

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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EXULTING THE IMPORTANCE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION — EDWARD R. MURROW

MAY 2020

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## Local governments try to aid businesses

While some businesses have been able to remain open in Maryland due to their 'essential' classification during the COVID-19 pandemic, not all are doing as well as they might, due to lack of public knowledge that they are still in business. Clearly, most people are aware that grocery stores, pharmacies, and restaurants (carry-out service only) are legally open.

People may be less aware, however, that businesses such as automobile repair shops, home repair, nurseries, and residential cleaning services may be open as well. As a result, many automotive repair shops in the area have experienced their patronage dropping to 'next-to-nothing' after the governor announced the stay-at-home policy.

While local government is not really in a position to address fears, they are making an effort to get the word out that enterprises, other than grocery stores and restaurants, are open.

In Thurmont, Economic Development Manager, Vickie Grinder, rallied local businesses who were required to close under state coronavirus regulations, to loan their

'Open' flags to businesses who could be open, but did not have their own 'Open' flags. For example, the Catocin Furnace Historical Society lent their 'Open' flags to Complete Auto Diagnostics, and others chipped in flags elsewhere to help their fellow businesses out.

Also, in Thurmont, the town government is pursuing creating "micro-grants" to aid small businesses impacted by the pandemic. Chief Administrative Officer Jim Humerick told the News-Journal, "Vickie Grinder and I have proposed that the town create a micro-grant to aid small businesses. We have proposed a \$30,000 grant that will be available to all small businesses within our municipal boundaries."

"The \$30,000 will be split evenly among all compliant businesses that apply, not to exceed \$1,000 per business. The businesses have to show a 50-percent loss in revenue in March and April, as compared to the same months in 2019 and have less than 15 employees," Humerick said.

In Emmitsburg, Mayor Don Briggs asked for area residents to continue to support the area restaurants. While focus was placed on



Many businesses, like car repair centers, found themselves scrambling for 'Open' flags to alert residents that they were open for business.

helping the restaurants, many Emmitsburg auto repair centers felt left out.

When word reached Emmitsburg of what Thurmont was doing to help their businesses, not just restaurants, businesses in Emmitsburg, still reeling from the restrictions and prohibitions in the recently passed sign ordinance, sought out answers from the Town on the possibility of suspending some sign restrictions. When he was unable to get the town staff to clearly the issue, Mayor Don Briggs made a 'command decision' and

authorized the use of 'open' flags for all open businesses.

As in Thurmont, word quickly circulated and those with unused 'Open' flags, such as Kerry Shorb, owner of My Father's Footsteps, loaned them to businesses who did not have them. Shorb's flag now hangs outside the Ott House Restaurant.

A subsequent e-mail from the Emmitsburg Town Planner to local businesses clarified what was and was not allowed, but by that time, businesses had taken matters into their own hands.

## Adams County gears up for May re-opening

With Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf's "stay at home order" expiring on May 8, Adams County officials are beginning to plan to reboot, not only county services, but the county, as a whole.

Commissioner Randy Phiel said, "The (county) courthouse is open presently for emergency and essential filings, but not for the general public." Those authorized to access services at the courthouse are presently required to "be wearing a mask of their own (we provide no masks to the public) and allow their temperature to be checked."

He said, "On May 4, the courts will begin to open their departments to begin the work of dealing with the backlog of cases caused by the shutdown."

In addition, Commissioner Phiel stated, "Also, any departments whose activities relate to the courts will be operating at, or with nearly a full complement of staff."

Regarding various county projects, the commissioner said, "We intend to return to rehabilitation of the Mercy House following the construction guideline issued by the Governor's office. The opening of construction guideline becomes effective May 1." The building has been slated for renovation with the intent to rent the facility to RASE, a regional non-profit specializing in

substance abuse recovery services.

Concerning possible further progress in lifting other restrictions that have been imposed by Governor Wolf, Phiel stated, "The Adams County Adult Correctional Complex will continue to be closed to the public until further notice," further noting, "As federal and state guidelines are issued, we will accommodate accordingly."

He noted that, after May 8 (the expiration of the state stay-at-home order), county department staffs may "likely" be required to "continue to work remotely, and (while) a portion of staff will operate from their department locations." The distribution of labor would thus aid in maintaining social distancing at county offices.

Until the Wolf mandates expire, the commissioner said, "We will be following recommendations from the state on use of masks, temperature checks, distancing, (and) requiring those that become ill to stay at home or leave work (as appropriate)," adding, "We will respect the governor's zone-by-zone openings and guidelines; this will dictate how we proceed to an opening to the public."

In the interim, a notice issued by the County Commissioners on April 24 stated, "Adams County has been conducting their



Like many town offices, many non-profits have been hit hard by the forced closures. See related story on page 3.

bi-weekly Board of Commissioners' meetings by teleconference in order to protect the health and safety of the public and staff."

"The Adams County Commissioners continue to encourage public participation and are providing a call-in option for the public. If you are interested in participating via phone, please call 1-844-621-3956, enter meeting number 479 516 558#," the advisory stated, adding, "The bi-weekly teleconference meetings will continue until further notice."

The statement further commented, "The Adams County Board of Commissioners and courts appreciate everyone's patience and understanding, as we adapt and overcome this pandemic. We especially want to recognize and thank all Adams County staff for their dedication, patience, understanding and support during this unsettling and uncertain time."

The next County Commissioners meeting is scheduled for May 6.

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# EMMITSBURG NEWS

## 13 Emmitsburg virus cases reported

On an April 23rd briefing on the status of the COVID-19 infestation in Emmitsburg, Mayor Briggs informed those on the call that the number of cases in Emmitsburg stood at nine.

[As of April 29, as this paper goes to press, the Maryland Department of Health reported that 13 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed within the Emmitsburg zip-code area. For updates on these numbers, visit the Maryland Department of Health website at [coronavirus.maryland.gov](http://coronavirus.maryland.gov).]

“With this jump in number of cases after weeks of no recorded cases there has been much interest expressed, in who are they and maybe have I come in contact with them? Well, we will never know.” Said Briggs.

According to Briggs, The County Health Department will not release any further details. As

those details are covered the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, a 1996 Federal law that restricts access to individuals’ private medical information.

During the briefing, Briggs informed the listeners that “County Executive Jan Gardner had held a tele-conference with the county mayors on April 24th in which she said distribution of state funds by the county is still being finalized, but it seems the town will be at least reimbursed for personal protective equipment, staff overtime, and comp time, for the period of March 1 through May 31.”

Briggs expressed concern over Vigilant Hose Company’s “cancellation of their fundraisers,” adding, “it’s putting a terrific burden on our volunteer service... We want to keep our foot on the pedal here and make sure they get some reim-

bursements, or all reimbursements, so they can conduct their services to our community.”

Commissioner Davis, who participated in the briefing said, “All non-profits are suffering right now. That includes your churches, your veteran organization, your Lions Club... because we have cut out all the fundraising, and we really don’t want to compete with the restaurants right now for doing any kind of (fund-raising) food sales, or things like that.”

The town office will continue to be closed to direct contact with the public. Town offices will be open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday. The office will be closed on Fridays, although staff members will be monitoring the phones. Briggs said the current plan is to re-open the town office to the public “if allowed,” on May 11.

## Flat Run Bridge work completed

Work on the Flat Run Bridge, which carries East Main Street (state Route 140) across Flat Run, is wrapping up, as the project has become more focused on landscaping and assorted final touches.

The State Highway Administration has approved a flagging operation by the contractor to compete work on the bridge on April 15.

According to Town staff, the majority of the work is completed.

The contractor and *State Highway Department* only have some punch list items that need to be finished.

As initially proposed in 2014, work on replacing the bridge was to begin in 2015, ending in the summer of 2016. While inclement weather has played a large role in the extension of this project, concerns have arisen throughout the construction process. Ear-

lier on contractors came across drainage issues, which required a lengthy re-design phase, concerns with the foundation of the existing bridge, and the discovery of an unknown water line that required re-location issue required negotiations with the town, contractor and state, which delayed the project even further.

The impact of unexpected delays is best noted by the fact



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that the traditional ‘completion date’ marker on the bridge bears a date of 2019 even though work is only now being wrapped up.

Paul Harrington, of Harrington & Son’s Lawn Equipment, whose business was probably the most impacted by the 4 year long project, expressed relief that the work

was finally being wrapped up. “Now I don’t have to look out my door and see a line of traffic blocking the entrance to my parking lot.” Upon reflection, Paul added: “Ya, it’s pretty, but my God, It took us less time to win WWII then it took to finish this stupid bridge.”

## News-Briefs . . .

### Emmitsburg to hold May meeting

Emmitsburg will begin to re-commence with holding ‘virtual,’ regular town meetings in May, according to Mayor Don Briggs. A virtual town meeting will be held on May 4, at 7:30 p.m. A special budget meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on May 18. A Planning Commission meeting will be held on May 5, at 7:30 p.m. All will be virtual meetings. In addition, the yard waste collection site will be open to receive waste on May 2, from 9 to noon.

### Vigilant Hose offering face masks

The Vigilant Hose Company is offering face masks, Mayor Briggs announced at a special April 23 COVID-19 briefing held at the town meeting room. Mayor Briggs noted face masks are still required in public places, “and that includes where we go for our essential needs and services, such as the grocery store, the pharmacy, and the gas station.” The mayor said, “If you need a face mask, contact Vigilant Hose at 301-447-2728.”

### Mother Seton carnival canceled

The Mother Seton School has

already announced the cancellation of their annual carnival, held at 100 Creamery Road, and would have taken place on May 20 through 25. Carnival Chairperson Terry Smith said, “Mother Seton will not be holding the carnival this year due to the virus, and the well-being of our families and community. We will be having our carnival next year as usual.”

### ‘Spring Fling’ now ‘Fall Bash’

The Vigilant Hose Company has rescheduled their annual ‘Spring Fling’ event due to the ongoing coronavirus epidemic. It will now take place on September 5th

and be called the ‘Fall Bash’. The fire company posted notice of their rescheduling on their website, stating, “The Vigilant Hose Company Spring Fling Committee has made the difficult decision to cancel Spring Fling 2020.

This is a difficult decision to make, the committee knows that it’s the right one to make. Spring Fling is VHC’s single biggest one-day fundraiser that supports the organization,” the posting further stated.

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# FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

## Fairfield Inn sold

The new owners of the old Fairfield Inn are seeking a final borough approval needed to prepare to reopen the now-closed historic inn, in anticipation of a May 15 settlement on the purchase of the property.

Renamed the Mansion House 1757, the old inn is located at 15 W. Main Street and its new owners are seeking borough approval of the new signage. The inn has secured its new

liquor license. Mansion House reflects the original name of the inn, and the year it began operation.

The new signage has gained the approval of the municipal zoning officer and the borough's Historical Architectural Review Board and will be considered for final approval by the Borough Council at the end of April.

According to the Internet commercial real estate website loopnet.com, the

3,000 square foot inn was listed for sale for \$990,000 in December. That the price tag included "the business name, the liquor license, FFE (furniture, fixtures and equipment), real estate and any intangible assets and goodwill of the business." The reason for the sale is reported to be that the "owner (is) selling in order to retire."

Fairfield Inn's origins dating to 1757, The Fairfield Inn is one of America's oldest, continuously operated inns. According to the inn's website, then

inn was "built nineteen years before the Declaration of Independence, The Fairfield Inn was originally the Mansion House of Squire Miller, an original founder of the town. In the 260 years that have passed, the Mansion House has seen many famous Americans such as Patrick Henry, Thaddeus Stevens, generals Robert E. Lee and J.E.B. Stuart, Baseball Hall of Famer Eddie Plank, and Mamie Eisenhower."

A 'preview' cuisine service was held on March 15 to promote the new inn.

George Keeney, the new owner, said, as far as a full-blown opening, "We're waiting for the (COVID-19) virus to settle down."

Keeney noted, however, inns can be open under the mandatory shutdown, "So we're hoping we can have the inn open for Memorial Day weekend." Keeney also noted that, since the previous owners kept great care of the inn and property, as far as improvements go, "A lot of what we've been doing is cosmetic."

## Strawberry Hill events stalled by virus

Even tranquil and idyllic nature preserves are not immune to the impact posed by the coronavirus and one located in Hamiltonban Township has been forced to cancel planned outdoor activities.

Kara Ferraro, executive director of Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve said, "We are dedicated to helping control the spread of this illness and taking recommended precautions as the situation evolves in our area."

Ferraro stated, "As we continue to

monitor the development of COVID-19 and respond to recommendations from public health and government organizations, Strawberry Hill has implemented the following: Strawberry Hill's office and facilities are closed through April 30, and programs and events have been canceled through April 30."

Additionally, Ferraro noted, "Critical staff are working remotely." for those seeking information regarding the reserve, she stated, "Please allow additional time for us to respond to your inquiries."

"I understand that many of you are feeling anxious or restless and I want to encourage you to remain hopeful, active, and healthy during this time of uncertainty," the executive director said, adding, "Considering current events, I am inspired by people seeking solace in nature."

Taking the perceived need of those wishing to partake of nature in times of duress, she said, "Nature can provide that much-needed respite for fresh air and calming surroundings. However,

according to experts, you should practice social distancing even out-of-doors. Strawberry Hill is committed to maintaining a safe environment for our visitors, members, volunteers, and staff."

To accommodate the public as much as possible, given the current state-of-affairs, Ferraro said, "I am happy to share that Strawberry Hill's trails remain open to the public, dawn until dusk. State park and forest lands also remain open for outdoor activities."

"Please enjoy the opportunity to

spend time in nature and remember that recreation is good for us! Nature is even being prescribed to improve mental health, boost immunity, and reduce stress and anxiety," she added.

"We are dedicated to helping control the spread of this illness and taking recommended precautions as the situation evolves in our area," the executive director stated. "We will keep you informed through email, social media, and on our website if there are any changes to our current plans. Follow our Facebook page and visit our website [www.strawberryhill.org](http://www.strawberryhill.org)."

## Virus restrictions weigh on local animal rescues

The pandemic restrictions have caused animal rescue and adoption services to change their methodology of operations and in some cases, curtail them.

Sarah Skoczen, a coordinator of the Carroll Valley Borough's Trap Neuter & Release (TNR) efforts, said the task of addressing and controlling the local feral cat population in the Borough has all but ground to a halt. The group performs its duties under the auspices of the Adams County Community Cats organization.

Skoczen is a former member of the Carroll Valley Borough Council. The TNR effort in the borough is not an official entity of borough government. The group basically consists of Skoczen and "about 20 volunteers," who have been engaged in trapping, neutering and spaying, then releasing the feral cats, for the past five years. Skoczen stated that the main issue forestalling their efforts is that the services who perform the spaying and neutering have ceased doing so, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, she said, now is ordinarily the time to conduct TNR before the spring mating season gets underway, but, due to the COVID-19, there is no place to take the cats for the necessary operations. The idea is to initiate the captures before there are any nursing females with kittens.

As far as what the *ex officio* program needs to keep going, Skoczen said mainly cat food, which can be donated via the SPCA. Because the SPCA is closed to visitors due to the virus, cat food can be boxed, and left at the front door with a note that it is intended for Adams County Community Cats. Earmarked monetary donations can also be done by check or money order, and made out to the SPCA, with a note in the memo line, or an additional encl-

sure, stating that it is for Adams County Community Cats.

When it comes to rescues or "surrendered" animals, the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter (CVAS) operates a no-kill facility, which will even foster-out any overload they may be confronted with, rather than resorting to euthanization. The CVAS houses around 150 animals, primarily cats and dogs, and finds homes for 800 to 900 of them annually.

Jennifer Vanderau, CVAS communications director, said COVID-19 has definitely impacted the manner in which they conduct their efforts. "We are just limiting the number of people" permitted to access the facility, and that adoptions are conducted "by appointment," plus following virus guidelines."

She further stated, "We weren't able to stop taking animals in. Stopping is not an option. We're just taking incredible precautions." While the operation normally takes precautionary measures when bring-

ing-in animals, the one change she has seen is now that the precautions taken have had to take into consideration "the people part of it," adding, "We've been focused on (preventing the spread of) disease, but that's been regarding the animals. The human (element) is new."

For those interested in helping during the COVID-19 pandemic, the shelter can use pet food, with cat and dog food at the top of the list, and sanitizers and bleach. Monetary donations can be made at the door in like manner, or mailed to Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter, 5051 Letterkenny Road, Chambersburg, 17201. For additional information, call 717-263-5791 or visit [www.cvas-pets.org](http://www.cvas-pets.org).

When one discusses animal rescue efforts, the subject usually centers around cats and dogs, not lions and tigers, but in the case of East Coast Exotic Animal Rescue, pretty much anything one would not normally encounter at the local SPCA ends up there.

Lori Wetzel, an East Coast Exotic Animal Rescue board member and volunteer, said the array of wildlife that calls the sanctuary home, not only includes a lion and a tiger, but additionally includes bobcats, farm animals, foxes, coati-mundis, sugar gliders (basically small 'flying' opossums), an alligator, tortoises, cavy rodents, an elk, a herd of fallow deer, prairie dogs, primates, and an assortment of birds, snakes and lizards.

The animal rescue facility acquires their animals a number of ways, such as surrendered former pets, abandonment, neglected exotic animals, biological lab survivors, and former zoo animals.

But like all animal rescue operations, COVID-19 has disrupted their operations and supply chain. Wetzel said public access to the rescue facility

normally begins during the first weekend of May, "But that doesn't look like it's going to happen this year." When the operation reopens to the public, she said, will probably be determined by the board.

Regarding feeding and maintaining the animals themselves, she said the operation has asked those who plant gardens to plant extra produce for the sanctuary wildlife. "We go through tons of produce," Wetzel said. The facility's animal food budget can run as much as \$500 per week.

A list of other items needed can be found on the animal sanctuary website at [eastcoastexoticrescue.org](http://eastcoastexoticrescue.org). Gift cards, as well as checks or money orders, can be made out to East Coast Exotic Animal Rescue and mailed to East Coast Exotic Animal Rescue, 320 Zoo Road, Fairfield, 17320.



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# THURMONT NEWS

## Council warned virus may impact budget

The Thurmont Town Council continued to work on the 2021 budget spanning several meetings, although the impact of COVID-19 could play havoc with some of the proposed budgetary allocations.

As the budget work got underway in earnest beginning at the commissioners' March 31 meeting, Linda Joyce, town chief financial officer, told the board, "When we started this budget process, we thought it would be a fairly easy process, but here we are in the middle of just having a lot of uncertain things going on. We had no idea what to expect."

Joyce said, "This budget was prepared a few weeks ago, and

we did not realize we'd be in the middle of where we are right now, regarding the virus pandemic," adding, "Going through this, we will have to just keep in mind that we will be looking at this (the figures) somewhere in the near future again."

"We will have to likely make adjustments as we get further into the year... and we have more information to see where things fall as a result of the pandemic that's going on." "In relation to our tax revenues and our other revenues that we receive, as well as our utility funds, no doubt, we are going to be impacted in a lot of different ways, so we'll just have to monitor that closely."

The commissioners reviewed the general fund aspect of the 2021 budget at their March 31 meeting. Highlights included Mayor John Kinnaird's list of general fund, capital budget cuts, which included not funding a new \$10,000 website for economic development, \$10,000 for an air-conditioning unit repair, purchase of a \$49,000 police vehicle, purchase of a code enforcement vehicle, purchase of a new \$29,000 truck with snow package, and purchase of a \$56,000 compact, tracked loader.

Regarding anticipated income tax, as a result of possible continuance of the COVID-19 driven unemployment numbers, Kin-

naird said, "I want to assure everyone, that if we see a loss in this area, we will address this as we go through the year, and make adjustments to the budget going forward... I'd like to be optimistic and think we're going to get about the same in income tax... There's probably other things in here (the budget) we could cut back if it is really required of us."

The proposed budget does include pay raises for the mayor in the amount of \$3,000, and for the commissioners in the amount of \$2,000. "I will remind you that is some money we can remove if we absolutely have to," the mayor stated.

The town must have a 2021 budget adopted as of July 1.

### Fire & Ambulance Companies postpone events

The Guardian Hose Company remains undecided as to whether or not they will be holding its annual, July carnival. Regarding other social and fundraising events being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the fire company states on its website, "Effective Immediately and until further notice, all fundraisers have been canceled or postponed. Our activities building has been closed to everyone." "If you had the activities building rented for an event in the near future, we will be in contact with you. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused," the department posted.

The Thurmont Community Ambulance Service has postponed a number of events as a result of the viral infestation as well, including its carnival. Ambulance Company Secretary Joyce Stitely stated that as of now, all May events have been postponed or canceled, including the highly popular Friday night bingos. However, hope remains that the summer will bring a return to normalcy, and as of right now, the Ambulance Company's Car Show, currently scheduled for July 18, is still on.

would be more accommodating to that age demographic that we've kind of moved into, in that area."

## Commissioners approve park court bid

The Thurmont Town Council approved awarding a \$28,650 bid proposal for a new basketball court at the Ice Plant Park, and to reserve additional funds for cost overrun or project-related expenditures, Commissioner Marty Burns abstaining.

James Humerick, chief administrative officer, presented the proposal to the commissioners, at their April 7 meeting, to construct a 50-foot by 50-foot, half basketball court to be constructed at the Ice Plant Park. Humerick said Playground Specialists of Thurmont, had placed a bid of \$28,650 to construct the court.

The administrative officer noted that the proposed court "is a few

feet larger than the ones we (previously) installed in Woodland Park and Pleasant Acres Park, and that's (the creation of the court) to better accommodate our ever-growing pickleball needs here in town.

Pickleball is a "paddleball sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis," according to Wikipedia.

Humerick said funding for this project "comes from Program Open Space grant, and that was approved for \$30,000," adding, "Unfortunately, since the county was not able to achieve their acquisition numbers last year, the funding split is 75-percent by the grant, which comes to \$22,500, and then our part of the funding for this project will be

25-percent, or \$7,500 (from the town's unrestricted fund balance)."

He further suggested that the unused balance of the \$30,000 be used "for any unforeseen construction costs that we don't anticipate that could that come up during the project," and that if there is any additional unused balance, that it be used "for ancillary items such as benches or trashcans or other amenities that we could use near the basketball court."

The Ice Plant Park is one of the oldest parks in town, Humerick noted, stating, "Consequently (that park) still has the (older) play equipment that was there, so we have taken out the oldest section of play equipment that was in the

park, and we're putting the basketball court in place where the equipment was."

He said, "There is still one set of play equipment there, which is newer than the ones we've removed, and then we'll have this half basketball court too."

Regarding justification for the new court, Humerick told the commissioners, "We've found that (regarding) the demographics in the center of town, the kids are getting older and looking for things to do."

In response to that perceived need, he said, after consulting with the Fuse Teen Center staff "and some other folks we spoke with, we thought this was something that

## News-Briefs . . .

### Route 77 to be closed for repairs

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) will close and detour MD 77 (Foxville Road) until May 21 to complete a culvert replacement project.

The work will take place between Catocin Hollow and Stottlemeyer roads. Crews will work on the last three culverts in a project that targeted 46 aging culverts. These culverts allow

water to flow under the roadway and prevent flooding. Crews will also clean existing drain pipes and inlets, and pave and restripe the roadway. The project is expected to be complete this summer.

Motorists will be detoured from MD 77 to US 15 followed by MD 550 (Sabillasville Road), Foxville Deerfield Road and back to MD 77. There is a separate route for tractor trailers using MD 550 to MD 491 (Raven Rock Road).

Detour signs, barrels and cones to guide motorists through the work zone. MDOT SHA coordinated with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. National Park Service regarding the project and the impacts. Cunningham Falls State Park and Catocin Mountain Park will remain accessible to visitors during the closure.

### Food bank sees increased use

The Thurmont Food Bank, located in the old town office at 10 Frederick

Road, has experienced an increase in those in need of food in the wake of the COVID-19 driven surge in unemployment numbers.

Coordinator Sally Giffin said: "We have seen an increase in people coming" to the food bank for provisions, and estimates that the food bank has experienced a 30 to 40-percent increase in individuals and families seeking assistance.

"We have volunteers inside bagging the food, and volunteers outside loading the food into the backseats

or trunks" of those seeking aid said Giffin. Aid recipients will be provided with two weeks' worth of food, she said, or about a shopping cartload. Provisions can entail all kinds of things, such as milk, meats, frozen vegetables, and fresh produce. The amount of food provided is also determined by family size.

The food bank is open on Tuesday evenings, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., and on Fridays, from 4 to 6 p.m. For additional information, visit thurmont-foodbank.com.

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# TANEYTOWN NEWS

## Trash, recycling service costs to rise

The Taneytown Council noted at its April 8 and 13 meetings that the costs of trash and recycling services will likely increase going into 2021.

Acting City Manager James Weiprecht, stated that he will be preparing some projected service cost numbers to reflect likely increases in trash and recycling services, so that the board can consider the effect that it might have on the 2021 budget.

Weiprecht said, "The county is contemplating some revisions to their

fee structure there, so we will work up some numbers should we want to adjust our budget accordingly."

Mayor Bradley Wantz stated previously, at the April 8 meeting, "We may have to look at the budget between now and the public hearing, with the county commissioners announcing some increases in landfill fees, refuse tipping fees, as well as our recycling fee, (which) are going to go into effect in January."

"That's going to affect our municipal trash (expenses) because it's all

taken there (county landfill). So, that's probably going to take a pretty big hit on the budget," Mayor Wantz said, adding, "I talked with the other mayors in the county, and it's unfortunate that's going that way."

"There is going to be a charge (increase) and it's \$30 a ton in recycling starting January, tipping fees for regular trash is going up a dollar (per bag). Again, it is something we're going to have to account for in the budget. We do have some time to look at that, but just

be aware that that may change," he said.

Regarding other trash collection issues, Weiprecht told the town council at the board's April 13 meeting, "We have been seeing an increase in the number of folks who are putting bulk items out for curbside collection on a weekly basis, and then the complaints go on social media when it doesn't get picked up."

"Just a friendly reminder for folks to only put out refuse and rubbish in trash cans, no bulk items, and

the city will be rescheduling a bulk trash pickup day once we can schedule that with the landfill, and social distancing and everything is a thing of the past," he said.

At the April 8 meeting, Acting City Manager James Weiprecht stated that the landfill used by the town "could no longer commit to being open on the day we had hoped to do curbside bulk trash, so at this point, bulk trash is going to be delayed." As far as when bulk trash pickup might begin anew, he could only state, "It's not going to be beginning in May. The date is yet to be determined."

## 'Spirit of the city,' town staff praised

Mayor Wantz told the Taneytown Town Council at their April 8 meeting that the continued dedication of town employees in doing their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic reflects upon the city.

"I want to thank all the city staff right now, especially IT (Information Technology) for their work in making this (virtual meeting) happen tonight. It was kind of a whirlwind for them to make it happen... They did a great job," Mayor Wantz said.

"All the city staff has really done a

tremendous job. All those who are now working remotely from home, those who have to come because what they do is essential. I think it says a lot about the spirit of the city, that our employees are so dedicated that they can get to work in these conditions at this time," the mayor noted.

The town is continuing to conduct virtual town meetings, to avoid having all the council members, or even the public, converging on the town hall for meetings, that had it not been for the COVID-19

pandemic, would have been held in-house.

"With the COVID-19 pandemic going on, the town is continuing to conduct business as normal as possible," he said.

Wantz stated, "If this (public meeting restrictions) continues into May, which it looks like it may very well do that, we're going to figure out a way to conduct the appropriate public hearings regarding the budget tax rate and sewer rates."

The mayor said he would like to

remind residents "to please adhere to Governor (Larry) Hogan's 'stay at home' order. This is really crucial that we can get this pandemic over with and get on to a more normal life. But if we have people gathering in large groups, and not staying at home, not adhering to social distancing, it's really making this harder for everyone else."

"If you go out to a grocery store, please only get what you need. You don't need 30 packs of toilet paper. Get what you need so others can

have a chance to get it as well," Wantz said. "We're all in this together. I think it's important for the community that we continue being a community in this sort of time, instead of every man for himself."

In other business, the mayor noted that consideration of adoption of budget-related ordinances and resolutions, including the proposed operating budget, tax rate, water and sewer rate, and water allocation, have been postponed into May, since they require public hearings and the technical issues behind accomplishing that are still being worked out.

## New church sponsoring food bank

A relatively new church in Taneytown is offering food assistance to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic and associated surge in numbers among the unemployed.

St. James Orthodox Christian Church, 30 York St., is offering bags of food and a free meal at the church every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. until noon. Father Timothy Barkley said that the free food distribution is

available to individuals and families in need who reside in Taneytown or western Westminster.

The goods are temporarily being supplied by Caring and Sharing Ministries of Taneytown; the church's normal source of food has been shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Father. Barkley said the food distribution is being operated as a

drive-through. Patrons are asked to remain in their cars, and church staff will bring the food, and other goods which may be available, out to the vehicles.

Each household represented per vehicle receives one bag of food, and a free, prepared meal for each adult, he said, noting that the schools are providing meals for children. Contents of the food bags vary, depending on

"whatever people are donating."

Anyone interested in donating food or goods may leave the items in, or at, a drop-box located at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 38 West Baltimore Street. The drop-box can be accessed off Church Street. Food and goods thus collected are then transported to Caring and Sharing Ministries, where they are redistributed to participating churches.

Barkley said the church also offers

other services to those in need, including aiding them in finding help for other issues relative to their individual situations in times of duress.

The St. James Orthodox Christian Church relocated to Taneytown from Westminster in 2019 after purchasing the 30 York Street church. The first in-church service in their new church was held in September 2019. Prior to housing St. James, the church used to home to Taneytown United Presbyterian Church.

## News-Briefs . . .

### Harney carnival still on... for now

The Harney Volunteer Fire Company's annual carnival will be held, but subject to cancellation if the coronavirus epidemic persists. Carnival Coordinator Rick Shorb said the fire company has not made a decision regarding the possible cancellation of the carnival. The carnival is slated to be held June 22 through June 27 at the Harney Fire Company carnival grounds. Visit the HVFC website at [www.harneyfire11.org](http://www.harneyfire11.org) for any updates or changes.

### No decision on Taneytown VFC carnival

Regarding the Taneytown Volunteer Fire Company's (TVFC) annual parade at the city carnival grounds, Sam Perry, carnival chairman, stated staff are having a meeting on May 1 (to make a decision on the carnival). The TVFC's annual carnival is set to be held June 8 through 13.

### Ten COVID-19 cases 'reported'

According to the Maryland Department of Health (DOH), there have been ten COVID-19 cases in Taneytown's zip code. The Department has recently begun to

list cases by zip code on its website at [coronavirus.maryland.gov](http://coronavirus.maryland.gov). While the DOH is not reporting

cases or deaths at nursing homes, like Lorien, according to a Baltimore Sun news article dated April 8, two residents tested positive for COVID-19 there.

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## FROM THE DESK OF...

### County Councilman Phil Dacey

May has arrived and unfortunately, Maryland is still in the grip of the Coronavirus.

As of this writing, schools have been closed through the middle of May, and all non-essential businesses are still shuttered. This is the biggest challenge my generation has faced. I have been inspired and heartened by seeing the community rally to support first responders, health care workers, and frontline retail grocery and restaurant employees. I am hopeful that working together, our state and community has avoided the worst case scenarios and kept the virus from infecting and killing many more peo-

ple. My thoughts and prayers are with those that have been directly affected by Covid-19 and all those who have lost businesses, savings, work, and suffered from the economic fallout from the response to the virus.

I am pleased to report that the Frederick County Council has begun virtual meetings. It is especially important during these emergency times that the legislative branch of government continues to function. Our virtual meetings have the same components of our live meetings, importantly providing a forum for public input. In these times when the executives of government are acting urgently and quickly,

the County Council can be a forum for public input and discussion of government enactments.

The big issue this month is and will continue to be the Frederick County Government Budget for the Fiscal Year 2021 (which begins in July). The dramatic economic downturn has certainly changed the revenue forecast for the county. The current proposed budget increases by 4.4%, which given the economic uncertainty I believe is growing the county government too fast. The total Frederick County budget is proposed to increase to \$665 million, almost \$30 million more than last year. I will be work-

ing with the other Council Members that are so inclined to trim this budget growth to make sure that Frederick County can responsibly weather this economic downturn.

The main source of county revenue is property tax. Property values have continued to increase in Frederick County over the last three years, sometimes dramatically. Even though the property tax rate hasn't changed, increasing property values mean that families are paying more for property taxes out of their family budgets. Now more than ever, in times where people are facing loss of income, businesses, and jobs, I believe that it is important for the property tax bills of families to remain constant, and not increase

simply because the paper value of their homes or land has increased. I will be working to keep the amount of property tax revenue the same as last year and not have it increase as one way to help families facing this economic uncertainty.

The Governor has set forth a responsible plan for gradually reopening the state of Maryland and returning to a more normal state of doing business. We must still be cautious, but having seen the spirit of Frederick County citizens working together to stop this virus from being transmitted, I am optimistic that we can work together to reopen Maryland while acting responsibly to keep the virus transmission to a minimum.

### Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs

While all along through the COVID-19 reordering of our lives laid before us the question of how we would reopen the economy and other activities while at the same time keeping public health as the number one priority. Three months ago, except for a seasonal nod, the thought of any clash along these lines was never given so much as a second thought.

At a press conferences on April 22nd, the Governor stated that though things seem to be getting better the stay at home, face masks required in public places order was still intact and most businesses remained shut down. But less than 48 hours later at a press confer-

ence on April 24th, Governor Hogan, for the first time took up the challenge of loosening up health constraints. He Announced the initiative, the "Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery" with a tap of the brakes that, "This document is a road map not a calendar".

The first stage, "Stay at home" order could be lifted in early May along with ban of certain recreational activities like boating, golfing and certain gym activities. Stage two would restore some public transportation and possibly reopening of restaurants and bars. The final stage would be permitting higher risk gatherings like attending concerts and going to

church. But before the first stage, the State COVID-19 cases must be on a downward trajectory, or at least being leveling off in deaths, hospitalizations. So, the town is still operating under a State of Emergency and amendments as issued by the Governor.

Over the last two months I, along with Commissioner Davis, have made weekly public announcement / video presentations on COVID-19 and our town. We intend to continue do this every week generally mid-week.

The 21727-zip code has 13 cases (as of April 27th) up from 9 cases, Thursday, April 23rd. With this jump in number of cases after weeks of no

recorded cases there has been interest expressed in who are they and maybe have I come in contact with them? Well, we will never know. The County Health Department will not release any further details. The County, and the town, operates under HIPAA – the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act that restricts access to individuals' private medical information. If you are concerned about the 13 cases in our zip code, keep to the state of emergency mantra of avoiding interactions with others, stay in place, self-distance and wear a face mask in public places.

