

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

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Mount President to step down next summer

Harry Scherer
MSMU Class of 2022

Timothy Trainor, Ph.D., President of Mount St. Mary's University, announced to the university community on March 13 that he plans to retire from his position in the summer of 2024. He is the 26th president to lead the institution.

Trainor said in a video announcing his retirement that “it has been an honor to serve you as president for the past six-and-a-half years, and I look forward to the next sixteen months. The Mount is a strong community – and together we have done well – but higher education will continue to be competitive and more work remains in service to our students, our Church, and our community.”

The president referred in the video announcement to two “potentially destabilizing crises” that were overcome during his administration: “the troubles of 2016,” which refers to the scandal-ridden, short-term presidency

of his predecessor, British administrator Simon Newman, and the pandemic.

“The Mount is an incredibly strong and resilient community, and has accomplished a great deal since August 2016,” Trainor said.

His administration saw a twelve percent overall increase in enrollment and the largest freshman class in the fall of 2020. The seminary is the largest in the country and saw substantial growth through his presidency, now boasting over 150 seminarians. Both strategically and personally, Trainor emphasized athletics throughout his tenure, which saw a 50 percent increase in NCAA Division 1 teams and almost double the number of student-athletes.

Trainor also mentioned the continued work of the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, which sits atop the Mount's campus. Trainor said the grotto “continues to attract hundreds of thousands of the faithful to do devotion to our Blessed Mother.”

Looking toward the future, Trainor said that “much remains



Dr. Timothy Trainor has served as the Mount's President since 2016. A Meet the Candidates Forum will be held April 15, at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.

to be done to set the Mount up to thrive for decades to come.” He added that he will continue to be “fully engaged” with the work of his role until its conclusion.

Trainor said that the Mount's board of trustees plans to hire the New York-based management consulting firm Russell Reynolds Associates, which will send representatives to Emmitsburg this spring “to engage our community in developing a position specification for use in advertising the position,” Trainor said.

The board plans to advertise the position and search for candidates this summer, review and vet candidates this fall, and select the

new president before the end of the year.

Before his departure, Trainor seeks to successfully complete the Mount's accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, prepare for the opening of a new graduate school of health professions in fall 2024, open Rother House, a space that is set to open in August 2023 where first-year seminarians will complete their newly established propaedeutic stage of formation on the campus of the Seton Shrine, maintain the expansion of the Coad Science Building, and prepare for the renovation of the existing building.

Fairfield and Carroll Valley honor those that serve

On March 11, members of the Fairfield and Carroll Valley communities came out to honor the members of the Fairfield Volunteer Fire & EMS Company that selflessly protect them 365 days a year.

Miles Leister was the recipient of the Fire Fighter of the Year Award in recognition of his superior performance and dedication to the company. Miles was ____ top responder

Rick Renn took home the Chief's Award. In recognizing Renn, Chief Bill Jacobs said that next to his wife, he speaks to Renn more than anyone else, and that without him, it would have been impossible for the company to run as many calls as they did last year. Renn serves as the Company's Public Affairs Officer and according to Jacobs, has been instrumental in improving the Company's communication with the community and local elected officials.

Unlike in past years, the Company's President, James Hammett refused to single out a single individual who went above and beyond the call of duty for his President's Award, but instead recognized a broad swath of members. “This is not a one-person operation,” Hammett said, “every member made the company successful in their own way last year.”

Even though it's an election year, all three Adams County Commissioners demonstrated a “Adams County First, Party Second,” spirit by joining together to recognize the importance of the Company.

In reflecting upon the importance of local volunteer fire companies, Commissioner Marty Qually said, “They are not just run by volunteers, but by their families. Volunteer firefighters, and by extension their families, don't just protect our homes, they preserve a sense of community.”

Reflecting on the appreciation banquet, Commissioner Randy Phiel said, “appreciation banquets such as this reminds me just how important and critical our volunteer emergency responders are to us in Adams County. If not for them, not only would we be less safe, but we would incur tremendous expense if we ever had to go to an all paid fire department. So we cannot only thank them for keeping us safe, but also helping keep our taxes at a reasonable rate.”

Commissioner Jim Martin reminded everyone that “volunteer fire companies are vital to the well-being of our communities and without them we would suffer greatly.” He also added “that they not only keep taxes low, but keep every-one's home owner insurance lower



This year's Fairfield Volunteer Fire & EMS banquet saw the unveiling of the fifth generation of firefighters in the Jacobs family: Aleah and Lane, who are flanked by their proud grandfather Bill and father Adam.

because help is always just around the corner. It's great to have people like this in our communities, it's what makes Adams County great.” Fairfield Mayor Robert Stanley summed up his assessment of the Company in a single sentence: “Two words - Service and dedication.” He added, “they take care of us, and because of them, I can sleep every night; who can ask for any more.”

As in past years, a team of firefighters from the Vigilant Hose Co. stood by to answer any call that Fairfield might have received during their banquet. Cliff Shriner,

the team's leader, said he always enjoyed sitting in for Fairfield: “they are our brothers in arms. They would do anything for us, so we'll do always anything for them.”

Chief Jacobs reminded everyone to spread the word about volunteering, saying, “There are a lot of ways one can serve; everyone doesn't need to be a firefighter, but every firefighter needs a team of volunteers behind them. When we look out after each other, we all win.”

See photos of this year's banquet on page 23

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Council mulls 36% water rate increase

At the March Town Council meeting, the town staff systematically and methodically walked the Council through their analysis of the situation of the Town's water system, various options for water rate increases designed to address current and future water system needs, while acknowledging the concerns of the Town Council on the impact of any rate increase.

The town staff made it clear that it has been evident for a while now that the town's water system is in need of repair. To cover the needed repairs, staff recommended an increase of water rates by 36% per year for the next five years, and thereafter an annual increase of 3%.

Sewer rates were last increase in 2014, following the construction of the new wastewater treatment plant. Because of the 2014 sewer rate increase, the sewer system has been able to keep ahead of maintenance and necessary upgrades, allowing the proposed increase in sewer rates to be a more modest 3% per year.

Water rates, however, have not been increased for the vast majority of users in 14 years. In that time, the water system has not been consistently covering its day-to-day operational cost, let alone having any money to carry out necessary improvements, or to fix failures in treatment & distribution systems, such as those causing brown water issues.

The water fund no longer has a

90-day cash balance to cover short term potential emergency expenses. While the 90-day cash balance is not a mandatory requirement, it is a critical ranking factor in awarding of grants by the USDA to communities seeking help in funding water system improvements – applications for which have gotten much more competitive over the past three years.

Considering the urgency of these concerns, town staff's original suggestion in October was to immediately raise water rates by 150%, or spread the rate out over 3 years, in order to conduct repairs. However, the Council rejected that request citing concerns then that such a swift raise would hurt residents who are on a fixed income. Commissioner Frank Davis said, "given that times are tough for many, he didn't want to make things worse for the residents by imposing the full rate increase all at once."

Instead the Council directed the staff to provide them options to spread the rate increase out over multiple years. The requested options were presented by the staff at December's public hearing. However the options did not sit well with residents who showed up to voice their concerns. So the Council asked the town to sharpen their pencils one more time and return with the best-case path forward to address the deteri-

orating water system, while not unduly burden the pocketbook of residents.

The staff's third go at the numbers and the path forward seems to have hit both marks.

For an average resident with, for example, a current water bill of \$35, the 36% rate increase will result in their quarterly bill rising in July to \$47.60, \$64.74 in July of 2025, &c, until the last 36% increases in 2027 when the average quarterly water bill would be \$163, or slightly over \$1.81 a day.

Following the staff presentation, Council members reiterated their concerns about the financial burden the rate increase would impose, and for over an hour, reviewed and re-reviewed all the staff numbers. The Council even considered having a special one-day workshop where the staff could go over every option with the Council, but after an hour and a half of discussion, the staff was able to alleviate all the Council's concerns.

"As annoying as the increases are, the repairs needed are necessary," said one Commissioner, "we will have to grin and bear it. We need to have a safe and reliable drinking water system and this rate increase will get us there."

Before making a final decision however, the Council will hold a second public hearing on April 3rd to allow residents to weigh in on the final numbers.

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NEWS-JOURNAL

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VHC to welcome new ambulance

Come mid to late April, members of the Vigilant Hose Company (VHC) will say hello to their new Ambulance #68.

With nearly eleven years of service to Emmitsburg and the surrounding communities, members of VHC have put over 100,000 miles on old #68, a 2012 ambulance. "It was time to replace #68 due to small mechanical problems," VHC's Captain Frank Davis said.

The VHC donated old #68 to a small department in Kentucky that lost all the equipment due to a flood that occurred in late 2022. The VHC has been using a county owned reserve ambulance until

the new ambulance is delivered.

The new #68 will be a 2023 Road Rescue on a Ford F-550 chassis. Road Rescue is a company that builds ambulances "Street Tough," Davis explained. The equipment in the new ambulance is "pretty much standard, but does have cameras in the patient compartment so the driver can see what is happening in the back."

VHC started to plan for this unit back in 2020 based upon a historical delivery timeline of 12-15 months. But the delivery is taking longer than anticipated due to shortage of materials. "Emergency services as a whole is suf-

fering due to shortage of supplies and equipment," Davis said.

Chief Josh Brotherton stated, "We are excited for the delivery of the new ambulance so we can continue to provide the best service to the citizens of Emmitsburg and surrounding communities."

President Tom Ward said, "VHC is proud to be in the position to purchase a new ambulance to better serve Emmitsburg and surrounding communities. Through sound fiscal management we are to purchase this ambulance with cash in hand. I give enormous credit to EMS Captain

Frank Davis for his sound leadership and oversight of our EMS Operations. The new #68 will sport the VHC's color and paint scheme, and in doing so, finally align all its equipment to one paint scheme, something it has had to contend with since its merge with the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company in 2018."

The new ambulance will be used by both career and volunteer personnel. Historically the VHC has had two ambulances (#68 and #69), and on a monthly basis rotates which ambulance is used for first calls. This helps to equal out the mileage between the two ambulances.

Money for the new #68 came from

proceeds received over the past few years from the Ambulance Subscription Funds. The Ambulance Subscription Fund is an County based insurance program, costing between \$15 to \$50, offered to every resident in the County. Subscribers receive a waiver of any insurance co-pay, or any user fee responsibility if there is no insurance coverage.

Ambulance transportation fees range from \$320 to \$700 depending on the level of care. Patients may also be charge up to \$10 a mile to be transposed to the nearest medical facility.

VHC additionally anticipates to take delivery of a new Tower 6, which will cost the company \$1.6 million, and a new duty vehicle this Fall.

Commission & Board appointments

Valerie Turnquist was appointed by the Town Council to the Planning Commission for a three-year term. The Commission is responsible for issuing zoning certificates, enforcing codes, reviewing plans for development, conducting long-range planning and zoning studies, and drafting legislation on planning and zoning issues.

Scott Frager was re-appointed to another three-year term to the Board of Appeals. The Board of Appeals is made up of three residents appointed for three-year terms. The Board hears and decides appeals where it is alleged that there is an error in any decision, or determination made by a town official.

Carolyn Miller & Mark Miller were

re-appointed to the Parks and Recreation Committee for two-year terms. The Committee researches and pro-

poses recommendations and policies to the Town Council for the governance of parks and recreational facilities.

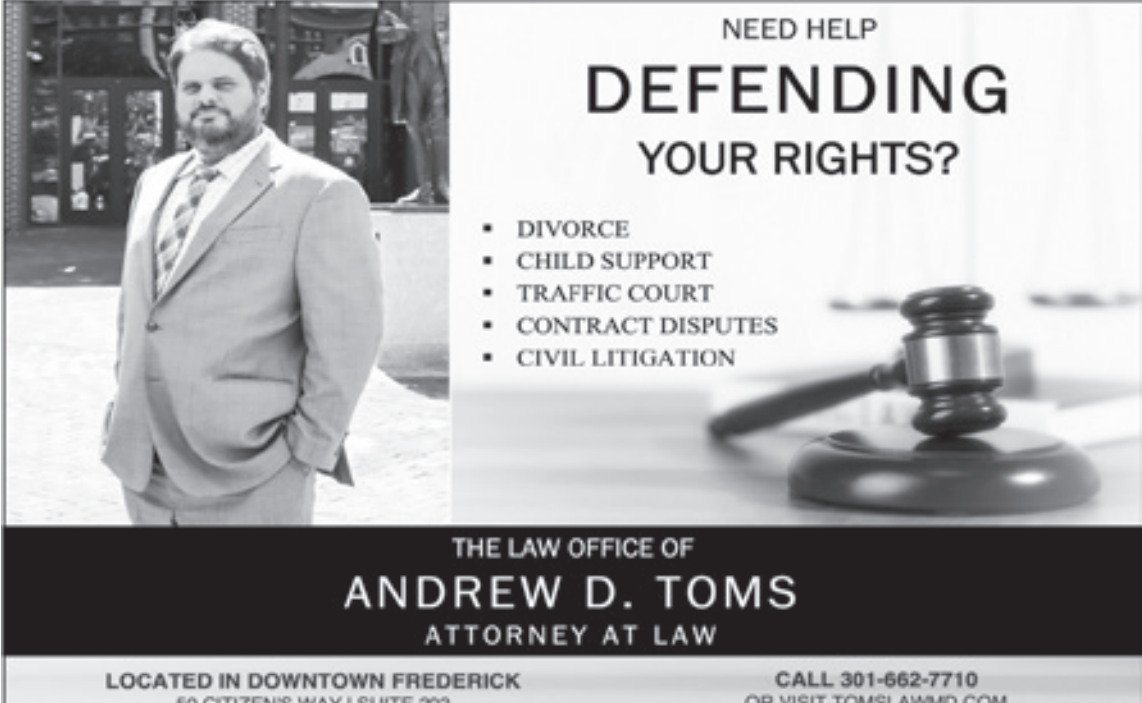
The Council also accepted Mark Walkers' resignation from the Citizens Advisory Committee which proposes recommendations and policies related to quality of life issues in the town.



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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Fairfield, Fountaindale VFCs merger rumors premature

Rumors circulating southwestern Adams County about a pending merger between the Fairfield and Fountaindale volunteer fire companies are untrue, Carroll Valley Borough Manager Dave Hazlett said during March's borough council meeting.

Hazlett told the council that at a recent meeting of the fire companies, he asked if the departments ever examined the possibility of merging. He noted the two companies, which are located six miles apart, have very similar equipment and apparatus.

"We thought, as a group, that we should encourage the fire departments to work together more in some

fashion," Hazlett said. "That was the conversation, no one said there is going to be a merger, nobody said the municipalities are going to force them to do anything."

Council President Richard Mathews, who also attended the meeting, said Fountaindale plans to spend \$1 million on a fire truck. Fairfield has the exact same truck, Mathews said.

"They are both small fire companies, the question was is there enough coordination going on between the local fire departments to maximize the efficiency and the dollars spent," he said.

Hazlett said he was asked to coordinate a meeting to continue the con-

versation about finding efficiencies between the two organizations.

"Our position has been for many years, and will continue to be, that we should find ways to bridge across municipal boundaries and any other type of boundaries to do it collaboratively," he said.

Hazlett noted the companies ask the borough for "very little" support but they do ask the community for donations and fundraiser support. Exploring options such as a shared service agreement or merger could lessen the stress on residents.

Fire company mergers have seen success in Adams County in the past

20 years. In 2004, Brushtown, Centennial, McSherrystown, and Conewago fire companies merged to become Southeastern Adams Volunteer Emergency Services.

In 2016, Bonneauville Fire Company merged with United Hook and Ladder, which itself is a merger of the former New Oxford and Abbottstown fire departments.

Also in 2016, Gettysburg and Barlow fire companies explored a merger but never finalized an agreement.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, volunteers account for 96.8 percent of firefighters in Pennsylvania. A 2018 study commissioned by

the Pennsylvania legislature stated there were about 300,000 volunteer firefighters in the state in the 1970s. By 2018, that number had fallen to about 38,000.

The report's 27 recommendations included simplifying regionalization, boosting state aid, setting standards for firefighter training, and requiring sprinklers in new home construction.

"Resources, funds, and legislative change must be committed to improve the infrastructure for public safety performance," the report stated. "Moreover, we must try to find a flexible system that will work within this dynamic and challenging environment called Pennsylvania."

Carroll Valley adds responder, fights for radar guns

A mental health professional is now available to respond to emergencies in Carroll Valley and Fairfield boroughs.

At their March meeting, the Carroll Valley Borough Council approved an agreement with WellSpan that permits McKenzie Johnson to be a co-responder with the borough's police department. Johnson is a trained crisis intervention specialist with degrees in psychology, criminal justice, and criminology.

Johnson's salary and other related costs will be provided by the County of Adams, according to the resolution Carroll Valley Borough Council approved. Johnson will be shared with other municipal police departments, including Cumberland Township and Gettysburg Borough. Her office will be located in the Gettysburg Borough Police Department but she can use space in the Carroll Valley Borough Office if needed, Police Chief Cliff Weikert said.

Weikert said having a mental health professional available will lessen the burden on his officers and better serve the residents.

"They are obviously more trained than we are to handle some of these situations," Weikert said.

Weikert said some residents in need of mental health services often unnecessarily land in jail because the police department does not have another option. Police will be responsible for transporting anyone

with mental health needs who Johnson determines is best served outside of their home, Weikert said.

Radar

Mayor Ron Harris reported he and other local leaders continue to advocate for a bill that would permit municipal police to control vehicle speed with radar guns.

Harris said Senate Bill 459 states municipalities that use radar must post signs informing residents and

officers must be in a clearly-marked vehicle in plain sight. "No hiding behind trees," Harris said.

Harris said those who oppose municipal police using radar often claim officers will heavily enforce speeding laws to benefit their department budgets. Harris noted Carroll Valley receives about 10 percent of fines courts impose.

"Imagine how many tickets would have to be given for it to be a revenue stream for a municipality," Harris said.

Hamiltonban tackles private property cemeteries

The township is drafting an ordinance that will establish rules for burying bodies on private property, according to Township Supervisor Coleen Reamer. The issue surfaced late last year when a resident buried a relative on a quarter-acre residential lot. He did not use a vault, nor have the body embalmed. This resident originally set aside room for approximately 20 burial lots. The area was illuminated by solar lights that adjoining neighbors compared to Friday night football field lights at the high school.

That issue was quickly resolved when supervisors learned the lot was in a zoning district that prohibits cemeteries. The body was exhumed and township leaders started work on preventing similar issues in the future.

Public cemeteries are only allowed on lots zoned for land conservation, agriculture, or open space. The proposed ordinance states bodies must be

placed in a vault, even if they are cremated, Reamer said. If the ordinance passes as currently written, the property owner must provide public access to the gravesite and secure funds for the site's perpetual care. The public access and perpetual care funds must continue after the property changes hands if the body is still located on the land, Reamer said. The proposal states anyone who wants to bury a body must also inform the township and prove compliance with the law.

Reamer said the cemetery ordinance will likely be advertised in April for public comment. The township is also drafting an ordinance that sets rules for tent and recreational vehicle campsites.

The proposal states Hamiltonban property owners who wish to host campers must provide water and sewage

"It is one thing to put a camper out there and tell people they can say, it is another thing if they are dumping their sewage on the land," Reamer said.

The property owner or a designee must also be nearby in case of emergency, the proposal states. Like the cemetery ordinance, township leaders hope to advertise the camping ordinance in April.

In other news...

The Hamiltonban supervisors recently appointed Ryan Picarelli to its board. Picarelli replaces David Bradley Martin, who resigned. His term ends December 2023 and he is seeking the Republican nomination

for his current seat in the May Primary Election.

The township is completing phase three of its community park, Reamer said. The township began constructing the park in 2017 after several years of planning. The newest additions will include a paved parking lot, a pergola, additional water lines, and an extended walking path.

Reamer invites township residents to the park for Kite Day, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 22.

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THURMONT NEWS

Simmers Déjà vu

Disappointment with the rejection of the Simmers Property annexation in January has not prevented Cross & Company and Daniel Cross, the developer, from moving forward. He will present a new concept proposal to the Thurmont Planning Commission for the 7.8 acres of the property that is within town limits.

Along with many other properties, the 7.8 acres were studied by the Thurmont Planning Commission and the Mayor & Board of Commissioners as part of the once every ten-year Thurmont Comprehensive Plan update that was approved in May. This included the legislative act by the Mayor and Board of Commissioners to approve the Comprehensive Re-zon-

ing that changed that part of the Simmers Property in the Town from Town Agricultural zoning to Town R-5 High Density Residential zoning.

In an open letter presented during the Thurmont Economic Development Committee monthly business network meeting on March 2nd Cross unveiled his concept plan for a new 40-unit inter-generational neighborhood that could be built on the land. He has nicknamed the submittal plan Simmers Déjà vu.

The proposed community will include ten 'senior independent living' townhouse dwellings with garages and thirty 3-story 20-foot wide townhouses with garages. The neighborhood will include a playground, walking trails, a

dog park, and common areas.

Eliminated from the original plan are the condominiums that would have been built in a "English Flat" style 12-unit building and the child day care facility. Also absent from the new plan is the eight-foot-wide multi-use trail around the property, as well as \$505,680 that was to be provided to the Town for street infrastructure improvements and \$337,120 that would have been used to expand the Town's water storage and supply capacity.

While the town will still receive \$554,200 in impact and permit fees from the new development, that will be slightly one-third what the town was slated to receive from the original development.

Cross has dropped significantly the overall residential density of the new proposal from the original Simmers Prop-

erty plans in response to feedback he received from the citizens of Thurmont and the January vote. The new density is proposed as 5.3 dwellings per acre, which is one half of the density allowed in the R-5 Zone. The new lower density contradicts the Town, County and State Planning guidance for higher density, so there may be potential issues the Town will need to resolve.

Unlike the recently defeated Simmers Property development, Simmers Déjà vu is not subject to a public referendum, as the land is already within town limits. Work on Simmers Déjà vu will not begin until the town's Planning Commission approves the site plans and all applicable permits have been issued.

The future of the remaining 16 acres of the Simmers Property that lie in the

county and are agriculturally zoned is up in the air. Cross says he is concentrating on the current submittal. In the future, he may submit a concept plan and annexation request for the remaining 16 acres to continue the neighborhood with a mixture of single family homes, both types of townhouses and the long-sought senior assisted living center.

In his letter, Cross noted that with over 100 other single-family homes already in the development approval process in Thurmont, he will work with the Planning Commission and interested parties to determine the appropriate number and size of the single-family homes planned in the neighborhood, which will be subject to a second annexation request to the Mayor and Board of Commissioners.

Third plan presented for Oak Forest

The Thurmont Planning and Zoning Commission was presented the third concept plan for the proposed Oak Forest townhouse community on Moser Road at its February 20th meeting.

This presentation of the plan was to detail changes made to the original concept plan, which was introduced during the December meeting, that resulted in recommended changes.

Per the plan, the proposed community will be built upon five acres immediately north of the Thurmont Library and adjacent to the 47 townhouses in Fair Oaks community off of Moser Road, and will include 36 single family townhouses.

The land is currently zoned R-5 Residential. R-5 Residential zoning is intended to provide for high density attached single family dwellings on small lots, multi-family dwelling structures, and generally, a variety of residential building types and open spaces to create attractive planned communities.

According to the developer, the minimum width of each townhouse will be 20 feet and each unit will occupy 1,800 square feet. There shall be no less than three units and no more than six units per row, with 30 feet separating each set of townhouses. As the development will be adjacent to wetland, basements will be prohibited in the townhomes.

There will be slightly less than two acres of common space available to the community for recreational purposes as well. Parking in the development requires two spaces per dwelling unit plus two spaces per five units. This means that 86 parking spaces are required, with eight being planned at the front of the community.

The changes that were made based upon Board member suggestions included a one-way loop road around the development as opposed to a two-way road. In addition, eight parking spaces were added at the entrance to the community and the amount of landscaping was increased throughout.

Although the current plan reflects the

input from the Board members, Board members still expressed concern for the proposed plan. Board members said they would prefer to see fewer homes so each unit can have more space. They also want more preservation of the natural vegetation, as well as the wetlands.

The homeowners who currently live directly in front of the proposed Oak Forest community are adamantly against the development. Jonathan Speak and his wife Jennifer live directly beside the entrance to the proposed community and said they were not happy knowing the extra eight parking spaces would be put beside their private driveway, resulting in headlights being shone into their home at night.

The Speaks also reiterated concerns of other community members, that traffic is already terrible on Moser road, and that there are concerns that a 36 home development would only make it worse. Several residents voiced concerns over the loss of Thurmont's "Gateway to the Mountains" reputation. "Adding another community of 3-story homes completely changes the landscape from their backyard," said Tammy Bitinger and her husband.

Damage to the wetlands as well as the flooding already experienced by residents rounded out the current homeowners' concerns on the minds of many.

In the end, the Board made a few more recommendations to the developer and now awaits a final plan to formally start its review.

Thurmont Boulevard put on hold

The Town Council agreed to put the Thurmont Boulevard Project on hold at the March 21 meeting, citing the necessary water treatment facility work as the main reason.

While the council still wants to continue with the Thurmont Boulevard Project eventually, they decided to use the funds set aside for that project for the new

water treatment facilities that will have to put in to bring PFAS contaminants in the town's water down to undetectable levels. The work will take about a year and a half and will include new structures and new equipment for the filtration.

[PFAS is the short name for a class of human-made chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. PFAS

chemicals are often called "forever chemicals" because they do not easily degrade in the environment or in the body, so they accumulate in both over time.]

"I'm still in favor of it," Mayor John Kinnaird said, referring to the Thurmont Boulevard Project. "I will be in favor of it if we get the funding for it, believe me I'll be the first one to tell you we've got funding for it," Mayor Kinnaird said.

The Thurmont Boulevard Project was intended to relieve traffic on Thurmont Blvd by extending it by half a mile, connecting Moser Road and Frederick Road. The Town hopes it will ease traffic on Moser Rd. and Frederick Rd. by making it easier for residents in Thurmont and surrounding communities to get to Route 15. The project also addressed aging water and sewage infra-

structure while also potentially creating new wetlands.

