

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 4, NO. 11 • WWW.EMMITSBURG.NET • WWW.MYFAIRFIELD.NET • NOVEMBER 2012

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Sandy: gone but not soon forgotten

Hurricane Sandy, which had crept menacingly up the coast from the Caribbean, finally hit the area on Monday. Damaged homes, downed power lines, and fallen trees testify to the power of the storm. Some are calling it the "storm of the century," but that could be a conservative estimate.

It was, some weather experts noted, the landed version of the movie "The Perfect Storm." Many reporters and meteorologists said, at the very least, "This is one for the history books."

"There is no precedent in hurricane records extending back to 1851 of a storm at this latitude taking this path," stated Mark Saunders, professor of Climate Prediction in the Department of Space and Climate Physics at University College London.

Sandy was projected to make landfall via a steep left turn into the Mid-Atlantic during the overnight hours of October 28 and 29. It was projected to subsequently strike into the Adams and Frederick Counties with winds up to 60 miles per hour and gusts up to 75 miles per hour or higher.

Instead, Sandy surprised meteorologists when a high-pressure system

over New England, which would have channeled the hurricane in a left turn, apparently shifted during the night to the southeast, opening up a wider corridor for Sandy.

As a result, Sandy tracked further north before arching into the Mid-Atlantic States and impacted the area encompassing Adams and Frederick counties with wind measured at almost half the velocities that had been previously projected. The highest winds actually reported being in the low 40 miles per hour range for about two hours Monday evening in Adams County, and 47 miles per hour for about an hour in Frederick County.

The fairly steady and sometimes heavy rainfall that occurred throughout the storm saturated the ground in the region, making still fully leaved trees vulnerable to losing their grip on the soil with a little prompting from the winds. Adams County did not suffer a lot of downed trees, but they fell by the dozens in Frederick County. Sandy dropped up to 6 inches of rain in less than 24 hours.

On Tuesday, Seamus Mooney, Director of Emergency Preparedness at the Frederick County Department



Many long established trees were no match for saturated grounds and the strong winds of Hurricane Sandy.

of Emergency Management said there were still "approximately 100 roads closed or partially closed due to high water or debris. We're still working there."

According to Mooney, at its peak, 33,000 homes were without power. A lot of trees have been reported down, too many to count as this paper goes to press.

On Tuesday, John Hartzell, Public Information Officer at the Adams County Department of Emergency Services said around 5,041 electric customers were without

power in the county as of noon on October 30.

He also said a number of secondary roads were closed throughout the county, initially due to flooding during the main storm event, with the remainder closed due to downed tree and wires.

Hurricane Sandy is attributed with causing 69 deaths across the Caribbean, including fatalities in Cuba, Haiti, and Jamaica before the storm proceeded to the North.

Read related article on page 15.

Strawberry Hill gears up for 11th annual fundraiser

Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve will be holding its 11th annual auction fundraiser, Party for the Preserve, November 3 at Liberty Mountain Resort.

The auction will take place from 6 to 10 p.m. in the Alpine Room and is open to everyone in the community to attend.

The fundraiser will offer a variety of items, including photographs, oil and watercolor paintings, pottery, hand-crafted woodwork, fanciful dinners, bed and breakfast getaways, stained glass art, outdoor gear, gift certificates, and other products. The items to be auctioned have been donated by local artists, businesses, and Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve supporters.

The event will feature live, silent, and ball jar (Chinese) auctions, with entertainment provided by accomplished Orrtanna musician, Tom Jolin, playing various instruments. "This is going to be a fun night," Kay Deardorff, Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve Promotion and Outreach Coordinator, said.

According to Deardorff, the event

generally generates about \$15,000 to \$20,000 annually. "Our goal is actually \$20,000 (at this year's event)," she stated. "This is our major fundraiser for the year. Memberships are also a means of raising funds for us, so we are always grateful for new members." Deardorff said.

"One of our biggest selling items last year was an eagle carved by Fairfield chainsaw carver, Jason Stoner," The outreach coordinator said. "This year Jason has submitted a barred owl on the top of a tree stump. The owl sits on his perch which is 5' high and is joined by a squirrel that is seated at the base of the tree. This unique and beautiful donation promises to be one of the high points in our live auction."

The money raised, she said, "supports our facility upgrades and educational programs." As part of making the auction successful, Deardorff said, "We depend on the donations and the sponsorships that come in through the auction."

Educational programs offered by the preserve which fundraising



Local carver Jason Stoner and the donation that he made for this year's Strawberry Hill fundraising auction.

helps support include the summer camps, maple sugaring, demonstrations and presentations for school groups, and adult programs, such as the Nature of the Gettysburg Battlefield Series. About 5,000 students visit the site each year as the result of field trips or other organized group attendance.

The cost of operating Strawberry

Hill Nature Preserve varies from year-to-year, but the facility does employ two full-time staff members, five part-time naturalists, and two part-time office staff, as well as a college intern.

For additional information on the preserve, or participation in various events, visit the Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve's web site at strawberry-hill.org.

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NEWS

Silo Hill Parkway plans

A proposal to end parking along Silo Hill Parkway died due to lack of a motion at the October 15 Emmitsburg Board of Commissioners meeting.

Town staff had prepared a proposal for the town Board of Commissioners that would have ended the use of Silo Hill Parkway by commuters as a sort of make shift park-and-ride.

Town Manager David Haller told the commissioners that approximately 20 to 22 vehicles are normally parked along Silo Hill Parkway during the week for ride-share purposes, of which about 80 percent have Pennsylvania tags on them.

Commuters usually park their cars at that location from around 5 a.m. to about 6 p.m. The lane used for parking is within the public right-of-way, and commuters are not parking on adjacent private property.

The request to terminate the parking along that road came from an adjacent property owner, Dale Hess, in August. Hess stated that he was interested in selling his land and felt the parking, along with the associated litter, could be a detriment to securing an offer or closing a deal.

The proposal rejected by the commissioners at their October meeting called for a phased cessation which would have begun in November with postings along that section of the road stating parking would be limited to two-hours beginning January 4, 2013.

Beginning January 4, the two-hour parking limit signs would be posted, and would be initially enforced with warnings, and then tickets, Haller said.

The board, which had directed town staff to develop a plan in Au-

gust, did not appear enthusiastic as a whole to adopt it at the October meeting.

Commissioner Tim O'Donnell summed up the general consensus when he expressed his concern: "I'm reluctant to go for it. I think the immediate need is there needs to be parking there," although, he said, the littering "might be more of an issue than the parking in my mind."

Commissioner Christopher V. Staiger said ending parking along Silo Hill Parkway would likely just "push those commuters into adjacent neighborhoods and business lots."

When board President Glenn Blanchard asked for a motion from the commissioners to adopt the proposed prohibition, none was forthcoming, and the proposal was thus dropped.

Mayoral board reorganization being questioned

Three Emmitsburg commissioners rallied behind a mayoral recommendation to designate a new board president at the town Board of Commissioners' October 1 meeting.

In a vote of 3-2, commissioners Glenn Blanchard, Clifford L. Sweeney and Tim O'Donnell voted to replace standing board President Christopher V. Staiger. Staiger and fellow Commissioner Patrick A. Joy voted against the measure.

The board members who voted for the change stated that it was good for the board to rotate members among the various positions.

The move came as no surprise to Staiger, who remained unconvinced that rotation was the issue behind the change. Staiger has served as the board president since 2005.

"My concern is that this has been presented as a rotation issue," Staiger said. "I'm concerned that it is because the mayor and I had a communications breakdown."

According to Staiger, differences

between himself and the mayor developed in July when Staiger questioned the mayor's use of town Planner Susan Cipperly in pursuing Town Square historic beautification and enhancement grant projects, rather than devoting her time to planning activities.

"It's easier for the mayor if I'm not in the role [of board president] anymore" he said. However, "I will still have a voice as a commissioner."

"I think the mayor felt that time spent on planning activities would detract from the economic development projects and he felt those were more important than the planning projects that we were requesting," Staiger stated subsequent to the meeting. "There were some other things we were butting heads over."

Staiger noted that after the disagreement between himself and the mayor, the mayor "began soliciting commissioners individually to support the changes."

As part of his recommendations,

Mayor Donald N. Briggs also recommended that Commissioner Blanchard be appointed as the new board president, and Commissioner O'Donnell be appointed as the new vice-president, replacing sitting Vice President Sweeney.


Briggs also recommended that Sweeney serve as treasurer, Joy serve as town Planning Commission liaison, O'Donnell serve as Citizens Advisory Committee liaison, and Staiger to serve as town Parks and Recreation Committee liaison.

Staiger said, in reference to the mayor's recommendation, "Moving me from president to parks pretty much says it all."

All were approved in the 3-2 vote except that of the request to assign Staiger to parks and recreation. O'Donnell asked Staiger if he would prefer the Citizens Advisory Committee, which Staiger agreed to.

Joy summed up his assessment of the proposed reorganization by saying, "Voting for change for the sake of change doesn't always work out."

Subsequent to the meeting, Joy



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News, events, history, humor and culture for the Historic Toms Creek Hundred geographical area: Emmitsburg, Zora, Carroll Valley, Fairfield, Greenmont, Harney, Rocky Ridge, Detour, St. Anthony's and Zentz Mill. The Emmitsburg News-Journal is published the first day of every month by Toms Creek Hundred LLC.

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State reconsiders local park-and-ride

A state proposal to develop a park-and-ride facility near Emmitsburg has come "back to life" after having been previously dropped due to budgetary constraints.

The Emmitsburg town administration has pursued a park-and-ride facility for a number of years to help alleviate commuter parking within the town limits where there is no realistic location for commuters to use.

Town manager David Haller told the town Board of Commissioners at their October 15 meeting, "The state has contacted us. They are actively pursuing a park-and-ride facility" that would be located next to the town. The proposed facility would be located east of Route 15. "The proposed park-and-ride has been made active again. How long it will take no one knows," he said.

He noted that the previous effort failed to make it through the state system when funding for such projects was cut from the state Highway Administration SHA budget.

Haller said the state agency contacted the town about two months ago. "They SHA said the funding is good again," and wanted to know if the town was still interested in a park-and-ride facility.

The SHA was soon notified that the town was definitely still interested. However, Haller noted, such a project could be years in the making. "It could be next year," he stated, "or we could all be gone before we get it."

Interest in pursuing a park-and-ride facility outside of town has been spurred by make-shift park-and-ride parking in town which

stated, "I find it silly in some ways. I don't understand. I think it's clearly personal on Don's part."

Joy also confirmed that the mayor had been approaching commissioners to solicit their support for the change.

"I talked to the mayor around the end of August, maybe early September, and he was saying he thought we needed to make a change and that Chris was imperiling his economic development," he said. "I said that I don't see that at all because we as a board have been totally supportive."

Sweeney stated that it "might have been August when the mayor asked me if I would want to do president of the board. I told him, 'I'd have to think about it. It's a lot to do.' I called

him back and told him I couldn't do it. He didn't state a reason, but rotating positions has been done before. We rotated for years. I don't think this was done in malice."

Regarding whether or not Staiger was contacted by the mayor concerning the position, the board president stated, "He did not contact me if this was about rotation. I did try and talk to him at the town office before a meeting in August. We couldn't reach a meeting of the minds."

Contrary to some reports, the mayor does not have the power to make recommendations regarding reorganization to the board, but does so as a result of a courtesy extended to the mayoral position by the board.

Hill development concerned about their development roads being used as a sort of uninvited, make shift park-and-ride.

Previous to that, commuters had been using the Jubilee parking lot until they were eventually ejected.

An actual park-and-ride facility on the east side of Route 15 is seen as a mean of alleviating the in-town issues associated with commuter parking.



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Hamiltonban Township police unionize

The Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors voted unanimously at their October 2 meeting against renewal of the current contract with the township police department, which is due to expire on December 31.

According to the board, the impetus behind this decision is that the police department is now represented by the Teamsters Union Local 776.

"We need to take action against

a renewal of the police contract," board Chairman Robert L. Gordon stated.

The township police became "unionized" after an August election organized by the union at the request of township police Officer Juanita Larmer.

Being that Larmer would be the only member of the union, the approval to join the union was passed at the local election by a vote of 1-0.

As a result, any future township

contract with the police department must be negotiated through the union. Previously, Larmer negotiated with the township Board of Supervisors.

Chairman Robert L. Gordon said, "The contract that she has with Hamiltonban was put into writing in 2004, and was renewed on an annual basis and without serious issues." The contract included a minimum three percent annual raise.

Under the existing contract, Larmer is presently earning \$17.25 an hour, averaging \$35,000 annually, plus benefits.

He said the reason behind the board's decision was "to give our formal notification that the contract we have would not be renewed because she has chosen to join the Teamsters Union, and she is now represented by them."

Gordon stated that the township has not yet received a proposed con-

tract from the Teamsters.

"We took the action to establish a deadline," Gordon stated. "I don't know what would happen if a contract is not in place by December 31."

The township has retained McNeese Wallace & Nurick, Harrisburg, as their labor council should issues arise relating to the union contract. The law firm was retained by the township as soon as the supervisors were "officially notified of union involvement."

Larmer declined to comment on the union issue.

Carroll Valley development discussion reopened

A development proposition that failed to get off the ground twice during the past dozen years in Carroll Valley Borough has once again been brought before the borough Planning Commission.

Eluma, Inc. is seeking to develop a 107-acre wooded tract, known as the Mallow Tract, bordered by Sanders and Tract roads and butted-up against the borough's K-section residential area.

The current proposal remains fluid as the development company continues to work on a draft ordi-

nance to present to the borough that would be designed to allow the company to create a flexible housing unit plan that would lead to a multi-phased development.

Borough Planning Commission Chairman Edward Kaplan explained that Eluma is seeking to build homes in several phases over an unspecified period of time, with their design based on prevailing housing demands which might occur during the various periods of construction.

Essentially, the developers do not

want to be locked into an up-front housing design. The development could consist of 120 to 150 new homes, depending on what is ultimately approved by the borough.

The borough Planning Commission is continuing to meet with Eluma representatives at the planning meetings.

Thus far, no formal proposal on the project has been brought before the borough Council. On August 14, Charles Suhr, Stevens & Lee, representing Eluma, appeared before the council requesting amend-

ments to the borough ordinances that would permit the company's new development proposal for the Mallow Tract. The council referred Eluma to the planning commission.

Efforts to develop the proposed site date back into the mid-1990s, according to Kaplan, but they "died on the vine after several years." Another effort to develop the tract began around 2006, he said. That effort "tanked when the market bottomed out in 2008."

Kaplan said that Eluma is pro-

posing to maintain 50 percent of the tract as undeveloped green space, which would be in addition to about ten percent of the land that is wetlands.

As part of the project, Eluma has also offered to "modernize and expand" the borough wastewater treatment facility. "And that's a big deal there too," Kaplan stated, since the borough would be hard put to finance such work itself.

There is at present no time table for the proposed development. "It could take years," Kaplan stated.

Confederate raid wayside sign dedicated

The Fairfield Borough Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee dedicated a "Civil War Trails" wayside sign in the borough on October 11, commemorating a Confederate raid that occurred during the American Civil War.

Numerous local officials attended the event along with borough Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee members and county and state officials under a perfect sky for an outdoor event.

The wayside sign was dedicated on the actual 150th anniversary of Confederate Cavalry General James Ewell Brown "Jeb" Stuart's October 11, 1862 raid into Pennsylvania that ultimately included the community of Fairfield.

The dedication was held at the Fairfield Inn where the sign had previously been installed.

Introductory remarks at the dedication in October were made by Jack Inskip, chairman of the borough Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee, committee member and publisher Dean Thomas, Sal Chandon, owner and chef at The Historic Fairfield Inn, and Fairfield Mayor Bob Stanley.

The sign was unveiled by Frank Orlando, portraying Confederate General Robert E. Lee, and his wife, Bonnie, portraying Mrs. Lee, and by Kirk Davis, portraying a Union cavalry officer, all of Gettysburg.

"Stuart's Raid" was launched by the renown Confederate cavalry



Kirk Davis, portraying a Union cavalry officer, Frank Orlando, portraying Confederate General Robert E. Lee, and Bonnie Orlando, portraying Mrs. Lee, stand outside of the Fairfield Inn during the unveiling of the Stuart's Raid marker.

commander on August 9, 1862, with a force of 1,800 troops. The raid swept up from Virginia through Frederick County, and entered Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, on October 10.

The cavalry then proceeded to Fairfield on October 11, rode down to Emmitsburg, then circumvented Union cavalry in the Frederick area to re-enter Virginia.

The raid resulted in the requisitioning of some 1,200 horses while traversing 130 miles during the three-day raid, which also included the destruction of railroad equipment in Chambersburg.

The raid only further reaffirmed the seemingly unstoppable threat posed by Stuart's cavalry as the brazen rebel force continued to exasperate the Union command in the effort of protecting its perimeters and supply route.

Pippinfest "in the black"

The annual Fairfield Borough Pippinfest seems to be headed-back on the right track after slumps reported in previous years.

Sally Thomas, who serves as the chair of the Fairfield Borough Pippinfest Committee (which consists of some eight or more regular members), stated previously that, until last year, the event began to experience a slump in participation and attendance.

But this year, the event has begun to make it "into the black," after a success last year that still came in "in the red," Thomas told the borough Council at their October 24 meeting.

This year's event was held September 28 through September

30. September 28 consisted primarily of town-wide yard sales, a tradition on the Friday before the "official" Pippinfest event, while the main attractions were held the following Saturday and Sunday.

"We did a little better than last year," Thomas informed the borough Council. "We are not in the hole, which is very nice."

The event committee chair said this year's Pippinfest generated "close to 1,400 profit," although a couple of expenses need to be paid, which would take the profit down to around \$1,200 or \$1,300, she said. "We're (now) operating in the black."

Thomas said there were no complaints from property own-

ers, who had complained of litter and trash during prior events, and one minor concern when a vendor found a portion of their proposed sales area roped-off for grass plating.

One of the objectives for next year's even, she said, was to try and "fill in gaps along Main

Street" between yard sale and sidewalk event areas, and to paint house numbers along the curbs for vendor numbers instead of the numbering system that has been previously used.

Noting that more younger individuals were becoming involved in assisting the event, Thomas stated, "It's pulling people from the community together. It's starting to feel like the

community event it is supposed to be."

Apple harvest-themed Pippinfest was the brainchild of David Thomas, former owner and proprietor of the Fairfield Inn, who in 1980 suggested the creation of such a community event to help bring community members together. This year marks the 32nd year the event has been held since.

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NEWS

Ridge Fest a delicious success

Several hundred individuals attended the two-day Ridge Fest in Rocky Ridge during the weekend of October 13 and 14.

The event, held in Mount Tabor Park, was co-sponsored by the Mount Tabor Church and the Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company.

More than a dozen flea market vendors set up in the park on Saturday, October 13, with a lesser number making an appearance on a chilly and overcast Sunday, offering wares ranging from tools to baseball cards, and just about everything in between.

Saturday's weather provided the perfect setting for the event, with clear skies and mild temperatures.

Saturday was also the day Richard Dinderman and Norman Poole decided to show off their homemade apple butter skills, setting up several vats to demonstrate how the apples were once processed into a typical rural, harvest-time product.

Dinderman and Poole were

assisted by Dinderman's brother, William, and Kevin Sharrer. Sharrer operated a front-end loader, which was necessary to lift the heavy vats of finished apple butter.

Power to churn the apple mix during the process was provided by equipment dating back to 1917, according to Dinderman. The demonstration was definitely one of the highlights of the event, as he and his compatriots produced some 1,300 pints of apple butter.

Dinderman said the group does not do this for a living. "It's just a hobby," he said. The part not seen by the spectators was the peeling of hundreds of apples, which "was done by the ladies" of Mount Tabor Church before the event.

Aside from the flea market and old time apple butter production, food played a big role in this community event. Lines formed early to partake in the country-fried ham sandwiches and "fresh cut" french fries prepared by the fire company. Also, Mount



Richard Dinderman and Norman Poole work on the apple butter production line during Ridge Fest.

Tabor Church offered soup and hamburgers.

But it wasn't all about lunch.

Breakfast sandwiches prepared by the fire company were also available as early as 6 a.m. at the event.

Upcoming fire company events can be viewed at the company's web site, www.rockyridgevfc.com.

Harvest Fest another Taneytown success

Hundreds of individuals attended Taneytown's Harvest Fest September 20 as harvest season begins to wind down in Frederick and Adams counties.

This year's event, held at Memorial Park, featured vendors selling various products and crafts, as well as prepared cakes and pies, as well as snacks and food for on-site consumption.

The annual event couldn't have been held under more pleasant weather, which no doubt contributed the good attendance this year's event experienced.

In addition to a hay ride and two dog-costumed Harvest Fest "mascots," old time mechanical powdered farm equipment, modern tractors and hardware were featured along the paved park roadway.

The dog mascots were provided by the Jiffy Mart Dog Wash in Westminster. And were described as a "major draw" by event plan-

ners.

Numerous dancers, including individuals and groups provided by Dance Dynamics, Taneytown, entertained the crowd, and were the subject of numerous snap shots and video taken from family, friends and event attendees.

Other entertainment at the event included the Taneytown Community Chorus.

Nancy McCormick, Taneytown economic development director, said of the dance performances, "I think that was fabulous draw. We received a lot of comments," as did the choir.

The event also featured children's activities, Barnyard Bingo, and other activities, including the collection of non-perishables and toiletries for Taneytown Caring and Sharing.

McCormick said, "It went good. We were real pleased. The weather was perfect. I'd say 600 people attended, easy."

However, she stated, "I think we're going to change the time from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. next year," adding the this year's 9 a.m. start may have been too early.

In addition, Taneytown Pumpkin People photographs and entries were displayed, the judging of which will have taken place during the week of October 30. The month-long competition actually began on October 1.

On December 1, Taneytown will be holding its annual Elf Hunt and Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

For the elf hunt, the "elves" will be hiding in various downtown shops awaiting discovery by patrons and elf-hunters from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. McCormick said, "You have to go in the shops with "Open" flags displayed." After you find an elf sticker. "You go in and get your card punched."

Then, during the tree lighting ceremony at 6 p.m., "We will have a drawing (from the submitted elf hunt tickets) for a gift basket." The tree lighting will occur at the police station at 120 East Baltimore Street.

Gateway Market holds family fun day

Gateway Market and Candyland in Thurmont, along with Fratelli's Pizza, Mike's Auto Body and Windsor Customs, hosted a Family Funday on September 23rd at Gateway to hand out ChildPrint ID Kits FREE of charge. These are of great value if your child was ever lost or stolen. They had lots of games, a

balloon artist, face painter & air brush Tattoos. Children were able to put a hand print on the hood of a race to be run in a national race. The Thurmont Guardian Hose Co. hosted a Chicken BBQ. Fun was had by all and you can still pick up a Child ID kit at Gateway Market during business hours.



Gateway Market owners John & Maggie Doll and Chris Windsor of Windsor Customs

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One hundred years ago this month

November 1

Chronicle Road Race Called off

The proposed automobile race from Emmitsburg to Frederick planned for today, will not take place. The roadways was designed for several general purposes-namely to attract attention to the deplorable condition of the road, which is one of the gateways to the world-famed battlefield at Gettysburg; to advertise to the world the wonderful country through which the cars participating would have run and over which many spectators would've traveled in order to see the race, and lastly, to attract attention to this County in order to further the idea of locating the proposed National Memorial Road to be erected as an everlasting tribute to the martyrdom of Lincoln.

The race was called off after a prominent road builder raised concerns that the damage to the road by the 20 cars would be about \$25. Though the race organizers were willing to post a certified check for \$500 to compensate the State Roads Commission for any damage the race may cause the roads, the state refused to issue a permit, in spite of the fact that the organizers even committed to making improvements in the road in excess of \$100.

Improvements

A concrete crossing has been made between the properties of Mrs. Ida Gillean and the Presbyterian parsonage. Mr. Shuff is having the porch on his W. Main St. house painted. Mr. Thomas Gillwicks is making extensive improvements to his dwellings on E. Main, Gettysburg and Greene Streets: the woodwork on the house occupied by Mrs. Coyle has been repainted, the property occupied by Mr. Brown has been improve by 65 feet of wire fence, the three houses on Green Street had been repainted and one of those has had a new tin roof install. The property occupied by Mr. Clarence McCarran has been approved by a new livery stable. Mr. Guy Topper has improved his residence on W. Main St. by a half glass door.

November 8

Election Day in Emmitsburg Quiet

Everything and everyone was orderly in Emmitsburg on Election Day. From the time the polls opened until the very hour of their closing, voters in town and from the country made their way to the respective polling places and registered their convictions by means of a ballot.

It was an ideal day and lots of people were out, and though many from a distance remained in town after casting their ballots there was no disturbance noticeable on any of the streets at any time.

It was a jolly crowd that gathered in front of the Chronicle office to hear the returns. There was a throng there from early in the evening until midnight-an orderly, good-humored assemblage that innocently made merrily with shout and jest as the dispatches were megaphoned or paraded up and

down, lustily cheering the different candidates.

Through the courtesy of the C&P Telephone Company, private wires were run in to the Chronicle office and a most efficient operator received dispatches that came at intervals of a few seconds. Long before midnight the trend of election was known, and just as Wednesday morning was ushered in, the people of Emmitsburg knew definitively that Woodrow Wilson had won.

Snowfalls

The first snow fell in Emmitsburg on Saturday night. The town was covered with icicles all day Sunday until late Monday morning. The goldfish were taken out of the town fountain on Monday afternoon much to the dismay of the little children who come to watch them.

Gypsies Returned to Town

A band of gypsies passed through Emmitsburg on Wednesday. For breaking one of the ordinances of the town, a "Gentleman of the Road" spent a night in the "coop" and swelled the coffers of the Corporation to the tune of five dollars and cost.

November 15

Town to Celebrate Election

Next Tuesday night Emmitsburg will be aglow with color. Red and blue lights, lanterns and bunting will give a festive appearance to the town, and the music of the bands and the prancing of gaily caparisoned steeds and the laughter of children will proclaim that a big jollification is on.

The occasion is a celebration of the victory the Democratic Party won on November 5 and the nature of the celebration will be a Monster Street Parade in which everyone is invited to participate, Democrats, Bull Moosers, Republicans and Suffragettes.

Everyone who owns or can secure a team, or horse or mule is welcome, and opportunity is afforded to originate floats with grotesque figures that will lend variety to the pageant. The old time gig, the ancient coach, the sulky, and the hay wagon, the sled - any and all of these, decorated with bunting, strong with lanterns and flags and hung with bells will be effective.

Every household is requested to illuminate and to share in the festivities of the event. It will be a big family affair and a source of real hearty amusement to all.

November 22

Town's Celebration A Monster Success

They came from everywhere-those jolly, enthusiastic pleasure loving people that helped to make Tuesday night's Carnival in Emmitsburg a huge success. They came by automobile, they came by train, and those who did not drive came on foot and what a gathering it was!

As soon as darkness fell, light after light appeared in the windows of the

citizens of this progressive little town, and torch upon torch appeared upon the busy streets. On Monday bunting floated from housetop and storefront. On Tuesday more elaborate decorations in original design, draped the exterior of many buildings, and lanterns galore, lined the curb from tree to tree until every street loomed up in brilliancy.

From post at regular intervals, large gasoline torches shed light in all directions, brightening the color of the costumes of the hundreds of passers by and intensifying the beauty of the pageant as it moved along between throngs and applauding spectators.

From Mount St. Mary's and far below, the lights and fireworks were visible in all direction. Way out the Gettysburg Road and the direction of Fairfield the sky was aglow, the pink tint of the distant lights resembling a summer sunset. Down Taneytown way, too, could be seen the yellow balls spurting from hundreds of Roman candles, after from many places nearby could be heard the strains of martial music and the roll of many drums.

Although everyone was in good humor and here on pleasure bent, 10 special officers were sworn in for the occasion - more to direct them to arrest-but their services were needed in only a few instances. Nor could a crowd of 2,000 have been expected to behave with better decorum than did this jolly crowd that came to Emmitsburg. All were happy and enjoyment reign supreme.

Installs Modern Dental Machinery

In order to keep abreast with the progress of his profession and that he might be able to give his patients the benefit of that progress, Dr. Foreman has installed in his dental parlors, on E. Main St., a Sims Hydraulic Engine - the last word in the construction of dental appliances. This particular type of machinery surpasses even electricity in its facilities for accomplishing work quickly and thoroughly. Its installation shows that Dr. Foreman is progressing and that he is alive to the improvements that make for the benefit and comfort of his patients.



A huge crowd gathered on the Emmitsburg Square to celebrate the Democratic Party's win in the election of 1912.

November 29

Little Jack Bollinger Dies

Death following a severe scalding in a vessel of boiling grease and water was the fate that befell little Jack Bollinger on Friday last. The little lad had been playing on the pavement in front of Patterson's Brothers butcher shop, where, for the moment, a pan of boiling grease and water had been left out.

Not observing the obstruction, he stumbled and fell; nearly his entire body became immersed in the scalding fluid. Some of the employees of the butcher shop heard the screams of the little fellow, but before any assistance could be given, he had gotten out. Three doctors were in attendance and although they did all in their power for the boy, he became unconscious about 3 o'clock, in which condition he remained until his death at 5:30. The little fellow was a favorite with all who knew him, and the whole community joins in sympathizing with the bereaved parents in their sad affliction. Jack will be interned in Mountain View Cemetery.

Barn Destroyed by Fire

Early Monday morning the barn belonging to Mr. Bernard Hobbs was completely destroyed by fire. It is not known how the fire started, but it was thought that a piece of corn fodder was ignited as a re-

sult of coming in contact with a lighted lantern. Mr. Hobbs succeeded in getting his livestock out safely before the fire had gained much headway. Unfortunately all the grain and farm implements were ruined.

Characters

It is reported that Dr. Glass and Professors Shorb of Harney University will be appointed by President Wilson to a special committee to revise the tariff code on codfish balls. Clarence Buckingham, brother of the Duke of Buckingham, will also revise the tariff on dill pickles. In an unrelated note, Col. Stonebottle, one of the most prominent citizens of Emmitsburg, painted his overalls on Saturday.

Auto accidents

A large touring car driven by a young boy who lost control of it ran into Dr. Jamison's residence, knocking out a windowpane and several bricks. On Saturday morning a party of motorist turning around backed into the gutter in front of the land owned by Harry Harner. The car could not be removed until further assistance was given in the way of Mr. Harner's old draft horse "Luke," who easily pulled the mechanical beast to safety, and settling once and for all, the value of a good horse over an autocar.

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Paul Smith

Why I Oppose the Charter

I oppose the proposed Charter for several reasons, including the following:

1. It would increase the size and cost of government. It would increase the number of elected officials from 5 to 8, and it must be expected that these increases would also bring corresponding increases in staff, and increases in staff time to handle the business of elected officials.
2. It would give one person considerably more power in governing. This can be more efficient, but it also brings the risk of mistakes if an Executive has an extremist agenda or a faulty view on any particular issue.
3. The proposed balance of power between the Council and the Executive

is weighted too heavily in favor of the Executive. For example, if the Executive decided to cut a county program (say Transit, for example), then the Council would be powerless to restore funding for it.

4. The proposed pay for council members (\$22,500/year) is too low; it will make it more difficult and less likely to get quality people to run for office. An appropriate salary would have been \$33,500/year. The proposed salary structure puts at risk the effective and responsible management of the City Council.
5. The value of each vote would be reduced by 50% because instead of voting for all 5 elected officials, each voter would only be able to vote for 4 of the 8 elected officials.
6. The districting proposal would be

more likely to give a voice to particular districts, but it would also create a system where the representatives of each district will tend to always vote for his/her district regardless of what may be best for the whole County.

7. The Charter seems to presume that the entire County Government would suddenly be under the control of the new County Executive. But this poses some problems.

The charter does not propose what staff positions there would be in the new County Council. There would need to be at least a clerk, a legislative assistant, an attorney, and some staff support for each of the council members. But the set up of such an organization would be entirely subject to the veto power of the County Executive,

who would not have to fund something that he disapproves.

8. Various provisions in the proposed Charter were unnecessary and create additional problems: (a) The limitation of 45 days for enacting legislation, and the requirement that it only be done on Tuesdays; (b) The requirement that new legislation cannot take effect for 60 days after passage; and (c) The requirement that the budget must be passed by May 25th. Each of these creates potential problems, the solution of which is more problematic than the benefit that the requirement intended to provide.
9. The Charter prohibits the County Executive from having involvement with any other business for profit during his/her term. While this provision is intended to make

sure the Executive will give his full time to his elected office, the Charter prohibition is excessive for the salary offered. This provision would eliminate some of the best qualified people from running for this important office because it would require them to totally divest themselves from their businesses for 4 years, which in turn could terminate the business to which they could return when their term would end.

For these and other reasons, I believe that passage of the current, proposed Charter would be a mistake for Frederick County. I understand the benefits that charter government would bring, but I believe these benefits would be far-outweighed by the problems that it would bring.

Emmitsburg Square design project update

Sue Cipperty, Town Planner

For the past few months, there has been talk of the design project for the Square, which will involve a consultant firm soliciting input

from agencies like State Highway Administration and the Town, business/building owners (called "stakeholders"), and the general public regarding what improvements people would like to see on the Square. At

the November 5, 2012 Town Meeting, the Town Board will consider a contract with a design firm to undertake the project. If the contract is approved, the consultant will meet that same week with agen-

cies and businesses, then hold public input sessions in the second week of November. They will take the ideas gathered, create an initial design, and come back in the week after Thanksgiving for a second

round of public input. After November 5, there will be more information forthcoming in advance of the stakeholder meetings and public input sessions regarding the time, dates, and agenda.



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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desks of County Commissioner Blaine Young and State Senator Ronald N. Young

Why we support the Charter

While we are from different political parties and have very different political philosophies and perspectives there is one thing we strongly agree on and that is Charter Government. We have each served in legislative and executive positions in either government or private positions and we recognize that having an executive and a board or legislative body operating under a Charter, Constitution or by-laws is the most effective and efficient way to do business. Charter Government provides the checks and balances that are essential to good government.

This Charter also gives you the right to petition for referendum.

The present Commissioner form of government is antiquated and cannot be as responsive as Charter Government with home rule. The proposal allowing districts also assures more geographic representation. In short, it will be more representative and should promote better participation in our elections and in our government. We recognize that the debate is heated about increasing from 5 to 7 County Council members and in creating districts. This debate pales in relation to the need for a County Executive.

The Charter committee has done

an excellent job of outreach and in keeping the Charter short and easy to read. We urge you to read it! It is only 25 pages and takes about 30 minutes to read. We also urge you to not look for one thing about it to use as an excuse not to vote for it. Just as our Constitution has been amended the Charter can be changed in the future if necessary. The City of Frederick is presently discussing making changes to their Charter.

Your decision should not be based on who might run in the next election or on the false allegation that Charter Government costs more. The Charter is about the future and the best form of government for that

future. Candidates for the positions will come and go but a better form of government should stand for years to come. The cost of government strictly depends on the spending policies of who you elect, not the form of government. We would also like to point out that neither of us has any intention of running for County Executive or County Council.

