

Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

VOLUME 16, NO. 1

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

JANUARY 2024

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Taneytown Mayor's actions leave City at standstill

The City of Taneytown remains in legal limbo after Mayor Chris Miller single-handedly fired the City's Attorney of 20 years in November.

During the Mayor and City Council Workshop on Dec. 6th, elected officials spent the first 30 minutes bumbling through questions normally answered by a legal expert. Miller's termination of City Attorney Jay Gullo came four days after the city Council asked Gullo to investigate who leaked a confidential email. Also at that meeting, the Council asked Gullo to draft an ordinance clarifying that the Council, not the Mayor alone, can choose to fire the Attorney. Before Gullo had a chance to act upon the Council's wishes, Miller dropped the axe.

Council still tried to enact the ordinance, but City Manager James Wieprecht warned the action may cause an ordinance to conflict with the City Charter. The Council debated the veracity of Wieprecht's assessment since the Charter does not specifically mention the City Attorney.

Wieprecht argued the Attorney could be viewed as a department head, which is outline in the Charter.

“Essentially, he or she is our legal department,” Wieprecht said. “The Charter does say department heads, unless otherwise stated in the Charter, serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.”

Councilman James McCarron urged the Council to move forward with the changes.

“Certainly, the delay has cost the city considerably,” he said, referring to Gullo's termination.

At the suggestion of Commissioner Christopher Tillman, the Council consented to delay a vote on the proposed ordinance change until Wieprecht proposes Charter revisions that match their intent.

Later in the meeting, Wieprecht told the Council that residents of Riffles Alley will have to wait for their storm drains due to the lack of a City Attorney. The Council plans to fund the Riffles Alley project with American Rescue Plan Act funds. To move forward, a deed of easement is required.



Taneytown Council members Dianne Foster, Judy Fuller and Jim McCarron have become very vocal in their criticism of Mayor Chris Miller's running of the City government, which includes his unilateral firing of the City's attorney.

“While we can cut and paste something together, we really want an Attorney to review it before we can take it to anybody,” Wieprecht said.

Councilwoman Judith Fuller, a vocal critic of Miller's, tackled the issue head-on.

“With the adoption of the ordinances and resolutions, how are we dealing with the issue of not having a City Attorney to sign off on them?” Fuller asked.

Wieprecht said they will “accumulate” until a new Attorney was hired. However, Miller had no issue adding to the pile.

The Mayor, through his own legal analysis, believes he had the power to fire the Attorney with no checks or balances but he does acknowledge he cannot unseat Council members at his discretion.

Currently, the City Council must censure the Mayor or a Council member before they can face a recall election. A censure is a formal statement of disapproval in the form of a resolution that is adopted by majority vote.

Miller asked the Council to remove the censure requirement

continued on page 5

A standout year for Adams County Giving Spree

At last month's Adams County Community Foundation Giving Spree, 2,500 residents donated \$3.1 million dollars to support 100 local nonprofit organizations. Once again, Adams County distinguished itself in the world of local giving days, both in the dollars raised per capita and by hosting a live event for donors. The event brought back the festival atmosphere of earlier Giving Sprees, with thousands of attendees eager to browse booths representing 100 nonprofits and open their hearts and wallets.

For the fourth year, the Giving Spree invited donors to designate some or all of their gifts as “forever gifts,” which are added to designated endowments at the Community Foundation. Once an endowment reaches \$10,000, a percentage is granted to the nonprofit each year. Community Foundation CEO Ralph Serpe explained, “The Community Foundation can't give enough in grants to support every nonprofit's operation, but we can help nonprofits help themselves by growing endowments that will sustain them for decades to come.”

Results of this year's Giving Spree were announced at the “Big Reveal” on December 15. Once again, our local area benefitted

from residents' amazing generosity.

The Strawberry Hill Foundation, which builds nature stewardship by providing hands-on environmental education experiences, received \$26,006 in Giving Spree donations, including a boost of \$654 to its endowment.

The Land Conservancy of Adams County, a nonprofit land trust with the mission of preserving the rural lands and character of Adams County, garnered a grand total of \$114,102.75 including \$10,939.49 to its endowment.

Adams County Scholarship Fund, which helps young people across Adams County reach their educational potential with awards for college and technical training, continued to build its endowment with \$8,123 in forever gifts.

United Way of Adams County, which connects organizations with volunteers and resources while focusing on solving issues of food insecurity, poverty, and education, received \$33,847 including \$5,071 to its endowment.

Adams County Library System, an invaluable resource connecting people to opportunities that enrich their lives through programming, resources, and one-on-one assistance, counted \$84,572 in donations, with \$8,414 going to its growing endowment.

This year, prizes were offered to those nonprofits that received the greatest percentage increase in forever gifts over 2022. Top honors and a \$2,000 bonus went to Roots for Boots, which in 2022 garnered \$25 in forever gifts but in 2023 saw a 40,700% increase to \$10,200 for their endowment.

In this 13th year of the Giving Spree, the Community Foundation recognized the 13 nonprofits that raised the most overall during the Giving Spree. Leading the list, for the fourth year running, is the Adams County Historical Society, which raised \$585,209.

Serpe said, “Raising \$3.1 million in a community of 100,000 is an extraordinary achievement. We could not do it without the support of the Community Foun-



Strix, one of Strawberry Hill's animal ambassadors, will be one of the beneficiaries of the \$25,992 donated to the foundation during the Giving Spree.

dation board, our generous sponsors, and the enthusiasm of the 90 volunteers who make this event—who make this community—so remarkable.”

A detailed list of 2023 Giving Spree results, sponsors and more may be found at ACCFGivingSpree.org.

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EMMITSBURG NEWS

Smart parking meters tabled

Upgrades to downtown parking will have to wait a little longer as the Town Council tabled a proposal to purchase and install improved parking meters on Main Street, add meters to the ends of Main Street, and raise the parking fee until more information justifying the initiative is presented to the Council.

The current coin-based parking meters are starting to jam and becoming more defective as they age, according to Town Manager Cathy Willets. The town has a few spare parts for the current meters; "However, once those spare parts are gone, we are unable to purchase spare parts for any defective meters," she said.

The new meters, according to the staff, would offer payment by credit card as well as mobile pay applications. The updated meters would be a huge convenience to drivers caught without change, and town staff predicts fewer parking tickets and fines as a result, she said.

The proposed plan would replace existing parking meters along Main Street with new digitally based meters. It would also add 20 new meters at both ends of Main Street, which currently do not have meters, and it would add meters at the Community Pool parking lot to provide public parking when the pool is not open.

The initial cost of the project would be \$62,000, of which \$32,000 will be covered by a USDA Community Facility Grant, with the town picking up the remaining \$30,000. However, the town would be charged a yearly fee of \$8,520 for the software to run the meters.

Currently, the town's parking meters bring in roughly \$15,000 a year, said Parking Officer Kadeem Brim, and Mayor Frank Davis noted that with a 25 cents fee increase, this amount could notably increase.