The Council had previously voted 4 to 1 at the February 28 meeting to move forward with the long-envisioned Thurmont Boulevard Project by approving the ability of the town to sell up to \$6 million worth of Infrastructure Bonds for the Project.

While a previous estimate was about \$5.3 million, Mayor John Kinnaird doesn't expect the town to borrow more than \$3 million from the bonds on this project. "What this does is it puts things in motion so that we will have access to funds to build the Thurmont Boulevard Project."

Commissioners Wes Hamrick and Bill Blakeslee both expressed their concerns about finances both for the town and for the taxpayers at the Feb 28 meeting. Blakeslee, the only commissioner to

vote against the motion, wanted to pursue other funding options, especially the Frederick County Government, as the road would benefit residents of surrounding areas, not just Thurmont.

"I just want to go on record that, as it stands right now, I'm not in favor of the road but I'm leaning toward favoring getting the motion started and the discussions that we can facilitate," Hamrick said on Feb 28.

Powell assured the commissioners that the town is in a "healthy position" financially to take on this debt and that it would not be passed on to residents in form of a tax increase. Even with this new project, the town would be able to do other projects. "I think it's important to emphasize this won't adversely impact your other road projects because those other projects are funded by the highway user revenue," she said..

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TANEYTOWN NEWS

Election for Mayor & Council set for May 1st

Taneytown will hold an election for Mayor and two City Council seats on May 1st.

As only two have filed for the Council seats, former Mayor Jim McCarron and Christopher Tillman, the horse race is for the Mayor's seat, with three having thrown their hat into the ring for it, including current Mayor Bradley Wantz, Councilman Daniel Haines, and local businessman Christopher Miller.

Wantz said that the City has accomplished much over the last four years, including "Investing record Funds in the Parks and Rec System, while obtaining several grants to offset the cost, creating the cleanest finances and budgets in over a decade, beginning the biggest water and sewer project in the last decade, made tremendous strides in increasing communication and transparency in the community, and has finally had the Taneytown Bypass added back to Carroll County's transportation plan to the state"

Wantz said that while many planned outreach events he had hoped to accomplish in his first term were derailed by

the Covid Pandemic, he is looking forward in carrying them out in a second term, Wantz said he will hold quarterly outreach events with residents focusing on various topics such as growth, development, and infrastructure improvements. He also plans to create a new communications position and explore methods to get answers to residents right in the palm of their hands.

"On top of all of the great things we have done in the last four years, the city needs to stay on this course to continue our amazing progress. I want to incubate a more collaborative effort between the city, the businesses, and the people to move us forward in a meaningful way. Yes, things will change in Taneytown like they always have, but we can build this change together." Wants said.

Haines stressed that his goal as Mayor, would be helping others. "Helping others is what all of this is about for me. There are a lot of problems in the world, and I believe government can be an effective tool in solving those problems."

Haines' vision for Taneytown is: "a

community that works in collaboration. He wants to help build a community where City Hall, local businesses, community action groups, non-profits, clubs, organizations, and residents are all co-equal partners, tackling the challenges we face in unison. My campaign is about answering a single question: what can we accomplish when we come together?"

Haines said as Mayor he would focus on 6 key priorities: economic development, infrastructure, public engagement, historic preservation, fiscal responsibility, and crime. If elected, the first thing he would do is set out to strengthen community relationships, and identify community-based action plans. "I would work to make sure each budget is balanced, that the city takes on no unnecessary debt, and does not accrue any cost that would overburden the taxpayer."

Miller said as Mayor he would focus on "bringing the City back to the County and State stage. I want to work with citizens to have a town where the tax dollars work in their favor. Bringing

in businesses that enhance the lives of those here, and a general refocus to our residents here in Taneytown."

Miller will also focus on: rebuilding the Police Department, Election Reform, making sure residents are getting the best value out of our water resources, and creating a Citizen Outreach Committee to help reach citizens more effectively." He has a dream of creating a community/recreation facility to help find productive avenues for our youth, as well as provide a place for our residents to find county services that can benefit them." Ultimately, he hopes to, "work collaboratively with local businesses and agencies."

Former Mayor Jim McCarron said he was running for the City Council in hopes that his years of experience with City affairs would be put to good use by who ever was elected Mayor. "I've got a deep institutional memory, dating back to 1985, which I hope could be put to good use to avoid pitfalls or miss-steps." McCarron also admitted that he missed the day-to-day interaction residents on City affairs, and that, coupled

with the fact that he loved the City and wanted to help in any way he could, motivated him to seek a seat on the Council. McCarron served as Mayor from 12 years, from 2008 to 2020.

Tillman said he was running for City Council because he wanted to make a difference for the business community, especially the downtown businesses. "I came to Taneytown because I saw a market opportunity, and we were looking to be part of a town on the upswing. What I have found is a city government that doesn't understand the needs of small businesses, and it too mired in its old ways and bureaucracy to figure out what actually helps instead of burdening small business. Also I want to help change the way others see Taneytown, and more importantly how Taneytown sees itself. We want people to know and believe that this is a vibrant, growing place to bring your family and your business."

Residents of the City who are at least 18 years of age and registered with the Carroll County Board of Elections are qualified to vote. Voting will take place at the Taneytown Police Station on Main Street.

2023 budget balanced with no tax hikes

Throughout the months of February and March, the City staff has been busy outlining the City's spending plans for the upcoming fiscal year. The budget was officially introduced at the Council's March 15 meeting.

The key takeaways, according to Mayor Bradley Wantz, was that the budget was balanced without the need to raise the property tax rate or the water and sewer rates. "It's been over 17 years since the town last had to raise the property tax rate, which goes to show how well the staff focus on spending the tax payers' money wisely."

Wantz also commended the City's Treasurer, Barri Avallone for her efforts at cleaning up the budget. "The budget is getting cleaner and

cleaner every year, and the way it's presented is good," he said.

On the revenue side of the house, the property tax rate will remain at 37 cents per \$100 of assessed value, which translates into \$3,110,000, \$182,568 more than last year. The City will also receive \$800,000 in state income tax sharing.

Another key driver of revenue for the City will be interest income from City funds in local banks. Interest on the town's bank accounts have gone from .05% to 2.66%—which will result in an increase of \$65,000/year.

The City will also see an increase in income from the State, stemming from increased Highway User Fee payments to the City as well as an increase of

\$62,000 from County revenue sharing (currently projected to be \$626,364) and \$50,000 from increased water and sewer payments resulting from new homes built over the last year.

Avallone said that while the City will see a drop in income from the Parks Department due to a drop in grants from the State, City utilities (the water and sewer departments) are pulling in enough money to cover all their operational costs. "The town only needs to tap into the general fund for these Departments," Avallone said, "to cover capital projects."

Salary and pension increases are driving an increase on the expense side of the ledger, Avallone explained. The new budget has allocated a 3%

salary increase for all employees, as well as a 3% cost of living increase for all employees.

"Mandatory State retirement contributions have increased from 9.82% to 10.21% of employee salaries, resulting in an increase of \$14,170 in payments. Police pension payments increased from 36.2% to 36.9%, resulting in an increase of \$47,803 in pensions payments," said Avallone.

The City's employees' health insurance payments are projected to increase by at least 3.5% over last year, but Avallone told the Council that she was still awaiting the final numbers. Currently the City pays \$305,500 for employee health insurance.

Debt service on the City's out-

standing loans has decreased, as the City is paying down the principle on the debt faster than planned and police costs will decrease next year, as the City will only be buying 2 police cars as opposed to the four they bought this year. The largest capital outlay in the upcoming budget is the Memorial Park expansion, which will cost the town \$1.4 million.

All together, the staff projected that the City's balanced budget for FY 23-24 to be \$9,205,631 and the water and sewer balanced budget to be \$6,153,213.

The proposed budget will be the subject of a public workshop on April 5th. Following input from the public, the budget will be revised as necessary and approved at the Council's April 10th meeting.

News Briefs...

Hand resigns council seat

Councilman Hand resigns as a result of him moving out of town. At the recommendation of Mayor Wantz, the Council decided that with the town election just around the corner, that they would not appoint his replacement until after the April City election, so the newly elected members of the town council could weigh in on his replacement.

Commissioner Fuller was appointed to replace Hand as the liaison to the City's Planning Commission. Councilman Chaney will take over as the Council's liaison to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Hand's resignation is the second resignation from the Council in the past 6 months. In November, Joseph Vigliotti resigned his Council seat following his election to the Carroll County Board of Commissioners representing District 1, filling the seat previously held by Stephen Wantz. In January, the City Council appointed Elizabeth Chaney to fill the remainder of Vigliotti's term.

Prior to Chaney's appointment, the last time the Council followed this pro-

cess to fill a vacant council seat was back in June of 2021 when they selected Leroy Hand to fill Councilman Darryl Hale's seat following his resignation upon being selected as the City's planning and zoning director.

As Hand's seat will remain open for at least two months, anyone interesting in filling the remaining two and a half years of Hand's term will have until at least the election in April to submit their letters of interest. Fuller said that will give her and her fellow Council members more than enough time to review the applications and then

vote on the best candidate at a council workshop following the election.

Police Chief Selection Process Continues

At the March 8 City Council workshop, a member of the public made a comment concerning the delay in selection of a new police chief to replace Jason Etzler, who resigned November 2. In response, Mayor Wantz said that he and members of the City Council have conducted multiple interviews, still had some to do, and that based upon the results of the interviews was hoping to bring forward a candidate in April for the Council to approve.

Following Etzler's resignation, the Mayor and City Council appointed Major Robert Mitchell as the Acting Chief of Police. Etzler had worked for the Taneytown Police Department for 20 years. He became Chief of Police in 2019 after former Police Chief William Tyler was placed on leave. Tyler, who had served as Chief for 15 years, resigned on Jan. 30, 2019, and pleaded guilty in the U.S. District Court of Maryland to one count of illegally possessing and transferring a machine gun.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Congressman David Trone

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

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

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

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

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

our urban communities as it is in our rural ones.

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

I'm delighted to report that we're making great progress in expanding

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

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

These investments will create jobs far beyond just the telecommunica-

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

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

Thurmont Mayor John Kinnard

Town crews have been hard at it getting the baseball and softball fields in good order. They have also been cleaning up the parks and reopening the restroom facilities. The next couple of months will bring several changes to our parks facilities.

The East End Park will be getting a new pavilion next to the

all-access playground, this will be replacing the aging pavilion. The dog park will be getting dog watering fountains to help keep your four-legged friends cool in the summer and well-hydrated while they play. The Community Park will be getting a new tennis court, nets, and fencing, this is to replace the existing court. I expect that

the tennis court will be unavailable for at least a month while this work is being completed, so your patience will be appreciated as this work moves forward.

The Community Park will also be a pedestrian bridge at the rear of the park over Hunting Creek. This bridge will allow easy access to the park for residents on West

Main St., and it will provide a connection to the Gateway Trail from within the Community Park. The Gateway Trail is a trail leading from Thurmont into the Catocin Mountain Park.

The water main project on Old Pryor Road has now been completed. This project is providing much-needed improvements to the water service for residents on Old Pryor, it has also provided a loop through the Hillside subdivision that will improve service there as well.

Work has started on improvements to Frederick Rd. with the refurbishing the stormwater basins on both sides of the road. This is the first part of a project that will see sidewalks repaired, the roadway milled and repaved, and traffic lines reapplied. This project will take several months to complete and traffic will be reduced to a single lane with flaggers directing the flow while the roadway is being repaired. These improvements will eliminate several sec-

tions of damaged sidewalks and result in a much smoother road for traffic.

There has been much talk recently about the forever chemicals in our drinking water. The EPA recently established 4 Parts Per Trillion as an acceptable level for drinking water. The Town of Thurmont has been working with our engineers and manufacturers to design filtration systems that will bring PFAS to an undetectable level. These filtration units will be installed at each of our water treatment facilities. The installation will require the construction of new buildings to house the units and the necessary plumbing to connect them to our system. I want to assure our residents that we are following the guidance of the MDE as we move forward with this effort and that we are investigating all funding sources available to get this project completed.

Questions, comments, or suggestions? I can be reached at 301-606-9458.



Notice of Public Hearing Tues., April 3 - 7 p.m.

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the Town of Emmitsburg will hold a public hearing to discuss the necessity and advisability of a proposed water and sewer rate increase. Water rates have not been increased for the average user for over seventeen (17) years. High end user water rates increased ten (10) years ago. Sewer rates have not increased in eight (8) years. Increases are necessary to fund the costs of operation and maintenance of both systems. Beginning, July 1, 2023 water rates will increase 36% each year for the next five years.

Beginning on July 1, 2028, the minimum charge and average charge for water services will increase annually by 3%. The proposed water rate increases are as follows:

Projected Water Rates (Alternative Rate Design) Five Year

Meter	Current Rate						
	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29
3/4	\$35.00	\$47.60	\$64.74	\$88.04	\$119.74	\$162.84	\$167.73
1	\$45.00	\$79.35	\$107.92	\$146.77	\$199.60	\$271.46	\$279.60
1 1/2	\$50.00	\$158.70	\$215.83	\$293.53	\$399.20	\$542.92	\$559.20
2	\$100.00	\$253.90	\$345.30	\$469.61	\$638.67	\$868.60	\$894.65
4	\$400.00	\$793.35	\$1,078.96	\$1,467.38	\$1,995.64	\$2,714.07	\$2,795.49
6	\$800.00	\$1,586.70	\$2,157.91	\$2,934.76	\$3,991.27	\$5,428.13	\$5,590.98
8	-	\$2,538.70	\$3,452.63	\$4,695.58	\$6,385.99	\$8,684.94	\$8,945.49
10	-	\$6,664.00	\$9,063.04	\$12,325.73	\$16,763.00	\$22,797.68	\$23,481.61
Average Rates (per 1,000 gallons)							
6,001 - 10,000	\$2.40	\$3.26	\$4.44	\$6.04	\$8.21	\$11.17	\$11.50
10,001 - 20,000	\$4.50	\$7.34	\$9.98	\$13.58	\$18.46	\$25.11	\$25.86
20,001 - 100,000	\$7.50	\$11.41	\$15.52	\$21.10	\$28.70	\$39.03	\$40.20
100,001 - 1,000,000	\$10.50	\$15.49	\$21.07	\$28.65	\$38.96	\$52.99	\$54.58
1,000,001 - 2,000,000	\$13.80	\$19.56	\$26.60	\$36.18	\$49.20	\$66.92	\$68.92
2,000,001 - up	\$17.25	\$23.64	\$32.15	\$43.72	\$59.47	\$80.87	\$83.30

The proposed sewer rate increases are as follows:

Projected Sewer Rates (Alternative Rate Design)

Meter	Current Rate						
	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29
3/4	\$113.00	\$116.39	\$119.88	\$123.48	\$127.18	\$131.00	\$134.93
1	\$122.00	\$194.00	\$199.82	\$205.81	\$211.99	\$218.35	\$224.90
1 1/2	\$175.00	\$388.00	\$399.64	\$411.63	\$423.98	\$436.70	\$449.80
2	\$175.00	\$620.80	\$639.42	\$658.61	\$678.36	\$698.72	\$719.68
4	\$700.00	\$1,940.00	\$1,998.20	\$2,058.15	\$2,119.89	\$2,183.49	\$2,248.99
6	\$1,400.00	\$3,880.00	\$3,996.40	\$4,116.29	\$4,239.78	\$4,366.97	\$4,497.98
8	-	\$6,208.00	\$6,394.24	\$6,586.07	\$6,783.65	\$6,987.16	\$7,196.77
10	-	\$16,296.00	\$16,784.88	\$17,288.43	\$17,807.08	\$18,341.29	\$18,891.53
Average Rates (per 1,000 gallons)							
6,001 - 10,000	\$2.40	\$2.47	\$2.55	\$2.62	\$2.62	\$2.78	\$2.87
10,001 - 20,000	\$6.00	\$5.56	\$5.73	\$5.90	\$5.90	\$6.26	\$6.45
20,001 - 100,000	\$10.00	\$8.65	\$8.91	\$9.18	\$9.18	\$9.74	\$10.03
100,001 - 1,000,000	\$14.00	\$11.73	\$12.08	\$12.44	\$12.44	\$13.20	\$13.60
1,000,001 - 2,000,000	\$18.50	\$14.82	\$15.26	\$15.72	\$15.72	\$16.68	\$17.18
2,000,001 - up	\$23.00	\$17.91	\$18.45	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$20.16	\$20.76

The public hearing will take place Tuesday, April 3, 2023 at 7 p.m. at 300A South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727. If you have a comment or concern please attend in person, or via Zoom or email your comments or concerns before the public hearing to info@emmitsburgmd.gov.



Notice of Public Hearing

April 3 - 7 p.m.
300A S. Seton Avenue,
Emmitsburg (Town Office)

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the town of Emmitsburg will hold a public hearing to inform and take public comment regarding a text amendment to §17.40.060 and §17.40.020 of the town code. The proposed change would add allowable projection of fences over 4 feet high on corner lots. A copy of the proposed text amendment will be available on the website at emmitsburgmd.gov.

If you need special accommodations to attend this meeting, please provide at least 7 days' advance notice to Najila Ahsan, Town Planner, at nahsan@emmitsburgmd.gov or please call 301-600-6309.

GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

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

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

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

When I took office, I appointed a Transition Team, co-chaired by Rick Weldon and Toni Bowie, to identify the community's priorities that my Administration can address over the next four years.

We brought together more than 130 residents who gave freely of their time and talent to set shared goals for our administration.

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

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

The Transition Report was community-led and government-informed. Members spent 12 weeks examining data, hearing from county staff, listening to experts, and drawing on their own

lived experiences. They also read through the nearly 200 responses submitted through our website dedicated to the transition. The site was viewed over 3,200 times. In the end, the team generated a report that offers 64 recommendations to guide the actions of Frederick County Government.

Broad themes emerged throughout the report.

Build on a strong foundation.

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

The full Transition Report can be found online at FrederickCountyMD.gov/Transition. The report

Emmitsburg/Thurmont Shuttle Service Expands

Effective April 1st, people living in Emmitsburg and Thurmont will have more access to the County's Transit's service, including round-trip shuttles on Saturdays, thanks to a new pilot program that launches April 1st.

In fiscal year 2022, riders took more than 550,000 trips on Transit's fixed route and paratransit services, an increase of over 130,000 trips from the year before.

The pilot program includes the following features:

- Emmitsburg/Thurmont riders will now have a late morning option that provides access to med-

ical appointments along Thomas Johnson Drive, so a late morning trip will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

- Emmitsburg/Thurmont riders will have two round trips between Frederick and those communities every Saturday.
- Riders of the Emmitsburg/Thurmont shuttles will have improved bus stops, including accessibility upgrades, places to sit, and updated signage.

To learn more about Transit Services, visit FrederickCountyMD.gov/Transit.

is the beginning of the process, not the end. We will use this document to hold ourselves accountable as we continue the important work of serving our community." In the coming months, we will publish a tracker on our website, so everyone can see our progress and stay engaged. And we will ask the Transition Team to reconvene annually for a public meeting to receive updates and continue to lend their energy and expertise to our work.

I look forward to continuing to

bring people together as we implement their recommendations. Together we are shaping Frederick County's future.

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

County Councilwoman-At-Large Renee Knapp

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

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

Tax Credits for Seniors & Military Veterans

On March 9, the Frederick County Commission for Women held their annual RAW-Raving About Women Awards. I was honored to be there with many others to recognize these amazing women for helping other women

and families in Frederick County. This year's awardees included Heartly House, Dr. Yewende Oladeinde, Ms. Rosario Campos, and SheLEADS Leader Ms. Olivia Yeatman. The Commission has also submitted letters of support for two issues that have come before the Council. In addition to supporting continuing recorded messages and public comment by phone during council meetings, the Commission supports recent bills to expand property tax credits for senior citizens and those who have served in the military.

These three bills were introduced by Council Member Steve McKay to amend certain sections of current county property tax code. At the County Council meeting on March 21, the Council discussed the bills and several proposed amendments. After voting on the amendments, two of the bills will be returning for an additional public hearing. One bill (Amended Bill 23-03 Senior Citizens Local Supplement to Homeowners Property Tax Credit) would expand the income eligibility for senior citizens, revise the property tax credit to 30% and 50% for the two tiers of eligible income, and increase the home value limitation to \$500,000 for the senior citizens' supplement to homeowners' property tax credit.

A second bill, (Amended Bill 23-04 Elderly Individuals Uniformed Service Members Property Tax Credit) would expand the income eligibility for elderly individuals, increase the property tax credit to 30%, and remove the 5-year limitation for the elderly individuals and uniformed service members prop-

erty tax credit. Both amended bills include a new automatic income qualification limit based upon the CPI (Consumer Price Index).

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

Sustainability Commission

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

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

Currently, there are a relatively small number of data centers operating in the county. As the numbers increase, it's important to note that

we already have these regulations in place and the ability to refine them, if necessary, to protect the local environment and to strive for the most energy efficiency possible.

Social Services Advisory Board

Currently in Frederick County, 68 children are living in foster care. Of those children, 41 are able to stay living in the county, and 27 are living out of the county. Those are a few numbers we heard during a presentation on foster care in the county. There are currently 45 licensed resource families, and more are needed to care for vulnerable children while their birth parent(s) work

to stabilize the family living situation. Unfortunately, the number of children in the 0-5 years range who require foster care has increased.

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

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

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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

It is April 2023. It has been three years and a couple of months since we first heard the words coronavirus, COVID-19. On January 20, 2020, the Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) confirmed the first U.S. laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19 in the United States. Based on today's CDC guidelines, our local community infection rate is low. The guidance is to stay updated with COVID-19 vaccines and get tested if you have symptoms.

As the weather improves over time, many residents are starting to rake leaves and gather fallen tree branches. The question is, what to do with the debris? One suggestion is to transport the debris to the Washington Township

Refuse Transfer Station at 12721 Buchanan Trail East (off Route 16) in Waynesboro. Before going, check out their website at washtwp-franklin.org/transfer-station or call 717-762-4413 for further information on what they accept and the cost.

If you plan to burn, read the Carroll Valley Borough Ordinance 6-2008. The ordinance contains information about what you are and are not allowed to burn and your safety and supervisory responsibilities. The ordinance is in Chapter 20. To see a copy of the ordinance, go to carrollvalley.org, and on the home page, type open burning in the search box, and then click on the ordinance. If you have any ques-

tions, call the borough office at 717-642-8269.

The Blood Drive held on March 23rd, 28 people donated 25 pints of blood. Based on the donation, the Red Cross will be able to save 75 local lives. Thank you for your personal gift. The Easter Bunny is visiting our area on April 8th to host the Carroll Valley Easter Egg Hunt. The start time is 11 am. Be sure to show up earlier. Digital portraits with the Easter Bunny will be taken by Jarrell Studios free of charge. Over 5,000 eggs have been filled and hidden for our young participants. My advice is to show up earlier than 11 a.m. so you can have a picture taken and time to figure out where your child group

area is. Also, I would appreciate if you would please tell your youngsters not to run over the old guy with the camera when the starting horn is blown.

April 22nd, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Carroll Valley Borough parking lot, the Police and Liberty Township Police Departments will partner with Collaborating For Youth to cooperate with US Drug Enforcement Agency to carry out the Adams County "Medicine Take-Back" collection. This medicine collection allows Adams County residents to dispose of unused or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications safely and free of charge. Pills, liquids, creams, and pill bubble-packs will be accepted, and no needles or sharps will be accepted. Seventy

percent of people abusing prescription pain relievers get them (take) from family and friends. In addition, safely disposing of prescription drugs and unused OTC medications helps reduce the damage to groundwater and the environment. For more information regarding the Adams County TAKE BACK, don't hesitate to contact Collaborating For Youth at 717-338-0300.

Plans are in the works to hold a Carroll Valley Fishing Derby on April 29th. Further information will become available in the near future. Hope to see you at the derby. Keep well. Watch your speed in the borough. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email using MayorRonHarris@comcast.net or phone 301-606-2021.

Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

Happy Spring! I hope everyone will be enjoying the warm weather that is just around the corner. With the nice weather, hopefully more residents will start to participate in our Pick Up PA. event. Some residents have already participated by picking up trash along Liberty Hall Road, Water Street, Tract Road, and Bullfrog Road. Please be courteous of those residents walking along the roads picking up trash. The event is currently happening and will run until May 31.

If you would like to participate, please call, or email the township office to coordinate pick up of free trash bags, gloves, and safety vests. When you fill up your bags, place them tied shut along the township roads

and the road department will pick them up. Another option is to bring the full trash bags back to the township for disposal in the dumpster. Also, Liberty Township wants to thank the York Adams Tax Bureau for their generous donation of multiple filing cabinets.

Please remember to take advantage of the 2% discount on your real estate taxes by making your payment by April 30. The Liberty Township Tax Collector will take payment in person on April 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, and 27 from noon to 3 p.m. at the municipal building. Payment can also be submitted by mail or drop box. If you did not receive your tax bill, please contact the tax collector for a copy. Payments will be accepted

at face value from May 1 to June 30. Payments made after June 30 will have a 10% penalty added.

As a reminder, Liberty Township will be hosting two electronic recycling events this year at the Municipal Building on May 13 and October 14 from 8 to 11 a.m.. Both events will be open to Parks Garbage customers in the Southwest Group of Carroll Valley Borough, Fairfield Borough, Freedom Township, Hamilton Township, Highland Township, and Liberty Township.

Some updates within the township include road work to mitigate excess water flow across the roads. Ditch work will start soon on Wenschhof Road from Stultz Road to Tract Road. We will be placing number 4 stone in the

shoulders to slow down the flow of water to prevent further erosion. The ditch at the intersection of Rist Trail and Bullfrog Road was recently cleaned out.

The road department recently finished projects on Irishtown Road and Boyle Road for similar ditching work. We will be receiving bids for tar and chipping and fog sealing various roads within the township. On Boyle Road and Sanders Road we will be replacing pipes that have deteriorated. Inspections of other pipes on township roads will be completed to determine if any more need to be replaced or repaired. Residents can help by checking their own driveway pipes to ensure the water is flowing properly.

