

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

APRIL 2022

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## Thurmont cheers return of Business Showcase

After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, Thurmont's annual Business Showcase returns on April 23. The engaging entrepreneur enterprise promises an interactive opportunity for local businesses and nonprofits to highlight their skills, products, and services under one roof.

The first Business Showcase was held back in 2004. Both the Business Showcase and Christmas in Thurmont events were the catalysts for the town of Thurmont to pursue the Main Street Designation, which was awarded in 2005. Over the years the event has grown so much that it is now held at the Thurmont Event Complex.

There are many benefits and opportunities available for those who attend or participate in the Showcase. The Business Showcase allows local businesses in Thurmont to exhibit their products and services to all who attend. Providing an excellent opportunity for businesses to attract and engage potential new customers and 'advertise' for potential job openings.

All types of businesses such as brick and mortar, home-based businesses, and nonprofits participate in this event every year. In return, the Showcase offers an opportunity for all those living in Frederick County and Southern Pennsylvania to come out and see the large variety of businesses that are available in Thurmont.

"The objective of the Business Showcase is to provide networking for businesses, building valuable relationships, and of course create lots of smiles," stated Thurmont's Economic Development Manager Vickie Grinder.

"The Showcase also provides a time for all participating businesses and nonprofits to interact with each other, and sometimes, learn about other businesses and opportunities that are right in their own backyard. An additional benefit to the Business Showcase is meeting some of the nonprofit organizations and learning about their cause and how they are impacting not only Thurmont, but society as well," she said.

Before Thurmont's indoor farm-

ers market kicked off, the Business Showcase used to be Thurmont's first community social event of the year, according to Grinder. "It's always well attended and is a fantastic way to not only support your favorite businesses but an opportunity to discover businesses you didn't even know existed", she said.

Apprehension that this year's event may get canceled, the event will not feature a trademark theme as done in the past, such as 'Mardi Gras' and 'The1970's', on the chance it would have to be cancelled again.

"Hopefully we'll be able to bring back a theme next year," Grinder said, but until then the economic development team and local businesses are just ecstatic to bring the Showcase back to the community.

With two years off the radar, the Showcase promises an unforgettable return. So far, 25 busi-



nesses have signed up and they are accepting participating businesses with 21788 zip codes until April 15.

"As always, the Business Showcase could not be possible without the support of its many sponsors." Said Grinder.

The Business Showcase is a Main Street Thurmont event, and more information on it can be found at [www.thurmontmainstreet.com](http://www.thurmontmainstreet.com). Interested participants may contact Grinder at [vgrinder@thurmontstaff.com](mailto:vgrinder@thurmontstaff.com).

## Strawberry Hill & LCAC ready for fundraisers

After pandemic cancellations, both the Land Conservancy of Adams County (LCAC) Art Auction and the Strawberry Hill Foundation's A Night For Nature, return this season with community driven fundraising.

This year the LCAC will celebrate its 25th anniversary of their art auction. Continuing with pandemic precautions, the virtual auction will be held once again online. The auction will go live the week of April 10 and bidding closes on April 24. Art will be available to view in person April 1 through April 24 at the Adams County Arts Council in Gettysburg.

Over the years, the Art Auction has become one of the most popular fundraisers for the Land Conservancy. Previous LCAC auctions and gallery displays have been held in the former Parrot Restaurant in Gettysburg.

The Land Conservancy is an accredited, member-supported, nonprofit land trust dedicated to preserving the rural lands and character of the county. It is an outgrowth of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board that was established in 1990 by the Adams County Board of Commissioners. The original board members laid the groundwork of LCAC through a shared interest in pro-

moting land conservancy.

Profits from the art auction helps the LCAC preserve Adams County's rural lands, open spaces, and the direct preservation of property. Since 1997, the annual auction has helped the Land Conservancy raise more than \$400,000 to preserve the county's natural farmlands, meadows, and waterways.

More information about the auction can be found at [PreserveAdams.org](http://PreserveAdams.org).

Meanwhile, Strawberry Hill returns with its A Night For Nature, a one-of-a-kind night for dinner and auctions in support of the local nature preserve, on April 21.

The event offers nature lovers a relaxed evening of amazing food, seasonal drinks, and an incredible list of items up for auction, including art, locally handcrafted made goods, and a once-in-a-lifetime experience to benefit the heart of nature.

"We are really looking forward to it," said Executive Director Daniel Brannen.

In 2019, Strawberry Hill's first A Night for Nature sold out and raised nearly \$12,000. The event was attended by many of the nonprofit's biggest supporters including those who advocate for the preserve's mission and continuously provide their time and resources generously.



**Strawberry Hill's #1 Animal Ambassador, Strix – a Barred Owl handled by his person Lizzy Ryan – drew the largest number of contributions at Strawberry Hill's last Night for Nature fundraiser in 2019.**

The auction fundraiser is considered a win-win, not only do patrons receive amazing prizes, but the nature preserve receives much needed support. All funding is utilized toward Strawberry Hill's environmental education programs, including the Animal Ambassadors, guided public field trips, and more. "It all goes to support those efforts," Brannen said.

The Animal Ambassador program in particular provides an engaging look at the ecosystem as

naturalists use the hands-on learning to teach about life cycles, invasive species, and the significance of pollinators.

The mission of Strawberry Hill aims to inspire stewardship of the natural world by connecting the community with educational opportunities. Strawberry Hill is the area's only nonprofit environmental education center.

More information about A Night For Nature and to purchase tickets can be found by calling 717-642-5840 or at [strawberryhill.org](http://strawberryhill.org).

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# EMMITSBURG NEWS

## Stormwater fee considered

At its March 7 meeting, the Town Council was briefed on the stormwater utility feasibility study from the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center.

The purpose of the study was to review existing and future aspects of the town's stormwater management program, including analyzing the current stormwater management system, according to Michelle Kokolis, program manager.

In collaboration with the Town's Stormwater Utility Feasibility Advisory Committee, the Center discussed different stormwater financing strategies and explored a proposed fee rate structure.

Fees are based on the total amount of impervious cover on a property, including roofs, driveways, patios, and parking lots. The larger the impervious surface the larger the fee. These fees do not consider public sidewalks, roadways and structures that are in the public right of way.

The most common measurement used in determining fees is the Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). An ERU equals the total impervious area for residential properties divided by the total number of residential properties. The average ERU in the Emmitsburg study was 3,072 square feet for the 885 residential parcels in town.

The committee agreed to pursue a tiered ERU system, similar to Gettysburg's, with no differentiation between residential and nonresidential properties and a quarterly billing.

Although the recommendation from the committee was a yearly fee of \$47, the council instead approved the lowest tier, \$20 yearly. When put into effect, the \$5 stormwater fees will be added to the quarterly water and sewer bill as a separate line item.

The \$20 yearly fee will cover funding impervious area restoration offsets in Emmitsburg, such as tree plantings.

The study was undertaken, in part, in preparation for the renewal of the town's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit, which comes due in October 2023.

Commissioner Burns acknowledged the importance of MS4 to ensure the longevity of the Chesapeake Bay, "but from a small-town perspective it is difficult ... until we address everything else, we can't expect people to start paying higher dollar amounts for something like this."

Nothing's going to be easy, but we have raised water and sewer rates in the past, at least people were able to see that we were replacing water lines, doing upgrades, Councilmember Frank Davis said. But if we just add a fee called 'stormwater' no one is going to know what it means or what it's for.

To date, the town has put most of its efforts into public outreach and education, and curbing illicit discharge and construction runoff issues.

## News Briefs . . .

### Residents Hold

#### Bake Sale for Ukraine

After seeing the disturbing news unfolding in real time on TV, Michele Cuseo and Cathy Bodin wanted to do something tangible to help out. Michele and her friend Cathy put their heads together to come up with the Charity Bake sale idea. They enlisted the help of a non-profit organization EOPCC (Emmitsburg Osteopathic Primary Care Center) and volunteers from the Northern Frederick County Democrats & Friends organization to sponsor the event. Then they reached out to friends, neighbors and other organizations asking for baked goods and help with advertising.

Volunteers came through in a big way with baked goods and generous cash donations. The event was held on March 19th at the Memorial pavilion and was a huge success bringing in over \$1,300.

More support was provided even after the bake sale with a special thank you to volunteer, Sabrina Massett, who continued the Bake Sale at the Moravian Church and

brought in an additional \$200 plus.

Proceeds from the event are being sent to IRC (International Refugee Committee). IRC is a non profit that was originally founded during WWII to help refugees fleeing from fascism.

Michele comments that people do want to help but are super busy with their own lives. This bake sale brought in people who were out running errands and saw the sale. Many of them bought a couple of cupcakes and threw in a \$20 bill as a donation.

Another Charity Bake Sale is being considered to continue to provide support to Ukraine. A big thank you to all who contributed.

### Abandoned Building Not Condemned

At its March meeting, the Town Council heard the results on an investigation into the abandoned building at 507 East Main Street. The property has been in disrepair since the property owner passed away a few years ago.

Numerous complaints have been received from neighboring property owners regarding the area.

An administrative search warrant was obtained and the town's structural engineer firm, ADTEK Engineers found the building in structurally stable condition and not in imminent danger of collapse. No significant roof leaks or other water infiltration were found.

No dangerous levels of mold were reported by the town's mold specialists. "Which was shocking because the doors and windows have been open a long time," Town Planner Zachary Gulden said.

The house is not habitable at this time and will require substantial improvements before it could be habitable.

"Fortunately, or unfortunately, the building is not in a dangerous condition that it can be deemed a dangerous hazard building," he said.

As the building was not identified as a dangerous hazard building, there is nothing more the town can do about it, at this time, but the property can be reviewed again at a later date.

Numerous unsuccessful attempts have been made to contact the executor of the estate to address the issues, Gulden said.

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## FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

## Planning Commission reviews monastery project

At its March meeting, the Liberty Township Planning Commission reviewed the Carmel of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph Monastery project.

The monastery construction project at 327 Water Street has a total of ten buildings projected to be built by 2032 and is in both Hamiltonban and Liberty townships.

In the original plan, the primary development, and access to the property were all within Hamiltonban Township, according to Brandon Guiher, of KPI. Liberty Township was originally only responsible for the stormwater man-

agement and septic system, Chairman Judie Hogan said.

Due to the development runoff draining into Liberty, the project had to meet requirements of both townships, Guiher said.

Liberty became aware of plan revisions when an application for an icehouse was recently submitted to the board of supervisors and the Adams County Planning Commission reviewed the project additions, Hogan said.

Comments from the Adams County Planning Commission noted the site layout is not consis-

tent with the layout of the originally recorded plan.

Although the icehouse does not seem large in size and should not be an issue, it is an additional imperious structure that was not on the original plans for the monastery project, he said.

Guiher said more information is needed to review the icehouse design as well as find out the impacts of any additional structures that may or not be accounted for, Guiher said.

From the township's point of view, the main issue in question is if the

monastery's storm water and sewer plans that were already approved are still applicable if there are extra buildings added without consultation with the township.

Guiher noted several potential additions on the updated site plan, including a "Building M" that is located in Liberty.

"If you remember previously, there were no structures in Liberty, it was all in Hamiltonban," he said.

The planning commission authorized KPI to research the original plans to see how the revisions have changed, as well as assess

the impacts to stormwater management and septic systems.

Part of that research involves going back to the project designer and acquiring additional information about the handling of the drainage generated by the structures as well as the design of the septic system.

KPI will also review comments made by the Adams County Planning Commission and make recommendations to the board of supervisors on how they should be addressed.

The planning commission's next tentative meeting will be April 19.

## Police recruitment efforts yield little

Police departments are not exempt to the hiring struggles faced by organizations across the country and Carroll Valley Police are struggling to stay competitive, according to Carroll Valley Police Chief Richard Hileman II.

The Carroll Valley Civil Service Commission does not have candidates in process at this point, as three candidates who were in the 'pipe-line' withdrew, Hileman said.

Other police agencies are reporting the same difficulties and Carroll Valley is continuing its recruiting efforts, he said.

Hileman has been kicking around

upping the starting wage currently offered to new recruits, which currently stands at \$51,000. "That is way below what we're seeing out there in this area even," he said.

Carroll Valley also does not have a pay scale and in an effort to entice a newly certified police officer, Hileman suggested the council bump up the department's starting wage.

Currently the starting wage for a borough police officer is between approximately \$51,000 to \$65,000 based on experience and Hileman suggested a potential increase to \$58,000 to \$68,000 based on experience.

"We need to get that bottom num-

ber up. At the current low rate our most likely candidate is going to be a newly certified officer with no experience," he said.

While other municipalities offer lower starting wages, they can offer writing to guarantee the police officer will make "considerably more" five years down the road, Hileman said. "I don't have that document to offer anybody," he said.

President Richard Mathews suggested ambitious new patrol officers just starting their career were not interested in the kind of work a borough like Carroll Valley could provide.

"We're not a city, we don't have a

downtown ... In Carroll Valley we are blessed with the type of community we are," including less crime and a smaller population, he said.

Councilmember John Schubring suggested paying more to seek experienced officers willing to work in a quieter area.

"Quality officers don't move, because they can't move," Hileman said, noting the Borough does not have enough money to pay an officer to give up ten years of existing pension from another department.

While Pennsylvania teachers can move through the school districts because the state runs the retire-

ment system, pension is nontransferable for commonwealth police officers as each department has its own, Hileman said.

As an organization Carroll Valley Borough Office is collectively struggling to find applications, Borough Manager David Hazlett said, and suggested heads be put together to formulate a plan.

Hazlett recommended looking into addressing what needs to be changed in order to improve hiring in general, whether it involves the starting wage or increasing advertisement.

Mathews said he would reach out to council member to potentially form a three-member committee to generate hiring ideas.

## Sidewalk crossings

At its March 22 meeting, the Fairfield Borough Council was briefed on a recommendation from Fairfield and Hamiltonban Township's joint Parks and Recreation that they partner with Hamiltonban to split costs for a Requests For Proposal (RFP) for sidewalk line painting within the two municipalities.

The RFP included the needs of Fairfield and Hamiltonban. The

borough has five crosswalks on Main Street and a few side-street stop bars in need of repainting. Hamiltonban has several areas in need of repainting throughout the township including roads, railroad crossings and stop bars.

This will be the first time in memory Fairfield will be sharing the costs of line painting, in years past the paint work was done by volunteers, according to Borough

Secretary Susan Wagle. But Pennsylvania Department of Transportation requirements have changed, requiring the work to be done professionally, she said.

The work is ideally expected to be completed by the middle of August to provide a fresh coat of paint in time for the new school year and Pippinfest.

In other business, seeing the success of York Springs Borough's recently implemented speed enforcement equipment, Mayor

Robert Stanley recommended pursuing speed cameras to quell speeders, to the council. The cameras are estimated to be \$2,500 each and would ideally be placed as drivers enter the borough, he said.

Discussion was also brought up to replace the speed limit sign at

the far east of Fairfield as the current sign now "lacks reflectivity" and is practically black due to age, Wagle said.

Since that sign is one of the first ones drivers see when entering the borough, the council suggested a bigger replacement size, if possible.

## News Briefs . . .

### Liberty Police Seek Cruiser Grant

The Liberty Police Department is in the process of applying for a federal grant for a new police cruiser, according to Chief Sherri Hansen.

Number crunching is currently underway, and the application is expected to be submitted before the end of the month, she said.

As Liberty provides police protection to Highland and Freedom townships as well, letters of support will be requested from those supervisors, Hansen said.

"Hopefully, that will give us a little bit of an edge there," she said, noting that, "Anytime you can get collaboration between several different municipalities or entities it raises the stock of your current application a little bit."

### Community Mailbox Light Installed

The new light fixture to help brighten the Fairfield Borough community mailbox has been installed and illuminates to council satisfaction.

"It's not overpowering," Council Member Dean Thomas said.

### Highway Cleanup

Hamiltonban's 17th annual Highway Cleanup will take place April 23rd. The cleanup is part of the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful organization and its Great Amer-

ica Cleanup program.

All necessary materials will be provided to ensure a sparkling clean neighborhood, including gloves, reflective vests, and trash bags. Registration is open until the day of the event to help clean any section of the town. More information and registration can be found by contacting the Hamiltonban Township office at 717-642-8509.

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# THURMONT NEWS

## Town buys vacant Main Street building

At the March 1 meeting, the Thurmont Town Council approved the purchase of a dilapidated Main Street building for renovation.

An \$80,000 Strategic Demolition grant was received from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. Despite the name, the historic building will not be knocked down, but purchased and modernized.

The location has been vacant for years after the previous owner faced

permit difficulty, Chief Financial Officer James Humerick said.

The location was intended as a bar at one point and the restoration will include replacing flooring and removing kitchen equipment followed by new flooring and plumbing.

The council agreed the property has been a "blight" on the town and for sale "far too long". At this point revitalization efforts are a much better use of the Town's time and the funds are available.

"We're not putting any money

out of our pocket, so it's something we can and should do," Commissioner Wayne Hooper said.

Over the years the council has been vexed on how to attract visitors, as well as business, to the downtown area. The council has been looking for ways to create excitement and activity downtown that will draw people to the area and peak their interest. Business and foot traffic in the downtown area has taken a nosedive and lamented the lost businesses in the last few decades.

Kinnard said he refused to see Thurmont befall the tragedy of too many towns in which beautiful architectural buildings are left vacant in favor of strip malls at the end of town. "The downtown is the heart of our town," he said.

The purchasing and remodeling of the 6 Main Street building provides the first opportunity, and the first step, in creating a new location for the downtown community, he said.

Thurmont has been part of the Main Street USA program of

revitalizing historic downtown areas for about 18 years, "and we've benefited more than I ever dreamed we would," Mayor John Kinnard said.

The renovation falls under Thurmont's master plan to revitalize and create a more vibrant downtown area.

As both Mayor and a local business owner, Kinnard was in favor of the purchase of the property as a great first step to make a positive difference in the downtown area. "Whenever you have a business, it benefits every business in town," he said.

## Green Fest returns

Environmental stewardship returns as a community festival on April 9 with the annual Thurmont Green Fest at the Thurmont Regional Library.

Sponsored by the library and the Thurmont Green Team, everyone is excited to get back into the swing of the festival, after not being held for two years due to COVID-19.

A variety of local exhibits and conservation efforts welcome the community starting at 10 AM. Additionally, crafts highlighting reusing materials for one of a

kind art will be available.

The green festival is dedicated to promoting green living in the community and will offer nature crafts and games as well as educational opportunities including learning how to plant trees, garden, compost and more.

Electronic recycling services will be hosted by the Buddy Program to collect, refurbish and upgrade equipment for the underprivileged in the community. Frederick County Master gardeners will also be on site to talk about local pollinators and conserva-

tion efforts to ensure a sustainable Gateway to the Mountains.

Promoting the wide use of water as well as recycling and reusing, the festival will include raffles for environmental prizes including a rain barrel.

The Thurmont Green Team was established in 2015 as a started to be certified with the Maryland sustainable. Through the Green Team, volunteers' plants trees and help maintain planters around town.

The Green Team also leads town cleanups and with the help of school groups and scouts maintains a pristine trail in the

community park which is utilized by many residents.

One of the greatest accomplishments of the Thurmont Green Team was in getting Thurmont awarded Tree City USA recognition. "Tree City USA communities see the impact an urban forest has in a community firsthand," said Dan Lambe, President of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Additionally, recognition brings residents together and creates a sense of community pride, whether it's through volunteer engagement or public education."

Trees provide multiple benefits to a community when properly

planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants, and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits, Lambe said.

In addition to being named a Tree City USA, Thurmont has also received numerous environmental stewardship recognitions including the PLANT Award (People Loving And Nurturing Trees).

More information about the Thurmont Green Team and its projects can be found on the town's website or by calling the town's office at 301-600-7200.

## Colorfest parking price increases

At its March 1 meeting, the Town Council approved upping Catocin Colorfest parking fees for the first time in years.

Despite inflation and price increase, the Council has been steadfast in not raising prices for Colorfest, to provide an affordable festival for the entire community.

Event expenses have increased

drastically, and although the festival is about providing a one-of-a-kind event for community nonprofits, the town still needs to be able to get a return on investment, Mayor John Kinnard said.

Anticipating another deficit this year, the council discussed actions in an attempt to recover costs.

Chief Financial Officer James

Humerick presented a comparison of last year's Colorfest revenues and expenditures with previous years.

Humerick said that with all the COVID concerns the town was just hoping to break even after the increased expenditures and skyrocketed prices. "Overall, just our services this year increased by \$10,150," Humerick said.

Since its inception in 1963, some years Colorfest makes revenue, other years it loses money, but 2021 was certainly the "oddball" year with a major deficit of over \$23,000, Kinnard said.

Since Colorfest does not charge admission, parking fees are one of the few ways the town can make ends meet. Through the previous parking agreement, vendors park-

ing cars charged \$10 and paid the town \$2, keeping \$8 per car. Organizations could charge less, but the town still collected \$2 per car.

The Council bumped up prices to a recommended \$15 per car, with the town collecting four dollars and the vendors collecting \$11.

The Council acknowledged the jump to \$15 was substantial but considering it had not been raised in years, they noted nothing else is going to get cheaper anytime soon.

The council said they can encourage each vendor to charge a minimum of \$15 per car, and request they record every car, but due to the town's current ordinance, they are unable to enforce this suggestion. All the council can do is ensure the town gets its four dollars from each car parked

during the event, Kinnard said.

At public comment, Cub Scout Troop 270 vendors objected to the parking fee increase, pointing out that event goers were already unhappy with the \$10 parking fee. They worried that the \$5 increase would cause visitors to find a cheaper parking lot.

Noting there were only so many places to park during the festivities, Kinnard said those who balk at the prices will often eventually return to park.

Aspects of the two-day event in October are impossible to predict, including weather and crowd turnout, and the town constantly has to do its best to stay one step ahead, Kinnard said. "We accept that we have good years, and we accept that we have bad years," Kinnard said.

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 <p><i>Captain Morgan</i>  <b>CHERRY</b>  <b>VANILLA</b>  <b>SPICED RUM</b>          750 ML</p>	<p><i>Paul's Pit Stop</i>          DISCOUNT BEER, WINE &amp; LIQUOR          Website: <a href="http://m.paulspitstop.net">m.paulspitstop.net</a>          150 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg  <b>301-447-6262</b>          Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.          Sunday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.</p>		 <p><b>ROGUE</b>  <b>BEER</b>          6 PAK          CANS</p>

# TANEYTOWN NEWS

## Main Street Advisory Board to be named

At its March 14 meeting, the City Council introduced an ordinance to name an official Main Street Advisory Board next month.

Taneytown is a part of Main Street Maryland and National Main Street City USA program. The city had a Main Street Advisory Board in the past which operated largely independent of the city council, with the economic development director acting as the Main Street Manager.

The ordinance creates a new Main Street Board of Directors as an official Board of the city, which was not done previously, Economic Development Director Jay Meashey said.

The ordinance details how members and the chair are appointed, as well as terms of office and criteria.

The purpose of Main Street Advisory Boards is to strengthen the economic potential of tiny towns' walkable central business district which is geographically defined in accordance with the determination of the Maryland Department of Housing and community development and to promote the purposes of the Maryland Main Street program.

Boards look for members who are stakeholders in the downtown area including residents, property owners, or representatives of a business.

Main Street America is a nationwide historic preservation project designed to revitalize the historic business districts of small towns. Main Street Taneytown has been a partner of Main Street Maryland and Main Street America since 2002. The Main Street Taneytown Advisory Committee spreads the word of happenings and works to encourage and support businesses in the historic downtown.

The mission of Main Street Taneytown is designed to promote the economic vitality of business in the downtown area of Taneytown. Approximately 25 businesses make up the downtown area.

Owning a business in downtown presents unique challenges including parallel parking and maintaining store fronts, Meashey said. The Advisory Board will be tasked with looking to alleviate those challenges in any way they can, he said. Through the Main Street Board, the town will work with business owners to establish programs and funding to meet their needs.

Board members will be tasked with seeking out the needs of Main Street stakeholders and offering guidance to the Main Street manager and the City Council on the six most crucial aspects of downtown business, including:

design, promotion, economic vitality, organization, arts and entertainment, and clean and green.

While Main Street board members do not need to be residents of the city, the majority of the seven-member Board will be made up of people that live work or own property in the Main Street area.

Main Street 2.0, as it is being called, is being reignited to serve the community, but held "a little closer to the chest." "That way we are a little more cognizant of what it's doing, particularly the financial side of things," Mayor Bradley Wantz said.

More information about Main Street Taneytown can be found at [mainstreettaneytown.com](http://mainstreettaneytown.com).

## Operating budget introduced

The city fiscal year 2022-2023 operating budget was introduced for approval next month.

Effective July, Carroll County will increase recycling tipping fees from \$30 to \$55 a ton, City Manager James Wieprecht said.

With that change of numbers are expected to change "quite dramatically," Mayor Bradley Wantz said.

Despite the updated figures, Wantz urged the continual need

for all city residents to recycle as much as possible.

"It is still cheaper than soil waste at the landfill," he said.

Unfortunately, So many municipalities are doing away with their recycling programs due to costs.

"I'm really hoping the county doesn't end up going that direction, but in the meantime, We'll take all the savings we can and get as much recycling in the bins as we possibly can," he said.

The fiscal year water and sewer rate proposed for the New Year was also introduced and is planned to remain the same as it has been since 2017.

The city's fiscal year 22-23 tax rate is intended to remain the same "despite the state saying by constant yield they would prefer that it be lowered," Wantz said.

In other news, Wieprecht told the City Council a cost estimate is underway for a new Taneytown public works facility.

The public works department is still working on schematic design as well as a cost estimate for a new public works facility, said Wieprecht.

The City Capital Improvement program is getting close but still not completed as several water leaks throughout the city have taken precedence over the capital improvement projects.

The team has wrapped up the water sewer, streets, stormwater management aspects, he said.

The City Council also approved reducing the surety of the Meade's Crossing project.

Meade's Crossing construction is currently in phase-one and is largely complete, Wieprecht said.

Approximately five percent of the road paving remains, five percent of stormwater management, and about 10 percent of sidewalks remain, he said.

Those three aspects bonded with the developer to ensure the work gets completed.

Public works recommended reducing construction surety to \$86,680. "Which is 110 percent of the sum of the work left to do out there," City Manager James Weibrecht said.

## News Briefs . . .

### Memorial Park Upgrades

Engineering funding for city athletic facility repairs and upgrades have been included in the City's FY 22-23 budget, which is expected to be approved at the City Council's meeting this month, Parks and Recreation Director Lorena Vaccare told the Taneytown Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Taneytown Athletic Association at their March meeting.

Part of the funding will go to replacement of all athletic fencing in Memorial Park, according to Vaccare. "It is years and years old," she said. Because it is very cost prohibitive to do the entire fencing all at once, fence replacement will first focus on the worst areas and Field One first.

Upgrades for the baseball field will include installation of a new baseball field scoreboard and accompanying electricity for Field One. Upgrades to the softball field include putting in new dugouts, the soccer fields will receive additional lighting, and the football field house roof will also be repaired. Ideally all the work will begin in the autumn.

The town staff will share the concept vision with the Athletic Association to ensure the needs of the association and its players are met, she said.

### Bollinger Park Plans Submitted

County agencies are reviewing the preliminary plans submitted by the Parks and Recreation Department for the creation of Bollinger Park, which will be Taneytown's first Nature Park, Vaccare said.

Funding from a grant from the County Parks Department as well as a grant from the National Park Service

has allowed the city to complete phase one of the Bollinger Park project.

The park will include a walking, jogging, and biking trail, a pollinator garden with apiary, and a meditation garden. Current plans also include an observatory constructed and operated by the Westminster Astronomical Society (WAS).

The observatory telescope will be used for viewing deep space objects and capturing meteor showers, conjunctions, and other celestial events. WAS will host public gatherings during these major events as well as monthly Star Parties and programs with local schools. The observatory will have a large view screens to project

the images from the telescopes for others to see.

The Office of Environmental Management, who is responsible for grading and sediment control, will be the main agency the Parks and Recreation Department will work with. A sediment control erosion plan will be put together and reviewed by the County, according to Vaccare. Other items the county will be reviewing are the park's water resources and floodplain management plans.

Although the parking lot of the park will be away from high traffic areas, courtesy plans were sent to the State Highway Association, who did not raise any comments or concerns on the projects, she said.

To save time, only one contract for the work will be issued, but will have

two different proposal forms that can be bid separately including site work and excavation, and trail paving, as performing the rubberization of the trail is a "specialty," according to Vaccare. "A lot of contractors don't do both," she said. Rubberization is environmentally friendly option as it allows for root growth of shrubs and

trees all along the trail.

The City hopes to begin clearing for the trail and parking lot entrance this Autumn. Because pouring the rubber for the trail requires consistent temperatures of at least 60-degrees, work on the trail aspect of the project is anticipated not to begin until next Spring.

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## FROM THE DESK OF...

### County Councilman Michael Blue

It is budget season! It is truly amazing how fast the year goes by, and we are getting ready to work on the Frederick County FY-23 budget we will receive from the County Executive. I thought this month I would explain how the budget process works in our charter form of government. For those of you who would like to follow along at home, the Frederick County Charter can be found online at [www.frederick-countymd.gov](http://www.frederick-countymd.gov)

As soon as the previous year's budget is adopted, County Executive Jan Gardner begins to work on the next one. She meets with County management, County employees, the County Council, groups, and organizations to hear the needs of the County.

On or around April 15th, after the County Executive has held a public hearing on her proposed bud-

get, she gives her proposed budget to the County Council. It states in the Charter, "The proposed budget shall present a complete financial plan for the government reflecting anticipated revenues from all sources, expenditures, and any surplus or deficit in the general or special funds of the government."

This is where the County Council comes in. Following the County Executive's presentation of the budget, we go to work reading next year's proposed budget from cover to cover. We take notes on any questions, or issues we may have. We hold public hearings and receive constituent calls and emails on the pluses and minuses of the budget. We consider all the information and get ready to state our positions.

There are many aspects of our budget that are not generally known. The County Council is only allowed

to decrease or delete items from the budget. We cannot add items. We have no power to change the form of the budget as submitted by the County Executive. Each year the Judicial Branch of Frederick County Government, Sheriff's Office, Health Department, Board of Education, Public Libraries, Board of Elections, Liquor Board, and other independent agencies, receive funds from the County from our budget process. Neither the County Executive nor the County Council, however, has any control over the allocation of their funds once the budget is adopted.

The County Council can amend the Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance to provide funds for a capital project not previously appearing the Capital Budget for the fiscal year. As stated in our Charter, "The amendment may not increase

the total amount of the appropriations for the fiscal year, unless such increase appropriations shall be funded from revenues received in excess of the those budgeted or from unanticipated revenues not previously budgeted in the Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance for the fiscal year."

Any changes the Council makes to the budget requires a public hearing. After much discussion, the Council adopts the budget with an affirmative vote of not less than four members no later than May 31st. This is known as the "Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance of Frederick County". If the Council fails to adopt the budget by May 31st, the proposed budget as submitted by the County Executive shall become law.

The next step for the Council is to levy the amount of taxes required by the budget to ensure that the budget is balanced. Proposed revenues must equal proposed expenditures.

So, there you have it folks. The Frederick County budget process as directed by our County Charter. It is a big task for us since most of the Council Members work full time jobs and we only have from April 15th to May 31st to deliberate. It is, however, worth the hard work and is one of best aspects of being an elected official. I take the task very seriously.

We have just recently heard that the 2022 deadline for filing certificates of candidacy has been extended to April 15th and the Primary Election has been rescheduled from June 28th to July 19th. If you have not registered to vote, please do so as soon as possible. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in the parades and events that will be taking place prior to the primary.

You can call my office at 301-600-1034 or email me at [MBLue@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:MBLue@FrederickCountyMD.gov).

### County Councilman Phil Dacey

The Frederick County Council is moving into a busy spring. We will begin budget hearings with how to allocate a nearly \$800 million budget. We hold Council budget hearings at the end of April which go through the budgets of all of the major county departments and their programs. I urge you to contact the County Council with your budget priorities so that we may incorporate your questions into our budget review.

In March, the Council debated an electric vehicle charging sta-

tion requirement for new homes, approved an important process to allow data centers in Frederick County, and started the process to open up our County Council meetings to members of the general public.

First, the Council approved a bill that will require all new residential homes with parking to include piping from the home to the parking that will allow installation of an electric vehicle charger. While I do believe that electric vehicles will play a role in the future economy, I did not support the bill. I advo-

cated that families who purchase the homes be allowed the choice of paying for this upgrade. The testimony was that this type of installation could cost several hundred to over a thousand dollars. My position to allow families to opt out of this charge was not successful and the bill was passed. We as a county keep adding mandates and fees to housing which continue to drive up housing costs in an already expensive housing market, and we need to factor these mandates into the discussion on affordable housing.

Next, the Council unanimously approved a process to allow data centers to be used in certain zoning areas (limited industrial and general industrial). The data centers will have to meet certain design criteria to include landscaping, screening, buffering, and lighting standards. This is a good start to begin to develop these types of properties in Frederick County. Data centers are desirable because they can pay taxes and provide jobs with very little impact to schools, traffic, and public safety. They are desirable community partners. We must work to attract this type of devel-

opment to Frederick County.

Finally, the Council voted to open up the County Council meetings to the public for the first time in over 2 years. The County buildings plan to return to normal on Monday, April 4. The County Council voted unanimously to open our meetings to the public with no restrictions on the next day, April 5. Masks will be recommended but not required. I am happy to vote for and advocate for a return to normalcy after the 2 long years in the pandemic. I hope we are starting to learn to live with this virus and conduct business normally.

### Mayors

**Thurmont Mayor John Kinnard**  
History plays a big part in our lives and in our community. Memories, keepsakes, family histories, bits of our past, and the structures we all recognize help make up the fabric of our lives and our community. Each of us collects memories of our family and community, in some cases, it can be as simple as the family Bible handed down through several generations, in others, it can be a basement full of valued local artifacts and documents.

Here in Thurmont, we are fortunate to have a group of individuals determined to help keep our personal and community memories and treasures intact and on display for us to enjoy and cherish. The Thurmont Historical Society was established in 1988 by a group of local residents intent on honoring and preserving our history. One of the driving forces behind the creation of the THS was a wonderful gift from the Creeger family. Ethel Creeger donated her family home at 11 North Church Street to be used as the home of the Historic Society. The Society invested untold hours in bringing

the house back to life after it had stood vacant for many years.

The work included a complete replacement of the double porch at the rear of the house, installation of a modern HVAC system, finishing the basement with a concrete floor, repairing wiring and plumbing, major repairs to the windows, shutters, and cornices. As with any home, regular maintenance is an ongoing issue. In recent memory, the Society repointed much of the brickwork, replaced the concrete walkways at the rear of the house, and replaced the aging HVAC system.