Davis said he has met with downtown businesses and reported they were all in favor of the meter replacement and the increase in parking fees if the increased revenue is put towards purchasing a vacant lot that could be used for parking. Davis told the Council the new meters would pay for themselves in less than two years, after which the town can begin to make a profit and that money can be put toward purchase of land for a parking lot, Davis said.

"This parking problem has been going on for 50 years," he said, and recommended the town increase its income "a quarter at a time" and fix the decades old parking problem.

Flyers outlining the initiative that were delivered to each home along Main Street that are currently unmetered, but will

be metered under the new plan, received little response, he said.

After lengthy discussion considering meter fees, locations, and bidders, the Council tabled the proposal until more information and resident feedback can be gathered.

Council President Amy Pollitt and Commissioners Jim Hoover and Valerie Turnquist voted against moving forward with the project. However, Hoover said he would approve the project without the 20 additional meters on Main Street.

Turnquist argued meters were not money makers for the town as it was. Before the town purchases new meters, it should know which meters currently bring in the bulk of the parking money. "Why should we be replacing existing meters with expensive meters that will be rarely used? That makes no sense at all," she said. "If necessary, we could move meters from parts of the town that are not used to replace broken ones in areas that are frequently used, at no cost to the town. That way all the revenue is going to the town, not some software company." Turnquist also pointed out that several residents complained that adding meters in currently unmetered areas, and increasing the cost of parking, was nothing more than a tax increase, which did not go over well given they already are faced with higher water bills.

Emmitsburg
NEWS-JOURNAL

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

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Pollitt concurred with Turnquist and said a lot of questions still had to be answered including the rationale for metering previously unmetered locations.

Pollitt said she wanted to see more project information presented, including studies of all additional funding and costs over the life of the new meters.

Council addresses simplifying monthly Treasurer's reports

At its December meeting, the Town Council discussed calls for more accurate accountability in detailed budget line items and in meeting minutes.

When providing her first report on the Town's finances as the new Town Treasurer, Valerie Turnquist noted that the FY24 anticipated Sewer Fund revenue was 1 million. However, according to the cash activity report provided by the town, the Sewer Fund had a \$3.6 million balance. The town's total cash balances, including the 3.6 million in the Sewer Fund and \$300,000 in the Water Fund, totaled \$8.9 million.

Turnquist questioned where the \$3.6 million was coming from.

Town Manager Cathy Willets explained that the \$3.6 million is the cash reserves in the Sewer Enterprise Fund and stated that these funds can carry over from prior years. She further explained that the \$3.6 million is not in the actual FY24 budget as it is a separate item from the anticipated Sewer Fund revenue. Amounts that are not used from budgets go into reserves to be used for assets or large purchase items, according to Willets. The \$1 million is budgeted and is added to the amount

on hand, which in this case is the \$3.6 million in the sewer fund, she said. The \$3.6 million is not what was reflected in the FY-24 budget as they are two separate items, Willets noted.

Recognizing that his fellow Commissioners were now totally confused, Commissioner Jim Hoover, drawing on his prior experience as former Mayor, chimed in and said the Enterprise Fund did not have to be balanced at the end of the year, and that any unspent money from the General Fund went into the Enterprise Fund balance.

However Turnquist pressed her opinion that the \$3.6 million needed to be reflected in the budget somewhere, whether it was in the Enterprise Fund or not. Willet said the Town Auditor could clear up the confusion and proposed that a presentation on the subject be given at an upcoming

workshop. Willets however did admit that there might be a better way to share information related to the Town's finances to make it easier to read and understand.

The workshop, to be held in January, will be used, in part, to revamp the information in the monthly financial report to better show where money is allocated and what is truly available to spend going forward as well as to discuss the proposed water rate increase. In addition, the February workshop will be used to brainstorm project prioritization for the Town.

"That will give everybody the opportunity to voice their opinion and set the priorities for the town for the next several years," Mayor Davis said.

Additionally, Turnquist set the stage for discussion of more transparent accountability by opening the meeting with the refusal to

approve the meeting minutes from the November 6th meeting, citing that the records did not reflect the actual meeting. Turnquist said questions and commitments regarding the lengthy facade grant SOP discussion in the November meeting were not reflected in the minutes. As of the meeting, Turnquist said, the revised SOP, reflecting those discussions, had yet to be submitted to the Council.

Town staff said that meeting minutes are meant as a reflection of the most important aspects of the meeting, including approval and vote records. Typically, minutes are supposed to be condensed to what was done, not necessarily everything that was said, according to Willets.

Turnquist claimed that if the minutes did not detail what was said and discussed, then it was not a true reflection or an accurate recording of the meeting, and that it would be difficult to ensure the Town staff took the actions Council members had asked them to do.

Commissioner Jim Hoover commented that meeting minutes are not supposed to be a word for word transcript of the meetings, but to highlight the most important points discussed and what was proposed and accepted in motions. However, he went on to say that if something was important enough to be captured, that in the future, Commissioners needed to expand the scope of details in their motions.

Emmitsburg
PUBLIC HEARING
January 8 - 7 p.m.
300A South Seton Avenue,
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The Town of Emmitsburg will conduct a Public Hearing to obtain the views of its residents on the establishment of Glo Fiber High-Speed Network by Shentel. Residents will have the opportunity to provide their input regarding this expansion of this service that provides a variety of broadband options and enhanced support for electronic devices at the same time.


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FAIRFIELD/CARROLL VALLEY NEWS

Carroll Valley property taxes set to increase

Carroll Valley Borough taxes will increase in 2024 despite two Council members' objections.

The Council voted 5-2 on Dec. 12 to approve a 0.3 mill tax increase, bringing the tax rate to 2.75 mills. Council members John Schubring and Kari Buterbaugh opposed the tax increase, even though they voted to approve advertising the budget in November with intent to adopt.

The decision to raise taxes for the first time in 12 years is a result of Council's desire to add a fourth full-time police officer to the Borough's

force, Borough Manager Dave Hazlett said. Schubring said he agrees with bolstering the force but opposes a tax increase. He preferred the Council delay the decision one year, especially since the department currently has just two officers.

Hazlett asked Schubring why he did not raise they concern in November, to which he did not respond. Hazlett told the Council that altering the budget would require another advertisement and special meeting before the year's end. He said the Council could

reopen the budget in January after new members Cody Gilbert and Catherine Schubring take office. Hazlett warned such an action would have a consequence.

"You can't hire a fourth police officer and not raise taxes," Hazlett said.

Police officers are paid \$70,000 plus benefits, according to the Borough's proposed budget.

Council President Richard Mathews said that is not a path he wants to explore. Pennsylvania State Police respond to Car-

roll Valley when its municipal police are off-duty. Mathews commended the state police for its work, but noted their resources are stretched. He fears longer response times by a department that covers the entire County could put residents in danger.

Increasing taxes to add a fourth officer indicates a change in priorities from three years ago. In 2021, the Council rejected then-Police Chief Richard Hileman's request for a fourth officer because it did not want to increase taxes. At the

time, Mathews supported a smaller force in exchange for a stagnant tax rate. When Schubring asked him about his change of heart, Mathews said he believes current Police Chief Clifford Weikert presented a stronger case than Hileman.

