

# Woodsboro - Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 4, NO. 7

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

JULY 2024

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## Woodsboro votes to move forward on Town Hall

In front of a packed crowd, the Woodsboro Town Council split 2 to 2 on the proposal to move forward with building the town's first Town Hall, setting up Burgess Heath Barnes' first tie breaking vote as Burgess. With a decided "yes" on his part, the deal was done.

But getting to the final vote was not easy by any measure.

In 2018, under direction from the former Town administration, Woodsboro purchased a lot at 503 S. Main St., which was considered a prime location for an official Town Hall. Unfortunately for the town, the width of the lot was not large enough for the building's fit. So, in 2022, the Town purchased the JR Sports Bar and Restaurant lot, which was almost double the size of the original lot location.

All was going according to plan until the initial round of bids set everyone back on their heels. When the Town began the process several years back, the Town was prepared to spend \$800,000. That estimate was blown out of the water when the bids came in,

the lowest bid being \$1.6 million. As a result, Barnes and the Council have been actively reevaluating what amenities are needed to create the type of Town Hall they envisioned while reducing the price tag to a level the Town can afford.

Working closely with the contractor selected to build the Town Hall, the Town was able to get the cost of the actual building down to \$1,040,000. Not included in this figure was \$356,000 for site work, i.e. grading, paving, driveways, &c., for a total of \$1,396,000.

The final figure, which was revealed to the Town Council at the June meeting, stunned the Council, who expressed concern over spending that sum of money while the Town was facing unknown costs associated with upgrading the town's water and sewer systems.

Barnes, however, made an impassioned case for moving forward, citing Town Councils had been talking about the need for its own Town Hall for years, asking the Council "if not now, when?"



The largest attendance at a Town Council meeting voted overwhelmingly in favor of the construction of the proposed Town Hall.

Barnes noted that prices are not going to go down and if the vote was delayed, "who knows what it will cost us in a year or two?"

"We always get to this point and then waver," he said. Barnes recommended the Town draw \$200,000 from its General Fund to reduce the amount of money the Town would have to borrow. "Between the \$400K in state grant money and \$200K from the General Fund, we'll only have to borrow \$800K, which will result in a monthly mortgage of \$4,600," he said.

Barnes walked the Council through the financing of the

Hall, stating that thanks to the Council's decision to increase the Town's property tax rate — the Town would be receiving \$60,000 more in property tax revenue, more than enough to pay for the mortgage on the building, he said.

Commissioner Ruttelmeyer concurred on Barnes' logic but suggested the Town draw \$300K from the General Fund to reduce the mortgage even more. But that suggestion was nixed by his fellow commissioners, who were worried about depleting the General Fund and **continued on page 2**

## South Mountain Fair celebrates 102 years

The best part of the summer season is right around the corner, fair season. Are you ready for the return of throttling of tractors, the smell of corn dogs and kids screaming gleefully on the Tilt-A-Whirl? Well, buckle up, because the Annual South Mountain Fair promises to exceed high expectations. The fair opens this year on July 23 and runs through July 27. It is open from 4-10 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 1-10 on Saturday.

"I don't think most people realize how much work and how many hours goes into preparing for the Fair and the work doesn't end on the last day of the Fair either. We work at it all year. There is always something that needs to be repaired or painted or mowed or cleaned. The average person doesn't see all of those things, but they all need to be taken care of throughout the year and not just Fair week. In 2020 when the Fair and all of our other rentals were cancelled, those things still had to be done. The grounds had to be mowed. We still had to pay the electric and phone bills even without any income," Irvin said.

The South Mountain Fair is known far and wide for its involvement with agriculture students and this year is no exception. There will be ample opportunities for children to be acknowledged for

their personal efforts ranging from hobby interests to animal husbandry, for local and national merchants to show off their wares, and for community members from far and wide to come together for an evening full of great food, entertainment, and fun.

The fair began in 1922 and continued each year until 1930, when it was cancelled that year because of a drought. The annual event picked up again in 1931 and continued until 1941, when it was again cancelled, this time due to a polio epidemic, then World War II, according to the South Mountain Fair Association. The fair was resumed in 1948 and has been held every year since then until 2020 when it was again cancelled because of the Covid19 pandemic. It was held the next year, 2021, and has continued since then.

One of the highlights of the fair is 4-H livestock judging, which will take place all week long. Other activities include laser tag, pony rides, chainsaw carving shows, a draft and miniature horse pull on July 24, a fireworks display on July 25, a pedal tractor pull for the kids and an antique tractor parade on July 27. Exhibit buildings will be open every evening for the public. Exhibits include: a photography exhibit; baked



While the South Mountain Fair has the greatest of rides of any carnival or fair around, the heart and soul of the fair will always be the kids and their animals.

goods, wine, vegetables, and fruit exhibits; crafts and art pieces of all kinds; as well as 4H projects.

There will be musical entertainment in the auditorium which is included in the price of admission. This year's entertainers are local musicians. On Thursday evening Austin Rife will be entertaining us and on Friday The Kenton Stitch

Band will take the stage. On Saturday there are several local singers performing. At 3 p.m. Faith Noel, 6 p.m. Elly Cooke, and at 7:30 p.m. Gravy will be performing in the auditorium with a variety of music.

For more information and a complete schedule of events, visit [www.southmountainfair.com](http://www.southmountainfair.com)

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# WOODSBORO / UNION BRIDGE NEWS

## Union Bridge changes election requirements

At a previous work session, the Town Council discussed changing how council members are elected. The current nomination procedure is simple: interested candidates fill out a form at the Town Hall. If the procedure is changed, candidates will need to attend a meeting and be nominated by another person who has lived within the corporate limits of Union Bridge for two consecutive years, and the nominee must accept the nomination. Sykesville has a similar procedure, as well as other local municipalities, according to Mayor Perry Jones.

The Council discussed implementing additional requirements to run for mayor or the Town Council, such as requiring a candidate to live in the corporate limits of the Town of Union Bridge for two consecutive years and they must attend three consecutive council meetings within 12 months prior to their nomination.

Commissioner Bret Grossnickle asked if the change was really necessary. "Do we want to make it more difficult

for someone to run for a position when we have enough trouble getting people to run at all?" Jones said they want to be ahead of the game because a lot of other municipalities are having issues with people running who are not qualified. He specifically referenced people running for mayor in other towns who have never been to a council meeting. "They run because they are upset about one thing. They get the position and they never finish the term," he said. According to Jones, different towns in Carroll County have experienced this problem for the last few years.

Jones described a potential future for the Town of Union Bridge where new residents may wish to run for a seat on the Council without knowing how the Council works. "They should be coming to a meeting to understand what it's about first." He said candidates should understand how to conduct a meeting before considering running for office.

Grossnickle agreed with Jones and shared his experience when he

was first elected. "I was sorely lacking in any experience. They put me in charge of water and sewer which I knew nothing about." Jones pointed out how unnecessary pressure is placed on Town staff when a new member of Council has no idea how the Council is supposed to work, yet comes in and makes demands.

One of Grossnickle's suggestions was to require a candidate to do a term on the Council before running for mayor. According to Jones, the legal department at the yearly Maryland Municipal League Conference said that was not a legal option, even though it would eliminate the problems they see. They also considered preventing write-ins; however, Grossnickle did not agree with this option either.

Grossnickle reiterated his concerns over making the election process too complicated. "You may get someone who would make an excellent council member, but they don't want to go through all the trouble to apply."

The Council will continue debating their options at the next work session and hopefully proceed with a vote in July.

## Woodsboro News-Briefs...

### Council Approves Property Tax And Water & Sewer Rate Increase

At its June meeting, the Town Council approved the Town's FY-25 budget which included a 27% increase in the town's property tax and a 25% increase in the town's water and sewer rates.

As a result of the new property tax rate, the town will see its property tax revenue increase from \$174,147 to \$266,000, which represents the majority of the revenue increase expected by the town in FY-25. Other additional revenue sources include: \$200K in the states 'piggy back' income tax; \$93K in high-way users fees; and \$135K in Frederick County tax sharing.

The town's expenses are projected to increase from \$637K to \$733K in FY-25. The principal driver of the increase is the expected cost of starting construction of the new town hall, which is budgeted for \$150K. Principle expenses in FY-25 are: \$123K for staff salaries; \$105K for street maintenance, \$88K for the maintenance of the Town's parks; \$84K for trash collection; and \$37K for insurance.

Water and sewer revenues are expected to increase from \$510K to \$619K as a result of the approved water & sewer rate

increase. \$429K of the projected revenue comes from usage fees. The town makes additional revenue of \$46K from just renting the water tower to the cell phone companies – which represents close to 80% of the expected mortgage for the new town hall.

Principle costs for operating the water & sewer system include: \$120K for routine repair and maintenance; \$107k for electricity; \$75K for contract support staff; \$87K for supplies; and \$38K for sludge removal.

### Town Fined For Exceeding Waste Water Discharge Limits

Maryland's Department of the Environment (MDE) has fined the town \$27,000 for exceeding the e-coli limits in wastewater discharged to Israel Creek over a three-year time period starting in 2020 and ending in 2023.

Barnes told the council, the fine was not for exceeding the limits per-se, but for a paperwork error involved in the reporting of the discharges.

"Our contractor who is responsible for sampling the wastewater discharge for the sewer plant and verifying it is within the specification of our permits, was in fact documenting each instance

of where we exceed the limits, but unfortunately, he was documenting them in the wrong section of the on-line form on MDE's website. He wasn't hiding the fact, he just put the number in the wrong box. This is how MDE discovered the violations."

Barnes told the council that the violations were a result of the decreased capacity of the filters used at the treatment plant to capture the bacteria and the 'blue light' irradiation system used to kill what bacteria the filters fail to stop.

"We knew we had an issue with this for years, which is why we spent over \$650,000 of the COVID-19 ARAP money we received on replacing the failing filters and blue light system."

Barnes pointed to the fact that the last violation cited by the State was in early 2023, just before the systems were replaced. "Since they were replaced, we've not had another violation," he said.

The state had offered to allow the town to pay \$27,000 over three years, but Barnes said they were open to negotiating the final amount of the fine. Commissioner Cutshall suggested that Barnes enter negotiations with the state by offering a single lump sum payment of \$15,000 to close the case.

### Woodsboro votes to move forward on Town Hall

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leaving the Town unable to cover unknown future expenses.

Commissioner John Cutshall proposed the Town go out for another bid in hopes of getting a lower one to consider. But Barnes pointed out that the Town had signed a contract with the contractor, and they could not legally seek another bid unless the contractor agreed to opt out, "and even then, we have no idea if another round will result in a larger cost, as costs have already gone up since this bid was submitted."

Commissioner Jessie Case proposed delaying the final vote for a month. But when pressed by Barnes on what

he would do during that time, Case shrugged his shoulders and said he "just want to take the time to look over the proposed details of the building."

Case's response drew a friendly rebuke from Barnes who repeated that the Council had been briefed repeatedly on the building and had been "thinking it over for years now."

The dye was cast however when Barnes called for a show of hands in support of the new Town Hall by the residents in the meeting who had witnessed the give-and-take between the commissioners, with 75% raising their hands in response.

The display of support swayed

Commissioner Bud Eckenrode to call for a motion to approve the building of the Town Hall, which was seconded by Rittelmeyer. The pair joined to support the Town Hall in the official vote. With Case and Cutshall voting nay, Barnes cast his first tie-breaking vote.

The final vote was based upon the Town only drawing \$200K from the General Fund. The Town will finance the construction with a 26-year adjustable-rate mortgage with the first five years set at 4.75%.

curity of Town offices or records. Construction is set to begin on the Town Hall this summer.

## Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL

P.O. Box 394  
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Covering the news, events, history; and culture of the greater Woodsboro and Walkersville geographical area. The Woodsboro-Walkersville News-Journal is published the first day of every month by Toms Creek Hundred LLC. Proudly serving the communities of Woodsboro, Walkersville, New Midway, Keymar, Creagerstown, Union Bridge and Libertytown.

Senior Advisors:

Boyce Rensberger  
Dorothea Mordan

Executive Editor: Michael Hillman, editor@wv-nj.com

Managing Editor: Claire Doll - MSMU Class of 2024

Assistant Editor: Dolores Hans - MSMU Class of 2025

Reporter-at-large: Phillip Vecera

'Does It Make Sense' Editor: Katie Wherley

English Editor: Rachel Sheehan

News Reporter: Jamie Kahl; news@wv-nj.com

Graphic Design and Layout: Brian Barth, timebombstudios.com

Advertising: Sharon Graham, advertising@emmitsburg.com

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The Council authorized Barnes to enter negotiations with the state, and if unsuccessful, agreed to allow him to pay the \$27,000 fine.

### Hazardous Waste Cylinder To Be Removed

The Town Council agreed to pay a hazardous waste removal company \$78,000 to remove six old cylinders that contain hazardous chemicals once used by the town's old waste water treatment facility.

Over the past few months, two of the cylinders that contained chlorine gas have leaked, resulting in the need to evacuate town staff located at the wastewater treatment facility and residents on Cornell Drive living adjacent to the plant.

According to Burgess Heath Barnes, "the cylinders contain hazardous chemicals once used by the town's old wastewater treatment facility and should have been removed when the old facility was demolished, but for some reason they never were.

"The cylinders," Barnes said, "had been stored in an old shed, and while they were out of the elements, they were ok. But the shed had to be torn down four years ago because it had become unstable, and since then, the cylinders had begun to rust."

Three of the six cylinders contained chlorine gas, the nature of the chemicals in the remaining three cylinders was not revealed.

Following the most recent releases of chlorine, the Town reached out to contractors specializing in hazardous waste removal. While the size of the single bid did surprise Council members, Commissioner Bill Rittelmeyer said that 'dithering' on the issue was not an option, and that given the limited number of companies involved in hazardous waste removal, the Town should proceed with approving the bid and finally addressing the issue. Rittelmeyer's fellow Council members agreed and voted 4 to 0 to approve spending the money to remove the cylinders.



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# WALKERSVILLE NEWS

## Planning Commission says “yes” to growth

Once again, the Comprehensive Plan sits on the shoulders of the Planning Commission for revision. The Town Council decided to honor what Walkersville residents desired by requesting the 115-acre Staley property be removed from future development and kept as it is currently zoned, industrial agriculture.

Staff Liaison Susan Hauver presented the Commission with a series of maps depicting the options they could approve for the Staley property. They included an all-agriculture zoning, a high-density residential/agricultural zoning and a low-density residential/agricultural zoning.

According to Hauver, if the Sta-

ley property is zoned all-agriculture (removed from the Plan), the Town would have approximately 20 to 25 units available for future development. These units are limited to larger lots dotted throughout the Town that could possibly be subdivided into smaller lots. If the property is changed to a high-density residential/agricultural zoning, there would be approximately 90 to 110 units. However, Hauver believes that number is optimistic as the land is oddly shaped and is partially on a flood plain. The low-density residential/agricultural zoning could see 75 to 100 units.

Considering the neighboring Longley Green subdivision is

a five-acre parcel with 20 homes, meaning there are four units per acre, those numbers sounded high to Commission members. They asked Hauver to attempt to provide them with more accurate estimates as to how many units could be put on the smaller east portion of the Staley property.

In support of “no growth,” Member Russell Winch asked why the Commission was dragging its heels. “We have a crystal-clear direction here from Town staff to take this property out of the plan and have no growth,” he said. He argued that the Planning Commission has done nothing but argue back and forth hoping that

someone would change their vote for the last two years. He was adamant that the Commission take heed of what the Council asked for so the Commission could move onto other important issues.

As before, Vice-Chair Mike Kuster voiced concern over leaving the east portion of the Staley property under industrial zoning. “This property should be agricultural or residential. Leaving it industrial opens it up to uses not compatible to that neighborhood.” With the Longley Green townhome community next to it, an industrial zoning would likely have an industrial development such as warehouses and solar

panel fields in their back yards.

Chair David Ennis favored the option to change the industrial zoning to high-density residential. He mentioned the parcel already having residential zoning on two sides of it.

The Commission went through three different motions. The first failed and was to turn the industrial portion of the zoning to agricultural, making the entire 115 acres all agricultural. The second was to keep the larger portion west of Glade creek agricultural and it passed. The final vote was to change the industrial zoning to high-density residential and it passed.

The Commission will now send the Comprehensive Plan to a public hearing.

## Town considers water rate increase options

After much discussion about the future of the Special Assessment fee, the Council met to discuss raising water rates in June. Water administrator Laura Sassano presented the Town Council with charts depicting the projected income if rates were increased by 5% every year for four years.

The charts separated the rates into three categories: in town, out of town and industrial, and does include the \$50 Special Assessment fee, which will not see the 5% increase but is reflected in the total projected revenue.

The first chart compared the actual income from the November 2023 and May 2024 water bills (\$762,812) to a projected increase of 5% for the same period (\$780,336), resulting in an

increase of \$17,524. Each chart that followed showed the projected revenue with and without the 5% increase over the next three years, illustrating a total increase of 20% over a four-year period.

Sassano explained the complexity of the calculations were due to the tiered method of billing Walkersville uses. The Town bases water rates on gallons used with the first tier being 0 to 10,000 gallons, second being 10,001 to 25,000 gallons, third tier at 25,001 to 50,000 gallons and the final tier any amount over 50,001 gallons.

Last month, the Council voted to continue the \$50 bi-annual Special Assessment fee for another 10 years to help pay down the principle of the 30-year loan of \$7.3 million that the

Town received from the State for the plant’s construction. It also allowed the Town to see what the new plant’s expenses would look like without incurring more debt.

When the fee was first introduced, it was based on dividing the yearly loan repayment amount by 3,000 (the approximate number of water customers at the time). In 2021, the fee was increased to \$100 per account. Williams explained that if the fee is kept for the term of the loan, it will need to be renewed in the future, unless the Council decides to choose another route with water billing.

Williams also explained that Town staff has additional charts showing the different options the Council could

choose with the increase, which included raising the Special Assessment fee and rates and removing the Special Assessment completely and rolling it into the rates.

Commissioner Betsey Brannen commented on the Special Assessment fee and its impact on seniors with lower incomes when combined with the tiered billing, especially when they traditionally use less water. “I’m concerned with how increasing the rates will impact those on fixed incomes such as our seniors,” she said. Williams offered the Council an option to change the fee to a tiered version similar to the water rates that would aid those using less water. McNiesh agreed, saying “If you use more water,

then you should pay more.”

Due to the complexity of the chart, Commissioner Mike McNiesh asked Sessano if she could provide the Council with another chart without the Special Assessment fee in order to truly see the benefit of the 5% increase. “We need to be able to compare apples to apples and see exactly what we are raising,” he said.

When McNiesh asked for Town staff’s recommendation on what the Council should do, Sessano suggested a higher initial increase of 20% with lower increases the following years. Although an unpopular option, the amount would still be considerably less than the 36% increase Emmitsburg recently implemented for their water budget.

The Council will continue discussing their options and prepare for a vote on the rate increase in July.

## FY-25 Town budget approved

The Town’s FY-25 General Fund budget was approved at the May Council meeting, requiring Burgess Chad Weddle to break a 2-2 tie. The Water Fund budget was also approved with a 4-0 vote.

The estimated income for the FY-25 General Fund budget will have a deficit of \$1,066,319 due to Capital Project expenses. To offset the difference, the Town will be adding \$1,066,319 from the Surplus Fund to the revenue to “balance” the budget.

Town Manager Sean Williams explained that the deficit will be covered using surplus funds from prior years when the Town failed to spend all the budgeted monies. Williams pointed out that while the Town was fortunate to be able to draw upon this surplus, it is getting smaller each year and the ability to pull from it may soon no longer be an option.

The only other notable change in the budget from last month was the increase in General Fund expenses for police protection. Williams explained the original estimate was \$1,653,637, which increased by \$255,672, resulting in a total of \$1,909,309 budgeted for salaries, overtime and other expenses for five resident troopers. This amount also impacts how much money will be pulled from the Surplus Fund to balance the budget.

Weddle described how Myersville and Middletown have discussed increasing their taxes to cover the cost associated with using the Sheriff’s Office for police protection. Mt. Airy has already

increased taxes by 18% to cover the costs of going to private police protection, said Weddle. “Walkersville is the land of milk and honey,” he said. “We do have the lowest tax rate for a municipality of our size in the State but every other expense in our life has gone up and we have to start figuring out something.”

Commissioner Mary Ann Ennis was vocally against using the reserves to balance the budget. “I feel like we haven’t done enough to cut back on things that we should be cutting back on”, she said.

With some of the FY-25 projects to include the purchase of equipment and renovations to the Public Works building, Ennis wondered how many of these items were necessary.

The Water Fund revenues are expected to increase by \$3,431,757,

primarily driven by the infusion of \$3,138,837 from The American Rescue Fund Act (ARPA), which will be allotted to cover the cost of the Discovery water main replacement, which is the most substantial expenditure in the Water Fund. The remainder of the increase comes from water usage charges and the special assessment fee designed to help pay back the loan for the water plant at \$100 per residence.

Williams pointed out at the previous meeting that the initial phases for the Discovery project would be covered by the ARPA funds, however the following phases will be more challenging financially. He said raising the water rates would be instrumental in paying for the rest of the project.

Commissioner Gary Baker asked what options the Town had to cover the deficits in both the General and Water Funds. “There’s not much we can do about some of this stuff. It’s very fixed,” he said. “Somebody is going to have to make a decision at some point in time to raise taxes and/or the water rates.” The approved FY-25 budget does not include a property tax rate increase,

which will stay at 14 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

Commissioners Betsey Brannen and Ennis voted against approving the budget. Since the budget is an ordinance, Weddle is allowed to break the tie and he voted alongside Commissioners Tom Gilbert and Baker in approval of the FY-25 General Fund Budget. Commissioner Mike McNiesh was absent from the meeting.



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# FROM THE DESK OF...

## Congressman David Trone

I'm a strong believer in what Vice President Hubert Humphrey once said: "The moral test of government is how it treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the aged; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy."

I lost my nephew Ian to a fentanyl overdose when he was only 24. Having worked with him for years to gain access to the best treatment and navigate the criminal justice system when he was at his lowest, I met countless people – those in the shadows of life – who needed someone to fight for them, someone to bring their issues to the halls of our nation's capital and deliver results.

For the last six years, I've had the distinct honor of doing so.

On the heels of COVID-19, while companies continued to price gouge basic needs to reap record profits, we took action by passing the Inflation Reduction Act. At the time of its passage in 2022, Americans were paying nearly three times as much for prescription drugs compared to others in developed countries. Just under two years later, insulin is capped at \$35/month for all Medicare enrollees and the top three insulin manufacturers have now capped the price for all other patients. Even more, hardworking families are projected to save tens of billions of dollars on their energy bills over the next decade thanks to clean energy investments driven by the law. That's a win-win for our communities and economy, and that's exactly the long-

term thinking that will keep America in the lead.

But we didn't stop there. For decades, America's infrastructure was crumbling, jeopardizing the safety of millions of Americans and weakening our national defense and global competitiveness. Congress just couldn't get the job done. Last Congress, we finally did. I was proud to join my colleagues – Democrats and Republicans – to pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, delivering \$1.3 trillion in federal funding to rebuild roads and bridges, connect communities to high-speed internet, and invest in the future. In the years to come, this law will generate millions of good-paying, union jobs that families can count on, improve our quality of life by providing access to education and health care online, and

ensure our children and grandchildren are on the strongest footing to succeed.

We accomplished all this by working *together*.

I remember when the CDC first reported that in 2021, over 107,000 Americans died of drug overdoses – the first time overdose deaths surpassed 100,000. That record also meant that over one million Americans had now died of drug overdoses in the last twenty years and, if unabated, over one million were projected to die in the next decade alone.

Around that same time, then Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner came to our team about a new crisis stabilization center that was in desperate need of funding. This center would provide 24/7 care to those suffering from an addiction or mental health crisis. Working with local organizations and government agencies, we were able to secure nearly \$1.5 million in federal

Community Project Funding funding to build and equip the new center to provide care to thousands in need. Today, the center is fully operational and has saved countless lives.

As I think about my time in Congress, I am constantly reminded of and grateful for opportunities like these to work with those who put people first to tackle our country's most pressing issues. In my three terms, I was only able to accomplish so much in Congress because of the support of others – from mayors to local business owners to council members to folks just working to get by – those who brought fearless ideas to the table and empowered their communities to do better and be better. During a time of such division and vitriol, I hope that we can continue to find common ground and provide real solutions. It's not always the easiest path but it's the right one, and one our democracy depends on.

## Woodsboro Burgess Heath Barnes

Happy Independence Day aka 4th of July. I hope each of you has a safe holiday with family and friends. If you celebrate with fireworks, please use caution as the weather has been hot, and things can be dry.

At our June 11th meeting we had more town residents in attendance than we have had in a meeting in my tenure as Burgess. This was to be expected with the voting for the budget but was also nice to have that many in attendance as we were to be voting on moving forward with the town hall building or not. The meeting started with a discussion about the town hall. When we sent it out for bids initially several months ago the lowest bid came in

at \$1.6 million and the builder, we chose came in at about \$1.8 million. This was out of our price range, so we sent it back to the builder and asked for cuts. The new proposal came in at \$1.4 million.