Current projects include the scrapping and repainting of all the trim on the exterior of the building. This is a \$30,000 plus project being funded in part by generous grants from the Maryland Historic Areas Trust and the Delaplaine Foundation. The Society is also working toward digitizing five decades worth of the Catoctin Enterprise newspaper.

The Thurmont Historical Society is open on Sundays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, and at other times by appointment. There are many informative displays and local artifacts to see, and there is an amazing library of local family and community history. The Thurmont Historical Society and its members are committed to preserving our history so that we and generations to come can look back and understand our past. Be

sure to visit the new Society webpage at [www.thurmonthistoricalalso-city.org](http://www.thurmonthistoricalalso-city.org).

The Frederick County Health Department continues to offer free Covid-19 vaccinations, booster shots, and testing to Thurmont residents. Vaccinations and boosters are available at the Thurmont Regional Library on Monday evenings from 5 - 7 p.m. Covid-19 testing is available at the Thurmont Town Office on Friday evenings from 5 - 7 p.m. I want to thank the Frederick County Health Department and their amazing staff for making these services available to our residents and our north county neighbors.

The Thurmont Farmers Market has started for the season! The indoor market is located at 21 East Main Street and will be there Saturday mornings from 9:00 am until noon through May 7th. The outdoor market will then be open Saturday mornings from 9 until noon at the Thurmont Community Park for the rest of the market season.

I am available for your comments, questions, or suggestions at 301-606-9458 or by email at [jkinnaird@thurmont.com](mailto:jkinnaird@thurmont.com).

**Emmitsburg Mayor Don Briggs**  
A belated Happy St. Patrick's Day to all. Here we go again, going into spring and mid-March snow. Some-

times for those of another generation the snow event is characterized as a "Robin's snow". At this turn of the seasons, looking back, the winter season, for the most part, was a dry one. Even though it's hard to visualize a drought during the winter months we may have experienced one. The concern is replenishing the ground water supply of which snow plays an important role.

At the March 2022 regularly scheduled meeting the Board of Commissioners approved the recommendation of the Mayor and staff to design and construct a town sign in front of the town office/community building with capability of providing updated information for time of day, weather, and special events. The masonry stone base of the sign spans eight feet and the height is nine feet, three inches. The sign will feature the town name, logo, and a two-faced message board. Hope to commence with install as soon as County gives permission to replace current sign.

It was two years ago in a March 2019 meeting that the town meetings were first affected by COVID 19. At the current calendar March meeting the last remnant of the COVID 19 protection measured, plexi-glass dividers between Commissioners, were removed.

Also, at the March meeting the Commissioners approved the mayor

**Continued on next page**



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# GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

## County Executive Jan Gardner

Spring is here! Traditionally, this is the time of year to focus on renewal and new beginnings.

At Frederick County Government, spring is the time when we plan for a new budget year, setting our community priorities for the coming fiscal year. Preparing the budget is the most important responsibility I have as County Executive. After gathering input from the public through our Balancing Act survey and public hearing, I am now putting the finishing touches on my proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2023, which starts July 1.

Last month I gave a preview of projects that will be part of our capital budget. There was lots of good news to share! A record nine school construction projects are included in the upcoming year, along with fire stations, three new library branches, body cameras for the Sheriff's Office, and construction of a new medical unit for the Adult Detention Center.

Of particular interest in the northern part of Frederick County, initial work will begin on the Richard W. Kanode Farm Park and a new North County Regional Park in Emmitsburg. A limited renovation for Thurmont

Elementary School will enclose some of the open space classrooms, upgrade major systems like HVAC, improve technology and provide an overall facelift. A larger shelter for Animal Control is being designed, and multiple road and bridge projects also are scheduled.

Thanks to the County's purchase of a large property off Route 15 in the City of Frederick, several projects – totaling \$6.9 million – are no longer needed and those costs have been eliminated from the County's six-year Capital Improvement Plan. I believe we need to live within our means, so the budget is based on the same tax rate that has been in place for my entire administration.

Stay tuned for more good news when I unveil the operating budget on April 14.

### American Rescue Plan Act

I want to provide an update on how Frederick County is investing the \$50.4 million in federal funds we received through the American Rescue Plan Act. This is a lot of money! These funds provides a unique opportunity for us to invest wisely to lift our community and strengthen our economy.

Federal guidelines restrict how the funds can and cannot be used. For instance, we cannot use the funds to reduce taxes, pay debt service or invest in our pension plan. Instead, these funds are intended to support our ongoing health response and to help our community recover from physical and financial stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic. They represent a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create generational changes!

So where is this money going?

First, we are continuing to support our public health response with some of these funds used to purchase Covid-19 rapid test kits that have been passed out at our library branches.

Second, to support our economic recovery funds have been provided to the Tourism Council of Frederick and the Arts Council to help these hard hit industries recover. \$500,000 is being invested in Agriculture Innovation Grants to support our agriculture industry.

We are also supporting our seniors, veterans, and disable homeowners through funds provided to three organizations to provide home repairs and retro-

fits so seniors and people with disabilities can continue to live in their homes. Advocates for the Aging will provide assisted devices and equipment to support seniors remaining in their homes as will Habitat for Humanity. Rebuilding Together Frederick County will provide home repairs for low income seniors, veterans and disabled homeowner. These are all trusted community organizations. If you know someone who would benefit from these retrofits or repairs, you can contact these organizations directly. We are also partnering with Frederick Health Hospital to provide comprehensive home based care for low income seniors as well as conduct a feasibility study to apply for a state sponsored Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). We are investing in vans to transport food including Meals on Wheels to senior households through our senior services division. The number of households requesting food support increased dramatically during the pandemic.

The pandemic highlighted the importance of the internet and the need to be connected for work, education, and virtual doctor's appointments. Funds are being invested to establish a Broadband

Office to apply for state/federal grants to extend broadband connectivity to unserved areas of the county. We have recently applied for a grant that would build out broadband along a crescent shaped area of land from Sabillasville, through Emmitsburg, and then to Rocky Ridge.

To strengthen families, funds are being invested in Family Connects, a universal nurse home visiting program for newborns and their families. This program will connect families needing ongoing or additional support services with those resources and will follow the family as long as needed. This program has over a decade of data demonstrating stronger families, a reduction in adverse childhood experiences, and children doing better in school.

You can find more information about these programs and more at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/ARPA](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/ARPA).

As I write this, it is chilly and blustery outside. Like you, I look forward to beautiful warm spring days, blooming flowers, and outdoor events including our popular Easter Egg roll sponsored by Frederick County Parks and Recreation at historic Rosehill Manor. Hope to see you out and about soon!

### Continued from previous page

and staff recommendation to pave the parking lot and circular drive at Memorial Park this year. The hope is to have the work completed this spring.

Most of Irishtown Road improvements are completed, but the weather delayed detailing" shoulder work remains to be done. Additionally, home construction work on the Brookfield remaining nineteen lots along Irishtown Road is in full gear. Lots of trucks and workman activity. Please rejoice in the benefit of now two-way traffic but do so at a moderate speed.

The work to replace 120+ sidewalk curb ramps throughout town to meet current American Disabilities guidelines is about done. The project cost was \$683,000 which was funded totally through a federal block grant. Way to go staff!

To the twenty young women and

men students from Virginia Tech who recently graced our town to work on projects for those in need in the Emmitsburg area, so kind of you. Thank you for spending your spring break with us. Also thank you to the Seton Center and Daughters of Charity for pulling the pieces together to host and provide housing for the students. To our elderly

and those in a squeeze, if you need help with projects around the house contact Sister Martha at the Seton Center (301-447-6102) because the Mount, Gonzaga High out of D.C., and St Mary's High from Niagara, NY, are coming to town this spring eagerly looking for things to do.

Hope all are having a blessed Lent and let's all pray for the Ukrainians.

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## FROM THE DESK OF CANDIDATE FOR ...

### Kelly Schultz (R), Governor

My name is Kelly Schulz, and I am running to make Maryland safe, steady, and prosperous.

I love Maryland, and I want to continue to build upon the success that our state has made over these last eight years. We've come a long way, and we can't go back to the failed policies of the past.

That's why we need our state to be safe, steady, and prosperous – that is what I will be committed to doing as your next governor.

When I was growing up, I wanted to be the first person in my family to graduate from college, and I was on track to do that, but at almost 20 years old, I dropped out of school, and my husband and I welcomed our first child, Brandon. A few years later we were blessed with another son, Bradley.

For the next 15 years, I raised my two boys, waited tables, tended bar, and did anything I could to

provide for my family. I know the challenges facing every Maryland parent.

As a mom, I value the importance of a strong education, so that our kids can grow and prosper - this is why our state needs steady and consistent leadership for our schools. I have introduced a Parental Bill of Rights which serves as a blueprint to ensure that parents are empowered and that every child is given the best chance to succeed.

I will make sure that we bring accountability and transparency to our schools so that taxpayer dollars are being spent in the classroom, helping kids learn the skills they need to flourish.

I strongly believe that a child's zip code should never determine the quality of education that they receive. This means working to provide real school choice options for parents and students, expand-

ing innovative solutions such as the PTECH Schools Program, and investing in technical and vocational education.

I will make sure we have the best schools in the country and those schools will be accountable to parents and students, not to politicians.

Finally, we need to make sure that Maryland will be prosperous. We need to make sure that Marylanders can go to sleep knowing that they can pay their bills, pay their mortgage, and save for retirement – it means making sure that tomorrow will be a brighter day and that you and your family have a future in Maryland.

Working in Governor Hogan's administration as the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Commerce we were able to improve the lives of Marylanders through nationally recognized job training

and apprenticeship programs and we worked to make Maryland the most improved state for business in the nation. We need to continue to on this path to expand opportunities for even more Marylanders.

I will fight to make Maryland more affordable. I can promise you this, every one of my opponents is going to raise your taxes. And we cannot prosper if we become the highest taxed-state in the country. I will fight every effort by the legislature to raise taxes and I will use my platform and position to fight for tax cuts every single year that I am in office.

It breaks my heart that Marylanders are fleeing our state to retire elsewhere, hardworking Marylanders earned their pensions and retirement accounts here, they shouldn't have to leave our state to escape out of control taxes. This is why one of my top priorities as governor will be

to give Maryland retirees the tax relief that they deserve.

Let's also help make Marylanders more prosperous by repealing the Inflation Tax. Our state is one of the only states to index the gas tax to inflation. So, when inflation is out of control and rising, so are our gas taxes, making life more unaffordable than it already is.

As governor, I will stop and repeal the Inflation Tax just like Governor Hogan stopped and repealed the Rain Tax.

The truth is, when I was 20 years old, pregnant, newly married, and waiting tables, I never dreamed I could run for Governor.

But my experience, as a mother, small business owner, delegate, Cabinet Secretary, and even a waitress has made me uniquely qualified to be your next Governor.

I hope you will join me to fight for Maryland's future and to make Maryland safe, steady, and prosperous.

### Jessica Fitzwater (D), County Executive

As I am writing this article, the breaking news of the day is that Maryland Judge Lynne Battaglia has ruled the new congressional map approved by the General Assembly unconstitutional. Judge Battaglia sent the map back to the General Assembly and ordered lawmakers to come up with a new plan by March 30th (by the time you are reading this we will certainly know more!). It is not yet clear if Attorney General Brian Frosh will appeal the decision on behalf of the state.

Redistricting has already had a huge impact on this election year. The filing deadline for candidates has been pushed back twice and is currently set for April 15th. The primary election

has been moved to July 19th, causing major concerns for Boards of Elections across the state. What impact will this new decision have on the election? Only time will tell.

We can be proud that here in Frederick County we experienced a fair, nonpartisan redistricting process for our County Council districts. The Frederick County Charter requires the County Council to stand up a Redistricting Commission every ten years coinciding with the census. The Redistricting Commission must include three members nominated by each of the central committees of the major political parties and two or three members who are unaffiliated and are to be appointed

by the County Council. A huge thank you to all of the Commission members for their service.

The Redistricting Commission brought the Council a fair map with very few changes. Two precincts that were previously in District 2 (08-001 and 19-001) are now in District 5. This change brings the population of all five Council Districts within 1.5% of each other. Once the Commission made its final recommendation to the Council, we had the option of making changes to the map or accepting it as recommended. I was proud to join my colleagues in a 7-0 vote to accept the map from the Commission. As we have seen play out in Annapolis

and in jurisdictions large and small across the country, it is exceedingly rare for a legislative body to approve a map with no changes.

My colleague, Council Member Jerry Donald, said it best in a Letter to the Editor to the Frederick News Post earlier this year, "Why is this unanimous vote remarkable? Across the country, redistricting commissions produce fair maps, but those maps are then handed to legislatures that redraw them in order to gain political favor...Frederick County is remarkable because we didn't do any of this. The Council, in a bipartisan, unanimous vote, accepted a fairly drawn map that will be in place for the next three county elec-

tion cycles, until a future County Council takes up the matter again after the next census."

As we continue to deal with repercussions of redistricting across the state, please consider supporting our local Board of Elections and becoming an Election Judge. With the date changes and possible changes to polling places, the need for help is great. Election Judges are paid for their service on Election Day and for training, and high school students can earn Student Service Learning credits. You can learn more and apply online on the Board of Elections' website here: [frederickcountymd.gov/3227/Be-an-Election-Worker](http://frederickcountymd.gov/3227/Be-an-Election-Worker).

*Jessica is a current member of the County Council.*

### Dylan Diggs (R), County Council-at-Large

Many of you may not know me yet. I do not have the biggest name in Frederick County. I'm not an incumbent official. I don't have my name on any buildings. My family moved here from Baltimore in the 1980s and built a home in Mount Airy so that they could grow a better future for their family. It's the American dream – it's the dream of so many of us in Frederick. Hopefully over this campaign we will become more acquainted.

I'm running for County Council At Large because I believe that Frederick County citizens deserve a County Government that works

first and foremost for our citizens. I was born and raised in Mount Airy, started a family in Ballenger Creek and now live in Adamstown. I have served on the Frederick County Charter Review Commission, the County Redistricting Commission and as the President of the Frederick County Republican Club.

By trade, I am an evaluator. That involves using data to look at the problems facing a community, organization or project and determining what is working to meet those needs and what is not. I have focused mostly on international projects that seek to protect the human rights of folks

abroad and to help them strengthen government institutions so that they can build a better future for their communities.

I have seen true authoritarianism where the fight for rights is at its direst point. I've witnessed the deepest marginalization. I am resolute that the struggle for freedom, hope and opportunity is most important here at home – in our communities and our local decisions.

Frederick County is a community with countless blessings. Chief among them are our citizens, families and communities: the men and women of this county who do the working, paying, living and retiring here. Yet, too many Frederick citizens face rising costs, clogged roads and are struggling to raise a family or retire. All this while we have a government that increasingly feels distant.

I intend to return effective conservative governance to Frederick County. Government is at its best when it is limited, efficient and effective. If we use data-based, fiscal responsibility, we can have vibrant communities that put families first, abundant opportunity for business and job growth and

a government that's focused on results that matter to Frederick citizens.

I propose to bring balanced growth to Frederick County where we attract business and investment while planning and building the infrastructure (roads, schools, business) that can ensure that our communities are prepared for a better, healthier future. We must focus on making living in Frederick more affordable, invest in our law enforcement to keep our communities secure, and make sure that Frederick citizen are able to keep more of their own money rather than having taxes get lost in the churn of wasteful spending.

As citizens, we have great power and freedom. This is rare globally and in history. It is for that reason, I believe in the importance of personal responsibility, but these concepts are all linked. In the core of my belief, I know that decisions are best made by citizens within the walls of their own home and not anywhere else. That's why personal freedoms matter. The government has a role in our communities: it can provide the information, the resources and the infrastructure to help folks make and act on their deci-

sions. But when it comes down to it, rather than trusting the government, I trust you. I trust parents to make decisions for their families. I trust businesses and civil society to innovate and help build their communities.

We've seen it again and again that government too has great power. No matter how much politicians try to pass the buck, that power is the most personal and potentially the most impactful at the local level. To quote Winston Churchill, "Where there is great power, there is great responsibility." We need a charter government that works effectively, but one that works for the people, that listens to the people and is responsible to the people. Government should trust citizens to live their lives and not seek to run them.

Frederick is changing. But we have choices about what that change will look like. Standing on the shoulders of tradition while looking forward to future generations, we are inheritors to a legacy not our own. It is due to that commitment to responsible and principled service to Frederick, our citizens and our families that I am running for this office.

For more information on Dylan Diggs visit his website at [www.dylandiggs.com](http://www.dylandiggs.com).

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## FROM THE DESK OF CANDIDATE FOR ...

## Renee Knapp (D), County Council-at-Large

Perhaps the biggest lesson learned from the pandemic is how Internet connectivity has become a basic need for residents and businesses. If you have fast reliable connectivity, it's not something you think about every day. If you don't, it's a daily barrier. The future economic growth of Frederick County is dependent on continuing advancements in broadband infrastructure and Wi-Fi capabilities. These technologies accelerate our local economy, attract businesses to the county, and help solve education access and transportation congestion issues.

I will do everything I can as your council member to make sure rural areas receive fast and reliable connectivity for several reasons. Local

emergency and other essential communications are increasingly reliant on dedicated Internet connectivity to keep the public informed and safe. Dedicated connectivity in rural areas opens opportunities that already exist in other parts of Frederick County, such as telecommuting or starting a home-based business. As we move beyond the pandemic and remote learning is no longer required, rural students still need reliable connection like students who live closer the City of Frederick have.

However, even when closer to the city, residents struggle to afford private access to the Internet and rely on public sources of Wi-Fi, using mobile smartphones. This problem is made worse if the device being

used is older. As older cellular networks are phased out, many county residents could be left without any Internet access, and not knowing what to do. As Internet connectivity has become so crucial to daily life and public safety that we consider it a utility like electricity and clean water, county government should be making it a priority, and I will work to find ways to close these connectivity gaps.

Frederick County has begun to address this issue. The county completed a Rural Broadband Study in 2020 that clearly identified the county's challenges with rural broadband completion. This was an important first step. Since technology usually moves faster than government,

as a member of the County Council, I will advocate for public/private partnerships with Internet Service Providers to expand all sources of Internet connectivity. There is not one solution that fits all areas and various needs in the county.

Frederick County should not provide Internet service as a utility like water service. But the county should lead the overall effort to coordinate the commercial and residential expansion of high-speed connectivity as a part of regular county planning. Many other counties have staff or offices specifically dedicated to working on county connectivity. I support this initiative because this issue is vital to the immediate and long-term needs of

the people and the county's growing technological economy.

I hope you're seeing common idea in the articles I've written. Investments in education, transportation, and connectivity will open opportunities for all residents in Frederick County. Business opportunities open when skilled employees are locally available and can easily get to work. The local economy grows when small business owners can open a successful business anywhere in the county. On the council, I will continue to look for ways where I can help to create opportunities for everyone in Frederick County.

If you have ideas or experiences to share, send them to me at [renee@knapp4countycouncil.com](mailto:renee@knapp4countycouncil.com). You can learn more about my campaign at [www.knapp4countycouncil.com](http://www.knapp4countycouncil.com).

## Julianna Lufkin (D), County Council District 5

Every season, I say "ok, now this is my favorite season." But in all honesty, spring might truly be my favorite season here in Frederick County. The mountains look so gorgeous as the green starts to creep back into them, with little pops of pinks and purples from buds and blossoms, plus the forsythia in my yard is in bloom. We're incredibly fortunate to live in such a beautiful spot.

Part of what makes Frederick County so beautiful, in my opinion, is our numerous farms. Our farmers provide us with so much, and often go unsupported in the political field. My family catering company has been in busi-

ness for 29 years, and during the 16 years that I've taken an active role, we have formed connections with over number of Frederick County farms.

There was a bumper sticker making the rounds several years ago that read "No Farms, No Food." With climate change continuing unabated, one of the repercussions could be a more permanent, or long-lasting drought in California. If that happens, our nation will need to become reliant on different states for our produce, and Maryland's ecosystem, location, and existing agricultural history make us a prime choice.

Agriculture was Maryland's first industry, and our most enduring; today, Frederick County alone boasts 1,300 farms, and more than 181,500 acres of farmland. In other words, of our 660 square miles of land, 283 square miles are currently farmed.

Until we have an strong advocate for our local farmers in government, one of the best ways we can support them is financially; be it directly, at farmers markets, or at the Common Market, our community-owned co-operative, which sells goods from 51 local farms and 123 local businesses, as well as several conventional suppliers.

A few of my favorite producers here in District 5 include; Catoctin Mountain Farm, in Sabillasville, where Alison and Nick raise pigs, sheep, sourdough starters, and two sons. Grazy Days Family Farm, in Union Bridge, which is a woman-owned eco-farm. They offer grass-fed beef and lamb, as well as pastured eggs. Catoctin Mountain Farm, a local landmark orchard, who supplies fresh fruit to FCPS year-round, through the Farm to School Lunch Program. (Catoctin Mountain Farm has been in business for so long that there are not only pictures of 4 year old Julianna Lufkin picking apples there,

there are pictures of my mother at 4 years old, doing the same thing.)

My campaign would, of course, be very grateful for your donations, but if you would prefer not to donate, please support local farms this spring.

As I said in my previous article, I have chosen the slogan of "Lufkin Listens" so that every constituent of District 5 will know they can find in me a representative who wants to hear the concerns and questions that matter to them. Drop me a line at [Lufkin.Listens@gmail.com](mailto:Lufkin.Listens@gmail.com) and let me know your favorite local farms, and any other local issues that you'd like to see me address.

## Colt Black (R), U.S. Congress

With a raging war in Europe, rising inflation at home, rampant crime in our streets we must seek common sense solutions.

Cost of all products and services here at home are influenced by many factors with one of the main culprits being the cost of energy. Whether we are speaking of electric in the office or fuel in the tank of company vehicles when the cost of energy goes up everyone pays the price. Just over a year ago, America was producing oil, gas, and other fossil fuel products in abundance and became a major exporter of energy products. Fast forward to today the cost of all consumer goods has risen to almost ten percent inflation overall.

We as a country need to establish true energy independence of which incorporates all types of power, from oil, natural gas, coal, nuclear, solar, wind, and hydrogen to name a few. If elected I will draft legislation demanding energy independence, creating new energy sector jobs, protecting energy production from government disruption due to changes in political climate, and ensuring that America's ingenuity is utilized to the fullest potential to create new energy sources via public-private partnerships.

With the cost of energy creating havoc, no place is this clearer

for our families to see than at the grocery store. But the issue is not just the cost but supply. It was stunning to learn that among the world's wheat producers China and Russia, our adversaries are in the number one and number three spots on the world stage respectively, with America in fourth. Our governments at the federal, state, and local level have all but made it impossible for someone to become a farmer in today's world let alone maintain a farm that has been in the family for generations. And while advancements in agricultural technology have made each acre of land more productive than in years previously, we cannot continue to destabilize our agricultural sector of our economy. It is more than an economic issue in is indeed an issue of national security. And sooner than later the chickens will come home to roost. The fact that so much of our agricultural products are being imported versus being grown at home is appalling.

It is time for us to stand up for the family farms, we must say no to importing products we can grow at home, disallow animals raised in foreign countries to be brought to America to be slaughtered only to be labeled as "American Grown" meats, encourage agricultural education in our schools, and create grants and other incentives for the

creation of new family farms across the country, free the family farms from burdensome regulations, and ensure that the family farm is not taxed out of existence when the farmer dies so their family can continue to farm and feed America.

Now is the time to act because together we can make a difference for our families and our futures. Please visit our website: [www.coltblackforcongress.com](http://www.coltblackforcongress.com) to donate to our grassroots efforts or to volunteer.

**JULIANNA LUFKIN**  
FOR  
**FREDERICK COUNTY**


[Lufkin.Listens@gmail.com](mailto:Lufkin.Listens@gmail.com)  
301-305-1557



Julianna   
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- Ensure our tax dollars are returned and spent within our community to improve our schools, roads, infrastructure and social services.
- Identify and eliminate unnecessary and wasteful spending.
- Address deficiencies in the federal tax code that is taking money unnecessarily out of our paychecks.

For more information visit [coltblackforcongress.com](http://coltblackforcongress.com)

Paid for by Friends of Colt Black for Congress. Grant Johnson, Treasurer

**Working constructively to craft and pass  
legislation that helps us all!**

## FROM THE DESK OF...

## Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

It is April 2022. Two years and a couple of months since we first heard the words coronavirus, COVID-19. January 20, 2020, the Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) confirmed the first U.S. laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19 in the U.S. from samples taken on January 18 in Washington state. Today, based on CDC guidelines, our local community infection rate level is low. The guidance is to stay updated with COVID-19 vaccines and get tested if you have symptoms. People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

As the weather improves over time, many residents are starting to rake leaves and gather fallen tree branches. The question is, what to do with the debris? One suggestion is to transport the debris to the Washington Township Refuse Transfer Station at 12721 Buchanan Trail East (off Rt 16) Waynesboro. Before going, check out their website at [washtwp-franklin.org/trans](http://washtwp-franklin.org/trans)

fer-station/ or call 717-762-4413 for further information on what they accept and the cost. If you plan to burn, read the Carroll Valley Borough Ordinance 6-2008.

The ordinance contains information about what you are and are not allowed to burn and your safety and supervisory responsibilities. The ordinance is in Chapter 20. To see a copy of the ordinance, go to [carrollvalley.org](http://carrollvalley.org), and on the home page, type open burning in the search box, and then click on the ordinance. If you have any questions, call the borough office at 717-642-8269.

Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors (F-NHN) has announced that the Spring Clothing Giveaway is April 9th at Liberty Worship Center, 29 Carrolls Tract Road, Fairfield. The people who want to drop off their clean, gently used spring and summer clothing may do so from 8 to 11 a.m.. Clothing is for all sizes, from infants to adults, including maternity. You are asked to please sort the clothing by size, gender, and label. No shoes, please. Free shopping will occur from 11 to 2 p.m.

If you have any questions, please message Robin Dicken at [dickenrobin@gmail.com](mailto:dickenrobin@gmail.com). Thank you in advance for your continued support of our neighbors.

The Borough's first community 2022 activity is the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16th, at 11 a.m.. Be sure to show up earlier, so you have time to get into the appropriate age group before the hunt starts. Over 5,000 eggs will be filled and "hidden" for our youngest neighbors (ages 10 years and under). The Borough is accepting donations of candy and small toys to fill the eggs. A list of appropriate items can be found on the Easter Egg Hunt Wish List. To see the wish list, go to [myregistry.com](http://myregistry.com). On the home page, type Borough of Carroll Valley on the search line and then click on the gift list of Borough of Carroll Valley.

On Saturday, April 23, Carroll Valley hosts a Fishing Derby from 9 to noon. All children 15 and under are invited to come out to the Carroll Valley Commons Park with their fishing poles, tackle boxes, and bait

and take part in the derby. Pre-registration is strongly recommended but not required. Each participant can keep up to five fish, and catch and release are not allowed. The age groups are 4 & under, 5 to 7, 8 to 10, and 11 to 15. Fishing Derby Schedule: 8 to 9 a.m. registration/check-in, 9 a.m. – fishing begins, and at noon – fishing ends. If you have any questions, call the Borough office at 717-642-8269.

On April 30, from 10 to 2, in the Carroll Valley Borough parking lot, the Police and Liberty Township Police Departments will partner with Collaborating For Youth to cooperate with US Drug Enforcement Agency to carry out the Adams County "Medicine Take-Back" collection. This medicine collection allows Adams County residents to dispose of unused or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications safely and free of charge. Pills, liquids, creams, and pill bubble-packs will be accepted, and no needles or sharps will be accepted. Seventy percent of people abusing prescription pain relievers get them (take) from family and friends. In addition, safely disposing of prescrip-

tion drugs and unused OTC medications helps reduce the damage to groundwater and the environment. For more information regarding the Adams County Take Back, don't hesitate to contact Collaborating For Youth at 717-338-0300.

In May, the Carroll Valley Borough Office will host an Art Show that displays the artworks of Fairfield Area School District's middle and high school students. Throughout May, select high school work will line the hallways of the borough building. On May 6th there will be a reception for the artists, their families, and the public. The show will exhibit approximately 200 pieces of artwork in various mediums, including painting and sculpture. Please take the time to enjoy our local students' creative skills and imagination.

April Borough meetings: Planning Commission (April 4), Council meeting (April 12), Sewer/Water Authority (April 25), and the Parks/ Recreation (April 27). The Borough Office is closed on April 15, Good Friday, and Federal Taxes are due April 18. If you have any questions, email me at [MayorRonHarris@com-cast.net](mailto:MayorRonHarris@com-cast.net) or phone 301-606-2021.

## Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

Welcome Spring! Winter seemed to hang on as we endured some additional snow, wind, and ice issues during the month of March in our township. Those weather conditions caused trees and utility lines to come down onto the roadways. Weather is unpredictable and we make the best attempt to clear the roadways as quickly as possible. If you see any potential roadway hazards, please report them immediately. Utility

line issues can be reported to the cable or power company once you obtain the pole number.

I would like to thank residents for continuing to address driveway water runoff issues. It is important that we stay vigilant with stormwater management keeping as much water off the roads and into the ditch line. Please be mindful to keep the ditches open under your driveways. We will be addressing some issues on McGlaughlin, Boyle, and

Orchard Roads this coming summer clearing out the ditches and adding riprap where required.

The Supervisors performed the Annual Road Audit inspection on March 19, and a creation of a five-year township road maintenance plan is underway. Old Waynesboro Road from Jacks Mountain Road to Route 16 will be closed for approximately one week in May or June for bridge repair work. A notice will be posted

prior to the start of the project.

Our 2016 police cruiser recently received a new transmission. We are applying for a grant for a new police car to upgrade our fleet to be better equipped to provide Police services to three municipalities. The 2021 Audit of Township finances was completed on time by a SEK, CPAs & Advisors and reported no significant findings. We are in the final stages of the review and adoption of the Liberty Township Code and

expect to have it available online for the public by July 2022. The Municipal Solid Waste Collection/ Disposal And Recycling Contract with Parks Garbage was renewed, and we are happy to report that electronic recycling events will be provided again for Parks' customers.

We always look for input from the residents. Please reach out to us with concerns or suggestions and we will review them and address them the best way we can. Thank you again for your support. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

## County Notes

## New Property Tax Elimination Bill Introduced

New legislation to eliminate school property taxes and establish a more modern and reliable way to fund education in the Commonwealth

has been introduced to the state house. The complexity of the current school funding model is so intertwined and convoluted that previous efforts to change it have been unsuccessful, but the current rate of increase

in school property taxes is unsustainable and is pricing seniors out of their homes. Ryan, a certified public accountant, said he has developed a fair and balanced formula for the total elimination of property taxes in the Commonwealth.

## PA Supreme Court Signs Off on New State House, Senate Districts

On March 16, 2022, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court gave its final approval to state legislative redistricting maps. The boundaries of state House and Senate districts, as well as U.S. congressional districts, are redrawn every 10 years in conjunction with the U.S. Census to address shifts in population and meet the "one person, one vote" principle. Barring further legal challenges, these are the maps that will be in place when voters head to the polls on Tuesday,

May 17. To view statewide maps for the House and Senate, visit [here](http://here). To view the new map for the 101st Legislative District, visit [RepMoul.com/newdistrictmap](http://RepMoul.com/newdistrictmap).


## New Regulations for Charter, Cyber Charter Schools

The House Education Committee voted to send a letter to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) disapproving of the final form regulations written by PDE related to charter and cyber charter schools. PDE delivered the charter school final form regulations to the House and Senate Education committees and IRRC on Feb. 10. Committee members believe the regulations would harm the 170,000 Pennsylvania students enrolled in charter schools and the tens of thousands of students who are on a waitlist to enroll.

The Senate Education Committee also expressed its disapproval of the regulations this week.

## Committee Seeks Solutions to Teacher Shortage

The House Education Committee held a hearing this week to discuss the growing shortage of teachers in the Commonwealth's classrooms. In her testimony to the committee, Dr. Tanya Garcia, a deputy secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), noted the number of undergraduate education majors in Pennsylvania has declined by 66% since 2010. That decline, combined with the increasing rate at which teachers are leaving the profession, is making it increasingly difficult to staff classrooms, especially in rural and urban districts, as well as specific programming such as special education and STEM. Also testifying were university deans, school district officials, teachers and principals. Among the solutions discussed were encouraging more high school students to pursue an education major, particularly in post-secondary education; removing barriers to becoming a teacher; reexamining certification requirements; and offering student loan assistance and other incentives to stay in the Commonwealth to teach



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# GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

## County Commissioner Randy Phiel

On Saturday, April 2nd at 2PM, a statue will be dedicated in front of the historic Adams County courthouse for a native son, who first rose to greatness in Adams County, before becoming a national figure in the U.S. Congress. Thaddeus Stevens would significantly impact our nation's history for championing equal rights and public education.

The public is invited to attend the ceremony as part of a 3-day Stevens event. Living in Gettysburg from 1816 to 1842, Stevens was not only an outstanding lawyer, but went on to greater fame as the savior of public education in Pennsylvania, and as the primary framers of the extremely important 14th Amendment to the Constitution. The Thaddeus Stevens Society is looking for assistance in making the statue dedication a fitting tribute to Stevens.

They are requesting contributions to help pay for the preparation of the statue site, and the wayside sign that is going next to it. A professional video about the statue and Stevens which will be presented at a free public showing the night of the dedication at The Majestic Theater. The Society is also working toward the restoration of Stevens's house in Lancaster, where Stevens moved to in 1842.

The Land Conservancy of Adams County is in its 27th year of operation. It has recorded 177 easements,

enabling Adams County landowners to preserve 12,198 acres of farmland, water sheds and open space. LCAC volunteers and members are the core of the organization, donating time and funds to the organization to support its goals and purposes. LCAC recently held its annual Membership Meeting, which celebrated last year's achievements and honored the Conservation Benefactors who generously granted land preservation agreements.

Along with their popular Road Rally in October, April 24th is the LCAC Art Auction to continue its mission through the sale of works by local artists. In 23 years, the auction has raised \$300,000 to preserve and protect open space. Go to BiddingOwl.com There will be a Wine & Cheese Reception at the Adams County Arts Council to celebrate the artists on Friday, April 1, 5 to 7 p.m..

Adams County recently received good news that both the distributors and J&J announced they will be moving forward with the opioid settlements. The next steps will be to enter the consent decree to formalize the settlement, set up the Trust and start getting money out to counties. Adams County is slated to receive approximately \$2.2M toward opioid mitigation. The Trust overseeing distribution

of the settlement funds is governed by a Board of 13 Trustees, including

a non-voting chairperson appointed by the Governor, a secretary of one of the state's health and human services agencies, four legislative members, and seven regional trustees, two of whom are appointed by the mayor of Philadelphia and the Allegheny County executive, and the remaining five of whom are selected by the counties within the regions that are set out in the settlement agreement. The Attorney General's office has decided to dispense with the complicated nomination and election system for the initial selection of the five regional trustees, and instead give the counties in each region the opportunity to select their trustee in the way they best see fit.