"I think we a naive to think we can continue that path and still achieve what we want to achieve as a community," Mathews said.

Council member Jessica Kraft agreed, adding that the tax increase will cost the average homeowner about \$72 annually.

"The well being of my family is not worth \$6 a month," Kraft said.

Septic firm leaves stink

The return of a banished septic company has left the Hamiltonban Board with a big stink.

SR Daley Sons Septic Service was a septic pumping firm that previously did business for the Township and performed inadequate pumping and did not submit reports, according to Township Solicitor Matthew Battersby.

A letter was submitted to SR Daley in 2020, stating they were

not on the approved list of septic tank service firms for the Township, as they failed to provide the Township with proper documentation, according to Battersby.

SR Daley reapplied this year to do services in the Township, and the board denied their return due to past history of not complying with the ordinance, according to Township Secretary Nina Garretson.

Now recently it has come to the Board's attention that the firm has "allegedly pumped several septic systems in the Township," Battersby said.

Unaware not to do business with SR Daley, at least three property owners have paid for their pumping services, according to the board.

The purpose of receipts and tracking is to ensure of the proper disposal of pump sewage waste, and the Township does not have required reports for this work, and

thus has no idea where the waste from the resident pumping was disposed of, Battersby said.

The board approved the Township's Sewer Enforcement Officer (SEO) KPI Technology Inc. to contact SR Daley for proof of an approved dumping location. Otherwise, actions can be taken by the Department of Environmental Protection, noted Battersby.

The SEO will also inspect the effected septic systems to ensure their proper function. The board

reached a consensus to accept copies of the cancelled checks from the disgruntled customers to submit for a report.

Noting the costs that will take to clean up the proverbial mess, the board also approved seeking reimbursement of the SEO's fees from SR Daley.

"Typically this would be part of the process. With a legitimate hauler, we wouldn't have to do this," Supervisor Ryan Picarelli noted.

News-Briefs . . .

Fairfield Receives Grant For Sewer System Upgrades

The Commonwealth Financing Authority awarded a \$200,000 state grant to the Fairfield Municipal Authority for improvements to Fairfield Borough's sanitary sewer system and pumping station. The grant is available through the COVID-19 American Recovery Plan Act PA Small Water and Sewer fund.

Liberty Welcomes New Part-Time Police Chief

During their December meeting, the Liberty Township Board of Supervisors appointed Boehs to replace outgoing Chief Sherri Hansen.

Hansen resigned from her part-time position on Dec. 2, Supervisor Chairman Walter "Mickey" Barlow said. In August 2022, Hansen stepped back from her full-time position to become Bonneauville's chief of police. At the time, Hansen agreed to remain in the role part-time until another chief was hired.

Barlow and Supervisor Vice Chair Bobby Keilholtz said they interviewed two applicants for the position. They did not disclose the other applicant. The Pennsylvania Sunshine Act allows personnell decisions to remain private.

"We are very fortunate as a small township to get the two qualified candidates that we had. It was a tough decision," Keiholtz said.

Boehs has been working for the township as a part-time office for up to 25 hours per week since earlier this year. Barlow said the township is accepting applications for his vacant position.

Boehs moved to Adams County in 2006 when he was hired as chief of the Cumberland Township Police

Department. He held that position until February 2022 and currently works full-time for the Adams County Sheriff's Office. Boehs also works part-time for the Gettysburg Borough Police Department.

Prior to moving to Adams County, Boehs worked for the Lower Gwynedd Township Police Department in Montgomery County, where he worked his way up to the rank of first sergeant.

Boehs' appointment comes at a time when the township's police department is in high demand. The supervisors unanimously approved an addendum to their contract with Freedom Township that extends coverage from 25 to 35 hours per month. Liberty also provides Hamiltonban Township for up to 25 hours per month.

Liberty Township Makes Donations To Local Emergency Departments

The Liberty Board of Supervisors awarded \$15,000 of donations to the EMS and fire departments that service the community. Donations amounts were based on calculated call percentages, according to Supervisor Walter "Mickey" Barlow.

Vigilant Hose Company in Emmitsburg, which had the highest percentage of response calls with 52 percent, was allocated \$7,500. \$5,000 was allocated to Fairfield Fire and EMS, which ran 32 percent of emergency responses in the township. Fountaindale Volunteer Fire Department, which covered 15 percent of the township's emergency calls, was allocated \$2,500.

Barlow also reported that the public works department is ready for the winter season. He said that since he and Keiholtz are the town-

ship's only plow truck drivers residents should not expect them to be out if there is less than an inch of snow on the ground. Barlow added that if ice is expected to fall, it is best for the township to let the snow fall, then the ice to lay before crews begin to plow.

Hamiltonban Recognize Supervisor Gordon

At it Dec. 19 meeting, the Hamiltonban Township Board of Supervisors recognized Supervisor Robert "Bob" Gordon for his 18 years of

service to the community.

"It's been a very fast 18 years. I have really enjoyed serving the people of Hamiltonban Township," he said. Gordon chose not to run for reelection, citing health reasons having recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

Ed Spence was elected to fill Gordon's seat. The six-year term runs until 2029.

Gordon said the board has accomplished a lot in his time, most notably the establishment of the township's maintenance facility in

2013 and the Hamiltonban Community Park as part of the Hamiltonban Township and Fairfield Borough Joint Parks and Recreation Commission.

Gordon also noted there has been strong collaboration between board members and residents. Hamiltonban is fortunate in that the board has not had a lot of issues with its residents," he said.

Gordon said local government is important and encouraged residents to step up and serve their communities.

We're Back!

First Friday

B I N G O

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THURMONT NEWS

Burns named Mayor Pro Tem

At the Dec. 5 Town Council meeting, Commissioner Marty Burns was elected Mayor Pro Tem in a 3-1 vote. Commissioner Bob Lookingbill nominated Burns and Commissioner Bill Blakeslee seconded the nomination. Commissioner Wayne Hooper, who was previously Mayor Pro Tem, also voted for Burns.

During the discussion, Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird pointed out that Lookingbill was part of the 3-2 vote asking Burns to resign from his position as then-mayor in 2009. Led by then-Commissioner Glenn Muth, the vote of no confidence came one week after Burns publicly suggested that fellow Commissioners leaked a town document, and said he'd pay for polygraph tests for commissioners willing to deny the claim. Burns did not resign after the vote in 2009.

Lookingbill explained that his opinion had changed with time and maturity: "There's an old saying: Let bygones be bygones," he said, "What happened, happened. We move forward and we get on with life."

Prior to the vote, Burns suggested the Council discuss the actions of a Mayor Pro Tem. He explained that a Mayor Pro Tem acts as the president of the board in the absence of the mayor, in this case Kinnaird. The individual voted Mayor Pro Tem does not become mayor in the case of a single absence at a town meeting, as Kinnaird and Burns recalled one commissioner in the past believing, but rather is temporarily able to act as mayor solely during the meeting.