Both forms of government have their pros and cons and neither is perfect. Frederick County is at a crossroads, and a more modern and efficient form of government is sorely needed. Charter has worked well in all of our 12 municipalities in Frederick County with no major problems.

As a matter of fact, the only public corruption by an elected official that has occurred, in recent memory, was in the Commissioner form of government several decades ago.

Charter Government will provide clear leadership and vision with an executive, separation of powers, better representation, stronger accountability and increased citizen participation. We strongly urge you to read it and vote yes on Question A supporting Charter Home Rule on November 6th. We can then join Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Talbot, and Wicomico Counties with a more effective, efficient and responsive form of government.

From the Desk Commissioner Chris Staiger

Well, here we are in November already – enjoying that brief interlude between Halloween and the 'mega' holiday season from Thanksgiving to Christmas! It's hard to believe the year has passed so quickly. I think the biggest achievement in town government this year was the Board of Commissioners' decision to maintain the existing tax rate in the face of decreasing State property tax assessments. While property owners didn't get a \$100 "refund check" signed by a town official, the great majority of property owners in town should have seen an approximately 20 percent decrease in their annual tax bill. This reduction will substantially reduce the amount you pay the taxman or your mortgage company.

My primary focus as an elected official has always been to provide necessary town services in a fiscally responsible manner - taking firm action evaluating spending proposals, especially at each year's budget review sessions. For the last seven years, the Board has effectively trimmed proposed increases by finding savings and errors that allow us to avoid tax

rate increases while expanding support for essential services and repairs.

The docket for October town business was pretty slim. The October 1 meeting saw the installation of re-elected commissioners Cliff Sweeney and Tim O'Donnell as well as the annual reorganization of the Board of Commissioners. It's no secret that some changes took place! The three commissioners voting with the Mayor were rewarded with the top three offices – Glenn Blanchard as President, Tim O'Donnell as Vice President, and Cliff Sweeney as Treasurer. Those voting against the proposal received committee assignments. Suffice it to say that there is now a team in place amenable to supporting the Mayor's agenda.

At the October 15 meeting, the Board considered a proposal eliminating parking on Silo Hill Parkway between the car wash and the Sleep Inn. The property owner of the two large lots in between had requested this change, claiming it would aid his efforts to sell the properties. The plan presented by town staff established a time line for eliminating the park-

ing, but it did not address the possible impacts on neighboring businesses and homeowners should the displaced commuters invade those areas instead. While the commuters are probably not town residents, the likely inconvenience to neighboring property owners resulted in a lack of support for the proposal.

On other town government issues, a separate article in this addition explains 2012 planning activities but it's worth noting that outside of the Architectural Guidelines (which were written by a town resident, not town staff), little beyond daily work has been accomplished other than two grant awards. The Board requested the development of policies to support the architectural guidelines, but nothing has been pursued, so they stand alone and unenforceable.

Meanwhile, the window dressing projects for which we have received state funding are worthwhile pursuing – but we should be able to do more! In the past we were able to secure multi-million dollar water and sewer infrastructure improvement

grants (Seton Ave. and Lincoln Ave. water and sewer line repairs as well as grants for the new Sewer Treatment plant) while also producing a Comprehensive Plan and rezoning of the town to rationalize the direction of future growth. I'm confused why we are unable to multi task now when the grants we apply for are only in the tens of thousands of dollars.

Facade improvement and developing plans for a redesigned town square are indeed good things – I've supported them before in this space and at meetings – but they can't be the ONLY things. In the end, they are not even the real drivers of economic development. We should be developing positions on the nature of our community and the direction we want to head. These will supplement the general goals of the Comprehensive Plan with officially endorsed town policies that tie us together as a community. We can then adopt or change ordinances supporting business development – perhaps providing economic incentives instead of just figuring

out how much tax revenue we can collect.

There's been a disturbing lack of transparency to date as the Administration cherry picks participants of working groups, design partners, and potential projects to utilize grant monies – all without opening the process up to full participation of those who might qualify. Meanwhile, extra raises are awarded to try to mollify employee dissatisfaction with their new duties and plans seem to be afoot to increase some salaries in order to focus additional resources on the Mayor's limited agenda.

While I am now in somewhat less of a position to organize effective oversight, and, if necessary, opposition to Administration proposals, I will continue to provide an honest and PUBLIC counterpoint during Board meetings – not attempt to arrange coalitions with individual commissioners outside the public meeting process. That type of activity may be "Politics" but we don't need that here. I've learned not to trust the 'aw shucks' smiles and handshakes...Sincerely, Chris Staiger.



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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

The case for Charter Government

David Rogers
Charter Education Coalition

As Frederick County citizens consider changing the current form of local county government from Commissioner to Charter Home Rule, the Charter Education Coalition has taken on the responsibility of educating FC about the implications of Charter Home Rule and the specifics of the proposed Charter. In fulfilling that mission, we believe the following few highlights will be helpful as citizens seek to make a well-informed and wise decision on this important issue on November 6.

A Charter is a document that simply spells out the powers, duties and structures of government; often compared to a “constitution” at the local level. Forty (40) percent of American counties have adopted a Charter form of government.

All 12 municipal governments (cities/towns) in FC operate under a Charter. Locally elected city councils set policies, ordinances, fees, tax rates, and a host of other local laws, procedures and rules. An elected Mayor/Burgess serves as the executive of the town/city, manages its business, administers its laws and serves as spokesperson of the community. And, while municipalities must comply with certain County/State laws, rules and regulations, they have the right and responsibility for operating their community as local residents decide.

Currently Frederick County operates under a five-member Board of County Commissioners, elected at large, with equal power/authority and responsibility to both set legislative policies and execute the day-to-day operation of government. The Commissioner form of government has been around since colonial days and currently there are seven (7) counties in Maryland that operate under this form of government. Eleven (11) of Mary-

land’s 23 counties operate under a Charter government.

Home rule, flexibility, efficiency, local decision-making, checks and balances and a separation in government responsibilities between more clearly defined legislative and executive branches, are the primary reasons for considering a Charter form of government for Frederick County.

Under the proposed Charter, there would be a seven (7) member County Council - five (5) elected by districts and two (2) at-large. Council members would be elected to four-year terms and able to serve no more than three consecutive terms, with a stipend of \$22,500 per year. A County Executive would be elected to a four-year term and able to serve no more than two consecutive terms, at a salary of \$95,000+ a year. The County Executive serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the county and on a full-time basis. The County Council is a part-time commitment.

If FC citizens vote to change the form of government to Charter Home Rule, the Board of County Commissioners will remain in place until 2014, the end of their elected term. In November 2013, voters will elect a new County Executive and County Council, after which the Board of County Commissioners will no longer exist. However, the current members of the BOCC will not automatically become Council members, but must run (if they choose) for election along with all other candidates.

As the Charter Education Coalition has heard questions and comments about this important issue, perhaps the following answers to some of those questions will be helpful.

Q. “Charter government is more expensive...”

A. There is no valid connection between the structure of a government and its cost. Cost has more to do with who is elected to of-

fice, the choices they make and the services demanded of citizens than the form of government. A County Executive under Charter Home Rule will be able to set clear priorities for the County and run the government more efficiently through sound management principles; and, hopefully save money in the process.

Q. “The current system works well...”

A. There are many limitations to the current local government; no separation of power, five different commissioners making both policy and executive decisions, no one spokesperson with authority to speak on behalf of the county, limited local decision-making authority, delays in timely decision-making as five executives with equal authority seek to make daily executive decisions, etc.

Q. “Charter places too much control in the hands of one person...”

A. Where the current form of government offers no checks and balances and has only one branch of government, Charter establishes two branches of government - legislative and executive - so that no single branch or elected official has too much power. The current form places five (5) people in charge; not a good management practice. No successful business or organization has five chief executives.

Q. “Charter adds another costly layer of government...”

A. Under Charter, an elected County Executive will be in place to manage County affairs, set clear priorities and run the County more efficiently through good management. Charter provides for two branches of government (not two layers of government) with an equal balance of power/authority over legislative and executive responsibilities. Cost of government always depends on the services that citizens want from their government.

Q. “The proposed Council structure will create a political atmosphere where gerrymandering will rule over drawing new district lines every 10 years...”

A. The redistricting commission membership will include an equal number of independent voters, to provide balance with the political parties, which should address any gerrymandering concerns.

Q. “Charter will make FC like Montgomery and Prince George’s counties...”

A. Comparing Frederick County to the larger jurisdictions like Baltimore or Montgomery County is like comparing peaches to pencil sharpeners; they have nothing in common. However, Harford and Howard counties are closer to Frederick in size and are both Charter counties operating efficiently.

In summary, we hope citizens will consider the following four points as they seek to make a wise decision on this important issue.

First, Charter Home Rule will give Frederick County authority to craft its future direction... Under Charter Home Rule, local decisions can be made on local issues, without seeking permission from the General Assembly. Under the current Commissioner structure of local government, FC has limited control over many local decisions. It must often seek permission from Annapolis on various issues before they are considered by the local County Commissioners, and many times the ultimate decision on those issues is made in Annapolis.

Second, Charter Home Rule operates with an elected County Executive “where the buck stops...here!” The Executive would be held more accountable by voters and the Council for management of the county, set clear priorities and operate the County more efficiently through good management practices.

Under the current Commissioner “government by committee,” policy and management decisions must be made by five (5) Commissioners with equal authority, so there is no one person totally accountable to voters for the final decisions that are made and no one person holds ultimate executive responsibility for the management of government. A group of five people can often shift the “blame” for decisions

made, but cannot be nimble and often can’t act quickly on decisions impacting Frederick’s economy or day-to-day management.

Third, Charter provides a system of checks and balances between an elected Executive and Council. The County Executive: manages and administers day-to-day operations; streamlines decision-making among departments and agencies; implements policies and laws passed by the County Council; and, submits a budget for Council approval.

The County Council: considers overall direction and policy of the county, passes local laws and ordinances and approves the County budget.

The current government structure has no system of checks and balances. Commissioners make all policy and executive decisions with no formal separation of powers and the five Commissioners hold both the legislative and executive role.

And, fourth, Charter would give Frederick County a stronger voice with the State government... The elected County Executive would represent the County in discussions with the Governor and legislative leaders on State funding decisions for items like transportation, education and other impacting issues.

Currently, no one elected official is identified as local spokesperson for Frederick County when State funding decisions are made or when other significant leadership decisions are made by state and regional leaders which impact FC.

Local decisions on local issues, a separation of legislative and executive responsibilities, daily checks and balances and good management practices and a spokesperson for Frederick County in dealing with the Governor and legislative leaders - important factors to consider in changing to a Charter form of government.

Charter Education Coalition is a 501c3 nonprofit, education organization established to educate the public in Frederick County about the forms of county government available in Maryland; about the implications of adopting a charter form of government; and, about the proposed charter for Frederick County; and on a nonpartisan basis, to encourage citizens to educate themselves about and participate in consideration of the proposed charter in a referendum in the general election on November 6.



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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

The case against Charter Government

Kia Hagen
Former County Commissioner

Let me start out with a question. What is something I have in common with many prominent county Republicans, such as Sheriff Chuck Jenkins, former county commissioner John "Lennie" Thompson, former county commissioner and state delegate Charles Jenkins, state delegate Michael Hough, former state senator Alex Mooney, Pastor Tim May and others?

The answer is that we're all opposed to the charter on the ballot in Frederick County on November 6th.

Before getting into the weeds of the charter we'll be voting on, it's important to make a broader point. The vote you get to cast soon is not a vote for or against the idea of charter government in Frederick County. It is a vote for or against a very specific charter. We don't vote yes for charter, then pull the charter manual off the shelf in Annapolis. Instead, an appointed Charter Board wrote the charter, and, along the way, made a lot of important decisions about a variety of options. And those decisions make a big difference.

So, while some people are opposed to any charter for Frederick County right now, many others are opposed to THIS particular charter because of many and specific problems that are simply too serious to overlook.

In fact, to emphasize that point, I'll note that the well-respected and non-partisan League of Women Voters of Frederick County has been a very consistent and strong advocate for charter government in the county, for a long time. The league has encouraged the move to charter. They followed the process of creating this charter very closely, and offered analysis and commentary along the way. And yet they have been unwilling to support and endorse the specific charter that was written.

That isn't surprising, since this particular charter is full of serious flaws.

Don't be surprised, though, if you don't hear about any of those flaws from the folks at the so-called "Charter Education Coalition." With development interests and the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce doing the heavy lifting and providing much of the substantial funding, the coalition established a non-profit organization to "educate" you and other county voters about charter government, in general, and the specific charter on our ballot, in particular.

But, while operating under the pretense of being a fair and balanced source of objective infor-

mation about the charter, the coalition is actually an unreservedly pro-charter effort, comprised entirely of individuals and organizations that are strong charter advocates. Significant money from those advocates has enabled them to set up a fancy website, print and distribute professional mailers, purchase ads in newspapers and on the radio, and more, all extolling the virtues and wonders of a switch from our commissioner form of government to charter.

You're told by the coalition that charter will give the county "authority to craft its future direction." But they don't tell you that could have been accomplished by putting a charter on the ballot that could have looked the same or only slightly different from the system we have now, without the long list of dramatic changes, and that it would have been able to evolve slowly, and more carefully, over time.

You're told by the coalition that charter means local decisions can be made on local issues, without seeking permission from the legislature in Annapolis. But they don't tell you that we already make most local decisions locally, and that roughly 80% of the bills we've sent to Annapolis in recent years would still have to go to the legislature. They also don't tell you that most of those bills are passed as a "local courtesy" if our local delegation to Annapolis supports them.

You're told by the coalition, over and over again, that charter will make county government more efficient and accountable. But those general assurances are not explained, and they don't tell you that the very strong executive/weak council model in this charter would mean that we would trade the highly transparent government we have now

for one in which the county executive can manage the county almost entirely behind closed doors. In fact, the charter board felt compelled to give a supermajority of the county council the ability to subpoena county employees, because the weak council may not be able to obtain certain information any other way.

You're told by the coalition that voting for charter will give Frederick County a "seat at the table" and a stronger voice in state government. But, besides noting that there is no table --- no regular or formal gathering or process that excludes Frederick County because we don't have a county executive --- having one would not change the political calculus in Annapolis. It wouldn't change the fact that the county will still be a generally conservative county, with only about 4% of the state's population. A big part of the influence Montgomery County or Prince George's County has in the governor's office comes from each having almost a million people.

You're told by the coalition that the existing commissioner system is cumbersome and slower to respond. They say that the the powerful county executive is more "nimble" and can act more quickly. But how do they reconcile that with their other major talking point that charter government comes with more and better checks and balances?

Here are a few of the other things you aren't likely to learn from the so-called "Charter Education Coalition:"

Most counties in Maryland, and most counties in the United States, do not have charter government.

In the strong executive/weak council model that the charter board chose, the executive drafts

the entire budget, and he or she can do so completely behind closed doors.

If the executive wanted to cut all funding for a program, such as 4H or farmland preservation or whatever, even if all seven councilpersons wanted to restore some or all of that funding, they could not do so, except by holding the entire county budget hostage.

You will get to vote for one council member to represent your new district, and the two who run at-large (countywide). That means there will be four council members that you will never get to vote for, and that will see themselves as primarily representing the interests of other parts of the county.

Reinforcing the charter board's decision to establish a weak county council, council members will receive a salary of \$22,500, or less than the salary of a part-time alderman in the City of Frederick.

If for any reason during their four year term, the county executive has to leave office, instead of having a county election to select a new county executive, either the Republican Central Committee or the Democratic Central Committee (assuming the executive is a Republican or Democrat) will essentially get to pick the new county executive, who could still have years remaining in their term in office.

And barring a statewide constitutional amendment, there would be no ability to recall the central committee-appointed county executive.

The new district lines come with the charter, and will be redrawn every ten years, but the charter board opted for a redistricting process that guarantees highly partisan gerrymandering for the first time in Frederick County, and for the foresee-

able future. That is a big change, with all sorts of negative consequences that we've never had to think or worry about here before. We've always elected county commissioners and school board members and the sheriff and others as one county. Are we really at a point where it makes sense to carve the county up into separate districts? How will it benefit north county residents to vote for one council member (who could be from Myersville or Walkersville) from the northern half of the county, and not for four others that represent the City of Frederick and the southern half of the county?

In the end, the charter board could have written a simpler and more basic charter, without so many dramatic changes with uncertain or negative effects. They could have written a charter that would have come with home rule, while reducing or avoiding concerns and objections about an all-powerful county executive. They could have written a charter that didn't mean electing council members by districts, or making highly partisan gerrymandering inevitable.

But they didn't.

Some supporters of this charter acknowledge some of these problems, and insist that the problems can be fixed. But anyone who says some or all of these problems can or will be fixed easily or soon is fooling themselves, or they are trying to fool you.

I've long thought that charter might make sense for the county at some point, but that we didn't have an immediate crisis to solve, and that it was far more important to get it done right than to just get it done quickly. This particular charter was not done right, and it does not deserve our support.

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of Representative Dan Moul

House seeks solution to property tax dilemma

Rep. Dan Moul

Property taxes are a growing concern for Adams County residents. In an economy that is struggling to recover from recession, many senior citizens who own homes – particularly those on fixed incomes – are especially alarmed about rising property taxes.

Property taxes are not an issue in many parts of the state, which has made it difficult to reach a consensus on reforms in the state Legislature. In any scenario, there are winners and losers. Voters rejected Gov. Robert Casey's property tax reform bill in the late 1980's by a 3-to-1

margin. Other unsuccessful attempts at property tax reform in the Legislature included Act 50 of 1998 and Act 72 of 2004. Neither was accepted by the electorate or school boards.

Any change in the property tax formula will require a tax shift from one source to another, and new revenue must be generated. Only two sources bring in enough revenue to provide statewide relief. They are the sales tax and Personal Income Tax (PIT).

House Resolution 774, which passed in the House by an overwhelming margin in June, recognizes the need to address the school property tax issue and to develop a sound statewide policy.

This legislation established a bipartisan House Select Committee on Property Tax Reform.

The Committee is exploring ways to make school funding, which is currently financed through property taxes, both affordable and equitable. It will consider cost drivers, as well as the advantages and deficiencies of various school funding plans, and make recommendations to the House by Nov. 30.

House Bill 1776, which was introduced this legislative session and garnered a fair amount of attention, proposed to eliminate school property taxes across the state and replace those taxes with funding from a single source. The

bill would raise the state's Personal Income Tax from 3.07 percent to 4 percent and increase the State Sales and Use tax from 6 percent to 7 percent. In addition, it would remove items currently exempt from sales tax such as candy, gum, newspapers and magazines.

At a public hearing on House Bill 1776, House Finance Committee Chairman Rep. Kerry Benninghoff (R-Centre/Mifflin) asked for the legislation to be tabled to allow more work on the bill when it became evident the potential revenues would fall far short of required funding and the average annual 3.7 percent increase.

School property taxes in 2010-11 – the latest figures available

– equaled \$11.6 billion. Because the 2012-13 school year is already underway, the earliest a plan can be implemented would be next year. Based on an estimated 3.7 percent annual growth rate, between \$12-\$13 billion would be needed for school funding in 2013-14.

Home ownership is the American dream, yet in our fragile economy, as property taxes continue to rise, more and more homeowners are worried about their ability to keep their homes. Now is the time for action to spare our most vulnerable citizens from the tragedy and indignity of losing their homes.

Solving Pennsylvania's property tax dilemma will not be an easy task. I look forward to the select committee's recommendations, and the hard work that will certainly follow to bring Pennsylvania homeowners and taxpayers the relief they so richly deserve.

From the Desk of Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

On October 11th, the Fairfield Sesquicentennial Committee hosted a number of dignitaries for the Civil War Trails Wayside Marker dedication ceremony. The dedication coincided with the commemoration of Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart's raid through central Pennsylvania and the abduction of Fairfield Postmaster John B. Paxton. The marker is located in front of the Fairfield Inn. When you have an opportunity, you may want to stop by and read about how Fairfield was involved in the Civil War. Did you know that on July 4th and 5th, 1863 most of General Robert E. Lee's army retreated from Gettysburg through Fairfield leaving many of their wounded for the local residents to care for them. If you are interested in viewing the pictures of the dedication and the Fairfield Inn go to www.ronspectures.net.

tures.net.

It's November. Let's take a look at some of the special and interesting days in November. Election day is November 6th (Tuesday). The polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. Based on the latest information, there will be a "soft roll-out" of the Photo ID law. What this means is that you will be asked to show a photo ID on election day, but you won't be barred from voting if you don't have one. All photo IDs must contain an expiration date that is current, unless noted otherwise. Go to www.votespa.com to see what are the acceptable IDs. If you have any questions regarding the election polls and photo ID, contact Ms. Monica Dutko, Adams County Director of Elections and Voter Registration at (717) 337-9832.

November 7th is National Bittersweet Chocolate with Al-

monds day. Had to include this special day since I was told that almonds help improve your cholesterol levels. Have no words for the chocolate other than it tastes good. November 10th is Forget-Me-Not-Day. It is a day set aside to remember family and loved ones. On the same day, we celebrate the birth of the United States Marine Corps. Did you know that the Marine Corps was created in 1775 during the Revolutionary War. They are celebrating their 237th birthday. If you have never been, you may want to visit the National Museum of the Marine Corps located in Triangle, Virginia. For more information go to www.usmc-museum.com. On November 11th, we honor all Armed Forces veterans who have served our country. It was first celebrated in 1921 as Armistice Day. President Eisenhower changed it to Veteran's Day in 1954. On the fourth Thursday in November (the 22nd), we celebrate Thanksgiving.

Around this time of year, the question always comes up as to whether someone can hunt in Carroll Valley. To clarify the rules, Carroll Valley cannot by law change state law regarding hunting; however, current state rules make legal hunting in Carroll Valley difficult. Pennsylvania has what are called "Safety Zones". In a safety zone, it is unlawful to hunt for, shoot at, trap, take, chase or disturb wildlife within 150 yards of any

occupied residence, camp, industrial or commercial building, farm house or farm building, or school or playground without the permission of the occupants. It is unlawful to shoot into a safety zone, even if you are outside of the zone. Driving game, even without a firearm or bow, within a safety zone without permission is unlawful. For comparison, think of a safety zone as about one and a half football fields. Hunting on hospital and institutional grounds, and in cemeteries, is also prohibited. It is unlawful to discharge a firearm within 150 yards of a Game Commission vehicle whose occupants are releasing pheasants.

The safety zone for archery hunters statewide, including those using crossbows, is 50 yards. Archery hunters carrying muzzleloaders during any muzzleloader season must abide by the 150-yard safety zone regulation. Around playgrounds, schools, nursery schools or day-care centers, the safety zone remains 150 yards. For further information, refer to www.pgc.state.pa.us. As Carroll Valley has grown over the years, it is more and more difficult to find a location outside these safety zones. Should you think someone is hunting too close to a residence, you can call the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Dispatch Center in Huntingdon at (814) 643-1831 and an officer will check for violations. If you see persons hunt-

ing from vehicles or after dark, call County Dispatch at 717-334-8101 or 9-1-1 to get the quickest response."

There have been some reports of seeing a bobcat in our area. Bobcats are common in mountainous suburban area like ours. They normally avoid contact with humans but they are known to prey on unattended pets, rabbits and rodents. These cats are wild animals and should be viewed from a safe distance. You should not leave food out for them or leave food out for your own pet. You do not want to attract a bobcat to your home. You can possibly move a bobcat from your home area by making lots of noise using bells. Be careful, they tend to hide in bushes. For further information contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

On November 3rd, Strawberry Hill will be holding a "Party for the Preserve". This is their 11th Annual Auction and Fundraiser to be held from 6 pm to 10 pm in the Alpine Room at Liberty Mountain Resort. Please help Strawberry Hill and their mission to protect the Swamp Creek Watershed, to provide environmental education, and to connect our community to the natural world around us. Register for the event by visiting their website: www.StrawberryHill.org.

Borough meetings and office closures in November are: Planning Commission (Nov 5th), Borough Office Closed (Nov 6th & Nov 12th), Borough Council (Nov 13th), Borough Office Closed (Nov 22nd & Nov 23rd) and Parks/Recreation Committee (Nov 28th). Please reduce your speed to make sure you, your loved ones, your friends and neighbors will be safe. If you have any questions call me at (301) 606-2021 or email at mayor@carrollvalley.org. Happy Thanksgiving folks!

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GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

From the Desk of County Commissioner Jim Martin

As a result of last year's General Election three new Adams County commissioners were elected to office; Randy Phiel, Jim Martin and Marty Qually. We have completed our first ten months in office. Speaking for myself, the pace has been vigorous and I feel it has been the fastest ten months of my life and including some of my most rewarding and humbling experiences. September and October ushered in an extremely high level of activity surrounding the courthouse, not to discount the months before. During this two-month period the courthouse was a buzz. Tax claim sales, hearing assessment appeals, relocating our IT department (aka MIS department), beginning the 2013 budget process, and starting the upgrade of our computer network with the installation of new servers; this is not the exhaustive list, but obviously the high-profile actions.

Approximately 1100 appeals were heard (as of time of pub-

lishing) and were divided among three boards of assessment appeals. The three county commissioners composed one of the boards that primarily heard commercial appeals and unique land parcels appeals. The remaining two boards were auxiliary boards that heard residential appeals. The auxiliary boards were carefully chosen and instructed to be fair and equitable in value determinations and allowing appellants to withdraw if they so desired. Also appellants were allowed to submit a variety of documents and pictures that they felt were relevant to their appeal. Projections indicate that nearly half of the appellants received value reductions. The remainder of the appeals was either unchanged or withdrawn by the appellant. The Tax Services Department did an excellent job of scheduling appeals and organizing appropriate documents used to conduct the appeals. The Commissioners were even given com-

mendations for their time management to stay on schedule.

Based on the apparent outcome of the appeals, there will obviously be a reduction in the county's total property value tax base. We expect this reduction to be partially absorbed by limited new construction and development. As a result, tax revenues for 2013 are projected to be flat and this will need to be reflected in the budget for 2013. My expectation is that we will be following a lean budget for 2013. To date the 2012 county budget is on target. Let's pray that we are able to deal with the unknown consequences of hurricane Sandy both financially and especially without loss of life or property.

Looking toward a lean budget, how can we afford to update our computer network with new servers as previously mentioned? The new servers were included in the 2012 budget and the funds are therefore available. Do we need to up-

date our computer network? Yes, we are operating at nearly 95% of capacity which is not recommended, especially for network components that are near the end of their life expectancy. At present we are operating on a very narrow margin of operability. Also our processing speed has slowed considerably over the past four to five months. The new servers will systematically be brought on line over the coming weeks, using nights and weekends for installation. This project will also provide us with back-up servers, which we presently lack, at an off-campus location to bring us out of antiquity and halt gambling with system failure. At present, system failure would be extremely disruptive to operations and would require days to recover. Also to enhance system performance and accommodate future needs, we will be switching from cable transmission to fiber optics. Fiber optics will allow instant redundancy to the backup servers. Additional-

ly, the new servers are designed to serve virtual computers that operate with 30% less electricity and produce less heat. Virtual computers require less hands-on maintenance and we anticipate transitioning to their use. This will reduce the traditional man-hours needed to service conventional computers.

There is more happening, especially as we near the completion of the County-Wide Emergency Radio System contract design review. By the time this article goes to press, we anticipate that the review will be complete. Following this review, tower construction activity will begin and to be followed by the manufacturing and simulated test of our new radio equipment. For further information on what is happening in Adams County, come to our next community forum. It will be held at the Arendtsville Community Building, 1 Chestnut Street, Arendtsville, on November 13, 2012 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.

Breast cancer services of WellSpan's Gettysburg Hospital earn special accreditation

The breast cancer services of WellSpan Gettysburg Hospital have been granted a three-year full accreditation by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), a program administered by the American College of Surgeons.

The specialized breast cancer programs of WellSpan Gettysburg Hospital are now one of only 30 accredited centers in Pennsylvania. It is the only one in Adams, Franklin and York

counties of Pennsylvania and also northern Maryland.

"This achievement is the result of a lot of hard work and dedication on the part of many people," said Ronald Hempling, M.D., vice president of WellSpan's oncology services. "I'm proud of all of them. "Having an accredited breast cancer program will have a tremendous impact on area women and their families."

Hempling added, "NAPBC accreditation is a third-party endorsement of our efforts to alter the level

of breast cancer care so that women in Adams County don't need to go elsewhere to receive excellent clinical care and support."

During the survey process, the breast cancer program of WellSpan Gettysburg Hospital demonstrated compliance with standards established by the NAPBC for treating women who are diagnosed with a full spectrum of breast disease.

The standards include proficiency in the areas of center leadership, clinical management, research, community outreach, pro-

fessional education and quality improvement. A program that achieves NAPBC accreditation has demonstrated a firm commitment to offer its patients every significant advantage in their battle against breast disease.

Hempling said the accreditation is particularly gratifying because it grew out of a concerned request from the Adams County Breast Cancer Community Advisory Board.

"The community asked us to create a system for breast cancer care that

would eliminate the need to go elsewhere for excellent care," he said.

Collaboration among Radiation Oncology, Medical Oncology, Surgery, Pathology, Imaging and the leadership of WellSpan changed the dynamics of quality care in the community, according to Dr. Hempling.

"We've created a very high standard of care, and we have done it with outstanding and dedicated providers." He added, "Meeting community needs is what WellSpan is all about."

In the battle against breast cancer, **WE PERFORM AT A HIGHER LEVEL**



Only one healthcare provider in Adams County is recognized by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers – the breast cancer program of WellSpan Gettysburg Hospital. The accreditation acknowledges our commitment to providing the region's best breast cancer diagnostic and treatment services, and is a testament to the high standards and expertise of the WellSpan's oncology team. It also means patients in Adams County will receive some of the finest care in the nation just where they need it most – close to home.

Physicians from left to right:

Robert Rice, MD
Angela Brooks, MD
Sherif Yacoub, MD
Timothy McKee, MD, FACS
Marie Spagnoli, MD



WellSpan.org/cancer

COMMENTARY

Words From Winterbilt

Vote

Shannon Bohrer

If you have not heard, there is an election this month and I am offering some very good advice as to what party and what candidates to vote for. Of course, the main thing to do is to vote. Voting is not a privilege; it is your right as a citizen. Since it is the only thing the government gives you for free, you should take advantage of it. I am sure that somewhere down the road they will try taxing your right to vote. Oh wait, they already did that once, it was called the poll tax.

As to what party and candidates to vote for, I would recommend the party that will be the best for the country, the party that will balance the budget, the party that offers a strong national defense, the party that will not waste your tax dollars, the party that gives you tax breaks, the party that will reform and improve our education system, the party that will solve our energy problems, the party that will end drug addiction and hunger and the party that will make your children smarter and make you look younger. If you believe a party and/or candidate like this exists, then vote for them. While individuals often promise that if elected, everything will be fine, the fact is that both parties have promised much of what was said, for well over 40 years, so how do we choose?

A typical speech from a candidate: "This has been a long campaign and I have always looked out for the middle class, the middle class built this coun-

try and they deserve to have everything they are entitled to. I also believe in the small business creators since most new employment comes from small business, additionally we need a strong defense to ensure our safety and along with this topic I want the public to know that I support the men and women in the military. I also believe in higher education and I think this country needs to invest in higher education. We also need to reform the tax code so the tax system is fair to both individuals and business. We have the highest corporate tax rate in the world and if we are intent on attracting new businesses and industries we need to lower the corporate tax rate. It would be very helpful for growth if we could also reduce the capital gains tax and eliminate the death tax. Additionally we need to ensure that we maintain a safety net for the poor and people out of work. Another thing we need is cheap energy, energy cost too much and has become a burden on the middle class. I believe if we reformed our energy policy we could become energy independent and we could lower the cost. Another thing we need to invest in is our infrastructure, rebuilding the roads and bridges that are in poor condition. You know, I think we all understand the problems we face and if we work together we can solve them."

The Candidate then takes questions, and someone asks "How will you reduce spending and balance the budget?" The response: "My opponent is, as you know, a big spender and I believe that if s/he is elected, s/he will make the government broke. I

have also heard that members of my opponent's family are reported to be thespians."

Well that makes a lot of sense, doesn't it?

Lets' pretend we have a different candidate and his/her speech is as follows: "My fellow Americans, we are deep in the fecal material and it took a long time to get here and it will take a long time to get out. First we need to reduce spending, so I am proposing reduction in all government spending – across the board, including congressional salaries. Second, we need more revenue. Every citizen who works will pay taxes and every company that exist, including non profits, will pay taxes. With only 50 percent of individuals and 60 percent of companies currently paying taxes, it's no wonder we are in trouble. We can overcome our problems, providing we all contribute. The last balanced budget was under President Clinton and the previous balanced budget was under President Eisenhower. That means that since the 1960's our government has been stimulating the economy with borrowed money. So with the constant stimulation of the economy, we really never had any good old days, we were just living high on the hog on credit. It worked for a long time, but we cannot kick the can down the road anymore, because we will soon be out of road. So if you vote for me you understand that all government programs will be reduced, everyone that works will pay taxes and we will be in this hole for a long time."



Do you think this candidate will receive many votes? Maybe that's why we are in trouble, we not only listened to the first candidate(s), we voted for him/her, repeatedly. An acquaintance was asked about his thoughts and he responded that he was "afraid that if one candidate was elected he would not do what he said" and if the other candidate was elected, he was afraid "he would keep his promises." When questioned about which candidate/party he was referring to in both cases, he replied "Both."

My advice is to: "Vote for the person or party that you believe will do the best for the country, and if after they

are elected you become disappointed, then don't vote for them again"

While our democracy is very inefficient, very partisan, greatly influenced by money from large corporations and possibly corrupted by influential groups, it is still the best government on the planet. I cannot think of any other country where I would want to live and/or any other government I would want to live under. I am blessed and feel privileged to be an American, and that right there is a good reason to vote.

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

View From the Track

"This is it"

Kip Hamilton

Ok folks... here we go... we're less than a week away from what some people have described as the most important election in the history of the country.

That seems a little overly dramatic, but the facts are: the size of your paycheck is at stake; your retirement is at stake; your bank account is at stake; the success of your business is at stake; your healthcare is at stake; the future of your children or grandchildren is at stake.

Hmmm...maybe that description isn't too far off after all.

One thing is for sure; if the President is re-elected, we can kiss the Supreme Court goodbye for at least a generation.

I know I'm not going to change anyone's mind at this point and the truth is, if you are still undecided at this late date, you obviously have not been paying proper attention and probably have no business voting at all. "Think that is harsh?"

Casting a vote for a political representative at any level is the most important thing a Citizen can do. How many hundreds of thousands of men & women have given their

lives to insure for us this precious right?

I think it was Martin O'Malley's first election attempt to the governor's office in Maryland; a reporter approached a couple of intelligent-looking young ladies and asked for whom they were voting. They replied that they were going to vote for O'Malley and the reporter asked them why. Simultaneously, one said, "He's HOT" and the other, "He's so cute." Really??? It's our culture of celebrity. But should we be surprised?