With the \$400,000 that I secured in grants from the state in Governor Larry Hogans last year as Governor and taking out 200 thousand from town reserves this would put us taking out an \$800,000 loan from Woodsboro Bank with about \$4,500-\$4,700 a month mortgage payment. After a lively discussion, it was tabled until the end of the meeting as a few council members were not comfortable with the cost. After we picked the discussion back up the council was still at a standstill. I

give my opinion that the longer we waited the more expensive it would become. Several comments came in from the public and one said let's poll the audience.

At that point, we asked and 17 of the 22 in the audience raised their hands in favor. At that point, Commissioner Eckenrode made a motion to move forward. Commissioner Rittelmeyer seconded the motion. Commissioner Cutshall and Commissioner Case voted no. At that point it was a 2-2 vote per town code at that time the Burgess would break the tie. I voted yes and the town hall project was approved. The builder has told us we should be in the building by late Spring, 2025.

At the monthly meeting, we also dis-


cussed some issues with the water waste plant that we are having. We have plans in place to fix some issues that are happening; however, we have also been hit with a surprise resignation of our town water and sewage plant operator with his last day being August 31, 2024. We are currently actively seeking his replacement. We are running a 20-year wastewater plant that was put in 22 years ago. Unfortunately, the town did not have a strategic plan in place for the replacement of it in 20 years, which is unfortunately why we had no choice but to increase water and sewage rates. If we had not received 974 thousand in American Rescue Plan funds where 750 thousand of it went to the water plant, we would be in worse shape than we are. With the additional funds, we should be able to get all things completed in the next 12 months hopefully.

On July 4th there will be a free event in the park with amateur singers and it's open to the public to sing along with food trucks and activities. This is put on my town resident Joe Williams. This is not an

event that is put on by the town, but it is nice to see the park bandshell being used for events. All are welcome to attend.

As always, I encourage everyone to support Glade Valley Community Services (GVCS) if you have clothes or food donations as they are always in need of items for members of the community. For more information, please contact GVCS by email at [gladevalley.org@gmail.com](mailto:gladevalley.org@gmail.com), or call 301-845-0213. If you have any questions, concerns, complaints, or compliments please feel free to reach out to me at [hbames@woodsboro.org](mailto:hbames@woodsboro.org) or by phone at 301-401-7164.

Woodsboro Town meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.. In addition, Planning and Zoning meetings are at 6pm on the First Monday of the month as needed. If you have an item for the agenda, it needs to be submitted 14 days before the P&Z meeting. The current location for meetings is the St. Johns United Church of Christ located at 8 N 2nd Street. The public is always invited to attend.



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# GOVERNMENT

## County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

I love this time of year! Fireworks, picnics, carnivals – there’s so much to do, including some activities that are unique to Frederick County. The only high wheel bicycle race in the nation rolls into Frederick on July 13th. Closer to home in Thurmont, the Catoctin Historical Society invites people to spend the Fourth at the Furnace. There are living history tours at the Seton Shrine in Emmitsburg. For the adventurous out there, try goat yoga at Links Bridge Vineyard in Thurmont.

### Award-winning transit

We know transportation can be a game-changer. Job opportunities expand and medical care improves when people have a safe and reliable way to get around. That’s why my administration made it a priority to expand transportation options. The County’s Transit staff collects input from our communities on ways our bus system can serve people better. As a result of talking with residents

from Emmitsburg to Brunswick, we have expanded shuttle service to Emmitsburg, Thurmont, Brunswick and Jefferson. Additionally, starting this month we are adding more frequent mid-day trips along the Golden Mile. And in case you hadn’t heard, it’s free to ride our buses!

These changes in service are a direct result of listening to riders and community members. It’s because we choose to meet people where they are that Transit Services of Frederick County was recently recognized as the best community transportation system in the nation for 2024! The Community Transportation Association of America presented the award at a conference two weeks ago. Frederick County won in the Large System category.

Transit earned the award for being creative, collaborating with other services, helping to meet community goals, building public-private partnerships, and providing transportation options that

are accessible to everyone. Their work is making a difference. Ridership continues to grow.

I am incredibly proud of our Transit team for winning this prestigious national honor. This award is a testament to their professionalism and dedication. Transit expands opportunities that connect people to jobs, services, and opportunities.

### Building resiliency

Maryland’s U.S. Senators, Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, came to Frederick County last month to recognize the work the County is doing to reduce our reliance on the region’s electrical grid. They presented a check for over \$1 million to help pay for a solar-powered microgrid at the Prospect Center off U.S. Route 15.

The Prospect Center currently houses the Department of Facility Maintenance and the Office of Construction Inspection. More agencies and services will move to the facility in the next two to three years, includ-

ing the 9-1-1 center and the Emergency Operations Center.

Solar panels on the roof will generate electricity for the facility and charge backup batteries in case of a power outage. Once the system is built, Frederick will be the first county in Maryland to have its 9-1-1 call center powered by a microgrid. We expect to break ground on the project next year.

The microgrid will save us money on utility bills and make the Prospect Center less vulnerable to power outages. What’s really exciting is that the project will also allow the public to use part of the Prospect Center as a Resiliency Hub. A Resiliency Hub is a space that has back up power so if the community loses power, residents can access heat or air-conditioning and plug in medical equipment.

I am extremely grateful to Senator Cardin and Senator Van Hollen for their support for this important clean-energy project in a neighborhood that has been historically underserved. The senators requested and secured funds for the project through the Congressio-

nally Directed Spending program through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

### FCG TV

If you watch the County’s public meetings on Comcast cable, be sure to add Channel 1072 to your list of favorites. That’s the new home for Frederick County Government’s high-definition television station, FCG TV. You can still find the standard-definition broadcast on Channel 19. You can also stream the HD version online from [FrederickCountyMD.gov/FCGtv](http://FrederickCountyMD.gov/FCGtv).

If you aren’t familiar with FCG TV, the channel airs more than public meetings. You can also find original programming, like the twice-a-month news magazine County Perspective. Series like Farming Frederick and Destination Frederick highlight some of the best our community has to offer. You can also watch profiles of residents, spotlights on County resources and services, public service announcements, and more. All the original shows can be found on YouTube. [com/FrederickCountyMD](http://com/FrederickCountyMD).

## County Council President Brad Young

The Frederick County Council meets regularly on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 pm at Winchester Hall, located at 12 East Church Street in downtown Frederick. All meetings are open to the public, and we welcome participation.

On June 18, the Council passed Bill 24-07, Amending Chapter 1-19 of the Zoning Ordinance to Update the Definitions of Bodywork and Add New Approval Criteria. This bill passed by 7-0 vote and was sponsored by Council Members Renee Knapp and M.C. Keegan-Ayer on behalf of County Executive Fitzwater. The Council also passed Bill 24-08 by 7-0 vote, Establishing a Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund. I sponsored this bill on behalf of County Executive Fitzwater. The full text of our bills can be found on our website and are also linked to each corresponding agenda.

The Council has two bills cur-

rently advancing through our legislative process in the coming weeks. Bill 24-09, sponsored by Council Member Mason Carter, amends the Accessory Uses on Residential Properties by providing guidance on the keeping of eight or fewer chickens. Bill 24-10, sponsored by Council Member M.C. Keegan-Ayer, provides new design criteria for Commercial Solar Facilities in the Agricultural Zoning District. Please visit our website for the full text of our bills and most up to date schedules. The final vote on Bills 24-09 and 24-10 is scheduled for July 2.

These two bills had their public hearings by the Council on June 18th. Bill 24-09, introduced by Council Member Carter would provide guidance on the keeping of eight or fewer chickens on residential properties.

Bill 24-10, introduced by Council Member Keegan-Ayer will allow large scale solar col-

lection facilities on certain Ag zoned land as a permitted use with site plan approval, and put in place certain requirements pertaining to setbacks, landscaping, screening, and lighting as part of the site plan approval process. It will also place requirements for the removal of all the solar collection equipment and the restoration of the property at the end of the term of the lease, when the equipment ceases to generate electricity, or when the facility does not input electricity into the grid for six months.

I encourage everyone to review these pieces of legislation and let the Council know your thoughts before the final votes scheduled for July 2nd.

The Frederick County Council encourages public involvement at every stage of the legislative process. We welcome public comment at every Council meeting on Tuesday evenings. Members of the public are welcome to attend and give comment

in person, leave a voicemail to be forwarded to each council member, or email us any time at [councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov). Please visit our website at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/countycouncil](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/countycouncil) to view our latest agendas, legislation, and upcoming calendar of events.

The Council will be taking its summer recess in the coming weeks and will not be meeting on July 30, August 6, or August 13.

And as always, if there is ever anything I can do for you, please feel free to reach out to me and my office. You can contact me via email at: [BYoung@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:BYoung@FrederickCountyMD.gov), or you can call my office at 301-600-1108.

**WALKERSVILLE INFO**

Mon.-Sat., July 1 - 6 - Walkersville Vol. Fire Co. Carnival

Thurs., July 4 - Town Office Closed - 4th of July

Mon., July 8 - 7 p.m. - Charter Review Committee Meeting

Tues., July 9 - 7 p.m. - Planning Commission Meeting

Wed., July 10 - 7 p.m. - Town Meeting

website: [www.walkersvillemd.gov](http://www.walkersvillemd.gov) phone: 301-845-4500 Walkersville:Our Town

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# COUNTY NOTES

## Frederick County Division Of Parks And Recreation Announces Opening Of The FY2025 Community Grant Program

Frederick County Division of Parks and Recreation announces the opening of the FY2025 Community Grant Program, a grant program for eligible non-profit community organizations that provides funds for recreational facilities for county residents.

The Frederick County Division of Parks and Recreation, through its Parks and Recreation Commission (FCPRC), is accepting applications for the FY-25 Community Grant Program. The application process will be available from June 3 through August 2. Various organizations are eligible to apply for the grants including Homeowners Associations, Civic/Community/Service Organizations, Athletic Associations and Recreation Councils.

Community Grants are for improving existing recreation facilities or constructing new ones on land owned or utilized by the organization. Funding is not allowed on land owned by federal, state, municipalities, or Frederick County Government. Funds will be provided prior to project construction and can be applied towards the cost of materials, equipment, and contracted labor. Construction labor may be provided by any combination of volunteer service by the organization and/or paid contractors. Grants will not be awarded to meet the annual maintenance needs for existing facilities. Projects must be completed within two years of July 1st of the funding year (For FY-25, this will be June 30, 2026).

For additional information on the Community Grant Process and to see if your organizations project qualifies go to [www.recreator.com/communitygrant](http://www.recreator.com/communitygrant). Grant applications will be submitted online and must be completed by 11:59 p.m. Friday August 2. Organizations will be notified by November 2024 regarding grant awards. A budget of \$100,000 has been approved for FY-25; however, applicants may only request up to \$25,000.

**\$1.275 Million Grant To Fund Microgrid For Resiliency Hub**  
U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen presented Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater with a \$1.275 million check today at Winchester Hall. The funds will be used to build a microgrid at the Prospect Center at 585 Himes Avenue in Frederick. The electrical generation system will provide backup power. Once built, the microgrid will be the first in Maryland to support a 9-1-1 call center and an emergency operations center.

“With the microgrid, we can continue to provide critical services to the community, even during an extreme hazardous event with grid failure,” County Executive Fitzwater said. “I am extremely grateful to Senator Cardin and Senator Van Hollen for their support for this important clean-energy project in a neighborhood that has been historically underserved.”

“When disaster strikes, our brave first responders are needed more than ever. We fought for this direct federal investment in renewable and dependable energy for Frederick County’s emergency services so they can power through whatever comes their way – and so residents can always count on them to answer the call,” Senator Van Hollen said.

The Prospect Center is currently home to the Department of Facility Maintenance and the Office of Construction Inspection. More agencies and services will move to the center in the next two to three years, creating a hub of resources for community residents. Solar panels will be installed on the roof. They will be able to make close to 2 megawatts of electrical capacity, which will be stored in batteries. If power goes out in the area, the 9-1-1 center and the Emergency Operations Center would be powered by the solar array and battery storage connected to the microgrid. In addition, the public could use part of the Prospect Center as a Resiliency Hub, where they can access heat or air-conditioning and plug in medical equipment during power outages.

## Thurmont Community Ambulance Service Summer Sportsman Outdoor Bash Saturday, August 3



**\$20 PER PERSON**

Gates open at 10 a.m.  
Drawings begin at 11:45 a.m.  
Food, Beer, Wine Coolers & Soda Included  
Noon - 5 p.m.

No one under 18 - ID Required - Must present ticket to enter  
No pets except service dogs - No coolers or carryouts allowed  
**Bring your lawn chairs & canopy**  
**PRIZES Drawn Every 5 Minutes**  
Ticket holders can win multiple prizes

Firearms supplied by Keymar Outdoors - 1067B FSK Hwy., Keymar  
*All regulated firearms to be picked up at the gun shop after background check. IAW all regulated firearms. All guns not picked up within 60 days become the property of Thurmont Community Ambulance. Prizes available at time of printing. Equal substitution may be made.*

For tickets: **301-748-5359** or **301-271-3820**  
or any Friday Night at the Complex from 5 - 10 p.m.

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# 2023 TOWN OF WOODSBORO WATER QUALITY REPORT

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

The sources of our drinking water are the Frederick Limestone Aquifer and the Grove Limestone Aquifer. An aquifer is a sort of underground reservoir or deposit of water, which is tapped by drilling wells and pumping the water to the surface for distribution. The earth between surface sources of contamination and this underground river helps to purify the water before it actually reaches the aquifer, making it easier for us to treat before we pump it into your water distribution system. We have 5 wells varying in depth from 200 to 600 feet all located within the corporate limits of the town.

We have a source water assessment plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination. This plan is also available from the Frederick County Public Library or from Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). For more info call 1-800-633-6101.

This report outlines the quality of our finished drinking water and what that quality means.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with IDV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact the Town Office. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Mayor and Council meetings. They are held on the second Tuesday of every month beginning at 7:00 pm at St. Johns United Church of Christ located at 8 N 2nd Street.

The Town of Woodsboro routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2023 unless otherwise noted. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

**Definitions:**

*Non-Detects (ND)* - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

*Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L)* - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

*Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter* - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

*Parts per trillion (ppt) or Microgram per liter* - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

*Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)* - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

*Action Level* - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

*Maximum Contaminant Level* - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

*Maximum Contaminant Level Goal* - The "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**Important information about ....**

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Woodsboro is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Woodsboro at 301-845-4288. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] - Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate

levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall.

PFAS - or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances - refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater, and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.

Beginning in 2020, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) initiated a PFAS monitoring program. PFOA and PFOS are two of the most prevalent PFAS compounds.

In March 2023 the EPA announced proposed Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) of 4 ppt for PFOA and 4 ppt for PFOS, and a Group Hazard Index for four additional PFAS compounds.

In April of 2024, the EPA finalized regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are each 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The MCLs for PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals) are each 10 ppt. Additionally, a mixture of two or more of the following chemicals (PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA, and PFBS) will be regulated with a Hazard Index of 1 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action.

Additional information about PFAS can be found on the MDE website: [mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx](https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx)

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers. These improvements are sometimes reflected as rate structure adjustments. Thank you for understanding.

PWSID #0100027

WATER QUALITY DATA								
<b>INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>								
Regulated Contaminants	Units	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride	ppm	2023	0.1	0.1 - 0.1	4	4	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharger from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	ppm	2023	5	2.45 - 4.55	10	10	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
<b>RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS</b>								
Regulated Contaminants	Units	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Typical Sources
Combined Radium 226/228	pCi/L	6/30/2021	1.3	0.9 - 1.3	0	5	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha Excluding Radon & Uranium	pCi/L	6/30/2021	6.1	3.2 - 6.1	0	15	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta/Photon Emitters	pCi/L	6/30/2021	7.2	0 - 7.2	0	50	NO	Decay of Natural and man-made emitters
<b>DISINFECTION AND DISINFECTION BY PRODUCTS</b>								
Regulated Contaminants	Units	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Violation	Typical Sources
Chlorine	ppm	2023	1.4	1.2 - 1.4	4	4	NO	Water additive to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	2023	37	37-37	na	80	NO	By-products of drinking water disinfection process
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	2023	20	19.5 - 19.5	na	60	NO	By-products of drinking water disinfection process
<b>LEAD AND COPPER: testing is performed on samples from customers tap between June thru September</b>								
Regulated Contaminants	Units	Collection Date	90th Percentile	# Sites Over Action Level	MCLG	AL	Violation	Typical Sources
Lead	ppb	2023	11	1	0	15	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Copper	ppm	2023	0.517	0	1.3	1.3	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
<b>PFAS INFORMATION</b>								
Contaminant	units	Collection Date	MCL (Proposed)	Level Detected	Violation	Typical Sources		
PFOA	ppt	2022	4	1.61 - 3.17	na	Human made chemicals found in stain and water resistant fabrics, carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire fighting foams		
PFOS	ppt	2022	4	2.21 - 4.78	na	Human made chemicals found in stain and water resistant fabrics, carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire fighting foams		
PFHxS	ppt	2022	na	1.1 - 1.4	na	Human made chemicals found in stain and water resistant fabrics, carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire fighting foams		
PFBS	ppt	2022	na	2.93 - 4.56	na	Human made chemicals found in stain and water resistant fabrics, carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire fighting foams		

# COMMENTARY

## Words from Winterbilt

### The economy, facts, myths & reality

Shannon Bohrer

The age of divisiveness, party loyalty over country, and alternative facts can be confusing. When one feels or accepts that diversity may have some predictability, one is reminded of the unexpected depth of abnormality. Watching a reputable morning news program (they do exist), a well-known economist used charts to explain a wide range of current beliefs. The first bewildering fact was that fifty-one percent of Americans, according to a recent poll by the Harris Guardian, believe America is in a recession. A similar survey reported that fifty-six percent believe America is in a recession. However, it is a fact that our economy is not just thriving; it is one of the best economies in the developed world.

Four years ago, many experts believed we would have a recession, but it never occurred. According to the New York Times and other reputable organizations, our economy is booming. It has also been widely reported that the United States is one of the best economies in the world. Unemployment is at a fifty-year low, the stock market is at an all-time high, and workers' wages are exceed-

ing inflation. The United States, compared to the other G-7 countries, "Has the highest gross domestic product growth over the last three years while also seeing inflation come down faster than most of the other wealthy countries."

If the recession predicted did not occur, why do people believe we are in a recession? Of course, a similar question could be asked about numerous topics. There is not just a diversity of thoughts and beliefs in our society but also a diversity of news outlets, which could help to explain the divisions of our perceptions and beliefs. Mark Twain once said, "If you don't read the newspaper, you're uninformed. If you read the newspaper, you're misinformed." So, which half is uninformed or misinformed?

While partisan news outlets generally report facts and figures that confirm their beliefs, or the beliefs of their readers, reporting or even indicating that we are in a recession could reflect Mark Twain's words of being "...misinformed." According to an Axios Vibes survey by the Harris Poll, sixty-three percent of Americans believe their financial situation is "good." In those numbers, nineteen percent reveal their financial situation as "very good." And yet, over half of those polled believe we are in a recession. Simultaneously, an

Axios Vibes survey by the Harris Poll found that "Americans overall have a surprising degree of satisfaction with their economic situation."

Television reporters and news pundits like to say that very often, public surveys reflect the past and present but not the future. With that logic, people responding to the polls may be thinking of the predicted recession. However, polls taken early in 2024 indicated that the majority believed that 2024 would be better than 2023. In that same poll, eighty-five percent felt they could improve their financial situation in 2024. The polls reflect similar estimates from the Wall Street Journal, predicting "growth in both GDP and real wages for the rest of the year."

How can so much polling and optimism about our financial situation and future be interpreted as a recession? When explaining the differences the pundits often reflect on those that have been left behind, individuals and families that have difficulties meeting their basic needs. Food prices, the increases in cost of gasoline and housing expense have all gone up. Those categories are often mentioned when explaining how people feel about the economy.

Food companies and the fossil fuel industries are making record profits, which should not surprise anyone. While salaries have increased, in many areas, the increases have not kept up with the cost of living, espe-

cially rent. Yet, in another poll, seventy-seven percent of Americans like where they live, including renters. However, renters tend to see their financial situation as poor more often than homeowners. The rising cost of renting is considered a large factor, yet sixty-three percent of renters have no interest in homeownership. If one has trouble paying the rent because of increases, saving for a down payment to purchase a home may not be a consideration.

A logical yet seemingly illogical view is that the polling on our economy is reflective of people who can hold two ideas with opposing views as both true. Two things can be true at the same time, but when the two things seem to contradict each other, how can both be true? With the diversity of news available today, it is possible to shop for the news that fits one's beliefs and ignore facts that dispute one's beliefs. However, in this case, each side of the economic polling disputes the other side.

Unusual or strange beliefs, and thought processes, have always existed. So, maybe we should not be surprised when two opposing views are both held. The problem for many of us may be our belief in logic as a foundation of our beliefs. It seems illogical for so many people that believe they are economically well off to also believe we are in a recession. Conversely, when examining the issue, does logic hinder one's ability to see both sides of a problem?

According to H.L. Menchen, "For every complex problem there is an answer that is clear, simple and wrong."

Recently, the World Bank estimated "the global economy will expand 2.6 percent" this year. The World Bank also said the U.S. economy in "Impressive" and is leading the world growth. Accordingly, the Bank also said, "the global economy is in better shape than it was at the start of the year, thanks largely to the performance of the United States." That's us.

If we have two opposing views on our economy that contradict one another, what other views do we have that, from a logical point of view, seem illogical? Addressing that question is the diversity we read and hear about every day. For too many of us, the differences are illogical, and trying to use logic to understand the differences has yet to work. Reflecting on Mark Twain's quote, is it possible that in general people are either uninformed or misinformed?

"The first lesson of economics is scarcity: there is never enough of anything to fully satisfy all those who want it. The first lesson of politics is to disregard the first lesson of economics." - Thomas Sowell.

In a convoluted way, that makes sense.

*To read prior editions of Words From Winterbilt, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.*

## The Bulwark

### A response to Mitt Romney

Jonathan Last

Mitt Romney gave a statement about the Trump felony verdict: "Bragg should have settled the case against Trump, as would have been the normal procedure. But he made a political decision. Bragg may have won the battle, for now, but he may have lost the political war. Democrats think they can put out the Trump fire with oxygen. It's political malpractice."

Romney is wrong on the law, wrong on the politics, and wrong on the morality. It is worth exploring each of his misapprehensions in some detail.

But before we start: I have a great deal of respect for Romney and you should, too. He's honestly wrong here and it would be both incorrect and unfair to impute bad faith to him.

Wrong on the law. Romney believes that the Manhattan district attorney should have settled on a plea agreement with Trump. The problem with this scenario is that it is not clear what plea Trump would have agreed to. In fact, reason and circumstantial evidence suggest that Trump would not have been amenable to any plea bargain.

First, if Trump had sought a plea, there would have been tremendous pressure on the DA to take it.

Second, if Trump had sought a plea and the DA rebuffed him, then it would have been to Trump's political advantage to broadcast this fact. It would have been easy for Trump to say that the maniacal prosecutor wouldn't take yes for an answer and was hell-bent on going to trial. I am unaware of any report, anywhere, that suggested that Trump had sought a plea.

Third, Trump's behavior in the classified documents case suggests that his legal posture has been to dare prosecutors to indict him and then try him. It seems unlikely that Trump's defiant stance in the stolen documents case would have become a cooperative stance in the Stormy Daniels election interference case.

Is it possible that Alvin Bragg could have negotiated against himself and begged Trump to plead down to some misdemeanor? Perhaps. But that would have been, contra Romney, a highly abnormal process.

Wrong on the politics. Romney asserts that this conviction will be a political net positive for Trump. There is no polling evidence yet to support this belief, but neither should we dismiss it out of hand.

Could this conviction help Trump? Sure. Crazier things have happened.

But on the other hand, not pursuing accountability for Trump also seems to have helped him. Trump is the Republican nominee. He is leading Joe Biden in most polls. How much better could things get for Trump?

The strangest part of Romney's comment is this: Democrats think they can put out the Trump fire with oxygen. It's political malpractice.

It's not clear which Democrats he's talking about here. Alvin Bragg? Jamie Raskin? Joe Biden? The decision to indict and try Trump was vested entirely with Bragg. No other Democrat had—or should have had—a say.

By the same token, who is trying to put out the Trump fire with oxygen? Is Romney talking about Bragg's decision to try Trump, or Biden's decision to publicly note that his opponent is a convicted felon?

If Romney means the latter, then I respectfully disagree. Again: Biden stayed far away from this case while it was an ongoing proceeding and the result was that Trump did well in the polls. Now that the proceeding is closed and Trump has been found guilty, Biden is trying to communicate this fact to the public.

Would Trump's poll numbers go down if Biden didn't tell voters that his opponent was a convicted felon? I doubt it.

Wrong on the morality. We don't want prosecutors to be making political calculations.

Imagine the following scenario: It's 2008 and a district attorney is investigating a murder. She has both solid evidence and an overwhelming belief that John Smith committed the murder. Further, she has a reasonable belief that she will attain a conviction if she takes the case to trial.

