education is key for each of our children to succeed. We also know that an educated work force is key to continuing to attract the businesses to Frederick County that can offer high-paying jobs; and it's essential to keeping our communities safe and our crime rate low. That's why I've fought so hard as a County Council member for eight years to increase teacher pay so Frederick County can remain competitive and continue to draw top talent, and to finance construction for new school buildings so our kids can learn in up-to-date, safe, and welcoming facilities.

These questions are even more personal to me now because I'm the mother of two children, Jane, 3 years old, and Jonah, 6 years old; Jonah is now in first grade at North Frederick Elementary. It's so wonderful to see him take his first steps on his path through Frederick County schools.

And that's why I'm so concerned about my opponent's seeming indifference to these educational needs. He's already announced a

plan to freeze new hiring and to cut the tax rate. Doesn't he understand the impact that will have on teacher pay and making progress on the per student expenditure, which is at the bottom of Maryland's counties? His wooden-headed position harkens back to the old county commissioners under Blaine Young, who froze county employee and teacher pay for years and never budgeted a single dollar for education over what was required by law. We are still trying to make up for their short-sightedness. And with the negative impact on learning that two years of COVID has had on our kids, we can't afford to cut corners when it comes to our children, our schools, and our future.

Every resident I've talked to at every door I've knocked — whether I encountered someone brand new to Frederick County or someone born here with long ties to the past — was interested in Frederick County's future. That's why I decided to run for County Executive in the first place — so that future is one where every Frederick County resident and family can thrive and meet their full potential. Please join me in voting on or before November 8 so that future will be bright for all of us.

### Renee Knapp, County Council-at-Large

Autumn has arrived in Frederick County. The leaves are beautiful, and the air is cool. Election Day is also arriving on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Voters will soon head to the polls to decide who will represent Frederick County at the federal, state, and local level. Since January, I have shared my positions and vision for the future in Frederick County in this monthly article, graciously provided by the News-Journal newspapers to provide voter information about all 2022 candidates. My vision comes from living most of my life here and from listening to people, businesses, and organizations about the successes of the county as well as areas where we can

improve. The next county government will take office before the end of this year. I ask for your vote for Frederick County Council At-Large on November 8<sup>th</sup>, so I can be part of the next county council that will keep the county moving forward.

During the past year I've had the opportunity to speak with many different people and groups. I've spoken with farmers, teachers, bus drivers, electricians, real estate agents, commercial and residential developers, firefighters, police officers, students, small business owners, and the leaders of larger businesses who are choosing to locate in Frederick County. I've listened to commuters, bicyclists, and residents with disabil-

ities who are all looking for county government to lead the way forward as the county takes on the challenge of balancing anticipated growth with continuing transportation needs. I've learned new things about of Frederick County in the past year, even though I've lived most of my life here. I'm grateful for the experiences and for the time people took to share their thoughts about the county with me. I know I will be a well-informed council member who will listen to everyone.

The next council will look different for sure. New people with different lived and professional experiences will bring fresh perspectives and new approaches to the legis-

lative process. As a new member, I would bring my experience as an advocate and a parent of an adult son who is on the autism spectrum. My son successfully graduated from high school and has worked at a local grocery store for over ten years. He was also able to get his driver's license after receiving additional training and occupational therapy. Our family is proud of him because we know what he had to overcome, and the challenges he still faces as an adult with a disability.

When our son was three years old, my husband and I were told that our son was autistic and that we needed to adjust our expectations for him and for our family. At the time, our

son could not communicate verbally in a way anyone could understand and he didn't interact with other people. Information about autism was scarce almost thirty years ago, but I used a new thing at the time called the Internet to learn all I could about autism and to find out if there was anything I could do to help my son. In the early 1990s, the answers were few and not reassuring.

So, I decided to just keep talking to him until I could get more answers. All day. Every day of every week of every year. When he was little, it felt like he was underwater, and I couldn't pull him up. All I could do was hold onto his hand and not let him float away. When our son was about four years old, a

*continued on next page*

- Strong Support for Schools
- Focus on Roads Infrastructure
- Commitment to Public Safety
- Enabling Good Business
- Responsible Growth
- Parks and Recreation
- Supporting Seniors
- Fiscal Responsibility

# BRAD YOUNG

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By Authority of Cheryl Young, Treasurer



FROM THE DESK OF CANDIDATE FOR ...

# Brad Young, County Council-at-Large

Mail in voting has started and nearly voting will be under way, and we will wrap the campaign up on November 8th! I am very happy with how the campaign has been going and I am looking forward to a positive outcome. We had our last forum with all the candidates recently in Thurmont hosted by the Thurmont & Emmitsburg Lions clubs. It was well attended and gave the public the opportunity to hear all the at-large candidates.

I have continued to knock doors and listen to voters. The top issues that I am hearing people are concerned about are growth, education, public safety, traffic, the economy, and the environment. Many have stated that they think Frederick County has grown too fast and too densely in certain areas of the county. I have pointed out that the current County Executive and County Council have not approved new residential growth in the last 8 years. The only development that was approved was residential age restricted housing. A new County Executive and County Council can change that. My position

is that we can have reasonable where the infrastructure is in place to handle it. There must be school capacity, road capacity, first-responder capacity, water capacity and park capacity. We cannot continue to build where these are not present. Frederick County is a desirable place to move to and growth will continue, but it must be responsible.

Our Education system in Frederick County is strong. Great education is our county benefits everyone! Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) and Frederick Community College (FCC) are both great assets of our county and we must continue to strongly support them financially. FCPS receives the second lowest funding per pupil in the state of Maryland. We must do better than that and provide the funding to lower class sizes and increase pay for our employees. I also want to see a new Career & Technology Center built to handle the needs of our students. Almost every program at the CTC has a waiting list and these programs lead to good jobs for graduates. The County can take a role with

FCPS and FCC to make this happen and I will work to get that done.

Public Safety is another area that I strongly support. People that live in our county want to know that our police and fire and ambulance system will meet their needs. I come from a family with several law enforcement officers, and this will always be a top priority of mine. We must fund and make sure that that our law enforcement and fire and rescue services have the funds they need to be fully staffed and equipped to handle our needs. I am fully committed to supporting that in the budget. I have been and will continue to be very supportive of the Student Resource Officers (SRO) program in our schools. I will support additional budgeting to extend the program to include additional officers.

Frederick County has significant traffic issues in many areas. The county needs to work with our State and Federal partners to get funding to improve many of these issues. The recent announcement of funding for the expansion of Route 15 is good

news and I will support this project. We need to make sure that any new growth does not contribute further to congestion on the roads. I support expanding our bike and walking paths throughout the county.

The economy has taken a turn in the wrong direction with high inflation. The County needs to be sensitive to the increased costs to our residents of gas, groceries, and other goods that we purchase. We need to be sensitive to the impact that this has on our fixed income and low-income residents. As a county, we need to be sensitive to the impact that this is having on financially strained residents. This year the county passed tax relief for lower income residents, and we need to continue to look at programs like that which allow people to be able to continue to afford to live in our county. I would also be open to looking at expanding programs for tax credits for real estate taxes based upon the individual's income and assets.

Frederick County is a beautiful place to live and visit and we need to pro-

tect that. I support increased funds for farm preservation and expanding our parks and trails throughout the county. I have served on the Parks and Recreation committee and have a good understanding of what we have and what we need to continue to provide the quality of life that residents expect. We are blessed to have so many great parks and we need to continue to add to and expand and improve our existing parks. I support the County's bike and pathways plan and would advocate for dedicated funding to complete it. We must also protect our environment and make sensible decisions that value our environment to protect this great asset!

In conclusion, I ask for your vote in the upcoming general election. I pledge to be open, transparent, accessible, and committed to making Frederick County to be the best it can be for all residents. I love Frederick County and want to continue to serve in the capacity as a councilman. I thank you for your consideration. You can also get more information at [www.brad-young.com](http://www.brad-young.com) or email me at [FriendsofBradYoung@yahoo.com](mailto:FriendsofBradYoung@yahoo.com).

# Sandy Dalton, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Clerk of the Circuit Court – What's that?

If you have ever needed a marriage or business license, to record a deed, mortgage or plat, take the Oath of Office to become a Notary, elected or appointed position, been involved with a criminal, civil, family, child support or juvenile case, or maybe genealogy research or jury duty, then you have used the services of your Clerk's office!

It has been my honor to serve as your elected clerk for 24 years (6 terms). I have been proactive in the modernization and automation of many of the functions of the clerk's

office. This is a Fiduciary office and we've received many "no-findings" Legislative Audits. We collected over 27 million in fees in FY 21. We are the keeper of the court record, and staff 8 or more courtrooms. While we assist all those that need our services, court cases are scheduled under the court's Assignment office. I have served as President/Chair on many committees in the Judiciary and have received the Court Executive/Manager Certification from the National Center of State Courts. I also attend many meetings in Annapolis to stay proactive in the improvements of your

court and clerk's office and testify before our Legislature on Bills that affect our processes.

This office has just celebrated 5 years of electronic filing, known as MDEC (Maryland Electronic Courts). While this program was implemented in advance of the official roll-out date, your Clerk's office has embraced this technology and worked with the Judiciary to make necessary improvements.

Following after MDEC for court filings, SimpleFile was implemented for the electronic filing of Land documents.

Both programs enabled your

Clerk's Office to continue working throughout the Covid time period. During the shutdown, this office continued to work with a team internal to the building and the others teleworking from home. Staff also worked to bring documents online for applying for a marriage license, and implement credit card procedures to assist with filings, copies, licenses, etc. Your Clerk's Office was never closed. Staff teamwork, creativity, and commitment was amazing. I am so proud of each of them in fulfilling our duties to serve you and our justice partners! I like to say, "this office Rocked Covid!"

My goals are the same as my past service to you and this office. Be a servant leader, always seek ways to motivate and educate staff, be proactive in moving court services forward, and expect a sincere effort from all to be the best in our field!

I hope you are pleased with my dedication and commitment to this position, staff, and You - those we serve. Thank you for this opportunity and your trust.

Please Vote Sandra K. Dalton, Clerk of the Circuit Court on November 8th, 2022. Thank you and God Bless!

Remember "Vote for me – Sandra D!"

continued from previous page

speech therapist with the Child Find program through Frederick County Public Schools gave me an article to read about "high-functioning autism". The term is not generally used anymore. That article together with evolving research and new therapies at that time changed our outlook and gave us hope that while there is no cure for autism, consistent and early intervention can in some cases lead to a higher level of independence.


My years of experience as an advocate will benefit the citizens of Frederick County, if I am elected. I don't give up, especially on people, and I work hard to find answers to questions. If I need to know something, I find out who knows about it, and I ask them to educate me. Lastly, raising a child with special needs builds a special kind of work ethic that I will bring to the Frederick County Council every day. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about me and my campaign and thank you for your consideration on Election Day.

If you missed any of my previous articles, they are available at the News-Journal websites. You can also visit my website, [www.knapp4countycouncil.com](http://www.knapp4countycouncil.com).

TRANSPARENT HONEST ACCOUNTABLE

## KARL BICKEL

*for Frederick County Sheriff*



**Frederick County is Maryland's fastest-growing jurisdiction, expanding in density, diversity and economic importance as a live-work community in the Baltimore-DC area.**

***Our growth must be accompanied by smart policing strategies and a community partner approach that keeps residents safe.***

**Karl Bickel is the only sheriff candidate with the education, field experience, leadership expertise and track record of community service required for a successful, 21<sup>st</sup>-century sheriff's organization.**

***Karl Bickel, Democrat for Frederick County Sheriff!***

***The Right Choice for Frederick County's Future!***

- 40 years local and national policing experience
- 30 years service to Frederick County and Maryland state justice and ethics councils
- Former Frederick County Sheriff's Office Chief of Law Enforcement Operations

**Join Our Campaign!**  
<https://www.bickel4sheriff.com>  
[karl@bickel4sheriff.com](mailto:karl@bickel4sheriff.com)  
 301-639-9665

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## FROM THE DESK OF CANDIDATE FOR ...

# Julianna Lufkin, Candidate for County Council District 5

November has arrived, which means it's time for my last article before the election. I'm Julianna Lufkin and I'm running as a Democrat for Frederick County Council in District 5, which is Myersville, Thur-

mont, Emmitsburg, Sabillasville, Walkersville, and Woodsboro, along with all of the towns and villages that are within those boundaries. I'm so grateful to Michael Hillman for offering me the marvelous oppor-

tunity of writing these articles since January. It's brought me name recognition throughout our district, and has allowed me to share my platform and my personal story with you each month.

Before I get into the meat of this article, I just wanted to make a quick note about local government. Being in local government is hard work. It's about researching issues, reading, listening, attending meetings, and compromising. It's not a game. The goal isn't to have your team win or to break down the other team with name calling or fighting. We all enter the political sphere because we want the best for Frederick County; we just all have different visions of what the best looks like. That being said, of course I hope that you agree with my vision and vote for me!

I deliberated a lot about what the subject of this article should be, and in the end, I decided to re-cover some ground. By the time you're reading this, we are a week away from the General Election, and being familiar with your two candidates for Frederick County Council in District 5, their platforms, and the differences between them has never been more critical.

I'm a 4th generation Northern Frederick County native, a 5th generation educator, and a 1st generation

politician. My great-grandparents built a house on Annandale Rd in 1949, a year after my great-grandfather, Bob Marshall started teaching in the Classics department at the Mount. Almost a decade later, my grandfather, Tom Seess, moved to Emmitsburg and started teaching Political Science and American Government at Saint Joseph's College in town, before teaching in that same department at the Mount when Saint Joe's closed. I was born in 1991, and we lived on that same property that my mother and grandmother had grown up on, right there on Annandale Rd. (For folks who remember, it was the house that had a big "M" picked out in different colored shingles on the garage roof.)

In addition to co-running the family catering business, I teach literature and history classes for homeschooled kids and teens. I'm also a blacksmith; in 2019, I was the first woman to graduate from a year-long program at the Virginia Institute of Blacksmithing. I am hardworking, dedicated, and compassionate, and will work with my bipartisan colleagues on the Council to ensure that our District and County receive the support and reliable leadership that we need.

I believe in approaching politics in the same way that I approach teaching; no one issue or subject exists independently of others. By working to solve one issue directly, be it ensuring that Frederick County's rural areas are preserved for future agricultural purposes, or working to reduce food insecurity for children, you are inherently solving other issues in the community.

I'm a firm believer in smart growth, and to me, that means, among other things, advocating in favor of land preservation and of keeping and encouraging our agricultural heritage. I also strongly support the Liveable Frederick plan and will work to ensure it is followed.

I'm very grateful for the work that our educators and FCPS staff do every day. Our county would flounder without them, and I believe that we should support them with higher pay, better infrastructure in schools, and mental health support, both for them and for our students.

As a member of the County Council, I vow to work hard for Frederick County in general, and for District 5 in particular. I commit to respecting and listening to the citizens from our community regardless of any party label. My hope is that I have demonstrated to you my unending commitment to the betterment of Frederick County and the lives of all her residents. My door, and email inbox, will always be open to you. As always, no matter your party affiliation, please reach out to me with your concerns and issues; I'm here to listen, and to work towards the future we all want for ourselves and our county. My email address is [Lufkin.Listens@gmail.com](mailto:Lufkin.Listens@gmail.com), and you can find more information, as well as my past articles, on my website, [lufkinlistens.com](http://lufkinlistens.com).

My friends, please remember to vote on November 8th, and however the election goes, thank you for listening.

**Proudly endorsed  
by Republican  
Michael Blue  
current  
County Council District 5  
Representative**

Vote for Julianna Lufkin for  
County Council District 5

Scan the QR code with  
your phone's camera to  
view our website!

By Authority of Martin Gross,  
Treasurer

Julianna  
**LUFKIN**  
LISTENS

Vote for Julianna Lufkin for Frederick County Council District 5

**For Students in Grades 9-12**

**Teen Grief Retreat**

**Equine-Assisted Learning • Music Therapy  
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This day retreat provides special opportunities for grieving teens to come together to talk about their feelings related to a death of someone special, and learn coping skills for dealing with those feelings. Through expressive and experiential activities our facilitators help explore grief issues in a safe and supportive setting. All activities provide opportunities for teens to express themselves and develop bonds with others.

UPCOMING RETREAT DATES:  
**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2022**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023**  
ThorpeWood Retreat Center, Thurmont, MD

There is no charge for these events. For more information or to register contact us at 240-566-3030 or [FrederickHealthHospice.org/CampJamie](http://FrederickHealthHospice.org/CampJamie)

**Frederick Health Hospice**

## FROM THE DESK OF CANDIDATE FOR ...

### Sherriff Chuck Jenkins

I've had the honor of serving as your Sheriff, "The People's Sheriff", for 16 years and now seek a 5<sup>th</sup> term as your Sheriff. I decided to run for re-election because I do care about the people and the future of Frederick County. My commitment has always been to serve and protect ALL citizens of this county to the best of my ability. My record and the accomplishments of the Sheriff's Office demonstrate that I have delivered on everything I said I would do, having kept every promise I've made for the betterment of this county. I stand for law and order.

The most important thing I've learned is that a Sheriff is closer to the people than any other elected office. I know I've been more accessible to the public than any other elected official and my community involvement and presence proves that. During my 32 plus years with the Frederick County Sheriff's Office (16 years as Sheriff) we've grown into a professional, well trained, full-service law enforcement and corrections agency. I have an outstanding

team of men and women serving this county with great leaders in my commanders.

For eight straight years, Frederick County has enjoyed reductions in serious and violent crime with crime rates of less than one-half of the national average. The School Resource Officer Program has been recognized across Maryland as a strong model program. This agency has been heavily focused on battling the deadly heroin and fentanyl crisis that is destroying this nation and has killed Frederick County citizens for over a decade. While making major arrests and large seizures of illegal drugs we have dismantled major drug organizations and criminal gangs.

In my view the Sheriff's election may be the most important race in the local election. If people can't feel safe and aren't safe where they live, work, and send their kids to school, nothing else can be good. We have NOT experienced skyrocketing crime and murder rates like many other nearby jurisdictions. Violent crime rates are at all-time highs everywhere except right here.

I take crime and your personal safety seriously. When the BOE discussed removing my deputies from the schools, I didn't pull them out and wait for a tragedy to occur to put them back. I made it very clear; the deputies are in schools to stay.

Through our 14-year partnership with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the jail based 287g Program is responsible for 1627 criminals being detained and deported by ICE including 115 identified criminal gang members, mostly MS13. I've fought hard for years to keep this county from becoming a sanctuary county for criminals. This county needs a Sheriff who is not afraid and has the will to stand up against crime, because you deserve protection from those threats and to not be a victim.

I've always managed the agency with a common-sense approach to law enforcement, while being fiscally responsible to the taxpayer by returning over \$35 million in ICE reimbursements and annual budget surpluses back to county government.

Be very concerned about my opponent! Karl Bickel represents the party that has allowed cities to

riot and burn, innocent citizens to be victims of violence, and has not backed law enforcement. The jail based 287g Program, one of the most effective and longest running partnerships in the country would be terminated. He has said that. My opponent favors the release of criminals from jails back onto our streets, and decriminalization of illegal drugs. The School Resource Officer program would be dismantled removing armed deputies from Frederick County Public Schools, leaving schools unprotected.

From his keyboard, he supports Black Lives Matter, Antifa, Rise Coalition of Western Maryland, and Casa de Maryland, all opposition groups against the enforcement of any laws. My opponent will not stand for law and order and would not be concerned about your rights, liberties, or safety.

Bickel has not been involved in law enforcement or corrections in almost 30 years, since being fired from this agency in 1994. There are no ideas for the betterment of this county or your protection. He is not involved in the community and has no idea about the role of the Sheriff in this county. He is unconnected and his entire campaign is to attack

me personally from the sidelines and lie. When you can't criticize performance or positive measurable results, attack the person. Attacking success can't win the election for Sheriff.

Going forward, I will continue the effective proactive enforcement strategies and priorities that have been successful to keep criminals off the streets to protect you. The School Resource Deputies will stay in our schools.

The 287g Program will remain in place and will become even more critical very soon. I will continue to effectively combat and intercept the fentanyl and heroin coming into this county, and support addiction recovery efforts. Also, there will be a Sheriff's Office district station built in the southeastern portion of the county to better serve and respond to those parts of the county.

You know my record, agency accomplishments, my priorities that have had tangible results, and level of dedication. I'm ready to continue that 100% commitment with all my energy, determination, and strength to keep this county as safe as possible. Vote Chuck Jenkins for Sheriff on November 8<sup>th</sup> and sleep well at night.

### Christopher Manners, Register of Wills

My name is Chris Manners and I am running for the office of Register of Wills for Frederick County. I am writing this article as we approach Election Day, and this may be my last opportunity to explain to the community why I feel that I am the best candidate for the job. Previously, I have written about my extensive experience: I am an attorney, I have served as the Chief Deputy for the current Register for almost a decade, and so forth. What that gives you is an incomplete picture.

I am a family man. One of the reasons that I started working for Register Virginia Fifer was the office's family friendly nature. My career may have been much more lucrative if I had "gone down the road." My family has figured much more importantly in my

life than a bigger house or bank account would have done, and I count myself as wealthy for that reason.

My discernment and honesty have been time-tested in my work with current Register Sharon Keller. In our longstanding professional relationship, she and I have sometimes disagreed but always respected one another and worked hard to keep the office non-political. I am a known quantity. What you see is what you get. People never have to wonder long where I stand or what I will do. Service has been the backbone of my work with the Register's office. I have been helpful to the Registers and always expressed my thoughts on work or policy exactly as I saw them. That became an item of trust between Sharon and me. No matter what, she understood that

I respected her, the office, and the public.

The legal community, financial community and, most importantly, local families know and respect my service. I have been and will continue to be a readily available resource for knowledge in probate matters. It is my most fervent desire that Frederick County families know they have the Register they want when they truly need our office. I am ethical and principled. As a friend has said about me, I 'am the man you would want to be in the office if, God forbid, something was to occur with your family.' I take that as high praise.

I have the support and encouragement of Register Sharon Keller, whom I have known for almost 20 years, and with whom I have worked for over a decade. Over

that time, Sharon has recognized my discernment and honesty. We have had an excellent working relationship and I am grateful for her leadership, her thoughtful approach to running the office, and her willingness to rely on my counsel when arranging the office.

As your next Register, I can pledge that I will remain transparent and without hidden agendas. My sincere hope is to continue

leading the office with integrity and the highest levels of service on which our reputation rests. Many people consider the "higher offices" on the ballot as the most important. Please do not forget that down ballot offices may have an even higher impact because they are local. Don't forget to complete the ballot all the way down. I ask for your vote and hope that you consider me a worthy successor to Registers Fifer and Keller. Thank you.



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## FROM THE DESK OF...

# Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

Based on the results of the October 18th Joint Council and Finance Committee Workshop review of the Carroll Valley draft 2023 Budget prepared by our borough manager, Dave Hazlett, the current Borough tax rate will remain at 2.45 mills or .00245 of the assessed value of land and buildings – meaning No Tax Increase. The following will occur – Council approves the advertisement of the 2023 budget for public review at the Nov. meeting. If no changes are made based on the public comments, the tax ordinance will be signed at the December meeting. Congratulations to the Borough staff and Council. It is also anticipated that the Adams County government is not planning to recommend a Tax Increase for 2023.

The seasonal time change will occur on Sunday, Nov. 6. Daylight saving time ends at 2 am, the official hour to set all our clocks back to standard time. That is when the local time will become 1 am, and people “gain” an extra hour of time. This is an excellent time to check your smoke alarms. Every year in the United States, about 3,000 people lose

their lives in residential fires. Most fire victims die from inhalation of smoke and toxic gases, not as a result of burns. Most deaths and injuries occur in fires at night while the victims are asleep. At the same time, you replace your smoke alarm batteries and replace the batteries in your Carbon Monoxide alarm.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8th, from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Borough Building, 5685 Fairfield Road. Please note the last day for the Board of Elections to receive a voted ballot is by 8 p.m. Ballots received by mail in the Elections Office after 8 p.m. election day will not be counted. The date of the postmark is not a factor.

Veterans Day, is observed on Nov. 11th, is a tribute to military veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Not to be confused with Memorial Day, which honors those who died while in service, Veterans Day honors all military veterans, including those still with us. The next time you have a conversation with a veteran or see someone in uniform, thank her/him for their service – a time they dedicated their lives to protect our

country at whatever cost.

On Nov. 9th, Richard Hileman, Chief of the Carroll Valley Police Department, will retire after 30 years of outstanding, dedicated service to the citizens of Carroll Valley Borough. He wore the uniform daily to serve and protect us. In so doing, he accepted the risk of being hurt or even killed – all in the name of public safety. He did it for 30 years. He started his career in Carroll Valley when he was hired on March 5th, 1992, as a police officer on probation. He became a permanent full-time Patrol Officer in 1993, and was promoted to Patrolman First Class – Detective in 1994. In 1997, he was elevated to a probationary status as Officer-in-Charge three years later. Finally, Officer Hileman assumed the position of Chief in 1997. Thank you for your dedicated service to our community! You will be missed.

The Carroll Valley Library schedule for Nov.: Nov. 3rd, 6:30 p.m. – Lake Communities, Stormwater, and HOA's with Holly Smith, Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward Coordinator. Nov. 7th, 6:30 p.m.

– Barks and Books with Danny, the therapy dog. Nov. 10th, 6:30 p.m. – DiNov. story time program and spend a special evening talking about dinosaurs. Nov. 16th, 2:00 p.m. – Adult Book Club. Nov. 22nd, 2 p.m. – Lego Challenge to participate in a Lego building event, and Nov. 28th, 6:30 p.m. – Decoupage Mason Jars, where you can learn how to decorate a mason jar with tissue paper and decoupage.

Around this time of year, the question always comes up whether someone can hunt in Carroll Valley. To clarify the rules, Carroll Valley cannot, by law, change state law regarding hunting; however, current state rules make legal hunting in Carroll Valley difficult. Pennsylvania has what is called “Safety Zones.” In a safety zone, it is unlawful to hunt for, shoot at, trap, take, chase or disturb wildlife within 150 yards of any occupied residence, camp, industrial or commercial building, farmhouse or farm building, or school or playground without the permission of the occupants. It is unlawful to shoot into a safety zone, even if you are outside of the zone. Driving a game without a firearm or bow within a safety zone without permission is unlawful. For comparison, think of a

safety zone as about one and a half of a football field.

Hunting on hospital and institutional grounds and in cemeteries is also prohibited. It is unlawful to discharge a firearm within 150 yards of a Game Commission vehicle whose occupants are releasing pheasants. The safety zone for archery hunters statewide, including those using crossbows, is 50 yards. Archery hunters carrying muzzleloaders during any muzzleloader season must abide by the 150-yard safety zone regulation. Around playgrounds, schools, or day-care centers, the safety zone remains 150 yards. For further information, refer to [www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us).

As Carroll Valley has grown over the years, finding a location outside these safety zones is more complicated. If you think someone is hunting too close to a residence, call the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Dispatch Center in Huntingdon at 814-643-1831, and an officer will check for violations. If you see persons hunting from vehicles or after dark, call Adams County Dispatch at 717-334-8101 to get the quickest response.”

If you have any questions, contact me at 301-606-2021 or at [MayorRonHarris@comcast.net](mailto:MayorRonHarris@comcast.net). Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family.

# Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

During the month of October, the township completed additional repair work and ditching on McLaughlin Road. We were unable to complete the scheduled 2022 tree canopy work due to staff shortages and time restraints. We are currently assessing our road maintenance needs and developing a schedule and budget for 2023.

With the time change in November, school age children will be on

the road in the dark. Please be extra careful. This past month, we have had a few cars ignoring the flashing lights and driving through an active bus stop. Thankfully, the students were diligent and there were no injuries. Buses flash yellow lights to indicate that a stop is coming up and red lights when the bus is stopped. Drivers must stay stopped until the lights are off, and the bus begins moving again.