That's exactly how we ended up with the current resident at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Many people voted for him not for his policies, because he never really laid out a specific agenda. He still has not. As Mr. Romney quipped in their third debate, the President's attacking him is not an agenda. They voted for him for what he represented. They voted for him because he was cool and played basketball and had a Blackberry and is Black, sort of. From all accounts, thankfully, many of them have realized their mistake and are looking forward to fixing it.

We don't need a celebrity who is having a ball partying in the White House with musicians, actors and athletes... all paid for by hard-work-

ing Americans. We need a serious, competent adult back in that office to provide much-needed leadership for the country.

This president has been in over his head since day one. From his experience as a community organizer, he only knows how to pit groups of people against each other and stir up unrest, all the while sounding righteous. Just look at what he has done in the Middle East. In the space of only a couple of years, by interjecting himself in the affairs of sovereign countries, he has almost singlehandedly created absolute chaos. Did he do that on purpose? We'll probably never know for sure.

Last month we talked about the massive volume of lies coming out of this administration. This is incredibly disturbing. The man will look the American people right in the eye and lie his... posterior off. I thought Mr. Clinton was a pretty accomplished story teller. Mr. Obama brings a whole new sociopathic dimension to the game; the latest being the disaster in Benghazi and the resultant cover up.

A full two weeks after the tragedy, the president was addressing the United Nations, STILL blaming the violence and deaths of our fellow citizens on that inane you tube

video; a protest, he said. As we have since learned, during the terrorist assault on our consulate, there was an un-armed Predator drone circling overhead, capturing the entire 6-7 hour long siege of the compound on camera. The drone was sending real-time video back to Washington where it was watched, as it happened, by analysts in the State Department, the Defense Department, the CIA and the White House.

So, even though we knew almost immediately that there was no protest; that it was a terrorist assault on our people, our president and his staff lied about what had happened, repeatedly, for two weeks. In addition, and perhaps the most troubling, is that the administration knew that our ambassador was in grave danger. There were Air Force assets in Italy, about an hour away, which could have ended the assault in a couple of passes, but someone made the decision to NOT send them. What??? For the first time in US military history, the United States command echelon ignored pleas for assistance from our citizens in a life-threatening situation and from their aerial camera, watched as our ambassador and the others were slaughtered and lifted no hand to help them.

Just think about that for a minute. Mr. Obama almost certainly knew that the consulate was being overrun and did nothing to stop

it... in fact, there are some reports are that he went off to bed because he had a full day of campaigning to do the next day. What kind of human being would do such a thing? Words adequately describing this disgusting, repulsive behavior escape me. Thankfully, it looks as if the truth behind this horrible situation is not going away, so we can only hope that there will be consequences in this life for such cavalier disregard for the lives of four souls.

What we have before us is an opportunity to return some sanity to our political process and to our country as a whole. It has often felt over the past four years that our society has been turned upside down - black is white; right is wrong; up is down. It's been like watching an episode of the Twilight Zone. It's no wonder that people are depressed and disoriented. We have not been able to count on things we have always trusted to be truths. On Election Day, we get what may be our single shot at fixing this mess.

And for those of you who are disillusioned and believe that there is no difference between Mr. Obama and Mr. Romney... that may be partially true, but at least Mr. Romney isn't a Communist.

To read past editions of *View From the Track* visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

Pure OnSense

Political opportunism's grim turn

Scott Zuke

In Maryland we're relatively insulated from the fiercest elements of the presidential campaigns, aside from the occasional television ads straying over from Virginia. By now, though, election-weariness is setting in and we're all looking forward to November 7. Ordinary citizens aren't the only ones, either. Congress, the Pentagon, and other government agencies have had to put business on hold in recent weeks because nothing can be said on the record without being seized for political gain. One issue that is set to be addressed after the election is the September 11 terrorist attack on the American consulate in Benghazi, Libya, which is now scheduled to be investigated by the Senate Intelligence Committee starting November 15.

This, however, has not stopped the Romney campaign, the GOP, or other right-wing personalities from demanding "answers" from the Obama administration as to what was known, when, and by whom. Instead, they have let fly a number of accusations labeling the administration at best incompetent and

at worst complicit in the attack that took the lives of Ambassador Stevens and three other embassy staff. It's a disingenuous and cynical attempt to invent a scandal leading into Election Day to tarnish the President's foreign policy record.

The general line of attack has several parts, of which most are either false, unclear, or inconsistent. The argument goes: 1) The administration was aware of threats to the consulate beforehand but failed to implement sufficient security to prevent or repel the attack, 2) The administration "apologized" for American values rather than condemning the attack and calling it a terrorist act, 3) It implausibly blamed the attack on an obscure YouTube video rather than calling it an organized terrorist plot, and 4) That it did so in order to mislead the public for political gain, and in spite of having received intelligence linking the attack to terrorism.

The first point is the strongest, and the one that will be properly investigated in due course starting this month. Was this an intelligence failure, a security failure, or a political one? These are not partisan questions, but practical ones of

what could have been done to prevent this tragedy. It is possible that, given the limitations of our intelligence gathering operations and our limited resources for securing diplomatic installations everywhere at all times, this may not have been reasonably preventable. Last year while visiting Morocco I saw how difficult it is to balance security needs with diplomatic openness. Even the non-political USAID office in this US-friendly country had imposing security measures, and the embassy in the capital of Rabat looked like a multi-layered, windowless fortress on a hill--not a welcoming image for America's diplomatic presence.

As for the administration's supposed failures to implement security measures that had been requested, the facts have shown that even if all of them had been enacted, it would not have prevented the attack. Additional security forces had been requested for the embassy in Tripoli, some 400 miles from Benghazi, and would nevertheless have been an insufficient force to repel the heavily armed attackers. The broader question, then, is whether it was prudent to have the diplomatic mission there in the first place. That's a difficult call to make, considering our interest in helping to shape Libya's future.

The "apologizing for America's values" line has been used less frequently lately for two good reasons: first, because transcripts clearly show the

Obama administration flatly condemned the acts of violence in the region from the start, and second, because it risks reminding people of the Romney campaign's shamefully hasty press release issued the evening of Sept. 11 that falsely accused the administration of sympathizing with the attackers. The Romney campaign's "apology tour" line is popular with his base, but it's simply wrong, and in this context, immorally so.

In the weeks since widespread protests throughout the Middle East over the supposedly obscure YouTube video, "The Innocence of Muslims," have died down, right-wing commentators have come to pretend that the video was an absurd thing to blame for sparking the attack. It was not. The viral spread of that video was spontaneous and caught the Western world by surprise. It had led to unrest in the region, and unrest there has historically opened the door for acts of violence. For lack of better data at the time, it was reasonable to suspect a link. In any case, it is unclear what difference, if any, it would have made had the administration been quicker to label the event an organized terrorist attack. The military and governmental response would have been the same.

The argument continues, though, that the American public was not just uninformed or misinformed, but that it was actively misled for political purposes.

To what end? The Obama administration has been unceasingly aggressive against al Qaeda militants and leadership through drone strikes, so much so that even liberal supporters are uneasy with its strategy, which generally follows the course set by President Bush. There is no case to be made for Obama being weak when it comes to hunting terrorists. (It's also interesting to note that in 2004 the tables were turned: paranoid skeptics on the far-left worried Bush would allow some attack to occur right before the election to frighten people into sticking with the incumbent.)

Juan Williams, a Fox News contributor, dismissed the GOP's argument in an op-ed for *The Hill*: "Once the political spin stops, the bottom line is there is no evidence so far to support the Romney camp's claim of incompetence or a cover-up by the administration... This is one political strategy that is based on deliberate misinformation about the Benghazi assault." Political opportunism is to be expected in campaign season, especially one this close. But this false scandal is an abhorrent exploitation of four individuals who gave their lives serving their country and its interests in a region struggling to escape a legacy of authoritarianism. They deserve better.

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

Down Under

The 3-D effect

Submitted by Lindsay!
Melbourne, Australia

History is a combination of reality and lies. The reality of history becomes a lie. The unreality of the fable becomes the truth.

—Jean Cocteau, *Journal of the Unknown*, 1953

Understand you have a major election in a few days time, one that has had more money spent on it than any other before. I can only wish you good luck, and tell you a story.

Many years ago I went to work for a physics teacher turned salesman. During our initial talks I asked him how he had made his money, for he was obviously well off, so he was probably a good businessman. "Oh," he said with a grin, "on the horses." Expressing wonder at that, he explained: "No, I wrote a book on how to win at the races. I knew how much serious punters loved systems, so I invented a system that was full of maths and stats, that required a great deal of work to get an answer, had 100 copies printed, took them into my local news agency, who was always ready to make a dollar or two. The first man to buy one was a fairly well-known identity, and, as luck would have it, his first three selections won - on the same day. He wrote it up, and I had to have 1,000 printed. In a couple of years I sold over 10,000, and seeing they cost me about \$3 each, and they sold for \$25 of which I got \$15, I made a

killling at the races.

"But did the system work, really?"

"No, I had no idea if it would or not. But that bit of luck at the beginning, well --"

"But why did it keep selling?"

"Because about 10% of the picks were good, purely by chance. My first punter wrote an article for a newspaper column explaining that it was not the fault of the system that caused a pick to not win, but the lack of care and application the punter had used in using the formula."

I had to grin. Nothing wrong with taking advantage of people's stupidity, or their greed, is there?

And that, my friends, is now an endemic scenario. Not on racing systems, to be sure, but in the legacy of Mary Baker Eddy, the 'mind-over-matter' lady who began Christian Science. Banish negative thoughts, become utterly positive, and you cannot fail to win. Your bones will heal, the bad things will stop. It's a mighty industry, from parliament to boardroom, from stock exchange to sitting room. People like my physics man make fortunes from it, because they all tap into the desire to get something for nothing. To be part of the miracle of modern America - and to avoid being ostracized if they don't.

As I understand, the founder of Lehman Brothers was heard muttering after the business imploded, "But it couldn't happen. We believed

in it so much, it just had to succeed."

Makes you wonder, doesn't it, about the power such ideas can hold, the power to blind, to hide the apocalypse on the horizon. Rational thought is subverted, worst-case is redefined as just a dip, it will get better, just keep believing. For that's the key. Keep believing, train yourself to banish negatives, and if it doesn't come to pass, it is your own fault because you must have had doubts. Because if just one person has a bit of luck - and that's all it can ever be - they are held up by the purveyors as having got it right. If they can, so can you. But, in reality, it's all a con, an illusion.

Do you remember going to see one of the very first types of 3D movies? The ones where you had to wear glasses with one lens green and the other red, and things seemed to leap out at you from the screen, to the shock and fear of the audience? I saw one many years ago, something about Zulus, and I still recall ducking the spear that was thrown straight at me out of the screen.

But then you could take those remarkable things off your face, stand up, emerge into the daylight where the traffic really did rush at you, the hustle, bustle and smells were real - as was the laughter, the noise and he sense of relief at the normality of everyday life. That was a reprieve, but also a letdown, make-believe being so much more entertaining than reality, at least for a little while.

So, what if you didn't have to wear those pesky glasses to get the same effect? And the movie wasn't projected onto a screen, but there were live performers on the stage, just as there is in a play? But the



same things happened - the actors hurled things right at you but they never hit you, the flowers were so real you could smell them, the money that had been shown in the film simply floated down from above, and, by golly, it was real. And you could grab it and keep it? Would that be something, or would it!

Well, that is more or less what has happened, with even the pentagon being seduced. "There is no way we can lose the war in (you name it); we do not lose.

'But is there a backup plan? A what if?'

'Not necessary. We KNOW we will win. We are a can-do nation. We are bigger and stronger. We are supremely confident.' And these people are not fools.

Nor is the government, but if you believe the promises made by

the contenders, you too are being suckered. The reality is far from pretty, and in the end it will be who you believe will be most socially responsible that should get your vote. For someone has to become president, but none are prepared to say just how bad things really are, because that would just be too negative.

The rich want to stay that way, and the divide between rich and poor, the downgrading of the middle class, and the growth of impossible debt is of little concern to them. Remember the 3D effect, take off the rose-coloured glasses, and insist on a dose of reality. And, as I said in the beginning, Good Luck.

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

THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

Drifting

Bill Meredith

Fall drifted in gently last month. As I write this, we have had only one killing frost and no violent storms, and the maple trees are at their peak of fall color. Some trees... ashes, walnuts, locusts and the like... have lost their leaves, but most of us don't miss them because they never get much color anyway. So life in Emmitsburg has been like Lake Wobegon... quiet, with time to reflect and let our minds drift.

Where I grew up, we lived on a hill. That in itself wasn't remarkable; everyone I knew lived on a hill. But the consequence was that all of the local hills were headwater areas. When it rained, water ran down the slope until it reached a valley where two hills came together;

there it created little streams which were big enough that you couldn't jump across them in places, but they dried up a few days later, and even crayfish couldn't live in them. There was a hierarchy that followed: farther down the valley the little streams would get bigger because they were fed by springs, and they would merge together and form larger streams... we called them runs... and those usually had enough water in them to form pools that only dried up if we had a summer drought. Still farther down, the runs came together to form "cricks" (city folks called them creeks) that contained flowing water the year round, and the "cricks" eventually merged to form rivers. The problem was that you had to go several miles down-

stream from our house before you got to a body of water of any substantial size; so I never got to go canoeing or learned to swim.

This has had two results. The first was embarrassing: when I entered graduate school, I got interested in fish and crayfish, and at some point I came to realize that I was probably the only aquatic biologist in North America who couldn't swim. The second generated a sort of remorseful feeling of loss: I never had the experience of wasting a whole day by getting in a boat or inner tube and drifting downstream without a care in the world. Looking back, drifting is an apt metaphor for how my life has gone by, and I think I might have enjoyed it more if I'd really had the physical experience of drifting when I was younger.

I was cleaning out the greenhouse on a warm day a couple weeks ago when the leaves started drifting down from the ash tree behind the house. It was so quiet I could hear them when they hit the ground. Drifting is not a high-energy process that requires a lot of stressful decision-making. You could almost imagine a conversation between the Boss Leaf and his wife:

"I really don't feel like doing anything today."

"Me neither. I've worked all summer and my chlorophyll is about pooped."

"Mine too, and I got this hole right by my midrib where that bug chewed on it..."

"Think we ought to call it a year?"

"OK by me... I'm about ready to jump. Just gimme a half hour or so to finish my abscission layer..."

And all of the other leaves look at each other and say some version of:

"There goes Him and Her. Think we should shove off too?"

"Guess so. I'm ready whenever you are."

A lot of drifting goes on in the natural world. The day before it frosted, I was out in the garden picking the last of the green beans, and I noticed a turkey vulture that had just found and updraft. It was drifting around in circles, going higher without flapping because the air was rising, and it drifted upward until it was barely visible to me. It could have seen me just fine from that altitude, but I was moving every minute or two, so it wasn't interested; it was looking for something a little closer to being dead. It left the updraft and began sailing around randomly, scanning the countryside as it gradually got lower, and when it began to get too low it found another updraft and started rising again. I must have watched it at least 15 minutes, and it never flapped its wings. I thought for a while that if I had to come back in another form some day, drifting around as



a turkey vulture wouldn't be a bad choice... but then I decided the diet wouldn't be appealing.

You can't sit by our kitchen window for five minutes without seeing a squirrel going by with a walnut in its mouth. In some of the books I had as a kid, squirrels had a reputation for being industrious and working to store nuts for winter food, but my squirrels don't look industrious; they look like they're goofing around and having fun. My wife keeps several potted plants around the yard, and for the past month she has had a running battle with the squirrels because they seem to find the pots to be an ideal place to bury walnuts. If you watch the squirrels, you can tell the different age groups apart; the young ones go tearing about, dropping the nuts when they meet each other and get to playing, and scattering piles of dirt when they dig into the flower pots. The older ones are more inclined to drift along... I guess you can drift on the ground... in less of a hurry and saving energy, and burying their nuts in more secure places. Nature seems to have designed all of us so that we are better at drifting as we get older.

I have been hearing more tree frogs than usual this fall. It was a mild spring and the summer was wetter than usual, so maybe more of them survived than usual. You don't usually see them because they stop singing if you get too close, and they change color to match the tree bark they're sitting on. I don't think tree frogs drift; it may be that I'm hearing them because my mind is drifting more than it used to.

Now that I think about it, it seems that most people my age spend more time drifting, at least mentally, than they used to. Maybe there is an evolutionary advantage to it; maybe people who aren't able to drift a bit are the ones who get ulcers and high blood pressure and die earlier from heart attacks. It's an interesting theory; maybe I'll think about it this winter, if I have time. Maybe if we get a lot of snow this winter, I'll just sit by the window and watch it drift down and fill up the driveway. Not many things are prettier than snowflakes drifting down from the sky. And when it happens, you can sit by the fireplace and think of spring. No need to worry about shoveling... if you wait a while, it'll probably melt.

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The “Hour of the Wolf”

Michael Hillman

“Have you ever heard of the Hour of the Wolf? My father told me about it. It’s the time between 3:00 and 4:00 in the morning. You can’t sleep, and all you can see are the troubles and the problems and the ways that your life should’ve gone but didn’t. All you can hear is the sound of your own heart. I’ve been living in the hour of the wolf for seven days. Seven days. The wolf and I are now on a first-name basis. In times like this, my father used to take one large glass of vodka before bed. “To keep the wolf away,” he said. And then he would take three very small drinks of vodka, just in case she had cubs while she was waiting outside. It doesn’t work.”

—Susan Ivanova.

I have to admit, I was looking forward to hurricane Sandy. For what seems like an eternity I’ve been waiting for a rainy day where I would be “trapped” at home with nothing to do but sit in front my fireplace and read. As the forecasted track of Sandy became more and more apparent as the weekend approached, it appeared my hopes would finally become reality.

Having now lived “in the country” for 24 years, my wife and I systematically went through our now well-rehearsed storm preparation routines. Saturday was spent moving everything (that was movable) outside indoors, cleaning rain gutters, stocking up on necessary food and perishables, filling water jugs for the horses, and firing up and testing the emergency generator. I felt I was ready for anything Sandy would throw at us.

Ah the bliss of ignorance...

I fully expected to awaken Sunday morning to a driving rain, at least that’s what the weather forecast had predicted, but instead I woke up to nothing more than a cloudy morning. Throughout the day I found myself turning on the TV to get the latest forecast, and with each new forecast I became more and more convinced that the so-called “Storm of a Lifetime” would be anything but that. I steeled myself to once again be disappointed.

Sunday night the rain finally started, but it wasn’t the hard driving rain that was expected; it was only a light drizzle. “What a dud of a storm,” I thought to myself.

I awoke Monday morning to a more promising scenario. The light drizzle had turned into a steady rain. My first indication that I might have misjudged the storm came when I noticed one of the sump pumps was not working. Unlike modern homes, the walls of our old farmhouse’s basement are permeable, and in heavy rains, the walls can often look like indoor waterfalls. With-

out the sump pumps, the basement quickly becomes an indoor pool.

I knew without even looking what was wrong. The float on the sump pump was stuck. I had been meaning to fix it for the past few years, and I was going to get to it eventually, but I just hadn’t gotten around to it yet. Fortunately, the water in the basement had not yet reached the height of the heater. I stripping off my shoes and reached into the sump pump pit and unstuck the float. The pump sprung to life. Half of an hour later, the basement was dry. I thought about getting around to fixing the float, but opted for a brick to keep the pump float from sticking again—that fix should be good for a couple more years...

Mid-Monday afternoon, the winds finally began to pick up and with it, the storm was now officially here. I retreated to an enclosed porch upstairs where I could work while watching the trees bend and sway in the wind. With 20 gallons of gasoline on standby for the generator (enough for at least three days) I was ready for the power outage that was sure to come. Confident, that is, until my wife pointed out that the line that would provide power to the house (the generator was in the barn) ran in front of a half dead maple tree I had been meaning to prune for the past few years. (I was going to get to it eventually, but just hadn’t gotten around to it yet.) Needless to say, I spent the rest of the daylight hours with a weary eye on that tree. If it fell, we would lose all power to the house, and with it, the sump pumps. And with four to eight inches of rain coming, I realized the basements might not just flood, but overflow.

In the late afternoon I headed down to Toms Creek Bridge to get some shots of water running under the bridge for the paper. Ever since hurricane Fran in 1996, which resulted in the bridge being washed away, I use the height of the water under the bridge as my gage of the severity of a storm. With more than seven feet of clearance still remaining, this storm was a long way away from being the “worst of the century”.

As I walked across the bridge, I noticed a groundhog crossing the far end. Its home had obviously been flooded and it was seeking higher ground. As I approached it, it gave me a weary look. It was shivering, obviously tired and confused. I watched as it tried to bury itself in a pile of leaves to ward off the pounding rain. As I drove home I couldn’t shake the image of the groundhog shivering. Figuring he might like some food, I scooped out a couple of handfuls of feed and headed back to the bridge. The groundhog had managed to bury himself, but its refuge would soon be flooded if the predicted rains continued.

I placed the grain next to his shelter. The groundhog looked up at



A good gage of the severity of a storm is the height of the water under Toms Creek Bridge.

me with a worried look on his face. After a moment’s hesitation, he began to eat the grain. I left, worried about the night that was to come for him.

As night approached, the winds began to pick up. It was time to bring the horses in. For the better part of the day they had huddled in their run-in shed, safe from the pouring rain. But with the winds now reaching gale force, it was time to bring them in. As I went to get the first horse, I was greeted by the flock of finches and sparrows that call our farm home. They were lining every rafter of the run-in shed, seeking safety from the storm.

Knowing the birds were used to picking at the grain spilled by the horses at feeding time, I returned to the run-in shed after all the horses were safely inside and sprinkled grain on the ground for them. They hesitated, but when the bravest of them flew to grab his share, the rest followed.

As the evening grew late, the winds grew stronger. At 8:45 we finally, as expected, lost power. We had lost power at least 8 times before then, but each time the light came back on. This time, my wife and I knew instinctually that the power was out for good. We were in the middle of dinner and finished it by candlelight.

The generator roared to life with the first pull of the cord, and much like the old Green Acres show, I methodically closed breakers to supply power to needed parts of the house, being careful not to overload the generator. I had been meaning to write down the sequence of breaker closings for the past few years, but just hadn’t gotten around to it yet.

At 11, my wife went to bed and I settled in to listen to the wind. It was my “Hour of the Wolf.”

As I listened to farm’s old metal roof bellow in the wind, it reminded me of the very first night I had spent in the house back in 1989. I was one of the worst windstorms many could remember, and I was convinced that the house would fall down that night. It survived, but I was beginning to have my doubts about it surviving the present storm. I began to second-guess myself. Had I done everything I

could have to prepare for the storm? What would I do if the roof blew off? What if that old maple tree fell? What if? What if? What if?

I fell into a restless sleep. At 3:30 am, I awoke. The winds had died down and the heavy rain had turned into a lingering drizzle. Don’t ask me why, but I got into the car and headed down to the bridge to check on the groundhog. The water had not risen as I had expected, and I found him safe and secure in his temporary leaf pile shelter. “Good for you,” I thought.

The birds in the run-in shed were startled when I turned on the lights to check on them, but they stayed in place. All the grain on the ground was gone. They had been fed well.

I turned the generator off and returned to the house. The house was warm, the fireplace was roaring, and everyone was safe and fast asleep. My “Hour of the Wolf” had passed, and her pups were nowhere to be seen.

To read other articles by Michael Hillman visit the Authors section of emmitsburg.net.

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IN THE COUNTRY

Strawberry Hill: where nature begins

Kay Deardorff

How many of you like those great crab cakes from the Chesapeake Bay? How about fresh seafood from the Atlantic Ocean? Maybe you enjoy swimming in the clean waters on a beach at the Ocean. Well none of us would want to eat from or swim in waters that have been dirtied with litter or other types of pollution. Would you fishermen mind wading through streams and rivers that are questionable as far as their cleanliness is concerned? I'm sure that is not the case. This article will speak to you, in part, about pure, unpolluted water in our area and how it affects the waters CLEAN down to the Chesapeake Bay and into the Atlantic Ocean. OK, pun intended!

More and more people are becoming conscious of their health and the health of their environment. This includes our waterways that provide us with food and nutrients needed to maintain life. At Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve there are two streams, Swamp Creek and Middle Creek. 85% of Swamp Creek originates on the Preserve and runs into Middle Creek which flows through Fairfield to become part of Tom's Creek in Emmitsburg. That, in turn, meets the Monacacy River in Frederick which leads to the Potomac River in Washington, D.C. Continuing from there it connects with the Chesapeake Bay and finally empties into the Atlantic Ocean. Therefore it is easy to understand the importance of keeping the headwaters in Adams County clean and pure.

Drs. Hans and Frances Froelicher, founders of Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve, were concerned about that very fact. The couple came to the area shortly after they married in 1962. Hans was a retired headmaster of Roland Park Country School in the Baltimore area where Frances was also employed as a teacher. Searching for a place where Hans could fish and where Frances could swim, they discovered and purchased a run-down farm near Swamp Creek. Renovating the house and building a one-acre pond to be gravity-fed by the creek allowed them to enjoy the raw beauty offered to them as a retreat from their busy lives in Baltimore.

The Froelichers learned that the creek was being polluted with various types of litter and rubbish from neighboring homeowners. In order to eliminate this problem, they began purchasing surrounding properties to protect the water source and they named their estate Strawberry Hill. Wild strawberries grew behind the historic, pink, log and stone cabin built in 1798 which became their home-away-from-home giving them the perfect view of their

fishing/swimming pond from the large window in the cabin. Their vision for the new get-away home was clear as Frances later described it as a place "set in the Blue Ridge Mountains and one of the most scenic spots in the world." The vision was contagious as neighbors and community members began to also see the importance of protecting the fragile nature preserve on this northern portion of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Frances was founder and executive director of Baltimore Citizens Planning and Housing Association (CPHA) with her husband, Hans, as the organization's president. Together they worked hard to tackle the city's housing problems. With their background labors, the Froelichers were no strangers to struggles facing them as they fought for what they firmly believed was worth securing. Viewing their precious land as a wetland that was a fragile ecosystem, Hans and Frances were up to the challenge.

Pure, clean water wasn't the only thing the Froelichers found that needed to be preserved at Strawberry Hill. A botanist from the Maryland Natural Heritage program, D. Daniel Boone, visited Hans and Frances in search of the rare and uncommon flora and fauna making the Preserve their habitat. Once found were large purple-fringed orchids, marsh marigolds, and starflowers to name just a few of the plants that are indicators of a high quality natural area. Among the life found by the experts were 37 different kinds of birds and 23 different varieties of ferns. All of these species discovered in the area convinced the Froelichers that they had found a treasure in their precious Mount Hope respite home. However, Frances was adamant that the fragile environment needed to be protected and not turned into a public park.

Frances' 30-year experience as a "citizen city-planner and watchdog" in Baltimore prepared her as she and Hans promoted the vision they held for their home in Fairfield. Their goal was to preserve their beloved Strawberry Hill as a nature center where others could be educated about the love of nature and the necessity of a clean watershed. This mission gave them a new focus on life. However, Frances knew the importance of passing on the passion to others and drawing from their support. Having secured up to 519 acres from the original 26 acres they purchased, she expressed her concern when she said, "I want local people to love it and maintain it." Her desire was "to get businesses and civic groups interested in environmental education." She wanted to prepare for the inevitable future when she

would no longer be around to protect the preserve. She upheld a requirement that there "be a group here to maintain the land and educate the people. You have to have a presence on the site to be effective."

Intending to give operations of the Preserve to the Strawberry Hill Foundation, Mrs. Froelicher urged local people on the foundation's board of directors. She sought for leadership from the business community. Strongly moved with a sense of devotion to the preserve as well as a yearning to educate others and share her love of nature, she said, "I believe in public agencies and working with them. I know some people may not like what I have tried to do - how I've fought to preserve this land - but once land like this is gone or developed, it's gone forever. And then we've all lost something very precious."

Due to Frances' diligent work concerning the preserve, she was nominated for and won a state Take Pride in Pennsylvania award. Her first place honor was for the "best use of private land" category in 1989. Again in 1991 the foundation won the "Take Pride in America" contest. Upon



Drs. Hans and Frances Froelicher, founders of Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

her death in 1995, it was reported that Frances was nationally known for her vision of a better world. Locally the community recognized her "as the women behind the only environmental center in Adams County".

Pride has not stopped with passing of Hans and Frances Froelicher. Not only do the descendants of the Strawberry Hill founders hold an inherent delight

in the progress of the Preserve; over 5,000 school children participate in educational programs annually; and the local community continues to visit, support, and promote Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve as the place where "The Love of Nature Begins". Be sure to visit Strawberry Hill on 1537 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield, PA and check out our website at www.StrawberryHill.org.



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Tree-mendous

Tim Iverson
Seasonal Naturalist
Cunningham Falls State Park

The world of trees may not seem glamorous, but just under the bark is a world of intrigue with dire implications for us all. James Bond may sport all the glitz of a secret agent, but right in our own backyards some of our very own trees are fighting a battle with invasive alien species that reckons millions of dollars worth of destruction to state and local economies. So don't be fooled, the world of trees is packed with intrigue, and fraught with alien invaders that seek to destroy entire species for their own malicious purpose. Trees come in all shapes, sizes, colors, categories, and each one provides a unique service to the environment and economy.

In broad general terms trees are broken down into two main categories: coniferous and deciduous. Coniferous trees have needles, and produce cones. Deciduous trees have broad leaves, which die off in cooler temperatures in a process called abscission. Deciduous means "to die off", which is where the name comes from and this usually, coincides with winter and cooler temperatures. Abscission happens when leaves stop producing chlorophyll and green pigmentation. Depending on location and weather from mid-September through mid-November the forest lights up with a beautiful array of colors. This allows other pigments that are already present, just unseen, to shine through until the leaf breaks away and floats to the ground.

For some of the best views in the park of the fall foliage try trekking the Cat Rock and Bob's Hill trails, which are moderate to challenging hikes (respectively). Cat Rock Trail is approximately 3 miles round trip, and can be accessed off Rt. 77, just across from the Catoctin National Park administration building. The Bob's Hill Trail is approximately 3 miles round trip to the overlook. This trail ascends about 1,100 ft to the top of the mountain, not only ensuring sweeping views of the valley but also a shortness of breath. This view is certainly earned, but remember it's all down hill on the return, and it's well worth the investment.

While the transient display of color fades into winter the coniferous trees will remain. Along Hunting Creek, at the base of the falls, and throughout other areas of the park reside Hemlocks. These trees are presently defending themselves from invasive species. The foreign invaders wrecking havoc upon these trees are known as the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). The HWA is a tiny insect that measures in at 1/16 of an inch, or about the size of a ball point pen. As a true undercover operative, HWA will infect a hemlock and eat away at the starches and nutrients stored in needles. It hails from Japan, and was first introduced into our park in late 2002. The larger trees became infected with HWA and were killed off within three years. Subsequently, HWA spread to the smaller trees and killed most of the understory. Ranger Eric Creter notes, "Hemlocks are the last defense of the creek bank.

They play a vital role in buffering pollution and sediment from running into the creek. Hemlocks also provide shade to creeks, which helps regulate water temperatures". Since the initial infestation and die off the Maryland Park Service, Maryland Forest Service, and Catoctin National Park banded together in alliance to confront the menace.

Beginning in 2007 Maryland Department of Agriculture began treating the remaining trees with stem injections, which looks akin to a medical IV for people. By 2011 Maryland Department of Forestry planted approximately 120 new Hemlocks, which were pretreated for HWA. Currently Cunningham Falls and Catoctin National Park are in the process of planting 200 trees along Hunting Creek with the help of the Maryland Conservation Corps. These trees were funded through a grant paid for by the Odwalla Corporation. Recently while leading a hike to the base of the falls I was explaining this very situation to a group and someone inquisitively pointed out that it looked like one of the Hemlocks was in tree jail. While I can't promise I maintained my composure I did manage to explain that it was not in fact tree jail. This cage was actually protecting the tree from "browsing" by wildlife. Apparently the deer and other wildlife browse a little too enthusiastically. So while all trees are being treated against future HWA infestation smaller ones are also being surrounded by cages and netting for protection.

At this stage of the game planting's and treatment will continue, with other means of protection being investigated. A treatment for HWA lasts approximately five years. Success of this program and regiment will be monitored overtime to determine the next appropriate course of action. However, Hemlocks are not the only trees in our area who are defending themselves from would-be foe.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) may pose the greatest threat to any species of trees currently. This little green bug,

about an inch long, takes no prisoners and doesn't differentiate between any of the various species of Ash trees. It's estimated that it has already destroyed 50-100 million Ash trees in North America, since its discovery in 2002, and is well on track to devour much of the remaining 7.5 billion. Trees haven't seen such destruction since the American Chestnut was virtually eradicated from the "Chestnut Blight" at the beginning of the 20th century. In a matter of 40 years the estimated near 4 billion American Chestnut population was decimated, and only several thousand still exist today. Today the Ash tree is staring down a comparable problem.

The EAB seeks out Ash trees and lays eggs in the trunk of the tree. When these eggs hatch they essentially eat their way out, making the tree susceptible to disease. When the larva reaches adult stage they migrate into the canopy of the tree and begin to feast on the leaves. When cold weather returns they will overwinter by boring into the trunk and base of the tree and the process repeats annually. The EAB gives a one-two punch by eating through the bark into the trunk, and the leaves in the canopy. In Maryland the spread of the EAB is being curtailed by banning the moving of firewood, and in state parks you can only burn wood that has been treated for the pest. The ban on moving firewood is effective in the short term, but the EAB is known to migrate at least 1/2 a mile.

Over the past several years you may have noticed purple triangular boxes hanging from trees. Those boxes are essentially bait traps, because the best defense is a good offense. If there are any of these pests found in a trap then treatment will begin in that area to prevent further spread and destruction. Once the EAB has been detected various insecticides can be deployed to prevent any additional damage. Much research is still underway on how to best handle the problem. Currently Maryland is operating with universities, state, and federal agencies to manage the issue. Treatment and removal are what is being utilized throughout the country, and possible introduction of other species which are predators of the EAB are being considered and experimented



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with in other areas of the nation.

Sure, trees may not hold the explosive action of a spy vs. spy tale, but some are in grave danger and their importance isn't just limited to supplying the air we breathe. There is a Greek proverb that reads, "A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in". We can remember the outcome of the American Chestnut, and look to the

Hemlock and Ash trees with promise as we prepare them for their respective battles. Thanks to the many combined efforts of various local, state, national, and civic contributions we can hopefully enjoy the shade of these magnificent trees for generations to come.

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PETS LARGE AND SMALL

Could he be waiting for you?

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley
Animal Shelter

Sometimes he just can't sleep; fear is a troublesome bedfellow. Plus, waking up is difficult — especially when he remembers where he is — in a cage, in a shelter, with so many other felines like him.

Granted, his current conditions are far better than his previous ones. He's warm. There's food and fresh water. That's new. How many nights had he tried to sleep with a grumbling belly? He'd been so hungry so often he thought that was how his life would be. Living on the streets is so tough.