But a time traveler appears in her office. He says, "If you decline

to indict John Smith, then Barack Obama will win the presidential election."

Our district attorney loves Barack Obama and very much wants him to become president. So she decides not to indict. John Smith walks and Obama becomes president.

Would you say that our district attorney did the right thing? Or would you say that politics corrupted her judgment?

The power of the state is an awesome thing, which is why I do not understand the moral arguments around Trump's conviction.

Does Romney wish that Bragg had allowed his decision-making process to be guided by what he believed would most hurt Trump's political chances?

Does Romney think that the president of the United States should have reached out to the Manhattan district attorney and attempted to influence his decision on a criminal indictment?

Because to me, both of those scenarios would have been deeply corrupt. The state's power over the individual should always be guided by evidence and the interests of justice and never be influenced by politics.

Our legal system often falls short of this ideal. But that doesn't mean we should abandon it.

The last thing I'd ask Sen. Romney is this: "Is Trump guilty?"

That's really the only question that matters.

Was the evidence presented at trial genuine? Was the testimony given corroborated? Was a fair jury

empaneled? Did the defendant present a competent and vigorous defense? Could a reasonable jury have decided that Trump violated the written word of the law?

If the answer to these five questions was yes, then Donald Trump is guilty and everything else is an attempt to avoid grappling with this base fact.

I share Romney's discomfort. But everything in life is opportunity cost. The jury's verdict was bad for America. But it would have been at least as bad for America—and possibly worse—for the Manhattan district attorney to have looked at the overwhelming evidence of Trump's crimes and chosen not to hold him accountable.

It would have been at least as bad—and possibly worse—for the district attorney to have indicted Trump and then begged Trump to accept a plea bargain.

And this impossible situation in which there are no good outcomes is what happens when the American people chose to give a criminal the most powerful office in the world.

Good men, like Mitt Romney, eventually realize that they cannot control, check, or rehabilitate the criminal. And so eventually they blame the systems that try to enforce accountability for the dissonances and ill effects of accountability.

Alvin Bragg didn't put America in this position. Neither did Joe Biden or "Democrats" generally. Donald Trump did.

*To read other articles from the Bulwark, visit [www.thebulwark.com](http://www.thebulwark.com).*



# The Liberal Patriot

Rural voters aren't a threat to democracy

Erica Etelson

Ever since candidate Donald Trump swept 66 percent of the rural vote in 2016, bewildered urban and suburban Democrats have wondered aloud: "Why do they vote against their own interests?" But the question they should be asking is: "What are rural voters' interests and what can we do to help address them?"

After all, as recently as 2008, Barack Obama won 45 percent of the rural vote. A lot of rural folks used to vote for Democrats. What drove so many into the GOP's corner?

Colby College professors of government Nicholas Jacobs and Daniel Shea set out to answer that question in, *The Rural Voter: The Politics of Place and the Disuniting of America*. Drawing from historical data as well as their own survey of 10,000 rural voters, Jacobs and Shea provide a complex analysis of rural attitudes, culture, and voting behavior.

As someone fairly desperate to reverse Democrats' losses in rural America, I badly wanted to hear that the problem was simple and remediable. Economic implosion? Remedy: Massive public and philanthropic investment in rural communities. Cultural marginalization? Respect rural lifeways and increase their representation in media and entertainment. Fox News radicalization? Revive local journalism.

These diagnoses and prescriptions are correct, according to Shea and Jacobs, but insufficient. They are mere strands, knotted together with a host of other causal agents, including resentment (sometimes but not usually of a racial variety), right-wing cultivation of a nationalized, conservative rural identity pitted against urban "others," and place-based pride.

When it comes to pinning down the primary drivers of rural-urban polarization, the role of economic precarity is the most difficult to decipher. According to the authors, it's not clear that rural America is, on the whole, significantly worse off than urban America. Suffice it to say that inequality and poverty are rampant across geographies.

But rural people feel more economic anxiety than their urban and suburban counterparts. Why?

This is where the related concepts of shared fate and place-based identity take on significance. Rural and small town communities are less class-segregated than cities and suburbs, with trailers and fancy homes in close proximity. Wealthier residents may be able to weather downturns, but they're painfully aware of their neighbors' plight. What's more, rural communities are united in defensiveness against those whom they perceive to be denigrating and undermining their way of life. Their collective group identity has many dimensions, but the grievance that stems from being continually disrespected by others is foundational.

Rural residents have strong feelings of attachment, pride and loyalty to their homes. When urbanites disparage their beloved communities as "flyover country" or "backward backwaters" inhabited by "stupid, racist trailer trash," well, no big surprise, they get mad. Keenly attuned to condescension and scorn, their resentment deepens with every derogatory remark and stereotypical portrayal. And that resentment is grist for a partly true but incomplete story: Their community's hardships are caused or made worse by urban liberals who don't care about them, look down on them, and maybe even hate them.

The missing part of the story, of course, is that most Republican elites don't care about them either. But at least they pretend to.

Even a thriving rural community's economic prosperity doesn't inoculate it against a defensive rural identity that binds people together against their detractors. The authors explain that unflattering media portrayals are "a major source of rural grievance—a simmering anger that has politicized their distinctive identity and put them in the service of exploitative politicians willing to wage war on behalf of the real America." This incredibly important insight invokes what is perhaps liberals' most pervasive unforced error—the very bad habit of positing themselves as morally, culturally, economically, and intellectually superior to the "deplorables."

Rural folks naturally defend themselves. Most of them quietly lick their wounds and vote Republican, but a minority—about ten percent get extremely riled up.

Festooned in MAGA swag, they say and do inflammatory things that get them profiled on cherry-picked TV shows, which then provokes another round of sweeping denunciations of the nativists who are ruining the perfectly multicultural and science-abiding democracy that the righteous progressive elites worship.

And around and around it goes—in an ugly and unnecessary round of mutual contempt and hatred.

Country folk have a long memory for insult, but they don't need one; the jabs keep coming. If a community of people continually shake their heads at how they are portrayed, if they feel they are constantly reduced to a caricature, it would make sense that resentment would build—and that a shared fate ethos would gain steam.

Hell hath no fury like a voter scorned.

In politics, perception is reality. If rural people feel disdained, then it behooves those courting their vote to telegraph empathy and respect instead.

The latest categorical condemnation of rural America comes in the form of a book entitled, *White Rural Rage: The Threat to American Democracy*. This misleading and supremely unhelpful book enjoyed a mercifully brief moment in the limelight before savvier reviewers, rural progressive leaders, and scholars demolished its factual and analytical foundation.

If there's an existential threat to democracy, it's not white rural voters, it's rural-urban and red-blue polarization. It's a small

minority on each side inciting fear and loathing of some subset of the other. The "Antifa" bogeyman is to the right what "raging white rubes" represent to the left—an intentionally overblown caricature of the other team's most objectionable characters. Meanwhile, the divide deepens, alienation festers into hatred, and undemocratic measures become rationalized as the necessary means of taming such dangerous elements.

If there's a loose strand in the wicked knot presented by Jacobs and Shea, it's that rural voters' opinions on most issues are only a little, if that, to the right of mainstream public opinion.

This presents an opening for local Democratic parties and candidates running in overwhelmingly Republican districts: Show up with a respectful attitude; Listen to rural voters' concerns and grievances; Build trusting relationships across lines of difference by working together on civic improvement projects (such as the Rural Urban Bridge Initiative's "Community Works" program); and Present "place-specific," bottom-up solutions that most American voters would find palatable.

What are some of these smart solutions? Clean energy projects on abandoned coalfields; materials reuse corridors; free trade school; and investment in local food processing facilities so that small producers can compete against Big Ag. There's no shortage of good ideas, just a political divide that keeps them from getting the attention they deserve.

To read other articles from the *Liberal Patriot*, visit [www.liberalpatriot.com](http://www.liberalpatriot.com).

# Good Day Neighbor

Political pendulums in America

Dorothea Mordan

Early success of Republican Party was driven by wokeness. It started with a clerk, a cape and a speech, and became a movement that grew into a significant percent of the Union Army when the Civil War broke out a year later.

It was 1860, several weeks before the Republican National Convention, where Abraham Lincoln would become the nominee. The clerk was Edgar Yergason. He worked at Talcott & Post's textile shop in Hartford Connecticut. The cape was Yergason's quickly sewn protection from oil that dripped down the torch he would carry on February 25, 1860. The speech that evening was given by Cassius Marcellus Clay, a passionate abolitionist who advocated for insurrection against slavery.

Slavery was a contested issue in every way possible, whether to ban or allow slavery to persist in new states as they joined the Union, or requiring Free States to return runaway slaves. There was more at work in the abolition movement than doing the right thing. For every abolitionist who recognized that humans own-

ing each other is wrong, there many other antislavery Americans who saw slavery as a way of southern states to count slaves as members of the population for the purpose of increasing southern representation in Congress, without having to give any rights to the enslaved. Lots of people who do the right thing are also self-serving. Other people join in when they see purpose gaining momentum. When Yergason's co-workers saw his new outfit, they wanted one too. The quickly sewn capes became a uniform of sorts.

Nineteen year old Yergason and his cohort took their capes and torches to march in the parade after Clay's speech. They made such an impression as a group that they were brought to a position of prominence in the parade. Over the next month as they showed up at other political events, they realized their actions were inspiring anti slavery groups all around the country. They formalized their group, giving themselves the name "The Wide Awakes".

The Wide Awakes were comprised of people from different cultures and backgrounds, with different beliefs, coming together in a common cause—abolishing slavery while holding the Union together. They played a big part in the Union

Army prevailing in the Civil War. A diverse group working as one, leads to success in America, once there is a common purpose. At some point the colors of our flag became marketing tools for identifying our political parties and their respective purpose. Red for Republican, blue for Democrat. I've never been a fan of using the colors of our flag as marketing tools. Two bold colors used to define rigid opinion and purpose.

Our country's success is not because of rigid opinion. We have just honored the eightieth anniversary of D-Day and the scale and scope of Americans coming together for a focused purpose—putting an end to fascism taking over other countries. We had plenty of political voices calling for us not to enter World War II. The most organized were from a large faction of American Nazis spread across the country. It included average citizens, wealthy businessmen, Congressmen and Senators, some colluding directly with Hitler's Nazi Party leaders. Many loyal Americans, from newspaper reporters to FBI agents, worked to dismantle the power the American Nazis had gained. Pearl Harbor woke up the rest of America to the threat of world wide fascism. It is a testament to our diversity that, once we put aside complacency, we Americans prevailed.

Change scares people, especially

social changes. What should scare you is loosing rights. Even more scary is seeing, in yourself, the ability to give your rights away.

All of humanity wants personal freedom and Americans are no exception. Most of us want the freedoms for our fellow Americans that came from the Civil Rights and LGBTQIA Rights Movements. We want what is better for our fellow Americans because discrimination could happen to any of us—losing a right we thought we had. It's happening to American women right now.

Acceptance, and sometimes a hand up, is not a free ride. President Biden's student loan forgiveness is a remedy for predatory interest rates, not free college tuition. Maryland Governor Wes Moore has just pardoned marijuana non violent drug users. Most of the recipients are unable to get jobs due to their criminal record. Now they can get job, pay into our tax base, and support their families. These are practical solutions, implemented by Democrats, solving real problems felt by our fellow Marylanders everyday.

In this generation of political pendulum swings, Democrats are finding solutions for the needs of the many, Republicans cater to the whims of the few. The loudest voices in the Republican party are determined to be angry all the time. All the talk about

uprising, retribution, and revenge threats comes from a portion of the Republican party aimed it everyone else, including some Republicans. Apparently, the entire world is rigged against them. Their accusations are fantastical, but the anger they feel should be taken seriously whether it's rational or not. Maybe especially if it's not rational.

Over the last two centuries what we call the groups at different points of the political spectrum has changed. Up to the 1870s or so, the Democratic Party was pro slavery. Pre Civil War, the Republican Party was formed to create a coalition against slavery. Beginning in the late 19th century the roles slowly reversed between the two major parties. Today the Republican Party pursues control of property over personal rights. The Democratic party balances personal and property rights.

Fourth of July is a celebration of the red white and blue. Do you swell with pride as a Whole American, or as a fractured piece of Old Glory? These are the choices in our time. Each of us has a voice and a vote. We use them to correct our swinging political pendulum.

2024 is the year of the vote. Please make yours count.

To read prior editions of *Good Day Neighbor*, visit the *Authors section of Walkersville.net*

# PASTOR'S DESK

## Settled: who we are in Christ

**Pastor Sabrina Slimmer**  
**Keymar Evangelical Wesleyan Church**

Life is precious. God has created everyone for a purpose, and He has made no mistakes. Yes, I agree with that statement. I 100% agree, But the life you live, the life I live is worthless; It means nothing. We were not created to live our lives for ourselves, so if you are trying to figure out what you should do, where you should go, or how to live your best life? Then, it's simple you must die.

God has created us for a purpose. His word tells us that He makes no mistakes, and yet many of us today and this past week feel so lost and un-assured of what to do or where to go next. Through the Holy Spirit, God has promised to help us understand His word and what He means when He says we must die to live.

Remember Jesus told them, "If you cling to your life, you will lose it, and if you let your life go, you will save it." - Luke 17:33

How do you gain anything by letting go?

Don't you keep something by holding

on to it? Common sense tells us that if I don't want to lose my glasses, I must hold on to them and wear them.

I will help you understand what I mean, and what Jesus asked you to do.

See some of those who grew up in church think they know, but they don't live as if they know, and others have absolutely no idea what I am talking about right now, and that's ok.

For those of you who think you know what I am talking about, I want you to think back with me for a moment, back to the time you first heard of Jesus. For those of you who were raised in the church and have heard the name Jesus from the moment you can remember, think back to the moment when the name Jesus stirred something in you, the moment you were completely sold out to following Him and doing and going wherever He asked you to go and do. What were you feeling at the time? For others who accepted Christ later that's fine too, think back to that same time, and for those who are new and confused; hold on.

Memory may have you thinking

thoughts of excitement, joy, love, etc. You were on fire, ready to go, wanting to tell everyone what had just happened to you, and wanted others to have that same experience.

I remember mine; I was 23 years old at a Women of Faith event and very new to the whole church thing, I wanted to be baptized, I wanted to serve, I wanted to tell everyone and serve only Him. I was so excited.

Now what do you think a new believer "all in" would have done if someone then told them great, so happy you want to follow Jesus, all you need to do now is let go of your life and die.

I think back then I would turn and run far away and probably start calling Christianity a cult. I would have and might add in there don't "drink the juice".

But this is exactly what Jesus calls us to do; He says "I love you, and I want you to die so you can finally live." What?

Galatians 2:20 - says "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

In Galatians 2:19 - The Apostle Paul wrote a letter to the Galatian believers; he is writing to encourage them to leave behind and reject the legalistic demands of the Jewish Christians called the Judaizers and to embrace the gospel of freedom in the Spirit, he tells them "For through the law I died to the law so that I might live."

If you let go of your own life; what you want, what you desire, what you believe you deserve - Jesus promises that you will have a life worthy and desirable of having. When Jesus died on the cross, He took away the laws of performance - It all died on the cross with Him.

The problem is we give it up for a while. In the beginning, we are all in "Yes, God Whatever You Want Me To



Do!" but after a while, we begin to miss what was familiar to us, "Our old way of life" and we slip back into the old ways we used to live.

Jesus applied His death and resurrection to our lives. Through His death, we gained forgiveness, justification, and redemption. And He applied it to every single person who said forgive me Lord I want to live for you!

We don't ask God to forgive us and then continue to live for ourselves "live our Best lives yet" No, we turn our lives over and live for Him!

When we turn our lives over to Jesus, we ask Him to come and live within us. Why? Because we want to live for Him, become more like Him, and love who He loves.

John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Our lives are starving to find purpose, we want our lives to count for something, we want purpose and a legacy.

We get that when we accept Jesus.

His sacrifice brings us that fulfillment we are looking for and He gives us so much of that fulfillment that it overflows out of us and into the lives we come in contact with.

Galatians 2:20 "And I no longer live, but Christ lives in me..."

There are 2 Greek words Paul could have used for living in you. en - which means to rest and settle down Or eis - which means to move into.

Paul chose the word "en" - Therefore the Spirit has come to rest in you, and He has settled in you! God Himself lives in you. Since Jesus is in us, we can say no to sin; sin becomes temporary. Sin is no longer who we are, and We no longer belong to sin. The Bible tells us that before we accepted Christ, we were slaves to sin - meaning sin was too hard to overcome. We do not belong to sin anymore. When I say we need to die to follow Jesus I mean We have died to sin, and now are alive in Christ because He is in us.

And now since Jesus lives His life through us, our lives do matter, and have a purpose, and a legacy.

I died. Jesus lives in me. I now am participating in His life and have eternal intimacy with God here on earth, I will never be alone, and I will always be able because He lives in me.

Have you let go of your own life? What you want, desire, and believe you deserve? Jesus is asking us to let go of, to drop, to die to a life that is defined by self. He is telling us there is another way, a better way.

To learn more about Keymar Evangelical Wesleyan Church visit them on-line at [www.keymarwesleyan.org](http://www.keymarwesleyan.org) or better yet, join them for Sunday service!

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 All are welcome

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**Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
 101 S. Main Street, Woodsboro  
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# THE BOOK OF DAYS

## Dr. John Dalton



July 27

At one of the early meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, it drew out into prominence, and directed great reverence to, an old man from Manchester, who had been, up to that time, but little known to his fellow-citizens. For a long course of years, he had been an obscure teacher of mathematics—he was a Quaker—he was an unobtrusive and, to all outward appearance, an insignificant person. It was now learned, for the first time, by many of the Manchester people, that this quiet little old man enjoyed high esteem in the scientific world, as the originator of a theory of the utmost importance in chemistry, and was indeed one of the great men of his age, living there, as it were, in a disguise framed of his own superabundant modesty.

John Dalton, the son of a Cumberland yeoman, was born at Eaglesfield, near Cockermouth, on the 5th of September 1766. At the age of thirteen, he began to earn his living by teaching, and at twenty-seven he went to Manchester as a lecturer on mathematics. Until pensioned by government in 1833, he gave lessons at eighteenpence an hour in mathematics. He declined several offers to provide him with a competency, so that he might give his undivided attention to chemistry; asserting 'that teaching was a kind of recreation, and that if richer, he would not probably spend more time in investigation than he was accustomed to do.' He was of course frugal and provident.

The apparatus of his laboratory was of the simplest, and indeed rudest kind; scarcely superior to that of Wollaston, who, on a foreign chemist expressing an anxious desire to see his laboratory, produced a small tray containing some glass tubes, a blow-pipe, two or three watch-glasses, a slip of platina, and a few test-tubes. Dalton was a bachelor, altogether of most quiet and regular habits. Twice each Sunday he took his seat in the Friends' meeting-house, and for forty years he ate his Sunday-dinner at one friend's table.

The afternoon of every Thursday he spent in a bowlines green, assigning as

a reason that he liked to take his Saturday in the middle of the week. He was fond of exercise in the open air, and made an annual excursion among the mountains of Cumberland and Westmoreland. He did not read many books, and was singularly indifferent to all that was written concerning himself. His words were few and truthful.

A student who had missed one lecture of a course, applied to him for a certificate of full attendance. He declined to give it, and then relenting, said: 'If thou wilt come tomorrow, I will go over the lecture thou hast missed.'

Dalton enjoyed robust health; he was middle-sized, and of a figure more sturdy than elegant. His head and face bore a striking resemblance to the portraits of Sir Isaac Newton. Like Newton, he referred his success, not to genius, but to patience and industry. 'These, in my opinion, make one man succeed better than another.'

It is in connection with the Atomic Theory that the name of Dalton promises to go down to posterity. The constitution of matter with respect to divisibility, has been debated from very ancient times. Some hold that its divisibility is infinite, and others, that its reduction is only possible to the extent of atoms. Newton expressed the latter opinion in these words:

'All things considered, it seems probable that God, in the beginning, formed matter in solid, massy, hard, impenetrable, movable particles, of

such sizes, figures, and with such other properties, and in such proportion to space, as most conduced to the end for which he formed them; and that these primitive particles, being solids, are incomparably harder than any porous bodies compounded of them; even so very hard as never to wear or break to pieces, no ordinary power being able to divide what God made one in the first creation.'

At this point Dalton took up the question. He began by assuming that matter, although it may in essence be infinitely divisible, is in fact only finitely divided, so that each element consists of particles or molecules of a definite and unchangeable weight, size, and shape. He had observed that in certain chemical compounds the elements united in a constant proportion; for example, water, when decomposed, yields one part by weight of hydrogen, and eight parts by weight of oxygen; and it would be useless to try to combine eleven parts of oxygen with one part of hydrogen; water would be formed, but three parts of oxygen would be left free as overplus. What is the reason for the maintenance of this combining proportion? asked Dalton.

In his answer, we have the atomic theory, or rather hypothesis.

Taking for granted the existence of atoms, he went on to conceive that in the several elements they vary in weight; atoms of gold from atoms of silver, atoms of iodine from atoms of chlorine; but, on the other hand, that all atoms of the same element are of uniform weight; thus, that any atom of iron is equal to any other atom of iron the world over.

We have observed that water is compounded of eight parts by weight of oxygen to one part by weight of hydrogen, and an explanation of the combination is offered in the supposition, that each atom of oxygen is eight times as heavy as one of hydrogen. Further, it is presumed, that in the union of oxygen with hydrogen, the atoms of each are not interfused, but lie side-by-side, complete in their individuality. If, therefore, the weight of an atom of hydrogen be 1, and an atom of oxygen be 8, it is impossible that their smallest combining proportion, by weight, can be other than 1 and 8. The smallest quantity of water, in this view, must then consist of one atom of hydrogen and one atom of oxygen, bound together in that mystic tie which we term chemical affinity.

The example we have chosen from the constitution of water is a simple illustration of the constant proportion which exists throughout

chemical compounds with infinite, complex, and multiple variations. It was in 1803 that the great cosmic idea entered Dalton's mind. In 1804, he explained it in conversation to Dr. Thomas Thomson of Glasgow, who, in 1807, gave a short sketch of the hypothesis in the third edition of his System of Chemistry. The asserted law of combination in constant proportions was quickly tested in a multitude of experiments, and the facts clustered to its confirmation.

It was discovered that there was as little chance or haphazard in the course of atoms as in the motions of planets. The hypothesis gave a prodigious impulse to the science of chemistry; it shot light through all its realms, and reduced a chaos of observations to purpose and system. Before Dalton's happy conception there was not a single analysis which could be trusted as correct, or a single gas whose specific gravity was known with accuracy.

In the arts, his service was beyond value. He gave the manufacturing chemist a rule whereby he could preclude waste, teaching him how to effect combinations without the loss of an ounce of material. Even supposing that in the future Dalton's notion of the coacervation of infinitesimal atoms should prove erroneous, his merit will remain untouched; for that properly consists in the discovery and promulgation of the law of constant proportion in chemical unions, where before law was unknown, or at any rate only dimly surmised. The theory of atoms was merely an attempt to reveal the mystery of the law, which will abide, whatever may be the fate of the theory.

Dalton was almost insensible to differences in colours. Whereas most persons see seven colours in the rainbow, he saw only two—yellow and blue; or at most, three—yellow, blue, and purple. He saw no difference between red and green, so that he thought 'the

face of a laurel-leaf a good match to a stick of red sealing-wax; and the back of the leaf to the lighter red of wafers.' When, at Oxford, Dr. Whewell asked him what he would compare his scarlet doctor's gown to, he pointed to the leaves of the trees around them.

When a young man, 31st October 1794, he read a paper before the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, entitled Extraordinary Facts Relating to the Vision, of Colours, drawing attention to his own deficiency, which thenceforth became known under the name of Daltonism. Colour-blindness is by no means an uncommon affection. Dalton was acquainted with nearly twenty people in his own case. Dugald Stewart, the metaphysician, was one of them: he could not distinguish the crimson fruit of the Siberian crab from the leaves of the tree on which it grew otherwise than by the difference in form. Dalton tried to account for his peculiarity by supposing that it arose from the vitreous humour of his eyes having a blue tint instead of being colourless like water, as in the majority of man-kind.

After his death, in obedience to his instructions, his eyes were dissected; but no peculiarity could be detected. The true explanation of colour-blindness is, we apprehend, a phrenological one—namely, that in persons insensible to colours there is a deficiency or mal-organisation in that portion of the brain which receives impressions of colour; just as there are some similarly deficient in the sense of tune, and who cannot distinguish between one piece of music and another. In one thus insensible to melody, we do not assume any defect in his ears, but a deficiency in that part of his brain assigned to the organ of tune.

To read other selections from Robert Chamber's 1864 *The Book of Days*, visit [thebookofdays.com](http://thebookofdays.com).