We are also looking at other areas of concern for accidents. Waynesboro Pike/PA Route 16 is a heavily travelled road. Please be aware that the Blue Ridge Sportsmen's Association has a campground located on the other side of Waynesboro Pike from the club and there are frequent crossings by pedestrians and golf carts to and from both facilities. A recent accident resulted in very serious injuries to both parties. We are working with state and local authorities to see how we can address the area to make it safer for motorist and pedestrians.

Just because there is no snow falling, does not mean the roads are free from the dangers of winter. Overnight rain and mist can still freeze on the road creating black ice. Prepare yourself for winter and have your cars winterized. Be sure to check your tires, wiper blades, and top off

fluid levels for anti-freeze and windshield washer fluid. Be prepared in your home as well. Check your home's heating system, stock up on fuel, and test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

The Zoning Hearing Board of Liberty Township will meet on Thursday, November 3, at 6 p.m. to consider an application for a Special Exception to the Zoning Hearing Board, filed by Operation Second Chance, Inc., relative to certain real property located in Liberty Township at 17912 Harbaugh Valley Road, Fairfield. The applicant is requesting a special exception in order to authorize and permit the location, construction and use of a proposed indoor riding center and arena, horse stables and related facilities.

The Adams County Board of Commissioners recently appointed

a Broadband Community Advisory Task Force to help formulate and advance a strategy to address the development and implementation of an affordable county-wide broadband network. The Broadband Community Assessment authorized through a joint project between Adams and Franklin Counties is underway. The study will help pinpoint areas in the county where broadband service is either unavailable or where upload and/or download speeds are too slow or unreliable to support virtual businesses, virtual education, telehealth services and other internet users. The study will analyze the types of technology that may be needed to provide acceptable levels of service in unserved and underserved areas of the county.

There has been a heightened activity in developing short-term rentals in our community. Please be aware of current laws applying to short term rentals. While agencies such as Vrbo and Airbnb are aware of the 5% Hotel Room Rental Tax, many property owners listing their homes directly are not. If you are considering any short-term rental of your property, please contact the Adams County Treasurer's office for more information on collecting and remitting the 5% Hotel Room Rental Tax.

The Board of Supervisors meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m.. The Planning Commission meets the third Tuesday of the month, as needed. Please check our webpage on the Adams County website for more information. We look forward to input from our residents bringing forth ideas to help better the township as a whole. We want to wish everyone a great holiday season this Thanksgiving, and to be mindful of things to be thankful for in our lives such as our family, our homes, and security that we have within our neighborhoods.

### Village Book & Table Restaurant

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- LUNCH

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# GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

## County Commissioner Jim Martin

It's that time of year, time to vote for our elected representatives. Voting is a solemn right and we should use it knowledgeably and wisely. Much more than darkening an oval, voting is choosing one candidate over another. That choice needs to be based upon research of the candidates and their positions and values. Their positions and values will affect how they vote as our representatives.

How will they vote on stacking the U.S. Supreme Court, on abolishing the filibuster and ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), on defunding police, on policies to curb inflation, on legislation to promote energy independence, on stopping the flow of illegal drugs coming across our borders? Find out where the candidates stand on these and other issues. Pennsylvania will be voting on only four offices, U.S. Senator, U.S. Congressman, Governor and State Representative. This fall's ballot will likely be one of the shortest we have had and voter lines should move quickly.

As we approached the coming General Election, there was considerable court action about ballots, mainly mail-in/absentee ballots. The Pennsylvania Law states that mail-in and absentee ballots that arrive with inaccurate or non-existent dates are not to be counted. The U.S. Supreme Court also ruled that ballots received must have accurate dates to be counted. Then this matter was argued in lower-level courts. The resulting decision of this battle was opposite of State Law. The 3rd Circuit court ruled that the handwritten date was immaterial, and ballots received without the date are to be counted. Pennsylvania Department of State has provided the same guidance even though they acknowledge that the law requires a signature. I discuss this as one example of the confusion brought into our state elections through the courts' interpretation of ACT 77. To restore election integrity, ACT

77 needs to be repealed. Ask your candidates where they stand on this issue.

One mail-in ballot law that has not been questioned is the requirement that ballots must arrive enclosed in the secrecy envelope. A ballot that arrives not in a secrecy envelope is not counted. Another ballot infraction that occurs is having two or more ballots in one secrecy envelope. When two or more ballots arrive in one secrecy envelope, none of the ballots are counted. So, when using a mail-in/absentee ballot be sure to place only one ballot in each envelope.

Will there be any more legal challenges regarding dates and signatures before or after the coming General Election? Presently there are undecided suits filed against the state regarding election law. Also, close elections could precipitate a legal challenge. Do not leave anything to doubt when submitting a mail-in/absentee ballot. Be sure your handwritten date and signature are on the mailing envelope. Do not forget to use your secrecy envelope; without it your vote will not count. That is the law.

One final precaution, do not mail your mail-in/absentee ballot too close to election day. Remember, your ballot must arrive at the courthouse by 8 p.m. election day or it will not be counted. We are aware of mail-in situations of ballots taking seven or more days to reach the courthouse. When mail is sent from our area Post Offices it is sent directly to Harrisburg for sorting and distribution. As a safeguard to ensure your mail-in ballot arrives on time, voters have the option to bring their ballot to the courthouse and place it in the lobby drop box.

If a voter decides to vote in person rather than use their main-in ballot, they may do so. To do so the voter must bring their complete mail-in packet (envelopes included) with them to their poll on election day. That packet of materials must then be surrendered to the election

poll judge in exchange for a new ballot. That ballot is then voted and taken to the scanner/counter. If you have any questions about the process, please contact the county elections office.

Recently I had the rare opportunity to attend a special event that featured Dr. Ben Carson as the keynote speaker. Dr. Carson is a world-renowned neurosurgeon who served for nearly 30 years at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center. During this time, he performed many remarkable and near impossible surgeries. His exceptional ability led President Trump to nominate him for U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Dr. Carson is also a well know defender of life from womb to the tomb which gave rise to his founding the American Cornerstone Institute.

Dr. Carson's speech described his life with a dedicated mother working domestically early morning to late at night to support the family. Her wisdom led Dr. Carson to go from the bottom of his class to the top. By her direction he read many challenging books and articles. In his readings concerning slavery, he realized many human beings were being treated like property. He found this to be the same pattern found in abortion; human beings treated like property. To him abortion is not a bipartisan issue, but a moral issue and he stands in defense of the unborn and providing hope for women in a dilemma with their pregnancy.

In 2008 Dr. Carson received the highest civilian award, Presidential Medal of Freedom. As a matter of fact, because of his exceptionalism I signed his petition to be placed on the Primary Ballot for the President of the United States. Many of us will probably not be the exceptional person that Dr. Carson is, but for me, and I hope for others he serves as a true encouragement to raise the bar for accomplishments in our lives.

## Adams County Giving Spree

Ralph Serpe

Adams County, take a bow! Our community's annual day of giving, The Adams County Community Foundation Giving Spree, returns on Thursday, November 3, marking its twelfth year. Adams County donors broke all prior records with their generosity last year making the Giving Spree the largest (per capita) "give day" in the country, surpassing "The Big Give" in Dallas, Texas and the "Extraordinary Give" in Lancaster, PA.

We are keeping the Giving Spree virtual and outdoors for one more year. Like last year, there are many ways to participate.

Give today: Support your favorite Adams County nonprofits with an immediate gift during the Giving Spree.

Earmark your Giving Spree gift to permanent endowment, which will support the nonprofits you care about year after year. Your gift will be invested by the Community Foundation and each year 4.5% of your gift will be sent to the nonprofit you name.

You can support all the nonprofits in this year's Giving Spree with a gift to the "incentive match." Nonprofits receive a percentage of the incentive match based on the amount they raise during the Giving Spree.

How can you make sure your gift counts? Like last year, you can mail it in, drop it off, or give online.

The Community Foundation will accept Giving Spree gifts by mail between now and November 3.

On November 3 between 1 and 5 p.m. you can drop off a gift at the Gettysburg Times on Fairfield Road. There's no need to leave your car: Volunteers will

be on hand to accept your contribution, thank you personally and cheer you on.

And you can make your gift securely online at ACCFGivingSpree.org, between midnight and 11:59 pm on November 3.

Whether you are a Giving Spree veteran or new to this incredible community event, here are some tips to make the most of your participation in this year's Giving Spree.

### For Donors

Visit [www.ACCFGivingSpree.org](http://www.ACCFGivingSpree.org) and download our 2022 Giving Spree Guide for Donors. The Guide includes nonprofit descriptions, a Donation Form, and answers to many frequently asked questions.

Our most popular nonprofits will be on the list, but you'll also see some new organizations to learn about and consider.

Support your favorites with a gift they can use today *and* a gift they can add to an endowment and use forever.

Remember, you can make your gift by check, credit card, stock, qualified charitable distribution from your IRA or grant from a private foundation or donor advised fund. Donation forms are available online, through the Community Foundation and from all participating nonprofits.

During last year's Giving Spree, you gave an incredible \$3.08 million, including more than \$850,000 to establish and grow nonprofit endowments. Let's make 2022 even bigger and better!

*The Adams County Community Foundation and welcomes your ideas about this year's Giving Spree. He can be reached at [rserpe@adamscounty.org](mailto:rserpe@adamscounty.org) or call 717-337-0060.*

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*Have a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!*

 <b>250 Waynesboro Pike, Fairfield, PA</b> A BEAUTIFUL SETTING - ROLLING HILLS - PEACEFUL 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home on 88 acres of land. Located on the Mason Dixon Line: 88 acres of gently rolling, mostly open acreage. 51.66 ac. in PA, 37.26 ac. adjacent in MD. A perfect setting for an enduring estate & could be a vineyard, a wedding venue, or whatever you dream. Approx. 70 open ac., 18 ac. of woods, w/ some creekfront. Existing 2 unit rambler, outbuildings, well & septic. Subdivision & preliminary engineering done. Needs individual wells & suitability for on-line or community sewage. Assessment & taxes are based on 51 acres in PA only. Crops are Reserved. <b>\$2,500,000</b>	 <b>25 Mountain View Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b> 2,700 total square feet, 1.84 acres, raised rancher, full basement, 2 car garage, 4 BR, 3 BA, public water, wraparound deck, and 2 driveways. <b>\$350,000</b>
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<b>9 &amp; 11 Sidetrack Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b> Two building lots, 1 ac. each, lovely setting, wooded hillside, creek, touches golf course, walking distance to resort & ski slopes. Owner financing available..... <b>\$39,900</b>	<b>4 Fernwood Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b> 0.86 ac., perc appr. lot for a Drip Irrigation Septic System, walking distance to ski resort, & golf course. Heavily wooded with mature trees. 12 mi. from Gettysburg..... <b>\$27,900</b>	<b>4 Fir Tr., Carroll Valley, PA</b> Nice 0.79 ac. lot perc appr., for elevated sand/round septic system. Property wooded & sloped. Close to ski & golf resort. Only 12 mi. from historic Gettysburg..... <b>\$12,000</b>
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**5 Deer Tr., Carroll Valley, PA**  
Very nice lot, close to Carroll Valley Golf Course & Liberty Mt. Resort. Years ago this lot failed perc test. Chance buyers could do another perc test.....  
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**5600 Fairfield Rd., Carroll Valley, PA**  
Rare commercial property, 1.78 ac., many possibilities. Liberty Mt. golf & ski resort at rear of property. 457' road frontage. There is a spring in back of property.....  
**\$75,000**

# COMMENTARY

## Words From Winterbilt

### An election is coming

Shannon Bohrer

A little retrospective is necessary in understanding the importance and consequences of our next election.

On September 11, 2001, we were unexpectedly attacked by foreign adversaries and after those events we as a nation came together to fight the perpetrators. When a nation is attacked, the normal reaction is the expression of unity, with the common goal of defending the nation.

Fast forward to January 6, 2021, our capital was attacked, not by foreign terrorist, but by American citizens. After that attack, instead of coming together to defend our country, we had citizens and elected officials defending the attackers. That event occurred almost two years ago, and the divisiveness - has only grown.

When our capital was violently attacked officers were injured. Many have permanent disabilities. People died and property was destroyed and yet many politicians excused the insurrectionists, and the excuses continue.

We have heard descriptions of those that attacked us - as patriots "expressing their first amendment rights." Senator Ron Johnson said, "It was a peaceful protest..." He blamed any violence on ANTIFA, which was not present. Representative Andrew Clyde said that "Watching the TV footage of those

who entered the Capital and walked through Statuary Hall showed people in an orderly fashion...if you didn't know the footage was a video from January 6th, you would actually think it was a normal tourist visit."

The Republican National Committee (RNC) censured Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger, basically for being honest. A unanimous approved resolution said they "were engaged in the persecution of ordinary citizens engaged in 'Legitimate political discourse'..." "After the vote, party leaders rushed to clarify that language, saying it was never meant to apply to rioters who violently stormed the Capitol in Mr. Trump's name." Does that make sense to anyone?

January 6th was an attempt to overthrow a legitimate election. After the insurrection there were multiple party members, justifying the event, which is just incomprehensible. When was the last time a normal tourist visits at the US Capital resulted in 140 police officers being injured. One office lost an eye, many have retired on disability, and several have taken their own lives. The injuries, deaths and damages to the buildings refutes the numerous lies being told in a feeble and perverted attempt to justify what occurred. Democracy is fragile and when lies we are being told, and they are believed, we move in the direction of autocracy.

Almost two years later, we have political candidates running for office

still touting the "insurrection" as a justified event. Many even still believe that President Biden, is not legitimate because they say, "the election was stolen." It was not.

In Maryland we have Dan CQX, a candidate for governor, who still holds the beliefs that Trump is the real president. He sent busses to Washington DC, on January 6th, tweeting "I am co-hosting two buses to the Million MAGA March/Rally with the Frederick County Conservative Club in support of President Trump @realDonaldTrump on January 6, 2021, to #stopthesteal." During the insurrection there were chants from rioters, saying Hang Mike Pence." Responding to the chants, Dan CQX tweeted "Pence is a traitor."

The last election was not stolen, the results were confirmed by over sixty courts. In all of those cases, not one piece of evidence was put forth showing fraud. Yet we still have election deniers, including Dan CQX. This election is about our democracy, because many people running for office still believes the last election was stolen, with no evidence. They also believe our legitimate government should be overthrown.

Candidate Dan CQX in not the only person running on lies. Neil Parrott, running for congress is also an election denier. He defended the capital rioters, saying, "The vast majority... were simply there to support fair elections." He said he has "admirable

friends that attacked the Capital on January 6th." He also agrees with the Supreme Court decision on abortion, with no exceptions, not even to save the life of the mother. Neil Parrott says he is worried about terrorist at our southern border, and he says he supports the police. If he really worries about terrorist, why not call out the insurrectionists, who are domestic terrorist that wanted to overthrow our government. Saying you support the police, while supporting the insurrectionists that attacked the police, does not compute.

Another election denier is Michael Hough, running for County Executive. Michael certainly has conservative credentials, working for U.S. Congressman Alex Mooney of West Virginia. Mooney was backed by former President Trump in his last election. However, Hough is trying to run to the center, but his past still exist. It is very telling that Michael Hough was Trump's re-election campaign manager for Frederick County. He even promoted "Trump's MAGA Birthday Bash," on his Facebook page.

Politicians and others that supported Trump are not the issue. The issue is those that have never refuted the big lie that the election was stolen, and they should not hold office. Why should anyone that supported the attempted coup, be elected? I am not anti-republican, but when leaders and elected officials cannot call out the participants in the insurrection, it is both distressing and worrisome. Even more perturbing is when some elected officials refer to

the insurrections as political prisoners.

In early September, Congressman Gohmert from Texas, met Dr. Simon Gold when she was released from Federal Prison. She has been incarcerated for her participation in the insurrection on January 6th. He presented her with a flag, which had flown over the capital. Gohmert said she was a "a political prisoner." Gohmert and other Trump supporters often refer to those arrested after the insurrection as political prisoners. That behavior reflects fascism.

Abraham Lincoln's words about our demise seem appropriate, "From whence shall we expect the approach of danger? Shall some trans-Atlantic military giant step the earth and crush us at a blow? Never. All the armies of Europe and Asia...could not by force take a drink from the Ohio River or make a track on the Blue Ridge in the trial of a thousand years. No, if destruction be our lot we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of free men we will live forever or die by suicide."

After September 11, 2001, we came together to fight our enemies. Since January 6th, the largest threat to our democracy is the insurrectionist and those that support them. That includes leaders and politicians that have been silent. Silence implies approval. Voting for the election deniers, including those that have been silent, is a vote against democracy. Vote for the truth.

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

## Tumbleweeds

### Gasoline on a fire

Mark Greathouse

Back in the mid-1800s, ranchers had to decide which market to send their cattle to. Where were the best prices as driven by demand? Herds might be driven to California to provide beef to thousands of Gold Rush miners, but when the mines played out, the herds might be rerouted to the Kansas railheads. Mix in droughts, hostile Indians, rough terrain, flash floods, prairie fires, rustlers, and more, cattle farts were the least of their worries. This was capitalism in the raw. It was about economics and carving out a living. There were families to be fed, a nation to be built. They couldn't have cared less about climate change except as weather impacted their immediate everyday lives.

Today, we have the highest inflation in 40 years and lowest labor force participation. America has lost its energy independence, interest rates are creeping up, 401Ks are nosediving, national debt skyrocketing, supply chains struggling...the list of economic woes seems endless. We are all affected regardless of political party, race, gender, whatever. The recent genesis of these woes began on January 21, 2021 with executive orders rolling back economy-building initiatives of the previous administration. Each subsequent action has been metaphorically like pouring gasoline on a blazingly destructive fire.

"It's the economy, stupid!" Back in 1992, Bill Clinton strategist James Carville tossed out the oft-quoted line in leveraging the prevailing recessionary

economy at the time to get the 42nd president elected.

Capitalism is driven by supply and demand and the ability to respond efficiently and effectively to those twin economic drivers. When the government artificially controls supply and demand by printing fiat money, raising interest rates, leveling overly-restrictive regulations, directly or indirectly taking over the means of production, impeding supply chains, and limiting labor participation, we achieve stagflation at best. Goods and services become limited, as prices soar out of sight. That's the inflation part. When this volatile mixture combines with negative economic growth, we have stagflation.

How many times must folks be told, how many times must folks learn through experiencing it, that socialistic, giant, all-controlling governments have never ever succeeded? It's a failed model. Recall President Reagan's nine words we never want to hear, "I'm from the government, and I'm here to help."

Big government is painfully bureaucratic, inefficient, and therefore wasteful of citizen's resources. As government gains power, it will do virtually anything to preserve its power, becoming nearly godlike in its omnipotence. In America, big government doesn't say, "God doesn't exist," it seizes upon the concept of "separation of powers" to actually behave like some sort of god. The government even sets the moral standards we live by in its faux-utopia. God has been moved from "Creator" in our founding documents, to being explicitly excluded in our governance. This

sets the stage for the sort of panic mentality that promotes solutions by climate change zealots at the expense of American lives and livelihoods. They are free to pour gasoline on the economic conflagration they created.

Since the Biden administration came to power, the average American has lost thousands in annual income due to inflation. Wages are up 5.3 percent while inflation stands at 8.6 percent. Retirees? 401Ks? Investing in the stock market has become like playing financial whack-a-mole. Curiously, there seems to be no genuine concern at the federal level; no pretense of hand-wringing or self-flagellation as our economy disintegrates. Instead, they continue to spend like drunken sailors and feed the fires of economic Armageddon.

Say we put aside leading concerns like public safety, open southern border, rampant illegal drug use, education quality in free fall, free speech limitations, rising healthcare costs, homelessness, tax reform, terrorism, diplomatic disasters, and the like. The 800-pound gorilla in the economy, the stealthy underbelly driving many of our economic problems is energy. I'm talking "Green New Deal." Call it climate change, global warming, sustainability, settled science, or whatever, but the current politics of energy is like a giant taproot at the core of our nation's economic woes. We suddenly have found ourselves paying for "green dreams." The recent Inflation Reduction Act is actually a reduced "Green New Deal" with \$391 billion of its \$738 billion going to climate-related projects. It has virtually no impact on inflation other than to raise it by government printing more money, raising our taxes, or creating myriad programs that limit any of our options involving

energy. It's government "smoke & mirrors;" sleight of hand by any measure.

Gasoline on the fire? While the "greenies" fiddle, America burns. The government's war against fossil fuels via it's nascent Green New Deal is pouring gasoline on the fire. Greenies are totally tone deaf as to the national economic reality. Better America goes down the tubes at the altar of the Green New Deal than we flourish in the world community of nations. Better to stoke climate change panic and destroy America's economy. According to the CIA Fact Book, the land mass of the United States represents 1.927 percent of global land mass. America's size ranks behind Russia, Antarctica, Canada, and China. How vain to think that the Green New Deal initiatives could offset the climate-altering belching from China, India, and Africa. The greenies could care less. They'd rather drive America into economic oblivion.

To effectively negotiate honest solutions to climate concerns, the United States must be economically strong. Strength equates to leverage on the world stage. As a beginning, we must be energy independent. Most folks haven't a clue as to the lead times and money required for exploration, drilling, refining, and distribution of the hydrocarbon we call oil. And until we have a reliably strong alternative energy infrastructure in place, we shoot ourselves in both feet by limiting our greatest energy resource in any way. Stoking climate change panic with draconian agendas is unconscionable.

As you go to the polls on November 8, please ask yourself, "will this person I'm voting for help lift our nation from the stagflation swamp?"

Will you vote for more of what we've endured for the past 22 months? Can America afford the prospect of skyrocketing grocery prices, higher gasoline costs, more shuttered businesses, higher unemployment, further reduced labor force, lost careers, higher taxes, increased crime, unchecked border, evaporating retirement investments, greater social welfare dependence, and more? Or will your vote help establish a Congressional blockade to stop the pouring more of the "gasoline" of inflationary, economy-killing liberal agendas on the fire? Will you join in the fight to restore the United States to its greatness at home and on the world stage?

This election is the first salvo in a down-and-dirty, no-holds-barred fight for America's soul. Ask yourself whether your purpose, your life aim, is to follow some huge, lumbering, all-powerful government? Dare we succumb to its inefficiencies and accept the theoretical dictates of leftist politicians, as they decides our fates and roll us unchecked into eventual oblivion?

Percy Bysshe Shelley in his impactful poem Ozymandias concludes with the epitaph on the arrogant ruler's crumbled statue, "My name is Ozymandias, king of kings: look on my works ye mighty and despair! Nothing beside remains. Round the decay of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare the long and level sands stretch far away." What will America's epitaph read?

Those ranchers driving cattle in the old west got it right. We should learn from them.

Just sayin'.

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

# Country First

## Choosing fact over fiction

David Marshall

Conspiracy theories has always been part of the American fabric. It is the deep-seated belief that the federal government is keeping a secret of great importance from the general public. There are people who still question the findings of the Warren Commission which concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. People still believe alternate theories surrounding the assassination. As a result, a 2003 ABC News poll found that 70% of Americans believe Kennedy's death was the result of a broader conspiracy. With the polarized politics of our nation as a backdrop, today's mistrust of American institutions is partly by design.

The use of conspiracy theories and "alternative facts" in perpetuating the erosion of trust in our governmental, economic, religious, educational medical and judicial institutions has been in the making for decades. The large number of people who are easily drawn and susceptible to any type of conspiracy theory are prime targets for manipulation by those with political agendas.

For example, U.S. Rep. Ronny Jackson, the former White House physician, claimed the omicron variant is a hoax that Democrats

will use to impose new COVID-19 mail-in ballot rules. With the amount of accessible information at our fingertips, there should be no reason why any objective person is left confused between facts and fiction. Yet, many people believed that the COVID-19 pandemic was deliberately planned or a hoax even after the deaths of thousands of Americans.

With the pandemic being the greatest public health crisis in generations, there are not very many people who do not personally know someone impacted by sickness or death resulting from COVID-19. This includes myself. I never was one who believed in any version of the right-wing conspiracy theory. So having my mother succumb to this deadly disease was not the "proof" I needed. But her death left me confused in many ways.

Ten days after receiving the news that my mother had been infected, she passed away. She was a resident at an assisted living facility where one of the residents contracted COVID from a visiting physical therapist who unknowingly was positive. It spread like wildfire and before it was over, eight elderly residents were infected with three dying, including my mother.

Despite her death, I was one of the lucky ones. While hospital-

ized, her doctor literally called me each day with an update concerning her status. For a short period of time, she began showing signs of improvement. When things quickly took a turn for the worst, I was allowed to visit her. When I arrived, I was faced with the toughest decision in my life. The doctor asked how aggressive did I want them to treat her sickness.

Being 97 years old with diabetes and dementia, the doctor explained she would never be the same. Seeing her struggling to breathe was difficult for me. Knowing she was in pain when trying to breath was more difficult. Being in the hospital room with her that day was the first time in her life she didn't recognize me. The doctor explained that the COVID was making the dementia worst. I stayed with her for an hour, and there was a brief moment she knew I was there and I was her son. I left the room and the doctor was still outside where we resumed our conversation about treatment. I asked him, if that was his mother what would he do? He responded, "I would honor her wishes." I said she would wish to be comfortable without pain. Knowing she would no longer have the quality of life she deserved, the decision was to place her on comfort care. The hospital staff would make her as comfortable as possible while giving her medication for the pain. He said she would have about five days. She passed two days later. I

considered myself to be one of the lucky ones because so many people didn't have the opportunity to be close to their love ones before they passed.

I am still confused because there are individuals like myself who have family members whose lives were taken by this disease, and yet they still believe in elaborate conspiracy theories that are politically motivated. It shows the powerful pull conspiracy theories have over a person's life. It makes you wonder how many deaths were actually caused by sinister misinformation which kept people from vaccinations or led to the delay of effective treatments after people got sick. America is losing her values. As of October 2022, over one million Americans died from COVID. As people die, the basic compassion for others has rapidly diminished due to lies and misinformation.

When Democrat Doug Jones defeated Republican Roy Moore in a special election for the Alabama U.S. Senate seat, he stated "I have always believed that the people in Alabama have more in common than what divides us." It was a shocking upset in a solidly Republican state, but enough Republicans voted with their conscience. This is 2022 and the thirst for political power is so great that basic integrity, honesty and respect is also diminishing when it comes to the character of our elected leaders. If the Jones / Moore election was held

during this year's midterm election, would Roy Moore's character still matter as it did several years ago?

I agree with Doug Moore. I believe as a nation we still have more in common than our differences. But many of us are unwilling to admit it. Many Democrats and Republicans agree that conspiracy theories can be deadly even to democracy. Rep. Adam Kinzinger is one of two prominent Republicans critics of former President Donald Trump who is willing to risk their political office to do what is right. Along with them, there are concerned Republican and Democrat citizens who can put their policy beliefs aside when needed. For that reason, they are supportive when Rep. Kinzinger endorsed four Democratic secretary of state candidates and Democrat Josh Shapiro for governor of Pennsylvania.

This election is critical and life will always present us with tough decisions. Let's pray will make the right choice when faced with facts and fiction.

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

# Good Day, Neighbor

## Decisions, decisions

Dorothea Mordan

"No one would have believed that in the last years of the nineteenth century that this world was being watched keenly and closely by intelligences greater than man's...No one gave a thought to the older worlds of space as sources of human danger."

These are opening words to H. G. Wells' War of the Worlds, a science fiction classic about Martians invading Earth. In 1938 Orson Welles broadcast a radio adaptation of the story, presented as live news of an alien invasion taking place in Grover's Mill, New Jersey—Martians landing and invading right now! The show was so believable that some listeners started to panic.

1938 War of the Worlds, dramatic delivery of an imaginary problem results in panic.

1692 Salem Witch Trials, dramatic delivery of an imaginary problem results in lethal assaults on neighbors.

1950's McCarthyism, dramatic delivery of an imaginary problem results in shunning professionals.