Almost every week event, County Executive Gardner holds a teleconference with County mayors, the last being April

22nd. The State, while still processing the distribution of the previous tranches was grappling with taking in another tranche expected to be received by the end of the week. Amid the finalization, it seems the Town will at least be reimbursed for Personal Protection Equipment, staff overtime and comp time for the time period, March 1st through May 31st. Of concern and discussion was the impact of COVID-19 on volunteer fire departments. With the cancellation of so many of their fundraisers how will they have the funding for services. This is a priority for us and will be addressed. Think of all the things Vigilant Hose Company is doing for us.

The town office continues to be closed to direct contact with the pub-

continued on next page.



## The Connectors

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# GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

## County Executive Jan Gardner

We find ourselves in uncertain and unprecedented times as our community experiences the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The virus has impacted all of us, with stay at home directives, the requirement to wear face coverings, and the closure of many businesses. Our daily lives have changed.

Unfortunately, the virus is here in Frederick County, with hundreds of people testing positive and unfortunately with over 50 deaths in our community. My heart goes out to those who are fighting this virus and to those who are working on the front line in healthcare to care for people.

During this time, I urge all of you to stay home as much as possible, to practice physical distancing, and good hygiene. Public health is a community responsibility and it will take all of us following these directives to reduce the impact of the virus on our community and to ensure that our healthcare system is not overwhelmed. I know people are anxious to return to “normal” life and to go back to work. While plans are being made to re-open businesses and daily life, the time is not now. The number of positive cases continues to climb. We will need to see a reduction in the number of deaths, the number of hospitalizations and ICU beds, and see these numbers decline for at least 14 days.

During this pandemic, Frederick County Government continues to provide essential services to the citizens who live here. While county government has modified our delivery of service citizens can count on public safety, water and sewer, trash disposal, road

maintenance, and more.

In fact, most county employees are on the job. About half of all county employees work in public safety and these men and women continue to serve the public in law enforcement, fire and EMS, and at 9-1-1 to keep our community safe. Road crews continue to do road and bridge maintenance. Animals are being cared for at our Animal Shelter and cat adoptions are happening virtually. Our parks remain open for walking, hiking and biking with social and physical distancing. Our Transit drivers, though on a reduced schedule, continue to take essential workers to their jobs and take people to dialysis. Our library staff is delivering incredible virtual programming and making more digital material available.

County staff are also engaged in protecting public health and responding to the pandemic in new and different ways. Staff from Citizens Services are working to support our temporary isolation and quarantine shelter for health care workers and first responders. Our Senior Services Division, along with county employees from other divisions, are delivering meals on wheels to our senior clients as well as delivering groceries and fresh produce to other seniors. I want to give a special shout out to our cleaning staff that has been involved in sanitizing and disinfecting county buildings, facilities and transit buses. It has been a big task. Frederick County Government is actively working to purchase and obtain Personal Protective Equipment or PPE for community need including our

healthcare workers, first responders, nursing homes, and others in the face of critical shortages.

Our public health staff, incorporating our school health team, have been on the job providing support for our hospital, nursing homes, health providers and individuals while investigating and following up on those people who have tested positive for the virus. Public health has also been inspecting businesses and providing guidance for safe procedures to reduce the spread of the virus. And they are working on plans for expanded testing and contact tracing. They are working on over drive!

I am extremely grateful for our dedicated county employees who remain on the job, and particularly for those who have stepped up to do very different jobs. While Frederick County Government has modified or altered the delivery of services, we are ensuring essential services and doing a lot of problem solving for Frederick County residents.

### Essential Budget

I realize that the budget may not be on everyone’s mind, but to ensure the ongoing operation of county government, I presented my proposed operating budget on April 15, as required by the county’s Charter. Preparing and presenting the annual county budget is one of the most important tasks I have as County Executive.

The fiscal year 2021 proposed budget focuses on the basics - providing essential services to the citizens of Frederick County. The essential budget accomplished three goals: it funds mandates, it ensures the ongoing delivery of critical services, and it

supports county workers who deliver these services to citizens every day, including during this pandemic. The budget is based on existing property and income tax rates with no proposed tax rate increases.

Our citizens expect and deserve to live in a safe community, to have outstanding schools, and to count on essential services like water and sewer and trash disposal. While the county budget revenue is projected to decline because of the economic impact of the health pandemic on our economy, the demand for essential services and the need to protect public health has increased.

The conservative budget focuses on providing the basics and anticipates that income tax revenue will be lower because of the pandemic. This budget is based on income tax revenue levels from two years ago. The essential budget maintains existing county services. It pays the bills. It funds mandates. It ensures services meet the demand of a growing population.

Working together, across all county divisions, we have balanced the needs of our growing community with the need to be fiscally responsible. Not only do we always pay our bills, we are careful not to create bills we cannot afford. We also don’t spend money we don’t have. Unlike the federal government, the county balances its budget. We do no deficit spending. We also have money saved

in reserves, although my proposed budget does not tap into these rainy day funds. We live within our means.

The proposed essential budget funds no new positions, no expansion of services or new initiatives with the exception of the addition of 13 firefighter/Emergency Medical Technicians to open the new Northgate Fire Station fully staffed to meet critical calls for service on the northwest side of the City of Frederick. Many legitimate needs and budget requests were considered in preparing the budget, but I have decided this is simply not the right time to expand services no matter how justified. It is my hope that once the pandemic is past, we will be able to revisit the budget, project revenues with greater certainty, and consider some additional decisions.

I am proud that Frederick County lives within our means while providing outstanding services. You can find the proposed FY21 operating and capital budgets on the county website at [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/budget](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/budget).

There is still plenty of optimism for a bright future. Frederick County’s fundamental underlying economy is strong and our business community is diverse. I am confident we will weather this storm and once again have a thriving economy. Frederick County is a caring community and we witness this every day particularly during difficult times.

### continued from previous page.

lic. Town field and office staff are still working on a rotating basis. Town office hours: 9 am – 3 pm, Monday through Thursday. A staff member will be monitoring town phones on Fridays. Water and wastewater treatment plants are continually supervised every day...We planned to hold virtual town meetings at 7:30 pm, Monday, May 4th. A special budget presentation meeting, at 7:30 pm, Monday, May 18th. A Planning Commission meeting is planned for Tuesday, May 5th at 7:30 pm. It will also be a virtual meeting. The developers for Dunkin Donuts and Rutters are still working their development plans through County and State permitting.

The yard waste collection site will be open on Saturday, May 2nd, 9 to noon. If allowed, we are planning to reopen the town office to more normal hours Monday, May 11th. Quarterly Water, Sewer and Trash bills (WST) will be mailed out May 18th with a payment due date of June 24th. To get back on schedule the next WST bills will go out June 30th. This is a compressed schedule. Please call the office if you have problems with payments. We will work with you. Let’s work together.

The best advice I can give is near the same advice I gave at the March 3rd town meeting: Stay calm, drink lots of water, stay rested, exercise, watch your diet, all as recommended by your physician. Add to that, stay at home, wear

a face mask in public places and keep 6-foot self-distancing. Know you are at risk and that we all pose a risk to others, and that there are those who are

more at risk than others.

Don’t miss this opportunity to call or do something for someone who would really appreciate it. Thank you.



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Due to undercounts in the 2010 Census, Frederick County lost over eleven million dollars! Those funds could have been used for improving our local schools, investing in public infrastructure and serving residents with programs and support to enrich our quality of life.

For each person that is not counted, our community loses \$18,000/person over the next ten years to invest into these and other important community programs and services.

**By completing the census, you ensure that Frederick County receives the support we need to ensure that our entire community can thrive.**

**Complete the Census online at [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov) or by calling 844-330-2020 (tollfree) to be counted!**

For more information, visit [FrederickCountyMD.gov/2020Census](http://FrederickCountyMD.gov/2020Census) or Facebook @CensusFrederick2020

## FROM THE DESK OF...

## Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

All 67 counties in Pennsylvania are under a 'Stay at Home Order' through May 8<sup>th</sup>. Guidance is to stay at home as much as possible. Try to get groceries once per week instead of daily. Freedom of travel remains, but you are asked to refrain from non-essential travel. Essential travel includes things like commuting to an essential job, picking up supplies like groceries and medicine, and checking on family and pets in other households. Do not attend gatherings.

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Pennsylvania Administration announced that the construction industry can resume in-person operations as of May 1<sup>st</sup>. Previously, the governor's order was to cease construction projects unless they were supporting life-sustaining businesses or activities or were granted an exemption to perform or support life-sustaining activities. Under the new guidance, all construction projects can move forward but must still maintain proper social distancing, provide hand washing and sanitizing stations for workers, and follow other government guidance. This is good news for both our local homebuilders and those families who are building or planning to build

homes in our community.

The 2020 Census is being taken during this COVID-19 crisis. It is important to complete the census whether online, phone, or mail. As of April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, the self-response rate total for Adams County was 58.6%. Let's try for 100%. Because of the COVID-19 outbreak, the U.S. Census Bureau has extended the self-response data collection phase from July 31<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>. For more information, go to 2020census.gov.

June 2<sup>nd</sup> is the new date for the Pennsylvania Primary. All voters can now vote by mail! The new deadlines associated with the primary are: May 18<sup>th</sup> is the last day to update your voter registration, and May 26<sup>th</sup> is the last day to apply for a mail-in ballot or civilian absentee ballot. If you want to be mailed a paper application, need help, or have questions, call 717-337-9832. The Carroll Valley District 1 and 2 Polling Places will be located at the Borough Municipal Building from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Many organizations in our area have worked hard to provide support to area families in need. In recent months, representatives from several

of these organizations have joined forces to create Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN)! The reason this group exists is to make sure that no one in the Greater Fairfield Area feels that they are all alone without a resource, a friend, someone who cares and can help. If you have a need or know of someone who has a need, please help us HELP! Here are some ways that NHN can help: Elderly who are afraid to leave their home or if you are immunocompromised and you can't leave your home but need food or medical supplies. NHN can find safe ways to drop things off.

If you or your neighbor is in the medical field and exhausted after work? NHN may be able to help with dinner. Have recent changes left you concerned that you won't be able to feed your family in the days/weeks to come? NHN facilitates food distribution every Monday and Friday from 11:30 am-1:00 pm at the St. John Lutheran Church on Main Street in Fairfield. No questions, No forms to fill-out ... just show up ... NHN will help. This grassroots group has a simple mission: "We cannot solve all the problems of the world, but hopefully we can make the problems in

our little corner of the world a little easier to get through."

You can reach a representative of Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors using Facebook messenger or send a confidential email to fairfield-nhn@gmail.com. If you would like to be a Neighbor who Helps! There are many ways that you can volunteer and NHN is always looking for a few Good Neighbors!

Heroes are those who risk their lives every day to protect our community — health care providers and staff, police, and firefighters. And, we should also recognize those unsung heroes who are giving their time to ensure that the government continues to function under emergency conditions, that people are being fed, prescriptions being picked up, neighbors being called, and driven to medical appointments. To all of these heroes, I offer my deepest heartfelt thank you for your effort, thoughtfulness, and sacrifice you are making to get us all through this COVID-19 pandemic.

To honor these local heroes, as Mayor of Carroll Valley Borough, I am proclaiming Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> Hometown Heroes Appreciation Day. While under the Pennsylvania State "Stay at Home" order, I ask Carroll Valley residents to honor our

hometown heroes by doing one or all of the following: turn on the porch light for the evening; call a hometown hero, if neighbor, and express your appreciation and/or post a 'Thank You' on social media to those who are serving on the front lines of the COVID-10 battlefield and continue to show resolve to restore their local businesses and civic life to their former prominence. Most of all, keep our hometown heroes in your thoughts and prayers.

Over the past number of weeks, we have learned COVID-19 is easily transmitted, thus the advice not to gather in group settings, practice social distancing, wash your hands frequently because soap and water can easily breakdown the thin layer of fat protecting the protein molecule (COVID-19) if hands are washed for at least 20 seconds. No one knows what the 'new' norm will be once the 'stay at home' order is lifted. Hopefully, everyone will recognize, accept, and follow the new social behavioral patterns. It is going to take time to get back to where we were before COVID-19. However, it will be a 'new norm.' Stay well, my friends! If you have any questions, email MayorRonHarris@comcast.net or call 301-606-2021.

## State Representative Dan Moul

The General Assembly is working at a feverish pace to pass legislation aimed at getting our Commonwealth back on track as we all deal with the statewide shutdown and resulting quarantine, job losses and social distancing measures brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our goal is to safely reopen Pennsylvania businesses that can comply with scientific guidelines outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to protect the health and safety of Pennsylvanians, frontline health care providers and first responders, and get citizens back to work.

Construction has continued without interruption in most other states because it is important work and is an industry that can easily comply with CDC guidelines. The House passed House Bill 2400, which I co-sponsored, to allow all public and private construction activities to resume operations if they can adhere to scientific CDC guidelines to protect workers. Our action prompted the governor to announce he would allow the restart of all construction on May 1.

House Bill 2376, the One Staffer/One Shopper bill, which would allow a retail business staffed by one employee to open for business if it allowed only one customer into the store at a time. The bill is designed to enable shoppers to visit smaller venue retailers and avoid the larger crowds often present at big box stores.

House Bill 1822, which would provide protections for workers impacted by COVID-19, ensuring they cannot be terminated or demoted for becoming ill or abiding by a doctor's order to quarantine.

House Bill 1869, which would relax

staffing requirements for Basic Life Support Services across Pennsylvania and provide compensation and disability benefits related to COVID-19 to certain emergency responders and Pennsylvania National Guard personnel.

Since mid-March, the state has received more than 1.5 million unemployment claims. I am well aware of the extreme delays, system crashes and other problems filers have experienced in trying to claim the benefits they need. I continue to stress to administration officials the dire need of so many Pennsylvanians struggling to pay their bills and put food on their tables. For general information about unemployment compensation benefits, visit [www.dli.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.dli.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx).

The department opened its online application for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program to provide benefits to self-employed workers and independent contractors. That system has also had more than a few glitches, but I have been assured it is functioning properly now.

While the statewide stay-at-home order has been extended to May 8, the governor outlined a color-coded,

phased plan he intends to use to reopen the Commonwealth's economy. Under the plan, areas with fewer confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be the first to move toward reopening with other regions remaining under current orders until they reach a level of fewer than 50 cases per 100,000 people for a period of 14 days.

The governor compared the three phases to a traffic light, with the entire state currently in shutdown - or the "red" phase. Areas in the northwest and northcentral portions of the state are most likely the first regions to move into the yellow phase, and ultimately the green phase when they can open completely. For details about what the governor would permit in each phase.

Nearly \$16 million is on its way to Pennsylvania food banks, which are providing critical assistance to Pennsylvanians during the COVID-19 crisis to provide critical support and food to Pennsylvania's food banks and emergency food assistance network working to feed the hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians in need.

To stay up to date on legislation we are working on in the General Assembly, please visit [www.RepMoul.com](http://www.RepMoul.com).

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# GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

## County Commissioner Marty Qually

I'd like to start by thanking the medical and emergency professionals, who have been working non-stop to keep us all safe. Following closely is my gratitude to everyone who has taken the time to protect themselves and their family, and then found time to check in on neighbors, donate to food banks, make masks for those exposed to risk, and in any way help us all get through this.

County government is first and foremost a service agency. The first service and foremost is providing for the health and safety of the public. Currently, the interaction between our staff and the public is the potential health threat that is making everyday operations a challenge. It is important to note that while many businesses were ordered to close to slow the spread of the virus, county government was exempt from these orders. Our closure and subsequent safety procedures were initiated because we agreed with the need to limit exposure to our staff and the public. Likewise, as the public was ordered to stay at home, our hallways naturally began to empty of residents looking for services. So while we could have stayed open it was neither practical, nor productive.

In the early days of the outbreak we had to close down our buildings, but were still able to provide some services remotely. Thankfully, we have created a strong Information Technology department, so while challenging, we were able to continue with many services remotely. Some staff have still needed to use the building, but for the most part the courthouse and our

other public buildings went eerily quiet. Still today, if one calls the courthouse, the staff answering the phone may very well be answering from their own homes.

Likewise, staff are answering emails from the safety of their homes and doing their best to provide services without personal contact. This does not work for every service, so some services were temporarily placed on hold. We are still in a critical phase of this pandemic, so if you need any county services, please first check our website for updates at [www.adamscounty.us](http://www.adamscounty.us) or call our main line at 717-334-6781 before coming to a public building. If you do have to come into a building for an allowed service, expect to have your temperature taken by security and expect to see social distancing and other safety protocols in place. We are doing our best to provide services as safely as possible.

Shortly, after this edition is printed the county will have begun what I would call a 'forced opening'. While we can safely begin to phase in some in-person services over time and as directed by our governor, there are some services we must provide now. One unique and challenging aspect of county government is that we are not a single entity, we are a collection of independently elected officials (Judges, District Attorney, Sheriff, Treasurer, Prothonotary, Register and Recorder, Controller, Coroner and Clerk of Courts) with specific obligations and statutory duties. While commissioners hold the power to control all elected officials' budgets, we cannot counter-

mand some functions, especially in regards to court operations. Thus, the first large scale re-opening of services will a return to court hearings.

Currently, the Adams County Court of Common Pleas has over 400 cases in need of adjudication. Justice cannot be delayed, it must be served. That being said, serving justice in the time of COVID-19 will take on a new look. I am not just speaking about masks, remote hearings, and social distancing. We also need to be cognizant of the safety of those sentenced for crimes. Adams County for some time now has utilized home confinement as an alternative to prison sentencing, when appropriate for certain crimes. While that had been a tool to keep criminals living more functional lives, potentially caring for children or remaining employed, now it must become a means to more safely administer justice. Specifically, we cannot run the risk of introducing covid-19 into our prison population.

As I mentioned, county government is controlled by specific laws, while justice must be served, we have a duty to maintain the safety of those serving jail sentences. Our warden and her team have done a great job working with the courts to establish protocols to keep inmates and staff safe during this pandemic. We expect some of these protocols to remain in effect for months to come.

Another aspect of county government, which can be delayed, but not stopped, are elections. Elections matter, this year more than most! Across America we have seen pri-

mary elections postponed. Our primary has been pushed back to June 2nd and the law has been changed to make vote by mail more easily accessible. Due to a 2018 election lawsuit, we were already on the path to all new processes and equipment to ensure better elections. For our elections office this year was already going to be a challenging one.

Our Director of Elections and her staff have had to learn everything new this year and then COVID-19 comes along with a new wave of concerns. In other PA counties election directors are resigning instead of face an election that could be a stressful train wreck. I do not say that lightly. New equipment, new laws, and now a pandemic that puts older poll workers and voters at risk is a recipe for disaster. Thankfully, Angie and her team are up to the challenge and the board county commissioners are increasing resources to protect volunteers, voters, and staff. This primary will be a test run for what will be a huge general election. This is just one example of a county duty, which can be delayed, but not put off indefinitely.

That brings us to the most challenging change to county government. This month we will need to furlough over 80 county staff members. Previously, I mentioned that county government is made up of multiple independently elected officials, each with their own duties. The Board of Commissioners largest duty is managing the county budget. Our fiduciary responsibility to taxpayers requires that we take advantage of the new CARES

Act unemployment benefits to preserve county tax dollars during this crisis. If I thought this situation was only going to last a few more weeks or that everything would return to normal, then I personally would not put a single employee through a furlough.

While a furlough does not mean that someone loses their position or their health care benefits, it does mean we are not paying them. With the millions of Americans and Pennsylvanians applying for unemployment right now, receiving an unemployment check has been delayed. County staff are the most important part of government. Balancing their needs and responsible fiscal management is like walking a razor's edge. Too far either direction and there will be pain, but as we enter into another recession we have no other choice. We must find ways to save money, or the next few years will result in more than just furloughs.

Over the next few months our staff will assess long-term changes and solutions needing to be implemented as a response to COVID-19. We do not currently know how long this will last, so we cannot anticipate the cost of safety measures. We do not know the fiscal impacts due to the loss of tax revenue. Our tax director is projecting the tax revenue shortfalls we can anticipate this year and next. Without tax revenue we may have to reduce services. The good news is that Adams County is fiscally strong. Our borrowing capacity is large enough to outpace our needs and our reserves are more than adequate to survive a temporary loss of state and tax revenue.

We will get through this. Be well. Stay safe.

## State Senator Doug Mastriano

Senate Bill 1103 is off to an illustrious start. Known as the "Back to Work Initiative," the measure is currently assigned to the Senate Health & Human Services Committee. After I introduced this bill, the Pennsylvania House immediately copied the language and included a mirror version of it in House Bill 2389.

The background of this bill was triggered as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, when the Governor shut down all businesses not considered to be "life-sustaining." This shows how little he understands our workforce because in my book, every job is essential, whether it is a privately-owned business or a large corporation.

I remain concerned how the Wolf Administration has been handling this crisis. There have been too many draconian measures that did not take into account how 'non-essential' jobs are vital to the operation and function of our state. This has led to many rash decisions by Governor Wolf that may cripple our state economically - decisions that should not have been so broad.

The problem is that Governor Wolf's bureaucrats are making these decisions in a vacuum, and not in coordination with peo-

ple who have actually had to earn a living the old-fashioned way. We need to get this decision-making process out of their hands and back into the hands of the people.

After I introduced SB1103 ("PA Healthy Citizens & Healthy Businesses Back to Work Initiative"), which would safely and smartly return Pennsylvanians back to work, I worked with several House members to introduce a mirror version of this bill.

As a military strategist, my approach is multifaceted and encompasses a two-prong approach to fix our rudderless ship that the Governor is endeavoring to steer.

Should the House version of Senate Bill 1103 - which is moving faster than my Senate bill - hit a dead end (or veto), then we will have another course of action to pursue to get this common sense legislation to the Governor's desk.

Sadly, since the House version is part of a larger legislative package, it seems clear that the Governor will veto it. I hope the Senate runs the original version, SB 1103, as a standalone bill that is less likely to be vetoed.

Senate Bill 1103 uses health and safety guidelines by the Center for Disease Control and the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety & Health Administra-

tion, and would allow businesses to reopen without going through the Governor's flawed (and now closed) waiver process.

My bill captures what needs to happen to keep a job site or business at 'low risk' of spreading the virus. It then leaves it up to you to reopen for business.

The bottom line of this legislation: the Governor should not

pick winners and losers. The business community should be able to innovate and adapt to stay open.

*Senator Mastriano represents Adams and parts of Franklin counties.*



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# COMMENTARY

## Words From Winterbilt

Our past is not necessarily our future

Shannon Bohrer

How we solve our problems is related to our past. Our world has historically been very stable, so when problems occur, we rely on our experiences. Our perspective of a stable world allows us to make sense of our surroundings including our environment. Historically, we know how things worked so that became our model for survival. You could call this instinctive evolutionary survival. Our past experiences even with abnormal weather, heat and cold, storms, floods and even illnesses created our models for dealing with our current problems. We literally look backwards, for blueprints or models of how to deal with issues.

However, as humans our behavior has impacted our environment which has resulted in some unintended consequences, changing our world. The earth is warming; we have polluted the earth including every continent and every ocean. The changes to our world will also change the future. Simultaneously, we are so interconnected that when someone sneezes in Asia someone feels it in America. When dealing with current environmental and health issues, we will continue to look backward using our historical models, but we also need to look forward.

An example of a current problem that is related to our changing environment is flooding. We have flood maps, which explain where floods exist, so we don't build on ground that we know will be flooded. The maps were made with historical flooding data, looking to our past, where flooding has occurred before. The problem is that we are now experiencing flooding in areas that are not on the maps. When an area experiences a once

in a thousand year flood, three years in a row, that is a clue. Instead of just using historical data to predict future environmental problems, we need to predict the future with the use of data, which itself must be predicted. That may be easier to say than to accomplish.

Another example of a current problem that is also related to our changing environment is; how do we control global health issues, like the Coronavirus. The historical answer is simple; we develop a test to determine if someone is infected, we then isolate those infected, we then develop a vaccine and then everyone is vaccinated. That is part of our model for how we make sense of our world and our model for survival. After all, a worldwide illness is something we have already experienced. History tells us that testing and isolation worked before, but is that the best direction going forward?

We have a long history of world health problems that include the "Black Plague" that killed an estimated 400 million people. The estimated deaths reduced the European population by 45 to 50 percent. The plague has never been eliminated, but it has been checked with better hygiene practices. At that time the only remedy was isolation, which did work for about half of the European population.

In the recent past, we experienced the 1918 influenza pandemic. This was the H1N1 virus, with estimated deaths worldwide as least 50 million people. The estimated deaths accounted for about 3 percent of the world population, significantly less than the "Black Plague," as a percentage.

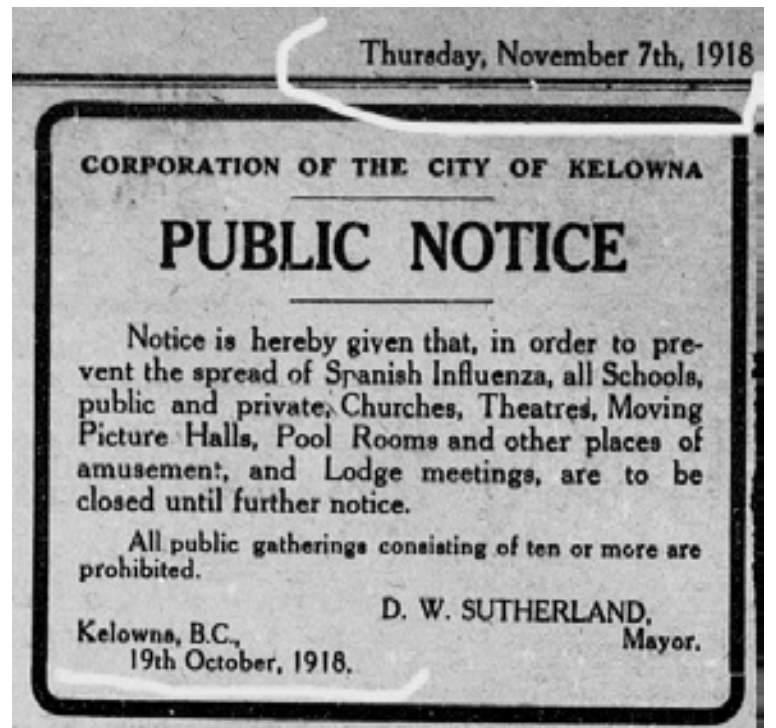
A form of the H1N1 called the AH1N1, appeared in 2009. The newer

or different version killed an estimated 150,000 to 575,000 people worldwide. With better vaccines, hygiene practices and quarantine usages, the death rates were lower. What was unusual was that most of the deaths were in people under the age of 65. Genetic analysis of the virus told us that it had been around for over 30 years. It is believed that a large number of people over 65 had developed some immunity because of previous exposure.

Even when we apply our current models of vaccine and quarantine, the problems are rarely eliminated. Our experiences with the annual flu that affects millions and results in 12,000 to 50,000 deaths each year. Obviously even with vaccines and quarantines the problems still exist and people will still die.

Using models that we developed from past experiences to solve our problems has merit with a history of good outcomes. Without past data, the flood maps that we used for so long would not have existed. Without the traditional vaccines for the flu, the deaths would be significantly higher. So using historical information for current problems has been successful, but we also need to look forward. Our world and environment has changed faster than some of our models, so we also need to use projected facts and science to anticipate future problems.

A large clue of potential future problems occurred in 2016, when anthrax killed more than 2000 reindeer in Siberia. The outbreak occurred when a frozen reindeer carcass infected with anthrax, thawed out and exposed the surrounding environment. The carcass had been frozen in permafrost for 75 years, but thawed because of unusually warm weather. While we know that anthrax exists and was more of an historical problem than today, will it make a



return and be a recurring problem.

The outbreak of anthrax because of warming temperatures was just one clue. Another clue was discovered in 2015, when a giant virus, believed to be 30,000 years old, was also found in the permafrost in Siberia. "A giant virus, also known as a girus, is a very large virus, some of which are larger than typical bacteria." The giant virus was not a danger to humans; at least this one was not. However, how many other known and/or unknown viruses and/or pathogens exist that is dormant.

As our world warms, we should expect more extreme weather and more extreme illnesses, even more pandemics. The coronavirus that we are currently dealing with is just one of many that the world has already experienced. Prior coronaviruses include SARS in 2003 and MERS in 2012. To deal with numerous viruses and pathogens, some of which we have never experienced, maybe we should return to having some type of world surveillance and guidelines to deal with emerging threats. If we

know that a problem exist in one part of the world, we need some warning to prepare. This would be similar to having weather stations and satellites to warn us of severe weather problems. We should also return to having an office in the National Security Council that plans and coordinates response to future pandemics. I say return to because both the world surveillance program and the NSC coordinator for pandemics were eliminated two years ago by our "Very Stable Genius."

We don't know how long Covid-19 will last or end, but we should expect a Covid-20 or 21 to emerge, we just don't know when.

*"Thinking about the future is fundamentally important to dealing with the challenges of today"*

—Jamais Cascio

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

## Common Cents

Wasting disease of normalcy

Brian Terrell

"But what of the price of peace?" Basked Jesuit priest and war resister Daniel Berrigan, writing from federal prison in 1969, doing time for his part in the destruction of draft records. "I think of the good, decent, peace-loving people I have known by the thousands, and I wonder. How many of them are so afflicted with the wasting disease of normalcy that, even as they declare for the peace, their hands reach out with an instinctive spasm in the direction of their loved ones, in the direction of their comforts, their home, their security, their income, their future, their plans -- that twenty-year plan of family growth and unity, that fifty-year plan of decent life and honorable natural demise."

From his prison cell in a year of mass movements to end the war in Vietnam and mobilizations for nuclear disarmament, Daniel Berrigan diagnosed normalcy as a disease and labeled it an obstacle to peace. "Of course, let us have the peace,' we cry, 'but at the same time let us have normalcy, let us lose nothing, let our lives stand intact, let us know neither prison nor ill repute nor disruption of ties.' And because we must encompass this and protect that, and because at all costs -- at all costs -- our hopes

must march on schedule, and because it is unheard of that in the name of peace a sword should fall, disjoining that fine and cunning web that our lives have woven... because of this we cry peace, peace, and there is no peace."

Fifty one years later, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the very notion of normalcy is being questioned as never before. While Donald Trump is "chomping on the bit" to return the economy to normal very soon based on a metric in his own head, more reflective voices are saying that a return to normal, now or even in the future, is an intolerable threat to be resisted. "There is a lot of talk about returning to 'normal' after the COVID-19 outbreak," says climate activist Greta Thunberg, "but normal was a crisis."

In recent days even economists with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and columnists in the New York Times have spoken about the urgent necessity of reordering economic and political priorities to something more human- only the thickest and cruelest minds today speak of a return to normal as a positive outcome.

Early in the pandemic, the Australian journalist John Pilger reminded the world of the baseline normal that COVID-19 exacerbates: "A pandemic has been declared, but not for the 24,600 who die

every day from unnecessary starvation, and not for 3,000 children who die every day from preventable malaria, and not for the 10,000 people who die every day because they are denied publicly-funded healthcare, and not for the hundreds of Venezuelans and Iranians who die every day because America's blockade denies them life-saving medicines, and not for the hundreds of mostly children bombed or starved to death every day in Yemen, in a war supplied and kept going, profitably, by America and Britain. Before you panic, consider them."

I was starting high school when Daniel Berrigan asked his question and at the time, while there obviously were wars and injustices in the world, it seemed as though if we did not take them too seriously or protest too strenuously, the American Dream with its limitless potential was spread before us. Play the game, and our hopes would "march on schedule" was an implied promise that in 1969 looked like a sure thing, for us young white North Americans, anyway. A few years later, I abandoned normal life, dropped out after a year of college and joined the Catholic Worker movement where I came under the influence of Daniel Berrigan and Dorothy Day, but these were privileged choices that I made. I did not reject normalcy because I did not think that it could deliver on its promise, but because I wanted something else. As Greta Thunberg and the Friday school strikers for climate convict my generation, few young

people, even from previously privileged places, come of age today with such confidence in their futures.

The pandemic has brought home what the threats of global destruction by climate change and nuclear war should have long ago- that the promises of normalcy will never deliver in the end, that they are lies that lead those who trust in them to the ruin. Daniel Berrigan saw this a half century ago, normalcy is an affliction, a wasting disease more dangerous to its victims and to the planet than any viral plague.

Author and human rights activist Arundhati Roy is one of many who recognizes the peril and the promise of the moment: "Whatever it is, coronavirus has made the mighty kneel and brought the world to a halt like nothing else could. Our minds are still racing back and forth, longing for a return to 'normality', trying to stitch our future to our past and refusing to acknowledge the rupture. But the rupture exists. And in the midst of this terrible despair, it offers us a chance to rethink the doomsday machine we have built for ourselves. Nothing could be worse than a return to normality. Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next."

"Every crisis contains both danger and opportunity," said Pope Francis about the present situation. "Today

I believe we have to slow down our rate of production and consumption and to learn to understand and contemplate the natural world. This is the opportunity for conversion. Yes, I see early signs of an economy that is less liquid, more human. But let us not lose our memory once all this is past, let us not file it away and go back to where we were."

"There are ways forward we never imagined -- at huge cost, with great suffering -- but there are possibilities and I'm immensely hopeful," said Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, on Easter. "After so much suffering, so much heroism from key workers and the NHS (National Health Service) in this country and their equivalents all across the globe, once this epidemic is conquered we cannot be content to go back to what was before as if all was normal. There needs to be a resurrection of our common life, a new normal, something that links to the old but is different and more beautiful."

In these perilous times, it is necessary to use the best social practices and to wisely apply science and technology to survive the present COVID-19 pandemic. The wasting disease of normalcy, though, is the far greater existential threat and our survival requires that we meet it with at least the same courage, generosity and ingenuity.

*To read other articles by Brian Terrell visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*

# The American Mind

## Nationalism on the rise

William Hillman

While America was binge watching The Office on Netflix, oil dipped below zero dollars per barrel, China is winning, and the Bill of Rights has been suspended indefinitely.

Just before I sat down to write this, I watched a video of a woman in Idaho who was arrested for playing with her children in a park. We have seen a Police officer arrested for having a catch with his daughter. Freedom of expression, assembly, and religion as guaranteed in the Bill of Rights have been taken away with little more than a whimper by the American citizens. Governors are now state dictators suspending basic rights and seizing control of all business, deciding who can work and who will suffer. All this without legislative or judicial oversight.

The actions and events in China at the outbreak of the Wuhan virus leave one to wonder if the spread of this virus was, at worst intentional, or at least used as an opportunity to further China's dream of world dominance and expanding its sphere of control.

The outbreak started in December of 2019 when 27 people in Wuhan were hospitalized with a mysterious pneumonia. Eight doctors tried to send out a warning to other doctors on social media. The posts were removed by censors and police took the doctors into custody where it was 'explained' to them not to engage in "rumor mongering." This was the first play in the

Chinese Communist Party's coverup.