Officer Don Boehs has officially started working and I want to thank him for coming on and helping the township. I want to thank Sgt. Roosen for continuing to work on ensuring the 2023 Police Interceptor is road ready within the near future. I would like to thank our police department for remaining vigilant and

continuing to serve our township. Within our police department, we have over 100 years of combined police experience. Also, I want to thank our team of employees at Liberty Township for continuing to do an amazing job for the residents.

Pennsylvania will have its Municipal Primary Election on May 16 this year. There are many positions within the township and county that need to be filled. I encourage everyone to come out and vote to help fill those vacancies. I appreciate the opportunity to serve the residents here in Liberty Township. I hope that I will be able to continue to serve you all.

We like to hear feedback from our residents. Please reach out to us with concerns or suggestions and we will review them and address them the best we can. I am encouraging everyone to join us in person for our monthly Board of Supervisors meeting the first Tuesday of every month at 6pm. If you cannot attend in person, you can watch the meetings on our YouTube channel.

I hope everyone that celebrates has a happy Easter and a good Spring!



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<p>16 Pinto Tr., Carroll Valley, PA Beautiful property in a wooded area. 0.52 acres, owner willing to consider a perc test with an acceptable offer.....\$10,000</p>	<p>4 Fernwood Tr., Carroll Valley, PA 0.86 ac., perc appr. lot for drip irrigation septic. Heavily wooded lot with mature trees. Close to skiing, golf, 12 mi. from Gettysburg. \$27,900</p>	<p>9 & 11 Sidetrack Tr., Carroll Valley, PA Great opportunity! 2 building lots, 1 ac. ea., wooded, creek, touches golf course. Owner will consider any & all offers!..... \$25,000</p>
<p>12 Plain View Tr., Carroll Valley, PA 1 ac. lot, perc appr. lot, heavily wooded, 500 ft. from Ski Line. Great location, low perc rate or 3.17, 17 mi. from Gettysburg. \$24,900</p>	<p>10 Plain View Tr., Carroll Valley, PA 1 ac. lot, perc appr. lot, heavily wooded, 500' from Ski Line. Great location, low perc rate or 3.17, 17 mi. from Gettysburg. \$24,900</p>	<p>5240 Fairfield Rd., Carroll Valley, PA Very nice 0.54 wooded lot. Minutes from Liberty Mountain Ski/Golf resort. Close to historic Gettysburg. Well needed. \$29,900</p>
<p>5600 Fairfield Rd., Carroll Valley, PA Rare commercial property. 1.35 ac., many possibilities. Close to resort at rear of property. 487' frontage.....\$75,000</p>	<p>It's still a great time to buy or sell a home or property!</p>	
<p>* UNDER CONTRACT *</p> <p>4 Fir Tr., Carroll Valley, PA Nice 0.79 ac. lot perc appr., for sandmound. Property wooded & sloped. Close to ski & 12 mi. from historic Gettysburg..... \$9,900</p>		

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Marty Qually

On March 22nd the Adams County commissioners approved \$5 million of community grants. These grants represented a portion of Adams County's total COVID relief funds totaling \$20 million. The federal government supplied these funds and thankfully gave counties very flexible guidelines for potential uses. As a reminder, Adams County chose to use \$10 million for covering our own losses during covid (many counties chose to use all of their funds for county expenses). We granted \$2 million to municipal governments and first responders. And lastly, we have set aside over \$3 million for Broadband expansion. This flexibility allowed the county to create a community grant process for the remaining \$5 million targeting high impact projects, specifically addressing affordable housing, economic development, mental health services, and public safety.

Forty-Three organizations submitted applications totaling \$25 million worth of projects. With only \$5 million on hand, the county chose to fund only fourteen projects. Besides the aforementioned criteria, county staff vetted each application based upon the regional or county-wide benefit, if matching funds had been obtained, was the project shovel ready, and did applicants have other avenues to fund their project. Every application deserved funding, but with limited resources, tough choices were made.

Here is a brief description of the projects that were approved. I divided the fourteen approved applications based upon their primary benefit, (affordable house, economic development, public safety, and mental health). This does not mean each project has only one benefit. In fact, many of these projects checked multiple boxes.

Affordable Housing

Adams County Economic Development Corporation received \$323,100 to create a revolving loan program to support down payment assistance for those who work in Adams County. Currently, we are experiencing an affordable housing crisis in our county. This project will assist people, who live in Adams County, obtain funds to purchase a home. As a revolving loan these funds will be due back to the ACEDC after the buyer sells the home. This means that these funds will continue to assist workers in Adams County for years to come.

Anthony's Way Foundation received \$250,000 to provide transitional housing which incorporates a full range of support services inside and outside the home, including care coordination to other support services, there is paid Peer Support Specialists in

the home each day as well as a program director.

Gettysburg Combined Area Resources for Emergency Shelter (C.A.R.E.S.) received \$368,900 to purchase a building that would house the homeless clients. Currently, CARES clients are housed overnight in county church properties. CARES would renovate the building with modifications for the disabled, Wi-Fi, water conservation measures, an air purification system, and funding for an initial budget to operate year-round. Having a single location would greatly streamline and improve their services to county residents experiencing homelessness.

South Central Community Action Programs, Inc. received \$465,000 to add four units of affordable housing to Adams County. This is particularly critical now due to the significant increases in the cost of rent in Adams County and the severe shortage of available housing.

Economic Development

East Berlin Area Joint Authority received \$1,000,000 for a two-phase investment in critical infrastructure, specifically the WWTP Expansion (Phase I), along with the Route 194 Water and Sewer Extension (Phase II). Not only will this improve existing water and sewer, it will also provide for the expansion of the current business park and potential housing for workers at that business park.

Adams County Technical Institute received \$500,000 to acquire land and build a countywide career and technical school to support local workforce needs and high school student career interests. Increasing the options for career and technical options for

high school students, will help to alleviate the current labor shortages in our county.

Lake Meade Property Owners Association received \$250,000 for road base replacement and binder/wearing blacktop in addition to establishing an essential road access for the Spillway Construction for the Lake Meade High Hazard Dam Upgrades required by PADEP. Unless the Association repairs the dam, we risk PADEP draining Lake Meade and causing a significant property value decline impacting multiple layers of government.

Adams County Arts Council received \$312,000 to address their building issues, including: roof and façade replacement and repair, interior repairs and renovations to address damage, and basement mold removal and remediation.

Public Safety

Five first responder organizations received \$250,000 each to purchase equipment or renovate structures that serve the public. These projects are outlined below.

Alpha Fire Company No. 1 Replace an aging ambulance. This 2008 ambulance has mechanical, electrical, and rust issues as well as the technology if the vehicle is obsolete.

Adams Regional Emergency Medical Services AREMS seeks to fulfill its experienced void in funding by establishing a critical care level EMS program with IV Pumps, Ventilator, Neonate ventilator supplies, Initial staff education/10 staff, Stretcher and Power Load, Cardiac Monitor, and Ambulance.

Buchanan Valley Volunteer Fire Department Project is a fire station upgrade. This project will involve

a major renovation to the current station along with a nearly 6000 square foot addition. This project will allow BVFD to not only better serve our community, but also serve our Volunteers better / safer.

Heidlersburg Area Civic Association Fire Company Heidlersburg Fire Company & York Springs Fire Company combined replacement of SCBA equipment that is nearing end of life and is used to enter smoke filled or burning structures.

Southeast Adams Volunteer Emergency Services (S.A.V.E.S.) As part of an upgrade to the fleet of emergency apparatus, SAVES

will be purchasing a new Engine-Tanker. It is part of a two-phase plan to become compliant with NFPA standards. The second phase is a refurbishment of an Aerial-Quint.

Mental Health

TrueNorth Wellness Services received \$281,000 to hire additional mental health staff, send staff to specialized trainings and also make improvements to two residential facilities.

All of these projects represent an investment in our future. If you have any questions about these projects or any issues facing our county, feel free to contact me at 717-339-6514 or martyqually@gmail.com.

Grants Available to Help Grow Farm Businesses

Recognizing the importance of investing in the state's top industry of agriculture, applications are now being accepted for Farm Vitality Planning Grants. The program, created by the Legislature with passage of the PA Farm Bill in 2019, offers farmers and prospective farmers up to \$7,500 to cover up to 75% of project planning costs. Applications for the program exceeded the funding originally available, and the PA Agriculture Business

Development Center has set aside additional dollars to meet demand for the program.

The program has accepted 308 applications to date, funding more than \$2 million in project planning, financial and technical expertise to feed farm growth and sustainability. Applications will be accepted until funds are exhausted. Apply online here. Full program guidelines are published in the Feb. 18 edition of the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

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COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

Police reform and qualified immunity

Shannon Bohrer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

government employee from being sued.

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

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

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

Tumbleweeds

Freedoms at risk

Mark Greathouse

In 1775, Patrick Henry proclaimed to the Second Virginia Revolutionary Convention, "Give me liberty or give me death!" Our Declaration of Independence declares that we have certain "unalienable rights to . . . life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Our nation's patriotic songs tout liberty. But, are we truly free? Our lives are increasingly controlled; freedoms compromised. The breadth and depth of control is breathtaking. Fear, indoctrination, contagion, and misinformation are leading methods for control by government, academia, media, and industry. Following are but a handful of examples.

Money - Controlling money is crucial to controlling our nation. In this age of cryptocurrency, folks likely missed the Hamilton Project. The Boston Fed engaged with MIT on a 2-year pilot study of a fully digital currency (CBDC). While some major banks may yet flirt with it, the Fed has nixed it for now. Fears of lack of privacy, loss of the freedom associated with cash, lack of fungibility, and possible government intrusion into transactions will likely generate major pushback. Despite this, it could become reality. Oh, and there's the issue of national debt whereby we are subservient to an unelected Federal Reserve and a Treasury that burdens us with the fiscal horror of debt exceeding gross domestic product (GDP).

Climate/Environment/Energy - Acolytes of the belief that our planet is sliding inexorably into cli-

mate-driven oblivion stoke panic to control transportation, agriculture, even the light bulb you use. Environmentalists are conflicted, as wind turbines kill birds, bats, and insects while manufactures of batteries, solar panels, and turbine blades destroy precious landscapes. Controlling the national power grid through regulatory promotion of EVs, wind turbines, solar panels, and rationing offers a scary proposition. Rolling blackouts will be ever more common.

Education - The unions exercise strong control over the education of our nation's children. Teacher unions, leftist politicians, and the Department of Education threaten school choice, academic excellence, and career development as they turn children into minions of the state. Despite our nation's having been built on merit, any form of exceptionalism is discouraged in competition and instruction.

Media - Tiktok and Facebook among others hold subscribers addictively captive to their spells, controlling mind and body with often insidious messages of despair and self-loathing. Social media is like a mind virus. Fact checkers with distinctly liberal biases cancel, shadow ban, and censor, while gathering data to bend folks to their will. And the news media holds huge sway, exercising control via misinformation, disinformation, and censorship.

Government - Self-centered politicians do whatever it takes to keep their elected offices. Ever-more-bloated government agencies composed of unelected bureaucrats create myriad regulations that con-

trol our lives from cradle to grave . . . and even in the hereafter. There's little or no recourse. Our nation's founders recognized that a government behemoth accumulating centralized power was a threat to individual liberty.

Immigration - For decades, America has been subject to an uncontrolled flood of immigrants entering illegally with all sorts of associated illegal activities and pressure on our societal infrastructure. Distribution of these illegals around the nation is controlled by . . . you guessed it . . . the government.

Communication/Thought - Free speech, arguably our most treasured freedom, is under assault. Those seeking control have little trouble finding where you are, where you have been, and where you might head thanks to your beloved cell phone with its GPS tracking of your purchases, your "friends," and the various apps you use. Meanwhile, the woke crowd spews language controls from gender pronouns to determinations of offending sports team names to genderless bathrooms. Control of language translates to control of the state. Of course, open socio-political debate is a no-no. And don't overlook AI, a new power being weaponized by government and industry. Some AI already has built-in socio-political bias.

Healthcare - Healthcare is a huge part of America's economy, and big pharma and insurance companies are in full control. With the COVID pandemic, stoking fear became a key tool for government control to implement lockdowns, masking, and vaccinations despite science to the contrary. It was amazing how many folks knuckled under to unproven science.

Population/Gender/Race - False fears of over-population have led many to try to control its growth through eugenics for "racial perfection" and its cousin euthanasia for "racial hygiene" and for relieving the "burdens" of sick and elderly. Eugenicist Margaret Sanger notoriously established Planned Parenthood abortion clinics in black neighborhoods, and Hitler sought a master race. In a parallel universe, gender distinctions are being destroyed to exercise control through identity confusion, gender dysphoria, and breakdown of traditional family structures. Control freaks employ divide and conquer tactics to weaken traditional societal structures.

Justice/Law Enforcement - Control is imposed primarily through "social justice" proponents under the guise of achieving equity (confused with equality), environmental sustainability, population diversity, and criminal justice. DAs bought by wealthy leftists free criminals to threaten peace-loving citizens. As crime surges, misinformed and uninformed folks pressure government to take away guns, leaving innocent citizens vulnerable to ever-increasing crime.

Religion - Freedom of religion is morphing into freedom from religion. Separation of church and state has become so corrupted from the founders' intent, that many in power seek to erase religious faith from our nation.

Many Americans today find themselves caught in a cycle of despair as freedoms are lost. They turn to the shallow satisfactions of self-preservation and self-gratification rather than accepting the hope and promise offered in reli-

gious faith. They duck ever deeper into metaphorical bomb shelters of denial, figuring to avoid the inevitable socialist onslaught and loss of freedoms. As author, philosopher, and Bolshevik escapee Ayn Rand notes, "There is no difference between communism and socialism, except in the means of achieving the same ultimate end: communism proposes to enslave men by force, socialism by suicide." Many Christians today earnestly believe that we're close to end times. While we're not likely to see the rapture, antichrist, or other signs any time soon, it's deeply concerning that the most exceptional nation in the world's history has fallen to such dire circumstances that folks have been led to such belief.

Today's followers of the wealthy and "educated" leftist elites have no idea that the breadth and depth of their ill-conceived controls will inevitably doom their freedoms. None want to hear of it, but we're in grave danger of socialistic control. Ignorance of socialist and eventually authoritarian controls will turn our beloved United States into a third-world nation far faster than might be imagined. It's death by a thousand cuts.

What do we do? I suggest that it's never too late. Those who truly care for the United States and its freedoms must not remain passive. Hope in the righting of our ship of state must be restored. Y'all must get involved at as many levels as possible, whether it be in education, social media, politics, and more. Are you a sheep or a lion? I prefer to roar. Just sayin'.

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

The Bulwark

Politics and the Golden Rule

David Marshall

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Good Day, Neighbor

The bot who cried wolf!

Dorothea Mordan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Don't look up the real meaning

of terms like zero sum game. Trust your bot!

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

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

My Mother's Potato Salad - Ingredients:

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

To learn more about Woodboro's own Dorothea, visit her site at chandlerdesignslimited.com.

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Different perspectives

Pastor John Talcott
Christ Community Church

As followers of Jesus around the world remember his triumphant coming into Jerusalem, the Passion week is the grand finale, the culmination of over 300 ancient prophecies that Jesus Christ fulfilled through his birth, life, suffering, and resurrection. And 2000 years ago, on the Sunday before the Passover, it seemed as if Jesus was fulfilling prophecy once again. He came out of the wilderness on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the people were filled with anticipation (Zechariah 14:4).

They spread their cloaks and laid their palm branches on the road in front of Jesus shouting, "Hosanna," which meant, "Save us." They thought this was the moment that they had been waiting for, but they missed the significance of it. What they missed and what many of us don't realize, is that on this particular day, what is known to us as Palm Sunday, that is the day the people of God were supposed to choose the Lamb.

And so, this was the day when they were to choose the lamb which would be sacrificed at twilight before the Passover, for the Lord had commanded the people, "On the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family" (Exodus 12:3). And it's in that context that Jesus comes riding up to the city, reinforcing the expectation of the people that he is the promised son of David, but even though they correctly identified him as the Messiah, he wasn't that kind of king. He had indeed come to save them, but not through a military upris-

ing, he came as the sinless Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. And even though he appeared on the same day that the people chose their spotless Passover lambs, instead of turning to Jesus, instead of choosing the Lamb of God, they turned away because they misunderstood what he came to do.

It's interesting, because just like today, there were those there who were looking at the same scene that we are looking at, but they are seeing it from a different perspective. For example, the 12 apostles, Peter, Andrew, James, John, and the others, knew nothing about Palm Sunday, because it wasn't a holiday, it wasn't something they celebrated. In fact, it would be several centuries before the Church even began to celebrate Palm Sunday. And so, they're not feeling what the crowd was feeling, because they understood what was at stake in that moment. Thomas had expressed it best when he said to all the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (John 11:16).

But for the crowds of people traveling to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, many of them recognized Jesus riding on a colt to be a Messianic sign of the coming of the son of David. And so, in their minds that meant that Caesar, their oppressor was about to be defeated, and so this was an exciting moment. But the disciples saw it differently, they were struggling with feelings of anxiety, because they didn't have great expectations of how this story was going to end. And maybe for some of you reading, you have experienced that feeling of not knowing for sure how the story is going to end.



Like when I flew out to Arizona when my mother was dying with cancer. I prayed over her, asking the Lord to heal her, and she was grateful for my prayer. But then she said something that I'll never forget, she said not every story ends the way we want. Now, I didn't want to hear that, but I knew what she meant, I knew she was just trying to prepare me.

This is where we find Jesus, he was going up to Jerusalem even though he knew the fate that was waiting for him there. He was determined to celebrate the Passover with his disciples there in Jerusalem, but the disciples were not so eager. They were following him faithfully but apprehensively on this death march, because he told them that he was going there to die. But when the people saw Jesus coming, riding on the colt, they saw him as their new King. And so, they called out, "Hosanna to the Son of David," because this was the hope of their fathers (Matthew 21:9).

This was a dream come true, this was their dream of a Savior, one who would deliver them, liberating them from the oppression of Rome. And so, they shouted, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!" (Matthew 21:9). This was what they have been waiting for, but as they are celebrating, the disciples are shuffling along behind

Jesus, feeling confused and discouraged, because they knew that he was about to die.

And so, they were following him, but they were on edge, unsure of themselves, anxious and worried about what they were about to face in Jerusalem. As they continued on, they were surrounded by crowds of people celebrating the one who they believed would liberate them from the oppression of Rome.

And so, there were different perspectives among the people on that first Palm Sunday, but the most important thing for us to understand is that he came within our reach. From our perspective we know that Jesus stepped down through the corridors of time, taking the very nature of a servant, and being made in human likeness he walked among us. John the Baptist saw him coming and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). And so, Jesus humbled himself, he brought his glory within our reach, but the people didn't choose him, they didn't choose the Lamb of God. Their first reaction was to shout, "Hosanna to the Son of David" (Matthew 21:9), but in just a few days when he didn't meet their expectations, those very same people begin shouting, "Crucify him!" (Matthew 27:23).

Different perspectives, the disciples and the crowds of people, they

were all experiencing this together, but they were expecting something that wasn't in God's plan. The crowds of people thought that Jesus had come to be their king, they saw the colt, and they thought the kingdom was coming. But Jesus knew that there had to be a cross before there was a kingdom because his kingdom is not of this world. And so, Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross, declaring, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways" (Isaiah 55:8).

And his life ended, leaving some confused and others disappointed by their unmet expectations. And yet, still others believed because they saw him raised from the dead, they saw him in his glory, and without question or controversy, their confession is great. "He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory" (1 Timothy 3:16). And so, as followers of Christ, this Passion week and always, let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful (Hebrews 10:23).

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Richard Coeur-De-Lion



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

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

Richard Coeur-de-Lion had spent no more than a few months in his own kingdom, and he had never been anything but a burthen to his subjects; yet, for some cause or other, perhaps partly from comparison with his still more worthless brother John, the strange brilliance of his exploits, and particularly his efforts to wrest the Holy Land from the infidels, his tyranny and vices have been thrown into oblivion, and he takes the place of an imag-

inary hero rather than of an ordinary king. He furnishes us with the example of a king whose whole history actually became a romance within half a century after his death.

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

This romance furnishes us with a curious instance of the case with which history becomes perverted in popular tradition. Richard is here a mythic personage, even supernatural by his mother's side; for his father, King Henry, is represented as marrying a sort of elf-woman, daughter of the King of Antioch (of course an infidel prince), by whom he has three children, named Richard, John, and Topias, the latter a daughter. As was usual with such beings, the lady was unable to remain at the performance

of Christian worship; and one day, when she was obliged to be present at the sacrament, she fled away through the roof of the church, taking with her youngest son and her daughter, but John was dropped, and broke his thigh by the fall. Richard, the eldest son, was no sooner crowned, than he proclaimed a tournament, where he jousted with his knights in three disguises, in order to discover who was the most worthy, and he selected two, named Sir Thomas Multon and Sir Fulk Doyly, as his companions, and engaged them to go with him in the guise of palmers to see the Holy Land, preparatory to his intended crusade. After wandering through the principal countries of the East, they returned overland, still in their disguise, and one day, on their way, they put up at a tavern, and cooked themselves a goose for their dinner.

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

The king, enraged at the loss of his son and the heir to his kingdom, condemned his prisoner to be put to death, but Richard was saved by the king's daughter, the Princess Margery, with whom he formed an illicit intercourse. King Modard discovered by accident the disgrace done to him in the person of his daughter, and was more firm than ever in his resolution to put the King of England to death; and a powerful and fero-

cious lion which the king possessed was chosen as the executioner, was kept three days and nights without food to render him more savage, and was then turned into the chamber where Richard was confined. Richard fearlessly encountered the lion, thrust his arm down his throat, tore out his heart, and killed him on the spot. Not content with this exploit, he took the lion's heart into the hall where King Modard and his courtiers were seated at table, and dipping it in salt, ate it raw, 'without bread!' Modard, in astonishment, gave him the nickname of Richard Coeur-de-Lion, or Richard Lion's-heart.

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

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

We know well that Richard's nickname, if we may so call it, of Coeur-de-Lion, was intended merely to express his characteristic bravery, and that it meant simply the Lion-hearted; but the old legendary explanation continued to be received even as late as the time of Shakspeare, and still more recently.

Richard was slain by a quarrel from a cross-bow, shot by Bertram

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

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

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

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

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Education through representation

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

Ollie, Strawberry Hill's resident striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), has been slowly emerging more regularly from his den. Despite living in human care, Ollie still displays regular skunk-like behaviors, especially when it comes to his winter den. He loves thick, warm blankets to burrow

into as the temperatures drop and often hesitates to come out of his winter den if the weather outside is particularly cold. Ollie seems to sense coming storms and bad weather and will often retreat to his den right before a cold snap, emerging as the temperatures rise. On warmer days, Ollie spends his time exploring his enclosure and rearranging his den to suit his tastes.

Contrary to common belief, skunks don't hibernate. They go through torpor or long periods of inactivity that can mimic hibernation. Because of these long stretches of inactivity, wild-born and raised striped skunks must survive off thick layers of fat they accumulate throughout the summer and fall. Skunks periodically leave their dens during the winter in order to scavenge food, especially if the temperatures are warm enough. Since winter resources are pretty lean, skunks will search for

and feed on everything from fruit and seeds to carrion and backyard compost piles, often leaving distinct anthill-style mounds behind.

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

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

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

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



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

hatch all at the same time. Males hunt on behalf of their incubating partners.

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

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

March and April but can occur well into July. By early summer, the drawn-out trills of American Toads will become a deafening chorus alongside wood frogs.

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

Spotted turtles, interestingly, become active as soon as the ice and snow melt. In our area this usually occurs around late March to mid-April. As a species, spotted turtles prefer cooler temperatures and tolerate water temperature as low as 37 degrees. Early in spring, spotted turtles can be spotted basking on logs and in grassy areas close to water. By early summer, spotted turtles will likely be harder to spot due to decreased activity as the outside temperatures rise. The most active period for this species is when air temperatures hover between 56 and 64 degrees. By June or July they will become mostly dormant as an escape from the heat, a process known as aestivation.

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

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Trees, trees everywhere

Kay Deardorff
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

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

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

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

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

Days. Today the holiday is celebrated in each of the 50 states, but the dates may vary according to the climate of the individual state.

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

Morton was pleased with the success of Arbor Day. Imagine the pride he would feel today! He preferred to use trees as memorials to persons or events as opposed to erected marble statues. "How much more enduring are the animate trees of our own planting," he noted. After his death in 1902 there was a memorial set up for him at his home, Arbor Lodge. This memorial was dedicated by President Grover Cleveland in 1905 and is adorned with Morton's quote, "Other holidays repose upon the past. Arbor Day proposes for the future."

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

The last Friday in April marks Arbor Day in Pennsylvania. Here the state tree has been the eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) since 1931. Also

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

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

As Arbor Day approaches this year, consider planting a tree at your home or in your community. Research on the Internet will show many suggestions about how to plant and care for trees, shrubs, and flowers. Also consider the upcoming nature programs offered at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve. There will be valuable information given at such times as the Edible Plants programs, Mother's Day Walk, Summer Tree ID, etc. Visit the website at www.StrawberryHill.org or call 717-642-5840 for information regarding these and other nature programs. It's never too late to invest in the future of your community, your home, and your environment. Plant a tree!

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



Upcoming Stream Link Tree Plantings

A large-scale reforestation project continues in Emmitsburg, being led by local non-profit, Stream-Link Education (SLE). With over 2,000 trees still to plant, SLE is seeking volunteers to join them to successfully complete the project and establish a total of 30-acres of resilient, biodiverse forest that will protect water quality in tributaries that supplies public drinking water.

SLE seeks to recruit 100 volunteers per event and events will be held on every Saturday morning in April and the first two Saturdays in May. Volunteer events are fun, meaningful, and productive, and they encourage people to ask questions.

Each event is open to the public and citizens of all ages are encouraged to attend.

As many people know, trees produce oxygen and clean our air; but there are so many more benefits to learn about. It is SLE's hope that volunteers walk away with a sense

of connection to their local and regional watersheds and an understanding of how the new forest planted on land adjacent to Tom's Creek will protect the water quality in the Monocacy River and the Chesapeake Bay.

After the shovels are put away, Stream Link continues to maintain the trees to achieve a high survival rate and so the hard work of the volunteers pays off.