2020's Republican MAGA factionalism, dramatic delivery of the imaginary idea they are more patriotic, honest, divine than everyone else. The result is anyone who disagrees, receives threats of violence and death. Declaring they have

won a patriotism purity contest they didn't tell anyone else about, is the biggest imagination problem there is. Except one—the goal of turning accusations against fellow Americans from imagination to reality. Unbelievable conspiracy theories repeated until one by one, people start to believe.

These events call for deciding. Agree, disagree, or laugh it off as, "That can't be real?" Does it make you want to vote? Feel like your vote doesn't matter, they're all the same? So many feelings presented as issues. Republicans told to feel democrats are the devil. Democrats told to feel the republicans are having hallucinations. Neither the devil nor hallucinations are legislative issues.

Reality is your vote matters. Would you elect a candidate who presents conspiracy theories as real? Issues are debatable, conspiracy theories are not. They are imaginary. Their definition can change mid sentence, as the speaker reads audience response. We The People are not theories, we are neighbors, just going to work and raising our families like everyone else. Reducing our different perspectives as Americans, to imaginary "culture wars" is not helpful.

Reality is the foundation for our lives, allowing our imaginations to soar to unknown heights. Another rocket full of astronauts took off for space on October 8. Afford-

able housing, education and jobs are the support each of us needs to plan and reach our goals in life. What a comfort it is that conspiracy theorists are so supported by reality that they have leisure time to make stuff up.

Reality is, according to the Crime Dashboard on maryland.gov, crime is statistically in decline in Frederick County. Proclaiming "support the police!" distracts from quality-of-life issues, tools for crime prevention.

Hallmarks of Incumbent Congressman David Trone's legislative voting record address the economy, opioids, mental health, job creation, our supply chain, and manufactured goods that are Made in America—real issues. The CHIPS and Science Act, which Trone voted for and President Biden signed into law in August, includes investment in American manufacturing. Funding that means supply chain sensitive products such as semiconductor chips, used in everything from washing machines to cars to ballistic missiles, will be manufactured in towns across the country, not shipped across an ocean from Taiwan. By dedicating funds to incentivize manufacturers to build or improve factories, and provide workforce training programs to staff new factories, over a million good-paying jobs will be created. Jobs that can support a family, and be passed down to the next generation.

David Trone showed commitment to Maryland by fighting for and securing a combined \$268,615,000 to complete work on U.S. 15, I-68 Viaduct, U.S. 220 and, finally, U.S. 219 North, which will complete the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) through Trone's "Finish the ADHS Act" included in the IJA.

Reality is good legislation means real solutions for bringing manufacturing back to America, highly skilled great paying jobs to places like Hagerstown, supporting infrastructure, protecting the supply chain, funding mental health support for police. This is in the Democratic agenda presented in Congress by David Trone, and supported by Democrats on our ballot.

Wes Moore for Governor, Carleah Summers for District 4 State Senate, Andrew Duck, Brandon Duck, Millicent Hall for State Representative, and Jessica Fitzwater for County Executive commit to economic development and bringing more jobs to Maryland and Frederick County. Frederick County Council At-Large candidates Renee Knapp and Brad Young, and Juliana Lufkin District 5, Karl Bickel for Sheriff, have real life experience to apply to county issues.

Board of Education candidates, Dean Rose, Ysela Bravo, Rea Gallagher and Karen Yoho commit to access to a broad education. The alternative candidates promote

restricting education tools. Nothing good has ever come from banning books.

Our American society and democratic system are strong because of individual independence. These candidates advocate for economic and infrastructure tools that each of us can use to make our own decisions. Debate on investing tax revenue in us—We the People—is debate we need. While we wait for the GOP to stop being distracted by conspiracy promoters, we need economic tools for every American.

Reality is many people face huge problems, same as you and me. Challenges faced alone, or as a community, sometimes solutions work, everyone's declared a hero. Or, they don't and we are all the devil. But afterwards, we all, elected officials too, go to work and put on a brave face. I have confidence that we can have patience with each other.

The day after War of the Worlds aired, lots of people were pretty angry for being conned. How about we decide to vote for people who are focused on real solutions and let the conspiracy crowd sort out their feelings away from the legislature.

Reality is that our vote is one thing we still have.

It is up to each of us to vote for reality.

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

# THE PASTOR'S DESK

## What the cross means to me

**Pastor Doug Lichty**  
**Iron Springs Brethren In Christ Church**

Perhaps you could honestly say I am familiar with the cross of Christ. Maybe you remember it as an Easter symbol, wear it as jewelry or have seen it on a tattoo. Occasionally you can see three crosses set up together along the sides of various roads.

The story goes that on a night in 1984, a pastor named Bernard Coffin Daffer had a vision where God asked him to put up sets of three crosses together across the land, to remind people of Christ's crucifixion at Calvary.

He began putting up the crosses in West Virginia, which was close by. In 1993 he died of a heart attack, but numerous people have continued to put the crosses up, in various states.

Pastor Coffin Doffer sold his business and used the approximately \$3 million to form a non-profit organization called "Cast Thy Bread Inc.," which paid for what he called "crosses of Mercy", which were installed on the properties of willing people.

There is another man who has

truly amazed me, and gotten my attention, also His name is Arthur Blessitt. He also felt compelled to do something radically different for Christ, as a testimony to the world.

At age 27, he began to carry a full -size cross around the world. As far as I know, he is still doing it, which would make it 54 and his wife Denise had walked 43,326 miles, into every nation, major island group and territory.

In 2019 he was included in the Guinness world record book for having the longest pilgrimage or walk at that time. It was estimated to have been 86 million steps, and an accumulated weight of 19 billion pounds. In other words, it cost him a lot.... freedom, time, physical energy, mockery, etc.

This is an exact quote from Arthur Blessitt, that I found in one of the many articles published about him.

"Neither the cross or Jesus or ourselves were always welcomed. The curses rang out, knives at my neck, guns at my head, a firing squad with guns pointed at me, spit on my face, beaten and so often in danger, arrested 24 times and in 54 nations at war.

My life became a saga of struggles and triumph, praise, and damnation. Attacked from every direction beyond what anyone could imagine."

I would consider both men to be heroes of mine, but after becoming acquainted with their stories, I soon discovered that the cross of Christ has not meant as much to me, as it should have.

Being a Pastor's son brought many opportunities to hear about Christ, His love for people, His love for me, and what that does and should mean.

I had participated in many communion services over the years. As a Child because I liked the taste of communion bread, and then into my teenage years, so other people and my parents would think I was a Christian. I was not really thinking about the true meaning of the cross, and how it should change my life. Maybe you can relate to that.

It wasn't until Aug. 31, 1981 that I knelt on the living room floor, in the parsonage of the Montgomery Brethren In Christ Church near Upton, PA., that I asked God to forgive my sins and come into my heart and life. Then and only then, did the cross of Christ begin to take on real meaning for me.

Several things come to mind.

First, I realized the tremendous release of guilt that I had been carrying for years. There were things that I had done, said, and thought that kept me bound in a hopeless pit of despair. The Bible says in 2 Tim-



thy 1:7 "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind."

I knew I did not come up to God's standard of Holiness, since He is completely perfect and holy, and I was not even making an effort to live a Christian life. Guilty for sure, unholy definitely. These were the feelings I daily lived with.

It is amazing how guilt can constantly nag away at you when you know right from wrong but refuse to change or settle for playing with God and sin at the same time. In fact, you can convince yourself that you aren't too bad, even when you don't take Christ seriously.

However, Scripture tells us in Revelation 3:15, "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm- neither hot or cold, I am about to spit you out of my mouth."

Guilty as charged, my sins had separated me away from God and the accompanying guilt followed. It did not matter that my Father was a

Pastor, that I went to church all the time, took communion, and was even baptized. I was still guilty.

The second thing I noticed after accepting Christ, was the spiritual cleanness I felt. King David prayed in Psalm 51:7 for God to, "Purge me with hyssop (a plant), and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

There is not much that is whiter than snow, but that is the comparison we see when a spiritually clean person has been cleansed by God.

With guilt removed, and a clean pure heart, I was then full of the joy of the Lord. It was around that time that I began to listen to contemporary/modern Christian music. I also enjoyed playing drums to the music.

One of the things that held me back from becoming a Christian, was the notion of a Christian life being quite boring and unfulfilling. Before that time, I listen to mostly secular music, including many songs that definitely did not honor God.

With a change of heart and newfound freedom, I discovered I enjoyed life, music and many other things, much more than I had before.

Another huge change in my life was the fact that I did not fear death anymore. Hebrews 9:27 tells us, "It is appointed unto man once to die, and after that comes the judgment".

There is no fear in death when you are right with God. I must ask you this question. If you died today or Christ came back in the clouds as he said he would, in revelation 1:7, are you prepared to meet him? There will be no time to confess sin after death. It is not possible and cannot happen.

Another scripture in Hebrews 3:7-9 says, "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the wilderness where your ancestors tested and tried me, though for 40 years they saw what I did".

It is so good to know at any time when my life on earth is over, my new life with Christ will begin and last forever.

The cross cost Christ much.... His entire life, but He did that for you and I. What is so amazing is that people are born with sin, and Jesus could have gotten off the cross, but He stayed on for us.

The cross of Christ has truly changed my life, and I hope and pray it will change yours also.

To learn more about the Iron Springs Brethren In Christ Church visit them on-line at [www.bicus.org/church/iron-springs-bic](http://www.bicus.org/church/iron-springs-bic) or better yet, join them for Sunday service.

**Happy Thanksgiving!**  
**Food Carry-Out!**   
**Sat., November 12 - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
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Other food items will be available      **Nov. 5th**  
**Call: 301-401-0633 or 301-898-5290 to place your order**  
**Leave message including food order, name & phone number**  
**Sunday morning worship and youth sunday school - 9:30 a.m.**  
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# Christmas In Thurmont Events

## Small Shop Saturday November 26

Support your local businesses  
wherever you live!

## Annual Map Stamping

Map stamping will begin **November 18**

Pick your map up at Cousins Ace Hardware, Hobbs Lumber & Hardware & the Thurmont town Office.



Return completed maps to the Thurmont Guardian Hose Company on December 3 between 10 a.m. & 4 p.m.

Prize drawings for children at 5 p.m. and then drawing the names for prizes from the adult stamping. Must be present to receive prize if your name is drawn.

# LOVE YOUR THURMONT

now more than ever

## Thurmont Pop-Up Shops! Every Saturday thru Dec. 17

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Shop The Pop! Pop Up Shops - 12 unique vendors with so many gift giving items, & some for yourself too! A few bakers from the farmers market who will be taking special orders for the holidays. A different food truck every day in the parking lot.

21 E. Main Street

Thurmont  
Guardian Hose Co.  
December 3  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.



## Thurmont Annual Tree Lighting

November 26 - 6 p.m.  
Mechanicstown Square Park



Join us for the annual tree lighting to kick off the holiday season. Santa, caroling, & Woodsboro Craftsmen will be serving hot chocolate in their building located next door to the Mechanicstown Square Park.

4 different types of Craft Stations to make & take home crafts for kids!

5 p.m. - Prize drawings for children begin.

Completed adult map stamping entries drawn following childrens' drawings.

The Guardian Hose Co. will be serving hot dogs & hot chocolate while supplies last. (1 per person. Get your ticket when you enter the building).

Located at 21 North Church Street

## Carriage Rides

Saturday, December 3

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Reservations needed. Must have your reservation in by November.

**\$10** Per Person  
Call 301-271-7313

Press 0 to make your reservations.



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December 3 - 4:30 p.m.

National Award Winning ESP Performing Company  
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## Visit with Santa!

December 3

10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. &  
2:30 - 4 p.m.

Get your photo taken with Santa!  
All ages! Dogs on a leash are  
welcome too!



# ECOLOGY

## Hibernation – A long winter’s nap

Daniel Brannen  
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

As winter approaches, we notice many changes in our environment. It begins to get colder, the sun sets earlier and earlier, and we see changes to much of our flora and fauna. Many plants either die or go dormant. Leaves change colors then fall from their trees – at least from deciduous trees and shrubs. And many animals are less visible – but we know they are all around us, hibernating. We think of hibernating animals as sleeping from late fall and early winter to the beginning of spring and warmer weather. But more is really going on during hibernation than just sleeping including distinct stages of what we think of as hibernation.

Not all animals hibernate, so what gives? Well, for those animals who cannot forage or that do not migrate during the winter months, saving energy, or hibernating, is key to their survival. Many animals will go into a form of sleep – from bats to butterflies, from bears to beavers. However, each of their hibernations may look a bit different. We will take a closer look at some of the differences in how animals hibernate in the cold, dark months of winter or even in extremely hot and dry climates.

So, what is hibernation? And, what causes hibernation in the first place? Is it always a good thing, or can it be dangerous for

animals as well?

Hibernation is a state of minimal activity where metabolic depression occurs. Think of it as “when a body’s systems slow down.” Hibernation is seasonal; most commonly occurring during the winter season. It is characterized by low body-temperature, slow breathing and heart rate, and a lower metabolic rate. Metabolism is the set of life-supporting chemical processes that occur in organisms. Key, among these, is the conversion of energy found in food to types of energies that living things utilize. When less food is available, like during the winter months or times of extreme temperature gradation, hibernation will occur for those animals that need to conserve energy. This affords an animal a much better chance of survival. As one might expect, hibernating animals may also be more prone to the dangers of extreme temperatures (cold or hot) as they are not in a condition to escape these. Plus, a “sleeping” animal is much more prone to become prey for its predators.

While we mostly attribute hibernation to the cold season, there are other types of “hibernation.” Aestivation is like hibernation but generally occurs in response to high temperatures and arid conditions. Animals that need to regulate their body temperatures or conserve energy (due to lack of a food source or water) will go through the process of aestivation. Certain insects, rep-

tiles, amphibians, fish, and mammals go through aestivation: these may include mosquitos, land snails, lady beetles, turtles, and salamanders.

Torpor is a state of decreased physiological activity in animals typically marked by a reduced body temperature and metabolic rate as well. Torpor enables animals to survive periods of reduced food availability. Torpor is when a hibernating animal spends time with a low body temperature, which may last for days or weeks or can be a brief period lasting less than 24 hours. The latter is known as daily torpor. Animals that undergo daily torpor include some birds, hummingbirds, and mammals – such as mice and bats. Torpor occurs when an animal lowers its heart and respiratory rate down to a point that conserves energy, but not as extreme as full hibernation. While we lower our heart and respiratory rate every night when we go to sleep, animals in torpor slow the rate down even further – for a prolonged sleep state during the coldest weeks of winter when food is especially scarce.

Sometimes when we think of hibernation, we are really thinking of torpor – or “hibernation light.” Animals that we know go into torpor during the winter months are skunks, chipmunks, squirrels, raccoons and even bears. Yes, bears in some locations, like Pennsylvania and Maryland (think the American black bear), do not go



Usually when we hear “hibernation,” we think of bears. However, many other animals hibernate, including bats, bumblebees, chipmunks, and deer mice. Hibernation is a state of inactivity and reduced metabolism that some animals enter to conserve energy during the winter.

into full-blown hibernation for the entire winter, but into torpor; waking occasionally when the weather warms, though very groggy, then back to sleep. So, if you happen to come upon an animal in the wild, such as a groggy black bear or skunk, do not move closer just because they are moving slowly, they are still dangerous and can be even more aggressive when confused or startled.

As previously mentioned, hibernation, aestivation, and torpor are all survival modes that once activated due to a lack of a regular food source, keep animals alive. Also, these metabolic slowdowns carry the risk that hibernating animals can then become more

vulnerable to predators or unpredictable climate extremes. Current studies regarding climate change have shown that some animals are coming out of hibernation or torpor earlier than expected while their food availability is still too low. This may ultimately impact their survivability as food sources are scarcer. Further, this may also drive certain animals into more populated human areas as they search for food. And this, as we have seen with grizzly bears in Yellowstone, is usually not good for either wild animals or humans.

You may be wondering why certain “wild” pets don’t hibernate, aestivate, or go into torpor. You may own a turtle, or a frog, or a snake, a ferret or even a skunk (scent glands removed of course) and have noticed that they are awake all winter long. A couple of things are at play here: 1) they have a regular food source – us, their pet owners and 2) their climate is fairly well regulated to avoid extremes – not too cold, hot, or dry. So, they will typically not hibernate. With that said, some reptiles and amphibians may still go into what is called – brumation. Since they cannot lower their body temperatures like warm-blooded mammals can, they must seek out warmer spots in their own climate and surroundings where they can possibly maintain their body temperatures to between 40-50 degrees Fahrenheit. So, if you see your pet turtle burrowing to stay warmer, or eating less or becoming more lethargic, then you know that they are trying to brumate, whether their surroundings say they need to or not.

Whether animals are hibernating, aestivating, in torpor, or brumating, they take their cues from seasonal changes and their environments. By following their instinct to power down when the weather is extreme and food is sparse, animals and insects are doing what it takes to survive to see another spring.

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

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# IN THE COUNTRY

## Let's talk turkey

Tim Iverson  
Naturalist

The North American Turkey may not be the national bird, but it has earned its spot in heart of the nation. It's the cornerstone of the Thanksgiving meal, and a veritable symbol of the early pilgrims and settlers of the nation. The status it's achieved has surrounded it in myth and misinformation. Benjamin Franklin did have opinions on the turkey, but are not likely what is commonly accepted as truth. A few fowls may even be so lucky as to earn themselves a pardon from the President himself. Just how did a bird of humble beginnings achieve such storied status?

Wild turkeys, contrary to their domesticated brethren, are actually quite adept at survival. Farmed turkeys have been bred to have enlarged breasts, which make them more appealing for the dinner table, but makes them awkward and clumsy. Wild turkeys can fly and are actually quite agile. Their feathering and plumage make for great camouflage hiding them from potential predators like fox, coyotes, bobcats, and more. Once young hatch from the eggs they spend just a few days with their mother learning how to forage for food. After a few days they will begin to fend for themselves and may separate. The females will either form or join a brood of hens. Males will go off on their own to try to father the next generation.

While their range is widespread, spanning across much of United States and into parts of Mexico, they may not even have been part of the original Thanksgiving dinner table. The Smithsonian Institution researchers have delved into the contemporary historical documents detailing the original meal, and have found no direct evidence that turkey was definitively on the menu - or much of what is con-

sidered traditional Thanksgiving fare these days. The very first celebration was held just after the fall harvest in 1621, and was shared between the colonists and the Wampanoag tribe in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Turkeys are mentioned in passing and only as a secondary meal choice in primary source accounts from the time. In fact, much of what we have available today as part of a "traditional" Thanksgiving spread would not have been available to the early English settlers. Cranberry sauce, potatoes, bread stuffing, pies, and more were noticeably absent. The only definites for the meal according to researchers were venison, corn, and wildfowl. The wildfowl likely being duck, goose, or passenger pigeons because of their abundance at the time. Again, turkeys are only mentioned separately as an aside in original texts referencing the meal.

It's up for debate about whether or not turkey was served during the first Thanksgiving meal, but the verdict is in on Benjamin Franklin's opinion of the bird. Common folk wisdom has it that he was a champion of the bird over that of the Bald Eagle as a symbol of the newly founded nation. That is not exactly the case, however. The misconception comes from an excerpt of a letter between his daughter and himself. The misconception arises in an exchange between the two where he questions the selection of the eagle as the symbol, and redirects to the turkey as a bird of 'superior moral character.' While he does not necessarily advocate for the turkey becoming a national symbol he does try to take the wind out of the sails for the eagle. He writes:

"For my own part I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen the Representative of our Country. He is a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his Living honestly. You may have seen him

perched on some dead Tree near the River, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the Labour of the Fishing Hawk; and when that diligent Bird has at length taken a Fish, and is bearing it to his Nest for the Support of his Mate and young Ones, the Bald Eagle pursues him and takes it from him.

With all this injustice, he is never in good case but like those among men who live by sharpening & robbing he is generally poor and often very lousy. Besides he is a rank coward: The little King Bird not bigger than a Sparrow attacks him boldly and drives him out of the district. He is therefore by no means a proper emblem for the brave and honest Cincinnati of America who have driven all the King birds from our country...

"I am on this account not displeased that the Figure is not known as a Bald Eagle, but looks more like a Turkey. For the Truth the Turkey is in Comparison a much more respectable Bird, and withal a true original Native of America... He is besides, though a little vain & silly, a Bird of Courage, and would not hesitate to attack a Grenadier of the British Guards who should presume to invade his Farm Yard with a red Coat on."

Frankly, Franklin might have been a little harsh on the Bald Eagle. He never publicly advocated for the turkey to begin the national symbol, or publicly derided the selection of the bald eagle. His high esteem of turkeys isn't without merit though, because he isn't the only one who gives the turkey a pass.

Presidents, for the better part of a century now, have been issuing pardons to a lucky turkey or two every year. While the pardon is one of the more unique presidential duties and Thanksgiving traditions its origination is as vague as the tradition itself. There are conflicting reports as to the first pardoning, but the earliest claimed account dates to President Lincoln in 1865. The White House Histor-



Folklore has it that Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey rather than the bald eagle as a symbol of the newly founded nation; however, that is not exactly the case.

ical Association provides recorded gifts of turkeys from various poultry farmers all the way back to 1870, and continuing through present day. When President Truman was gifted a pair of turkeys in 1948 he is alleged to have said that they would "come in handy" for Christmas dinner, clearly these turkeys were not slated for a pardon. It wasn't until the Washington Post coined the pardon term in 1963 when President Kennedy purportedly said, in reference to a gifted turkey, "Let's keep him going." By the time President George H.W. Bush was in office in 1989 the routine had pretty much solidified into the formal tradition we see today.

Presidents aren't the only ones who value turkeys. The North American Turkey was important and considered sacred by many Native American tribes. Feathers were used in head dresses, traditional dances were created to

celebrate the bird, and folk lore surrounds the origin stories. Despite the revered status it held turkeys were nearly hunted to extinction in the early part of the 20th century. Due to extensive efforts by wildlife officials through encouraged reproduction and repopulation to new areas the population rebounded. Continental populations dropped to as low as 30,000 in 1940, but rebounded to approximately 7 million by current estimates.

The North American Turkey may not be as illustrious as commonly held belief holds, but the fact surrounding the bird is better than a fictional fowl. As Thanksgiving approaches be thankful that this bird has such a storied past and will be able to be gobbled up from your table while you talk turkey with family and friends.

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

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Fall color

Mary Ann Ryan  
Adams County Master Gardener

My husband and I just got back from a long weekend trip to Southern Maine. The weather was perfect – sunny, cool, and a slight breeze. If I was a character in a romance novel, it would be that perfect day, where the girl is walking on a peaceful path with a friendly golden retriever walking beside her – but I digress....

The drive there was long and not eventful. However, I was overwhelmed with the beauty of the fall colors in northern PA. New England has nothing on the great state a Pennsylvania! What I noticed the most was the variation in color. There were yellows, oranges, reds, rusts, browns, and chartreuse. There wouldn't be enough colors in a box of crayons to represent all the colors of the forest in Pennsylvania.

Then as we moved closer to our destination, the colors became less vibrant. Although there were reds, yellow seemed to be the dominant color, at least in the forests that we walked

and lived in for the weekend.

Although there were more leaves on the ground in southern Maine than in PA, the colors were still duller. The local storekeepers had said they were in a drought this summer, and are still experiencing dry conditions, even with the few storms that blew through. Water, lack of or too much, has an impact on fall colors, and it surely had something to do with duller colors, as well as the fact that there were less leaves on the trees. And with closer inspection, the kinds of trees are different than what we have here, also adding to the differences in color.

Yes, there are oaks and maples. Chestnut oaks were prevalent in woods we stayed in. Although the red oaks had more of a read fall color, the chestnut oaks leaned toward yellow, as did the white oaks. But nothing beat the color of the sugar and red maples! Although in the southern part of Maine, not far from the shoreline, there were not a ton of maples, those that were growing had nice color – not as vibrant as PA, but nice. The red leaves of the red maple were spotted with blotches of yellow and very dark, almost black markings.

Birch trees were a dominant participant in the forest. The birches that were in "our" forest were the black birch. In my estimation, the bark isn't that pretty when compared to the paper birch with its white bark contrasting with yellow leaves, which we saw lots of in northern PA. To be honest, the black birch bark reminded me a lot of the cherry. The horizontal lenticles were prevalent, much like the cherry tree. Even the leaves are similar. But the fall color – very much yellow. There were no other colorations in the leaves.

The American beech also graced the forest. The smooth gray bark is unique to the other trees that surrounded them. The birch trees with their horizontal lenticles are very different then the smooth bark of the beech, which is very different than the rough, deeply grooved bark of the mighty oaks. The leaves were also yellow, adding to that dominant fall color of the forest.

Both white and red oaks graced this forest, although more white than red. The chestnut oak is not a lobed leaf like we may picture in our minds with an oak tree. They are, however, toothed – kind of jagged edges, making them quite different than any other trees in this forest. The white oak had very lobed leaves. The tips of the lobes are rounded, unlike the red oaks that also have lobed leaves, but are pointed at the end. The white oaks' leaves were yellow too, although there was some color variation in every leaf. Rusts and browns seemed to add to the patterns in the leaf.

In northern PA, we noticed more red and sugar maples. Those trees really did add to the vibrance of the forest. Although we didn't experience the northern PA forest up close, from the highway the red and orange colors just blew us away. The sugar maple is one of the trees that just shouted orange, red and yellow. Definitely one of my favorite trees for fall color. Also, the hickories expressed yellows and some orange fall color.

In addition to the differences in some of the tree species, we noticed a huge difference in the forest floor. Where we have Japanese stilt grass covering much of our forest here in southern PA, there was none in the woods of southern Maine. I did not



As much as we like the topic of this article, it's next to impossible to find a good photo of Fall colors when your papers are black and white.

see any garlic mustard, barberry, callery pears or burning bush. This forest almost looked untouched, except for the pile of poop I tramped in – twice!

Of course, the lay of the land is a bit different as well. We were along the coast; so lots of rocks! Not just rocks, boulders. Not just boulders, but rock. I'm not sure how gardens are created, but I can only imagine that it isn't easy.

My story demonstrates what makes where we live unique. It reminded me of why we use plants that are native to

our area, and not some other part of the county.

Dominant tree species in coastal southern Maine included black birch, chestnut oaks, beech, and white oaks. Northern PA we saw sugar maples, white birch, red oaks, red maples and hickories. The invasive species began showing up when we were in more central PA – like the callery pears, for instance.

As we choose plants for our own yards, we should be cognizant of what wants to grow there. What is growing naturally in



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# THE MASTER GARDENER

surrounding wild areas? What makes our particular location different and unique than other places around us? Is there a way we can mimic nature, allowing us to bring in our natural world that helps define our environment? Wouldn't it be cool if we could drive through a neighborhood and, just by the species of plants, define the ecosystem?

This type of plant selection allows not only for us to be successful in gardening (we are choosing what wants to grow in a given area as opposed

to what we want to grow), but also allows the insects and other critters that evolved with plant species in a given ecosystem and place to feed, nest, and raise their young. It allows nature to do what nature does – support life – plants, insects, mammals, birds - that then supports human life. Wouldn't it be nice? Sounds to me like a great ending to a romance novel!

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

## Small Town Gardener

Adventures in #GrowYourOwn

Marianne Willburn

If you grow the hardy orange (once *Poncirus trifoliata*, now *Citrus trifoliata*), and you cook, you've probably wondered whether or not you can use those pretty little orange fruits to make marmalade.

The answer is yes, but you'll probably want to skip the peel.

I'm a marmalade lover, and make orange marmalade pretty much every season; but this year was the first significant fruiting of my hardy orange (*Citrus trifoliata* syn. *Poncirus trifoliata*); so, even though I have about 10 pounds of last year's strawberries washed, prepared and deep frozen and waiting for jam jars and about two hours of my time (tough to admit), I gave those two hours to giving *Poncirus* marmalade a try.