The Council also came up with an action plan to change the meeting frequency from weekly to twice monthly, but only on a trial basis for

January, February and March 2024. Town meetings will be the second and fourth Tuesdays in January and the first and third Tuesdays in February and March.

The Town Charter requires that the Town Council meet at least once a month in the 12-month period, according to Kinnaird. The town currently meets weekly, except for in July when the Council meets once.

"This is about the frequency of the meetings and the substantive agenda items that we have," Burns said, reiterating that he has no intention to eliminate public comment. He went on to suggest that the Council ask for residents' opinions through surveys to see how often they would like to attend town meetings.

According to Kinnaird, there have been at least eight meetings

canceled over the past four years due to lack of agenda items. "So, we do cancel meetings if there's nothing on the agenda, if anybody's worried about that. We don't have meetings for the sake of having meetings," he said. Kinnaird also said he was happy with the frequency of the meetings at the beginning of the discussion but, by the end, wanted to try out two meetings a month on a trial basis.

Burns shared his research into the frequency of meetings for other local municipalities with the mayor and other commissioners prior to the discussion. He said that Middletown only has two meetings and one workshop per month. During workshops, which Thurmont also conducts, the Council gets together to discuss topics but no decision is made and there is no public participation allowed.

For this reason, Kinnaird is concerned about how changing the fre-

quency of the town meetings will impact Thurmont residents and public comment: "Public comment is important to me, always has been". Kinnaird went on to request that, should the frequency or format be changed, that public comment be allowed at both town meetings and workshops.

Hooper echoed Kinnaird's concerns, adding that more frequent meetings allow residents more opportunities to express their public comments. He is also concerned about the length of time between meetings in the case of a cancellation.

Blakeslee said he would be willing to try two meetings a month, especially since Kinnaird, as mayor, and CAO Jim Humerick both have the power to call an additional meeting if it's needed.

The Town plans to host a survey for residents to express their opinion on the Town website.

Armstrong sworn in as Thurmont Police Chief

Dave Armstrong was sworn in as Thurmont police chief at the Dec. 5 Town Council meeting after serving as lieutenant in the town.

"Dave is an amazing officer," Thurmont Mayor John Kinnaird said. "He's

been a great lieutenant and I know he's going to do a fantastic job as chief."

The Thurmont Town Council voted Armstrong in as chief of police after former Chief Greg Eyer announced his retirement earlier

this year. Eyer's retirement was effective Dec. 1, which is when Armstrong officially took over the position.

Armstrong took the opportunity to speak to his constituents at the town meeting after officially being sworn in by Kinnaird. "I know why I was appointed. It wasn't because I'm the smartest one you had an option to, although I think I'm smart enough. It wasn't because I'm the toughest one although I think I'm tough enough. It wasn't because I'm the prettiest one, well maybe it was a little bit of that. It wasn't because I'm the best public speaker, but I will talk until my wife elbows me in the ribs," Armstrong said before taking a more serious tone.

"I know I was appointed because for the better part of a decade now, I've served the Town of Thurmont. I've served the police department, I've served the residents and you've deemed that I've served them well. So I just commit to you that I will continue to serve the police department."

Armstrong has been in law enforcement for 33 years, over ten of which was spent at the Thurmont Police Department. Armstrong initially started his career in law enforcement at the Frederick Police Department in 1990, after he ended his service with the Army. There, he worked in the patrol unit, drug unit and SWAT team. When he retired in 2011, Arm-

strong was a first line supervisor with the criminal investigations division.

After his retirement from the Frederick County Police, Armstrong took a contractor job with the U.S. Government. The position didn't last long before a friend contacted Armstrong to convince him to join the Thurmont Police Department, which he did in 2012.

"Finding little to satisfy me outside of police work I took him up on the offer and thought I may put in two or three years," Armstrong said. "Little did I know I would still be here eleven years later and be given the opportunity to be the Chief of Police."

In Thurmont, Armstrong continued to raise through the ranks, taking on roles as patrol officer, detective, corporal, sergeant and deputy chief. In 2022, he was named Thurmont Lions Club "Police Officer of the Year" for his efforts in Thurmont.

"I am excited about the coming journey as the Chief of the Thurmont Police Department," Armstrong said. "Together with the very talented and dedicated members of the Thurmont Police Department, I look forward to continuing to provide an environment in the town where the residents, business owners and visitors can go about their daily lives without an overwhelming or irrational fear of being the victim of a crime or some accident."



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TANEYTOWN NEWS

Garnet Ridge development drops condominiums

At the December Planning and Zoning meeting, Marty Hackett, representative of CLSI, a civil engineering group that specializes in development plans, reintroduced Garnet Ridge's concept site plans for approval. Garnet Ridge, an active adult retirement community, was originally approved for 50 condominiums but is now seeking approval as a subdivision. The difference in design provides homeowners in a subdivision with ownership of the land their home is built on and the home itself versus condominium ownership only includes ownership of the condo itself.

Hackett said the layout of the development would remain the same; the only change would be to add lot lines that would distin-

guish each dwelling's lot from its neighbor. The dwellings would be either in a duplex or triplex style, which would limit a homebuyer from being able to customize the outside appearance of their home. The current setbacks for the dwellings allow for purchased additions such as morning rooms and decks without needing additional waivers. As a retirement community, there is no requirement to mix detached and attached homes.

Garnet Ridge HOA would be responsible for maintenance on roads, sidewalks, lawn care and snow removal, as well as utilities, in a similar structure as Carol Vista. Homeowners would own the exterior of the dwelling as opposed to condominiums where the HOA usually owns exterior

walls and even some interior walls.

Since Garnet Ridge was originally presented to the town in May, before the overlay was implemented, the subdivision concept plan includes front-loading garages and no alleys, which is not permitted typically in a Community Village.

The plan currently shows only one way in and one way out with hopes for an emergency exit through the future Sewells' property development.

Council Member Dan Myers asked, "Does this layout support our small-town atmosphere? The density leads me to think it does not." Current density tables range between 2.4 percent to 4 percent with Garnet Ridge being a higher 3.47 percent. Hackett replied,

"the density is a part of the original annexation agreement and was approved years ago. All we did was fine tune it." Myers also pointed out that there are currently no amenities such as shopping centers, parks, or restaurants within walking distance from the subdivision giving it a low walkability score.

Myers expressed concern over street parking, especially regarding fire truck safety. The current plan showed streets at 26.8 feet wide, curb to curb, with room for parking on one side of the street. A motion was made to increase the streets width to 28 feet from curb to curb, allowing an 8 foot parallel parking spot and 20 feet of roadway.

Barry Garner, the newest Planning and Zoning Member, ques-

tioned if the garage setbacks were too short for a car to be fully parked on the parking pad. He referenced a recent visit to Carol Vista where he observed 17 cars parked over the sidewalks and was concerned the same occurrence would happen at Garnet Ridge. Hackett replied, "That is 17 cars out of 400. It is not right but people will do it regardless of the parking pad size." Hackett explained that the pads would be 18 to 20 feet wide and 16 to 18 feet long depending on the lot size. "We will try to make each pad a minimum of 18 feet which is a standard parking space," said Hackett.