China's authorities did not tell its own citizens the dangers they faced but kept quiet as the virus spread. The first patients were reported on December 1st. The Wuhan Health Commission didn't reveal the outbreak to the public until December 31. I've read reports that estimate 86% of cases of infection in Wuhan were unreported prior to the January 23rd travel restrictions. The withholding of this information allowed for the quick global spread.

On January 18th, well after they knew the spread rate, Wuhan organized a large-scale dinner to 'celebrate the Lunar New Year'. More the 40,000 families attended. The Epoch Times reported that scores of people who attended the event contracted the virus. Because of the Lunar New Year's festivities, many Chinese then traveled across the country and abroad to spend time with families.

As of Mid-January, Wuhan was officially reporting only 41 cases. During this same time, cases were popping up in Thailand and Japan.

While the Chinese government downplayed the virus and underreported the numbers, The Epoch Times interviewed staff at funeral homes who said their intake had skyrocketed and they were working around the clock to cremate bodies from hospitals and private homes.

The CCP had a long and old tradition of sacrificing its citizenship in exchange for geopolitical positioning,

As recently as the 2002-2003 SARS outbreak, the government withheld and downplayed reports of the virus as to not disrupt the CCP's leadership transition. The party wanted to make sure that "nothing shall rock the boat."

There have been numerous investigations and reports on how the CCP deceit allowed the virus to spread to more than 185 countries.

In the last few weeks, the leading protesters in Hong Kong have been arrested, and opposition media has been closed. The Chinese government restated and expanded its position that Beijing has the power to intervene in Hong Kong. The move leaves no doubt over the destruction and fall of the Hong Kong constitution that was supposed to guarantee the city's self-rule and autonomy from Chinese interference until 2047, fifty years after its handover from British rule.

On other fronts, China has invaded Taiwanese airspace, ran military exercises across the Taiwan Strait, and Chinese speedboats have damaged a Taiwanese Coast Guard ship. China is pushing so hard that a Taiwanese defense official had to tell an increasingly panicking public that the island is prepared for an attack. China has also been making inroads into Philippine-claimed reefs, building new facilities in the West Philippine Sea.

As the European Union has failed to support its member nations, China is offering aid and financial support, extending its "one belt one road" power grab into Europe. The European Union has shown its true impotence in the face of the pan-

dem. Italy was abandoned, left to fend for itself.

French President Emmanuel Macron, in an interview with The Financial Times, warned that the European Union will collapse as a "political project" unless the bloc supports Italy and other economies stricken by the coronavirus pandemic through a commonly issued and guaranteed funding mechanism.

From Fortune magazine April 17th: "When Italy invoked an European Union framework meant to facilitate the sharing of vital medical supplies between members, not a single European country responded. Only weeks later, on March 22, did the European Commission approve a \$50 million (\$54.6 million) grant to Italy to help it produce ventilators and personal protective equipment.

Instead of mutual aid, an every-nation-for-itself mentality gripped the Continent. Denmark, Poland, and the Czech Republic closed their borders, with Germany shuttering crossings with France, Austria, and Luxembourg. Many European Union nations imposed export restrictions on medical supplies. France nationalized its entire supply of face masks while Germany blocked shipments of masks intended for Austria, sparking outrage.

Into the void stepped China, Cuba, and Albania, delivering medical supplies, doctors, and nurses. Russia sent a far more provocative aid package. It dispatched eight brigades of soldiers trained in chemical and biological warfare to deliver supplies and construct field hospitals. Given that the European Union was orig-

inally formed, in part, as a bulwark against Moscow's designs on Western Europe, the irony was acute.

The next test and possibly the final straw facing the European Union is the impending immigrant crisis. Turkey is threatening to release the 4 million Syrians currently in Turkey refugee camps, into Europe via Greece, and the oil price drop will spur millions more immigrants from northern Africa into Europe.

Oil prices have dropped close to (and for a short time below) zero dollars per barrel. Countries whose economy and government rely on oil production will be devastated. Saudi Arabia, UAE and Kuwait depend on higher oil prices to fund social programs. Iraq and Iran could all face social unrest if oil prices remain at these low levels (as does Venezuela in the west). In Africa, Libya, already on the brink of collapse, relies on oil revenue for its large social programs. The oil price drop has shut down the economy of Nigeria, which has the largest population in Africa.

In the wings are NGOs waiting and willing to help these nations shed off their angry, unemployed youth to Europe. Will European nations stand by the European Union open border policy when millions of refugees flood an already weakened and falling health and welfare system? Or will these nations act in the best interests of their citizens?

We will witness a worldwide political shift. Nationalism will rise.

To read past editions of *The American Mind*, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

# Down Under

## Toward a new world

Submitted by Lindsay  
Melbourne, Australia!

*So many gods, so many creeds,  
So many paths that wind and  
wind,*

*While just the art of being  
Kind*

*Is all the sad world needs.*  
—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

The world will never be the same again.

Well, the world will be, but we wont. The winds of change have been gathering for quite a while, but now their force has begun stripping away the facades we blithely sheltered behind. You might think I'm talking about Covid-19, the virus purgatory that has arrived, and although it is the worst pandemic the earth has ever seen – not yet about numbers, but social devastation and trade – but about two far more serious problems.

The first is finance, and the first part of that is the straight out cost of containing the plague. Throughout the world this is such an enormous issue, yet only a few academics have studied possible outcomes, and no government, whether democratic or not, has any good answers. Some, like Italy and Spain have been caught by cultural norms, unable to act

quickly, so are paying a heavy price. Britain has had other problems, the NHS doing its best, but proximity was always going to be a difficult. You, in the U.S., have problems stemming from your system of government and a basic addiction to money.

The second part of finance is work. All non-essential work has had to close, (or should have), meaning the unemployment rate has skyrocketed. Britain came up with a radical idea which we have copied – a guaranteed wage for all employees on the books at the time of closure – theirs was 80% of the wage earned, we a payment \$1100 per fortnight. Our unemployment rate is expected to reach 10% soon, and the bill for the scheme could reach a trillion. We are also giving most of those with assets less than 50,000 and an income below \$500 a handout of at least \$750, and small businesses with a turnover of less than (I think) 50 million get about \$135,000.

The third part of finance is exports and supply. With May oil futures in the negative, around \$-35 a barrel, medical supplies and medicines coming mainly from China and India, markets are way down, industry moribund, money is not flowing as it has done since trade was invented.

We depend on iron ore, coal and gas exports. They are dropping fast,

and our pipe-dream of getting the economy into the black is just that. How about your exports?

Fourth in finance is that many areas driving federal income have shrunk; tourism, travel, education, tariffs, sales taxes, rates and wage taxes. Money is not flowing in as it used to, beloved profit has gone with the wind, yet the stock market has rarely done better.

Gamblers bet on luck, hope and guesses, and the master gambler is touting return to normal within a few weeks. Wow! Things will be frantic, sales will skyrocket, and we'd better get in while we can. But, as in 1939, they will be caught, and window jumps will be the order of the day. The great depression will be like a minor dip; this one is going deep, will affect most places and people, and no amount of smoke and mirrors will make it go away.

The reaction in 39 was to close shop and weather the storm, which was exactly the opposite of what was needed. International trade, no matter how narrow, is the only way. The big players will have to if they want to survive, and there is one area it could happen.

Europe. The sanest, most down-to-earth mob there is will at least get together with the rest of the free world and trade, trade, trade. Australia, Canada, India, Argentina, Brazil, New Zealand.

China? They will be hard hit, their export market collapsed, their domestic market their only hope.

America? You will have to learn a very hard lesson: Profit must not be measured in cents and dollars alone. It has to be assessed in community structure, well-being, pride in product, and above all, honesty. The idea that if something can be purchased a few cents cheaper from overseas, then buy it, is stupid. Profit is not the only way to make money, there is greater profit in happy people who are willing to pay a bit more providing it is made in their country by their people – even if some greedy-eyed czar finishes the year a few dollars poorer than he might have been.

Will your government be able to get this happening? Past experience says 'No', but maybe Biden will have some ideas.

One thing for sure is that Donald Trump won't be there. The downturn will be so great that the market will nosedive, and all his frenetic tweets, boasts and hopes will go with it. People will see that the magic bag is empty, and boo him off stage. Reality will set in, hard, bitter reality that will strip away the make-believe that so many have lived on. They will become one with the poor, those discards that inhabit your cities and unloved areas. Millions of them.

The second overall part is political relations. We have relied on you for protection, as have many countries, and have been dismayed by your return to isolation and withdrawal from peace-

keeping. We see that this has given China a green light to push up influence and impose a subtle ideology on less developed or financial nations: Africa, the Pacific islands, parts of South America.

Your president has blustered his way to idiocy, dismayed friends and made enemies snigger, torn up treaties and imposed sanctions against the advice of those who see the bigger picture. The tectonics of politics has made new power bases, and Trump has shrugged.

Like true narcissists he has only one aim: be the centre of attention. To be seen as the greatest success the world has ever seen, to preach confidence, ignore anything that diminishes him, blacken opposition and those who do not accept his egocentric ways.

This pandemic is altering the state of everything international, so here is how it appears from here.

We will survive, stronger and wiser, for which we thank you. You will suffer from a broken system, which will take years to reform.

I'm just sorry that you, friends, acquaintances, word with friend friends, Facebook buddies will be in great pain.

Only you can do anything about it. Getting rid of Trump is a first step.

To read past editions of *Down Under*, visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

# THE PASTOR'S DESK

## “The kingdom of heaven is like...”

**Pastor Richard Baker**  
Trinity United Methodist Church

In Matthew's 13th chapter, Jesus started speaking in parables to both his disciples and the crowds who were gathering around him. He used every day easily explainable illustrations to make his point. The kingdom of heaven is like a man who scattered seeds. The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seeds in his field, but someone sowed weeds in the same field. The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. The kingdom of heaven is like yeast mixed into flour. The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for pearls. The kingdom of heaven is like a net cast out into the waters.

Jesus described the kingdom of heaven seven different ways in that chapter. Everyone who was listening would have been able to identify with at least one of his analogies. And the message of Easter is that the kingdom of heaven is right on track for where it should be. This pandemic might make some people think that God has given up on us. They question why God allowed this to happen, but every move God makes is designed to draw God's people closer to God. Sometimes, God may whisper to us; other times

God may hit us over the head. God will do anything God has to do to get our attention.

I am a student of the Hebrew Bible. In it, God laid out God's plan for the world. God created this beautiful world and gave us everything we needed, but we decided that wasn't enough. We sinned, but because of God's love, God made a new plan. God provided the people with a remedy for sin. He gave them the sacrificial system. All they had to do was offer an innocent animal, without blemish, and spill its blood onto the ground as a remedy for sin. Being human, we quickly decided that was okay, not really thinking about the reality that something innocent had to die to atone for our sins.

Then God gave us the law, laying out the dos and don'ts in our relationship with God. He gave us the law, and we looked for loopholes; how close could we get to sin and still be safe. Some saw the law as a hedge, and if they stayed on the right side, they were protected. But others saw the law as a hedge that prevented them from enjoying themselves. It's when we get to the New Testament and Romans that we discover that the law was a set-up. God knew we'd fail. God knew we couldn't keep the law; and in fact, the law was given to us to point out our failures and our need for a Savior. Paul said that the law

and the sacrificial system were designed to point us towards Christ.

All along, we desired a relationship with our Creator; we wanted to be closer, but the Bible teaches us that nothing impure or unholy can approach the Lord, and since we are impure and unholy, we are separated. We wanted God in our lives, but on our own terms. God's dilemma was how to reconcile God's holiness and yet relate to humanity.

And what we discover is that God knew along that we'd fail and had planned since the world's creation to send Jesus to be that one time for all time sacrifice. Easter was God's answer to our dilemma. An interesting story I once read was about a father and son walking in the woods and encountering a trail of ants on their path. They then noticed a stick on the path and saw that the ants tangled themselves up in a bunch when they encountered it. The boy wanted to pick up the stick and clear the path, but his father told him that the ants needed to figure out their path for themselves. But then the boy asked, what if he could become an ant; then he'd shown them how to go around it. Isn't that what Christ did for us? When we got all tangled up in our sin and couldn't find a way through, Christ came into the world to show us how to live holy lives, and



if that wasn't enough, Christ picked up the stick that separated us from God and bore it to Calvary.


The Bible is Good News, but it's only Good News to those who take what God said to heart. Our faith isn't designed to make us feel better, but to give us the tools we need to live this life to its fullest even in the storm, while we await Christ's return and our entry into God's new world. We don't just hope; we believe! We believe the words in our Bibles are true. We believe God's promises are going to be realized in our lives.

The message of Easter is that God regarded our helpless estate and shed his own blood to make us right, and because of what Jesus did, there is no need for an animal sacrifice. The law is no longer a burden, but something we delight in. As I said, we don't just hope, we believe, and as Paul said in his letter to the Romans, "Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand." Because we have been justified by Christ's death, we no longer fear the sting of death. Because we now have

peace, we can live life to its fullest. Because we now have direct access to God the Father, we can approach the throne of grace confident in God's love for us. Because we have faith, we believe that everything God said will come true.

We, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Emmitsburg try to live out these words. Like many, we fear for our loved ones during this pandemic, but we live in faith. You are invited to worship with us, while our building is closed by going to [trinityumc.yolasite.com](http://trinityumc.yolasite.com) Every Sunday we share an uplifting message by video on how God is working in our lives. We also offer a daily devotion for those who are interested. You may send a request to [rwb1.pastor@yahoo.com](mailto:rwb1.pastor@yahoo.com) and we will include you on our mailing list. We are blessed by God, and there is no greater proof than Easter. May God bless you abundantly. May you live without fear, and may God keep all of us safe until we can join together again. Thank you for allowing me to share.

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-Matthew 18:20



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## THE BOOK OF DAYS

## The history &amp; traditions of May Day



The outbreak into beauty which Nature makes at the end of April and beginning of May excites so joyful and admirable a feeling in the human breast, that there is no wonder the event should have at all times been celebrated in some way.

The first emotion is a desire to seize some part of that profusion of flower and blossom which spreads around us, to set it up in decorative fashion, pay it a sort of homage, and let the pleasure it excites find expression in dance and song. A mad happiness goes abroad over the earth, that Nature, long dead and cold, lives and smiles again. Doubtless there is mingled with this, too, in bosoms of any reflection, a grateful sense of the Divine goodness, which makes the promise of seasons so stable and so sure.

Amongst the Romans, the feeling of the time found vent in their Floralia, or Floral Games, which began on the 28th of April, and lasted a few days. Nations taking more or less their origins from Rome have settled upon the 1st of May as the special time for fetes of the same kind. With ancients and moderns alike it was one instinctive rush to the fields, to revel in the bloom which was newly presented on the meadows and the trees; the more city-pent the population, the more eager apparently the desire to get among the flowers, and bring away samples of them; the more sordidly drudging the life, the more hearty the relish for this one day of communion with things pure and beautiful.

Among the barbarous Celtic populations of Europe, there was a heathen festival on the same day, but it does not seem to have been connected with flowers. It was called Beltein, and found expression in the kindling of fires on hill tops by night. Amongst the peasantry of Ireland, of the Isle of Man, and of the Scottish Highlands, such doings were kept up till within the recollection of living people. We can see no identity of character in the two festivals; but the subject is an obscure one, and we must not speak on this point with too much confidence.

In England we have to go back several generations to find the observances of May-day in their

fullest development. In the sixteenth century it was still customary for the middle and humbler classes to go forth at an early hour of the morning, in order to gather flowers and hawthorn branches, which they brought home about sunrise with accompaniments of horn and tabor, and all possible signs of joy and merriment. With these spoils they would decorate every door and window in the village.

By a natural transition of ideas, they gave to the hawthorn bloom the name of the May; they called this ceremony 'the bringing home the May;' they spoke of the expedition to the woods as 'going a-Maying.' The fairest maid of the village was crowned with flowers, as the 'Queen of the May;' the lads and lasses met, danced and sang together, with a freedom which we would fain think of as bespeaking comparative innocence as well as simplicity.

Such festal doings we cannot look back upon without regret that they are no more. They give us the notion that our ancestors, while wanting many advantages which an advanced civilization has given to us, were freer from monotonous drudgeries, and more open to pleasurable impressions from outward nature. They seem somehow to have been more ready than we to allow themselves

to be happy, and to have often been merrier upon little than we can be upon much.

Not content with a garlanding of their brows, of their doors and windows, these merry people of the old days had in every town, or considerable district of a town, and in every village, a fixed pole, on which each May morning they suspended wreaths of flowers, and round which they danced in rings nearly the whole day.

Washington Irving, who visited England early in this century, records that he had seen one:

"I shall never," he says, "forget the delight I felt on first seeing a May-pole. It was on the banks of the Dee, close by the picturesque old bridge that stretches across the river from the quaint little city of Chester. I had already been carried back into former days by the antiquities of that venerable place, the examination of which is equal to turning over the pages of a black-letter volume.

"The May-pole on the margin of that poetic stream completed the illusion. My fancy adorned it with wreaths of flowers, and peopled the green bank with all the dancing revelry of May-day. The mere sight of this May-pole gave a glow to my feelings, and spread a charm over the country for the rest of the day; and as I traversed a part of the fair plains of Cheshire, and the beautiful borders of Wales, and looked from among swelling hills down a long green valley, through which 'the Deva wound its wizard stream,' my imagination turned all into a perfect Arcadia.

"I value every custom that tends to infuse poetical feeling into the common people, and to sweeten and soften the rudeness of rustic manners, without destroying their simplicity."

Indeed, it is to the decline of this happy simplicity that the decline of this custom may be traced; and the rural dance on the green and homely May-day pageant have gradually disappeared in

proportion as the peasantry have become expensive and artificial in their pleasures, and too, knowing for simple enjoyment.

Some attempts, indeed, have been made of late years by men of both taste and learning to rally back the popular feeling to these standards of primitive simplicity; but the time has gone by—the feeling has become chilled by habits of gain and traffic—the country apes the manners and amusements of the town, and little is heard of May-day at present, except from the lamentations of authors, who sigh after it from among the brick walls of the city.

The custom of having a Queen of the May, or May Queen, looks like a relic of the heathen celebration of the day: this flower-crowned maid appears as a living representative of the goddess Flora, whom the Romans worshipped on this day. Be it observed, the May Queen did not join in the revelries of her subjects. She was placed in a sort of bower or arbour, near the May-pole, there to sit in pretty state, an object of admiration to the whole village. She herself was half covered with flowers, and her shrine was wholly composed of them.

In London there are, and have long been, a few forms of May-day festivity in a great measure peculiar. The day is still marked by a celebration, well known to every resident in the metropolis, in which the chimney-sweeps play the sole part. What we usually see is a small band, composed of two or three men in fantastic dresses, one smartly dressed female glittering with spangles, and a strange figure called Jack-in-the-green, being a man concealed within a tall frame of herbs and flowers, decorated with a flag at top.

All of these figures or persons stop here and there in the course of their rounds, and dance to the music of a drum and fife, expecting of course to be remunerated by halfpence from the onlookers. It is now generally a rather poor show, and does not attract much regard; but many persons who have a love for old sports and day-observances, can never see the little troop without a feeling of interest, or allow it to pass without a silver remembrance. How this black profession should have been the last sustainers of the old rites of May-day in the metropolis does not appear.

At no very remote time—certainly within the present century—there was a somewhat similar demonstration from the milk-maids. In the course of the morning the eyes of the house-holders would be greeted with the sight of a milch-cow, all garlanded with flowers, led along by a small group of dairy-women, who, in light and fantastic dresses, and with heads wreathed in flowers, would dance around the animal to the sound of a violin or clarinet.

In Scotland there are few relics of the old May-day observances—we might rather say none, beyond a lingering propensity in the young of the female sex to go out at an early hour, and wash their faces with dew. At Edinburgh this custom is kept up with considerable vigour, the favourite scene of the lavation being Arthur's Seat. On a fine May morning, the appearance of so many gay groups perambulating the hill sides and the intermediate valleys, searching for dew, and rousing the echoes with their harmless mirth, has an indescribably cheerful effect.

To read other selections from Robert Chambers' 1864 *The book of Days* visit [www.thebookofdays.com](http://www.thebookofdays.com).



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## ECOLOGY

# Sustainable hiking and leave no trace

Lizzy Ryan  
Strawberry Hill  
Nature Preserve

The days are warming, the sun is shining, it's a beautiful time of year. I write this article during a tumultuous time. COVID-19 is alive and well. Everyone is quarantined and directed to keep away from other people. People are getting antsy. They need to do something; go somewhere. Now, they flock to our local trails. I went into work the other day to feed our animal ambassadors and saw our parking lot so full, that people were parking along the road! There were just about as many cars in our lot that day as there is when we host an event. It made me so happy to see so many people finally getting outside and enjoying nature. Who knew that something like a global pandemic could do that?

Tons of people are utilizing our trail systems, which is great, but also can cause some serious environmental concerns. The Appalachian Trail has seen such an overuse of their trails that they have requested that people not use it. Granted, they made this declaration to help flatten the curve of Corona Virus. But also, the trail was getting so heavily used that volunteers could never keep up with the amount of damage that could potentially be done to the trail, trailheads, privies, and shelters.

Now, that's the AT. Strawberry Hill and the trails of Michaux State Forest remain open. We can only hope that everyone is respectful of

the trail, the environment, and of others during this trying time.

You may be thinking, "how can I sustainably hike?"

I always refer to the "Leave No Trace Seven Principles". Some of these principles are related to camping, but I am going to go through each one and describe how you can implement them even if you are just day hiking.

Plan ahead and prepare - Always know where you are going to hike, the trail you are going to take, and have all your gear ready. When you are looking for trails to go hiking on, know what your comfort level is as far as distance and topography. You never want to hop on any old trail and assume you can safely tackle it without knowing how long it is, if it is a loop, if you will have to traverse water, trek up any large hills, etc.

Hit the trail prepared with proper equipment, water, and snacks. For clothing: have sturdy and waterproof hiking shoes, rain gear, a hat, and extra socks. Bring plenty of water! Many places do not have a spot to refill your bottle.

Bring some snacks as well. You may get hungry on your hike, especially if you're going for several miles. When packing snacks, bring things that don't have much packaging. Nuts, raisins, trail mix, etc. are all good options.

And always have a first aid kit when on the trail (and sunscreen and bug spray)!

You also want to take into account the weather. It sounds silly that someone would even think about going on a hike without knowing



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the weather, but it happens. Get yourself a good weather app on your phone or tablet. Check it right before leaving for your hike. Know what the possibility is of severe weather. You'd be surprised how fast a sunny day can turn into a windy, lightning mess! Be prepared with a rain jacket, waterproof shoes, etc.

Always let someone know where you are going and how long you will be out. When you are back from your hike, check in with them to let them know you are okay.

And remember, you are not always going to have cell service when you are out on the trail. I know at Strawberry Hill, we don't. But don't let that scare you away. Have a hard copy of your trail map ready to go and a compass.

Travel and camp on durable surfaces - When you are hiking, always stay on the trail. Going off trail can harm the native flora and fauna of the natural areas. If you are camping in an area that is highly used, choose a spot that looks like it has been camped on before. If you are camping in a more remote area, find a spot that is 200 feet from the water's edge and a spot that you will not make a huge ecological impact. Perhaps try and find a spot that is already fairly clear.

Dispose of waste properly - One of the things that you have to think about when you are out on the trail

is, "what if I have to go to the bathroom?". Simple: dig a hole! Make sure you are at least 200 feet from a water source, dig a hole around 6-8 inches deep, and bury it.

The rest is simple: pack in what you pack out! Litter is not only unsightly to look at, but it also harms wildlife. Bring a plastic bag to pack all trash in (even grease and compostable items).

Leave what you find - This one is self-explanatory. Don't harm or take any of the local flora or fauna. This includes not nailing into trees, carving into trees, picking flowers and other plants, etc. Picking up a leaf or a flower really doesn't seem like that much, but if everyone did it, that would be a problem.

Minimize campfire impacts - Obviously if you are just hiking during the day, this wouldn't apply to you. But, in case you are reading this and you plan on doing an overnight trip, you'll need to know about this principle. Before building a fire, think about what impact it might have on the land around you. Are you allowed to build a fire here? The best thing to do is find a spot where there is an existing fire ring. Keep fires small and put them out with water.

The other thing to think about is firewood. If you need to collect firewood, collect it from already dead and downed trees. Use small pieces

of wood and gather wood over a large area away from your campsite. If you are going to bring wood, buy it locally to your campsite. Don't bring it from home. This only encourages the spread of invasive species. In fact, there are laws in place about moving firewood for this very reason.

Respect wildlife - Observe wildlife from a distance. Travel quietly as to not scare any wildlife. Don't touch, feed, or get close to any wild animal. This can not only be harmful to you, but also to the animal.

Be considerate to other visitors - People go out in nature to be at peace, to get exercise, and to enjoy themselves. Being noisy, having your dog run loose everywhere, and taking up trail space can just be rude to others trying to enjoy their hike.

For hikers, the polite thing to do is step aside for horses, groups, trail runners, and bicyclists. Keep your pet on a leash so that your pet is not disrupting wildlife and other visitors.

These are the recommended ways to hike sustainably. Visit the official Leave No Trace website for details: <https://lnt.org/>.

Strawberry Hill and Michaux State Forest has miles of hiking trails to discover. Get outside and let nature refresh and renew you.

For more information about Strawberry Hill visit [www.strawberryhill.org](http://www.strawberryhill.org).



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## IN THE COUNTRY

# The sound of silence

Tim Iverson  
Naturalist

National parks are scattered across the country. They represent the best examples of specific and unique landscapes. They tell the stories of events that have occurred. There are tangible objects for the senses to soak in, mountains to climb, history to walk through, or wildlife to observe. In the heart of the nation's capital city lies the National Mall and Memorial Parks. However, this park is different from the other parks in the system. It doesn't hold any of those things. It holds ideas. It's a tribute to some of our most formative people, events, and movements.

This two-mile stretch of green in the heart of Washington, DC is anchored on one end by the United States Capitol building and on the other by the Lincoln Memorial. Along that expanse the Mall is bordered by American Elm trees and institutions showcasing the soul and intellect of a nation. American poet Walt Whitman once described it as a "democratic vista, where the American people assemble to play, attend cultural events, or petition the government for change."

Commonly referred to as the nation's front yard, the Mall is our nation's premiere civic space. Originally envisioned by architect Pierre L'Enfant, the seat of a new government had never before had the opportunity to plan its capital city. In 1790 his plan of a federal triangle created by the Capitol, White House, and Mall was adopted. The space that would become the Mall was intended to be a grand avenue for citizens to gather.

And gather they have. Over the course of our history the First Amendment right "...to peaceably assemble and petition the government for a redress of grievances," has been demonstrated in truly remarkable civic fashion. The 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom left an indelible mark on the consciousness of the country as we dreamed of a better world. The March is most often remembered for Martin Luther King Jr's "I have a dream speech" where he envisioned a more equitable future for all Americans.

On the Mall, we celebrate our independence every year and the democratic will of the electorate every four with the Inauguration of a President. Afternoons typically feature throngs of tourists jetting from landmark to landmark, while locals assemble for recreational picnics and pickup games of flag football, ultimate frisbee, kickball, and more. Within the backdrop of a major metropolitan area, it's hard to remember that this iconic landscape is also a national park.

With the recent developments of COVID-19, the roar of a city has dwindled to a whisper. The place set aside for Americans to

gather has become largely devoid of people. Many national parks across the country have shuttered, for good reason, but the logistics of closing open field space and memorials is challenging. With the current guidance and urging from public officials of maintaining distance and self-protective measures the park has remained largely open and accessible. However, fewer visitors mean that finding solitude in the heart of the urban jungle, which was once considered impossible and incomprehensible, is now common.

The haunting faces of stone soldiers from the Korean War Memorial seem to call out in an ethereal calm. The visage of Thomas Jefferson stands alone across a serene tidal basin. President Abraham Lincoln, from the interior of his memorial chamber, gazes out to a reflecting pool devoid from the usual masses. The Vietnam Veterans' War Memorial solemnly bears witness, while the Washington Monument grasps towards a sky blanketing a nation in the infirmary.

The triumphs of the people and events ensconced in stone is a testament to the strength and character of our nation. Their poise and sacrifice to the greater good is our inspiration. Citizenship calls each of us to bear each other's burden and move forward. While we as a people are recovering so too is the landscape.

Once timid and generally unseen, urban wildlife is making their presence known. The red fox, who are excellent scavengers and adaptable generalists, have forged further into a silent city. Rodents that have come to depend on the generosity and waste of tourists have scattered to where other food sources can be found. The grass of the Mall, stretching from 3rd to 14th Streets, is greener and lusher than anytime in recent memory with the lack of foot traf-



Stay at home and travel restrictions have had, in a way, a positive impact on the natural environment of many National Parks where Mother Nature has re-asserted herself. The National Mall in Washington these days is eerily like the open scenes of the TV program, 'Life After People,' a History Channel special that explored what Earth might be like if the human race were to suddenly disappear.

fic and casual sports bearing down upon it. Current air quality rates are recorded as being the cleanest in a generation. Fleeting and ephemeral flowers found in the Floral Library are lasting a little longer this year. Delicate beds showcasing tulips near the Washington Monument have avoided the trampling feet of interlopers seeking social media moments.

With any change there will always be winners and losers. Those who can adapt and overcome will find opportunities. The Cherry Blossom Festival may have been cancelled this year, but the trees themselves bloomed despite it all. The natural world is resilient. So are we. As the plants, animals, and the park adapt to these new found opportunities and challenges they're a bit more prepared for what comes next.

At some point, we will end up on the other side of this pandemic. These monuments and memorials commemorate our better angels and ideas. They stand as tribute to our ideals and virtue. Hopefully when we do emerge, we will be a little wiser, a little stronger, and a little more compassion-

ate. One day in the near future we will have the opportunity to once again come together in these shared sacred spaces to play, demonstrate, and engage in civic

and cultural celebrations.

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

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## REAL SCIENCE

# Vaccines again

Michael Rosenthal

In the first year of these articles, I wrote about the importance of vaccines in preventing outbreaks of dangerous diseases, and of the success that we have achieved over the years with vaccines. Well, here we are again with a deadly and unexpected pandemic that badly needs a vaccine, COVID-19. Scientists worldwide are conducting some 30 clinical trials as potential treatments that might help patients infected with the coronavirus.

There is historical precedent for the development of vaccines, but ultimately a proposed vaccine either works or it doesn't work. One of the early prospects is a substance named remdesivir, an antiviral substance that was developed by Gilead Sciences in California to combat Ebola. Another approach is to transfuse blood from recovered patients to boost the immune system. The choice of remdesivir is based on its effectiveness against other coronaviruses in animal studies. It is thought to work by inhibiting a virus's ability to replicate in high numbers.

There is no guarantee that a "miracle drug" will be found. Only a small number of the known viruses that infect humans have approved treatments. Another drug, chloroquine, was a hopeful treatment, but it appears to foster heart irregularities. Viruses are particularly difficult to treat. Science, the publication of the American Association for Advancement of Science (AAAS)

recently reported on clinical trials of two vaccines while many others are being rushed into the experimental stage.

The experimental vaccines are broadly spread across different researchers: biotech companies, academia, military researchers, and a few pharmaceutical companies. Johnson and Johnson has committed to what could be a \$1 billion project. There is not likely to be a quick and easy solution. Anthony Fauci, director of the U.S., National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) predicts that the development of a vaccine will take a year or more.

One procedure in dealing with such situations is to purposely infect volunteers. In 1796 Edward Jenner infected a boy with the smallpox virus after immunizing him with cowpox. Similar studies are still underway with dengue and cholera. There is hesitancy in this approach of deliberate infection since we know so little about the potential long-term effects of the virus.

Moderna, a prominent biotech firm, has developed an experimental vaccine that has not yet been brought to market. A Chinese firm, CanSino Biologics has also begun clinical trials of a vaccine. The goal is to see if they are safe, and to determine whether they can trigger immune responses.

For a more extensive technical discussion of the ongoing vaccine development, I recommend reading the April 3, 2020 issue of Science, starting on page 14.

There are a number of recent developments on environmental issues. Though I was not trained as an environmental scientist, I developed an interest in the subject during my days as chemistry professor at Bard College in the Hudson Valley of New York. I was involved in many environmentally based activities in the community, as well as working with Bard students in the chemistry of a stream that flowed through the campus into the Hudson River. I have written before on various aspects of my 19 years of scientific and educational experiences there.

The current national administration has been very unsupportive of environmental regulation. The administration opted recently not to set stricter national air-quality standards in spite of a growing body of evidence that links air pollution to lethal outcomes from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.

EPA staff scientists recommended last year that lowering particulate matter in air could save as many as 12,200 lives annually. In addition, regulatory rollbacks of other environmentally protective regulation have been supported by the federal government. The goal seems to be eliminating much of this regulation before the presidential election in November.

One of the regulations being implemented ends the EPA effort to improve auto and truck fuel efficiency, which would have required a steady 5 percent per year improvement in average fuel economy through 2025. The updated rules implemented by the cur-



**A recently discovered photo of Jack Deatheridge, our Village Idiot columnist. Obviously, this is one vaccination that had un-intended consequences. It is apparent in this photo that Jack was a normal child, still unaffected by the vaccine or alien abduction.**

rent administration will allow one or more billion tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This is equivalent to the pollution that would be caused by opening dozens of coal-fired power plants.

Another aspect of this policy direction is the allowing by EPA for regulated companies to skip routine pollution checks, testing, and training, if they can claim that such activities interrupt their operation. It is always a difficult balance between environmental regulation and supporting the business economy. I believe, however, it is critically important to look out for the health of the public and the future state of the planet, not just supporting the economic moment. We can expect to hear soon on revised environmental policy on rules regarding coal ash and mercury emissions.

How about some good news! We have written frequently about labeling of food, supplements, and medicines. The Food and Drug Administration has revamped the Nutrition Facts label and are in the process of implementing the revision. Here are the changes being implemented and some thoughts on them, with significant contribution from Consumer Reports.

The serving size on soft drinks, ice cream, bagels, cereal, and other foods has been increased to better reflect reality. The label must now show the nutrition information for one serving and for the full package.

On the label, Vitamin A and C information has been replaced by Vitamin D and potassium data in milligrams or micrograms. This change reflects the greater importance of Vitamin D and potassium in the diet.

There is a line now for total sugars, including both naturally occurring sugar and those added in processing, such as high-fructose corn syrup.

This helps for those persons regulating their total sugar input.

My family and I are subscribers and great fans of Consumer Reports, which we feel is an honest and readable look at making good choices of all kinds, and not self-serving (and they didn't pay me to say that!).