Adequate Broadband is a big deal in Adams County for personal, business, and educational benefits. Some areas of the County are significantly underserved. The state Broadband Development Authority, created under Act 96 of 2021, met for the first time on February 15 to discuss initial plans for the commonwealth's use of federal funding to tackle broadband deployment and access across the state.

The authority serves as the one-stop-shop for broadband in Pennsylvania and is responsible for strategic planning and funding for broadband development to unserved areas and underserved areas, including access to millions in federal funding allocated to

the commonwealth in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Pennsylvania is guaranteed at least \$100 million for broadband under the federal infrastructure law, with the prospect of applying competitively for more dollars under the act's \$42 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program.

To access funds, the authority must develop a statewide broadband plan, which is required to include local government input, and will further be creating a broadband project repository, which will help provide a more complete picture of ongoing projects and infrastructure available for deployment in the commonwealth. Adams County is in the process of finalizing a Request For Proposals to seek the services of a consultant/firm to perform a Countywide Broadband Community Assessment.

The Adams County Board of Commissioners consider affordable broadband high-speed internet a critical infrastructure important to the long-term viability and livability of the county. Adams County's goal is for the Broadband Community Assessment to be the first step in a process that ensures critical broadband infrastructure meets the current and future needs of our residents, businesses, and institutions.

Recently the Adams County Board

of Commissioners approved the Adams County Treasurer collecting taxes for the boroughs of Abbottstown and Arendtsville. In many smaller communities it is becoming increasingly difficult to find residents to seek and accept the position of tax collector. Treasurer Crissy Redding and her staff have stepped up to the plate to fill this void in Adams County. With no one seeking the position in these two municipalities, the Treasurer has worked with the officials of Abbottstown and Arendtsville to become their tax collection agency.

At a recent Adams County Council of Government meeting, officials of both municipalities commended the Adams County Treasurer's Office for her experience and willingness to provide this service to them. The Treasurer's Office will collect all three taxes, County, Municipality & School Tax allowing those residents to use one source. Treasurer Crissy Redding is very familiar with the procedure - having formerly been Straban Township Tax Collector. The Board would like to recognize the Adams County Treasurer's Office for taking on this important responsibility that will probably see increased demand in future years.

It's a great time of year! No matter what you do, get out there and enjoy all the historic, recreational, agricultural, natural, and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!

continued from previous page

### PDE Must Publish School Assessments Now

Did you know the Pennsylvania Department of Education has not yet released Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) examination results from tests taken last spring? The data from

those tests is vital as we attempt to understand and address the learning loss that occurred among students despite the best efforts of their teachers and parents during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Education acknowledged the delay in results in written testimony to the House Education Committee in Novem-

ber and pledged to provide the results in "the coming weeks." Now, three months later, there is still no compilation of state exam results.

Speaker of the House Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) and House Education Committee Chairman Curt Sonney (R-Erie) sent a letter to Secretary of Education Noe Ortega last week demanding the PSSA results be released immediately. In response, PDE announced it will release the results publicly on March 1. Ortega said results were delayed because student participation was so low that state officials questioned whether the

data would be "valid, reliable and representative." Only about 71% of students took the PSSAs due to

student COVID-related absences. The normal participation rate is more than 97%.

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# COMMENTARY

## Words From Winterbilt

### Bullies and threats

Shannon Bohrer

In just several years we have experienced the pandemic, distant learning, several impeachment trials, an insurrection at the capital, disruptive school board meetings, book bannings, increases in crime, reported widespread mental health issues (possibly related to all of the above) and divisive politics. I am sure I left out a few things but the experiences that we have all endured have in many ways affected all of us. You might think that these common or collective experiences would in some ways unite us, and in some ways, they have. The opposite is also true; in other ways, we seem more separated and even indifferent to others.

My wife and I experienced the indifference, in the form of rudeness and hostility, last fall while we were working along the road frontage on our farm. An individual riding a motorcycle passed and as he rode by, he yelled F -Biden several times. I thought the beligerent behavior odd, we did not know him, and I don't think he knew us. My first thought was how insecure does one have to be - to bully or threaten someone they do not know? Of course, threatening behavior to strangers is becoming more common. We hear of indi-

viduals at school boards threatening others; in one case, the individual was arrested for threatening to bring a firearm to the next meeting. Disagreeing with a school board decision and expecting the decision to change because you threaten to bring a gun to the next meeting does not seem a rational strategy. A good argument could be made that threatening or shooting someone weakens your position.

As a country, we have a history of dealing with divisive politics and both external and internal threats. However, we did not expect that dealing with the pandemic or the insurrection would lead to the volume and intensity of personal bullying and threats that we are experiencing. Government officials responsible for elections are being threatened because they counted votes. Well-known medical doctors are threatened because they believe in science. Airline employees are being bullied, threatened, and even assaulted because they tell someone to wear masks. I think it bears repeating that threats and assaults with the intent or purpose to intimidate someone seems like a poor strategy.

Bullying and making threats are not unique to today's society. Growing up, I experienced bullies early in my school years. In the 1950s, bullies seemed prevalent. One did

not think of them as a problem, as an issue, or anything abnormal. They just existed. It was later in my life that I understood and realized the physical and psychological harm they caused. The bullies did not bully me personally, so I just ignored them, and they learned to ignore me. When a problem does not affect you in ways that you consider harmful, it does not mean the problem does not exist.

Years later, when bullying became the topic of concern is when I realized the harm they often inflict. While having an understanding of the physical and emotional trauma that bullying inflicts on some of its victims, I reflected on my early years, realizing that bullies always existed. By this time in my life I was a Maryland State Trooper and had encountered adult bullies. Adult bullies, from my perspective, were just juvenile bullies that never grew up. Instead of picking a fight in a schoolyard, they went to bars, drank too much, and demonstrated how drunks lose fights.

Examining the threatening behaviors, we are experiencing today is different than the macho models from my past. The model of the schoolyard bully or the bravo and courage that comes from a bottle of an intoxicated individual seems dissimilar or differ-

ent from the current threatening behaviors we are experiencing. I always thought that the schoolyard bullies did not care about your thoughts or your preferences; they just wanted to prove they were "tough." As if being "tough" was an admirable trait. The problem with their logic was that the bullies were not all that tough. It is easy to physically overpower some people, but that just means you can bully someone weaker than yourself. It is like having two bulls in your pasture, they will work it out, and one will be in charge, at least until a third bull is introduced.

The difference with today's bullies appears to be their motivation. They want the election official to change the results; they want a doctor to stop speaking about a dangerous epidemic. "A Texas man was recently plead guilty to threatening a Maryland doctor who has been a prominent advocate for COVID-19 vaccines...." At a school board meeting in Virginia, a local doctor spoke in favor of masking mandates for children. The doctor was booed, and when leaving the meeting, one person yelled at him, "We know where you live." How insecure does someone have to be to threaten another person - because they do not think like them?

There are societies where everyone agrees or seems to agree on the topics of the day. Those societies, where everyone has the same opin-

ions and conforms to one line of thought, suppresses the individual freedom of thought. Communism and fascism typify these societies and are run by autocrats and dictators. Do all citizens in those societies really think alike, or do they not express their thoughts for fear of being called out or threatened? In societies where expressing your differences is generally frowned upon, the expressed differences often disappear. Sometimes, the person(s) that expresses the differences disappears.

In the United States, we have the freedom of thought and the expression of those thoughts because we live in a democracy that ensures those freedoms in our laws. Those freedoms, along with others, do not exist in authoritarian regimes. Those that believe we should all think alike, or think more like them, could be moving in the wrong direction. While we may not agree with the words or ideas of others, maybe we should celebrate the diversity, for the freedom that it represents.

*"The last of human freedoms—the ability to choose one's attitude in a given set of circumstances."*

—Viktor Frankl

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

## Tumbleweeds

### Yellow journalism is alive & well

Mark Greathouse

Welcome to "Tumbleweeds," an opinion column drawing upon the history of America's Old West to put many of today's pressing issues into historical perspective.

Yellow journalism, the "fake news" of old, is characterized by sensationalism, scandal-mongering, and inadequately researched and/or purposefully exaggerated news aimed at increasing sales or promoting a narrow ideology to achieve political ends. A frequently cited example of yellow journalism concerned the February 15, 1898 sinking of the USS Maine in Manila Harbor, Philippines. It spawned war-mongering headlines like "Remember the Maine, to hell with Spain." Public opinion was swayed to demand war. While the cause of the disaster that killed 260 of 355 crewmen remains debated, the newspapers served as catalysts for the Spanish-American War.

Newspapers of the Old West were a signal that a town had become civilized. People were hungry for news. Newspapers had to make money to survive, so when they ran out of ranching, mining, or railroad news; legal notices; local gossip; speeches and sermons; and advertising, it was natural to make up something that would grab reader attention. Gun-fights? Feuds? Politics? In the early 1860s, famed Texas Ranger, politician, soldier, and newspaperman John Salmon "Rip" Ford blared public-

fluencing pro-secession, pro-slavery headlines as editor of the Austin Texas Democrat and later the State Times. How about the headline "Gov Houston Resigns after Rejecting Confederacy?" Houston was actually about to be voted out of office over his views on Texas' independence and chose to resign. Hard to tell by the "yellow" headline. A headline from the July 12, 1861 edition of the St. Louis Bulletin on the day it was shut down by Union troops under martial law blared, "The War News (As Permitted by the Lincoln Dynasty)." Doesn't appear that they especially liked President Lincoln. World on May 18, 1864 shouted out an outright falsehood, "Lincoln Calls for 400,000 new volunteers." In response, Lincoln suspended habeus corpus and simply jailed newspaper editors that disagreed with him. Think on Lincoln's suspension of fundamental legal rights 160 years ago, when folks consider censoring "fake news" purveyors today.

Are news media so different today? Yellow journalism is alive and well. Our past president frequently called out "fake" news. Like it or not, too much of it was. Recall "He will forever be remembered as the president who traumatized little children," MSNBC 2018 or "Trump is a racist," New York Times 2017. There seem to be a gazillion sensationalistic news reports to draw upon. How about a 1943 New York Times slant, "Reports of Hitler's systematic Jewish extermination campaign untrue." When forced to actually report news, terminologies are often twisted, redefined, or softened, such as riots described as

peaceful protests, public property trespassing redefined as insurrection, and mandates misrepresented as laws all in an effort to make the news palatable to an increasingly ideologically-sensitive readership. Often as not, it's as tough to sort the lies and distortions of the news source from the news that's reported.

Technological development from Pony Express to telegraph to today's internet have served to speed rather than check yellow journalism. More of it is brought far more quickly to a wider audience.

How is it that folks are so often drawn in by sensational yet debatably accurate news? Why does it matter today? I suggest it matters because the likes of the New York Times, Washington Post, ABC, CNN, CBS, and even to some extent FoxNews too often resort to yellow journalism, and Americans are largely ill-equipped to sort truth from fiction. Fake news is symptomatic of greater problems within a culture, as sources range from news media to private corporations to - gasp! - governments. Many folks - and I'm guilty of it - compare our over-sized central government and the "wokism" happening in America today to the dystopian societies of George Orwell's 1984 and Aldous Huxley's Brave New World, but I suggest that we are more accurately undergoing an existence closer to Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451. The not-so-subtle difference is that totalitarianism is imposed in Orwell's and Huxley's worlds, while citizens willingly succumb to and even participate in bringing about total government control in Bradbury's. Whether it's Oceania's Newspeak in 1984 recre-

ating history to suit Big Brother's agenda, or party-line headlines faced by the fireman protagonist Montag in Fahrenheit 451, the news is used to sway citizen perceptions. The good news for Montag, as with Winston Smith in 1984 and Bernard Marx in Brave New World, is assurance that the dystopias will ultimately fail under their own weight though not before severe damages are wreaked.

How do we quell yellow journalism and why should we care? Famed TV journalist Walter Cronkite was a liberal Democrat, but you'd never know it by his unbiased news delivery that respected listeners by enabling them to reach their own conclusions. After retirement, he surprised folks with his true political leanings. Bill Kovach and Tom Rosentiel spell out an Rx against yellow journalism in Elements of Journalism. First and foremost, "Journalism's first obligation is to the truth." Key principles follow: journalism's first loyalty is to citizens (readers), its essence is a discipline of verification, practitioners maintain and independence from those they cover (objectivity), it serves as an independent monitor of power (no collusion), provides a forum for public criticism and compromise (debate), strives to make the significant interesting and relevant (without sensational exaggeration), and keeps news comprehensive and in proportion. Kovach and Rosentiel advise that journalists exercise personal conscience and remind us that citizens also have rights and responsibilities when it comes to the news. Notably, none of these provisos work without underlying high moral values ascribed to by the nation.

Has the news media learned from

their errant ways of the past, the sensational exaggerations of life in the Old West, the biased reporting aimed at secession, virulent attacks on sitting presidents (Lincoln, Wilson, Clinton, etc.), and more? Not so far as we can tell. If anything, folks begin to turn away from the biased fake news and become increasingly uninformed and vulnerable to even greater lies. As we're reminded in Rudyard Kipling's Gods of the Copybook Headings, "As surely as water will wet us, as surely as fire will burn, the Gods of the Copybook Headings with terror and slaughter return." Censorship is certainly not the answer. We need more true journalists like Cronkite and folks following Kovach's and Rosentiel's advice.

Tumbleweed believes news media need to respect readers enough to give them the unvarnished facts and let them arrive at their own opinions. Not much has changed since the Old West except yellow journalism can be delivered faster on more platforms. News should be about intellectual honesty not ideological agendas. And readers have a responsibility to intelligently sort opinion from fact, to debate the former and absorb the latter without benefit of biased "fact checkers" and "sensitivity readers." A newspaper that fails to deliver honest news is failing its readership and the very principles that make America exceptional among nations of the world. Experiences of the Old West don't offer solutions, but they provided warnings that haven't been heeded. Just sayin'.

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

# Country First

## A fight for Democracy

David Marshall

Around the world, there are many examples of countries experiencing a “democratic backslide” where a once established democracy starts to become unstable by taking on characteristics of an authoritarian system. This is evident in modern Venezuela and Hungary where a misstep ends in a full slide away from democracy. In other cases there are near misses where proponents of democracy are able to beat back the authoritarian attack. This is evident in the United States with the events surrounding the Jan 6 insurrection. A society will always know when it has something of extreme value because of the constant efforts by individuals or groups to either destroy that valued possession or to make it become less effective.

In countries like the United States and those making up the European Union, that one valuable possession is called democracy. The value of democracy and the rule of law were taken for granted by members of the European Parliament. As a result, a new “rule of law conditionality” mechanism was approved which links E.U. funds to a nation’s respect for democracy. Driven by the nation of Hungary’s undemocratic tendencies, including weakening the free press and undermining its independent judiciary, the European Parliament did not look the other way in the wake of these breaches. They implemented a system of accountability with consequences.

Like the European Parliament, America must also see itself as a com-

munity based on values and principles when it comes to protecting democracy. Having the bold willingness to uphold those values and principles is becoming a lost art with American leaders. Complacency among citizens is an also culprit weakening the rule of law. It is easy for Americans to have a false sense of security when we see events undermine democracy overseas and think it will not happen here. We can never afford to become complacent by seeing it as a “European problem”. Over the course of time, the strength of American institutions will also be challenged by individuals and groups internally.

Regrettably, that moment has arrived. It has been a year after the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol and a large number of Republicans still believe that President Biden was not elected legitimately and that “political violence is justified in a democracy when you believe things have gotten so bad that the government is not acting in the best interest of the people”. Fortunately, there are other Republicans who along with Democrats and Independents rightfully believe that protests plays an essential part in a democracy, but it should be conducted peacefully with respect for the law and for the rights of others. This viewpoint gets easily lost and almost muted by the turmoil brought forth by the pro-Trump movement. Do most Americans really care? There are so many people who have little or no interest in what is happening in our nation especially on the on the state level.

In the Georgia secretary of state race, there is an election denier run-

ning against an election defender. What is at stake is the possibility of having an individual who refused to accept the truth and validity of the 2020 election results elected into a position of overseeing future election cycles. When this occurs state by state it becomes serious death blow to free and fair elections and to democracy as a whole. Brad Raffensperger, the incumbent Georgia secretary of state, is facing multiple Republican primary challengers because he declined to assist the former president in overturning the 2020 election. Franita Tolson, an election law expert at the University of Southern California noted, “The reasons why Trump’s attempt to overturn the 2020 election failed is because there were state officials who refused to substantiate his claims of fraud. These folks really are gatekeepers.” Raffensperger played a critical role in beating back the authoritarian attack. Experts now worry that election-denying candidates will be more willing than Raffensperger to subvert the will of the voters in future elections.

Many Americans are not playing attention. A key element in a democracy is for its citizens to be active participants by being informed and concerned about public issues. Some hear the risk and the future dangers, but standing up to election deniers is a low priority for them. Any degree of apathy among citizens can destroy a government system designed to be a “government by the people”. We when see Republican officials such as Brad Raffensperger, Rep. Liz Cheney and Rep. Adam Kinzinger put nation before party, we have to ask ourselves why are so few willing to take the same stand? Why are so few willing to risk their elected seats by telling the pub-



lic the truth rather than repeating the same message coming from political echo chambers? Rep.

Marjorie Taylor Greene, a far-right Georgia Republican, may have given the answer when claiming that lawmakers like her are “not the fringe” but “the base of the party”. If she is correct and then the majority of the party’s base supports political violence and the establishment of partisan control over a state’s election administration. This also proves that the United States no longer has a healthy two-party system. One party sees democracy is in decline because the Jan. 6 insurrection failed to fulfill its intended purpose of overturning the results of a free and fair election.

The second party sees democracy is in decline because the insurrection was a national disgrace and embarrassment for a nation having the previous honor of being the example to the world. Former president Ronald Reagan often described America as being “a shining city on a hill”. Reagan’s vision of America being the example of democracy to the world transcends political party

because it was supported by Republicans, Democrats and Independents. It was something Americans of all walks of life could rally behind and be proud of. If Ronald Reagan were alive to see the Jan. 6 attack and the Marjorie Taylor Greene version of the Republican base, he would be not only be disappointed, but there would be a righteous indignation toward the party.

Adam Kinzinger, through his Country First organization, is seeking to join Republicans, Democrats and Independents who share in Reagan’s vision and to see it carried out by electing officials on the local, state and federal levels who are unafraid to speak out against toxic politics and willing to fight all forms of authoritarian attacks.

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

# Down Under

## Caught in the trap

Submitted by Lindsay Melbourne, Australia

*From my experience of life. I believe my motto should be ‘beware of men bearing flowers’*  
—Muriel Spark 1992

Vladimir Putin has shown that democracy can be beaten. The war in Ukraine has done this, and the west can do little to stop him, as any overt action within the Ukraine runs the risk of starting a nuclear war.

The idea that this existential threat would ever rear its terrible head again was thought to be so unlikely that it could be ignored, but Vlad the Impaler has undone just that. Leaving aside for the moment his state of mind, it is apparent that he has been planning the annexation of the Ukraine is for many years if the west went ahead with its desire for the Ukraine to be part of NATO.

Ukraine has been an independent country for over 30 years, has been a powerhouse of learning, culture and the arts. It has thought of itself as both eastern and western, with ties to both, trading with both but not trusting its eastern neighbor because of its invasion in 2014.

NATO was formed after WW2, and its charter begins: “The Parties to this Treaty reaffirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and their desire to live in peace with all peoples and all governments. They are determined to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilization of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law. They seek to promote stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area.

They are resolved to unite their efforts for collective defense and for the preservation of peace and security.”

It was born on April four, 1949, in Washington DC, with the US, Canada, Britain, France and other European nations.

The Baltic States, and those to the south except Ukraine, became part of both NATO and the EU soon after the collapse of the Society Union. In 2008 the Ukraine applied to be part of NATO, but in 2010 the new president Yanukovich decided he wanted Ukraine to remain unaligned, and about 80% of the population agreed – until in 2014, when Russia invaded the Crimea, which saw the president flee, popular support soar. In 2018 the new president reapplied to join NATO. In February 2019,

this was agreed to, with membership on the EU included.

Enter Vladimir.

Ex-KGB, super intelligent, he, (and his oligarch friends), had built the Russian economy to unprecedented heights thanks to the country’s gas and mineral resources. Agriculture had also grown, and by 2010 the combination of Russia’s and Ukraine’s wheat output was about two thirds of the world total.

His planning now started to have substance. First to Ms. Merkel, right wing German chancellor. He told her that he could supply all her country’s energy needs at about half the price of the nuclear power they were then using, that atomics were inherently dangerous, and so on, and she agreed. Nuclear out, gas in.

Pipeline built, German economy booms, and all is well. 16% of their economy depends on it, and Russia’s economy gets about the same return. Now Germany finds itself dependent on Russian gas.

Mr. Putin has accepted the status quo that the Ukraine would not join NATO or the EU, and he has boasted that they would not. But Ukraine still wanted to get into the alliance, and was encouraged by America to keep applying. That was too much for the Impaler. It was more than a matter of pride, he had promised to return Russia to its former glory, and this would

make him look stupid. So, the trap was sprung.

Invasion, decimation, threats.

The west can do nothing except supply armaments to the Ukraine. Its president, Zelensky, elected on May five, 2019, pleads with the west to stop the Russian planes, to do something that will help the country.

Then the dreaded word. Nuclear.

Russia’s nuclear stockpile is huge, its capabilities unknown. Putin is so unstable that he might just use them. The west sanctions, cuts off money flow, but to no avail.

The tragedy makes the holocaust look tame. It shows a megalomaniac, someone who cares for nothing but his own prestige; whose people suffer unbelievably, whose army had no food, no fuel, and who begin to desert.

It seems that as of today, March 28, some kind of pull-back may happen, but the damage is severe, the world is plunged into skyrocketing price increases in oil and food, all on top of the supply chain problems caused by COVID.

So, we have one clinically insane person in Russia, and now another in North Korea.

And one far from insane, the master spider at the center, who is playing one against the other. Xi has been supporting Vladimir, no question about that, and sees his plans for world domination

mature a little more, as illustrated by his plans to establish a naval base in the Solomon Islands, just a few hundred kilometers off the east coast of Australia.

Before I turn to happier news, is it not ironic that Putin helped get Trump into the White house, and both are now revealed for what they are. One a narcissist, the other a psychopath.

Back here in Australia, earlier this week, I had the opportunity of visiting our second largest city, Geelong. It had been the place where Ford had its biggest manufacturing plant, where Shell and Alcoa had enormous refineries, but which all closed some years ago.

But – only Ford’s manufacturing stopped. Their R&D department went on, and is currently working on new developments – unnamed due to confidentiality – and some of its talented engineers went on to develop standards of precision in parts manufacture that they are exporting it to America.

As well, the city is booming. My business is with school science. New schools everywhere, the expansion of the satellite towns now approaching the southern coast, and everyone is happy, positive and thriving.

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

# THE PASTOR'S DESK

## Easter

Father William Allegretto  
St. Joseph's Catholic Church,  
Emmitsburg

The resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter morning for 2.3 billion Christians is a fundamental belief and the cornerstone of the Christian faith. But Why? Of the many doctrines and teachings concerning this fundamental belief and truth, three can be highlighted: First, the resurrection of Jesus Christ will always reveal the length and depth of unfathomable and indescribable love that God the Father moved for his Son, and for those who Christ died and redeemed, fulfilling why he came among us at his birth to conquer sin and death.

Second, is that we who remember that he came so that we too would have eternal life as we order our souls, hearts and very lives in living out his promise of eternal life in the Heavenly Kingdom. Third, the Risen Christ also pledges that he remains present in his walk among us, in his guidance so that we may always seek out conversion and reconciliation with him and one another by living justly with humility, compassion and mercy, and by protecting us against all that which is evil seeking to tempt and deceive us from our first love.

While many Christian Churches have varying teachings on the meaning and celebration of the Eucharist, we come to know that this was his unique promise to live, heal, unify, nourish and love us in a meal revealing himself as the resurrected Lord in the breaking of the bread and in

the sharing of the cup of salvation, until we are fully received into God's hands and heart.

Having once been asked by one of my students after class, "Can I be a Christian without having to believe in the Resurrection?" The question stopped me and I considered the implications of the question. I remember that I first asked him, "Who is this Jesus to you?" What I asked him was to hear his understanding whether Jesus was more than a historical figure, or a man who was simply good and moral, a healer, a miracle worker, a teacher, or even one of the prophets like in the Old Testament.

Following his understanding to the previous question I also asked him as to whether or not he was having difficulty believing in the promise of an eternal life. As he responded I thought he may not have worked out what his faith would require of him or grasp that faith is about trust without evidence or belief. His answers were not unusual for a young person caught in a very visible and tangible world but fascinated with the spiritual and supernatural. Like Thomas the Apostle he wanted some physical proof for him to trust and believe that Jesus actually rose from the dead, and was more than an apparition or some group hallucination.

We too can ask whether or not the resurrection of Jesus Christ was a historical event that really happened or is simply a figurative example or a myth as many who do not believe or find it difficult to do so. In the Scriptures it was never written that someone witnessed the actual resurrection,

but through many accounts, many people swore that they saw the risen Christ after his death, and their lives were never the same. Do, we Christians have actual and conclusive proof of the Resurrection event of Christ?

Please consider the following thoughts:

There is the Empty Tomb of Jesus which is said to be the strongest proof that Jesus rose from the dead. In all of the Gospel accounts, there is the Resurrection story, while varying in the account all would highlight that there were people who watched Jesus being laid away knowing where the correct tomb was belonging to Joseph of Arimathea. Then there is the heavy stone laid across the entrance of the tomb which the women themselves wondered who would roll it away only to find that it already been done. As they looked inside Jesus' burial cloths were left neatly folded, hardly the act of hurrying grave robbers.

The Apostles Found Courage. After Jesus was crucified nearly all of the Apostles had fled in fear that they would also be executed for being his followers. But something substantially changed them. If we understand human character people do not change so instantly and radically. It was the influence of seeing their risen Master, bodily risen from the dead, coming into the locked room, not once but twice, the second time with Christ showing Thomas his nail prints and spear thrust. In short, the Apostles found the courage and audacity to preach the Risen Christ regardless of the consequences to their own well-being. They knew the truth of the power of Christ crucified and resurrected.



The Changed Lives of Others and a Large Crowd of Witnesses. Changed lives of those not within the Apostle's immediate group are yet another proof of the resurrection. We hear of Cleopas and his companion on the road to Emmaus met by the Risen Lord who conveys to them the understanding of the Scriptures as to why the Messiah had to suffer die and rise as the fulfillment of the Scriptures. We hear about the large crowd of 500 witnesses who saw the risen Christ at the same time. Today, psychologists might say that it would be impossible for a large crowd of people to have had the same visual experience simultaneously.

The Conversion of Paul. Most people are familiar with the conversion of St. Paul on the road to Damascus where he encounters the risen Lord asking him why he is persecuting the church. His conversion story from ardent persecutor to staunch proclaimer of the risen Christ is a profound example of faith that saw him through shipwrecks, imprisonment, stoning, poverty and years of ridicule and rejection by his own people and execution in Rome. How is it that Paul became a fierce witness of Christ's resurrection on behalf of the Gentiles peoples? How can we

comprehend that because of his conversion he would establish numerous church communities? Most of his letters (epistles) written to these churches are some of the most polished teachings concerning the risen Messiah and that most of his letters were written before the Gospels.

The Numerous People who Had Died for Christ. The history of the Church is filled with numerous accounts of the men, women, even children who were martyrs for their faith in Christ. Every land and time frame from the beginning is populated by men and women who laid down their lives because they believed the resurrection to be true. An isolated group may give up their lives for a cult leader, but Christians have been dying for nearly 2,000 years believing Jesus conquered death to give them eternal life.

I may never know whether or not the young man I taught these same proofs ever made the decision to believe in the resurrection. It is, however with profound gratitude that so many have come to believe that Easter is real not because of historical proof, but because of faith in him who rose and gifts us with eternal life. A Blessed Easter to all and as an Easter people and our song be Alleluia!

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# THE BOOK OF DAYS

## The history of April Fool's Day



The 1st of April, of all days in the year, enjoys a character of its own, in as far as it, and it alone, is consecrated to practical joking. On this day it becomes the business of a vast number of people, especially the younger sort, to practise innocent impostures upon their unsuspecting neighbours, by way of making them what in France are called *poissons d'Avril*, and with us April fools.

Thus a knowing boy will despatch a younger brother to see a public statue descend from its pedestal at a particular appointed hour. A crew of giggling servant-maids will get hold of some simple swain, and send him to a bookseller's shop for the History of Eve's Grandmother, or to a chemist's for a pennyworth of pigeon's milk, or to a cobbler's for a little strap oil, in which last case the messenger secures a hearty application of the strap to his shoulders, and is sent home in a state of bewilderment as to what the affair means.

The urchins in the kennel make a sport of calling to some passing beau to look to his coat-skirts; when he either finds them with a piece of paper pinned to them or not; in either of which cases he is saluted as an April fool. A waggish young lady, aware that her dearest friend has a rather empty-headed youth dangling after her with little encouragement, will send him a note, appointing him to call upon his true love at a particular hour. When instead of a welcome, he finds himself treated as an intruder, and by and by discovers that he has not advanced his reputation for sagacity or the general prospects of his suit.

The great object is to catch some person off his guard, to pass off upon him, as a simple fact, something barely possible, and which has no truth in it; to impose upon him, so as to induce him to go into positions of absurdity, in the eye of a laughing circle of bystanders.

Of course, for successful April fooling, it is necessary to have some considerable degree of coolness and face; as also some tact whereby to know in what direction the victim is most ready to be imposed upon by his own tendencies of belief. It may be remarked, that a large proportion of the business is effected before and about the time of breakfast, while as yet few have had occasion to remember what day of the year it is, and before a single victimization has warned people of their danger.

What compound is to simple addition, so is Scotch to English April fooling. In the northern part of the island, they are not content to make a neighbour believe some single piece of absurdity. There, the object being, we shall say, to befool simple lad:

Wag No. 1 sends him away with a letter to a friend two miles off, professedly asking for some useful information, or requesting a loan of some article, but in reality containing only the words:

This is the first day of April, 'Hunt the gowk another mile.'

Wag No. 2, catching up the idea of his correspondent, tells the lad with a grave face that it is not in his power, &c.; but if he will go with another note to such a person, he will get what is wanted.

Off the lads trudges with this second

note to Wag No. 3, who treats him in the same manner; and so on he goes, till some one of the series, taking pity on him, hints the trick that has been practised upon him.

A successful affair of this kind will keep rustic society in merriment for a week, during which the honest lad hardly can shew his face.

The Scotch employ the term *gowk* (which is properly a cuckoo) to express a fool in general, but more especially an April fool, and among them the practice above described is called hunting the *gowk*.

Sometimes the opportunity is taken by ultra-jocular persons to carry out some extensive hoax upon society.

For example, in March 1860, a vast multitude of people received through the post a card having the following inscription, with a seal marked by an inverted sixpence at one of the angles, thus having to superficial observation an official appearance:

'Tower of London.—Admit the Bearer and Friend to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions, on Sunday, April 1st, 1860. Admitted only at the White Gate. It is particularly requested that no gratuities be given to the Wardens or their Assistants.'

The trick is said to have been highly successful. Cabs were rattling about Tower Hill all that Sunday morning, vainly endeavouring to discover the White Gate.

It is the more remarkable that any such trick should have succeeded, when we reflect how identified the 1st of April has become with the idea of imposture and unreality. So much is this the case, that if one were about to be married, or to launch some new and speculative proposition or enterprise, one would hesitate to select April 1st for the purpose. On the other hand, if one had to issue a mock document of any kind with the desire of its being accepted in its proper character, he could not better insure the joke being seen than by dating it the 1st of April.

The literature of the last century, from the Spectator downwards, has many allusions to April fooling; no references to it in our earlier literature have as yet been pointed out. English antiquaries appear unable to trace the origin of the custom, or to say how long it has existed among us. In the Catho-

lic Church, there was the Feast of the Ass on Twelfth Day, and various mummings about Christmas; but April fooling stands apart from these dates.

There is but one plausible-looking suggestion from Mr. Pegge, to the effect that, the 25th of March being, in one respect, New Year's Day, the 1st of April was its octave, and the termination of its celebrations; but this idea is not very satisfactory.

There is much more importance in the fact, that the Hindus have, in their Huli, which terminates with the 31st of March, a precisely similar festival, during which the great aim is to send persons away with messages to ideal individuals, or individuals sure to be from home, and enjoy a laugh at their disappointment. To find the practice so widely prevalent over the earth, and with so near a coincidence of day, seems to indicate that it has had a very early origin amongst mankind.

The Humorous and political writer Jonathan Swift, in his Journal to Stella, enters under March 31, 1713, that 'he, Dr. Arbuthnot, and Lady Ma sham had been amusing themselves that evening by contriving 'a lie for tomorrow.'

A person named Noble had been hanged a few days before. The lie which these three laid their heads together to concoct, was, that Noble had come to life again in the hands of his friends, but was once more laid hold of by the sheriff, and now lay at the Black Swan in Holborn, in the custody of a messenger.

'We are all,' says Swift, 'to send to our friends, to know whether they have heard anything of it, and so we hope it will spread.' Next day, the learned Dean duly sent his servant to several houses to inquire among the footmen, not letting his own man into the secret. But nothing could be heard of the resuscitation of Mr.

Noble; whence he concluded that 'his colleagues did not contribute' as they ought to have done.

April fooling is a very noted practice in France, and we get traces of its prevalence there at an earlier period than is the case in England. For instance, it is related that Francis, Duke of Lorraine, and his wife, being in captivity at Nantes, effected their escape in consequence of the attempt being made on the 1st of April.

Disguised as peasants, the one bearing a hod on his shoulder, the other carrying a basket of rubbish at her back, they both at an early hour of the day passed through the gates of the city. A woman, having a knowledge of their persons, ran to the guard to give notice to the sentry. "April fool!" cried the soldier; and all the guard, to a man, shouted out, "April fool!" beginning with the sergeant in charge of the post.

The governor, to whom the story was told as a jest, conceived some suspicion, and ordered the fact to be proved; but it was too late, for in the meantime the duke and his wife were well on their way. The 1st of April saved them.'

It is told that a French lady having stolen a watch from a friend's house on the 1st of April, endeavoured, after detection, to pass off the affair as unpoisson d'Avril, an April joke. On denying that the watch was in her possession, a messenger was sent to her apartments, where it was found upon a chimney-piece. 'Yes,' said the adroit thief, 'I think I have made the messenger a fine poisson d'Avril!' Then the magistrate said she must be imprisoned till the 1st of April in the ensuing year, comme un poisson d'Avril.