The change for Garnet Ridge was approved through a split vote with Chairman Parker being the deciding vote in approval.

Chicken Ordinance Passed

After many months of discussing chickens in town, the new ordinance was passed at the December City Council meeting. The ordinance has been a frustrating topic for council members and town residents alike, as many wonder why so much energy has been put into regulating backyard flocks.

Resident Harry Mead, who regularly attends meetings and has been very vocal about the new ordinance, questions the complexity of it. A prospective chicken owner would need to preform multiple steps in order to officially own their chickens, including taking an educational seminar on backyard flocks; signing a 'Backyard

Chicken Agreement' that pertains to chicken welfare; registering the flock with the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to receive an official registration card, as well as bringing the card to the City Zoning office within 30-90 days (dependent on MDAs processing times).

Mead also pointed out that the requirements for the coops and runs, which demand four square feet per chicken for the coop and ten square feet per chicken for the run, would make most residences in town ineligible. Additionally, the coops and runs must be ten feet from the property lines, 20 feet from any dwelling and in

the back yard only. Residents will also need to apply for a city Zoning Certificate as chicken coops and runs are considered structures and will have specific building requirements.

Councilman Dan Myers brought up the question of if a home's entire backyard could qualify as a run if it was properly fenced in. Councilman Chris Tillman explained that a yard would need to be fully enclosed-including the roof-to be considered a run. The materials used could be as simple as chicken wire, but would need to span the entire yard; there is a minimum size of ten feet per chicken. In response to complaints of the complex-

ity of this ordinance, Darryl Hale, the Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer, mentioned receiving a picture of a chicken free ranging on the York Street sidewalk, which proved the need for a manageable ordinance.

The Council agreed that the maximum number of chickens allowed would be six, however any residents with flocks already established will be grandfathered in and will be allowed to keep what they have if all new rules and regulations are being met. Once their flock size decreases, for whatever reason, they must adhere to the six-chicken limit. Roosters will be prohibited as would the selling of eggs.

The requirements for approval are written as a one-time deal per resi-

dence. However, Tillman asked about situations where a renter's lease ends, and they leave their registered flock at the home: "What happens if the next family is not a registered chicken owner, but they get chickens? Do we have a way to check the new tenants chicken requirements?" City Manager Jim Wieprecht answered that in a rental situation the homeowner would be responsible for the zoning certificates thus would also be responsible for removing the chickens before the next tenant. If a homeowner sells their home the new owners would be responsible for meeting the chicken ordinance requirements as the previous owners would not transfer to them.

The vote passed unanimously.

Taneytown Mayor's actions leave City at standstill

continued from page 1

and allow a recall election to occur through a petition signed by 20 percent of registered voters. Miller estimated that would be about 1,200 signatures.

"I think that is completely unnecessary, I think it is great the way it is," McCarron said.

Fuller agreed, adding the censure adds another layer of accountability.

"It prevents a recall effort from being started for frivolous or undocumented reasons," she said. "Allegations must be vetted in an open, public forum with evidence and testimony."

Fuller added the censure process allows the accused to respond and limits "misinformation and lies." She said she feared eliminating the censure process would lead to political whims fueling recall elections instead of serious allegations of abuse of power.

"It is an important safeguard against the abuse of the removal process," Fuller said.

Miller maintained that acquiring 1,200 signatures is a monumental task and reminded the Council that an election would still follow the petition process under his proposal. He said he believed the censure process allows Council to protect itself — words that lit a spark in an otherwise calm meeting.

"If you want to have accountabil-

ity, then first of all you have to look in the mirror and be able to accept some accountability," Fuller charged.

"If I had a mirror to show you, I would, but I don't," Miller retorted.

The two continued to trade barbs over listening to public feedback.

"I think what you have going on is a propaganda thing and I think you should maybe take a step back and stop trying to fire or unseat people who don't agree with what you are doing," Fuller suggested. "We are not just speaking for ourselves. We are speaking for our citizens who are reaching out and saying 'how do we stop this guy, he's out of control?'"

Miller claimed a Council member privately referred to the proposal as "communism" or "mob rule." He did not name the Council member and no one made such claims during the meeting but Fuller did agree Miller's proposal was "mob rule." She said she fears the Mayor will "go door-to-door getting people riled up about things you made up."

Miller did not defend Fuller's claim that he spreads lies.

"Imagine talking to your constituents, that's a new concept to ya'll, I understand that," he said.

Fuller said she does talk to citizens but, unlike Miller, does not "rule through Facebook."

Tillman agreed with Fuller and said removing the censure process

could lead to partisan politics fueling recall elections. McCarron, after several unsuccessful attempts to squash the discussion, reminded the Council that recall elections are costly to the taxpayer.

Even though all Council members present said they were not interested in advancing Miller's proposal, he continued his rant by calling the Council "aristocrats" who only want to be held accountable at election time.

Commissioner Diane Foster again suggested the Council move on, but Miller continued to speak. He claimed the Council violated the Maryland Open Meetings Act by discussing a proposal via email. The Maryland Attorney General's Office Open Meetings Act Manual states Council members can discuss topics through email but not deliberate an outcome. Fuller and Tillman stated they were in accordance with the law since no decision was made. Fuller asked Miller if he took the State's Open Meetings training course but he did not respond.

Miller said he would continue to propose changes to the recall election process, despite no Council members expressing support.

Moments later, Miller almost landed the City in hot legal waters when he began discussing "a tort claim regarding harassment or discrimination by elected officials."

"I think we are heading down a dangerous path," Wieprecht said.

Miller ignored his advice, and said there are two pending tort claims against the City.

"I would strongly advise that no one speak about an ongoing legal matter," Wieprecht said to reiterate his point.

Without prompting, Miller continued to defend firing the City's Attorney. Tillman told the Mayor he believes the firing was not based

on the Attorney's performance but instead an attack on Council members.

The Mayor said he plans to recommend a new City Attorney in January. All Council members agreed to consider his nomination, although McCarron said he preferred the City hire Gullo.

"Obviously, right now things are being delayed because we do not have legal representation," Tillman said. "We cannot continue like this."

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FROM THE DESK OF...

Congressman David Trone

As we kick off the new year, I'm reminded of what matters most: family, friends, and community. Throughout life's most important moments — our most challenging times and our most exciting changes — it's our loved ones who are there for us, cheering us on and being a shoulder to lean on. Whenever this time of year rolls around, I'm especially grateful for my friends, family, and supporters for all that they've done for me.

However, I recognize that the new year isn't just a time for celebration and gratitude. It's a time when families set their goals for the upcoming weeks and months, reflect on their progress, and plan for their futures. As a member of Congress and candidate on this year's ballot, I'm setting goals, too.

I've long said that this job should be more focused on public service rather than politics. Too often, politics divide us and place our own selfish interests above what is good and just. That's why I'm focused on being a public servant — not a politician. In the next year, I'll continue to be a public servant who listens, delivers results, and takes big ideas and turns them into big action.