Growing up in Ohio, and exploring the outdoors, I was always fascinated by fireflies. I was fascinated by crossroads between biology, chemistry, and physics (which led me to my career in physical inorganic chemistry). Fireflies produce a chemical reaction inside their body called bioluminescence. In their bodies calcium and oxygen react with adenosine triphosphate and luciferin, in the presence of the enzyme luciferase, and energy is released in the form of what is known as "cold light," light with little heat. A version of the biochemistry for non-scientists can be found in a Scientific American article by Marc Branham of the University of Florida, from 2005, available through an online search.

To close, let's take a look at the Potomac Edison Environmental Information for the year 2019.

Our energy locally was derived 36.50% from gas, 34.00% from nuclear, and 20.40% from coal. Smaller contributors are 2.90% wind, 1.35% hydroelectric, and a total of 9.1% from fuel cells, captured methane, solar, solid waste, and biomass.

Personally I'd like to see coal reduced in favor of nuclear, hydroelectric, wind, and solar sources. Air emissions still release a lot of carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides, which are bad things for the environment and bad things for our health.

To read past articles by Michael Rosenthal visit the Authors Section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).



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## THE VILLAGE IDIOT

## Quick breads

Jack Deatherage

While the Utopian socialist left urges the Oval Office occupant to become the tyrant they have accused him of being since before he was sworn into office, I run bread recipe trials and feed the results to the house dogs. Normally, I'd todder down to the tattoo shop and dump the experiments on one or both the artists working away there. Though sometimes I'd wander a bit farther down the hill to a former town commissioner's house and leave the bread with her family. Rarely would bags of bread reach as far as the librarians that nudge me to keep baking.

With the March bread-building lecture at the library canceled by the state's shutdown order, Librarian Penny suggested I write up some recipes I've modified, successfully, so the L could refer its sudden crop of new home bakers to tried and true recipes built with locally available ingredients. I'd been toying with the idea of a Facebook group wherein I could store the recipes I try - complete with pictures, videos and my thoughts on the breads, cookies, stews, pizzas and egg noodles. (Not that I'm an expert on any of them, but I am getting seniler and occasionally need to refresh my memory concerning foods I like, or not.) So "Emmitsburg's Village Idiot's Kitchen Collection" was born March 26th. I chose such a long name for the group to keep most people from visiting it, assuming they won't type that much- so many being short attention spanned addicts of computer and texting shorthand.

Of course there was a glaring problem. My Facebook account was attached to the recipe group. Library patrons could innocently wander into my nightmare and become traumatized. Librarian Penny asked if I could just trial, record the recipes and send them to her. The librarians would reformat them so the library could use them on one of its own sites. As I was jazzed with jiggering new recipes and building the collection on FB, I didn't much care how the recipes were used by the L - so long as the bread books I worked from got the credit. I sent a couple of easy yeast bread recipes to her as quickly as I could.

Being generally oblivious to the world outside the house, I was surprised to get a request for yeast free breads. Did Penny mean sourdough or quick bread?

"Quick breads." Came her reply. "There is no yeast available in the stores."

What? So off to the supermarkets and grocery stores I wended. (Yes, there are still a few grocery stores around, if you know where to look for them.) What did I see? No yeast for you, or me! Which for me is no great thing as I buy it by the pound, or two pounds when it's on sale. One pound for me and the other gifted to whoever can use it within a year or two. So I have yeast enough.

What really set me back was the flour shelves were all but empty! There were maybe five bags of store brand all-purpose flour left. Which set me to giggling (I do that when no one else is likely to hear me). Really? You all bought the most expensive brands and left the cheap stuff behind, why? Isn't there a chance you'll run out of money if you aren't working?

Of course, the neo-bread builders are likely reading the same books I have, or accessing the same bread building websites I've glanced at-many of which insist you use King Arthur flour for the best results. I couldn't help but giggle. King Arthur bread flour sells for just under \$5 a 5-pound bag. Wegmans all-purpose flour, on sale, is \$1 for a 5-pound bag. Having trialed the flours side by side, I know the less expensive flour can turn out a bread only a bread fanatic could tell wasn't made with the more expensive flour! Ah well. Cheaper flour for me, and eventually the dogs!

Then South-Central PA Farmer Ed informs me it ain't just a yeast problem. He knows I can have a sourdough culture up and raising loaves in less than a week if needs be.

"Jack, what are you going to do when the flour stops flowing?" Ed was one of them six-figured-income, suit-and-tie guys in another lifetime. He knows how to read spreadsheets and follow money trails. He understands how things work where I barely understand they do work.

He explains how the industrial Ag system is breaking down from the farm, to the processor, to the stores as the virus either reduces the workforce by infection, fear or shutdown orders from on high.

Milk is now being dumped on dairy farms contracted to corporations catering to institutional entities. Vegetables are being turned under in the fields they were grown in because there aren't people to har-

vest them, or packers to ready them for shipping to contracted buyers who can't sell them to the institutions. Because the institutions are closed! I'm also hearing some industrial meat packing plants are closing shop as the virus works its way through the employees.

Damn. I need to wander out to the farm and see if I can buy grains for bread making! I'd likely have to explore building loaves using barley and spelt, possibly oats and rye. Such grains are mostly alien to me and the methods I currently build by. Still, I've watched a British documentary on Victorian era bread building and understand some of how those grains react to yeast and water. Though the segment on a period of no wheat to mill into flour, and the resulting starvation and how any grain (even poultry feed) was used in the production of the daily loaf, may be of use in coming months. Not that I particularly need bread, but the dogs are probably addicted to it by now.

And just like that I get a clue! The dogs get the dried out breads I can't eat or give away. So what if I build breads that are supposed to be dry when I eat them? Breads like crackers? Rusk? Biscotti? Oo!

Hard crackers!

*Let us close our game of poker,  
take our tin cups in hand  
While we gather 'round the  
cook's tent door*



Jack demonstrating his state of the art COVID-19 VI-95 facemask. The masks are available for sale behind the Emmitsburg Tattoo shop daily from 4 to 5 p.m.

*Where dried mummies of hard  
crackers are given to each man.  
O, hard crackers, come again  
no more!*

*'Tis the song and the sigh of the  
hungry:*

*"Hard crackers, hard crackers,  
come again no more."*

*Many days have you lingered  
upon our stomachs sore.*

*O, hard crackers, come again  
no more!*

—sung to the tune "Hard  
Times" by Stephen Foster  
(near as I can tell)

Chasing back to truly hard times- the American Civil War - can put current events into perspective. As disgruntled as I am over the library being closed, at least no one is pounding on my door with a rifle butt - demanding I feed them! Though that may change if people aren't soon allowed to be productive again.

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

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# PETS

## Gratitude

Jennifer Vanderau  
Cumberland Valley  
Animal Shelter

There are times in my life when thank you just doesn't seem like enough.

Gratitude is so incredibly important in this world – it might be one of the most important aspects of our lives, really – and yet recently, I don't know if I can find the adequate words to truly express my appreciation.

Since the coronavirus outbreak, we have been doing adoptions by appointment and our animal care technicians have been looking out for our animals like usual.

Like everyone throughout the world, we've been worried. Worried about our own health, worried about our animals and of course, worried about the future – for everyone and for CVAS.

We've seen the stories – the massive layoffs that just keep happening, the overworked essential personnel from doctors and nurses to law enforcement and sanitation departments, just to name a few.

And the thing is at CVAS, we've "always relied on the kindness of strangers," to quote a pretty famous movie, and we worry that with the state of the world that kindness might just run out.

But there's a funny thing about worry. It's kind of ethereal, you know?

Sure, in your head, it feels pretty real and strong and serious, but the truth of the matter is, worry is nebulous and hard to grab onto sometimes.

And it doesn't have a whole lot of basis in fact. It feels like it does – and if that monkey voice in your head is the same as mine, it sure can convince us that it does – but worry actually steals a whole lot of energy for what turns out to often be a whole lot of nothing.

I found a great quote: "Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength."

Brilliant and so true.

And in terms of CVAS, it's been proven to be accurate once again.

Because since the virus and this new normal we're all living, we've seen a whole lot of people step up to help us.

I'm blown away by the folks who realized that we are still here, still helping the animals because the animals are still coming in to us and we still need support – and we're getting it.

We got an envelope with just a \$5 bill inside.

We've seen kids sending us what is likely their allowance because they want to help us help the animals.

We've had donors who aren't in our database just send us money, apropos of nothing.

Our online supporters have been incredibly generous as well.

Because in the face of scary times, humanity really does shine through.

There are thousands and thousands

of people every day who are, quite literally, risking their lives to help others. For as many of the "stay home" ads I see on television, there are countless people who don't have that luxury.

Many of whom do it because they've been called to help. The faces of the front line health care workers are portraits in courage, perseverance and altruism.

It probably shouldn't surprise me that there are people out there who don't want to forget the animals in all of this, either.

My job at the shelter is essentially about asking people for help – be it adoptions or donations or volunteering. I put the call out and hope that it's answered.

And when we do get a response, ironically, I find myself searching for the words to express my sincere thanks.

Because when I realize how many people support us, it can be a little overwhelming. When I realize that \$5 in that envelope probably stretched an already thin budget, I'm rendered relatively speechless. When I think of the little boy who gave his allowance because of the homeless animals, I get choked up.

How are the two little words – thank you – ever going to sound like enough?

All I can do is hope the sincerity comes through. Because from the bottom of my heart, I truly mean it.

I am awed and touched and inspired by the generosity I have seen over the past few weeks. It's given me the strength to continue the mission of this shelter when the worry monster comes knocking on my door.

It allows me to believe in the good that is out in this world, even in the face of uncertainty and a worldwide pandemic.

From all of us at CVAS, to all of the people who help us, thank you so very much.

You have done more bolster a little group of animals and people than you'll likely ever know.

*Jennifer Vanderau is the Director of Communications for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter in Chambersburg, Pa., and can be reached at [cvascomm@cvas-pets.org](mailto:cvascomm@cvas-pets.org). The shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit the website [www.cvas-pets.org](http://www.cvas-pets.org).*



Kelly is a 2-year-old gray-and-white tabby girl who came into the shelter as a stray. We don't know a lot about her past, but she loves catnip, mice and would definitely love to find a forever home soon - maybe with you!



Novice was surrendered to the shelter because her owner could no longer care for her. She will need someone that understands that she will need to be brushed regularly to keep her from matting. She is a super sweet girl who loves to play, but she's not terribly fond of other cats so a feline-only home would be best for her. Novie would love to have another chance!



Dragon Fly was brought into the shelter as a stray, so we know very little about her past. She can be a little shy at first, but once she gets to know you, she's a real sweet girl. Dragon Fly is about a year old and would love to find out what a forever home is all about

or more information about Kelly, Novice, and Dragon Fly call the Cumberland Valley Shelter at 717-263-5791 or visit them online at [www.cvaspets.org](http://www.cvaspets.org) or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter.

In accordance with Governor Wolf's mandate on March 16, the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter will be limiting visits by the public to those seriously interested in adoption.

We will continue to care for our animals and accept any stray animals in our jurisdiction.

Those seriously interested in adoption can fill out an application online here [www.cvas-pets.org/adoption.html](http://www.cvas-pets.org/adoption.html). We will honor any appointments made with our adoption counselor.

Rest assured our staff will continue to care for the animals at the shelter and would certainly appreciate any help we could get at this time, either monetarily or pet supply donations. We love our Amazon friends who make sure we're stocked up and our donors who are always willing to help. Thank you for your understanding.

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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.

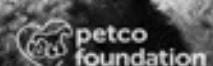
I'd Will to the sad, scared shelter dog, the place I had in my human's loving heart, of which there seemed no bounds.

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



## COVID-19 Chickens

Kimberly Brokaw DVM  
Walkersville Vet Clinic

The Covid-19 epidemic this spring has had lots of unexpected consequences on people's day-to-day lives. Toilet paper shortages are certainly not something that I expected to see. In Maryland, before there were runs on toilet paper and bread, much to my surprise, there were runs on baby chicks. Every spring, the local farm supply stores carry baby chicks for people to purchase for egg or meat production. I've owned chickens for years and every couple of years I buy a few more to replenish my flock. I look forward to buying baby chicks.

Not only do I enjoy raising chicks, but I also enjoy adding new breeds to my flock. Most years, every time I walk into a farm supply store there are troughs full of baby chicks available for purchase. This year, when I went to buy chicks in early March they were sold out. I called several local stores and they were sold out of pullets. A couple of the stores still had some ducks or turkeys but even those were running low. One of the stores advised me that if I wanted to be able to select the breed of chick that I wanted, I would need to get to the store immediately when they opened on the day that the chicks arrived.

I discussed this chick shortage with a few clients and they confirmed that this shortage was also their experience. One client told me a similar story of going to the chick store only an hour after they opened and finding them sold out. Another client had to order a large order of chicks directly from the supplier and had them mailed to her house. Another client was able to have a farm store reserve some chicks for her so that she could pick them up a few hours after they arrived.

I checked with all the local farm stores to see who was expecting which breeds of chick to be delivered when. Luckily I found a store that was located only a few minutes away from one of my clients. She needed an appointment for her horses to get vaccinated so I figured I'd pick up chicks on my way to her house. I got to the store 10 minutes before they opened and there was already a line. I was num-

ber 18. The store clerk told me that most likely there would still be chicks left when they called my number. As I was waiting I was talking to other people (while standing 6 feet away from them) and several of the people buying had never owned chicks before. They didn't know anything about what breeds they should be getting (meat vs egg layer), what type of food chicks eat, or anything about basic brooder set-up. While I answered some people's questions, the store clerk was also answering questions for people too.

This prompted me to contemplate what should be included in a beginners guide to baby chicks. A basic how to get through the first week without killing your chicks manual could be written. We were getting calls at the clinic from first time chick owners who were having chicks die and who knew nothing about basic care, so I thought I should review some basic chicken decisions. The first step is selecting a breed. Know what your goals are and if you want eggs then make sure you are looking at breeds designed to regularly produce large eggs. After that then just pick what colors you find pretty in a chicken. This year, I personally wanted polka dotted chickens and ones that produce dark brown eggs. Therefore, I purchased Speckled Sussex and Cuckoo Marans.

The next thing to know when you are purchasing is if you are buying chickens that have been vaccinated and if so which vaccines. Mareks and Coccidia are the most common vaccines. If the chicks have received a Coccidia vaccine then you do not want to give medicated feed. However, if they have not received a Coccidia vaccine, then you do want medicated chick feed. Your chicks should have access to water and a clean pen. Next, you must think about a heat source to keep your chicks warm. Heat lamps are the most common. I prefer a heating plate as the infrared heat source, as it is less of a fire hazard than heat lamps.

After you have food, water, and heat set up you have to decide where to raise the chicks. Lots of people keep them in the house until they are old enough to go outside. The plus to keeping them inside is it reduces the chances of loss

from predation. Young chicks are subject to attack by the same predators as adults but also are more vulnerable to snake and rat attacks. If you have children, you must decide if you will be able to prevent the children from unsupervised access to indoor chicks. Children can unintentionally injure chicks. Conversely, chicks can carry illnesses to children. If you have children, you should do some reading about hand washing and other steps to minimize the chances of children becoming sick from handling chickens.

As the chicks get older you can slowly wean them off the heat lamp and move them to a well secured coop. Do not skimp on coop reinforcements. Predators will try all sorts of things to get into your coop. I have a concrete floor to prevent predators from digging in to the coop. The sides of the coop are lined with strong metal wire so nothing can chew through the wood. I also have an automatic coop door that closes at dark so that the birds are safely locked inside if I'm late getting home from work.

While the majority of predators attack at night, predators are active during the day too. Electric fences are nice in that you can quickly enclose a large area and fairly effectively keep your birds safe from coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and other ground predators. However a fully enclosed structure with a roof is needed to prevent attacks by hawks. I have found that another fairly effective way to keep hawks away is to feed the local crows. I give the crows a cup of dog food and table scraps (hard boiled eggs, peanuts, etc) every morning. I have seen the crows chase away the hawks multiple times and haven't lost a chicken to a hawk in years.

Some of the Maryland Facebook groups will frequently have people commenting to shoot the predators. It does not work. Yes you may kill that predator but another will take its place. Usually you won't know you "need" to shoot the predator until after it has already killed some of your chickens. Instead a better approach is to thoroughly secure your coop and run so that the birds can be safely inside.

Chickens are fun and rewarding pets. Not only are they cute and fluffy but they are also sweet and full of per-



sonality. You can teach chickens tricks just like a dog. Chickens also have the added benefit of producing food. So even if you just bought your chickens in preparation for the worst case scenario with the pandemic, with the

proper set-up you can successfully keep chickens for years.

To read other articles by Kimberly Brokaw visit the Authors section of [emmitsburg.net](http://emmitsburg.net).

### Keeping up with Coronavirus

Linda Shea  
Frederick County  
Animal Control

Not very long ago, the world went into overdrive to address the outbreak of COVID-19. In just a short amount of time, Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center recognized that a proactive approach was required to protect our community. We closed our facility to the public and began the process of limiting staff hours and public access. However, in just a matter of days, we recognized an even more aggressive approach was needed.

Currently, our facility is still closed to the public. Most recently, we created "teams" within our Administrative Staff and Animal Caretaking staff so work schedules don't overlap. Our Animal Control Officers will continue to be on-call around the clock for emergencies, but hours in the shelter have been scaled back to reduce overlapping work hours as well. Physical responses from Animal Control Officers will be for priority calls only.

While we don't qualify ourselves as matchmakers, the current public health crisis is mandating creative, unconventional ways to place animals in loving homes. To address our current population of adoptable animals, we will be having a 'trial run' of virtual adoptions, beginning with cats. For this new adoption process, we developed a more in-depth adoption application. Our goal is always to make a

best match between adoptable pets and potential adopters. Our modified application will attempt to collect information that will allow us to compare experience and expectations of adopters with the needs of the animal.

The process will begin with an application submitted by a potential cat adopter. We will review needs, wants, and tolerable traits the potential adopter describes to us and compare those things to the cats in the shelter, to make a best match. The tricky part is that potential adopters will not be meeting the animal prior to adoption.

While this "sight unseen" aspect is new for us, other organizations have done it with much success and we expect the same results. To learn more about Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center's virtual adoptions or to complete an application please visit [www.frederickcountymd.gov/114/adopt](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/114/adopt). Wish us luck as we move forward with another unprecedented venture.

We want to continue to assure the community that the standards of care for our shelter animals are not compromised in any manner. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we keep public safety a priority. We can't emphasize enough to call us for information on any aspect of Animal Control services: Call 301-600-1546 with questions about shelter operations; call 301-600-1603 with animal-related emergencies.

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Gardening during these crazy times....

Mary Ann Ryan  
Adams County Master Gardener

I've never experienced a weirder spring. Not only is the weather odd – April seems to have been colder and windier than March, no one is traveling, working from home makes each day the same as the last. Penn State Extension and University of Maryland Extension programs have been cancelled or converted to on-line classes. No hands-on gardening classes for us this spring.

But as more and more people are at home, questions about vegetable gardening have increased exponentially. The impact of how we take care of our environment, from our water to our bees, will become even more important as we drift through these odd times.

April would have allowed temperatures, rainfall, and time for planting potatoes, peas, beets, lettuce and onions as well as well as transplants of cabbage, broccoli, kale and brussel sprouts. But when it comes to growing veggies, May is THE month. The soil

warms up enough to support our late spring crops, and with a little protection and a watchful eye on the weather, we can begin planting. All of the legume crops like green beans, pole beans can go in the ground. The cucurbits, like zucchini, pumpkins, cucumbers and melons seeds can be planted in late May. Transplants of tomatoes, peppers and eggplant are ready to be planted in late May.

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

Growing vegetables can happen any place there is a minimum of 6 – 8 hours of sunlight a day. This could be in containers, in a raised bed, mixed in with the foundation plantings around your home, in perennials and annual beds, or on a deck or patio. Let's dissect why and how we might grow vegetables in these different situations.

Raised beds: the advantage to growing in raised beds is three-fold. One – soil in a raised bed



Growing vegetables in containers can be easy and pretty

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

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

Glazed containers, like decorative ceramics, are a better choice than clay if watering is as issue. But expense of those pots is not often practical. Plastic pots seems to be one of the most afford-

able material for containers, and hold water much better than clay. Other materials may include fabric bags, buckets, erosion control socks, and wooden boxes. The options are almost endless. But when choosing a container, be sure it is manageable, affordable, and big enough to grow the veggies you want.

Most any crops can be grown in containers. We just need to be sure that when determining the type of material the pots are made of, we also much be sure our pots are large enough to support the plant we are growing. I often grow cherry tomatoes in a large pot on my deck because they drop their

fruit and reseed the following year so much that on a deck, that problem is non-existent. The size of container I use is an 18" plastic pot. This seems to be large enough to support the one tomato plant throughout the summer.

Salad greens are very easy to grow in containers, as are beans, cabbage and kale, and some cultivars of zucchini. Once you begin to do a little research on vegetable for container gardening, you will be amazed at the choices available. Just be sure that you don't under-estimate the size of the pots for the plants.

Soil for containers is also unique to growing in the ground. Compost

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

and potting mix is a good combination for containers. It drains well, and holds moisture well. Don't use garden soil as it dries out too quickly and becomes hard as a rock, as will as carries disease that becomes a problem in a container.

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

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

neighborhood will have the same annual plants!

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

Even though the extension offices are physically closed now, all counties are still open for business through emails and phone calls. Ask questions as you begin your gardens and understand the best way for you to grow. We are here to help you. If you have gardening questions, call us at 717-334-6271 or email mar35@psu.edu. Someone will get back to you as soon as we are able. It's better to ask than to guess for the most successful season possible.

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

## Small Town Gardener

### Getting edgy

Marianne Willburn

May has dawned, and with it, the realization that my edges will have to be seen to. I speak of course of garden beds. There is little that can be done to smooth the sharpness of my tongue and it certainly needs no further definition.

There are many ways to approach this problem, and for that reason, I brought up the topic during a tour with plant nerds several years ago. We all had beds to edge. None of us were particularly looking forward to the job. Although there is little that is more satisfying than yards of fresh delineation between what will, and what will not be cultivated, the job requires time during a season where time is scarce.

Two of us were spade purists, utilizing the classic English method of cutting a sharp 45-60 degree angle 4-6 inches deep toward the bed and mounding the soil up on the bed side – creating, in effect, a trench 'tween grass and good, not to mention a hernia between fat, and fit. Larger sections of turf are then chopped of their loose soil and sent to the chickens or the compost pile.

Such a method allows precision, but takes time, and not a little dexterity with a spade. I once put my son on this job shortly before a thunderstorm. Two days later I inspected the work only to find that he'd thrown the freshly cut divots back toward the lawn, where they had melted into a new, ankle-twisting topography.

I have used metal edging in smaller gardens, and looked longingly those clean, easy edges of steel in large public gardens; but I have also exercised my right as a gardener to change my mind and found myself needing to pull out those edges – not quite so clean or easy when embedded in earth for four years.

None of us were fans of the electric edger. Generally there is very little power and a whole lot of aggravation (not to mention, cord). The edge is not particularly deep, channels quickly get gummed up with earth, and as a result you tend to find a lot of these during mid-summer yard sales – which is precisely where I found mine. Perhaps soon to be yours.

Next step up? The discussion turned lively when one of us pulled up a picture of her shiny Troy Bilt gas-powered edger and accompanying highly positive blog review. Sighs of longing filled the van. Then from somewhere came an impertinent question: "Is it a two-stroke?"

I believe it was me. I have an unfortunate history with such engines and have no wish to add another to the barn, no matter how shiny. Before the question could be answered however (in the negative as it turns out) there was another – this time from my fellow spade-purist: "Is it a pull start?"

We all nodded at that point, understanding the anguish behind the question and imagining scenes both past and future that involve hot days and machines that refuse to start no matter how hard one swears at them.

It was, as it happens, a pull start, but there is that honeymoon period (What is it? Four? Six months?) where ethanol has not corroded the carburetor, and entropy has not frayed the cable and stiffened the recoil spring. She loved hers – and her husband was in charge of starting it.

In the end, I decided to follow the lead of one of our number, who went with a Sunbelt weekend rental. In her garden, the EZ Trench 400 took 30 minutes to re-define 350 linear feet of bed and took no prisoners.

Certainly the finished edge reflected the name, and when up against a sharp spaded edge, would have had a hard time competing in the precision department, but the time savings were beyond impressive. A spaded edge would have taken almost ten times that long, and if you cast aside your spade for a gas-powered edger, you'd only pick it up again to move sections of soil after the edge was mechanically cut.

Though it was an extremely heavy piece of machinery, which required core muscles I had lost touch with, I spent less than two hours and edged over 900 feet of beds all over the property – even defining areas that didn't need defining. It was addicting.

For gardeners that have let an edge go for a couple seasons on a very long bed, the EZ Trench might very well provide the motivation and the vision to get things under control once again – to be followed by a more meticulous (and routine) trim with a gas-powered edger, or a spade.

The best and worst part about an edge is that it always....always....grows back. Soil erodes, moles tunnel, weeds return. The earth is remarkably resilient and it gives us a bit of wiggle room to try something new.

And this year I'm learning how to re-build a carburetor on a yard-saled gas-powered edger.

Fabulous.

*Marianne is a Master Gardener and the author of Big Dreams, Small Garden. You can read more at [www.smalltowngardener.com](http://www.smalltowngardener.com) or follow The Small Town Gardener on Facebook.*



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## COMMUNITY NOTES

## Students bring awareness to mental health

Mia Ferraro  
Catoctin High School class of 2022

Among the uncertainty and anxiety around COVID-19, there is no better time than now to shine light on the imperative new initiative that students are taking at Catoctin High School to bring awareness to mental health. This spring, CHS began a new club called the Mental Health Awareness Club.

Tragically, our community has seen too many suicides throughout the last several years. Nationally, suicide is a leading cause of death, and according to a 2019 study by [healthystmarys.com](http://healthystmarys.com), it is the third leading cause of death in Maryland for ages 15-34. While stigma surrounding mental health affects all ages, there is a specific type of pressure put on the younger generations through social media. As CHS Social Worker Sam Wilt describes, "This constant online connection and interaction creates levels of stress, anxiety, and depression that are more intense than those in older generations experience." As a local teenager that has lived in Thurmont for my whole life, I have experienced the devastation of suicide within my

community several times. I have also witnessed the stigma around mental health, and I have seen the destruction it has created. I myself have recognized the dire need for more support for Catoctin residents, and finally, thanks to two freshmen at CHS, it is underway.

The epidemic of suicides and stigma around mental health is exactly the reason Catoctin students Lexi Flohr and Kristen Felichko formed the club. "I felt that a small town like Thurmont needed more outreach to those who live with mental disorders and don't have the proper amount of support for it," Felichko says. This is also the reason that I, as well as 13 other students, followed them in their measures to make a difference in the community. "It could have been one person joining, and that would have been enough for me as long as we are helping," Felichko states as she describes her excitement towards the growth of the club.

Sam Wilt's role at Catoctin is to support students and their emotional and mental needs. She provides therapy and plans wellness activities for the school. When her students approached her and asked her to be the club advisor for the Mental Health Awareness Club, she was

"eager to get our club started and support our school community." In this role, she coordinates and plans activities for the club. She has invested a lot of time into starting the club, but expects to step back once it takes off, and to guide students while they run the club themselves—primarily under the leadership of the co-founders, Flohr (President) and Felichko (Vice President). Wilt hopes that this club will become a resource for staff, students, and families to learn about the importance of mental health care and find new strategies to take care of themselves and each other. "I believe that in creating a network of support, we can help make an impact on the rate in which we experience such tragedies in our community."

The Mental Health Awareness Club has already begun to host activities for the community. We held our Suicide Awareness Night on March 9th, where students and parents in the community could attend to learn about the unfortunate issue facing families everywhere. While nothing has been decided yet, we expect to make plans for a virtual mental health awareness week from May 4th - May 8th. The club is currently holding the school's 3rd annual Sub-

stance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest, sponsored by the Thurmont Addictions Commission. Participants were asked to use their artistic skills to show the impact that drugs have on individuals and families. The cash prize for first place is \$100, second is \$75, and third is \$50. The deadline for virtual entries was Friday, April 24th. A date has yet to be set for winners to be announced, but we expect to have a decision by the end of April. A Find Out First message will be sent out announcing the winners. Wilt will also be announcing the winners through Schoology and on the school's virtual morning announcements. You can help to bring awareness to our club and to mental health by engaging in our activities that we plan. To learn about our upcoming plans and activities, as well as a means to show support, you can follow us at @CatoctinMHAC on twitter!

Of course, due to isolation, some of our plans were cut short. We had planned a Be Kind To Your Mind 5K to be held on May 9th, 2020 at the Thurmont Community Park. In addition to this, a Substance Abuse Awareness Night was to be held on April 20th. While these events were inevitably cancelled due to quaran-

tine, we are looking forward to hosting them in 2021!

Isolation can be very difficult for an individual, especially during such uncertain times. Our country is going through collective trauma - and we need to be showing support for one another. As club advisor and School Social Worker, Wilt has been keeping in touch with the club and other students through different online formats. It is important to reach out to each other during this time, and to give ourselves a break. She advises everyone to keep the mindset that, "it's okay to not be okay." She explains that it is "very important for people to give themselves some room to be less productive than normal and to cope." Wilt asks that if you feel depressed, overwhelmed, or anxious, to please reach out. "I'm available primarily for our students and families, but also for anyone in our community who needs some support," Wilt explains, "Reach out to someone in your life who you can trust." She informed me, along with several other students, that the Mental Health Association is running virtual services for those who are struggling with mental or behavioral health. They can be found at <https://fcmha.org>. You are also able to call 211 to connect with mental health resources in your community.

## First quarter 2020 commentary

Ryan Fox

Every quarter I write and send my clients a quarterly commentary. Here are the highlights from the most recent quarterly commentary.

We hope and pray that you and your family are safe in the midst of our national crisis. Optimism and patience are two works that are so critical to enduring the current atmosphere. We will get through this together and the economy will spring back to life, perhaps by the time the next quarterly report arrives in your mailbox. Betting on the resiliency of the United States is a time tested strategy for success.

The first quarter of 2020 saw U.S. stocks fall by over 25%. The month of March was among the worst months for US stocks since the Great Depression. At one point this quarter, stocks fell by over 37% into a bear market. During March, the

stock market experienced an average daily move of up or down by 5% - this was a record for volatility.

With an "all hands on deck" approach across financial, governmental, and the medical industries to defeating the coronavirus, evidence supports success. Between the Federal Reserve's substantial interventions into the credit markets (among other areas) and a significant stimulus package rolled through Congress and signed into law, the U.S. economy stands an excellent chance of withstanding the current crisis with a short term recession a likely event.

Rebalancing investments into a declining market is the opportunity created by this current market downturn. Rebalancing is a strategy that does not try to guess when the market is at the absolute bottom. This is impossible. Rather, buying into stock markets that are lower by 20% or more is the key. Timing the

market means knowing perfectly when to buy into the market and then being right a second time when to get out. This is impossible.

Within a typical portfolio, there are short term, intermediate term, and long term investments. When markets fall, adding a little more into the long term investments from the shorter term positions can make sense for investors. The market might be at a bottom, just off the bottom, or somewhere in between, but the point is to be disciplined and consistent in rebalancing at lower levels. Over the last 30 years, the U.S. stock market has had a strong tendency to recover from noteworthy declines relatively quickly.

And while we are optimistically awaiting the market's rebound, we are rewarded for patience in the form of ongoing dividends and interest. It is important to note that over the last 20 years, 24 of the 25 worst stock

market days were within one month of the 25 best trading days according to BlackRock research. Patience and optimism in the midst of what seems to be chaos is critical.

From the recent CARES Act is an important update. All required minimum distributions (RMDs) from IRA and other similar retirement accounts are waived for 2020. This allows investments to remain invested during this market downturn. This is a substantial, one-year hiatus for RMDs. IRA funds can be withdrawn if needed but it is not mandatory this year.

We welcome your calls and emails while sincerely looking forward to the near future where we can meet in person, perhaps with an elbow bump versus a handshake. We also hope you are enjoying some extra family time in this temporary era of home confinement. One honest suggestion is to avoid monitoring the day-to-day stock market ups and downs for now since we are doing

that for you. In times like this, there is no true need for self-induced stock market-watching stress.

The temporarily weakened spring of the U.S. economy is poised to rebound in the near future. The U.S. stock and bond markets will recover. And at some point, the new normalcy of in-person social interactions will re-emerge. I am concerned a bit about how to cut my own hair in the meantime (including a few more recent gray hairs...).

This overview of the most recent client commentary is meant to provide general ideas and thoughts only. Every person has different investment goals, needs, and risk tolerance. And while history does paint a solid picture of past markets, I need to state that past performance is not necessarily indicative of future returns.

Ryan Fox is partner/owner in Huston-Fox Financial Advisory Services, a fee-only fiduciary advisory firm, in Gettysburg, Hanover, and York. 717 398-2040 or [Ryan@hustonfox.com](mailto:Ryan@hustonfox.com).

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# HEALTH NOTES

## Preventing substance addiction begins with knowledge

Heidi Winkler  
Frederick Health

According to the American Psychiatric Association, addiction is a complex condition—a brain disease manifested by compulsive substance use despite harmful consequences. People with a substance use disorder or addiction often have an intense focus on using a particular substance to the point where it takes over their lives. Even if substance use causes problems in their lives, they may continue to use it.

This is because the substance is causing distorted thinking, behavior, or body functions. Changes in the brain cause people to have intense cravings for the substance and make it hard to stop using it. These changes can impact their judgment, decision-making, learning, memory, and behavior control. Substance use and disorder can cause harmful changes in how the brain functions and can

last long after the intoxication of the drug has worn off.

People can develop substance use and addiction to: alcohol; marijuana; PCP, LSD, and other hallucinogens; inhalants like paint thinners and glue; opioid pain killers like codeine and oxycodone; heroin; sedatives, hypnotics, and anxiolytics, including medicines for anxiety like tranquilizers; cocaine, methamphetamine, and other stimulants; and tobacco

There are many reasons that cause people to use and become addicted to substances. These include a variety of factors like environmental, trauma, hereditary, and legitimate needs for a drug to treat a condition that leads to use for other non-related reasons; sometimes, it is a combination of these factors or not even identifiable. They may experience feelings of pleasure or stress relief, improved performance, has a curiosity to try the substance, or experience peer pressure from others.

Symptoms of substance use and addiction are often grouped into four categories:

- Impaired control—a craving or strong urge to use the substance, which may include a desire or failed attempts to cut back or control use
- Social problems—a failure to complete major tasks at work, school, or home; social, work, or leisurely activities are given up or cut back because of substance use
- Risky use—substance is used in risky settings, and there is continued use despite known problems
- Drug effects—tolerance or the need for larger amounts of the substance to get the same effect, and withdrawal symptoms

Visible symptoms of substance use may include: Abnormal pupil size,

agitation and irritability, convulsions, drastic changes in behavior, difficulty breathing, drowsiness or unconsciousness, hallucinations, nausea and vomiting, staggering or unsteady gait, sweating or extremely dry hot skin, and tremors.