To read other selections from Robert Chambers 1864 *The Book of Days* visit [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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## ECOLOGY

# Helping baby wildlife

Amanda Markle  
Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve

Spring has arrived, and new life is popping up everywhere you look. Flowers are blooming, leaves are emerging, and all around us, usually hidden away in quiet corners and safe spaces, baby wildlife is being born. When you see a newborn fawn walking beside its mother on spindly legs or find a nest of baby robins in your bushes, it's hard not to be drawn in emotionally by these vulnerable little creatures. What happens when a baby animal is hurt or abandoned? What should you do if you find a young animal alone this spring, and how can you tell if a wild animal truly needs human help?

It's important to realize that animals don't parent in the same ways we do. What looks like neglect or abandonment from a human perspective can be great parenting for an animal. Mother rabbits, for example, only visit and feed their young once or twice a day. This isn't lazy parenting on the part of the rabbit but rather a protective behavior. Every time the mother visits her well-hidden nest, she risks alerting predators to the location of her babies. While she would be able to quickly run away and escape a threat should one arise, her newborn kits cannot; by limiting her visits to her young, she is keeping them safe.

Unfortunately, baby animals are sometimes abandoned or injured and need help to survive. If you find an animal you think needs help, your first step should always be the same—call a wildlife rehabilitator. Rehabbers

go through years of training; they will be able to help you identify whether the animal needs human intervention, what level of intervention is necessary, and most importantly, will know how to keep both humans and animals safe throughout the process. Far too often, well-intentioned humans will try to help an injured or abandoned animal and end up being the reason why that animal needs to be euthanized or becomes non-releasable.

Wildlife rehabbers train for years to learn how to take care of injured or abandoned animals and have resources and networks of other rehabbers and animal care professionals at their disposal to help them. Perhaps most importantly, a wildlife rehabilitator will know how to keep their patients wild. When human intervention with wildlife is necessary, releasing that animal back into the wild should always be the goal.

Depending on the species and the specific scenario, a wildlife rehabilitator may need to take in a baby animal to keep it alive. In those situations, the best thing to do is keep the animal somewhere safe, quiet, and dark until the rehabilitator can collect them. In many cases, intake isn't necessary, and a rehabber may be able to advise you of some simple steps to take to help that animal.

Baby bunnies are the number one animal people find and want to help, but in most cases, they should be left alone in their nests. Even if you don't see the mother visit for days, if the bunnies are staying in their nest, it is almost certain that the mother is caring for them. Don't bother trying to

leave sticks or leaves over the nest to test and see if the mother has visited or not—mother rabbits can be incredibly stealthy and will often be able to visit and nurse her young without disturbing a thing. If you have a dog and are concerned that it might find the babies, the best thing you can do is either leash your dog until the babies are ready to leave the nest, or simply fence off the nest in some way— even an overturned cardboard box staked down can be enough (just make sure you leave an open flap for the mother rabbit).

Baby squirrels found alone also don't need human intervention in most cases— their parents will want to retrieve them. A wildlife rehabilitator may advise you to re-nest the baby— simply place the baby in an open box with a blanket, and a bottle of warm water in a sock. Leave the baby alone, or watch from a far distance, and more than likely the baby will be retrieved by a parent and returned to the nest.

Fawns are another springtime baby that often seems to need help but rarely do. Just like in rabbits, mother deer risk giving away the location of a vulnerable baby just by being close, so fawns are often hidden and left alone while the mother looks for food. Fawns will often stay still if a human approaches— that doesn't mean it's injured, it's just trying to hide. Even if a mother doe is killed, it's not uncommon for fawns to be adopted and cared for by other nearby does, so even if you see a fawn that is wandering around and crying, leaving it to find help on its own is often the best option.

Another commonly found baby this time of year is baby birds, and the same pattern holds— in most cases, your best bet is to leave them alone.



Wildlife rehabbers train for years to learn how to take care of injured or abandoned animals, and have resources and networks of other rehabbers and animal care professionals at their disposal to help them.

People often see fledglings hopping around their backyards and think they need help because they can't fly yet, but this is perfectly normal songbird behavior, and the parents are usually keeping a watchful eye on their young from nearby. With very young songbirds, a rehabilitator will sometimes advise that you re-nest them much like you would a baby squirrel, but it's best to wait until you are told to do so by a professional. With waterfowl and raptors, always call a wildlife rehabilitator right away; waterfowl need to be identified so they can be reunited with the correct parents, and raptors are too dangerous to be approached by anyone without proper training.

It's important to know what not to do when intervening with baby animals. Never feed a baby animal you find— often, a non-professional trying to feed baby wildlife will do more harm than good and can easily kill a fragile newborn. Never, ever, han-

dle wildlife bare-handed, or attempt to handle aggressive wildlife. A hurt or scared animal can easily injure a human. Even a small scratch or lick to a human can be a death sentence for wildlife, especially for rabies vector species, which must be euthanized to be tested. Finally, never try to keep and raise a baby animal you find in the wild.

Wild babies might be cute, but they belong in the wild. Sometimes the right thing to do for an injured, ill, or abandoned baby animal is to allow nature to take its course, but you don't need to make that decision on your own. Your best option is always to connect with a wildlife rehabilitation professional. These skilled individuals will help you assess the situation and make the best decision for both humans and wildlife.

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

## Thurmont



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For more info call: 301-600-7212 or 301-667-2700 Email: [thurmontgreenfest@gmail.com](mailto:thurmontgreenfest@gmail.com)

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# IN THE COUNTRY

## Creature court

**Tim Iverson**  
Naturalist

On the first day of April we humans have a rich history of playing practical jokes on one another in a light hearted jest of making each other appear a fool. As it turns out we humans need little help in this department when it comes to our understanding of the animal kingdom. We are a very gullible species. We often believe what we are told or initially observe without further investigation, and as a result have a very misinformed and skewed understanding of our surroundings. This is where science and some of our more skeptical brethren have done some heavy lifting to shine light on concepts we think we understand. You can be sure that as you're reading this there is probably some adult imparting hearsay wisdom to some child and the misinformation chain begins anew. Let's take some of these myths to creature court and see what the verdict is. Hopefully we can take a crack at some of the more predominate animal myths you may have encountered and set the record straight.

Think back to a point in your childhood where you were outside playing. There you were minding your own business getting grass stains in your jeans, knocking over ant hills, meticulously pulling petals off flowers to see if were in fact loved by that special someone then -BAM! A baby bird was lying on the ground, perhaps at the base of a tree, and then you reach, as the valiant hero you are, to return this helpless bird to its' rightful nest. Only just as you're about to cement your nine year old Nobel Peace Prize an adult steps in and tells you "Leave it alone! If you touch it the mother bird will abandon it." They, in due course, explain that it has something to do with smelling human scent on it. While it is good practice not to interfere with wildlife, the premise is unfounded. Most birds have an underdeveloped sense of smell (if any at all), so human scent has absolutely no bearing on a mother bird helping her young. Chances are this bird is learning to fly or the mother is only away temporarily. Housing, feeding, or caring for any baby wildlife will more than likely kill it or make it dependant on humans and never be able to care for itself. Picking up the baby bird could be detrimental to its long term ability in learning to fly, but won't stop a mother bird from caring for her child. Consider this myth busted as false.

In hindsight this next myth seems rather a sadistic experiment that many have probably tried or at the very least heard of. The accusation is that cutting an earthworm in half will create two worms. If you've been witness to a worm being severed you'll have astutely seen that both sections continue to wiggle. Some adult may have even happened along in this instance and said something encouraging like "You know eventually both ends will grow back and then you'll have two worms!" This

myth probably arose from a simple misunderstanding. Worms, like many other invertebrates, do have some regenerative ability. The ability to re-grow body parts differs enormously between them, although tails are generally easier to re-grow. So if you cut part of an earthworm's tail off, it might be able to regrow a stunted replacement. However, it is highly likely that the worm will lose the tail section permanently, or even perish. In reality it makes about as much sense as cutting a raccoon in half and expecting it to regenerate a head and hind section for the remaining halves. So the wiggling you see is really only a result of the final moments of agony the poor creature will endure until it suffers no more. Do our annelid (worm) friends a favor and leave them in one intact piece because verdict for this myth has been ruled false.

Next up on the docket is that touching a frog or toad will give you warts. A lot of frogs and toads have bumps on their skin that some people think are contagious. Some think that coming in contact with these bumps will cause you to have warts. The ruling on the bench is that this myth is false. Dermatologist Jerry Litt says, "Warts are caused by a human virus, not frogs or toads." These bumps, or parotid glands, contain a toxic poison that can cause irritation of the skin to predators and humans if touched. If a predator tries to make a snack out of these little critters they will often experience a foul unpleasant taste, may begin to foam at the mouth, or even die.

While it may not transmit warts to people, depending on the species it may just be best to leave well enough alone and not touch them.

Justice may be blind, but the next accusation is that bats are too. It's often said that when someone can't see they are "as blind as bat." This myth may have arisen because of the sonar used by bats to hunt prey. However, contrary to popular belief bats are not blind. Bats can see, and some rely solely on their vision to hunt and travel. Bats are broken down into two categories - mega (they eat fruit) and micro (they eat insects). "Mega" bats rely solely on vision, and while "micro" do have poorly developed eyes they can still see and will use sight for long distance navigation. Some bats can even see in ultraviolet light, which helps them hunt and navigate. The scales of justice have tipped in favor of not guilty for this myth because it is untrue.

The next defendant is hungry for justice, because Praying Mantises have had enough of scandalous rumors about their copulative behavior. The female Praying Mantis is known for devouring the head of the male after the act is complete. However, this is not necessarily always the case. After much research entomologist realized that this only occurs about a third of the time. Researchers still are unsure of the reasoning behind this behavior, but it is likely to provide nutrition for the newly expecting mother. Others think it's simply because the female gets confused and mistakes the male for prey. Either way, females will usually only perform sexual cannibalism when starving. This practice mostly occurs in captivity. Researchers usu-



ally don't see the same behavior in the wild, so there could be other underlying causes as well. Consider the Praying Mantis only acquitted from this myth.

Hopefully our little creature court has been able to clarify some common myths and justice has prevailed. With even a little more understanding our natural world can become an even more wonderful and miraculous place. Now that the weather is beginning to become more favor-

able I encourage everyone to get out into their public lands or even their very own yards and explore their surroundings and soak up some sun. These myths aren't the only things that can make us fools, so do a little sleuthing for yourself and see if you can witness some of our newly exonerated friends in action.

To read past articles by Tim Iverson visit the Authors Section of *Emmitsburg.net*.

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# REAL SCIENCE

## Oil production

Michael Rosenthal

We are all shocked by the price of fuel, which seems to rise every week. The cause is not as simple as it first appears to be. When I was growing up and started driving, gasoline prices were about 33 cents a gallon, three gallons for a dollar! There was a wide range of miles per gallon depending on the vehicle, regular fuel and more expensive premium fuel, and thus there was a significant difference in cost per mile between driving a Volkswagen and driving a Cadillac. A number of factors go into the higher pump price of gasoline. Some argue that President Biden's presidency is the cause, but prices had steeply risen before his election. Some believe, including President Biden, that the invasion of the Ukraine is a major cause of the price increases. Other blame the high 1.9 trillion cost of the coronavirus relief plan.

There is no doubt in my mind that the war in the Ukraine is a major factor in the large price increase of crude oil. Every \$10 increase in the price of crude oil adds about 24 cents to the cost of a gallon of gasoline. Previous inflationary high gasoline prices were reached in 1918, 1981, and 2008.

As is obvious from the gasoline stations, the oil business is run by private companies. I was surprised to see my local gas station mysteriously recently change from Exxon to Sunoco.

Sometimes government action affects the price of gasoline. In April 2020, the cost was about \$1.77 for a gallon of gas. By the time Biden became president, the price of a gallon of gas had risen to \$2.38 a gallon. Administrative actions do have an effect on the cost of oil and gasoline. President Biden's termination of the Keystone XL pipeline and his efforts to

cut greenhouse gas emissions significantly, specifically to 50% of the 2005 levels by 2030, has had a gasoline price impact.

There is no doubt in mind that we need to take action to minimize our negative impact of the environment through energy misuse. However, one cannot assume that such actions do not have wider consequences that should be considered.

Drilling on public lands is also an issue. President Biden issued an executive order that paused new oil and gas mining leased on government lands, but a federal judge blocked that order. Will oil prices fall by encouraging more drilling and allowing pipelines? It is not that simple. The oil market is complex. Russia and Saudi Arabia lead the United States in oil production, and of course our influence over them is minimal. The question is whether the United States will rise again to be the world's biggest oil producer, but investors are being cautious about such investments.

The increase in United States shale oil has helped reduce dependence on foreign oil, but the difference in the oil content in different regions is also a factor. Venezuelan crude oil has, for example, high sulfur content, resulting in sulfur dioxide gas upon combustion. The bottom line here is that the United States is not an isolated island in the world energy market.

We've written before about drug misuse, but antibiotic misuse is a particularly special problem. People frequently keep leftover antibiotics in their closet or medicine cabinet. Apparently it is not uncommon for people to take old pills out of the medicine cabinet, and use them in a new situation. Often self-prescription leads to use of a drug you do not need. Thus the risk of side effects, some of which can be dangerous, increases. One also can develop resistance to the drug that might be really



While fracking of shale oil has resulted in a significant increase in U.S. oil production, high production costs leave it vulnerable to wells being shutdown and exploration stopped when oil prices are low.

needed some time later. People also sometimes self-medicate with drugs that are left over from a previous illness or which belonged to a different family member. There's a lot of chemistry beyond the use of these drugs. Drugs prescribed for bacterial infections may be very specific and utilizing proper dosage level is also an important factor. Some antibiotics have serious side effects. Clindamycin raises the possibility of an infection by destroying good gut bacteria.

Other drugs are dangerous after their expiration time. One example is tetracycline which can cause kidney damage after it has expired, and they may react with over the counter drugs you are taking. It is thus important to have a physician's approval of the drug combination you are taking, especially when powerful prescription drugs are involved.

It is also not a good idea to buy drugs online or from untrained sellers, such as those at a flea market or from a friend at the beach. You should always buy from a registered pharmacist at an approved pharmaceutical facility to be safe as well as effective in use.

A phenomenon known as antibiotic resistance is also very important. More and more drug resistant strains of bacteria tend to develop.

So, to sum it up: Throw away old antibiotics and don't share them with others. If you haven't infection you suspect is bacterial, see your physician.

Don't take drugs if you don't need them. You don't need an antibiotic for a normal temperature head cold. Give low level ailments (like a runny nose) time to heal by itself (and buy Kleenex).

One may often think of science as an objective phenomenon, allowing clear cut decisions to be made rather than having conflicting points of view that are hard to justify against one another. Though science often cannot produce all the answers, it does a lot better than many other fields of study (like political science!). My undergraduate work was in a college of the liberal arts and sciences, where we studied everything from art and music to chemistry and physics. Though I enjoyed many non-science subjects, I was drawn to things explained on firm reproducible principles, such as The Laws of Thermodynamics! After chemistry, I loved history, and I was satisfied by the fact that historical human behavior often has had predictable and reproducible outcomes. It has been very satisfying to me that our son, Nicolas, is a highly successful college history professor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

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

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# THE VILLAGE IDIOT

## The path

Jack Deatherage Jr.

Wandering about the town's website I find these offerings on the E. Eugene Myers Community Park page: Inclusive Playground (built in 2019), a covered pavilion with picnic tables that may be reserved for functions, restrooms, ball fields, swimming complex, grills, tennis court, horse shoe pit, bike racks.

Not on the list, but mentioned on the page, are eight community garden plots located between the ball fields and the basketball/tennis courts. The plots are available to town residents for a refundable fee of \$20 each. Last year the DW grumbled because I leased plots 2, 4 and 3, 5. Yes, the towering sunflowers visible from the library's windows were my fault.

This year she's hoping we get those plots again so she can plant flowers enough to share with family and friends. I on the other hand hope some new people will get involved with planting them so I don't have to work as hard at keeping four plots watered and weeded. Okay, I don't actually do much of the weeding or watering, but it does pain me to see the DW work so diligently at keeping the plots looking nice. Hel-urr... heck, I have to stop the woman from weeding the other four plots!

Also missing from the town's park page is any mention of the walking path that encompasses the furthest ball field, a pond (perhaps two), much of a disc golf course, and passes through what I'm told is a state recognized wetland. (I have this puckish desire to find one of those lifelike plastic alligators and wade into the "swamp" on the backside of the path to leave the gator within sight of the walkers and wan-

derers. Strictly for the amusement of passing dogs, and as a temptation to lure kids into getting muddy. Thankfully, the DW won't let me spend money on something likely to get me in trouble.)

The DW and I used to walk about along Main Street and through the alleys with a neighbor until we got tired of trying to talk over the traffic noise on Main, and dodging cars and dogs in the alleys. I don't recall who suggested the walking path in the park, but we took to that as often as we could manage, until the neighbor moved across town and took on a full time job. The DW and I, having taken to hauling at least ten gallons of water to our four plots in the community garden that summer, pretty much skipped the walking path until mid October of last year. With the plots cleaned up we needed to keep moving so we'd not lose what little stamina we'd gained during the garden season.

I guess we'd walked the path for a coupla weeks before I came to a stunned halt and stared at a plant growing in a tangled mess just off the path between markers "0.2 Mi" and "0.3 Mi". *Persicaria perfoliata*, better known as "mile-a-minute".

*Persicaria perfoliata* is one of those plants that leaps out of a tangled garden once it's been wedged into the mind's eye. I've seen no other leaf shaped like it and rarely have I seen such a scraggly vine, or oddly colored and clustered berries. That I'd grumbled past it for two weeks without seeing it gives me an idea of just how pathetic my observation skills are. Anyhow, I emailed pictures of the nasty invader to town manager, Cathy Willets, who got the ball rolling by contacting experts in the control of invasive weeds.

The DW and I lumbered on. Well, I lumbered, and creaked, and popped,

and whined, grumbled, carped, bitc - urr... babbled in the most vulgar of terms up until COVID-19 finally smacked us down around turkey day. As we recovered from that unnecessary malady, which lingered for the DW through the entire month of December, we realized we'd never have the energy, or strength, to rebuild the garden at home if we didn't get back to walking so's to build some stamina and recoup our lost wind.

Gods, how I hate exercising. But having spent thousands of dollars readying the yard for 2022's growing season I had little choice but to return to limping my way along the park's paved path on a hit-or-miss schedule. Luckily, for the DW, "Emmitsburg Walking Group" was created as a spin off of Facebook's "Emmitsburg Cares" on February 21st of this year. I quickly joined the group so's the DW would have someone intelligent to chat with as she ambles around the park while I limp, lumber, grumble and occasionally gasp when the knee, hips and ankles pop more violently than normal, at my own pathetic pace.

As of this writing there are 44 group members, though I've yet to see more than ten people show up for the scheduled walks at 5 PM on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Most likely, the number of walkers will increase as the daylight hours lengthen, and the walking group start-time is reset to an hour more suitable for after-dinner strolls. As the group grows, the organizers hope to expand the walks onto



Jack ponders the existential nature of existence and the distance to the next bathroom.

the trails the town has on the nearby mountain. I'd need some sort of knee brace for those adventures. The walking paths in Carroll Valley (Fairfield Pa.) and Thurmont are also being considered for future ambles so's to keep the group from becoming bored with a routine. (I'd sooner plant native flowers and edible berries along the path to aid in distracting my fluttering attention, but that idea was kiboshed at a town meeting years ago when someone else proposed it. I've since forgotten the reasons behind the veto.)

Melissa McKenney, creator of the Facebook page - Emmitsburg Walking Group - recently shrugged on a backpack and completed approximately 52 laps (allowing for a few detours) - 26 miles, as part of a Bataan Memorial Death March. As the march took most of the day, the DW and I were able to walk with Melissa twice during her "march". We managed a total of 6 laps before retreating to home. (My ankles were swollen by the time I col-

lapsed in my chair. Talk about pathetic! It used to take a 10 mile tramp to leave me in that condition.)

There's rumor of a whisper that the community park path may someday hook up to the Scot Road farm and eventually connect to the trails that meander through the town's mountain property. I've been urged to give those mountain trails a try. "It's beautiful up there. You'll enjoy it."

Yep. I'm dreading the day the knee blows. I don't need to be frightening the wildlife on a mountainside when I crash to the ground, screaming like a bean sidhe - banshee for those not into Irish mythology. The walkers can take pictures and post them on Facebook. I'll enjoy the trails virtually, while sitting at the computer popping turmeric capsules and over-the-counter pain meds.

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

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Spring has arrived!

Mary Ann Ryan  
Adams County Master Gardener

Suddenly spring is here! Not sure how that happened, but everything has broken loose. It was just a few weeks ago and we had snow!

I believe that gardeners always try to get in front of spring. We try to prepare and plan so when the weather breaks, we aren't crazy with chores. But in my estimation, all the planning and preparedness can never take away the craziness we feel when things begin to change, and that's not a bad thing.

October is my favorite month, but April is a close second. Bulbs that were planted last fall are now showing their pretty colors, we begin to see birds we haven't seen all winter, the insects begin to buzz around, giving us action in our ever-changing gardens.

With the change of the season comes a new outdoor planting project. Last year we had a wedding out our place to prepare for. That required things to be cleaned up or thrown away, annuals to be planted for instant color, lots of container gardening to designate different areas in the yard, and mulching to manage weeds – lots of mulching.

This year's project is a meadow. The past 15 years, we had two goats. Both are now gone, and the pasture in which they grazed is now available to do something with, and a meadow it will be.

Although this project began last fall with a fence removed, plant lists made, and some targeted weed control using herbicides, this spring will bring a new facet to the project. Plans were made this winter and implementing those plans has already begun. We have started some seeds that will

give us a jump start on planting. These have been started under grow lights, indoors.

The supplies needed to start your own indoor growing environment include just a few things: plant flats, cells, or some type of container with drainage; lights, potting mix, a humidity dome and heat mat are helpful, something to catch the water as it drains through the containers, and a watering can.

When starting seeds, read the seed packet. It tells us when to sow seeds, whether indoors or outdoors, and how long it will take to germinate. After determining the timing of the germination of seeds, setting up the system is the hardest part.

The lights can be LED or fluorescent bulbs – I have used shop lights in the past, and now I have LED grow lights. Both work. The heat mats go under the trays. This provides warm soil for quicker soil germination. The length of lights I use are 4', long enough to put four trays under. Here are different lengths available, some shorter, some longer.

The soil used is dependent on the seeds you are growing as well as your watering frequency. I have used a seed starter mix, which is very light, for vegetable and annual seeds. In my experience, this seed mix does dry out much quicker than a courser mix, and the peat (which is the main ingredient in seed starter mixes) will repel water once it dries out, add-



Grown lights are a necessity for starting seeds indoors, and if you get a really, really early head start, will allow you to grow them all the way up to producing fruit like tomatoes.

ing a little extra attention needed on my part. However, for perennials and grasses, which I'm starting now, I use more of a "growers" mix. It's coarser, has 55% bark in it, and larger pieces of perlite for good drainage. This mix is the same mix I use for containers outdoors, as well as my indoor plants. I don't have to be quite as diligent with the watering, as it does seem to retain moisture better, for longer periods of time.

The humidity domes are not a necessity, but do keep in moisture, add humidity and hold in heat; all things needed for good seed germination. After the seeds have germinated, the domes can be taken off. I use seed mats to keep the soil temperature warm, and once

those plants are above the ground, I typically remove those mats.

After these plants get bulkier and rooted well into the growing mix, I will transplant them into larger pots, probably 4" or quart sized containers, and let them live in our cold frames for a few weeks, to acclimate to the outdoors. The cold frames allow me to cover if temperatures dip too low at night, or shade, if the sun gets too hot. Even though these plants are hardy, native perennials, all plants need some time to get used to the outdoor temperatures and sunlight.

At this point, we will need to prepare the field area for planting. Since we did do some preliminary weed control in the fall, we will spot treat with herbicide for the hard to control weeds or may cover with cardboard and mulch. Not all weeds must be gone from the meadow; just those can be invasive. Those weeds are plants like thistle, Japanese stilt grass, and things that will take over an area.

Remember I mentioned earlier that compaction is a problem. This will be addressed through core aeration. This is something that is often associated with turf grass. Aeration pulls plugs of soil to allow for air pockets, which will reduce compaction. For our meadow project, we want to reduce compaction so the roots of the plants we are planting will spread and get established in this area.

In addition to planting these plants we are starting indoors from seed; we will be direct sowing as well. There are seed mixes available for all types of meadows, so do some research. Know what kind of soil you have and what the sun exposure is. Many seed mixes will have both perennials and annuals, as the annuals will give immediate cover and flower the first year, while the perennials begin to get established. Look for mixes that have native plants. It will take three years for a meadow to get going when starting from seed.

We're hoping that the mix of plants and seeds will give us cover quicker, and the color won't be far behind.

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

The other thing necessary is water. When seeding, we will be sure to time it so that there is rain in the near future. This pasture isn't very close to a water source, we carried water to our goats twice a day, and I'm not really wanting to do that for these plants that we're putting in. So, the seeds will get some rain water. The newly planted plants will get water at installment; we'll carry buckets of water to the area, then, depending on the rain, maybe once or twice after that. In our gardens, any of our gardens, plants are on their own after initial planting.

Plant selection becomes very important when beginning a project like this. The plants must be tolerant of the soils, the sunlight, and the moisture that will or will not be provided. Management of invasive weeds also becomes an important part of maintaining a meadow. Even after established, invasive plants can quickly take over an area. That's why they are called invasive. Recognizing those plants and

removing them is good practice. Meadows do change over time. This is our second meadow we are establishing, and we've learned a few lessons from the first one. For us, switch grass, a beautiful native grass, has become a bit of a bully, so in this new meadow, we will not be planting any of this particular plant. Other grasses we are including in this area are: Indian grass, broom sedge and blue stem. Perennials include: liatris, showy goldenrod, penstemon, bergamot, obedient plant, and evening primrose, to name a few.

I'm very excited about this new project. My husband and I share this love of plants and enjoy bringing nature into our lives. Rebuilding habitats and ecosystems has kind of become our thing at our home. Although I love visiting places like Longwood Gardens and Ladew Gardens, our gardening style is far that. But that's just the way we like it.

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

## Small Town Gardener

### Five tips for new gardeners

Marianne Willburn

One of the good things that happened during 2020/2021 (yes, there were one or two), was that we have more new gardeners than ever before, filled with energy, excitement and green dreams that help them fall asleep at night. There's a lot of advice out there, and even more marketers greedily eyeing a wide-eyed market; but beyond the minutiae of soil samples and must-have seeds, hard experience compels me this month to offer five tips to ensure that new gardeners don't quit just as quickly as they started.

Green dreams can get real big, real quick. Here's a little reality/sanity check.

#### Keep it small

Whatever else I try to do in this column, my overriding goal is to encourage more life-long gardeners, and nothing makes a person feel more inadequate and exhausted than biting off more than they can chew.

The vast majority of those who leap before they look will not try it again once they land, crumpled and bruised at the end of a punishing summer; and from this heap will arise the worst kind of anti-gardening spokesperson – the ones that have 'tried it, and it didn't work.'

Strong words will be uttered... snarky memes created on social media...my name taken in vain... many, many times. Wouldn't it be better to skip all that, start smaller and achieve balance?

So, whatever that winter-addled brain of yours cooked up in the plans department, cut it in half. Depending on how much Pinterest and Instagram garden-project fodder you've been browsing lately, you may want to cut it in half again. Why neglect fourteen tomatoes in a garden bed all season when you can fawn over three in pots on your patio? Adjust your plan to reflect the life you live right now, not the total fantasy you're sure you'll live in six months' time.

You're aiming for a sweet spot where the work you put in leaves you feeling physically tired, but men-

tally alive. If you achieved that last year, great. Kick it up a notch this year. But just a notch.

#### Grow what you love

Hate tomatoes? Don't grow them. Does cossetting your hybrid tea roses set your world on fire? Grow more. Not sure if you want to board the Houseplant Train with everyone else? Don't.

Trends come and go in the plant industry just as surely as they do in fashion and kitchen appliance finishes, and if you base your entire garden on someone else's hashtag you're never really going to feel like it's yours. Enjoy the trends when they turn you on, but allow your garden to reflect the gardener that tends it. If that means growing cool hybrids in an Heirloom World, don't wait for permission, #justdoit.

#### Start with trusted plants

Growing things well takes skill or bombproof plants. If you're still cultivating skills, it's important that you work with plants that make you feel like a rock star, even when you're not. However, figuring out what's meh and what's marvelous takes a bit of research, and plant marketing companies don't always have your best interests in mind.

Thankfully, there are a couple non-profit organizations out there to help you with the sorting. First, your local state cooperative extension office is filled with Master Gardeners who will bend over backwards to give you practical advice on varieties for your county, not for the French potager you're drooling over on Instagram. Google 'find your local county extension office,' call the number or visit their website and be amazed by the incredible amount of hyper-local advice they're going to throw at you.

Second, did you know there's a Consumer Reports for gardeners? It's called All-America Selections, and was founded in 1932 with the sole purpose of promoting superior garden varieties of ornamentals and edibles tested by impartial judges nationwide. Well-known favorites like Gold Rush summer squash and Kentucky Blue pole beans are AAS Winners, and each year,

more wonderful varieties join the ranks. You can download the entire list on their website, or look for the AAS Winner emblem when you're buying your seeds. I grow some every year.

#### Right plant, right place

I am hardly the first to talk about this, and I will not be the last. Do not start your gardening journey by planting the wrong plants in the wrong place. Match sun lovers with sun – shade lovers with shade. If you've got dry, sandy soil, don't head down to the Big Box and buy them out of hydrangeas. By all means, generously amend your soil (particularly if you are in a new construction property), but don't spend your life trying to make a wet, boggy valley home to a collection of lavender.

Once you analyze your conditions carefully and start to plant for them, not against them, you will be amazed by how beautifully your plants respond.

#### Utilize Plan B

The hectic pace of modern life may cause us a lot of stress, but it also comes with a bonus for the DIYer: A back-up plan. Apocalyptic zombie scenarios aside, if our seedlings don't do well, we can get healthy plants from the store. If our healthy plants don't do well, we can buy a ripe tomato just down the street.

Our ancestors didn't have the option of a Plan B and thus, we rarely see happy photos of our ancestors. Use your Plan B if you have to. Rejoice in the option of a Plan B. It's not a cop out.

Marianne is the author of Big Dreams Small Garden, and Tropical Plants and How To Love Them. She writes from Lovettsville, VA. You can read more at [www.smalltowngardener.com](http://www.smalltowngardener.com) or follow The Small Town Gardener on Facebook

Marianne is the author of *Tropical Plants and How to Love Them* and *Big Dreams, Small Garden*. You can read and follow at [www.smalltowngardener.com](http://www.smalltowngardener.com).

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## PETS

# Wag more, bark less

Jennifer Vanderau  
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

On the way into work this morning, I saw the most adorable bumper sticker on a car. It said, “Wag more. Bark less.”

How appropriate is that?

First of all, it's an awesome sentiment in the general sense. I really think as human beings we should focus on being happy. I walk by so many people every day who look as though their face would literally crack if they smiled. You know what I mean? It breaks my heart a little.

I'm not trying to be naïve here. I know a lot of people carry around a lot of demons on their shoulders – some more heinous than others – and some days it's incredibly difficult to muster up a grin. If you have days like that and still manage to make it out of bed, you are amazing and a rock star and I am in awe of you. For real.

Believe me, I know what it's like when getting out of bed is a Herculean effort.

I've found one of the best ways to combat the demons is to not let them win. I know a lot of times that can be easier said than done. That nasty voice inside your head can be pretty convincing, can't it? And from an Eastern philosophy perspective, it's there for a reason. So, it's okay to listen to it – just don't get stuck there. Because there is another side.

I have had my fair share of days where it feels like the bad is winning and it can be overwhelming. It's those days when I try to practice being happy – and I literally mean practice, like you would a sport or a musical instrument.

Smile. Deliberately lift those

lips. There are meditations in Traditional Chinese Medicine that involve nothing more than smiling. The act alone will increase your qi, or your mood, if you will.

I think it's especially important to find something you truly enjoy and participate in it at least every day – whatever it may be. Reading. Writing. Sewing. Working in your yard. Fixing up a car. Creating a newsletter. Talking to a friend. Planting a tree. It's your life. You get to choose what makes you happy.

You know who has that kind of attitude already? Here's a hint: it takes us back to my original sentence.

Yep, you guessed it. Dogs.

Heck, even my cats seem pretty darn happy when they're running around the apartment like lunatics, although that may have more to do with the fact that they seem delighted in the fact that they own pretty much everything they touch – including me. Sigh. Cats. They're special creatures, aren't they?

Let's get back to the dogs. We've had dogs at the shelter that love to chase any kind of toy – balls, Frisbees, you name it. Watching them fly through the outside kennel time and time again after that round piece of plastic leaves very little doubt in your mind as to whether or not they are happy.

If people behaved more like a dog at play and truly embraced the happiness that life can bring, I think we'd all be a lot better off.

The second sentiment of the bumper sticker is equally important: bark less.

One of my favorite writings is a prose poem by Max Ehrmann created in the 1920s. It begins with the line, “Go placidly amidst the noise and haste, and remem-

ber what peace there may be in silence.”

How many times do we know true silence? Have you ever stood outside when the snow is falling at nighttime? That is an amazing time to listen to the silence.

Barking and talking and speaking sometimes aren't the best ways to handle situations. The old adage, “if you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all” comes to mind here.

How often do we “bark” about things that we really don't have to? Do we realize the actual power of our words and conversely, the real power of silence? Do we know how much energy useless “barking” takes up in a day?

It's amazing how far I can philosophize about a bumper sticker, isn't it?

But I really do think life has lessons for us everywhere and as long as we're alive and kicking, we should always be striving to learn.

So, you know what? Wag more. Wiggle those hips. Pretend you have a tail. Sure, your dog will look at you like you're a nut, but I bet by the end of the little exercise you're grinning to yourself and your four-legged friend. Do it to music. That's when it's really fun.

Additionally, bark less. Take some time for the quiet and the silence. Sit tonight with your cat or dog or rabbit and find some peace and serenity. See if it doesn't make you feel just a little bit better.

I wouldn't necessarily advise trying to read every bumper sticker you come across, especially these days, but sometimes, you can find a real gem that can help us all realize what life is really about.

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



George is a 7-month-old gray-and-white boy who came into the shelter as a stray. We don't know a lot about his past, but he just loves attention. He has a thing for catnip toys as well. Could you help George out of a cage and into a home?



Holly is a Calico girl who we think is about 7 years old. She came into the shelter as a stray and quickly became a shelter favorite because of her sweet personality. Holly's teeth were a bit of a mess when she first arrived, but after some dental work, she's doing much better. Holly is going to make someone a wonderful companion!



Pokey is a 3-year-old orange boy who came into the shelter as a stray. We noticed he wasn't feeling very well and we discovered he had a bad urinary tract infection with a partial blockage. The vet flushed his bladder and he was put on pain medication. Pokey is doing much better but he will need to be on special urinary food for the rest of his life. Can you show Pokey what second chances are all about?