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# ECOLOGY

## Finding feathers

Anne Gageby  
 Director of Environmental Education  
 Strawberry Hill Foundation

“Can I have an owl feather?” This question has come up numerous times in a variety of situations involving our barred owl, Strix. The question is usually asked during an Animal Ambassador program when we discuss the unique properties of barred owl feathers. Or when someone spots a feather or two in his enclosure and enquires about it later. It’s an innocent question outlined with sincere appreciation for a beloved animal. After all, who doesn’t love owls? And their feathers are incredibly beautiful. Unfortunately, the answer to the question of finding and keeping feathers is a hard “no”. It’s illegal to collect owl feathers, even ones Strix has shed naturally.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 prohibits the taking of wild bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The word “taking” includes the killing, capturing, trading, selling, collecting, and transporting of all parts of the bird including feathers, their nests, and eggs. The list of protected birds includes over 1,000 species of native migratory birds including songbirds, as well as non-migratory birds such as eagles, hawks, and chickadees along with many, many more. And, of course, our beloved owls.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act is one of our country’s oldest environmental laws and came about after years of effort by environmentalists and other early conservationists including the Audubon Society. It’s easy to look

at a law from a hundred years ago and misunderstand why and how it should apply today. After all, life was very different back then and we’re just collecting pretty feathers today. No harm in that, right?

It’s not that simple. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act came about because of years of exploitation and unregulated hunting practices that lead to the extinction of species such as the passenger pigeon and near-extinction of others such as the snowy egret which was primarily hunted for its extraordinary feathers. These feathers were used in hats and other fashionable decorations as were the plumes of many bird species in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. An estimated 200 million wild birds were killed each year to support the millinery trade’s demands. The most hunted species’ populations declined rapidly. Fortunately, hunters, conservationists, and bird enthusiasts banded together to help put an end to the unlimited slaughter.

It was the saving grace for some species but not all. The now extinct passenger pigeon was once the most abundant bird in North America, comprising between 25 and 40 percent of the total bird population. Estimates say the birds numbered somewhere between three and five billion. Yes, billion. To put that in perspective, the North American wolf population hovered around one million before predator eradication programs reduced their numbers to a few thousand.

The passenger pigeon was a hypersocial bird that roosted in tightly packed flocks large enough to break tree limbs when perching. They were known to

even stand on one another’s backs if there was no remaining space on a limb. Migrating flocks could cover miles and block out sunlight for hours at a time. They could also do extensive damage to crops. Passenger pigeons were generalist eaters which fed on a wide variety of nuts, seeds, and insects. As deforestation began to impact flocks’ living conditions, they turned to easily accessible field crops to supply their massive consumption needs. A farmer’s field could be destroyed within an incredibly short period of time as a flock of pigeons stopped for a bite to eat.

It wasn’t just pigeons looking for an easy meal, though. Because of their roosting habits and massive flocks, passenger pigeons became known as a poor man’s staple. A hunter could easily bag enough pigeons to feed his family with minimal effort. By the 1850s the market for pigeon meat had boomed as it was cheap and accessible to just about everyone. And the birds seemed to be in endless supply. Unfortunately, reality hit around the time of the Civil War. People began noticing a marked decrease in pigeon numbers and by the 1890s the passenger pigeon had almost completely disappeared. The last captive passenger pigeon died in 1914.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act couldn’t save the passenger pigeon, but it did save millions of other birds and continues to do so. Over the years, it has been amended and updated to include Canada, Mexico, Japan, and Russia to ensure the sustainability of all protected bird species. Which brings us to today. It’s easy to look around our backyards and forests and see cardinals, blue jays, mourning doves, and many more. Birds seem to be everywhere. I’ve even seen great blue herons hanging out by our pond at Strawberry Hill. But that wasn’t always the case and it’s because of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that populations have been able to



Strix is a barred owl who enjoys mice and “talking” to other owls behind our office. His favorite thing about being a Strawberry Hill Animal Ambassador is teaching kids about his eyesight. Strix has 3-D, or “binocular” vision, similar to humans!

rebound and thrive.

Not all birds are protected, however. House sparrows, European starlings, and rock pigeons are all non-native species and tend to be disruptive to their environments. Most wild game birds are also not protected by the treaty though hunting regulations do exist for birds such as turkeys, ducks, geese, doves, and many shorebirds.

Owls like Strix are protected and highly regulated. As an educational institution we are required to have specific licenses to house and maintain him. And another license to collect his feathers. It’s a lot of processes and an honor to be able to work with such an incredible animal.

Fortunately, barred owls are thriving in our woods today as are many other bird species. I look back at my

great-great-grandparents’ time and wonder what it would be like to stand where Strawberry Hill is now and see vast swaths of farms and fields. By the turn of the 20th century, these spaces must have felt so empty without roaming wildlife and fewer birds returning every year. We live in a completely different world today and I’m grateful for it. I get to experience the fruits of early conservationists’ labors. All I have to do is walk outside to see the herons perching by our pond, the songbirds calling outside my office window. It’s remarkable how far we’ve come. And the road to ecological recovery really doesn’t have an ending but it does start here, one feather at a time.

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

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# THE RETIRED ECOLOGIST

## Garden logic

Bill Meredith

*"If you can look into the seeds of time,*

*And say which grain will grow and which will not, Speak then to me."*

—W. Shakespeare, *MacBeth*, 1606.

*"Logic will get you from A to Z. Imagination will get you anywhere."*

—Albert Einstein, several years later.

Our garden was a necessary supplement to the budget when we were younger and the kids were all at home, but over the past 30 years it has shrunk to a small plot in the corner of the yard. We plant it mainly because we always have; I enjoy puttering in it, and it provides some of fresh vegetables for the table. My wife no longer does the industrial-scale canning that she used to do; however, old habits die hard, and a few years ago she came home with a bag that contained several pounds of bean seeds. Had they all been planted, they would have produced enough green beans to carry the whole town through a winter famine, so with what I believed was sound logic, I pointed out that this was more than we needed for just two 30-foot rows. She replied that such a purchase was indeed logical because the seeds were on sale, and buying in quantities like that had kept us within our budget for over 50 years. Then she invoked the standing rule that, in cases of disagreement, her logic was always to outweigh mine. (She claims that we agreed on that rule back in 1957; I have no recollection of it.)

A corollary to the buying-on-sale rule directs that nothing should ever be thrown out, so consequently I have planted seeds from that batch for the past five or six years, and more than half of the original bag of beans is still left. I was sitting in the garage one-day wandering if they were still good when my friends, Claire and Shane, came over to visit. I explained the problem to them, and we decided to plant a few seeds and see if they would grow. I gave each of them a con-

tainer of soil and a few seeds, and Claire planted hers in neat rows, carefully pushing each seed in to the depth of half a finger. Shane's were done with less precision but with enough enthusiasm to make up for it, and sure enough, the seeds germinated within a week. I offered to let them take the seedlings home to plant in their yard, but Shane declined; with a degree of logic and foresight that I considered remarkable for a 3-year-old, he said they might grow into giant beanstalks that could fall on their house and crush it. Unfortunately, we had a week of rain, and the beans are still sitting in the garage, waiting patiently. I have to admire them.

As everyone knows, success in gardening is at the mercy of the weather. By all logic, the planting season should have been over a month ago; however, actual events do not always follow the rules of logic. I should have plowed the garden in March, but it was too wet. After that, it seemed that every time it got dry enough, we would have a cold snap, or events would conspire to cause me to be busy with something else, so it was early in May before the upper end of the garden got dry enough to work in. I have a Gravely garden tractor which, in plow years, is probably even older than I am, but it started after only a few arthritic wheezes, and I plowed enough to set out one row each of tomatoes and peppers. The lower end of the garden was still too wet, and the next day it rained again. After that, the tractor had either a stroke or a heart attack... it's hard to tell them apart in tractors... and it was in the hospital

for a week. We were well into June before I finally finished plowing.

My educational background has many weak spots, and one of the worst is that I never had a course in Logic. My wife didn't either, but it seems to be less of a problem to her. I contended that seeds will rot if we plant them when it is too wet; she replied that it has been a wet spring and thus we will have a wet summer, so I should quit stalling and get on with it.

One of the worst summer droughts I can remember occurred after a wet spring, so I knew there was something wrong with her logic, but I couldn't put my finger on it. After some diligent research (a few minutes spent scanning the internet), I discovered that her argument contained a fallacy that was so old even the Romans had a name for it. They called it *post hoc ergo propter hoc*, which means if two events occur, the earlier of the two causes the latter one to happen. More recent texts call this a False Causal Relationship, and such things are especially common when talking about the weather. A good example is the belief that we will have six more weeks of cold weather if the groundhog sees his shadow; it may happen sometimes, as it did this year, but when it does it is strictly a coincidence.

I was hesitant to mention this to my wife, but when I finally did, she felt her case was vindicated. She said she had been sure all along that groundhogs were to blame for the condition of the garden, because recently one of them actually came up onto the front porch and looked in through the screen door at her. I found that hard to believe, and also was puzzled about how this had anything



to do with either the weather or the garden. But the next day when I went out to get the morning paper, a big groundhog ran out of the shrubbery and disappeared around the corner of the garage, and later that day I saw him in the garden. He was sniffing and prowling around the area where we planted cucumbers and squash last year, and the look on his face made it clear that his regard for me as a gardener was in a downward spiral.

I finally got the beans, squash and cucumber seeds into the ground, and I am building a chain-link fence around them. If the seeds don't rot, and if the

plants mature before frost comes, and if the groundhog doesn't tunnel under the fence, maybe we will have some of these things on the table... provided, of course, that there isn't a drought this summer. In the meantime, I'm beginning to wonder... all these years, I've followed Shakespeare's philosophy, and sometimes the garden was a success... but I expected retirement to be a lot less stressful than this. If we have a garden again next year, I may switch to Einstein.

To read past editions of *The Retired Ecologist*, visit the Authors section of [Walkersville.net](http://Walkersville.net).



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# IN THE COUNTRY

## A journey of a lifetime

Tim Iverson

I am probably about to ruffle some feathers, so let's get started. I'd like to do away with the Leave No Trace dogma. If you're an outdoor enthusiast or environmentalist I've probably just made you an enemy, but first hear me out. I'm not trying to throw the baby out with the bath water, but I think there is a better and more sensible way to introduce environmental stewardship than this one size fits all approach to the outdoors. Fostering an appreciation and love for the outdoors is what will turn the next generation of kids and eventually voters into passionate users and activists for the environment and public lands.

I've touched on Leave No Trace in several of my past articles, and before I move forward this argument I'd like to state that I think it's a great idea in principle. If you've forgotten what Leave No Trace is then let me take a moment to reintroduce it. Leave No Trace is a non-profit organization and a set of principles or ethics regarding how we use and treat the great outdoors. These seven ideas are easy to follow and very reasonable. They are:

- Plan Ahead & Prepare
- Travel/Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Leave No Trace can usually be summed up by the adage, "Take only pictures, leave only footprints." Any good skeptic (which I generally like to think I am, but sometimes I'm skeptical of even that) will tell you that you should always question everything. Period. From my experience as a professional in the realm of outdoor recreation and environmental education this outdoor dogma can come as bit off-putting.

I recently read an article about a former North Carolina State Park Ranger, Matt Browning. As in Maryland State Parks or any National Park it is illegal to collect anything – flowers, leaves, rocks, dirt, etc. He recalls witnessing another ranger talk with a child caught with a handful of rocks, "It made me sick. The boy was crestfallen. He was so excited about coming to the park that he wanted to take a little memento back with him. More than feeling empowered or excited to protect the natural world, now he is going to associate going to state parks with getting into trouble." It caused him to reflect on the experience

and the notion behind the interaction. He continues, "What kids were taking was gravel and weedy yarrow. They were not rare, delicate pink lady slippers." State and National Parks and Leave No Trace generally advocate not to explore, to keep voices low, not to leave the trail, not to climb on trees or rocks, and what seems like not to have any fun. This former Ranger advocates a new approach, and I think there is something to it.

Browning, who is now a graduate student studying recreational use of natural areas at Virginia Tech, heard about these "Nature Play Areas." These are areas, in Europe, that have been specifically set aside to let kids be kids in the woods. They encourage them to play around and in general just get dirty, explore, and fool around in nature. He studied these areas and the kids who use them to see if there was really any harm done to the areas. His data showed that yes, there is an impact on the ecosystem tree limbs are broken, soil is compacted, and trails are made. However, these are still viable and functioning ecosystems. One interaction he describes with a child at one of these natural play areas is a poignant to the argument. He notices a child carving a stick with a knife and asked him if he would stick a living tree with the knife. The child's response was "No! It would hurt the tree; it would hurt the tree just like it would hurt me."

Browning's argument is that this is the exact ethical and emotional component that we try to foster through Leave No Trace. However, it isn't introduced through rules or ethi-



In his book, *Last Child in the Woods*, Louv describes what he calls "Nature Deficit Disorder." He links research on a lack of time spent in nature to childhood obesity, depression, and attention deficit disorder. He argues that it is necessary for the physical and emotional well-being of children and adults to experience their natural world directly. Many of today's adults grew up with unstructured outdoor time playing in fields and woods. Today's youth are sheltered indoors and seated in front of screens. Without this vital component, a host of maladies can arise and have due to this new indoor epidemic. Maryland is already well underway in combating this.

cal regiments. It's a natural and personal relationship that has created that empathy and stewardship. Richard Louv, a well respected author in the environmental advocacy world, has more to say on this subject.

The alternative is about becoming educated and actually experiencing our natural environment that will instill a passion and a sense of wonder in people. The environmental literacy component to high school graduation requirements. It focuses primarily on the Chesapeake Bay, natural resource management, smart growth, and conservation. In 2009 the gov-

ernor even introduced an outdoor bill of rights. It pledges that every Marylander will be able to:

- Discover & Connect with their natural world
- Play and Learn Outdoors
- Splash and swim in the water
- Camp under the stars
- Follow a trail
- Catch a fish
- Watch wildlife
- Explore wild places close to home
- Celebrate their culture and heritage
- Share nature with a great mentor or teacher

These 10 ideas or promises are entitled to everyone so that the next generation will be as committed to an environmental and personal wellbeing as the last.

By simply allowing for these unfettered experiences to occur we can hopefully instill a new generation of recreational users and caretakers. Simple ideas for engaging children are to utilize Junior Ranger programs at state and national parks, volunteering with outdoor organizations, getting involved with outdoor adventure activities (whether your idea of adventure being rock climbing, white water rafting, canoeing, birding, hiking, or sitting under a tree and reading), for parks to create areas or post signs of invasives or common plants that it would be okay to collect, and the list can go on from there. The hard part is just getting out there. It can last your whole life, but once you step foot and cross that initial threshold your journey has begun and can only take you to wondrous places.

To read other articles by Tim Iverson visit the Authors section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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# SCIENCE MATTERS

## Does “chemical man” follow chemical ethics?

Boyce Rensberger

Last month I introduced you to Jacques Loeb, the researcher at the turn of the last century who, more than anyone else, turned biology into an experimental science. People said he was trying to create life in his laboratory by doing various chemical experiments. In a way, he was. Loeb believed that living organisms were nothing more than combinations of molecules that reacted with one another in specific ways. The total combination of the many ways amounted to life itself without benefit of anything supernatural.

What impressed me about that episode more than a century ago was the public reaction. It seems that most people welcomed it and had no problem buying into Loeb’s view that life is molecules reacting with one another. That was evident in newspaper and magazine coverage, and even letters to the editor. There was very little of the “playing God” allegation that we hear nowadays when, for example, American scientists put human genes in pigs or, more surprisingly, when Chinese scientists created genetically engineered human babies. Designer babies, critics call them. Both of those events are real, as you may have read.

Religious objections have been prominent. Roman Catholic popes have issued encyclicals warning that altering the genomes of human beings amounts to playing God. Pope John Paul II called it an “attack on the dignity of the human being.” More recently Pope Francis condemned the “technological paradigm” and “indiscriminate genetic manipulation” of human life.

As for Protestants, there is the Southern Baptist Convention in its 2023 Resolution on Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies, saying “no innovation or emerging technology will ever be able to usurp the sovereignty and power of God.”

By contrast, when Loeb’s experiments came to public view, they were welcomed as steps toward “creating life in a test tube.”

The *Chicago Tribune* story even explained in great detail Loeb’s experimental procedures. It cited several of his other experiments. In one, for

example, Loeb had removed a frog’s leg muscle and chemically treated it in a dish, eventually causing it to beat rhythmically like a heart muscle—a very different kind of muscle and behavior from that of the leg. To Loeb, that proved that the behavior of a whole tissue, like that of the cells that make up the tissue, was controlled by chemistry.

“Step by step,” the newspaper concludes, “the scientists of Woods Holl [an older spelling] are learning from the marine animals causes of the phenomena in the bodies of mankind.” The story said that the outcomes of Loeb’s research “will revolutionize theories of life held even by eminent students of natural science up to the present day” and that other scientists are saying “that when the chemical theory of life is definitely formulated, as they believe it soon will be, it will startle the world as it has not been startled since Darwin made public his theory of natural evolution.”

To generalize from simple experiments on single cells to whole, complex animals seems ridiculous today, but in that time more than a century ago, Loeb commanded such amazement, optimism and acceptance that his findings were deemed newsworthy many times over many years. And, of course, it was subjected to the hype common in journalism of those days. “Eternal life,” as some newspapers called it, was within the power of science to confer on living things, perhaps even on human beings.

Even Mark Twain, who was fascinated with science, wrote an essay titled “Dr. Loeb’s Incredible Discov-

ery,” with a plea to remain open to new scientific advances.

To be sure, a few people did compare Loeb to Dr. Frankenstein. And some editorial writers ridiculed him for presuming to reduce to scientific terms anything as obviously miraculous as life. But more than one religious leader resigned himself to the belief that while Loeb might be right and science might one day be able to create a “chemical man,” it would not count for much because it would lack a soul.

As an anonymous essayist put it in the *Philadelphia Public Ledger* in 1912, “[I]t is not quite plain how the biologists and organic chemists of 100,000,000 AD are going to import a soul into their man after they have successfully usurped the creative role and breathed the breath of life into their protoplasmic amalgamation. ... The question is can you have a man when you have produced a physical organism destitute of the primal distinction between the man and the brute.”

In other words, even Loeb’s critics conceded that it might be possible not only to create life in a test tube, but eventually to create what they called a chemical man. They didn’t object to that; what they objected to was the idea that a chemical man would lack something supernatural—a soul.

What many commentators missed was Loeb’s implicit assertion that he himself was a chemical man and that all humans are chemical beings.

Eventually Loeb even addressed the question of how chemical human beings—not ones created in the future, but human beings today—could have ethics. The ability to tell



Ivan Pavlov (beard), the Russian scientist who studied conditioned responses in dogs, with Jacques Loeb (right) in 1923 at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass.

right from wrong, he said, was not originally taught by religious leaders repeating the words of a supreme being but, instead, had evolved in the human brain as surely as a green plant’s inborn drive to reach for the sun.

“Our instincts,” Loeb wrote in his seminal 1912 book *The Mechanistic Conception of Life*, “are the root of our ethics and ... the instincts are just as hereditary as is the form of our body. We eat, drink and reproduce not because mankind has reached an agreement that this is desirable, but because, machine-like, we are compelled to do so ... by processes in our central nervous system. ... Not only is the mechanistic conception of life compatible with ethics: it seems the only conception of life which can lead to an understanding of the source of ethics.”

A moral compass, Loeb believed, was an inherited web of instincts as important to the survival of the human species as a robin’s instinct to migrate south for the winter or an oriole’s to weave a hanging nest. Though Loeb’s views gained acceptance among many intellectuals of his day, they eventually faded from prominence only to be reasserted generations later in today’s “new” field of evolutionary psychology.

Boyce Rensberger retired to Frederick County after more than 40 years as a science writer, mostly for *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Write to him at [boycerensberger@gmail.com](mailto:boycerensberger@gmail.com).

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

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Documenting discovery

**C.T. Ward, Frederick County Master Gardener**

In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, nature enthusiasts and environmental professionals alike are elated to see people's increased interest in exploring the great outdoors. Whether it's a family picnic and day at the park or a rigorous hike, more and more people are discovering nature's beauty and benefits. However, the uptick in foot traffic due to our growing curiosity can have devastating effects on our natural neighbors. Hard as it is to resist taking souvenirs even as insignificant as a single pinecone, pebble, or flower, every missing piece or material added to a biome directly affects the wildlife that rely on that environment for safety and well-being.

How can we as individuals and the teachers of future generations mindfully discover and take part in appreciating nature, aside from wandering in it occasionally? How can we continue to foster interest and excitement in young learners and ourselves?

The answer lies in a centuries-old tradition where we challenge not only our scientific minds, but also continue to cultivate and grow our artistic talents and appreciation: Nature journaling. This is one of the best ways to explore nature and remain conscious of our invading

imprint on our environment both locally and globally.

Utilizing a nature journal allows everyone to embrace exploring and examining what is around us while remaining respectful of what we take during our visits.

### What is nature journaling?

Best stated on the JohnMuirLaws.com website, a nature journal is an illustrated, observational journal where the user provides "a lens that focuses our attention and crystalizes our observations, thoughts, and experiences." By making observations and using whatever type of art and note taking works best for each individual, the journal user can document the most meaningful and memorable parts of his/her experiences in nature.

### What do I need to get started?

Start with a journal or notebook dedicated to your observations and nothing else, along with a writing utensil. Some individuals purchase a special journal or art supplies; others use loose-leaf papers collected in a folder or binder or a standard notebook and an ordinary pencil or pen. Some journalists utilize both methods by sketching initial ideas on scratch paper or in common notebooks and transferring their final vision into a dedicated journal of their choice. It is



Whether children or adults, many individuals can have a positive experience observing details of a simple, common plant like a dandelion.

completely up to the user to decide what to use. The real expense is the time investment the journalist wishes to place into the activity.

### I'm not a good artist...

Don't worry! You can still participate. Artistic skill is just that, a skill. Every artist had to and still continues to work on his/her techniques and styles. Like any skill, it is built up through practice. Every person has a unique way of journaling and creating artwork. What makes the artist is the patience and willingness to keep trying and do their best in the endeavors they take. You'll be surprised at how your own work will evolve over time, if given tenacity. But most importantly, nature journaling is a relaxing and fun activity.

one can participate in nature journaling. Whether everyone gets an individual journal or the family shares one together, nature journaling encourages creativity and healthy curiosity. This is a great activity for daily or weekly outings to document seasonal changes and newly discovered elements; it can even be used as a travel activity, replacing some material souvenirs. Nature journaling can also be used to encourage young children to explore and learn about the environment, biology, geology, and other STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) areas of study. And it can be a wonderful conversation tool to allow the family or group to compare what each thought was interesting or memorable about a shared trip or journey.

leaves or flowers are great ornamental additions to your nature journal, but be mindful of local laws during your outing. Respect that many gardens and nature centers do not want visitors in their flower beds and that it is illegal to privately gather feathers from specific birds, such as the American bald eagle, according to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 enacted to protect native North American birds (and which has periodically been updated) that were nearly hunted to extinction for commercial use in clothing and household items. The Wild Wonder Foundation website (wildwonder.org) has great resources to begin implementing nature journaling in education and offers a vast variety of inspiration on how to use your nature journal.

### Is this appropriate for my family to do together?

Absolutely! No matter the age, every-

### Can I use natural elements in my nature journal?

Yes, but please be cautious. Pressing

### Do I have to choose between flora, fauna, fungi, or minerals?

No. Some journalists have a passion for a particular subject in nature and choose to focus on that topic. Others document what sparks interests or is a memorable part of their experience. And other journalists divide their journals into sections to document various topics into a more orderly collection for future reference. The choice is yours and should evoke whatever gives you joy.

### What if I don't have enough time to finish my journal entry while exploring?

Not having enough time to sketch something or organize your thoughts in your journal is a very common problem. Instead, take photos of what you want to sketch and write notes on what you want to highlight in your journal entry, if your time is so short or your discovery was in passing. Ideally, the time it takes to make an entry is for a specifically sought subject or point in your exploration. If you do want to take the time to sketch something and take notes in real time, plan ahead and decide what you specifically want to focus on. This will allow you to focus on finding your subject and managing your time better to give you as much documenting time as possible in your adventure. If you prefer to be inspired as you find something, plan flexibility into your time outdoors so you can document what you want at the time it appears. If time is short, again, take

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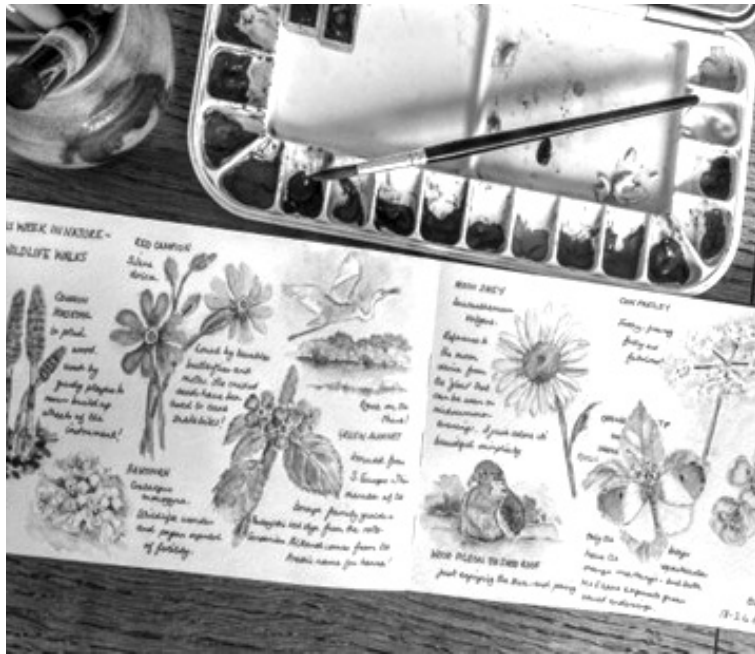
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# THE MASTER GARDENER



Some nature journalists take detailed notes while on a nature walk, and then add those details to a journal after they get home.

notes and a few photos to revisit when you do have time to create your journal entry.

Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned participant, nature journaling is an optimal choice for you to discover and explore the world around you. As you go on your journey, don't let the hype of social media influencers discourage your progress or style of journaling. Every journal is unique and reflects the grand story of the journalist. If you are looking for inspiration, there are numerous educational resources on the internet from wildlife non-profits to universities highlighting the benefits of nature journaling and offering tested tips and ideas to incorporate in your own collection. Instead of wondering "what if," take the risk of trying something new and testing your ability to expand

past what you know and what you are good at. The wonderful planet we live on has marvelous things to show us and beckons us to partake in them. And we still can partake and not cause harm by means of nature journaling.

So put down your phone and tuck those wallets away. We don't need more knick-knacks to pile in the garbage once we are bored with storing them. What we need are experiences that will always be with us and the knowledge we gathered from them.

Check our website for upcoming free seminars, Master Gardener certification classes, gardening information, advice, and publications, as well as other announcements, at [www.extension.umd.edu/frederick-county](http://www.extension.umd.edu/frederick-county) or call us at 301-600-1596.

## Small Town Gardener

The rough & smooth of Mid-Atlantic gardening

Marianne Willburn

There are few persons more strident as those who have once loved a thing only to turn their backs upon it, unless of course it is those who have hated, and now love with equal fervor. In time, both groups will suffer the well-deserved jabs of those who knew them before their evangelization, but such is the price we pay for strict ideologies.

And such have been my dealings with Canna – the lily that is not a lily, the tropical that finds itself in temperate gardens more often than not.

If you are not familiar with canna lilies – or continue to confuse them with the soft half-cones and wedding flower fodder of callas (*Zantedeschia*), let me be the first to start the process of proselytization.

Cannas are a New World plant. Many of them have been cultivated in the Old

World and in Africa and Asia for a couple of hundred years, but they were originally imported there from the East Indies and the southern part of the United States. Thus, hybrids such as 'Bengal Tiger' push the provenance envelope a little bit and impart the mystique of far eastern climes when the reality is much closer to home.

Cannas are rhizomatic – which means that at the end of a good growing season, where you once had one, you might now have several. These rhizomes are eaten in many parts of the world as they have an extremely high starch content and high yield.

When grown as a garden plant however, they are primarily grown for their foliage, which can drift from the horticultural definition of 'black' to the plainest of greens, with drifts in recent years into more tropical reddish yellows as seen in the Tesselaar flagship canna 'Tropicanna' (aka Phaision). Flowers are just as tropical as the foliage and can persist late into the season, besting a first frost or two.

All this did not make them any more appealing to me – for the simple reason that in my 7a climate, they had to be dug in the autumn, and the only objects for which I was willing to go to such lengths were black truffles.

Over the years I have had many opportunities to receive end of season plants from other gardeners or \$2.00 death rack specimens. I declined. There is very little less appealing than a canna that has spent a hot summer in a one gallon pot, and I wanted nothing to do with it.

Then, on a trip to Charlottesville to visit the garden of a good friend, I was introduced to the hybrid 'Bengal Tiger' (aka 'Pretoria'). I took a second glance. My friend sent some home. That was the game changer.

'Bengal Tiger' is the very essence of foliage variegation. No vague mottling here, or marginated color that fades in less than four hours of sun. No - this is bright, green and gold striation that can make a dreary corner come alive, excite a sedate water feature and push a humdrum container into the realm of 'above average.' If that weren't enough, flaming orange blooms complement and enhance the foliage by mid-season. Result: tropical mojo so intense you'll be inspired to mix rum punch by the pitcher and crank up the samba. You may even take up cigar smoking.

Hyperbole aside, it's a great plant. And as over-wintering goes, turns out it could not be easier. Simply lift the rhizomes, inspect for any signs of rot and cut those bits off, then store in the cellar, basement, garage, or any other out of the way space that doesn't dip below freezing. In a garbage bag.

Yes you read that right. Early in the season (March/April) I put each rhizome with a healthy bud in individual gallon pots with potting soil and a granular fertilizer and stick them in a cold frame. Canna are heat lovers and won't do much till temperatures pick up, but this gives them a little head start. Since my evangelization, I have now found a soft spot for the plain, red-flowered species, *Canna indica*, and am incredibly impressed with the architectural statement it makes in a repetitive planting scheme.

It's hot. Tropics like canna respond to that heat and ask for more. You can't ask for better in July, and when it comes to unceremoniously storing them without care or worry, you can't ask for better in October.

*Marianne is the author of Tropical Plants and How To Love Them, and Big Dreams, Small Garden. She gardens from her home in Lovettsville, VA.*

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All seminars are free unless otherwise stated. Seminars are held at the University of Maryland Extension office at 330 Montevue Lane, (off Rosemont Avenue) in Frederick, from 10 to noon.

*For more information and sign-up links, visit the Events section of the Master Gardeners Frederick County website or call the extension office at 301-600-1595.*



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# PETS

## Living with a three-legged cat

Jennifer Vanderau  
Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter

You know the strangest thing about living with a three-legged cat?

The guilt you feel for doing it. A few weeks ago I wrote about my baby Loki having cancer. He's a 7-year-old black cat who came to me as a little kitten. The cancer was in his back left leg and it was amputated up to the hip.

I'm pretty sure they got it all because his chest x-ray was good and his heart and lungs sounded good, too.

He's hopping around the house and eating and drinking and using the bathroom and I'm still...a nervous wreck.

I know I need to enjoy every day with him and I do. It's just I feel like I'm constantly looking for new lumps on him and when he hobbles up on the bed on his three legs, part of me feels guilty.

My acupuncturist told me I actually removed cancer from his body. I shouldn't feel guilty, but.

But. See Loki has always been my trouble maker. He gets into literally everything and would jump just about everywhere. I don't know, there's just something when I watch him hop along that makes me think, oh, man. He can't jump like he used to. He can't get up on the bathroom sink and drink from the faucet like he used to (he's instead using the faucet in the tub).

And yes, amputation really was the best option for him because that

lump was the size of a ping pong ball on his knee, so I really do logically know it was for the best...but.

But. Why do I still feel guilty? It's crazy, right? I mean, I wholeheartedly admit I have a number of issues, so I know I operate more than 15 degrees off center on a normal day, but this might be a bit over the top, right?

Realistically and practically, I did the only thing I could. I got rid of the cancer and hopefully prolonged his life for many additional years.

I still just feel so bad when he hops up to me.

As I'm typing this stream of consciousness column right now I'm starting to realize that maybe my real issue with all of this is I just wish it hadn't happened. I wish he hadn't gotten cancer and I had to take these drastic steps.

That's very childlike, though. Wanting to rail at fate or circumstances that life hands you. I'm reminded of a toddler throwing a fit because he or she couldn't get the yummy dessert or something.

And I'm not proud that I find myself in that exact situation.

Is that where the guilt is coming from? Is it really just a wish that my boy didn't have to go through this?

It kills me to think he might still be in pain. My acupuncturist told me of course he's in pain. He had muscles and nerves and bones cut away. She said pain is part of life.

I remember telling her, but I don't want that for my Loki - right before I burst into tears in her office.

She said this was his path, his jour-

ney and asked me to consider what I could learn from him.

I think maybe I've always looked at our four-legged friends as pure and the best of us. They are so trusting and they offer unconditional love and they are there for us often when humans aren't or can't be.

As a result, I think they should have the best of everything. They should have soft beds and good food and water to drink and fun toys to play with...and they shouldn't hurt or have to suffer.

That might be what this is all about. I haven't really, truly dealt with the fact that I can't protect my babies from everything. I can't be absolutely certain that they will never be hurt or know pain.

On the night I really cried about Loki - the ugly crying I described a few weeks ago - I got kind of scared. Because it was really, really bad crying. Like from deep in my gut. I know I was crying for a whole lot of things that night and Loki was just the catalyst, but it freaked me out.

That might be what I really don't want to look at. That might be why I can't seem to come to terms with what's going on with my boy.

I just want him to be happy and loved and pain free.

He shouldn't have to hurt like I do sometimes.

Whew. I did not know where this one was going to go this week, but wow. Okay. Maybe I need to work through some of my own stuff so I can see what Loki and this diagnosis is really trying to teach me.

For tonight, though, I'm going to go home to my boy and see if he'd like to cuddle a little and I'll take solace in the fact that he's still around to be with me.

*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. Help support the animals at the shelter by donating to or shopping at the store.*



Kevin Bacon is a loving boy who is quite the Footloose explorer (hehe). He is about six years old and would love to find out what a loving forever home is all about. Could you show him?



Marley is a 1-year-old dilute calico who came into the shelter because her owners could no longer care for her. She is a super sweet girl who would love to find her second chance. Could that be with you?



Daemon is a Parvovirus survivor. Parvovirus attacks white blood cells and the gastrointestinal tract of dogs. Parvovirus is a serious and potentially fatal virus. When he arrived at the shelter, it was evident that Daemon did not feel well at all. He was dehydrated, vomiting, and had diarrhea. A Parvo test was performed, and it was positive. Daemon was taken to the vet for a follow up on his positive test. With supportive care, Daemon was able to overcome the serious virus! He is an 11-month-old terrier mix who has overcome a lot in his short life already and is now looking forward to the future.



Roscoe is a 5-year-old mixed breed dog who came into the shelter as a stray. He is a bit on the shy side, but once he has time to adjust, he becomes a really nice guy. He may require his potential adopters to meet him several times before he goes home with them to establish a relationship. He loves getting treats! Roscoe enjoys going out to the play yard. Due to Roscoe's shyness with new people and no past history, an age restriction for children in the home may apply, so please discuss this with the shelter staff.

For more information about Kevin Bacon, Marley, Daemon, or Roscoe, 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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# Holding patterns

Linda Shea

A large component of our work at the Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center is education. Sheltering animals is a unique endeavor, and our procedures, protocols, and processes are sometimes misunderstood. One of the more common questions we are asked is “how long do you keep animals?” The answer is “it depends.” Harley has been here since January 16, 2024 or 155+ days, dispelling the myth that we have a time limit on residency. However, we have established guidelines that are applied to each animal.

As a county agency, we are 100% County tax funded. Therefore, we only take in animals from Frederick County residences, or stray animals found within Frederick County. We ask that pet owners utilize the shelter as a last resort for pets they no longer want, or pets they can



Harley

no longer keep. Owned animals that are relinquished to us may be placed immediately and own-

ers sign a relinquishment form stating clearly, in bold, “animals relinquished to the FCACC are subject to immediate adoption or euthanasia.” That may seem harsh, but our intake process includes questions, counseling, and alternatives to help owners keep their pets.

Stray animals are held for a minimum of five (5) days during which we evaluate best placement if an owner does not come forward. Return-to-Owner (RTO) is the best scenario for strays, but adoption, rescue, foster care, or euthanasia are the other options. Exceptions are made for animals that are dangerous or suffering, in which case a course of action may be made prior to five days in the interest of human safety or the animal’s comfort, respectively.

A less common holding period is ten (10) days for animals we impound or seize. Ten days allows an owner to relinquish the animals, reclaim depending on circumstances, or appeal our decision to take the animals. Impounds or seizures may result from a complaint of neglect or cruelty, but also from auto accidents, owners being admitted to the hospital, owner’s death or other unexpected situations that occur.

Getting back to Harley, she was originally surrendered to us for adoption back in July of 2023. By Christmas she was adopted, but returned about a month later when she just wasn’t the right fit for the family. Harley is an affectionate and fun-loving dog who enjoys playing and dressing up. Since she’s a very active dog who needs a lot of exercise she is not recommended for apartment life. This three-year-old Terrier Mix is looking to be the only pet in a home with no small children. We would like to see Harley’s stay here end and her time in a forever family begin soon.



Are you looking for a dog that is both cuddly and playful? Then meet Evan. Evan loves to cuddle up close to you and can’t get enough belly rubs, but that doesn’t mean he’s a couch potato. This senior loves to run, sniff and destroy a stuffie. He’s very treat motivated and thinks training is a fun game. Due his high prey drive Evan is best suited as an only pet. Since this senior does have some decreased vision, he’s looking for an adult only home.



Frost is one of FCAC’s shy, but sweet young adults. Even though her initial discomfort was obvious when she first landed on the adoption floor, she still loved being lavished with affection. Now a few weeks later, Frost is coming out of her shell and crawling out onto the laps of volunteers. We know in a quiet, patient home she will only continue to blossom.



Meet siblings Bernadette and Sheldon. Both of these three-month-old kittens were initially quite shy. However, Bernadette is growing more confident by the day and is there to provide support for her more timid brother. That’s one of the reasons why we’ve listed this pair as better together. Bernadette is quick to purr and initiates petting while Sheldon takes some time to warm up to affection. One area where the little guy doesn’t hesitate though is play. Sheldon can’t resist a toy swinging back and forth, or a ball rolling by. Bernadette is always happy to join in, although she can be distracted by a tasty snack.



Fun-loving Rex has recently finished his heartworm treatment. In about three weeks, Rex will have finished his kennel rest and will be able to get back to all of his favorite things: soccer, playing tug with huge branches, and digging up rocks. In addition to being super playful and goofy, Rex also has an affectionate side and has developed some great bonds with the kennel staff. As a bonus, he is dog friendly as well, but due to his high prey drive would not do well in a home with cats or small animals.

For more information about Evan, Frost, Bernadette and Sheldon, or Rex, call the Frederick County Animal Shelter at 301-600-1319 or visit them online at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/fcac).

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# Woodsboro-Walkersville NEWS-JOURNAL SECTION 2

## Creating a 4th of July tradition - The Woodsboro Music Festival

Gracie Smith  
MSMU Class of 2027

Fourth of July is one of the most patriotic holidays to exist, if not *the* most. Filled with cookouts, pool parties, family, friends, and fireworks, it is one of the key events of the summer season. Each town has its own, unique way of getting together to celebrate this iconic holiday. This year, Joe Williams will be hosting the 3rd annual Woodsboro Musical Festival on July 4th at Regional Park in Woodsboro. This festival is a wonderful way to pay tribute to our nation, as well as celebrate the hidden talents that the community has to offer. Many of you may remember the music festival last year. The performers, the fun, and the memories will make a return this summer on July 4th, with July 6th as the rain date. This raises the question, why is it important to Joe that we get together as a community and celebrate our nation and talents?

Joe was a practicing lawyer for over 40 years. He emphasized that his job was rewarding, but also was very time-consuming and stressful; a very realistic and understandable problem for many. This led Joe to reflect on his goals in life. Those being to play the guitar and to write novels. He turned to his goals to help balance his work life and his personal life. This proved to be very successful, so Joe encouraged his coworkers to get involved in music and be more open about their playing. From his enthusiasm, he and his coworkers were able to start a band called The Bulgers and later The Objections.

Joe recounts this as being very exciting for him, since these very professional people, doctors and

lawyers that is, were playing music and having fun outside of their stressful work environments. Not only did this allow Joe and his coworkers to relieve stress, but they were able to bond over a similar interest outside of the work environment. Music gave them a reason to get together, and ultimately led to long-lasting friendships. Joe and his coworkers would perform at music festivals year-round, specifically the Greenway Music Festival. Not only did his coworkers practice music, but so would his children who grew to be very talented in the arts.

However, all of this came to a halt in 2019 when Joe suffered a stress-induced brain injury from work. This left him in a coma and paralyzed. From this, Joe ultimately retired from being a lawyer after 43 years. Not to worry, he has made a full recovery and is now committed to guitar playing and writing.

Joe's passion for music and his community influenced him to begin the Woodsboro Music Festival. In the beginning, the festival took place during the crisp months of autumn. This didn't work out as planned since the instruments didn't perform well in cooler temps. So, it was moved to July 4th, the middle of the summer when the heat is plentiful. After the success of the festival, the town of Woodsboro built a permanent stage in Regional Park so that the festival could take place every year.

This year, the third annual Woodsboro Music Festival will begin at 1 o'clock on Thursday, July 4th. The rain date will be July 6th. Several bands, solo acts, and the highlight performer, Valarie Smith and the bluegrass band, will



100 years ago, concerts were the highlight of community 4th of July celebrations. Woodsboro is seeking to rejuvenate and recapture the spirit of that tradition.

be in attendance to provide energetic entertainment for the festival and holiday. In addition to the outstanding performers, there will be several other exciting things to do and take part in. There will be a distillery, brewery, winery, food trucks, frisbees, and disk golf. The highlight performers will begin their acts at promptly 5 o'clock. Many different music tastes will surround the park and appeal to those of all ages. From country music and bluegrass music to classic rock, it is guaranteed that you will hear a song you love. Be sure to bring something to sit on, such as a blanket or chairs. Oh, and a smile too!

Community is one of the many things that need to be cherished more in today's society. In addition to our family and friends,

our community also helps raise our children, support our farms and businesses, protect our land, and our families. In a small town like Woodsboro, these events are a great way to spend time with your family, friends, and neighbors all while celebrating our nation. The American dream is truly summed up in the Woodsboro Music Festival by exemplifying the freedom we have to pursue our hobbies and grow with one another to become better. Surrounded by family, friends, and neighbors, how else would you want to celebrate our nation? All of that, and a community cookout too!

Community involvement is crucial for us to build stronger bonds with each other and have several people to trust in the event

of an emergency. As time goes on, it would appear that communities are drifting farther and farther apart as families choose to be more independent.

Communities benefit everyone, and getting involved, just like Joe, will only lead you to a happy, fulfilling, and successful life. Joe's efforts in bringing his Woodsboro community together are admirable and praiseworthy, and we should all do our part and support him and his family at the festival on the 4th of July.

Please, do not be shy to share your musical talents with the community on this festive occasion! Walk-ups are welcome, but to ensure a spot on the stage and plan accordingly, please contact Joe Williams at 410-812-8228.



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# HISTORY

## The Wood family of Woodsboro

Dahl Drenning  
Fifth great-grandson of  
Colonel Joseph Wood, 2024

Continued from last month

### The Fifth Generation

Joseph Wood the son of Joseph Sr. and Sarah lived and died in Frederick County. Born (1743-1793) a year before Frederick County was separated from Prince Georges County, Joseph Wood Jr. the great, great grandson of William Wood the immigrant associate of William Penn, became imbued with and inspired by the possibilities and responsibilities that were present and available to the growing tide of settlers streaming into the area. His experience, not unlike that of preceding generations of the Wood family would be one of opportunity, risk, success, and failure. Though his memory is forever associated with the community that bears his name, the founding of Woodsboro by Colonel Joseph Wood in 1786 might have been the pinnacle of achievement for the Wood family in Frederick County and at least partially responsible for their undoing and fall from prominence.

For many years the best if not the only available genealogical and histor-

ical information regarding the Wood family was found in the pages of Thomas Scharf's subscription history, "The History of Western Maryland" (published in 1882), in the section about the district and town of Woodsboro. The major error in this section is the claim that the father of Colonel Joseph Wood, Joseph Wood Sr. of Israel's Creek, was an immigrant from Gloucester, England and thereby the first generation of the family in America. Joseph Wood of Israel's Creek was in fact the fourth generation of the family in America that had originated not in Gloucester but in Nottingham settling first in Pennsylvania and then in Cecil County, Maryland. A possible explanation for this error is those who Scharf interviewed while travelling through the countryside and villages in Western Maryland in the later years of the nineteenth century simply knew very little about the family history outside of Frederick County let alone their time in Cecil County and Philadelphia. The accompanying genealogical information is however mostly reliable thus we know that twenty six year old Joseph Wood Jr. married Ann Reed (1740-?) in April of 1769.

There was in 1892 a document circulated "To the Descendants and Heirs of Joseph Wood, The First, of Catoctin

Manor, Maryland formerly of Gloucester, England" suggesting that these Wood descendants may have had a claim to the estate of "James Wood" Merchant and Banker of the city of Gloucester, England, reputed to be worth about twenty million English pounds sterling. "This circular may have been in contemporary terms an elaborate "SCAM" praying upon the dream of acquiring a "windfall" of wealth from a distant relative. The circular suggested that these potential "heirs" of James Wood raise a sum of money to send a representative to England to investigate a possible familial claim before the estate of James Wood would "revert to the crown".

The 1892 circular contained Wood family history based upon the 1882 Scharf reference to Gloucester. Taken altogether then, the "formal" appearance of the document and the genealogical information contained therein, which they could verify in a published source, plus the possibility of obtaining an unearned largess peaked the interest of the Wood cousins and raised the question of "what if", for succeeding generations.

By the last decade of the nineteenth century descendants of the Wood family of Monocacy Manor and Woodsboro were scattered across ten different states and accepted the erroneous information about their English origins most particularly



Memorial marker honoring Joseph Wood located adjacent to the Woodsboro Veterans Memorial.

ancestral connections to Gloucester. It is not known whether sufficient funds were acquired to investigate the claim. Nothing in the oral or written lore of twentieth century descendants indicates that an investigation ever took place or that a claim was attempted.

James (Jemmy) Wood (1756-1836) was "for real" however, having been the owner of the "Gloucester Old Bank" with a personal wealth of 900, 000 pounds. Nationally known as "The Gloucester Miser", "Jemmy" was an eccentric character to be sure. There was in fact a protracted court case over the settlement of James Wood's estate the knowledge of which obviously spread even to the U. S. Thus, it is not surprising that enterprising scammers found gullible and willing Wood cousins who would suspend disbelief and contemplate the possibility of an entitlement to a distant legacy.

It was as a young husband and aspiring entrepreneur that Joseph Wood Jr. obtained possession of the 224-acre tract east of the present-day town of Woodsboro on Cash Smith Road known as Wood's Mill Land and there constructed an impressive brick Georgian style manor house and established a milling operation.

An advertisement appearing in the Baltimore Md. Journal, October 4, 1791, described: "a stone mill with 3 run of burrs, Cologne, and Round Top, 1 mile from Woodsbury-Town". This appeared near the end of Colonel Wood's life when his finances were in disarray, and he may have been looking for a buyer for "Wood's Mill Land" and the milling operation situated there upon.

It was on this plantation along Israel's Creek that Joseph Wood Jr. 's five children were born (Mary - June 25, 1772, Sarah - June 21, 1774, Elizabeth 1777-1777, Catherine - March 2, 1778, and Joseph - Jan. 9, 1781) and where he was

residing when the colonies began the revolutionary process leading to separation from England. It was while living there that he became deeply committed to the cause for independence and no doubt it was there that his dream of commercial success in business and real estate began to take shape. It is sad to note that because of financial reversals soon after the war Joseph Wood Jr. and his family had a limited tenure of about twenty years in their stately home on Wood's Mill Land from about 1769 until 1789. In those two decades, however and for a time, Joseph Wood Jr. rose to prominence as a patriot and militia officer and as a land speculator and town founder.

It has been a challenge through the years to piece together an accurate account of Joseph Wood's military service in the Revolutionary War. No small part of the challenge has been the fact that there were other men named Joseph Wood who were involved in the war including a Colonel Joseph Wood from Pennsylvania who served at Fort Ticonderoga and was a compatriot of General Anthony Wayne. Yet another Colonel Wood served as a commanding officer at the "Hessian Barracks" in Frederick.

In 1780 a contingent of prisoners originally captured at the Battle of Saratoga (1777) and held in Virginia were transported to Frederick to be incarcerated at the Frederick County "Alms House" and the recently constructed Barracks (Subsequently known as the Hessian Barracks) on Cannon Hill. The American commander in charge of these prisoners was a "Colonel Wood". Wood wrote to Maryland Governor Lee soon after coming to Frederick, "Upon my arrival here I have been employed ... in making provisions for the troops". (Reference: John M. Walton Jr. "The Frederick Town barracks: A Witness to History")

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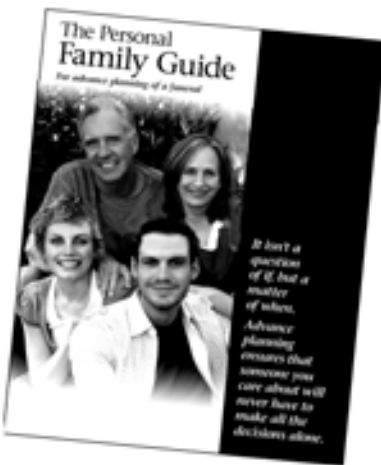
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# HISTORY

It was in fact Colonel JAMES Wood of Frederick County, Virginia, the "Superintendent of the Convention Army" who brought British and Hessian prisoners from Virginia to Frederick and who was the officer in charge of their imprisonment there not Lt. Colonel Joseph Wood of Frederick County.

With membership in both the Committee of Correspondence and the Committee of Observation Joseph Wood Jr. was first commissioned as a Captain of a company in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion from Frederick County on November 29, 1775. Included as a sergeant in that company was Peter Baird (Beard) very likely an Israel's Creek neighbor of Joseph Wood and the benefactor who provided the land upon which Grace Rocky Hill (St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed) Church was constructed in 1767.