Symptoms of withdrawal from substance use or addiction may include: abdominal cramping or pain, agitation, cold sweat, convulsions, delusions, depression, diarrhea, hallucinations, nausea and vomiting, restlessness, and shaking

Often, people with substance use disorders and addiction are aware of the problem but are unable to stop it. Some people experience both mental illness and addiction. The mental illness may be present before the substance use, or the addiction may trigger it and/or make it worse.

Depending on your needs, treatment for substance use disorders and addiction may include outpatient or inpatient visits, peer support groups,

religious or spiritual support groups, detox, rehabilitation, and more.

If you or a loved one needs help for substance use and addiction, there are a few things you can do:

- Do not jeopardize your safety—call for professional assistance if you need it.
- Do not try to reason with someone on drugs or expect them to behave reasonably.
- Do not offer your opinions when giving help.
- Call 2-1-1 Maryland or 9-1-1 if you or a loved one is in immediate danger, threatening to hurt yourself or others, or is unresponsive after using a substance.
- Help them find a provider by calling the Frederick County Health Department's Referral and Assessment Unit at 301-600-1775.

### COVID-19 and Substance Use/Addiction

As people across the world contend with coronavirus (COVID-19), Frederick Health is aware that some people with substance use disorders and addiction may be hit particularly hard. Not only can the virus be an especially serious threat to those who smoke, vape, or use opioids and methamphetamine, but individuals with a substance use disorder are more likely to experience homelessness or incarceration, have decreased access to healthcare, and are more susceptible to the current health threat of COVID-19.

If you or a loved one is struggling with substance use disorders or addiction or in recovery and need additional resources during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit the National Institute on Drug Abuse or contact Frederick Health immediately. You may also visit the Resources section of our website.

### Frederick County announces keyword opt-in for COVID-19 updates

Frederick County Government is making it easier to stay up to date during the COVID-19 health emergency. The Frederick County Division of Emergency Management announces that beginning today, anyone interested can text the keyword Fred-CoVID19 to 888777 and receive updates from the County government on operational changes, press conferences and more. Message and data rates may apply.

Alert Frederick County is the County's free, official source for information about emergency events. The text opt-in service is just one of many ways people can stay informed with Alert Frederick County. To learn more about the Alert Frederick County program or to sign up, visit [FrederickCountyMD.gov/Alert](http://FrederickCountyMD.gov/Alert).



**At Frederick Health, our mission is to positively impact the well-being of every individual in our community.**

Every day, and especially during this pandemic, our dedicated team of clinical professionals, support staff, community providers, emergency responders, and so many others continues this mission on the front lines and in the face of uncertainty. We are eternally grateful to the many heroes who walk through our doors each day, ready to care for those in need. Thank you to our heroes!





## YMCA's summer camp at Camp West Mar

Fawn O'Hara  
YMCA

*"Kids have an amazing summer because of the connections they make and Braden once again is walking away from this summer with an increased self esteem and stronger sense of self."*

—Angela C.

Camping, like many YMCA programs, is about learning skills, developing character and making friends. But few environments are as special as camp, where kids become a community as they learn both how to be more independent and how to contribute to a group as they engage in physical, social and educational activities. Camping teaches self-reliance, a love for nature and the outdoors and the development of attitudes and practices that build character and leadership—all amidst the fun of campfires, canoeing, archery, talent shows and meaningful relationships.

Why the YMCA?

**Something for everyone.** We allow kids to be kids! They are allowed to choose their own adventure and try new things in a safe and encouraging environment. From day camps to overnight camps, swimming and hiking, fishing and archery, smores and singing, to nature trails and art projects, there truly is something for every child!

**History.** The first known summer camp in the U.S. was founded by the YMCA in 1885 (Camp Dudley in NY). In fact, the Young Men's Christian Association has impacted many of the physical fitness items we are used to, from basketball teams and camp to swimming lessons! The YMCA has reputational strength known for fun, value-driven programming in a safe and trusted environment! The YMCA is one of the largest providers of camp programs nationally. There are more than 10,000 day camp sites across the country, 315 overnight camps for youth and teens and many specialty camp programs that meet the diverse needs of children and teens, such as youth with disabilities and illnesses.

**Financial Assistance.** At the Y, we welcome all children and their families, because our communities are stronger when everyone can take part in programs where they can learn, grow and thrive! Financial assistance makes camp available to those kids in need. Last year we provided nearly \$20,000 in needs-based financial assistance for Camp West Mar alone. Additional funds are available for Downtown Day Camps including Arts & Humanities.

**Educational Environment.** At Camp West Mar we take advantage of our amazing environment by exploring our acreage and learning about our surroundings. Hikes through the woods include learning

about different plant and tree species while looking for signs of wildlife. Field guides are used to discuss tracks, common species in the area, and their ideal habitat, vegetation and camping and wilderness skills. The lake and stream at camp provide an opportunity to see and listen to a variety of species. When fishing, we reel it in and talk about the species, point out basic fish anatomy to get a better understanding of how a fish lives, looks, and feels prior to releasing it back into the lake. Campers also observe the life cycle of a frog from egg to adult.

**Amazing staff.** All West Mar staff have CPR and First Aid certifications as well as AED/Oxygen training. All West Mar staff participate in week-long training on specific skills such as archery, ropes courses, canoes, songs, games, and skits, along with behavior management, safety (including aquatics), and emergency preparedness.

**Safety.** There are many unknowns and things change weekly, if not daily. The YMCA of Frederick County works closely with state and local health and education departments. We will follow all rules and regulations as they are issued/changed in regards to taking temperatures, wearing masks/gloves or social distancing. The safety of our campers is our highest priority and procedures are in place for cleaning and sanitizing all areas to provide the safest atmosphere that we can for our



campers. We are currently discussing and exploring our options for social distancing while maintaining quality programming including group sizes, camper to staff ratios, use of program areas, and transportation options. We fully intend to adjust our practices and follow recommendations for our camper's safety and health as we work through this difficult time.

**Life-changing opportunity.** Not only can you learn about the environment, meet new life-long friends BUT, as a camp attendee you have the opportunity to apply to be a Counselor-in-training (CIT). The Counselor-In-Training (CIT) program is designed to give teens the opportunity to gain valuable life skills through a work-like experience. The focus of the program is hands on learning, promoting teamwork, and providing a pos-

itive, safe, and fun camp atmosphere. The CITs will participate in skill development and team building workshops, as well as spend time assisting camp counselors in a specific group as assigned by the camp director.

Camp is a time for kids to explore, discover and create in a place that encourages confidence and community! Camp West Mar provides a safe, thriving environment for young people to explore personal interests, build self-esteem, develop interpersonal skills, discover the creativity and health benefits of the outdoors, and make lasting friendships and memories. Our future is bright and we look forward to an amazing summer. Check out all we have to offer and keep up-to-date with everything going on by visiting at [camp.frederickymca.org](http://camp.frederickymca.org).



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\* Please note that not all amenities listed are available at our Green Valley location.

**YMCA OF FREDERICK COUNTY LOCATIONS:**

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1000 North Market St.  
Frederick, MD

»»» GREEN VALLEY Y  
11791 Fingerboard Rd.  
Monrovia, MD

Pass is valid for 7 consecutive days from date of first visit. Pass is limited to one week only per calendar year/per person. Restrictions and limitations may apply. EXPIRATION DATE: 12/31/2020

### YMCA Camps

In addition to Camp West Mar, the YMCA of Frederick County provides more than 40 camps at a variety of locations including our Green Valley and Downtown Y along with a variety of fun-filled day camps based at local elementary schools throughout the county.

**Overnight Camp - YMCA** offers overnight camps that run from a few days to a few weeks. Camp programs offer a wide variety of outdoor adventures led by trained and experienced leaders who guide children and teenagers in having an unforgettable experience. Expect new and fun activities that will add not only build skills, but great new friends and character values for life.

**Day Camp - Day camp** can offer almost all of the benefits of traditional camp—new

experiences, skill building, a sense of community and lasting friendships—in rural and urban settings while allowing campers to return home each afternoon. YMCAs across the nation offer day camps for elementary school children, and some have offerings for pre-schoolers and teens.

**Specialty Camps - Camping** is for everyone, and the Y offers specialty camps that focus on particular programming like teen adventure, music, dance, sports, robotics, horse-back riding and for campers with special needs. Youth with developmental disabilities, physical and mental health challenges or other impairments that may require special attention or benefit from like-situated campers have opportunities through the Y.

# HISTORY

## Gateway to the Mountains

George Wireman

### Chapter 10: Weller's United Brethren Church

While conferences of United Brethren were held as early as 1789, it was in the First General Conference held in the home of Peter Kemp, near Frederick, in the year 1800, that the name United Brethren in Christ was adopted. The General Conference of 1815 adopted a discipline, and re-elected Bishops, which office had been created in the First General Conference in 1800.

The U. B. Church is the first in our country to be known as an "American Born Church." These and many other facts of the church in general are of some importance to the members of the U. B. Church.

The church has been often called, "The Bulwark of Civilization," and there is hardly a person living today who will dispute this fact. Weller's Church of Mechanicstown has been just such a bulwark. From the pulpit of Weller's Church the gospel of Jesus Christ has been proclaimed to the community for over one hundred and thirty-eight years. During this time the church has grown from a mere handful to over three hundred and twenty-five mem-

bers. History alone cannot tell of the many sacrifices made down through the years by those who have been prompted by the love of God to give their all to Him in service.

The history and development of Weller's Church is closely related to the history and development of Mechanicstown. The church takes its name from the Weller family who were the original settlers. The Wellers had three sons, Jacob, Joseph and John. Jacob Weller also had a son named Jacob and it was Jacob Weller, Jr., who was the moving spirit in the erection of the Thurmont church. He donated the ground for the church and cemetery and was the first person to be buried in this holy place.

The corner-stone of Weller's Church was laid in October 1830 and the building was dedicated on December 11, 1831. It is certain that the organization dates back several years before this time. The likelihood is that services were held in the Weller home on West Main Street. Weller's Church was the first church to be built within the community and it has the unique distinction of being one of the oldest in the denomination.

Below appears a copy of the original preamble of the church constitution and the five persons

who signed it were the original trustees of the church.

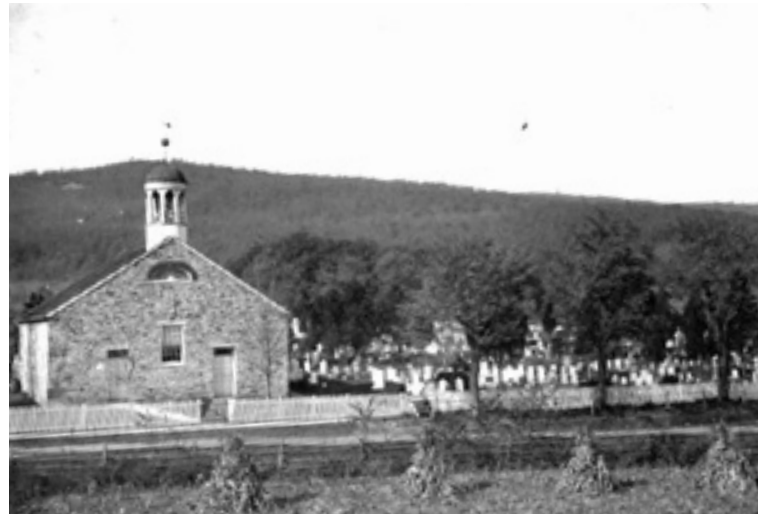
"Whereas, we whose names are underwritten, do think and believe it our duty to our God, our posterity, and our fellow citizens, to build and establish a house of worship in Mechanics-town, Maryland, for the use and purpose of the United Brethren in Christ, and also guaranteeing privileges to ministers of other persuasions whose piety and purity of doctrine shall commend them to the trustees, if there be no appointment previous to the application. Likewise there will be the privilege of burying at the meeting house for all subscribers and successors. Moreover, this meeting house shall forthwith be known by the appellation of "Weller's Church" in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Praying that the Lord may here record his name, and consecrate this building unto himself, sanctifying the worshippers here and elsewhere unto Himself, in time and eternity, through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Dr. Brane, states in his history of the church that the Weller brothers had been converted under the preaching of Otterbein and his co-laborers. This was sometime between 1760 and 1765, when Otterbein was pastor in Frederick. We are rather certain that from this time on there were services held under the leadership of the Wellers who "could pray and preach the gospel and win souls as well as they could make matches, axes, mill-stones, and augurs."

The original church, erected in October 1830, is the same building that is being used today, having been enlarged and improved several times.

The first improvement or renovation was around 1880 during the pastorate of the Reverend J. D. Freed. These were general improvements to the entire structure, the amount and extent of which is not known. The Board of Trustees at this time were John Baltzell, Washington Ward, Jacob Wastler and Henry Moster.

It was in 1915, during the pas-



Weller's United Brethren Church

torate of Dr. Paul E. Holdcraft, that an addition to the church was added. The church was extended twenty feet to the front and a tower added to one side. The front of the church was changed, having but a single entrance by way of the vestibule in the tower. Memorial windows were added and general improvements made throughout the building. The cost of these renovations was around \$4,000.

In 1929 during the pastorate of Rev. Harry E. Krone, the basement was excavated and this provided additional space for the rapidly growing Sunday School. In 1943 the church underwent a few more changes which included the altar, divided chancel and furnishings at a total cost of \$2,200.

By 1955 the Sunday School was again in need of additional facilities and plans were drawn up for an educational building which would provide more class room space. Also included in the plans were a modern kitchen and the

remodeling of the sanctuary.

Two years later in 1957, the educational building was completed and dedicated in February of that year. Rev. Elmer Andrews, pastor of the church reminded the members of the congregation that it was not the erecting of great structures that insured the future of the church, but the presence of God's spirit. It is an established fact that the members of Weller's Church have been blessed with His spirit and that because of their devotion to their church and to God, the work of the church has indeed moved forward.

In 1965, a beautiful white spiral was erected on top of the tower and at night is flooded with light. Located at the top of Altamont Avenue, overlooking the community, this spiral can be seen for miles around and is a constant reminder that Weller's Church is proud of its rich heritage and has served the community well for over one hundred and thirty-eight years.

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Thurmont Methodist Church

### Chapter 11: Thurmont Methodist Church

It has been said, "to live in the past is dangerous, but to forget the past is tragic!" We cannot afford to retreat from today's world by trying to live upon the blessings of yesterday, but we should take time to remember the "spirit" and "purpose" with which our forefathers laid the foundation upon which we build our world of today.

Methodism in Thurmont had its beginning in a schoolhouse located opposite the present Methodist Church building on Church Street. It was here in the schoolhouse that the first services were held until the present church was built in 1851. The present building was erected during the pastorate of Rev. B. C. Flowers, who, together with Andrew Aefton and Tuisco

Marlow, became the first trustees. At this time the Methodist Church of Mechanicstown belonged to the Frederick Circuit, but in 1856, owing to the large number of Methodist meeting places in this area, the Emmitsburg Circuit was formed. Originally, Emmitsburg and Toms Creek were a part of the Gettysburg Circuit.

Robert Strawbridge, a Methodist preacher, emigrated to America in 1767 and settled in Frederick County. He preached and was responsible for starting many societies in the area in which he lived. His influence and efforts were largely responsible for establishing the Mechanicstown district.

From the old church records we learn that on May 14, 1866, the first Quarterly Conference of the

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Emmitsburg Circuit of the Frederick District of the East Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Church was held at Middleburg. Churches represented at this conference were Emmitsburg, Toms Creek, Mechanicstown, Biggs School, Wesley Chapel, Double Pipe Creek, McLanes School, Lewistown, Brook Hill, Smithfield, and Middleburg.

On December 7, 1867, the fourth quarterly conference of the Emmitsburg Circuit was held in Emmitsburg. It was at this conference the Trustees were authorized to sell the church parsonage, which was then located in Emmitsburg, and erect a suitable parsonage on the church lot in Mechanicstown. Sometime later, a special conference meeting was held to make a final settlement for the conference year ending on the last day of February 1869. From March 1, 1869, the circuit became known as the Mechanicstown Circuit, West Baltimore District, Baltimore Conference.

In April 1869, the quarterly conference meeting was held in Mechanicstown and the committee originally appointed to oversee the building of a parsonage on the church lot was authorized to purchase the house of Martin Rouzer, for use as a parsonage for the circuit, for the sum of \$1,500.

From the church records we also learn that in 1875 the building of a stable and the digging of a well on the parsonage lot was accomplished at a cost of \$121.65.

In 1879-79, under the leadership of Rev. West, the church was remodeled and greatly improved.

In October 1901, the "Semi-Centennial" was observed. The congregation was honored in having as their guest speaker, the Rev. G. W. Cooper, who had served as assistant pastor at the time the original church was built.

By 1908, the church membership had increased to a point where additional facilities were needed. Under the able leadership of the Rev. R. G. Koontz, a number of improvements were made. The church building itself was enlarged, a Sunday School room was added and a belfry erected.

During the pastorate of Rev. Adam Grim, the church felt the need for an education building and plans were drawn up and later approved. This addition, consisting of several classrooms, a social hall and a kitchen, was completed in 1949. The church sanctuary was also remodeled at the same

## Robert Galen Bishop



Robert Galen Bishop, 95, of Gettysburg died April 1 at the Gettysburg Hospital.

Born December 4, 1924 in Gettysburg, he was the son of the late Mervin and Beulah (Keckler) Bishop. He was the husband of the late Betty J. (Wenschhof) Bishop who died October 15, 1999 after 47 years of marriage.

Mr. Bishop was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Taneytown. He was a life member of the Greenmount Fire Company and a member of the PA Farm Bureau. He attended Moritz's one room school house in Freedom Township and Gettysburg High School. He was a proud Veteran of the United States Navy serving during World War II. He was a lifelong farmer, farming with horses and later got his beloved John Deere Tractor. He was a livestock dealer and trucker, serving a five county area that his son proudly continues today. He was the neighborhood go

to guy for minor veterinary services. He drove a school bus for the Green family of Gettysburg for over 30 years transporting multiple generations of children. He also enjoyed telling stories and diagraming family trees.

Robert is survived by four children, Bobbi Jo Elliott and her husband James, of Biglerville, Benn Bishop and his wife Beverly, of Gettysburg, Bonni Sharrer and her husband Paul, of Fairfield, Beth Bishop and her companion Frank Shull, of Gettysburg, eight grandchildren, Branden Elliott and his wife Shanan, MaryAnne Moritz and her husband Kevin, Rebekka Bennage and her husband Billy, Emily Stambaugh and her husband Lewis, Bobby Albin and his companion Tiffany Jacoby, Paula Jean Sharrer, Katie Sharrer, and Danny Sharrer, seven great grandchildren, Korie Moritz, Hattie Stambaugh, Sylvie Stambaugh, Riley Albin, Madison Bennage, Macee Bennage, McKenna Bennage, and a number of nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his two sisters, Anna Kiessling and Ruth Bechtel.

Funeral services will be private, however the family is planning on having a Celebration of Life once the threat of the COVID-19 virus subsides. The Monahan Funeral Home is in charge of the funeral arrangements and online condolences may be made at [monahanfuneralhome.com](http://monahanfuneralhome.com)

time and rededicated with special services on September 25, 1949.

The year 1951 marked the 100th Anniversary of the Methodist Church in Thurmont, and at the same time the community itself was planning a big celebration honoring its 200th Anniversary.

Highlight of the community celebration was the huge Bicentennial Parade which featured many floats entered by the various business organizations and churches of the community. First prize in the Float Division was won by the Methodist Church.

The front of their float featured a replica of the church building, complete with steeple and cross. In the back of the church, suspended high on a platform, was a huge globe representing the earth. Seated around the globe were children dressed in native costumes, representing the various nations and races of the world. Their attention was focused on a minister, as he preached from his pulpit.

The sides of the float were beautifully decorated in various colors and featured a banner bearing the inscription — "The World Is My Parish."

In 1955, during the pastorate of

## Sylvia Rosensteel



Sylvia Irene Rosensteel, 90, of Fairfield, formerly of Emmitsburg, died peacefully on April 2 at her home, surrounded by her loving family. Born September 19, 1929 in Rocky Ridge, she was the daughter of the late Edward and Lula (Harbaugh) Long. She was the beloved wife of George "Gene" Rosensteel, to whom she was married for 68 years.

Sylvia attended Emmitsburg School. She helped on the farm of her aging parents, took care of other persons in their homes, and worked at the Emmitsburg Manufacturing Company. She was a former member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Emmitsburg and a current member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fairfield. She was a devoted wife and homemaker, raising five children and helping with her many grandchildren. She enjoyed cooking, sewing, crocheting, flower gardening, playing cards, collecting milk glass, and going to auctions. More than anything, she enjoyed spending time with her family.

Surviving, in addition to her husband Gene, are her children,

Vincent Rosensteel and wife Joyce of Littleton, CO, Yvonne Arrison and husband Jay of Orrtanna, Eric Rosensteel and wife Donna of Rocky Ridge, Milissa Fogle and husband Thomas, Jr. of Chambersburg, and Owen Rosensteel and wife Dawn of Fairfield; grandchildren, Wade Rosensteel, Gary Shorb, Jr., Angela Hobbs, Virginia Haines, Heather Arrison, Jeremy Rosensteel, Jessica Lamb, Shawn and Michael Fogle, Bridget Runk, and Rebecca Rosensteel; great-grandchildren, Michaela and Wyatt Shorb, Brooke and Nathan Hobbs, Olivia, Emma and Brianna Haines, Melanie, Matthew and Masten Rosensteel, Emilee, Ella and Dillon Fogle, Atticus Lamb and Jack Runk; great-great-grandchildren, Greyson Staples and Kovalan Rosensteel; and many nieces and nephews. Sylvia was predeceased by brothers, James, Guy and Ray Long; and sisters, Opal Stambaugh, Pearl Sayler and Mae Warren. The family wishes to express their heartfelt gratitude to personal caregivers, Wanda Topper and Abby Zanella.

Due to the current national health crisis, a Memorial Mass will be held at a future date to be announced. Arrangements have been entrusted to Myers-Durboraw Funeral Home in Emmitsburg. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Sylvia's name may be made to St. Mary's Catholic Church, 256 Tract Rd., Fairfield, 17320. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at [www.myersdurborawfh.com](http://www.myersdurborawfh.com).

the Rev. Paul McCauley, the church installed a new Moller organ. Under the leadership of Rev. Martin Case, a new entrance and vestibule were added to the front of the sanctuary. A board room and pastor's study was added to the rear of the educational building and was completed in the spring of 1966.

The Methodist Church has on several occasions been honored in having the President of the United States

attend worship services on a Sunday morning. President Johnson, spending a week-end at Camp David in the Catocin Mountains, has motored to Thurmont and joined the congregation in their Sunday worship services.

The Thurmont Methodist Church can well be proud of its present facilities and its many contributions to community life.

Chapter 12 next month

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## TANEYTOWN HISTORY

# Taneytown and the Spanish Influenza of 1918

David Buie

The last year of World War I must have seemed cursed because it brought death from two sides — disease and war. During the first nine months of 1918, Carroll newspapers occasionally carried the names of local men dying on battlefields in Europe. Still, in October, the Spanish Flu resurfaced in a much more deadly form than it had appeared that spring.

A headline on October 11, 1918, in Westminster's Democratic Advocate read, "The Grip Epidemic: Disease Spreading, But No Occasion for Panic." The article mentioned the outbreak had begun about ten days before, and "drastic steps throughout the nation are called for" — a statement conflicting with the optimistic headline. Also, it disclosed the flu was "unchecked" in army camps where the country's youth were being trained for the fight overseas. Hospitals in Washington, D.C., became filled.

The disease was spreading at an alarming rate, especially in areas where large numbers of people assembled to support the war effort. Everyone was urged to give complete cooperation to public authorities and "exercise unusual care as to health."

Soon Carroll newspapers were not just publishing the obituaries of combatants but dozens of local

men and women dying in the prime of life. In contrast to the typical U-shaped graph of deaths from most diseases that showed high mortality among infants and the elderly, a chart of deaths from Spanish Flu was W-shaped. People between 20 and 45 were especially hard-hit. Children were orphaned, or a parent left to raise them without the help of a spouse. Just a week after the October 11 article appeared, death notices filled four columns in the Advocate.

The October 11th Advocate is also the first to mention the effects of influenza on Taneytown. Included in the Taneytown section of the paper are the following selected lines:

"Our schools in town and the county are closed Tuesday for an indefinite amount of time. We hear that the churches will be closed on account of the Flu."

"The sick at present writing are Mrs. S.R. Downie, Miss Katherine, and Master Richard Downie, Estella Essig, Edgar Essig, Ralph Sell, Norval P. Shoemaker Jr., Mrs. Frank Crouse, Mrs. Walter Crapster, Mrs. O.T. Shoemaker, and Clotworthy Birnie."

Also appearing in the paper for that date was information regarding the return of Second Lieutenant John Alexander to his parents' home in Taneytown from Georgia to fight influenza. Lieutenant Alexander would later succumb to com-

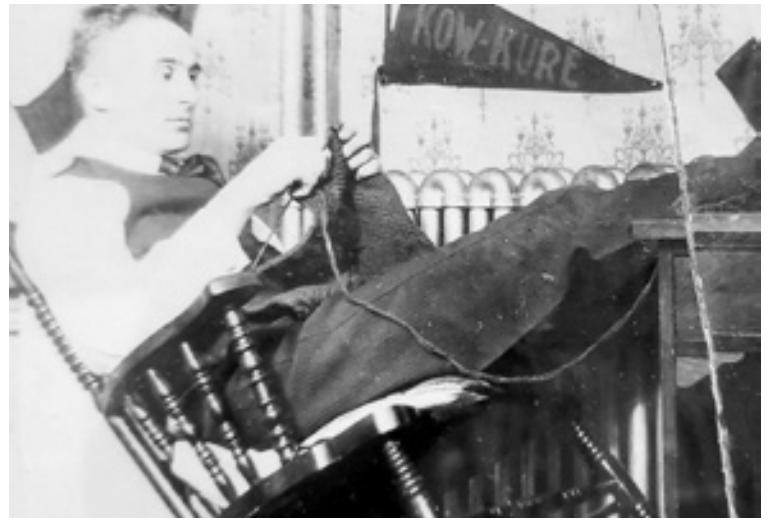
plications brought on by the illness. Also mentioned is the return of the remains of Private Howard Frock from Camp Meade, whose life was also taken by the flu.

Other Taneytown residents who died were:

Mary Elizabeth Null (October 4, 1895 — March 22, 1918) - Mary was one of many Taneytown civilians who died of influenza although she was not living in Taneytown at the time of her death. She had moved to Hutchinson, Kansas, to work as a stenographer at the International Harvester Corporation. Elizabeth's parents traveled to the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Solenberger to bring Elizabeth's body back to Taneytown where she was buried in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery.

Corporal Raymond Luther Hesson (October 31, 1893 — October 6, 1918) - Raymond graduated from Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg, in 1917. He spent one year as principal of a high school in St. Petersburg, Pa, before being inducted into the Army on April 30, 1918. After completing training at Camp Meade, he left for France on July 6, 1918. Hesson was assigned to Headquarters, 313th Infantry Company, while in France. Promoted to Corporal, Hesson died in a French Field Hospital after contracting influenza in the field while performing his duties. Corporal Hesson is buried in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery.

Second Lieutenant John Alco Alexander (July 19, 1894 — October 15, 1918) — John graduated from Western Maryland College with a B.A. in Pedagogy on June 8, 1917. (Pedagogy is the study of how knowledge and skills are imparted in an educational context, and it considers the interactions that take place during learning.) Following graduation John enlisted in the Army Air Corps, and entered the School of Military Aeronautics at Cornell University in Ithaca. Graduating from the School of Aeronautics, John was then assigned to the Headquarters Cadet Detachment in Southern Field, Georgia. John was honorably discharged on September 27, 1918, and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Air Service. By October 11 he was back at his parents' home on Taneytown and Har-



John Alco Alexander was one of many resident of Taneytown who died from the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic.

ney Rd. Four days later, he died from complications as a result of contracting the Spanish Flu. John is buried at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery.

Private Howard Arthur Frock (March 26, 1895 — October 16, 1918) - Arthur died from complications associated with the Spanish Flu; his cause of death is listed as broncho pneumonia. Broncho pneumonia was the leading cause of death during the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918 -1919. Private Frock was sworn into the Army on June 26, 1918, and assigned to the 49th Ambulance Company. Six weeks before his death, Howard had married Nora Baker (1884-1949); there is no evidence that she ever remarried. Nora and Howard were buried together in Taneytown's Grace U.C.C. Cemetery.

Private William David Hess (September 23, 1893 — December 24, 1918) — William worked as a farm laborer just outside of Taneytown before he entered the Army. At age six, he went to live with his aunt, Mary Fogle, after the death of his mother. Willie's father was Richard Nicholas Hess. Willie had three brothers, Thomas, Lloyd, and Jacob plus two sisters, Bertha and Mrs. Maurice Utermahlen. He also had a stepbrother and a step-sister. He enlisted in the Army on July 24, 1918, and lost his battle

with complications of the Spanish Flu on December 24. According to an article that appeared in The Carroll Record he battled influenza for approximately two weeks. He developed asthma and pneumonia from which he died. He is buried at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery with his mother, Mary C. Hess, who had passed away seventeen years earlier.

These five individuals are just a small sampling of the town's death toll. Taneytown sent 72 men off to war, four were lost and three of those were a direct result of influenza. It is very difficult to gauge the effects of the Spanish Flu of 1918 on the small town of Taneytown whose 1920 population was only 800 people. From a sustainability perspective, the low population and the predominantly agricultural nature of the community probably lessened the stress on the infrastructure, while the loss of life must have been more devastating and felt throughout the community.

I would like to thank the citizens of Taneytown who took ownership of this writing. Many people are responsible for the information and pictures that made this piece a joy to write!

*David Buie is a Taneytown Resident who has a passion for Carroll County and its place in history.*

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## 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## May 1

**Inherits Fortune**

Mrs. Mary Landis, of Fairfield, received notification on Tuesday, by Western Union, that she had inherited the estate of a distant aunt valued at over \$500,000. Mrs. Landis, who, with her five children, has been living in destitution since she was abandoned by her husband, Harry, this winter, was overcome with joy. She immediately announced that upon receipt of the estate, she would repay everyone who had helped her three fold.

**Rev. Wolff offered Pasturage at Harney Church**

Reverend Wolff preached a trial sermon at the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Harney. According to the women of the congregation, it had a sufficient amount of "fire and brimstone" to satisfy them, having tired of their old pastor's sermons that focused on a wife's duty to her husband. Upon completion of his sermon, the women offered Rev. Wolff the position of Pastor. Rumor has it that the men of the church are not happy their womenfolk's decision.

**Changes at Emmitsburg Railroad**

The Emmitsburg Railroad Company is building an addition to the station and making extensive interior improvement to the waiting area. P. J. Felix, who has been conductor on the Emmitsburg Railroad for the past 26 years, has resigned. Raymond Dukehart has filled the vacancy.

**Livery Stable to be Torn Down**

Thomas Baumgardner has purchased the livery stable of the old Spangler Hotel in Emmitsburg and will use the material in building a barn on his farm.

## May 8

**Desertion Case Settled**

The case against Henry Landis, charged with the desertion of his wife, Mary, and non-support of her and their five children, has been settled. According to the terms of the settlement, Landis, who had been trying to set up a chapter of the Former-Former Boozers Association in Fairfield, has agreed to cease his initiative, cease all drinking, attend church every Sunday, cease all back talking to his wife, and do exactly what she says

when she says it. Henry swear his return to the 'straight and narrow' had nothing to do with his wife's recent inheritance.

**Scarlet Fever In Fairfield**

Dr. Bruce McCreary of the State Health Department and Dr. Crist, the County Medical Inspector, were in Fairfield Monday afternoon making a study in regard to the Scarlet Fever situation there. There are now nine cases in Fairfield and vicinity.

**New Bridge For Detour**

At a joint session of the Frederick and Carroll County Commissioners, four bids were considered for a new bridge over Double Creek Pike near Detour, to be erected on the site of the bridge recently washed away by high water. The bid of the Luten Bridge Company, of York, for a concrete structure at a cost of \$15,312 was accepted. The Commissioners also contracted for concrete roadway to cost \$950 and some extra work that will add \$300 more, making a total for the new bridge and approach at \$16,562. Work on the new bridge will begin at once, and the structure will be completed and open to traffic about September 1. It will be a three span, reinforced concrete arch structure, of a very substantial and durable nature.

## May 15

**Reverend Charles Reinweald Dies**

Word has been received of the death of Reverend Charles Reinweald, Pastor at Elise Lutheran Church. Dr. Reinweald graduated from Gettysburg College in the class of 1885. Reverend Reinweald did not become seriously ill until Sunday. From then until shortly after 5 o'clock last Saturday, he sank slowly until death came, due to complications of diabetes and pleurisy.

Dr. Reinweald was born in Danielsville, near Altoona about 55 years ago. He was a graduate of the Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg. Approximately 27 years ago he moved to Emmitsburg to take charge of Elise. Funeral services were held in his church, Tuesday afternoon. After the services the body was brought to Gettysburg for burial in the Evergreen Cemetery.

**Veterans' Answer Last Roll Call**

At the memorial service of the Grand Army at the Republic, the record of

Wilson Eyer, who died October 4th, was read, and taps were sounded on a muffled drum. Eyer, fought with Company G, 202nd Pennsylvania Infantry. He was a long-term member of the Fairfield Post and became a member of Corporal Skelly's Post when the Fairfield Post disbanded. Attendees also celebrated the life of Samuel Waggerman, a civil war veteran, who died suddenly at the home of his son, Charles, near Emmitsburg, on Saturday, May 1st. Mr. Waggerman was 74 years old.

Reverend Harry Danielle's, Pastor of the Methodist Church, preach the sermon to the veterans. His theme was on the purpose of the meeting - to keep alive the deeds done and the great things accomplished under the American flag. He pointed out that the veterans represented the spirit of America which has been the foundation of this country.

## May 22

**Landis Paraded Through Fairfield**

On Saturday, Harry Landis was paraded through the streets of Fairfield by his wife, Mary. The barefoot Harry was clothed in only his under garments and a sandwich board upon which was written "I am a drunk and don't deserve this fine woman." All the women of Fairfield turned out to cheer Mary on. The men wept openly at the sight of one of the town's best hooch makers, being forced to stop in front of the homes of fellow boozers and pour out a gallon of hooch at each.