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



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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



PETS

# Microchips: small technology, big impact

Bethany Davidson  
FCAC Humane Educator

It can happen in an instant. Despite all of an owner's efforts to keep their pets safe and sound, sometimes they still get lost. Curiosity gets the better of your cat and she wanders out that back door that your kids left open again. Or your beagle chases the bunny that's been taunting him for days straight through your invisible fence and out of sight. But there is a way for owners to be prepared for that distressing moment when a beloved pet goes missing before it even happens. That method is microchipping.

Microchips are small radio transmitters that are placed beneath an animal's skin between the shoulder blades. These chips, that are approximately the size of a piece of rice, contain unique identification numbers. When properly registered, veterinary offices, animal control centers and other animal welfare organizations can use universal chip readers to find an animal's number, which will then lead them to contact information for an owner.

Studies have shown that microchipped dogs are 2.5 times more likely to be returned to their owners than their unchipped counterparts and stray cats with microchips are 20 times more likely to make it back to their homes. The benefits of microchipping are seen regularly at Frederick County Animal Control as staff

reunite stray pets with their families, however, chips are not a replacement for other methods of pet identification. Microchips work best as a backup to proper identification tags and are only helpful if owner contact information is kept current.

Microchipping and chip registration is a part of every animal's adoption fee at Frederick County Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center. For owners who adopted their pets elsewhere, FCAC provides low cost microchipping clinics monthly. While these clinics are usually by appointment, the shelter is holding a special no appointment necessary clinic on Thursday, March 31 from 10am to 3:30pm at our Rosemont Avenue location. The fee for chip implantation and registration is \$20 (Cash Only). For additional information about FCAC's microchip clinics, call 301-600-1546.

### Rabbits & mice & guinea pigs, oh my!

As you know, Frederick County Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center has a variety of different animals available for adoption. Playful dogs and cuddly cats are usually what most folks are looking to integrate in to their family. While we do not have any lions, tigers or bears, we do have rabbits, mice and guinea pigs.

"Bristle" the white rabbit from Bunnybury first appears in the Emerald City of Oz. We have several white

rabbits, minus the magical powers. Our resident female rabbits include "Porygon," "Rainbow," "Katydid" and "Wintersweet". "Ditto" and "Thumper" are the shelter's male rabbits available for adoption. To prevent accidental population growth, all of our rabbits are neutered or spayed before leaving the shelter. Altered rabbits generally have much more reliable litterbox habits than intact rabbits and are generally calmer.

The field mice who live in the magical Land of Oz are unique. They talk and live on the outskirts between the Munchkin Country border and the Emerald City. Although our mice cannot talk, maybe you could develop a connection with some of them. We currently have four mice available for adoption. They are all entertaining and intelligent. Because of their social nature, no mouse should be kept alone if possible. Instead, adopt two or three same-sex mice of a similar age. Not only will they be happier, but you'll enjoy watching your mice play together.

The Hidden Valley of Oz had Pinny and Gig. Aficionados of classic television may remember Larry, Moe and Curly. Our three stooges, male guinea pigs, arrived in February. Despite the TV threesome's hijinx and shenanigans, our little boars get along with each other very well. No eye poking allowed. Guinea pigs can form relationships with the whole family and can easily become

the focus of the house. You will most likely keep these small animals in a

cage but you can take them out to play with them and cuddle.

Rabbits & mice & guinea pigs may not be as cool as a winged monkey, but they may be a good fit for you.

## Help us adopt Horizon

Sadly, 295+ days makes Horizon FCAC's longest resident. This torbie is sweet and sassy and a total lap cat. She loves hanging with humans but dislikes other cats and dogs so she is best suited as an only pet. For more information about Horizon, call us at 301-600-1546 or schedule a reservation to visit at [www.visitfcac.as.me](http://www.visitfcac.as.me).



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Thurmont 2022

April 23-30

# Restaurant WEEK

## Join us April 23-30 for Thurmont Restaurant Week!

Indulge yourself with homecooked goodness from our locally owned restaurants and enjoy their Thurmont Restaurant Week featured menus! Visit your favorite or try something new! Show your appetite by supporting them during Restaurant Week. Restaurant Week Cards with special menus available at Ace Cousins Hardware, Hobbs Lumber & Hardware, and The Thurmont Town Office. They are also available at The Thurmont Regional Library on the display inside the front door. [thurmontmainstreet.com](http://thurmontmainstreet.com)

Your 2022 Taste the Town Participating Restaurants:

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**Los Amigos Mexican Restaurant**  
**Mountain Gate Family Restaurant**  
**Rocky's Pizza & Italian Restaurant**  
**Roy Rogers**

**The Farmhouse Exchange**  
**Furnace Grill & Crab House**  
**Thurmont Kountry Kitchen**  
**Thurmont Bar & Grill**

## HEALTH

## Frederick Health's ear, nose &amp; throat services

Josh Faust  
Frederick Health

As Marylanders know, the spring season in the "Old Line State" can be deceiving; bright and sunny temperatures one day, freezing temperatures and snow the next. Such drastic changes in the environmental conditions can play havoc with one's allergies.

And as more and more Americans are taking to the outdoors for recreation, whether it's hiking in the Catoctins or spending time along the Potomac River, allergy related issues are on the rise. However, residents of Frederick County have professional and award-winning Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT) services locally available and from a trusted name in healthcare.

Frederick Health, the largest

healthcare provider in Frederick County, offers a wide range of ear, nose & throat services at its facility on Thomas Johnson Drive in the City of Frederick.

"We really treat a little bit of everything," said Dr. Jared Tompkins, an Ear, Nose & Throat physician with Frederick Health. "We see everything from ear problems to sinus problems and allergy problems, all the way to head and neck cancers and plastic surgeries."

The study and treatment of ear, nose, & throat conditions have come a long way in the medical field. Treatments for medical issues impacting the ear, nose, & throat are as old as medicine.

However, the medical field experienced a surge in both attention and in the number of practitioners following another

event that many Marylanders are familiar with: The American Civil War. From grievous injuries suffered during combat to large-scale hearing loss after prolonged exposure to gun and cannon fire, Americans were now suffering from ear, nose & throat issues at numbers never previously seen or documented. With hundreds of thousands of wounded soldiers now needing some form of unique care, specialized areas of medicine, including ENT treatments and surgeries, became more common and readily available. Since that time, ENT treatments have become a common part of an individual's healthcare journey.

While the medicinal practices and healthcare in general have greatly changed since those days, the scientific idea that the

ears, nose, & throat can and should be treated by a specialist remains. Often, patients may not know exactly what is troubling them and should seek guidance from their primary care provider. Frederick Health offers Primary Care at several locations in the county and will soon be opening another location in Emmitsburg on the campus of Mount St. Mary's University.

"We work closely with the Primary Care providers as they often have the closest relationship with patients. When they identify a condition that requires our attention, we are there to provide access to the care and expertise that the patient deserves," says Dr. Tompkins.

Another facet of the comprehensive ear, nose & throat care offered by Frederick Health is that

their expert specialists can treat patients of all ages.

"Our facilities at Frederick Health have the ability to treat patients of all ages who have experienced hearing loss, issues with swallowing, pressure in the ears, people with wax build ups, and a wide range of other issues. These conditions can be discussed with both your ENT and Primary care provider," continued Dr. Tompkins

While Dr. Tompkins and the other ENT specialists with Frederick Health treat a wide variety of medical conditions, at this time of the year their patients are heavily dominated by those suffering from allergy related symptoms.

An estimated 50 million people in this country suffer from seasonal allergy complications, roughly 1 in 7 Americans. Statistics available from the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) state that allergies and allergy complications are the 6th highest cause of chronic illness in the United States. With such a broad scope of conditions impacting a wide range of the population, the AAFA says that allergies cause roughly 30,000 visits to the nation's Emergency Departments each year and a staggering 27 million visits to doctor and specialist offices.

Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) report that roughly 30% of individuals suffering from allergies are considered to be chronic. However, that number is increasing every year. The CDC is also reporting that more and more people are suffering from common allergy conditions. Allergies can be triggered both indoors and outdoors with common items such as grass, pollen, dust, and pet dander leading the list.

"Allergies and ENT issues do not discriminate based upon age, race or gender," continued Dr. Tompkins.

While some can dismiss these issues as a mere annoyance, others require more substantial care and treatment. Regardless, says Dr. Tompkins, speaking to an expert about your ear, nose & throat concerns is the right course of action and Frederick Health is here to help.

"If you have allergies, the ENT is the right place for you. Some conditions can be treated rather easily with something like a rinse or cleaning and other issues may require additional consultation. Other, more serious issues may even require surgery," added Dr. Tompkins. "Whatever your symptoms may be, our office is here to provide you with care and hopefully some relief."

If you are experiencing an ear, nose, or throat medical issue, you should consult your Primary Care provider or please visit [www.frederickhealth.org/ENT](http://www.frederickhealth.org/ENT).

For more information, please visit [www.frederickhealth.org/pmdcrefferal](http://www.frederickhealth.org/pmdcrefferal).



Get the ENT care  
you need.

### Our team can help.

With allergy season right around the corner, Frederick Health offers a full range of Ear, Nose, & Throat screenings and treatment for both children and adults. We know that this time of the year can be hard on your sinuses, and our experts are here to help.

Learn more | [frederickhealth.org/ent](http://frederickhealth.org/ent)



Frederick  
Health



## Courts push primary back to end of July

Just when you thought this year's Primary couldn't get more complicated, on March 15, The Court of Appeals of Maryland issued an Order, In the Matter of 2022 Legislative Districting of the State, moving the 2022 primary election from June 28 to July 19. The Order also amends certain deadlines for the Primary Election Calendar, including the deadline for filing certificates of candidacy, to Friday, April 15.

The Court Order is a result of multiple filings before the Court of Appeals claiming: "that the Democratic controlled Maryland Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission proposed legislative redistricting plan violates Maryland's Constitution and Declaration of Rights because many of its legislative districts are the product of unlawful gerrymandering."

Under the Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission maps, District 4 which currently sends three Republican Delegates to Annapolis, will find itself divided. The northern communities of the County, comprised of Emmitsburg, Thurmont and Sabillasville, will be removed from District 4 and consolidated into the Washington County based District 2A.

In response, Governor Larry Hogan created the multi-partisan Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw up non-gerrymandered districts. Under Hogan's plan, all northern Frederick County would be made into a single Delegate District 3B, mirroring the County Council District 5, which includes Emmitsburg, Thurmont, Lewistown, Woodsboro and Walkersville, and if approved, will give voters the option of three strong Republican candidates to choose from.

The candidate most affected by the current proposed State Delegate boundaries, is of course, the candidate from northern Frederick County and now finds himself in District 2A. William Valentine of Emmitsburg has no idea what District he will eventually be placed. With three filed Republican candidates, (William Valentine – Emmitsburg, Bradley Belmont – Hagerstown and Incumbent: William Wivell – Smithsburg) the District 2A primary for two delegate seats will be contested and one to watch.

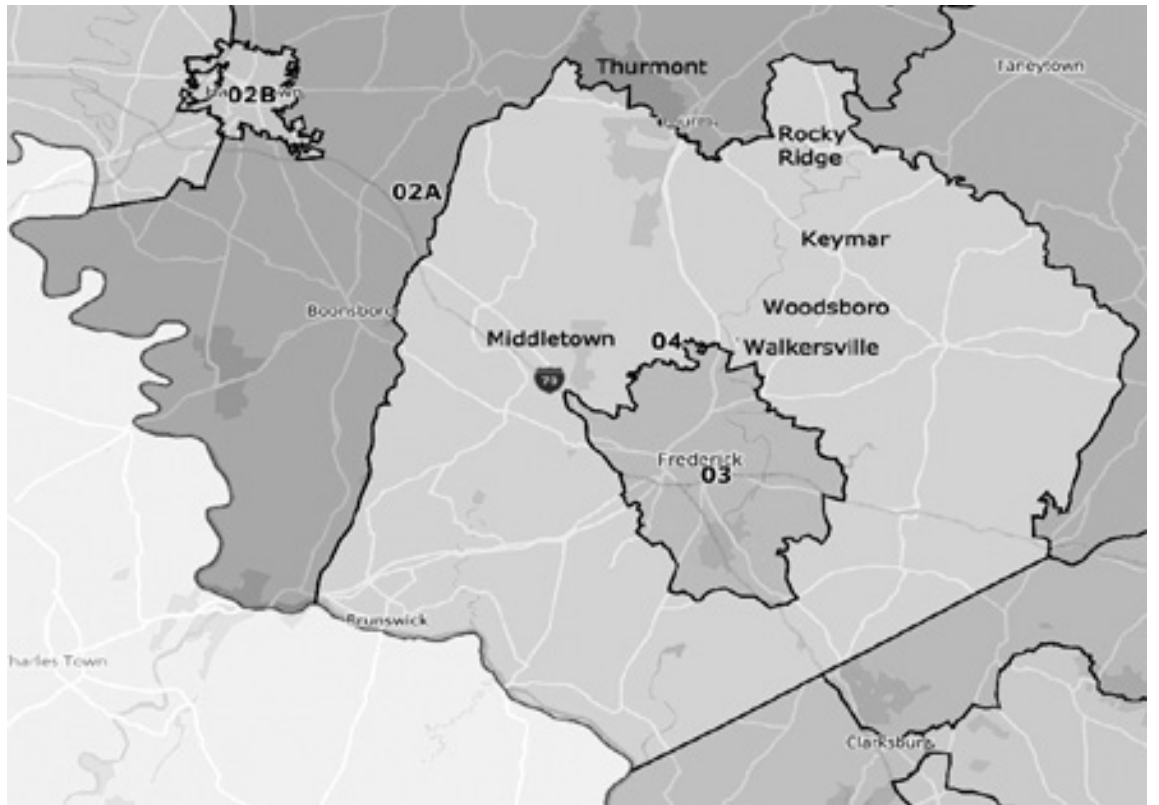
Colt Black of Sabillasville has withdrawn from the Delegate race altogether and instead has filed to run against Jamie Raskin in the highly Democratic Maryland 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

No matter the outcome of the Courts, Heath Barnes, Mayor of Woodsboro, will still be within District 4. If the court decides in favor of the Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission map, Heath Barnes, William Valentine and Incumbent Jesse Pippy will face off in the Republican primary for the one delegate seat allotted to northern Frederick County. If not, Barnes and Pippy will find themselves in a

new Democratic voter rich District 4, making either's path to Annapolis much more problematic.

While the State races are in chaos, Frederick County government races are beginning to take shape. In not an unexpected move, Michael Blue, who currently represents northern Frederick County in the County Council District 5, announced that he would be seeking a second term on the Council. Blue, owner/operator of Brownies Auto Service located in Walkersville, is the current County Council Vice President.

As we noted last month, there is little incentive for many to get out and vote come July. The only real 'horseshoe' this year is on the Democratic side of the County Executive race, between Daryl Boffman, Jessica Fitzwater and Kai Hagen. All the remaining candidates in the primary are running without opposition and will automatically advance to the November general election.



Map depicting the proposed boundaries of the delegate District 4 - comprised of southern Frederick County, and District 2A - comprised of northern Frederick and eastern Washington Counties.



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MOOR 0521957E

# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

*Editor's Note: Usually when we select the 100 years ago entries, we can whittle them down to just the gems – but this month we had some beauties, so many in fact, we could not fit them on two pages. So this month we decided to run them over three pages to give you a better idea of what we come up with every month and we'll leave it to the reader to decide what ones we should have left on the cutting room floor.*

## April 7

### Young Sparrow's First Flight

I was walking around my stables and stopped to watch a pair of sparrows enticing their offspring from a nest in a hole in the wall. One of the young ones, more venturesome than the others, fluttered off near a cock feeding in the yard with some hens. The cock at once ran up and seized it with his beak; the hens thinking this was something good to eat ran towards him. When they realized it was a baby bird, they attacked the cock, which in his haste to get away, released the baby sparrow, which immediately flew to a branch where he was joined by his relieved parents. His fellow nest mates, retreated back to the safety of the nest, unwilling to risk the journey.

### Drinks Hooch, Steals Machine

Moonshine was the cause of Joseph Van Brinkle, negro, age 15, of Emmitsburg, getting himself in the toils of the law.

Van Brinkle, who had nothing bet-

ter to do, accompany one of the Patterson Brothers' cattle drivers from Emmitsburg to Gettysburg earlier that morning where the cattle dealer man was to deliver some stock. Van Brinkle, it is understood had some real stock 'under the belt,' hence the reason for pulling off some small town stuff.

Arriving at the cattle yards in Gettysburg, Van Brinkle took a liking for a Ford touring car, the property of Mr. Brown of Fairfield, another cattle dealer. He was seen speeding away and the state police were immediately notified.

Van Brinkle drove out of Gettysburg on Chambersburg St. with the police on his trail. The fugitive was captured near the hospital and taken back to Emmitsburg to be examined by a physician to determine whether he had been drinking.

Van Brinkle was in a humorous mood when brought before the doctor, he answered all questions in a jovial manner. The doctor asked: "What have you been drinking?" To which Van Brinkle replied: "I don't know whether I have been drinking or not."

"You look rather suspicious," the doctor said. "I have been drinking a little moonshine," Van Brinkle committed with a broad smile.

"Why have you been drinking moonshine?" Was the next question. "Because I like it," he answered with a broad grin.

"Where did you get it?" He was asked. Van Brinkle thought for a while and then with a grin that extended from ear to ear replied. "I ain't gonna

tell you, because you might want some yourself."

The physician pronounced him under the influence of liquor, after which he was committed to jail to await hearing.

### Public Meeting Of All Good Women

There will be a public meeting in Harney, Thursday night, for the purpose of organizing a camp of the Patriotic Order of Obedient Women of America. The order is dedicated to ensuring that women keep their proper place in society - which is to be subservient to menfolk in all things. The Harney men would like all patriotic women over 16 years of age to be present. If wives do not come, men are requested to bring them there, including daughters, kicking and screaming if necessary, so that they may understand their proper role in society.

### Farmer Takes Own Life

Joseph Wagner was killed by a gunshot, in his barn near New Windsor, Monday morning. Wagner was a farmer who had been a tenant on the farm since April 1921. He had recently bought a farm in Frederick County to which he proposed moving to on Wednesday, having already taking his farming machinery to the new home. Shortly after 4 o'clock, Monday morning, he went to the barn. His wife heard the report of the gun. It had been placed with the mussel under his chin and the load tore his head to pieces.

Physicians were summoned, who along with the Justice of

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## Samuel Long Thurmont, Md.

the Peace, viewed the body. An inquest was deemed unnecessary, as it was evident that he had taken his own life. He leaves a widow and six children, the oldest about 13 years old and the youngest less than one year.

### 'Death Curve' To Be Eliminated

'Death Curve' as the wide curve on the Emmitsburg State Road north of Lewistown has come to be known, will be eliminated before the middle of the summer. A right-of-way over a strip of land belonging to A. C. Stup, has been obtained and the road at this point will be made 17 feet wider. A concrete shoulder will be laid at the edge of the highway with macadam built against the shoulders. Efforts are also being made to secure the right-of-way that will enable the curve north of 'Death Curve' to be widened. This will remove two of the worst curves remaining in the county.

## April 14

### Big Mountain Fire

On Monday occurred one of the largest mountain fires that has visited this section for a number of years. The fire started about 6 o'clock in the morning along the public road leading from Thurmont through the Harman Gap, near the bridge that crosses Hunting

Creek, about 4 miles from Thurmont.

The Forest Wardens, with a large number of men were soon on the job, but a strong wind from the southwest drove the flame rapidly through the dry leaves and undergrowth. The fire jumped the creek and spread so rapidly that the work of the men was a little avail. In a short time it had reached to the west to Blue Blazes. At this point, the fire reached a clearing that had been made through the mountains by the Hagerstown and Frederick Railroad. Here the men took up their work and kept the fire to the east of the road. By noon it had burned up the west side of Chimney Rock ridge and north several miles. The fire continued north almost to Deerfield and to the Western Maryland Railroad.

During the night the fire presented a spectacular appearance to the residents of Thurmont and the country for miles to the east and north. Several long and irregular lines of fire shone brightly on each of the two hills, while dotted here and there over the burned area shown hundreds of bright spots like large stars locating the position of burning stumps and trunks of trees. Occasionally the fire reached a pine and a flash of flames would run to the top and jump high into the air.

### Odors From The Fire

Hi Holler was cutting a path to his corn crib with an ax and the ax hit what must have been a chunk of per-



## Tony Little & Jane Moore

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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

simmon or gum smoke and glanced off, and if he had'nt a juked he would have seriously cut himself.

Uncle Zeb got into trouble when he smashed the headlights of Jim Simmen's Flivver. Uncle said he thought they was sparks. Jim's car got stuck in the thick smoke and he had to put on his chains.

When the fire company got orders to "be ready to leave on a minute's notice," each fireman pulled up a fire-plug to take along with them.

### Plane Wrecked

On Monday morning, an army airplane, which had just left Gettysburg, suffered engine trouble when it reached Bruceville. The pilots circled around and landed in R. A. Alexander's field alongside the state road. They misjudged the point selected and landed on an upgrate in soft ground. When the front of the machine went into the ground, one wheel broke, and it turned over, badly damaging the machine, but fortunately neither of the men were injured.

Two other machines from their home base arrived a couple hours after the accident looking for the first plane. On Tuesday, a plane arrived with a wheel for the downed plane, which was put on and the machine was brought to Keymar and loaded onto a railway car for shipment back to its base.

### Radiophone

Music from the air too many seems impossible but to Mr. Edwards Seltzer, of St. Anthony, this is not impos-

sible, for by the use of the radiophone, music, lectures, speeches, &c., can all be heard in one's home. Several days ago Mr. Seltzer erected his aerial. Upon its completion he demonstrated the wireless radiophone to several of his friends. Hardly had the receiving instrument been connected when his guest heard the broadcasting station 'KOKA' out of Pittsburgh issuing the program for the following day.

Next came Newark, New Jersey, where they heard the solo "The Old Town Hall," accompanied by an orchestra. The time was also secured from the Arlington station. Too many this may seem impossible, but to all who have so far heard the radiophone know what a wonder it is. By use of this instrument the owner will be able to secure something from the air at most any hour of the day. It has been announced from one of the broadcasting stations that all baseball scores this year will be sent by radiophone.

### Saloons Adopted To Dry Period

Men who drank good liquor now imbibe freely of a kind of corn liquor known as 'homebrew' and sigh for utopian days of old, but the buildings which were once used as saloons, to which they retreated to escape the henpecking of nagging womenfolk, are being adopted for other use.

In Emmitsburg, the saloon of M. J. Thompson, is now part of the Sledge Hotel. Michael Hoke's, is a restaurant. The saloons of Harry Horner and James Elder are simply vacant.

It is the belief of some that elicit distilling of "bootleg stuff" is being hunted by the Army airplanes out of Gettysburg. Our impression is that this plan would be a very slight help, and doubt whether it is very much use, if at all.

### Robberies At Pen-Mar

More robberies at Pen-Mar during the winter have been discovered and reported to property owners according to word received from that resort. The latest places reported to have been robbed were the Pan-Rock Hotel and the Mar-Rock Cottages. The thieves raided the buildings from top to bottom, taking with them many articles of value, including bedding, mattresses, china, silverware, linen and pieces of furniture.

The owners of the buildings learned of the depredations of the thieves when they entered the properties. Not only were articles of value carried or carded off, but the vandals seem to enjoy themselves by smashing up chinaware, bric-a-brac, pictures and scratching other articles over the floor.

### Shots At Dog, Hits Neighbor

Early last Monday morning, Gran-

ville Roop, of Keymar, went to his ice plant, to see after something and was shot by his neighbor, Ruben Morningstar, who lives on the opposite side of the road. Mr. Morningstar said he had shot at a dog and had no intention of hitting any person. The bullet struck under the right breast and made a slant across the body and lodged between the left lung and heart. He was taken at once to the Frederick hospital, where incision was made, but they did not get the bullet, and then decided to let good enough alone. At this writing he is getting along very well, thanks to the daily supply of 'hooch' Mr. Morningstar is providing in compensation for his poor shooting ability.

### Machine Skids

Four occupants of the machine of Grayson Bowers, narrowly escaped serious injury Tuesday afternoon when it skidded on the newly oiled road as it was rounding a curve near Thurmont, turned clear around twice, and crashed into a fence, breaking off one of the wheels. While everyone in the car was considerably shaking up, they escaped injury with the exception of

some slight bruises. However, the bottles of 'hooch' Bowers was transporting where all broken, much to the consternation of the men who can't help. It is claimed that the machine was barley crawling when it had the mishap, however bystanders did say it was weaving 'quite a bit', as the occupants were focused on passing bottles around.

## April 21

### Ice By Electric Process

Now that iceless refrigeration has been simplified to the point where it is suitable for the home, it is safe to predict that it will not be long before it will be within the reach of even those of very modest pocketbooks, and all need a bothering with the iceman, with his picks and tongues, will be gone.

The ice used on our tables has long been a product of electrified refrigerators, although the mechanism was not located in our homes. Hotels, restaurants, and passenger boats have used the electric process because it is efficient, sanitary, and convenient.

continued next page

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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

Electricity does not immediately and directly produce the freezing temperatures, but merely provides the motive power to condense certain chemicals, which are the actual refrigerant. In the process of condensation these chemicals absorb the heat from the surrounding air. The machinery by which condensation and subsequent vaporization is produced was formerly large and expensive, and it has taken continuous experimentation to reduce it to a point where it is practical for household use.

The process has been similar to the transition of locomotive power from the large and clumsy railroad steam engines to the smaller automobiles, with their comparatively simple mechanisms. The complex machinery had to be refined to a point where it could be produced cheaply and operate on a small scale. Electric refrigeration has now almost reached the 'Jitney class'. It will soon be considered essential in all of our kitchens.

### Winter Dying Hard

Winter has been loath to leave. Last Friday morning he began his tantalizing reappearance by touching the small pools with his coat. During the day he showered us with his crystal fleece, and three mornings thereafter he rallied and gave evidence of his wonderful vitality by coating the bright green of the new grass with his visible breath.

### Patriotic

From telephone pole to telephone pole, and on trees in front of the new Thurmont Hotel, Mr. Robert

White, proprietor of the hotel, has had placed wire on which is strung, at frequent intervals, red, white, and blue electric lights. The current was turned on Tuesday night for the first time and the illumination was good to see. This, along with other improvements, cannot but help attract attention to the hotel.

### Right Of Way Assured

The last obstacle standing in the way of construction of a modern highway, leading from the Emmitsburg State Road at Saint Anthony's, and running to Motter Station, on the Emmitsburg Railway, has been removed. Daniel Callahan, through whose land the road will run, and who had heretofore refused to permit the road to be built across his land, has announced that he has come to an understanding with the State Roads Commission and will yield a right-of-way across one of his fields.

The highway, which is between three and four miles in length, runs for about 1,000 feet through Mr. Callahan's property. It is to be of concrete. The work of laying the concrete commenced last summer, stopped during the winter and resumed this spring. It was the intention to build the road at both ends, leaving a gap in that point through Callahan's property until the right-of-way could be obtained.

### Keep Your Eyes To The Front

Saturday evening on Church St., just a few yards north of the square, two automobiles met in a head-on collision. The machine coming down the hill was crowded as close as it could get to the machines parked on the

west side of the street. The driver the machine, when he found you could get off the street no further, tried to stop, but too late – the northbound auto hit him head on. Damages: one windshield, a pair of bumpers, two sets of headlights, four broken bottles of 'hooch', and other minor damage to both machines.

### Fruit Prospects Good

The fruit is believed to be safe, though a few days this week were critical ones. Peaches are in full bloom, while apple buds are beginning to show up strong. Apricots and plums, and some varieties of pears and cherries, have passed the blossoming stage. There is hardly any danger imminent to apples, but a hard front could still injure most other fruits. Reports from all over the area are encouraging.

## April 28

### Fruit Killed By Frosts

The unusual, and very heavy frost of Friday night, falling on wet buds, played havoc with the fruit crops. Lighter frosts, and below freezing temperatures on Saturday and Sunday night, did not help the situation. The extent of the damage varies according to localities, and according to previous rainfall. In other words, where the buds were dry, the damage was lightest. Most of the cherries, plums, apricots and strawberries, where killed. Peaches may be on a 50-50 basis, while apples, pears and grapes were not so fully destroyed. In total, three quarters of this year's fruit crop was destroyed.

### Fatal Accident In Taneytown

While engaged in painting the 100-foot smokestack at Taneytown's Creamery Plant Friday morning, Milton Michaels fell to the roof of the boiler house from the top and was crushed to death. His assistant had just help to pull him to the top of the stack and then turned

away to engage in scraping. Almost immediately he heard a clicking noise and saw Michael is falling. The hook-fastening appliance was found broken in one of its parts, which evidently caused the whole appliance to give way.

Mr. Michael's is well known in the area. He was about 50 years of age and leaves a wife and several children. No inquest was held, as the fatality was clearly an accident.

### Fell Out Of Automobile

While Dave Little was motoring to Emmitsburg last Sunday evening, he, in some unexplained way, fell out of his machine about a half mile from Emmitsburg, where he was found and taken to the hospital. He suffered a fractured collarbone and scrapes. Mr. Little is unable to explain the cause of his mishap, but those who have sampled the bottles of 'hooch' that Mr. Little had in his car swear that it's the most powerful they have ever sampled and believe that to be the cause of Mr. Little falling from his car. Proceeds from the quick sale of the 'hooch' covered Mr. Little's hospital bills and car repairs.

### No Writing Within Parcels

Caution is given by Post Office authorities to persons who mail parcels and include in them writing matter. This is a clear violation of the law and subjects the author to a fine of \$100. Packages sent by Parcel Post and containing other writings except the name and address of the sender and addressee, is considered by the government as First Class mail, and if any violations are discovered, either the shipper or recipient must pay the additional charge, classified at First Class rates. For example a package sent from Taneytown to Woodsboro was recently found to be a First Class mail. At Partial Post it cost \$.34 to be forwarded to the addressee, but when the discovery was found it caused the addressee nine dollars to receive the package.

### Election In Emmitsburg

Emmitsburg is on its toes over the approaching corporate election next Monday. There is added interest in the election this year because it will be the first in which the newly enfranchised women will participate. 42 of the 50 new voters registered last week were women. This was much larger than anticipated, and increases the enrollment on the books to 198. It is considered a sign that the new voters are interested in affairs connected with the old hometown.

Already there are signs of friction. The Democratic men of Emmitsburg are complaining that their women were not telling them who they were going to vote for, while Republican men say their wives will do as they are told, leading the Democratic men to worry that their wives will vote for the wrong man just to spite them, and in doing so, put them out of power. The issue has been much discussed at the evening meetings of the Former-Former Boozers Association, but little resolution to the issue has been made other than recognition that the longer women have the right to vote, the more men will need to resort to 'hooch' to keep sane.

### Motorcyclist Drunk, Is Fine \$100

Robert Lacey, a Corporal in the United States Army, was arrested near Emmitsburg, charge with operating a motorcycle while under the influence of liquor. Lacey, it is charge, was driving his motorcycle from one side of the road to the other.

He was taken before Justice of the Peace, of Thurmont, who find him \$100 and costs. Lacey was an able to pay his fine, whereupon the magistrate sent him to jail for 100 days. Before being locked up, he telephoned his commanding officer and it is understood a check for the amount of the fine will be forwarded by the army to the local authorities.

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



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## TANEYTOWN HISTORY

## Lieutenant John Buffington

David Bule

Last month's article examined the political climate and circumstances leading to the presentation of the Medal of Honor to Sergeant Major Sterling Galt. This month will explore the controversial events leading to the presentation of the medal to Lieutenant John Buffington (1839-1915).

In October 1864, Thomas Savage, the Vice Consul to Cuba, sent \$350 to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. Savage collected this money from several American citizens living in Havana who wanted it donated to the "noncommissioned officer or private, who may be first to enter Richmond, should that City be taken by assault, and in the event of his being killed, to his legal heirs."

Stanton deposited the money inside the City Bank of New York. He then sent a written communication to Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. As commander of the Union forces near Richmond, Grant had the authority to determine who should receive the prize money. As the months passed, more patriotic northerners heard about the "First-to-Enter-Rich" prize fund and contributed to it. By April 1865, the prize fund had grown to \$460.

April 1 and 2, were crucial days in the Army of the Potomac's advance. A Union army force under Maj. Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren attacked the far-right flank of Gen. Robert E. Lee's line at Five Forks crossroads in Virginia on April 1. As a result, the 5th Corps troops struck a section of an embankment occupied by Maj. Gen. George Pickett

although all of 5th Corps participated in this assault, Col. Richard N. Bowerman's Maryland Brigade, bearing 875 enlisted men, had the good fortune of being the first to overrun Pickett's entrenchments.

Ultimately, the Marylanders routed Brig. Gen. Matthew Ransom's brigade, with only ten dead, 57 wounded, and 11 missing. In addition, the Marylanders captured two battle flags and dozens of prisoners during the engagement. Among those receiving recognition was Corporal Jacob R. Tucker of Company G, 4th Maryland Volunteer Infantry. Several brigade members claimed he had been the first to cross the enemy parapet. Tucker was not a native of Maryland, having been born in Chester County, Pennsylvania. However, he enlisted in Baltimore in 1862, mustering into the Army on August 13. Despite his young age, Tucker had survived a wound during the Battle of Spindle Farm, Virginia. Interestingly, Tucker turned 20 years old on April 1, 1865.

A second Marylander distinguished himself the following day. The 6th Corps of Maj. Gen. Horatio G. Wright struck Lt. Gen. A. P. Hill's Confederate corps southwest of Petersburg at dawn on April 2. 14,000 federal troops overran these Confederate earthworks, breaking open a gaping chasm in the Confederate line. The 6th Maryland, led by Col. Joseph C. Hill, occupied a portion of the front line. Even though there was a later debate over which Division made first contact, most officers in the 3rd Division, 6th Corps, believed Hill's regiment crossed the enemy earthworks first. Following the battle,

Colonel Hill identified twenty-two officers and men from his regiment who distinguished themselves by being at the front of the charge. Hill identified Sergeant John Ezra Buffington of Company C, 6th Maryland Volunteer Infantry, as a member of this contingent. Buffington was a farmer from Taneytown, born July 12, 1839. Like Tucker, Buffington enlisted in Baltimore during the summer of 1862.

Lee's Army began a desperate evacuation of Petersburg and Richmond once the lines outside Petersburg had been taken. As a result, Lee's Army was trapped at Appomattox Court House, and Jefferson Davis was captured by Union soldiers near Irwinville, Georgia, one month later. These attacks sounded the death knell for the Confederacy on April 1 and 2.