Plus, someone changes the blankets and towels every day. And they're really nice. He loves when they hold him. Cuddle him. Pet him. He never experienced that when he was out on his own. Humans were the enemy out there — so many of them hated him.

He purrs when the staff pays attention to him. He didn't think he could anymore, but amazingly, he does. He has to admit, no one else has ever given him a second chance like the people at the shelter, so that's something.

Most of the time, though, he trembles, curls himself inside the litterbox they'd put in his cage. He knows it's ridiculous. He must look bizarre and he should be tough coming from the streets, but he's just so scared.

The other cats seem hopeful. He wants to scoff at them, tell them what happens when you get your hopes up, but for some reason, he can't bring himself to do it.

And the kittens! To have that energy! He can't remember a time when he was happy like that. It feels like he was born an adult. He never really had a chance to be young, living on the streets.

He watches the kittens "go home" as the staff calls the adoptions. He listens to the oohs and aahs of the people who want to adopt them. "Oh, mommy, look, they're adorable!" they'll say and he rolls his eyes.

He stays in his litterbox. What's the point? He knows he's not adorable. He's just a regular black cat with green eyes, who's a little rough around the edges. He's nothing special. If people look close enough, they'll see his scars. On his ears, on his neck, his legs, but it's the ones you can't see that really hurt.

He knows he can't compete with kittens for the attention of the people.

He tries to stay grounded in reality. It hurts less that way. When your expectations aren't high, you don't get disappointed when they aren't met. He sees so much hope around him, some days it's sickening.

Hope is for fools. Hope is the easiest way to get your heart stomped on. One of the older, tougher cats on the outside told him "hope is the denial of reality." It was apparently a reference from a human book. They'd both laughed when he said it. They understood their reality. He still does.

He refuses to be a fool. He wants to face life with his eyes open, understanding what could happen so he doesn't get caught off guard.

But, sometimes — and God, this is so stupid, ridiculous, laughable — sometimes, at night, when he can get a few moments of sleep, he dreams. And his dreams are quickly becoming dangerous because they make him feel exactly what he doesn't want to: hope.

He's heard the stories — you can't help it around here — and on rare occasions when he was out on the street, he'd actually seen evidence of it. He'd glance up to a window and see one. The cat with a home, asleep on the back of a couch, such a peaceful expression. He didn't think that kind of serenity was even possible.

Sometimes, he sees it here. The faces of the cats who have an "adopted" sticker on their cages. Relief. Ease. Like the proverbial weight has been lifted. He sees the photos that the people send to the shelter staff — of the animals in their "forever homes," as they're called. He knows those animals are the lucky ones.

And, God help him, in his dreams he sees her. The woman he calls his mom. She has such gorgeous hair. It smells like apples and she lets him run his nose and paws through it when he sits behind her on the couch. Her eyes are incredible — so understanding, so compassionate. They look into his and he knows she knows. He knows she understands what he's been through. She knows he's not perfect, not the most beautiful creature on the planet. But she opens her heart anyway and loves him. For who he is. Scars and all.

And he loves her back with everything he has. He purrs in her lap, rubs his head against her legs. Tells her every day, every second, even though he can't speak in words, how very much she means to him.

The dream is beautiful — so vivid that for a few minutes, he knows what peace would feel like. With his mom he would never again be hungry, afraid or lonely. She would protect him. He would be safe.



Skye came to the shelter on June 21, 2011. She's now over a year old and is still looking for the right home. She's a gorgeous dilute tortie who is very sweet. She needs someone to give her a chance!

But he wakes, every time, inside the litterbox. In the cage. At the shelter. And the pain of his reality chokes him.

It's foolish to hope; he knows that. But on the days after an especially intense dream, he can't stop himself from looking. For her. The door will open sometimes and he'll find himself glancing up, lost in that stupid feeling — hope.

Despite everything, all his previous experience, he wants to believe she'll come for him.

And so he waits. He's still waiting.

Could he be waiting for you?

Jennifer Vanderau is the Director of Communications for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter and can be reached at cvasoc@innernet.net. The shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at 263-5791 or visit the website www.cvas-pets.org. Animals available for adoption can be viewed at www.petfinder.org. CVAS also operates thrift stores in Chambersburg and Shippensburg. Help support the animals at the shelter by donating to or shopping at the stores.

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown

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PETS LARGE AND SMALL

Fox hunting

Dr. Kimberly Brokaw

While referred to as fox hunting, this sport would more aptly be called fox chasing. While some hunt groups do actually catch foxes, the majority of hunt activities do not catch foxes, and in most instances don't want to catch a fox. Rather the purpose is to ride about the countryside without having to follow a set trail and leaving an element of surprise as to where one might end up. The speed and height of the fences encountered on the hunt is usually determined by the group of fox hunters rather than the fox. Certain hunt groups have a reputation for being more reckless than others and it is almost unanimously agreed on that the fastest, most prestigious, and craziest hunts are in Ireland and Middleburg, Virginia. Not only is it required that the rider be skilled but an experienced and talented horse with good speed and jumping ability is also essential.

While I am not an avid fox hunter I have gone on a couple of hunts. Non-horse people may think that all horse people are the same, but among horse people the participants of different disciplines of riding have different reputations. For example, Western riders will say that dressage and hunter equitation people can be stuck up, spoiled, wealthy and arrogant. Event riders and fox hunters are thought to be reckless and crazy. I am an event rider who occasionally dabbles in fox hunting and I can say that the reputation is well deserved.

Anyone who has looked at old prints of fox hunting scenes may have noted the number of horses painted without riders, or with riders being dragged behind a galloping horse. My house is decorated with fox hunting prints. Above my kitchen sink I have a print with a rider being dragged behind his horse. In the dining room, there is a print in which a horse is seen running off through the field while his rider climbs out of the creek. Yet another print shows a horse flipping

over a fence and the rider getting catapulted over the horse's head. This depiction is quite accurate. In fact in both eventing and fox hunting riders fall frequently enough that they have a language code with many synonyms for falling off as well as phrases to down play the severity of the fall. Unplanned dismount, parted company, went separate ways, and got dumped, are only a few of the numerous phrases to say "I fell off."

If a rider says her horse was "a bit looky at the fence and we parted company leaving me in the drink but it was just a little spill," it means the horse spooked at the fence, the rider fell off, landing in some water, but was only minimally injured. Now everyone who rides horses long enough is going to fall, but what makes eventers and fox hunters crazy is that after they fall, even if they broke an arm or a leg, if they are conscious, they usually attempt to get back on and finish their ride. While fox hunts haven't started to keep an ambulance on the premises during a hunt, events generally have an ambulance or two parked in the middle of the cross country course. It is there not in case it is required but rather for when it is needed.

Fox hunting has a tradition of offering alcohol prior to the ride. It is not uncommon to see Bloody Marys or wine being passed around prior to the hunt. During the hunt, flasks with madeira, sherry, whiskey,

or other alcohol are passed around to "keep out the cold" or as I like to think keep people from having rational thoughts about what they are about to jump (i.e. large stone walls, fences, giant muddy ditches). The alcohol also helps to deaden the pain of the injuries that are incurred while foxhunting, hence why a full flask is part of traditional fox hunting attire.

Most recently I decided to go fox hunting. Having no desire to die or get seriously injured I checked around with various clients about the reputations of local hunts. After thorough investigation I selected one that had a welcoming group of members and the reputation for being low key. I arrived that morning in appropriate hunt attire. For while I believe one is more likely to fall off fox hunting than an eventer is likely to fall riding cross country, one has to wear a fancy show coat to fox hunt rather than a polo shirt, body armor, and an air vest, as is frequently worn by eventers. As I was tying my stock tie and putting on my jacket, wine was being freely enjoyed by several members of the hunt. I decided to pass on the wine as I thought abstinence would improve my odds of not falling.

We started off at a trot and quickly moved up to a canter with my 4 year old horse behaving himself and remaining calm and jumping the fences in a civilized manner. He was doing very well until he got a little looky at one fence and I toppled off the side. While self-assessment is not my strong suit, I declared myself fine, got back on, and finished the ride. As we



continued we encountered another rider who had parted company from her horse. Unfortunately her horse had run off after dumping her, leaving her wandering the woods in search of him. While she had her cell phone with her, she did not know how to use it. After a brief instruction, the horseless rider was left to her quest while the rest of us moved on. Only a couple other falls and one lamed horse were visible during the rest of the ride. As we got back to the trailer, I realized I the arm I fell on was feeling quite sore, and

the rest of me felt rather battered. I also realized I was spattered with mud on my clothes. However, as is typical of eventers and foxhunters, I found myself shrugging off my injuries, saying how much fun the experience was and how I couldn't wait for the next one.

Editor's note: Kim was the last to submit her article for this edition, apparently typing with one hand proved rather difficult - remember that 'sore' arm of hers? It was broken. Yes, she is a true Event rider!

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THE MASTER GARDENER

A great time for tree planting

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

In this part of the world, November typically triggers the end of another gardening year. Short days, long nights trigger the trees to shed their leaves, perennials to die to the ground, and annuals are long gone due to frost and sometimes freezing temperatures. We gardeners are usually looking forward to the next year, how to improve our gardens or what additions we would like to make.

However, November doesn't have to be the end of a gardening season. This month is the recommended time to plant Balled and Burlapped (B&B) trees and shrubs. B&B are plants that are grown in a field and dug either with a machine or by hand. The soil balls are covered with burlap and twine, sometimes biodegradable, sometimes not. Wire baskets are often used with these field grown plants as well.

There are three ways to purchase plants: container grown, bare-root and balled and burlapped (B&B). Each type of growing method has its advantages as well as disadvantages. Planting season, size of plant, and cost are three main factors in determining which type of method you may choose to purchase.

Probably the biggest advantage to field grown B&B plants is size availability. These plants, trees or sometimes shrubs, allow for larger plants to be transplanted. If you are looking for instant size or need a tree moved from one site to another, this would be the way to go.



November is the recommended time to plant Balled and Burlapped (B&B) trees and shrubs.

B&B plants are dug in late fall and late winter, when the plants are dormant and the ground is not frozen.

Disadvantages to planting this type of tree include: 1. sometimes they are more expensive than container grown, always more expensive than bare-root, 2. There is a limitation in the planting season, as B&B should be planted during dormancy, 3. They are heavier than container and bare-root plants, and 4. The majority of the root system is left in the field, making the after care of these field grown plants even more important. Paying attention to the rule of one inch of water per week

is necessary because these B&B plants must regenerate much of their root system.

Container grown plants are another type of production method used extensively in the industry. These plants are grown in containers throughout their entire growing until sold to the customer. Three huge advantages to buying your trees and shrubs this way is 1. They are usually less expensive than B&B, 2. All the roots are in the container, nothing is cut at digging time because there is no digging time, and 3. They can be planted any time of the year, as long as the ground isn't frozen.

Two disadvantages to container grown plants are 1. Because the roots are all contained, girdling of the roots is a common problem. This is when the roots grow around the pot and after planted, will continue that circular growth, eventually choking itself. 2. Large

plants are not usually available in containers.

When planting this type of plant, which also can be done now, you would need to be sure you actually cut the root ball, breaking the roots, to force them to grow into the existing soil and not continue in the same pattern as they did in the pot.

Bare root plants are only available in late winter early spring. These plants have no soil on the roots, making them light and easy to handle. They are dug and planted while the trees are still dormant and are kept in cold storage till purchased. Late winter/early spring is the only time you can purchase and plant bare root plants, one of the disadvantages of this type. However, because there is no soil on the roots, you can easily see what the root system looks like. The limited planting season makes planning incredibly impor-

tant so you don't miss the small window. Because these plants have no soil, planting instructions are slightly different, and commitment to those instructions is important to plant survival.

Since we are in the optimum time to plant B&B plants, here are some steps to take:

1. Be sure to purchase plants with good branch structure. Avoid crisscrossed branching or suckering.
2. Dig the hole wider than the ball, approximately twice as wide, but only as deep as the ball.
3. If there is a wire basket on the root ball, remove it prior to putting the ball in the hole.
4. Place the soil ball into the hole, be sure the root flair at the base of the tree is visible. If not, pull the dirt away from the trunk until you can see the root flair.
5. Cut away the string/twine and as much of the burlap as possible. The burlap could be treated, and therefore will not quickly biodegrade. Even the biodegradable burlap takes a long time to break down, so get rid of as much as possible.
6. Back fill hole with the same soil you dug out of the hole. Tamp it slightly after backfilling.
7. Water thoroughly.
8. Mulch no more than 3" to help retain moisture.

After the planting is complete and you have initially watered the plant, maintenance must continue. Check the branching structure of the tree. If there are any branches that are too close together or crisscrossing, remove them. Continue to water your plant throughout the winter months if there is no rain or snow. Even though the plant is dormant, roots can still dry out and die during the winter months.

Continued on Page 21

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THE MASTER GARDENER

Small Town Gardener Life's little luxuries

Marianne Willburn

When the mercury starts to drop and the nights no longer encourage long lingering coffees on the deck after dinner, the thought begins to dawn on me that we are about to go through yet another winter. The thought further occurs to me that, as drafty as my old house can be on long January nights, I am exceedingly thankful that it has four insulated walls, a roof and a central heating system – which is a great deal more than your average Pilgrim could brag about four hundred years ago.

For many of us fortunate to have a place to call home when temperatures start to dip below the freezing mark, winter is nothing more than an inconvenience. Driving conditions will worsen, ice could damage the gutters, and heating systems may need repair. Sure, winds will freeze the teeth in our heads as we walk from the comfort of our cars to the comfort of our homes – but a quick flip of the thermostat can temporarily raise the temperature and allow us to divest ourselves of sweaters and scarves when we cross our thresholds.

For the gardener, a disappointing summer will not mean the inability to feed one's family or livestock when the ground is frozen and the only thing on the menu is snow. The choice you made in August to stop canning tomatoes won't necessarily affect the quality of your life in February, and someone will almost always have hay to purchase for your animals. Your average Pilgrim was thinking about winter in June – and I don't mean he or she was dwelling on the joys of the holiday season, either. Summer was a preparation for winter, and only the foolish grasshopper failed to keep this thought in the back of his mind.

On the whole we have reached a point where many of us think nothing of purchasing a zucchini in the middle of Jan-

uary, or a tomato in March. Our luxuries are no longer luxuries; in fact, we feel entitled to the modern conveniences of life. So much so that a national discussion now exists as to whether access to a high-speed internet connection can be considered a "basic right" for all citizens in a modern world.

When my husband and I started to renovate our hundred-year-old home ten years ago, there was a five week period of time that we were bathtub-less. Small potatoes for you homesteaders out there, but nonetheless a new experience for the two of us. We bathed children in the kitchen sink and looked to the comforts of a rung-out washcloth for our own ablutions. The idea of hot water as a luxury had never occurred to me before, it just...was. I clearly remember the first evening when, by the light of a lantern, I stepped into the newly tiled shower, turned on the tap and felt the miracle of delicious hot water come pouring out of the wall. I can honestly say that I have never forgotten that feeling. I can also honestly say that I never wish to lose the memory of that feeling.

Now, let me clarify that, even though I would happily heat my home with a woodstove (my current stove burns pellets), I have no desire to go back to the days of heating every precious drop of hot water thereon, nor do I wish to gauge the success of my garden by the amount of children it is able to feed in March. But I never wish to take things like hot water, copious choice in the grocery aisle, or R49 insulation for granted. Nor do I wish to misuse the privilege of these luxuries by consuming more than I need or insisting on eating a pale summer salad in February, when I might be better served by a hearty root stew.

I suppose what I am saying is that I hope I always remain thankful and aware of the presence of underlying luxury in my life – luxury that doesn't come in the traditional form of a villa in the South of France or a thirty-foot yacht. And during this month of November we are given a day to do just that. Consider using a few minutes of it to reflect on your own "luxuries" – you might be surprised at just how many you've been blessed with.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone.



As you can see by the burlap and the water marks, this tree has been planted too deep, resulting in a slow death

Other November gardening chores can include planting bulbs and winter mulching. By Thanksgiving, all your spring bulbs, including daffodils, tulips and hyacinths should be in the ground. Be sure you plant your bulbs deep enough so heaving doesn't occur. A bit of mulch over top of the soil after planting would be beneficial, as it will help to hold moisture.

Consider mulching this time of year. After plants enter their resting state, it's a good time to cover the soil with about a 2" layer of mulch. This

will keep the soil at an even temperature, reducing any stress or breakage of roots hairs from the freezing and thawing in the soil that typically happens throughout the winter months.

Other activities that can take place this time of year is cleaning hand tools, getting rid of diseased debris from plants, and composting. So as you can see, there are still many outdoor activities in the garden. Continue enjoying the outdoors and digging in the dirt - before the snow comes!

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CIVIL WAR HISTORY

Penn. campaign sesquicentennial

John A. Miller
Emmitsburg Civil War Historian

Over the past year, I have researched and written many articles for the Emmitsburg News Journal about Maryland and how its effects during the Civil War were felt. As we approach 2013, the big Gettysburg commemoration will be the main focus in our area. The Pennsylvania Campaign is a very important Civil War campaign which resulted in the Battle of Gettysburg. For the next thirteen months, I will be writing a series of articles that focus on Frederick and Washington Counties in Maryland as well as Adams and Franklin Counties in Pennsylvania.

But before we focus on the Pennsylvania Campaign, I want to bring you, the reader, up to speed as to what happens after the Maryland Campaign. After the Battle of Antietam and the conclusion of the Maryland Campaign, several changes went into effect for both armies. After General George McClellan was relieved of command of the Army of the Potomac, General Ambrose Burnside began his movements into Virginia. In November, the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia underwent reorganization. Lee's Confederate army was now being organized into three corps, which was approved by the Confederate Congress before the Maryland Campaign.

By December, the Battle of Fredericksburg had occurred and morale both for, and in the northern army began to sink. In early 1863, the Union army began to lessen the load that a soldier had carried. The war also had become unpopular again with the northern people. By the end of January, after

Burnside's failure at the Battle of Fredericksburg, he was relieved of command and General Joseph Hooker was given the opportunity to lead the Army of the Potomac.

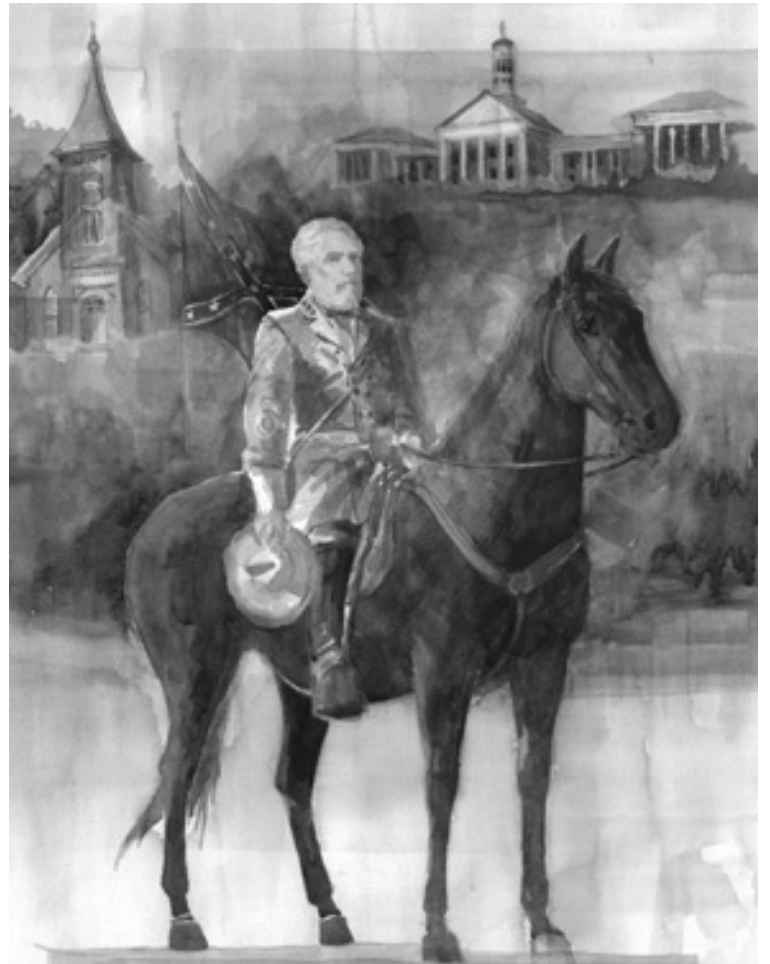
Hooker reshaped his army making several changes to the command structure and also began a series of experiments. One was relieving the soldier of the baggage he carried. By March, all of the contents from the haversack, knapsack and accoutrements were weighed. Anything that was not essential or needed was to be stored in the supply wagons with the quartermaster. This would help the Union soldier during longer marches. You would see this improvement during the Army of the Potomac's movements toward Gettysburg. Hooker's appointment did help the morale of his men, but that would change after the Battle of Chancellorsville in May of 1863.

After losing Thomas Jackson, one of his best generals, General Robert E. Lee, began putting his army into motion in early June to carry the war northward. This time, Lee thought that he had the upper hand, and for many good reasons. Again, he would carry the war northward into Maryland, this time crossing west of the South Mountain range. From there he could knock out any threats from the various Union deployments located in the northern end of the Shenandoah Valley. By entering Maryland General Lee could force Major General Joseph Hooker's Army of the Potomac out of Virginia, and in return Lee could carry out the campaign in northern territory and fight Hooker's army on the ground of Lee's choosing. Upon entering Pennsylvania, Lee's army could gather as much supplies as they needed such as

agricultural produce and materials, and still threaten Washington and Baltimore. Lee also hoped that by invading Pennsylvania it would take some of the pressure off of General Bragg's Confederate army in Tennessee and General Pemberton's Confederate army that was entrenched at Vicksburg.

In 1864, M. Jacobs, a Professor of Mathematics and Chemistry at Gettysburg College published a book entitled "Notes on the Rebel Invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania and the Battle of Gettysburg." He summed it up best when he wrote: "First, he [Lee] felt the increasingly deficiency of cavalry and artillery horses, and of the means of subsisting his army in an almost desolate territory from which he had hitherto drawn his supplies; secondly, there was the alleged demoralization of General Hooker's army after the battle [Chancellorsville]; thirdly, there was the evident fact of the depletion of the Union army, by the return to their homes of a number of regiments whose term of service had expired; fourthly, there was the apparent division of sentiment in the loyal States, in regard to the conduct and continuance of the war and the strong undercurrent of sympathy manifested for the success of the rebellion, engendered by an intense partisan feeling, and the desired office."

As a result of launching his campaign into Maryland and Pennsylvania, Lee's army managed to get the supplies from the Cumberland Valley, known as the land of "milk and honey." In the weeks leading up to the Battle of Gettysburg, Lee had foraging wagons going from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania to Winchester, Virginia loaded with the rich agricultural produce, crops, and livestock from the farms and towns of Pennsylvania. The Confederate



Watercolor painting of Confederate General Robert E. Lee by Emmitsburg artist Rebecca Pearl. See article on page 36 for details on Rebecca's series of equestrian Civil War watercolors.

army also gathered many supplies from the Pennsylvania towns such as leather, fabric, and clothing. The Battle of Gettysburg might not have gone the way Lee wanted, but the supplies gathered in Pennsylvania was a huge success for the Confederate army, and sustained them in order to keep the war going for a little while longer.

The Union army under the command of General Hooker was situated near Fredericksburg. Realizing that Lee was making his movements toward the north, they would begin marching toward the Potomac River, and fording at Edward's Ferry on June 25th, 1863. Hooker's 75,000 man army was ten days behind the Confederate army when their advance forded the

Potomac River at Williamsport and Botler's Ford. From there, the Union army would be scattered about Frederick County, occupying areas south and west of Frederick.

Upon General George Meade's appointment to command the Army of the Potomac, he will lead his army toward the Mason Dixon Line, while General Robert E. Lee orders his army to concentrate at Gettysburg. The end result was not about shoes, but two armies meeting at Gettysburg at the same time.

From June 27th through July 8th, 1863, Emmitsburg would see thousands and thousands of soldiers, both Union and Confederate. Emmitsburg will be considered as the left wing of the Federal army, and a staging area for a short time. Emmitsburg will also witness, the sounds of battle, property destruction, food supplies being drained, and roadways being destroyed by the passing armies. Emmitsburg was reduced by a great fire, which was not started by a Confederate soldier or sympathizer, but a drunk in a stable. Many Union soldiers wrote about their experiences in Emmitsburg, some classifying the town as pro-southern town, while others say it was a town dedicated solely to the Union.

By the end of Gettysburg, Washington County will see fighting for ten continuous days, while the Federal army marches southward toward Frederick to make a westerly shift to try and cut off the advance of the Confederate army. During the later part of the year, the civilians of Emmitsburg, just like the citizens of countless other communities, would rebuild and continue their daily lives the best that they could.

To read other articles on local Civil War history visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net.

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VETERAN'S PROFILE

Wing Cmdr. Eric Ackerman, R.A.F.

Peter Jackson
Oxford, England

Eric George Ackermann was born in England in 1919. He was a man who not only had a distinguished service record in the Second World War in his own country and but his adopted country, the United States, as well right up to the end of his life. From 1977 until his death in 1986 he lived with his family on his farm just east of Emmitsburg on Bollinger School Road.

Eric Ackermann was a true hero. He worked behind the scenes, in intelligence gathering, radar, and investigating the German flying bombs. He received the George Medal, a second level decoration, awarded for acts of great courage and bravery. Eric's actions proved that he deserved the honour. During the war gallantry awards were made to many Royal Air Force service personnel, and the citations for these are usually specific, describing a single action or series of actions. With Eric, however, the citation published on 14th January 1944 is vague:

"For three years, Flight Lieutenant Ackermann has been employed on special duties both in this country and the Mediterranean area. He has completed his tasks often under most difficult and dangerous conditions, and the results have been worthy of great praise."

The commendation, not published at the time, says more. These are the key passages:

"Flight Lieutenant Ackermann has been concerned for three years with intelligence regarding enemy radio navigational and radar stations. In September 1940 he was a member of a small party which recognised German radar transmissions. During 1941 and 1942 he flew as an observer on many investigation flights over enemy territory, including more than forty sorties on which bombs were dropped. Many of these involved flying into the heart of the German night fighter defences to ascertain the methods of control, and include detailed observations of night fighter attacks.

Flight Lieutenant Ackermann has volunteered for every dangerous operation connected with obtaining information about German radar stations, and has shown continuous courage, coolness and resource. His observations have been of a high order of accuracy even under difficult and dangerous conditions and of great value to the subsequent programme of radio counter-measures."

He received the medal from King George VI at Buckingham Palace, accompanied by his first wife, Dorothy, who is now 93 and living in London.

Eric's boyhood was happy and uneventful. He qualified as an electrical and electronics engineers to prepare for a career in that field. As war approached he hoped to join the Royal Air Force but was rejected, though this blow to his ambitions proved to be a life-changing blessing. In February 1940, five months after the outbreak of war, he joined the Telecommunications Research Establishment (T.R.E.), a government body responsible for developing radar for defence against aerial attack and jamming

or bending the Luftwaffe's radar signals.

After months of inaction, the war in the west became real on 10th May when Germany invaded Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and France whose surrender on 22nd June left the continent opposite the south coast of England in enemy hands. Invasion would surely follow with only the pilots of the R.A.F.'s Fighter Command able to prevent disaster. The Luftwaffe had to be destroyed to deny Germany the control of the skies without which invasion would not be feasible. Those whom Churchill called "The Few" had repelled their enemy and the blue uniform of the R.A.F. symbolised the nation's fight for survival. For Eric as a fit young man to be consigned to a civilian role must have been something approaching humiliation. He was not to know what lay ahead.

The unexpected frequently punctuated Eric's life and now the T.R.E. changed it for him by ensuring that on 11th September he received an honorary commission in the R.A.F. This ground-based boffin, rejected by the Air Force the year before, was now flying over enemy territory carrying out the duties his George Medal commendation describes. His first flight was on 22nd September and although doubtless nervous, his R.A.F. uniform ensured that he would be a Prisoner of War if he was shot down and captured. As a civilian which technically he still was, torture and a concentration camp or execution would have been his fate.

Most of his flights were over France with occasional trips to Holland. He flew in Wellington bombers with a crew of six or seven and brought back information to the scientists at the T.R.E. about German radar which was vital as the Luftwaffe launched its bombing raids throughout the United Kingdom.

It was dangerous work. His aircraft could have been shot down at any time and although he survived a colleague did not. On 5th November 1941 a Wellington on a similar operation to Eric's was attacked over France. All the crew, except for one who escaped, were captured. Three of them eventually reached Stalagluft III at Sagan in Germany, one being Howard Cundall, an honorary officer doing the same

work as Eric. Cundall spent the rest of the war as a P.O.W. but the other two, both aircrew, took part in the Great Escape in March 1944, were captured and were among the fifty escapees captured and shot by the Gestapo. Eric's connection is that he should have been on that flight but was called off it when a senior officer visiting the T.R.E. for a briefing on radar required his presence.

Eric flew until February 1942 when he was needed elsewhere. The only area where the British Army was fighting the enemy was in North Africa where war had been raging since June 1940 with the campaign see-sawing across the vastness of the desert. The climax was reached in October when the British 8th Army defeated the Germans at El Alamein in October, followed in November by Operation Torch, the Anglo-American landing in Algiers. El Alamein in the east and Torch in the west now trapped the German forces between the two fronts. Final victory was won the following May, though Eric had been in Algiers since the time of Torch working on signals intelligence, (Sigint), which had been tested and found wanting during Torch. Although it was a new field for Eric he worked to energise the responsible units in Algeria and Tunisia and improve their performance, travelling into the desert to inspect the more remote listening units while also working on his own field of radar, preparing for the next stage of the campaign, the invasions of Sicily and Italy.

He was virtually free-lance at this time, answerable to his masters in London and irritating senior R.A.F. officers who had no control over him. He was, to use a well-known service phrase "fire-proof". He appeared in the front-line on 9th September 1943, the first day of the invasion of mainland Italy, commanding an American landing craft approaching the beach at Salerno. He dashed shore, examined some German radar stations and dashed back to re-join the mother ship. This was odd – how did an English R.A.F. officer get to command an American ship? U.K. records do not say.

After the invasion Eric remained in Italy until the spring of 1944 when



he returned to England in time for the next big operation, the invasion of France. What happened then is vague – much of Eric's career is. His son Nick believes he was there on D-Day, 6th June, but the official files do not confirm this. Nick also believes that his father was with the U.S. forces and had "set up radio/radar intercept networks as commander of the entire U.K. effort". This could be right. He had resolved the signals muddle in North Africa and could do the same in France.

As the allied forces advanced through France, Belgium and Hol-

land, Eric moved with them, commanding the Signals Investigation Unit and co-ordinating Sigint near the German border. When the American army crossed the Rhine at Remagen in March, 1945 Eric's war was virtually at an end.

There followed another remarkable period. Eric stayed in Germany until 1958 setting up a network of intercept stations and establishing strong links with the American forces, leading to the third and final phase of his extraordinary life – a Cold War Warrior – which we will cover in a future edition.



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Interview with Mrs. Esther Barry
Continued from last month

Among the magistrates, I only remember, as officiating, Maj. Mooney, M. C. Adelsberger, J. Knauff and G. W. Troxell. The carpenters were Storm & Shorb, Jeremiah Black, John Sheets, Jacob Sheets, Joseph Hughes, John Miller and S. Flautt. I barely remember the hatters, Major Harrit, A. Welty, afterwards a barber, Hiteshue, and H. Winter; they were the rest of the hatters.

The newspapers in my time were The Banner, and The Emmitsburg Star. Mr. Helman says The Banner was sold to Duphorn, Troxell and McTale. I do not remember this last name and think it is a mistake or a typographical error and should be McClean.

I remember once hearing Dr. Shields say to McClean, after the performance of a waltz he had composed, 'You write much better poetry (referring to a poem which McClean had written for the Star) than music, and you had better stick to poetry!'

Well I do remember Mr. Armstrong, the gunsmith, but better, still my old and genial friend, his apprentice, Mr. N. Rowe, who still survives and who became the drummer of our old band. May his shadow never grow less!

A few words about the military companies, which were organized during the Mexican War. I can only remember one company of infantry, of which Henry Winter was one of the lieutenants. How we did torment him! We had canes, sticks, corn stalks, and any old thing we could find for arms. Do as he would, he could not form a respectable line much less dress the line. While he got one end of the line straight, the other end would be all crooked. Falstaff mustering his recruits was not 'in it!'

The troop of cavalry of the Civil War did much better. Dr. Annan was captain, Dr. Patterson and John Picking were lieutenants, and I was the bugler.

Now about pole raising. The first I remember was raised by Whigs in 1840, in front of Hooker's tavern, which stood where the Bank now stands. This was during the great 'Tippecanoe and Tyler too' campaign. The pole was successfully raised, but a rope used in raising it was tied at the top, and the question was how to get it down. We had no steeplejacks or electric climbers in those days. Someone suggested that Slagel Gelwicks, an excellent marksman, be asked to cut it off with a bullet. I have forgotten just how the difficulty was solved, but I remember the rope was re-

moved."

Bands and entertainment

"The Hooker house had a long balcony in front, covered by a tolerably flat roof, and I being somewhat of a singer was put up there to sing some campaign songs. William Webb was a very good singer and he and I were the chief singers of campaign meetings.

The first I can recall of music was on the occasion of a celebration one Fourth of July. The following persons marched up and down Main Street, playing as they went: Samuel Flautt and Jeremiah Black- violins, Joseph Hughes- flute, William McBride- octave flute, William Tyson- clarinet, and Frederick Crabbs- French horn. I think they must have had a drum, and if so it was played by William Rowe. I was out on Poplar Ridge picking raspberries, and I think I must have heard a drum, for I immediately scampered to town to hear the music, about which I was always crazy and not much better yet.

Soon after this I got a flute and Joseph Hughes wrote me a gamut, but I was not very successful in learning to play and I learned that I would be obliged to have a teacher. Mr. McClean then gave lessons to four of his schoolboys: J. V. Danner, D. C. Danner, E. H. Baugher and myself. One-quarter's instruction was all we ever had. Sometime afterward, Mr. Samuel Motter, who had graduated from Princeton and returned



From the left, standing, H.M. Ashbaugh, Robert Burdner, Charles Ashbaugh, John Little, William Longenecker, Warren Gelwicks, Allen Gelwicks; seated, Charles Rosensteel, Charles Gelwicks, Elmer Eyley, (leader), and Joseph Elder

home, heard us play. He discovered we were lacking in time, so he took charge of us and taught us to beat time. We then decided to form a band and engaged Major Andre, professor of music at Mount St. Mary's to 'teach us.' The band consisted of P. Haley- cornet, Simon Shaver- clarinet, J. V. and D. C. Danner- flutes, and L. D. Sheets- French horn. I soon gave up the French horn for a bugle, and E. H. Baugher took the French horn. I have now a copy of the 'Euterpean March,' composed by Major Andre, which was the first piece we learned.