The result: pretty good just as long as the peel is not involved. I tried, but it's too bitter to be palatable (again, said as a marmalade lover). Although I double-processed and double-rinsed the peel, and cooked it with the juice and sugar, when I tasted it while the mixture was still liquid it was immediately clear that the peel was in danger of ruining a pretty good product.

So, I immediately sieved the mixture and canned it as a "jelly." Much better, and it got a thumbs up from my marmalade-hating husband, who will never enjoy peel, no matter how delicious it tastes.

An additional benefit to the jelly angle is that I can melt a little down, add a bit of water and use it as a simple syrup to flavor a winter cocktail. The jelly has a slightly different flavor profile and scent than traditional orange marmalade, but is different in the way that 'gold' is not pure yellow. Same hue, different shade.

If you think I'm being too picky on the peel, you might want to try it yourself. Thinly peel fruits with an apple peeler, then finely slice the peelings. Boil them in three cups of water with 1/8 tsp of baking soda, then rinse and do it again. And again, and probably again, but I stopped at two – at this point the texture is all but gone. Just for reference, bitter Seville oranges normally need that process only once.

### Growing Hardy Orange Trees in The Garden

Marmalade aside, if you're looking for a beautiful, unusual tree to plant this November, this could be it. The hardy orange is an Asian native actually hardy to Zone 5; and is a deciduous tree or shrub with rigid green stems, a trifoliate waxy leaf (hence the name) and very wicked, long thorns. I grow the cultivar 'Flying Dragon' which has twisted branches and thorns that resemble curved fangs. It's absolutely stunning in the winter, and seeing it in a friend's garden showcased on a rocky outcrop during that season is why I grow it now. The leaves turn yellow in autumn and the fruits will persist past several frosts.

The hardy orange relishes full sun, but can tolerate the lower end of that classification (6 hours). It is happiest in a well-drained soil with some protection from drying winds. There's a reason this strong, spiny plant is used as an unfriendly hedging in many Eastern gardens – gardeners who wish to place it in a border situation may want to reevaluate that plan. Better to use it as a small specimen tree, keeping it free of vines, &c. lest you bleed to death trying to weed around and through it.

### Hardy Orange Flowers and Fruits

*Poncirus* responds well to shaping through strategic pruning. I usually wait until the flowers have formed in the spring. They are not as fragrant as orange or lemon blossoms, but there is a lovely citrus scent to them.

*Poncirus* fruits are small – about 2 inches in diameter at their largest, and are fully ripe when they turn orange and come away from the tree with gentle pressure. They have a downy feel to the peel, and a fragrant scent that fills the room if you put a small quantity in a bowl and set it in the kitchen or dining room. If you don't pick them, they will soon fall off the tree and you'll have many seedlings in time. Each fruit contains a ridiculous amount of seeds in proportion to the pulp.

### One Last Weird Thing

The fruit contains a bizarre, gum-like substance that, after juicing so many, collects on the citrus reamer. It has an oily quality that requires hot water and soap and scrubbing to shift. It is

present in the juice, but apart from making it difficult to clean a sieve (to separate seeds), it's not an issue in the finished jelly.

Prize winning jellies are clear as tinted glass. This is not, but then, that wasn't the point. I wanted as much pulp in the mix as I could get, and I would have used the peel if it hadn't been so bitter.

### Hardy Orange Marmalade/Jelly

#### Ingredient:

- 2 cups of poncirus juice and any pulp (about 50-60 fruits)
- Optional: Peel of 2 Oranges (see instructions for preparation below)
- 5 cups of water (or enough water to make 7 cups of liquid total)
- 1 Tbsp butter
- 1 package pectin
- 10 cups of granulated sugar

Preparation Directions: Wash and sterilize 12 half pint jars, lids and rings. *Poncirus* jelly is such a novelty that you may want to make some smaller jars (4 oz.) to give to your gardening friends.

If using peel of traditional oranges for additional color and texture, peel thinly with an apple peeler, then slice the peelings finely. Boil with 3 cups of water and 1/8 of baking soda. Drain. Add to poncirus juice.

Mix juice, water, butter, and pectin in a heavy, large saucepan, and bring to a rolling boil (a boil that cannot be stopped by stirring). Boil one minute.

Add sugar and bring back to the rolling boil. The MCP pectin that I used specifies boiling for 4 minutes longer, but many other pectins specify less time. Use the instructions for the brand of pectin you buy.

Can the jelly, leaving 1/4 inch of headspace. Process in a water bath canner or steam oven for 10 minutes. Remove and check seals after 24 hours. Store in a dark and cool location.

Marianne is an author and a columnist for *The American Horticultural Society*, and *GardenRant.com*. You can find out more about her garden at *MarianneWillburn.com*.

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# PETS

## We don't give animals enough credit

Jennifer Vanderau  
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

I think animals are capable of more abilities than a lot of people give them credit for.

From time to time I've heard people say things like, "Oh, it's just a dog" and I think to myself, there's no such thing as "just" a dog.

Recently I was talking to a gentleman about how amazed he was that his dog always knew where the ball was in the house, even if he, himself, couldn't find it. He said to me, "He knows the ball's under the couch. My word that dog is smart."

My mom had a Yorkie/Poodle mix who would play a game with her every night before they went to sleep. Goldie loved toys – as is no surprise for those little squirts – and before she would let Mom begin their nightly game of fetch and retrieve, she had to make certain all the toys were on the bed.

The crazy part of this story is that if Goldie got on the bed and the requisite number of toys weren't there, she would search until she found them. She would actually

gather the toys for Mom to throw and she wouldn't start the game until all the toys were there.

I had actually witnessed this one Christmas and still have a hard time believing it. Mom misses that little girl, but I know Goldie's at the Rainbow Bridge with a whole bunch of animals waiting for my mom and dad.

Years ago, I took a Boxer from the shelter out for a visit. Getting her into the van to go was quite a trial because she didn't want to ride in the crate. After our visit, she really didn't want to get back in for the return trip. Instead of struggling, I figured since we weren't that far from the shelter, she'd be okay not to ride in the crate (the van's enclosed and really quite safe).

The amazing thing is that as soon as I closed the door of the crate, she jumped right in the back of the van, no problem. It was as though she knew with the door to the crate closed, I wouldn't put her in it. How else would she have made that connection unless she in some way understood what that crate was for?

I'm telling you, dogs are not dumb. I also believe animals have feel-

ings. They grieve when a pet dies. They are happy when their human Mom or Dad comes home. And they're so capable of forgiveness.

I'll never forget the morning I was playing a game with one of my feline babies and when she went to jump up, I was reaching down to pet her and my hand clunked her head. Oh my word, she looked at me like I was Attila the Hun and scampered away so fast. Lord, I felt so bad. I said, "Oh, Shreddy, honey, Mama's sorry. She didn't mean to hit you."

She turned around and gave me a dubious look, but the longer I spoke in a quiet, remorseful tone, she eventually walked back and began our game anew.

Can you imagine this? She started purring again. Talk about the ability to forgive.

I've witnessed an animal's capacity to think and feel so many times that it's difficult for me to understand people who don't believe it.

For those who look at an animal and see only an animal, I wonder how narrow their view of other aspects of the world must be, you know? What do you think it takes to

be able to see the potential in people or animals or really, anything?

I imagine the first step would be realizing that in a lot of circumstances, there could be more than what meets the eye. I almost feel bad for people who are incapable of seeing more than what's in front of them because I think of everything they may be missing out on in life.

To deny that something could be possible just because we've never witnessed it or believed it seems sometimes rather short-sighted.

I want to always try to be as open minded as I can, especially where animals are concerned. I think there's so much we can learn from

our four-legged friends and if they're capable of thinking and feeling and forgiving, we should be too.

And that, right there, may be one of the best lessons of all.

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



Hamilton is a 3-year-old brown tabby boy with white fur. He came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a lot about him. He can be a little reserved and will need someone who understands. It might take time for him to adjust to a new environment. He loves to get scratches, though, and will warm up once he knows he can trust you. Do you have the right spot for Hamilton?



Pumpkin was brought into the shelter as a stray, so we know very little about her past. She is a 2-year-old tabby with white fur. Her hair is a bit longer than usual and will need regular brushing to keep it from getting matted. Pumpkin would love to find her forever home soon!



Marvin was left behind by his owner when he or she no longer wanted him. He is an eight-year-old tabby-with-white boy who really likes to talk. Marvin would love to find a home where he will not have to worry about being left behind ever again. Can you help this sweetheart out?

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



Aphrodite was surrendered to the shelter when her owner could no longer care for her. She is a 2-year-old terrier mix who needs a little time getting used to people. She may require more than one meeting with her potential adopters to establish a relationship before she goes to her new home. Once Aphrodite is comfortable, she will seek out attention. She also has a wonderful smile! She loves to play ball and with squeaky toys (she does have to be supervised with stuffed toys, as she likes to rip them apart). She knows sit, but will need some work with other commands. Aphrodite has done well with cats at the shelter, but her previous owner said that she will chase cats that are outside.



Maggie came to the shelter as a stray. She is a "velcro" pup with her people and wants to be wherever you are! Maggie loves to play in the outside play yard! She especially likes to play "keep away", however due to this, we are requiring her potential home to have a fenced in yard! An age restriction for children in the home may apply, so please discuss this with shelter staff.

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

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown



# Bird feeding basics for the budget-minded

**Russell Ryan**  
South Mountain Chapter of National Audubon Society

Suppose those who regularly feed birds have noticed that the prices of bird feed have increased since this time last year. I checked the prices out for myself and I was stunned. Black-oil Sunflower was nearly \$40 for a 50-pound bag. That is nearly double the price since last year. Throw in the economic issues of the day and many folks may decide to spend less on non-essentials such as bird food.

The following information is meant to provide some feeding basics for those species likely to be encountered between now and spring migration (does not include Tanagers, Orioles and Hummingbirds). I also hope to provide ideas for the budget minded.

Birds as with all wildlife require the 4 basics: food, water, shelter and a place to raise their young. When all of these items are provided, we refer to that as habitat. When humans feed birds, they are essentially supplementing the food component of their habitat. Feeding birds can be done year round but feeding is especially important when food supplies are sparse and during harsh weather conditions such as very cold and windy conditions and/or weather conditions like ice and snow accumulations. These conditions can make finding natural food sources much more difficult.

Fresh water should be provided. There are numerous ways to provide this critical requirement but the important thing is to maintain fresh water. Dealing with frozen water is the challenge. You could use an electric heater, which gets costly; or you could simply replace the water when it freezes.

## Types of Food

**Sunflower - Black-oil sunflower seeds** rank as the single best wild bird food. These small, thin-shelled seeds are easy to open and are rich in fat and protein. Virtually every bird that visits backyard bird feeders eats black-oil seeds. They work well by themselves or as the primary ingredient in quality mixes.

**Cracked corn -** Cracked corn is inexpensive and high in carbohydrates and fat but low in protein.

**Nyjer (thistle) -** This specialty seed type is preferred by a few species such as the finches. At a cost of \$1 per pound, you best assure that the seed is provided in a specialty feeder.

**Suet/peanut butter- Suet** can be offered easily by purchasing the square blocks at most retail stores for about \$1 each. One can also purchase suet from the butcher. Peanut butter is another fat/protein substitute but I've heard that peanut butter prices are expected to increase as well.

**White proso millet- Millet** is attractive and utilized by ground-feeding birds such as doves, sparrows and juncos.

**Mixed Bird Feed -** If buying a mix, look carefully at the contents of the mix and the percentage of each type of seed. A mix with mostly sunflower and white proso millet is best. Many of the other seed types are generally not eaten which results in waste and more spoilage and cleaning of feeders.

**Calcium and grit -** These overlooked supplements are essential to a bird's health and survival. Try providing crushed oyster shells, play sand and egg shells (disinfected). This is simple and inexpensive.

To minimize disease and unwanted visitors such as rodents, keep the area under the feeders cleaned of spoiled seed, wipe off feeders and discard wet and spoiled seed when it accumulates

in bottom of feeders. Remove excess snow accumulations from under the feeders during snow events.

When trying to keep feed costs down, offer suet and a cracked corn/black oil sunflower mix. These three foods will not be wasted and will provide for a diversity of species.

Suet is cheap and once it is rendered (melted) it can be formed into molds and you can add other feed types such as sunflower.

## Types of Feeders

When feeding birds, one must understand how certain birds feed. For instance, sparrows and doves are ground or platform feeders. They are not equipped to feed from a suet feeder or a nyjer feeder. Another example would be a cardinal or grosbeak cannot feed from a suet feeder or a nyjer feeder. All birds have preferences for the type of food and how that food is presented. Keep in mind that a bird's bill and feet type dictates what type of food and or feeder type it can feed from.

Common feeders available are tube feeders, hopper feeders and platform feeders. Using these types will provide a diverse presentation of food for a variety of species.

Making your own feeders is an inexpensive option. Provide feed to bird by broadcasting the seed on the ground or provide the food by purchasing some type of platform feeder (make sure you provide drainage holes).

**Suet feeder -** simply place your rendered suet in a hole in a log (very natural) or wrap the suet with twine and hang from branch.

**Peanut butter -** I like to spread my peanut butter and sunflower mix on pine cones or other rough surface or use a spoon and stuff into a pre-drilled hole in wooden log/branch.

**Nyjer -** Inexpensive mesh bags can be used or you can recycle a plastic soda bottle and cut your own slits and provide the perches.

**Hopper feeders -** These common feeder types can be easily made from recycled products. Assure that drainage is provided and a means of cleaning these and all feeders.

**Shelter/Cover -** One of the common mistakes made with bird feed-



ing is the failure to provide adequate shelter not only from the weather but from lurking predators, such as the cat and the Sharp-shinned Hawk or Cooper's Hawk. To deal with weather, try to protect your feeders from the wind. As for predators, keep the feeders in an open area but assure that cover is nearby. Evergreen trees are great for protecting the feeders from both wind and predators.

Birds which are likely to be encountered at local feeders include: Mourning Dove, White-throated Sparrow, Bluejay, Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, Downy Woodpecker, House

Finch, Gold Finch and Junco.

Some of the specialty birds that one can hope to attract include: Evening Grosbeak, Redpoll, Pine Siskin and Purple Finch. These birds are considered nomadic and sporadic in their movements from the north to the mid-Atlantic states.

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## 15th Annual Foothills Artists Studio Tour

Geoffrey Thulin

The 15th annual Foothills Artists studio tour will be held November 19 and 20, the weekend before Thanksgiving, at six locations in and around the western Adams County (PA) communities of Fairfield and Cashtown. Eleven artists and artisans will open their homes and studios in a special pre-holiday show and sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Eight returning Foothills Artists are excited to welcome three new artists to this year's line-up: Daryl Despres, Heidi Myers and Debbie Westmoreland. Six studio locations will feature original paintings, pottery, sculpture, furniture, woodworking, photography, printmaking, pastels, fiber arts, enamels, and jewelry. See first-hand where the artists create their work and have the opportunity to buy directly from them. For those interested in making purchases, checks and cash are welcome. Credit cards are accepted by most, but not all, of the artists.

This free tour is self-guided and may be completed in any order. The website, [www.foothillsartists.net](http://www.foothillsartists.net), includes a map of each studio's location and street address, as well as links to each artist's individual website. It also includes biographies and artwork examples for each artist. Several of the artists live and work in historic homes.

### The artists:

Daryl Despres — Mountain Woodworks, 59 Ringneck Trail, Carroll Valley. Daryl is a woodworker who has turned his passion into his profession. He creates functional, non-traditional bandsaw boxes using different woods, almost all reclaimed. He prefers to use locally sourced wood or materials given to him by friends. He has just recently

completed building a workshop studio on the lower slope of Jack's Mountain.

Anne Finucane — showing at Windborne Farm Studio, 489 Crum Road, Fairfield. Anne works in a variety of printmaking and other fine art media, and will be showing her etchings and linocuts on the tour. A long-time organizer for arts organizations in the Chambersburg area, her work has been accepted into juried exhibitions in Gettysburg, Hagerstown, Baltimore, Washington DC and New York City. She has been honored with one-person shows throughout Franklin County and her work is held in permanent collections in Chambersburg, Gettysburg and Hagerstown.

Geoff Grant — Eden Farm, 378 Topper Road, Fairfield. Geoff is a fine art photographer whose subjects include color landscape, candid portraits, architectural, and street photography in the U.S. and overseas. His favorite styles of photography include soft, painterly images and Black and White. His work has appeared in several shows, including the Delaplaine in Frederick, MD and the Adams County Arts Council in Gettysburg. This past June he won first place in the BarnArt exhibit (Gettysburg) and his work was included in the Glen Echo Labor Day Art Show (MD).

Jack Handshaw — 1575 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield. An active artist for over 45 years, Jack is a potter working in all forms of clay, particularly reduction fired glazed porcelains, and has returned recently to doing raku. Additionally, he will be offering redware for this year's tour. He is a juried member of the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen, and has been accepted into numerous juried



Foothills Artists, 2022 (L-R): Geoff Grant, Anne Finucane, Geoffrey Thulin, Judy Pyle, Rod Stabler, Jack Handshaw, Daryl Despres, Heidi Myers, Ann Ruppert, Jón Ricci, Debbie Westmoreland

shows and received many awards. He also shares his art through teaching and demonstrations.

Heidi Myers — Haywire Studio, 260 Orrtanna Road, Orrtanna. Heidi is a ceramic artist who has been expressing herself with clay for over twenty years. She enjoys sculpture and hand-building. This year she has been exploring the ancient technique of sgraffito. Heidi's inspirations can be found in the nature that surrounds her Haywire Studio, a recently restored small barn on her farm at the foot of South Mountain.

Judy Pyle — showing at Windborne Farm Studio, 489 Crum Road, Fairfield. Judy makes jewelry in hand-fabricated silver, torch-fired enamels on copper and fine silver. Her new enamel pieces are wearable sculptures. She has been a life-long art educator, as well as a practicing artist. Her most recent small sculptures — enameled items and other found objects — have been juried into national exhibits.

Jón Ricci — showing at Eden Farm, 378 Topper Road, Fairfield. Jón is a fiber artist, creating sculptural vessels, wearable fiber art &

jewelry. Exhibiting at invitational art shows, she is nationally recognized for her fiber art & has received numerous awards. Her work is in private collections & included in distinguished books & magazines. Jón sells her work through local venues and prestigious galleries throughout the country and teaches at art centers in PA and MD, local Outreach & After School Programs, as well as Kids Camps.

Ann Ruppert — Windborne Farm Studio, 489 Crum Road, Fairfield. Ann designs and creates jewelry and works in two-dimensional media including pastels, oils, watercolors and colored pencil. She has been accepted into the Adams County, PA Arts Council juried show and has earned awards in the Franklin Co. Art Alliance annual show and the Chambersburg Council for the Arts miniature show. She has work on display at both CALC and Goldcrafters in Carlisle, PA and at Gallery 50 in Waynesboro, PA.

Rod Stabler — showing at Windborne Farm Studio, 489 Crum Road, Fairfield. Rod, a fifth-generation woodworker and retired

cabinet maker, creates useful and practical woodcraft "with a flair". Each piece is one of a kind. He strives to make objects of utility which are also objects of beauty.

Geoffrey Thulin — Blue Orchard Studio, 1013 Old Route 30, Cashtown. Geoffrey is a painter specializing in bold animal imagery, landscapes and abstracts. He works primarily in watercolor and gouache. His award-winning work explores color, pattern and rhythm, and their connection to the spiritual aspect of nature. He will be offering cards and prints in addition to original paintings.

Debbie Westmoreland — showing at Eden Farm, 378 Topper Road, Fairfield. Debbie, a fiber artist, creates needle felted, one-of-a-kind scarves, and wall art. Silk becomes a canvas upon which wool fibers are combined with hand stitching and embellishments, giving her designs unique textures, color, and special effects. Debbie has a background in interior design, curating, merchandising and teaching. She is also a member of the board, as well as an instructor at the Adams County Arts Council.

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Jack Handshaw - 1575 Mt. Hope Rd., Fairfield  
 Geoff Grant, Jón Ricci and Debbie Westmoreland - 378 Topper Road, Fairfield  
 Geoffrey Thulin - 1013 Old Rt. 30, Cashtown  
 Daryl Despres - 59 Ringneck Trail, Carroll Valley  
 Heidi Myers - 260 Orrtanna Road, Orrtanna  
 Ann Ruppert, Rod Stabler, Judy Pyle, and Anne Finucane - 489 Crum Road, Fairfield

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**Foothills Artists**

For details including map  
 with street addresses visit:  
[www.foothillsartists.net](http://www.foothillsartists.net)

# HISTORY

## Blue Ridge Summit Free Library celebrates 100 years

Melodie Anderson-Smith  
Vice President, BRS Library  
Board of Directors

This story begins in 1922, when a public lending library was established by Miss Mary Norwood on the first floor of the Parish House of the Episcopal Church of Transfiguration in the south-central Pennsylvania village of Blue Ridge Summit.

The community center and library established in the Parish House were run for the benefit of the community and were not an extension of the Episcopal Church. As such, the facility was free to all members of local communities, regardless of race or creed. In addition, the tiny library served the “summer people” who flocked to the mountain by train from cities to the east, escaping the coal smoke and oppressive heat of urban life in summer.

The library enriched the life of this mountaintop community, and also welcomed residents and visitors from the Pennsylvania and Maryland communities of Monterey, Fountaintdale, Friends Creek, Sabillasville, Pennersville, Highfield, Buena Vista,

Rouzerville, Hooverville, and Cascade. As the library grew, the collection was moved to the second floor of the Parish House, where continued growth of the collection required structural enhancements to the facility in 1937. One hundred years later, albeit in a different location, the library continues to thrive.

Today a first-time visitor to Blue Ridge Summit might sense the atmosphere of a “mountain getaway.” Though still an attractive tourist village, its vibrant year-round community includes many families descended from those who played important roles in its history. These families, as well as newer residents, enjoy a mountaintop life that nurtures neighborhood friendliness, community pride and “mountain hardiness.”

In the 1890s, Blue Ridge Summit experienced an era of growth as a summertime resort. Crowds of visitors from Baltimore and Washington arrived and departed by train. More than 16 foreign embassies operated from rented vacation homes in the area during this period! Wallis Simpson, later the



An early 19th century postcard showing the present Blue Ridge Summit Free Library when it was still a train station on the Western Maryland Railroad.

Duchess of Windsor, was born in 1896 in one of the holiday “cottages” in Blue Ridge Summit.

The Western Maryland Railroad provided passenger service from Hagerstown to Blue Ridge Summit starting in 1872, and in 1891 a new train station was built on Summit Plaza. It was the center of the business district and a community hub

during the season when excursion trains rolled into the village.

By the 1930s, however, the age of the automobile was underway—the resort community declined and the demand for rail service was diminished. In 1957, the railroad discontinued passenger service to the village.

An important page in the history of the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library came the following year. In 1958, the little library was invited to move into the vacant train station. In a quiet ceremony on the front steps of the station, Western Maryland Railroad officials conveyed the deed to the station and 1.5 acres of land to Mrs. Robert Hearne, president of the library’s board of directors, with the following statement:

*“In the tradition of the good neighbor, the Western Maryland family deeds to all the families of Blue Ridge Summit this familiar community meeting place to be used as a free public library, thus continuing in a cultural sense, the close relationship between the railroad and the people.”*

The Blue Ridge Summit station was one of several stations servicing resort communities in the vicinity of Pen Mar Park, a large recreational area built by the Western Maryland Railroad close to the Pennsylvania-Maryland line.

The original station building, with its Queen Anne style architecture, was likely designed by the railroad company. It had 12-foot-wide porches on all four sides. In 1975, the building’s rear porches were enclosed to provide restrooms and additional space for the library. A handicap access ramp was added to the west porch. The front porch and facade have remained largely intact, with the exception of the relocation of two ticket windows from the rear of the building, where the tracks were located. A round 40-foot turret extending skyward from the roof gives the building its distinctive architectural identity.

In 1992, a single-story addition, 23 by 27 feet, was added to the eastern elevation. The addition features one-over-one windows on the northern exposure with cladding that replicates the station’s original wood siding. A doorway from this addition opens to a small garden area where a log house was relocated on October 10, 1991. The log house is believed to have been used as an early library at one of the guest houses in Blue Ridge Summit, and is currently used for library storage.

Throughout the years, the library has served its patrons as both an independent library and as an affiliate branch of other library systems. In 1945, the Blue Ridge Summit Library board formalized a relationship with the Washington County



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# HISTORY

Library of Hagerstown, Md., and entered into a 5-year affiliation contract. While this formal arrangement later expired, Washington County continues to support the use of the library by its residents through an annual contribution. Following the agreement with Washington County, the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library operated as an unaffiliated library until the year 2000, when, due to changes in Pennsylvania state law regarding library funding, the library became a branch of the Alexander Hamilton Memorial Free Library in nearby Waynesboro. That agreement ended in 2007, and in 2013, the library board elected to become a branch of the Franklin County Library System.

As a branch of the Franklin County Library System, the library continues its tradition as a gathering place for residents and visitors, where local gossip, news of the day and weather prognostications are exchanged. The library is not a particularly quiet place—it is alive with activity! School children peck away on computer keyboards, parents and librarians consult about the project at hand, locals flip through newspapers, and committees and groups meet in the community room—always over cups of coffee. Every few hours the train passes by, causing conversations and board meetings to pause until the whistle fades.

The library also hosts regular programs, including a weekly teen and tween night, a monthly gathering of quilters, and a monthly *scherschnitte* class, where new and experienced individuals may learn and practice the art of German paper cutting. Children's story hours and periodic movie nights fill the remaining regular program schedule, while special programs and events are interspersed throughout the annual calendar.

Financial and material support from the community has been and continues to be integral to the success of the library. Each July, the board of directors welcomes patrons and visitors to the annual Ice Cream Social and Book Sale, which will be celebrating its 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 16, 2022. It is a "local color" indoor and outdoor event that features live music, more than 1,500 books for sale, children's entertainment,

food and bake sales, local authors, community organizations, plants and flowers—and, of course, ice cream. While this is the single largest annual fundraising event for the library, the community has hosted numerous creative fundraisers to support the operations and growth of the library.

Throughout its history, many events held to benefit the library would be considered unique by today's standards. In 1933, in an effort to enhance the library's collection, a Library Tea was held with the "price" of admission being the donation of one or more books. Card parties, hosted in both the home of Mary Norwood and at the Monterey Country Club, raised funds for the acquisition of titles for the library. From 1936 through at least 1939, Miss Evelyn Woods of Baltimore presented marionette performances. Library records indicate that her performances were nationally known, and that the library was very fortunate to have her come to Blue Ridge Summit.

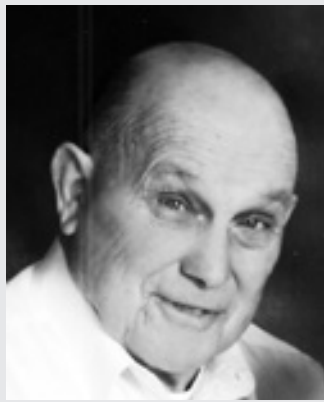
Concerts featuring pianists, violinists, and vocalists from Baltimore's Peabody Conservatory of Music, the National Symphony Orchestra, and other esteemed music organizations were held throughout the years, in both the private home of Miss Norwood, and at the Parish House. Dramatic productions performed by local theater groups were held for the benefit of the library.

Since the inception of the library, an annual appeal has been conducted to raise funds to support its operations. Donations of funds and materials have come from residents of the community, and from places far beyond the local community. In 1937, a book drive was held, where books to be donated to the library could be dropped off at central locations in Baltimore, Chevy Chase, Md., Norfolk, Va., and in Blue Ridge Summit—a broad geographic footprint of support that continues today.

In 2021 the inaugural Plant Sale on the Plaza was held on Mother's Day weekend, and the second annual plant sale is set for May 7.