**Death of Professor Braum**

Professor Frederick Braum, age 53, for 19 years head of the Music Department of Mount St. Mary's College, died at his home in Emmitsburg, Sunday afternoon. Although in ill health for the past three years, the noted instructor continued on with his duties at the institution until last fall when he was obliged to retire. For the past few months he gave indications of regaining health. But was suddenly stricken Sunday after partaking of his dinner and died in a few moments. Professor Braum was born in Prague, in 1865, where he received his musical education. Coming to this country as a young man, he was associated with various prominent orchestras of the east, until taking duties at Mount St. Mary's in the fall of 1901.



The Volstead Act, formally National Prohibition Act, took effect in 1920 to provide enforcement for the Eighteenth Amendment, prohibiting the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages.

Under the direction of Professor Braum, the study of music made wonderful strides at the mountain institution, for not only was he an instructor of exceptional ability but he was also a talented leader. Year after year visitors at commencements were loud in their praise of the college glee club and orchestra, both of which were under the guidance of Professor Braum. The news of his death will be received with sorrow by the alumni, particularly the many who receive their musical training under him.

## May 29

**Light Primary Vote**

Less than 50%, to be more accurate, about 40% of the adult male population of Fairfield, showed up at the primary last Tuesday, the big end of the voters, the 60%, did not care shucks about a primary which presidential preferences were possible; at which the important question a building good roads was presented for the determination; and at which many important questions directly affecting the people were under consideration. One of the great problems is how to interest people to the discharge other political duties and this before some tyranny of a small minority shall have made the county suffer from the neglect and apathy about political rights.

The one accomplishment of the minority of both parties was to regis-

ter a protest against the extremes put in the Volstead Act. Travel where you may in the county, one finds little sentiment in favor of the existence of the saloon, but everywhere is found expressions of the rigidity of the Volstead Act which would subject everyone to inspections in the matter of cider, fruit juices &c.

**Thurmont to Graduate Twelve**

Twelve students of the Thurmont High School will be presented with their diplomas on Friday, June 4. Eight of the graduates will receive academic and four commercial diplomas. The exercise will be conducted in the Town hall at Thurmont. Dr. Sanders of Gettysburg will deliver the address to the graduate. The commencement exercise will begin with the sermon to the graduates on Sunday, May 30. The senior play will be given in the Town hall, June 1<sup>st</sup>, at 8 o'clock.

**Landis Files For Divorce**

Mary Landis has filed for divorce from her drunk of a husband, Harry. In a short written statement she said "If he was stupid enough to think I was stupid enough to think he was turning a new leaf for any other reason than to get at my inheritance, then he is too stupid to be married too." The divorce papers were laid on Harry's chest as he slept in a back alley recovering from his 'bender' of the night before.

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

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## MOM'S TIME OUT

### Unprecedented times

Mary Angel

These are unprecedented times! I have certainly grown to hate the word unprecedented, but boy is it true. Never before and hopefully never again in our lifetime will we experience anything like this, but here we are in the thick of it. So how do we cope and how do we take it a step further and actually make the best of it.

Let me start by saying I am no expert on how to make the best of things. I have crashed and burned quite a few 'make the best of it' situations. This is a little different in that we all have only two choices: make the best of it or go crazy in quarantine. From that perspective I hope everyone is making the best of it. We are now many weeks into our forced family time and I thought I would share with you how my family is faring.

We actually started off pretty good. My husband was working crazy long hours from home and the kids were enjoying their extended spring break. Everyone was in really good spirits. Then my husband got furloughed from his job and the kids had to go back to school. Suddenly my husband had too much time on his hands and the kids had too little. You would hear screams of joy coming from their rooms if they were playing video games and loud groans of complaint if they were struggling through school work.

My 15-year-old daughter has been impressively on top of her school-

work and finding time to play with her little sister. We recently donated the last dollhouse we owned and suddenly they both want to wax nostalgic and play with the few remaining Barbie dolls. This actually turned out to be an amazing project as their brother suggested they take all of the empty boxes from the basement and make a doll house. For those of you who didn't know there are copious amounts of online tutorials for making doll house furniture out of cardboard or foam board. They have also used what fabric is left, after I have made masks for all of our friends and family, to make bedding, pillows, and curtains. This has been almost a weeklong project. The girls have also broken out the bikes, tennis rackets, new net, and badminton on the sunny days.

The boys have mostly been doing their college work and video games along with still working, as they are both considered essential personnel. I do have to say there is extremely large amount of college work compared to high school. The college classes, for the most part, are expecting the same work to be done that was scheduled before the quarantine. The high school level has been completely derailed by the current events. Please don't misunderstand; colleges are designed to have online classes while public schools are not. My oldest is actually faring quite well as he is a bit more introverted than the middle

two. Besides missing out on lectures from his favorite history professor he is unaffected. My 18 year old is way more social and has definitely required some screen time with his friends. As the mom I have to say this quarantine has definitely helped the 18 year olds focus on school. As he has said, 'I have nothing else to focus on'.

My husband was expecting the furlough, not that he is happy about it. He knows his company is doing the best they can for everyone. He has thrown himself into helping the members of our church. For those of you who don't know he is also a pastor and a counselor besides working for a food distributor. He has started having online Zoom morale boosting group meetings. If there is one thing I can say about my husband it's that he has a big heart for God's hurting people. He doesn't want anyone to feel like they are in this alone. While I immediately turned to 'how are we going to pay the mortgage on unemployment' he went straight to 'how can I serve the community'. You got to love a man with a heart like that.

As a family we have played some games, including card, board, and verbal. One of our favorites at dinner is the ABC game and 'I am going to a picnic'. As a family we love any board game that is Disney related, especially Disney Charades and our newest addiction is Disney Code Names. The only down fall of Disney Code Names is that my oldest son is a Disney know it all. The newest thing we have tried is a game you can down-



After being locked up together for a month, it is safe to say that many parents are more than ready to sell their kids. Some might even be willing to pay people to take them away!

load on almost any platform - Jackbox. I can't speak highly enough about how this has saved our sanity and made us laugh. There is a game called Quiplash that is never played without someone belly laughing.

Another game entitled Murder Mystery Party is a little darker but extremely fun and hilarious. I attempted to purchase a trampoline (with a higher weight for all of the teenagers) before the furlough, but was shocked to see them sold out everywhere. My oldest has been saving for quite some time for a Nintendo Switch and those too are sold out across the board. Apparently we have great ideas, just a little late. One other thing we did to pass the time was enter (for the first time ever) in the Peep Show at the Carroll County

Arts Center. They are currently doing a virtual show to help boost everyone's spirit (carrollcountyartscouncil.org). Luckily we planned ahead because we used over 1000 peeps in our Peep Disney World. Yes, that is a shameless plug for votes. Seriously though, go to the website and click on some of the pics and enjoy.

My hope is that all of you are doing well and making the best of your situation. I hope you are enjoying your family time and making out alright financially. Most of all I want to thank you for doing your part to put others safety at the forefront of your actions. God bless and hang in there, you are not a lone.

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



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## It's strawberry season!

Rheta Thola  
Hollabaugh Brothers

At the very end of May for the 44 years, Hollabaugh's has held an Annual Strawberry Festival. The festival features local strawberries in all their glory! Although there is no strawberry picking available, there is plenty of delicious ways to eat strawberries and lots of fun activities for children. This year, our 5th Annual Strawberry Festival is planned for May 30 and 31. I cannot wait!

Strawberries hold a very delicious and sentimental place in my life. Having grown up in New York, strawberry season did not come until the end of June. I vividly remember as a child being forced into a hot, not air-conditioned vehicle with my grandmother, mother and sister to drive a short way to a local, pick-your-own strawberry field. I also vividly remember hating every sweaty moment of it.

At the time I simply detested strawberries. The strange little visible seeds made me think of someone with bad skin. And in my child's mind there was absolutely nothing tasty enough to warrant an entire day of baking under the summer sun when a pool trip would have been much more to my liking. I also remember my grandmother always sneaking a few strawberries here and there and giving me the "don't tell your mother" look. My grandmother was quite the rebel.

Fast forward some 30 years and I cannot get enough of fresh local strawberries. I only eat fresh strawberries once a year – when they are fresh and local. I still find picking them to not be my favorite activity, but freshly picked strawberries is a flavor that cannot be rivaled. The smaller the strawberries the better! The hot sun, that I am still not always in favor of, works a beautiful and delicious magic on these little red fruits. Some of my all-time favorite ways to eat them are as a great sweet topping for a fresh salad or with some coconut whipped cream. But my all-time favorite is to slice some up as a topping for vanilla ice cream or take both and blend it in a milkshake form – both of which Hollabaugh's provides in an extremely delicious way during Strawberry Festival.

Regardless of how I eat my fresh local strawberries, what means even more to me is remembering my grandmother during this time each and every year. She passed away from cancer when I was 12. Leading up to her passing there were some bad days where the person I knew seemed to

slip away. But there are many memories that remain untainted, even if they were not my favorite moments at the time. I always find it strange how something so simple and subtle, so ordinary, like the smell of fresh strawberries, can trigger a huge wealth of memories. If I were a behaviorist or a scientist, I would be able to explain all about nerve synapses or how certain areas of the brain store certain memories. But I am not either of those and cannot scientifically explain it.

I am someone, though, who takes great comfort that we are wired this way. For all of us who have had a loved one pass, or loved ones who live far away, we can appreciate the way that who we love is tied to the everyday ordinary. These everyday ordinary ties keep my family and my friends with me always. No activity or experience is too small to become a memory, a memory that lasts eternally in your friend or family member's heart and mind. So regardless of what is happening right now in your life, take the time to make an everyday ordinary moment with someone you love.

### Frozen Strawberry Pie

#### Ingredients:

20 ounces strawberries  
4 ounces sugar (approximately 1/2 cup)  
1/8 teaspoon kosher salt  
1 1/4 ounces tapioca flour (approximately 5 tablespoons)  
1 tablespoon fresh orange juice  
1 teaspoon orange zest  
2 9-inch homemade or store-bought pie doughs  
1 egg yolk whisked with 1 teaspoon water

Cooking directions: Wash the berries and pat dry. Mash up half of the strawberries in a small bowl. In a medium bowl, whisk together the sugar, salt and tapioca flour. Add the mashed strawberries, orange juice and orange zest and stir to combine. Let the mixture sit for 15 minutes. Fold in the whole berries. Line a 9-inch pie plate with aluminum foil. Place the strawberry mixture into the foil and place in the freezer until solid, approximately 6 to 8 hours. Once the filling is frozen, remove from the aluminum foil and wrap in plastic wrap and store in a freezer bag for up to 3 months.

### Strawberry Panna Cotta

#### Ingredients:

1 pound fresh strawberries  
1/2 cup whole milk

1 1/2 teaspoons unflavored gelatin powder, (1 envelope)  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
1/3 cup granulated sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 1/2 cups heavy cream

Cooking directions: Puree the strawberries until very smooth. Push the puree through a fine mesh sieve to remove the seeds and set aside. Place 6 4-ounce ramekins on a baking sheet and set aside. (I also use ice cube trays to make "bite-size" desserts.) Add the milk to a medium saucepan. Sprinkle the gelatin evenly over the surface and let stand for 10 minutes.

Add the salt, sugar, and pureed strawberries to the gelatin mixture. Heat over high heat, stirring constantly, until the mixture reaches 135°F. This should take about 2 minutes. While stirring constantly, add in the vanilla and heavy cream. Transfer the mixture to a medium bowl set over ice. Stir frequently until the mixture cools to 50°F, about 10 minutes. Strain the mixture into a large measuring cup or pitcher and distribute evenly among the ramekins. Cover the baking sheet with plastic wrap, making sure not to disturb the surface of the cream. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours. Unmold from ramekins and serve immediately.

Make ahead tip: Panna cotta will keep for up to 3 days covered with plastic wrap and stored in the refrigerator.

### Coconut Whipped Cream

#### Ingredients:

1 (14 ounce) can full-fat coconut milk, refrigerated for 24 hours  
1–3 tablespoons powdered sugar (add to taste)  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract



Nothing says spring like strawberries and cream!

Cooking directions: First, place your mixing bowl and beater in the freezer for 5-10 minutes to chill. When you are ready to make the coconut whipped cream, remove the mixing bowl from the freezer. Then carefully remove the can of coconut milk from the refrigerator without shaking or tipping it. Remove the top of the can, then use a spoon to carefully spoon out the thick layer of coconut cream that should have separated to the top of the can and transfer it to your chilled mixing bowl. (You will not use the layer of coconut water that has settled to the bottom of the can.)

Using a whisk attachment, beat the coconut cream on medium speed for 2-4 minutes, or until the cream becomes light and fluffy and small peaks form. Add in your sugar (or

other sweetener) and vanilla extract, and beat until incorporated.

Serve the coconut whipped cream immediately or transfer to a sealed container and refrigerate until ready to use. If the whipped cream becomes too firm in the refrigerator, you can re-whip it to reach the desired consistency.

### Upcoming Events:

We have so many great things planned for the spring and summer. Please bear with us as we adapt and adjust as is allowed and appropriate during this uncertain climate, however. Visit our website – [www.hollabaughbros.com](http://www.hollabaughbros.com) for the current status of our events.

For more information about these events, call Hollabaugh Bros at 717-677-8412 or visit our website at [www.hollabaughbros.com](http://www.hollabaughbros.com).



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# SCHOOL AND CAMP NEWS

## Camp Strawberry Hill



**Kara Ferraro**  
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

It is Strawberry Hill's continued hope to offer you and your children a safe, fun, and engaging summer camp experience. Strawberry Hill, located in Fairfield, specializes in educational programs that inspire the next generation of environmental stewards. Camp Strawberry Hill provides children with a safe place to learn about their environment while participating in a variety of activities based on the weekly theme. Each week includes hikes, stream exploration, swimming, nature crafts, and plenty of adventure.

Camp is hosted at Strawberry Hill with convenient pick-up and drop-off at the YWCA Gettysburg & Adams County. Weekly camps are offered July 13, 2020 through August 7, for children entering grades 1-6. Camp Strawberry Hill

is an awesome value at just \$175 per week!

Please note: We are closely monitoring the development of the COVID-19 pandemic and are working hard to make informed decisions regarding our upcoming programs. We will continue to accept camp registrations but will begin implementing a \$0 down policy with payment due (\$175/week/child) prior to the start of camp.

This system will be in effect from now until further notice. Participants can continue to sign up for summer camps using this method so that there is no financial risk to Strawberry Hill. Four weeks prior to the start date, a decision will be made whether to move forward with, or cancel and refund, camp. Individuals who have registered and paid will receive a full refund if camp is cancelled.

Entomology Experts: July 13-17 - Entomology is the study of insects. Join us to learn all

about bugs and why they are important and not so creepy! Discover adaptations of camouflage, natural defenses, their many eyes, and more!

County Fair Week: July 20-24 - Mosey on over for this week of camp centered around agriculture, a big industry Adams County is known for! Discover agricultural practices, learn about animals, and so much more.

Living Laboratory: July 27-31 - Become a scientist! Throughout the week, campers will participate in awesome experiments and learn to problem solve by using the scientific method.

Bay Watch: August 3-7 - Get ready to get wet and wild! During our final week of camp, we will focus on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Spend ample time in the water and discover why and how our actions affect the health of this fragile ecosystem.

## Fort Ritchie's Youth Program shifting to online sessions

**Buck Browning**

Local teens have the opportunity to develop job skills and earn a stipend as the Fort Ritchie Community Center shifts its Junior Staff Program to an online platform. The shift from facility-based activities to online sessions allows the Community Center to continue the program despite the COVID 19 crisis which caused the Center to close in accordance with state mandates.

The Junior Staff program is a skill development initiative that develops soft skills that will prepare youth to obtain and maintain employment. Youth between the ages of 12 and 17 are encouraged to participate.

"The opportunity this program provides is much too important for it not to continue," said Buck Browning, executive director of the center. "We approached this challenge much like we want the participants to face adversity. We didn't anticipate this health crisis, but it's our reality so we needed to

shift our plans and come up with a strategy to address it and continue our mission."

Browning said the virtual sessions will begin on Monday, May 4 and said the program is accepting new participants. Among the topics to be addressed will be enthusiasm, attitude, professionalism, and social media presence. Online participants will be eligible to earn a stipend by successfully responding to questions or tasks assigned during each weekly session. Participants successfully completing the tasks will be entered into a weekly drawing for a \$25 prize. Up to four random winners will be selected from the participants each week. There is no cost to participate in the program which is funded by the Rural Maryland Council.

To enroll or learn more about the program, please visit: [thefrc.org/virtual-skills-program](http://thefrc.org/virtual-skills-program). Questions about the program may be directed to Connor Brown, Director of Operations, at [cbrown@thefrc.org](mailto:cbrown@thefrc.org).

For more information, or to register for Camp Strawberry Hill, check out our website at [StrawberryHill.org](http://StrawberryHill.org). Strawberry Hill

inspires stewardship of our natural world by connecting the community with educational opportunities.

*Fort Ritchie* 14421 Lake Royer Drive,  
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**YOUTH PROGRAM**  
**Switching to Online Sessions**  
**Sessions Begin Monday, May 5th**  
**Participants Ages 12 - 17**  
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To enroll or learn more about the program, please visit: [thefrc.org/virtual-skills-program](http://thefrc.org/virtual-skills-program)

For questions contact: Connor Brown, Director of Operations at [cbrown@thefrc.org](mailto:cbrown@thefrc.org)

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**Rocky's Pizza & Italian Restaurant**  
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**Simply Asia**  
120 Frederick Road, Suites B&C  
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**Thurmont Bar & Grill**  
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**Thurmont Kountry Kitchen**  
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# SCHOOL NEWS

## FCPS's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

**Brad Young**  
Frederick County School Board

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever". Our World, Nation, State and County are dealing with many uncertainties during these unprecedented times. One thing that is certain in Frederick County is that our school system will continue to fulfill its mission of preparing each student for college and career readiness. Our FCPS educational philosophy is that no child should be harmed because of this global pandemic.

Frederick County Public Schools have been focused on three key priorities since the emergence of COVID-19 as a crisis in our region:

- First, Education is essential. Implement Continuity of Learning

through various methods of Distance learning. During the week of March 23rd, FCPS Principals and school leaders met with teachers to establish school procedures as they participated in a training module that set expectations and made teachers aware of the many supports available to them as distance learning moves forward. Distance learning is occurring in a number of ways. FCPS teachers send course assignments and activities connected to the learning standards through Schoology (the FCPS designated learning management system), Google Classroom, email and/or using printed materials.

- Second, Hunger hinders education. Many of our students depend on meals served by FCPS when schools are open. During

the closing of schools, many children would suffer from hunger. It is extremely challenging for a hungry child to focus on education; therefore, FCPS designed and coordinated safe and flexible feeding options available to as many of our neediest communities in Frederick County as possible. Nearly 60,000 meals have been served since the start of the school closure and FCPS is now distributing breakfast, lunch and supper in 22 locations throughout Frederick County which include eight schools and fourteen school bus drops.

- Third, Remove the Digital Divide. Most of our middle and high school students were issued Chromebooks during the year which can be used to access learning materials on line. This

was not the case for many of our elementary level students; therefore, FCPS has deployed nearly 3,500 Chromebooks to elementary level students. In addition, FCPS purchased and distributed 1,000 hotspots directly to families or to schools for distribution to families who do not have internet access at home.

The State Superintendent, Dr. Karen Salmon has directed Maryland public schools to remain closed through Friday, May 15, 2020. Distance learning will continue in Frederick County during the closure. We find it ironic that the tools we worried were making us less connected are the same tools that enable us to stay connected during the pandemic crisis. FCPS uses our various media platforms and technology devices to maintain communication with our

many stakeholders. Information is posted regularly on our website [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org) and social media accounts. Many of our meetings, including the Board of Education meetings are conducted via teleconferencing using such software as Google Meet and SKYPE on our smartphones, iPads, Chromebooks and laptops.

We continue to strive to reach, challenge, and prepare each and every student. We are tremendously grateful for the work of FCPS staff during these difficult times. From food service personnel to curriculum leaders who are adapting materials for virtual environments, FCPS is staffed by caring professionals who are also affected by this emergency but still delivering their best ideas and work for our children.

We truly are in this together and together is the only way to successfully conquer this virus and return to a state of normalcy. Stay healthy and safe!

## On distant learning

**Karen Yoho**  
Frederick County School Board

This is not a situation the vast majority of us would have ever imagined living through. But here we are. If you are the parent of a student or students now learning via a Chromebook, or a teacher spending hours on distance education,

hopefully it is going well. We all know that the first week (or two) was rocky for many. Schoology had never been asked to be the platform for so many at the same time.

I was reading how it became worse for FCPS students in the afternoon, presumably because that's when the west coast users joined them. The Fairfax County

Public Schools are just now having to abandon their attempt at teacher-led virtual instruction through Blackboard Learn 24/7, their platform of choice. They will still provide materials through Google Classroom, but a big change is not what a school system wants at this point, especially when you serve 189,000 students.

I have had the opportunity as a school board member to sit in on

townhall-type meetings with our federal legislators. During these virtual meetings, we have listened to other educators around the state. It has been interesting to learn that Allegany County has issues with cellular service due to their topography, never mind broadband service. Their best hope for the future is fiber optics. But that does not help much right now.

FCPS is working with Comcast to provide low cost home internet service. Additionally, we have loaned out over a thousand Wi-Fi hotspots to homes without an internet connection.

The federal CARES Act provided some funding for school systems to help support the needs for distance learning. Federal Communications Commissioner (FCC) Jessica Rosenworcel believes that the future belongs to the connected. She had previously realized that while seven out of ten teachers assign some type of online homework, one in three students nationwide still does not have home internet access, creating "the homework desert".

While there is currently funding available through the E-Rate program (a program that provides discounts for broadband service to schools and libraries) to expand access. However it takes three of the


five FCC commissioners to proceed with an initiative. If you have time, I am sure they would love to hear from you. You can find their emails at [www.fcc.gov/about/overview](http://www.fcc.gov/about/overview).


I have heard from teammates and other former colleagues that this type of teaching takes a lot of time. One teacher told me that she basically gets on her computer at around 8 a.m. and there she sits for the next ten or so hours. Still, she thinks it is going amazingly well. She actually feels as though she is getting to know her middle school students better than when she saw them in her physical classroom.

My son and his wife, who live in another county, are both lucky enough to have jobs that allow them to work from home. They also have an active 2-year old. Shortly after the stay-at-home order began, he said to me, "When this is over, I hope parents realize how much they should appreciate teachers and day-care providers!" I know many teachers are grateful that parents are already expressing their appreciation and understanding.

While we do not know when this situation will end, please know that FCPS is doing its best to plan for the future. Sign up for Find Out First notifications at [www.fcps.org/fof](http://www.fcps.org/fof). Take care and be well.

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## FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

*This month, we asked our writers to reflect on their experiences with their courses after Mount St. Mary's University transitioned to remote learning.*

### Freshman Year

#### Charge your batteries

Emmy Jansen  
MSMU Class of 2023

There is something big happening right before our eyes, bigger than we even know. Day to day life is coming to take a different meaning. We are finding new things to fill our waking moments. Every day is a miracle, a new adventure. In some ways, this time is an opportunity we will not get again. It is easy to wonder what we did to get this, both the horrors and hopes in it. It is not an easy question to answer.

Almost every college student across the nation has had to pack up their dorm room and head back home to complete the rest of their semester online. For many pre-collegiate students, this is the same reality. My sister and I find ourselves writing essays, taking tests, and watching lectures in our bedrooms. There have been some benefits, like not having to walk across campus in the cold to get to class on time. But the negatives greatly outnumber the positives. There is much less learning happening now that the classroom has become virtual. In

some cases, the professors are more upset than the students and miss the learning they used to see happening before their eyes. Motivation levels decrease as the days go by and when the final grades come out, no one will be surprised if they are not as high as they would be expected to be.

It isn't that students are lazy or that people are letting their anger prevent them from doing their work; learning, itself, has become a chore. When we are inundated by negative news reports and confined into a single space, our thoughts are on things other than test material. As a friend described to me recently, it's hard to have the energy to want to learn. In college, most of our classes are on topics we enjoy enough to turn into careers. Unlike high school, we are usually learning what we're interested in, so it's hard to lose motivation. This hasn't been the case in quarantine. With uncertainty being the only thing on the horizon, no one has the energy to spare on what's happening in the present. All anyone can talk about is when this will end and when we will find "normal" again, while we should be present in the here and now. But it's easier said than done.

For me, I've had an easier time than most of my peers. I stick to a schedule that mimics my life before quarantine and stay dedicated to my work, even if the quality isn't what it used to be. I'm soaking up time with family that I lose by going to college out of state. I've been taking the extra time to learn hobbies I've always been interested in and cross things off my to-do list. However, it hasn't always been easy, and I spend time missing friends and worrying about the future. Mostly, I worry about my professors; I've seen them change and the effect the quarantine has had on them, even through the online forms we've been reduced to. Even if we don't contract the virus, all of us are impacted by it in some way. There lies no point in arguing who was more effected and suffered more during this time. The truth is life as we know it is changing and no one knows better than anyone else what will happen next.

While this frightens us, and rightly so, it should also instill in us a sense of solidarity. No matter what unfolds over the next few months, no one is in it alone. The beauty of historic events that touch the lives of everyone is that everyone's life now has a common thread. Where were you when COVID-19 happened?

What were you doing? How did you feel? These will become the stories we share around dinner tables and tell our future descendants, when we're allowed to be less than six feet apart. So, while we struggle with motivation and constant worry, we should relish in what comes after and all the possibilities that lie there, the good and the bad.

I can say for sure that learning online has taught me a greater appreciation for everything offline. I've taken online classes before and I know that nothing can replace the in-class instruction a teacher gives you and the atmosphere the other students help to cultivate. Learning was never meant to be a solo exercise. This is why people have always written their ideas, shared stories, and discussed theories with each other, never alone. However, we seem to be doing the opposite. Our social circles have gotten smaller as we retreat into our houses and connections with companions hardly suffice on video chat. Alone is sometimes all we feel. With loneliness comes sadness, with sadness comes less energy and motivation, which some of us were already lacking. The longer this drags on, the harder it gets.

We all find ourselves using technology more, to keep up with friends,

schoolwork, and the global state of things. We remember to put our phones and laptops on the charger before bed, but do we remember to do that with ourselves? These months have been full of new emotions and experiences for all of us. Never before have we been asked to question our lives, morals, and existences like we are now. These are trying times. Some of us may be pushing ourselves too hard, battling the anxiety by keeping ourselves busy and our minds occupied so we don't think about what's happening outside the door. Others have the opposite problem, filling their moments with boredom and nothingness. There has to be a balance reached. I like to think of this time as more of an opportunity. We can ask, what did we do to deserve this? But really, what did we get? Forgetting the fear and mayhem, I've been given more time with family and the ability to think about things other than school and the future. My sights have been set outward and I'm learning more and more each day about what life should really mean. This is a crisis and a pandemic, yes. But it's also an opportunity I don't want to waste.

*To read other articles by Emmy Jansen, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*

### Sophomore Year

#### The hope for now

Harry Scherer  
MSMU Class of 2022

What is there to say? We are living in a time unlike any other in modern memory. The word "essential" has taken on a new meaning in recent months with an unknown number of families being told to squash their productive instincts out of a concern for a potentially fatal viral infection. Our friends and neighbors transitioned to this quasi-monastic mode of living with us almost overnight, without an eye for an expiration date. Now, more than a month after a national shutdown, we are numb to the news of an unemployment rate shooting to the top of a graph and exploring new territory in numerical history. At the same time, while devastated by the premature deaths of our fellow patriots, we are relieved by the updated models that suggest a considerably smaller mortality rate than the previously disseminated predictions. We are stunned by governmental guidelines and advertisements from multi-national corporations that cry out with a striking Orwellian tone, "Staying apart is the best way to stay united." Our people, and by extension our nation, are asking existential questions about life in the future.

See you on Zoom tomorrow!

The transition from normal college life on our idyllic campus tucked away in the Catoctin Mountains to Zoom University has proved to be one of the most notable experiences of my two years at the Mount. I could not be more thankful for the

hard work that my professors put in to transition their comfortable classrooms to accessible online education centers. No one could have expected the gravity of the situation and my professors have stepped up to this unprecedented challenge better than I could have hoped for.

I am blessed to have been surrounded by a supportive and loving group of friends from the moment that I stepped on campus in August of 2018. When the news broke in mid-March that every student would be sent home for at least two weeks, some of us were taking the, at the time, liberal view that we would more likely be returning after Easter. Now, colleges and universities across the country have transitioned to online learning for the rest of the semester, with almost all planning for the unknown in the fall. All of my friends and I were hesitant about leaving campus for an undetermined amount of time, with some beginning to accept the notion that we would not be seeing each other until the fall.

The one saving grace for this quick separation has been the technology that kept us together even while we did not need it. My friends and I continue to celebrate each other's birthdays, ensure prayers for deceased loved ones and share what has been going on in our homes. To put it another way, we have been trying to maintain some normalcy during this strange time.

My family, with whom I spent all of the shutdown, has been as loving and caring to me as they always have been. I do not think that we have ever spent so much uninterrupted time

together, which has silently taught us some valuable lessons throughout this prolonged period of quarantined existence. We have learned the importance of giving each other space and anticipating and cherishing the time spent together, especially at meals. A balance had to be struck at the beginning of the transition between my usual work habits as a college student and the new milieu of an at-home undergraduate workload.

The exhaustive list of reasons for which I leave my home consists of the desire to take a walk, go to the grocery store or pick up a pizza. I have never considered the action of taking a walk as essential to life as food and water. I am unsure whether my body has ever been this inactive in my entire life, including the period of infancy during which I was unable to walk. I marvel at the existence of other human beings when I go to the grocery store. My fellow store patrons, or ration gatherers as I have begun to refer to them, and I acknowledge one another's existence either with a meaningful nod, one that screams, "when is this going to be over?" or with a seemingly intentional lack of acknowledgment out of a concern that the virus can spread through momentary eye contact. A third alternative to this mode of communication is a brief death stare followed by quickly darted eyes that meet the food in their cart, seemingly motivated by their disgust for my apparent desire to spread the virus, from which I have not been infected, to every person with whom I come in contact because of my willful obstinacy against unenforceable state suggestions to wear a mask.

Even in the midst of the death and dying and strange cultural develop-

ments, I find comfort in my belief that immense good is going to come from this shared deprivation and isolation. The greatest generation came about from a common acceptance of severe economic and personal suffering in the Great Depression and the two world wars that surrounded it. While I believe our generation has been poorly prepared for this crisis, we have the potential to develop a similar resistance to the fragility that our culture has paradoxically challenged us to accept. This crisis of solitude has proven that our attempts at communicating digitally, while wholly pragmatic, are unsustainable for long-term social existence. Because we are social animals who yearn to know and love

each other, we demand physically proximate social relationships. Perhaps after this is all over and we return back to our lives, we return with a new vision for social interaction. Will a taboo against the use of technological devices in social settings develop? It is my hope that we grasp the ability that we, as individuals, have right now to make the best out of this pandemic and to anticipate the day that we all can greet each other with a warm handshake, or maybe a loving hug, lest we become silent victims of the sickness that has already damaged so many.

*To read other articles by Harry, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*



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DEXOS APPROVED

# REMOTE LEARNING

## Junior Year

It's not the end

Angela Guiao  
MSMU Class of 2021

I heard someone say it is the end of the world.

Some would say that's a little dramatic. But I can't blame some for thinking that. In 2020 alone, there were the bushfires in Australia, the volcanic ash explosion in Taal, and now, the COVID-19 pandemic that is spreading across the world. And it's only May. I can completely see how so many terrible things happening within such a short amount of time may seem like the beginning of the end.

But I refuse to believe it is the end.

I think it is during times like these that it is especially important to look for the silver lining. It is easy to feel defeated. It is easy to feel hopeless and uncertain and unhappy. When so much in life is changing beyond your control, it is easy to feel disoriented and shocked. And rightfully so. There are things happening to some of us now that make it very hard to see any good. Millions of people have lost their jobs. Some

are draining their savings in order to support their families. Others aren't able to pay rent or make car payments. There are those who are just trying to make ends meet.

For me, my family has been blessed enough to be able to continue working. And while I am eternally grateful that we are not worrying about finances, I am constantly worrying about everything else. My mother is in her 50's. She was diagnosed with diabetes when I was a Junior in high school. And since then she has implemented a lifestyle change that if she had not pursued, would have left her blind. I've worked hard throughout school so that one day she may stop working, but I haven't reached that point yet. So now I worry. I worry because according to the articles and news outlets, those with underlying diseases are at risk. And she is all I have.

So, in short, I understand the stress. I understand how sometimes the worry can get overwhelming. How difficult it may be sometimes to see the light in such opaque darkness. But I believe it is important to see the good. Because it is the good that keeps us going. I've found good in the little things,

the simple things. And though they may be small, they take my mind of all the scary things that are happening. They bring me happiness.

Since the pandemic, I've suddenly been able to wake up late. Not as late as I'd like to, however, because my little sister wakes up at 8:30 am every morning and I am the one who has to make her breakfast.

Since the pandemic, I've been able to spend more time with her though. And for that I am grateful. However, I wish she would listen to something other than baby songs. I don't know how much more I can take.

Since the pandemic, I've gotten pretty sick of technology. It was great after a few weeks. But now, I want to do anything and everything except stare at a screen. And since I've stopped, I've begun to listen. I listen to my mom's stories. The same ones I've heard a thousand times before but are still pretty funny. I listen to the cars and the trucks and the people outside my window. I realized there was so much I drowned out, and I feel like I'm just beginning to actually see the world again.

Since the pandemic, I've realized how fast I was moving. Normally, I was always in a rush. A rush to get to

school then to class then out of class. A rush to get home. A rush to eat or get to work. I never had any time to relax. I never took the time to enjoy.

Since the pandemic, I've been able to catch up on schoolwork. This semester has already been pretty crazy for me even without the natural disasters that have been happening. So much was going on, and there was so many things I needed to be on track with that I wasn't able to put my entire focus on school. But I've slowly been catching up, and I am proud to say that I am 75% closer to getting my life together.

Since the pandemic, I've realized how quickly things can change. And so, I decided not to waste any more time. I tell my mom I love her, even when she is getting a little too naggy. And I let my little sister feed me Cheetos drenched in orange juice even if it does taste absolutely disgusting. I've decided to let it be. Because when my mom isn't around to nag me anymore or when my sister gets older and decides not to bug me anymore, I know I'll miss it. So, I've decided to appreciate the moments I have and to enjoy them.