Following the surrender of the other major Confederate armies, Grant identified which of his soldiers was to receive \$460 in prize money. Given Richmond not falling directly from the attack, he awarded the money to several soldiers who led the way during the April 1 and 2 assaults. In the end, he divided the money three ways. The 5th Corps soldier who was first to atop the earthworks at Five Forks would receive one-third of the fund. One-third would go to the soldier from the 6th Corps, who was the first to cross the earthworks southwest of Petersburg. And the final third would go to the 24th Corps soldier, who was the first to scale the forts at the far end of the Petersburg line. Grant ignored the 9th Corps for some unexplained reason, which made a bold assault south of Petersburg. Why he missed this Corps is still a mystery.



As a result, the three corps commanders - Maj. Gen. Charles Griffin (5th Corps), Maj. Gen. Horatio Wright (6th Corps), and Maj. Gen. John Gibbon (24th Corps)—began making inquiries. Eventually, they identified three soldiers. Gibbon selected Sergeant Thomas McGraw, Company B, 23rd Illinois; Griffin (who had recently replaced Warren) chose Corporal Tucker of the 4th Maryland. In nearly identical letters, both soldiers received their share of the prize money, which amounted to \$153.33.

As opposed to the other two Corps, the identification process for the 6th Corps was murky. Due to the rapid strike by Union forces on the Confederate line, the officers of the 6th Corps were unable to identify which regiment was the first to penetrate the enemy line. However, Maj. Gen. Warren Keifer firmly believed his brigade had achieved the feat first. Keifer interviewed his officers, and on May 19, he decided to award the prize money to Sergeant Buffington. In a letter to his divisional commander, Maj. Gen. Truman Seymour, Keifer concluded: "I ... am fully satisfied that Sergeant John E. Buffington, Co C 6th Maryland Volunteers was the first man to pass over the works ... The men admit that the Sergeant did not halt upon the works but sprang within them."

Although Keifer's report was circulated up the chain of command, it did not influence the final decision.

Due to some unknown reason, Maj. Gen. Horatio Wright selected another soldier, Sergeant David Young of the 139th Pennsylvania. Grant's letter to Young appeared in the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion. Like Tucker's letter, it read:

"There are still some differences of opinion regarding which soldier Buffington or Young deserved the prize money. Years later, Buffington applied to the War Department for a Medal of Honor based on his combat performance on April 2, 1865. In 1908, the War Department issued the medal. On March 28, 1908, at Reindollar's Opera House in Taneytown, a delegation from the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) made the official presentation to Buffington, who was then 68 years old. A large gathering came out to witness the ceremony. The President of the G.A.R., John Rigdon King, delivered the dedicatory remarks. King was a self-selecting choice. After all, he had been present during the April 2, 1865, assault. In addition, he had served as the first lieutenant of Buffington's company. As he closed his speech, King referred to the \$460 prize money, claiming, incorrectly, that Buffington had been awarded the money.

On November 22, 1924, 14 years after receiving his medal, Buffington died. He is buried at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Taneytown.

To read past editions of Taneytown history, visit the History section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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# COOKING

## Herbal blooms in spring

Sonya Verlaque  
FCC's Culinary School

It's such a relief walking in the sunshine after an icy winter and noticing all of the new signs of spring. Birds have returned to the area, and this month's article is being written under a newly blooming dogwood tree. The first delicate culinary parts of spring are the new fresh herbs that will appear in gardens, stores and the reopening of our farmer's markets. Although it served us well over the dark winter months, let's close our spice cabinet and enjoy the first herbs of spring.

Mint is one of the first herbs to bloom in spring and is packed with antioxidants and phytonutrients. It is an extremely hardy plant, and is a "cut and come again" plant, and will grow after harvesting. This also means when growing to be sure to contain it, or you may have a mint field.

### Mint Simple Syrup

#### Ingredients

1 cup sugar  
1 cup water  
1 cup packed mint leaves

**Instructions:** In a heavy bottomed pot, add water, sugar and mint leaves and heat to a boil, turn down heat to simmer and let simmer for 10 min. Strain and cool

into a glass container, and store in the refrigerator for up to 3 days.

### Citrus Front Step Sip

#### Ingredients

1 cup squeezed grapefruit juice (about one grapefruit)  
2 tbs of mint simple syrup  
Ice  
seltzer or club soda

**Instructions:** fill a glass with ice and add the grapefruit juice and mint syrup and stir (doing it in a shaker is even better). Top with seltzer and go outside and sit on the porch at sunset and sip.

### Mint Sweet Tea

#### Ingredients

8 cups water, divided  
6 bags of black tea  
1.5 oz mint simple syrup

**Instructions:** boil 4 cups of water in a saucepan, remove from heat and steep tea bags for 6 minutes (or how strong you prefer your tea). Remove tea bags and add in the simple syrup and stir. Transfer to a 2 quart pitcher and add in your additional 4 cups of cold water and refrigerate, because this is made with simple syrup, you can add more without it becoming grainy or sugar settling on the bottom of the pitcher. Serve in a tall glass with ice and a sprig of mint, or slice of lemon.

Beautiful smelling basil is also easy to grow in a pot on your counter, or out

in your garden. The deep green color is a perfect garnish, but also imparts a freshness that will elevate your tastebuds. Layer it with mozzarella and sliced tomatoes with a store bough balsamic glaze for a super fast Caprese salad for lunch or mix it with winter vegetables or frozen vegetables in this Pasta Primavera.

### Pasta Primavera

#### Ingredients

16 oz penne pasta  
1 tbs olive oil  
Vegetables: 8 oz asparagus 1 1/2-inch pieces), 1 yellow bell pepper (1 1/2-inch pieces), 2 cups small broccoli florets, 1 small zucchini (chopped), 1 cup frozen peas  
Salt and black pepper to taste  
2 tbs unsalted butter  
1 shallot (or small onion), minced  
4 garlic cloves, minced  
Zest of 1 lemon  
1 cup vegetable broth  
1/2 cup heavy cream  
2 tbs lemon juice  
1/2 cup shredded Parmesan cheese  
1 1/2 cups halved grape tomatoes  
1/4 cup chopped basil

**Instructions:** Chop up everything beforehand and then cook. Or get someone to chop for you, which is even better. Also, don't worry about the cream, it doesn't make the final dish dense or heavy.

Make your pasta as directed and drain and place back in the pot. Meanwhile, in a large skillet, heat the olive oil over medium high heat. Add in asparagus, peppers and broccoli and sauté for 2 to 3 minutes and stir occasionally. Add in the zucchini and cook for 1 to 2 minutes, until vegetables are tender but still are still crisp. Add in the peas and warm through. Now, place all your cooked vegetables in the pot with the pasta. Place the skillet back on the



Sonya's sous chefs chopping vegetables for the pasta Primavera

stove. Melt the butter over medium heat. Add the onion or shallots to the oil and sauté until softened, then add the garlic and sauté for one minute. Stir in the lemon zest and vegetable broth. Simmer until the broth reduces by half, about 4 to 5 minutes. Stir in the heavy cream and warm through. And then add 2 tbs of lemon juice. Pour the lemon cream sauce over the pasta and vegetables and stir until well combined. Stir in the Parmesan cheese and remaining tablespoon of fresh lemon juice. Gently add in the tomatoes and basil. Season with salt and black pepper, to taste.

With the rainbow of vegetables, this dish looks really beautiful in a large white bowl with additional basil and parmesan to garnish. This serves a large group and you can add diced cooked chicken or shredded rotisserie chicken if desired for additional protein.

Dill is another very hardy herb that could take over growing space but is so delicious when fresh, and easy for kids to harvest with scissors. Fish a perfect dish

to highlight your dill growth in early spring, and get in some extra omega-3s.

### Super Simple Baked Salmon

#### Ingredients

1 lb wild caught salmon, cut to 4 portions  
Salt and Pepper, to taste  
4 tbs unsalted butter  
4 cloves garlic, minced  
1 lemon: zest and juice (about a tablespoon of juice)  
2 tps fresh dill, plus more for garnish  
1 lemon thinly sliced

**Instructions:** remove salmon from refrigerator and preheat oven. On a sheet pan, put down parchment or foil (for easy clean up) and spray with cooking spray. Place your salmon skin side down, season with salt and pepper. In a small bowl, melt the butter, stir in garlic, lemon zest and juice and your fresh dill. Let the butter mixture cool a little and the flavors mix. Then pour over your salmon filet. Place your sliced lemon on top of the salmon and bake uncovered for 12-15 minutes. The fish should be opaque and flake easily and register 145F on a thermometer probe.

While your salmon is cooking, make your side dish. Steam some rice or sauté some asparagus in a pan, warm up your left over pasta primavera from the night before. Put your salmon on a plate with your side, and pick up your fork, then walk outside and count the evening birds while you eat this beautiful meal you made in under 30 minutes.

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



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# MOMS' TIME OUT

## Memories make it all worthwhile

Mary Angel

Another month gone by and here we are again. I am in a funk. Today my second brand new computer started acting up at work, my daughter woke up with a rash from head to toe, and my amazing aunt passed away. I just can't shake the feeling of being overwhelmed and just plain exhausted, followed by guilt over my self-pity. Normally I would say "I made the mistake of jumping on social media", but this time it worked out the way I think social media should work.

Usually I would be spouting off about all the negative aspects of social media and how it is causing anxiety and stress, and rotting our children's brains (and ours), but this time I went on for the specific purpose of posting pics of my amazing aunt. She had an amazing husband, two wonderful adult children, and 3 loving grandchildren. I wanted everyone who knew her to have pics to remember her by. I still remember all the times I spent at her house, from the long walks, to the swarm of bees in the barn, and the games in the spring house. As I was on the app I noticed pictures of other people I haven't seen in a while and then I noticed a link that said "see more memories", so I clicked on it because that was the whole reason I was on there.

What I found was just the medicine I needed. There were pics and comments I had posted from 3 years, 5 years, and as much as 12 years ago. The pictures of my babies, as they grew up, were smiles I could keep with me all day. I pulled out the screenshots every time the mood struck me and I loved it! There were pictures from 12 years ago at the Father Daughter Dance at our old church that couldn't have been any cuter if they tried. The one where my husband and the girls were trying to make funny faces was both sweet and hysterical at the same time.

Many of you know our family loves our staycations and pictures of past staycations are no different. It makes me smile (sometimes in amazement) at how many different places we have gone over the years. The four kids wrestling from 8 years ago may always be one of my favorites. I can still hear the girls come in the living room and point at my oldest and say, "Get on the ground!" He would immediately get on the floor and let them win for a little while and then break free. The girls thought they were hot stuff when they were beating their big brother at wrestling. The first day of school picks can both make me smile and cry at the exact same time.

The comments I posted were, in some cases, even more entertaining than the pictures. The pics made me think of simpler times and the comments made me laugh out loud. They say the best medicine is laughter, and I have to believe that is true. Apparently, when the girls were 6 and 9 the youngest said to the oldest, "Is that the lady you can't stand, but have never met in your life?" What does that even mean? When my second

son was 12 he encouraged me with these words, "I guess you are glad you have to clean up dinner. Now when you go back and un-pause your show you can skip the commercials." I never felt so lucky in all my life.

Funny and sad at the same time was when the youngest got excited to ask Santa for a special gift for Christmas. I guess she had outgrown the Spiderman bike that had been handed down through all the kids and she just wanted Santa to bring her "a new bike, one that she wouldn't bang her knees on the handlebars when she peddled". Another Christmas favorite was when we were at the mall 2 days before Christmas to have our picture taken with Santa and my then 7 year old daughter asked why there were so many men shopping that day. Things that make you go hmmm? Two years later my 12 year-old daughter said, "I hope I get something I really want for Christmas." Which, her 9 year-old sister quickly replied, "Like a new-

born baby?" So I guess Christmas quotes can be both funny and scary at the same time. My last quote and maybe the most bizarre was when my then 8 year-old caught half a conversation. In the middle of a conversation my husband said something about us needing a limo (I think he was talking about taking the kids and each of them bringing a friend somewhere). The 8 year-old interrupts to say, "Wait, I can get you an elephant, I know a guy!" Really, she knows a guy with an elephant?

Often times we post our favorite or best pictures or comments from an event or time. Always remember, our experiences whether good or bad, funny or sad, silly or serious are the fabric of our lives. They are the moments in time that are woven together to make up the story of our lives and they keep us connected to our loved ones. The pictures of my youngest, stuck in a cow patty, or crying herself to sleep at a fireworks display, or laughing herself



silly while throwing minnows back in the water with her Poppop, are all pieces of the puzzle that made her who she is today.

Embrace those pieces. Whether you are remembering a loved one you are missing, or reminiscing about your babies who are hardly babies anymore, or just want to revisit a huge belly laugh, these are what social media should be used for. It shouldn't

be to find your self-worth or see how many likes or followers you can get, but to slow down and smile and remember! Your memories are what have made you the amazing mom you are and you don't even need one social media "like" to make that true!

To read past editions of *Moms' Time Out*, visit the *Authors* section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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# SCHOOL & LIBRARY NEWS

## Frederick County Public Schools

**Brad Young**  
Frederick County School Board

The Board of Education for Frederick County has been proceeding with our consultant HYA, Hazzard, Young & Attea in the process of hiring a new Superintendent. The search firm recently interviewed many stakeholder groups including the Board to build a Leadership profile for our potential applicants.

That profile was approved by the Board at our March 23rd meeting. An online survey was conducted with about 1,500 responses received from the community and staff. The Board will hold its first round of interviews April 7th through 9th and the second round April 12th through 14th. It is the hope that if a selection is made and a contract is signed that the Board will announce the new Superintendent around April 15th. The next Superintendent

will begin the position on July 1. I am very happy to report that the mask requirement was lifted for students and staff both in schools and on buses. We still recognize that many students and staff still wish to wear a mask and that is not only encouraged but supported. We will make sure that whether you choose to wear a mask or not, you are respected for your decision.

Seven Frederick County Public Schools support employees have been recognized in the 2022 Support Employees of the Year Award program.

The exemplary employees are:

- School-based Custodian of the Year - Joseph Rhodes, Tuscarora Elementary
- Central Office Business & Instructional Support Employee of the Year - Jeffrey Seymour, Security & Emergency Management

- School-based Food Service Employee of the Year - Audrey Fritz, Urbana High
- School-based Special Education Instructional Assistant of the Year - Maribeth Giangiuli, Oakdale Middle
- Central Office Maintenance Employee of the Year - Keith Marconi, Maintenance & Operations
- Bus Driver of the Year - Vickie Roles, Urbana feeder
- School-based Secretary of the Year - Julie Marker, Gov. Thomas Johnson High

From this list of seven, one school-based and one central office Support Employee of the Year will be announced at the April 13 Board of Education meeting, when the entire group is honored. The two overall winners will each receive a cash award, a personal day off, a special trophy, and a Board of Education pin.

Lucinda (Cindy) Barlow, a Monocacy Middle School sixth grade science teacher, has been named a finalist for the 2022 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) for kindergarten-through-sixth grade.

The Maryland State Department of Education selected six candidates for this prestigious honor, which is the highest award bestowed by the U.S. government for STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) and computer science teaching.

“We’re proud of Ms. Barlow for earning this significant honor,” FCPS Interim Superintendent Dr. Mike Markoe said. “Her commitment to students is unwavering, and we’re grateful for the innovative ways she helps prepare students for success in high school and beyond.”

Barlow, who has taught at Monocacy Middle since 2017, was recommended for the honor by Colleen Beall, Secondary Science Curriculum Specialist for FCPS.

Before joining Monocacy, Barlow taught at a private school in Frederick and at schools in Montgomery County. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education at the University of Maryland and a master’s in Education, science, and math instruction, from Johns Hopkins University.

“Cindy is masterful at engaging in meaningful science instruction,” said Monocacy Middle Principal Reginald Gunter. “She is a true advocate for all students here at Monocacy.”

The six finalists will be considered by a national committee convened by the National Science Foundation, which will recommend up to two teachers — mathematics or science — from each state to receive the award. Barlow and the other finalists will receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation, a Presidential certificate, and join an elite cohort of award-winning teachers who can influence state and national STEM teaching.

## Library programs & events

### Carroll Valley Library

The April Carroll Valley Library Program consists of Barks and Books on April 6th at 6:30 p.m. Reading to a therapy dog helps build confidence in new or reluctant readers. Bring your child to

the library to read to Danny, our favorite KPets pup! April 7th at 6:30 p.m. – Book Tasting.

If you’re a mystery fan or would like to try reading mysteries, this program is for you! Come browse our menu and “taste” different

types of mystery books from our literary buffet! April 21st at 6:30 p.m. – Introduction to Coding for Kids. Join us for an introduction to coding with Bee-Bots and Colby the robot mouse! Open to elementary-age children. Regis-

tration required. April 25th at 6:30 p.m. – Explore colors, textures, and patterns while making a great decoration for your room! Open to teens and tweens. Registration required. If you have any questions, call 717-642-6009.

### Emmitsburg and Thurmont Libraries

April blossoms into warm weather, spring flowers, and the return of programming at Frederick County Public Libraries as well as the use of meeting rooms! Indoor programming begins April 4, 2022, at all branches of FCPL. Reservations can be made online at FCPL.org or by calling your local branch.

The Northern County branches of the Emmitsburg Branch and Thurmont Regional Library are excited to bring back indoor storytimes. Bring the whole family to the Emmitsburg Branch and enjoy music, stories, rhymes, fingerplays and more on Tuesdays from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Addi-

tional storytimes at Thurmont Regional Library have a more targeted audience, although all are welcome! Storytimes for babies and their caregivers are Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. More mobile toddlers are introduced to early literacy through movement, songs, and stories on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., and preschoolers are introduced to STEM activities stories on the TRL Deck on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

Ever wonder what happens in the library at night? Children can bring a stuffed animal friend and drop them off at the library for a sleepover adventure! See what kind of fun your stuffie had when you return to the library to pick them up! Stuffed animal friends should be dropped off at Thurmont Regional Library on Monday or Tuesday, April 11th & 12th, from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and picked up by Thursday, April 14th, 10 a.m to 8:30 p.m. Sleepover adventures for stuffies

continued on next page



## Kids & Teens On Campus

Explore culinary and creative arts, science and technology, music, fitness, and much more! Kids & Teens on Campus at Frederick Community College offers weeklong morning and afternoon programs featuring supervised, hands-on activities to encourage students to think independently in a safe environment.

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# FREDERICK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

## Rae Gallagher

I am thrilled to announce my candidacy for the Board of Education in Frederick County in 2022. I unequivocally believe in our public education system and the educators who make it a safe and productive learning environment for our students. The last two school years demonstrated the critical importance of our schools to students and the greater community. The BOE must work with local and state officials to secure the resources necessary for students, educators, and staff to thrive. If elected, I will bring my collaborative approach and experience in educational advocacy, equity, and partnership development to the Board of Education.

My campaign priorities are simple, but solutions are likely to be complex requiring advocacy and teamwork. Our education system will always be as good as the people who make it work. As a BOE member, I will take long-term action in the budget process to ensure that all FCPS staff receive a full, comprehensive, and competitive salary and benefit structure. In light of the myriad challenges facing our students and community, sufficient resources must be directed to school buildings and classrooms ensuring every student an opportunity to be nurtured, to be fed, to be inspired, and to go to school in an environment conducive to learning.

My vision for the future of FCPS is a system where all students access a well-rounded curriculum in a safe educational environment that meets their social, emotional, and unique learning needs. I will work tirelessly to help students graduate well-prepared for college, vocational programs, or military service with adequate preparation and support for whichever pathway they choose. FCPS in the future must be a school district where all staff members - cafeteria workers, bus drivers, custodial staff, classroom teachers, principals, curriculum specialists and everyone in between - are valued, appreciated, respected, and compensated comparable to other professionals. In this vision, FCPS centers the health

and safety of all; equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging are core values for employees and students alike; and resources are invested to attract and retain educators who inspire a love of learning and thorough exploration of course content.

As an elected member of the Board of Education, I will be committed to ensuring that Board members and staff take a collaborative approach in setting direction and policy for FCPS. While the Board of Education sets a collective vision for FCPS, and holds the superintendent accountable to that vision, BOE members cannot work in isolation without educator and staff input. As a BOE member, I will include stakeholder feedback and input, recognizing that our edu-

cators and staff are professionally trained with expertise for programming and curriculum.

I will find and create opportunities to truly listen to the solutions and suggestions of FCPS staff during each meeting and process prior to making decisions. I believe that the primary mechanisms for BOE members to achieve the vision above include the hiring/evaluation process of the superintendent; the annual budgeting process; contract negotiations; and setting/revising policy. This vision will always be my north star. While it sounds simple and aspirational, the solutions and processes are complex and require a commitment to teamwork and action - both of which I possess.

## Ysela Bravo

I'm running for the Board of Education because our children deserve top-notch schools that prepare them for the future by giving them critical thinking skills, a knowledge of history that lets them learn from and build on the past, and an appreciation for the many differences that make up our community.

I moved to Mount Airy over 15 years ago with my husband and two toddlers because Maryland schools were among the finest in the nation. My children received an excellent education and were blessed with a supportive community throughout their FCPS years. In gratitude, I want to help ensure that our schools continue to provide a successful path for every child.

Our school system serves a large county with varied needs but lacks flexibility to meet them fully. We need to address our staffing issues, ensure that our schools represent our community, and offer a path to individual success for every student.

My experience as a human resources manager has taught me that all successful organizations must have a successful retention strategy for great employees.

Recruiting and retaining an energetic and talented staff to teach our children should be a top priority. The administration and those who work at our schools create the environment in which our children learn and thrive - schools are just buildings until educators do the work. We should be just as creative in researching innovative ways to ensure that our great educators want to stay in our schools and can afford to live in our community.

Role models are an essential part of every child's life, and teachers often fill that role for our children. Our children can better imagine their own success when they see successful adults with whom they can identify. Frederick County is a large, thriving, diverse community, and our lives are enriched when we share perspectives and experiences that are new or different from our own. Perhaps even more important, exploring these differences often leads to the discovery of what we have in common.

Schools that reflect our community can better anticipate its needs. Children differ in many respects; they learn in a variety of ways, and they have an array of abilities. My children benefited from having choices at different stages of their education.

They attended magnet, classical, home school, virtual and AP classes as well as regular general education. By offering children a choice of options and paths, we give them the opportunity to find the ones that fit their needs, ensuring small victories along the way that encourage them to reach for their own goals.

Schools are preparing the adults of tomorrow for a world that is quickly changing. I had the benefit of being able to volunteer as PTA treasurer and

president, and to work as a substitute for general and special education at my children's schools. It gave me keen insight into the work, patience, and heart and soul needed to create an environment that fosters respect, learning, and self-acceptance. We need strong, reliable staff to achieve our goals.

Our children deserve to be part of a community that fosters growth and achievement. They deserve an education that includes a diversity of thought,

including learning how to disagree. I am running for the Frederick Board of Education because I'm a problem solver and I have the background and experience to ask the hard questions, consider the answers, and work to develop the best possible solutions for our community. I recognize the importance of our schools and would be honored to serve on the Board of Education.

To learn more about my candidacy, visit [bravo4boe.com](http://bravo4boe.com).

### continued from previous page

in Emmitsburg can be dropped of on Monday, April 25th, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or Tuesday, April 26th, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and picked up by Saturday, April 29th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please do not send a stuffed animal your child sleeps with.

Additional indoor and outdoor programming at Thurmont Regional Library include:

Saturday, April 2: Beginning Guitar Lessons (Elem and Teen), 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Please bring a guitar if available.

Thursday April 7: Game On: Nintendo Switch (Teen), 6 to 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 9: Thurmont Green Fest (all ages), 10 to 2 p.

m. Enjoy Green and Waste Free activities along with "My Garden of a Thousand Bees" speaker and pollinator planting from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 16: Spring Celebration Storytime and Egg Hunt, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 28: Dungeon & Dragon's: Let's Play (Teen), 4 to 6 p.m. Virtual program through Discord, please register at [FCPL.org](http://FCPL.org).

As we continue to evolve and adapt through these last couple of years, we welcome your thoughts and ideas on what programming you would like to see in the library. More importantly, we look forward to seeing you in the library!



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## FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

*This month, we asked our writers to consider friendship, practically applied with their fellow columnists.*

### Freshman

#### The value of community

Joseph Carlson  
MSMU Class of 2025

Imagine that you have had the experience where someone is so outright happy that you think they must be joking? That is what I thought of Harry when I first met him, and it was hard to understand why he would be so happy. I asked him that question, and, after looking far more perplexed than I was, he said that it was because he is simply overwhelmed with gratitude. He knows that everything he has was not earned nor merited by himself or his own efficacy, and for that, he cannot but be thankful.

This sort of gratitude is what inspires his enamoredness with life, and with human beings. There are so many folks that we go around within our intellectual settings, people who we enjoy, who are enamored most of all with ideas. I often find myself caring more about ideas than people, and that scares me. I even find myself caring most of all about the idea of caring about people, but it is all one big rouse to not have to do the hard,

tedious work of loving the person in front of me.

Harry strikes the balance between loving ideas and loving people. He is very accomplished, but, like so many of the people who've truly had an impact on me, he finds the time to be what you need him to be. Yet, he still is himself. It's astounding.

Harry Scherer is the senior editor of the Emmitsburg News-Journal, but he also happens to be my RA. We share a lot of common life together, although he exists, for me, in that space in-between the professional and the personal, between mentor and friend. So much good happens in that space. Still, friends are called to something even deeper. There are some lessons we can take from my relationship with Harry and his life, namely how no matter how interesting one's friend is in conversation or how much you learn from them, the most important part of any relationship is that both people involved call each other to be better human beings.

Like I said before, Harry strikes a balance between loving people and loving ideas. So many of our conversations have been his engaging me where I was in the topics that I wanted to talk about. He had enough care and humility

to, even though he knows more than I do, let me articulate how I understood those topics. After I had explained my understanding, he called me forward, deeper into those ideas, with an eye to the state of my soul. A good mentor can encourage your good ideas and critique bad ones, but most of all encourage you toward virtue and warn you against self-destructive habits. This has been my experience of many of my professors at the Mount. They encourage me to learn and pursue excellence because most of what these particular professors do is encourage me toward good ideas and virtue, rather than simply correcting me. Perhaps it is only my hubris that doesn't like being corrected, but I think that the best way to draw anyone to like anything is to at once affirm them and show them how they could go even deeper into the good that they already understand. That is the job of the mentor. The friend has the same goal of the other person becoming more virtuous, but does so by walking alongside her. Friends are two people who share a common life and desire each other to be better off, to be more human, to be more virtuous. I have learned

so much from my friends, even more than what I've learned from mentors, and this is because mentors sometimes walk too far ahead of me in life for me to really garner the lessons I ought from them.

Friends are right beside me through the whole journey, and I am able to share so much more with them than with a mentor. Granted, there is some information which friends simply do not have access to that mentors do. But that which makes friendship unique is that they not only are completely interested in your well-being, but they have the means to be with you through it all. A good mentor can council me as much as he can about the trials I am going to face, but only my friend will be with me in those trials. Some marvelous people qualify as both mentors and friends, and these sorts of people are often responsible for the greatest mindset shifts. My life has had many of these, friends who are much better people than I, but really do share a common life with me and are with me in the thick of the difficulties that I am undergoing. This is the benefit of community: it turns mentors into friends and allows people far ahead in the path to virtue to travel along-

side me. They sort of draw me up to their status of virtue, even if I am not there myself. In a good community, this is what happens; rather than all people involved being brought down to the lowest common denominator, everyone is almost lifted up to the highest point among the friends. So long as that individual is pointed at virtue, it is difficult for the community to fall in the other direction. Furthermore, among friends, it is known whose strength is whose, and so everyone finds a place, where they at once feel useful, but are called to something even greater.

It is sometimes difficult to find such groups of people, and many, if not most communities keep their members in complacency. What so often happens in college is that people get caught up in the wrong groups of people out of a fear of being lonely. The message that they are not made for comfort, but made for greatness, is a difficult one to give, but thankfully, the men on my floor have had an RA who is able to give them that message by simply loving them where they are, and calling them deeper.

*To read other articles by Joseph Carlson, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*

### Sophomore

#### The luncheon and Dunkin' ladies

McKenna Snow  
MSMU Class of 2024

Workplaces can be a place of tightening communities or weakening them, both with fellow employees and with consumers. The Emmitsburg News-Journal workplace for the columnists of "Four Years at the Mount" is less a brick-and-mortar office than it is a meeting in the Mount's library to discuss upcoming editions and updates. Yet, I am so thankful that I get to say I have a tight community with our little staff, and especially with my friendship with the Class of 2023 writer, Emmy Jansen. I met her at a class we were both in during the fall of my freshman year. She always dressed really cute and sounded smart when she gave answers to Dr. Turner's questions. She was one of the first girls in any of my classes to give me her number so we could chat about the class.

I saw her around sometimes when my other friends got together. We'd end up at the same movie nights, and, to my surprise, the same Emmitsburg News-Journal meetings. I saw her at the Latin Mass with a lovely veil on, and in the line for Dunkin' Donuts coffee after Sunday Mass.

We always had pleasant exchanges and fun conversations, but our schedules never lined up well enough to see each other consistently or regularly. Yet, we found ways of still connecting and bond-

ing when we could, deepening the friendship little by little.

The fall of 2021 offered more frequent encounters. As RAs, we went on rounds together, making memories walking through Terrace and just chatting like old friends. We are very good at the chatting thing, and I love it. The fall afforded us many more opportunities to hang out, to come over to each other's rooms for late-night chats, for random dinner-meet ups, and each time, we became better friends.

Getting to know Emmy has been one of my favorite aspects of the Emmitsburg News-Journal writing experience. She's my junior editor, who comments on my articles, gives me insight and criticism, and is someone I can really connect with to talk about the content. Our shared experiences as RAs helps deepen our similarities that we can relate to. As C. S. Lewis said, "Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another: 'What! You too? I thought I was the only one!'" Emmy and I have had many moments like this, sometimes it's almost comical.

My friendship with Emmy is reflective of how circumstances may very well help begin a friendship, but that it certainly doesn't stop there. Sure, we enjoy movie nights together and sit by each other in RA staff meetings, and maybe I do text her slightly too much about the latest Emmitsburg News-Journal prompt and my writer's block. But what I reserve from this article is what is reserved for friendships grown over a long period of time, in the little moments throughout the semester: moments of disagreement, confiding in one another over a struggle with friends, sincere

times of bonding over a new joy in life. Seeing the other person sitting across from you at lunch and realizing they have so much more going on in their lives than their professional encounters let on. Realizing that you want to take care of them, and that you feel special to be the person sitting across from them at the table. The other person wants to share a part of their story with me? How blessed am I!

And the longer I'm around Emmy, as I am very often this semester, the better I get to know and see her. I see her personality in her love of Dunkin' Donuts coffee, and in her love of essential oils that she keeps on hand for whatever need may arise. Her personality comes out in the way that she cares for her friends and listens intently when they share a struggle with her. Emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual health—all important and priority for Emmy. This is especially reflective in her efforts in the RA field; she is incredibly attentive to her residents when they need support. She is incredibly smart, quick, thoughtful, and empathetic; she is a strong leader (SGA President, for one) and always down to chat about fashion, femininity, and current events. I love our conversations because they give us the opportunity to build each other up, sometimes through honest criticism, and often through uplifting and encouraging advice.

There weren't enough opportunities I've had with Emmy to classify our friendship as simply existing by proximity; it took effort behind the scenes to reach out, schedule a lunch or dinner, invite to a quick Dunkin' trip, send a text just checking in because it's been a

while since one has seen the other around. And to me, that's what friendship looks like: even quick texts that say, "thinking of you!" over the summer and a late-night "can I come over, I need a friend" and a chat over Monday's lunch to catch up about the weekend. Circumstances don't always afford easy means of seeing the other person to keep up the relationship, but putting in effort, charity, patience, humor, joy... that's what makes the friendship solid.

Emmy is graduating early, so she won't be here next year. One stage of our friendship is slowly coming to a close, but it is about to enter a new one: she'll be moving several hours away, and I'll be here at the Mount in the fall. I am sincerely going to miss her fun, strong, energetic personality on campus. But I don't fear

that our friendship is coming to an end. I have seen now through these past two years that the long-lasting friendships are the ones that put in the effort even when the circumstances work against you. There are so many things that keep friendships strong regardless of circumstance. The many memories we've made at the Mount I will keep closely and joyfully with me, and I am excited to make new ones with her in the fall; maybe it'll look like a road trip to see each other, or phone calls once a week to keep in touch, or both. Who's to say? Life is an adventure, and I am thankful for Emmy as a friend who's been dancing with me through it.

*To read other articles by McKenna Snow visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*

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## ON FRIENDSHIP

## Junior

To love is to learn

Emmy Jansen  
MSMU Class of 2023

“Friendship looks like ugly fights when you have something to say,” McKenna says this, fork and knife poised to cut into her cafeteria corned beef. Having known McKenna (Kenna, to friends) for almost two years now, I was unprepared for this answer. Kenna is known for her upbeat demeanor, her face that is never lacking a smile. I have always enjoyed her whimsical remarks on the beautiful moments in the world around us, whether physical or emotional, and every one of her articles fills me with joy and peace. I was prepared for a well-versed monologue on the importance and beauty of friendship, how the bonds we form help to shape our being over time. Although I think Kenna would agree with this sentiment, this was not the discussion we had that day.

The truth is, Kenna is the type of friend you want to have exactly because of the statement above. She loves you so much that she refuses to let you stay as you are if she knows

you can do better for yourself and others. I believe Kenna wants to see people flourish, and this is where she finds part of her own fulfillment. When you have something great, you want to share that greatness with others. I see this in Kenna, every time we broach a subject of development and growth.

Despite my perceived differences between the two of us, Kenna and I are more similar in this vein than I realized. Having both come from big families, we both agree that sometimes your closest friends are your family. However, our reasons for this belief are distinct: Kenna moved around due to her military father while my family never moved but was isolated in our own rural paradise that prevented the typical suburban relationships. I think I speak for both of us when I say we wouldn't change this. Our friendships and bonds with our own family members are foundational in our current and past experiences.

It seems that what lies at the heart of friendship, after all, is who you can be yourself around. For me, that is my family. I never laugh more than when I'm at home. For Kenna and I, our foundations in our friendships with family trickle into our other friendships. The way we act around our

families is how we would ideally like to act around those who we consider to be friends. In families, you often have to acknowledge the shortcomings and mistakes of others, especially when you live in close quarters. I find it much easier to correct the behavior of my older brother than my close friends. Those of us who come from big families may be prone to doing this with our friends, because we love them and want what's best for them. I believe this is what Kenna brings toward her other friendships.

And this is what makes Kenna's friendship special. In a culture of allowing everyone to be themselves, we often take that to the extreme, allowing the flaws and vices of individuals to fester until we reach a breaking point. If we acknowledged the true wrongs of some people, instead of to-each-their-own, we'd communicate better in our own relationships and within greater society. I admire Kenna, for more things than I can list here, but most of all because I have never seen her back down from the truth. If everyone had a friend like Kenna, we'd all be a little nicer, hold our heads a little higher, and laugh a little louder.