Community members interested in being a part of this initiative should visit www.streamlinkeducation.org and subscribe to receive news and updates about upcoming volunteer opportunities.

The mission of Stream-Link Education is to connect community to conservation through educational and meaningful volunteer tree planting experiences. Volunteers walk away from a planting not only feeling good about their contribution, but also understanding the importance of their effort. Learn more at www.streamlinkeducation.org.

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REAL SCIENCE

The nutritarian diet

Michael Rosenthal

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

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

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

Dr. Fuhrman has a list of foods that he recommends avoiding. In this list are sugar-sweetened soda, grilled, cured, or processed meats, all other processed foods, white

flour, sugar, sweeteners, and oils. He suggest one begins with an initial six-week plan where one cuts down on carbs, including bread, pasta, sugar, and oil. His diet requires eating meat and dairy for at least six weeks and that salt nit be added to foods.

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

Dr. Fuhrman promises that if you follow the Nutritarian Diet, you will be able to lose at least 20 pounds. There are no clinical studies at this writing that specifically evaluates the effectiveness of this diet, but general studies of plant-based diets indicate that the diet should be beneficial for managing and reduc-

ing the risk of developing diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and some types of cancer.

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

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

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

Iron is a necessity in our diets to produce hemoglobin and myoglobin. This is necessary to carry oxygen throughout the body. Low levels of iron will leave you physically tired and weak, impair brain function, and weaken the immune system which hinders your ability to fend off illness. Anemia is a condition resulting from an insufficient number of red blood cells. It has been determined that the rate of iron deficiency among Americans has been rising since 1999,



and thus rising is the rate illness and even death due to iron deficiency anemia. Much of this rise has been attributed to dietary changes that lead to less iron intake in food, such as consumption of chicken replacing consumption of beef. There has also been determined that there has been a drop in iron levels in a large percentage of iron levels in both animal and plant-based foods. It is also speculated that the body’s demand for iron may have increased. The World Health Organization has determined that one-third of all women of reproductive age in the world are anemic. Poor iron absorption and anemia can result from various digestive diseases, including celiac disease or bacterial overgrowth.

To obtain iron through diet one should eat animal-based foods that contribute heme from animal-based foods including meat, poultry, fish and eggs or non-heme foods such as legumes, whole grains, spinach, dark chocolate, and fortified foods. Pairing plant foods with foods high in Vitamin C such as strawberries, citrus fruits, and dark green leafy vegeta-

bles like collard greens and broccoli improves absorption of iron. Certain cereal grains in the millet family including sorghum and teff have been shown to help people raise their hemoglobin and serum ferritin levels. Molasses is surprisingly fairly high in non-heme iron.

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

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

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

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The rumor mill

Jack Deatherage

It was late September of 1987 when a former drinking companion asked if I'd heard about the biker and his whore who'd bought a house in Emmitsburg. A "lady of the evening" who used to sit next to me at the bar of a local drinking establishment immediately came to mind, given that I was a long-haired, bearded motorcyclist in those days. The "lady" had been letting the johns think I was her pimp, which slightly amused me as I sought oblivion in the bottom of a beer bottle. I wondered if the "lady" had found a real biker to back her business.

"No. Here in town?" Says I. "What house did they buy?"

Turns out it was the one the DW had settled on just a week or so earlier. I roared with laughter! So did the DW when I relayed the rumor to her.

"Welcome to Emmitsburg!"

The most current rumor about me isn't nearly as interesting. Evidently I'm a drug dealer, a rather boring occupation in this drug addled burg. Unless... could be someone who thinks sugar is a drug knows I've been building breads, cakes and cookies and gifting them to various people about town? The pill pushers used to hand out freebies at some of the parties I drank at in my youth. Ha. I got news for the rumor mill, there ain't enough money in pushing bread and cookies to pay for the sugar, butter and flour! Or, more likely, I'm too stupid to figure out how to make the baked goods profitable.

Come on Emmitsburg rumor mill. Ya all can do better than this. Spice the story up a bit. Here, I'll get it started.

Did ya know I've conned the town government into letting me grow opium poppies on town property so I can slash the unripe seed pods and soak them in homemade mead and wine that I'll be selling out back of the firehall dances? Too unbelievable? How about claiming the bread, cake and cookie addictions I'm promoting are a plot to get people on diabetic meds the local doctors and pharmacies give me a cut of the profits of?

Ya all are boring me with your unimaginative rumors. Do better dammit.

And please do not take any of this as criticism of your godawful

shallow and unproductive lives. I've taken on baking for friends and family because I enjoy experimenting with flours and yeast, and I've added building a new community garden because I have to do something between naps. I'm mentally and physically exhausted after a hard day's daydreaming about growing flowers. I need your gloriously buffoonish rumors to give me reason to chuckle now and again. I can't always be thinking about the next batch of rock candy cookies, bacon fougasse or lemon pound cake I promised a mechanic, a tattooer and a bunch of librarians.

I need to hear creative slanders! Hell, I live vicariously through other's ridiculous fantasizing about my truly mundane life.

Wiping tears from my eyes I return to reality- The garden. The metal raised bed kits are safely in our foyer. As I'm composing this column, arrangements are being made to purchase a garden mix to fill the beds. Can't say I got the exact beds I wanted, or the exact soil I'd planned to use, but circumstances and my impatience, dictated otherwise. Librarians need something in place before they can plan and advertise programs that will utilize the raised beds. I can't buy more seeds until we have a place to sow them.

It's possible three rototillers could turn up to help churn the in-ground garden plots. Worst case scenario, none of the machines show up and I have to use a broadfork to work up 30 feet of flowerbed and the smaller plots get pushed back until next year.

While the community I'd hoped to build before the garden hasn't materialized as quickly, the raised bed kits have. People are beginning to show interest in the project. People who are likely to get their hands dirty, or their children's hands. Guess I better remember to bring water to wash up with on raised bed assembly day.

Commish Sweeney mentioned some FFA (Future Farmers of America) high schoolers contacted him about getting involved in the garden project. Now that would be cool! One of my homesteading friends has been urging me to get in touch with the local FFA. In her high school in Texas the FFA kids had a greenhouse in the middle of the school's track field. The members would start seed-

lings they'd sell to local gardeners to raise money for other projects.

The possibility of the FFA getting involved opens a floodgate of ideas, none of which I should be chasing down rabbit holes because the group isn't yet involved and I haven't prepared a bed, let alone planted a seed. "Heel Jack! Heel! Good boy. Now sit. Siiit. Good boy. Here's a biscuit. Who's a good doggy?"

(distractedly picking and eating biscuit crumbs out of beard)

Eh-hem. Between naps and brakin- ummm baking- I've been ransacking the internet looking for interesting vegetables, flowers, fruits and shrubs to grow in the community garden. Having met exotic humans over the years since I moved into town; Indian, Bulgarian, Filipino, Mexican, Salvadorian, Burmese, Lithuanian, Pole, Guatemalan, French, Irish, English, Blackfoot, Cree, Iroquois, Puerto Rican, New Jerseyite, Russian, Peruvian, Chinese, Iranian, Texan, Italian and possibly someone from Jimtown, I've been thinking about the plants they might recognize if they chanced upon them in the community garden.

'Odesa Market' calendula "This diverse landrace calendula was collected in... Ukraine..."

'Chi Yei' eggplant "... an early, fast-ripening, delicious eggplant variety from China..."

'Haskorea' pepper "... seeds were originally collected in 1999 at the Bab al-Faraj seed market in the Syrian city of Aleppo by a USDA scientist and an official



with Syria's Atomic Energy Commission..."

'Estonian Yellow Cherry' tomato "... Collected from an elderly Russian woman at a market outside of Tallinn, Estonia."

'Jacob's Cattle' bush dry bean "... One legend is that they were originally cultivated by the Passamaquoddy Indians in Maine."

'Montana Morado' maize "... was bred from 100% Native North American heirloom Indian corns, like its sister-line, 'Painted Mountain' corn."

'Uzbek Golden' carrot "This variety hails from Uzbekistan and is popular across central Asia."

'Manganji' sweet pepper "The

famous and flavorsome sweet chili of historic Japan."

Nasturtiums "... With its spicy foliage and flowers, which give a nice kick to salad and recipes, it may be the best-known edible flower! Native to Peru..."

These varieties are barely a hint of what's available!

Maybe I'll get some of these planted before I blow a joint? The joint connecting the femur, tibia, fibula and patella. Not the one the rumor millers suck on. But hey. If the pungent smoke inspires an amusing rumor? Well let's hear it!

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

THE MASTER GARDENER

April gardening

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

Oh, the excitement of vegetable gardening! Seed companies are selling out of seeds, and questions on growing vegetables are beginning to filter in.

April welcomes the gardening season due to warmer temperatures and good rainfall. This month it's time for planting potatoes, peas, beets, lettuce, and onions as well as transplants of cabbage, broccoli, kale and Brussel sprouts. But when it comes to growing many veggies, May is THE month. Planting seeds too soon can result in rotting seeds and degradation of plant material.

In May, the soil warms up enough to support our late spring crops, and with a little protection and a watchful eye on the weather, we can begin planting. Be sure not to plant the following crops too soon: green beans and pole beans go in the ground in May. The cucurbits, like zucchini, pumpkins, cucumbers and melons seeds can be planted in late May. Transplants of tomatoes, peppers and eggplant are also ready to be planted in late May.

Now that we are thinking more about growing our own food, those that haven't done it before or haven't grown food for quite some time may not be sure where to start.

Growing vegetables can happen any place there is a minimum of 6 – 8 hours of sunlight a day. This could be in containers, in a raised

bed, mixed in with the foundation plantings around your home, in perennials and annual beds, or on a deck or patio. Let's dissect why and how we might grow vegetables in these different situations.

Raised beds: the advantage to growing in raised beds is three-fold. One – soil in a raised bed warms up quicker in the spring. This allows for earlier planting of seeds. Two – drainage in a raised bed is typically better. Water drains quicker and reduces the potential for seeds rotting in the soil. Three – raised beds are so easy to manage. From adding compost, avoiding compaction of the soil by not walking on it, easily covering crops for insect control or frost protection, a 4' x 8' raised bed can grow lots of food and is small enough to scout for insects and diseases, manage weeds, and very easy to harvest.

Containers: Today there are many cultivars of vegetables that have been developed particularly for this purpose – growing in containers. When considering this way of growing, the first thing to plan is the container itself. Clay dries out quickly. Particular attention to watering must occur in the heat of the summer. Remember these plants are needing 6 – 8 hours of sunlight so between the porous pot and the sun, plants can wilt quickly. Wilted plants mean weaker plants, and weaker plants allow for more pests and disease to attack.

Glazed containers, like decorative ceramics, are a better choice



The cabbages and kale are growing very well in containers on a deck.

than clay if watering is as issue. But expense of those pots is not often practical. Plastic pots seems to be one of the most affordable materials for containers and hold water much better than clay. Other materials may include fabric bags, buckets, erosion control socks, and wooden boxes. The options are almost endless. But when choosing a container, be sure it is manageable, affordable, and big enough to grow the veggies you want.

Most any crops can be grown in containers. We just need to be sure that when determining the type of material the pots are made of, we also must be sure our pots are large enough to support the plant we are growing. I often grow

cherry tomatoes in a large pot on my deck because they drop their fruit and reseed the following year so much that on a deck, that problem is non-existent. The size of container I use is a 24" plastic pot. This seems to be large enough to support that one tomato plant throughout the summer.

Salad greens are very easy to grow in containers (and April is a great time to do this), as are beans, cabbage and kale, and some cultivars of zucchini. Once you begin to do a little research on vegetables for container gardening, you will be amazed at the choices available. Just be sure that you don't under-estimate the size of the pots for the plants. Although the plant may seem small when plant-

ing it in an 18" or 24" pot, it will need all that space as it begins to mature and produce fruit.

Soil for containers is also unique to growing in the ground. Compost and a soilless potting mix are a good combination for containers. It drains well and holds moisture well. Don't use garden soil as it dries out too quickly and becomes hard as a rock, as well as carries soil-borne diseases and insects that can become a problem in a container.

When growing in containers, be aware of nutrition needs of the vegetable plants. Using slow-release fertilizers are a good choice for this purpose. Veggies are needy – from nutrition to water, container growing adds a little extra attention. However, weeding isn't an issue like it is in the ground. That's always a good thing!

What if there is no space for a garden, and no patio or spot to put containers? How about mixing vegetables in with your other plants – maybe in front of the shrubs, or mixed in with perennial or annual beds? This can add texture to your beds, and interesting combinations as well. Growing gourds on a trellis can be quite interesting in a perennial garden. Or a grouping of kale along the front walkway can add texture to your entrance that you may not get from any other plant. How about planting some purple bush beans as an edging in front of the shrubs. The color will be interesting, and I'll bet no one else in the neighborhood will have the same annual plants!

Wherever you are growing your vegetables, be sure the sunlight is available. Remember, a minimum of 6 – 8 hours a day. Also be sure water is available to the location that the vegetables are growing. As fun as it is to grow our own food, we must be sure we can provide the needed sunlight and water to be as successful as possible. Also be committed to the crops. Be willing to scout for insects and diseases and figure out the best way to manage those potential issues. One common problem for folks is that when the heat of

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THE MASTER GARDENER



If you have not done so already, now is the time to be seeking out seeds for the vegetables you like!

summer hits, the interest to keep up with the plants deteriorates. Weeding and watering must continue through the summer season if produce is expected.

Enjoy the season; get started on

that garden and reap the benefits of your hard work by providing fresh veggies on your table!

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

Frederick Master Gardener Seminars

April 29: "Small Space Veggie Gardening" What techniques work best in small or limited spaces? Find out how to plant square-foot and raised-bed gardens for maximum output from a minimum of space. Get tips and techniques for three types of succession planting.

All seminars are free unless otherwise stated. Seminars are held at the University of Maryland Extension office at 330 Montevue Lane, (off Rosemont Avenue) in Frederick, from 10 to noon. You can register online for these and other events at www.bit.ly.

Small Town Gardener

Let the games begin

Marianne Willburn

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

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

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

The brilliance of the second plan is that, correctly spun, the gardener is merely showing great deference for the wild creatures that inhabit his garden during the winter – giving them the food, lodging and general succor that is less and less available as our wild spaces fall prey to the developer's magic re-zoning pencil. It is rare thing when our altruistic moments coincide with our more self-interested ones, and thus I embrace this plan whole heartedly. Including the bit about Puerto Rico.

Before the job starts there is

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

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

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

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

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

whimpering in a corner.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Marianne Willburn is the author of *Tropical Plants and How to Love Them*, and *Big Dreams, Small Garden*. She writes from her home in Virginia.

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PETS

Post-pandemic animal abandonment

Sergeant Maggie Hill
Frederick County Animal Shelter

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

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

Sadly though, those working in animal welfare also knew what this would mean when quarantine measures were lifted... Life goes on and the pets come back to the shelters in droves. I first began working

in this field during the 2008 housing crisis in a part of the southern United States that was particularly hard hit by the economic collapse.

The animal shelter was overflowing with pets who lost their homes when their owners did. Some rescues in this country are still assisting with relocating the pets displaced by the 2017 hurricane in Texas. In the realm of animal sheltering these trends are well known--during times of economic or social upheaval, after weather related disasters, or just in certain seasons of the year--we see an influx of animals with no home.

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

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

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

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

"On 10/30/2022 an Officer received a phone call regarding a stray dog described as a very skinny white and black dog that would not/ seemed unable to get out from underneath a box truck near an intersection in Frederick County, just outside of city limits. The dog did appear very nervous at this time, however did not flee as would be typical of a dog that would be used to running at large. The Officer coaxed the dog forward with some treats and was able to snare the dog and slowly remove them from underneath the box truck.

The Officer was then able to observe the total body condition of the dog, which was later determined to be a BCS of 1/9. A Body Condition Score of 1/9 would be very indicative of consistent lack of nutritious food for an extended period of time, or some other health condition that would be life threatening if left unattended. The dog was also covered in feces and urine stains that are typical of a dog that is confined to a crate for extended periods of time and not cleaned. The nails of the dog were extremely long, again typical of a dog whose care had been neglected for a considerable amount of time and that did not have the ability to wear the nails down naturally (such as by running around outdoors).

The dog did have some ambulatory issues regarding its rear hips, and its conformation was again



Bunderwhere was born at the shelter in August and has been spayed and is ready to find her forever home. Bunderwhere is used to being handled and loves to run around in her playpen. She's a sweet girl who will make someone a wonderful companion.



Maverick came into the shelter after he'd been seen running for several days.. He's a 5-year-old Shepherd mix who is about 50 pounds. He could stand to gain a couple of pounds - running on his own took its toll on him. Maverick is a friendly guy who enjoys getting attention and loves to go out to the play yard and play! He can be stubborn at times when he does not want to do something but is highly food motivated and can usually be bribed. Because we have no history with children, an age restriction may apply. Please discuss this with shelter staff. Do you have the right spot for Maverick?



Chase came into the shelter when his owner could no longer care for him. He's a 2-year-old terrier who is a super sweet guy, although he does get really excited when he first meets a new person. When he is excited, Chase does tend to jump up and does mouth. Due to this an age restriction on children in the home may apply, so please discuss this with shelter staff. He has been learning that this is not wanted behavior and has been doing well with training here at the shelter, but he will need someone that understands he will need continued training on this in his new home. Chase loves to play in the play yard and is very athletic, so an active home would be best for him. Chase does chase cats and is dog selective, so being the only pet in the home would be best for Chase. Do you have the right place for Chase?



Little Paisley came into the shelter as a stray, so we don't know a whole lot about her. She is a 3-year-old beagle who just loves attention. True to her breed Paisley always has her nose to the ground! She can be vocal at times, so apartment living may not be the best for her. Paisley does like to try to go out of doors when they are opened so potential adopters will have to watch this. This cutie loves pretty much everyone she meets! Would you like to adopt a sweetheart like this?

For more information about Bunderwhere, Maverick, Chase, and Little Paisley call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit them online at www.cvaspets.org or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter.

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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


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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown



very typical of a dog that had been confined to a crate for most of its life. The dog did remain quite nervous and aloof while this Officer moved it, however once this Officer was able to touch the dog after a few minutes of coaxing the dog very quickly became very friendly and attached to this Officer. This is not typical behavior of a dog that is truly feral nor is this progression of behaviors typical of a dog that had simply escaped their home.

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

"Joey" had no collar, no id tags, no microchip and no one ever reported the dog missing to our agency nor was there an eyewitness to how the dog arrived at the location he was found. The dog quickly recovered in our care, gaining over 12 pounds in less than a month and was adopted to a local Frederick County family.

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

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

What can pet owners do to help? Acquiring a pet is a major commitment and we want potential adopters to consider it a commitment for the natural life of the animal. Plan ahead and budget and consider what types of challenges you may face and how you would still provide for an animal if your life circumstances change. This is exactly why we screen applicants and sometimes get the feedback that the screening process is too stringent. We have seen it time and again, an adopted pet returned because the owner is moving, or had a loss of income, or had a baby, or "have no time" for the pet any longer.

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

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

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

What can the public do to help? If you have first-hand eyewitness information about an animal that you suspect to be abandoned calls us immediately. Reports can be made "anonymously" however that report will be much more difficult to substantiate. Donate to the animal shelter and other local animal welfare agencies. Encourage honesty and accountability in all other pet owners that you encounter. Adopt and don't shop. Consider volunteering or fostering a homeless pet.

Maryland State Code § 10-612. Abandoning domestic animal. (a) Prohibited.- A person who owns, possesses, or has custody of a domestic animal may not drop or leave the animal on a road, in a public place, or on private property with the intent to abandon the animal. (b) Penalty.- A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$100.

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



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



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



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



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

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

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April 21-29

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April 21 - 29

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Restaurant Week Cards will be available after April 10 with special menus. Pick one up at Cousins Ace Hardware, Hobbs Lumber & Hardware, The Dirty Dawg & the Thurmont Town Office, or go to thurmontmainstreet.com or Thurmont Main Street under events and print out your cards!



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Saturday, April 29
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Firefighter of the Year award recipient Miles Leister with Chief Bill Jacobs.



Fire Police Officers: Gary Shorb, Wyatt Shorb, Clyde McClain, Jr., Chuck Schussler, Steve Bata and Mike Hartdagen



Chief's Award recipient Rick Renn with Chief Bill Jacobs.



Administrative Officers: Michael Hartdagen, Brad Shughart, Colby Wivell, Diana Ratliff, James Hammett, Rose Jacobs, and Brad Hartdagen



President Hammett flanked by President's Award recipients Mike, Carole, Kelsey and Brad Hartdagen.

Line Officers for 2023.

William Jacobs	Fire Chief	Bradford Shughart	Sergeant
Adams Jacobs	Deputy Fire Chief	Colby Wivell	Sergeant
Brad Hartdagen	Asst. Fire Chief	Michael Hartdagen	Fire Police Captain
Chad Fogle	Captain	Steve Bata	Fire Police Lt.
Ty Farace	Sergeant		

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Colby Wivell	Vice President
Rose Jacobs	Recording Secretary
Gayle Marthers	Treasurer
Diana Ratliff	Membership Secretary

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9 - \$500	25 - \$500	41 - \$2000	57 - \$500
10 - \$500	26 - \$500	42 - \$500	58 - \$500
11 - \$2000	27 - \$500	43 - \$500	59 - \$500
12 - \$500	28 - \$500	44 - \$500	60 - \$1000
13 - \$500	29 - \$500	45 - \$500	61 - \$1000
14 - \$500	30 - \$1000	46 - \$500	62 - \$2000
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16 - \$500	32 - \$500	48 - \$500	64 - \$4000

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CONGRESSMAN DAVID TRONE

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



My Top Priorities

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

My Work on the Appropriations Committee Helps Maryland

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

New Frederick County Office to Help You

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

Frederick County Office:

30 W Patrick St., Suite 505

Frederick, MD 21701

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

DAVID TRONE

U.S. CONGRESS

Top reasons to send your kid to summer camp

Fawn O'Hara
Frederick County YMCA

Summer Camp is a staple in childhood. It is a place and time to enjoy being a child, exploring, making new friends, and new memories in a safe, fun, and educational location. Summer camp is the perfect combination of sun and fun. However, many parents do not realize how important and vital the lessons taught, and experiences of a summer camp truly are. It offers a fun getaway for their child and gives them the stepping stone to grow into who they truly are.

Discover Special Interests and Skills

Summer camp brings the opportunity to find activities, interests, and skills that your child truly likes. They often have a variety of activities and even can specialize in a specific interest, like basketball or soccer. Summer camps can include activities like canoeing, hiking, archery, team challenges, and more! During camp, children are encouraged to get involved in a variety of these activities. Thus, children learn how much they enjoy these various interests.

Also, summer camp offers the opportunity to improve skills in specific areas. Frederick YMCA offers a variety of camps that focus on particular skills like cooking, arts, sciences, musical theatre, puppetry, sports camps, and even leader in training camps! There are numerous programs to choose from that can fit any child's interests!

Get Active and Involved

One bonus of summer camp for kids is the fact that it is full of physical activity that doesn't really feel like physical activity. With activities like canoeing, hiking, archery, and others, your child will constantly be moving and having fun while doing it! Often as parents, it can be hard to encourage your child to get up and move. At summer camp, their brains are constantly stimulated with new experiences, building lasting relationships, and their bodies are getting the activity and workouts they need to stay healthy!

Empower and Encourage Growth

Camp not only offers opportunities to get active and find and pursue their special interests but also empowers and encourages growth in every child. Summer camps often encourage and push children to make new friends and be open to new experiences. Oftentimes this may be the first time they are away from their comfort zones and parents. Camps build confidence and independence through team-building activities and focusing on personal growth. With constant challenges every day, children can realize their potential and ability to do things on their own, boosting self-esteem, perfecting responsible decision-making, and empowering them.

Meet Positive Role Models

Camp introduces, develops, and strengthens connections with new friends and the ability to find positive



For generations, summer camps have been getting kids out into the country and learning about nature while having tons of fun. YMCA's Camp West Mar is no exception to that tradition.

role models. Counselors go through training to become the most helpful and supportive they can be. Most want to get involved and serve others through community service and have a love for guiding others. More than ever, it is essential that children have positive and loving role models who can show them how to be responsible and provide leadership skills.

Encourage Diversity

Lastly, camp encourages diversity. Often, when children go to school, they are put into their own age group and have friends who come from the same place. A camp

encourages children from, at times, all over the country to build relationships. Some camps even take international campers as well! This encourages the exposure and acceptance of diversity. It allows a child to expand their social network and make new friends outside of their circle.

The YMCA of Frederick County offers a variety of camps (Day and Overnight) that fit any child's interest. Camps are safe, educational, fun, boost self-esteem, and encourage growth. Whether your child is interested in space and science or soccer and golf, we offer the camp perfect for

them! Check out our 2023 summer camp program guide at www.frederickymca.org and register for camp today!

Camp is offered at several locations throughout Frederick County:

- Downtown Y, 1000 North Market Street, Frederick City, 21701
- Natelli Family Y, 3481 Campus Drive, Ijamsville, 21754
- YMCA Camp West Mar, 14509 Brown Rd., Sabillasville, 21780
- Y Arts Center, 115 East Church Street, Frederick City, 21701

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HISTORY

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

John Miller

How I see it today as a historian

Researching many different aspects of Emmitsburg's history has taught me several lessons. For example, during the Revolutionary War, the town itself did not exist. However, there was a settlement a couple of miles to the southeast called Tom's Creek Hundred. During the Civil War, we knew of a skirmish in town at the Farmers Inn where more than seventy men were captured and we now have at least a dozen names of those who were captured that morning on July 5, 1863. We also know of those men from Emmitsburg who fought during the Civil War and some of their war stories of courage and how they survived. Nevertheless, these are only a few of the events that helped shape our town, as we know it today.

History is like a puzzle and, when all the pieces fit, it can bring the satisfaction of knowing that one has contributed to it. But researching history can be a frustration unlike any other. This is especially so when people have been led to believe things that have been handed down to them, for example, the founding date of 1785. And, yes, I was for the 1785 date. Simply, one must be ready to accept fail-

ures as well as accomplishments when writing about history of any kind, especially when the real facts are presented in a neat package and people still blindly believe in folklore. History and society are only part of that puzzle. Emmitsburg's social atmosphere surely has played a major role in making our town the way it is today. The opinions, attitudes, and politics shown today can be traced back into Emmitsburg's social history or to what I call Emmitsburg's darker side.