These all may seem like terribly small and insignificant things. And

in some ways, they are. But these are all things I would not have even noticed had this pandemic not have happened. I wouldn't have realized how much I am missing, or how much I care about the things I am missing. I wouldn't have realized the opportunity I've been given. The opportunity to better myself and to realize my shortcomings. The most important thing this pandemic has given me is time. Time with my family, time to pay attention, time to think about the things I want to do and time to do them.

I hope everyone can find their silver lining. During these times, I pray for the safety and good health of all peoples. I hope everyone finds happiness in the little things and appreciates the time they have been given. I pray for all who are undergoing hardships and struggles and wish for prosperity and abundance to come to them.

I heard someone say that it is the end of the world.

But to quote John Lennon: "Everything is will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, it's not the end."

It's not the end.

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

## Senior Year

A new normal

Morgan Rooney  
MSMU Class of 2020

Nearly four years ago, when I started my higher education at the Mount, I pictured the day I would finally finish and earn my degree. I looked forward to going to senior formal, senior banquet and walking across the stage when my name would be announced. I had friends and family who had already spent hundreds on their airline tickets to congratulate me and celebrate with me. There was a family celebration planned on the day of graduation with my favorite meal to celebrate my many years of hard work. Little did I know that all of that would change so quickly.

Mount St. Mary's University has confirmed that there will definitely be a commencement ceremony when it is safe to do so, however, the date of this event has yet to be determined. Regardless, I am excited for that day to come and I'm glad that my senior class and I won't be deprived of such an exciting and well-earned event.

While there is only a couple weeks of classes left until I complete my courses, I am heartbroken that I don't know when I will be able to celebrate my accomplishments. I wish I knew that my last day at the Mount would have been my last. I understand now why people say, "live every day is if it was your last," – on a less serious note of course.

On top of all of this disappointing news, all students at the Mount transitioned to online, remote learning. While I feel as if certain things about an in-person class are missing, I think remote classes have been

working fairly well. Certain classes have more work while others have less than before, so in the end the workload mostly balances out.

Classes have been much different since we haven't been able to meet in person. The biggest difference in my classes has been that we are unable to meet for rehearsal in my string ensemble, therefore all performances and rehearsals have been cancelled for the remainder of the semester. This has been the most disappointing change for me. Certain classes have given out reading assignments online with questions to answer. Other classes consist mostly of writing assignments such as essays. I've had professors do recorded lectures and even a few conferences. While the video conferences were awkward at first, I've warmed up to them and I think that they have worked fairly well so far. While none of us originally signed up for online courses, I think the transition has gone well.

I really appreciate being able to do my assignments on my own time. As someone who is not the most productive in the morning, being about to work on my in class assignments in the evening or at night has been helpful for me. I spent a few days clearing out the spare room at home, painting it and making it into a home office that I can comfortably do my work in with no distractions. I'm proud of how everything turn out and I look forward to hanging up my degree over my desk once I receive it. I think I've been fairly productive while everything has been locked down.

This change of plans has brought about a few challenges. Because I am in a different time zone, the first few weeks were confusing. The website that we use for our assignments did not automatically transition to my computer's new time zone and

I turned in a few assignments and hour late. I also find that it is more difficult to keep organized with due dates. Fortunately, all of my professors have been extremely accommodating and understanding. I feel as if I am adapting to remote learning well despite the few downsides.

I am grateful that this is happening during a time when we have the technology available to do remote learning. This way, I don't feel like I am losing any time when it comes to earning my degree that I have worked so hard for for many years. Things are just concluding in a different way which I've learned to accept.

Working on the Emmitsburg News-Journal in addition to my courses and searching for jobs has taken up most of my time and kept me busy. Day by day, I am finding myself less annoyed by this situation and instead embracing it as a time to improve and better myself. I've spent more time working, exercising, eating better food and managing my stress better. I've even picked up a few hobbies that I haven't done in a while. I like to think of this time as one to take a step back from all the hecticness in life and ready myself for what comes next.

This isn't to say, however, that I don't look forward to when this is all over and I can begin making plans again. As social beings, I believe that a healthy social life is important to thrive (when it is safe to do so). I've have so much time to think about what comes next. I want to be able to see my friends again and get to the "real world" as I would call it. I've spent the past 17 years of my life going to school and learning each day. I think it would be fair to say that this month will be the biggest milestone in my life (so far). While there's been a few hiccups along the way, sometimes that's what keeps life

interesting, even if it doesn't always go our way.

While this is a very unexpected and not an ideal way of ending my college career, it is what it is. I am definitely appreciating the little things that are happening. I look forward to receiving my cap and gown so I can take photos and cel-

brate with my family. I'm looking forward to framing and hanging my degree above my desk. Most of all, I'm looking forward to a time when things become a little more normal.

To read other articles by Morgan, visit the Author's section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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# FASHION

## Springtime fashion wear

Valerie McPhail  
MSMU Class of 2015

Fashion has always been a declaring force on societal definitions. In springtime, we wear floral prints and in the summertime season, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, we wear the color white. On matters of the heart, Christopher Bailey fashioned the rainbow on Burberry's runway as symbols to support the LGBTQ+ community. And designer Vivienne Westwood launched her namesake label on the premise of normalizing the grungy fixations of the underground punk subculture: tattered graphic tees, safety-pinned accessories and collections of plaid. Statements have always been a way of fashion.

When a global pandemic hits, definitions become uncertain to an industry built on profits and appreciation for how others dress. Brick and mortars temporary closing and fashion week canceled, all of a sudden fashion involves itself in the conversation through sweatsuit statements and lounge-wear. Is it acceptable to wear a tie-dye sweatsuit to the virtual happy hour while fashion publications advise on dressing down with velvet mules and knits? The sentiment for relaxed fashion is not so chill, but somewhat perplexing. Working from home can bring a lot of challenges as the boundaries between professional and personal

life engage. Notions of dressing for work — while jamming away on your MacBook at the comfort of your living room — has reduced to sweats. Yet, we make it fashion. Whether mismatched or a complementary set, this hasn't kept style from communing over the informalities in our lives.

When I first moved to New York, my life was a hustle around the town, interviewing for full-time jobs and internships to materialize my break in fashion. Dressing to impress was my reality. I remember researching proper interview attire as if it really mattered to a crowd who is easily enamored by people in the craziest of outfits. In my stress, I sought blogs and online magazines to teach me how to dress — that an interviewee wearing black and white would win influence. With unease, I relived my discernment to outfit an editorial interview in a baroque Elizabeth and James tank — a proud sample sale snag — layered over a sheer nylon Theory turtle neck, skinny black J Crew slacks and black ankle boots. My go-to uniform made me feel professional and collected — the part of me I wanted to project over any other image that I couldn't fake. Looking back, oh, have times changed. Amidst social distancing in Miami, culture thinks it's strange to even put on mascara on my lashes for a video chat. Fashion

rules are a season of the past. Just as Tim Gun always recited on television show Project Runway, "In fashion: one day, you're 'in,' and the next day, you're 'out.'"

Maybe dressing the part isn't the fashionable way — that the stylish and trendy are defined by those who are most comfortable in their own skin. Fashion has an immeasurable effect on confidence. Vogue Magazine published an article on the psychology behind fashion, exposing research behind the science of clothing and the mind. After interviewing women in business on how they dress for success, their testimonies showed that intentional wardrobe decisions supported their level of comfort and influence in investor meetings, interviews or taking a test. Lauren Santo Domingo, co-founder and Chief Brand officer of Moda Operandi, "relied on Celine with sprinklings of Acne to get [her] through these intense meetings without letting [her] true eclectic fashion roots betray [her]." Vogue writer Katherine Bernard concludes, "Your closet isn't frivolous. It contains a myriad of channels to heightened performance, a selection of gateways to the best versions of yourself." Clothing design and style carry a spirit, be it a Max Mara power suit, or elegance of a full-length Oscar de la Renta gown. When we find fashion that fits our lifestyle, not only does it appease our spirit, but it encourages our confidence to express ourselves. The end result lends to a happier self-image. This value on fashion translates from high luxury fashion to everyday style.

In popular culture, fashion has held authority by claiming expertise on which fashion trends and



With the stay at home orders on the verge of being lifted, this is a perfect time to start thinking about your spring wardrobe.

labels culture should heed. Television shows focusing on teaching people how to dress to attract and impress has led our society to understand fashion as a luxury to getting ahead in life. The idea is that focusing on the surface level can help you achieve all your dreams and desires. Such an understanding of fashion continues to miss the mark. On the contrary, fashion's influence rests on engagement with culture, and therein, society. As garment develops simultaneously, as our communities involves our lifestyles with technology, sustainability and art, fashion begins to redefine its influence in our lives. It becomes connected to other aspects of life beyond the superficial rulebooks that confine fashion, and people's conceptions towards fashion. To have style and design as a part of the conversation, where "digital fashion allows people to fully experiment with how they would like to be perceived and push limitless creative boundaries. A hairstyle made from water, a dress that alters its shape according to sound: these are all possible," says Rachel Stott from the Future Laboratory to the BBC online. The influence fashion has on the future of culture

is more significant than dictating how people dress. The more fashion engages with societal interests, politics, technology and sustainability, for example, will we begin to see new forms of influence, and how fashion impacts the world beyond the surface level.

We appreciate the sight of someone "dressed up" as a sense of endearment, and yet we criticize when the expression is overdone or excessive. Fashion has always indulged in the extremes. If style is a leading perspective in these unprecedented times, clothing is more than the vain appearance or a cultural rulebook that dictates wardrobe requirements. More interesting is how we have the opportunity to express ourselves beyond the constraints of formal and informal attire. As our home environments become our guiding environmental influence on how culture engages with fashion, this lends time to reflect just how fashion influences society and more importantly, self. The question becomes: is formal-wear necessary? There is nothing wrong with missing your denim or lounging in your favorite sweats for a couple of days. On the contrary, under the right circumstances, lazy can be refreshing. And when the time comes for life to normalize again, let us not lose our class over the old fashion handbook, but carry your heart on your sleeve. Though fashion is established by societal interests and cultural environments, understanding the influence of personal style can redefine the new normal.

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

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## HOME DECOR

## Silver linings

Jessica Crawford  
Cotton & Co.

I think it's pretty safe to say, whether you're isolated at home, still working as an essential employee, or braving those front lines, this current situation is probably wearing on you. This is an extremely trying time for everyone; mentally, emotionally, and possibly financially. With the store (Cotton & Co) temporarily closed, I've been working from home and 'home schooling' my two little ones, like most parents these days. It was an overnight shake-up of life and routine and normalcy. Normally, I would focus my articles on vintage and home décor. But with the current world climate as it is, I thought I'd write more on lifestyle and how our family has been coping and surviving through these challenging times.

My husband, while his job remains 'essential', has been able to work mostly remotely from home, and we fashioned a home office in our attic for him. Like many other families out there, our family has spent over a month holed up together, weathering this storm. And while some days are easier than others, I will say, we've had a lot of fun. This has allowed us the opportunity as a family to slow down, reconnect, recenter and refocus on one another, and spend quality and intentional time together. We've been learning new skills, that we've been wanting to learn, but always putting off too.

We've been doing our best to be creative in finding constructive ways to pass all of this time that's been handed to us, rather than allowing it to be squandered away. We live on two acres in Westminster, and have a mini-homestead. Last year when we purchased and overhauled the shop and business, that little homestead saw some serious neglect, while working out the kinks and getting settled into life as business owners.

This current slow-down period, has given us the opportunity to get our 5,000 Ft<sup>2</sup> vegetable garden tilled and prepped. As part of our home studies, we spend a few hours a day outside, in the sunshine. The kids love learning about gardening and seed planting and imagining all the delicious ways they're going to prepare and eat all the food they've planted, once it's ready to harvest. One major lesson I have learned over my eight years as a parent, is the vast benefits of involving children in the production of their food. The more involved they are in the process of planting, growing, harvesting and preparing their food, the more adventurous and diverse their appetites, palettes and diets will be. Even if this means, just a couple of pots on the front stoop with some herbs and tomatoes.

Every Spring, we also make Dandelion Jelly and Wild Vio-

let Jelly. Both flowers are likely blooming in your yards right now. Both the leaves and blossoms of these plants are edible, and can be prepared in many ways. Dandelions make a sweet jelly, that tastes remarkably like honey. Wild Violets make a hot pink jelly with a mild, sweet, floral taste. These are great recipes to do with children, because they can either be completed in stages, or done all at once. It also offers a great outdoor activity, which children need in their daily routine. And additionally, it offers a memorable bonding experience, teaches a new skill, and they'll feel a huge sense of pride in the finished product. Plus it's fairly inexpensive to make, as you're foraging the main ingredient. If you're interested in these recipes, check out our Facebook and Instagram pages (@CottonAndCoVintageBoutique), I posted them there for reference.

I'm also a huge advocate for backyard poultry, as a way to connect children to their food. In terms of a farm animal, they're easy to raise, and are a lot of fun. Over the years, we've raised turkeys and meat chickens for food, and have maintained a flock of hens and ducks for egg production. During this time of home isolation, we got a round of ducklings and chicks, and our children help take care of the animals. As always with anything, you'll want to do your research first. On compatible breeds, habitat and materials required to raise the animals, whether or not your community allows chickens, etc.. But raising backyard birds has always been an educational and rewarding experience for our family.

The kids have also been begging for about a year to learn bread making. Which for me has always seemed to be this big mountain to climb, and skill to learn. I love to cook, and cook most meals for our family, but bread-making has always felt like a mental hurdle. Until this forced time to slow down. We got our hands on a

large bag of yeast, and have been slowly chipping away at bread recipes from friends and family over the past month. It's been a great skill to learn and master together as a family.

One of the biggest ways we've been finding joy in all of this, is removing ourselves from the confines of the walls of our house, and getting outside into the sunshine. Soaking up some rays and Vitamin D is one of the best ways to clear your head. Send the kids outside as much as possible. Pour yourself a hot cup of tea or a glass of wine, and join them. We happen to have a delicious line of loose leaf teas in the shop, and we can ship most small items now too.

This is all hard. Everyday can feel like a rollercoaster, that you can't get off, with no end in sight. But we are trying very hard, as much as possible, to focus on the positive that is around us. The little silver linings and hidden life lessons, buried in this whole experience. Follow along with us on social media, Cotton and Co Vintage Boutique. In between sales albums, new merchandise and projects, we are also focusing on lifestyle, and surviving this experience together, with posts to inspire and offer fun activities and ways to spend your time. Stay healthy, we can't wait to see everyone when this is over.



Kids love learning about gardening, seed planting and imagining all the delicious ways they're going to prepare and eat all the food they've planted. Not to mention, soaking up some rays and Vitamin D is one of the best ways to clear one's head. Every spring, we make Dandelion and Wild Violet jelly. To purchase these incredible tasting jellies, visit our Facebook page at @CottonAndCoVintageBoutique.



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## LOCAL ARTS

## Tumbleweed Sagas – Third career for local author



Mark Greathouse, author of the Tumbleweed Sagas.

Matthew Dunn...John Dunn...Patrick Dunn. A Corpus Christi, Texas visitor with a bit of curiosity would find those names emblazoned on historical markers on Upriver Road along Nueces Bay and on North Padre Island. Escaping the Irish potato famine, Matthew Dunn, immigrated in 1845 from County Kildare, fought for General Taylor in the Mexican-American War and built a home looking out on the bay. He lured his four brothers, including John and Patrick, to join him. These men were my ancestors and the inspiration for my Tumbleweed Sagas series of western genre historical fiction novels.

After decades as business executive, entrepreneur, private equity investor, and educator, why turn to writing full time? I began writing in high school with poetry and short stories, but let's call college my serious beginnings. I graduated with a BA in English (history minor) from University of Maryland and later did my MBA at

American University. My career began with editing military technical manuals. I moved up the corporate ranks, writing business plans, press releases, video scripts, reports, speeches, and more. Meanwhile I was learning my craft. A long shelf in my office closet holds my unpublished book manuscripts. Practice, practice, practice. I self-published a teen novel, Jackson's Journey, and a book of my poetry, Life Unfettered. In "retirement," authoring books became my "third" career.

Why do I write western fiction? It begins with my Texas roots. My father, John Francis "Jack" Greathouse (1913-1995), a successful automotive executive and later an award-winning jewelry artisan, was born in Alice, Texas. He gave me a 40-page dog-eared biographical account of my Texas ancestors that a cousin had written. After Dad's passing, I dusted it off and took a closer look. It led me to library and newspaper archives, family interviews, museums, and history books. Happening on

a museum in Falfurrias, Texas, I found the enlistment records and a photo of my Texas Ranger grandfather that served to further excite my curiosity. I did some ancestry research. Those five Dunn brother immigrants to Texas led me to a family tree containing more than 2,300 family members spanning nine generations! Coupled with my love of history, my fires were stoked. Digging deeper into family and Texas history, stories swirled in my mind. I yearned to bring Texas history to life. Now, I've opened a veritable cornucopia of resources in Texas, including ranchers, clergy, artists, and merchants with photos galore and plenty of old family stories to share.

Tumbleweed? Yes, it's a metaphor. Actually, my cousin Jim down in Alice, Texas called me Tumbleweed after my habit of seeming to tumble all over Texas visiting family. The metaphor? Life tends to give us lots of choices and it can seem as though we're being tossed along on some stiff breezes. As to Tumbleweed Sagas, my main character wrestles, or tumbles, with a dilemma throughout the novels as to his duty as lawman or rancher or both.

Texas grabs me. My family gave a lot to Texas. Turns out that the Dunn family was and continues to be generous contributors to the cultural and economic development of Nueces and Duval Counties. The adventures of the likes of "Red John" Dunn, Nicholas Dunn, Patrick Dunn, and John Dunn are indelibly etched on South Texas lore. They built a heritage featuring family and faith, and set examples I've striven to follow in my own life.

I'm a New-Jersey-born fifth-generation Texan drawing upon the life and times of my family ancestry in the Tumbleweed Sagas, a series of historical fiction novels set on the Nueces

Strip of the late 1850s. Published by Defiance Press & Publishing in Conroe, Texas, the first Saga, Nueces Justice, was released back in July, and the first sequel, Nueces Reprise, released February 11 of this year. They're available from online retailers in print, audio, and eBook. The third Saga, Nueces Deceit, will be released August 11 with pre-order in June. Some folks get twisted around the word "Nueces" in my Tumbleweed Sagas. Pronounced "new-ACE-es," it's Spanish for nuts. Pecan trees were plentiful along the Nueces River that marks the northern boundary of the Nueces Strip, the setting for the Tumbleweed Sagas.

As I'm quick to point out, "My fascination with the story of my great great grandfather Nicholas Dunn led me to deliver fiction with a raw edginess based in the very real world of the era. The son of John Dunn, he was famed as Comanche fighter, marksman, drover, rancher, speculator, and family man of deep faith. Nick was a true Texas legend who somehow managed to avoid the old dime store pamphlets." It made it easier to bring the frontier to life.

I strive to turn the character and adventures of my protagonist Texas Ranger Captain Luke Dunn into an amalgam of underlying true stories drawn from my family as coupled with historical events. Set in little Nuecestown (ghost town today) shortly after Texas Ranger James Callahan's infamous running of Lipan Apache out of Texas, the Tumbleweed Sagas take readers through the story of an Irish immigrant who builds a life as lawman, rancher, and family man. Having witnessed famine and oppression in Ireland, he's committed to bringing justice and redemption to the vast prairies of the Texas Nueces Strip. The parallels to real life enable readers to vicariously experience bone-chill-

ing dangers, blood-churning action, and just enough romance and sexuality to make a church lady blush. The story is fleshed out with compelling secondary characters featured throughout the Sagas.

I do follow a bit in the literary footsteps of my notorious cousin John Beamon "Red John" Dunn. A son of Matthew Dunn, he was a Texas Ranger turned farmer and museum curator who penned his biography Perilous Trails of Texas back in 1932. His book was edited by his daughter Mary Maud Dunn Wright (pseud. Lilith Lorraine) a renowned poet, sci-fi author, and suffragette.

Key to publishing success is engaging with a successful publisher. Defiance Press & Publishing has been an active partner with me and is committed to publishing all seven Tumbleweed Sagas. (All but the seventh have already been written.) Defiance Press provides the support I could never hope to have achieved through self-publishing. Promotion is huge for publishing success. I'm active on Facebook; do book signings, talks, and media interviews; deliver business group presentations; hang out in coffee houses, am active with area libraries, and fully utilize the resources of my publisher. I'm a member of the Western Writers of America, Poetry Society of Texas, and several local literary groups.

What's next? Projects include a non-fiction book on angel investing (like Shark Tank), two biographies, a screenplay spec script for Nueces Justice, three more novels, and another book of my poetry.

Do I read? We benefit from how others turn a phrase. You'll find me reading multiple books at any given time. Authors with aspirations of being published should be avid readers. I read mostly history, folklore, and western novels along with books on philosophy, economics, politics, classics, and more.

Life energizes me. I love rodeos, especially watching bull riding. I work out regularly, enjoy playing tennis, oil paint, and create wall art. My wife and I live in Carroll Valley, Pennsylvania and have two grown sons. Do visit Facebook at Tumbleweed Sagas, my website at [www.Tumbleweed.me](http://www.Tumbleweed.me), or my publisher's website at [www.DefiancePress.com](http://www.DefiancePress.com).

I strive to leave my readers with a thought about the old west best expressed by my famed author cousin Mary Maude Dunn Wright, "Not in the spirit of judging their actions by artificial standards which in their day had no existence, but by asking ourselves if we were in their places, should we have acquitted ourselves as well...?" My Tumbleweed Sagas beg readers to answer that question.

Mark Greathouse is a published local author of western genre historical fiction.

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# One Nation, united by the arts

Chloe Corwin  
MSMU Class of 2020

There is no argument that the COVID-19 crisis has changed the entire world. Countless concerts, performances, movie releases, and art shows have been canceled or rescheduled indefinitely due to the uncertainty the world is currently in.

Of course, the Mount St. Mary's University's musical, theatrical, and artistic events are all canceled for the rest of the semester as students are continuing their remote learning for the duration of the school year. With that being said, the senior projects that are required for graduation will still happen, but are going to have to be adapted to the current situation.

To set into perspective the gravity of the situation, (if it already hasn't settled in), New York City's iconic Broadway theatres have been closed since March 12 and are hoping to open back up this summer. Since New York City has become the nation's epicenter of the outbreak, it is important these preventative measures are taken. Also, the national touring companies of Broadway shows have also been suspended indefinitely. This is incredibly alarming, especially from an industry whose motto is the "show must go on." With the closing of Broadway and tours, hundreds of actors, technicians, dancers, behind the scenes creators, and theatre staff are left jobless, just like so many across the country.

There is a silver lining to this story though. Although it feels that we cannot be any further apart, the theatrical community has found a way through the turmoil and tumultuousness to be united. Since the closing of the theatre doors, the Broadway actors and writers have taken to social media to continue to do what they love. Livestreams and online performances were done to raise money for the Actors Fund. The Actors Fund supports those who have lost their jobs in the entertainment industry.

One of the most notable efforts to this cause was Rosie O'Donnell's resurgence of the Rosie O'Donnell Show streaming on Broadway.com. To list the number of guests on the show would be ridiculous as there were 61 Broadway stars in attendance. Some of the most honorable mentions include: Lin-Manuel Miranda, Patti LuPone, Jordan Fisher, Matthew Broderick, Kristin Chenoweth, and Sutton Foster. In addition, the iconic writers Andrew Lloyd Webber and Stephen Sondheim made appearances as well. Rosie's show raised \$101,150 for the Actors Fund, an incredible number in these difficult times.

More recently, there was a Broadway Cares Livestream hosted by Disney on Broadway. The event, "Celebrating 25 Mag-

ical Years of Disney on Broadway", was originally held November 4, 2019. In efforts to raise money for the Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS' COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Fund, an offshoot of the Actors Fund, the event was livestreamed on April 17 with host Ryan McCartan of "Frozen" on Broadway. The nearly 3-hour event showed performances from November intermixed with recent interviews over video call with McCartan. "Celebrating 25 Magical Years of Disney on Broadway" had 79 performers as well as a 15-piece orchestra perform songs by Disney actors. Some recognizable performers include Andrew Barth Feldman, Kara Lindsay, Kerry Butler, Adam Pascal, and Sierra Boggess. The livestream raised an astounding \$609,479. It is truly remarkable how in times of crisis, art and music can bring people together.

An additional contribution Disney has made during the COVID-19 outbreak is release its recent film Frozen II onto its new platform, Disney plus, months ahead of schedule. Although it is a minor contribution, during the particularly uncertain times of mid-March, it was a great help to many parents trying to find something for their young children while maneuvering their new home-bound life.

Another star-filled live stream to raise money for the COVID-19 fight was "One World: Together at Home" hosted by Lady Gaga on April 18. Nearly \$128 million was raised for the World Health Organization's Solidarity Response Fund. WHO's Solidarity Response Fund aids global efforts to responding to the crisis. Celebrities in all genres are featured from talk show hosts, comedians, actors, and musicians such as John Legend, Lupita Nyong'o, Billy Ray Cyrus, Sarah Jessica Parker, and so



If anything, this time has exposed how vital the arts are in modern society. Without any sort of artistic expression, we would all be mad at this point!

many more. There is bound to be at least one celebrity that interests every household throughout the 8-hour stream.

All of these livestreams are still available for viewing online on various video streaming sites and are a great way to pass the time!

In addition to the livestreams, many celebrities have been creating video content to engage audiences for their specific fanbase. Since the nationwide shutdown, singers and musicians have come together to entertain the masses while they stay at home. Yo-Yo Ma, an iconic and world-renowned string instrumentalist, offered a free concert in which he shared him playing the cello on his twitter account.

Also, several casts of Broadway shows have been banding together to perform songs over video call. The world touring cast of Phantom of the Opera performed the song 'Masquerade' from the show. The five original casts of Come From Away released a video in which they combined their performances of "Welcome to the Rock." Jagged Little Pill's cast video conferred them singing together "Thank U."

Across the pond, the performers of the West End, the London,

England equivalent of Broadway, came together to sing "Do you hear the People Sing?" Nearly 70 actors and actresses sang the Les Miserables track in a powerful and strong tribute. This song is a part of an iconic moment in the play that shows the people of France's community, strength, and hope for tomorrow. A perfect fit for today's world.

Not only have the stars been providing entertainment for the public, people all over the world have found solace in music and dance together, even while in quarantine. There are videos all over the internet of city blocks and neighborhoods singing along to songs together or dancing on their terraces. Creative videos such as college student Colin O'Leary's Showtunes Rides has received Facebook fame. Tic Tok, a social media platform for short videos, has taken off in popularity. People have had to become crafty by painting, building, cooking, and more.

College students all around the country have been taking to social media to perform what would have been their musical senior showcases. Broadway World has

become a hub of information and content to share the gifts these students have with the world. The students involved are from all across the country, and are all incredible performers.


If anything, this time has exposed how vital the arts are in modern society. Every television show, Netflix special, Bob Ross painting tutorial, Facebook video, or computer game requires artistic creativity at its very core. Television networks have been hard at work giving people endless hours of entertainment with various series and movie marathons such as Psych, The Crocodile Hunter, Harry Potter, and so on.

Without any sort of artistic expression, we would all be mad at this point!


With all of this creativity and content being created, I can't help but feel that we are all in this together. Everyone is feeling the pains and restlessness of the Coronavirus, but with the help of the arts, it is just that much more bearable.

To read other articles by Chloe, visit the Author's Section of Emmitsburg.net.

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## MOUNT SPORTS

# Knott Academic Center & Rooney Performance Center

Collin Riviello  
Class of 2020

It is now May, and the fields at the Mount- still empty-, the track- still closed- and the campus- almost barren. COVID-19's impact can be felt from the local level all the way to the global stage. Yet, there is still hope for athletes and non-athletes across the world, as China has begun to reopen its economy once again, thus giving millions a steady income once more. What this means for the Mount is that things will become better again.

For the sports community, several announcements made at the international level will have an impact on a handful of students. The International Olympic Committee announced in April that the Tokyo 2020 Olympics will be slated to begin in July 2021. What this means for senior swimmer Will Twizell is that he will have the opportunity to earn a chance

to compete at a stage not seen by a Mountaineer since Peter Rono's silver medal finish in the 1500m in the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Twizell, an Australian native, qualified for the Australian Olympic Trials in the 100m Breaststroke when he competed at the Coastal Collegiate Sports Association Swimming & Diving Championships back in February. His time of 1:04.88 also broke his own previous school record of 1:05.69. A new date for the trials, which were supposed to take place in June, has not yet been announced.

In local news, President Trainor in a video address uploaded to YouTube on April 3, announced that the planned construction and renovation for the Knott Academic Center and Rooney Performance Athletics Center will not be done this summer as originally scheduled. In addition, renovations to Horning Towers will be pushed back to Summer of 2021. This



An artist representation of the Rooney Performance center that will be delayed due to COVID-19's impact on the construction industry.

is due to COVID-19's impact on the construction industry.

In more positive local news, Mount Athletics Director Lynne Robinson has announced that Alyssa Diacono will become the university's first head coach for men's and women's water polo. In a statement put out in March, Lynne noted that, "Alyssa's experience as an elite player and successful coach perfectly position her to build and develop our new water polo program. I am confident that our water polo teams will grow and thrive under Alyssa's leadership."

As a student-athlete at San Diego State University, Diacono helped her team to a 76-60 overall record and a perfect 26-0 conference record. She earned SDSU's Female Student-Athlete of the Year Award in 2017. She garnered two All-American honors from the Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches, while being an Honorable Mention in 2015 and 2016.

She then spent two seasons coaching Mercyhurst University's water polo teams before turning professional afterwards, playing at the international level for the University of Western

Australia in Perth, Australia and The Exiles Sports Club in Malta from 2017-2019.

"I am humbled and honored to be named the inaugural Men's and Women's Water Polo Coach at Mount St. Mary's University!" Diacono said. "The Mount has a legacy of academic and athletic excellence that I'm excited to carry on. With the addition of water polo at the Division 1 level, the sport continues to expand and brings new opportunities for both men and women student-athletes. I want to thank President Trainor, Lynne Robinson and the hiring committee for welcoming me to the Mount. I look forward to building a program based on Mount St. Mary's values!"

The water polo teams will begin competition this coming fall. The men's team will compete in the Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Conference- West Region. The conference, under jurisdiction by the Collegiate Water Polo Association, currently host seven other teams across four different states: Connecticut, Illinois, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Schools in the conference include Connecticut College, Gannon University, McKendree University,

Mercyhurst University, Monmouth College, Salem University and Washington & Jefferson College. The conference for the women's team has yet to be announced.

In Bowling news, sophomore Rebecca Dodson received third-team All-American honors by the National Tenpin Coaches Association, and sophomore Tamera Stanton was named as an Honorable Mention All-American by the National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association.

Dodson bowled 414 strikes over 786 frames, good for first on her team in frames filled (85%). In addition, she averaged a 93.3 percent average in single-pin spare conversions for traditional contests. She led the NEC during conference games in scoring average (20.13) and strike percentage (52.6).

Stanton filled 85.1 percent of her frames in traditional matches and had a 90.1 percent single-pin spare conversion rate. Second to only Dodson in strike percentage with a respectable 48.7 rating, Stanton helped the Mount to a 73-33 overall record.

Still on the subject of national honors, sophomore rugby player Jenna Lewaren and graduate rugby player Julie Crochet were named to the 2019 All-NIRA Tier II All-American team as a result of the Mount's trip to the 2019 season of the fall 15's semifinal round. Crochet completed four tries last fall to help the Mount to a 5-4 record. Lewaren completes three tries in the fall season to garner five career tries to her name.

The One Mount One Day fundraising campaign that began and ended on April 16 was the most successful campaign the Mount has ever seen. Over \$235,000 was donated to the Mount. The Student-Athletic Assistance Fund hit their goal of \$45,000. The money, which is especially needed as a result of decreased funding from the NCAA due to COVID-19's impact on the NCAA basketball championships, will help fund emergency travel, medical bills, educational supplies and more to student-athletes.

To read more articles by Collin, visit the author's section of [emmitsburg.net](http://emmitsburg.net).

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# THE YOUNG EQUESTRIANS

## My First Hack

Emma Simmons

I had ridden horses before I started riding with Mike. My uncles have horses that they let me ride when I'm visiting them in South Carolina. But that was when I was younger and they had to lead me around on the horse. I rode once at a friend's birthday party, but it was on a miniature horse. I'm not sure that really counts though.

I started riding with Mike last August. And since it's been less than a year, I've had a lot of firsts - - first time on a thoroughbred horse, first time tacking up a horse, first time feeding a horse, first time giving a horse an apple, first time trotting, first time posting, first time cantering, first time jumping, and first time falling off a horse. And I've written about some of these experiences in my earlier columns.

But there was one more first that I was very excited to experience. Going on my first hack. If you aren't a horse person, a hack is a horseback ride on a road or through an open field. Mike had talked about hacking and how much fun it was. He said that one day he would take me on a hack with him. He told my mother and me that we could ride on a road by his house that didn't have much car traffic. I could hardly wait. But he said that I had to learn a little more about how to control Wesley, the horse I ride, before we could go hacking. It's always safety first with Mike.

Not long ago, I went to my riding lesson with Mike. He usually tells me to go get Wesley from the field to put on his tack. But this time he told me to get a different horse named Scotty. I was a little confused but did as he asked. After I brought in Scotty to the barn, he asked me to go get my usual horse, Wesley. I was really confused then. But again, I did what Mike asked. When we had both horses in the barn, we tacked them up. Mike didn't say anything. I was still wondering what was going on. We never get two horses ready to ride at the same time. When my sis-

ter takes a lesson with me we take turns riding Wesley.

Mike then let me in on his secret. We were going HACKING!

I couldn't say anything. I just smiled my biggest, brightest smile. I was so so excited. I just can't tell you how happy I was. I had heard about hacking from Mike. He told me how much fun it was. Now I was going to experience for myself!

We finished putting on the horses' tack and we put on our riding helmets. Mike always makes sure I wear my helmet. After the horses were ready to go, Mike talked with my mother and told her where we were going and how long we would be gone so she wouldn't worry.

And off we went.

We led Wesley and Scotty out of the barn and rode them through Mike's field to get to the road. I have to say that as we stopped at the end of the driveway to tell my mother goodbye, I was more than a little nervous. I remember sitting on Wesley and wishing that Mike and my mother would stop talking so we could start our hack.

And then it happened. I held the reins tightly and told Wesley to walk. I so clearly remember the sound of Wesley's hooves on the road. It was an amazing and unique sound. Clippity clop. Clippity clop. It really does sound like that. When Mike and I began our hack, I think he knew I was a little nervous because he told me some stories about riding and some of his favorite horses. He also gave me some rules to follow, like staying on side of road, not going too fast, and waving to people in cars when the slow down for you. But we only saw a couple of cars go by.