The library is open five days a week; it is closed on Friday and Sunday. For more information,

## Mike Boyle



Leo Michael "Mike" Boyle, 88, of Fairfield, formerly of Emmitsburg, died on October 1. He was the husband of Alice E (Scott) Boyle for 62 years. Born on September 11, 1934, he was the son of the late Bernard H. and Mary (Bollinger) Boyle and the last of his immediate family.

Mike was a 1952 graduate of St. Joseph's High School and Mount Saint Mary's College in 1959. His college education was interrupted by two years of service in the United States Army. He retired from the Frederick County Liquor Board after serving 20 years with appointments under four governors. Prior to this he was employed at Fort Ritchie in the Accounting Department for one year and 35 years in the family grocery store business, B.H. Boyle & Sons,

Inc.. His responsibilities included anything from delivery person, clerk/cashier to bookkeeper.

Mike served as the Civil Defense Disaster Coordinator for the Emmitsburg area in the early 1980's. He was on the Board of Trustees for St. Joseph's High School from 1980-1982. He was also a representative for the Emmitsburg area for the Frederick County Red Cross. Mike was elected to the St. Joseph's Catholic Church Council three terms and was instrumental in starting the "200 Club." He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Council 1860, having reached the Fourth Degree Knight status. He served as treasurer for Silver Fancy Farms.

He was a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 6658, an ambulance driver and Emergency Medical Technician having been a member of the first Frederick County EMT class. His memberships included the Frederick County Ambulance Rescue Association, Adams County Pennsylvania Ambulance Corps (past President), and representative of Emmitsburg Ambulance Corp on the Frederick County Central Alarm Board where he served as vice-chairman for two years.

He was most proud of honorably serving the Vigilant Hose Company for 70 years as a Life Member. At 18 he joined the fire company following his father's service example and

was followed by two of his sons and a grandson into service. He served as President (four terms), Director (10 years), Treasurer (one year), Chief Hoseman (ten years) and as a Fire Police Lieutenant. He was the recipient of two life saving commendations and honored to be a Hall of Fame inductee in the Vigilant Hose Company.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He looked forward to family get-togethers, especially at Thanksgiving. He enjoyed attending Women's Final Four Basketball tournaments as well as Mount Saint Mary's mens' and womens' basketball games, cruises and playing "Hand and Foot" card games with his children and grandchildren but "only if he could win."

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by sisters Anna Koontz, Loretta Sprankle and brother, Patrick Boyle.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, on October 8th.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Vigilant Hose Company, P.O. Box 171, Emmitsburg, MD 21727 or to St. Joseph's Catholic Church designating gifts for the construction of the new handicapped ramp, 47 DePaul St., Emmitsburg.

visit their website at [www.fclspa.org/locations/blue-ridge-summit-library](http://www.fclspa.org/locations/blue-ridge-summit-library).

Perhaps these library patrons best express the importance of this small, but very special, library:

*"... I've been coming here since I was a kid and it still remains one of my favorite places. I have always been an avid reader and coming here gets me excited about the next adventure—in a book. Many resources and an asset to the community."*  
—Elizabeth Farmer

*"The BRS Library is [the] only library that knows their patrons' library numbers without asking for a card. Thanks for the personal attention."*  
—Sharon Garcia

*"BRS Free Library Haiku:  
My brain never starves...  
Here, knowledge is shared"*

*for free...in the feast of books."*  
— Rich Deluna

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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## November 3

### Women Engaged In Fist Fight

The participants in the fight were Mrs. Harry Eyer of Thurmont and Miss Hazel Curum, of Creagerstown. The ring was the road, the time was late evening, there were no officials, no rules and the fight was to the finish.

Saturday evening Mrs. Eyer went out in search of her husband. She search for him high and low and finally arrived at the house where Miss Curum resided and ask if 'hubbie' had been there. The inquiry was the cause of hot words, which were quickly translated into deeds. Soon both women were pulling each other's hair, hitting, scratching, biting and rolling all over the road.

There are no reports as to who came off second best, although Mrs. Eyer carried out of the combat more wounds than her adversary. But somehow the battle ceased. Mrs. Eyer swore out a warrant for Miss Curum's arrest. Curum fled into the county nearby. The deputy sheriff and his posse finally founding her hiding in an orchard. When brought before the justice, Miss Curum swore out a warrant for the arrest of her adversary, charging assault and battery. Both combatants were released upon furnishing \$100 bond for hearing later.

Harry Eyer learned of the affaire after returning from the mountains where he had been tending to his still. Upon hearing the news, he promptly turned around and returned for 'supplies,' so he would be well 'juiced' when he faced his wife and girlfriend.

### Probe Of Water Rates

The Public Service Commission has commenced its investigation of the water rate controversy in Emmitsburg. A petition was circulated by its customers protesting against the increases and filed with the Commission. Members of the commission have been in Emmitsburg for the past week. Two officers spent some time at the offices of the company and looked into the affairs of the company. Rumor has it that the rates as adver-

tise will not stand, it being claimed that the capital invested do not warrant such an increase.

### Water Still Scarce

There is still general complaint of scarcity of water in wells. The rain that broke the drought for farm work, did not reach the wells, and there is great fear that the winter freeze up will come before a big rain replenishes the deep water supply.

### Memorial Park Dedication

The finishing touches are being put on Thurmont's Memorial Park, making it ready for its dedication. The committee in charge of the program for the day has about completed its plans, which will be one of the most interesting character. It is earnestly desire that the citizens of Thurmont decorate their homes in places of business on this day.

## November 9

### Thieves Make Raids

Last Saturday night some person or persons and of the home of Mr. Tyson, on East Main St. and took from the property about three dozen eggs, a pound of coffee, a pound of sugar, and a bottle of milk. The pan in which the eggs where kept, the sugar sack and milk were left in the yard in the rear of the house. Entrance was made by cutting away the wire on the screen door on the porch and loosening the hook, fence view the window into the kitchen. Discovery of the robbery was not made until Sunday morning when coffee was wanted for breakfast. That same evening, someone cut the wire on the screen door of Mrs. Powell's home on Lombard St. and stole bananas and milk. it would appear as though someone or a gang of youngsters are hungry.

### Community Sing A Great Success

Apples Church was crowded to the utmost capacity and more than half as many on the outside, on Sunday evening, to listen to the men's com-

munity song service. About 50 men from Apples, Rocky Ridge, Creagerstown, Thurmont, Graceham and Woodsboro composed the singers. The selection consisted of songs, duets and quartettes. The entire program was inspiring and interesting. The pastor, Reverend Heimer made a short address on the efforts to develop community fellowship and the great power and importance of music and expressed the hope that the service would inspire the men to work for the kingdom of God and his church to a fuller extent.

### Women Voters

A large number of persons in this district failed to vote, among them many women living in towns. As the novelty wears off, voting appears to diminish in charm for the fair sex. Quite a number obeyed their husbands and voted against the amendment making women eligible to hold public office.

## November 16

### An Appeal

The family of Mr. Charles Carbaugh, who lost their home by fire a few days ago are in general need, as practically the entire contents of their house was destroyed. Donations of clothing, furniture, bedding, indeed any house hold goods would be gratefully received. There are nine in the family: two men, two women, and five children - boys aged 16, 13, 7 and 3 and a girl aged 10. Any person desiring to help can notify Reverend Damuth of the Lutheran Church.

### Talking Movies Possible

A great invention is in progress that has already been satisfactorily tried out. It is the 'Pallo Photo Phone' for the purpose of recording sounds upon a photographic film so that the sound my afterwards be reproduced by light, much as motion pictures are produced. The invention is by the General Electric Company. It is said that even Thomas Edison exclaimed: "what next!" When the invention was explained to him.

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### Shorb-Martin Marriage

Miss Rachel Martin of Emmitsburg and John Shorb of Rocky Ridge were quietly married at the Evangelical Reformed parsonage Wednesday morning by the pastor, Reverend Kiefer. Rumor is that the new Mrs. Shorb is in a 'family way,' although she denies it. Mr. Shorb however told friends he hopes the baby will be born on St. Patrick's Day, so he can name him 'Patrick.' Needless to say, Mr. Shorb has spent every night since the wedding sleeping in the barn.

## November 23

### Receivership Asked For Annan-Horner Bank

A petition for a receivership for the banking firm of Annan-Horner has been filed by Dr. Jamison, who alleged that the liabilities of the inactive banking house are about \$110,000, the majority of this amount being owed depositors in Emmitsburg. No estimate of the assets could be obtained. But Jamison claims that the bank owns real estate, in and about Emmitsburg, which can be sold to make its customers whole again.

The banking firm has been inactive for about two years since the Farmer State Bank purchased the banking house of the old firm. Numerous suits have been brought against the allege insolvent company for a collection of interest-bearing deposits made with the bank. The bill of complaint of Dr. Jamison states that the claimant deposited the sum of \$645 in the bank to bear 4% interest. None of this amount has been paid although several requests have been made for the payment.

The banking firm of Annan-Horner is an old establishment in Emmitsburg and at one time was considered one of the most substantial banking houses in this section of the state. Shortly after the sale of the old banking house, depositors started to take action to recover their money, and a present six suits are pending in the local court against the company.

### Dippy Truck

On Monday a truck took a notion not to keep in the middle of the road so he just climbed up on the pave-

ment on the south side of E. Main St. at the Grime's property, coasted downhill a short distance, bucked up against a large silver maple then decided to get back where it belonged, and returned to the Street and rambled right along. Rumor had it that the truck was carrying a load of 'hooch' from a big still in the mountains and the driver had been sampling his cargo.

### Water Rates Not Allowed

The new water rates for services by the Emmitsburg Water Company which were practically 100% higher than the old rates will not stand. The hearing lasted about three hours, during which time much light was thrown on the water service situation in Emmitsburg. At the conclusion of the meeting it was understood that if the valuation of upgrades taken by the company were found to be accurate then an advance of only 15%, over the former rates would be adequate to produce an increase in revenue to cover the company's investment.

### Water Becoming Scarcer

The water question is getting to be a rather serious problem with many wells now entirely dry and water in streams not fit to use, even for farm stock. Water in streams are low and has become filthy.

The situation in the Creagerstown is about as bad as any that has been reported. Many wells and springs are dry and numerous others reported to be furnishing a trivial supply. One resident said that he had a spring who pool normally contained about 9 feet of water but at present contains only about 10 inches. The streams in this section are running low and many of the springs along the banks are dry.

Water shortage in Thurmont is not acute. As many of the towns resources are Mountain supplied. Various mountain stream springs however are reported to be drying up.

In Emmitsburg, as few men drink anything other than 'hooch', there is plenty of water for the womenfolk to do household chores with when they are not wasting time gossiping on the party lines.

To read past editions of 100 Years Ago visit the History section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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# TANEYTOWN HISTORY

## Hagen House

David Buie

Taneytown has a steep history pre-dating the American Revolution. Tales of Tories storming homes and searching Federalists' homes were not uncommon in the early days of the town's history. A town with such a long history is bound to have a haunting. There are two notable ghosts in Taneytown: Anna "Annie" Hagan (1886-1908), of 6-8 Frederick Street, and Benton Brining (1855-1945), of 7 Frederick Street. We will examine the histories of both individuals and the historic residences they occupy.

Taneytown was a center for the tavern business in the late 18th century because of its location along two major routes. At an early date in its history, there was a tavern on each corner of the square. The Adam Good Tavern became the most renowned of Taneytown's taverns because it was the location of a stop by George Washington on June 30, 1791, as documented in his diary entry of that date. The tavern was initially constructed of logs by Adam Good in the 1770s and was located on the square's northwest corner. A brick building was built on the original Adam Good tavern site after it burned down around 1839.

In 1807, John McKellip, Sr. purchased the property from Adam Good. After the sale and until 1890, it is unclear whether the McKellip family continued to own the house. In 1890, however, the area was cleared to make way for the current Hagen House, located on lots 6-8 Frederick Street, and built for Norman Bruce "N.B."

Hardin Hagan, Sarah Orndorf Hagan, and their daughter, Anna "Annie" Hagan. Despite plans and construction beginning in 1890, the project took until 1894 to complete. Family members lived in the upper portion of the building, while Hagan operated a grocery store at the bottom.

According to local legend, Anna died of a heart attack on her wedding day, and her ghost haunts the property. On more than one occasion, Anna has been observed running through the house in her wedding dress, crying and calling out for unrecognizable names. Before her death, Anna suffered from inflammatory rheumatism. But, most likely, she died from cardiovascular disease, which has been observed in younger patients.

Given N.B. and Sarah's marriage in 1886, their family home design must have considered business and residential innovations. Some of the original Adam Good Tavern timbers were incorporated into the building's framework and some of the original doors were still in the basement. The bronze plaque on the front of the building was presented to Sarah Hagan and placed there by the City of Taneytown in 1932.

After the death of Sarah, the house was auctioned and purchased by John Leister and his wife Flora Belle Arnold Leister for \$8,000 (approximately \$150,000 today). The bottom portion of the house was used as a bowling alley/ice cream shop, while the Leisters used the remaining home areas as the living area. On September 7, 1945, John died of a heart attack. His obituary states that he was the

proprietor of Taneytown Bowling Alley and had formerly conducted the Central Hotel for 24 years. He served as the Director of Birnie Trust Company in Taneytown. He belonged to the Chamber of Commerce and the Taneytown Chapter of the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows. After John's death, the bowling alley remained until the mid/late 1950s.

Flora Leister remained in the house, where printing presses were present, until she died in 1967. After Flora's death, it is believed that Charles Whitfield Drury bought the house and published the Carroll Record.

On May 6, 1984, in the Baltimore Sun, an ad appeared announcing the building's sale to be conducted via auction. According to the ad, the auction included the building, office, and printing equipment. From 1985 to 2002, Jim Fogle operated his "Come Saturday Morning" antique shop at the Hagen House. In 2007, the property was purchased by Jeff Lewis and named "The Cherry Tree." Paul Kluth currently owns the property.

The John McKellip House, located at 7 Frederick Street, was the first of the Dempwolf-designed buildings in Taneytown. John McKellip operated a drugstore on this lot in 1853. The house was built in 1880 with a drug store on the right side. The home features a double front door, a peaked dormer, and end chimneys. It was occupied by McKellip's daughter, Clara Abarilla McKellip, and her husband, Benton Brining. Brining was also McKellip's business partner. It is unclear when the pharmacy portion of the home was removed. However, in an article on John McKellip that appeared in the April 1908 edition of "The



N.B. Hagan sits behind his wife, Sarah, next to their daughter, Anna. The fourth passenger is unknown.

Druggist Circular," McKellip stated that the business was the oldest in Taneytown, having been established in 1853 and that both his home and business were built on the original property of Major John McKaleb, a veteran of the War of 1812.

Many people reported seeing a well-dressed man appear in the McKellip home's windows after his death in 1945. However, the spirit of Benton Brining is not at rest in Taneytown, and it is unclear why he is searching.

Although the current owners have not reported any paranormal activity, note what is to the right and left when you sit at the light on the town square when you come from Frederick. You may see Anna or Benton peering at you.

*David Buie is a Taneytown Resident passionate about Taneytown and its place in history. For more information on the history of Taneytown, visit the Downtown Taneytown Facebook page.*

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# COOKING

## Feeding people; It's a Mitzvah



**Sonya Verlaque**  
FCC Culinary Student

This morning is a different morning, I don't have to work but was planning on catching up on usual chores: laundry, school emails, holiday planning, calling my brother, replacing burnt out lightbulbs, bedding down the garden for winter. The list goes on. This was derailed two days ago.

My kids just started school and I think I made a mom friend. We moved to the area 4 years ago, and this is new. She told me she was having surgery this week - and so I offered to bring her family dinner tonight. I love cooking, I love feeding people but suddenly at the store I felt nervous. Will she like it? Will she still be my friend? I must make everything from scratch! I must buy all organic everything! I must... stop. If she brought pizza for my

family when I was sick, I would be over the moon delighted. So, I paused. I will do some homemade, some store bought, something that was my regular go to for feeding people that I know works.

I married into a Jewish family and it fit perfectly with our Italian family. Welcome to our home, let me fix you a plate. I will pack you a snack before you go. I find that a lot of cultures also work like this. You're happy, you're sad, someone is born, someone dies, a holiday, an ordinary day; food and love are centered. I have grown to love the word Mitzvah, the good act of human kindness beyond requirement. So, the littlest little and I made food for another family today. We celebrate our neighbors and friends, and how we can serve them. These are some portable recipes to feed your neighbors through the cold season.

### French Onion Beef Sliders

24 slider buns  
8 tbs (1 stick) butter, divided  
2 large sweet onions, sliced  
2 pounds ground beef  
2 tbs beef base (such as Better than Boullion), divided  
1 tbs Worcestershire sauce, divided  
Kosher salt and black pepper, to taste  
12-16 ounces gruyere or swiss cheese, shredded  
2 tbs sesame seeds  
1 tbs fresh thyme  
1 tps onion powder  
1 tps garlic powder

Preparations: Melt 2 tbss of the butter in a skillet over medium heat. Add in the onions and reduce the heat to medium low. Cook, stirring occasionally, until lightly caramelized, about 25-30 minutes. In a large bowl, mix the ground beef with half of the beef base and half of the Worcestershire sauce. Season with salt and pepper. Add the beef to the skillet full of onions. Increase heat to medium-high and brown the beef, breaking it up and mixing with the onions as you go. Once browned, drain off excess grease. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Lightly grease a large baking sheet. Separate the tops from the bottoms of the slider buns. Fit the slider bottom buns tightly on the baking sheet. Evenly distribute the beef and onion mixture over the bottom buns. Top with the gruyere cheese. Cover with the top buns. In a microwave safe bowl, melt the butter with the remaining beef base. Stir in the remaining Worcestershire sauce and continue to mix until well-combined. Using a pastry brush, brush the beefy butter mixture over the top buns. Sprinkle with the sesame seeds, thyme, onion powder, and garlic powder. Bake the sliders until the cheese is fully melted and the tops of the rolls are lightly browned, about 20 minutes

### Chilled Asparagus Salad

*Ingredients:*  
1 pound asparagus, woody ends cut off  
1 tps orange zest

### FCC Students show off culinary skills

This fall, the Frederick Community Collage's restaurant, 200 Monroe, will be open to the public for an exclusive three-course dinner service prepared by students under the guidance of culinary and hospitality instructors.

The restaurant delivers a capstone learning experience for Hospitality, Culinary, and Tourism Institute students who work in the open-kitchen restaurant setting during their final semester of the program.

The restaurant is open on Thursday evenings, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., October 3 through December 6.

In past seasons, 200 Monroe has

been named to numerous OpenTable Diners' Choice lists, including the best overall, best value, fit for foodies, great for lunch, and best food lists. It was also recommended by 100% of diners.

The menu includes numerous options for first, second, and third course selection, as well as a choice of beverage from \$38 to \$42, including tax and gratuity. All restaurant revenue directly supports student training and instruction in the program.

Please note, while reservations are not accepted by phone, reservations are accepted online anytime. For additional restaurant inquiries please call 301-624-2768.

1/4 cup fresh orange juice  
2 tbs fresh lemon juice  
1 tbs dijon mustard  
2 tps white wine vinegar  
1 tbs extra virgin olive oil  
2 tps maple syrup or honey  
Kosher salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste

Preparations: Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add in the asparagus and cook for 2 minutes. Immediately remove the asparagus and place it into an ice bath. Once the asparagus has cooled remove it from the water, blot it dry with a towel, and place it in a large bowl. In a glass measuring cup combine the remaining ingredients and whisk together to form the citrus vinaigrette. Pour the desired amount of vinaigrette over the asparagus and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve, then top with a little more salt and pepper.

### Perfect Scones

This is the base for any scone flavor or add ins. The key to the scone is do not over mix them and chill before baking so they puff up instead of spread out.

*Ingredients:*  
2 cups (250g) all-purpose flour (spoon & leveled), plus more for hands and work

surface  
1/2 cup (100g) granulated sugar  
1/2 tps salt  
2 and 1/2 tps baking powder  
1/2 cup (1 stick; 115g) unsalted butter, frozen  
1/2 cup (120ml) heavy cream or buttermilk (plus 2 tbs for brushing)  
1 large egg  
1 and 1/2 tps pure vanilla extract  
1-1.5 cups add-ins such as chocolate chips, berries, nuts, dried fruit

Preparations: Whisk flour, sugar, salt, and baking powder together in a large bowl. Grate the frozen butter using a box grater. Add it to the flour mixture and combine with a pastry cutter, or two forks until the mixture comes together in pea-sized crumbs. Place in the refrigerator as you mix the wet ingredients together. Whisk heavy cream, the egg, and vanilla extract together in a small bowl. Drizzle over the flour mixture, add the add-ins, then mix together until everything appears moistened. Pour half of the mix onto the counter and, with floured hands, work dough into a ball as best you can. Dough will be sticky. Press into a 5-inch discs and cut each into 8 wedges, then do again with the other half of the dough. Place scones on a plate or lined baking sheet and refrigerate for 15 minutes. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 400°F (204°C). Brush scones with remaining heavy cream and for extra crunch, sprinkle with coarse sugar. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper or silicone baking mat. After refrigerating, arrange scones 2-3 inches apart on the prepared baking sheet. Bake for 18-20 minutes or until golden brown around the edges and lightly browned on top. Larger scones take closer to 25 minutes. Remove from the oven and cool for a few minutes. Leftover scones keep well at room temperature for 2 days or in the refrigerator for 5 days.

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

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# MOMS' TIME OUT

## Time flies when you're having fun

Mary Angel

There is an old saying that time flies when you are having fun. It turns out that time flies when you have kids. If you don't believe me, just think about it and look back.

It seems like only a week ago that my kids were in diapers and toddling around the living room. Time moves so quickly, and they go from diapers, to scooters, to bicycles, to asking to borrow the keys to the car to meet some friends. It isn't simply them growing up that flashes by so quickly, it is actually a lot like summer break when you were a kid. At the beginning you felt like there was so much time, enough time to do all the fun things you had planned. Then, suddenly, you are doing back to school shopping and there is one week left before school starts.

When I look at how much has happened and how much life has changed in what seems like the equivalent of a summer vacation, I am in awe. Sometimes I sit down with the scrapbooks I have made over the years, and I see those pictures. You know the ones I mean, the ones that are burned into your memory. The pictures that immediately take you back to another time in your life. I have a ton of them. I was always that mom who took all the pictures, of my family, of my friend's families, and of kids in my kid's class. It didn't matter where I was, I was snapping pictures, and then emailing them to people or sending copies to school for my children to distribute to what ever friend was in the picture with them. My only problem was stopping the pictures long enough to be in the moment. The pictures never stopped time from flying by, but a few pictures can take you back in time to revisit the past.

Yesterday, my oldest daughter went to prom and had her high school graduation, my baby started high school with a lot of stress and turmoil, my youngest son started college, and my oldest was working a full-time job. I started back to work after 20 years, and my husband started a new career. Life was changing quickly, and I prayed it was for good.

Last week, my first son was in driver's education, my second son was just beginning high school, and my girls were being homeschooled and loved playing in the backyard when school was finished. The girls would get so excited when they knew the boys would soon be home from school. As a family, we were having our first experiences with teenage dating. The boys were involved with marching band at the high school and life seemed very hectic, but wonderful.

Last month, my girls began homeschooling and my boys were in middle school. The boys were not loving middle school, but the girls were so excited about homeschooling. The girls and I would drop the boys off to school, then, while they were at school we would do school, have lunch and some down time. Us girls would pile in the car and head over to pick them up from school and then everyone got a snack in the afternoon. This is the age when we began family game night and family movie night. It was busy, but a delightful time in our lives.

Last year, the boys were in elementary school and the girls were both toddlers. I had my hands full chasing two

young girls and helping two elementary school boys with homework. There was a mountain of diapers to change, a boat load of laundry to do, snack and meal-times were chaotic at times, and I was struggling with the new way of doing math (apparently two plus two wasn't always four anymore!). My husband was travelling for work more often and I was parenting alone. "Calgon take me away" was my new catch phrase, on the rare occasion what I got to soak in a tub.

Before that I was a newlywed who had no intention of ever having children. More than that I was terrified of the idea of childbirth, babies, and everything in between. I was of the mindset that I shouldn't be allowed to raise a child as I was still one myself, and my husband certainly had moments of adolescence. Slowly but surely, we both came around (not at the same time, naturally) and decided to start a family. Never for one moment did we believe we would have four children. As a matter of fact, I can guarantee we would have both got-

ten quite a laugh if anyone had suggested that would be how our lives would end up. Only as God could plan it, the girl who was terrified of little babies would eventually not only love babies but be addicted to the little darlings.

Although time is still flying by, I have gotten better at taking a few pictures and then putting the camera down and being part of the memories instead of looking through a lens at them. I still look back at the pictures and miss times that have passed, and I still can't believe how my children have grown up so fast. However, I try to remember that there is still so much of life ahead and I look forward to all the adventures we still have ahead of us. That doesn't mean I won't be digging my heels in a little more to try and slow the ride down now and again. I hope you all enjoy the journey and treasure every moment. No matter where you are in life, it is a blessing!

To read past editions of *Moms' Time Out*, visit the *Authors* section of *Emmitsburg.net*.



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# LIBRARY & SCHOOL NEWS

## November at the local libraries

### Blue Ridge Free Library

Monday – Children’s Story Time 4 – 5 p.m., Children and parents can join us for a weekly story, craft or coloring sheet, or play time. We will be running two identical 30-minute sessions in an attempt to accommodate busy schedules.

Wednesday – Coffee club from 3 – 4 p.m.! Mingle with the gang for coffee, tea, puzzles, board games, coloring books, &c.

Wednesday– VITT (very important teens and ‘twens) night. The community room is reserved for teen use from 4 – 6 p.m., just hang out or play Wii, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

Saturday – Join us at 11 a.m., for Story Time and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book and a fun craft?

Scherenschnitte Night at the Library – 6:30 p.m.. Learn the German art of paper cutting design. The artwork often has rotational symmetry within the design, and common forms include silhouettes, valentines, and love letters. The art tradition was founded in Switzerland and Germany

in the 16th century and was brought to Colonial America in the 18th century by Swiss and German immigrants who settled primarily in Pennsylvania.

The Summit Stitchers Quilt Club is also meeting at 5:30 p.m. on November 15. New members and new projects are always welcome! Any skill level may attend. If you have always wanted to learn how to quilt, now is the perfect time to start! The group is currently working on this year’s gorgeous raffle quilt.

### Frederick County Library

November is chill weather, crunching leaves, and a great time to visit the library. An important reason for visiting the library is casting your vote during the General Election; Thurmont Regional Library is an early voting center. Early voting runs through Thursday, November 3. Polling hours are 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. including Saturday and Sunday. Haven’t registered to vote yet – not a problem! Same day voter registration is available during Early Voting and on Election Day.

Another reason to visit the library this November is to celebrate National

Family Storytime! Both Northern County Libraries offer different storytimes throughout the week. Enjoy Family Storytime at the Emmitsburg Library every Tuesday at 11 a.m., plan on staying afterwards for a playdate with other families. Thurmont Regional Library offers Preschool Storytime on Mondays, Baby Storytime on Tuesdays, Toddler Storytime on Wednesdays, and Musical Storytime on Thursdays, with all storytimes beginning at 10:30 a.m. Visit FCPL.org for more information.

### Emmitsburg Branch Library

November 1: NASA at Your Library, (Elem., All Ages), 4:30 - 5:30p.m.

November 2, 17: Open Game Night with Wookie Walkers, (Teen), 5:30 - 6:30p.m.

November 10: Read to a Therapy Dog with Wags to Hope, (Elem, Birth-5), 6 - 7p.m.

November 12: Caricature Fundamentals, (Teen), 1 - 3p.m.

November 19: Non- Perishable Foods with Jack, 10:30 - 11:30a.m.

November 24 & 25: Thanksgiving Holiday – Libraries Closed.

### Thurmont Regional Library

November 3: Escape from the Library, 3 - 4:30p.m.