In the spring of 1844 I went to Pittsburgh and returned to Emmitsburg in the Fall of 1845. In the meantime, the band had been continued with the addition of some new members. D. C. Danner got an E flat clarinet, but he could not make it accord with the other instruments. The band called in Mr. S. Baumgardner to

help them solve the difficulty, but he was unsuccessful. Finally he said, 'Throw away the damn clarinet and get a piccolo.' While in Pittsburgh I had played in two fine bands and had learned all about the different instruments and how to arrange music from them. I transposed the music from the E flat clarinet and we had no more trouble. Now we had the following players: D. C. Danner- E flat clarinet, Joshua Rowe and Lewis Gelwicks- B flat clarinets, William Gerhardt and George Saylor- bugles, John Nickum- B flat trombone, E. H. Baugher- ophecleide, William Troxell and L. D. Sheets- cornets, and N. Rowe- bass drum. This organization remained the same until my final departure from Emmitsburg in 1849.

Mr. Helman said in his book that J. V. Danner and I are the only ones living of the old band. Mr. Gerhardt, who is close to ninety years of age, E. H. Baugher, D. C. Danner and N. Rowe are still living."

The old street pump

"But I must not slight the old street pump! Many a time I have played around it and drank of its water. I have painful recollections of it. One night during the Harrison campaign I was asked to play the fife for a Whig procession. I found my fife was very dry and it would not play easily, so I took it to the pump to moisten the inside. The pump had a heavy iron handle and in taking hold of it to pump some water into my fife, I caught too high and brought it down on my finger! But didn't I dance around that old pump for a few minutes! After the pain had abated somewhat, I went in and played for the procession.

Finally, I must say a word about Mount St. Mary's College and the many pleasant times I spent there in rehearsals with Dr. Dielman and his orchestra. After the rehearsal shows, I enjoyed the lunches in the refectory, consist-

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ing of cold boiled ham, bread and butter, butter milk, lettuce with a dressing prepared by Dr. McCaffrey, such as his grace only could do it, and cold, sparkling, pure water, fresh from the fountain in the rear of the cottage.

In 1848, I played cornet with the orchestra at the commencement. General Harney (then Colonel) was the guest of honor. Dr. Dielrnan composed for the occasion the 'Battle of Cerro Gordo,' a splendid representation of an engagement which gave the Colonel much pleasure. He was the hero of Cerro Gordo, having gallantly ascended the heights to the summit and planted thereon 'Old Glory.'

Mr. John F. Storm Remembers his Old Swimming Hole

"Some very kind friend sent

me two copies of your paper of the 7th and 14th issues, February last, in which is an article 'Chronicles of Emmitsburg, Interesting Facts about Early Times,' by Mrs. Ester Barry. These reminiscences were read with much pleasure, and the idea occurred to me that by not being a subscriber to your paper, I was losing much interesting news of the place and people where I was born. Enclosed please find a year's subscription, for which I kindly mail the Chronicle to the address of the writer.

On the 6th day of August 1845, I was born in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and from that date to this, I have felt exceedingly proud of that distinction. Notwithstanding the fact that I have been removed from that section permanently since the year

1857, I have made it my business to keep in touch with the Marylanders in general, and those of Emmitsburg in particular. My efforts along these lines have not been as extensive as I would have liked them to have been, owing to business cares, and I believe that the best source of information will be through the columns of your paper.

In 1904 I had the pleasure of spending two or three days in Emmitsburg, and though I would like to have spent more time, business necessities compelled me to cut my visit short. I found during that visit, that the dear old town had not changed much. I recognized nearly all of the old landmarks, but missed the favorite haunt of the boys, namely, the Old Town Pump. It is too bad that villages generally, in modernizing themselves, do not preserve the old town pumps. Thank Heaven, when I went to Tom's Creek, I found that the old swimming hole was still there; thanks to Dame Nature for preserving this much of our early childhood's pleasures.

Part 8 next month

Peter Foscato

Peter Francis Foscato, 68, of Fairfield, PA died Wednesday, October 3, 2012 at Gettysburg Hospital Center in Gettysburg, PA. Born February 21, 1944 in Long Island, NY, he was the son of the late Donald and Marie Owen Foscato. He was the husband of Agatha Hobbs Foscato, to whom he was married for 48 years.



Peter was a graduate of St. John's University in New York. He worked most of his career at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Princeton, NJ as Director of Information Systems. Upon retiring, he served as Supervisor of Liberty Township, PA for 8 years, and was part of the Planning Board for many years. Peter was an active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Emmitsburg and was also a member of the Knights of Columbus. He enjoyed spending time with people, especially his family and friends.

Surviving in addition to his wife are sons, John Foscato and wife, Barbara, Steven Foscato and wife, Catherine, and Michael Foscato, all of Raleigh, NC; daughter, Car-

ol Kletz and husband, Chris, of Fairfield, PA; sisters, Marie Jo Spinella and husband, Phil, of Port Washington, NY, and Barbara Foscato of Holden, MA; brother, Don Foscato and wife, Linda, of New Canaan, CT; and 10 grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, October 8 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, with the Rev. Charles F. Kreig, C.M. as celebrant. Interment was at New St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mission of Mercy, P.O. Box 102, Fairfield, PA, 17320 or to St. Joseph Catholic Church, 47 DePaul St., Emmitsburg, MD, 21727.

Charles Stouter

Charles F. "Charlie" Stout-er, 87, of Emmitsburg died peacefully on Tuesday, October 23, 2012 at St. Catherine Nursing Center in Emmitsburg. Born February 23, 1925 in Emmitsburg, he was the son of the late Felix and Mary Hardman Stouter. He was the husband of the late Doris Fox Stouter, his wife of 62 years.

Charlie owned and operated C.F. Stouter Oil Company as a Texaco distributor in Emmitsburg for many years. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Emmitsburg, the Knights of Columbus, VFW Post 6658, Francis X. Elder American Legion Post 121, the Emmitsburg Lions Club, Vigilant Hose Company, where he served as both Chief and President, and the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company. Charlie was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed crabbing, hunting, fishing and farming.

Surviving are daughter, Maureen Markle of Hanover, PA; sons, C. Ronald Stouter and wife, Dianne, of Thurmont, Gary Stouter and companion, Brenda Flenner, of Emmitsburg, Bart Stouter and wife, Loretta, of Woodsboro, and Brett Stouter and wife, Terry, of Fairfield, PA; sister, Margie Valentine and brother-in-law, Frank, of Thurmont; 17 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a son, David Stouter, brothers, Bill, Stanley, and Martin Stouter, and sisters, Irene Haley, Mary Florence, Christine Welty, Anna Haley, Edith Paszkorus, Ethel Greenholtz, Ruth Wisotzkey, and Hilda Hanlin.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Saturday, October 27 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Emmitsburg, MD with the Rev. John J. Holliday, C.M. as celebrant. Interment was at the New St. Jo-



seph Cemetery. Grandsons, Jeff, Mike, Nick, Eric, Christopher, Matthew, and Corey Stouter serves as pallbearers.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Emmitsburg Ambulance Company, 17701 Creamery Rd., Emmitsburg, MD 21727 or to Vigilant Hose Company, P.O. Box 171, Emmitsburg, MD, 21727. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.myersdurborawfh.com.

James Francis Wivell, Sr

James Francis Wivell, Sr., 84, of Rocky Ridge, went home to our Holy Savior with his family by his side on Tuesday, October 2, at the family farm where he was born and raised. Born October 9 1927, in Emmitsburg, he was the son of the late Roy J. Wivell Sr. and Helen L. (Guise) Wivell.



Jim was a 1946 graduate of the Emmitsburg High School. He was self-employed as a dairy farmer on the family farm just South of Emmitsburg until his retirement in 2001. He was a member of Frederick County Farm Bureau, Thurmont Cooperative, Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers Association, Mid-America Dairymen, and Dairymen, Inc. He was also a member of St. Anthony's Shrine Catholic Church and was past president of the St. Anthony Holy Name Society.

In his early retirement years, Jim enjoyed the annual Wivell Savage Camping weekend with his brothers, sons, grandsons, and many nephews.

In March of 2012, he was predeceased by his loving wife of 60 years, Lorraine Teresa Willhide Wivell; they were married May 5, 1951.

Surviving are 13 children, James Wivell, Jr. and wife Nancy, of Gettysburg, PA, Phyllis Green and husband, Robert, of Gettysburg, Mark Wivell and wife, Lynn, of Gettysburg, PA, Victoria Stevens and husband, Ronald of Fairfield, Jeffrey Wivell and wife, Tammy, of Emmitsburg, Angela Goetz and husband, David, of Fairfield, Cecilia Gregory and husband, Stephen, of Libertytown, Douglas Wivell and wife, Kim, of Rocky Ridge, MD, Eric Wivell

and wife, Annette, of Emmitsburg, Joyce Glass and husband, Brian, of Thurmont, Andrew Wivell and wife, Tara, of Rocky Ridge, Christopher Wivell and wife, Mary Ann, of Emmitsburg, and Dennis Wivell of Emmitsburg; 30 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and over a hundred nieces and nephews.

Jim was the oldest of 20 children and is survived by nine brothers, Henry Wivell of Spring Grove, PA, Bernard Wivell of Rocky Ridge, Donald Wivell of Covington, PA, Thomas Wivell of Columbia, MD, Paul Wivell of Seven Valleys, PA, David Wivell of Emmitsburg, Richard Wivell of Fairfield, Samuel Wivell and Roy Wivell Jr. of Emmitsburg, and four sisters, Helen Reaver and Therese Topper of Emmitsburg, Genevieve Little of Mercersburg, and Joan Matthews of Frederick. He was preceded in death by four brothers, Joseph, Charles, Robert, and Roy Wivell, and two sisters, Patricia Hoff and Margaret Fullam.

A Memorial Mass was held at St. Anthony's Shrine. Interment was at St. Anthony Shrine Cemetery. Memorial gifts can be sent in Jim's honor to St. Anthony Shrine Parish, Mother Seton School or the charity of one's choice.

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COLD WAR WARRIORS

Cold War fallout

Part 2

Captain Edmond Pope, USN, Ret

This is the second in a series of articles describing the 1990s collapse of the Soviet Union and its transition toward a modern Russian state. The observations are based on my own experiences and I hope they provide the reader with some appreciation for what the average Russian was going through during this chaotic and historic period. It was a confusing and complicated time that is difficult to describe unless you were there. I spent most of my professional career studying the Soviets. What I saw and experienced during my travels throughout the 1990s surprised, amused, saddened, and sometimes shocked me. Through it all, I was fascinated and impressed by the resilience, intelligence, ingenuity, and perseverance of the Russian people.

Post-Soviet Logic

In September of 1993 I spotted a souvenir that I had been looking for at Moscow's enormous, Izmillovo outdoor market. I had come to enjoy my frequent, free-time, visits to this large flea market. The market seemed to grow larger each time I traveled to Russia. A vendor asked six rubles for the item I was interested in, so I asked if he would take 10

bal exchange several times and doing the math on a piece of paper for him to examine, I gave in and asked him to please explain his logic. He said it was all very simple - "if you like them enough to buy more than one then they must be valuable to you so I must get a higher price for all others you buy." Karl Marx would have loved this guy.

This strange view of "business" to the Russians of the early-1990s was not limited to the street vendors. On several occasions, I encountered senior managers and executives of Russian enterprises who openly admitted that they had no idea what the price should be for their products or services- that they would appreciate my help at setting a figure. Left to their own devices, I was often quoted a price that was ridiculous. A joke! Were they serious?

One particular case comes to mind. An office at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington D.C. had asked me to negotiate a contract for them. They wanted to do some work with a formerly secret facility near Gatchina, just south of St. Petersburg. The Russians wanted to do the work, but had no idea how to turn their ideas into a legal contract.

I spent most of a morning negotiating the particulars of a contract. Getting general agreement on the time and materials that would be

searchers and their supervisors reviewed the document in painful detail and emerged proudly with a document that they all had accepted. When I asked what their price was for this work- they said that they had no idea. They did not know how to price their work. I then explained how we might convert the work statement into a cost proposal that could be put into the contract. I gave them a draft of a standard cost-plus "fee" (i.e. their profit) contract.

The proposed contract described their total labor, cost of materials, shop expenses, administrative overhead, and provided for a reasonable profit. They liked this and became very excited. They took the draft contract into their private meeting room and soon presented me with a finalized contract. Knowing what such work would cost back home, I was expecting a total contract cost of around \$50,000 - certainly not more than \$75,000. That would give us room to negotiate. I was dumb struck when the price tag they presented to me was \$1.5 million. Again, maybe Karl Marx would have understood - I was speechless.

Another observation from that trip to Gatchina involved a "very special" tour the Russians had arranged for me through one of their secret "museums".

The tour was at the formerly, classified research institute known as Prometey; the "Central Research Institute of Structural Materials". A center for development of sophisticated, modern materials during the Cold War. My visit was hosted by the Director of Prometey, Academician (Professor) Igor Gorinyin, a full member of the both the Soviet and Russian Academy of Sciences and a worldwide leader in the development of weldable, titanium alloys for submarines and spacecraft. In 1989, just before the collapse of the USSR, he was elected to the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union.

Gorinyin had arranged to give me a personalized tour of the Prometey museum that day and it was an honor that I will never forget. However, I did manage to find a humorous side to the tour as well. I was shown diagrams of sensitive submarine construction "details" (i.e. assemblies, components or parts) and specialty materials that Prometey had developed

required to do the work. Finally, I created a draft "statement of work" which described exactly what would be required. Then it took them about two hours to translate it into Russian. After that, the Russian re-



The Izmillovo market is located northeast of downtown Moscow. A real "people place" and "incubator" for post-Soviet, commercialism.

rubles for two of them. It was considered an insult if you did not bargain. "Of course" he replied while beaming at the possibility of a sale. I had a number of friends back home who would cherish this particular item so I asked him what price he would give me if I took ten of them? He thought for a moment and replied "eighty rubles!" with an even broader grin on his face.

Now, I was no Einstein but his logic just didn't make sense to me. So I made the mistake of playing a simple game with him. After I bought the first two items that he had offered for 10 rubles, I immediately asked him for two more at the same price. He refused, saying he wanted twelve rubles for the second two and that, if I wanted ten of them, the price would have to be eighty rubles. After having this ver-



Author Edmond Pope dons his brand new Russian hat (i.e. furazhka) he just purchased at an Izmillovo market kiosk.

over the years. One of the museum's displays was of a large bellows formed from titanium. I knew enough about titanium to appreciate the difficult manufacturing process they must have designed to shape that part. They also displayed a shovel blade made entirely from titanium. Impressive. A couple of years later I would find and buy 4,000 titanium shovels from Russia's major titanium plant in the Ural Mountains.

However, on the day I toured Prometey's museum, both the titanium bellows and the shovel were deemed "too sensitive" for me to photograph. Several months later- while waiting for a flight out of St Petersburg- I spotted an identical, titanium bellows. This one was clearly not under any secrecy re-

strictions. In fact, it was being used as an ashtray for smokers at the airport. What a Country!

To See a Man Cry

In Soviet times, there was plenty of money (rubles) to go around but it was difficult to find anything to buy that was needed or desired. Typically, the best and most sought after goods were found and bartered for on the street through the "black" economy, mostly foreign goods that had somehow been smuggled into the country. Most food and consumer goods were sold through official State stores, including the "world's largest shopping mall - G.U.M. (Main Universal Store)- the giant, department store on Red Square across from the Kremlin and Lenin's tomb.

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COLD WAR WARRIORS

To a Westerner, the imposing exterior of GUM would lend itself to visions of modern, western shopping malls. However, once inside, one would immediately see the same small drab specialty kiosks that were typical everywhere in Russia. Dirty, drab, colorless, half- or completely empty shelves and burly, sour sales people. Even these Soviet-style kiosks attracted a crowd whenever they received any kind of supply of product to sell. Word would quickly spread and in short order a crowd would be lined up to be able to "buy" whatever it was they had. If it wasn't the size, color or shape you desired, that was not a problem. You could take what you did succeed in buying and resell or trade it for something you did want on a street "black market" line. In order to acquire any product in one of the state stores, you had to endure a torturous time-consuming ritual of insults that most citizens detested.

Upon entering one of these kiosks, you would wait in a line and, if so lucky, be given a voucher indicating that you had succeeded in being early enough to obtain a loaf of bread, a pair of shoes, a hat, or whatever it was that was for sale that day. Then you would proceed to a second line and once again wait until a burly cashier graced you with her acknowledgment that you existed. You would then hand her the voucher you had been given in the first line and pay the price for the goods you were authorized to purchase. She would then give you a paper receipt indicating you had paid for the item and you would move along to a third line. Here, you patiently waited until you got to the head of the line and the matron decided to wait on you. Upon handing her your voucher and receipt, she would give you the new pair of shoes that you had just purchased. All in all ... a successful day at the GUM and it only took you an hour or two ... or three? The time saved is another reason citizens liked to buy from street vendors. Here they could sometimes find what they really wanted and not have to suffer through a bureaucratic process.

The process for purchasing an automobile in Soviet days was very similar to that described for a pair of shoes at GUM - except that it normally would take several years to take delivery. One time, a good Russian friend of mine who lived in Moscow picked me up at Sheremetyevo Airport in his brand new Lada automobile. Remember the old saying about the Lada when the Soviets tried to market them in the West? "Lada- rhymes with Nada!" Anyway, my friend was extremely proud of his new Lada. This was the new incarnation of Lada designed by Fiat and, my friend proudly explained, it only took him four years to get his car. His Lada was like new. It had about 400 km on it (i.e. 250 miles) and I noticed that before we departed the airport we had to pull over because it was raining. He asked me to help him retrieve the windshield wipers from the glove compartment. We attached the wiper blades

to the motor mechanism. Finally, he handed me a branch from a bush that was about three feet long. He explained that I would need to help anytime the wipers were needed. Only the driver's side motor connection worked and every time it wiped one time across the window- the two wipers would become stuck together- rendering them useless. It was my job to roll my window down and poke the two wiper blades apart so they would make one more swipe across the window. I asked him why he didn't just use the driver's side wiper and leave the passenger blade in the glove compartment? His answer made perfect sense- "Is not allowed to only have one. Police would pull us over and give me ticket."

Following this, I asked him a few other questions about his car such as "Why doesn't your gas gauge work?" His answer: "Oh, none of my gauges work. This is new car and most new cars need many repairs in order to get all parts to work." Once again I showed my ignorance of their system by stating that I understood that he probably just had not had a chance to take the car in for warranty work. He was fluent in English and understood Western ways. So he just laughed and explained that, in Soviet times, when you bought a new car you owned it completely ... even if you had to push it off the sales lot. Also, any and all repairs needed were to be taken care of by the buyer. Clearly he had a good sense of humor. Whether it was a new car or a loaf of bread, this was the way everything "worked" in Soviet times. Oh, and the reason he kept his wiper blades in the glove compartment? They would be quickly stolen if they were left overnight on the car. Little wonder that the people of Russia and other former Soviet states were so excited about a new and better life that awaited them- after Communism.

Not all of my experiences with the changing Russia transpired inside that country. I had close inter-

face with many Russians here in the U.S. in the 1970s and 80s. They were mostly the Soviet, scientific elite who traveled here seeking work and collaboration. Also, there was a flood of émigrés and even defectors who somehow got out of the USSR in the waning years of the Cold War. They came with high hopes for a better life for themselves and their families. Many were the times that I witnessed their disbelief eventually turn to awe, envy ... then disbelief and wonder at the abundance and quality of food and consumer goods available in the West and the U.S. I would better understand their feelings after I began my travels to their country in the early '90s.

One incident in particular almost brought tears to my eyes- and did, in fact, bring a Russian scientist, in his mid-60's, to tears and total confusion. This individual was a well-known scientist in his particular field and we (the U.S. Navy's Office of Naval Research) had arranged a visiting professorship for him at a top U.S. university. He flew directly in from Russia and I met him at the airport and took him to the university campus. We provided a day for him to rest before meeting his future colleagues. He asked if there was somewhere that he might buy a pair of shoes and a few toiletries. I took him to a local, Wal-Mart - not thinking of the store's impact on a newly arrived, Russian visitor. We entered the store and he immediately became visibly nervous as I escorted him through the various departments. The shelves were piled high with goods...some that he recognized and others that he probably did not. Finally, we came to the shoe department and I walked him to the men's section and told him to select the style he liked. At this point, I could see he was not only totally confused, but also somewhat frightened. I explained that all he had to do was select the style and size he wanted and take them to the front of the store and pay for



A Moscow street market. A refreshing change from the state run stores. Here you could see what you were buying and could barter for a decent price.

them. He broke down and began to cry, something that I would experience many times while hosting Russians to the U.S. for their first visit. I later visited several stores that we take for granted and all my guest could say was "My wife will not believe this. I can't wait to show her."

Are We Creatures of the same Planet?

My many trips to Russia witnessed rapid change in their society and the above vignettes only begin to express the many unusual things that I observed. The collapse of the Soviet Union and establishment of an independent Russia and other republics- left the people with long pent-up hope for things they had only dreamed of in silence for years and decades. Should they speak out openly in the past, they might well end up in prison or worse- in a forced labor camp (gulag) in Siberia, unlikely to ever return to family and friends. Almost every friend I met and got to know, had family members who had been so banished. It was a sad thing to listen to, but left an indelible imprint on my

own thinking.

Unfortunately, I will have to skip over many observations from this time and "fast forward" several years. To a time when the hopes and dreams of the early 1990s came to grips with the harsh realities of life in the late 1990s. Many Russians that I knew, foresaw these harsh realities and did not relish what they saw. But, that is another story- Part 3 of the "Cold War Fall-out".

*Edmond D. Pope is a retired Navy Captain and former Naval Intelligence Officer. Following retirement from the Navy he was employed by Penn State's Applied Research Laboratory. He was accused and convicted of espionage by the Russian government in 1999. More about his adventures in Russia can be found in his book *Torpedoed* and at his website <http://edmondpope.com>. Pope currently lives in State College, PA.*

The read other Cold War Warrior articles visits the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.



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PASTOR'S DESK

The heart of Thanksgiving

Pastor Jon Greenstone
Elias Lutheran Church

When I was growing up we were a family of five siblings. The family Thanksgiving dinner was always a remarkable occasion, but we were not a family that spoke about faith in God. It's not that we were ungrateful for the many blessings we enjoyed, but the outlook of our gratitude was shaped by my father's understanding that humanity could progress by scientific endeavor and rational thought. Mom was raised a United Methodist, so we did have a Christian influence in the household. On Thanksgiving morning, Mom would rise early to begin the tremendous task of preparing a very large

turkey and every conceivable side dish for a grand meal. All was beautifully prepared and served among the Greenstone family and three or four invited guests. Mom always decorated the table with a bountiful display of fall produce including: apples, grapes, chrysanthemums, corn, pumpkins, winter squash and the warm glow of candlelight. All of this pictorial abundance made for a feeling of comfort that caused everyone to feel welcomed, close and secure. I think all would agree—We we felt blessed, but we did not express such a sentiment in those days.

How can one transform a humanly constructed idea about gratitude, one based on human achievement, to a theo-

centric attitude of thanksgiving? I think that for many of us, the marked change begins literally and figuratively in the human heart. This can come about when the Spirit of God settles in our heart and opens us up to God's living presence through changes in our life's circumstances. For my father, I believe the change came for him in a physiological way after his four-way bypass heart surgery at age seventy. Dad had the surgery, and afterward, in the recovery room, a Catholic priest went in to visit my father and have a prayer with him. I think the priest was as surprised to learn my father was of Jewish descent and an agnostic at best, as my father was surprised to awaken from anesthesia and find a priest standing over him with a large crucifix dangling from his black clerical shirt! Nevertheless, there was a polite exchange, and my father allowed the priest to have a prayer. Dad told me this story with a hint of sarcasm, and yet there was an expression of gratitude -- a friend had sent the Father to visit and pray out of genuine love and concern. Here was the beginning of a long-term transformation, my father's heart began a realization that God loved him.


Sometimes the development of a heart of gratitude comes to us from physical circumstances and other times it is purely a mystical redevelopment of our consciousness. From the third chapter of the book of Job, we note an unlikely source for discovering God's goodness. Bear with me to explain: Job had been the most blessed of men during his early years. He was admired by all because he was flourishing in material wealth.

He was highly respected among his peers and Job's children were beautiful. Then we read how Job responds to God after the reports of disaster jar him from his blessed estate: "Job opened his mouth, and cursed his [birth] day" (Job 3:1-2). I'm sure you think this is an odd passage to use as an entrance toward a life of increased gratitude! But one must realize that the calamity that had befallen Job caused him to "open his mouth." From the Hebrew word "anah," which literally means: 'to answer,' Job begins to speak to God and so begins the lengthy discourse with the Almighty. In a way that only the Spirit of God can accomplish, Job, through his suffering, entered into a conversation with God. This means that the relationship between God and Job was activated! The disasters that had befallen Job caused him to contemplate his earthly existence and whether or not he personally had the ability to furnish all that he might possess as "his" in comparison with what God had supplied by sheer providence or out of God's kindness. After hearing Job's tale of woe, it is astounding that Job yet honors and reveres God -- even after disaster and calamity have ruined his life Job replies, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither; The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21). Can we embrace this kind of faith that yet reveres and trusts God even in the midst of complete loss and despair? How can we arrive at a new understanding that the material blessings held and enjoyed in this life are given to us as a gift from God? The concept of our possessions being held as a "gift" is a good starting point. From an Abrahamic point of view, we can recognize that none of us are entitled to anything, but all that we possess and even what we feel we have earned and paid for in this life by way of our vocation are goods on loan to us by God. Therefore, what we have in terms of food, clothing,

a home to live in and even our friends and family members are best held and viewed as God-given gifts. Our station in life, as children of God is to daily thank and praise him for what has been entrusted into our care. Such realization brings about a recognition such as Job eventually comprehended when he recognized God's sovereignty. The things we are granted to appease our fleshly appetites (without sin) are best viewed as an extension of God's love and mercy, however, the life of faith also demands that, even if we have nothing, we yet love and trust God, continuing in the dialogue to build and sustain the relationship. Recognition of Divine favor -- demands a response. This is spiritual gratitude.

What a gift is ours when we realize we can offer up to God our gratitude? The Psalmist knew the importance of giving thanks to God and wrote, "O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever" (Psalm 107:1). But for some people their heart has not yet recognized to Whom they owe a debt of gratitude. Too often we become callous and devoid of appreciation for what God and our fellow human beings have done for us. Every human being should be thankful for the life that has been given them when their heart was formed and the heart began to beat with life. Many of us also should be grateful that we were nourished, disciplined and taught by mother and/or father. Perhaps you would agree, learning and practicing a life of gratitude requires some deeper thought than just following our instinctual drive for more stuff. One should pause in life to give thanks, like the artist's gaze on their subject. Gratitude and appreciation require time for reflection on how we have come to be who we are. Like Job who was deep into his time of suffering, but through that experience realized that it was God who was sovereign and not the will of a man, we will do well to study our own life experience, and search for the One who has and will sustain us all of our days. Hope you get to the heart of your Thanksgiving.

Amen.



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THE BOOK OF DAYS

John Elwes



Editors note: Evidence suggests that Charles Dickens based legendary miser Ebenezer Scrooge on the 18th century politician John Elwes, who had inherited a fortune but was loath to spend a single penny, preferring to live as if in poverty, squatting in empty apartments. Whether he went around muttering 'bah humbug,' we really can't say.

On the 26th November 1789, died John Elwes, Esquire, a striking example of the impotent poverty of wealth when it does not enlarge the understanding, or awaken the social affections, and, consequently, cannot purchase common comforts for its wretched possessor. Elwes was the son of a successful brewer in Southwark, named Meggot. Evil tendencies of mind are as hereditary as diseases of the body. Elwes' mother starved herself to death, and his paternal uncle, Sir Harvey Elwes, was a notorious miser, from whom, by one of those fortuitous turns of events that sometimes throws great wealth into the power of those who have least occasion for it, John Elwes derived his name and a vast fortune.

If Elwes had been a mere miser, his name might well have been omitted from this collection; but the extraordinary man possessed qualities which, if they had not been suppressed by the all absorbing passion of avarice, entitled him to the love and esteem of his friends, and might have advanced him to the respect and admiration of his country men. In spite of his penurious disposition, he had an unshaken gentleness of manner, and a pliancy of temper not generally found in a miserable money accumulator.

One day he was out shooting with a gentleman who exhibited constant proofs of unskillfulness; so much so, that at last, in firing through a hedge, he lodged several shots in the miser's cheek. The awkward sportsman, with great embarrassment and concern, approached to apologize, but Elwes anticipated apology by holding out his hand, and saying:

"My dear sir, I congratulate you on improving; I thought you would hit something in time."

Those afflicted by a habitual love of money are seldom scrupulous respecting the means of

increasing their stores; yet Elwes abstained from usury on principle, considering it an unjustifiable method of augmenting his fortune. And contrary to an ostentatious meanness, too generally prevalent at the present day, by which many indulge in luxuries at the expense of others, Elwes' whole system of life and saving was founded on pure self-denial.

He would walk miles in the rain, rather than hire a conveyance; and sit hours in wet clothes, rather than incur the expense of a fire. He would advance a large sum to oblige a friend, and on the same day risk his life to save paying a penny at a turnpike. He would eat meat in the last stage of putrefaction, 'the charnel house of sustenance,' rather than allow a small profit to a butcher.

Like most of his class, Elwes was penny wise and pound foolish, not unfrequently losing the sheep for the half penny worth of tar. He suffered his spacious country mansion to become uninhabitable, rather than be at the cost of a few necessary repairs. A near relative once slept at his seat in the country, but the bedchamber was open to wind and weather, and the gentleman was awakened in the night by rain pouring in upon him. After searching in vain for a bell, he was necessitated to move his bed several times, till a place was at last found, where rain did not reach. On remarking the circumstance to Elwes in the morning, the latter said:

"Ay! I don't mind it myself; but to those who do, that is a nice corner in the rain!"

Elwes had an extensive property in houses in London, and as some of his houses were frequently without a tenant, he saved the price of lodgings by occupying any premises that might happen to be vacant. Two beds, two chairs, a table, and an old woman, were all his

furniture, and with these, whenever a tenant offered, he was ready to remove at a moment's warning. It was then not easy to find him, or to know what part of the town might be his residence.

Colonel Timms, his nephew, and heir to his entailed estates, was on one occasion anxious to see Elwes. After some inquiries, he learned accidentally that his uncle had been seen going into an uninhabited house in Great Marlborough Street. No gentleman, however, had been seen about there, but a pot boy recollected observing all old beggar go into a stable and lock the door after him. Colonel Timms knocked at the door, but no one answering, sent for a blacksmith, and had the lock forced. The lower part of the building was all closed and silent; but, on ascending the staircase, moans were heard, apparently proceeding from a person in great distress. Entering a room, the intruders found, stretched out on an old pallet bed, seemingly in death, the wretched figure of Elwes. For some time he remained insensible, till some cordials were administered by a neighbouring apothecary; then he sufficiently recovered to be able to say that he had, he believed, been ill for two or three days, and that there was an old woman in the house, but for some reason or other, she had not been near him; that she had been ill herself, but that she had recovered, he supposed, and gone away. On Colonel Timms and the apothecary repairing to the garret, they found the old woman stretched lifeless on the floor, having apparently been dead for two days.

When his inordinate passion for saving did not interfere, Elwes would willingly exert himself to the utmost to serve a friend. He once extricated two old ladies from a long and troublesome ecclesiastical suit, by riding sixty miles at night, and at a moment's warning. Such wonderful efforts would he make with alacrity, and at an advanced age, to serve a person for whom no motives or entreaties could have prevailed on him to part with a shilling. In this, and all his long journeys, a few hard boiled eggs, a dry crust carried in his pocket, the next stream of water, and a spot of fresh grass for his horse, while he reposed beneath a hedge, were the whole of the travelling expenses of both

man and beast. The ladies asked a neighbouring gentleman how they could best testify their thanks for such a service. Send him sixpence, was the reply, for then he will be delighted by gaining twopence by his journey.

So lived John Elwes, encouraging no art, advancing no science, working no material improvement on his estates or country, diffusing no blessings around him, bestowing no benevolence upon the poor and needy, and shewing few signs of parental care or affection. He never was married, but was the father of two natural children, to whom he bequeathed the greater part of his disposable property. Education he despised, and would lay out no money upon it. The surest way, he constantly affirmed, of taking money out of people's pockets, is by putting things into their heads. And no doubt he felt it so, for this strange man was a prey to every sharper who could put a scheme into his head by which he imagined that money might be got.

Elwes has been compared to a great pike in a fishpool, which, ever voracious and unsatisfied, clutches at everything, until it is at last caught itself. With a mind incapable of taking comprehensive ideas of money-matters, and a constant anxiety to grasp the tangible results of his speculations, Elwes either disdained or was too indolent to keep regular accounts, and the consequence was that £150,000 of bad debts were owing to him at his death.

As we approach the last scene of all, the cruel tyranny of avarice, over its wretched slave, becomes more and more appalling. Comfortably domiciled in his son's house,

Elwes fears that he shall die in poverty. In the night he is heard struggling with imaginary robbers, and crying:

"I will keep my money! I will! Don't rob me! Oh don't!"

A visitor hears a footstep entering his room at night, and naturally asks, 'Who is there?' On which a tremulous voice replies:

"Sir, I beg your pardon, my name is Elwes, I have been unfortunate enough to be robbed in this house, which I believe is mine, of all the money I have in the world of five guineas and a half, and half a crown."

A few days after, the money is found, where he had hidden it, behind a window shutter. And a few days more, Elwes is found in bed, his clothes and hat on, his staff in his hand. His son comes to the bedside, and the father whispers to John:

"I hope I have left you as much as you wished."

The family doctor is sent for, and, looking at the dying miser, says:

"That man, with his original strength of constitution, and life long habits of temperance, might have lived twenty years longer, but for his continual anxiety about money."

This notice of Elwes cannot be better concluded than in the following summary of his character, by his friend and acquaintance of many years, Mr. Topham. In one word, his Elwes public character lives after him pure and without stain. In private life, he was chiefly an enemy to himself. To others, he lent much; to himself, he denied everything. But in the pursuit of his property, or in the recovery of it, I have it not in my remembrance one unkind thing that ever was done by him.

To read other selections from Robert Chamber's *The Book of Days* visit www.thebookofdays.com.

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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

From the Desk of Zakir Bengali

I am often asked why I want to serve on the BOE. I have been interested and involved in education since the beginning of my professional career, albeit at the University level. I have participated in BOE and Commissioners' Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) budget meetings since the late 70's.

What are some of my priorities for FCPS? What are my proposed solutions to tackle these issues?

1. Improving the Success of the Middle School Students

Middle School education is the key to improving the performance of our schools. Experience and statistics show that, for many students, the gains obtained in the elementary school are obliterated during a student's sojourn through the middle school.

The transition from elementary to middle school is a critical period for a student's academic development and will set the course for their academic performance in high school. This was the reason I had chosen to serve on the Middle School Science Curriculum Review Committee of BOE. My major priority, as a BOE member, would be to strengthen the Middle School curriculum and instructions.