After a little while Mike said we could trot. Now that was really amazing. Mike said to listen to the horses' hooves. And when I listened, I heard it. Once we started trotting, the horses' legs began to move in the same way. To my surprise the horses' hooves were hitting the ground at the same time. They were in perfect sync. I don't know why that happens, but it does.



Little did Emma know, but just a few days later, she got her wish - the opportunity to hack with her twin sister - Sarah! (The ending of which Sarah will thrill you with in her article next month!)



As we continued our hack, I remember thinking what a perfect day it was. The skies were clear and the weather was still a bit cold. We passed a few farms and a lot of other horses. Some of the horses neighed to us as we trotted by, like they were saying hi. Or maybe they were wishing they could be out on a hack too.

I remember feeling really good as we trotted down the road. There were no fences. I've never ever ridden a horse outside of a fence. I felt a little uneasy at first, but then I just felt free. It's a little like the feeling I get when I jump. But that's more like flying. Hacking along a road on a pretty day with someone who loves horses as much as I do is more like feeling content. Like I could do this forever.

But before I knew it, Mike said it was time to turn around and go back to the farm. I knew he was right. That my mother would

worry if we didn't get back soon. But I just wanted to keep going. Good thing I wasn't in charge.

When we made it back to Mike's farm, my mother was waiting for us with a big smile on her face. On the way home that afternoon, I told her all about my first hack. What I had seen and about the sound

of the horses' hooves. It was like doing it all over again. But maybe not quite as much fun. I can't wait to go hacking again. Maybe with my twin sister next time!

To read more articles by Emma, visit the author's section of [emmitsburg.net](http://emmitsburg.net).

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# COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

## Everything happens for a reason

Renee Lehman

My acupuncture office was still closed because of COVID-19 at the time that I wrote this article. While doing my Qigong practice one evening, the thought came to me to write about the Life Rules that I discuss with my clients. These Life Rules are: 1) There are no accidents, 2) Everything happens for a reason, 3) Everything happens for good.

When I have written about them in the past, I barely scratched the surface of their meaning. In this article, I want to present a deeper look into one of the Life Rules: Everything Happens for a Reason.

Everything Happens for a Reason. This message is simple, yet profound and deep: There are no accidents. In the movies we have watched, we have seen proof of being in the 'right place at the right time.' We have heard in the news and other media outlets the stories about people finding meaning in the deepest, darkest places. Here we are now living through this COVID-19 experience. Honestly, while everything does happen for a reason, it can be hard to understand the situation's purpose while you are living in the middle of it.

So, to support this message, I want to share with you the following scripture, Ecclesiastes 3:1-11.

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

- a time to be born and a time to die,
- a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- a time to kill and a time to heal,
- a time to tear down and a time to build,
- a time to weep and a time to laugh,
- a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,

- a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
- a time to search and a time to give up,
- a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- a time to tear and a time to mend,
- a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- a time to love and a time to hate,
- a time for war and a time for peace.

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end."

For Everything there is a Season. In Nature, we observe how the earth moves from season to season. Earth has its own rhythm: darker, colder winter brings a time for resting; increased light, cooler spring brings creativity; brighter, warmer summer brings fun; and the decreased light, cooler fall brings harvest. We can easily see the changes of the seasons of Earth; however, it can be harder to see the changes of the seasons of our Heart (the seasons within ourselves).

Change. Change is really a sign of LIFE. Did you know, that mature red blood cells are completely changed and new approximately every 100 – 120 days? Skin cells replace themselves every 2 – 4 weeks. Colon cells are replaced after about five days. The skeleton is changed every 3 months, and the entire body replaces itself with a largely new set of cells every 7 – 10 years. So, every 7 – 10 years we are completely changed. To change is to be ALIVE.

Change can be hard, and change can be entirely for the good. Change stretches you. It challenges you to grow through the trials and difficulties of life. Change helps you learn

to adapt to new situations and to grow inside. The truth is, your Heart knows all.

Your Heart knows all the seasons within us. Your Heart knows the quietness and peace of winter; the hope of spring; the joy of summer; and the melancholy of fall. Your Heart knows, but does your Mind know all the seasons within? Sure, fun and excitement is easy to experience. We may like to stay in the lighthearted emotions, but we cannot ignore the other emotions of worry, fear, and sadness that are known by the Heart. Why? Because for Everything there is a Season. Everything Happens for a Reason. Don't we know that Spring always follows Winter?!

In Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), this change (of seasons, for this example) is the continuous movement that we experience in the Natural world from Yin to Yang, and Yang to Yin. (The Yin – Yang symbol consists of a circle divided into two teardrop-shaped halves - one white and the other black. Within each half is contained a smaller circle of the opposite color. The smaller circles, nested within each half of the symbol, serve as a constant reminder of the interdependent nature of the black/white 'opposites.' One could not exist without the other, for each contains the essence of the other.) The change between Yin and Yang can be seen as night becomes day and day becomes night; and birth becomes death and death becomes birth (think of what happens with composting). So, when we look at Ecclesiastes verses 2-8, we see the seasons of change (or the Yin-Yang) known by our Heart.

God, or the Universe wants you to have a wonderful life. There is a plan for your life. There is a purpose for your life. The problem is that God's plan is not our plan for our life. If we had the life plan that we wanted, we would choose to



**Rafiki was surrendered to the shelter because his owners were getting a divorce and they were no longer able to care for him. He's a 2-year-old lab mix who didn't know what to make of being here at the shelter at first - he was kind of scared and very reserved. He can be aloof with people he doesn't know and can bark kind of harshly at new people. Once he gets to know you, he is so loving. He even gives hugs! The staff at the shelter just adore Rafiki. He will make someone a great companion as long as they understand he may need some time to adjust to a new home and new people. Because of his shyness, an age restriction for children may apply and he is not in our general adoption area. If you think you have the right place for Rafiki, please ask to see him! For more information on adopting Rafiki call at 717-263-5791 or visit [www.cvas-pets.org](http://www.cvas-pets.org).**

have no unpleasantness at all! But there would be no Yin and Yang in that. There would be no natural, seasonal changes of the heart. Think about people that you know who were never told "no," and/or protected from every 'bad' thing in life. They can end up being selfish, shallow, cruel, have poor coping skills and be impossible to live with (watch many reality TV shows lately?).

There is a 'larger-than-our-understanding' plan for which we must have patience in order to see how it plays out. Verse 9 demonstrates that God not only has a time for everything, he also has a purpose in everything; What do workers gain from their toil?

The answer follows: I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Your life purpose is hidden. It can be revealed by careful, thoughtful introspection. God has made everything beautiful in ITS time, not our time. Everything is appropriate and supportive for us. Even what appears to be a negative (Yin) can be a positive (Yang), as well. Our heart knows that we must experience both Yin and Yang. All we can SEE is the

middle of God's work. God knows the plan from beginning to end. God has you where you need to be to fulfill your purpose. There will be negative things that happen in life. Just trust that we cannot know all the answers to all the challenges and perplexities of life. There are things that we just will not understand. We cannot solve some of these mysteries and must have faith that it will all be for good.

So, right now, the COVID-19 pandemic is happening. It is happening for a reason. There is BAD and GOOD associated with this illness. Can you see the good that has come out of this for you or your family and friends? Can you focus on the good?

Remember that not every life lesson is about beauty. Life lessons are to support you in completing or achieving your life's purpose. While your life experiences during this pandemic may seem difficult, can you view them as the Universe nudging you to see something greater?

You never know how this may change your life.

*Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with over 30 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.*

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# FITNESS AND HEALTH

## Exercise anxiety away



Linda Stultz  
Certified Fitness Trainer

Last month I gave several tips that you can do in your house to keep a healthy exercise program not knowing at the time I wrote the article that we would all be confined to our homes. I realize that many people prefer to exercise at the gym or with friends but in this unusual time which we find ourselves it is even more important to keep up our exercise program. Maybe you have been thinking of starting to exercise and now would be a good time to get started. Many of us are not working or working from home and find that we have extra time on our hands. Check out the apps, you tube channels, and whatever else is available to find the exercise that interests you.

Exercise is not only for our physical well being, it is also helpful in keeping our mood and emotions in a healthy place. I see how many neighborhoods and families have found ways to exercise in their house, yards and even on their street while still keeping a safe distance to protect themselves. This time of social distancing has also brought people closer together in mind and soul even though we keep our physical distance.

Doctors have long been prescribing exercise to help with mental and emotional diagnosis. Depression is just as debilitating as heart disease, high blood pres-

sure or any other physical ailment. Exercise raises endorphins which lift your mood. When we are not feeling well physically or emotionally we can find ourselves sitting more, closing ourselves away from family and friends and feeling lost. Exercise can be as easy as going for a walk, playing with your children or any other activity that gets you moving. Starting out slowly and building up to more time or more movement is usually the goal. The important thing is to start. Checking with your doctor is always important and with the current situation of isolation, a call to the doctor would be a good way to get the doctors opinion of what you can do.

I know I miss working with my clients and have been checking in on them to see if they are doing something to keep moving. Many of them are walking as well as doing some of the exercises we did together. I'm proud of them for realizing how important it is to keep a routine. They will be in good shape when this situation is all over and we can get back to working together. They also know I will keep after them, so they want to be able to tell me they are doing their exercises.

I hope this time of isolation ends soon, but in the mean time take care of yourself and your family. Find new activities to keep you moving and bring you closer as a family.

Remember to keep moving! Especially now.

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# ASTRONOMY

## The night sky of May

Professor Wayne Wooten

For May 2020, the first quarter moon occurs on April 30th, and the Full Moon, the Rose Moon, occurs on May 8th. The waning gibbous moon passes two degrees south of bright Jupiter on May 12, and then three degrees south of fainter Saturn a few hours later. The last quarter moon passes three degrees south of Mars in the morning sky on May 14th. New moon is on May 22nd. The evening of May 23 will give us a fine conjunction in the west about 8:30 p.m., with the thin crescent moon to the lower left of brighter Venus, and fainter Mercury will be above them. You may need binoculars and a very clear western horizon to spot this trio. By the following evening, the much easier crescent moon will be above both, with faint Mercury lying midway between the Moon and bright Venus, to the lower right. Great photo ops! The first quarter moon occurs on May 29th.

Mercury and Venus are both visible in the west this month, and perform an interesting planetary dance. As May begins, only Venus is visible, well up in the west, and 24% illuminated crescent some 33" of arc wide. But as Venus drops lower each evening, heading to inferior conjunction in June, Mercury rises from the far side of the Sun to produce a close conjunction on May 21st; now Venus is much closer, some 53" across, but only 6% sun-

lit, a very thin crescent obvious in binoculars. Fainter Mercury is only 7" across, but a gibbous 70% still in sunlight. Can you see both disks at the same time in low power telescopes? The following evening, the thin crescent moon joins the club, as described above. By month's end, Venus is very close to the Sun and only 1% sunlit, but Mercury is much easier to spot at greatest eastern elongation, half lit and 23 degrees east of the setting sun.

We are overtaking Mars, to pass closest to it this October. It moves eastward from Capricornus into Aquarius in the dawn sky, and brightens from first to zero magnitude by month's end. Both Jupiter and Saturn are also in the dawn sky, with brighter Jupiter about five degrees west of fainter Saturn between the teapot of Sagittarius and the triangle of Capricornus.

The winter constellations will soon be swallowed up in the Sun's glare, but Orion is still visible, with its famed Orion Nebula, M-42, seen below the three stars marking his famed belt. Dominating the southwest is the Dog Star, Sirius, brightest star of the night sky. When Sirius vanishes into the Sun's glare in two months, this sets the period as "Dog Days".

The brightest star in the North West is Capella, distinctively yellow in color. It is a giant star, almost exactly the same temperature as our Sun, but about 100X more luminous. Just south of it



It's 30 years ago that the Hubble telescope was launched - and to celebrate its birthday, the veteran observatory has produced another astonishing image of the cosmos. This one is of a star-forming region about 163,000 light-years from Earth. Astronomers have nicknamed the scene the "Cosmic Reef" because it resembles an undersea world.

are the stellar twins, the Gemini, with Castor closer to Capella, and Pollux closer to the Little Dog Star, Procyon.

Overhead, the Big Dipper rides high. Good scouts know to take its leading pointers north to Polaris, the famed Pole Star. For us, it sits 30 degrees (our latitude) high in the north, while the rotating earth beneath makes all the other celestial bodies spin around it from east to west.

If you drop south from the bowl of the Big Dipper, Leo the Lion rides high. Note the Egyptian Sphinx is based on the shape of this Lion in the sky. The "regal" star Regulus marks the heart of the celestial lion.

Taking the arc in the Dipper's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of spring. Cooler than our

yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its strange motion reveals it to be an invading star from another smaller galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky Way, Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley. Just east of Arcturus is Corona Borealis, the "northern crown", a shapely Coronet that Miss America would gladly don, and one of few constellations that look like their name. The bright star in the crown's center is Gemma, the Gem Star.

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo, then curve to Corvus the Crow, a four-sided grouping. The arms of Virgo har-

bor the Virgo Supercluster of Galaxies, with thousands of "island universes" in the Spring sky. We are looking away from the place of thickly populated Milky Way, now on the southern horizon, toward the depths of intergalactic space, where even amateur telescopes can spot quasars billions of light years distant.

To the northeast Hercules rises, with his body looking like a butterfly. It contains one of the sky's showpieces, M-13, the globular cluster faintly visible with the naked eye. Find it with binoculars midway on the top left wing of the cosmic butterfly, then take a look with a larger telescope and you will find it resolved into thousands of stars!

To read past editions of the night sky, visit the author section on emmitsburg.net.

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## Farmers' Almanac

*"The phrase 'working mother' is redundant."*

—Jane Sellman (1955-)

### Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Periods of showers, heavy rain in the southern part of the region (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6); fair and cool (7, 8, 9) with more showers, storms (10, 11). Fair and warm (12, 13, 14, 15) with heavy rains, storms in the south again (16, 17). Fair and warm again (18, 19, 20, 21) with periods of showers, storms (22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29) ending the month with fair and mild temperatures (30, 31).

**Full Moon:** The Full Moon in May occurs on Thursday, May 7th and has been called Flower Moon by many Native Americans because of the many flowers that start to emerge and blossom during this month. However, Huron tribes chose to call it Budding Moon for the same reasons. Farmers came to refer to it as Milk Moon because of the noticeable increase in milk produced by dairy cows as the weather starts to warm up.

**Special Notes:** Cinco de Mayo is celebrated on Tuesday, May 5th. Rogation Sunday falls on May 17th, Ascension Thursday follows on

May 21st, and World No Tobacco Day is observed on Sunday, 1 May 31st. When looking for a notable historical event that happened to occur during the month of May, it was noticed that the soap operas, Another World and As The World Turns, both aired for the first time on May 4, 1964. Charles Fisher, editor of the Almanack from 1973 to 2000, produced both of those shows during over his 28-year career television broadcasting!

**Holiday:** Mothers are honored on Mother's Day, Sunday May 10th. Let Mom know that she's special with a telephone call, a sentimental card, a nice flower arrangement, or just by spending some quality time with her on her day. Celebrate Armed Forces Day on Tuesday, May 19th and Memorial Day falls on Monday, May 25th. Those days has been set aside for honoring those who have served in our military and those who are currently serving. Their service and sacrifice have protected our precious freedoms and have ensured that our way of life will continue. We can extend that recognition to include doctors, all health care workers, and everyone deemed essential in this troubled time.

**The Garden:** Once your last frost data has passed, warm sea-

son crops can be planted. When the ground temperatures reach 70 degrees Fahrenheit, it is safe to begin planting Okra, Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes, Eggplant, Peppers, Peanuts, Watermelon, Cow Peas, Black-eyed Peas, Crowder Peas, Butter Peas and Butter Beans. Trim up hedges and shrubs to shape and tighten them with new growth. Most flowering shrubs will respond to a light trimming at this time of year. Don't trim away too many of the emerging buds or you won't have as many flowers.

**The Farm:** Best for planting root crops (20, 21, 22); weeding and stirring the soil (23, 24, 27, 28); planting above-ground crops (25, 26); harvesting all crops (8, 9); best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 30, 32); slaughtering and butchering meat (22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28); transplanting (22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28); the weaning of small animals and livestock (8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17); harvest and store grains (8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17).

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

*"Perseverance often provides more rewards than that lucky break we're always hoping for"*

# COMPUTER Q&A

## Making the most of your PC

Aysë Stenabaugh  
Jester's Computer

Technology users are aware of the seemingly endless possibilities the internet brings to our devices but what about when the internet goes out? There are lots of things you can do with your computer even if you don't have internet access. The next time you find yourself with no internet access or are experiencing an outage, give one of the following suggestions a try.

**Organization** – Clearly this is not the most exciting idea but taking the time to do so can leave you with more time for other fun activities. First, focus on your computer's desktop, it can be enticing to place files here so you can remember and find them later. After a while you may discover that your desktop has transitioned into a black hole, making finding anything there a daunting task.

To combat this, move documents and pictures into the documents and pictures folders within your user folder. Any shortcuts (or icons that have an arrow in the corner that point to a program or file that is stored in another location) that are not being used can be deleted or moved into a new folder on your desktop for "unused desktop icons" or "junk" whichever you personally fancy. Not only will this make your desktop look nicer, but you'll also find that your computer will load a little bit faster after a restart if it no longer has to load those unused icons.

**Easier Accessibility** – In Windows 10 there are lots of ways that you can make it easier to find the things you most commonly use. Instead of placing shortcuts on your computer's desktop, you can try pinning the programs you use most frequently to either your start menu (the menu that appears when you press the windows icon in the bottom left corner of your screen) or your taskbar (the bar that goes across the bottom of your screen).

To pin an application to either location first locate the program that you wish to pin from your start menu. Next, right click on the application and select "pin to start" or if you would prefer it to be always visible on your taskbar, choose "more" and then "pin to taskbar". If there are specific files that you frequently access in an application, you can right click on the application which will then display files you recently opened. To always have a recently opened file appear in this list, you can press the pin icon (which looks like a pushpin).

**Store your music library** – If you still have CD's and have not yet taken the time to copy them to your computer you should. Ripping your music to your PC can both preserve the integrity of your cd's and allow you to move that music to other devices. Today, some vehicles are not including a CD drive which means that to listen to your music your stuck with radio or using another device like an mp3 player or a cell phone. To store your collection on

your Windows computer, insert the cd you wish to save then open Windows Media Player (to find it, press the start button then type media and click on Windows Media Player). When your CD is in the drive, you will have the option to "Rip CD" toward the stop of media player. Once you choose that open you can select which songs you want to "rip" to your computer by clicking on the checkbox beside the songs you want to save or, you can select them all by clicking the checkbox above the list beside the # symbol. By default, your music should be saved in your "My Music" folder separated by each artist and albums' name.

**Editing photos** – One of the best parts of Windows 10 is how easy it is to edit and organize photos. While we recommend that you organize your photos from file explorer, the photos application can make it really easy to locate photos that contain the same people or subjects. When using the photos app you can create albums to group photos from different storage places together without

ever actually moving the photos.

For example, if you have photos in a folder located on your desktop and also had a photo in your pictures folder, you can create an album within the photos program that will display both photos together even though they are stored in different locations. If you find a photo that you wish to crop or edit you can click on the photo to make further changes. We strongly recommend that you create a copy of the edited photo unless you're sure you want to overwrite the original.

*If you need help with your computer or would like one-on-one assistance with performing any of the tasks above or more consider reaching out to Jester's Computer Services at 717-642-6611. At this time we are continuing to offer remote support when internet access is available and we are continuing to accept drop-offs and pick-ups by appointment only. For more information or free computer tips and tricks including our video tutorials, visit us on the web at [www.jesterscomputers.com](http://www.jesterscomputers.com)*



If you still using your PC for just word processing, then you're not doing your part to set the human race up for its eventual takeover by artificial intelligence. So get off your couch, get your neural implant and let your PC take over your thinking for you!

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# HUMOR

*Editor's Note: Because of the COVID-19 pandemic we have no upcoming events to list -- knowing everyone would appreciate a little humor, we thought we would use the opportunity to run from the start the Former-Former Boozers entries from our 100 Years Ago column. Enjoy!*

## 1913

### June 6, Mud Muffles Suffragettes

Saturday's Suffragettes rally came to an end before it even began when the autocar carrying the ringleaders from Frederick stalled after going through a mud puddle in the Square. The men of town assembled on the Hotel Slagel's porch and had a good time as they wandered back and forth between the hotel's bar and the show the Suffragettes were putting on as they attempted to push their stalled autocar out of the mud hole. One jolly onlooker was overheard saying: "If you ever need a reason why women should not be allowed to vote, just look at how bad they drive autocars."

Mrs. Annan, who had organized the rally, put an end to the festivities when she had her man hitch up 'Old Luke' and haul the car to the Emmitsburg Motor Garage, as the humiliated, mud spattered Suffergets repaired to her house. It was not lost on the male onlookers that the women, with their fancy autocar, had to turn to a man and a trusty horse to save the day.

### September 19 - Meeting of Equal Suffrage League

A special meeting of the Equal Suffrage League of Emmitsburg was held at the home of Mrs. Annan Saturday afternoon. A number of ill-informed local women and out of town visitors were present. The league members are very enthusiastic over the fact that the membership has doubled itself. Husbands of women choosing to attend the next meeting are invited to deal with their shame by getting "loaded" at the Hotel Slagel's bar.

## 1914

### January 16 - Equal Suffrage League

The Equal Suffrage League held its regular meeting at the home of Mrs. Annan on Friday. According to the women the program was very inter-

esting. According to their husbands gathered at the Hotel's Slagel's bar, the pool tournament was more interesting.

### February 27 - Suffragettes Meet with Auto Accident

Last night's Women's Sufferget meeting hosted at the Annan house had to be called off when the Autocar driven but the guest speaker broke a rim in a pot hole near the covered bridge over Tom's Creek. A call for help went unanswered by the men of the town, who instead chose to occupy themselves in drinking and playing pool in the Hotel Slagel's saloon. The mood of the men was captured quite eloquently by one man who was overheard saying: "If women think they are smart enough to vote, then they should be smart enough to change a tire." As we go to press, the autocar is still stuck -- apparently no woman knows how to change a tire.

### March 20 - United Order of Former Boozers

Under the name of the United Order of Former Boozers, 300 reformed drunkards, many of whom now hold responsible positions, held a dinner recently in New York. After the banquet a constitution was adopted. The organization will be a permanent one, the object of which will be to aid others in breaking their friendship with Mr. John Barleycorn.

Emmitsburg, a hotbed of woman suffrage, was well represented by husbands' of women foolish enough to believe women are smart enough to vote. Upon their return home, the Emmitsburg representatives converged upon the Hotel Spangler's bar where they quickly set about making up for lost time, and promptly formed a Former-Former Boozers Association.

### April 13 - Equal Suffrage League

The Equal Suffrage League will meet Friday at 8 o'clock at the home of Mrs. Annan. Former members of the Former Boozers Association have invited husbands of the women going to the meeting to join them at their meeting in the Hotel Slagel's bar.

### May 15 - Former Former Boozers to Protest Suffragettes

Members of the Former Former Boozers Association have announced that they plan to protest outside the

home of Mrs. Annan at the next meeting of the Suffragette Society. Members say they are tired of outside agitators coming into town and poisoning the minds of local women with foolish talk of equality with men. "If you give women the right to vote," said one avid supporter of John Barleycorn, "the next thing you know they will be asking a man to clean house or come home early from the pub. We have to stop this nonsense now before it gets out of hand." All likeminded men are encouraged to attend. Free beer will be provided by the society.

### May 22 - Former Former Boozers Protest Fizzles

The much-anticipated Former Former Boozers Association protest of the local Suffragette Society fell victim to too much advanced planning. Members began gathering at one in the afternoon in the Hotel Slagel's bar. By six, the hour of the appointed protest, most had forgotten why they had assembled, and those that did were in no condition to appear in public lest the run afoul of the ordinance against public intoxication. The ringleaders of the protest were un-phased as they were the winning team at darts that night.

### June 5 - Prohibitionist Get Together

There will be a big get together conference on Thursday afternoon at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Frederick. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss plans for organizing and setting in motion forces which will line up Frederick County solidly for countywide and statewide prohibition. Members of Emmitsburg's Former Former Boozers Association say they plan on protesting the meeting, provided they can get back in time for the evening dart match at the Hotel Slagel.

### June 12 - Supersaturated Alcoholics

The town lockup had as its guest late Wednesday night two supersaturated alcoholics who were trying to make sleep impossible for residents on E. Main St. at the expense of their vocal powers. Policeman Rowe took the men in tow. One prisoner was released in the morning on payment of a fine. The other was committed to Mountevue. Rumor has it that the committed man's wife was a Sufferget and he had been driven to drink by her non-stop nagging on the ludi-

crous idea of women having the right to voting, an idea that would drive any man insane.

### July 10 - Fourth of July Celebration

This year's Fourth of July celebration was one of the best attended and most successful from every standpoint of any of the events that have taken place since the Firemen's Picnic became an annual local affair. The town was gaily decorated in the national colors, the streets being lined on either side with the stars and stripes.

The day was officially started with a parade of the firemen in uniform. In the line of march was the Emmitsburg Cornet Band, the Detour Band, a large number of decorated automobiles and teams. The reels of the Hose Company, trimmed in bunting and flags, presented a pleasing spectacle, and added greatly to the parade.

Three features that elucidated much applause where Jesse Stone in an Indian costume, mounted on a pony; Francis Gelwicks and his goat team; and a wagon carrying members of Emmitsburg Former Former Boozers Association, most of whom appeared to be asleep. The Former Former Boozers had planned to march but apparently had embraced their passion the night before in their usual enthusiasm while getting 'ready' for the parade and decided to ride in order to save their energy for 'celebrating' with John Barleycorn during the fireworks.

The fireworks started early however when the suffragette's float was left standing at the parade starting area. Apparently the Former Former Boozers Association had appropriated 'Ben', which Dan Shorb's wife had provided to pull their float. "He's a good horse and I don't want to embarrass him pulling a float supporting womenfolk voting. Pulling a float supporting a man's right to enjoy a little nip when he wants I can understand." Dan told the Chronicle reporter as he led Ben away. (Rumor has it Dan's wife has still not spoken to him.)

### August 14 - Former Former Boozers' Association Debate Name Change

After the ruckus caused by the Former Former Boozers 'appropriating' the horse that was supposed to pull the Suffergets float in the Forth of July parade, the organizers of Boost-

ers Week have notified the Former Former Boozers that they will not be allowed to march -- "or crawl" -- remarked Mrs. Annan, head of the Emmitsburg Suffragette movement -- in the monster parade.

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

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

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

### September 18 - Booster Festival a Big Success

Another "big-time in Emmitsburg" has gone down in history. The weather was fine, the crowds were large, the arrangements excellent, the monster Parade splendid, the lectures far above the average in each and every feature up to a high standard.

On Friday the townfolk started to decorate. Saturday this was continued until my evening nearly every business place in private growing was a glow with color.

Monday the finishing touches were added and by the time the parade started Emmitsburg was one mass of bunting. In addition to this in window after window rare blossoms, growing plants and stately ferns lent their charm to the effectiveness of the scene. Balconies were transformed into miniature gardens, yellow, red and green predominating; Japanese lanterns hung in front of houses and here and there hanging baskets filled with asters added richness to the scene of all awing declaration.

The Monster Parade went off without a hitch with the exception of the Former Former Boozers' float.

# The Spring Fling is now the Fall Bash!

## SEPTEMBER 5th

### 17701 Creamery Rd., Emmitsburg

See the June edition of the News-Journal for more details!

Current Spring Fling ticket holders will be contacted by the Fire Co. for ticket exchange

2 FINAL DRAWINGS - \$5,000 Each at 5 p.m.

Tickets: \$60 (Good for 2 people)

Includes 5 - 4 Digit Numbers for Drawings

EACH ADDITIONAL CHILD 14-17 \$10 Extra Payable at gate

HORSESHOES - FOOD - BEVERAGES - 50/50 TIP JARS - LIVE MUSIC

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# HUMOR

To the amazement of many onlookers, the Boozers! had managed to create an American flag made out of liquor bottles (rumor has it the clear bottles had been emptied by Boozers the night before). Members of the association took turns standing (or at least trying to stand) next to the to display to steady it as it moved down the street. At the square, someone (rumor has it is was a Sufferget) threw a firecracker near the feet of "Old Luke," who bolted, causing all the bottles to come crashing down and their contents spilled onto the street. There was not a dry eye to be seen on the face of any man in the crowd as the Boozers tried to sop up what they could with shirts and rags. Many a man turned away, unable to look at the carnage. The applauding of the women only added insult to injury. The Boozers have vowed revenge.

### October 23 - Boozers Debate Women Drivers

The Emmitsburg chapter of the Former Former Boozers Association have announced that they are excepting new members. The Association's dues for new members is one round for all current members every month. For this week's meeting the Association will debate: "Resolved, women don't have the mental facilities to drive an autocar." Arguing in favor of the motion are Eger Dukehart, Dr. John Glass, and Professor Bushman. The Association was unable to find anyone stupid enough to argue against the motion. All self-respecting men who know a women's

rightful place are cordially invited to attend the meetings, which are held nightly at the Hotel Slagle's bar.

### November 6 - Boozers Celebrate Rejection of Suffrage and Prohibition

Loyal members of the Emmitsburg Chapter of the Former, Former Boozers Association reveled well into early morning hours on Wednesday as the results of elections related to Suffrage and Prohibition were received by the Chronicle Office.

Intelligent men in Missouri, Ohio, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nevada awoke to the dangers to society that would result for of allowing women the right to vote. Suffrage amendments in these states suffered defeats described variously as decisively complete to overwhelming.

But the loudest cheers from the thoroughly inebriated boozers came when word was received that California men buried prohibition by a majority of over 200,000, and adopted a referendum prohibiting another vote on the question within a period of eight years.

One Boozer told the Chronicle that: "The decision prohibiting another vote on prohibition showed how smart the men of California were, as everyone knows womenfolk never take 'no' for an answer, but will keep nagging until they get their way. Now," the boozer continued, "California men have the law on their side. We need to do the same thing here and stop all this women voting and prohibition non-sense once and for all."

On Wednesday night, the Boozers resumed their celebrations with a renewed gusto. A moment of silence was held for the men suffering in the 14

states that have made laws prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages. It did not go without notice that each of these states allowed women to vote, and that

their votes were instrumental in removing a man's God given right to 'tip a glass or two.'

To be continued next month

## Car Show

### Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>

#### 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Rain or Shine

MUSIC / DJ

DOOR PRIZES

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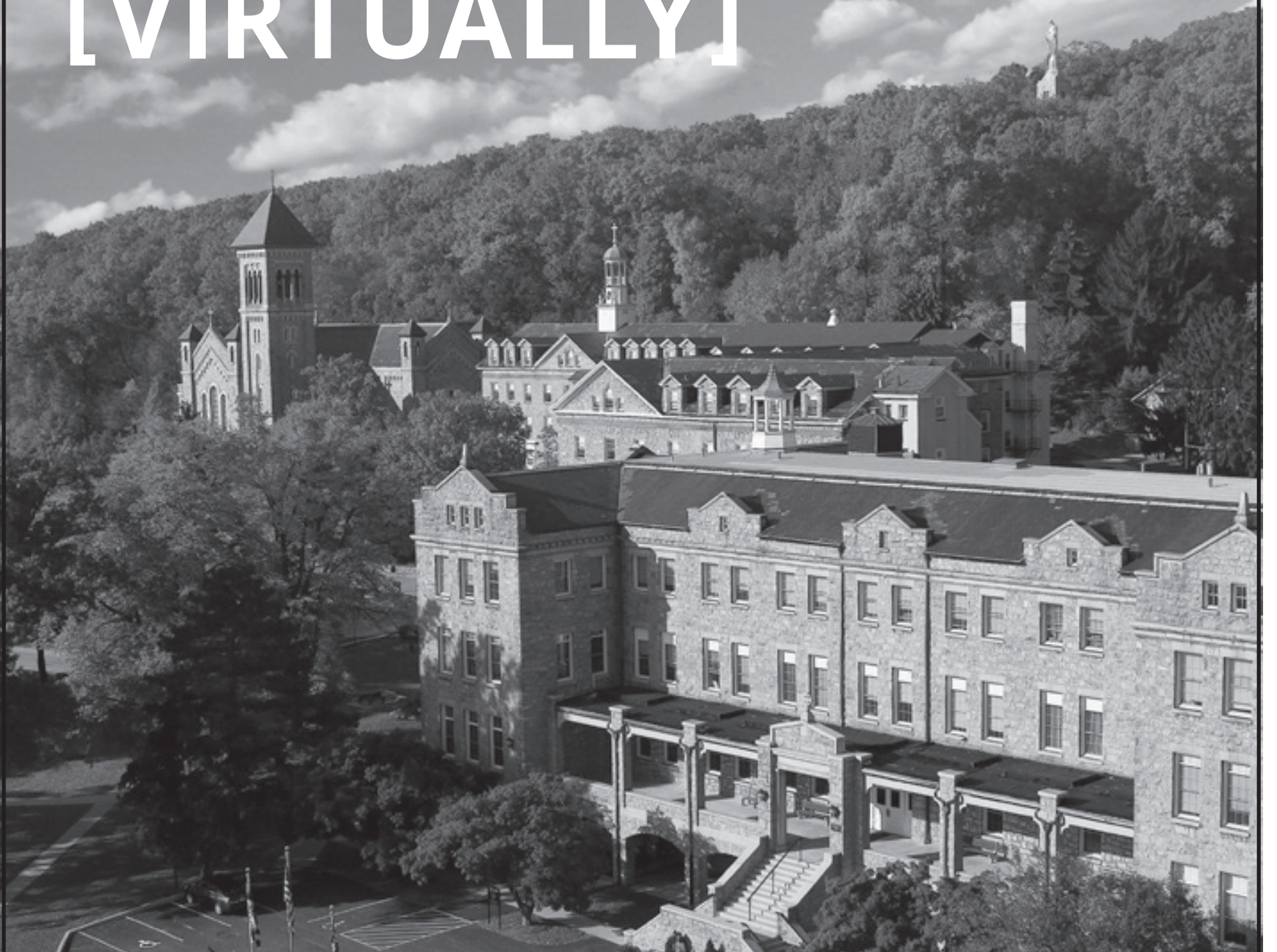
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If you're not able to make it to campus, we'll bring the Mount to you! Join us [@mountadmissions](https://www.instagram.com/mountadmissions) on Instagram Live to learn about academics, campus life, the application process and next steps for accepted students

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### **ONLINE DISCUSSIONS**

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Online discussions are offered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. These discussions are conducted with an admissions counselor, followed by a Q&A and could last approximately 45 minutes. You can get answers to any questions you have and learn about the Mount's great student outcomes and academic programs. Register today, sessions are being filled quickly!

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