November 4: Offsite: Nature Storytime & Hike @ Catoctin Mountain Park: “Nocturnal Animals”, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

November 5: Handwoven in the Old Line State: North Central Maryland Coverlet Weavers and Their Work, 2 - 4p.m.

November 6: Robots, 2 - 2:45p.m.

November 7: Nasa at Your Library, 4 - 5p.m.

November 8: Elementary Explorers: Election Bingo & Buttons, 4 - 4:45p.m.

November 9: Reading with Heiress – Live Animal Event, (Birth-5, Elem), 10:30 - 11:15a.m.

November 10: Senior Resource & Education Seminar, 10:30 - Noon; Fairytale & STEAM, 1 - 1:30p.m.; Slime Lab , 6 - 7p.m.

November 11: Veterans’ Day - Library Closed.

November 15: Spies on the Mountain, 7 - 8 p.m.

November 17: Drop-in-Tech Help, 10a.m.- Noon; Dungeons & Dragons (Virtual Program with Registration Required), 6 - 8p.m.

November 24 & 25: Thanksgiving Holiday – Libraries Closed.

November 29: Make a Game: Tabletop Mini Golf, 4 - 4:45 p.m.

November also offers opportunities to reflect, give thanks, and share our gratitude. The staff at Emmitsburg Branch and Thurmont Regional Libraries are grateful to serve our communities and wish everyone a wonderful and safe Happy Thanksgiving. We look forward to seeing you in the library!

### Carroll Valley Library

Nov. 3rd, 6:30 p.m. – Lake Communities, Stormwater, and HOAs with holly Smith, Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward Coordinator.

Nov. 7th, 6:30 p.m. – Barks and Books with Danny, the therapy dog.

Nov. 10th, 6:30 p.m. – DiNov. story time program and spend a special evening talking about dinosaurs.

Nov. 16th, 2:00 p.m. – Adult Book Club.

Nov. 22nd, 2 p.m. – Lego Challenge to participate in a Lego building event.

Nov. 28th, 6:30 p.m. – Decoupage Mason Jars, where you can learn how to decorate a mason jar with tissue paper and decoupage.

## BOE Student Member nominations open

High school sophomores and juniors who attend Frederick County Public Schools may apply to serve as the 2023-2024 Student Member of the Board of Education. The nomination deadline is Friday,

November 4 for the term beginning in July 2023.

The role of the student member is to bring a student viewpoint on educational issues to BOE meetings, generally held two evenings per

month. The function is not to represent any particular special-interest group of students on an issue, but rather to respect the diversity of students’ points of view, to improve communication between the student

body, staff and BOE members and to inform students of policies and decisions executed by the BOE.

Interested sophomores and juniors should contact their student government advisor for a nomination

packet or visit [www.fcps.org/boe/Student-Board-Member-Election](http://www.fcps.org/boe/Student-Board-Member-Election). Applicants must complete the entire student packet, including nomination form, letter of recommendation and question response by the application deadline.

continued on the next page

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**Rae Gallagher**  
**Karen Yoho**



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**VOTE EARLY through Nov. 3** ★ **ELECTION DAY November 8**

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# LIBRARY EVENTS

## Vote for the 'Students First Slate' for Board of Education

November 8, Election Day 2022, is just around the corner. Early Voting is available at four locations around the county for all registered. If you just moved here or forgot to register, you can walk into Trinity Center, Urbana Library, Thurmont Library, or Myersville and take advantage of same day registration with ID and proof of residency (such as a driver's license, ID card, bank statement, or paycheck). If you prefer to vote by mail-in ballot, now is the time to return it. Frederick County is already counting mail-in ballots, with results ready to be released as soon as polls close on Election Day.

We are the four candidates that make up the Students First Slate - Ysela Bravo, Rae Gallagher, Dean Rose, and Karen Yoho. We have been working hard to get our names out there and better understand our community's needs since before the Primary. We are proud of our endorsement by the education associations here in Frederick County, better known as the Apple Ballot. Teachers, support staff, and administrators had the opportunity to decide who they support in this election as being pro-student, pro-educator, and pro-public education and they gave us their votes. There are four seats to be filled and seven candidates to choose from. We hope you will agree with the Frederick County education personnel and vote for the four of us as well.

FCPS is one of the few school systems in the state of Maryland that has continued to grow. Our Board will

need to manage many real and difficult challenges with a limited budget and the need to recruit and retain talent. Our slate is committed to hard work, community engagement and to hearing the many different perspectives of our diverse county with a goal of making our schools places all our children can learn and thrive. We support our educators and the parents and guardians of our community and know we need their support to be successful. We as well have different backgrounds, areas of expertise, and perspectives to bring to the Board of Education.

Ysela Bravo is a human resource professional with experience that includes setting individual work standards, objectives, and evaluation methods, writing company policy, negotiating a union contract and recruiting and retention. She volunteered while her two children attended FCPS including serving as PTA Treasurer and President and worked as a substitute in general and special education. She is currently the Human Resources Manager for AACF, a local nonprofit. She believes our schools should provide paths for every child to learn from the experience of success.

Rae Gallagher is a non-profit professional, specializing in social-emotional learning and peer mentoring programs. Rae believes that our schools should be safe, supportive, engaging places for all students to learn. Rae has two elementary-aged children enrolled in FCPS, is active in the PTO, and believes in the critical

importance of collaboration between parents and teachers.

Dean Rose is a local businessman and community volunteer. Dean has served with numerous non-profits and coached high school basketball for 13 years. He has two children who attended FCPS schools K-12 and is a strong proponent of community schools and expanded Career and Technical education. Dean believes with parental and community collaboration FCPS can be the kind of school system our students deserve.

Karen Yoho is a retired teacher who spent her 25-year elementary career with FCPS. Prior to that, she was a three-time PTA president. She began as a parent helper with thousands of hours of volunteer time helping students and supporting teachers as her own three children went through the Urbana feeder. Karen is currently the only incumbent up for re-election. She hopes to build on the relationships she's formed with staff over her tenure on the board and work with the new superintendent to build on our strengths and improve our areas of need. Karen's motto is "Putting All Students First!"

Thank you to all those who have supported us through the campaign. We have met so many wonderful citizens throughout

Frederick County. We strongly encourage you to vote, and we look forward to serving on your next Board of Education.


### Breakfast with Santa & CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

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Pictures with  
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continued from the previous page

A selection panel including the Frederick County Association of Student Councils (FCASC) Board and Student Government Association (SGA) advisors will review applications and narrow the field to five candidates by November 11. Candidate orientation will take place November 17. Candidates will present speeches at the December 8 FCASC General Assembly, and participate in a Candidate Town Hall on Thursday, January 5, 4:30 - 7 p.m. at the FCPS Central Office Board Room. Candidates will also submit a one-page statement to post online.

Online voting will occur January 5 - January 27 for students in all middle

and high schools. Voting will determine whom the school's SGA representatives support in a February 2 General Assembly. Student enrollment determines a school's number of representative delegates. The FCASC will submit the name of the candidate with the majority of representative votes cast by school delegates to FCPS Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Dyson. The new student member will have the opportunity to job shadow the outgoing member May-June.

For further information, please call FCPS Secondary Social Studies Curriculum Specialist, Dr. Colleen Bernard at 301-644-5256.

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## FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

*This month, we challenged our students to write about how to get beyond political polarization at the family thanksgiving table, by considering what things we all have in common.*

### Freshman

Can we just be nice?

Sarah Miller  
MSMU Class of 2026

Heineken released a new advertisement showcasing individuals' vast beliefs on the political spectrum. They paired members with someone who was far right and far left to see if that would impact what they later found was building a bar. After the individuals completed it together, they showed interviews of each other that showcased their political views, highlighting how different they were. The experiment later allowed them to either talk about their differences over a beer, or leave. They all chose to stay and have a civil discussion over a beer, which allowed them to become more personal with each other and become educated on their differences. The message, besides drinking Heineken, is that we are all different, yet the same. Seeing both sides is crucial to understanding others, which is what they achieved. The two people from different ends of the spectrum enjoyed their time, one pair even deciding to keep in touch. In the beginning, it

was all about politics, but in the end, politics meant nothing. Although I am only 18 years old, my first drink when I am 21 will be Henikin. My philosophy is that a great impact must mean even greater beer, right?

Sometimes I wonder why there isn't a news channel that only shows the good news. The news channel puts politics aside and shows what we are truly doing in society that is making an impact around us, while allowing us to know others better. Our nation is divided, and America needs work; America's people change as the trees do in a season. We grow as we go through life, which can change how we feel about certain aspects. The colors of our leaves, though, do not define the winter that is the season. Winter, signified as the time when everyone is gloomy, comes with beautiful qualities too, like nature, crisp air, and great campfire weather. After seeing a lovely winter, "the cold shoulder" should develop into meaning something good. That they are taking time to process and respond tentatively, and that the snow doesn't turn into a thunderstorm. All humans have good qualities and live for the greater good. We all do need a little work, but first, let's just start making some new friends so that way we can

start being nice to each other and seeing the good.

Choosing friends based on topics like if they are pro-life or pro-choice can be a challenge for some. Understandably, morality is a significant factor when making friends. I am sure we must reevaluate if political arguments are that big of a factor. The Thanksgiving season can be enjoyable because of politics and religion. These are the months when we try to provide more gratitude, list the things we are grateful for and what we cannot live without. Maybe other things will come to light? This would be a great conversation around the Thanksgiving table. Politics or religion doesn't change that my grandma makes some fantastic chicken, my uncles can play some nasty cornhole, and my grandfather was phenomenal at his job.

Although being wickedly good at cornhole isn't necessarily important in life, at the end of the day, we all want to be happy, because the world is not always the friendliest place. Collectively, we all want to be the best version of ourselves, and I found for me that my family is always here for support. The family also doesn't have to be by default; friends and significant others can be chosen and can even be the most constant peo-

ple in our lives. I believe everyone can put politics aside and look at the greater good because there is always much good to be looked at; after all, Trump vs. Biden isn't quite like a fantasy football game.

I bet that Trump can't cook as well as you and Biden can't sew as well as your grandmother always could. We need to consider putting aside our political agendas and thinking about what we all love and appreciate, which is the other people around us. We value each other's skills; without them, we could not survive. New York City wouldn't be as metropolitan, clean water would be even harder to come by, and we wouldn't be able to communicate easily with others.

We can all agree that life is scary, and we need each other to keep moving forward. Being nice is a necessity and going out of our way to help someone can be significantly appreciated, sometimes even more than we would ever know. I believe kindness can affect people significantly, and taking that extra step can make a difference. Consider the issue of ocean plastic pollution. In that case, we are making necessary interventions that have aided our shores and will even help the Pacific Garbage Patch soon. We can have

cleaner fish, cleaner beaches, and a healthy reef because of the unyielding efforts of humanity and wanting to change the planet for good.

In preschool and the Jurassic ages of making friends, we didn't know where the other kids were on the political spectrum; we befriended them because they had the same interests. As humans, we want to be appreciated, loved, and safe, which is accessible as a little kid if you are in a stable environment with fun recess time. Engaging and being with other people in places where politics and religion are put aside can bring out our true colors. The people you meet who are different from you can be the most impactful. As we age, we are exposed to more experiences to show what we want our friends to be like, which does not stem from politics or religion. While politics and religion can fuel mortality, the two can be the icing on the morality cake. As long as we can all be nice, respect each other and "treat others the way you want to be treated," this can be the foundation of our beings. By being friendly, you can make a friend; find out the rest later.

*To read other articles by Sarah Miller, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.*

### Sophomore

Stasis theory

Joseph Carlson  
MSMU Class of 2024

Increased polarization in recent years has less to do with radical movements left or right—though these certainly exist—but rather with an increasing assumption made by many that those who disagree with them are culprits of grave immoralities.

There is a system to identify where disagreements lie in an argument, invented by Aristotle and perfected by Cicero, called Stasis Theory. There are five levels of an issue where individuals can disagree: definitions being used explicitly or implicitly, the facts related to the case, cause and effect relation-

ships and where they exist, values, and policy (what should be done). It is always necessary to identify on which level a disagreement exists if you ever want to understand someone's argument, be the issue with your spouse, someone online, or anyone in between. Once we begin to do this, very rarely does the discussion get heated, so long as it stays within these bounds. This is because, first, you are actually listening to each other, and second, you will quickly discover that most of the time you do not disagree on values, but rather on one of the other levels. While it is certainly true that many people have differing values, on values related to issues that are typically polarizing, people almost always agree.

For example, on the issue of abortion (since it may be on your Thanksgiving guests' minds this

year), one side may think that the other hates women, and the other side may think that the other wants to kill babies. Much of the time, this is not true, though there are people with extreme views, for whom we should pray. Most people love women and love babies, or at the very least would prefer them to not get hurt, and it is really on the definitional level that we disagree: is the fetus or zygote a human being that deserves rights? With the issue of gun control, very few people you will talk to want innocent people to be harmed because of gun violence. The majority of people on both sides have the same values here, the preservation of human life—they instead disagree on facts, cause and effect relationships, and policy. We quickly turn ourselves into the extremists when we accuse other people of not caring about innocent people, when they probably do, and they disagree with us on how best that should be done. We can only make accurate judgements on individuals' values when they state them clearly, or through continual intuitive examination of how someone lives. We are never in a place to accuse pluralities of otherwise normal Americans of grossly immoral values—we simply do not have the information necessary to make such claims, and anyone who tries to do so is himself the bigot.

I often wonder why it seems like polarization has gotten worse. People like to blame Trump, but they forget that he was reacting to some pretty rigorous polarization himself even in 2015; what else could have driven a lifelong New York lib-

eral elite to be such a scaly Republican? His rhetoric has been especially outlandish, but it is he and everyone else, except that he happens to be the target of the mainstream media. No, time did not begin with Trump. We forget that Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz back in 2012 was calling Mitt Romney, the most milktoast Republican in the Senate, a racist. We forget about Kanye West saying that "George Bush doesn't care about black people" on live television for a special celebrity broadcast to raise money for Hurricane Katrina relief back in 2005. The racism mudslinging has been going on this whole millennium, but in 2016, the media decided that that was practically all they were going to do. All we hear about, from CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, is how someone out there that we've never met is a horrible person because, [insert glittering generality]. The difference is that, somewhere along the way, the polarization sunk into the American subconscious, and now there is no one with whom I disagree. Democrats, Republicans; they all want to yoke themselves to an ideology and accuse someone else of being a terrible person, when at best they're probably only a little more terrible than themselves. Sure, I've got the way I vote at the ballot box, and it doesn't change, but that is only because we are in a system where people are refusing to think critically, and they are refusing to insist that their leaders think critically. Yes, there's an ideology that more closely fits my views than other ones, but I

think for myself. The Party doesn't think for me.

Truthfully, politics and religion are some of the most interesting things one can talk about (although, I am biased as an Economics and Theology double major). Our family and friends are the ones we should be able to speak most openly to, and instead we avoid all discussion of controversy, because they are the ones we cannot afford to deal with upsetting. Is that the loving thing to do, though? If we really believed we had the truth, and that the truth sets you free, we wouldn't stick strictly to mundane common discourse; rather, we would take the time, and stick our neck out a little to truly understand our loved ones. Hopefully through it all, we all might get a little closer to the truth.

That's the issue, isn't it? The us/them mentality. If we really cared about making positive change in our world and in our families, we would recognize that most of us want the same thing, and that we're all pretty ignorant, and that no one is beyond correction, because no one is beyond love. We can disagree; in fact, we often ought to. While pursuing the truth, and while inevitably disagreeing, we must always do all things out of a genuine desire to give of ourselves for the sake of others. So, maybe, if you have a chance, ask someone this Holiday season about their views on something controversial. Listen, ask a lot of questions, and if you disagree, identify on what level you disagree, and love always.

*To read other articles by Joseph Carlson, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.*

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# POLARIZATION AT THE THANKSGIVING TABLE

## Junior

### Family, friends, and food

Claire Doll  
MSMU Class of 2024

At Thanksgiving dinners, I was the slightly annoying (but mostly cute) child who made everyone say what they were thankful for. The adults around the table—my aunts, uncles, grandparents, and even parents—would say the same boring, generic answers: family, friends, and food. As a mere eight-year-old, I would think, Aren't we all thankful for those things? Can't you be a little more creative?

I was hoping on more unique-to-the-person answers. Back then, in the third grade, I was thankful for my silky terrier Toby, for my American Girl Dolls, and for extended recess. Now, as a junior in college, I'm grateful for slow mornings spent with my roommate, Friday nights spent baking with my friend Lexi, and Facetime calls with my sister. The little things in life. The simple things, if you will. The things that are specific to me, the things that make me smile, if even for a moment.

As I come closer and closer to approaching real adulthood and the real world, I am now realizing that those

clear-cut answers—family, God, and food—were blanket statements, rather than real reflections.

Of course we all appreciate those things. So why don't we talk about them more?

I think it's funny how one of the unspoken rules of Thanksgiving is to not talk about politics or religion. Given the state of our world, and the political atmosphere of November, this makes sense. Why would we want to interrupt our dinner of roasted turkey and mashed potatoes to debate gun control? Or the dissonance of our religious beliefs?

Humans have grown so used to not talking about these things. We have settled in a world of polarization, of frustrated debate and stubborn rebuttals. We believe that there are only two sides to one argument, and if we disagree, then it's over. No more roasted turkey, no more mashed potatoes.

I'm arguing, however, that this doesn't always have to be the case. What can we, as humans, agree on? What is one thing that we can talk about without yelling or screaming or flashing looks of ignorance?

I can think of three: The thankfulness for family, friends, and food.

But I don't mean in the cliché, "I'm thankful for these things" kind-of-way. This Thanksgiving, I'm challenging you to really reflect on these three aspects of

our lives. The aspects that shape our day-to-day experiences. They may be the big things in life, yes, but in the span of twenty-four hours, they become the little things. The moments that belong solely to us, that we appreciate with our entire hearts, even for just a bit.

For example, I mentioned my friend Lexi. Pretty much every Friday night this semester, we've opted to stay in, turn on a fall-themed movie, and bake. We've made chocolate chip butterscotch cookies, banana bread, and pumpkin muffins. Not only that, but we will literally walk around campus on a crisp September night and give these baked goods to our friends (and sometimes strangers). Because of this, we've spent countless hours talking to people we've never even met, or never even thought to meet. We've learned about different students, and we've shared plenty of laughter while talking with these people.

I'm thankful for that.

And basically, it covers the three: family (Lexi's considered family, for sure), friends (meeting new people), and food (delicious cookies and treats). It's really not that hard to dive deeper into the "family, friends, and food" blanket statement that everyone gives at Thanksgiving.

I feel that as humans, we relate particularly to the little moments in life.

We say that it's the big things that really shape our existence, but what about the conversations with friends on the way to class/work? The perfect iced latte on a rather terrible day? The random text message from your mom, saying "I love you"? We cling to the fun, repetitive, magical things that life often gives us on a whim. We love little gifts like this, because at the end of the day, the happiness endures.

It always endures, doesn't it?

Even through the politics, even through the polarization. Beyond our political discourse, our argumentative debates, happiness endures, because humans inevitably relate on our abilities to feel and express joy.

So, at the Thanksgiving table when we say that we're thankful for "family, friends, and food," we're not wrong. All we really need to do is explain ourselves. Why are we thankful for family? What has your friend done that has made me smile? What is your most favorite and delicious food?

Maybe when we slow down and reflect on these little things in life, we'll also slow down and recognize that politics and religion and everything we deem as "taboo" aren't really that bad. In fact, to avoid this polarization and just talk about these deep and unsettling issues, we need to relate on a more human basis. What

makes us human, and what do we do from there?

That's one of the things we focus on at the Mount: what does it mean to be human? While I won't dive into that question (I'll answer that at a different column), I'll leave you all with this. We are human because we love to reason, because we get passionate and argumentative when talking about politics and elections and laws. But we are also human because of our natural will towards others, because of our ability to love unconditionally and express utter happiness. We recognize what we are thankful for, but we must act upon this. When we reflect on the minor, small, tiny-but-so-important things, we inevitably reflect on the larger image of our lives.

This Thanksgiving, you may be thankful for the three F's. You may also be afraid to talk about subjects beyond surface level discussion. But if you really want to connect with the members at your dinner table—and enjoy some delicious turkey and potatoes—I challenge you to look at just one day in your life and think of every little thing you're thankful for. Then, talk about it. You'll be surprised at how much others will relate, and where you'll go from there.

To read other articles by Claire Doll, visit the Author's section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net)

## Senior

### The virtuous political elephant

McKenna Snow  
MSMU Class of 2023

What feeling is worse than being at a nice meal over the holidays, extended family in town, everything going well, and then, suddenly—a topic is brought up that makes everyone freeze. You glance over at your arch nemesis of this topic: you know how that family member feels about it—and you know you feel differently. Then you, along with mostly everyone else at the table, decide niceties are over: you gear up to dive right in with your opinion, ready to include all the new information you've learned about the topic since last Thanksgiving. You've watched all the latest YouTube videos on it. Read all the latest news articles. With this level of intelligence, your relative in disagreement won't stand a chance against you!

A very nasty argument ensues. At least one person leaves the table early. Several people are very disappointed the family didn't even make it to post-dinner dessert to bring up these hot topics.

Nine times out of ten in these instances, nobody really wins. All involved opinions are too proud to admit that the other person might have a point. Even you, who thought the other side would just spew fallacies, are left secretly worried that the other opinion have some weight. But you would never give them the satisfaction of knowing they might be, even in a small way, correct. By the end of the evening, nothing has really been accomplished. The turkey is cold and needs to be put away, so the relatives passive-aggressively assist one another in cleaning up the kitchen.

In another household, such political topics are never brought up at all at the holiday table. This group of varying opinions knows the risk that such a topic runs, and they don't want to spoil the one time a year that the whole family comes together. One conversation won't make a difference anyways, they reason. A whole night of niceties are exchanged, and, in a different kind of way, still nothing is accomplished.

In both households, politics and religion are the elephant in the room. The first house is quite messy by the end because the elephant got up and walked around, knocking everything over. The second house's elephant is so stressed it doesn't move.

Everyone's house has this elephant in it. Not everyone wants to acknowledge it—some people in the family are truly removed, hardly polarized at all, and are just "done" with politics. Morality becomes a "to each his own," kind of topic. It's the sort of mindset where relativism wins, which is a significant problem for another time. Regardless of if you fall on one strong end or the other, or somewhere in the middle, acknowledging the elephant in the room is worth it. Politics and religion are worth talking about, but the difficulty is that it requires exceptional virtue to do so well.

One of the many difficulties in talking about these things is that more often than not, pride gets in the way. Consider the way the elephant in the first house is treated. Pride makes the person assume they are entirely right on the topic and absolutely won't be swayed the other way, so they're hardly open-minded going into the discussion. Pride makes the person laugh inwardly at the other, considering their absurdities, and internally making fun of them. The trouble here is, there is no charity. There is no humility. Nothing can

be accomplished without these two virtues. Before going into a discussion with a family member or friend about a charged topic next time, ask yourself first: Do I value and recognize them as human beings with goodness in their hearts, even if it is harder for me to see? Am I approaching this conversation with charity and compassion, rather than belittlement or just a need to be right?

1 Corinthians 8:1 says that, "knowledge inflates with pride, but love builds up." Philosopher Søren Kierkegaard examined the latter half of this statement very closely in "Works of Love," published in 1962. The first half, "knowledge inflates with pride," can clearly be related to those in the first house, who are so adamant that they are right because they know so much, but can see very little beyond their own supposed genius. Love, in contrast, builds up not only the other person, but also you—yes! You too have capacity to grow in a conversation. Love builds up and creates bridges that arrogant knowledge cannot, and can get people much farther in a discussion about what they disagree on.

In examining the phrase, "love builds up," Kierkegaard explains that in order for genuine love to be built up, it is necessary to presuppose love exists within the other person as well. Love was in the other before you arrived, and was implanted by God Himself, because He Himself is love, and made all human beings out of love. Each person is created "very good." Even if the love within the other person is incredibly difficult to find or see, it is crucial to presuppose that it is there within the other person. It allows for the most charitable interpretation of their beliefs, arguments, and needs. Often it lifts the veil to see a deeper hurt the other has experienced; at their core they desire love, but some hurt from the past

may have misshaped or misplaced this, but from your narrow point of view, you only see the surface effects of such a hurt.

Presupposing love in the other, as Kierkegaard suggests, allows for a bridge between the two of you. Even if you disagree deeply, recognize that you are both created very good, and that there is more to the other person than the political beliefs you see on the surface. At the heart of it, there is a person looking for truth, just like

you. Rather than tear them down, build love up. Acknowledge, cherish, and celebrate their goodness. Walk hand in hand with them in the pursuit of truth, together. Nobody has it all figured out. Love allows us to learn together. And it allows the elephant in the room to have a proper space at the dinner table.

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

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# SCIENCE MATTERS

## Cancer clusters are seldom worrisome

Boyce Rensberger

Your neighbor tells you her husband has been diagnosed with cancer. That's bad, but she has worse news. Two other families on your street have received cancer diagnoses. Over the next few days, the neighborhood grapevine reveals still more cancer cases in your area. Scariest of all, you hear that two children in your local school have cancer. And you all live in the same neighborhood.

Welcome to the phenomenon of the cancer cluster.

If you're like most people, you begin to be afraid. It feels as if a common cause has struck. You wonder whether you or your family have been exposed to it. Surely, you imagine, something is going on.

Could it be that industrial site? Was there a chemical spill? What's in the water? There's talk of calling a community meeting and of alerting health officials.

As frightening as situations like this can be — and some Frederick residents have experienced this, most notably near Fort Detrick

— apparent cancer clusters are, in fact, very common. And in 99.8 percent of cases, they are nothing to worry about.

Each year across the country, more than a thousand suspected cancer clusters are reported to state health departments. But, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), out of every 1,000 suspected cases, only two turn out to be real. That is, only two-tenths of 1 percent show good evidence that there is a common cause. The rest are pure coincidence or can be explained by other factors.

One of the most famous supposed cancer-clusters came to light in the 1980s when it was claimed that women on New York's Long Island had an abnormally high rate of breast cancer. And, indeed, the rate of cases was 18 percent higher than the national average. The numbers frightened women and prompted formation of advocacy groups that waged loud publicity campaigns. Eventually Congress appropriated \$30 million to study the situation.

The conclusion was that there

was nothing surprising because there were factors other than location that explained the "cluster."

For example, women on Long Island were more affluent than the national average and as a result were more likely to have their first children at later ages. It is well established that the later a woman becomes pregnant, the higher her chance of breast cancer. Nuns, most of whom never have children, have the highest breast cancer rates of all. Also, Long Island's alcohol consumption was higher, and that also correlates with breast cancer. So does using birth control pills, which was more common among affluent Long Islanders.

Once these other factors were figured in, the breast cancer rate turned out to be the same as was found in other parts of the country with similar demographics.

Situations like these explain away some apparent cancer clusters. Many more can be chalked up to pure randomness. There is nothing that ensures that the incidence of any disease will be distributed perfectly evenly across the landscape, say one cancer case in every tenth house along every street in town. Instead, as cases crop up, there may be two next door but the next few blocks may have none. By happenstance, an observer may live in a block with no cases while another lives in a block with two or three.

To appreciate this phenomenon, imagine a billiard player breaking the neat triangle of balls at the start of a game. The 15 balls scatter, bounce and come to rest. If three balls stop close to one another, nobody imagines there was something about that spot on the green felt that pulled them there.

Public health experts use several criteria to decide whether a suspected cancer cluster has a common cause. First of all, different kinds of cancer have different causes. So, for example, you can't lump breast cancer cases with colon or lung. Another factor is whether the number of cases of a given kind of cancer is greater in one defined area than it is in a comparable area elsewhere with the same demographics such as age, sex and, say, smoking history.



Each year across the country, more than a thousand suspected cancer clusters are reported to state health departments. But, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only two turn out to be real.

That's what explained away the suspected Long Island breast cancer cluster.