These are the values and goals that I've set for myself throughout my life. When my father lost our family farm to the bank, it wasn't a choice to do something differently. It was our only option. I had a big idea to open a small store selling beer and soda to help support my family. With a great deal of hard work, some luck, and extraordi-

nary assistance by team members, our business grew exponentially, and we found success as a family.

I entered public service to make that same reality — achieving your dreams regardless of the adversity you face — a possibility for every family.

An important lesson that I learned during my career in business which will guide my work in government this year is the need to think long-term. Too often, politicians are only worried about the next week, month, or election. It's one of the many reasons that not much gets done in Congress. We need to be willing to invest in the ideas that will pay off over years and generations, not just make headlines for a few days.

I believe that it's those same long-

term solutions that will help tackle some of the most pressing challenges we face. If we think long-term about the opioid and mental health crises gripping our communities, we will make progress. The same is true of reforming our criminal justice system, combating climate change, protecting women's rights, and providing world-class education to each student in our state.

The year ahead will be a busy one — but I'm excited for all that we'll achieve together. The primary election is on May 14th, and I'm proud to be on the ballot to be your next U.S. Senator. Because I know that we'll be able to build on our progress and continue to deliver results for Marylanders from the Senate. As you make your plans for this year, I hope you'll consider voting for me. But more importantly, I hope you'll take the time to learn about those who

are running to represent you, understand what drives them to be public servants, and choose the best candidate to fight for you in Washington, Annapolis, and in local government.

Above all else, as I've always said, constituent service is my top priority. My team works countless hours helping to solve your challenges with federal agencies, helping you access the benefits you're entitled to, and hearing your concerns about legislation. Please, throughout this year, don't hesitate to get in touch with us. We are more than happy to help.

From my family to yours, I want to wish you a happy new year, and thank you for your support throughout last year. I couldn't be more proud to serve this community in Washington, and I'm optimistic about what the future holds. Best wishes for a safe, healthy, and happy year ahead.

Emmitsburg Mayor Frank Davis

It is hard to believe the holiday season has passed by so quickly and for the next month I will still be dating document 2023. But with another year behind us I hope we can all look back on our accomplishments and find the good of last year.

Things are changing in the Town Office and the biggest being the hiring of two new employees. Joshua Snyder is our newest addition to our Water and Sewer Department. Josh comes to us with over ten years of experience in this field and will be a terrific addition to our talented crew. We would also like to wel-

come Kimberly Mondshour to our office staff. Kimberly has accepted a position as our Accountant and brings a wealth of experience to this vital position. Please help welcome both of our new employees to Emmitsburg.

Construction is well underway for our new Sewer Lift Station on Creamery Road. This project is being tackled by Conewago Construction Company. Please take caution while traveling around the construction site.

At times, the winter months can keep you searching for things to do

with your family, so do not forget about Mount Basketball. Both the women's and men's teams are playing at an extremely high level and are exciting to watch.

The town is exploring options pertaining to parking issues and meter upgrades. Conversations are running high and there are many opinions both positive and negative regarding future needs. I can assure you the Commissioners are listening; exploring options and will decide what is best for our town, not only now but in the future.

There are two Workshops sched-

uled for the Town Council in January and February. The January 22nd topic will be to review and discuss the financial status of the town. The February 12th workshop will be the start of identifying future projects and setting priorities. Citizens are invited to attend in person or watch on Channel 99.

Please remember that all streets in the town limits are now Snow Emergency Routes. This means that when the Snow Emergency Plan is enacted by the Maryland State Police parking is prohibited on ALL streets. This will enable our road crews to plow and open roads more quickly, efficiently, and most

importantly it will ensure access for emergency vehicles into your neighborhood. All Town parking lots are available for off street parking. Additional parking is also available in the 100 block of South Seton Avenue next to Chronicle Press. If anyone has transportation issues with getting your vehicle to one of these locations, please contact the Town Office BEFORE the snow begins. Please be responsible and pre-plan for severe weather.

As always please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns, and we are open to suggestions to make Emmitsburg a great place to live.

County Council President Brad Young

The Frederick County Council meets regularly on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. at Winchester Hall. All meetings are open to the public. The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, January 2, at 5:30 p.m.

At the January 2nd meeting the Council will be voting on bill 23-22, a tax credit for daycare providers in Frederick County as well as a vote on the admissions and amusements tax rate change. This resolution increases the County's admissions and amusement tax rate from 0% to 5% with exemptions for agro-tourism and volunteer fire companies.

On December 19, 2023, the Council rejected the proposed Sugar-

loaf Rural Heritage Overlay Zoning District. After a public hearing and listening to all Frederick citizens and property owners most of the Council defeated measure on a 5-2 vote.

Concerns had been raised that the proposed overlay had strayed too far from its original intent. It is believed that the County's current land use practices through Agricultural and Resource Conservation Zoning is working to preserve the region.

The major concern raised by residents in the area would be the siting of data centers. The County's land use table only allows data centers in the Limited Industrial (LI) and the General Industrial (GI) Zones which are

not in the Sugarloaf area.

Council Member Renee Knapp is Co-Chairing the County's Data Center Workgroup which is examining lessons from Northern Virginia's experience and are considering appropriate locations for data centers and potential amendments to the County's critical digital infrastructure law. The Workgroup is expected to issue their report later this winter.

On November 21, the Council passed Bill 23-20 by 5-2 vote. This Bill creates a new use within the Agricultural District to allow limited commercial vehicle parking and material and equipment storage associated with a landscape contrac-

tor business. The Council also passed Bill 23-21 by 7-0 vote. This Bill amends our current Zoning Ordinance to allow for cannabis dispensaries, cannabis growing facilities, and cannabis processing facilities. This Bill also creates definitions and approval criteria for such cannabis dispensaries and cannabis growing and processing facilities in response to the statewide legalization of adult-use cannabis. Full legislation can be found on our website.

The Council has several Bills scheduled in the coming weeks that will proceed through our legislative process. Bill 23-22 will, if passed, provide a tax credit for Daycare providers. Bill

23-23 will implement the changes to the Deferred Retirement Option Program for Career Fire Fighters.

Bill 23-24 will, if passed, amend the Frederick County Uniformed and Non-uniformed employee retirement plans. This Bill decreases the time for a participant hired on and after July 1, 2012 to become fully vested in retirement plan benefits from ten years to five years.

Bills 23-25 and 23-26 will amend the qualifications for participation on the Frederick County Planning Commission and Board of Appeals. These Bills, if passed, will require members to be residents of Frederick County. All legislation can be viewed on our website. Our weekly agendas also

continued on next page

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GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE BORDER

County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

With the New Year comes a sense of renewal and opportunities to bring out the best in ourselves, showcase the treasures in our community, and move forward with positivity and purpose. Thank you for being part of the movement this year whether you've partnered with us, supported an event, or shared a post on our social media! We truly appreciate having you in our community.

I am proud to be leading our exemplary Frederick County Government staff. This month, our Director of Agriculture and Small Business received a prestigious recognition for her contributions to our farms! Our Division of Emergency Management staff also received an award for their work on improving 9-1-1 communications.