Middle school is sometimes also a very difficult period for some of these students as they transition from childhood to adolescence. A move from their familiar elementary school environment, coupled with physiological changes they are undergoing may cause anxiety and decline in academic achievements. Thus these students need a very encouraging and supportive environment. A program to orient the 5th graders for the new environment they would face would go a long way to help them adjust better in the middle school.

These problems are even more acute for youngsters from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds; including poverty combined with a single parent household often doing two jobs, a low education level

or illiteracy of parents, non-English speaking households, etc. Special attention needs to be paid to these students to provide them the opportunity for a good education. Additional programs, including after school programs, need to be developed to assist these children to achieve their full potential. Teachers, parents and staff have to work cooperatively to create such a supporting environment for the students.

2. Reading, Reading, Reading!

One cannot emphasize enough the necessity for proficiency in reading as a fundamental to learning all other subjects. The following statistics are quite an eye-opener:

Of the FCPS graduates entering Frederick Community College in 2011:

- 64% needed Math remediation
- 33% needed Reading remediation

These statistics would probably be direr if one includes students who did not pursue further education, obtained admission in other community colleges, or found employment in low wage service sector.

To resolve this serious situation, we need 'out of the box' thinking to develop novel approaches to help students be proficient in reading and writing by 5th grade. For example, testing for subtle leaning disabilities. This is absolutely crucial for them to be successful as they progress through Middle and High School and beyond.

3: Promote a school and classroom environment conducive to learning

We need to maintain classroom sizes that are optimal for each subject being taught. Teachers are already overburdened by non-curricular requirements and student discipline issues. Budget driven increases in classroom sizes may be appropriate for some of the academic areas but would certainly be detrimental to subjects like reading, mathematics, and science.

We need to vigorously promote parent/grandparent volunteering in classrooms to act as aids to teachers. As mentioned above, teachers are overburdened by non-curriculum activities and this cuts into their time for interactive teaching with their students. Many of the teachers work overtime or take work home to compensate for this extra burden. To promote increased volunteering by parents/grandparents in classrooms, FCPS staff should work closely with PTAs.

We need to promote student behavioral decorum in school, both in and out of the classrooms. Discipline issues are not only a distraction to teachers but disruptions for other students. Strategies need to be explored to channel the high level of energy of students in to other productive areas.

4. CCSS

FCPS will soon be implementing the CCSS and there is confidence that we have teachers and FCPS staff capable of implementing the new curriculum effectively and efficiently.

However, implementing a curriculum to meet the needs of the Core State Standards would only be the first step. According to the recommendations of the Independent Task Force appointed by the

Council on Foreign Relations, ensuring effectively preparing students will take more than simply establishing high expectations; effectively implementing the plan is equally important, and implementation would require substantial commitments of both effort and resources.

Additionally, the Task Force recommends expansion of the CCSS:

- Science, technology, and foreign languages and cultures should be included in the Common Core.
- Lessons in civics and creative thinking/problem solving should be woven into all parts of the curriculum.

In summary, it is important that

the BOE, the staff and the teachers develop and implement an immediate, an intermediate and a long term plans to continually provide the best education to our children that meet the needs of their world.

5. Technology Education

There is a multiplicity of intelligence and students who choose not to pursue an academic career are as capable as those who go to colleges. Some of these students are technology oriented and show exceptional talent in mastering technological skills.

Innovations in technology are advancing rapidly. As I mentioned earlier, children entering elementary school this year will be in the job market 13 or more years from now, and will face new technologies, a more computerized world and advanced robotics. Many of the factories, such as automobile factories, already employ robots in their manufacturing processes. Thus, there will be fewer manufacturing and construction jobs with the concomitant demand for highly skilled technology workers. More so, the competition for these technology jobs will be worldwide. We must prepare our students to compete in their world of tomorrow.

According to the recommendations of the Independent Task Force appointed by the Council on Foreign Relations to examine U.S. Education Reform and National Security, innovation is the engine that keeps America running, and is the factor that has led to its success over the centuries. The future will reward high skill levels.

Technology education should be considered with the same seriousness as teaching of academic subjects. The Board of Education should establish a Task Force to revamp the Tech-Ed curriculum to meet the needs of tomorrow's world of innovations. FCPS should be, and could be, the leader in this area.

6. Planning for the Future

Consider a child entering kindergarten this year. If this child pursues four years of college right after high school, she/he will be entering the job market as a young adult in 2029-30. Considering that technology advances at an ever accelerating rate and computer chip capacity doubles every 2.5 years, the world in 2030 will be highly computerized and robotized. Also, more so than now, the world will be a global market; the job market competition will reach beyond the boundaries of all countries and will require advanced technical skills. Such skills are essential not only for our economy but also for our national security. Currently, three million US jobs are vacant due to the lack of availability of highly skilled workers. Companies are importing skilled workers into the US to fill the need.

To make it possible for our children to compete in their world of innovations, we need to start planning now. We need to enhance our Tech Education, and also consider a Gifted and Talented program in

Without these fundamental changes, most of our efforts at improving education will fall short of the desired goals.

These are some of the many issues we must deal with to maintain and constantly improve the high standards of education in FCPS. We should avoid a 'one shirt fits all' policy. We need to put in place programs to meet the academic needs of all students so that they grow up to be responsible, productive citizens ready to confidently face their world of innovation technologies.

I hope this provide you with some idea of what my priorities as a BOE member would be, if you, the citizens of Frederick County, elect me to represent you on the Board.



**Kathryn B.
"Katie"
Groth**
*Frederick County
Board of Education*
**Incumbent
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SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

Thankful for many blessings

Lynn Tayler
Mother Seton School

November already?! I feel like I just put the spooky decorations up and now I'm packing them away to make room for the harvest décor. It's tedious work getting out the black bins, repacking them, and then unpacking the orange bins (yes, I color code the seasonal storage—it has saved my sanity!), but the snack-size Snickers waiting for me at the end is worth it. My husband wonders why I bother with harvest décor, since it's up for less than three weeks, but I think it's important to have that reminder that Halloween doesn't just blend into Christmas, despite what the major retailers may want us to believe. These three weeks between Halloween and Thanksgiving are a wonderful time to take a breath and remember all the people bring joy into our lives, the moments that we are grateful for, and the many blessings we too often forget to count.

At Mother Seton School, we begin this harvest season with an All Saints Day Mass, where we honor the saints who intercede on our behalf. Many non-Catholics misunderstand the nature of our reverence for the saints, and mistakenly think that we "worship" them. To put it simply, what we really do is ask the saints in heaven to "put in a good word" for us with our Lord. It's much like asking your congregation or your family and friends to pray for you when you have a particular intention; only the saints reside in heaven and hold particular prominence with the Lord. At this Mass, we show our gratitude to those who've gone before us and who have helped our prayers be heard. We invite you to join us at the Basilica of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton located on South Seton Avenue on Thursday, November 1st, at 10:15 a.m. for a children-oriented service. It's a beautiful way to start this season of Thanksgiving.

We are also grateful to our esteemed alumni for their constant support and cannot express our thanks enough. On Tuesday, No-

vember 20th, we will hold a Memorial Mass and reception in honor of our beloved deceased alumni and family members at 11:00 a.m. at the school. It's one of the ways in which we continue to pray for and honor those former students, faculty, and family members who may have moved on from Mother Seton School, but who remain a part of our cherished family. We invite you to join us in remembering our loved ones. If you wish to have the name of a loved one included, please contact the office at 301-447-3161.

In addition to counting our blessings and giving thanks, we can't forget the centerpiece of this season—Thanksgiving itself. No matter how good I am at counting calories and controlling portions, this is the one day a year I throw the diet out the window. I have a feeling I'm not alone! If your plate is usually full of enough turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, potatoes, and green bean casserole to sustain a family of ten for eight days (like mine is!), you

might want to take advantage of our Fall Family Fun Run and 5K to boost your metabolism beforehand. On Saturday, November 10, the third annual 5K will kick-off at Mount St. Mary's Waldron Stadium. Events include a 5k Run/Walk for individuals and a 100 Meter Kid Dash for 7 years and under. All 5K participants who register before November 5th will receive an insulated Polar Bear water bottle and sports bag. Kid Dash runners will receive a medal and goodie bag. Registration fee for 5K is \$25 per adult, 18 and over, and \$10 under age 18, and \$5 per child for the Kid Dash. Register online for the Mother Seton Fall 5K Run at www.active.com (processing fee applies) or print off the registration form at www.mothersetonschool.org.

I am thankful for all the many blessings my family has, one of which is belonging to this warm and welcoming community. It is a sacrifice to be able to send our children to this school, but one that my husband and I gratefully make. We are proud

of the education and experience that our children receive at Mother Seton, and we would like to invite you to take a tour of our school on Tuesday, November 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Just as every child is unique, so is every school. We'd love for you to come see what makes our school so special. As always, you can also call the office and arrange a private tour at any time.

One last note on gratitude before I leave you to finish your Thanksgiving shopping list—we at Moth-

er Seton extend our thanks to you, the community. From the churches for their spiritual and moral encouragement, generous donations from local businesses, such as Jubilee and His Place, to the fire station and town hall for helping us provide meaningful experiences for the students, to the people in this community for your patronage and support—we are so thankful and so blessed to be located in such a spirited place. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families!

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

Freshman Year

The CORE of my thankfulness

Lydia Olsen
Class of 2016

I first heard about Mountward Bound at freshman orientation this past summer. Mountward Bound is a program where freshman at Mount St. Mary's University arrive a week early to go on a trip to make new friends and have a memorable experience. I was eager to sign up because I knew it would be a great way to interact with some of my future classmates. I was most interested in the Outdoor Adventure trip but, to my dismay, when I went to sign up, all the spots were already full. Looking back, I couldn't be more thankful that all the spots were taken.

I still wanted to go on a trip, so I signed up for one through the Office of Social Justice. I was excited but nervous because I did not know what to expect. After arriving at the Mount and moving into my dorm for the first time, I was overwhelmed. I wondered what I had gotten myself into. When I met up with the CORE leaders who would be leading the trip and the other

students who would be going with me, I could not get my thoughts straight. I was about to get into a van with a bunch of strangers, travel to an unknown place, leave my mom, and at the end of it all, not even get to go home. I'd have to go back to a cramped dorm room that was a mess. Why did I think that this was going to be a good idea?

Throughout the week the group traveled to different service sites. We went to the Habitat for Humanity Re-Store, the Beacon House, Montevue Nursing Home, and the SERRV market. After each day we all would gather as a group, discuss what we did during the day and reflect on the importance of our actions. I ended up loving every minute of the trip. I was learning new things and making new friends. Though I was skeptical at first, going on Mountward Bound became one of the best decisions I have ever made. I am extremely thankful that it opened my eyes and my heart to my passion for social justice.

Toward the end of the trip I started to learn more about what

it meant to be a CORE leader. CORE leaders are dedicated Mount students who work through the Office of Social Justice on campus. They facilitate service trips to help others understand the importance of social justice and equality. When Mountward Bound ended, each participant was encouraged to apply to become a CORE leader. I knew without any hesitation that I wanted to be part of CORE and I was thankful when I was handed an application.

After completing the application and going through an interview, I am thrilled and thankful to say that I have been accepted to become part of the CORE family!

My first week of CORE training happened over Fall Break. The six new CORE members, including myself, spent our week off in Baltimore and DC while the rest of the Mount community went home. We served with People's Homesteading Group in Baltimore, where we cleaned an apartment from top to bottom in preparation for housing families of low to moderate income. During this week, we discussed what we are often blind to in terms of social justice issues. We learned about social systems and systemic injustices and reflected on the importance of awareness of these issues. In DC,



we visited the Holocaust museum, where we observed with a social justice lens and our new-formed knowledge. We had dinner with Ms. T, an inspirational woman who has gone in and out of homelessness and who encouraged us all to "find our lane and own it." We spent time listening to one another's personal stories and grew closer as a group each day. By the end of the week, we had been challenged and tested multiple times and our outcomes were not always successful. The important part is that we learn from our mistakes and work to communicate positively together. I am thankful that we can all only get better as a team and as individuals.

My involvement with CORE has only just begun and it has already started to change my life. I

am so thankful for the opportunities and knowledge I will be able to gain through CORE. I cannot wait to continue to spend time with my CORE group and I am thankful to be surrounded with such amazing people who I can now call family. I am thankful for Jeff Abel, the Director of the Office of Social Justice, for his positive influence, sense of humor, and standards that make me work to be a better person in my thoughts and actions. Being a member of CORE is exactly where I am supposed to be. I am thankful that I have learned to see injustice with my heart and work to reverse it. I am thankful to be part of such an incredible group that changes lives.

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

Sophomore Year

Family pilgrimage

Kyle Ott
MSM Class of 2015

As time wears on, it has become harder and harder for people to appreciate (and in many cases remember) the true meaning of Thanksgiving. It's easy to lose track of what is an ancient tradition for a country that is considered relatively young by the standards of the world. Yes, the autumn season is a time filled with college football games, roast-

ing turkeys, steaming mashed potatoes and confetti-filled parades, but in many ways the true, miraculous nature of the holiday has been somewhat buried in all the pomp and circumstance.

It's almost impossible to imagine the kinds of challenges those first pilgrims faced. According to first-hand accounts, the Mayflower was ridiculously overcrowded, with disease and filth running rampant through the cramped halls of the vessel. The New

England coast proved to be a treacherous and in many cases inscrutable enemy as changing patterns of ice flows and stony bluffs created a deadly latticework surrounding the new land. Add to that the fact that the pilgrims were townfolk unaccustomed to life in the wilderness and possessed little knowledge of how to hunt or forage, let alone build a town. It is nothing short of an outright act of God that these early settlers lived to make that first meal an American tradition. All these facts make the true meaning of the holiday more powerful. These were people who had defied the odds and the expectations of naysayers and continued to survive in a new and rugged world. It was

a poignant moment where people, who had little in common but their struggles gathered to celebrate their friends, family, loved ones, and the cherished gift of life.

It is this kind of history that has sparked my own imagination and brought me on an interesting intellectual journey. Those early pilgrims were incredibly appreciative of the simple gifts that they recognized every single day, and it got me thinking: what am I truly thankful for in my life? I did quite a bit of pondering and as cliché as it sounds, I am truly thankful for my family. As the old adage goes, we stand on the shoulders of giants, and I've been blessed with some particularly tall giants on which to perch. If there is one thing that I am truly appreciative of, it's the Thanksgiving tradition my family started many years ago.

Every year on Thanksgiving morning, my family rolls out of bed, bundles up in our warmest clothing and drives fifteen minutes away to New Oxford Pennsylvania for the annual Turkey Trot 5k race. When the tradition began, my brother and I were adamantly opposed to going to the race. We resented having to wake up early on a day when we were supposed to be sleeping in. We despised the early morning chill, and most of all, we hated taking a family picture in our matching Turkey Trot t-shirts. I can still vividly remember the first time we ran the Turkey Trot, freezing and miserable. Our mom was desperately trying to drag us to the finish line while simultaneously trying not to kill us. As years progressed, my parents gave up on making two stubborn young boys run the race and simply left us to our own devices, leaving us to slowly walk the distance to finish line.

As the years passed, we actually began to enjoy the annual run. We began going to a nearby Rutter's gas station (one of the only places open on Thanksgiving) for breakfast after the race. We would sit in the tiny eating area in the gas station and savor the taste of warm breakfast sandwiches and hash browns after the chilly morning of running. Kollin (my brother) and I would joke about how we, as two fit athletes, were the honorary rear guard of the race. We would make a game out of being dead last every single year. We would count the number of old ladies and mothers running with strollers who passed us. As we neared the finish line, we would sprint the last 15 yards of the race pumping our arms and singing the theme song from Rocky like we were champions. Our family began to appreciate the magnitude of the joke and as the officials were packing up the equipment at the finish line (yeah we're that slow), our parents would be yelling at us to keep moving otherwise we would lose our substantial lead over the other competitors.

Now, when I think about Thanksgiving, it wouldn't be complete without running that simple 5k race, laughing with my family and eating breakfast food in a gas station. While I know it's not as amazing as a journey across the ocean in a crowded ship looking for freedom, that simple little journey over the road is in many ways a constant reminder of the love my family shares and a reminder of why Thanksgiving is truly meaningful. I'm Kyle Ott, won't you sit and read for a while?

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

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I'M THANKFUL FOR...

Junior Year

Raised in a barn

Nicole Jones
Class of 2014

I watched the 12-year-old girl enter the barn with her white cane, tapping side-to-side. She navigated a little shakily, clinging to her mother's arm for guidance. A volunteer helped the girl up a short flight of stairs to a platform where she could mount her lesson horse. Handing over her cane, she adjusted her glasses and reached out in front of her towards the small, fat gray pony. Gathering the reins in one hand and placing her other at the back of the saddle, she swung her legs over and onto the horse. A large grin broke across her stoic face.

The barn where I volunteered my time helping handicapped individuals take horseback riding lessons has left a strong impression on me for many reasons. I was amazed by the power of horses, yet their kindness and ability to lend strength to those who need it. I was struck by the volunteers who dedicated so much of their time to make sure these lessons could happen for those who needed them. Perhaps most of all, I was inspired by the students themselves.

Each student had his or her own story and disability, but their troubles never dissuaded them. They found a new freedom in horseback riding lessons. Liberty, the blind girl from the story above, was a charming young lady. Despite becoming blind at such a young age, Liberty was very positive about life and adjusted well with the help of her riding lessons. That fat

gray pony, Smokey, became her eyes during lessons and gave her the sureness of foot that she didn't have when walking herself.

Working with this therapeutic riding program made me appreciate my own abilities so much more. The day to day routine that is so simple for me is a monumental task for someone else. It also made me realize how grateful I am to have become involved in horseback riding in the first place and recognize how much horses have helped me grow as a person.

When I had first asked my parents for riding lessons, I changed my mind three times before my mom finally said, "You know what? You're going." I was so nervous yet excited. I had always been an animal lover, but I also had an extreme fear of failure. I wanted to be perfect and to do things correct the first time, so sometimes learning or experiencing new things gave me quite the emotional roller coaster ride.

Before my first lesson, my mom took me to meet my riding instructor, Ginger. A family friend was keeping a horse at Ginger's stables at the time, so we met her there to be introduced. I remember pulling into the driveway and seeing all the farm equipment scattered across the lawn. Getting out of the car, I saw two large Doberman barking at me from behind a fence. Not a very soothing sight for a nervous 11-year-old. My mom and I walked past the house to an arena where our family friend had her horse. A weathered woman in her thirties was there. She was dressed very casually in jeans and a well-worn t-shirt, with muddy boots protecting



her feet. Her voice naturally resonated when she gave instructions, as if she had a built-in microphone. Despite her rough exterior, she made me feel very comfortable. Her witty humor kept us in stitches, and her relaxed, confident manner made me confident that I was in good hands. This was Ginger.

During that visit, Ginger's daughter brought out a red, sway back pony with a white blaze and kind brown eyes. I watched as she brushed the horse, put a saddle on him and entered the arena. I didn't know it at the time, but I had just seen the first horse I would ever own.

His name was Bravo and about a year into taking lessons, my parents bought him for me. I adored that pony, and spent every waking moment at the barn, grooming and riding, cleaning his stall and

feeding him peppermints. He was my life outside of school. I had innumerable adventures on him, sometimes doing things I probably shouldn't have. We galloped through the pastures chasing geese from the stream. We rode along the side of the road and across the street through the neighbors' corn fields. Bravo gave me the same freedom that Smokey gives Liberty—the freedom of not being afraid to fall.

Last August, the day I moved back to campus, we had to put Bravo down. He was an old man, around 30-years-old, completely blind and probably had cancer. That morning I went down to feed him before leaving for school, and he was lying down in his stall unable to stand up. I knew immediately it was time to let him go. I

stayed with him the whole time, talking to him and smoothing his fur, his head in my lap. It was bittersweet letting him go and as I sat there I couldn't help but remember all the adventures we had had together. He had taught me so much; he had given me the courage to try new things and conquer my fears. He lent me the strength I didn't have on my own. But his job here was done. I had learned all I could from him, and now it was my turn to give him his own freedom. I sent him off with a whispered, "Thank you."

There is a belief in the horse world that riders have only one great horse in their career. I am grateful to have already had mine.

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

Senior Year

Life lessons

Samantha Strub
MSM Class of 2013

A few times a week I drive my car towards Frederick in order to pick up my companion for the next couple of hours. In my car I blare the music in the attempt to forget about the stresses of classes and teaching and the challenges that come with college life. That is easier said than done, as the songs on the radio are not giving me the reassurance that I need. I pull up in front of the designated house and turn off my car, making sure to unlock my passage door. I get out of the car and I see her. She is walking towards me with a huge smile on her face and her hand in the air waving at me. As I step around my car, she stops waving and rushes towards me as fast as she can with her arms outstretched. When those arms are around me I feel loved, appreciated and comforted. I give her a hug back and I realize this is what is important in life: to love and care for others. When we pull apart from the embrace, we go inside and talk to her mom about our plans for the day.

Once we talk with her mom we head back out to my car on our way to the adventure for the day. As she steps up to my passenger door she tries to open it, discovering she can. She looks across the car at me with a huge grin on her face saying, "You remembered for once, Sam." I smile back at her and respond, "Of course I did, because if I do not remember to unlock my car you tease me for the rest of the day." She smiles and says, "Well, unlocking your car is not a difficult thing to remember to do." I respond, explaining that I always lock my car to make sure it is not broken into and I just forget sometimes. She again answers me with a simple smile and the remark, "Excuses, excuses."

As Emma (as I will call her) and I get into my car and drive away from her house, she is usually full of stories about her day or something that happened on a day when I did not see her. Emma always has something to tell me. It brings her such joy to share her excitements with me. As Emma tells me her exciting stories, I am shocked with the simplicity of it. She is so joyful about the simple pleasures of life that I continually take for granted. I am shocked that

she never took anything for granted, especially her family and friends.

Emma is a treasured gift in my life. She is a twenty-six year old woman who has Down's syndrome. Down's syndrome is a condition in which extra genetic material causes delays in the child developments, both physically and mentally. People with Down's syndrome tend to share similar characteristics such as a flat facial profile, an upward slant to the eyes, small ears, and a protruding tongue; they typically remain smaller than their peers and have low muscle tone and speech impairments. People with Down's syndrome can have mild to severe difficulties including a number of health problems. On a general basis, people with Down's syndrome tend to learn at a much slower rate, but they are by no means incompetent.

I was able to meet Emma through the Arc of Frederick County, where I work as a skills educator and respite care provider. I assist people with disabilities by helping them learn important social skills when they come and I provide them with respite care. I help the parents by giving them a break and provide people like Emma a chance to get out of the house for a social outing. Emma and I have all kinds of adventures such as walks in the park, trips to the mall, lunch and dinner dates, base-

ball games, Special Olympics activities, fairs, festivals, meetings, etc. We have a lot of fun on our adventures. Every day we go on an adventure, I learn something from her.

Emma's life is so simple, yet so incredibly joyful. She finds joy in everything that happens to her. She even finds joy in the negative things. She sees the good in everyone. No one can do anything wrong to each other in her world. It is a peaceful and enjoyable world in which she lives. I learn so much from the example that Emma gives me about living each day to the fullest.

Life is the greatest gift that we could have and in the craziness of each day, we tend to forget what is

truly important in life. We need to enjoy the life we have been given and not constantly try to change it to something better. We need to enjoy the life that we have been given and embrace the simple pleasure of life such as family and friends.

In this month of November, while there is still quiet before the hustling and bustling of the Christmas season—think of the simple pleasures of Emma's world. Reflect what you are living for. Discover what you really want to appreciate about your life and what you want to get out of your life.

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

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THE GRADUATE

Ever wonder about the website?

All about Emmitsburg.net

Kelly Conroy
MSM Class of 2012

Have you ever noticed what's written at the end of many Emmitsburg-News Journal articles? There's usually a sentence that reads: "If you'd like to read more articles by this author, visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net." Perhaps you have visited the website and read more articles by your favorite author, or maybe you've never visited the site. If you've never heard of Emmitsburg.net, then let me tell you briefly: The community of Emmitsburg has one heck of a website! In this article, I hope to offer a greater understanding of the history, purpose and value of Emmitsburg.net.

Print or electronic? That seems to be one of the most popular questions today. Just recently, Newsweek announced its plan to stop its print edition. Many companies have suffered losses due to customers obtaining news on the Internet and no longer paying for print editions. But the Internet hasn't stopped all print readers. Some of us like to be able to open a newspaper in front of us, feel it in our hands, and glance over all of the pages at once. We want to be able to turn the pages as we drink our morning cup of coffee. And we

don't want to look at a screen for longer than we already do in a day. Some papers have fought the battle to keep print alive. They offer a higher quality product that readers still desire. The Emmitsburg News-Journal tries to do this; the website is essentially an electronic version of the paper, but unlike most newspapers, it grew out of a long standing and very popular website - Emmitsburg.net, which has slowly evolved over the years, capturing the very best of this great community with an exceptional college at its heart.

Mike Hillman, the editor of the ENJ, created Emmitsburg.net in 1996. Mike is also the President of the Emmitsburg Historical Society. One of the founding goals of this society was to put all of the historical articles about Emmitsburg online. In 1996, internet space was expensive, so the Emmitsburg Dispatch and a couple other local organizations grouped together with the Emmitsburg Historical Society to share a single website - in essence, it was a on-line "network" of Emmitsburg organizations - hence the 'dot net.'

The number of churches and other non-profit organizations affiliated with Emmitsburg.net grew over the years, and with that growth came a growth in visitors. Accord-

ing to Mike, "Each group brought its own community of interest, but as they all entered through the same homepage, everyone got exposed to the events of all the groups. It became a true 'community effort.' You could find out about the Lutheran Church spaghetti dinner or the parade in Main Street all from the same webpage." It was a one-stop spot for anyone interested in Emmitsburg. If you type "Emmitsburg" into a Google search, Emmitsburg.net is the first item to appear.

Mike smiles when you ask him if it all the work - which he does for free - was worth it. "You bet, especially for the Historical Society. Where at one time you had to hunt down someone who had knowledge of local history, now you can access a treasure trove of local history on-line. The more people learned about the history of Emmitsburg, the more they found they had something to contribute, and contribute they did! The number of historical articles now available on-line have increased twenty fold since the website originated."

While Mike's focus was on expanding the archives of the Historical Society, one aspect of Emmitsburg.net that attracted a very large audience was the Humor portion. When the Internet first got going, jokes were a very popular thing to forward via email. As one of Mike's favorite parts of print papers is the comics section, he decided to include a humor section in Emmitsburg.net, which he called "My Little Sister's Jokes," named after his little sister who was forever sending him jokes. Over time the humor section of Emmitsburg.net grew so large that it soon began to attract international visitors, including a man from Australia named Lindsay. Exchanges of jokes eventually turned into serious conversations about world affairs, and these conversations led to friendship. So it was no wonder that when Mike took on the Emmitsburg News-Journal, Lindsay was the first person he contacted to write for it.

The next item that people began to notice on the site is the Religion section. One day, Mike met a priest named Father Jack, the Grotto chaplain at the time, at a local gas station. They began talking and when Mike got home, Father Jack had already sent him an article. Other priests and pastors began sending Mike



their homilies and articles to post on the web. A series of "dueling homilies" between Father Jack and a Pastor Wade erupted. Fr. Jack wrote "The Benefits of Purgatory." In response, Pastor Wade published, "The Fallacy of Purgatory." When Pastor Wade posted his "Do Pets Go To Heaven?" readers knew that Father Jack would rebut with his own article, "Why Pets Don't Go To Heaven." The religion section of Emmitsburg.net was an instant hit.

In spite of the ever-increasing number of visitors, Mike still felt something was missing, so Emmitsburg.net switched its focus one more time. This time, it was towards the Interesting and Creative Writing section. Mike posted articles from the Book of Days, a 3,200-page work written in 1864 by Robert Chambers. For the first time, he hired writers to create interesting content that couldn't be found anywhere else. But in spite of Mike's effort, the Interesting and Creative Writing section languished - he needed more content.

In 2008, the Emmitsburg Dispatch ceased publication and the opportunity arose for Mike to take over the town paper. Emmitsburg.net and the Historical Society had been collecting a lot of information about the town's history for years. However, Mike was constantly frustrated that while the website had a huge following, "A vast majority of local residents, especially older ones, hadn't seen these stories." Mike saw an opportunity to share the history that had been uncovered by running the newspaper; he also hoped that the paper could serve as a resource for the Interesting and Creative Writing section of the website.

He was right on both accords. Today there are over 10,000 articles in Emmitsburg.net's article archives. By grouping all the articles into one place, a reader can find articles that have been printed in pre-

vious editions of the ENJ. They can search by their favorite author and read all of that author's works. This is especially beneficial if an author has written a series of articles—all of the articles can be read at one time! The articles are also organized by topic. "Gardening" is one of the topics because Mike's wife loves to garden. Mike obviously loves "History" and he owns four horses, hence the "Horses" section.

Writers for the ENJ can build up impressive portfolios on Emmitsburg.net. Many of the writers have directed potential employers to the website to read their work. It has been a very useful tool for ENJ writers to land jobs. Imagine a student who begins writing for the paper as a freshman in college and continues to write for the paper for the "Four Years at the Mount" section. After the student graduates, they continue to contribute to the "In My Own Words" section. By the time they "graduate" from the paper, they have built up quite a compilation of on-line articles!

The News Section of Emmitsburg.net is always kept current. The news articles you are reading in this edition were published immediately online. The design of Emmitsburg.net is driven by the text content. There is no "fluff" to the website. It is very organized and easy to navigate. While it does lack the visually appealing elements of most of today's modern news web sites, like pictures and videos, that does not faze Mike. "You're right," he says, "it does need to be updated ... and I would love to do it, but the simple design works. People come to Emmitsburg.net for its content, not for its flash."

The battle between print and electronic might continue for many more years. Emmitsburg.net, through its print 'sibling' The Emmitsburg News-Journal, has simply decided to offer both. Readers get all of the benefits of holding a newspaper in their hands and the opportunity to read even more online. It's a win-win situation. Next time you put down your cup of coffee after you finish reading a great article in the paper, look up more articles by that author online. You might just find a new favorite website.

Join the 14,000 visitors per day to Emmitsburg.net that have come to learn that Emmitsburg is a really great town with an exceptional Catholic school at its heart.

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

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where,
For so swiftly it flew, the sight
Could not follow it in its
flight.*
—Henry Wadsworth
Longfellow

I suppose old Henry could launch an arrow in the 1800s and not worry about where it went. He would have likely used a stick bow capable of sending an arrow a hundred yards; plenty far enough to get lost in rolling hills or woods. Today, I'm aware of what can happen when a missile, no matter how childish in appearance, comes down "I know not where". There are simply too many houses, cars and people around now to be letting fly arrows, bullets, stones or what have you, to not know where they will fall!

I'd like to sail arrows off my self-bow (a self-bow is made from a single piece of wood), but I can get about 80 yards out of a wooden arrow and haven't a space to shoot that allows me to keep an eye on my garlic stand while retrieving the arrows. That's why I shoot the

child's bow that only sends the arrows 50 couple of yards. Sure, I could shoot the self-bow at a closer target, but launching the arrows at the clouds and watching them seemingly float between Heaven and Hell is more appealing to me than searching through the grasses for arrows that slid under the thatch.

Practicing with the little bows also allows me to demonstrate to the kids I coach how accurate such a toy can be, how far an arrow can go and why it is important to know where it will fall! Most of the kids will end up shooting compound bows. These bows sizzle arrows along at speeds approaching 300 feet per second. The shooter better know where that missile is going to hit. At such speeds a hunting arrow can go right through a well-hit deer!

"Jack has the patience of Job. He's the one you want teaching your youngest children how to shoot a bow." Ben Kelkye says this as he stands before a dozen or so new families interested in joining the youth program he runs out of the Frederick chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America.

I try not to cringe as strangers turn to stare at me. Some of them smile at my deer in the headlights

expression. Others have that "Oh my god," look on their faces. "This thing is going to be coaching my child?"

Every couple of years I argue with Ben about the program needing an archery coach who actually knows what he or she is doing. Some years, when a group of kids has long since stopped learning anything from me, I simply stay home. (I once went two years without hearing from Ben, but got pulled back into the program when I ran into him at a sportsman show. I now avoid such events.)

"I've got several new kids joining the program. None of them have ever held a bow. Be at the club the second Sunday of next month. Bring your red bows."

"Don't you know better shooters than me?"

Of course he does.

"Don't you know better coaches than me?"

Hell yes he does.

"Then why do you keep calling me back?"

"Because you come when I call. I can count on you. And you can work with the little ones."

I have to chew on that a bit. I dislike being reliable. I'm selfish, I want to stay home and read, eat, drink and sleep on Sundays. I don't want to drive beyond Frederick and stand on a firing line for four hours. (Ha! More like five or six if there are families in no hurry to be elsewhere when the program ends.) But little ones?

I sigh and gather my gear. I can't help it. I recall the all too few times some grownup took a moment to teach me something I was interested in. I can't shake the feeling I owe someone for those rare moments. I got an obligation. I drive south with Post Apocalypse Steampunk rattling the van windows.

"Letters Between A Little Boy And Himself As An Adult" by Robert Brown blares out of the van having engulfed me.



Dear Mr. Brown
One day I'll be you and
Although I'm only eight now
You need to hear my rules
Never stop playing
Never stop dreaming and
And be careful not to
Turn into what I'd hate

Robert strikes a chord old Henry never got close to. I'm in a better mood by the time I'm carrying my gear onto the archery range. While I'm supposed to be teaching the little ones proper bow technique they are constantly reminding me that every arrow doesn't have to slam into the same hole. That, sometimes, just being out among people with similar interests is enough. That laughing at a mistake is better than brooding over it and allowing it to become frustration. Sometimes they even get me to laugh.

I was formally introduced to the bow in high school, though I'd played with them much earlier. The kids I work with tend to be in elementary school and seldom have held a bow. Some of them might have tried their hand at shooting while at "camp", but in general, archery isn't something they've had a chance to experience. They aren't growing up, as I did, with TV and movies that intrigue them with bows and arrows. Which is more than a little amusing as bows have been around for as long as 20,000 years (or 6,000 years as some of my Creationist theory kids have reminded me) and are as readily available to today's children as they

ever were. Not so the futuristic super-military weapons kids see in today's movies and video games. (I hear Ben's stern voice in my head. "We don't use that word here. Bows, in this program, are hunting tools designed to take game. Weapons are tools designed to kill people.")

I shoot at paper, or a plastic bag in a field. I've little interest in hunting and much in perfecting myself by way of the bow. I've found the astonished look on a 4 year old's face, when the arrow they launched actually hits the target, to be a large part of my perfecting. I never got a feeling of accomplishment, of having passed along some "ancient" skill, watching my kid play a video game.