Every state has a cancer registry that keeps statistics on what cancers are appearing where and in what sorts of people. From these numbers, specialists can see how many cases of a given kind of cancer are routine in an area. The question for public health experts is whether the number of cases of a given kind of cancer in a suspected cluster is greater than would be expected from the overall average.

Accordingly, a small cluster of a rare type of cancer could be cause for concern while a larger number of common cancers would not be.

Another factor to keep in mind is that all cancers are the result of an accumulation of specific genetic damages or mutations. Several different specific genes, each involved in cell division, must be altered to produce cancer. Tobacco smoke, sunlight, some chemicals and certain viruses can cause such mutations. But so can simple mistakes made when cells divide in the body.

Cell division happens at different rates in different tissues — frequently in the colon, for example, but rarely in the brain. The copying of DNA in the process of cell division is very accurate, but not always perfect, and the more often cells divide, the more likely a mistake will happen in a gene that regulates

further cell division. All these factors explain why older people are more prone to cancer — their cells have divided more times than those of a younger person. And they have had more time to accumulate mutations caused by outside agents.

If your neighbor's husband — the initial cause of that hypothetical concern about a cancer cluster — moved next door just a few years ago, the cause of his disease may have happened long before. Most of his mutations would be the result of things that happened when he lived somewhere else. And they may have been caused by random errors in DNA copying rather than any "chemical."

Check out the other cases in your supposed cluster (which cancer epidemiologists do in suspicious cases), and you are 99.8 percent likely to find that they share few or no common characteristics. You have a cluster without a common cause. Sympathize with your neighbor, but don't worry about you and your family.

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

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

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## THE VILLAGE IDIOT

## Operation Mato Grosso

Jack Deatherage

I'd planned to tell a tale of drunken Mount students stealing clothes off the line, leaving the yard gates open, getting into my unlocked car, urinating in people's flowerbeds and on their houses, blocking alleyways, stealing holiday decorations from my neighbors' porches, cursing a neighbor when she called them on using foul language within hearing of her small children and generally behaving badly. However, I'm turning the Idiot column over to a Mountie instead. Yep, 'tis a strange time in my life.

I'm currently a junior at Mount St. Mary's University. I am starting this sub-group of Operation Mato Grosso (OMG) that will serve here in Frederick County and some parts of Southern PA. The group will be aged roughly around 14-22 and we are dedicated to the cause that we serve.

What is Operation Mato Grosso?

Operation Mato Grosso started off as an adventurous trip with the idea of helping others. In 1966, Fr. Ugo asked a group of young Italians to travel to Brazil for the summer to help his missionary friend, Fr. Pietro, build a school and health center. By July of the next year, 21 young people left for the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso. After four months of hard work, they were unable to complete their project – so some decided to stay. Those who returned to Italy started to raise money to support

the mission by finding any work they could. Today, there are over 120 groups and 1,400 volunteers.

After its positive impact in Brazil, OMG expanded its mission to Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru. As of 2020, Operation Mato Grosso has a total of 110 communities in South America: 69 in Peru, 18 in Ecuador, 12 in Brazil and 11 in Bolivia. Its missionaries – young people, families and priests who volunteer their work completely for free – perform numerous activities in different sectors: education, labor, health, agriculture, technology, social and religious.

In 2008, a young American from Boston was traveling in the Peruvian Andes when he happened to come across some Operation Mato Grosso volunteers working in a village. He immediately fell in love with their mission to support local people and decided to become a volunteer himself. Upon his return to the U.S. and after spending two years as a volunteer in the mission of Yungay, Fr. Ugo suggested he start gathering young people in the U.S. to create OMG groups like the ones in Italy. He decided to take Fr. Ugo's idea seriously. Since then, youth from the U.S. are gradually becoming more involved. After two summer month-long mission trips, and many other activities, Operation Mato Grosso can now count in their ranks three American groups of teenagers and young adults. Like our fellow Italian friends, we are raising money to support the missions. We meet 2-3

times per week during our free time to do volunteer work such as landscaping, painting, moving, cleaning – or any other work we can find. Pay we earn from the work goes directly to the charity.

We and our other groups operate by working as contractors for homeowners and churches throughout the year and hosting food drives. These acts of service allow us to send money and goods to our missionaries who do many things to serve poor communities in South America.

**Beyond Borders**

Beyond Borders was established to support the American youth in their effort to raise money and goods for Operation Mato Grosso's missions in South America [---] in Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru, our volunteers carry on numerous activities in different sectors: education, labor, health, agriculture, technology, social and religious.

**Why We Have Two Names**

Fr. Ugo knew that Operation Mato Grosso was more than a name – it was a mission, a movement to change the hearts and lives of young people across the world. He never wanted our charities to legally carry its name so that, in this way, we could preserve the movement as an idea. Instead, each country/region has its own legal name for its OMG charity, and in the US, we chose "Beyond Borders" to challenge ourselves to see humanity as one family. And when we put

all these charities together – in Italy, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil, and now the US – we find the true spirit behind Operation Mato Grosso.

Operation Mato Grosso allows young people to give their lives to something greater, encouraging them to take the extra step into servanthood, empowering them to be like Christ. Our young people are accompanied by peers and dedicated mentors on the path to sacrifice and love; we surrender our time and gift our effort for the poor and needy who live destitutely in our neighboring continent. OMG is much more than an organization, it is a community of young people who desire one unifying thing: living true sacrificial discipleship in camaraderie with others who wish to do the same. In this way, OMG's beauty is found within the young people themselves. Father Ugo always said that OMG cannot be fully witnessed until one participates in this economy of joy, love, and service that is offered. It is much more than a name, much more than an afterschool or weekend club, much more than learning about the faith—it gives young people the option to finally echo the words of Matthew 19:21, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to [the] poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

So many people today talk or preach about this verse but fail to make any substantial attempt to truly realize it. OMG seeks to show and invite young people live Christ's call in their own feasible capacity. When

young people do join and trust in the mission of OMG, they are transformed through friendship and hard work into on-fire missionary disciples who strive to share with all the love and faith they have received.

Quote about OMG from the first US volunteer: "Operazione Mato Grosso doesn't run as a hierarchy. No one has a business card. Not many even have a title apart from Volunteer. There seems no requirement to join apart from an unflinching willingness to try and to do something for someone else with no expectation of anything in return. This message of volunteerism in its purest form is evident in the people who grow up, live, and breathe Operazione Mato Grosso...Operazione Mato Grosso is difficult to explain. It's far easier to simply live it." (Nicholas Bruce, First US OMG Volunteer).

Best,

Hunter Luers

Ph: 443-422-4006

Email: h.j.luers@email.msmary.edu

If this winter's electric and food bills don't leave us too deeply in debt I'd like to ask the Mr. Luers to bring the crew back to do the heavy work of rebuilding our garden. (I'm not up to digging a new garlic bed.) I do think I'd be able to manage building some bread and cakes, and grilling some meat for sandwiches to feed them though. Might even ferment a ginger beer to wash the eats down.

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



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# LOCAL ARTS

## Majestic presents the Soweto Gospel Choir

Direct from South Africa, the three-time Grammy-winning Soweto Gospel Choir brings an all-new concert commemorating the freedom movement in South Africa and the Civil Rights movement in the United States to Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater on Monday, Nov. 21.

In "Hope - It's Been A Long Time Coming," the choir will perform a series of South African freedom songs along with music of the Civil Rights era including selections by legendary artists James Brown, Otis Redding, Curtis Mayfield and the one-and-only, Aretha Franklin. "Hope - It's Been A Long Time Coming," was commissioned by the University of Iowa Hancher Auditorium.

"The Majestic is proud to be among the most prestigious performing arts centers in America featured on the Soweto Gospel Choir's national concert tour," said Majestic Theater Founding Executive Director Jeffrey Gabel. "The choir is

famous world-wide for their inspiring concerts in celebration of freedom and the dignity of all human beings. This is a concert you will remember for a lifetime."

Hailing from Soweto (South West Township), a town outside of Johannesburg and home of Nelson Mandela and South Africa's democratic movement, Soweto Gospel Choir continues to inspire audiences around the world with their powerful blend of African gospel, freedom songs and international classics.

Comprising a line-up of some of South Africa's best vocalists, these uplifting performers have shared the stage and collaborated with the biggest names in contemporary music including Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Beyonce, U2, Diana Ross, Peter Gabriel, Chris Martin, John Legend, Pharrell Williams, Jimmy Cliff, Ben Harper, Angeliqwe Kidjo, Robert Plant, Celine Dion, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Hugh Masekela and

Josh Groban. Soweto Gospel Choir was formed in 2003 at the end of the apartheid era and during South Africa's inspiring return to democracy. Taking part in some of the major historical events in the new democratic South Africa, Soweto Gospel Choir are proud to have performed on many occasions for the Father of their Nation, former President Nelson Mandela's and sadly at his State Funeral in South Africa and at the subsequent commemorative service at Westminster Abbey in London.

Tickets for the Soweto Gospel Choir's Gettysburg concert start at \$41 and are available now at the Majestic Theater Box Office, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, by calling 717-337-8200 or online at [www.gettysburgmajestic.org](http://www.gettysburgmajestic.org). Free parking and roundtrip shuttle service for the performance is available from Gettysburg College's Constitution



Three-time Grammy Award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir will perform live at Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater on Monday, Nov. 21.

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## GCCA presents the Barclay Brass

Peggy Magaldi  
Gettysburg Community Concert Association

Gettysburg Community Concert Association presents the Barclay Brass in concert at St. James Lutheran Church, 109 York Street, in Gettysburg, on November 15 at 7:30 p.m., as the second concert of the GCCA 79th concert season. Barclay Brass is a classical outfit comprising trumpeters, trombonists, French hornists, euphonists and one tubist. Imagine all the thunder and authority of classical music, but without balancing strings and woodwinds!

Established in 2015, the Barclay Brass is an ensemble comprised

of some of Washington DC's top brass musicians. Performers of the highest caliber, Barclay Brass members are proud to serve as musicians in the premier military bands in Washington, DC. From the Pope to the President, these members have performed for some of the highest profile officials and ceremonies. As highly sought after freelance musicians, some members have performed with groups such as Baltimore Symphony, Boston Symphony, Empire Brass, National Symphony, New York Philharmonic, and many other high profile ensembles throughout the country.

Trumpeter Nathan Clark,

Arranger and Trombonist David Miller, and Tubist Willie Clark created the Barclay Brass for the opportunity to perform a wide variety of classical music arranged specifically for brass instruments. For half of a decade, they have performed diverse genres of music - from patriotic and classical to ceremonial and seasonal - to audiences of all ages.

In 2017, Barclay Brass was part of "The Force at 40", the 40th anniversary celebration of the release of Star Wars, which was held at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum. Barclay Brass was recently featured in a video produced by TIME magazine and the Smithsonian to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Stanley Kubrick's iconic film "2001: A Space Odyssey."

Admission is with GGCA membership. Join for \$50 for three concerts: Barclay Brass, Camerata RCO, and Telegraph Quartet (plus free admission to concerts in Waynesboro and Hagerstown) or purchase a single adult admission of \$20 at the door. Children to age 18 and college students with ID are admitted free.

For information e-mail [info@gettysburggcca.org](mailto:info@gettysburggcca.org) or visit [www.gettysburggcca.org](http://www.gettysburggcca.org); write GCCA: PO box 3193, Gettysburg, PA 17325. The Gettysburg Community Concert Association (a non-profit membership organization) 2022-2023 Season is supported in part by a grant from PA Council for the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of PA and the NEA, a federal agency; the Adams County Arts Council's STAR Grant Program which is funded by the Adams County Commissioners and the Borough of Gettysburg; the Robert C. Hoffman Charitable Endowment Trust; Rice Family Foundation; Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.; ACNB Bank and Enbridge Foundation.

## A Christmas play gone wrong

Ashley Walczyk  
MSMU Class of 2024

It's that time of the year! The fall semester mainstage production for Mount Theatre is called *The Ultimate Christmas Show*, the abridged version. Some insight into this play includes the cast using their names for the characters in the show, improvisation, and audience interaction and participation.

Dr. Kurt Blaugher, director of the mainstage production, was able to provide the synopsis they will publish for the production: "they are playing people who are members of attached to this small little church, somewhere in Emmitsburg. It's supposed to be the Christmas pageant. Doing it a little early in the year, but what the heck? And so, the idea is, is that they are there to do some part of the Christmas pageant, but they hired a whole bunch of people from all over the world... to come in and perform at this little church in Emmitsburg, but it's snowing. A lot. So, all of the people who are supposed to come to the church, can't get to the church. So, there are some costumes that have shown up, they're collecting things from all over the church, they have the program because they knew what their groups were supposed to do; they're taking over based on reading the program and knowing [what each group was supposed to do] ... They do some of their own things by the end of the show... but they just keep working because they've got an audience, they've got a set, they've got a Christmas tree. They're just going to keep singing."

When conducting an interview with the cast, it was quite a surprise to find out from Dr. Blaugher that "part of the deal of the script [is that] they identify themselves as themselves" and "we added three extra characters to the original script, as they are written, only have three people in it." In no particular order, the cast consists of senior Ana Purchiaroni; freshmen Emelie Beckman, Carolina Herrera, Darby Johnson, and Nasir Banks; and high school student

Helen Hochschild. The cast has been involved in theatrical productions in middle and high school, and some has been doing it their whole lives. To reiterate, the cast of six had to share lines written for a cast of three, which is a challenge in itself. However, the division of the lines equally makes the six roles have distinct personalities, creating bold and memorable characters for the audience to witness.

When asked about the excitement for the upcoming play, Banks responded "it's exciting," with Herrera responding "for me, it's pretty new because I'm used to playing a character's name, but I feel like this is going to be fun." Purchiaroni added, "I feel like it's your name, but it's still a character. You're playing a character, not yourself, so it's just putting your name to a character." Many of the cast members agreed with this statement. Purchiaroni also adds, "if this show had another name, it would be *Christmas: The Show Must Go On!*"

When asked about how different this particular show was compared to other plays, Hochschild says, "it really has the spirit of improv if it wasn't written as improv. It was written by improv actors and put together." Improvs, or improvisational theatre, is a form of live theatre in which the plot, characters, and dialogue of a game, scene, or story are made up in the moment. They can consist of suggestions from attending audience members, or in this case, respond to their audience members. Dr. Blaugher states, "there is a number of times where they have to interact with the audience, and that is pure improvisational." Herrera adds that the actors do follow a plotline that is established in the scripts, however, due to the improv choices of each actor in the show, the show will not always be the same each time.

They hope for a large crowd with each performance, with Dr. Blaugher saying, "and there are presents. We will be selling presents to give and to get." You can either buy the present and get into the show for free, or purchase tickets for five

dollars per person.

Concluding the interview, the cast was asked what their selling points for the show would be. After joking around for a few minutes, Herrera responds, "it's different. It's a different [show]. [The audience is] not going to expect [it] to be that traditional show where you just watch it. No, you get to also kind of be a part of it." Johnson adds, "whatever preconceptions you have of the show, or whatever you think is going to happen, it's not. It's going to be something ten times weirder." Purchiaroni says, "it's a high energy show, [and] it's quite a ridiculous show, but in the best way possible."

Sitting in one of the rehearsals, the cast has a unique and personal dynamic, much like any cast in productions. The cast shared laughter and smiles as the rehearsal continued, utilizing witty commentary and moving around on stage as a tactic to keep the upcoming audiences engaged. The show is kid-friendly, but there is some adult language use and crude, humorous jokes as well. Many of the songs in the show are classics as well. They are parodies to favorites such as *The Twelve Days of Christmas* and *Jingle Bells*. The audience is encouraged to be as interactive as they possibly could, as the characters will use their audience members in their show. It is also encouraged for the audience to sing and dance along. This is a show you don't want to miss.

Another large upcoming event is the annual St. Cecilia's Day concert in the I.C. Chapel on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. St. Cecilia is the patron saint of music. St. Cecilia's Day was a time that, following a church service, there would be a banquet and a performance of a new ode to St. Cecilia, which would praise the power of music. This event on campus follows that of a larger tradition that has been occurring in history since 1683. We encourage you to come listen to the music programs during this major.

Getting ready for the upcoming holiday season, many of the events in the fine arts program are



starting to focus more on Christmas. As we transition into the winter season and witness the solstice, reflect on the past few years in the pandemic. As we slowly return to a somewhat "normal" life like before, we open several events on campus to the public. The Christmas spirit is about celebration, family, and giving; please consider joining us and sharing the holiday spirit.

Upcoming events for the month of November: Music from the Age of Galilee on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> at I.C. Chapel at 7:30 p.m.; Mount Mainstage Production Thursday

through Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>, at Delaplaine Theatre at 8 p.m.; St. Cecilia's Day Concert on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> at I.C. Chapel at 5 p.m.; Black Panther Modernity Concert on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> at Knott Auditorium at 7:30 p.m., and the Small Ensembles Concert on Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> at Knott Auditorium at 2 p.m. The Mount Fine Arts program hopes to see you at these events.

To read past Mount Arts articles, visit the Current Events section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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## CATOCTIN SPORTS & ACADEMICS

# Science Olympiad Team

Gina Lin  
CHS Class of 2024

Note: As you may have noticed, the title of this column has been changed. This change serves in expanding the scope of content covered. I will continue to write about CHS sports teams, but academic and other non-athletic extracurriculars will also be featured in the monthly articles. Hopefully, this will allow for more coverage of Catoctin High Schools' successes.

Science Olympiad, one of many academic clubs at Catoctin High School, has been running for seven years. This program functions much like athletics, demanding devotion and practice from team members and coaches. Another similarity it shares with sports is the structure of competition. Science Olympiad competes at two invitational events, which are essentially practice rounds— one at the National Cathedral School and the other at the University of Maryland. Afterwards, teams will compete at Montgomery College for the regionals, in February. The top teams from regionals will qualify for states, which are held at Johns Hopkins University. In state competitions, only one team will advance to the Science Olympiad National Tournament.

Catoctin has prevailed in regionals and qualified for the state competition three times. Science Olympiad competitions consist of 23 “events”.

Each event surrounds a component of STEM, such as the sciences (biology, chemistry, and physics), engineering, and computer science. “Forensics” is an event categorized under Physical Science and Chemistry. Forensics poses a scenario and suspects to contestants. Under the Technology and Engineering section, contestants will have to fulfill “Detector Building.” The goal of Detector building is to design and assemble a mass/force sensing device that is capable of calculating and showing precise masses of solid objects from 20 to 1,000 grams. The players are expected to perform multiple tests and gather other evidence to solve the crime!

Additionally, the events are composed of testing parts (such as anatomy and physiology), labs (chemistry), and written sections with varying difficulty levels. Science Olympiad requires much planning, working, and building outside of competitions from very self-motivated students, as each event is allocated 50 minutes. For example, freshman Warren Phoenix Shafer is building a ham radio that is able to communicate with people across the

globe— he even discussed the war with an individual from Ukraine!

This year's Science Olympiad team is advised by Doug Young and Rebecca Hurley. Unfortunately, the team will not be able to compete in states this year, as the 15 minimum of team members required for states has not been satisfied. But, it is not too late to join. Interested Catoctin High students can reach out to the advisors for more information. The Catoctin Science Olympiad is relatively young, with six contestants—only two of which are veteran competitors. Despite that, Coach Young maintains that every member's brightness and diligence will lead to successful completion of individual events. There simply aren't enough players to effectively complete all events. Young believes that Science Olympiad provides many benefits for students such as, “Everyone learn[s] about their personal interests, not in a classroom environment.” Junior Willow Kint, returning for her third year of Science Olympiad, commented on a positive aspect of the program, “I like being able to work with other people that have the same interests as me.” Young was reluctant to discuss competitions last year as it was “virtual and disorganized.”

After a year of virtual competition, Science Olympiad has resumed in-person contests. The Science Olympiad has produced many successful alumni. For example, Sean Miller, designed a functioning robotic arm that could knock objects into a target. Currently, Miller practices software engineering in New Hampshire. Another distinguished alumni of Science Olympiad is Cailey Williams. Williams pursued a marine biology degree at a Floridian university and currently works in managing the spread of invasive species.

FFA members and chapters from all over Maryland competed at the Maryland State FFA Convention, in June. Catoctin FFA (Future Farmers of Amer-



Catoctin Sports & Academics.

ica) placed first at states and will be represented at the National FFA Convention, held from October 23rd-29th. CHS FFA took first in four categories: Agriculture Sales CDE, Agriculture Marketing CDE, Agriculture Issues CDE, Livestock Judging, and Extemporaneous Speaking. The five teams, with a total of 20 members, will continue to showcase their skills at the National Convention. “I like that FFA has a lot of unity and diversity of ideas— that is the strength of our chapter.” FFA Officer Savannah Rideneour commented.

The Ag Sales team retailed the herbicides and fungicides that they studied. The team consists of sophomore Annalise Abruzzese, junior Katilyn Bentz, sophomore Alyssa Costa, and junior Carly Rideneour. The Ag Marketing team was charged with developing marketing strategies to assist Red Dust Farms. The team consists of sophomore Shane Milbourne, Kian-dra Strickhouser (2022 graduate), and Kolton Whetzel (2022 graduate).

The Ag Issues Team analyzed synthetically cultivated meat and created a presentation to describe their findings. The team consists of six members: junior Ella Burrier, Sheridan Chaney (2022 graduate), sophomore Caroline Clark, junior Owen Cook, senior Abby Moreland, and sophomore Trinity Spidle.

The Livestock Judging team competed in August, at state competitions. Senior Ellie Baker, junior Peyton

Davis, junior Luke Iferd, and senior Colt Sanders, were included in the team. Contestants were challenged with scrutinizing eight classes of livestock and presenting critiques of their evaluations, to the judges. Additionally, Kendall Abruzzese was dubbed the Senior Extemporaneous Speaker at the state competition.

The Extemporaneous Speaker is allotted 30 minutes to draft an impromptu speech; and subsequently deliver the speech. Furthermore, seven Catoctin members received their American FFA Degree— the highest honor issued by a state: Kendall Abruzzese, Rianna Chaney, Sheridan Chaney, Kiandra Strickhouser, Cheyenne Van Echo, and Kolton Whetzel. Kendall Abruzzese really is an outstanding FFA member, as she was elected to the 2022-2023 Maryland State FFA President!

Contestants who worked equally as hard but didn't place first at the Maryland State Convention, should also be acknowledged. The FFA Knowledge team, consisting of Ella Burrier, Rianna Chaney, Sheridan Chaney, and Caroline Clark, placed second. The team worked collectively in completing a written assessment regarding the history of FFA. In the Junior Prepared Speaking competition, Trinity Spidle presented her speech and claimed third place.

The National FFA Organization's mission statement is, “...making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.” The Catoctin High School FFA chapter provides a great reflection of those values and will continue to make a difference at the National Convention. The Catoctin FFA is seeking contributions from generous donors throughout the community. If you would like to assist in covering expenses, please contact the Catoctin FFA advisor, Amy Jo Poffenberger, at 240-236-8100.

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MOUNT SPORTS

# Men's Water Polo first winning season closes

Steve Morano  
MSMU Class of 2024

At the end of the 2021-22 Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Championship season, the Mount sat at a record of 7-24, going 1-11 in conference play. An especially hard lose came at home against Johns Hopkins on November 12, when a last second goal was given up, resulting in a 13-12 loss for the Mount. It seemed as if that was the story of the team last season, not being able to catch a break in the final quarter of games. But that is not the case for the current team, as the three-year-old program seems to be garnering some steam into a successful program, as they are now one win away from their first winning season in the team's history.

The team played its first year in the MAWP in 2020, a season that only consisted of nine games and was wrapped up before the start of the Coronavirus pandemic. Their record was 5-4 and in conference play they were 3-2. It was a good start for the first-year program at the time but playing under ten games must not have left them with a lot of experience going into the second year. 2021-22 was a completely different story, and a tough one: they lost most of the games they played and were outscore 459 to 340.

As of October 15th of this year, the Mount stands at a record of 13-8 and a conference record of 6-5, matching their previous win record of seven on September 24th with a 18-8 win over Mercyhurst at the Bucknell Invite. Standout games include a 13-12 overtime against Iona during the first game

of the season, a program record score of 28-14 against Penn State Behrend and a 21-12 win at home against Johns Hopkins in what seemed to be revenge for last season's heartbreak at the ARCC pool. The team right now is showing that the growing pains of yesteryear are over, and that they are growing into one of the school's top programs.

The Mountaineers have a lot of good individual performances at the moment, as there are many new faces that have been contributing to the team's success. Sophomore Tommaso Baldinetti of Recco, Italy has stepped up in a massive way, leading the team in goals with 104, leading in multi-goal games at 17, leading in games with a hattrick at 16 and leading in multi-assist games with 14. First year student Chrysostomos Valavanis of Athens, Greece is right behind Baldinetti in both multi-goal games and games with a hattrick at 13 and 7, respectively. And junior Joseph Maxson of Fort Lauderdale, Florida is in between the goalposts most of the games, leading the team's goalkeeper corps with 136 saves, and has even contributed with a goal of his own. But he is not alone, as head coach Alyssa Diacono likes to give Maxson a break during games and put in first year student Sherif Hosni of Cairo, Egypt. Hosni is behind Maxson in saves with 48.

Men's water polo was slated to play both Bucknell and Navy on October 15th, with games starting at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. respectively. Their record at the time sat at 12-7, and they looked to capture their first winning season in program history at their home pool. Even

the university being on fall break did not stop a good portion of the student body from showing up to both games in the afternoon. They were so alive, and with the echo of the pool were almost like an eighth man in the pool, easily being heard in the press box, and most likely the rest of the ARCC.

The beginning of the Bucknell game started off differently for the Mountaineers, as they found themselves down 6-3 at halftime. But they battled back in the third quarter, scoring four goals while only allowing one from the Bisons, with a backhanded goal scored by junior Kiahi Horan being a major inspiration to the men in the pool. But their lead fell apart in the final quarter as they were outscored 5-1 and, in the end, Bucknell came out on top 12-8. With a tough loss like that, the team hoped for a better performance against the incoming Navy Midshipmen and a return of the electric student section. Neither of the two parties disappointed.

To build off the ending of the Bucknell game, the team had to lock up defensively, while also being able to go down the pool and get around the solid defense that they knew Navy was going to put up against them. The communication from the defenders and goalkeepers were good; however, there was a lack of communication during the panic of a fastbreak down the pool. The whole team knew they had to get back on defense to give the defenders and the goalkeepers enough time to get set before the next attack. That was their goal going into the game at 7:00 p.m.

As the Midshipmen made their



Junior, Joseph Maxson, has notched 156 saves for the Mount this year and has a 10-7 win-loss record.

way into the ARCC pool, there was an air around the Mountaineers that they had to get something done, both to stay in the running for a spot in the MAWP playoffs and to try and get closer to that program record. "We just have to keep doing what were doing and the belief in what we are working on is going to work, and so we just went back to our roots, and we were having fun," head coach Diacono said.

In the first quarter, Navy was on top 6-3, with the team still having some recovery issues from the last quarter of the Bucknell game. But they came alive in the 2nd quarter, outscoring the Midshipmen 7-2 and took a 10-8 lead into halftime. At the beginning of the 3rd quarter, Diacono as well as her assistant coach, Justin Vink, decided to make the move in goal that they had been doing all season, put Hosni in goal and give Maxson a rest. They did this earlier in the day against Bucknell, but it did not payoff the way they thought it would. But Hosni was not going to let previous performances define him, as he made three saves in the quarter only allow-

ing three goals to preserve a 12-11 lead for the Mountaineers going into the final quarter. Maxson was put back in goal for the final eight minutes and came up clutch when needed, saving a shot on the line to stop a Navy goal. With the score tied at 14-14 and under ten seconds left on the clock, the Mount scored, and the pool deck went ballistic. 15-14 was the final score and the team secured a win to keep their season hopes alive.