Looking forward to the New Year, I will be hosting budget hearings and listening sessions across the county in January and February. We are also gearing up for the 2024 legislative session, and I have compiled a legislative package reflecting the needs of our County.

MEDA Award

The Maryland Economic Development Association (MEDA) recognized Katie Stevens, our Director of Agriculture and Small Business in the

Frederick County Office of Economic Development, with the 2023 MEDA Rising Star Award. Through her continued leadership, she has made remarkable contributions so our farms – and our farmers – can thrive for years to come. Katie's work is helping to preserve our community's rich agricultural history while paving a way for a bright future. She is very deserving of this prestigious recognition.

The award recognizes candidates for their dedication to Maryland's economic development. Katie's work on numerous projects that have significantly influenced Frederick County's economic landscape made her a stand-out candidate for the award. Some of her most notable accomplishments include fostering innovation and new opportunities for the local farm community so farmers can diversify into value-added production and being instrumental in awarding millions of dollars to local businesses through state and federal funding.

Budget Hearing and Upcoming Listening Sessions

Earlier this month I hosted a budget public hearing open to the public. We have multiple listening sessions to provide various opportunities to

provide their input on their priorities. The budget process entails public hearings, listening sessions in January through February, the listens session for District 5 will be held Jan. 20, at 1 p.m. at Walkersville High School. *[This sessions will be recorded but not streamed live.]*

This year our county government is looking toward a more outcome and performance-based budget process so that we can ensure fiscal responsibility in our tax dollars and further align our vision with Livable Frederick. My core values of accountability, sustainability, and inclusion are also infused in budget discussions as we continue to meet the needs of our residents.

Our second public hearing will be in March to give us a better idea of the type of requests submitted for the budget and what the proposed capital budget is. I'll be presenting our proposal to the County Council in April so that they can adopt a budget in May.

MACo Winter Conference Recap

During the first week in December, I attended the Maryland Association of Counties Winter Confer-

ence to meet with leaders of our neighboring counties and our state partners. During the conference, I was pleased to speak on a panel regarding the data center industry alongside leaders from the MD Public Service Commission and the Maryland Department of the Environment industry.

Frederick County was also awarded the County Innovation Award by MACo and the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance for our Convey 9-1-1 program. The award recognizes leading-edge county programs that improve the overall quality of life and service delivery for residents. Through a partnership with Baltimore-based Convey 9-1-1, our Division of Emergency Management added a series of capabilities to support their 9-1-1 specialists. Enhancements include language interpretation for over 170 languages and dialects for residents who call or text it, and precise location of mobile phone callers. Convey 9-1-1 is one of the many services we have to improve access for everyone and create a more vibrant and inclusive community.

2024 Legislative Priorities

Going into the 2024 legislative session, my priority legislation focuses on issues of importance to our cit-

izens – maintaining our historic places, caring for our seniors and others with mobility challenges, and increasing safety for our firefighters and families. I am proposing a change to our Frederick County Historic Preservation Tax Credit which will allow more projects to qualify for the credit, funding a Paratransit Task Force to review how this important transportation option is funded statewide, and improving safety standards to address Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing which was involved in a fire related fatality here in Frederick County and has been involved in other major fires across the state.

Earlier this month we received the distressing news that the US-15 expansion project, which has been the county's top priority for many years, was cut from the State's Department of Transportation Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP). The project represents a critical safety initiative as well as major investment in the economic vitality of our region. I will be working with the full Frederick County Delegation to advocate for the project to remain in the CTP as previously promised. To learn more about my legislative priorities, I encourage you to visit <https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/legislativeaffairs>.

County Councilwoman Renee Knapp

Does the Sugarloaf Mountain area require an additional protective zoning layer with additional land use restrictions? Most of the Sugarloaf area is geographically unsuitable for high-density development and industrial uses already, which is why most of it is zoned for Agriculture and Resource Conservation. I have thought about this question regularly for the last two years, understanding that the vote to approve the Sugarloaf Treasured Landscape Management Plan Overlay District Map would eventually come before the County Council to be accepted or rejected. That vote came on December 19th, and I voted to reject the proposed Overlay map. Also voting to not pass the proposal were Council President Young, Vice President Duckett, Council

Member Carter, and Council Member Keegan-Ayer. The vote was 5-2, and the overlay did not pass.

I've had many conversations with informed and passionate people on both sides of this issue. I met with anyone who wanted to meet with me, and with some several times. I reviewed meeting minutes and rewatched previous County Council and Planning Commission meetings to try to get the most complete understanding of how we arrived at this point, the desires of all the stakeholders, and the County's approach to this large area plan.

The Planning Commission resubmitted to the County Council the essentially unchanged Overlay Plan that was remanded to them by the previous Council. Given the initiatives stated in the overall Sugar-

loaf Area Plan, and the way they are worded, this is not surprising. They would most likely return with the same plan again for a third and fourth time if it were remanded with unchanged criteria.

Some of that criteria made it impossible for me to support the implementation of the Overlay District. For me, it establishes something that too closely resembles exclusionary zoning. It was too late for me to disagree with the passing of the Sugarloaf Treasured Landscape Plan by the time I joined the County Council. I had then and continue to have deep concerns with large area plans that use zoning that results in the county supporting higher property values for some residents in the name of land conservation, while other residents continue to find themselves struggling to afford

housing anywhere close to where they work, and that these real economic inequalities, resulting from zoning, are not being considered.

What I'm suggesting is that we need examine how county zoning can perpetuate historical housing inequalities when considering future area plans, and I would argue the Livable Frederick Master Plan. Are we making it difficult for property owners to subdivide their land to accommodate additional family members living nearby in accessory dwelling units or other arrangements? Other types of modern exclusionary zoning policies include parking restrictions, building setbacks, overly stringent environmental reviews, and design reviews.

I was very concerned that if the Treasured Landscape Overlay District Map passed, that it could be replicated in other areas in Frederick County, particularly in northern Frederick County, where the supply of reasonably priced housing for working families is already limited. I will continue to raise the issue of how our zoning and land use affects the ability for residents to find housing they can afford, and to make sure we are not using zoning to unwittingly discriminate against low and middle income households.

Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts on this issue or anything else at rknapp@frederickcountymd.gov.

Wishing you a very Happy New Year!

County Council President Brad Young

continued from previous page

contain links to Bills and all relevant documentation. Please visit our website for the most updated agenda and schedule.

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. Please visit our website at www.frederickcountymd.gov/council to view our latest agendas, legislation, and upcoming calendar of events.

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, or you can call my office at 301-600-1108.

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FROM THE DESK OF...

Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

Carroll Valley and our community neighbors ended 2023 on a theme of happiness and caring for others. I had the opportunity to attend five holiday events where Santa appeared to the delight of our local children. On December 5th, Santa was caught riding aboard a Fairfield Fire & EMS fire engine traveling through Fairfield Borough down route 116 to the Carroll Valley Borough parking lot and then returning to the Fairfield firehouse.