Before anyone gets offended by that remark, I'll justify what I mean. The opinions shown about the topics of outsiders, new laws, and other social events can be traced back to the earliest publication of the Emmitsburg Chronicle. Reading through the first publication of the Emmitsburg Chronicle, has taught me a lot about Emmitsburg's social life, society, and history. What better way to get information for research about our town's history than by getting it from those who lived during that time?

The first publications of Emmitsburg are surely an enjoyment to read. The first page of the newspaper usually covered items of interest from our nation to international news. The second page for the most part was new ideals ranging from remedies, to sto-



It's hard to imagine, but at one time, the Square of Emmitsburg was so quiet and tranquil that one could hitch a horse on it.

ries, to even some of George Washington's letters. The third page was generally more local news of our area with advertisements and editorials. Since television was not invented yet and the computer age was far away, Emmitsburg's citizens would post all kinds of information about their views, new laws, meetings that were to be held, and etc. Looking at Emmitsburg today, I can understand where these points of view came from. Most of them were handed down from generation to generation. Looking at it from this perspective... Well, I'll leave the rest up to the reader. Here are a few examples of some interesting opinions of Emmitsburg's social past from those who lived it.

Ball Playing

The earliest leagues of baseball in Emmitsburg can be traced back to 1879 when the town used to have tournaments. The Chronicle recorded these as East End and West End matches. These matches usually were held during the week. The winners would go on to play against the surrounding communities. On June 14, 1879, the Emmitsburg Chronicle published an editorial about ball playing. Here the person asserts his opinion (a classic case of religion vs. the new age) by opening his editorial stating:

Some of our youngsters either have not time or they have so much of it that they cannot stop from sheer habit, and thus now and then indulge in the sport on Sunday. There have been frequent com-

plaints about the matter, it has been an annoyance in different respects.

Whilst we yield to no one in our estimates of the sanctity of the lords day, our convictions or not Puritanic there may or may not be hard and this amusement thus practiced, that will depend upon the time, the manner in the surroundings. Whatever may be one's sense of duty on any such questions, there is yet something due to what may be the honest opinions of others, we can conceive of the case, where a man of manly character, may be justified in showing disrespect to the moral and religious opinions of others, or to manifest a sense of the ridiculous in reference to what others hold sacred. In the cases before us, there were boisterous conduct, intrusions upon private property, and grievous annoyance to the neighborhood. It were far better to forgo the pleasure and give occasion for offence to neighbors and possibly of the stirring up the strife, we earnestly believe that legal action might arise in the case, upon the charge of creating, aiding and abetting a nuisance. Better find some other reaction which is not so striking, and its character, forgo the inducement to the present fun, in favor of the spirit of kindness, and good neighbors, that run into trouble without compensating considerations therefore."

A similar pattern was in evidence in 1955, for I came across an article published in the Emmitsburg Chronicle dating April 25, 1958.

It appears that the lack of interest and short funding are blamed on everyone in Emmitsburg. The article states, "Adult interest in the little league has dropped since the establishment's creation in 1955." Although the article doesn't state why there was a sudden lack of interest, one can assume from another editorial written in March 1972 by the Little League president, Thomas Harbaugh. He states in his letter to the editor of the Emmitsburg Chronicle that, due to personal reasons, he had to resign all his activities with the Little League. He writes, "It hurts me very much to do this, but there is nothing I can do about it. I hope in the future you, the citizens of Emmitsburg, will give your full support to league. The parks and recreation committee of Emmitsburg has drawn up a plan for a new ball field and other recreation for this town. In their plans, I have read nothing about helping the Little League and I think they are making a grave mistake by not including the Little League in the plans. Thank you very much, Yours truly, Thomas Harbaugh."

You can also see a similar pattern today that is in the midst of being corrected, as Emmitsburg Little League is the one of a few organizations that allows children to be involved with the community. This is one example of the difference in Emmitsburg's younger generation vs. the older generation. Nevertheless, not all of editorials from the Emmitsburg Chronicle are so negative.

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HISTORY

Education

When it comes to education, Emmitsburg, in years passed, has always been on top of things. Even when the town was behind the times, people always jumped at the opportunity to correct a problem very quickly. On July 26, 1879, it was announced that a new school was to be built in Emmitsburg and the people wasted no time in getting together a meeting to get the plans under way. The new school was to be completed by December of 1879. In the August 2 edition of the Emmitsburg Chronicle, the first paragraph clearly indicates that the people had really come together to see the project through. The article states that the location that was picked for the school was part of the estate that had once belonged to Jacob Motter before he passed away. This paragraph in the Chronicle sums it up best:

“For the present location seems somewhat distant, but considering the healthfulness of the situation, and it’s good drainage, together with the probabilities that the village must grow in that direction, we think they have done the best that they could be done under the circumstances, and trust that the new house, which is to beat two stories high will prove a valuable and ornamental accession to Emmitsburg.”

By August 23, 1879, Mr. J. W. Troxell who was a school commissioner stated: “We are confident that nowhere in Frederick County is such a building more needed than here, the condition of the old schoolhouse, for many years has been an eye sore to the town, and a disgrace to the County.”

Fight Fire with Fire

However, when one deed is rewarded another deed is shot down in flames. The great fire of June 16, 1863, consumed three quarters of Emmitsburg, destroying several buildings. In the Emmitsburg Chronicle of August 5, 1879, a frustrated citizen states that a need for a fire company

should be of utmost importance. He relates that the town has previously had talks of creating a fire company, in fact, before the Emmitsburg Chronicle began publication. With lessons of the great fire of 1863, the horrors must still burn a painful image in those who survived.

This author wrote to the Chronicle, distressing his anger towards the town authorities and advising them of the situation. He wrote:

“Once in a while the enterprising element of the town is aroused by some public spirited native whose genius rises to the importance of the occasion, and at once proceeds to fire the enthusiasm of kindred spirits. The result therefore is a call by order of many for those interested in organizing a fire Company, to meet at the engine house. They meet, talk, make resolutions, appoint officers, committees, and the Emmitsburg Fire Company is an established fact, but unfortunately for lack of proper nourishment it grows feeble, totters, and on some Saturday afternoon gives out a few enfeeble squirts then dies and is buried until after some shed or stable burns down, which the engine is brought out of course most execrably refuses to work. The fire that breaks out again and upon the excited young citizens with renewed force, of results are other meetings, more talk, and resolutions, the ‘machine’ is burnished copper, hose oiled, ladders painted and on a favorable afternoon a squirting party, makes the atmosphere he met in the village is humorous. Thus the author is cooled down, interests in the matter seems to die, and the great fire company is extinguished, and mist of its own creation.”

Another citizen wrote to the Chronicle on November 1, 1879, supporting another issue about how the fire of 1863 was never resolved as far as protecting the town from another threat was concerned. This person wrote:

“Situated as we are, at the very base of the mountain, the expense of obtaining and conveying into



1946 Emmitsburg baseball team. Front row: Charlie Eckenrode, George Combs, ? Burliche, Jack Rosesteel, Harold Hoke & John Hollinger. Middel row: George Kennell, Ed Combs, ? Smith, Tom Combs, Tom Hoke & Gene Newcombs. Back row: Larry Zimmerman, Nino Briscure, John Shank, Dick Harner, Allen Bouey & Vinnie Topper.

town an abundant supply of pure spring water, would be comparatively small. What a horrible experience was ours, in June 1863, when so large a portion of the ‘Old Burg’ was laid waste by the devouring element! Does one recall the horror that night of the fire? How differently and painfully the whole sad and fearful scene presents itself to the mind, citizens of all ages and conditions fleeing from their burning dwellings, they hardly knew were carrying with them whatever of their household goods they were able to secure, whilst a sense of insecurity was felt by all, as we at one time to spare of saving any portion of the town, on account of the scarcity of water. It is matter of surprise that an effort was not immediately made to secure a better supply, if for no other reason than the security and better protection of property. All citizens were fully impressed, with the other helplessness and inability to a rest or extinguish the rushing hissing flames, as they swept along with irresistible and appalling destruc-

tion. Now with our experience of ruin and suffering in the past, one would suppose there would be perfect unanimity, of desire, for some means of protection in the future, and I believe that all our people are not only favorable to, but decided advocates of an arrangement to supply the town with water.”

New Laws and Ordinances

This is always a subject that is talked about in today’s society as it was then. From 1879 through 1886, Emmitsburg adopted and passed several laws that met opposition. The Canine Law, the Fence Ordinance, and an ordinance prohibiting coasting and marble playing on the sidewalks all have been met with criticism. Many of these people the law or ordinances didn’t really concern. The Canine Law was one that a non-dog owner wrote telling the town that it was not right for everyone to be taxed nor was it right to muzzle the dogs they had. The writer even said that the Canine Law failed considerably in other towns. You begin to see a little more of the animal rights movement growing in these latter days of Emmitsburg.

However, the ordinance prohibiting coasting and marble playing on the sidewalks was considered a safety

aspect rather than anything else because of the injuries caused by children leaving their toys on the sidewalks. It was also at this same time that the snow removal ordinance was passed. The basic nature of these laws was to keep the side walks clear and safe for people to walk on year round. They are the same laws that people are fined for today.

A notice to all landholders was introduced in 1879. The basic law was known as the Fencing Law and it stated:

“All Landholders and their tenets are required to make and keep in good repair, a good and substantial fence at least four half feet high around their outside premises, any person failing to keep such fence shall not recover any damage done for trespass, by neat cattle, or horses, swine or sheep, except when such fence is destroyed by freshet, in such case, the owner is allowed 60 days to repair the same.”

The basics here are not new in today’s society; safety is always an utmost concern for many town authorities. Most of the laws that Emmitsburg passed were common-sense laws as I call them and are still followed today.

Continued next month



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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

April 6

April First Coldest On Record

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

Elected Emmitsburg Commissioner

At a meeting of the Emmitsburg Town Council, Francis Matthews was elected to fill the unexpired term of the late Mr. Lewis Rhodes. Mr. Matthews is one of the young prominent merchants of the town and his selection seems to have met with general approval. Mr. Matthews was elected to the office of President of the Emmitsburg Baseball Association last week.

Against The Law

The throwing of broken bottles, chinaware, old nails, carpet tax and other sharp pointed rubbish on the public highways and in private and public alleys used by automobiles, is a violation of the State's automobile law and is punishable by fines ranging from \$10 to \$100 and costs. Persons, whether intentionally or unintentionally guilty of this practice, will do well to take heed against violation of the law.

Better Thurmont

The above caption is the slogan adopted by the Civic Club and expresses its desire to cooperate with the town authorities and citizens of all ages and sexes in making Thurmont not only better, but the best town possible.

A joint meeting of the club, the Mayor and Town Council developed a spirit of cordial cooperation and mutual helpfulness. In order to have cleaner streets the town authorities have decided to place metal containers on the square corners and other places in which will be collected papers and other debris, which render the streets unsightly and unsanitary.

It is hoped the collection of peanut shells and store boxes, which have sometimes obstructed the path of church goers on Sunday morning, will also be among the missing. Other phases of town improvements will be taken up later, and articles on them

will appear in the paper from time to time. The suggestions are not made in a spirit of criticism, but in a sincere desire to inspire in the people of Thurmont a wish to improve the town in every way and "where there is a will, there is a way."

Jailed, Refuses To Go Back To York

William Baker, 35, of Thurmont, was arrested Monday afternoon and charged with a serious offense alleged to have been committed by him on March 14, while he was residing in York, Pa. The York authorities were informed of Baker's alleged offence by Henry Swietzer, on behalf of his minor daughter, Irene. The girl is said to be 13 years of age.

Since Baker left York, the York authorities have been looking for him. When it was discovered he was back in Thurmont, the York police wired County officials to apprehend him. Baker was arrested in the vicinity of Legore. He was brought to Frederick and lodged in jail. He has refused to go back to Pennsylvania and it will be necessary to prepare requisition papers before he can be taken back.

County To Repair Two Bridges

Both the bridges at Zora and Willoughby Run are menaces to travelers according to the County Commissioners. The Zora structure, which is located on the State Road connecting Fairfield to Zora was built at least 50 years ago. From time to time it has been necessary to place large beams under the structure to support the main span until now there are 25 such pieces to prevent the danger of a sudden collapse.

A similar condition exist at the Willoughby Run bridge on the Fairfield to Gettysburg Road. Eleven supports have been placed under the structure in order to reinforce it. The bridge was built in 1871. Several trucks have already broken through the flooring of the bridge.

It would be altogether likely, the Commissioners said, in case of high water or much ice, in either Miney Branch or Willoughby Run, that the supporting beams would be washed away again, rendering the bridges unsafe to traffic.

Both bridges will be torn down this summer and new modern reinforced concrete and steel spans raised in their places. At Zoro, two 45-foot spans will be built across Miney Branch and over

Willoughby Run two spans, each 44 feet long, will be erected. The roadways at the end of the bridges will be widened to 24 feet.

April 13

For County Commissioner

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

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

Road Contract Awarded

Work will begin on the construction of the one and 1/16th mile stretch of road from the end of the concrete on West Main St., Emmitsburg to the Pennsylvania State Line within the next 10 days. The state road commission awarded the contract to Irwin Washy, Thurmont who was the lowest bidder. His bid was \$32,324. There was only one other bidder. The link is to be of concrete.

Mules Cause Havoc In Taneytown

Last Saturday evening a mule team belonging to Harry Angel became frightened at the 6 o'clock whistle at the railroad, and broke away from Mr. Angel and ran up Baltimore Street towards the Square. Milton Koons attempted to stop the runaways as they passed his store, but his efforts appeared to have frightened them more, and in the attempt he was struck by one of them and thrown to the ground, two of the wheels of the wagon passing over him. He was severely cut about one eye and otherwise injured about the face and the body, but fortunately, no bones were broken. For several days he

April 20

More Snow

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

14,000 Killed By Autos Last Year

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

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

During the same period, the number of fatalities due to horse accidents decreased to less than 12, or by 98 percent. The decrease, the Bureau noted, was due to the fact that only experienced horsemen still used horses, and that the horses in use were now "seasoned trusty old souls."

Free Advertising

The Pennsylvania Weekly Publishers' Association has passed stringent reso-

was quite ill, but he is now getting better. The mules eventually stopped at the Square, where they proceeded to graze as if nothing had happened.

War On Liquor

The war of the Federal government against bootleggers has cost the lives of 12 men during a six-month period ending in December, according to figures soon to be made public by the Federal Prohibition Commission. In addition, 33 agents were wounded. The figures showing the hazards of prohibition enforcement cover the activities of the federal forces only. In many states the federal agents have received assistance from State and municipal forces. The States having their own enforcement laws, have suffered their own losses of men killed and wounded, according to federal officials.

A compilation of figures covering the activities of federal agents in all parts of the country shows that well over \$7 million of property has been seized. The number automobiles seized was 2,211, the value of which was estimated at over \$1 million. In addition there were 87 boats and launches valued at \$750,000.

Almost 2.5 million gallons of malt liquor was seized, and destroyed by pouring into gutters, & rivers. 5,300 illicit distilleries and 7,180 stills were destroyed.

Harney Road Work Underway

Work has been commenced on the road from Taneytown to Harney again, and that the part commenced last fall will be finished. It should not stop there, but should be completed through to the State line. Strangers tell us that you can easily tell when you get into Maryland, coming from Gettysburg, because that road is kept in fair condition, while ours is in a disgraceful condition. It seems that there is no one to look after the road, anymore.

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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

lutions against the publishing of free write-ups of any sort pertaining to business firms, public service companies, &c., and even limiting church and fraternities to the barest of news facts.

Unquestionably, the demand for free "puffs" is growing, and the practice is especially followed by certain concerns that contract for a paid advertisement, then accompany it with a write up, or publicity matter of some kind for publication, the space of which is worth a great deal more than the space of the paid advertisement. Very often these write ups are so worded as to create the impression that the editor is himself voluntarily giving his personal endorsement, often for matters and movements as to which he is not in the least interested; and often the free write up is attached to the advertising contract itself.

The resolutions' state that those request are but veiled demands, and are sometimes even insolent, having no regard for a just remuneration for the services of the paper, nor any consideration for how they are to secure revenue sufficient to conduct their businesses.

Our Pennsylvania brethren are all together right, and it rests with the cooperation of the weekly publishers, as to whether they are to continue to be made a dump for all sorts of request of this sort, or whether they will assert their right in the matter, and demand real pay for real services rendered.

This paper has recently dumped a number of those free "puffs" into the wastebasket and expects to continue doing so. Not because of any feeling against those who asked for the favors, but against their policy of trying to gain publicity of this sort; and we especially resent having ready-made editorial expressions furnished to us.

John Wisotzkey Dies

John Wisotzkey, a one time popular baseball idol of Fairfield, and later a farmer, died at his home along the Fairfield-Zora road on Saturday morning following a three week illness of embolism.

John attended Mount Saint Mary's College, where he attracted attention with his baseball playing, especially as a pitcher. Leaving that institution he played professional ball for several years, and the local fans followed his career closely. He had a good-natured greeting to everyone, and he was a great favorite.

He first went into farming on a

fruit farm on the Emmitsburg Road about 3 miles south of that town and later moved into Fairfield to help his father in his grocery store on Chambersburg Street. Later he purchased his farm near Zora and has been conducting farming operations there for several years. His illness startled his many friends, as he was only 38 at the time of his death.

April 27

Horse Gets Away

Monday evening, soon after Elmer Rowe and his hired boy left home, an accident occurred which caused the horse, a young blooded animal, to run. The ring on the bridal bit broke and Mr. Rowe was powerless to stop the horse. He held on as long as possible, then told the boy to jump, and right after, left the buggy himself. The horse continued towards Thurmont. At The crossroads at Harry Simmers' residence a rear wheel of the buggy was left, and other portions of the vehicle strewn along the road to Thurmont. The horse went west on Main Street and up the Harmon Gap Road.

Several men in automobiles followed the runaway up the mountain, but soon lost trace of the horse in the darkness. Tuesday morning Mr. Rowe and William Forman went up the mountains after the horse and located both horse and what was left of the buggy on the Gates Road near Wigville. The horse was happily munching on green grass showing none the worse for his adventure.

Mountain Fires

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

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

Several hundred men were said to have fought the fire. Much difficulty was experienced in getting men

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

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

Mystery Auto Accident

Considerable mystery surrounds the wrecking on Thursday evening of a five passenger Rickenbacker, about one and a half miles south of Emmitsburg. The machine was traveling towards Emmitsburg, when it crashed into a covered one-way bridge.

There were no witnesses of the accident, but a passing motorist stopped a few minutes after the crash and offered aid. He was told that someone was injured and was asked to get a doctor from Emmitsburg as quickly as possible.

A physician was rushed to the scene of the accident, but when he arrived, all the occupants of the car had disappeared. Just what became of these people is not known, nor could it be found whether anyone was seriously injured.

The car was badly smashed. It was left along the side of the road until Saturday morning, when one of the State Police force was dispatched to investigate the affair. The car was taken to the Emmitsburg Motor Company's garage where it still remains. The machine had Maryland and District of Columbia license plates, and it is thought that there will be little difficulty in tracing it through this medium.

Work On Memorial Park

The sum of \$1,000, in addition to what has already been pledged, is needed to complete and beautify Thurmont's Memorial Park. It will be greatly appreciated if those who have not yet made a contribution to the memorial will do so, so as to help to complete the work this summer.

The pledges made have been the

basis upon which the committee has planned and done the work, and incurred indebtedness, which they feel should be paid as soon as possible. It will help them greatly if those who have not completed their payments would see the secretary, Mr. Long, as soon as they conveniently can.

April Weather

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

Attempted Hold Up In Daylight

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

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

Eyer they made a harried retreat. No description of the pair could be obtained.

But one of the men carried a gun. This man covered Mr. Eyer with the weapon. The attempted robbery occurred at a time when many persons passing along the road in automobiles.

Infant Drowned In Shallow Creek

Russell Plank, the 15-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Plank of Emmitsburg, was drowned Sunday afternoon when he fell into a shallow creek near his home. The child was playing with some other children near the house but wandered away from the older ones. In a few minutes he was missed and a search begun.

Some of the older children found the youngsters body in a small creek a short distance from where they were playing. The child had evidently wandered down to the creek, lost his balance and tumbled into the water. The creek is very shallow there, being not more than a few inches of water in it at this time of year. It is thought that the child fell on his face and was unable to extract himself from his position. He was dead when the other children found him.

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



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FREDERICK COUNTY HISTORY

April 6

From what is known, there was no printing press in Maryland prior to 1777 beyond the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. It was then that Mathias Bartgis, who had learned his trade in Philadelphia under William Bradford, and perhaps from Benjamin Franklin himself, brought one to Frederick Town.

Bartgis was the son of Michael Bartgis and his wife, Catherine Echternach, and was named for his maternal grandfather. He was a soldier in the first year of Revolution-

ary War and is listed as an officer at The Battle of Germantown.

While it is not certain just when he came to Frederick with his Canadian wife, it is certain that he was here by the Fall of 1777.

In the early years he published legal forms and almanacs in German. It is likely that prior to the first edition of The Maryland Chronicle or Universal Advertiser on January 4, 1786, he published a newspaper in German.

When this English language paper began, Bartgis published the same newspaper in both lan-

guages. It does not appear that Bartgis had any help other than an apprentice or two during his early years in Frederick Town.

Frequently advertisements appeared in his newspapers for "A Young Lad, about 14 or 15, who can read well and write tolerably, in the English and German languages, as an apprentice to the Printing business."

Because bringing paper from the major cities was expensive, Bartgis operated a paper mill on the Tuscarora Creek and often advertised for rags. He did not limit himself to just Frederick Town, establishing the first newspaper in both York, Pennsylvania, and Winchester, Virginia.

His first Frederick Town newspapers were published until, at least, 1788. On May 22, 1792, Bartgis began another weekly newspaper, which continued in publication under various names until a year after his death on April 6, 1825.

April 13

In the 19th Century and through more than half of the 20th, many children were left as orphans when illness struck down their parents. Frederick came to the rescue of these children through several orphanages.

On April 2, 1838, Mrs. Eleanor Potts, a generous benefactor of the local Episcopal church, purchased a lot from the Lutheran Church at the southeast corner of what is today Maxwell Avenue and East Church Street for the sum of \$1,000.

Eleven days later (on April 13, 1838) she deeded that lot to The Orphan House and Episcopal Free School Society of All Saints' Church, Fredericktown.

In May of that year the first meeting of the society was held, and Mrs. Catherine Ross was elected president after Mrs. Potts declined the office. Proceeds from the church's Sewing

Society and generous contributions from prominent citizens of Frederick, were used to build the orphanage, which was constructed by George Cole.

For many years the Board of Trustees of The Episcopal Orphan House also conducted a free school in their building, allowing some non-orphans to attend. This practice was abandoned when orphans filled the facility to capacity.

During the first 77 years of operation, the Orphan House assisted 115 young girls. To meet expenses the Society adopted a scholarship program in which a citizen could select an orphan to sponsor for the sum of \$50 per year.

When the orphanage closed, the society continued its "scholarship" program. Since then thousands of Frederick and Frederick County youngsters have received assistance from this organization for their college education. Today many families ask that contributions be made to this organization "in lieu of flowers" when a loved one dies.

April 20

The Trustees of the C. Burr Artz Library made a momentous decision on April 20, 1936, to destroy a Frederick landmark and build a new public library.

For many months the controversy had raged in Frederick. Should the C. Burr Artz Library renovate the Frederick Academy building at the southeast corner of Council and Record Streets, or demolish the 140-year-old structure and build anew.

Frederick's Mayor and Board of Aldermen, meeting in a special afternoon session April 20, 1936, passed a resolution asking the Artz Trustees "to deed to the city sufficient land along the western boundary of the Academy property to widen Record Street between Council and West Second streets." This action was

seen as tacit approval by the city fathers of plans to raze the historic Academy building, which the trustees had purchased for \$400 and the assumption of a \$14,000 mortgage.

The trustees - Edward Delaplaine, Jacob Rohrback and August Brust - voted that night to authorize L. D. Keller, a Jefferson contractor, to demolish the building, and asked Charles Bowers, a prominent local architect, to prepare plans for a new library.

The new two-story building was completed on September 8, 1837 and opened to the public January 18, 1938.

Here the public was served by the C. Burr Artz Library for 44 years. In 1979 the library purchased the old Key Chevrolet property on East Patrick Street, and on March 29, 1982, the present facility opened. A large addition has since been added to this Patrick Street property.

April 27

Throughout the history of Frederick County, thunderstorms have always been a major threat due to fire caused by lightning.

As Harry Curry went to work as the custodian of St. John The Evangelist Catholic Church on April 27, 1937, he noticed a burning ember in the churchyard. He looked up at the steeple, and, although it was difficult to see in the heavy fog, he noticed billows of smoke rising from near the top. He informed the rector, the Rev. John Donlan, who told him to quietly sound the alarm. Curry went to the Junior Fire Company on North Market Street.

Upon arriving at the Second Street church, the firemen realized their ladders were not of sufficient height to fight the blaze from the ground. So they climbed the narrow steps inside the steeple, carrying their hoses. When they called for water, none reached the nozzle as their engine was not powerful enough to push the water 155 feet upward.

The Independent Hose Company was summoned with its 1,000-gallon tanker and the water rushed through Junior's hoses.

Ray Steele, a Junior's driver, said the copper dome on the steeple was the same color as Junior's engines - crimson red.

The church's clock had stopped at 5:29, which seemed to indicate that the steeple has been struck by lightning the evening before as a series of violent thunderstorms moved through the city.

The wooden cross at the very top was a major causality, its charred remains falling into the street below. The lightning struck the church on the 100th anniversary of its consecration.