After the game, both Maxson and Hosni had praise for both the team and each other. "We have to keep them [the team] in that mindset of we have to stop them, we can't let them shoot anymore goals or else we will fall apart," Maxson said. On the importance of playing in clutch situations, Hosni added, "I am always grateful for the opportunity to hop in the pool and a goalie is only as good as its defense, and in the third quarter, the defense was very good."

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.

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# COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

## Smell You

Jefferson Breland

*This is the fifth installment on the influence of "context" on our health. What is the "context" of our health? It is nothing less than all of our relationships with everything in the world.*

Call me "grumpy" for what I am about to say. Go ahead. I am fine with it; after all, you have a right to express your opinion as I am about to.

We have just survived the beginning of "Pumpkin Spice" season, yet we are not out of the proverbial heavily-scented woods. October is considered pumpkin spice month; but, pumpkin spice lingers in time as it does in the fetid air of Bed, Bath, and Beyond, your home, and your nostrils until at least Thanksgiving.

Some people love the smells and tastes of pumpkin spice season. I do not. I find it offensive, not only physically, but also philosophically.

If you don't know about pumpkin spice, I am guessing you lived in a cave in the Himalayas or under a rock since 2003 when it became a craze; crazy as in crazy.

Did you know October 1 is National Pumpkin Spice Day? I didn't vote for it.

Generally speaking, pumpkin spice is a "flavor" originally used in the making of pumpkin pie which consists of various combinations of cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, allspice, and ginger. Curiously, I am a fan of these spices individually; however,

when combined together for this seasonal assault on my being, especially my sense of smell, I prefer the odor of a freshly manured field... ah, nature.

Smell is a funny thing. By funny, I mean amazing. It is so amazing my research has revealed there are approximately 54,100,000 references on the internet to books on the sense of smell. By "researched," I mean I googled "books on sense of smell."

I admit my method of research is casual. I do this to not get bogged down in details that would take weeks to explain. My point is, smell is fundamental to life.

What does this have to do with our health?

Smell is a direct connection to our external world. It is vital to our safety in many situations and historically our survival. Smell is responsible for approximately 80% of our sense of taste. It is crucial to our enjoyment of food. Smell/taste is necessary for us to determine whether what we are eating is safe or dangerous for us.

Our sense of smell links directly to the limbic nervous system in our brain. The limbic system supports a variety of functions including emotion, behavior, long-term memory in addition to our sense of smell. The interactive components of the limbic system also relate to motivation and learning.

Our sense of smell is relatively weak compared to other animals such as (in no particular order) bears, sharks, moths, birds, dogs, elephants, snakes, rats, horses, cows, and opossums. Odors are information. Imagine the worlds they experience. Imagine the

lessons and wisdom these animals have access to. We can only smell the very tip of the olfactory iceberg.

Despite our relatively limited sense of smell, on a deep level, it is a vital part of our being. It is how humans have connected to each other from our most casual to our most intimate relationships. Smell is how babies recognize their mothers in the early months of their lives. Millions and millions of words have been written about smell and its influence on our emotions in poems, essays, short stories, novels, as well as a multitude of scientific publications.

I cannot imagine life without the profound connections to the world afforded by our sense of smell. This is why I do not like pumpkin spice. Please hear me out.

Humans are nature. We are in it. It is in us. I am not talking about when we camp or walks in the woods. We are mammals with relatively big brains who live on this planet which is nature. There is no way out of it, even in the most urban areas of the world or in outer space. That is nature, too. We simply forget this basic fact of existence.

Pumpkin spice is merely one example of how we disconnect ourselves from the natural world. In the case of pumpkin spice, we disconnect by overloading our sense of smell to the point we can't smell the more subtle scents of life.

When we overload our senses whether it be smells, flavors, sounds, constant visual imagery, or even touch, we need more and more stimuli to keep our attention. In doing so,

we become less sensitive to our natural world and who is around us. We lose our basic common sense(s).

How did we get to the point where we are basically sacrificing one of our five senses?

The simple answer is somewhere along the line, we learned some smells are "good" and some smells are "bad." In response to this idea, industries create products for us to eliminate or cover the "bad" odors. For some odd reason, these industries then feel compelled to this "non-smelly" void with their artificial odors they deem "good."

Take a moment and think about what products you use in your daily life that are scented.

The list is enormous: hand soap, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, dish-washing liquid, perfume, deodorant (de-odor) and antiperspirants, carpet fresheners, car fresheners, room fresheners, candles, shampoo and hair conditioners, hand sanitizer, cosmetics, magic markers, furniture and floor polishes, body powder, shaving cream, aftershave, body lotions, aromatherapy products, household cleaning products, toilet paper, trash bags, and the list goes on.

Do we need "natural fresh scents" that aren't found in nature?

Why does "Irish Spring" smell different than any spring I have smelled? Are they talking about the season or a creek? Either way, I have only ever smelled that smell in the soap.

There are a host of irrational scent names. What does "Swagger Scent," "Forest Floor," or "Dark Temptation" smell like? Can you spot the name I made up?

Why are shaving cream and aftershave scented?

Why would I want to smell like a million other men?

According to the Canadian Lung Association (CLA), some products labeled "unscented" or "fragrance-free" may actually contain fragrances used to mask the smell of certain ingredients.

According to the American Lung Association, some cleaning supplies or household products can release dangerous chemicals, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs). VOCs

are chemicals that vaporize at room temperature. These include formaldehyde, glycol ethers, terpenes, and hydrocarbons such as benzene and toluene, to name but a few of the potential chemicals released into your home.

The CLA writes: While some people are only mildly affected by scents, others have severe reactions. Some common symptoms include: headaches, feeling dizzy, feeling tired or weak, shortness of breath, nausea, cold-like symptoms, worsening asthma symptoms.

What are the ingredients in the products you use? If you do your own research, you will find many answers, opinions, and stories about what is toxic, what is not toxic, natural, unnatural, and so forth. I invite you to do your own research and make your own informed decisions.

I am here to sow awareness, not fear (we have enough of that in our society). My goal is to help you become more aware of potentially invisible factors that effect your health and therefore the quality of your life. My wish for all of us is to make informed choices.

Our senses are essential to our human experience, our human nature. If we take any of them for granted, consciously ignore them, or continually overload our senses, we become more and more disconnected from the world around us and in the process may potentially create health challenges for ourselves.

If we continually overload our sense of smell, we potentially eliminate 40% of our senses (remember smell's influence on taste).

Do you want to experience only 60% of what life has to offer? I know I don't.

*Jefferson Breland is a board-certified acupuncturist licensed in Pennsylvania and Maryland with offices in Gettysburg. If you would like to know more about how Jefferson helps people please call him at 410-336-5876, email him at jeffersonacupuncture@gmail.com, or visit his website www.jeffersonbrelandacupuncture.org.*

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# Diabetes prevention

Joshua Faust  
Frederick Health

As Americans prepare for the yearly holiday season sprint, the topic of food often comes to mind. What are you bringing to Thanksgiving Dinner? Should we make a reservation for New Year's Eve at that place in town? For many, Thanksgiving, the holiday seasons, and New Year's Eve allow indulging or overindulging in things like pumpkin pie, mashed potatoes, or candy.

While consuming shared meals and spending time with friends and family is a tradition, people should be aware that there can be lasting harm from a poor diet and a lack of exercise. Several health conditions can arise, including heart disease and diabetes.

As November is American Diabetes month, it is essential to understand the risks of both prediabetes and diabetes and what local health-care systems, like Frederick Health, can help.

Diabetes is a serious health condition affecting how your body turns food into energy. Your body breaks down most of the food you eat into sugar (glucose) and releases it into your bloodstream. When your blood sugar increases, it signals your pancreas to release insulin. Insulin is key to letting the blood sugar into your body's cells for use as energy.

When someone has prediabetes or diabetes, their body doesn't make enough insulin or can't use insulin as well as it should. Too much blood sugar stays in your bloodstream when there isn't enough insulin or cells stop responding to insulin. Over time, that can cause serious health problems, such as heart disease, vision loss, kidney disease, and circulation issues. There isn't a cure yet for diabetes, but losing weight, eating healthy food, and being active can help. Other practices, such as support groups and programs, can also help individuals facing the disease.

Frederick Health, the largest healthcare provider in the county, recently partnered with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on two of their initiatives – the National Diabetes Prevention Program or DPP and the Diabetes Self-Management Training (DSMT). These programs were created in 2010 to address the increasing burden of prediabetes in the United States. This national effort created tangible, working partnerships between public and private organizations to offer evidence-based, cost-effective interventions that help prevent prediabetes and type 2 diabetes in communities across the United States.

"Two of the biggest assets that we have in the fight against diabetes and prediabetes is the access to information and the reassurance that they don't have to do this alone," said Sara Littleton, Director of Community Health with Frederick Health.

Diabetes is diagnosed through a blood test. Medical professionals will look at something called your A1C. This number shows how your body has been processing sugar in your

blood over several months, like a blood sugar report card.

If someone is diagnosed as prediabetic, they qualify for admission into the DPP program, says Littleton. A patient referral navigator will contact them within 48 hours to review the program, answer any questions, and enroll them if interested.

"Once someone is armed with the knowledge that they are prediabetic, or about how to prevent diabetes or decrease their risk, they have taken the first step in helping to combat the disease," continued Littleton.

DPP targets both individuals who are prediabetic. But what exactly is prediabetes? As it turns out, millions of Americans are at risk and may not even know it.

"In the United States, 96 million adults, more than 1 in 3, have prediabetes. More than 8 in 10 don't know they have it," said Crissy Barry, the Project Coordinator for DPP with Frederick Health.

Barry said that DPP really could save lives.

"With prediabetes, blood sugar levels are higher than normal, but not high enough for a type 2 diabetes diagnosis. Prediabetes raises your risk for being diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. DPP can help treat these serious issues," Barry added.

The program also aims to assist individuals by offering them several valuable options. One key feature of the National DPP is the CDC-recognized lifestyle change program, a research-based program focusing on healthy eating and physical activity. This program showed that people with prediabetes who participate in a structured lifestyle change program could reduce their risk of developing type 2 diabetes by 58% (71% for people over 60 years old).

Once enrolled in the program, individuals participate in 26 meeting sessions offered in-person, online, or via distance learning options. They also receive a dedicated and trained

lifestyle coach to help them focus on eating healthy, being active, and managing stress. These factors can help individuals lose weight and improve their overall well-being. The DSMT program is nearly identical to the DPP program with dedicated care specialists, support training, counseling, and care management.

"Frederick Health is more than just a hospital or some urgent care locations. We have a robust community health network aimed at helping people wherever they are on their health-care journey," Littleton continued.

Ultimately, the program empowers people to be healthier in all

aspects of their daily lives, says Littleton.

"We are out here offering these programs because our goal is to improve the well-being of every member of this community."

If you're interested in learning more about the DPP, you can contact Crissy Barry at [prediabetes@frederick.health](mailto:prediabetes@frederick.health). To take a quick screening examine to see if you qualify for enrollment into the DPP, you can visit [www.frederickhealth.org/diabetes](http://www.frederickhealth.org/diabetes)

If you'd like to learn more about the CDC program, you can visit [www.cdc.gov/diabetes](http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes).

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# ASTRONOMY

## The night sky of November

Professor Wayne Wooten

The First Quarter moon is November 1st, with the moon passing four degrees south of Saturn in the southern fall sky. On November 4th, the gibbous moon passes two degrees south of Jupiter in the SE twilight. The big event is the total lunar eclipse on November 8th in the predawn hours; more on it below. The waning gibbous moon passes two degrees north of Mars on November 11th; in December, the full moon will occult Mars for most of the US; we alas will see a very close miss! More on that next month. The last quarter moon on November 16th will hide the fainter Leonid meteors when it peaks in the dawn hours on the following morning. New Moon is on November 23rd.

The moon passes four degrees south of Saturn again on November 28; note this is the sidereal month of 27.3 days, based on the moon returning to the same star field (Saturn moves very slowly, so almost the same place in sky). On November 30th, the moon is again first quarter phase. This marks 29.5 days since the same phase at the first of this month. This phase based month is called the synodic month. The reason for this two day difference is of course we the earth did Not stay put relative to the light giving (and phase making) sun in our yearly orbit of our home star; we are each day (by design) moving about one degree



It's a classic - one of the most beautiful sights in the cosmos and now the new super space telescope James Webb has visited it anew. The so-called "Pillars of Creation" are cool, dense clouds of hydrogen gas and dust in the Serpens constellation, some 6,500 light-years from Earth. The pillars lie at the heart of what astronomers refer to as Messier 16 (M16), or the Eagle Nebula. This is an active star-forming region.

eastward (counter clock wise) in our annual revolution, so when the moon gets to where it left us among the stars 27.3 day later, we are already 30 degrees ahead of it, hence the extra two days for it to catch up!

This should be a very colorful eclipse. It will start with the partial eclipse (much darker umbral bite) at 4:10a.m. Total lunar eclipse finds the moon entirely within the Earth's umbra at 5:10 p.m.. Maximum eclipse is at 6 a.m. locally,

with the moon setting, still totally eclipsed in the SW at 7:15 a.m.. Only farther west can you see all of this eclipse. The earth's umbral shadow is not black, but deep red, as evident at the bottom of the moon. But the leading edge of our shadow has a bluish cast due to the ozone layer absorbing some of the red light above 50 miles above our heads, leaving mainly blue to refract.

Mercury and Venus are lost in Sun's glare in November. But Mars is coming to opposition early next month, and getting very big and bright now in the east just after sunset. Compare its brightness to Jupiter, also in the evening sky west of it; at this opposition, Mars is not at its closest to us, so will not get quite as bright as Jupiter

even in December. Jupiter dominates the eastern sky now, at its closest approach to Earth in 59 years; in now lies in faint Pisces. Saturn is now in the tail of Capricornus, well east of Jupiter in the southern sky as night falls.

While the naked eye, dark adapted by several minutes away from any bright lights, is a wonderful instrument to stare up into deep space, far beyond our own Milky Way, binoculars are better for spotting specific deep sky objects. For a detailed map of northern hemisphere skies, about October 31st visit the [www.sky-maps.com](http://www.sky-maps.com) website and download the map for November 2022; it will have a more extensive calendar, and list of best objects for the naked eyes, binoculars, and scopes on the back of the map. Sky & Telescope has highlights of the best events for each week at [www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts](http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/astronomy-podcasts).

Setting in the southwest is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way Galaxy, with Saturn just above the lid of its teapot. The best view of our Galaxy lies overhead now. The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the sky in the northwest. To the northeast of Vega is Deneb, the brightest star of Cygnus the Swan. To the south is Altair, the brightest star of Aquila the Eagle, the third member of the three bright stars that make the Summer Triangle so obvious in the NE these clear autumn evenings. Use binocs and your sky map to spot many clusters here, using the SkyMap download to locate some of the best ones plotted and described on the back.

Overhead the square of Pegasus is a beacon of fall. South of it is the only bright star of Fall, Fomalhaut. If the southern skies of Fall

look sparse, it is because we are looking away from our Galaxy into the depths of intergalactic space. The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W, rising in the NE as the Big Dipper sets in the NW. Polaris lies about midway between them. She contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, is noted for the nearest big galaxy to ours, below:

Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus" Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye.

To the northeast, Andromeda's hero, Perseus, rises. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth. south. Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster to rise, a sure sign of bright winter stars to come. This is probably the best sight in the sky with binoculars, with hundreds of fainter stars joining the famed "Seven Sisters" with 10x50 binocs. To the NE, yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, rises at 7 p.m. as November begins along the northeastern horizon. It is the fifth brightest star in the sky, and a beacon of the colorful and bright winter stars to come in December.

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## Farmers' Almanac

"November woods are bare and still.

November days are bright and good.

Life's noon burns up life's morning chill.

Life's night rests feet which long have stood."

—Helen Fiske Hunt (1830-1885)

### Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Fair, frost (1) with warm days, chilly nights with early morning fog (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9); rain, then brisk and colder with snow showers west (10, 11); hard freeze east, dry, turning milder (12, 13, 14, 15) with rain, quite breezy (16, 17). Again, breezy, colder, with more snow showers in the west (18); dry, chilly (19, 20, 21) with yet more snow showers in the west, flurries east (22); dry, turning milder (23); rain, mild (24, 25); brisk with snow showers west, flurries east (26, 27); seasonal, dry (28, 29, 30).

**Severe Weather Watch:** The Town and Country Almanack forecasts heavy rain (10), heavy snow (11) multiple hard freezes (12, 13).

**Full Moon:** The Full Moon in November will occur on Tuesday, November 8th. With the leaves falling and grasses dying off, it has been referred to as Falling Leaf Moon and Dying Grass Moon. And because of the high winds sweeping through across The Plains, many in that region called it Big Wind Moon.

**The Garden:** Even though lawns rest in winter, they still need all the winter sunlight they can get so don't put away the rake until all of the leaves and pine needles have fallen and are removed. If you do have to do that one last mow, recycle the clippings back onto the lawn. Feed the birds in a fun, unique way by making a pinecone bird feeder. Just roll a large pinecone in peanut butter and birdseed. Hang

the finished 'ornament' with rustic twine or ribbon on a tree limbs close to a windows for easy observation. Remember that once you start feeding them, don't stop until natural food becomes available for them again next spring.

**The Farm:** Best for planting root crops (19, 20, 21); planting above-ground crops (3, 4); weeding and stirring the soil (15, 16); harvesting all crops (1, 2, 5, 6); the best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 30); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29); transplanting (23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29); the weaning of small animals and livestock (1, 2, 3, 4, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30); the harvesting and storing grains (16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22).

### John Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

"Whenever you feel blue or depressed, let a child show you the wonders and beauty of the world we live in."

# COMPUTER Q&A

## Don't risk losing all of your data!

**Ayse Stenabaugh**  
**Jester's Computer Services**

Unless you have a newer computer that is utilizing a solid state hard drive or flash storage (which from my own personal encounters can still be problematic) you should know that your data is not safe if stored in only one location. Standard hard drives have moving parts and any electronic device with moving parts will eventually fail. Studies have shown that hard drives experience a higher failure rate during the first year of use and the failure rate spikes even higher after three to four years of use. What can you do to ensure your data won't be lost due to hardware failure?

If your computers motherboard fails, your data should be accessible, however, if the hard drive that stores the data fails and you didn't create a backup - you're out of luck. If you have pictures, documents, music or videos that you don't want to lose you need to have a backup of that data to ensure it won't be lost. There are several backup options including flash drives, CD/DVD's, external drives and cloud storage. Read more below about each of these storage options and the pros and cons of each.

What type of backup solution is right for me?

Depending on your budget and your skill level you may favor one backup solution over another. The four types of backups that we are covering each have their own advantages and disadvantages. You might prefer something more automated which will cost a bit more or something inexpensive that you can manually maintain might be more desired.

**Flash Drives** – For those who are comfortable manually copying files from one storage location to another and don't need a more complex automated backup system a USB flash drive is an affordable option (with lower storage capacity drives averaging \$20). They come in varying sizes and get more expensive the larger the storage capacity. USB devices have an estimated lifespan of 10,000 uses (meaning the number of times the device is expected to last when plugging and unplugging the device)

**CD/DVD's** – This used to be a great way to store data until flash drives came along. Burning discs can be more complicated than copying files to a flash drive and since they can be scratched or broken they aren't as reliable as flash drives are today. This storage method, while not preferred, may be the only option in situations where company policies don't allow the use of external USB devices. In which case be sure to store your CD or DVD's in a case to help resist damage. One benefit to using a disc as a storage medium is that other than being damaged the discs themselves can't wear out.

**External Drives** – An external or backup drive can be a bit pricier (Averaging around \$100) but with the additional storage space and features make it worth the expense. With the drives included backup software or Windows' built in backup software your drive can be set to back up on a schedule to ensure that it keeps any data being added to your computer safe. With Windows and some other software applications you can even create an encrypted system image. This is a highly sought after feature that allows you to take a snapshot of your computer allowing you to restore your computer back to the state it was in when the image was created – programs included! In addition to having a snapshot the system image is encrypted unlike a standard backup which means that a system image that was created prior to

being infected with the CryptoW-all virus (which renders all of your personal data including pictures and documents inaccessible) could be restored without losing data.

**Cloud Storage & Backup** – Some companies like Carbonite

offer a fully automated online backup system. Others, like Dropbox or Microsoft's OneDrive, allow you to store data in designated folders both on your storage device and in cloud storage. Data plans for Carbonite range from \$60-150 a year depending on the level of service you choose. If you are using an internet provider that limits your monthly data usage (like a cell carrier typically does) you may want to exclude cloud storage as a data storage option.

Don't wait until it's too late to learn how important backing up your device can be. Unless you have absolutely no pictures, documents etc. stored on your computer or device that you can't live without we highly recommend choosing a backup solution as soon as possible. Hardware failures can occur at any time in both new and old hardware. Yearly maintenance on your device can help to identify potential hardware failures but even then there is no crystal ball to determine when your hard drive will fail.

Save \$10 during the month of November when you visit Jester's Computers for a hard drive



replacement, upgrade or backup drive solution. We are located at 5135 Fairfield Road right on route 116, call us at 717-642-6611 or visit us on the web at [www.jesterscomputers.com](http://www.jesterscomputers.com).

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# HUMOR

## Trivia Part Whatever

Some ribbon worms will eat themselves if they can't find any food.

All 17 children of Queen Anne died before she did.

Almost a quarter of the land area of Los Angeles is taken up by automobiles.

The African lungfish can live out of water for up to four years.

In 1935, Jesse Owens set six track and field world records in less than one hour.

Band-Aid bandages first appeared on the market in 1921, however, the little red string that is used to open the package did not get added until 1940.

Gene Cernan was the last man on the moon.

Every major league baseball team in the U.S. buys about eighteen thousand baseballs each season.

Leonardo da Vinci spent twelve years painting the Mona Lisa's lips.

When glass breaks, the cracks move at speeds of up to 3,000 miles per hour.

Today's average household in the USA contains more computer power than existed in the world before 1965.

The average desktop computer contains 5-10 times more computing power than was used to land a man on the moon.

The Academy Award statue is named after a librarian's uncle. One day Margaret Herrick, librarian for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, remarked that the statue looked like her Uncle Oscar--the name stuck.

Anise is the scent on the artificial rabbit that is used in greyhound races.

Most cows give more milk when they listen to music.

The onion is actually a lily.

Roses cut in the afternoon last longer than ones cut in the morning.

The moon is one million times drier than the Gobi Desert.

The embryos of tiger sharks fight each other while in their mother's womb, the survivor being the baby shark that is born.

There are four cars and eleven light posts on the back of a \$10 bill.

The earliest known legal text was written by Ur Nammu in 2100 B.C.

40% of McDonald's profits come from the sales of Happy Meals.

Some 160,000 people attempt suicide every year in France.

99% of the solar system's mass is concentrated in the sun.

The oldest commercially marketed carbonated drink was Moxie, which became available in apothecaries as a medicinal tonic in 1876.

The first time movie audiences were treated to a flushing toilet was in Alfred Hitchcock's 1959 release Psycho.

The Union ironclad, Monitor, was the first U.S. ship to have a flush toilet.

The average American eats 114,000 Tootsie Rolls in their lifetime.

27% of U.S. male college students believe life is a meaningless existential hell.

On the average, a normal person's eye muscles move about 100,000 to 150,000 times in one day.

Most toilets flush in E flat.

The Ancient Egyptians trained baboons to wait at their tables.

England is smaller than New England.

Mel Blanc (the voice of Bugs Bunny) was allergic to carrots.

Elephants have been known to remain standing after they die.

Porcupines are excellent swimmers, because their quills are hollow.

Some insects can live up to a year without their heads.

Many hamsters blink one eye at a time.

Whitby, Ontario has more donut stores per capita than any other place in the world.

Ernest Vincent Wright wrote a novel with over 50,000 words, none of which containing the letter "e."

Bulls are color blind.

A can of Spam is opened every four seconds.

"Babe" was played by over 48 pigs.

Mosquitoes have 47 teeth.

The Poison Arrow frog has enough poison to kill 2,200 people.

The largest cabbage on record weighed 144 pounds.

Kidney stones come in any color from yellow to brown.

The McDonalds at the SkyDome in Toronto, Ontario is the only one in the world that sells hot dogs.

The first episode of "Leave it to Beaver" aired on October 4, 1957.

The first flushing toilet seen on TV was on Leave it to Beaver. (However, only the tank was shown, not the bowl.)

Jerry Seinfeld's apartment number (on the show) is 5A. In the old episodes it was 3A.

The shortest commercial ever was only four frames of a second.

Pi has been calculated to 2,260,321,363 digits. The billionth digit in Pi is 9.

Babies are born without kneecaps. They appear when the child is 2-6 years of age.

An iguana can stay under water for 28 minutes.

A group of unicorns is called a blessing.

A group of kangaroos is called a mob.

A group of owls is called a parliament.

A group of ravens is called a murder.

Twelve or more cows is called a "flink."

The average garden-variety caterpillar has 248 muscles in its head.

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**HUMOR**

A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.  
 Alfred Hitchcock had no belly button for it was eliminated during surgery.  
 The average human produces 10,000 gallons of saliva in a lifetime.  
 A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.  
 Cranberry Jell-O is the only kind that contains real fruit.  
 The plastic things on the end of shoelaces are called aglets.  
 Every time you lick a stamp you consume 1/10 of a calorie.  
 The pound sign (#) is called an octothorpe.  
 Maine is the toothpick capital of the world.  
 Emus can't walk backwards.  
 New Jersey has a spoon museum with over 5,400 spoons from almost all the states.  
 There was once a town in West Virginia called "6."  
 Singapore only has one train station.  
 Napoleon made his battle plans in a sandbox.  
 The green stuff on the occasional freak potato chip is chlorophyll.  
 If you ate too many carrots you would turn orange.  
 The force of one billion people jumping at the same time is equal to 500 tons of TNT.  
 Howdy Doody had 48 freckles.  
 The only President to win a Pulitzer Prize was John Kennedy for "Profiles in Courage."  
 The world's youngest parents were eight and nine and lived in China in 1910.  
 The only 15-letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is "uncopyrightable."  
 "Hang on Sloopy" is the official rock song of Ohio.  
 The airplane Buddy Holly died in was a Beech Bonanza.  
 When opossums are "playing 'possum," they are not playing. They actually pass out from sheer terror.  
 The main library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.  
 Clans of long ago that wanted to get rid of their unwanted people without killing them would burn their houses downhence the expression "to get fired."  
 Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th. The last signature wasn't added until five years later.  
 The Eisenhower interstate system requires that one mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are useable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies.  
 In every episode of "Seinfeld" there is a Superman somewhere.

The highest point in Pennsylvania is lower than the lowest point in Colorado.  
 No NFL team that plays its home games in a domed stadium ever won a Superbowluntil the St. Louis Rams in 2000.  
 The name Wendy was made up for the book "Peter Pan."  
 In the Congo, one must be very careful not to utter the name of anyone who is out fishing. Certain Congolese think you put such a whammy on the named native that he won't catch anything but flies.  
 There is only one animal that can completely turn its stomach inside out. The starfish.  
 According to scientists, gold exists on Mars, Mercury and Venus.  
 Each day 100 or more whales are killed by fishermen.  
 In the 10th century, the Grand Vizier of Persia took his entire library with him wherever he went. The 117,000-volume library was carried by camels trained to walk in alpha-

betical order.  
 More than 14 million Bic pens are sold daily in 150 countries. "Bic" is actually a shortened version of founder Marcel Bich's name.  
 P. J. Tierney, father of the modern diner, died of indigestion in 1917 after eating at a diner.  
 A "duffer" is Australian slang for a cattle thief.  
 "Brasco" is Australian slang for "lavatory."  
 The word "gazelle" comes from the Arabian term for "affectionate," and is believed to be inspired by the creature's large, gentle eyes.  
 "Kemo Sabe" means "soggy shrub" in Navajo.  
 "Singapore" means "City of Lions," but none have ever been seen there.  
 "Stewardesses" is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.  
 100,000 cubic feet of water pours over the Niagara Falls every second.



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