A little-known secret known only by the seasoned readers of FYATM

is that the theme of the article almost always aligns with the writer's personal life. I've written about love in the midst of a break-up and declared a major after interviewing a former writer, among other things. This is one of the many beauties of being one of the select writers on this staff; the article will always cause you to reflect on something that needs reflecting upon during that season of your life. I'm glad I've had the chance to grow up before the eyes of the readers in the Emmitsburg area. Because I have been allowed to be myself within these pages, perhaps you and I are friends, as well.

For both Kenna and I, we reflected on friendships this month with the change in the near horizon. I will be graduating in May, leaving the Mount a year earlier than those who I entered with. I'll return to Richmond, lacking the convenience of having friends right down the hall. To say I am worried about my friendships is an understatement. Kenna is facing a similar struggle: she, too, is graduating a year early, and her friends are split between the 2022 and 2024 classes, even though she will leave in 2023. A season of change is upon the both of us as we worry about the future of our friendships, whether they will

adapt to the shifts in the not-too-distant future. One thing I am not worried about, however, is our friendship together. Despite having known each other for only a fraction of our lives, Kenna has shaped me in many ways, constantly causing me to reflect on the world around me. I am happy to say that her fearless femininity, deep theological curiosity, and unabated love for the human person has rubbed off on me—my posture is a lot better, too. There will come a time where I can no longer walk dorm halls with her on RA duty, where our coffee dates become sparse to nonexistent. Yet, I do not doubt that our friendship can weather the tides, as our commonalities and the memories we've shared will not disappear overnight. And we have one unique similarity that sets us apart, cementing our friendship into one hard to replicate: we will both graduate college before we can legally drink.

Readers, I have enjoyed our friendship over the past three years, for you allowing me to be myself within these pages. I only hope that you have the chance to learn as much from Kenna as I have.

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

## Senior

What a chance

Harry Scherer  
MSMU Class of 2022

When I started college, I had ambition, drive, and promise. My intentions were clear, and my vision was focused. Now, as I leave this university and this town, I am grateful to say that I now have something of much greater value: friends.

These friends and I have found each other in different times and places across the past four years. Thankfully, the Emmitsburg News-Journal served as a medium of connection between us, as it has for many before me and hopefully many more to come.

Emmy Jansen and I have worked together for the better part of the past three years. In that time, we have solved many of the world's problems via email and worked on a variety of modest projects together. Both in her role as assistant managing editor of this news-journal and in other domains, I have come to know Emmy as one of the hardest workers I have ever met. Her dedication to the institutional identity of the Emmitsburg News-Journal and the Mount is appropriately complemented by her eloquence with the written and spoken word and her exceptional organizational skills. In her writing, you have seen her priorities shine through as properly ordered and honestly described.

You have also had the pleasure to read the work of McKenna “Kenna” Snow. A conversation with Kenna guarantees the gift of being listened to. I've always known her to be a woman of honesty, curiosity, and enthusiasm. Kenna is not oblivious to the troubles that she encounters in her own life or in the lives of her friends to whom she diligently attends, but still places

a premium on the joy of community. The seriousness with which she approaches her friendships and work is met with an earnest sensitivity and a warmth that pervades each of her interactions. Through her writing, you've likely been challenged to something greater.

Next, I admit that I have spent less personal time with Sam Barber in the years during which we've worked together. As his editor, though, I can confidently say that Sam is the most reliable writer with whom I've ever worked. When he sends me his writing, I can expect the fruits of thorough research, unique knowledge, and incisive commentary. When he's working as a sports reporter or commentator for a national outlet, I hope he remembers his time at the News-Journal as a formative experience for him. His writing encouraged me to be clearer with my language and more attentive to my deadlines.

This year, I was privileged to hire three new writers to join the university staff. Claire Doll separated herself as the ideal candidate to join the team when she applied, and she continues to distinguish herself today. Claire does not lack in generosity to her friends and coworkers. She has taken on unique and challenging projects with enthusiasm. When a problem confronts Claire, she responds by humbly asking for help and confidently moving forward. Claire has rightfully developed a reputation on campus for having a clear, poetic mind; I hope you've seen that identity shine through in her writing. An encounter with Claire's writing for the News-Journal likely encouraged you to see life through the lens of exciting and intricate narrative. To that extent, Claire is a wholly humane writer, delicate with her prose and forceful with her poetry.

I also had the privilege to hire Jack Daly. Quiet with many though loud

with some, Jack's voice is as clear as a blazing trumpet in his writing. Free from excessive abstractions and the cumbersome weight of overdone theories, Jack sees the state of things in the political and cultural realm with a unique clarity. He's unassuming in person yet unavoidable in his writing. Through the next four years, I hope that Jack continues to develop his own talents; if he does, intelligent people from around the country will want to read what he is writing. When you pick up Jack's column, it's likely that you were introduced to a new idea, patiently explained by a skilled thinker.

Finally, I was thrilled to hire Joseph “Joey” Carlson at the beginning of the academic year. In every conversation I've had with him, Joey thinks with me. This is a subtle but important point. When some possess the gifts of articulate expression and knowledge, they occasionally think at or for their interlocutors. Joey, while highly capable of thinking for others, patiently thinks, speaks, and acts with them. He is certainly one of the most well-read freshmen I have ever met, and he will make an exceptional theology professor one day. Because Joey is human, he'll imitate those he admires. Right now, all those who earn his admiration are patient listeners, rigorous thinkers, and trusted mentors. In his writing, you've likely found each of those identities wrapped within his paragraphs.

When I think of these people, I am comforted and particularly grateful that I have had the opportunity to meet and work with them. They have each made me a better editor and hopefully a better man.

My sincere gratitude also goes out to Shea Rowell, C'19, who hired me in the fall of 2018 and encouraged me every step of the way. I am also grateful for the diligent work of my other

editors, Morgan Rooney, C'20 and Angela Guiao, C'21.

I am forever indebted to Mike Hillman, editor of this fine paper. He taught me how to be a better employee, leader, and writer. Mike embraces the idea that there is always an opportunity for education. Mike seeks to lead his writers out of the shadows of ignorance and into a richer understanding of themselves and the world around them.

Finally, I would like to thank the

loyal readers of the Emmitsburg News-Journal, and especially the readers of the Four Years at the Mount column and all other university writing. You are the reason we write, work together, and try to deliver a special issue to you every month.

Thank you to the people of Emmitsburg. I will not forget you soon.

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



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# COMMUNITY NOTES

## YMCA's Camp West Mar is back

Summer full of swimming, the great outdoors, and friendships to last a lifetime.

This summer the YMCA of Frederick County brings back overnight camp at Camp West Mar, after two long years of isolation due to the Covid-19 virus. The overnight camp is open to ages 9-14. Overnight camp is a great opportunity for our young adults to explore the great outdoors, make new friends, and "spread their wings" in a safe environment.

The YMCA of Frederick County operates beautiful Camp West Mar, a 72 acre overnight and day camp in the foothills of the stunning Catoctin mountains. The camp features a dining hall, 5 cabins, a lake for canoeing and fishing, hiking trails, archery, ropes course, meals in the "mess hall," and our outdoor pool.

"After two years of challenges and unknowns, we are extremely excited to have the opportunity to offer overnight camping once again and provide a safe and fun place for

kids to be kids while making memories that will last a lifetime," says George McDonnell, Executive Director of Camps

The benefits of overnight camp are numerous. This outdoor experience helps children grow in all areas of leadership, responsibility, building relationships, communication, participation, and so much more. Some of the activities include campfires, cabin competitions, and time to spend with their bunkmates and counselors.

Overnight camp is available at Camp West Mar in one-week blocks for eight weeks (June 12-August 4). Parents drop off on Sunday afternoon and pick up Friday evening. Overnight Camp registration is now open but don't wait too long, spots are filling up fast! The YMCA of Frederick County also offers financial assistance through their Annual Campaign, apply here.

For more information, about the Overnight Camp at Camp West Mar, visit our camp webpage at

frederickymca.org/camps. Camp West Mar will host a Camp Open House on April 23 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 14509 Brown Rd., Sabillasville. For additional questions, contact Camp West Mar at west-mar@frederickymca.org.

### About the Y

The Y is one of the nation's leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. Across the U.S., 2,700 Y's engage 21 million men, women, and children - regardless of age, income, or background - to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. Anchored in more than 10,000 communities, the Y has the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but also to deliver, lasting personal and social change. www.frederickymca.org.



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## Fort Ritchie COMMUNITY CENTER

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### Saturday, April 30

## 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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**Live on Facebook at noon**

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7 - \$500	23 - \$500	39 - \$500	55 - \$1000
8 - \$500	24 - \$500	40 - \$1000	56 - \$500
9 - \$500	25 - \$1000	41 - \$2000	57 - \$500
10 - \$1000	26 - \$500	42 - \$500	58 - \$500
11 - \$2000	27 - \$500	43 - \$500	59 - \$500
12 - \$500	28 - \$500	44 - \$500	60 - \$1000
13 - \$500	29 - \$500	45 - \$1000	61 - \$1000
14 - \$500	30 - \$1000	46 - \$500	62 - \$2000
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**Grand Prize Drawing #65 - \$15,000**

**Early Bird Drawing**

Purchase and submit your ticket by April 15 for chance to win a \$1,500 cash prize! (2 winners - \$1,500 each)

**\$100 Per Ticket**

To purchase tickets contact any VHC member or stop by the fire hall. To purchase tickets electronically visit [www.vhc6.com](http://www.vhc6.com). Tickets can also be purchased by sending a check to: Vigilant Hose Company, Attn: Spring Fling Committee, P.O. Box 171, Emmitsburg, MD 21727. For more information call Bill at 717-642-9717 or Chris at 301-447-3081.



# Thurmont Business Showcase

**Saturday, April 23  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Thurmont Event Complex  
13716 Strafford Drive, Thurmont**



The Thurmont Business Showcase is a one-day "Pop-Up Business Community" event showcasing the Thurmont businesses skills, products, services & innovations all under one roof! The Thurmont Business Showcase will feature businesses & non-profit organizations from Thurmont. Invite your friends, family, co-workers & neighbors to this free event! Explore what the businesses of Thurmont have to offer!

The Thurmont Business Showcase has  
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*Thanks to our Showcase Sponsors!*

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If you are a business in the 21788 zip code and want to participate, you may download an application at [thurmontmainstreet.com](http://thurmontmainstreet.com) or contact Vickie Grinder at [vgrinder@thurmontstaff.com](mailto:vgrinder@thurmontstaff.com)

## Please join us for the 15th Annual SPRING CRAFT, VENDOR & YARD SALE EVENT! Saturday, May 14th - 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.



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## LOCAL ARTS

# Totem Pole Playhouse's theatrical summer camps

Sue McMurtray

Amidst the thick forest of Caledonia State Park in Michaux State Forest, children and teens will be found singing, dancing and acting. Enrollment is now open for Totem Pole Playhouse's Theatrical Summer Camps. Shippensburg resident and Drama Teacher, Luke Reed returns as Director of Children's Theatre & Educational Outreach and will take the lead on this summer's camp.

Since graduating from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, he has been working steadily in the field of theatrical arts. Most notably he was a longtime member of the internationally acclaimed and awarded Department of Education at Lenox's Shakespeare & Company. Luke has also been a tremendous asset to Totem Pole and has Stage Managed, Directed and Choreographed several

different productions. In December, Luke took the stage as Scrooge's clerk, Bob Cratchit in Totem Pole Playhouse's recent production of A Christmas Carol at Gettysburg's Majestic Theater

"Based on last year's camps, this summer is going to be fabulous. We have an amazing group of counselors and staff that are poised and ready to share their talents with children thirsty for the dramatics," stated Sue McMurtray, Director of Marketing & Communications. "Partial and Full scholarships are also being available" said James Nadeau, Executive Director. The summer camp programs are sponsored in part by Starr Insurance, Inc. of Chambersburg.

Additional business and individual camper sponsorships are available. For more information contact James Nadeau, Executive Director at 717-352-2164, extension 1007 or

jnadeau@totempoleplayhouse.org.

Camp Acting (June 20 – July 1) for ages 13 – 18 will access and explore some of the stage's most timeless language, characters, and stories. The campers will focus on bringing text alive, creative play, and dynamic scene work, culminating in a showcase of the students' work.

Camp Creative Dramatics (July 11 – July 15) for ages 6 – 10 is an improvisational, non-scripted, form of dramatic play that helps children explore their imaginations to their fullest extent. This work is authentic, brave, and confidence-building, helping campers develop a profound sense of awareness and self-esteem, while bringing out the magic in every child.

Camp Musical Theatre (July 18 – August 5) for ages 10 – 18 allows campers to become a company of young actors, experiencing all aspects of producing a show. Instruction will



focus on character creation, self-discovery, and becoming a valued part of a working unit. This camp will culminate in a fully realized staged musical of Disney's Newsies, Jr.

Class sizes are limited so early

enrollment is suggested.

For more information contact Totem Pole Playhouse by calling them at 717-352-2164 or visiting them on-line at [totempoleplayhouse.org](http://totempoleplayhouse.org).

## Upcoming at the Majestic

### Menopause the Musical

A groundbreaking celebration of women who are on the brink of, in the middle of, or have survived "The Change," Menopause the Musical is live on the Majestic stage Tuesday, April 12. The performance will be the Gettysburg premiere of the musical seen by more than 17 million fans worldwide over the past 20 years.

Set in a department store, four women meet while shopping for a black lace bra at a lingerie sale. After noticing similarities among one another, the cast jokes about their woeful hot flashes, mood swings,

wrinkles, weight gain and much more. These women form a sisterhood and unique bond with the entire audience as they rejoice in celebrating that menopause is no longer "The Silent Passage."

Now celebrating 20 years of female empowerment through hilarious musical comedy, Menopause the Musical has evolved as a grassroots movement of women who deal with life adjustments after 40 by embracing each other and the road ahead. This laughter-filled 90 minute production will have your out of your seats and singing along

to parodies from classic pop songs of the 1960s, '70s, and '80s!

### Storyteller And Humorist Kim Weitkamp

The Majestic Theater celebrates everyday adventure, comedy, and storytelling with the Majestic debut of humorist, storyteller and songwriter Kim Weitkamp on Saturday, April 30.

The show is made possible by the Majestic Theater Centennial Endowment's Sites Family Endowed Fund for Children's Programming.

During her childhood in Amish

country, Kim and her imagination roamed free on countless adventures, shaping her later work as a humorist, storyteller, and singer-songwriter. She was the red headed middle child of exhausted parents, shaped by television of the 1970s combined with a worn out fairy tale collection she read again and again, and her father's love of Johnny Cash and old time radio shows being played throughout the house. She became the class comedian at a young age, writing skits and songs and sharing stories that exasperated her parents and thrilled her high school theater teacher. These influences show up in her

work on stage again and again.

"Kim Weitkamp is a magical performer who has captivated family audiences at storytelling festivals across America," explained Founding Executive Director Jeffrey Gabel. "We're particularly proud to welcome her back to Adams County because she grew up in Bonneauville, and still has friends and relatives throughout South Central Pennsylvania."

Tickets to see Kim Weitkamp are \$15 and are available at the Majestic Theater Box Office, 25 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, by calling 717-337-8200 or online at [www.gettysburgmajestic.org](http://www.gettysburgmajestic.org).

## Upcoming at New Spire Arts

Michael Patrick F. Smith is coming to New Spire Arts on Tuesday, April 5 for an evening of storytelling and singing! The Frederick-raised author, storyteller, musician and many more will share his stories from working as an oil field hand as well as performing songs in his distinctive folk style. His memoir The Good Hand: A Memoir of Work, Brotherhood and Transformation in an American Boomtown will be available for purchase from The Curious Iguana the night of the event.

The Good Hand is Michael Patrick F. Smith. Left unmoored in the wake of the 2008 economic crash,

Michael Patrick Smith arrived in the fracking boomtown of Williston, North Dakota five years later homeless, unemployed, and desperate for a job. He took the hardest job he could find- an oil field worker- just to see if he could do it. He worked fourteen-hour days in all kinds of conditions- from 100-degree days to whiteout blizzards. The Good Hand is a saga of fear, danger, exhaustion, suffering, loneliness, and grit that explores the struggles of America's marginalized boomtown workers—the rough-hewn, castoff, seemingly disposable men who do an indispensable job

that few would exalt: oil field hands who, in the age of climate change, put the gas in our tanks and the food in our homes.

As a musician, Smith has shared the stage with folk luminaries such as Ramblin' Jack Elliott, as well as several prominent indie rock bands. His first book, The Good Hand, a memoir about working the rigs during North Dakota's Bakken oil boom, was released on Viking Press, a division of Penguin Random House, in February of 2021. The audiobook edition contains recordings of seven original songs as well as incidental music composed by Smith. Several plays he has written, including Woody Guthrie Dreams and Ain't No Sin, have been staged in Baltimore and New York. Smith has worked as an actor, a bartender, junk hauler, furniture mover, bookstore clerk, contractor, guitar player, receptionist, event producer, driver, office temp, stagehand, waiter, security guard, set fabricator, legal assistant, grocer, oil field hand, and writer.

To learn more about this event, as well as future upcoming events at New Spire Arts visit them on-line at [www.newspirearts.org](http://www.newspirearts.org), call them at 301-620-4458, or better yet, just show up and enjoy one of their shows!

Gettysburg College's  
**MAJESTIC**  
at the Jennifer and David LeVan Performing Arts Center

**Menopause The Musical**  
Tuesday, April 12  
7:30 p.m.  
Tickets: \$73, \$66, \$60

Four women at a lingerie sale have nothing in common but a black lace bra AND memory loss, hot flashes, night sweats, not enough sex, too much sex and more! This hilarious musical parody set to classic tunes from the '60s, '70s and '80s will have you cheering and dancing in the aisles! See what millions of women worldwide have been laughing about for 20 years!

**Kim Weitkamp**  
Family Humorist  
Saturday, April 30  
3 p.m.  
Tickets: \$15

Humorist, storyteller, singer and songwriter Kim Weitkamp grew up as the redheaded middle child of exhausted parents. As she roamed free in the heart of Amish Country, her imagination ripened by a life lived outdoors. She wrote and performed plays and pageants for her family, did impersonations and comedy bits for guests and frazzled teachers. Kim survived numerous attempts to curb her rambunctiousness and prolific imagination. Her stories and songs are the fruit of growing up free range!

25 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg  
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# MOUNT ARTS

## How music soothed the soul during the pandemic

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and with no end in sight, Dean Kramer, owner of Kramer's Piano in New Midway, knew instinctively that with all the negative news people were being bombarded with daily, music was critical to soothing one's soul and setting one's mind at rest.

To gauge if his instincts were correct, Kramer invited music lovers of all ages to showcase their adoration with a "Love Music" essay contest. Music lovers, far and wide, were encouraged to write about how music had impacted their lives, helped them through the pandemic, or made a meaningful difference in their lives.

All contestants for the composition competition were "sharp" and none fell "flat."

Contest officials and judges said they were emotionally moved reading many of the essays on how music has comforted and rejuvenated individuals, be it just during the pandemic, or over many years, and through life changes.

Kramer said he read multiple essays that made him teary eyed and heartwarming tales particularly from teenagers. He recalled entries that detailed playing music to soothe illnesses, and to connect with those who are sick.

Kramer recounted a six-year-old boy coming into the piano shop to present his essay and Kramer realized he should have provided age categories for all ages contests. "I melted. How can a six-year-old compete with a 65-year-old? Live and learn," he said. His answer was simple. He broke the contest up into three parts. One category for grade schoolers, a category for high schoolers, and one for adults.

Kramer reflected on one essay, written by a teenager, who was diagnosed with cancer and developed a tumor behind the eye, and the cancer treatments had stunted their growth. The author of the essay said they had turned to music to overcome depression. Another 15-year-old told of a friend who developed a brain tumor, which put her into a coma. She was unable to visit her friend during the pandemic, but now that she can, she comes and plays the piano, and even though still in the coma, the "friend smiles at the sound of my music."

"How does one pick a winner with such stories?" Kramer said.

The contest was orchestrated by Sharon Cregger, longtime friend of the Kramer family, who wanted to use it as a way to connect the small-town music store with the community.

Not only was the contest a great way to get the word out about the shop, but it stirred up emotions in music lovers, she said.

The contest brought in far-reaching music lovers, with devoted participants as far away as Connecticut and Virginia, Kramer said.

Deciding on three top essays

was very difficult for the judges due to the variety of entries and heartwarming quality of the work.

Kramer is a passionate music lover and would "bend over backwards to get people engaged in music," Cregger said.

Music is an important aspect of life, especially for children, to develop character and teach a person how to be diligent and dedicated to a craft, Cregger said.

Kramer provided ukuleles to all children contestants and music appreciation T-shirts were available for all participants.

First place winner was Chloe Little, a high school student from Monrovia, Maryland. Little's essay described utilizing music as a way to overcome mental-health issues of the pandemic.

"Music has helped me work through that," she said. Little received a digital piano valued at over \$600 as her prize.

By winning a new digital piano, Little plans to donate her current digital piano for others to use and put the new one in its place. "So, we have a new addition to the music room," she said.

Second place went to 11-year-old Cash Ritchie, of Woodsboro, who received a \$100 Kramer's Piano Shop gift certificate.

Ritchie wrote about the effects music has had throughout his whole life. With his prize, Ritchie said he planned to continue to make more music and learning new types of instruments.

Third place winner was Caro-

lyn Arney from Columbia, Maryland who won a ukulele. Arney wrote about how music has made a positive impact while living with depression.

"Music has made a huge difference in my life. It has really connected me to so many different people in so many different ways." Arney said she has always wanted to learn how to play the ukulele and was ecstatic for the opportunity now with her prize.

These heart-warming stories are certain to inspire an even greater appreciation for the gift and power of music.

Kramer's Piano was founded in 1974, and was initially located in Union Bridge, but moved to New Midway in 1979. It is a family-owned and operated business. Dean started the business as a seventeen-year-old piano tuner. Lois Kramer, Dean's wife, has worked alongside him for over 40 years. Two daughters were piano teachers at Kramer's in the past and Dean's mother, Fern Kramer, also taught at the store. Kramer's has sold over 3,200 pianos since opening and continues to keep the relationships with its customers ongoing through tuning their pianos, and our other areas of service.

More information about the one-of-a-kind local music shop can be found at [www.kramerspianoshop.com](http://www.kramerspianoshop.com) or by calling 301-898-3245, or better yet, dropping by their shop in the center of New Midway.



Music award winners: Chloe Little, Cash Ritchie, and Carolyn Arney.

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# CATOCTIN SPORTS

## CHS transitions into spring sports



CHS girls basketball team: runners-up in state championship

Mia Ferraro  
CHS Class of 2022

After three months of competition, Catoctin winter athletics began winding down in March with the season ending on a high note. The winter teams settle their season after a second-place girls basketball title in the state, the boys indoor track team's first-ever states title, and other state-level accomplishments. As the weather gets warmer, anticipation surrounding the return of spring sports heats up and the new season greets CHS spring teams with immediate victories.

After facing the redeemable setback of falling to Urbana High School at the CMC Championship on Feb.

22, the CHS girls basketball team pushed even harder through playoffs to qualify for the state championship tournament. The Gambrell Division champions entered the postseason on March 1 with only one regular season loss and 19 wins under their belt. The Cougars hosted their first round of playoffs against the Boonsboro Warriors on March 1, claiming an immediate lead of 30-2 by the second quarter. Their 72-41 victory took them to regionals against the Brunswick Railroaders March 3, where a winning score of 56-27 earned the Cougars the title of 1A West Regional Champions. The team then defeated the Cambridge South Dorchester Vikings in the quarter-finals the

following weekend. The Cougars led 47-15 by halftime, and finished 61-21. Senior Emily Williams contributed 18 points at this game, four steals, and four assists. Senior Emma Wivell added 10 points, five rebounds, and five assists. Freshman Taylor Smith had nine points and four assists.

The team took to Richard Montgomery High School on March 8 to face off against the Fort Hill Sentinels for the semi-finals. The Cougars claimed a 16-10 lead by the end of the first quarter and maintained a six-point deficit by halftime with a lead of 27-21. The Cougars prevailed with a score of 50-40. Williams had 19 points, eight rebounds, and five assists. Wivell had 10 rebounds, and Smith added 14 points and four steals. With this victory, the team earned their spot to compete for the state championship at the University of Maryland Xfinity Center on March 10, facing off against 2019 champions Pikesville Panthers. The Cougars took the lead with 14-11 by the second quarter, and proceeded to widen it to 25-15 by halftime. The Panthers caught up in the next half, however, cutting the deficit to 35-31 by the fourth quarter. Finally the Panthers came up from behind and finished 51-42, placing the CHS team as runner-up in the state of Maryland. With the postseason having ended, the athletic department has begun promoting their Lady Cougar Basketball Camp from June 13 through June 16. "Come join our family and experience a great week at camp with our Lady Cougar players and coaches!" the team's Facebook page advertised. The registration form can be found on the Catoctin Girls Basketball Facebook account.

Overall, Catoctin sports ended a successful winter season to make way for the spring games to begin. The spring season consists of the following sports: baseball - coached by Mike Franklin; girls lacrosse - coached by David Zentz; softball - coached by Jess Valentine; girls tennis - coached by Dave Gadra; track and field - coached by Dave Lil-

### EHS Alumni Association scholarships

The Emmitsburg High School Association is accepting Scholarship Applications. Four-one-thousand-dollar scholarships will be awarded in May to deserving students. Any Catoctin High School senior or graduate who is enrolled in an institution of higher learning is eligible if he/she resides in the Emmitsburg School District. This includes Emmitsburg 21727, Rocky Ridge 21778 and Taneytown 21787 (Taneytown boundary is determined by

Bridgeport on Rt. 140). Selection is based on having a 3.0 or higher GPA, being a full-time student, presenting 2 letters of recommendation and pursuing higher education (4-year college or community college). No GPA is required for full-time trade school. Applications may be obtained by contacting Mike Marquez of the Guidance Department at Catoctin High at 240-236-8082. All applications must be received by May 1.

lard (boys) and Lois Strickland (girls); and unified track and field - coached by Charmane Nesbitt. Joining the head coaching staff this season is Chris Doll as head coach of boys lacrosse, and John Koepke as head coach of boys tennis.

Catoctin's runners have returned to the track after the boys indoor track victory, and the girls' honorable participation, at states. The CHS track and field teams had their first competition on March 25 at Smithsburg High School for the Charas Heurich Invitational. CHS Junior Brody Buffington took first place out of 28 participants in the 100-meter dash with 10.97 seconds. He placed first again in the long jump out of 25 with 21 feet, 6 inches. In the 400-meter dash, sophomore Furious Trammel finished in second place among 26 competitors with a time of 52.40. Junior Alex Contreras came third of 27 runners in the 800-meter run with a time of two minutes, 8.63 seconds. He then proceeded to place second of 27 participants in the 1600-meter run with 4:37.29. Senior Garrett Sullivan took fourth of 16 in the high jump with a distance of 5-06. Sullivan also came in fifth of 29 in discus with 103-06. Freshman Ethan Robeson took seventh in this event with 100-05, and seventh in shot put out of 27 participants with a distance of 35-11. Senior Wyatt Davis took fourth in shot put with 38-05.75.

CHS senior Jenna Zentz finished in eighth place out of 31 runners in the girls 200-meter dash with 28.86 sec-

onds. She later took fourth place out of 26 in the 400-meter dash with 1:05.18. Sophomore Jenna Conley took second place of 10 in the 3200-meter run with a time of 12:49.08. In the long jump, sophomore Grace Williams finished in fourth place of 18 with 12-09.00, and freshman Kylie Foster took eighth with 11-10.00. The teams would then go on to compete at their next invitational at Mountain Ridge High School on March 31. The unified track and field team would participate in their first meet of the season at home one day prior against Brunswick, Governor Thomas Johnson, Linganore, and Tuscarora High School.

The CHS baseball team has also returned for another successful season. Last year, the team had made their way to the Class 1A State Championships for the fifth time in CHS history, and brought home the gold for the second time. Now they're back and prepared for another chance at the title. The baseball team began their competitions on March 21 at home against the Frederick Scott Key Eagles. At this game, seniors Dalton Williams and Noland Kinna together had a two-hitter. Williams had six strikeouts in four innings at the mound. At the plate, juniors Connor Crum and Joey McMannis contributed three hits and a homerun each. The game ended with the Cougars' first victory of the season, 14-0. The team proceeded to win their next game against the Lions at Liberty High School 9-5 with a three-run home run from Kinna and a double from McMannis. Three days later the team hosted the Middletown Knights, and prevailed 2-0. McMannis and Williams contributed together a shut-out with only one hit, with McMannis fanning 12 in five innings. The 2021 champions would then go on to compete against hosts Brunswick Railroaders on March 30 for their last game of the month.

With spring sports in full swing, fans won't want to miss out on the action-make sure to take advantage of Seasonal All-Sports Passes. These passes give fans access to all regular season (non-playoff, non-tournament) competitions held at home this season. At this time, Adult Spring All-Sports Season Passes are offered for the 2022 season for \$25. These passes, along with individual game tickets, can be purchased on the Ticket Spicket app as well as the Ticket Spicket website at <https://spicket.events/catoctin>.

To read past Catoctin sports articles, visit the Current Events section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://emmitsburg.net).

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# Mount swimmer Jacob Wallace qualifies for championship

Sam Barber  
MSMU Class of 2022

At some point in every athlete's quest for greatness, there is the dream of competing at the highest level. If it is in high school, then it is a state championship. If it is in college, then it is the NCAA Championships. However, if an athlete plays their cards right, then they could reach the pinnacle of success at the international level. For Mount St. Mary's swimmer Jacob Wallace, he accomplished a feat that scores of people merely dream of, which is competing at the NCAA Division-I Swimming & Diving Championships. Not only was it an incredible milestone for the Mount and Wallace, but it also highlighted the rising versatility within the sport of swimming & diving in the Northeast Conference (NEC).

One of the most exciting features that Wallace brings to the table is the fact that he is only a sophomore, which makes the likelihood of him accomplishing this staggering feat even lower. The Fulton, MD native realistically has three more years of eligibility remaining at the NCAA-level of competition.

While many people who have an 'outside looking in' perspective of Wallace's growth may be surprised by the rising star's tremendous leap in success, he most certainly is not. Despite almost everyone in his life playing a role in propelling Wallace to NCAA's, there is one person in particular who has served not only as a coach but also a beacon of success: that would be assistant coach Kaleb Wylie. During a Mar. 9 interview with Wallace, he held Wylie in high-regard: "Going from being a freshman to a sophomore has been a tremendous journey and some of the hardest and most gracious times of my life... one of the biggest attributes to my success is assistant coach Kaleb Wylie. With all the trouble this team has had, he has given me the most growth as a competitor and swimmer," he said.

Along with second-year assistant in Wylie, Mount St. Mary's is led by the likes of 16th-year head coach Neil Yost, fourth-year assistant Marissa Frollo, and Diving Coach Noah Ehrenberg. With their expertise, Wallace is certainly not lacking the necessary resources to find himself success.

Although success relies heavily on the athlete, especially when wanting to reach the highest levels of competition, having a reliable coach and a stable level of teammate backing can sometimes mean all the difference. The latter is what proved to be yet another driving force in Wallace's breakthrough season, whether it was from the day-to-day practices or during weekend-long competitions. The team-like atmosphere has been quite apparent throughout his two years in Emmitsburg: "Most of my close friends really give me confidence and the courage to give it my all every turn. I believe this team can continuously get better and grow throughout the years," according to Wallace.

Being able to compete with some of the best in the sport is not an easy task by any stretch of the imagination. However, when an athlete rises to the occasion and does just that, a sense of pride becomes present within them; not only for their respective school but for their respective conference as well. A championship event like NCAA's becomes a display of pageantry that showcases the best of the best from across the 32 NCAA Division-I conferences; for the NEC, this is massive. Wallace spoke on what this meant for the conference as he prepared for the postseason push, exclaiming, "As a competitor, I want to go out there and be one of the best of the best. As a person who is not as tall as my competitors, I feel as if the odds are stacked against me sometimes. I hope the NEC sees the Mount as a threat and that we are here to compete. People like Jason Fitch, Jonah Hancock, Griffin Distler, we are here to stay and put the Mount on the map."

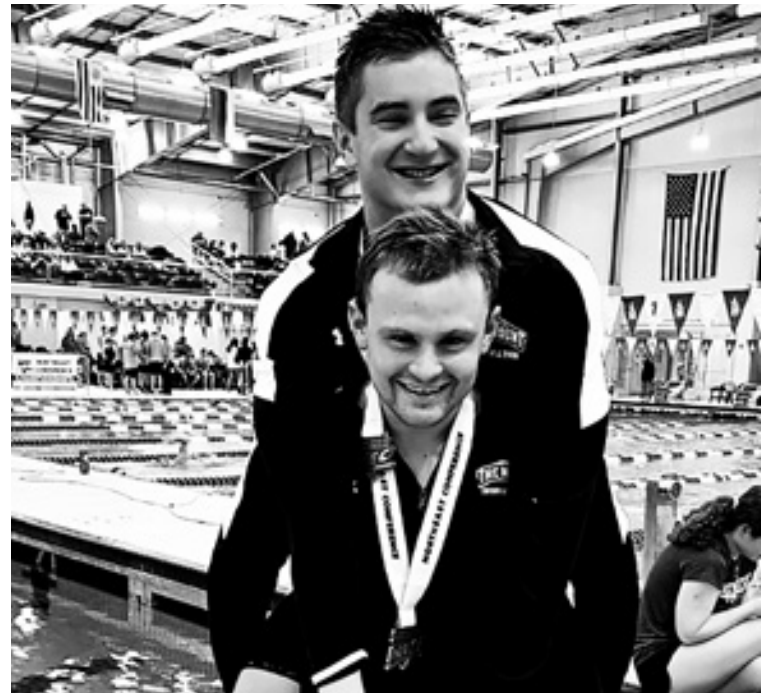
With the winter sports post-

season approaching quite rapidly, now comes the time of reflection and what will give athletes that extra push of confidence or grit to make it to the finish line of what has been a grueling, long, and taxing season for many. For the sophomore sensation, he will be tapping into his already successful postseason run from the 2022 NEC Swimming & Diving Championships. "I am hoping through my experience at NEC's and throughout the season that I can use that towards all my events going forward. I am honored that I can go out and swim my heart out for the Mount. When I came here, I just wanted to put the Mount on the map as best I could. Hopefully, from what I was able to do, this will bring in faster swimmers."

There is no doubt that tagging an accolade that carries this much weight will do wonders in terms of recruiting. It is a linear trend across the sports world, no matter what level of intercollegiate athletics, that if there is an athlete who qualifies for NCAA's, the recruiting for the following academic and athletic year shows a steady increase. This potential recruiting increase can be attributed to many factors; however, one reason in particular that separates itself from the rest is that if prospective athletes see this level of success, then it will motivate them to think, 'maybe I can do it as well.'