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




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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

The Spencer family baseball dynasty

David Buie

The month of April 2021 marked a significant leap to normalcy as baseball teams across America threw out their opening pitch. Often referred to as "America's Past Time," baseball has always aided in the country's healing from its inception following the Civil War to kids playing stickball during the Great Depression. Baseball is a haven for most Americans. It is a game that can be struck up during a family gathering, rekindling the competitiveness of the family festivity. Perhaps this is the reason why so many family dynasties have emerged from the game.

Carroll County can be very proud in its stake in America's Game, beginning with Raymond "Deerfoot" Spencer (1888-1917). Although Ray never played Major League Baseball, he is worth noting due to his involvement with the Minor League team, the Dayton Veterans. Ray played during a turbulent time in baseball, which forced the forming of the Minor League Baseball Association. After decades of disputes between the Eastern and Western League, the Western League formed its organization comprised of many Minor League owners in 1901. The formation was seen to deal with problems resulting from the lack of agreement on contract

ownership, salaries, territoriality, and other issues.

The current "farm league" system would not be established until later in the decade. Ray was both a talented fielder and hitter; his only flaw earned him the nickname of "Deerfoot." While playing for the Vets, one of his fellow teammates jokingly commented that Ray was anything but a deer when he ran the bases. Tragically, Ray died at age 29 due to injuries sustained during a train accident on August 23, 1917, while traveling with the team from Peoria, Illinois, to Fort Wayne, Indiana. Ray's body was transported back to Westminster for burial.

Perhaps watching the success of his older brother is what motivated Lloyd Spencer or "Ben" as he was known to excel at baseball. In 1913, the Washington Senators drafted Ben, where he hit .286 in twenty-one at-bats. After a brief career with Senators, Ben moved to the Minor League. During this time, the Minor League was considered to possess more talent than its sister Major League. For the next 18 years, Ben would play for various Minor League teams throughout the United States. He would earn extra money on Barn Storm teams in his off-season, playing exhibition games for extra cash.

The thrill of watching his father play the game led Ben's son Lloyd

Spencer Jr., also known as Ben, to the stick. Although young Ben reminded many locals of his father on the field, young Ben was never destined to play professional ball. However, when Ben walked out on the field in Union Bridge, the fans would cheer with excitement. Later, after the birth of his son, Jim, many believed that it was a blessing that he never made it to the big leagues. Time away from Jim would have taken him away from the one-on-one time that would eventually lead Jim to greatness.

Ben's son Jim was born July 7, 1947, in Hanover. From an early age, Jim demonstrated extraordinary skills in handling both the glove and bat. Playing his early years in the Carroll County Little League program, his parents moved to Anne Arundel, hoping that programs would provide more opportunities to him as an athlete. It did not take long for young Jim to catch the eye of Western Maryland Hall of Famer, Sterling "Sheriff" Fowble. Sheriff Fowble, a Hampstead resident, had been responsible for introducing many young to

professional baseball careers, and soon Jim would be among ranks.

Under the Sheriff's tutelage, Jim was chosen to be a member of the U.S. Amateur All-Star Team – Hearst Classic Players. At age 17, after his graduation from Andover High School was the first draft pick of the California Angels.

During his career, Jim also played for the Texas Rangers, Chicago White Sox and was a member of the 1978 World Champion New York Yankees. In 1982, Jim concluded his career with the Oakland A's have picked up many titles and accolades throughout his career.

After his retirement, Jim used his celebrity status to benefit many of Carroll County's Charitable organizations. It was his love of giving that would eventually take his life. On February 10, 2002, Jim died of a heart attack in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at age fifty-four. The night before his death, he had played first base in a charity baseball game benefitting the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood, Florida. Not feeling well,



A photo of Jim Spencer as it appeared on February 13, 2002, in the Baltimore Evening Sun.

Jim returned to his hotel room to rest and suffered a fatal heart attack during the night.

Jim is buried alongside his parents at the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church Cemetery in Taneytown.

Many more athletes from Carroll County have made their mark in the professional ranks, but few have lasted for nearly a hundred years and three generations.

For more information, contact David Buie at downtowntaneytown@gmail.com.



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COOKING

April showers

Sonya Verlaque

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

Greek Lamb Meatballs

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

Ingredients:

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

Preparation direction: Preheat your oven's broiler. Set the oven rack about 7 inches from the heat.

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

Orzo Salad

Ingredients:

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

Preparation direction: Cook pasta as you normally would in a pot of salted water, until it's al dente. Reserve ¼ cup of the pasta water (you probably won't need it), then drain the orzo and set aside. While the pasta is cooking, combine lemon juice, olive oil, lemon zest, ½ cup water (not pasta water), salt, and pepper in a bowl and set aside. Then, slice the

tomatoes, zucchini and basil and set aside. Transfer the cooked orzo to the bowl with the lemon juice dressing and let it set for 10 minutes. In that time, the pasta will soak up the lemon juice, olive oil and water. If after that time, it looks a little dry, you can add a tablespoon or two of the pasta water. Then, add in the tomatoes, zucchini, basil, and feta cheese and stir to combine. Enjoy as-is, or add extra feta or black pepper on top. You can make this ahead of time to serve with your Greek meatballs and put in the refrigerator. The flavors will continue to develop.

Carrot Cake

My husband loves carrot cake, and actually his groom cake at our wedding was a fire truck made of carrot cake. His go-to desserts are lemon meringue pie and carrot cake. Of course, it can't be something less labor intensive. I just made this cake for my family and it got 4 out of 5 thumbs up. The dissenter had his 7-year-old heart set on chocolate cake with caramel frosting, so it wasn't the fault of this carrot cake. Which is the best recipe for carrot cake I have found so far. It was given to me by a friend and we are not sure where it came from but there is a scribble on the top that reads "Blue Ribbon Carrot Cake" so, let's get baking.

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



Orzo salad

That is exactly what you are looking for.

Ingredients:

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

Preparation direction: Combine flour, soda, salt and cinnamon and set aside. Combine eggs, oil, buttermilk, sugar and vanilla and beat until smooth. Stir in

flour mixture, pineapple, carrots, coconut and chopped nuts. Pour batter into 2 greased and floured 9 inch round cake pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes or until wooden pick comes out clean.

Immediately spread Buttermilk Glaze evenly over layers. Cool in pans 15 minutes. Then carefully remove from pans and let cool completely. Spread Orange-Cream Cheese Frosting between layers and on top and sides of cake. Store cake in refrigerator.

Buttermilk Glaze

Ingredients:

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

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

Orange-Cream Cheese Frosting

Yes, you can just make a regular cream cheese frosting, but trust me, you want to make this one. It also makes extra, and when warmed up makes a nice drizzle for pancakes or waffles the next day.

Ingredients:

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

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

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MOMS' TIME OUT

Moms cry too!

Mary Angel

More Hearts Than Mine is a country song, by Ingrid Andress, that my daughters introduced me to. We started going for drives during the pandemic. The girls loved this because they got to take turns playing DJ. This song makes me cry every time I hear it. There is just something about the lyrics that tugs at my heart.

The song begins with a young girl explaining to her boyfriend that she is looking forward to showing him around her home town. At this point in the song, I am simply smiling because I know my older daughter has shown her most recent "boyfriend" around our town. It wasn't that he lived that far away, but he didn't know some of the short cuts she knew. I could also picture my youngest going away to college and returning home for us to meet her first boyfriend (yes, I said first). She is the baby, so in my mind she will start dating when she is about 25 or 30 years old. Still, no tears, but my mind is starting to think about them dating "the one".

Next, she tells the boy in the song that he should bring a shirt for church, because they will go. This couldn't be any truer for us if I said it myself. Now I might be getting a little misty because I want my girls to meet someone who shares their belief system. My husband and I love our time mentoring young couples through a Bible study at our church, and I want all my kids to find this same joy with their spouses. I also love that she follows this up with they will have to sleep in separate bedrooms. Some of my friends find it a little prudish that I would NEVER allow my daughters

(or sons for that matter) to share a bedroom with anyone but their spouses! I am an old-fashioned mom, and this is a hill I will plant my flag in.

As the song progresses, she explains how the trip will go. Her father will check the boy's tires and take him fishing, her sister will ask him a bunch of questions and try to embarrass him. This is where I am starting to lose it. The dad in this song reminds me of my dad, simply because my dad would do exactly that. It also gets the water works started because I look so forward to having a wonderful relationship with my daughters and their someday husbands.

The sister acts exactly how I have seen my baby girl act with every boy her sister has brought home, whether a love interest or just a friend. She really puts them to the test, as she is extremely protective of her sister. My eyes are beginning to fill up a little further as I think about my girls and their boyfriends/husbands going to dinner together or having a family game night or the four of them going on vacation and having the best time of their lives. I should point out that these are tears of joy.

In the song Ingrid Andress repeatedly mentions that the mom falls in love faster than she does. This turns out to be me, although I would have denied it when my kids reached the age of dating. It is not necessarily the young men that I am falling love with specifically. It is more the idea of my girls (for the sake of this song) finding someone who will love them unconditionally, someone who can be there best friend and build them up when they are feeling less than. I envision them being with someone who is there ultimate cheer leader and pro-



jector, with a dash of comedic relief.

So, every time they bring a boy home, I fall in love with the idea of what he might be. I should probably mention this was not the case when my oldest was in 8th grade, as I believe in most cases that is more of a puppy love. She might argue that, since a broken heart is a broken heart. Now that she is older, I can definitely admit, I fall in love with the thought of her finding love, happiness, and a lifetime of memories. Okay, that's it, that's what brings on a full-fledged bawling (in fact I am crying thinking about it). So far, my oldest daughter has not had good luck with guys. In fact, I am not sure she would know what to do if a guy treated her well. It breaks my heart to think that is where she is at.

I don't believe the song title is just talking about the mom's heart being one of the "more hearts". I believe it is also referring to the sister. I remember when my oldest daughter had an interest in a boy from church. He came to her high school graduation party, he would stop over for dinner unannounced, and he would literally watch television with us for hours on end. He was always joking with her sister and offering to play games or teach her how to do things. Although

my daughter and him never actually dated, her younger sister kept pushing for him to be "the one".

When they both moved on to date other people, my baby was all but devastated. She apparently had fallen in love with the idea of him being around, and maybe even part of the family. She had to learn that relationships don't always work out the way we want, and just because she thought he was the perfect guy for her sister, didn't mean her sister would see it that way.

My husband luckily doesn't fall hard. Although he is looking forward to having a relationship with our kids that is a lot like the one we had with his parents, and still have with my parents, he does not hope for it too early in the relationship. He likes to take his time getting to know the boys that

come to the house. He is also a little more scrutinous of the boys that want to date his daughters. I am actually worries for the youngest, I am not sure he isn't on the internet shopping for a tower to lock her in until she is at least 25.

That being said, I think most moms just want their kids to find happiness and fall in love with someone who treats them like they deserve to be treated, someone who loves them in a "until death do us part" kind of a way. So the next time you hear a song that makes you cry tears of joy or tears of sadness over your children, remember you are not the only one crying!

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

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

We asked our writers to consider the importance of celebrating Arbor Day, which is marked by the planting of and caring for trees as a way to sustainably protect our planet's natural resources; people often dedicate these planted trees to loved ones.

Freshman

Hug a tree

Sarah Miller
MSMU Class of 2026

There is a saying in a famous movie, *The Lorax*, that I feel everyone should hear during times like ours when the environment can sometimes be pushed to the back of our minds with our busy schedules. Mr. Lorax states, "I am The Lorax. I speak for the trees! I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues." Imagine if the trees surrounding us every day had tongues: what would they tell us? The trees are so giving, and they supply us with everything that we need, and they have been around far longer than we have been inhabiting Earth. Without the trees, there would be no us. We wouldn't have plans tomorrow, Superbowls to watch, relationships to form, clouds to interpret, oceans to swim, and a year after this one. But imagine if we all advocated for the trees, or likewise if the trees had tongues. Arbor Day is a way of giving the means of communication back to nature, yet, it is a holiday that isn't greatly advertised. Arbor Day is for the good of the Earth, and it is just one small step that is for the greater good.

Arbor Day originated in Nebraska in 1972, when individuals found that there were very few trees within the terrain of the state. Nebraska had minimal biodiversity before this holiday, which was looked down upon because of the fundamental good that comes from trees. Trees help fight climate change and maintain healthy air; biodiversity helps minimize carbon and fight diseases that could harm populations. Arbor Day is a holiday that has no bad effects for the environment. Fourth of July has the tradition of blowing up fireworks in celebration, but it also produces a lot of harmful chemicals to get in our atmosphere; Christmas has gift wrap that makes a lot of waste and single-use paper that goes right into the landfill. Our American and religious traditions are meant to be fun and lighthearted, and, true, sometimes seeing the negative effects are not the most joyful to look at; but, to keep our climate alive, we need more trees, and Arbor Day is keeping our traditions alive and continuing keeping our world healthy.

Arbor Day started during Theodore Roosevelt's presidency and made a lasting impact in the United States when he signed it as a new national holiday. The first year that Arbor Day took

place, one million trees were planted. Now, Nebraska has nearly 400 million trees, much to the credit of this special holiday that was made to help the environment and help keep our planet greener.

Arbor Day's counterpart, Earth Day, focuses on the education surrounding climate change and protecting the environment. In contrast, Arbor Day's goal is to help create the environment that we need in order to thrive and flourish as a human population. Earth Day strives to bring attention and awareness, educating on how one can limit carbon footprint and reduce waste. Arbor Day also strives to help, but chiefly through a tangible way of action.

When I think of humans' environmental impact, I also think of the scenery around me. I think of the places that I couldn't go without a healthy environment or the places I couldn't appreciate without nice weather. I think of the places where I wish I could go in the future, like Alaska or Scotland or Costa Rica, that is known for its natural beauty. Although Arbor Day can also be a day where you dedicate a memorial to someone with a tree, we don't want that memorial to be for the foliage that was present or the

places that didn't survive rising sea levels. We need to appreciate the nature around us so that nature can give back to us even more and continue to flourish. A good example is from the famous book *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein. It depicts how humans are always taking from nature but never look back and appreciate what nature has truly given humanity. The book explains that the tree is never really happy until the boy is happy, signifying the danger in humans focusing on what we want, rather than reflecting on all that we have. In contrast, the environment tends to be much more selfless.

Arbor Day is run by a non-profit company, called the Arbor Day Foundation, whose sole purpose is to plant as many trees as possible. Since 1972, the company has grown over 10 million trees. Dependent on the climate, each state dedicates a day for Arbor Day, even though it may not get as much attention as it should. Also, in climates that are unable to plant on the usual last Friday in April timeframe, the holiday may be moved around so the environment can properly grow more trees. In Alaska and Hawaii, there are different days dedicated to Arbor Day because of

the extreme weather, but it is still celebrated nevertheless.

Although it may be a holiday that doesn't receive as much publicity as it should, and it isn't as celebrated as Christmas or Thanksgiving, it is a holiday that impacts the earth positively. Recognizing the good that is coming out of the community where they come together and plant trees is impactful. It helps humans live in a cleaner environment while also cooperating and organizing something that does something greater. To offset the emissions that each human produces every day, we need at least 15-20 trees planted per individual. Each tree matters, and without them, our planet would suffer greatly. Sea levels are rising, and the ozone layer is weakening, but with more trees and people who want to impact the world on a day like Arbor Day, there is much to be commended. So do yourself a favor and go outside and plant a tree. If you can't plant a tree, educate others on the importance of Arbor Day and the amazing effects it has on the only planet we call home.

To read other articles by Sarah Miller, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

Sophomore

Trees in heaven

Joseph Carlson
MSMU Class of 2025

*There will be trees in Heaven
Which even now are more real
than we
For they are sons and daughters
of that first Tree of Immortality
For what is real is what has
received
and born the seed of grace
And we shall ne'er surpass the
trees till we see His Face
When we shall once again walk
in concert
with the Lord of Light
And we shall hold that Goodly
Fruit without fear or fright
And the trees exhort us to
receive
The Theophany here offered
Where upon a tree our Blessed
Lord had goodly suffered
(Joseph Carlson)*

The beginning of C.S. Lewis's *The Great Divorce*, depicts the protagonist, an average man, in a place in the afterlife which seems to be Hell. However, he is able to take a flying bus to Heaven, where he and the rest of the folks on the bus are invited to stay for eternity. On his way up, Hell, which had once looked like a grand and infinite chasm,

becomes a tiny crack in the dirt, covered over by trees. When he arrives for his tour, he finds that his feet are not capable of bending the grass; those who were with him appeared to be transparent ghosts, implying that even the grass in Heaven was more real than they. It reminds us of what our Lord said about blades of grass, "that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them." If one blade of grass is more magnificent to behold than a king, then how much more noble is a tree?

A tree represents for us the right response to the Will of God. When the Lord sends rain to water the Earth, the tree receives and bears fruit; it accepts God's grace into its very self, and offers itself back to God's service in bearing fruit. The 55th chapter of Isaiah declares this truth:

*Yet just as from the heavens
the rain and snow come down
And do not return there
till they have watered the
earth,
making it fertile and fruitful,
Giving seed to the one who
sows
and bread to the one who eats,
So shall my word be
that goes forth from my mouth;
It shall not return to me empty,
but shall do what pleases me,*

*achieving the end for which I
sent it.*

*Mountains and hills shall
break out in song before you,
all trees of the field shall clap
their hands.
In place of the thornbush, the
cypress shall grow,
instead of nettles, the myrtle.
(10-13)*

Can trees have joy? There is nothing nonmaterial to them, so not in the same sense that we have joy. Their 'joy,' is built into them. Joy comes at acknowledging and loving the presence of the Lord. Nature does recognize the Lord; the ground shook and the sky darkened when the Messiah had died in her presence. Nature knows the Lord, for in the beginning, the Lord walked with her in the Garden. We were there with Him then. If there were trees in our first home, shall there not be trees in our final home?

The trees do not worry; they do not need to search for meaning. They simply receive. This is well captured in the following poem by David Rosenthal, *Trees Need Not Walk the Earth*:

*Trees need not walk the earth
For beauty or for bread;
Beauty will come to them
Where they stand.
Here among the children of
the sap*

*Is no pride of ancestry:
A birch may wear no less the
morning
Than an oak.
Here are no heirlooms
Save those of loveliness,
In which each tree
Is kingly in its heritage of grace.
Here is but beauty's wisdom
In which all trees are wise.
Trees need not walk the earth
For beauty or for bread;
Beauty will come to them
In the rainbow—
The sunlight—
And the lilac-haunted rain;
And bread will come to them
As beauty came:
In the rainbow—
In the sunlight—
In the rain.*

In this way, the tree is more kingly and wiser than Solomon, for the tree does not imagine it can invent its own meaning. Rather, it receives its reason for being humbly from the Creator. In such submission, it receives beautiful things as its very sustenance. How much more so we, "who live not by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God?" (Matthew 4:4) Knowing that from Himself comes our life-force, the Lord therefore sent Himself, the Word of God, to become man and die on a tree. After He was pierced, He watered the earth with His Blood and with water from His side, such that now, all the earth is holy.

If the earth is holy, why does our society distance itself from it,

imagining that towers of plaster and cinderblock are better cathedrals than those touched with gold and set upon the hills?

It is for this reason: there are two choices for men, or two trees for us to die on, of which our culture has picked the worse part. We may choose to die upon the tree which we take for ourselves, like Adam taking the fruit forbidden him and therefore taking death for himself; or, we may die upon the tree which we have not taken nor snatched for ourselves, but rather accepted and received, with humility and faith. Too often men take their trees and build themselves prisons; perhaps we'd be better off simply accepting the trees given us. When you plant a tree this Arbor Day, don't let it be the end of it. You and those after you should be able to look at the tree and remember what it used to be; a little sapling in your hands.

The fruit the tree bears offers it no abject benefit; it has been ordained to plant and give its seed away. In the same way, we must care and tend our trees and our gardens, and so have something to offer back to the Lord in thanksgiving for the bread and beauty with which we have been fed.

*cherry blossoms
are like peace for the eyes,
if you see them once
By lecaaan*

To read other articles by Joseph Carlson, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

ARBOR DAY - WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO THE EARTH

Junior

The Uncle Jerry tree

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

Trees are captivating, the way they move with the seasons. The way their rhythm falls in sync with the spring-to-summer change, the raining leaves of autumn, the slow fade to winter. Almost as if trees represent the motions of life, themselves.

When my sister and I were young—super young—we experienced our first death. My great-great uncle, who had lived far from us in West Virginia, died, and I had never met him. In fact, I had hardly known of his existence until my mother sat us at the kitchen table, placed her hands on ours, and said: “Your Uncle Jerry has died, girls.”

I don't recall much about my own reaction, but my sister broke out in tears. For days, she cried herself to bed, would look through old photographs of our great-great Uncle Jerry: a sweet-looking, old man with gray hair and etches of smile lines beneath his eyes. We didn't know that he was nearly ninety, that he had passed away in his sleep, that

his death meant peacefulness at the end of a long life. All we knew was the word “death,” the cold, abstract hollow of the word, a vast abyss of confusion and unexplainable pain.

But I think my mother told us because children need to know about these experiences. When my sister learned of Uncle Jerry's death, she asked my dad to plant a tree in the front yard. In the following weeks, my sister asked every member of our family to come to our house, write letters and cards, and bury them in the earth where my dad would plant a new tree. Then we would release the balloons, watch the sky swallow them up.

My great grandmother and great aunts and uncles drove from West Virginia—a two-hour trip—to join us in our front yard for the planting of what would be called “The Uncle Jerry Tree.” Uncle Jerry had already had a funeral, though. This was for my sister and me, an innocent coping of death when it was still abstract to us.

That day, we wrote cards for Uncle Jerry on construction paper with markers. Even my adult family did as well. My father dug a hole in our front yard, deep enough to bury all the cards, and then he placed a small dogwood tree in the garden

bed. I don't have many memories of this day, but I do remember the shovel, dirt and mulch sprinkled around the little tree. I remember that it was spring, and there was a chill in the air that made you reminisce on warmer days. I remember the balloons floating into the sky, little spots of yellow and pink and blue that grew into small dots, and then nothing at all.

And I remember feeling complete, as if this tree were Uncle Jerry's grave, as if I had known my great-great uncle all my life.

As I grew up, there was a birch-wood tree in our yard and a maple tree and the Uncle Jerry Tree, the beautiful dogwood that had spider-like, thin branches in the winter and oval, pink-rimmed petals with white centers. We never called it anything else. You knew it was spring when the buds began to blossom from nowhere, from nothing, and then all of a sudden, you walked outside and the Uncle Jerry Tree was bending in the wind, petals raining and flying around it.

When I think about the Uncle Jerry Tree, I don't think about my great-great Uncle Jerry, because truthfully, it was never about him. On the surface it was—the cards, the balloons, the family gathering,

But my sister and I demanded the tree should be planted because we didn't know what death was. We didn't know that people weren't permanent. It's a shattering feeling that breaks down the barriers we once thought we knew, and my sister and I decided to cope using nature.

We used a tree because to us, trees are more permanent than people, but they still reflect the changing conditions to each season. It's something we can rely on. We depend on scarlet leaves to fall in autumn because we've never known anything else. We depend on the bare branches of winter because instinctively, we know. We depend on the growth in spring because we crave hope, we need it to survive.

Trees provide this.

Trees reflect the artwork of nature, the rhythmic movement of the seasons. We use them as metaphors for life and death, for hope and growth, because they are permanently rooted in the earth. Even when they die, too, their remnants are still here. Trees are found in the wood of our desks, the pages of our books. They are signs and sources of life, everywhere.

I didn't know what Arbor Day was until I had to write this article. We celebrate it a week after Earth Day. Arbor Day is for the trees, for

the planting of the trees, for caring for our planet's natural resources in these specific ways.

I will always look up to my dad for planting the Uncle Jerry Tree, and for all the family members that came to our celebration. In their hearts, they knew that the memorial was not for an uncle we've never met, but rather to appeal to the sweet, lighthearted, childish insight that nature can be representative and even healing of death. Nature is how we make sense of these human tragedies so that in the end, we can grow closer to the patterns and quality of trees, for example. We can intimately recognize the capacity for beauty that each season holds.

Sometimes I still think about the cards and letters for Uncle Jerry, buried beneath the tree, roots growing into the paper, the fibers of its existence decaying into earth. We've since moved from my brick townhouse, into another home, and the tree belongs to someone else now. In fact, it's just a dogwood tree. One that sways to the rhythms of the season. One that rains pink petals in the spring, grows bare limbs in the winter.

To read other articles by Claire Doll, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.

Senior

The steward of the hope-filled trees

McKenna Snow
MSMU Class of 2023

For the longest time, trees in the wintertime were one of my least favorite sights. In taking a drive through the mountains, there was little variety to behold through the window. The landscape was a grey-brown, like the land had fallen asleep, and for a great distance all the eye could really notice was the empty limbs. The tree trunks were devoid of squirrels playing, signaling that there is a great hush over all the natural world.

It took me a long time to learn how to appreciate the winter, and the empty trees. I didn't want to forever blame my more annoyed winter moods on the grey trees (which really was a temptation for me), but I wasn't sure how to go about reconciling their barrenness with their goodness even in the wintertime.

What helped me see the empty trees differently was attending Mass during Lent last year in the glass chapel at the national grotto (which I can walk to from the Mount). Attending Mass in this chapel is especially beautiful because of the window-walls that have a cover of trees outside them, since the chapel sits on the mountainside. The difficult part of this interior design, however, is that in the winter, the outside view is that sight I struggle with—the barrenness, the grey.

But during Lent, I noticed that the interior of the chapel actually matched quite well with its exterior; there were few flowers, if any, and getting into the later weeks of Lent the statues and images were all covered with purple cloth. All

the beauty of the chapel, hidden.

I am inclined to think that outside of these penitential seasons, beauty within a chapel is extremely helpful for lifting our hearts and minds in prayer. But here at this quiet, daily Mass with a few scattered people in the pews, I encountered encouragement in the spiritual wilderness of Lent in a very tangible way. There was a moment when barrenness and fruitfulness collided. It was time to receive the Eucharist, and I was walking down the center of the chapel, trying to pray. There was a sister singing the communion hymn alone, and since it was a weekday Mass, there were no instruments. I listened to her sing, saw the covered statues, and the empty trees outside.