Following is a list of commissioned and non-commissioned officers listed as part of Captain Joseph Wood's Militia company of 1775 as recorded in the "Journal of the Committee of Observation of the Middle District of Frederick County, Maryland, Sept. 12, 1775- October 24, 1776. Also referenced in "Revolutionary Patriots of Frederick County, Maryland" by Henry C. Peden.

Peter Baird, Corp. , Solomon Bentley, Sgt. , Levi Carmack, Sgt. , William Carmack Jr. Ensign, 1st Lt. , John Fogle, Drummer, Biggar Head, Ensign, William Beckwith Head, 2nd Lt. , John Hide, Corporal, John Kennedy, Sgt. , John Parkinson, Sgt. , Robert Sellers, Corp. Christian Smith, Fifer, Charles Springer, 2nd Lt., Lawrence Stull, Corp. The company included seventy-one Privates two of which have been identified, John Rboads and John Kittenger. Corporal Peter Baird (Beard) and Drummer John Fogle are buried in Grace Rocky Hill Cemetery near Woodsboro.

By June of 1776 at the behest of the Continental Congress a conven-

tion was called in Maryland to create battalions for a "Flying Camp", a rapid response unit of short-term volunteers in the continental forces. It was as part of this newly configured unit that Joseph Wood Jr. was promoted to the rank of Lt. Colonel in the 37<sup>th</sup> Battalion (also referred to as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion.) commanded by Colonel James Johnson the brother of Brigadier General Thomas Johnson soon to become the first Governor of Maryland. During the month of July 1776 Joseph Wood served as a recruiting officer receiving numerous volunteers for service in the "Flying Camp". Thomas Johnson assumed command of the Flying Camp in December of 1776 and in late December and early January 1777 began to lead the Marylanders north to Philadelphia to join Washington's forces in that area.

Thomas Johnson wrote on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January of the arrival of the Frederick County volunteers at Philadelphia, "all of Colonel J. (James) Johnson's Battalion that may be expected, about 250 are here, part of Colonel Beatty's about 160, part of Colonel B. (Baker) Johnson's about 120, part of Colonel (Normand) Bruce's about 150 and Colonel (Christopher) Stull's I do not know the number are also here." It was January 21, 1777, that Brigadier General Thomas Johnson with his brother Colonel James Johnson's battalion in the lead followed by part of those of Colonels Beatty and Bruce moved the Frederick County troops across the Schuylkill River toward General Washington's winter encampment in New Jersey at Morristown arriving too late for participation in the recent American victories at the battles of Trenton and Princeton.

It is interesting to note that another local battalion commanded by Colonel Charles Greenbury Griffith also part of the "Flying Camp" that went north in July and August and was engaged in the

battles of Harlem Heights and White Plains in October now at the end of their sixth month enlistment had returned home to Frederick County in December of 1776 just about the time Thomas Johnson's "Flying Camp" battalions left for Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Based on the sixth month term of enlistment in effect at that time it is likely that the 37<sup>th</sup> Battalion returned to Frederick County sometime during the summer of 1777. An assumption being made in all of this is that Lt. Colonel Joseph Wood was present and part of the January 1777 expedition north of the 37<sup>th</sup> Battalion and their subsequent deployment in New Jersey. Beyond this time period little more is known of his military involvement in the Revolutionary War save for an interesting story regarding a local celebration at the time of the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783 which officially concluded the War for Independence.

Recalled nearly a hundred years after the fact there was an account in Scharf's "History of Western Maryland" of a service of thanksgiving for the successful conclusion of the struggle for independence held by a number of people living along Israel's Creek at Rocky Hill Church (then St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed Church) located on present day Coppermine Road a short distance east from Joseph Wood's home and mill.

Following the solemn service of gratitude two hundred attendees were invited later that evening to gather along the banks of Israel's Creek at the Wood home for a time of celebration and feasting. Thirteen toasts were made at this gala event while thirteen "platoons" were fired. The mansion house was illuminated and bon fires were lighted nearby the whole of which the account tells us was concluded with "propriety and decorum". (Scharf, Hist. of West. MD. , Vol. I, p. 145) This would

have been a significant moment of joy for the Israel's Creek community and for Colonel Wood and his family and no doubt in a few short years looked back upon wistfully by the Wood family.

Apart from the milling and farming enterprise that Colonel Wood pursued at his estate on Israel's Creek it seems that he was also deeply engaged in land speculation. He was involved in numerous real estate transactions in the decade of the 1770s including the resurvey of several "freehold" tracts, Wood's Mill Land and the acquisition of two Monocacy Manor lots. In 1781 he held title to nearly a thousand acres of property in the Israel's Creek area.

When the numerous lots that constituted Monocacy Manor were confiscated from the Calvert family by the state of Maryland and offered at auction (September 10, 1782, at Grosz's Tavern in Frederick Town) most of the tenants were outbid by military officers exercising warrants they had been granted for service to the State in the War for Independence the outcome of which at the time of the auction was still unresolved. By the terms of the lease held by Joseph Wood Sr. for Lot 56 and 57 his son Joseph Jr. (Colonel) was able to assure a continuation of tenancy for his father even though General William Smallwood purchased both lots.

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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

## July 4

### Fourth Of July Thoughts

Our national holidays are too much given over to mere outward manifestations of observance and too little to recognition of the underlying ideas which gave these festivals importance.

Independence Day should set the American people thinking of the real and permanent meaning of the Declaration of Independence, and the vital significance of the Fourth of July.

The story of the birth of American nationality is one of the most inspiring in all the annuals of mankind. No other nation has been born of such high purposes, broad visions and unselfish spirit of service to humanity.

The Declaration of Independence was signed by a company of greater men than ever before had been joined in the founding of a nation. Their act represented something far greater and nobler than your personal dissatisfaction with the existing order. They were men who would have better serve their personal advantage by desisting from this act. Moved by the purist patriotism, they launch defiance against the powerful military power, supposedly capable of crushing the feeble forces of the colonies, knowing that monarchy was sure to define their acts as treason, and probably punish their act with death.

Americans on Independence Day should dedicate themselves anew to the principles, the tradition, and the ideas of the Great Republic – the most wisely conceived, the most strongly developed nation of all times, where the wildest range of opportunities, the loftiest level of intelligence and the highest plane of life for the masses have been attained in all the history of the world.

It is a time for rereading the story of the nation, the struggles for independence – the most romantic and most thrilling chapter in the history of humanity – the story of the young Republic's growth from feeble beginnings to its present high estate of power and influence.

Too many Americans do not comprehend their country. Patriotism has been ridiculed until they are ashamed to manifest it. The institutions of this country have been attacked until they fear to have faith in them.

To you know your country is to love it, to cherish it and to stand ready to defend it – to return the scoffing of the skeptics with scorn and rebuke, the misunderstandings of the superficial sap-heads, who imagine they are manifesting superiority and moral breath by decrying the country and the citizens love for it and his purpose to defend it against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

The truth about the man who profess to love all other countries as well as his own is that he loves no country at all. He is lacking in the instinct of loyalty to things worthwhile which differentiates the patriot from the traitor.

Have faith in America! Have love for America! For love of this Republic is love of humanity, which this Republic from its beginning has serve so well by example and action.

### Frederick County Tax Rate

The tax rate of Frederick County has been fixed at \$1.35 per \$100 of assessed value, a 17 cents increase from the prior year.

The increased rate, one of the Commissioners claim, is due to the large public school appropriation, increase in the cost of public road, maintenance, an increase of two cents for the sinking fund, and two other expenses that had to be met. Provisions had to be made for the improvement of two new roads, Liberty to Johnsville, and Woodsboro to Ladiesburg, not included in last year's budget.

It is understood that the school appropriation is approximately \$325,000, or 65% of the entire County budget. The next largest budget appropriation is for roads.

The Commissioners endeavored as far as was in their power to keep down the rate, and the budget list was gone over a number of times and reductions made wherever this was possible. It has been apparent for sometime that the tax rate would be increased this year.

In making up the budget many items are fixed by law. It is understood that the school appropriation was cut and that the road items, although above the total of last year, were kept down to a minimum. One of the Commissioners stated at the new rate is the lowest that could have been fixed in view of appropriations, deemed absolutely necessary.

### Roses

Among the many fine growths of roses in town is a rambler display at Mrs. Winemiller, on George Street, about 50 feet in lath that deserves special mention. It amply repays for the training and attention it has received. Another display of roses and many old-fashioned flowers and shrubs along the Fairview Avenue walkway at Mrs. Scott's also attracts desired notice.

### First Airmail Letter Received In Town

Donald Hesson received on Thursday morning, a letter by airmail from his father Albert, of Elk, Nevada; the first trip east of a U.S. Mail airplane service. The letter was postmarked July 1 and arrived here in just two days. The letter carried a \$.24 airplane stamp in addition to two cents regular postage.

### Improving Fish Hatchery

The regular monthly meeting of the Frederick chapter, of the Isaac Walton League, will be held Wednesday evening in the auditorium of the YMCA. It is likely that among the matters to be considered, the members will discuss the improvements now underway at the fish hatchery in Lewistown, which is now in the process of a thorough overhaul, and which is expected to be put into operation in the fall.

### Triplets Born To First Time Parents

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Lightner, of Union Bridge, are now the proud parents of triplets. Two boys, and a girl, all alive and apparently healthy. The larger boy weighs 6 pounds the other 5 lbs. 6 oz. and the girl tipped the scales at an even 5 pounds. The Lightner's have been married several years and these are the first children, the mother is reporting doing well, the father is reported to have taken up drinking.

### Woodsboro-Ladiesburg Highway Construction

Construction of 3 miles of State highway on the Woodsboro-Ladiesburg Road was awarded by the County Commissioners. The winning bid was \$40,377. The losing bid, sent in by Elmer Valentine, of Rocky Ridge, was for \$47,429. Work on the road is expected to start



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immediately. The highway will be constructed according to State specifications, and will be under the supervision of the State. After it is completed, the State will take it over to maintain it.

## July 11

### Avoid Killing Chickens

One of our subscribers tells us he has lost about \$10 worth of chickens over the last three months. They were rundown and killed by auto drivers who did not think, or do not care, how hard it is for a man to make a living these days. Several of this man's neighbors have lost poultry the same way.

Anyone who travels by road does not have to be told about this nuisance. Poultry to do well should have free range. It is nearly impossible, and will be highly expensive, to fence, poultry from the

roads. The civilized motorist seldom, or never, kills a chicken. The slayers are the reckless speeders, who whiz by and probably try to see if they can't kill a chicken crossing their path. A state law requiring a driver to stop and pay for any poultry, he kills, or be subject to a fine, would fix these fellows, and quite literally the farmers could be trusted to see that the law was enforced.

When motorist can knock down and kill human beings, with a strong probability of the act being called "unavoidable", it seems hardly worthwhile to seriously mention, such a loss as that of chicken; and yet, we don't know about that.

Perhaps, appealing for the greater protection of our property – livestock, and the like – may lead to the protection of human life. We may be more interested in the value of our own cattle and chickens, then we are just "other people and their children." The question is quite worthwhile considering as a possible course for bringing about greater safety on the public highways. Sometimes by experimenting with one thing, we find another just as valuable.

### The Klan Issue

The Democratic National Convention very properly dealt with the Ku Klux Klan as a symptom, not as a disease. The disease is the whole bag of bigots, prejudice, suspicion and hatred, the whole condition of the pernicious ignorance, underlying and motivating the organization. The Klan is merely a symptom of this disease.

A disease does not exist because of its symptoms; the symptom exist because of the disease. This condition, a pernicious ignorance does not exist because of the Klan; the Klan exists because of pernicious ignorance. This fact was recognized by the convention.

Instead of denouncing the Klan, as an organization, the convention denounced the bigots, prejudice, and ignorant suspicions out of which the Klan arises. Instead of denouncing the symptoms, it denounced the disease. This is gratifying.

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# 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

After all, it is the disease that counts. Many bitter and articulate opponents of the Klan are to be found to subscribe wholeheartedly to all of the prejudices and stupid superstitions, upon which the Klan is founded.

They denounced the organization, but the ideas upon which it is founded, in the name of patriotism, of Americanism, of Christianity, and so forth. This is not logical, but it is done. They are not offended by the insufferable, bigotry and presumptuousness out of which the Klan arises, but are affronted by the weird costumes, the ludicrous nomenclature, and the generally childish sinister aspects of the Klan.

### Farmers Make Good Use Of Good Weather

Farmers have been making good use of a more or less unsettled week. A great deal of wheat has been cut and on the shock, but steady, hot dry weather has not yet appeared. Corn is doing well, considering the season, and most of the hay remains to be made. Indications are that neither yield nor quality will be up to the average. The wheat so far is very fair, both in quality and condition. The weather, during the next two weeks, will be of extreme importance to the year's farming results.

The rains that were much too numerous in May and June are needed now for corn and potatoes, and vegetation in general, and the more so because the ground is baked and hard from the wet spring, and unworked cornfields.

The Freezer Canning Company in Keymar has been going full force the past week. They have been working day and night, and there has been as many as 28 loads of peas waiting to be unloaded, they employ about 35 people. The factory is one of the most up-to-date you will find any place.

### "Turncoat Wife"

Evelyn Biddinger, of Woodsboro, was pronounced not guilty of operating an automobile without an operators license, and while found guilty of driving under the influence of her husband's 'hooch', she was not fined as she led the police to his hidden still where he and his co-hooch makers were arrested. Word in Woodsboro is that upon his release from the lock up, Mr. Biddinger intends to file for divorce from his "turncoat wife."

### Drowning Victim To Be Buried

Funeral services of Harry Saylor, of Walkersville, who drowned Thursday afternoon while swimming in a creek, will be held Sunday evening. Saylor will be buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Woodsboro.

Mr. Saylor lost his life while swimming in a Creek in the presence of hundreds of picnickers. When he was 30 feet from the shore, the picnickers saw him throw up his hands, make frantic struggles in the water and go down. His body was recovered 22 minutes later but efforts to resuscitate him were unsuccessful. He was about 50 years of age.

## July 18

### The Dog Days Are Here

The 40-day period known as the Dog Days Of Summer, which is usually associated with hot and sticky weather began last Thursday and continues until August 23. It is the time of year when mosquitoes, ants, silver bugs, and gnats do their damndest; when bread molds in the bread box; when butter runs all over the plate a few minutes after it leaves the ice chest; when milk left by the mutual milkman before the homeowner fetches it off the front porch; when exercise is an agony, when women's patience is at the lowest, and men's temperature is at its warmest.

The canine-sounding name of the season does not refer to the animal, man's long, suffering, friend and companion, though perhaps some have thought of the Dog Days as days when dogs go mad, or lie around with long, red tongues protruding and panting heavily in an effort to keep cool. Astronomers tell us rather that the name is associated with Sirius, the Dog Star, which rises with the sun about July 23, or in the middle of the period.

Astronomers also tell us that Sirius has nothing to do with the unusual heat and humidity of midsummer, but that unjust association is a relic of the time when astrology and astronomy were confused and celestial omens and influences were taken seriously. If one however, were to pick out the 40 days of the year which average, the hottest, one would find that temperatures do correspond pretty accurately with the Dog Days.

### Train Hits Team At Grade Crossing

Mrs. Edith Fannyfrock and daughter, Evelyn, of Woodsboro, had a very narrow escape Wednesday morning, when a Northern Central passenger train struck the team in which they were driving, at Glade crossing, 1 mile and a half north of Walkersville.

The team was about to cross the Pennsylvania tracks, when the train headed towards Frederick, running out a fast rate, suddenly approach, striking the horse, cutting the animal and shaft loose from the buggy and killing the horse outright. It was understood that Mrs. Fannyfrock failed to hear the train approaching.

### Radio Facts

Few people need to be told how rapidly radio is interpenetrating every part of our daily life. A writer has contributed to us a most comprehensive article.

"More than 2.5 million radio sets have been manufactured and sold in the last three years in this country, with 500 broadcasting stations in operation in our United States, and 16,000 amateur transmitters sending and receiving.

"According to engineers of the Radio Corporation, 300 manufacturers are turning out sets or parts of sets, 30 radio magazines have been started, 250 books have been written, 2 million listeners constitute the present radio audience, and they spend 175 million on their hobby last year, giving employment in one way or another to half a million people. There are 12 transatlantic stations, which communicate not only with France and Latin America, but with 2,700 radio equip ships."

## July 25

### Gets Even With Tormenter

Sometime ago, a farmer living near Woodsboro, found a turkey buzzard tangled in some bushes, and after making the bird a prisoner, with the assistance of another individual, fastened a sheep's bell around its neck and turned it loose. The bird remained in the community and persons began talking about the "bell buzzard."

Saturday morning, the farmer who had fastened the bell around the buzzard's neck, was driving along the road when the buzzard appeared, and perched itself upon a fence ahead of the team. The bird frightened the horses,

which ran away, turning over the vehicle, and throwing the occupants out. At last report, the buzzard was still flying about.

### Unlucky Week For Some

Marvin Haugh, of Keymar, met with what might have been a fatal accident. In his herd of cattle he had a cross male cow, to which he had a heavy block attached to protect him and family, and on going to the barn, one morning found the bull had gotten the block off. Mr. Haugh thought he would go in and get the block and try to get the bull in the barn, and put the block on again, when the bull made for him, caught him, before he could get out of the way and the cow gourd him considerably.

His 13-year-old son came to his rescue by jabbing the animal in the jaw with a fork, which saved his father from death. He was taken to the house and fainted several times, but under doctors care he's getting along well.

The same day, an electrical storm passed over the house, where Mrs. Haugh was sitting on the front of her husband's bed, the lightning struck the house, throwing her to the floor, unconscious. The lightning tore several windows out, and a lot of the weather boarding on the house off, but there was no fire.

The condition of Miss Kathryn, Eyley, daughter, of Mr. and Mrs., William Eyley, of Woodsboro, who has been suffering from the effects of shock from lightning since last week, continues to be serious, according to report from her home.

Margaret, the little daughter of Oliver Metcalf, was seriously injured by a vicious cow a few days ago. She was playing at the barn when attacked, and only the prompt action of her grandfather, and one of the men who were nearby saved her life. She was taken to the Frederick City Hospital for examination, but as no bones were found broken, she was brought home. She is suffering intensely from bruises, but unless complication should arise, it is thought she will recover.

The condition of Charles Burris, five, who is run over by an auto car driven by Charles Green of Lewistown, is much improved. Following the accident, the youngster was taken to the Frederick city hospital and his condition has improved to such an extent that on Wednesday, he was taken into his home. The vehicle passed over his chest and abdomen.

To read other articles related to 100 Years Ago this Month, visit the History section of Walkersville.net.

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# LIBRARY NEWS

## July at the Walkersville Library

Whether you're staying local or heading out on vacation, you'll have endless entertainment options with the Frederick County Public Library on your side! Books, movies, programs and education are all part of the fun at the Walkersville Branch this July. If you're reading or listening to audiobooks, be sure to sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge, no matter your age! You'll earn ice cream and a book when you read just 20 days between June 1 and August 15. Earn tickets for prize raffles by reading all summer long; there are great prizes for everyone.

Please note that all Frederick County Public Libraries will be

closed on Thursday, July 4th

Let's build community together with Habitat for Humanity! Create colorful canvas tool belts with the family while learning about projects and local impact that Habitat for Humanity offers in Frederick County. Coralynn Wells will share opportunities for all of us to participate in and learn about Habitat. All ages welcome! July 14 from 1 to 2.

Do you have great gaming skills? Show them off and learn some new ones as One Up Games, a Massachusetts eSport and gaming venue, rolls into Frederick County on their East Coast Tour with tech to help you explore

virtual worlds using the Oculus Quest, or play the latest titles on Xbox Series S, PlayStation 4, and Nintendo Switch. This program is perfect for teens and adults alike and will take place at the Walkersville Library on Saturday July 20 from 1:00-4:00pm.

On Wednesdays at 10 in July, programs designed specifically for adults with intellectual disabilities and their caregivers take place at the Walkersville Branch Library. Stop by each week to see what's in store.

Looking for some ways to liven up your summer BBQ? Try bocce! Learn how to play with Erik Perkins of the Frederick Bocce Club on Sunday, July 21 from 1 to 2:30, hosted on the lawn of the Walkersville Branch Library. This program is geared toward beginners, but all bocce enthusiasts are welcome!

If you have a middle or high school student home for the summer, send them over to the Walkersville Branch Library on July 30 at 3:30 to learn about the Teen Library Council. This monthly meeting is for teens who want to help make

the library the best place it can be...for them! Attendees will not only receive volunteer hours, but also develop marketable leadership skills, credentials for future job and college applications and have a fun time with peers.

Senior Café is a great time to meet new friends, have a cup of coffee, and enjoy informational programs at the Walkersville Library. Stop by on July 11 at 10 to have coffee with Funeral Director Jeffrey Titcomb, who will answer questions frequently asked about services and other activities related to funerals. Join friends for a gentle chair yoga session on July 25 at 10am—we provide a chair and have some extra mats but be sure to wear comfortable clothes.

Interested in local history and true crime? The Walkersville Branch Library will host David Reichenbaugh, author and retired Maryland State Police officer, for a behind the scenes look at the hunt for the Beltway Snipers, their capture in Myersville, Maryland, and the process by which David wrote and published his book. Sunday, July 7 from 1 to 2:15.

Discovery Days are here at the Walkersville Branch Library this July! Engaging, educational fun for your little ones who are home for the summer will take place each Friday at 11am. Special guests include Mermaid Eureka and Farm to School Frederick. Celebrate the summer Olympics or blast off to space with hands on learning and exploration.

Start your week off with a free yoga class on Monday, July 8 and 22 at 6 in the afternoon. Led by instructors from Sol Yoga, this is a great way to wind down and practice self-care on a Monday evening. This class is wonderful for all, even first timers! A more intense workout option called Freedom BANG Fitness happens every Saturday at 10 at the Walkersville Branch Library.

Do you need help expunging your record from a past conviction? An attorney from Maryland Legal Aid will be at the Walkersville Branch Library on July 20 from 11am to 2pm. They will meet with you for free to discuss your options and begin the process.

School may be out for summer, but the Walkersville Librarians are doing field trip storytimes! Join them for storytime at the park on Wednesdays at 1pm, and then stay to play at the Walkersville Community Park and playground. The address is 22 Kenneth Drive, Walkersville.

If you have a middle or high school student home for the summer, send them over to the Walkersville Branch Library on July 30 at 3:30 to learn about the Teen Library Council. This monthly meeting is for teens who want to help make the library the best place it can be...for them! Attendees will not only receive volunteer hours, but also develop marketable leadership skills, credentials for future job and college applications and have a fun time with peers.

Take some time and 'Paws 2 Read' with the Go Team Therapy Dogs on Thursday, July 11 from 6:30 to 7:30. Kids (and adults!) of all ages are invited to share their favorite story and make a new four-legged friend at the library. P.S.— reading to a pup counts toward the Summer Reading Challenge!

Our schedule for storytimes is as follows:

- Monday:** Infants @ 10; Baby Steps Skill Building @ 10:30; Babies @ 11
- Tuesday:** Toddlers @ 11
- Wednesday:** Family @ 6
- Thursday:** Preschool @ 11

Join us for a special storytime at Happy Cow Creamery on Thursday July 11 at 11, and then cool off with a yummy frozen treat! Happy Cow is located at 8728 Dollyhyde Rd, Union Bridge.

Bilingual Storytime will be on Wednesday, July 3 and 17 at 6. This dynamic and engaging storytime is fun for the whole family and will feature songs, rhymes and more in English and other world languages.

**Unit 282 American Legion Auxiliary**  
**CASH BINGO**  
**Sunday, July 21**  
 Woodsboro American Legion  
 101 W. Elizabeth St., Woodsboro  
 Doors open @ Noon - Games begin @ 1:30 p.m.  
**\$40 for 25 Games**  
 Extra cards available 3 pack @\$5.00 & 6 pack @\$8.00  
**\*\*\*Reserve tickets by calling Peggy at 301-514-7164 & receive a FREE SPECIAL GAME\*\*\***  
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# SCHOOL NEWS

## Frederick County Public Schools

Karen Yoho  
Board of Education

While FCPS students' last day was June 7 and things might seem quieter around the school system, there is still a lot of activity occurring during the summer. As soon as the students leave, the teachers finish packing up their rooms and the custodians begin weeks of cleaning classrooms.

Curriculum writing began the last week of June and will continue into July at Oakdale High School. Teachers of all levels and subjects will work collaboratively to create curriculum to be used with students to enhance lessons.

Congratulations to the Substitute of the Year, Gregory Biggs. Mr. Biggs was nominated by Hillcrest Elementary. He has been a substitute since 2018. When asked about how he connects

with students, Mr. Biggs shared, "The more you can make them laugh and build that connection, those students start to believe they belong. I would say the same for students who struggle but want to learn. Building that connection is imperative to building up their self-esteem and confidence." Congratulations, Mr. Biggs. Thank you for all you do for the students of FCPS.

According to the FCPS website, Frederick County Public Schools is pleased to announce that the Middletown Middle School Student Government has been named the recipient of the 2024 Frederick County Public Schools Superintendent's Cup, making Middletown the first middle school to win the award.