There aren't many places around here for children to encounter archery on a level they can participate in. The IWLA is 30 miles south, the Gettysburg club is 15 minutes north and most everything between those two is geared for adults. A new bow shop did recently open, D.A. Bowshop LLC (over in Barlow) which has a 3 lane indoor archery range. The owners tell me they hope to start a youth league. They enjoy introducing kids to the sport. I'm hoping they're able to get something going for the kids.

While I'd happily string a bow and let the town's kids set some arrows free, trying to catch me slinging arrows locally can be a daunting task.

To read past editions of *The Village Idiot* visit the *Authors* section of *Emmitsburg.net*.

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ARTS

Civil War equestrian watercolors

Rebecca Pearl has been a professional artist for over 25 years and currently owns and operates an art gallery near the square in Emmitsburg. She is primarily a painter working in watercolor, pastel and oil. Twice per week, she teaches drawing and painting to adults and children on all different levels of art experience.

Rebecca Pearl is aware of the special 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. Her farm is only 10 miles from the battlefield, and she felt a special call to explore the national landmark.

According to the Rebecca: "I began visiting the battlefield, a location of which had been unfamiliar to me. On the first visit, I was struck by the majesty of the equestrian mon-

uments, which seemed to bring the place to life. This was not surprising because I own and love horses and do my share of riding for pleasure. About 5 years ago, I was lucky enough to receive a retired U.S. Park Police horse named Gilbert Stuart Washington. Last year, I rescued a very sweet Thoroughbred off the racetrack. His name is Lionete.

"The first monument that I was drawn to was due to the unusual pose of the horse. His neck is arched and the front legs are straight with the back legs severely back. As I approached the statue and could read the words on the supporting pedestal, I learned that this was



Major General Oliver Otis Howard

Major General Oliver Otis Howard who served on the Union Side of the Civil War mostly in a supportive role, but did become a commander before General Hancock took over in the Gettysburg conflict. He was known as the 'Christian General,' because after he lost an arm in a previous battle, the empty sleeve of his uniform a pocket was sewn to house a small bible as he went into war.

"After the war, he became commissioner of the Freedman's Bureau in Washington D.C which later became Howard University & Hospital, of which Howard was a co-founder. The general lived into his 70s, writing over 10 books and dedicating his time to the rehabilitation of African Americans and Native Americans."

Rebecca is in the process of completing 10 watercolors of all the Equestrian Monuments on the Gettysburg Battlefield, including a painting of Joshua Chamberlain with his horse. These works are unique because she has the color, transparency and movement to bring these figures to life.

Rebecca comments, "This project has been voluntary on my part and continues to enrich my knowledge and understanding of this great time in history. This special collection of paintings will be shown for the first time in my Gallery along with a new 'Nativity' painting and other recent works by local artists."

The public is welcome to the gallery's Christmas reception on Friday, Nov 9th from 6-9 pm, for wine, Hors d'oeuvre, and great cheer.

For more information visit RebeccaPearl.com

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Annual Foothills Artists Studio Tour

Kathryn Franke
MSM Class of 2013

Emmitsburg, we have found a wonderful upcoming arts event that we would like to share with you! The Annual Foothills Artists Studio Tour has come to us once again. Although this is the 5th year of the Foothills Artists Studio Tour, many are not aware of this Willow Pond Farm event. It will be held in conjunction with Willow Pond Herb Farm's Holiday Open House, and it will be held on Saturday, November 17th and Sunday, November 18th from 9a.m. until 5p.m. each day. Five local artists will take part in this event by showcasing and selling their fine art and crafts.

Dorothea Barrick is a mixed media artist, painter and teacher. She has her MFA in painting from MICA in Baltimore. She has hosted printmaking workshops with the Carroll County Arts Council in Westminster and the Adams County Arts Council (ACAC) in Gettysburg. Barrick has exhibited her work in different cities in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Having held teaching positions at FCPR, the ACAC and Frederick Community College for both the Institute for Learning and Retirement and Continued Learning, Barrick has years of art experience, which is clearly displayed through her work.

Barrick has been represented at Automatic@Frederick and her work is widely collected by many. At the studio tour, she will offer her prints and plein air paintings. Like last year, this will include oil, acrylic, and watercolor paintings in addition to etchings, monotypes, chine colle prints and pastels. If you would like to view her resume and see some of her work, visit www.hanoverareaarts.com.

When describing the event, Barrick stressed the importance of supporting local artists. She explained, "[When] visiting the famous 200 year old house of the lavender and herb farm, you will have a variety of herbal jellies, honeys, etc. to choose from while sampling herbal cookies, teas and mulled cider. Then, pick up a map to go to the artists' studios. We are all within ten minutes of the farm; this is a great opportunity to see artists in their actual working environment."

Those who participate in the event will have a scenic tour that allows them to experience five wonderful artists at work. Barrick stressed the "great creative variety" that they have on the tour this year, which includes calligraphy, pottery, original hand pulled prints, acrylic and oil plein air paintings, woodturned bowls, watercolors, colored pencil drawings, jewelry and reproduction prints and cards. This variety is sure to draw the interest of just about any arts enthusiast!

Another returning veteran of the studio tour is Jack Handshaw. Handshaw is an accomplished potter who creates one-of-a-kind porcelains using traditional celadon and oxblood glazes. He has been making pottery at Hobbit House Pottery for over 30 years. Handshaw is a juried member of the Pennsylvania Guild of Crafts-

men, and he also belongs to the Adams County Arts Council. At the studio tour, Handshaw will have unique hand thrown and glazed pots, vases and mugs, and other unique ceramic items for sale.

Sheila Waters will be presenting her exquisite calligraphy at the event. Waters is internationally renowned as a calligrapher, artist and miniature painter using illumination. She earned her Masters degree from the Royal College of Art in London. Featured in many books about calligraphy, she has helped spread appreciation of calligraphy across the globe. Waters founded the Washington Calligraphers Guild in 1976 and she teaches both in the United States and internationally. Waters will be displaying many original works along with a variety of signed giclee archival prints that will be available for purchase.

Ann Ruppert of Windborne Farm

is a mixed media artisan whose career has focused on nature in all of its forms. Ruppert will be offering floral bouquets and designs, decorated gourds, paintings and fine silver jewelry. She has created many beautiful botanical watercolors and landscapes that will also be on display at the event.

According to Ruppert, "Attendees will be welcomed into the actual working studios of the artists. The artwork and crafts will be displayed. Most of the artists will have gallery portions of their studios and will also have demonstrations and other displays. All of the artists will be available to answer questions and explain their art. It will be an opportunity for people to interact with the artists and learn more about the creative process and the diverse materials they each use. Many of the artists also teach their various art forms and will provide information about any upcoming classes."

New to the tour this year will be Rod Stabler, a retired cabinetmaker and 5th generation wood worker. Stabler will be selling one-of-a-kind hand-turned bowls and vases that are composed of unusual and colorful woods. At Willow Pond Farm, visitors will be able to purchase herb plants along with many gifts made with herbs. Delicious refreshments made from herbs will also be served, and most individual studios will offer light refreshments. The studios are all located conveniently close to each other and can easily be toured in a day or less.

When asked about her favorite part of the event, Barrick replied, "Welcoming people into my creative area and discussing various techniques of my creations. Since I have been an instructor for many years, I work in three different painting mediums and also have my own printing press for monotypes and etchings."

For Ruppert, her favorite part of the tour is sharing her art with "friends, neighbors and new visitors to [her] studio." Ruppert explains, "It is fun to be able to take time to explain my various art forms to interested guests. I will be offering seasonal floral designs especially for the event and I very much enjoy creating those."

This event will surely be one filled with talent, creativity, and inspiration. This weekend event is free and open to the public, so be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to see some great artwork! Detailed maps for the artist's tour can be picked up at Willow Pond Farm, 145 Tract Road in Fairfield, Pennsylvania. For additional information about the tour, please call 717-642-5436 or visit www.willowpondherbs.com.

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MOUNT SPORTS

Keeping up with Mount sports

Elizabeth Puleo
MSM Class of 2013

With the arrival of November, Mount St. Mary's is always busy. Students are rushing around, panicking about papers due the same day or study guides for exams that seem to go on forever. However, November means that we are more than halfway through the semester and as a senior, I wish time would slow down! Many exciting things have happened on the Mount campus though, especially for our fall sports teams.

Men's golf

The Mount's men's golf team continues to fight to try and defend their conference title. Sophomore Ryan Triller is proving to have another successful season after finishing in sixth place at the Donald Ross Intercollegiate and shooting a career best in the third round. After posting a one-over score of 71 and a three-over score of 73 in the first and second round, Triller went on to shoot a two-under 68 in the third round, finishing with a final of 212. Both senior Andrew Lawton and junior Tonny Aizpun are also doing very well this season. Aizpun completed the match with a final score of 228 after three rounds, with Lawton closely following him with a score of 229. The Mountaineers

will end their fall season by playing at Wendy's Kiawah Island Intercollegiate on October 26.

Women's golf

Marisol Doglioli continues to impress as she leads the Mount's women's golf team to ninth place and seventeenth place finishes in the most recent matches. At the ECAC Championships, Doglioli shot a two-round score of 158, the fifth-best two-round score in program history, finishing in 12th place overall. In the Rutgers Invitational, she posted a 79 in the first round, which is the fifth time this season that she has scored in the 70s during one round. Doglioli finished with a score of 165, placing in 58th. Another player to stand out is freshman Amanda Reach. Within the past two matches, Reach has worked with her teammate to get fabulous scores. She finished the Rutgers Invitational with a final of 167, two points behind Doglioli. The women will close the year at the Sacred Heart Invitational on October 20.

Cross Country

The Mount's Cross Country team is running away with the competition, constantly trying to stay ahead of everyone on the track. Both Tommy Gruschow and Megan Kinsella had fantastic performances at the

Towson Invitational, coming in first place for both the men's and women's team. Gruschow received the honor of being named NEC Cross Country Athlete of the Week while Kinsella grabbed NEC Cross Country Co-Athlete of the Week. Kinsella went on to take a 13th place finish in the 6K race at the George Mason Invitational, running a time of 23:25.5. Sophomore McKenzie Doyle kept a close pace, coming in 17th with a time of 23:38.4. At the Blue and Gold Invitational at the University of Delaware, Gruschow came in second on the 8K course with a time of 25:25.56. Chris Swisko closely followed behind him, placing fifth after running a time of 26:06.26. The cross country team will compete October 27 at the NEC Championships and at the NCAA Mid-Atlantic Regional competition on November 9.

Men's soccer

The men's soccer has had a tough season, but they keep fighting on. Dennis Zoncher has been very successful this season, scoring a goal in the game against St. Francis of New York and also in the game against LIU Brooklyn. Zoncher and Jimmy Ockford had a team-high since early 2011 of four shots. In the match against Bryant, Zoncher scored a goal during a penalty kick and then helped with an assist. In that same game, Matthew Steele also made an assist and then went on to make a goal of his own. Mark Plaisance made a goal in the victory against Bryant and scored the only goal in the game against Monmouth. Goalkeeper Peter Steve made a total of three saves during that game. The seniors Nick Chiarella, Will Jagger, Alex Ockford and Peter Steve are making the best of their final year here at the Mount, so let's cheer them on as they continue with their season! Games to look out for are Sacred Heart at Mount St. Mary's on November 2 and the Mountaineers at St. Francis (PA) on November 4.

Women's soccer

The Mount women's soccer team has been busy this season. The group is playing well together and each player is stepping up to make a difference in the games. Kelly Baker made two goals in the game against VMI, leading her team to a victory. She also



Julian Norfleet looks forward to a successful 2012-13 season for the Mountaineers.

made 5 shots in the match against St. Francis (PA), but the team unfortunately could not get the win. In the team's win against Delaware State, Jackie Corley hit three goals, earning the first hat trick for the Mount since 2005. Keriann McGettigan, Baker, and Ragan Cote were each credited with an assist as a result of Corley's hat trick. Senior Alicia Miranda shot two goals leading the Mountaineers to defeat Fairleigh Dickinson and Robert Morris with the help of juniors Kate Murphy and McGettigan. Senior Andrea Bujajech was also named NEC Co-Defender of the Week after her performance and leadership in the games against Robert Morris and Sacred Heart. Freshman Rachel Bourne and Vicky Cocozza were both recognized as NEC Co-Rookies of the Week. The duo has been unstoppable this season, sharing time as goalkeepers. Bourne has an average save percentage of .700 while Cocozza has an average of .792.

Swimming

The Mount's Swim team began their season at the Potomac Relays in Washington, D.C. Freshman Anne Thelan and Kaitlyn Powell teamed up with Erin Regan and Cat Copley, taking third place in the 500-free relay with a time of 4:48.00. The duo of Regan and Powell also swam in the 1000 free, finishing with a time of 10:51.22 and taking fourth place. In the meet against St. Francis (PA), Regan made a splash for the Mount, winning two of her events, the 200 fly (2:11.47) and the 500 free (5:16.95). Meets to look forward to are the meet against VMI and McDaniel on October 27, and the Radford Invitational on November 15-16.

Basketball

Basketball season is quickly approaching! Time to get your Mount Pride on and prepare for some intense games. Under new head coach Jamion Christian, a 2004 Mount graduate, and Assistant Coach Ben Wilkins, the team has undergone a complete change and is expected to be better than ever this season.

"The expectations for this season are for fans to see a rejuvenated program and enjoy a special brand of fast pace basketball," according to junior Julian Norfleet, who led the Mount in scoring with 13.7 points per game last year. New-comers to watch out for are Rashad Whack and Sam Prescott.

The Mountaineers' first game is at Pitt on November 9 and they open the season at the Mount on November 13 against Hartford at 7 p.m.

But let's not forget the women's basketball team, who made it to the NEC Quarterfinals last season but unfortunately lost to Quinnipiac. This year, Coach Bryan Whitten and new Assistant Coach Gayle Coats hopes to get use last year's loss as motivation to improve the team's standing this season. Senior Sydney Henderson, who led the team last season in rebounds, admits she is determined to win. "The expectations for the team this season are very high. We all have that one main goal at the end of the season, and that is to win the NEC championship."

Their season starts with two away games at Maryland on November 9, and Rider on November 16. They return to the Knott Arena against Campbell on November 19.

For more information or updates on the Mountaineers, please go to www.mountathletics.com.

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Tortilla pie

Alexandra Tyminski
MSM Class of 2015

I'll never forget the day I spent Thanksgiving with Judy Caplinger and her two German Shepherds. Freddy's Fast Food Kitchen was not the most ideal restaurant to be eating at.

I slid into the seat next to the door and watched everything take place: the couple by the back corner arguing over whose family they are going to visit for Christmas, the older bearded bikers with bandanas and gladiator sunglasses behind me, some young teenage girls huddled around a table chatting about which prom dress they will get in the spring, and a young woman with what seems to be mid-30 year old woman. She was dressed in a sophisticated outfit: a yellow blouse, a black blazer, and high heels that probably made her as tall as a professional basketball player. I wondered why a classy and stylish young woman found herself in a fast food hangout on Thanksgiving, though I was in no place to judge because I was a big eyed, brown-haired, freckled 21-year-old college student stranded here, too.

"Are you ready to order?" the short plump waiter asked me.

"Uh, um no not really, but can I have an iced tea?" I said hesitantly. The waiter left, and I brought myself back to reality. Suddenly, I jumped out of my seat because I was so startled. My phone read "DAD" in all caps.

"Hey dad!" I tried to sound like everything was going ok.

"Sasha, where are you? You were supposed to be home for Thanksgiving two hours ago," he said worriedly.

"Look dad, there um well you see," I began to stutter. I could feel my nervousness start to surface. "There was traffic!" I said eagerly, as if that was a great explanation for my lateness.

"Is everything okay? Do you need someone to come pick you up?"

"No, no I'm fine. I'm a responsible adult I can handle getting back home on my own. I won't be too much longer," I said, lying through my teeth.

"Okay, well your brother just got here and his girlfriend is arriving sometime later. Just make sure that you can try and get here before she does," my dad said seriously.

"Yeah yeahh, Okay well I have to go, and don't worry. I'm going to make it," I assured him.

I shut my phone before he could even say goodbye. I grabbed a napkin from the napkin holder and pulled out a pen from my backpack. I started to write down my next steps, and I slowly found myself reading these steps out loud.

"Call tow truck, call friends to complain to them, call my brother? No, that doesn't seem right. Okay let's try this again. Call tow truck, eat, and take a bus." I had a hard time concentrating when the bikers behind me kept talking about the cute waitress at the front counter. Ugh, my dad finally bought me my first car and told me that I had to take care of it, and I didn't. If I call him now, he is definitely going to take the car away from me. Not to mention, I would not hear

live two more hours away, but I need to get home!" I blurted out in hysterics. "Hi, I'm Sasha Wollencomb by the way," I said.

She stared at me blankly as if that was more than she wanted to know.

"Let's start with this. Hi, I'm Judy Caplinger. Since you're wondering why I'm here, I am traveling to a friend's house for Thanksgiving, and I'm actually headed towards a small town called Ocean View. I've never been there, but I'm taking a short break before I hit the road again," She replied openly. Wow, this lady was extremely nice. Why wasn't everyone like this?

"Wait, you are? That's where I live! What a small world! Do you think I could possibly get a lift with you? I'll pay for gas," I was hopeful that she would say yes.

"Yeah, sure thing, I don't actually usually talk to strangers, but you seem like you could really use some help. I'll call my friend and let him know I will be running a little late," she said.

"Oh my gosh! Thank you!" I instantly lit up and gulped down my iced tea. I slid out of the booth and grabbed my purse. "Oh wait, first of all, you don't drive fast, do you Judy? Oh, I can call you Judy right?"

"No I don't, you will be fine! And yes, you can call me Judy," she chuckled.

I left to use the restroom and came back to find that Judy had paid for my iced tea. We piled into her turquoise green Subaru, but it was hard not to notice her two German Shepherds in the backseat.

"Uh Judy, what are those dogs doing here? Are they yours?" I asked her.

"I work for an animal shelter, and I asked my friend if I could bring them since I have to take care of them this week. The all-white one named Juno and the colored one named Kulu," she said nonchalantly as if everyone brought their rescue dogs to their friend's house for a national holiday.

"Well, he must be a good friend to let you bring those dogs over for Thanksgiving," I said sarcastically.

"Oh he definitely is," she replied with the biggest smirk on her face.

We pulled out of the parking lot and on our way we went. I didn't know what to talk to this woman about. Should I ask her about her life? Or is that too personal? She seemed pretty open.

"Sooo yeah I seemed to catch that you referred to your friend as

live two more hours away, but I need to get home!" I blurted out in hysterics. "Hi, I'm Sasha Wollencomb by the way," I said.

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"Sooo yeah I seemed to catch that you referred to your friend as



a 'him.' What's that about? Just friends or best friend? Dating?" I felt a bit nosey.

"Boyfriend. We have been dating for about a year now, and I'm going to meet his family." She seemed excited.

"Wow, well that's fun. Hopefully, you aren't too nervous. I mean, you have been very nice to me. I'm sure they will love you!" I didn't quite know what to say.

"Thanks Sasha," she said. So, I'm guessing that was the end of that conversation.

"Hey, Judy, I'm just going to take a nap. Wake me up when we get to the bridge or if you need any help. Thanks again for everything," I told her.

"No worries, I will let you know when we get there!" Judy responded in that sweet voice of hers.

...

"We're here, Sasha, wake up!" I heard Judy's voice say. Wow, did two hours really go by that fast? I immediately felt the cold wet dog tongue on my face and arose to big white fur of my new German shepherd friend Juno. I opened my eyes and somehow thought I was in a dream.

"Wait. That's Mr. Jay's apple tree, and the Jones's beat up mailbox that has gotten hit too many times to count. And that is most definitely my," I could not even speak.

How did Judy know where I lived? I didn't give her any directions to the exact location of my house. She

pulled directly into my driveway. I looked over at her stunned, and she stared back at me.

"I am so sorry Sasha, I had to stop at my boyfriend's house because I wanted to drop the dogs off first before I took you home," she said. My jaw dropped.

"This is my home," I said seriously. My older brother Wyatt walked out of the front door and behind him was my dad. Oh no, they are going to see me with this stranger. What did I do? Why am I with her? And why does she think her boyfriend lives here? She got out of the car, and so did I.

"Hey Judy!" my brother yelled looking so happy to see this complete stranger. "Dad, this is my girlfriend. Sasha, we are so happy you finally got here!"

"Hi Jeff! I brought you and your family some Tortilla Pie, just thought we could eat it together for Thanksgiving," Judy gave him the food.

I stared at my brother in total shock. So, I was going to have to explain that I just spent two hours with a total stranger who rescues dogs and happens to be my brother's girlfriend. Not to mention, she thinks that tortilla pie is a proper party gift for Thanksgiving dinner. Only two things ran through my head: this must be what a dream feels like, and that tortilla pie has got to good!

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SIMPLE SERVINGS

Robert E. Fritts
Chef, Carriage House Inn

From the archives of Executive Chef Robert E. Fritts emerges an old favorite. Chesapeake Bay Crab Imperial Egg Roll finished with a Raspbeary Sweet Thai Coulis.

First select a traditional egg roll wrapper .Commonly found in a cold display in any produce section of your local Grocer.

Then prepare an egg wash using one whole fresh egg.

Next for the Crab imperial, Select a local blue crab or an Indonesian Blue swimmer crab [cousin to our bay blue crab] At least Lump, I prefer Jumbo lump. Make the mix based on a one pound recipe as follows:

- 4 oz heavy duty Mayo
- 2 oz lemon juice or juice of one lemon [cut in 1/2 and wrap to catch seeds]
- 1 dash Tabasco
- 1 tbl. L&P Worcestershire

- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tbl each fresh parsley and diced red peppers.
- 1/4 teaspoon celery salt
- 1 pinch black pepper

Mix all ingredients thoroughly and then fold into pre picked and pre drained lump crab.

Mix raspbery Melba and sweet Thai sauce 50% /50% to drizzle later. Found in most grocery stores.

Brush the inside of egg roll wrapper with egg wash

Add 3 oz of imperial crab and roll and tuck corners until thoroughly sealed.

Put in preheated fryer oil [350 F]

Hold down below surface as it will try to float. Egg roll must be completely submerged to cook evenly. Fry approximately 10 minutes or until Golden Brown.

Drizzle with Raspbery Sweet Thai Coulees.

The Wine Connoisseur

Being a Thanksgiving superstar

Grace Lauver-Simmons
Hauser Winery

When Robert Frost penned My November Guest is it possible he was thinking of Thanksgiving? "My Sorrow, when she's here with me/Thinks these dark days of autumn rain/Are beautiful as days can be..." Frost had it right, November possess a special quality. The days gets shorter and night becomes darker. November's dark makes the warmth and brightness of our homes beautiful and cozy. Thanksgiving approaches swiftly and we seek to gather together with family and friends to celebrate the bounty and assuredness of the harvest.

Now, what home can be called 'beautiful' or 'cozy' without a couple of excellent bottles of wine lined up for the Thanksgiving feast? Wine is a necessity for living well as it allows us the luxury to pause and savor life if only for an ephemeral second. Thanksgiving is one of those great wine pairing opportunities being one of the more difficult dinners to pair food with wine because of the range of people and dishes. Perhaps Uncle Rob can't drink red wine because it gives him a headache and your sister Beth prefers sweet wine but Aunt Susan can't stand it? So many preferences! It would be easy to give up, buy two boxes of pleasingly palatable wine and call it day. But no! You



can do better than that, you deserve better than that, and the good news is it doesn't have to be hard!

Hauser Estate winery offers a variety of superior wines. Sparkling wine is always appropriate for any occasion. Cava, Champagne and Prosecco all go great with all your favorite junk foods, especially popcorn, because it cuts through the grease with its effervescing bubbles. For the same reason it is a good pairing for virtually any dish, the bubbles make it work. At Hauser Estate we offer a naturally semi-sweet Sparkling Apple wine which can be dialed down in sweetness by adding some festive cranberry cocktail or dialed up by simply adding sugar. Perfect with turkey! Our Sparkling Apple wine is a delicious seasonally appropriate shot at keeping everyone happy.

Speaking of sugar, why not pick up a bottle of The Sweet One for the sweet lovers? It's sure to please with its candy fun, tropical notes and beautiful pink hues. Try it with sweet potatoes and yams! Our 2010 Meritage Reserve is a smooth and mellow red—intri-

cate and complex like November. There are so many different layers that each sip catches the imbibers by pleasant surprise and invites you deeper into its velvety nuances. This wine is perfect for those who love drier reds. Remember, the old rules of red wines with red meat and white with lighter fare such as chicken or fish are meant to be broken. Luscious Meritage will go great with that rich savory gravy slathered all over the turkey, mashed potatoes, and stuffing!

Sometimes it is hard to know how much wine to have on hand! The simple rule is to plan on each guest drinking between two to three glasses each while keeping in mind that each bottle holds about four to five glasses of wine. Please accept all of our warmest wishes to you and yours for a warm and bright Thanksgiving from us here at Hauser Estate Winery. Let us all be thankful for harvest and bounty in our lives.

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IN MY OWN WORDS

Remembering what unites us

Nick Pane

Over 65 million viewers tuned in to watch President Obama and Governor Romney debate foreign policy during the Presidential Debate on October 22nd. It was the third and final debate ahead of another incredibly important election, as Americans will take to the polls in just a few days. There were few surprises during the debate itself, as the two opponents squared off by taking jabs at each other's policies and consistently falling off-topic. Meanwhile, Republicans and Democrats alike took to social media to spar over who was "winning" the debate.

As far as I could tell it was more of the same, as an estimated 6.5 people used Twitter during the debate to be passively aggressive about their political views. Some were surely trying to point out flaws in what the candidates were saying. Others were probably more interested in ruffling the feathers of friends and family members by voicing their opinions. To me, it's all pointless banter, and if the intent is to get someone to think twice about who they may vote for, berating the policies of any given candidate instead of praising the credentials of your preferred candidate doesn't seem to be the best approach. However, as the debate was drawing to a close, Twitter exploded and news stations everywhere had some extra material to work with.

Ann Coulter, a staunch conservative, did what she does best, and stirred the pot. At approximately 10:22 p.m., minutes before Obama and Romney would give their closing statements, Coulter tweeted the following: "I highly approve of Romney's decision to be kind and gentle to the retard", where "retard" is quite obviously directed at the president. It's a tweet that basically epitomized everything about the entire election process. It was a microcosm of what has transpired since before Romney became the GOP candidate, and perhaps an even larger timeframe than that.

From conservatives slamming Obama for his "you didn't build that" comment to liberals getting a good laugh about Romney's "binders full of women" remark during the second debate, there have been countless instances where the two parties have clashed with each other based on anything that a high ranking politician has said. For months now, any time Obama or Romney has opened their mouth to say something, it goes under the microscope and is so extensively analyzed, you would think they were looking for a cure for a disease.

Let me preface the rest of this article by pointing out that I consider myself neither a conservative, nor a liberal. It seems conservatives and liberals spend most

of their time despising each other and finding new ways to tell each other how wrong they are. It's a battle that is as close to being resolved as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, so I've abstained from getting involved. However, Coulter's tweet directed at the president is sickening. Not only does it degrade the president in the most unprofessional of ways, it unnecessarily insults those with mental and intellectual disabilities. Coulter showed such poor judgment that John Franklin Stephens, a Special Olympics Athlete, felt the need to respond to her with an incredibly heartfelt letter that practically challenged her to be a better person. Chew on that for a little while.

Though people like Coulter are in the minority, the context of what she said is hardly a surprise anymore. The voting process has changed, as I've met numerous people who refuse to reveal to anyone who they are voting for in order to avoid the subject. For the staunch members of each political party, not only will they tell you who they are voting for, they are always prepared to blast the candidate that they will not be voting for. Forget the fact that it's impossible to please everyone; no liberal will discuss Romney's success with Bain Capital and his plan in the private sector without talking about the lack of revenue that was generated for his investors, while conservatives would rather look at the growing deficit and lack of jobs created under Obama, instead of recognizing Obama's success in saving the auto industry and ending the war in Iraq. People only see what they

want to see, and we are a divided nation because of it.

How did we get to this point? Maybe I'm a little naive, and just haven't been around long enough, but I get the sense that as recently as 20 years ago, a lot of people simply voted for the presidential candidate that made the most sense for the good of the country, and political party didn't have as much to do with it. Now, conservatives and liberals take their respective parties so seriously, they would rather verbally attack each other instead of compromising. This country seems to have forgotten a thing or two, and with an important holiday approaching just as the election process ends, I want to bring something into perspective for liberals and conservatives everywhere.

Five days after the election, America will recognize the national holiday of Veterans Day, and a lot of liberals and conservatives will get a day off from work on November 12th. Veterans Day honors all veterans that have fought in our country's wars to uphold and protect the values and freedoms bestowed upon us when this great country was founded over 200 years ago. To me, Veterans Day is one of our most significant holidays, as liberals and conservatives everywhere can use the day to reflect and think about our armed forces. Whether they returned home or made the ultimate sacrifice, these are the people that best represent this country.

Just for a second, forget about all of the politicians in Washington, D.C., and remember the soldiers that should have just graduated high school, but were instead storm-



The last reunion of Blue and Gray at Gettysburg. In the end, they were all Americans.

ing the beaches of Normandy. Remember Japan's cowardly sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, and America's entrance into the Pacific Theater in 1941. Remember the guerrilla warfare of the Vietcong, and America's best efforts to prevent the spread of communism into East Asia and the South Pacific. Perhaps most important of all, remember Christmas night 1776, when General Washington crossed the Delaware River, completely catching British and German soldiers off guard in a crucial victory for the Continental Army in Trenton.

Not only are these a few significant moments in our country's history, they mark moments when this country was united as one. In times of war, few are concerned with political parties, as the focus is to keep America safe. If you ask me, it's really a shame that it takes a war or other form of conflict to bring this coun-

try together. When there is peace, we go right back to where we started, breaking off into our political parties, and hating each other. The dust settles, the soldiers that were lucky to survive come home, and people go right back to replacing American with liberal or conservative.

The least we can do is take time out of our day on November 11th to pay homage to the brave men and women that have served, and allow us to go about our lives in the manner that we do. It feels ironic in a way, but once a war ends, everybody can go back to Twitter and blast different policies and political agendas again. Just remember, when you hit those polls, you and everyone else there is an American, and who you select will never change that.

To read more articles by Nick Pane, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Oh, my aching neck!

Renee Lehman

I am putting on my physical therapy hat for this specific article because I see so many people with poor posture while using their modern electronic devices. What position are you in while reading this article? What is your posture while using your smartphone, tablet, or other electronic technology? Chances are you are standing, or leaning over a table, or in a chair, slouched or slumped over, your head projected forward, and your shoulders rounded forward. Am I right? Also, consider how much time you are spending each day using your electronic technology.

A national survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that the amount of time young people spend with entertainment media has risen dramatically, especially among minority youth. The survey showed that 8-18 year-olds use their entertainment media an average of 7 hours and 38 minutes on a typical day (more than 53 hours a week) (Generation M²: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-Olds, January 2010). This data was collected from 1999, 2004, and 2009. Imagine the amount of time that our youth might even be spending on their electronic technology to-

day in 2012! And, it is not just children. The average amount of data used on a smartphone tripled from 2010 to 2011, according to Cisco's Global Mobile Data Traffic Forecast Update (www.cnn.com).

Whether or not you have experienced this already, the fact is that this "position over time" will cause tight neck and back muscles, stiff neck, headaches, other neck and spine pain, and possibly other bodily issues.

Forward Head

The average human head weighs 10 pounds in a neutral position -- when your ears are over your shoulders. When your head is held in a position in which your ears are forward of your shoulders, this is called Forward Head. For every inch you shift or tilt your head forward, the pressure on your spine doubles. So if you're looking down at a smartphone, your neck is holding up what feels like 20 or 30 pounds. (see Figure 1)

All that extra pressure puts a strain on your spine and can pull it out of alignment. You could compare the Forward Head position to bending back your finger all the way and holding it there for a long time. As the tissues are stretched for a prolonged period of time, they get sore and in-

flamed. Staying in the Forward Head position can lead to muscle strain, disc herniations, pinched nerves, and other problems. Over time, it can even flatten the natural C-curve of your neck.

What is the C-curve? It is the natural curvature in the neck with the open part of the C directed toward the back of the neck. This curve is important to be maintained so that you have proper flexibility, and range of motion with your neck. Also, a nice C-curve in the neck creates a relaxed spinal cord. Flattening it out straight creates tension. This tension causes stress to the spinal cord, and therefore inhibits nervous system function.

So, along with spinal issues, what are the other issues that Forward Head can lead to? Renee Cailliet, MD, (former Director of the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department at the University of Southern California) has written that Forward Head may result in the loss of 30% of vital lung capacity. These breath-related effects are primarily due to the loss of the C-curve, which prevents the muscles of the neck to properly lift the first rib during inhalation. The entire gastrointestinal system (particularly the large intestine) may become agitated from Forward Head,



resulting in sluggish bowel movements (Cailliet R, and Gross L, Rejuvenation Strategy, 1987).

In some of his brain research, Roger Sperry, PhD (Nobel Prize Recipient for Brain Research), found that only 10% of the brain's energy output has to do with thinking, metabolism, and healing; whereas, the other 90% of the brain's energy output is used to relate the physical body to gravity. Dr. Sperry also discovered that "90% of the stimulation and nutrition to the brain is generated by the movement of the spine." Our modern posture (Forward Head) has essentially incapacitated this normal spinal movement. Consequently, a Forward Head posture will cause the brain to rob energy from thinking, metabolism, and immune function to deal with abnormal gravity/posture relationships and processing.

To evaluate yourself for Forward Head do the following: place your heels against a wall. You should be able to touch the wall with your tail bone, your upper back and the back of your head (without projecting your chin forward).

If you have any of the above mentioned physical problems that are associated with a Forward Head posture, try the following exercises. The Chest stretch -- stand up tall and bring your arms behind you, clasping one hand inside the other; gently lift your chest and raise your arms backwards and upwards slightly (while keeping your chin tucked down and back). Hold for 20 seconds and repeat three times. Another Chest stretch -- face a corner in the room and place each forearm on a wall. Place one foot in front of the other and slowly stretch by leaning the body forward towards the wall; keep your chin tucked down and back. Hold for 20 seconds and

repeat three times. Shoulder roll -- stand upright; slowly roll shoulders backward 20 times in circular motion.

So what can you do to prevent the Forward Head posture? The best way to prevent Forward Head is to limit the use of your entertainment device/smartphone. If you need to send a longer e-mail, consider waiting until you have access to a computer, or use an external keyboard. When using your modern technology, sit up straight with your shoulder blades pulled back/towards each other. Bring your arms up in front of your eyes so that you don't need to look down to see the screen (there is a new mobile application to remind you of this, called the Text Neck Indicator). Tuck your chin back and into your chest to look down rather than dropping your head forward. Place a pillow on your lap and then rest your forearms on the pillow while typing to help minimize neck tension. Make sure that you take breaks from your entertainment devices about every 20 - 30 minutes. Avoid using your modern technology while in bright sunlight. This causes you to strain to see the screen, which leads to jutting the chin forward, shifting work from the spine to the muscles that hold up the head.