On paper, it might seem that Wallace's success was out of the blue; however, he has a long rap sheet of success in the pool. At the 2021 NEC Swimming & Diving Championships in Carlisle, PA, Wallace shattered the Mount St. Mary's school record in the 100 and 200 breaststroke, in times of 53.88 and 2:01.30, respectively. He found his name in the record books once again at the 2021 Championships in the 400 Medley Relay, in a record time of 3:24.11. Wallace was joined by teammates Ethan Pham, Nicholas Santorelli and Ryan Girffiths.

When looking at how Wallace stacks up historically against some



Mount St. Mary's sophomore Jake Wallace, bottom, qualifies for the NCAA Swimming & Diving Championships.

of the greatest Mount St. Mary's swimmers, he certainly holds his own. According to the official record books via the university's athletic website, Wallace has his name on five of the school's top-10 all-time lists.

This was the program's first ever qualifier for the NCAA Division-I Swimming & Diving Championships. The program began at Mount St. Mary's back in 2016. Due to the sheer novice nature of the program, it makes this accomplishment that much more special.

Despite qualifying on time for the NCAA Championships, Wallace was not selected for the field of competition at McAuley Aquatic Center in Atlanta, GA. The championships will be held from Mar. 23-26. The University

of Texas-Austin are the defending champions, as they captured their record 15th-straight NCAA Division-I Championship.

Reverting back to a local level, Wallace and his teammates capped off their season at the 2022 CSCAA National Invitational Championships. The 2022 championships were held at the Beacon Health Aquatic Center in Elkhart, IN. The qualification to the 2022 CSCAA National Invitational Championships will be the first time since the 2018-19 season that Mount St. Mary's has qualified an athlete for this competition.

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

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# COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

## Balancing lives for health

Jefferson Breland

This year the Vernal equinox occurred on Sunday, March 20 at 11:33 a.m..

In that moment, someone, somewhere decided there was an equal amount of day and night. I couldn't tell from where I was sitting because it seemed pretty much like there was more daylight than night (light, I guess).

How this relates to our lives is that it is a reminder from Nature that balance can be achieved at least twice a year; once in the Spring and again in the Fall whether we are paying attention or not. No, that's not quite true. Balance or I could say, balancing is happening all the time.

So what is "balance?" First off, it can be a noun, verb, adjective, or adverb. The most common definition or usage refers to a steady physical position or condition so as not to fall down. Other definitions refer to a state of equilibrium, equality of distribution- such as equal parts or weights, our checkbook/bank account, harmonious or satisfying arrangement or proportion of parts or elements, as in the visual arts or design, a device for measuring weights, a bank balance, to access or consider, opposing forces that create balance, and the list goes on and on.

In health care, and by this, I mean our own caring for our own health,

not the big system of hospitals, et cetera, I use the world balance in a couple of ways.

There is the internal balancing that happens in every cell in our bodies. This is often referred to as homeostasis. The Oxford Dictionary defines this as "the tendency toward a relatively stable equilibrium between interdependent elements, especially as maintained by physiological processes." Scientific American magazine using somewhat more understandable language calls it, "any process that living things use to actively maintain fairly stable conditions necessary for survival."

This homeostasis happens automatically when we stay out of our own way, which then leads me to my second usage.

By "staying out of our own way," I mean doing or not doing things which don't help us stay balanced. Now it sounds like I am full of beans. I am generally referring to any human activity: eating, sleeping, wearing enough clothes to stay warm (or to stay cool), socializing, having fun, exercise, being in nature, knowing how to be peaceful, reading, loving oneself and others, working, bathing, so on and so forth. These activities effect our inner world, physically as well as emotionally, and sometimes spiritually.

Another way of looking at bal-

ance in terms of our health is the word, moderation.

According to Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and Greek Philosophy (GP), moderation is the key to life: not too much or little of this, not too much or little of that.

Let's use work as an example. A full-time job is more than one-third of our 5-day work week. Some jobs like teaching can take up over half of the total hours of a 5-day work week. This is a situation in which it seems we cannot create moderation. The key to moderation is to find where we can create moderation. Our emotions can be that place. We can choose how we relate to our work to provide an internal balance.

Some of us are lucky, we love what we do to earn a living. Some of us are fortunate to have co-workers we adore. Some of us are not so lucky. We might have a job about which we like nothing.

Generally speaking, having work, a paying job, is better than not having a paying job. Money is a tool we use to do the things we want in life, the whole clothing, food, shelter thing (some might add travel to that list). We work in order that we may live. I am not sure that living to work is a good thing.

Working ourselves to death is not a great thing. And yet, there is often an expectation to put our work ahead of the other parts of our



life, like family, our hobbies, inner peace and the like. Sometimes it is our employers. Sometimes it is our own ambition. Explicit or not, there may be an expectation we should be willing to work more hours than we are being paid for (particularly in salaried positions). Curiously, the French did something relatively right in this category. ( I usually only give them credit for inventing mayonnaise) In 2016, the French government passed a law that made it illegal for companies with more than 50 employees to email employees after typical working hours (generally after 6:00 pm and weekends). It is referred to as the "right to disconnect" rule.

I think it should also be for companies with less than 50 employees. Anyone who works in a small business knows how hard one already works and could really use the downtime. Studies show that workplace stress is incredibly high (more so in the last two years) and negatively impacts the health of workers.

So how do we find that proverbial work/life balance? To start with, work is a part of life. It is not like we are living two lives, work and not work. It is the same life. For most of us work is an essential part of our life. Understanding this and being grateful that our work allows us to take care of those we love is one way of balancing the stresses of prolonged work hours, and even doing work we don't like. It is at least a start.

One of the primary strategies I use in my treatment room is to support what is going well with my patients. I support their health. I don't treat the condition or disease. I support their body's ability to heal itself. To do so, I often ask, "What is going well?" Many are surprised by this question. Often, they don't have a ready answer. In our culture (perhaps in our species), we are

often taught to focus on our problems, our insufficiencies, the troubles of our life.

I ask "what is going well" not to negate any of their suffering. Their health and life concerns are very real and often frightening. I ask this question to shine light on the good in life we often take for granted. I shine light on the good that exists now.

There are things we must do in this human reality to live. How we choose to think about them is our choice. A few paragraphs ago I mentioned being grateful for our work. Gratitude is a good choice. Gratitude is an acknowledgement of who and what helps us. When genuinely felt and expressed, it has a warming, perhaps even a softening quality to our being. Both the receiver and the giver of gratitude benefit. Many people don't receive enough acknowledgement. If you are one of those people, I encourage you to express gratitude to everyone in your life, even for the small or expected things in our life. Thank your children, siblings, spouses, co-workers, cashiers, waiters, bartenders, etc. for anything and everything no matter how small. Express this gratitude honestly from your heart and eventually you will begin to receive the gift of gratitude from others as well.

"When the pickpocket saw the saint on the road, all the pickpocket saw was the saint's pockets." I mention this adage to emphasize that we are all holy beings. We are all children of God. I want us to see the potential within each of us and others. We have each been bestowed with these amazing bodies that are capable of healing ourselves when we stay out of our own way and shine our light on the world.

To read past Complementary Corner articles, visit the author's section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).



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# HEALTH AND FITNESS

## Tension headaches helped by massage

Linda Stultz  
Certified Fitness Trainer

A few months ago I wrote an article about how exercise may help relieve head and body aches. Massage is also a way to relieve tension that may be causing headaches. Sometimes people may think of massage as a way to relieve tension and pain in your back or shoulders but may not think of it for a headache. Most people, especially women, carry their stress in their shoulders and neck area. What you may not realize is that buildup of tension in your shoulders can transfer pain into your head, eyes and jaw area.

A few weeks ago I suffered from a headache for almost two weeks and tried everything I could think of to relieve it. Usually an adjustment from my chiropractor will take the headache away. Even after a few adjustments the headache persisted. Each time he did an adjustment he told me how tight my shoulder, neck and back muscles were. Finally I realized that I had not had a massage for a while and decided to give that a try.

My massage therapist also told me how tight all the back and neck muscles were and wondered what I had been doing to get them in that shape. I really didn't do anything out of the ordinary but over time the muscles just reacted to everyday stress and strain and decided to spasm. After just one massage my headache was gone and that was such a relief after weeks of a nagging ache.

Sometimes the headache would be sharp pain and sometimes it may

be just a foggy feeling and not being able to concentrate on daily activities. This type of distraction can interrupt your daily exercise, which in turn, can disrupt your schedule and it is very hard to get back to it once you stop. I know some people may think of a massage as a luxury and it may feel like one but in reality massage can relieve the tension buildup in your muscles that can lead to headache, back and leg pain, foot problems and even knee, elbow or wrist pain. Sometimes you may not think about muscles causing problems in the lower skull area because when you feel the back of your head it just seems like all you feel is skin over your skull. There are muscles at the base of your skull that can send pain the whole way over your head and into your eyes. Anyone who has had a therapeutic massage knows that the massage therapist may be working on your back and you may feel it down your arm or even down your leg. Remember the song about the one bone connected to the other bone, well the same goes for the muscles. Don't think massage is just for the rich and famous.

Massage is another natural tool used to keep your body in good working condition or to bring it back to feeling healthy again if you suffer from an injury or just the everyday stress of life. Just like exercise and stretching, massage concentrates on keeping the body in the best working order possible. I try to get a massage every four to six weeks. That may seem like a luxury but for me it is an investment in my overall health. I have a great massage therapist that knows my usual prob-

lem areas and how to work on them for the best results. I'll be glad to share her with you if you are interested. You may have to try a few before you find the massage therapist that is right for you, but don't give up. It is well worth the research; it may just change your life.

Please take notice that I am referring to her as a therapist and not a masseuse. There is definitely a difference and that is very important. A therapist has specialized training for helping with muscle problems. Call me with questions or information that may help others with muscle tension or headaches. I'm always willing to share info and help when I can. I hope this article may be of help to you if you have been suffering from anything I mentioned. Sometimes, just reading or hearing something again may get you thinking and you may decide to try it. Remember, Keep Moving!! 717-334-6009.



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<b>Brunswick Police Dept.</b> 20 East "A" Street 24 hours a day	<b>Middletown Municipal Center</b> 31 West Main Street Monday–Friday, 8AM–4PM	<b>Frederick County Law Enforcement Center</b> 110 Airport Drive East 24 hours a day	<b>Frederick Police Dept.</b> 100 West Patrick Street 24 hours a day
<b>Emmitsburg Community Center</b> 300 South Seton Avenue Monday–Friday, 8AM–4:30PM	<b>Myersville Municipal Center</b> 301 Main Street Monday–Friday, 9AM – 4PM	<b>Thurmont Police Dept.</b> 800 East Main Street Monday–Friday, 8AM–4PM	

**Acceptable Items:** prescription & over-the-counter medications (in pill form only), prescription patches (fentanyl & nicotine replacement), medication for pets (in pill form only)

**Unacceptable Items:** needles/sharps, inhalers, thermometers, aerosol cans, ointments, liquids, lotions, hydrogen peroxide, medicine from businesses or clinics

**Stay In The Know** by visiting [stayintheknow.org/opioids](http://stayintheknow.org/opioids)

A collaborative effort of local law enforcement, local government, and the Frederick County Health Department with funding from MDH and SAMHSA, 2020.



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# ASTRONOMY

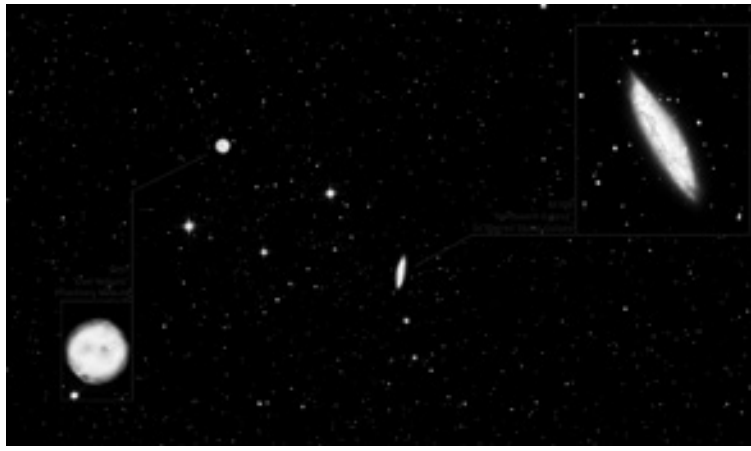
## The night sky of April

Professor Wayne Wooten

For April 2022, the first quarter moon is on April 8th. The Full Moon, the Paschal Moon, is on April 16th, and sets the next day as Easter Sunday. This is the first full moon after the Vernal Equinox. The Last Quarter Moon is on April 23rd. In the dawn sky, the waning crescent moon makes a triangle below Saturn (to right) and Mars (right) on April 25th, then lies just below brilliant Venus and slightly fainter Jupiter in the South East about 45 minutes before sunrise on April 27, the second, third, and fourth brightest objects in the sky in the same binocular field of view! What a photo op! The New Moon is on April 30th.

Mercury is visible just below the Pleiades cluster in the NW starting the third week of April, and remains visible after sunset for the rest of the month. Venus is in the dawn sky, and is overtaking fainter Jupiter this month, passing within a moon's diameter (.5 degrees) on April 30th, a fine sight with naked eyes, binocs, and low power telescopes! Note the four moons of Jupiter and the gibbous phase of Venus now. Mars lies in Aquarius in the dawn, and Saturn lies about 14 degrees west of Mars. On April 25th, Mars lies exactly half way between Saturn to the right and brilliant Venus to the lower right. The planets will finally start coming back into the evening skies by July.

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the



The circular Owl Nebula (M-97, note the two eyes!) and the spiral galaxy, M-108 (the Surfboard) are visible with a 4" telescope just south of the Big Dipper.

northwestern sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini. South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the southern sky at dusk.

The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. The bright diamond of four stars that light it up are the trapezium cluster, one of the finest sights in a telescope. In the east are the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the

sky. At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye.

To the northeast, look for the Big Dipper rising, with the top two stars of the bowl, the pointers, giving you a line to find Polaris, the Pole Star. Look for Mizar-Alcor, a nice naked eye double star, in the bend of the big dipper's handle. But our feature photo for April lies just SE of the bottom pointer. It's the bluish circular Owl Nebula (M-97, note the two eyes!) and the spiral galaxy, M-108 (the Surfboard); both these are visible with a 4" telescope.

For the moment, consider the depth of field here. Visually, which seems the closest, and how do we know? Because they show larger shapes, I think most would consider the round Owl and oval Surfboard closer than the points of light. The fainter stars we assume are more distant, and the brighter are closer. Both of these blurs are Messier objects, originally mistaken for comets by Charles Messier, but when they failed to move in orbit of the Sun, he cataloged them as things comet hunters should skip (Messier built his home on proceeds of

awards by the King of France for his 21 cometary discoveries).

The round shape of the Owl caused the discoverer of green ball Uranus, William Herschel, to call it and similar round balls of glowing gas "planetary nebulae". Again their failure to move like planets revealed they were far more distant, outside the solar system. We know in fact it is more distant than many of the stars here, about 2,000 light years distant, and about a light year across. Its central star is collapsing to a white dwarf, about 20X hotter than our Sun, and 100X brighter. Our own solar system will probably pass through this stage in another 6 billion years, not a bad tomb stone.

The oval blur at left is like our Milky Way, a barred spiral, seen almost edge on, and similar in size, mass, and luminosity to our own Galaxy. At 14 million light years distance, it is also a member of the Ursa major galaxy cluster, like M-81 and M-82 featured last month. Our own Galaxy is a member of a similar cluster, the Local Group, extending outward about three million light years, and including the famed Andromeda Galaxy, M-31, the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds of the southern sky, and about 100 other much smaller, fainter dwarf elliptical and irregular companions. More are to be found with better scopes.

Take the pointers at the front of the dipper's bowl south instead to the head of Leo, looking much like the profile of the famed Sphinx. The bright star at the Lion's heart is Regulus, the "regal star". Now take the curved handle of the Big Dipper, and follow the arc SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of the spring sky. Recent studies of its motion link it to the Sagittarius Dwarf Galaxy, a companion of our Milky Way being tidally disrupted and spilling

its stars above and below the plane of the Milky Way, much like dust falling away from a decomposing comet nucleus. So this brightest star of Bootes the Bear Driver is apparently a refugee from another galaxy, but also a member of our Local Group of Galaxies above.

Out at the edge of our Galaxy are hundreds of globular star clusters, and one of the finest lies just east of Arcturus. It is the third entry in Messier's listing of smudges in the sky that did not move and thus were not his beloved comets. M-3 is visible as a compact blur in binoculars, and resolves itself into thousands of stars at about 100X in scopes six inches or larger. Many more globulars will join it in the eastern sky in the next few hours, with over 100 in range of amateur scopes.

Now spike south to Spica, the blue-white gem in Virgo rising in the SE. Virgo is home to many galaxies, as we look away from the obscuring gas and dust in the plane of the Milky Way into deep space. To the southwest of Spica is the four sided Crow, Corvus. To the ancient Greeks, Spica was associated with Persephone, daughter of Ceres, goddess of the harvest. She was abducted by her suitor Pluto, carried down to Hades (going to Hell for a honeymoon!) and when Jupiter worked out a compromise between the newlyweds and the angry mother-in-law, the agreement dictated Persephone come back to the earth's surface for six months of the year, and Mama Ceres was again placated, and the crops could grow again. As you see Spica rising in the SE, it is time to "plant your peas", and six months from now, when Spica again disappears in the sun's glare in the SW, you need to "get your corn in the crib".... so was set our calendar of planting and harvesting in antiquity.

## Farmers' Almanac

"Here cometh April again, and as far as I can see the world hath more fools in it than ever."

—Charles Lamb (1775-1834)

### Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:

Cooler, dry (1, 2, 3); occasional rain; wet snow, wintery mix west and turning windy (4, 5, 6). Dry and cold (7, 8), with showers (9) turning dry, warmer (10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15); breezy, turning cooler with occasional rain showers (16, 17, 18); morning freeze, dry (19), again, dry and turning warmer (20, 21, 22). Dry and mild, then showers (23, 24, 25, 26) with yet more showers and thunderstorms, turning windy and colder (27, 28, 29, 30).

**Severe Weather Watch:** The Hagerstown Town and Country Almanac forecast a wintery mix (4, 5, 6) and warns of a possible hard freeze (19) and severer thunderstorms (28, 29, 30).

**Full Moon:** April's Full Moon will occur on Monday, April 16th. It has been called Pink Moon because of the many pretty flowers blooming during the month. And because fishing typically improves, due to the warming

weather, it has also been called to as Fish Moon.

**Special Notes:** April Fool's Day falls on Friday this year. Beware of practical jokes and pranks that may be coming your way from family, co-workers, and friends! Earth Day is observed on Friday, April 22nd. The Earth Day Network at [www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net) can provide some interesting, fun, and easy activities that you and your family can do that will help promote a healthier relationship with our dear and fragile Mother Earth! Arbor Day falls on Saturday, April 30th. Go to [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org) for more on The Arbor Day Foundation's mission, which focuses on helping others understand and use trees as a solution to the many global issues we face today that include air quality, water quality, a rapidly changing climate, deforestation, poverty, and hunger.

**Holidays:** Easter Sunday falls on Sunday April 17th in 2022. Celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, by attending the church of your choice.

**The Garden:** Set out annuals and other perennials now. Cool season veg-

etables, such as spinach, lettuce, peas, broccoli, cauliflower, and beets can be planted as soon as the soil can be worked. A good test of "soil readiness" is to take a handful of soil and squeeze it. If it remains in a ball, it's too moist and should be allowed to dry further. If it crumbles, start planting! Begin planting indoor seedlings outdoors. Harden them off first with several short days outside under cover. Fertilize winter planted vegetables early in the month and after any danger of frost, begin planting warm season vegetables.

**The Farm:** Best days for planting root crops (30); weeding and stirring the soil (5, 6, 7); planting above-ground crops (8, 9); planting root crops (7, 8, 9); harvesting all crops (19, 20, 23, 24); to set hens and incubators (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 4, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23); slaughter and butcher meat (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 30); transplanting (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 30); harvesting and storing of grain (23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29); weaning of animals and livestock (11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19).

### J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living

"The wise man often says little while observing much, while the fool observes little while talking a lot"

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# COMPUTER Q&A

## Spring clean-up for your PC!

Aysë Stenabaugh  
Jester's Computer Repair

Most people won't go for an extended period of time without getting their vehicle maintained. While it may not be quite obvious to maintain your computer if you aren't the most tech-savvy and haven't had maintenance done you probably should. As you use technology, devices become bogged down and inundated with updates, pop-ups, and other annoyances that if fixed, would reduce stress and increase productivity! It's not that the physical devices are no longer working properly, it's more so like changing the oil in your car, it will continue to run when it's low or dirty but it won't run well and bigger problems could arise that may be avoidable with regular care. We've included information about a few of the things that we at Jester's Computer Services recommend you maintain and are included in our clean-up service.

Unwanted Programs whether installed intentionally or not are often set to run at startup which can hinder performance. If you allow children on your computer, you may not know what the programs are that they have installed or whether if that software could cause harm to your device. Sometimes you can just uninstall the program but other times it may take a skilled technician to locate and remove malicious software.

Updates are important to keep your device running smoothly. Updates help to ensure that any security risks that have been found and resolved are applied to your device. If your programs are out of date they may not function properly and sometimes they can even negatively affect the performance of your computer. Many dislike updates because the result can sometimes include change however, you have to weigh it out which is worse, a little change or keeping your device at risk?

Hardware, or your devices physical equipment, can wear out over time. Most commonly we see hard drives (where all your personal data is stored) fail after 5-7 years but they can certainly break down sooner. When you have your computer maintained, good technicians will check your hard drive to see if any corruption is found and if necessary, recommend a replacement before any data is lost.

Temporary files that can include files you opened but did not save, old update files that no longer have a use and temporary files created while browsing the web. None of the aforementioned include your personal data files and are simply taking up storage space on your hard drive. Data files won't slow your computer down but they do take up storage space and when a hard drive becomes too full the operating system will stop functioning properly.

Registry errors can be caused

when you install and then uninstall a program or perform software updates. Since both are something that happens regularly, these errors are unavoidable. You may not even notice that there is a problem but once the errors are resolved, background operations are able to run more smoothly resulting in a better user experience.

Malicious software that is installed on your device may not be obvious to the average user. While viruses and potentially unwanted programs can appear unexpectedly on your computer, often users unknowingly allow them in. At Jester's Computer in addition to our technicians removing any viruses or malicious software we provide educational materials to help you prevent common issues and, for those than need more one-on-one support, we offer individual classes as well.

Pop-ups, errors & conflicts that you encounter can often be resolved by regular maintenance as well. Often, we remember how simple computers used to be but

we at the same time we forget just how much more we use our devices today. Since most of the things we use computers for also incorporate using the internet, maintenance is more vital than ever.

If you haven't had your computer maintained in the last year Jester's Computers would love to support your technology needs! All March long you can take advantage of our clean-up special which provides a \$20 discount off our regular \$99 price. To reach us find us online at [www.jestercomputers.com](http://www.jestercomputers.com) on Facebook or by calling us at (717)-642-6611. We are open 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday with extended hours until 7 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. No appointment is necessary and most services are completed within 24 business hours!

*If you find yourself with technology questions or are looking for computer repair or support, contact Jester's Computer Services located in Fairfield. You can reach us at (717) 642-6611 on our website [www.jestercomputers.com](http://www.jestercomputers.com).*



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# HUMOR

## Did You Know That? (Other uses for common products)

Drinking two glasses of Gatorade can relieve headache pain almost immediately -- without the unpleasant side effects caused by traditional "pain relievers."

Did you know that Colgate toothpaste makes an excellent salve for burns.

Before you head to the drugstore for a high-priced inhaler filled with mysterious chemicals, try chewing on a couple of curiously strong Altoids peppermints. They'll clear up your stuffed nose.

Achy muscles from a bout of the flu? Mix 1 Tablespoon of horseradish in 1 cup of olive oil. Let the mixture sit for 30 minutes, then apply it as a massage oil, for instant relief for aching muscles.

Sore throat? Just mix 1/4 cup of vinegar with 1/4 cup of honey and take 1 tablespoon six times a day. The vinegar kills the bacteria.

Cure urinary tract infections with Alka-Seltzer . Just dissolve two tablets in a glass of water and drink it at the onset of the symptoms. Alka-Seltzer begins eliminating urinary tract infections almost instantly -- even though the product was never been advertised for this use. (Note: Alka-Seltzer Plus

Cold Medicine is not the same, and contains aspirin, which can cause stomach bleeding if you have ulcers.)

Honey remedy for skin blemishes... Cover the blemish with a dab of honey and place a Band-Aid over it. Honey kills the bacteria, keeps the skin sterile, and speeds healing. Works overnight.

Listerine therapy for toenail fungus... Get rid of unsightly toenail fungus by soaking your toes in Listerine mouthwash. The powerful antiseptic leaves your toenails looking healthy again.

Easy eyeglass protection... To prevent the screws in eyeglasses from loosening, apply a small drop of Maybelline Crystal Clear nail polish to the threads of the screws before tightening them.

Coca-Cola cure for rust... Forget those expensive rust removers. Just saturate an abrasive sponge with Coca Cola and scrub the rust stain. The phosphoric acid in the coke is what gets the job done.

Cleaning liquid that doubles as bug killer... If menacing bees, wasps, hornets, or yellow jackets get in your home and you can't find the insecticide, try a spray of Formula 409. Insects drop to the ground instantly.

Smart splinter remover...just pour a drop of Elmer's Glue-All over the splinter, let dry, and peel the dried glue off the skin. The splinter sticks to the dried glue.

Hunt's tomato paste boil cure...cover the boil with Hunt's tomato paste as a compress. The acids from the tomatoes soothe the pain and bring the boil to a head.

Balm for broken blisters...To disinfect a broken blister, dab on a few drops of Listerine ... a powerful antiseptic.

Heinz vinegar to heal bruises... Soak a cotton ball in white vinegar and apply it to the bruise for 1 hour. The vinegar reduces the blueness and speeds up the healing process.

Kills fleas instantly. Dawn dish washing liquid does the

trick. Add a few drops to your dog's bath and shampoo the animal thoroughly. Rinse well to avoid skin irritations. Good-bye fleas.

Rainy day cure for dog odor... Next time your dog comes in from the rain, simply wipe down the animal with Bounce or any dryer sheet, instantly making your dog smell springtime fresh.

Eliminate ear mites... All it takes is a few drops of Wesson corn oil in your cat's ear. Massage it in, then clean with a cotton ball. Repeat daily for 3 days. The oil soothes the cat's skin, smothers the mites, and accelerates healing.

Quaker Oats for fast pain relief...It's not for breakfast anymore! Mix 2 cups of Quaker Oats and 1 cup of water in a bowl and warm in the microwave for 1 minute, cool slightly, and apply the mixture to your hands for soothing relief from arthritis pain.

## Here are some of the U.S. statistics for the Year 1905

The average life expectancy in the U.S. was 47 years.

Only 14 percent of the homes in the U.S. had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars.

There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S., and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California.

With a mere 1.4 million people, California was only the 21st most populous state in the Union.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower!

The average wage in the U.S. was 22 cents per hour.

The average U.S. worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births in the U.S. took place at home.

Ninety percent of all U.S. doctors had no college education.

Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as "substandard."

Sugar cost four cents a pound.

Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.

Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.

Five leading causes of death in the U.S. were:

Pneumonia and influenza

Tuberculosis

Diarrhea

Heart disease

Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars.

Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii, and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet.

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was only 30!!!

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**Saturday, May 14**  
**\$25 per person**  
 Beer & Wine Coolers  
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For tickets call:  
 301-748-5359 or 301-271-3820  
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**Thurmont Event Complex**  
 13716 Strafford Dr., Thurmont **301-271-7550** [www.thurmonteventcomplex.com](http://www.thurmonteventcomplex.com)  
 Both events will benefit the Thurmont Community Ambulance Service

 **SPRING FLING CRAFT FAIR**  
 Sat., April 9  
 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Handmade Crafts ~ Food Truck  
 Art ~ Distillery Sales ~ Petting Zoo

**Special Guest: The Easter Bunny!**

Stop in and enter our Easter Drawing!

Daily Discounts & Weekly Sales  
 High Quality Merchandise for the whole family  
 Proceeds benefit Outreach Programs

**Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
**Donations Tues. - Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Visit [SetonCenter.org](http://SetonCenter.org) or call 301-447-6102  
 226 E. Lincoln Ave., Emmitsburg

# HUMOR

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and ice tea hadn't been invented yet.

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

Two out of every 10 U.S. adults couldn't read or write.

Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstores. Back then pharmacist said, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health." (Shocking!)

Eighteen percent of households in the U.S. had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.

There were about 230 reported murders in the entire U.S.

### Think You Know Everything?

The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.

The cruise liner, QE2, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.

The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.

The sentence: "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.

The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.

The words 'racecar,' 'kayak' and 'level' are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left (palindromes).

There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.

There are more chickens than people in the world.

There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous. There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: "abstemious" and "facetious."

There's no Betty Rubble in the Flintstones Chewables Vitamins.

Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

'Typewriter' is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.

Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks; otherwise it will digest itself.

A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.

A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.

A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

A snail can sleep for three years.

Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.

All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.

Almonds are a member of the peach family.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.

Butterflies taste with their feet.

American car horns honk in the key of F.

The name Wendy was made up for the book "Peter Pan."

Barbie's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts.

Every time you lick a stamp, you consume 1/10 of a calorie.

The average person falls asleep in seven minutes.

Studies show that if a cat falls off the seventh floor of a building it has about thirty percent less chance of surviving than a cat that falls off the twentieth floor. It supposedly takes about eight floors for the cat to realize what is occurring, relax and correct itself.

Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks otherwise it will digest itself.

The citrus soda 7-UP was created in 1929; '7' was selected after the original 7-ounce containers and 'UP' for the direction of the bubbles.

101 Dalmatians, Peter Pan, Lady and the Tramp, and Mulan are the only Disney cartoons where both parents are present and don't die throughout the movie.

'Stewardesses' is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.

To escape the grip of a crocodile's jaws, push your thumbs into its eyeballs - it will let you go instantly.

Reindeer like to eat bananas.

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver and purple.

The word "samba" means "to rub navels together."

Mel Blanc (the voice of Bugs Bunny) was allergic to carrots.

The electric chair was invented by a dentist.

The very first bomb dropped by the Allies on Berlin during World War II killed the only elephant in the Berlin Zoo.

More people are killed annually by donkeys than airplane crashes.

A 'jiffy' is a unit of time for 1/100th of a second.

### The human body is a machine that is full of wonder.

Scientists say the higher your I.Q. The more you dream.

The largest cell in the human body is the female egg.

The smallest is the male sperm.

You use 200 muscles to take one step.

The average woman is 5 inches shorter than the average man.

Your big toes have two bones each while the rest have three.

A pair of human feet contain 250,000 sweat glands.

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# Happy Easter!

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**Cakes & Pies**



**Fresh Flowers**



**Fresh Fruits & Vegetables**



**Eggs**



**Supporting Local!**

**Enter to win 2 Early Bird Tickets to Emmitsburg's Vigilant Hose Company Spring Fling!**

One entry per household. Jubilee employees are not eligible to participate.

**Drawing will held live on Facebook on April 30th at 11 a.m.**

**Submit your entry at the in store courtesy desk.**

**Enter to win 2 Early Bird Tickets to the Vigilant Hose Co. Spring Fling!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Drawing live on Facebook April 30th - 11 a.m.  
Submit your entry form at the in store courtesy desk.



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## 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SPRING SHOW

Sunday, May 1

11 Antrim Blvd., Taneytown

Rain Date: May 15th

**SHOW CARS MUST BE "POWERED BY FORD"**  
JUDGING IS BY POPULAR VOTE WITH BALLOTING  
OPEN TO REGISTERED SHOW PARTICIPANTS ONLY

REGISTRATION: 9 a.m. - NOON  
DASH PLAQUES TO THE 1<sup>ST</sup> 100 ENTRIES  
AWARDS BALLOTING: NOON - 2 p.m.



MAIL PRE-REGISTRATION FORM TO:  
SAAC GROUP OF MARYLAND  
13747 BOTTOM ROAD  
HYDES, MD 21082

FOR MORE QUESTIONS OR MORE INFO, CONTACT:  
PAM FLEAGLE 410-303-1847 OR  
SAACGROUPMD@GMAIL.COM  
PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "SAAC GROUP OF MARYLAND"

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY **PRE-REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR & TYPE OF CAR: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ BODY STYLE: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ COLOR: \_\_\_\_\_

MORNING OF SHOW PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS ENTERED: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**PRE-REGISTRATION: \$15 • DAY OF SHOW: \$20**

PRE-REGISTRATION ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN APRIL 23  
(A PORTION OF PROCEEDS FROM THIS SHOW WILL BENEFIT VARIOUS CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS)  
\*\* IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, THE SHOW WILL BE POSTPONED TO THE DATE INDICATED ABOVE - WE WILL CONTACT ALL WHO HAVE PRE-REGISTERED BY PROVIDED EMAIL & PHONE TO ADVISE OF ANY CHANGES IN DATE DUE TO WEATHER\*\*  
PLEASE VISIT US AT [www.saacgroupmd.com](http://www.saacgroupmd.com) AND OUR FACEBOOK GROUP [www.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/SAACGROUPMD](http://www.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/SAACGROUPMD)

- A: '64½ - '68 MUSTANG HARDTOP & CONVERTIBLE
- B: '69 - '73 MUSTANG- HARDTOP & CONVERTIBLE
- C: '74 - '93 MUSTANG HARDTOP & CONVERTIBLE
- D: '94 - '04 MUSTANG HARDTOP & CONVERTIBLE
- E: '05 - PRESENT MUSTANG HARDTOP & CONV.
- F: 1993 TO PRESENT MUSTANG COBRA
- G: MODIFIED MUSTANG
- H: SPECIAL INTEREST MUSTANG (SALEEN, ROYAL, ETC.)
- I: SPECIAL INTEREST "POWERED BY FORD"
- J: 1901-1959 FORD PRODUCTS
- K: 1960-1970 FORD PRODUCTS
- L: TRUCKS
- M: TRUCKS MODIFIED (2+ MODIFICATIONS)

- AA: AC COBRA
- BB: 1965 - 1966 SHELBY
- CC: 1967 - 1968 SHELBY
- DD: 1969 - 1970 SHELBY
- EE: 2006 - 2009 SHELBY
- FF: 2010 - 2014 SHELBY
- GG: 2015 - PRESENT SHELBY (GT350 & GT350R)
- HH: 2020 - PRESENT SHELBY (GT500)
- II: 1969 - 1971 BOSS MUSTANG
- JJ: 1994 - PRESENT BOSS MUSTANG
- KK: REPRODUCTION (COBRA, GT40, ETC.)
- LL: FORD GT



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