But then I believed. I wasn't there for the glamor of what exterior sights could offer. I was there for Jesus, hidden and yet fully present in the Eucharist. I was there to receive Him, to deepen my relationship with Him, and to receive the abundant graces He was there to offer me. As this moment of faith washed over me, the desert wasn't so dry. Though I was miles out in the spiritual desert of Lent, and far into winter, both offered an environment to encounter the God of hope, and to see His creation in a new way.

Now, I think that human beings are unique in that we are both body and soul, which means that we have both physical and spiritual needs. So here was the wonderfulness of God in light of this reality: He was meeting me there, in the emptiness, to fill my spiritual needs, but He was also meeting me there to help heal my physical needs and my relationship with His creation. I began to understand the barrenness of those trees better after that. They are a signpost of hope, of waiting for the springtime that is to come. They convey a deeper reality about the interconnectedness of all nature and human

life. They are signs of the resilience and brilliance of nature, which knows how to survive in even the harshest Maryland winters. How incredible these trees are, and how they should inspire us to live! In our seasons of sleeping and of grey, there is still life and hope. But, trees are not only symbolic signs, but real and essential aspects of the environment that continually offer hope to our air, the seasons to come, and to all the creatures. Thus, trees offer hope not only to the future of our physical world; through their testimony of surviving the winter through God's care, they offer hope to those journeying through the spiritual life.

And from these thoughts about the trees, I have come to learn that God is a holistic healer. He sees the whole human person and calls us to love Him with our whole heart, mind, body, and soul. That means that we can, and must, love Him through loving His creation, especially in the physical world all around us.

That is why I argue that Arbor Day is a great extension of the response to love God with our whole self. We are not just spiritual beings, but body and soul inhabiting this earth God gave us. Arbor Day is celebrated by planting new trees, so as to help the environment and to better our world. So I ask myself: so what if trees are grey half of the year? I have encountered their importance year-round, and know for certain that even in winter, we need them. Trees are crucial for the environment's health, as well as for our own; it is only fitting that we respond to caring for the environment by giving back more trees than we have taken away for our human needs. The use of trees can be a regenerative relationship if it is regulated properly, and if the local community enthusiastically pitches in to giving back.

When I was little, my mom taught

me to pick up trash when I could because “littering doesn't take care of God's world.” She taught me on this small level to be a good steward of the earth, and to see that even the little efforts make differences in caring for it. I believe that caring for the earth through not only removing trash but adding trees is much more holistic approach to caring for the earth. Let us not only remove that which would poi-

son the natural world, but let us contribute intentionally to its flourishing, acknowledging the crucial role trees play in ecosystems. We are the stewards of this earth; and we can impact the earth's health deeply, even if it is through the planting of a single tree.

To read other articles by McKenna Snow, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library

On March 25 the library will be holding its annual Indoor Vintage Book Sale from 10:30 to 1:30. The book sale consists of vintage books we have saved over many years of donations.

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

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

Thursdays – Teen’s Night. The community room is reserved for teen use from 4:30–6 p.m.. just hang out or play Wii, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

Saturday - Join us at 10:30 a.m., for an hour of Story Time and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book and a fun craft?

Scherenschnitte Night at the Library – April 4th at 6:30 p.m.. Learn the German art of paper cutting design. The artwork often has rotational symmetry within the design, and common forms include silhouettes, valentines, and love letters. The art tradition was founded in Switzerland and Germany in the 16th century and was brought to Colonial America in the 18th century by Swiss and German immigrants who settled primarily in Pennsylvania.

The Summit Stitchers Quilt Club meets at 5:30 p.m. on April 18th. New members and new projects are

always welcome! Any skill level may attend. If you have always wanted to learn how to quilt, now is the perfect time to start! The group is currently working on this year’s gorgeous raffle quilt.

The BRS Book Club will meet April 17 at 5 p.m. This month’s book is *The Stranger* by Albert Camus.

For more information on the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library visit www.fclspa.org or call 717-792-2240

Frederick County Libraries

Spring is here and as William Shakespeare wrote "April... hath put a spirit of youth in everything," (Sonnet XCVIII). The Emmitsburg and Thurmont libraries have taken this to heart this month with fun and youthful programs celebrating April with the Spring spirit.

At Emmitsburg Library, put a spring in your step with certified personal trainer Jonny Slick of Straight Shot Training who will be conducting a mobility workshop for adults, on Saturday, April 1 at 10:30 a.m.

How many chicks do you see? 1, 2, 3. Some special little chicks have hidden themselves all around the library! Visit the Emmitsburg branch 11am - 3pm Saturday, April 8 and see if you can locate them all during the Emmitsburg Spring Scavenger Hunt and Craft. The Exploration Station program on April 12 at 4 p.m. and on April 15 at 10:30 a.m. for grades K - 5, provides an opportunity for children to learn all about trees.

Celebrate Spring at Thurmont Library with a special seasonal storytime! Enjoy stories, movement, and

music followed by an egg hunt on our outdoor library trail. Discover the magic of nature while your little one’s hunt for eggs on Saturday, April 8, at 10:30 a.m.,

On Saturday, April 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. explore all that Thurmont Green Fest has to offer. The town will be presented with their "Tree City U.S.A. certification at the opening of the event, and then Slim Harrison will present a live concert for the whole family and show kids how to make their own instruments. Baker Tree Service will demonstrate the best practices for pruning your trees at noon, and library staff will present a storytime at 1 p.m. Bring all your old electronic household items for e - recycling, see green demonstrations, visit the vendors, meet the live creatures from Cunningham Falls State Park’s Scales and Tales, go on a scavenger hunt along the library trail or treat yourself to lunch from the Glamourview Food Truck, along with lots of other family - friendly activities. You might even win the rain - barrel raffle. Hope you can join us!

Emmitsburg Branch Library

April 1: The Learning Café: Maintaining Your Mobility (Adults), 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

April 1: Calligraphy Workshop (Teens), 1 - 3 p.m.

April 3 & 17: Little Adventures (Birth to 5), 11 - Noon.

April 4, 11, 18, 25: Teen Study Lab (Teens), 5 - 8 p.m.

April 4, 11, 18, 25: Family Storytime (Birth to 5), 11 - 11:30 a.m.

April 6 & 20: Open Game Night with Wookie Walkers

Friends of the Emmitsburg Library

The Friends of the Emmitsburg Branch Library will be hosting a fundraiser at Thurmont’s Roy Rogers Restaurant on Friday, April 21 from 5 until 8 p.m.

Mention the Emmitsburg Friends and we will receive 25% of the proceeds to support literacy and community programming in northern Frederick County.

(Teens), 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

April 12: Exploration Station (Elementary), 4 - 5 p.m.

April 13: Read to a Therapy Dog with Wags for Hope (Birth to 5, Elementary), 6 - 7 p.m.

April 15: Exploration Station (Elementary), 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

April 29: Create Your Own Succulent Garden (Teens), 1 - 3 p.m.

Thurmont Regional Library

April 1: April Fool’s Party (Teens), 3 - 4 p.m.

April 3, 10, 17, 24: Preschool Storytime (Birth to 5), 10:30 - 11 a.m.

April 3, 10, 17, 24: School Skills for Preschool (Birth to 5), 11:15 - 11:45 a.m.

April 3, 10, 17, 24: Library Learners (Elementary), 1 - 2 p.m.

April 4, 11, 18, 25: Elementary Explorers (Elementary), 4 - 4:45 p.m.

April 4, 11, 18, 25: Baby Storytime (Birth to 5), 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

April 5, 12, 19, 26: Toddler Storytime (Birth to 5), 10:30 - 11 a.m.

April 5: Preparing Your Home to Sell in the Spring Selling Season (Adults), 6 - 7 p.m.

April 6, 13, 20, 27: Musical Storytime (Birth to 5), 10:30 - 11 a.m.

April 8: Celebrate Spring Storytime and Egg Hunt (Birth to 5), 10:30 - 11 a.m.

April 13: Digital Learning (Adults), 10 - Noon.

April 15: Thurmont Greenfest (Adults, All Ages), 10 - Noon.

April 26: Read to a Therapy Dog with WAGS for Hope (Birth - 5, Elementary), 6 - 7 p.m.

April 20: Minecraft EDU (Teens), 6 - 8 p.m.

April 27: Dungeons & Dragons Virtual: Let’s Play (Teens), 6 - 8 p.m.

April 29: Exploration eSports (Teens), 2 - 4 p.m.

April 30: Frederick County 275th: Milkhouse Brewery at Stillpoint Farm Tour (Adults), 2 - 3 p.m.

Carroll Valley Library

Barks and Books, April 3rd at 6:30 p.m. - Reading to a therapy dog helps build confidence in new or reluctant readers. Please bring your child to the library to read to Danny, our favorite KPets pup!

Diamond Painting Group, April 6th and April 20th at 2 p.m. - Bring your diamond painting project and join other diamond painting enthusiasts! New to diamond painting? Come to the intro class that will be held once a month. The intro class date will be April 6th.

Teen Book Club, April 6th at 6:30 p.m. - You are invited to join the new teen book club! Bring a snack to share. April’s selection is *Nimona* by Noelle Stevenson, ages 11-18. Registration is required.

Lego Challenge, April 10 at 6:30 p.m. - Bring your creative brain to the library to participate in the Lego building event. Compete in the library challenge for a chance to win a prize! Age range is 5 to 10. Registration required.

Melted Crayon Art Jewelry, April 17th at 6:30 p.m. - See how easy it is to turn melted crayons into beautiful jewelry! Come to the library and make a colorful crayon pendant. Age range is 11-18. Registration is required.

Adult Book Club, April 19th at 2 p.m. - Join the group for some good company and conversation. April’s selection – *The Giver* of Stars by Jojo Moyes.

Welcome Door Hangers, April 20th at 6:30 p.m. - Make a colorful door hanger with Miss Di to brighten your home décor. Age range is 16 and up. Registration is required.

Candy Sushi, April 24th at 6:30 p.m., Attend and celebrate National Library Week and make a sweet treat. Age range is 7 to 12. Registration is required.



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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

Frederick County Public Schools

Karen Yoho
Frederick County School Board

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

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

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

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

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

FCPS home page – Special Education Audit Updates.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FASD summer construction projects

The Fairfield Area School District is preparing for two major renovation projects.

At their March meeting, the board heard about plans to replace building roofs and high school gymnasium bleachers.

Business Manager Tim Stanton told the board the district has \$8.1 million in its reserve account. Of that, \$2.2 million is designated for the roof project and \$150,000 for the bleachers.

Building and Grounds Director William H. Mooney told the board two recent scans of the elementary and middle/high school roofs indicate repairs are necessary for some sections. The roofs have sustained damage since they were partially replaced in 2011.

"I will not sit here and tell you someone wasn't honest with you previous times. We just have a significant square footage to fix," Superintendent Thomas J. Haupt said.

Haupt said the district plans to conduct thermal scans of the new roofs every year to ensure they are not deteriorating faster than expected. Mooney said both projects will cost about \$1.8 million.

"If all is good, the district should not have to replace a roof

until 2031," Haupt said, referring to the estimated end-of-life for sections of the roofs that will not be affected by the current project.

Board Vice President Jack Liller commended the administration for taking a holistic approach to the roof project.

"If we are going to do this, then this is the way we should do it instead of putting a bandaid on it, putting a bandaid on it, putting a bandaid on it," Liller said.

Mooney told the Board the project's primary purpose is to lower humidity in district buildings. The district is especially sensitive to humidity issues since it was forced to spend \$1.5 million on building dehumidifying and furniture replacement in 2018 when building systems

failed to prevent a mold infestation. The district then committed a \$10.3 million bond to replace the failed systems.

The district also plans to replace the bleachers in the high school gymnasium at a cost of \$141,000, Mooney said. The current bleachers do not meet current construction codes nor the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"I think it is awesome we are not going to make elderly people climb those bleachers like they do now, and I am one of those elderly people," Liller said.

The high school gymnasium floor, which Haupt referred to as "unsightly," will be replaced at a cost of about \$48,350. Funds from the floor will come from the district's general operating

budget, Stanton said.

"It should be a really beautiful project when we are done with it," Haupt said.

In the future, the district plans to paint the gymnasium, while protecting the new bleachers and floor.

"There is no time to do all of

that work this summer. The priority to us is the liability concern with the bleachers," Haupt said.

The district is also looking for a new school logo. At last month's meeting, the board suggested asking students to submit ideas. Haupt reported no students expressed interest so the administration is exploring other options.

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ARTS

GCCA presents the Telegraph Quartet

Peggy Magaldi
Gettysburg Community Concert
Association

On Tuesday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m., the Telegraph Quartet (Eric Chin and Joseph Maile, violins; Pei-Ling Lin, viola; Jeremiah Shaw, cello) will be presented in concert by Gettysburg Community Concert Association at the St. James Lutheran Church, 109 York Street, Gettysburg.

The Telegraph Quartet appreciates with an equal passion, standard chamber music repertoire and contemporary, non-standard works alike. The San Francisco-based group formed in 2013 and is celebrating their tenth season together. For this concert, the Telegraph Quartet will perform a selection of works spanning three centuries, including Joseph Haydn's String Quartet in F-major, Opus 50, No. 5 (1787); Ludwig van Beetho-

ven's String Quartet No. 10 in Eb Major, Op. 74, "Harp" (1809); and Gabriela Lena Frank's Leyendas: An Andean Walkabout, (2001).

Telegraph says of the opportunity to perform this rich program in Gettysburg: "All three of these works for string quartet stand worlds apart from one another while still maintaining that traditions of dialogue inherent to the string quartet form. Haydn's wonderfully optimistic style is certainly often reflected in many movements of Beethoven's Op. 74 and yet Beethoven is searching for more than just passing moments of poignancy, stretching himself past this to be lost in the sublime. Gabriella Lena Frank, likewise, reaches past the European sound of Haydn and Beethoven's string quartet sound, delving into her own Peruvian heritage of striking and colorful Andean folk music."

Described by the San Francisco

Chronicle as "...an incredibly valuable addition to the cultural landscape" and "powerfully adept... with a combination of brilliance and subtlety," the Telegraph Quartet was awarded the prestigious 2016 Walter W. Naumburg Chamber Music Award and the Grand Prize at the 2014 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition. The Quartet has performed in concert halls, music festivals, and academic institutions across the United States and abroad, including New York City's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, and at festivals including the Chautauqua Institute. The Quartet is currently on the chamber music faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music as the Quartet-in-Residence.

Beyond the concert stage, the Telegraph Quartet seeks to spread its music through education and audience engagement. The Quartet has given master classes at the



The San Francisco-based group is celebrating their tenth season together.

San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and abroad at the Taipei National University of the Arts, National Taiwan Normal University, and in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Telegraph Quartet will also present a student outreach program to an Adams County/Hanover area school.

Admission is with a GGCA membership card or an adult admis-

sion of \$20 at the door. Children to age 18 and college students with ID are admitted free.

For information e-mail info@gettysburgcca.org or visit www.gettysburgcca.org; write GCCA: PO box 3193, Gettysburg, PA 17325. The Gettysburg Community Concert Association (a non-profit membership organization).

Way off Broadway's Church Basement Ladies

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

In the show, audiences find themselves in 1965 rural Minne-

sota, where the ladies of the local Lutheran church fortify their flock with love, wisdom, and the food they prepare in the church's basement kitchen. In Church Basement Ladies, we meet the pastor, three cooks, and one daughter who run the kitchen and care for the congregation. This funny musical comedy sees the four women handle a Lutefisk Dinner, a funeral, an Easter Fundraiser, and, of course, a wedding.

Based on Janet Martin and Suzann Nelson's book Growing Up Lutheran, first published in 1997, Church Basement Ladies premiered in 2005 at the Plymouth Playhouse in Plymouth,

Minnesota. The show was so popular with audiences that it went on to spawn seven sequels and a prequel. Most of which also premiered at the Plymouth Playhouse prior to touring the United States.

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

Way Off Broadway's cast of Church Basement Ladies includes Beka Burgoon as Signe Engelson, Melissa Ann Martin as Mavis Gilmerson, Hannah Pecoraro as Vivian Snustad, Laura Walling as Karyn Engelson, and Jordan Stocksdale as Pastor Gunderson.

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

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

Church Basement Ladies will run March 31 – May 20, with performances every Friday and Saturday evening and matinees on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of each month. A special matinee has been added for Mother's Day on Sunday, May 14th. Tickets for a Friday evening or Sunday Matinee performance are \$55, with Saturday evening tickets costing \$59. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Box Office at 301-662-6600.

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

Endangered Species (theatre) Project's The Awakening

The Endangered Species (theatre) Project presents The Awakening - A compelling story of a woman going through a social, sexual, and spiritual transformation at the end of the 19th Century. Told to a score of blues, ragtime, soul, and opera.

"I was drawn to this turn of the century novel in my early twenties. I recently rediscovered it, and realized the questions it asked felt very relevant and familiar," says director Christine Mosere. She continues, "More than one person has recently said to me, 'what will finally wake us up?'"

Christine read the Rebecca Chace's adaptation while living in Seattle and became an instant fan of the trademarked Book-It Style. This style of adaptation is unique, it preserves the author's narrative voice in often exact wording and brings an intimacy between the audience and the author in a way not often seen. "Upon moving to Frederick, MD and forming ESPtheatre in 2018, I knew I had to bring this style of

theatre to Frederick."

ESPtheatre began rehearsals for The Awakening in February of 2020 and was quickly sidelined by the pandemic. It has taken three years to finally bring this large cast production back to the stage. Joining Gillian Shelly*, Matthew Baughman and Sasha Olnick (who just completed his run in Two Jews Walked into a War at Theater J), are: Joseph

Baltz, Sasha Carrera*, Victoria Causey, Olivia Ercolano, Stephen Kime, Ray Shaw, Eleanor Tapscott, Joseph Waeaert, and Zoé Badovinac.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. except as noted: Opening Night, Friday, April 14 --playing Saturday, April 15 - Monday, April 17 - Tuesday, April 18 @ 3 p.m. - Wednesday, April 19 - April & Friday April 21.

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MOUNT ARTS

2023 SPARC Festival at the Mount

Ashley Walczyk
MSMU class of 2024

It's that time of year again for the annual SPARC festival at the Mount! Last year, the story was covered right after the event happened, but this year, the story is happening before, which gives you time to mark on your calendars for April 20th through the 22nd on campus!

If you don't know what the SPARC festival is, it is a celebration of the liberal arts education on campus that happens yearly during the month of April. The acronym, SPARC, stands for Scholarship, Performance, Art, Research, and Creativity, and showcases the creative projects from the College of Liberal Arts, the Richard Bolte School of Business, the School of Education, the School of Natural Science and Mathematics, and the University Honors Program.

As an honors student, the rigorous honors projects are year-long studies of work reflecting their education in their respected majors, and their topics of shared interest with a mentor. This project is both a capstone experience for the students and can be used as "springboards" for graduate schools or professions.

About the Honors Project

The first encounter of the honors project for honors students occurs in the spring semester of their junior year. During this semester, students find a mentor and have a rough idea of what they want to study. This year, junior students were asked to find a mentor before January or February, depending on the major, and to submit a proposal of the topic in March. The proposals range from two to four pages in length, with the mentor's name listed, a tentative title of the topic, two to four paragraphs describing the topic, a brief outline of the research plan, and the summer reading list. Topics that deal with human or animal participation need a separate proposal submitted to the Institutional Review Board. From

there, the research begins during the summer, with progress reports consistent throughout the rest of the year.

Seniors, however, had more to focus on this year. Starting in the fall, they were to enroll in a course specifically designed for the honors project. An initial progress report is uploaded by October, which includes the title of the project, an abstract or summary, a tentative introduction or elaboration of the project based on the research done, a detailed plan of action in the form of an outline and including dates, and a literature review. This initial progress report must be at least five pages in length. Then, in December, a final progress report is uploaded, which is a completed rough draft of the project. This includes both the abstract or summary of the project in 200 words, and twenty to twenty-five pages written in term paper form. This does include MLA format. There is also a "letter of confidence" sent in by the mentor of the project that does two things: explain that the quantity of the work is completed and satisfactory, and that the project shows promise that the project is worth presenting at the SPARC Festival.

During the spring semester, the seniors are expected to enroll in the second half of the honors project course. This is also the course that will be graded based off of the mentor's evaluation of the project, which equals 75% of the grade, and the public presentation, which is 25% of the grade. In January, the mentor's response is due to the student, which is a response to the rough draft. In April, there will be both a presentation rehearsal and, then of course, the SPARC Festival occurs; by May, the final version of the paper is due. The SPARC Festival presentations last about twenty-five minutes, with five minutes after the presentation for questions and answers. This, of course, is open to the community.

A lot of stress comes about during this time, especially with

constant reviews by the Honors Committee. Both seniors and juniors go through the Committee several times, with evaluations of the project. They are given one of three categories: green light, yellow light, and red light. If a junior or senior receives a green light, it means that they can continue forward with the project, as the topic is worth investigating and it follows the mission of the university. If a junior receives a red light on a proposed topic, they are either asked to resubmit a proposal on a different topic, a completed re-worked proposal, or can choose to not complete the honors project. If a senior receives a red light, then they must withdraw from the program and not proceed with the project.

The Honors Project is a huge accomplishment for the seniors of the Honors Program, which is what the SPARC Festival prides itself on. Please take time to see our seniors present these year-long projects. A list of the full presentation schedule will be available at a later date, so check out the Mount's website, and under SPARC Festival, for the full schedule.

Other SPARC Events

Many of the events during the SPARC Festival come in the form of Lightning Talks, Panel Presentations, Poster Presentations, and Performance Presentations. Some other events are: student-led presentations of topics of interest or a discussion and performance of music, art, or theatre. We also have a literary and arts magazine, Lighted Corners, being revealed to the public, featuring prose, poetry, photography, and visual art produced by the students.

The unveiling of this year's Lighted Corners edition will occur on April 20th. Also check out some of the other events on campus to see when the visual and performing arts events occur at the SPARC Festival. The dates for the SPARC Festival are April 19th through the 21st, with a majority of the events happening on the 20th. SPARC will kick off with

Songs and Stories of the American Hobo



work, adventure, and a unique kind of freedom. Told with period songs, excerpts from hobo autobiographies, with hobo gear, lingo and symbols. Throughout the shows, Matthew sings and plays acoustic guitar, harmonica, banjo and mandolin.

On Monday April 24 at 7 p.m., Matthew Dodd will be presenting his show Songs and Stories of the American Hobo to the Taneytown Heritage and Museum Association.

Amidst a theater set of a campfire in a "hobo jungle", Matthew tells the true story of the Knights of the Road who rode the rails in the early 1900's, looking for

This show is just one of a whole series of history-themed shows that Matthew offers, including Songs and Stories of ... Old Railroad Days ... the Civil War ... the American Revolution ... the American Road ... the Red, White and Blue. Plus Songs and Stories shows for all the major (and minor) holidays. Matthew has performed his shows throughout 10 states.

the Lab Band, at Founder's Plaza on April 19th at 4 p.m. and the on April 20th Delaplaine will host the Senior Art Show's reception at 5 p.m. and the SPARC Evening of Theatre event at 8 p.m..

Please take the time to come out and attend this wonderful event. Hope to see you there!

Other Events on Campus

With the year ending, here are some of the last events of the fine arts program for the 2022-2023 academic year (all the events will take place in Delaplaine unless otherwise noted): The Big Band Swing Dance Party at Palmieri Activities Center on April 13th at 7 p.m.; the Senior Theater Project from April 13th through 15th

at 8 p.m.; the Big Band Bow Tie, which is a ticketed event at Founder's Plaza on April 15th at 7 p.m.; the Small Ensembles Concert on April 19th at 7 p.m.; Kennedy Thorpe, Sr. Recital on April 19th at 8 p.m.; Faith Herbert Project in Horning Theatre on April 27th at 7:30 p.m.; an Opera Workshop Scenes at Horning Theater on April 27th at 7:30 p.m.; the Spring Chorale Concert in the I.C. Chapel on April 29th at 7:30 p.m.; the May Day Concert at on Patriot Plaza on May 1st 4 p.m.; and the Department Student Music Recital at Horning Theater on May 3rd at 7:30 p.m..

To read past Mount Arts articles, visit the Author's section of Emmitsburg.net.



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CATOCTIN SPORTS & ACADEMICS

Spring sports!

Gina Lin
CHS Class of 2024

Spring athletics are picking up, just as winter sports have come to a gracious end. Many teams were eligible to play in off-season competitions such as: Unified bocce, girls basketball, track, and the wrestling programs. Even if mother nature isn't sure which season to be, it is safe to say that spring sports are underway.

Winter sports recap

Just when it seems that the boys' track team couldn't get any better— they do. The track team has really been building a reputation for itself that's reflecting well on Catoctin High School. A combination of factors places the track team in good standing. The team is led by many talented runners who practice teamwork and diligence. Additionally, their head coach, Dave Lillard, has a biology background. Lillard understands the connection between metabolism and athletics, which, undeniably, optimizes the performance of his runners. The boys team, once again, brought home the state championship title.

The girls team fared well, coming in 10th place out of the 23 schools. Moreover, Furious Trammel and Brody Buffington had the opportunity to compete at the New Balance National Indoors in Boston, Massachusetts. The competition features some of the best runners across the nations—Catoctin was the only Maryland 1A team invited to competition. Trammel placed fourth in the 400 meter dash and broke the Catoc-tin record for the fastest time in

the 400 meter. Buffington took second place in the 60 meter and 200 meter dash. To put this in perspective, Buffington is third in the nation for the 60 meter and second in the nation for the 200 meter. With the conclusion of indoor track, perhaps the team could add another state title to their collection this spring.

Wrestling closed their season, spectacularly. Seniors Nathan Kovalcik, Emma Taylor, and Braden Bell were wrestling regional finalists at the 1A/2A Regional Wrestling Tournament, which qualified them for the state championships. Each placed second place. At the 1A/2A Wrestling Tournament, Kovalcik placed 5th in the 182 pound class.

Catoctin's unified bocce proved their excellence on the court's this season. After decisive regular season victories, they headed to the Unified Bocce State Championship on February 15th. Maria Perella, Shay Johnson, Hailey Sier and Siddah Robbins, greatly contributed to the outcome of the game. The Cougars placed third overall. Their coach added, "Together this team accomplished much, especially the true essence of inclusion - where everyone had an opportunity to participate!"