Finally, and I think best of all, put the modern technology on the desk, go outside for a walk, breathe in some fresh air, and take in the beauty of the natural world around you!

Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with over 25 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg, PA. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.

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FITNESS

Keep Moving A healthy Thanksgiving meal

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

Each year I have a request to reprint my Thanksgiving article and each year I add the new information I've learned. I hope this will help you if you want to make this traditional meal a little healthier for your family.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Have you thought about this year's biggest family gathering? The menu for this meal usually remains about the same from year to year. This year make a few little changes to make the meal healthier. Of course, the turkey is the main attraction. Make sure you get a lean turkey that is low in fat. Most of the fat in poultry is in the skin. You need the skin while roasting for a juicy, tender bird, but before you slice it, remove the skin. That will take the temptation away from those folks who tend to tear off a piece when they slip into the kitchen to see how things are going. A way to add a little more spice to the bird is to loosen the skin and inject your favorite seasonings or herbs. You can also add a little low fat butter for extra flavor.

Dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, warm bread and dessert are also part of the traditional meal. I'm not saying don't have these favorites; just alter the way they are prepared. Use fat free milk and low fat butter in your mashed potatoes. Even better, try mashed sweet potatoes or mashed cauliflower. Try whole grain bread for the dressing. Whole grains are much healthier than processed white bread and supply added fiber. You can also sprinkle flaxseed meal or wheat germ to add a bit of nutty flavor and nobody will be the wiser. Gravy is one of the most important parts of this meal. Let your broth set for a while till it forms a solid skim on top. Remove this and you will have broth with much less fat. The gravy still tastes the same, without the fat. Gravy can even be made a day or two early to save you time on the big day. The warm bread can be a variety of different whole grain buns. This way, everybody gets their favorite kind such as wheat, rye, pumpernickel and now even whole grain white. Add a big salad to this year's menu or a veggie tray with low fat dip. People usually think of salad

as a summertime dish with burgers at a cookout. Cooked seasoned veggies such as squash, carrots and cauliflower are also a great combination if you prefer hot vegetables. One half of your plate should be filled with veggies. Raw vegetables give you the most nutritional value. Have them on the table or the kitchen counter for your family and guests to nibble while the main meal is being prepared. They will fill up on these and maybe not eat as much later. Supply a variety of vegetables to pick from. Hopefully, you will have at least one kind that the kids like.

DESSERT! Some people live for the Thanksgiving Dessert Table. That's OK. Give yourself a treat. Just look over everything carefully, and decide what you really want. Maybe even sample a few different kinds. Try cutting the slices in half. That way you can try a bigger variety. Watch out for the pumpkin pie, you know who you are! Preparing a small plate of dessert for your guests to take home is also a thoughtful way to let them sample everything, just not all at one time. They can take a little piece of Thanksgiving home to remember for the rest of the holiday weekend. This way you do not have all of that dessert leftover and tempting you. Your waistline will thank you later.

Check into some small changes in the recipe that will make a big difference in the fat and sugar content of the dessert. Tofu is a great way to add that creamy texture to your pies, cakes and cookies, while lowering the fat and raising the protein. Flaxseed meal can also be added to pies and cakes to give your family that added health benefit without them even knowing it is there. Applesauce in place of oil is another helpful, healthy hint. SUGAR is a big ingredient that packs on the pounds. Add a little less sugar to your recipes and you may just discover you didn't need all that the recipe called for anyway. Check out your grocery store's healthy cooking aisle for alternatives to sugar. Remember, fresh seasonal fruit also makes a great dessert. Fruit has natural sugar but is has much less calories than desserts made with sugar.

Finally, start a new Thanksgiving Tradition. I know people like to watch the football games on Thanksgiving Day but maybe you can talk them into playing a little tag football themselves. If you have a Wii, maybe you can play a game on it to get them moving. Taking a walk after your meal is a great idea. I know how everybody feels after eating a big meal, all the more reason to get moving. Just today someone said they read my last article and I told them I would be sending

in the Thanksgiving Dinner hints and suggestions for the November article and he told me people should eat dinner then take a walk around town. I was so glad to hear him say that because now I know people are really reading my ideas and remembering them. Take the whole family for a walk in the brisk, fall air. Share this time and walk off some of those extra pounds you just consumed. If you can't get the whole family involved, pick a friend or family member that you would like to spend a little extra time with. Share conversation, ideas and just time with them. If you can't get outside for a walk use the treadmill or an exercise tape. Don't have a machine or tape, just dance. You will have fun and bring the family together. These tips are not just for Thanksgiving. They work well for Christmas or any holiday gathering.

Think about giving the gift of health this year. Gift certificates to an exercise program may get a person into a lifetime of health. Get yourself and someone you love into exercising. That is the best thing you can do for yourself and your loved ones. Call me to explore the benefits of an exercise program designed just for you. 717-334-6009

"KEEP MOVING", you'll be glad you did.

Fitness Matters

Inga Olsen
Certified Fitness Trainer

Question: What's best for vegetables—fresh or frozen?

Answer: Vegetables are vegetables. The key here is that you're eating them—be it fresh or frozen. When eating fresh vegetables, choose ones that are in season for enhanced flavor. If choosing to cook your vegetables, remember that the vitamin and mineral content of produce is greatly influenced by high temperatures, exposure to light, and acidity. To maximize the nutritional value of cooked vegetables, here are a couple key recommendations:

- Cook your vegetables for as short amount of time as possible. Hallelujah for the microwave!
- Minimize the amount of water used to cook vegetables to prevent leaching of nutrients into cooking water.

As winter approaches and farmer's markets become a fleeting memory, so does access to fresh produce. Turning to frozen vegetables is a viable replacement during those cold winter months, as vegetables are flash frozen at their nutrient rich peak. Maximum nutritional value and a lower price (generally) - you can't beat that!

Question: How do you replace white flour with whole-wheat flour in a baking?

Answer: The major motivator for replacing white flour with whole-wheat flour is the obvious nutritional advantage. Whole grains can help lower blood pressure, reduce risk of chronic disease, aid in weight maintenance, and provide additional fiber. So why not bake a little extra healthiness into your favorite foods? Sounds easy, right? Not

exactly. Whole-wheat flour behaves very differently in a recipe than white flour. Therefore, certain adjustments must be made when substituting whole wheat for white. First off, substituting whole-wheat flour for white flour one-to-one is a no go. Whole-wheat flour absorbs much more liquid, so it may be necessary to add more liquid or decrease whole-wheat flour by ¼ cup. Now I must provide this disclaimer - the texture of baked products is altered when whole-wheat flour is used in place of white. When using whole-wheat flour, the product becomes denser. This is because the germ, a component of

the wheat that is removed from white flour during milling, inhibits gluten formation. Gluten is a protein that makes extensive networks, assisting baked products in rising. Less gluten = less rise and therefore a less fluffy product. The food industry and sensory scientists have been working for years to successfully create a whole-wheat product with the same texture as white flour. We're still waiting! In the meantime, a good way to combat this texture issue is to compromise - use half white flour and half whole-wheat flour. You get the added nutritional benefit, and the product remains edible. You can also try adding a tad bit more baking powder or baking soda (other key players in leavening that baked good).

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ASTRONOMY

The night sky of November

Professor Wayne Wooten

The Waning gibbous Moon will be very close to Jupiter on November 1st, with an occultation of Jupiter visible from South Africa. Both rise in the northeast at 9 PM locally. The first two weeks of November will thus find the Moon waning in the evening skies. November 4th marks the day to fall back to CST for 2012. The last quarter moon rises about midnight on November 7th. The waning crescent moon passes 5 degrees south of brilliant Venus in the dawn sky on November 11th. New moon is November 13th, and produces a total solar eclipse for the south Pacific and NE corner of Australia. The slender crescent moon on November 15th marks Muslim New Year, the year 1434 AH in their chronology. The Moon passes 4 degrees north of Mars low in the SW on November 16th. The slender crescent moon sets about 9 PM on November 17th, and will not interfere with the peak for the Leonid Meteor Shower, which will peak in the morning hours for the next few days. The Moon is first quarter on November 20th. The moon is full, the Frosty Moon, falling on November 28th; it passes just a degree south of bright Jupiter on November 29th.

We are gradually losing Mars in the SW during November. It races the sun eastward daily, but will become lost in its glare by the end of the year. Giant Jupiter dominates the NE sky in Taurus in November late evenings; it reaches opposition on December 3rd, rising in the east at sunset. Any small scope will reveal what Galileo marveled at four hundred years ago; four large moons, all bigger or similar to ours in size, orbit it in a line along Jupiter's equator. Venus rises before dawn on November mornings,



The dust lanes of the almost edge on Silver Dollar spiral galaxy NGC 253 are shown nicely in this photo.

and passes a half degree south of Saturn in the dawn skies on November 27th.

Setting in the southwest is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way Galaxy, but the best view of our Galaxy lies overhead now. The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the sky in the northwest. To the northeast of Vega is Deneb, the brightest star of Cygnus the Swan. To the south is Altair, the brightest star of Aquila the Eagle, the third member of the three bright stars that make the Summer Triangle so obvious in the NE these clear

autumn evenings.

Overhead the square of Pegasus is a beacon of fall. South of it is the only bright star of Fall, Fomalhaut. If the southern skies of Fall look sparse, it is because we are looking away from our Galaxy into the depths of intergalactic space. A real treat is NGC 253, the Silver Dollar Galax. Our photo for this shows the dust lanes of this almost edge on spiral galaxy nicely; it is easy to spot in binoculars.

The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W, rising in the NE as the Big Dipper sets in the NW. Polaris lies about midway between them. She

contains many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE

corner star of Pegasus' Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million light years distant.

To the northeast, Andromeda's hero, Perseus, rises. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth. Check it out on a clear November evening, and see it the gorgon is winking at you. If so, then instead of being as bright as Polaris, Algol fade to be only as bright as kappa Persei, the star just to its south. Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster to rise, a sure sign of bright winter stars to come. In fact, yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, rises at 7 PM as November begins along the northeastern horizon. It is the fifth brightest star in the sky, and a beacon of the colorful and bright winter stars to come.

Farmers' Almanac

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Showers, with some snow in the northern region (1,2,3) turning fair and cool (4,5,6,7). Light snow in the north, showers in the south (8,9); cloudy, cool (10,11,12,13) with again, light snow in the north and showers in the south (14,15). Fair and cool (16,17,18) with heavy snow in the north rain or snow in the south (19,20,21). Fair, windy, and colder (22,23,24,25,26,27) with more snow in the north some rain in the south (28,29,30).

Full Moon: November's Full Moon occurs on the 28th at 9:46AM. It has become known as the Dying Grass Moon or Falling Leaf Moon because colder days and killing frost have killed the grass and the last leaves are

falling from the trees though some Native Americans called it Big Wind Moon, because of the high winds this time of year,

Holidays: Election Day falls on Tuesday, November 6th. This year, we are voting for president but every year, it is most important that we all exercise our right to shape our great nation. Veteran's Day is celebrated on Sunday, November 11th. We must never forget that it was through their sacrifice and continued commitment that we have the freedom to do what we want to do, say what we want to say, and be who we want to be. Make a pledge to live up to the gift of liberty every day. Celebrate Thanksgiving this year on Thursday, November 22nd. Be sure to spend quality time with

loved ones and share in the great bounty that our rich land provides us all.

The Garden: Even though lawns rest in winter, they still need all the winter sunlight they can get so don't put away the rake until all of the leaves and pine needles have fallen and you can remove them. Keep watering until the ground temperature reaches 40 degrees F. Fall flowers, like Sedum and Chrysanthemum, should be dead-headed before the first killing frost. Now is the time to start those forced bulbs that were placed in a cool area in August or September. If you've decided to store your bulbs indoors for the winter, try storing them in a pail filled with sawdust after they have dried off from being in the ground. Paint fences with wood preservative now that leaves have fallen and plants are not obstructing them.

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COMPUTER Q&A

How to talk to your tech support

Aysë Stenabaugh,
Jester's Computer Tutor

Sometimes we know exactly what is going on and have no clue exactly how to say it. Like that time you took your car to your mechanic and embarrassed yourself trying to describe the noise it was making that doesn't seem to exist anymore. Taking your computer or electronic device doesn't have to be quite as hard if you know how to say what you want to say. Follow this techie's talking guide to make sure you get all your computer or device problems solved in one visit!

Tip 1: Everyone's computer is different

Sometimes when we describe a problem or situation we assume that everyone will know exactly what we are referring to. For example let's say you're not receiving any emails. Your tech might ask you what program or service you use to access your email. You might want to respond "I just click on my email icon" but you should respond by saying for example "I click on Outlook" or "I use Internet Explorer to access my Gmail account".

In order for a technician to solve your problem they need to know exactly what YOU are doing. Writing down the details that cause your problem to arise can help your tech pinpoint the problem in no time. Remember there is almost always several ways to do something on a computer your method might be different than someone else's method.

Tip 2: Make your tech aware of ALL problems

Let's say your computer is running slow and you take it to your local computer shop for a nice yearly clean-up. When you get the call that your computer is done, you pick it up and run home ready to indulge in the Facebook gossip only to open up your browser and find the page won't load. Your computer could have hundreds of applications that may or may not show symptoms of issues if not brought to your techs attention. While your tech may have cleaned your computer and everything else is running smoothly, you may need to pinpoint specific issues you are seeing in order to get full resolution. Perhaps there is a plug-in that the page you are trying to load that causes that single page not to load. There is no way for your tech to know unless they are aware. We are quite amazing people but we don't have ESP.

Tip 3: Environment can always be a factor

When your computer is at home there may be additional hardware or devices connected to your computer that could be causing your issues. Make your technician aware of any possible conflicting devices that are not being used by the tech if they are unable to diagnose your device in house.

Tip 4: Some solutions are just band aids

Good technicians will give a recommendation for a permanent fix however, we may also offer a solution that

is more budget friendly but may not be permanent. Let us assume that a bad storm has rolled through and the power went out. When it comes back on your computer hangs on a black screen of doom leading you nowhere! You take it to your local tech and they tell you that your hard drive has errors. If there errors are bad enough they might recommend a new hard drive. If it's not pay day yet you might opt to get the errors fixed on your hard drive so that you can get by until then. This type of fix might last a few days of use or perhaps a few years of use. If you're in doubt always ask your tech if there is a better solution or if there is a more cost effective solution depending on your needs.

Tip 5: Know the difference between hardware and software

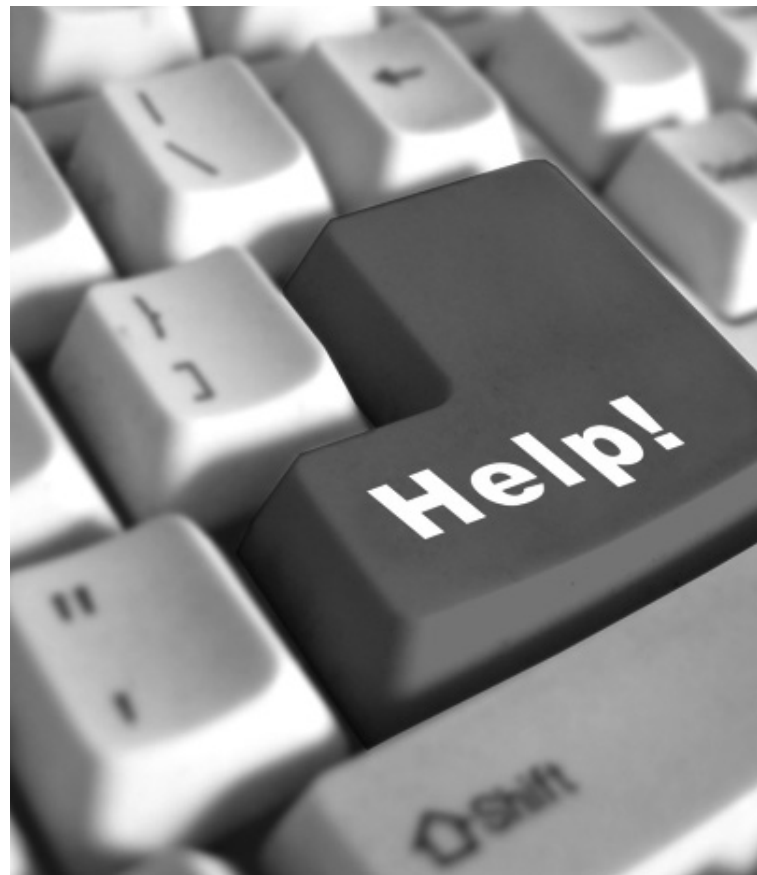
Hardware includes physical devices like your computer, printer, keyboard, and mouse. Software includes the applications you find on your computer like Internet Explorer, Microsoft Word, and QuickBooks. When hardware and software work together the software provides instructions for the hardware. For example, you might go to print something but the printer just won't print. You try it from another computer and the printer works fine so it can't be your printer - it must be the software! Sometimes software can become corrupt or may be incompatible with other software. If you are having problems with a physical device it could be related to the software in your

computer. Don't forget to keep your software handy for times like these!

Tip 6: How to handle the phone call to tech support

Your tech knows how frustrating your computer problems can be after all, we solve them all day long! When you call your tech it's important to be prepared for the conversation. It is important to understand that not all problems can be resolved over the phone. A good tech will provide limited phone support if you're a repeat customer however, you may find it easier to bring the computer in if you are uncomfortable navigating the computer yourself. If you're calling to ask a general question about an error or issue you are having, make sure you write down all the details on how you got the problem and any steps you have already taken to try to resolve it. Make sure you contact your tech while you are in front of the device and are free of any distractions. Also, have a pen and paper handy in case you need to write anything down. Following this advice will make your phone call to support a much more pleasant one.

Note: When calling tech support make sure you are reaching out to the right people. For example: If your computer isn't working properly it's better to call a local tech than your internet provider. Your internet provider may be able to help some however, they are not liable for any damages they do to your computer system and sometimes they can do more harm



than good.

Following the tips above will improve your overall experience the next time your computer needs serviced. If you would like to learn how to use your computer more effectively from the comfort of your own home contact Aysë Stenabaugh

- Jester's Computer Tutor for a one-on-one computer class at (717)435-7463 or help@thecomputertutor.info If you are in need of professional and affordable computer repair services contact Jester's Computers located in Fairfield at (717) 642-6611.

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CONTRACTOR'S CORNER

David E. Little custom painting

Brian Wells
MSM Class of 2015

If you are moving an apartment or home you may find yourself stuck with some else choice of wallpaper or paint, or you may be just want the colors in your older home update. Comfortable furniture is crucial, but the right color can really bring a room together. Colors have meanings, they invoke feelings in a person, they are not always noticed, but they are always there. No one in the local area understands that quite like the area number one and best painter -David Little.

David got into painting straight out of high school, doing something he loved before he even realized he loved it. "I worked for contractors off and on throughout the years...I did anything from carpentry to plumbing, I even did some farm work until I found what I really wanted to do. Everything I tried something differ-

ent, I came back to painting again." David worked on small painting jobs in his birthplace and hometown of Emmitsburg, including painting some dorms at Mount St. Mary's in the 1960's. Decades later, he opened his own painting business in 1990 and has been in business all twenty-two years since. He is a one man show, working tirelessly and meticulously, room by room, one at a time by himself to provide the best possible quality. His portfolio of services include, besides interior and exterior painting—staining; wallpaper removal and hanging, wall repairs, and trim repair or installation.

"I use top of the line paint." David said, "All my materials are top of the line. Whether it's Sherwin-Williams, Duron, Valspar, Behr paints, any of them, but I have my own preference of paint and quality." Little has a swatch with any color you can imagine, and he has the creative in-



genuity to aid you in your decision making. He says he while he prefers not to make the final decisions, he is more than glad to help someone who needs help in being steered in the right direction to bring their vision and hopes to reality. David is great at identifying the color you already have in case there is a stain or a mark that you want painted over. He can get the exact paint you have so that there is no difference between the paint that he uses and the paint you already have, which means there will not be

any noticeable difference indicating a stain was ever there.

David is a humble, self-made local who has no intentions of scamming. There is no reason to worry about getting a quote, because David always has your best interest in mind, but gladly provides estimate for those who ask so they can better understand prices and quality. He charges a lower rate than it would cost to drive down to Frederick to figure everything out by yourself, and there is no reason not to trust

him. In fact, David is considered by his customers as very trustworthy. Customers typically have things to do, and he says customers are very comfortable having him alone in their home. There have even been times where a customer has asked him to walk their dog or even watch their kid in their absence. There is clearly no reason not to trust David Little with the coloring of your home.

Alright, by now you get it. You are reading this and saying to yourself 'sure, he seems like a great guy, but why should I bother getting my home painted now?' and that's certainly a fair question. With the holidays coming up, families and friends visiting from near and far, why not spruce up your house a little bit? Even if you aren't hosting people this year, why not treat yourself to a little change for the holidays? Change now and again is healthy for a person, especially when you are about to be cooped up for the cold winter months. A main concern for customers in the winter is the smell of the paint lingering in the rooms, since no one wants to open up the windows and let the freezing air in it's hard to clear out the scent. Well, David says that the paints he uses have a low VOC content, and that means there is very little scent. Almost unnoticeable.

Besides the crazy holiday rush, households tend to be quieter than usual during the winter months. Kids are away at school, there are not a whole lot of vacations going on, things just seem to move a lot slower. This means there is more time for small odd jobs that have been put off—why not let David take care of some of them? Chances are it will take him much less time, and the job will be much neater. David is very considerate of messes, making sure to leave nothing behind.

David can help you spruce up your home for the holidays, he can help spice up your life with some change of pace, he can get all these jobs out of the way while the house is quiet, he is the go-to painter for Contractor's Corner. When I asked Mr. Little if he likes to paint, his eyes got bright and he said, in a way someone talks about something they are truly passionate about, "I do. Most people don't like it; they'll say 'OH! I hate it! I hate painting' and I say, 'Well that's why you hired me, right?'" This is a man who never overlooks colors.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2
St. Francis Xavier Parish's First Friday Dinner at Xavier Center, 465 Table Rock Road, Gettysburg. For more information call 717-334-4048.

November 3
Strawberry Hill's "Party for the Preserve" - 11th Annual Auction and Social Event. For more information see article on page 1, call 717-642-5840 or visit www.strawberryhill.org

November 3 & 4, 17 & 18
Catocin Mountain Park's Orienteering (Map and Compass Reading) at the Visitor Center. Orienteering classes consist of an indoor slide program that introduces maps and their components as well as the orienteering compass that allows the user to determine the direction of travel. 301-663-9388.

November 4
Incarnation United Church of Christ presents John Martin presenting a concert of "Early Christmas Presents," original Christmas compositions by John. Refreshments will be served following the concert.

November 6 - 10
Fairfield Mennonite Church's 52nd International Gift and Rug Festival - 201 West Main Street, PA 116, Fairfield. For more information call 717-642-8936 or visit www.fairfieldmennonitechurch.org

November 9 & 10
Unitarian Universalists of Gettysburg Holiday Bazaar featuring: New distinctive hand made gifts at best prices for your Holiday shopping. Gently used hardcover books, Tasty baked goods.

136 S. Stratton St., Gettysburg. For more information call 717-624-2094.

November 10
CHS Safe and Sane 2013 Dinner/Dance at the Thurmont Amvets 26 Apples Church Road Thurmont. For Tickets call Laura Knott 240-285-4790
Catocin Youth Association Competition Cheerleading is hosting a Sportsman at the Vigilant Hose Co, Emmitsburg. If interested please contact Penni Wilttrout 301-748-0765 or Carrie Ridenour 240-315-5021.

November 11
7th annual "Hands of a Child" Christmas card project at Incarnation UCC. A service activity for children and teens. Participants will make Christmas cards to be placed in food baskets given out by the Emmitsburg Lions Club and Seton Center. Participants will also enjoy a pizza party courtesy of the Emmitsburg Council of Churches at the end of the activity. For information, registration contact Susan Allen at 301-447-6891 or orusansings@hotmail.com.

Music Gettysburg! presents Daniel Aune, organist and harpsichordist. The Gettysburg premiere of one of the coun-

trys best young keyboardist. Check the Music, Gettysburg! website musicgettysburg.org or call 717-338-3000 extension 2197 to confirm concert times and dates.

November 16
Mother Seton School Scholastic Book Fair. For more info: 301-447-3161 or www.mothersetonschool.org. The book fair supports the library program at Mother Seton School.

November 17
Strawberry Hill's 3rd Annual Twisted Turkey Trail Tussle. For more information on any of these events or to get involved, contact us at 717-642-5840 or visit www.strawberryhill.org.

10th Annual Remembrance Illumination at Soldier's National Cemetery. Each year, the Gettysburg Foundation and the Friends of Gettysburg lights over 3,500 luminary candles. For more information call 717-338-1243 or visit www.gettysburgfoundation.org

Music Gettysburg! presents Haydn Mass in Time of War. The Metta Ensemble and Schola Cantorum perform in observance of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Check the Music, Gettysburg! website musicgettysburg.org or call 717-338-3000

November 22
The 4th annual Emmitsburg Wattle Waddle will be held on Thanksgiving Day morning, Thursday, November 22nd beginning in the Emmitsburg Community Park behind the Town Library. Runners will receive awards by major category and for best Thanksgiving-themed costume. For more information and to register, go to www.EmmitsburgTurkeyTrot.com

November 30
St. Joseph's Ladies Sodality's Christmas Craft Fare at the St. Joseph's Parish Hall. For further information, contact Jane at 717-642-1247.

St. Johns Church in Creagerstown celebrates the beginning of the joyous Advent Season in the beautifully decorated historic St. Johns Union Church at 8619 Blacks Mill Rd. Creagerstown with the Emmitsburg Community Chorus as they begin their Christmas Season.

Seton Center Thrift Shop
\$5.00 BAG SALE
Fri. Nov. 16 - 10am-4pm
Sat. Nov. 17 - 10am-3pm
16840 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727
The Thrift Shop of Seton Center, Inc. is a non-profit ministry of the Daughters of Charity. For more info or to make donations please call: **301-447-6102**

Mother Seton School's Breakfast With Santa & Holiday Bazaar
Saturday, December 8, 2012
8:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Breakfast Menu: Pancakes, Bacon, Scrambled Eggs, Biscuits, Sausage Gravy, Home Fries, Milk/Coffee/Juice
Advanced Ticket Prices: \$6.00 Ages 7 to Adult
\$4.00 Ages 3 to 6 Ages 2 and Under FREE
Please stop by or call MSA Office to purchase tickets in advance 301-447-3161 (Tickets purchased at the door will be \$7.00 ages 7 to adult & \$5.00 ages 3 to 6)
Santa's Workshop for the kids - \$5.00 gift picture taken with Santa - \$5.00
Shop our Holiday Bazaar & with local Crafters and Home Business Consultants.
Free admission to Bazaar
Bake Table with Delicious Baked Holiday Goodies.
Attention: Crafters/Consultants Spaces Still Available. If Interested, Please Contact Lee Royer At 410-756-3189 or weefarm@hiway.net \$25.00 For An 8 Ft. Table.

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MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY



BESSIE ANDREW CELEBRATES 50 YEARS AT THE MOUNT

On Nov. 1, Emmitsburg resident Bessie Andrew marks her 50th anniversary as an employee with the Mount St. Mary's Dining Services. During her half-century of service, Bessie has worked in several of the kitchens and dining halls on campus. These days you can find her in Patriot Hall making waffles in the morning, or handing out cookies or desserts after lunch—always with a smile.

She took a job with the University in 1962 after deciding nursing wasn't the right career path—even though she had passed all of the tests. She says she only planned on staying one year. Since then, the Mount has had seven presidents, earned one national basketball championship, switched from all-male to coeducational and welcomed U.S. Sen. Robert Kennedy and Mother Teresa to campus.

It is the people—including the faculty and students—that have kept her at the Mount for so long, Bessie recently told the *Frederick News Post*. "They make me feel very wanted and respected," she said.

A native of Chambersburg, Pa., Andrew has lived in Emmitsburg since she was 15 years old. Her job at the Mount is her first and only job, and she has no plans to retire!

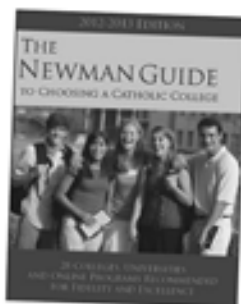
NEWMAN GUIDE TO CATHOLIC COLLEGES RECOMMENDS THE MOUNT

The Mount has once again been chosen by the Cardinal Newman Society to appear in the 2012-13 *Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College*. The Cardinal Newman Society selects colleges for the guide using rigorous standards for academic excellence and fidelity to Catholic teaching. This marks the Mount's third consecutive appearance in the prestigious guide.

"We are honored to be included in the latest edition of *The Newman Guide*," said University President Thomas H. Powell. "This recognition affirms what we truly believe ... the Mount is Catholic in a contemporary way, aware of the diversity of the world in which we live and at the same time proud of our Catholic mission and our Catholic heritage."

The Guide describes the Mount as "a small private university offering a vibrant athletics, student life, and outdoor recreation program, numerous majors, and a solid common curriculum (the *Veritas* Program) rooted in the liberal arts tradition. Students have numerous opportunities to grow socially and spiritually."

For more information see www.msmary.edu/newmanguide.



BASKETBALL SEASON IS HERE!

The Mount St. Mary's 2012-2013 basketball season tips off on November 9. Both the men's and women's teams open their seasons on the road—the men against The University of Pittsburgh, the women against the University of Maryland.



ALL OF THE MEN'S CONFERENCE GAMES, AND ALL OF THE WOMEN'S HOME GAMES WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ON NEC FRONT ROW, WWW.NECFRONTROW.COM

TICKET OFFICE: 301-447-5700

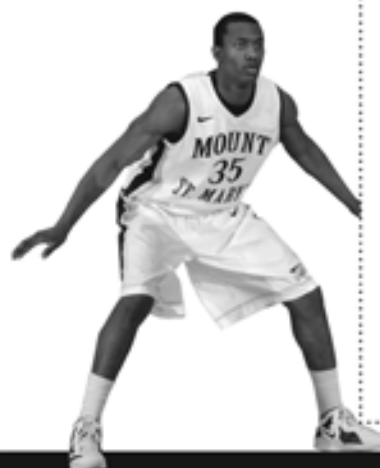
2012-13 MEN'S BASKETBALL HOME GAMES

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
TUE., NOV. 13	HARTFORD	6 P.M.
FRI., DEC. 7	NAVY	7 P.M.
SAT., DEC. 29	UMBC (AUTOGRAPH DAY)	2 P.M.
THU., JAN. 3	FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON (MILITARY NIGHT)	7 P.M.
SAT., JAN. 5	MONMOUTH	7 P.M.
THU., JAN. 24	WAGNER	7 P.M.
THU., JAN. 31	QUINNIPIAC	7 P.M.
SAT., FEB. 2	SACRED HEART (WINTER HONECOMING)	4 P.M.
THU., FEB. 14	BRYANT	7 P.M.
SAT., FEB. 16	CENTRAL CONNECTICUT ST.	7 P.M.
THU., FEB. 21	LIU BROOKLYN	7 P.M.
SAT., FEB. 23	ST. FRANCIS (N.Y.)	3:30 P.M.

2012-13 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HOME GAMES

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
MON., NOV. 19	CAMPBELL	7 P.M.
WED., DEC. 5	UMES	7 P.M.
SAT., DEC. 8	NAVY	1 P.M.
SUN., DEC. 30	AMERICAN	1 P.M.
WED., JAN. 2	LEHIGH	7 P.M.
SAT., JAN. 5	MONMOUTH	3 P.M.
MON., JAN. 7	FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON	7 P.M.
MON., JAN. 28	WAGNER	7 P.M.
SAT., FEB. 2	SACRED HEART (WINTER HONECOMING)	7 P.M.
MON., FEB. 4	QUINNIPIAC	7 P.M.
SAT., FEB. 16	CCSU	3 P.M.
MON., FEB. 18	BRYANT	7 P.M.
SAT., FEB. 23	SST. FRANCIS (NY)	7 P.M.
MON., FEB. 25	LIU BROOKLYN	7 P.M.

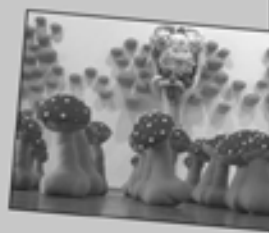
ALL DATES AND TIMES ARE TENTATIVE



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LOVELY MONSTERS BY GUEST ARTIST LUIS SILVA

Reception Nov. 1, 5 p.m.
Williams Art Gallery,
Delaplaine Fine Arts Center
Join us for the reception of Luis Silva, an artist who uses mixed media sculpture to create whimsical installations revolving around the concept of identity formation. Show runs through the month of November.



NATIVE PRIDE DANCERS

Thurs., Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m.
Knott Auditorium
Committed to reviving cultural traditions of indigenous peoples, this internationally renowned dance troupe will bring a high-energy performance displaying a blend of modern and traditional Native American dance.

MASTER OF EDUCATION AND MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING INFORMATION SESSION

Thurs., Nov. 1, 6 p.m.
Frederick Campus, 5350 Spectrum Drive,
Frederick

Learn more about becoming a teacher, or how to take your teaching career to the next level.

YEAR OF FAITH SYMPOSIUM

Sat., Nov 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Knott Auditorium
As part of our celebration of the "Year of Faith" which commemorates the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Mount St. Mary's Seminary is sponsoring a "Year of Faith Symposium." The Symposium will focus on the two Dogmatic Constitutions of the Council: *Dei Verbum*, On Divine Revelation and *Lumen Gentium*, On the Mystery of the Church.



ST. CECILIA DAY CONCERT

Tues., Nov 13, 7:30 p.m.
Chapel of the Immaculate Conception
Please join the Mount St. Mary's Wind Ensemble, Chorale, and Gospel Choir as they perform for a special concert for St. Cecilia.

MHA INFO SESSION

Wed., Nov. 14, 5 p.m.
Frederick Campus, 5350 Spectrum Drive,
Frederick

Learn more about the only accelerated Master in Health Administration program in Maryland that includes Lean Six Sigma.

POETRY READING:

STEVE KISTULENTZ
Thurs., Nov. 15, 7 p.m.
O'Hara Dining Room



THE EXONERATED

Performances: Nov. 15, 16, 17, 8 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 18, 2 p.m.
Delaplaine Fine Arts Center,
Horning Theater

The winner of the 2003 Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for "Outstanding Off-Broadway Play," *The Exonerated* tells, simply and without embellishment, stories of six people wrongfully convicted of capital crimes who were released from prison when evidence revealing their innocence was finally brought to light.

Wind/Jazz Ensemble: "THAT 70'S SHOW"

Sun., Nov 18, 7:30 p.m.
Delaplaine Fine Arts Center, Horning Theater
Jump back a few decades as our Wind/Jazz Ensemble perform selections from the 70's.

STUDENT INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL RECITAL

Thu., Nov 29, 7:30 p.m.
Delaplaine Fine Arts Center, Horning Theater
Please join us for an end-of-the-semester recital featuring our very own Mount singers and instrumentalists.