Middletown Middle School raised an impressive \$11,515 for Sleep in Heavenly Peace by organizing fundraiser

events and through the matching donation of Installers DMV. Additionally, students and their families worked with the nonprofit to build and assemble beds, and students made and donated 20 blankets. The Middletown team was also able to give back to their peers by using the fundraising activities to highlight the connection between stress and getting enough sleep. The efforts of students like those of Middletown Middle School help make Frederick County a great place to live and learn.

The Board of Education reached agreement with all three of our bargaining units. The signings took place at the June 12 Board of Education meeting. We appreciate the hard work of all members of the negotiation teams, especially during these tight budget times.

Speaking of the budget, when we learned in April the school system

would receive \$50 million less than our requests, we knew there would be many difficult decisions that needed to be made. Because about 85 percent of the budget is salaries and benefits, that leaves "people and programs" from which to lower our budget amounts.

Through weeks of working with the Superintendent as she directed the staff, the Board arrived at a balanced budget on June 12. This is our legal and fiduciary responsibility. The budget will be finalized on June 26 and sent to the

County Executive before submission to the state by June 30.

The Board had no other course but to make painful decision to cut programs and unfilled positions. We now look to the future where the fiscal picture is not rosy. We will, however, continue to work with our local, state, and federal partners, as well as the community, to provide the best education possible to all of the nearly 48,000 students of FCPS.

The Board wishes a safe and relaxing summer to all.

### Useless Arithmetic

That some traditional subjects and the traditional methods of teaching them, do not make for educational progress, was emphasized in several meetings of the National Education Association convention in Washington.

In a report presented to the convention, the uselessness of teaching outworn subjects, in common arithmetic, to the exclusion of its application to every day life, and its influence on the minds when taught as an inspiration, and not as mirror process of mental mechanics, was emphasize.

The report recommended that the following subjects be dropped from arithmetic courses as unne-

cessary and time taking: Apothecaries weights, partial payments, proportions, troy weight, greatest common divisor, and least common multiple, long and confusing problems in common fractions, complex and compound fractions, reductions in denominate numbers, tables of folding paper, surveyor's table, and tables of foreign money, compound numbers including their addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division; longitude and time, cases, 2 and 3 in percentage, compound interest, annual interest, exchange, both domestic and foreign; true discounts; partnership with time, ratio, beyond the ability of fractions to satisfy; monuments of trapezoids, trapeziums, polygons, fracsturn, spheres,

cube root, and the metric system.

With these useless processes, admitted, teachers may be expected really to accomplish the aim of arithmetic in the schools, on the basis of social what is needed, is ability to figure accurately in the fundamental processes, simple fractions, simple percentage, including interest, and simple, denominated numbers. With this simplified program letter-perfect results are possible. Thus the Committee looks forward to a program in which arrhythmic will be better taught, and in which time will be left for the accomplishment of other worthwhile aims of education.



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# WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO THE MEN WHO ...

*This month, we continue with our tradition of using the July edition of the paper to remember the forgotten signers of the Declaration of Independence.*

## Sophomore

Richard Henry Lee

Gracie Smith  
MSMU Class of 2027

“To say that a bad government must be established for fear of anarchy is really saying that we should kill ourselves for fear of dying.”

This was said by a man named Richard Henry Lee, a forgotten signer of the Declaration of Independence. Best known as a planter, merchant, and politician, Lee was a prominent member of the Lee family of Virginia. Perhaps you’ve heard of another prominent member of the Lee family – Robert E Lee.

Richard, continuing his father Thomas’ legacy, had desires for westward expansion and was a key political figure during the American Revolution. For instance, it was Richard Lee who made the motion to declare independence from Britain at the Second Continental Congress in 1776; this became known as the Lee Resolution. While Lee is viewed as a very controversial historical figure, his influence on the state of Virginia and how it is today cannot be ignored. For this, it places him high on the list of

America’s forgotten signers.

The Lee Resolution was quite possibly the one thing that made America the way that it is today. That is to say, a free nation. Without Lee’s proposal of this idea to the Continental Congress, Johns Adams, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and many others would not have had a basis for even writing our world-renowned Declaration of Independence.

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee introduced the resolution “that these united colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent states,” acting under the instruction of the Virginia Convention. The Lee Resolution contained three parts: a declaration of independence, a call to form foreign alliances, and “a plan for confederation”. All of this coming from the National Archives.

A few days after Lee’s proposal, Congress appointed three concurrent committees in response to the Lee Resolution: one to draft a declaration of independence, a second to draw up a plan “for forming foreign alliances,” and a third to “prepare and digest the form of a confederation.”

Since many members of Congress believed the actions that Lee proposed to be premature or wanted instructions from their colonies before voting, approval was deferred until July

2. On that day, Congress adopted the first part (the declaration). The words of the Lee Resolution are echoed in the Declaration of Independence.

Not only was Lee a huge part of the creation of the declaration, but his brother Francis Lightfoot Lee was also one of the signers. Richard and Francis are the only siblings to have been in attendance during the establishment of our declaration, and the only siblings to be documented signers.

All of this said, what did Richard Lee do? Yes, he is responsible for the Lee Resolution... but who was he? Born to an aristocratic family in Stratford, VA, Lee set sail on a very academically oriented path. He attended a private in England, later returning to his home in Virginia in 1751. After forming a militia troop of young men from his town, Lee was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1757. During this time, Justices of the Peace were commissioned to handle minor civil and criminal cases. Shortly thereafter, Lee was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses. Years following, in 1774, he was elected to attend the first Continental Congress. Noted for his oratory skills, this was where he offered the Resolutions for Independence to the committee of the whole in 1776. He served in Congress through the course of the Revolutionary War

while also serving in the House of Burgesses. In 1783 he was selected as president of Congress.

Lee opposed the federal constitution, as he favored strong state rights. This was not an uncommon point of view for someone from the South to have, especially Virginia. He was, however, elected the first State Senator from Virginia under the new federal government. He retired from that office to his home in Chantilly due to illness, and soon after died at the age of 62.

It is safe to say that Richard Lee was a very well-rounded character when it came to politics. That is to say, he had experience on top of the courage to voice his desires and ideas. This was something that made Richard Lee different from the other forgotten signers. Not only did Lee have the courage to speak his mind, he had the courage to suggest independence from Britain. If Lee had not done this, there is no guarantee that our declaration would be the way it is today, or if there would even be a declaration.

As a History Major, this idea is very jarring to entertain. I can’t help but contemplate our nation under British rule, or perhaps a free nation without a declaration. Is it possible that our founding fathers and the forgotten signers would have chosen a dif-

ferent government structure? Perhaps the New Jersey Plan and the Virginia Plan would have had more of a profound effect on our nation. If the Virginia Plan was chosen wouldn’t it be reasonable to assume that the Civil War wouldn’t have occurred? That is to say, if everything is left to the states, the idea of the “Union” wouldn’t exist. Now the New Jersey Plan is the opposite. Wouldn’t it be reasonable to assume that our nation would be dangerously close to a socialist or communist nation as time went on and we continued to grow? The idea of equal representation would continue to become more and more impossible, leaving a rather significant amount of power to each state representative.

I suppose this brings me back to Richard Lee, who is responsible for proposing the idea of our freedom. After analyzing the significance of the Lee Resolution we, Americans, can better appreciate Lee’s courage and desires for our nation. This Fourth of July let us remember the sacrifices people have made for our prosperous nation. This Fourth of July let us celebrate those responsible for what we have today.

*To read other articles by Gracie Smith, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.*

## Junior

Carter Braxton

Devin Owen  
MSMU Class of 2026

More often than not, we associate the Independence Day holiday with cookouts, beer, partying, red/white/blue color schemes, and days at the pool. I myself am not innocent in this either; the Fourth of July holiday has always been celebrated with water slides, outdoor games, big get-togethers and barbecues in the front yard of my childhood home or that of a friend’s. There are so many fond memories I have of spending the holiday partying with family and friends since childhood. Unfortunately, it seems that I haven’t put enough focus on the true meaning of this holiday. The ‘Fourth of July’ is the day in which America gained its independence is it not? When did

the day become the National Day of Summer drinking and at-home festivals? We all celebrate in different ways; however, we must not forget the importance of this day and what it means for our nation!

In line with the forgotten, the motivation for this month’s article is to remind us of those who signed the Declaration of Independence, whose names we might not know. Contrary to popular belief, there was more signers than just Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, John Hancock, and Benjamin Franklin. Let us give the credit where it is due!

Let’s set the scene: 1736 in Newington Plantation Virginia, a baby boy by the name of Carter Braxton was born into immense wealth and a family that would quickly be broken apart as death targeted his parents in the earlier years of his life. Even without their parents by their side, the Braxton boys lived very lavishly in their youth—leading to the large debts that they would each carry

through adulthood. Although their spending habits led to debt, it is not to say that the Braxton brothers were uneducated, especially Carter. In his early adult years, Carter attended the College of William and Mary, a prestigious institution located in Williamsburg, Virginia.

While in university, Carter was married to Judith Robinson in July 1755, at the age of nineteen. The couple would go on to have two daughters together by December 1757. Unfortunately, Judith passed during childbirth with their second daughter at this time, leaving Carter absolutely devastated. So overcome with grief from the loss of his love, he traveled to Europe for two years, unable to spend the time in the home which they shared. Upon his return, Carter went on to marry Elizabeth Corbin on May 15th, 1760. This union brought forth an additional sixteen children to the Braxton family: ten sons and six daughters, leading to a total of eighteen children sired by Carter Braxton.

Now that we have some knowledge of his personal life, let’s move on to his career and his role in the gaining of independence for America. Carter Braxton was a cultivator and trader of tobacco—a popular option for trade during the time—and was also considered a merchant given the nature of his occupation. Come the year 1761, he was the representative of King William County in the House of Burgess. Most notably though, Braxton was a member of the Continental Congress, having been elected on December 15th, 1775.

Ironically, Braxton was not originally a supporter of independence for the colonies. In fact, he was entirely against it for a time. He even goes so far as to say: “Independence is in truth an elusive bait which men inconsiderably catch at, without knowing the hook to which it is attached” in a pamphlet he wrote and published in 1776 (DSDI). It was not until late in the spring of 1776 that Braxton began his advocacy for independence; thus, leading to his signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 2nd of the same year.

As mentioned earlier, Braxton and his brother lived lavishly in their youth. Although he played part in America’s gaining of Independence from Britain, Carter Braxton was not perfect by any means. This lavish and wealthy lifestyle spoken of having led to the debt in which he faced in his adulthood. Encyclopedia Virginia emphasized that “even after selling land to satisfy some of his many creditors, he owned more than 12,000 acres and about 165 slaves during the 1770’s.” However, Braxton was said to have lost nearly all of his wealth during the American Revolution through his support of the Union and the attack by the British forces. In addition to this, it was said that Braxton considered investing in the Slave Trade during the 1760’s—prior to his attempts to pay off his debts—but the Brown Brothers chose to proceed on their own, without the financial investments of Carter Braxton.

Here comes the irony into play yet again! Come the spring of the year 1776, when his support and

advocacy of independence begins, Braxton invests a great deal of his remaining wealth into the American Revolution, now in favor of America gaining its freedom and liberty for all. I must say, that may have been his best investment thus far into his life. With the result of the revolution being what it was, Braxton’s money seemed to be well spent!

Carter Braxton was much more than just a signer of the Declaration of Independence, he was also a merchant, a member of the Continental Congress, a scholar, a William and Mary graduate, a representative in the House of Burgess, a slave-owner, an orphan, a husband, a father, a son, and so much more! His life seems to be so incredibly filled with adventure and the ups-and-downs which we would expect reality to bring. Survived by his children, Braxton’s time on Earth came to an end at just sixty-one years of age on October 10th, 1797, in Richmond, Virginia. While he may be gone, let us all hope that he is never forgotten.

The purpose of this month’s article in Four Years at The Mount was to give a story back to the name; to both remember and reintroduce the forgotten. While not much has been said about the Declaration of Independence in this article, a forgotten signer of said document is invited to be remembered throughout it.

*To read other articles by Devin Owen, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.*

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# ... SIGNED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE?

## Senior

### William Williams

Dolores Hans  
MSMU Class of 2025

The autumn breeze drifts through the cracks in the floorboards and the whistle of the wind signals all who listen that the seasons have changed. A young man sits in a sacred room, gazing out the window at a tree beneath an overcast sky, wondering what will become of him throughout all the seasons yet unchanged. This young man doesn't know it yet, but he will soon be a man of vast knowledge and unwavering faith, the son of a minister, a Harvard-law graduate at 20 years old, but what happens after could not have been something conceived, let alone planned for young William Williams.

William comes from a line of men in ministry, so he studied theology and law and planned to become a minister as well. However, after he successfully embarks from Harvard, William finds himself unable to pursue his plans of becoming a minister, as the French and Indian War takes head.

In order to be beside his beloved uncle, William signs up to engage in the fight

near Lake George. This fight wearied and consumed him, his thoughts and emotions flooded by devastation and torment. As a man of faith, it must've been hard to fight for his country by killing others.

William, in the midst of battle, sparks of gunpowder soaring and stinging the crisp air and shouts of men overcoming the howl of the wind, glances over to witness the moment a bayonet meets his uncle's chest, and he falls to the ground in surrender of his soul over to God. From this moment on, William's detest of the British officers grew stronger like a fueled flame.

William eventually returned to Lebanon and opened a store, putting away plans to be a pastor. He is truly reaping the blessings of the Lord when he meets and marries his wife, Mary Trumbull. Mary was twenty-five years of age. Her beloved father was close to Sam Adams and an advisor to George Washington. It pleased William that his wife was as educated and accomplished as he. Their love results in the lives of three children.

As far from he wanted to be from war, he took up a political position as town clerk in Lebanon. Here he served for 44 years. This position began his involvement in the State House of Representatives, and as House Speaker. During this time, his brother-in-law becomes a famous painter

of the American Revolution. William published writings in the press on behalf of the colonists. He housed patriots who were fighting in the war. He raised money to support the cause.

William received news that the delegate to the Continental Congress, Oliver Wolcott, was growing ill and could not continue his role. He was asked to carry on this role in Wolcott's place. William's arrival at congress was past the time of voting for independence, but he had the opportunity to sign the Declaration of Independence. As he stood over the document, looking over the other signatures of those who were founding the independence of our country, William thought of his uncle, of the men who he had seen die, and knew that they had sacrificed something worth it. William knew what it meant to sign the declaration. It meant he would have a target on his back if somehow, they weren't pardoned. But his passion for patriotism, and the memory of those who fought and died for this cause, allowed him to face the prospect of the noose with certainty and serenity.

"In 1779 Williams accepted worthless paper money in exchange for \$2,000 in coin for military supplies. He was said to have remarked that if independence were established, he would get his money back;

if not, the loss would be of no account to him. Some had criticized Williams for resigning his colonelcy of the 12th Militia Regiment at the outbreak of the Revolution in order to accept the election to the Continental Congress. His courage, however, was evidenced in 1781, when word arrived in Lebanon of the traitor Benedict Arnold's raid upon New London" (Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence).

When the traitor Benedict Arnold made an attack, Williams without hesitation rode twenty-three miles on horseback to the site in heroic efforts to aid the town. Tired and afraid, Williams approached the town only to discover he was too late. The picket fences were torched, the screams of families subsided, and the black smoke replaced the view of the clouds in the sky.

From this significant moment until the end of the war, William served on the committee which validated the Articles of Confederation.

In 1810, yet another tragedy befell William. He has faced many challenges and losses, but none so significant and painful than the loss of his own child. Williams' son Solomon died. William was so shocked and distraught by this tragedy, that he never fully recovered. Because of the immense loss he felt, his

emotional, as well as physical wellbeing, changed. His health deteriorated. His voice, which once made independence possible, was lost. He eventually went into a coma, and after four days he mustered enough strength to cry out for his son Solomon to care for him in the house of the Lord, and then, on August 2, 1811, William died.

How amazing William's character was, that he faced so much tragedy and loss, and yet was honorable in deed and firm in his faith until the very end. It is easy to celebrate my independence when I had never been the one to sacrifice or fight for it, but nevertheless I am always grateful for those who made my freedom possible. Because my country is so important to me, I always love learning more about our history. Learning about those who are forgotten, but who did so much for the sake of our happiness, has been a great experience. William inspires me. As someone who is spending time in university, and doesn't know what the future holds for me, I am confident that God has a plan for me, and as long as I am honorable and courageous, my life will amount to something beautiful as well.

To read other articles by Dolores Hans, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.

## Graduate

### Roger Sherman

Claire Doll  
MSMU Class of 2024

It is a challenge to research an individual you know nothing about. It is even harder when history is not your thing at all (shoutout FYATM writer Gracie, our history superstar!). So, when tasked for the third year in a row to choose a forgotten signer of the Declaration of Independence, I found myself sitting in a café in my town, struggling.

"Why do we keep doing this prompt every single year?" I think to myself. But I already know the reason why, a message ingrained in my mind constantly. It's so we don't forget. Or, rather, to revive those who have been forgotten and give them credit hundreds of years later. These are the men who have secured our country, our freedoms. Who are they? Why do they matter?

This year, I decided to go about a different process researching signers. It is very public knowledge that such well-known signers such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison owned slaves. According to The Hill, while you may have seen quotes of the men speaking against slavery, "they never truly ended the practice of slavery in their personal lives" (Austin). While I can acknowledge that these were "the times" of owning slaves, and that the context of the 1700s is vastly different to the context of today, I still firmly desired to write about a signer of the Declaration of Independence that truly understood "independence" in all its capacity. A signer who not only refused to own slaves, but also actively advocated to end slavery. A signer who is forgotten—lost in his

tory—but must be remembered by his beliefs and efforts.

Roger Sherman was born in Newtown, Massachusetts in April 1721 and was a lawyer. Before signing the document that would essentially create our country, Sherman studied law and became a justice of the peace in Litchfield County, eventually becoming a judge of the superior court. He supported American independence from Britain long before signing the Declaration of Independence, and he even helped draft the Articles of Confederation. In fact, according to Connecticut History, he "is the only person to have signed all four of the most significant documents in our nation's early history: the Continental Congress, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the United States Constitution" (Mangan). Thomas Jefferson even said that Sherman was "a man who never said a foolish thing in his life."

Sherman married his wife, Elizabeth Hartwell, in November 1749 and had seven children, three of whom would serve as officers in the Continental army. However, Sherman's wife soon died in October 1760. Sherman decided to resign and moved to New Haven, where he decided to settle into the life of a merchant. On his way back from a visit to his brother, Sherman passed by Rebecca Prescott, his brother's wife's niece, and began a second courtship, resulting in eight more children. Soon after, Sherman dove back into politics, elected to the General Assembly and appointed justice of peace for New Haven County. Sherman even served as the treasurer of Yale College until 1776.

Sherman is also most remembered for his large part in the Connecticut Compromise, which "gave each state an equal vote in the Senate and assigned seats based on population in the House"

(Stoehr, The Editorial Board). Sherman played an integral role in ensuring that the United States would be a two-house law-making body.

Unlike many other signers of the Declaration of Independence, Sherman never owned a slave. In fact, he called the slave trade "iniquitous" and opposes a tax on slaves. He even contributed to fighting slavery in Connecticut and "eventually eliminated slavery in his home state of Connecticut" (Austin). Biographer Mark David Hall says, that "Sherman consistently opposed slavery because he believed all humans were made in the image of God and must be treated with dignity."

Discovering that someone from the eighteenth century held these beliefs and very much fought for human dignity to its fullest extent is fascinating. It's these progressive efforts that drive our nation throughout history and eventually allow all people, regardless of their race, to achieve true freedom.

So, why did plenty of other slaveowners sign the Declaration of Independence? Although Roger Sherman's beliefs were not enough to abolish slavery altogether, he still exists as an opposing opinion to the other men who signed the document. Why was the concept of equality so skewed? How did the Declaration of Independence, which stated that "all men are created equal," defend human freedom without really defending it?

This would be asked again and again throughout history: as America faces the Civil War, the Civil Rights movement, the Black Lives Matter movement. How did this document truly enforce liberty?

Maybe it did, and it didn't. Although the document allowed colonists independence from Great Britain, it did not grant slaves rights. It did not acknowledge their free-

dom, their equality as people. It also did not acknowledge women, or Native Americans, or those belonging to different religions. The rights of everyone would be fought for—not granted by a document—all throughout history, and still, today.

But Roger Sherman is important. He carries the legacy as a progressive, and because of his name on the document, we know that someone who took part in our nation's early history did speak out against slavery.

To conclude my last time writing about forgotten signers of the Declaration of Independence (for now), I want to emphasize how important it

is to truly reflect on forgotten heroes of our nation's history. Independence Day is honestly one of my favorite holidays; I love the parades, the flying flags, the cookouts. But I also love that we are all able to come together to not only criticize and acknowledge our nation's rocky history, but also celebrate our progression as a country. I am happy to write about a signer who was actively against slavery, and I am even happier that now, more people know about him.

To read other articles by Claire Doll, visit the Authors section of Walkersville.net.



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# ARTS

## Summer classic movies continue at the Majestic

Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater celebrates beloved cinema classics from the late 20th century with the 2024 Summer Classic Movie series in the historic 1925 auditorium. Enjoy classic movies in the beautifully restored historic theater every Wednesday night through August 21.

"The 2024 Summer Classic Movie schedule represents a team effort by Majestic Theater staff, and includes titles requested over the years by our classic film patrons," says Majestic Theater Marketing Director Jessica Rudy. "We are so excited to share these cinema classics with fellow film fans on Wednesday evenings this summer."

New this year, movie-goers are invited to enjoy mocktails or coffee with fellow film fans every Wednesday evening before the

show at Waldo's and Company, Gettysburg's non-profit community arts and culture space located nearby in the basement of 17 Lincoln Square. For more information on Waldo's, visit [www.waldosandco.com](http://www.waldosandco.com).

The rise and inevitable downfall of an assortment of mobsters is the subject of Martin Scorsese's 1990 masterpiece *Goodfellas*, on screen July 3. Next, on July 10 Kurt Russell is a trash-talking trucker who gets sucked into a supernatural battle in *Big Trouble in Little China* (1986). On July 17, an inept car salesman's crime falls apart thanks in part to persistent policework by Marge Gunderson in the Coen brothers' *Fargo* (1996).

It's Christmas in July on July 24 with *Die Hard* (1988), the first installment of the popular action

series featuring John McClane (Bruce Willis) as he fights to rid Nakatomi Plaza of terrorists. Wear a Christmas hat to this showing to enjoy a free small popcorn. Cher falls into a complicated love affair with her future brother-in-law on July 31 in *Moonstruck* (1987). Then, find out who killed Mr. Boddy in the comic criminal caper, *Clue* (1985) on August 7.

The series wraps up with two action-packed classics, including *True Grit* (1969) on August 14. John Wayne stars as one-eyed, drunken U.S. Marshal Rooster Cogburn in a rough and tumble tale of revenge. Quentin Tarantino's directorial debut *Reservoir Dogs* (1992) closes the summer on August 21 with a jewelry heist gone terribly wrong.

Tickets for all Summer Classics showings are \$8 each and are



The rise and inevitable downfall of an assortment of mobsters is the subject of Martin Scorsese's 1990 masterpiece *Goodfellas*, on screen July 3.

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).

The Majestic Theater at the Jen-

nifer and David LeVan Performing Arts Center is owned and operated by Gettysburg College as a gathering place for its campus and community to celebrate the arts together.

## This month at the Weinberg Center & New Spire Arts

### Terry Factor On The Road Again - Weinberg Center, July 12.

Legendary America's Got Talent Winner Terry Factor and his cast of America's favorite puppets are coming to venues across the country in 2024 with a new version of his Las Vegas show, Terry Fator: On

the Road Again. The show features comedy, modern songs and favorites from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s, hilarious musical parodies and Terry's unique ventriloquism skills that have made him a must-see Las Vegas headline for the past 16 years. The puppet "cast" includes audi-

ence favorites country superstar Walter T. Airdale, Vikki the Cougar, Latin Lover Fernando V. Francisco, Terry's annoying neighbor Duggie Scott Walker and Winston the Impersonating Turtle. Terry's show features celebrity "guests": Willie Nelson and Frank Sinatra. Bottom line, it's a Music Hall of Fame roster of the greatest entertainers and their songs brought to the stage by master impressionist Terry Fator. Terry Fator's On the Road Again is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for anyone who loves comedy, music, and classic variety with a modern twist.

### The Foreigner - New Spire Arts, July 5 & 7

This play has replaced One Flew

Over The Cuckoo's Nest. An uproarious comedy about four hopeless misfits who find happiness in their unexpected friendship. Mayhem ensues when a painfully introverted British Science Fiction editor hides out in a Georgia lodge pretending to be a "foreigner." What starts as a plan to avoid having to talk to anyone quickly makes Charlie the key witness to serious domestic drama and a sinister plot... but how can he tell anyone? Celebrate the 4th of July with this wacky invasion from Britain and Outer Space!