The girls' basketball program continued to perform well throughout the season. The girls had quite a tumultuous season. Out of the 24 games played, 18 resulted in a Cougar victory. Their efforts allowed them to advance to the Class 1A West regional finals, against Boonsboro High School. Boonsboro claimed the regional title by barely pulling a win against Catoctin, with 35-32.

Spring sports preview

The varsity baseball team has set high standards for this season. Coach Mike Franklin has been Catoctin's head varsity baseball coach since 2000 and over 20 years of coaching experience. Varsity baseball consists of 15 players, many of which are skilled returning players with an exception of two new players. In the previous season, varsity won the Central Maryland Conference and two years prior, they were state champs. Franklin had noted that this year's team is proficient in pitching and defense. "This season we strive to be our best and hopefully get to an elite level," Franklin declared.

Senior Joey McMannis leads a slate of strong pitchers which include Jacob Bel, Peyton Castellow, Logan Malachowski, Patrick Morlan, Gavin Watkins, and Garret Worth. McMannis is ranked high on most MLB draft boards, and has a fastball record of 95 miles per hour. Castellow stands out as being among the county's leading pitchers and position players. Franklin also recalled the positive performances of returning offensive players: Jacob Bell, Connor Crum, Joey McMannis, Bryont Green, and Garrett Worth.

The JV baseball team is advised by Tyler Ausherman, who has been coaching baseball for 20 years. Because of the teams' relative youth, he expects this season will serve to refine skills and learn to play at a highschool level. "It takes some time to adjust to the rigor of highschool."

The softball team is also preparing for their first game, scheduled on _____. The team consists of twelve players this year with a majority returning. Sophomore Taylor Smith and Junior Meghan Gray lead the team. Both players have plenty of field experience, as they play on high caliber club teams. In the previous season,



Senior Nathan Kovalcik placed 5th at the 1A state wrestling competition.

the softball team advanced to the regional playoffs.

Catoctin's Unified track team is coached by the enthusiastic Charmane Nesbitt. The team features seven returning runners and two new participants. The four seniors Siddah Robbins, Andre Russell, Gabe Manan and Thomas Bower are leading the team, and helping runners to expand field event skills. Nesbitt mentioned, "The returning players have great skill." The goal of unified sports is to offer everyone a chance to partake in athletics and Catoctin is a great reflection of that. Nesbitt added, "One thing is for certain, the team enjoys being together. We have a lot of fun together!"

The girls' lacrosse team is pretty numerous this year to to say the least. All 26 players present at try-outs were offered a position on the team. There are usually 12 players from a team on the field at once. Many of the players are relatively inexperienced, therefore the team exhibits a wide spectrum of skill levels. Among the returning players, Laney and Lauren Kelley, Beckah Zentz, Lily Bingham, Maddie Binnix, and Morgan Gregory lead the team.

The team has been training through many different workouts, including Fitness Friday, which targets the core. Senior Jazzy Howard, who has been playing lacrosse

for five years put it bluntly, "I expect us to struggle at the beginning of the season, but afterwards we should see some wins." That is a result of the boys team choosing to play tougher opponents initially, Howard explains.

Review of FCPS spectators policies

FCPS has been struggling with enforcement of spectator policies at athletic events. It is important to review expectations when in attendance at these events. First, FCPS does not allow any food and beverage items, bags, and athletic equipment to be brought into stadiums or gymnasiums. Please try to clean up after yourself, because no one else will! Other guidelines include, paying an additional fee for exiting and reentering events. Additionally, all children under eighth grade must be chaperoned by an adult.

There are two ways to purchase tickets: at the gate or online. Tickets are two dollars for students and six dollars for adults. But, free entry is given to spectators over 60 or under eight years of age. To purchase tickets and passes online go to gofan.co/app/school/MD24764.

To read past Catoctin Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.



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12:10 - \$500	1:55 - \$500	3:40 - \$500
12:15 - \$500	2:00 - \$1,000 + \$500*	3:45 - \$500
12:20 - \$500	2:05 - \$500	3:50 - \$500
12:25 - \$500	2:10 - \$500	3:55 - \$500
12:30 - \$500	2:15 - \$500	4:00 - \$1,000 + \$500*
12:35 - \$500	2:20 - \$500	4:05 - \$500
12:40 - \$500	2:25 - \$500	4:10 - \$500
12:45 - \$500	2:30 - \$500	4:15 - \$500
12:50 - \$500	2:35 - \$500	4:20 - \$500
12:55 - \$500	2:40 - \$500	4:25 - \$500
1:00 - \$1,000 + \$500*	2:45 - \$500	4:30 - \$500
1:05 - \$500	2:50 - \$500	4:35 - \$500
1:10 - \$500	2:55 - \$500	4:40 - \$500
1:15 - \$500	3:00 - \$1,000 + \$500*	4:45 - \$500
1:20 - \$500	3:05 - \$500	4:50 - \$2,000
1:25 - \$500	3:10 - \$500	4:55 - \$3,000
1:30 - \$500	3:15 - \$500	5:00 - \$5,000
1:35 - \$500	3:20 - \$500	

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Mount Baseball in the Spring 2023 Season

Steve Morano
MSMU Class of 2024

On Saturday, May 21st, 2022, the Mount Saint Mary's University baseball team lost their third and final game against Long Island University 13-7. The final game culminated in a series loss for the Mount and the end of a long and arduous season for the team and head coach Frank Leoni in his first year in charge of the team. A overall record of 14-34 and a conference record of 7-20 was a tough pill to swallow for many on the team, as they had finished the previous season 9-28. But throughout the rough spells for the team, a new conference and a new set of recruits shows amazing potential for the team as they look to grow and become a force to be reckoned with in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

The first key for Leoni and his assistants, Cullen Moore, Aaron Tarr and Cal Berman was of course, recruiting. A new conference necessitates new talent to match the preexisting players in the conference. But the coaching staff had an advantage in this field, as it was their first recruiting class as a coaching staff, so they did not have to adjust their recruiting tactics from one conference to another. They did this by brining in the likes of freshman Gavin Lacoé, Brayden Foster and the pitching duo of Jett Slepak and Jeff Davis. With the two pitchers being of key interest as of the writing of this article, they are both posting impressive ERAs out of the bullpen, with Slepak's sitting at 1.50 through 12.1 innings pitched. Lacoé has also been very good at the plate with a batting average of .273 and a OPS of .697. There is certainly a lot of room to grow and a bright future for the young Mountaineers!

One of the major improvements that the Mount needs to show is that of their starting rotation. In 2022, their three main starters, Cooper Adams, Luke Pryor and Bryant Shives posted ERAs of 7.30, 7.90 and 9.73 respectively, capping off a team ERA of 8.31 compared to their opponents'

combined ERA of 5.50. So, going into this new season and new conference, they have to drop that down by a large margin to give their offense time to get runs. And so far, it is working. It is still very early in the season, but Adams in particular, who is the Friday night starter, is showing off what he has to offer in his final season, posting a 3.14 ERA through 28.2 innings.

With regards to their offensive output at the late, the Mount seems to be in better hands than they were last year. Out of the six players who have played in all eighteen games that the Mount has played in so far, five have batting averages above .270 and an OPS above .800. Players that standout specifically are junior Scott Seeker and senior Jayson Kramer, who are both batting .364 and .333 respectively. Seeker leads the team in OPS at 1.094 and Kramer is fourth in the team in OPS with .967. Seeker also leads the team in home runs with five, three of those coming on March 17th in a 12-5 win for the Mountaineers. On the basepaths, the Mount is very aggressive, swiping 24 bases in 31 attempts, with twelve of those belonging to junior, Aiden Tierney and senior Brady Drawbaugh. This hard-running philosophy between the bags has not changed from the team's game plan from last season, as in 2022 the Mount stole 96 bases and had a 78% success rate in running between pitches. "It's a complementary kind of style where we are looking to run when we can, but we are also we are trying to get the pitchers' focus off the hitter a little bit and get some good pitches to hit," Leoni said.

MAAC baseball is completely different to the ball played in the Northeastern Conference. The new challenges that accompany a new conference have been a common theme for all sports at the Mount. Baseball is no different, as they faced the reigning conference champions, Canisius, regular season champions Fairfield, and MAAC powerhouse Marist in the first three weekends. On the importance of this first schedule in the conference, Leoni said, "We have all the things going



The Mount baseball team hit five homers in their game against St. Bonaventure on March 17.

against us, kind of like previous years, but will we really compete?" Ever since the players first walked through the doors, they have been mentally preparing for the competition. A hard combination of training and mental awareness for the new competition level have been accompanied by Leoni's experience at the collegiate level. Leoni won the Atlantic-10 championship with Rhode Island in 2005. Leoni has utilized those experiences as well as testimonials from his Rhode Island teams of the mid-2000's to help inspire his current players at the Mount to take on the test of their new competition.

The schedule that the Mountaineers face is filled with twists and turns of conference teams and national powerhouses. Already, the Mount has faced local schools such as Coppin State, Towson and UMBC. They also have played nationally-rated competition in a tournament against #4 Wake Forest, with these games being scheduled by the coaching staff to give experience to the team. Later this season, they will also face the likes of Georgetown, Virginia and Maryland. These out-of-conferences games are meant to challenge the pitching staff and offense in an attempt to ready the Mountaineers for the coming challenges of the MAAC. But what are the challenges that they will face in conference?

You obviously have the first three weekends, where they will face Canisius at home, Fairfield at home once again, and Marist at away. These games will be the telltale of if the team is up to the challenge of conference. Then on the weekend of April 14-16th, they take on St. Peters at home before they play Maryland Eastern Shore in a three-game set to take a break from conference play. They then pick it up again against Quinnipiac away in Connecticut on April 28th in Connecticut before going to New York to play Manhattan. The final home series is scheduled for May 11-13th, where the Mountaineers play Sienna before leaving for the U.S.-Canadian border to play Niagara in the final

series before the conference playoffs, which start on May 24th.

No matter what happens in the first season of MAAC baseball for Mount Saint Mary's, you can be sure of this: the future, if not the near future, is extremely bright and promising. With the influx of good, young pitching and the experience that the veterans of this team have, they have the potential to be really good. They just have to keep the "nothing to lose" mindset that the coaching staff have drummed into them since the beginning of the year. If they do that, then they will be playing competitive baseball in a conference that is known for it.

To read past Mount Sports articles, visit the Current Events section of Emmitsburg.net.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Spring is still springing

Jefferson Breland

I am going to endeavor to explain a concept that is very foreign to most Americans and their view of health. According to Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), wind is a very interesting phenomena that affects our bodies and emotions.

To explain wind from a TCM perspective, I am going to divide my explanation into two parts.

As a result of my decision, I am going to lead with the health advice I normally reserve for the end of the article. Practical advice to help you stay healthy today.

Until mid-May: Cover your neck. Keep your feet and ankles warm. Don't wear shorts or skirts that expose your lower legs. Wear a bit more clothing than you think you should.

All this is due to the coolness of the earth and the wind in the air.

I sound like your grandmother, don't I?

Technically speaking this article is about two months late. Our Gregorian calendar places the start of Spring on March 20, 2023. According to other calendars around the world, Spring sprang at the beginning of February.

These calendars choose the beginning of February to mark the beginning of Spring because according to their cultural/historical beliefs that is when the energy of the Earth begins to rise, thus ending the stillness of Winter. It is when seeds begin their first stirrings beneath the ground and the shifting of sap in tree roots begins to move upwards unseen.

This is all based on the energies of nature. We do not see these stirrings because they are not yet visible. While these are unseen, we begin to see the effect of this rising Spring energy in other ways. Our pets may begin to be more active. We see birds migrating. We see our first robins, a classic harbinger of Spring.

Another of these effects of the rising energy of Spring is wind. Wind fascinates me. Before science taught us that wind is caused by air pressure systems and/or the uneven heating of water and land on the Earth's surface, it was a mystery. Wind is the subject of many a myth. It can have symbolic meaning as well as practical application. It was the motive force of the global naval economy until engine driven ships were invented.

While we can't see wind, we can see its effects. This "invisible" force can be very pleasing, helpful even, as well as destructive such as tornados, hurricanes, derechos, and any mighty wind.

In past Complementary Corners, I have written about the invisible being more powerful than the visible. In those articles, I focused on the invisible beliefs which influence how we choose to live our lives. In relationship to the natural world, wind is a great example of the invisible being more powerful than the visible on both the physical and energetic levels.

What do I mean by visible? The visible, that which we can see, is limited because it has a distinct shape, size, etc. You can touch it. It is what it is. What you see is what you get.

The invisible is everything we can't see. That is a lot of stuff. Generally speaking, we can only see five percent of the Universe. That is what scientists say; only five percent. Who am I to argue with science except when I disagree with it?

On Earth, the percentage of visible stuff seems much higher. I see things all around me all the time, yet there is plenty that is invisible. We can't see odor,

taste, or sound. With the possible exception of looking directly at the sun (Do not do this, you will damage your eyes), we don't see light itself. Even looking at the sun (I repeat, DO NOT do this!), the light you see has travelled roughly 92.624 million miles over 8.33 minutes and passed through the atmosphere and bounced off lots of tiny bits of things like water vapor, particulates, etc. We only see light that is reflected off of stuff, so generally speaking, even light is invisible. Weird, right?

According to TCM, wind has an association with the Spring season. From the scientific point of view, this makes sense. As the days get longer, more sun light heats up the earth unevenly as it happens since the earth is made up of all sorts of different things like rocks, soil, trees, ponds, rivers, oceans, parking lots, and well you get the idea. These things heat up, store, and release the energy of the sun at different rates and the result is the winds of Spring.

While the ancients who discovered TCM may not have had concepts about the composition of sunlight and thermodynamics, they were astute observers of the natural world. This makes sense since they didn't have distractions like cable television, cell phones, light bulbs, and lengthy commutes.

These ancient observers made correlations between the seasons and how the natural world shifted according to these seasons. These correlations form the foundation of Chinese Medicine and how we look at the human body.

Now it doesn't take a rocket scientist to observe nature. In the springtime, daylight gets longer, plants and animals behave differently, there are spring breaks from school, baby animals are born, and baseball season starts.

According to modern science, there are many categories of winds, too many to list in the interest of brevity. According to TCM, wind is looked at differently. In an attempt to bring Western and Eastern concepts together, I will boil them

down to two kinds: the winds you can measure and the winds as defined by TCM.

While we pretty much have wind and breezes all year round, the winds of Spring are a bit different. The winds tend to be stronger according to science because of the greater heat differential between the planet and the air. These we measure and can be very impressive. The fastest wind measured by an anemometer (a wind gizmo) was 253 miles per hour (mph) on Barrow Island, Australia on April 10, 1996. Doppler radar has measured tornado winds of just over 300 mph. Now these are extreme situations. The average wind speed for Emmitsburg for the months of February through April are about 8.5 mph, a little higher than the rest of the year.

According to TCM, the Spring winds are stronger because the energy or Qi (pronounced "chi") of Earth is rising which affects the temperature and all things on the planet.

In Spring, the rising energy may be observed this way. Humans tend to move more as the days get warmer. More activity means more gets done. There are more things to do.

Similarly, as the wind is a bit stronger, it blows stuff around. The wind can knock dead branches off of trees which is healthier for the trees. Wind disperses seeds and pollen of a wide variety of plants. Wind also helps plants grow stronger. Every time a plant is pushed by the wind, it releases a hormone that stimulates the growth of supporting cells.

So we can see that wind does good things other than push boats around or help us fly kites.

In the next installment, I will introduce ideas about how wind affects our health and well-being from the TCM perspective. With a little knowledge of how wind influences our bodies and emotions, we can be prepared for any weather, any season, and any emotional situation.

To read past Complementary Corner articles, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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FITNESS & HEALTH

Skin and eye sun protection

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

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

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

Since most of the time spent outside is in the sun there are several products out there to keep our skin protected from the harmful sun rays. We need to protect our skin from the sun even in the winter months but summer is the time we can burn quicker and really damage our skin. Sunscreen should be a part of our everyday routine when getting ready for the day.

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

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

There is so much information out there today to help prevent

skin problems but sometimes we don't utilize it. There are different SPF strengths and different types of sunscreen and it really pays to do a little research to find the one that is best for you. One thing I question is the sunscreen staying on and at what strength after you have been in the water or after sweating a lot.

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

sun damage can cause and we have more to protect our children from problems in the future if we train them now.

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

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

I always want you to exercise



and the summer is a great time to be working in the yard or going for a long walk to get a little extra exercise in if you can. Being outside usually makes you feel better and is a great time to be with family and friends, just remember

to protect yourself from the sun's harmful rays while getting the most of your exercise time. If you have any questions or suggestions you can contact me at 717-334-6009. Enjoy the summer and remember to keep moving!

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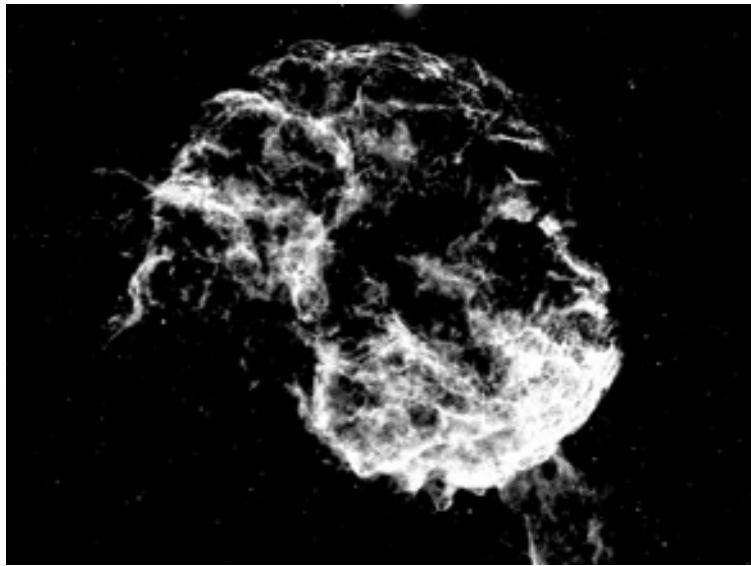
The night sky of April

Professor Wayne Wooten

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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—John Gruber (1768--1857)

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

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

Region and above average in the Eastern part.

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

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

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

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

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

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

COMPUTER Q&A

Identifying scammers

Aysë Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer

Unfortunately, scammers are finding new and clever ways to trick unsuspecting users into providing access to sensitive personal information. The most common methods continue to be via emails, phone calls, and sometimes text messages. It can sometimes be difficult to determine which ones to take seriously and which ones to ignore. At Jester's Computer Services we hear of just about every new scam that comes along. Read on to learn a few tips to help you spot a few common scams, how to protect yourself and what to do if you do find yourself involved with one.

Amazon has become a frequent target – scammers know how many people use the retail giant and their using it to their advantage. The most common Amazon scams typically involve an emailed purchase confirmation for an item that you clearly did not purchase which will also be addressed to a physical delivery address that is not yours. This is an example of phishing and emails like these, as well as similar emails from Amazon (and other businesses and online retailers) that warn you of “fraudulent activity” or other account concerns should be investigated but with caution.

If you receive a notice for a purchase that you don't recognize or if you are ever asked to click a link including verifying your account security, pause and be on alert for the following indicators of a scammer. First, check the email address that the email is from, not just the name itself. Be sure to check on the full @xyz.com address and pay extra close attention for subtle misspellings. An email from Amazon or any other big organization is not going to be coming from a public domain like Gmail or Yahoo, they should come from amazon.com for example.

Second, if the email contains an attachment, you can almost bet it's a scam, definitely don't open any attachments! Third you can check the “reply-to” email address and ensure that it matches the 'From' address. If all three check out you can still visit the website in question directly rather than via any links within the email. If the notification is legitimate, you should be able to locate the notice from within your account on their website.

The same concept applies if you were to receive a phone call from Amazon or any other individual who calls that wishes for you to provide personal information including but not limited to; your address, date of birth, social security number or a code obtained from a website or software in order to provide remote access to your device. Instead hang up the phone, do not provide the caller with any information or engage in conversation with them.

If you are concerned that the call is potentially legitimate the caller should understand if you tell them that you will call them back at a more convenient time. Do not call

the number back that called you or any phone number that the caller may have provided. Instead, find a verified phone number to reach the company by using a billing statement, by using a quality search engine such as Google or, by finding the contact information on their website. Even if a caller comes up with a legitimate name and or phone number, they could be a scammer.

Comcast users have been a huge target for scammers as of late. Their latest trick once they gain access to your email account via a compromised password, is to forward all of your emails to a new email address with the same username but a different domain, usually outlook.com. For example, if your email address was abc@comcast.net the email address the scammer would create to forward your emails to would be abc@outlook.com. In addition to doing this, the scammers are creating a filter rule, which redirects any new emails to your correct email address into the inbox and is deleted. As a user you may notice that you stop receiving emails all together or you might notice that only your usual

contacts aren't responding to your emails at all.

What the scammers are actually doing is emailing your contacts in an attempt to extort them for money. They don't do so in an obvious way. They might for example, request that the email recipient send a gift card to them as a favor since you're out of town and need to get a birthday gift for a family member. If you notice this happening to you change your email password right away and notify your contacts NOT to respond to the email. If they have already, ask them to change their password and inform them that they too should notify their contacts.

To be clear none of the above indicate that any security breach to your device has occurred unless you have given someone access to your device, clicked on a link or if you opened a malicious attachment. Anyone can access your email account from anywhere if they have the email address and password, as is the case in the Comcast scam mentioned above. Comcast users should also note that any emails received from a comcast.net email account are NEVER correspondence from Comcast them-

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So would you click on the link if you received this e-mail? If you did, you would find yourself downloading a Trojan Horse virus that would allow a scammer access to your computer.

selves. All emails from Comcast the company will come from a comcast.com email address.

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HUMOR

Trivia part whatever

It costs more to buy a new car today in the United States than it cost

Christopher Columbus to equip and undertake three voyages to and from the New World.

One-fourth of the world's population lives on less than \$200 a year. Ninety million people survive on

less than \$75 a year.

Butterflies taste with their hind feet.

The word "Nazi" is actually an abbreviation. The party's full name was the Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei.

Pinocchio is Italian for "pine eyes."

The word "queue" is the only word in the English language that is still pronounced the same way when the last four letters are removed.

The word "toast," meaning a proposal of health, originated in Rome, where an actual bit of spiced, burned bread was dropped into wine to improve the drink's flavor, absorb its sediment, and thus make it more healthful.

The word "bookkeeper" is the only word in the English language with three back-to-back double letter combinations.

There is a town in Sweden called "A" and a town in France called "Y."

What is called a "French kiss" in England and America is known as an "English kiss" in France.

The dot on top of the letter "i" is called a "tittle." "Tittle" is Latin for something very small.

The shortest verse in the Bible consists of two words: "Jesus wept." (John 11:35)

The letter "o" is the oldest letter. It has not changed in shape since its adoption in the Phoenician alphabet, circa 1,300 B.C.

The letter "b" took its present form from a symbol used in Egyptian hieroglyphics to represent a house.

When used by an ornithologist, the word "lore" refers to the space between a bird's eye and its bill.

The longest English word consisting entirely of consonants (and not including "y" as a vowel) is the word "crwth" which is from the fourteenth century and means crowd.

The most common name in the world is Muhammed.

The most common street name in the U.S. is Second Street.

Henry Ford experimented with soy. Many of the meals served in his home consisted of his soy creations.

The French national anthem, "La Marseillaise," derived its title from the enthusiasm of the men of Marseilles, France, who sang it when they marched into Paris at the outset of the French Revolution.

Rouget de l'Isle, its composer, was an artillery officer. According to his account, he fell asleep at a harpsichord and dreamt the words and the music. Upon waking, he remembered the entire piece from his dream and immediately wrote it down.

"Ping-Pong" is a registered trademark of Parker Brothers.

Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.

All of the clocks in the movie Pulp Fiction are stuck on 4:20.

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

The microwave was invented



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HUMOR

after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.

You are more likely to be killed by a champagne cork than by a poisonous spider.

The windiest place on earth is Mt. Washington, in New Hampshire.

You can use pinecones to forecast the weather--the scales will close when rain is on the way.

The red bumps on a turkey's head are called "caruncles."

One of the reasons marijuana is illegal today because cotton growers in the '30s lobbied against hemp farmers--they saw it as competition.

The IRS would need at least 15 3/4 miles of shelves to store the tax forms they receive each year.

If a cow has twins, a bull and a heifer, the heifer will never be able to reproduce.

It takes a fall of about eight building stories to kill a cat. A fall of three stories will typically break their jaw (due to a floating collar bone), but it takes a fall of five or six stories to break a leg.

A building in Belgium was taxed if there was a street light on it... unless a statue of the Virgin Mary were placed above it. Hence, there are no buildings in the city without a statue of the Virgin Mary.

Mailing an entire building has been illegal in the U.S. since 1916 when a man mailed a 40,000-ton brick house across Utah to avoid high freight rates.

The largest stained-glass window in the world is at Kennedy International Airport in New York City. It can be seen on the American Airlines terminal building and measures 300 feet long by 23 feet high.

Pepsi was originally named

Brad's Drink, and Kool-Aid originally went by Fruit Smack Flavored Syrup.

According to Archives of General Medicine, coffee drinkers have sex more frequently and enjoy it more than non-coffee drinkers.

A seagull drinks salt water because it has special glands that filter out the salt.

Koalas never drink water. They get fluids from the eucalyptus leaves they eat.

Sheep prefer to drink running water.

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A law passed in Nebraska in 1912 really set down some hard rules of the road. Drivers in the country at night were required to stop every 150 yards, send up a skyrocket, then

wait eight minutes for the road to clear before proceeding cautiously, all the while blowing their horn and shooting off flares.

Crocodiles and alligators are surprisingly fast on land. Although they are rapid, they are not agile; so if you ever find yourself chased by one, run in a zigzag line. You'll lose him or her every time.

In 1500 B.C. in Egypt a shaved head was considered the ultimate in feminine beauty. Egyptian women removed every hair from their heads with special gold tweezers and polished their scalps to a high sheen with buffing cloths.

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