"I laughed from start to finish at one comic surprise after another." —The New Yorker

### Six - The Musical, Teen Edition - New Spire Arts, July 20

Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived. From Tudor Queens to Pop Icons, the Six wives of Henry VIII take the mic to remix five hundred years of historical heartbreak into a Euphoric Celebration of 21st-century girl power! This full-length adaptation of Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss' international phenomenon SIX, has been modified for performance by teen actors for family audiences. Don't lose your head over missing out on this performance!

The New York Times says SIX is "pure entertainment!" and the Evening Standard hails Six as "the most uplifting new British musical I have ever had the privilege to watch."

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## FREE 4th of July Live Music Picnic

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**Woodsboro Regional Park (East Entrance)**

By Woodsboro Music, Inc. 9700 Gravel Hill Rd., Woodsboro

Featuring: Woodsboro musicians, kids and Valerie Smith and Liberty Pike (bluegrass)

Bring food, blankets, chairs & ears ~ Food trucks will be available

We are planning to feature local musicians/singers, including kids.

Contact Joe Williams for more information. Don't hesitate if you've never performed in public but would like to try it. Everyone has a first time and the audience will be friendly. Want to solo? Fine. Want backup musicians? We'll be there and you can meet beforehand to prepare!

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# Cookouts and pool parties

Sonya Verlaque  
FCC Culinary Program

Sonya Verlaque

Although summer is supposed to be a time to relax, I feel like we are pulled in so many directions with activities and gatherings with friends. Often times, this comes with relying on prepackaged food and snacks while being on-the-go. Frederick Community College has also launched their Culinary Medicine class for the summer, which has been fun and eye opening the last several weeks and we have been learning how to better read labels and make enjoyable, lower salt and sugar meals. Thanks to my classmate, Krystal Francis for this gem.

## BBQ Chicken and healthy BBQ Sauce

### Ingredients

- 1 large onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup low sodium tomato sauce
- ¾ cup water, divided
- ¼ cup maple syrup
- 1 tbs molasses
- 2 tbs apple cider vinegar
- 1 tbs balsamic vinegar
- 1 ½ tsp smoked paprika
- ¼ tsp chili powder
- 2 tsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp of black pepper
- ⅛ tsp cayenne pepper
- ⅛ tsp liquid smoke
- Zest of 1 orange

Sauté onions until very slightly caramelized, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook, stirring constantly, for about 1 minute until fragrant. Add ¼ cup of the water and stir to deglaze pan.

Add all the remaining ingredients. Stir well to combine. Lower to a simmer and let cook 5 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool 15 minutes in

room temp or in fridge for faster cool down. Transfer to a blender, and blend until smooth.

Trim Fat from chicken thighs, coat with ¾ of bbq sauce and let marinate for 15 min. Transfer to pan and bake at 375F for 30-40 min until internal temp of 175. Remove and coat with reserved BBQ sauce.

## Easy Chicken Salad

My husband does not like celery so I leave it out, sometimes for additional sweetness, you can add in raisins or dried cranberries. The nice thing about deli salads in general, is that you can add what is left in your pantry. I like to use something sweet, something crunch and some fresh herb. Toasting the nuts in a pan really enhances the flavor and also adds a stronger crunch. Using plain yogurt also increases the protein and reduces the amount of fat because you can decrease the mayo. Herbs like parsley, dill or tarragon are a great way to bring in freshness as well as additional phytonutrients.

### Ingredients:

- 1 lb cooked chicken 3 cups cubed
- ¾ cup 3 large celery stalks diced
- ¼ cup red onion finely chopped
- ¼ cup parsley or dill finely chopped (optional)
- 1 cup pecans or almonds
- 1/2 cup plain yogurt 2+% fat
- ¼ cup mayo I used avocado oil mayo
- 2 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp any vinegar except balsamic
- 1/2 tsp salt
- Ground black pepper to taste

Instructions: In a small skillet, add pecans and toast on low-medium heat until fragrant and brown-ish, stirring often. You'll know they are done because the will start to smell fragrant. Transfer to a cutting board, let cool a bit and chop coarsely. In a medium bowl, add toasted pecans,

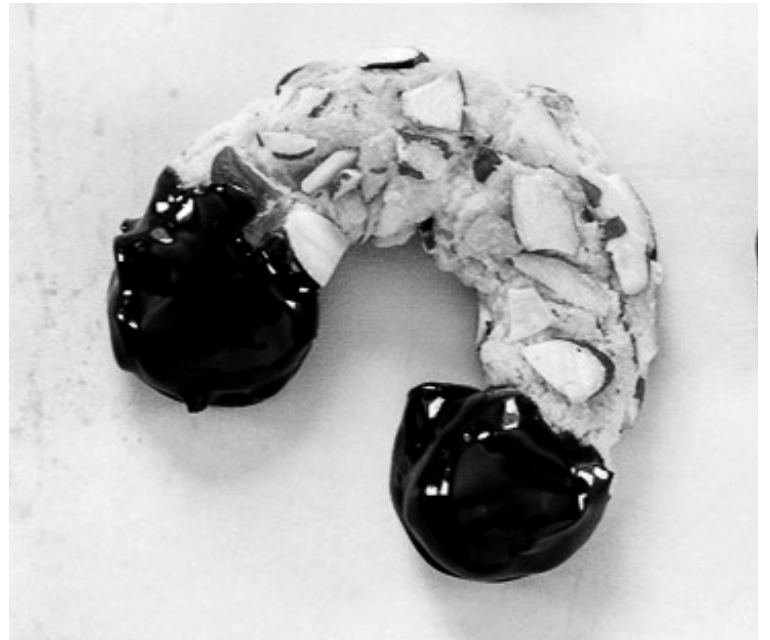
chicken, celery, onion, parsley, yogurt, mayo, mustard, vinegar. Then give the salad a taste, depending on the herbs and onion you may want less salt or even none. Then add pepper also to taste. Stir gently to mix. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours as salad tastes best cold. Serve with greens, quinoa, brown rice or make a chicken salad sandwich with whole wheat bread. Store in an airtight container for up to 5 days, and when taking to the pool or a picnic be sure to pack in a chilled cooler.

## Chocolate Dipped Almond Horn Cookies

Dear reader, I apologize for this article being chicken heavy. Please accept these naturally gluten free cookies as a penance. I learned to ride a horse when I was 42 years old, thanks to the editor of this paper - Mike Hillman, then I joined some other middle aged women on a dude ranch a few years later to ride mustangs and try our hand a cattle driving. I only survived because of Ibuprofen and these cookies that were served every lunch and dinner, and I would grab extra off the buffet to eat around the ranch. It took some detective work, but I found the recipe. Almond paste is not always in all grocery stores, so you may have to hunt and gather for it - but I promise they are worth it.

### Ingredients

- 7 ounces almond paste torn into 1" chunks
- 1/2 cup finely ground almond flour
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg white
- pinch salt
- 1 cup sliced almonds, coarsely chop
- 1/2 cup semi-sweet baking wafers or chocolate chips
- 1 tsp coconut oil



Chocolate Dipped Almond Horn Cookies

Instructions: Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Line a rimmed baking sheet with a silicone baking mat or parchment paper. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, add the almond paste, almond flour, granulated sugar, egg white and pinch of salt. Beat on low just until the mixture comes together a bit, then beat on medium low until well combined. Place the sliced almonds in a bowl. Using a 1 1/2" cookie scoop, form the dough into balls (about 1 1/2 tablespoons per cookie) and place into the bowl with the sliced almonds.

The dough is sticky, so roll in the sliced almonds until the dough is coated with almonds so it will keep the dough from sticking to your hands. Roll the dough into a log between your hands until it's about 4" long. If necessary, roll the dough in the sliced almonds once again

to coat and place on the prepared baking sheet and shape into a crescent. Repeat with the remaining dough, placing cookies 1-2" apart. Bake for 12-14 minutes, rotating the pan halfway through baking time, until golden brown.

Remove from heat and cool completely on a wire rack. Place the chocolate chips or baking wafers and oil in a microwave safe bowl. Heat for 20-30 second increments, stirring well each time until the chocolate is completely melted, or use a double boiler if you prefer. Dip the ends of each cookie in the chocolate and place on the silicone or parchment lined baking sheet until the chocolate has set. Store cookies in an air tight container at room temperature for up to 1 week.

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

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# ASTRONOMY

## The night sky of July

Professor Wayne Wooten

For July 2024, the waning crescent moon passes north of Mars in the morning sky on July 1st, then above Jupiter on July 3rd. New moon is July 5th, the same day we are at aphelion, farthest from the Sun at 94.5 million miles. As your thermometer reminds us, our almost circular orbit plays a much lesser role in our seasons than does our axial tilt. The slender waxing crescent passes just above Mercury in twilight on July 7th, a fine photo op and great chance to catch the innermost planet with the naked eyes. The first quarter moon is on July 13th. The full moon, the Thunder Moon, is on July 21st. The waning gibbous moon rises just below Saturn about 10 p.m. on July 24th. The last quarter moon is on July 27th. The waning crescent passes Mars in the dawn on July 30th, and much brighter Jupiter on July 31st.

Mercury is visible low in the western twilight for the first two weeks of July, but never gets very high for us. But in the southern hemisphere, this will be their best chance to observe it in 2024. Venus is still too close to the Sun to spot yet. Mars is in the morning sky in Taurus, south of the famed Pleiades cluster. Jupiter is now back in the dawn, north of the Hyades cluster in Taurus. This is a great photo op.

Saturn rises about 10 p.m. in Capricornus, it looks a lot different than last year. The rings are thinning fast, and will be edge on and disappear for earth-based observers next March, so enjoy them this Fall as they get thinner and more edge



The Great Rift, or Dark Rift, is a long swath of gaseous clouds darkening a stretch of the Milky Way. And yes, it blocks the light from the stars behind it. This dark cloudy strip – where stars are forming – is visible in a dark sky.

on daily. Like earth, Saturn has seasons, and even more tilt (27 degrees versus our 23.5 degrees). At its solstices, the rings are bright and widely open for us, but in the next year, Saturn's almost edge on rings drop its apparent brightness in the sky by half as it approaches its equinox. The icy rings reflect much more light than the darker disk of the planet.

High overhead is the Big Dipper, and good scouts know to use the pointers at the end of the bowl to find Polaris, the pole star, staying 30 degrees high in our night sky all year long. By midnight, the earth's rotation will carry the dipper low in the NW sky, yet Polaris will still be in the same place. This was critical to early navigators like Columbus, for if they kept Polaris at the same altitude in their northern sky, they knew they were sailing due west, leading him to the new world.

If you drop south from the bowl of the Big Dipper, Leo the Lion is in the SW. Note the Egyptian Sphinx is based on the shape of this Lion in the sky.

Taking the arc in the Dipper's handle, we "arc" SE to bright orange Arcturus, the brightest star of Spring. Cooler than our yellow Sun, and much poorer in heavy elements, some believe its strange motion reveals it to be an invading star from another smaller galaxy. This is the Sagittarius Dwarf Galaxy, now colliding with the Milky Way in Sagittarius in the summer sky. It lies on the far edge of our own barred spiral, and may account for the formation of our bar. Moving almost perpendicular to the plane of our Milky Way, Arcturus was the first star in the sky where its proper motion across the historic sky was noted, by Edmund Halley.

Arcturus is currently the brightest star overhead, but that can change any day now. To the NE of Arcturus is the Northern Crown, Corona Borealis. Its brightest jewel is Gemma (or Alphecca, here), in the center of the crown, but below the eastern edge of the curve near epsi-

lon Corona Borealis, the dwarf nova T Corona Borealis is due to flare 100X brighter any time. Here is the finder chart to see if it has flared yet. At its maximum light, it should outshine Gemma for at least a few days, based on previous explosions seen in 1217, 1787, and 1866. Stay tuned!

Spike south to Spica, the hot blue star in Virgo, then curve to Corvus the Crow, a four sided grouping. North of Corvus, in the arms of Virgo, is where our large scopes will show members of the Virgo Supercluster, a swarm of over a thousand galaxies about 50 million light years distant.

To the east, Hercules is well up, with the nice globular cluster M-13 marked on your sky map and visible in binocs. The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega (from Carl Sagan's novel and movie, "Contact"), rises in the NE as twilight deepens. Twice as hot as our Sun, it appears blue-white, like most bright stars.

Northeast of Lyra is Cygnus, the Swan, flying down the Milky Way. Its bright star Deneb, at the top of the "northern cross" is one of the luminaries of the Galaxy, about 50,000 times more luminous than our Sun and around 3,000 light years distant. of the Galaxy, and a little above (north) of Vega.

South of Deneb, on a dark clear night, note the "Great Rift", a dark nebula in front of our solar system as we revolve around the core of the Milky Way in the Galactic Year of 250 million of our own years. The star at the south end of the Northern Cross is one of my favorites, Albireo, the "gator star", a notable orange and blue double at 20X.

Altair is the third bright star of the summer triangle. It lies in Aquila the Eagle, and is much closer than Deneb; it lies within about 13 light years of our Sun.

As we head south, Antares is well up at sunset in Scorpius. It appears reddish (its Greek name means rival of Ares or Mars to the Latins) because it is half as hot as our yellow Sun; it

is bright because it is a bloated red supergiant, big enough to swallow up our solar system all the way out to Saturn's orbit! Scorpius is the brightest constellation in the sky, with 13 stars brighter than the pole star Polaris! Note the fine naked eye clusters M-6 and M-7, just to the left of the Scorpion's tail.

Just a little east of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which lies toward the center of the Milky Way. From a dark sky site, you can pick out the fine stellar nursery, M-8, the Lagoon Nebula, like a cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout. This view of our home galaxy stretching overhead is for about midnight on July evenings, looking from the South to overhead. My favorite way of learning the many deep sky objects (open and globular clusters, bright nebulae like the Lagoon, and the many dark nebulae that make up the "Dark Constellations" of the Inca) is to use low power binoculars (I prefer 8x40s because they are light and easier to hold steady with my Parkinson's, but younger folks with a better grip on life will find 10x50's will show fainter objects and at high power) and lean back in a lawn chair (also an ideal way to observe meteor showers like August's Perseids with just your naked eyes) and slowly sweep up and down the Galaxy, marking off the deep sky objects on your SkyMap as you spot them.

Note the back of the SkyMap has a fine selection of the best deep sky objects to spot with the naked eyes, binocs, and small scopes to help you find your way across the Galaxy this summer. Of course, you will need dark skies to see this kind of beauty, but many have plans for trips to parks and out west this summer, so be sure to plan for at least a few evenings under dark skies to appreciate our galaxy.

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## Farmers' Almanac

*"Those who deny freedom to others  
deserve it not for themselves"*

—Abraham Lincoln  
(1809-1865)

**Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:** Dry, warm, and humid (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); very hot and humid at first with late-day scattered thunderstorms, then cooler (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); seasonably warm and humid with evening thunderstorms at first, then a pleasant morning or two and dry (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); 16-20: seasonably warm with late day thunderstorm (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); turning very hot and humid with scattered afternoon thunderstorm (21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26); warm and humid with isolated PM afternoon & evening thunderstorm, then turning cooler (27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

**Severe Weather Watch:** The Town and Country Almanack sees severe thunderstorm (11, 12, 13); heavy rain (20, 21, 22, 23, 24), and severe thunderstorm (26, 27, 28)

**Full Moon:** July's Full Moon will occur on Sunday, July 21st. Many Native American tribes referred to it as Thunder Moon because of the numerous severe thunderstorms during the month (just look at this month's forecast above!) while other tribes called it Buck Moon because of rapid

growth of antlers on young bucks during the month. Many other tribes called it either Ripe Corn Moon, because of the appearance of young corn on the stalks that were planted in the Spring, or Hay Moon since hay tended to ripen as well.

**Special Notes:** Watch out! Those Dog Days of Summer will be upon us starting Wednesday, July 3rd. Get ready for some the hot and humid weather to hit and last until mid-August.

**Holidays:** The Fourth of July is celebrated on Thursday in 2024. On this day, in 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution saying, "These United Colonies are, and of right, ought to be, free and independent states". And always remember, if planning any extended outdoor activities, use the appropriate level of sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher). Apply it frequently, especially if swimming or perspiring. The Islamic New Year falls on Tuesday, July 18th. If a barbecue is planned, double-check the grill. Nobody wants any surprises, so it is wise to make sure that it is functioning properly and that you remember to fill up the propane tank (or picked up plenty of charcoal and charcoal lighter fluid!).

**The Garden:** Continue to keep the garden adequately watered (that is, if July's forecasted wet weather is not enough!).

Expect plants to do well with all of the extra rain in July but as the summer continues, be sure to make up for what Mother Nature neglects to provide. Be sure that all tall annuals and perennials are securely staked so that they will remain upright during the afternoon thunderstorms that are so common for this time of year. Be sure that all tall annuals and perennials are securely staked so that they will remain upright during the afternoon thunderstorms that are so common for this time of year. During the dry summer months, remember to mow the lawn when it is high and mow less often. Taller grass withstands drought better because its blades shade the soil.

**The Farm:** Best for planting root crops (1, 2, 28, 29); weeding and stirring the soil (3, 4, 7, 8, 9); planting above-ground crops (15, 16); harvesting all crops (17, 18); the best days for setting hens and incubators (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12); transplanting (5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12); the weaning of all small animals and livestock (17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25); harvesting and storing grains (1, 2, 3, 4, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

**J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living**

*"Do not regard liberty and freedom so lightly that you forget its value and take it for granted."*



# Frederick Health names nurses & employees of the year

With a strong emphasis on team culture, excellence, and patient-facing care, Frederick Health, the largest healthcare provider in the area, prides itself on its employee recognition efforts. Each year, the healthcare system names two nurses of the year and two employees of the year, one a team leader and one a team member.

Why two of each, you may ask?

In healthcare, nurses are usually assigned to two unique categories. The first is patient-facing or direct-care nurses. These nurses are responsible for patient care in the hospital, urgent care, emergency department, and inpatient treatment. The other category is indirect-care nurses. These nurses administer system-wide programs, new initiatives, and other essential operational tasks. Both categories are vital in maintaining the high level of care provided by healthcare teams and systems. Additionally, most employees at Frederick Health are considered team members or team leaders. It is important to honor the unique contributions in each category.

Additionally, their colleagues and peers must nominate the award winners. The nominations are then reviewed and compared by a selection committee. Once the committee has decided the winners, they are announced at two different ceremonies. As such, Frederick Health is pleased to announce the 2024 winners in each category.

**Jeb Gibson, a Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Emergency Department, was named the Indirect Care Nurse of the Year.**

Wearing many hats, Jeb is a strong nurse, educator, paramedic, and Clinical Nurse Specialist. Working in the emergency department can sometimes be challenging, but Jeb has accomplished a great deal in helping to keep this community healthy. His years of experience, certifications, and education make him a strong leader and patient advocate. Throughout the pandemic, Jeb rose to the challenge and supported the hospital.

“This is such an incredible honor. I have the benefit of being surrounded by an amazing team. I am truly humbled,” said Gibson. Jeb’s manager had high praise for Gibson. “He routinely shows his dedication, compassion, leadership, and expertise; he is a proven, trusted asset to Frederick Health,” said Peggy McNeill, Director of Nursing Quality and Professional Practice

**Ellen Nicodemus, a Registered Nurse in the Pediatrics Department, was named the Direct Care Nurse of the Year.**

According to her colleagues and supervisors, Ellen is a fantastic asset to the Pediatrics team. With over 22 years of experience, she is a leader and someone all staff look up to, always there to aid others with a smile. The Pediatrics Department praised Ellen for her way of teaching both clinical expertise and the art of compassion.

“I’ve always felt privileged to be part of this team of healthcare providers. It means a lot to be recognized by my peers, whom I really admire,” Nicodemus stated.

Nicodemus, slated to retire later this year, is much beloved by her entire department.

“Ellen is the epitome of the art of nursing. She has the delicate balance of skill, compassion, integrity, and experience that all nurses should strive for,” said Charli Crawford, Manager of the Pediatrics Department.

The 2024 Employees of the Year winners were equally surprised and honored by their awards.

**Brenda Zell, Accounting Manager, was named Team Leader of the Year.**

Zell has worked at Frederick Health for over 49 years. Her responsibilities include monthly and annual financial reporting for the organization. She also maintains accurate accounting records and leads all banking transactions with vendors. Many other duties are assigned, including supporting numerous grants, COVID-19 and

FEMA-related funding, and annual Community Benefits reporting.

“This means everything to be recognized by my peers. They are all like family,” said Zell.

Zell is known to nearly everyone in Frederick Health, and her efforts impact almost every facet of the organization.

“Brenda is the epitome of dedication and loyalty,” said Hannah Jacobs, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer with Frederick Health. She meets the daily stress of her role with optimism. Her entire team values her positive spirit and compassionate leadership style, and she has demonstrated

her commitment with long-tenured careers here at Frederick Health.”

**Clayton Holdcroft, Learning Technology Specialist, was named Team Member of the Year.**

Holdcroft has worked at Frederick Health for six years. He is responsible for streamlining internal processes, designing, and updating Human Resources communication tools, and organizing the internal NetLearning employee modules. He is also a strong advocate for employee engagement and education.

“It’s a pretty high honor,” said Holdcroft, “there were so many amazing people nominated that I think it’s a tes-

tament to the wonderful team we have at Frederick Health.”

“Clayton is like our Swiss Army Knife,” said Chris Bumbaugh, Vice President of Human Resources with Frederick Health. He can do it all. Clayton has a great talent for technology, analytics, and data integration. He makes life better for many people at Frederick Health and is one of the nicest people I know. I can’t say enough nice things about him; he is a star.”

Congratulations to Jeb, Ellen, Brenda, and Clayton.

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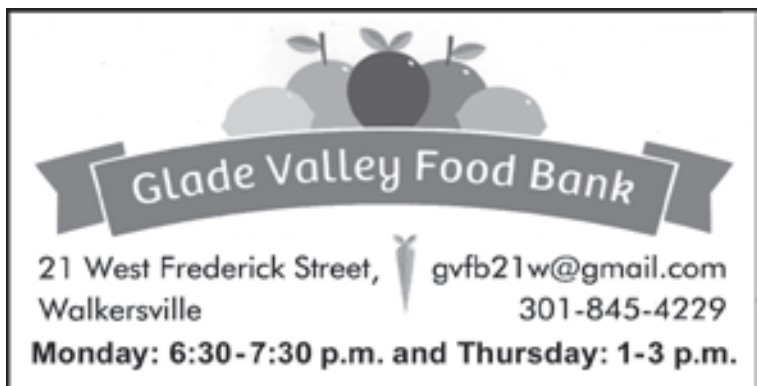


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# COMMUNITY NOTES

## Gettysburg honors 161st battle anniversary

Mary Grace Kauffman  
Media Relations Manager  
Destination Gettysburg

The boom of cannons and clash of armies will return this summer as visitors flock to south central Pennsylvania to walk in the footsteps of history during the 161st anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

From July 1 to 3, 1863, the bloodiest battle of the Civil War resulted in more than 50,000 casualties. The conflict proved to be a major turning point for the Union Army. Since then, the story of Gettysburg has continued to draw millions of visitors to Adams County each year.

Gettysburg will mark the 161st anniversary with a 10-day

commemoration from June 28 through July 7, featuring re-enactments, special events, live performances, guided tours, and an Independence Day celebration with fireworks.

A two-day battle re-enactment produced by the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association at the historic Daniel Lady Farm will cap off the commemoration July 6 and 7. The event is expected to draw thousands of spectators and hundreds of re-enactors. Visitors can look forward to epic battle re-creations, living history demonstrations, interactive activities for children that include a "little soldiers battle," and more as history comes to life before their eyes.

A downtown re-enactment will take place at the Shriver House Museum July 6, depicting what the Battle of Gettysburg looked like for one family whose home was caught in the crossfire. This event provides a unique perspective on the war and how the civilians of Gettysburg were impacted when nearly 170,000 soldiers came crashing through their small town.

Gettysburg National Military Park will mark the occasion with daily ranger guided programs and events July 1 through 3. Free



hikes, walks, and family programs will explore and reflect on this pivotal moment in history. The public is invited to join the National Park Service staff throughout the three-day period on the battlefield, at Gettysburg National Cemetery, and at the Museum and Visitor Center.

As part of the 161st anniversary, the Gettysburg Foundation and Gettysburg National Military Park will host Sacred Trust Talks & Book Signings July 1 to 3 and July 6 to 7 at the Museum and Visitor Center. Through thought-provoking discussions, authors will bring the stories and lessons of the battle to the audiences of today.

The 10-day commemoration will kick off with performances by author and playwright Chuck Johnson as he portrays Abraham Lincoln in his 30-minute play, "The Night Before Gettysburg."

The one-man show gives audiences a glimpse into what might have been the 16th president's state of mind as he put the finishing touches on the Gettysburg Address. Free performances will take place June 28 through 30 at the Gettysburg Lincoln Railroad Station starting at 7 p.m.

Throughout the anniversary and through Labor Day, the "100 Nights of Taps" tribute to fallen soldiers will occur at Gettysburg National Cemetery each night at 7 p.m. This poignant tradition reminds visitors of the great sacrifice made more than 16 decades ago. Prior to each musical performance, licensed battlefield guides will offer free interpretive programs beginning at 5:30 p.m.

For a full list of 161st anniversary events, visit [DestinationGettysburg.com/161](http://DestinationGettysburg.com/161).

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