On December 9th, over 300 children had breakfast with Santa, hosted by the Fairfield Fire & EMS Company, where they had the opportunity to sit on Santa's lap and express their Christmas wishes. On December 16th, Cookies with Santa was held at the Liberty Worship Center. Once again, giving the children an opportunity to whisper in Santa's ear what they hope to find under the tree. Finally, on Sunday, December 17th, the Fountaindale Volunteer Fire Department held its annual "Santa Ride." Santa spread Christmas cheer to residents of all ages while being chauffeured

around town on a Fountaindale fire engine. Over 300 images were taken.

Watching the special moment when the child looks at Santa and expresses a personal wish for a gift because they tried to be good is an intimate moment of intimacy I attempt to capture through pictures. To see the images, go to www.ronspictures.net. You can copy/download the photo(s) from the site. I want to express my gratitude to all those who keep the enchanting tale of Santa Claus alive. Thank you for all your efforts in maintaining the joy and magic of the holiday season. I appreciate your dedication to bringing happiness to others.

Holiday Meal Kits were prepared for 25 local families for the holidays through generous donations made by the Carroll Valley Council, committees, and staff members. Another act of Christmas kindness was shared by Robin Dicken of Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) who said they had another successful year helping our neighbors. On Monday, December 18th, 10 NHN volunteers packed 63 bags of donated toiletry

items. The volunteers who participated were Susie Gills, Doug Lichty, Brenda May, Deedee Mezger, Janet Rapuano, Susan Strahlet, Lisa Sturges, Marcy Vanmetre, and Carlos Wampler. NHN wishes to thank everyone involved. These bags were delivered to our two local nursing homes, Meals on Wheels, and our local high and middle school students for Christmas.

Two items regarding January 2024 that you should be aware of are that we, Carroll Valley, are in our 50th anniversary year of the Borough's existence and are one month away from our annual fabulous, fantastic "Father-Daughter Dance." The theme for the dance is "Dancing Hearts - A Date with Daddy". The dance will be held in the Liberty Mountain Resort Overlook Ballroom on Saturday, February 10th, from 6 to 9 p.m.. Pre-registration is required at www.carrollvalley.org or 717-642-6269. There is a \$25 per person charge. Regarding the anniversary, you will read more throughout the year on Carroll Valley's plans to celebrate our 50th anniversary as a community.

If you are interested in participating in the planning process, don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Ok, it is January, and you know what I am about to share - my resolutions. Well, not all of them. Some are personal. However, here is one. I am going to try to do my best to help others. To let those around me know how important they are in the lives of others. And to be sure to thank those who assist others. Remember, "Give out what you most want to come back." With January comes snow. It would be best if you made sure that you winterized your car. If you haven't, you need to get it done. Check the car's tires, tire pressure, heat/defroster, and wipers. Please slow down. Those antilock brakes will not help you reach a smooth stop if you drive too fast.

Remember to leave more space between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you when driving behind another car. Some experts tell us this distance is four car lengths for every ten mph you travel. If the Borough declares a snow emergency, it is unlawful to park a motor vehicle or to allow that vehicle to remain parked on any Borough road or in any Borough right-of-way in such

a manner as to impede or obstruct the snow and ice removal efforts of the Borough or to create a hazardous condition.

Also, driving any motor vehicle on the Borough's snow emergency route is unlawful unless that vehicle is equipped with snow tires or chains. If you are trying to figure out if your residence is on the emergency route, launch the Carroll Valley website at carrollvalley.org. Type snow emergency in the search text box and click on Road Classification Map for Snow Plowing. Whether you are on the emergency route or not, please help our maintenance crew clear our trails after a snowstorm by parking your vehicle so as not to impede the snow-clearing process.

Borough meetings in January are the Reorganization Borough Council Meeting (January 2nd), Planning Commission (January 8th), Borough Council (January 9th), Sewer/Water Authority (January 22nd), and Parks/Recreation Committee (January 24th). Please reduce your speed to ensure your loved ones, friends, and neighbors are safe. Don't Drink and Drive. If you have any questions, call me at 301-606-2021 or MayorRonHarris@comcast.net.

Liberty Township Supervisor Walter Barlow

Happy 2024! I hope everyone is having a safe and happy new year. We want to thank our former Police Chief Sherri Hansen for all that she has done for our Police Department and the Township. Chief Hansen left our full-time position to become Chief at Bonneauville Borough Police Department more than a year ago, but she has been a great asset to us by graciously staying on part-time as we navigated our next steps and searched for a Chief.

At our December 5th Board of Supervisors meeting, we accepted her resignation and hired/promoted Lib-

erty Township Officer Don Boehs as our part-time Police Chief. Chief Boehs previously served as the Chief of Police in Cumberland Township, and we are confident that he will continue to lead the Liberty Township Police Department in the right direction. We were fortunate to have well qualified applicants for the position, and the Township is grateful to all who applied.

Liberty Township wants to thank both Highland Township and Freedom Township for continuing to have faith in our Police Department to serve their communities. An especially big thank you to Freedom Township for

voting to have our Police Department provide their Township with an extra ten hours of service per month.

Also at our December meeting, we voted in favor of donating a total of \$15,000 to local fire departments. We donated \$7,500 to the Vigilant Hose Co. in Emmitsburg, \$5,000 to the Fairfield Fire and EMS, and \$2,500 to the Fountaindale Volunteer Fire Department. We appreciate the work of all first responders and the services that they continue to provide year after year.

Be sure to service your furnaces and top off your fuel tanks to maintain your heating source safely through the win-

ter weather. I want to remind residents that as it gets colder, ice will be forming on driveways, roads, and bridges. Be mindful of ice patches developing at the end of your driveway and of black ice spots on the roads. Your patience is appreciated during snowfalls, as we will have a maximum of two trucks on the roads at any given time.

Our first priority is to open Bullfrog, Pecher, Topper, Orchard, and Boyle roads. Once those roads are opened, the secondary roads will be cleared. We also ask that you trim back any dead trees where your property borders the road. Heavy snow and wind regularly bring down trees and limbs on to the roadways. Our road crew is dispatched as quickly as possible, but prevention can go a long way to avoid these dangers.

If you are looking for local indoor activities this winter season, check out the calendar of events for the Adams County Library. The library is a great

resource of community services and receives annual donations from the surrounding municipalities. Be sure to take advantage of the many free activities for children, teens, and adults offered at the Carroll Valley Branch in Fairfield.

On January 4 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. adults can come to the library and learn how to be a good environmental steward of their property and neighborhood, while teens 13-18 can bring a snack to share and attend a book club meeting at the same time in another room. Please continue to support local events and businesses.

The Tax Collector has closed collection on 2023 per capita and real estate taxes, so if you are delinquent you will need to pay your bill through the collection agencies. School taxes are now in penalty phase and must be paid by March 31. You will see no increase to your 2024 municipal real estate tax bill. Look for those bills in early March and take advantage of the 2% discount period if paid by April 30.



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* To our cherished clients and friends, old and new, we want to say **THANK YOU** *
* for making our lives more meaningful in every way. *
* Thank you for a beautiful year, and let's make the next year just as special for us all. *
* Much love and happiness, always! *

<p>***SOLD***</p>  <p>8 Possum Tr., Fairfield, PA 1.05 Ac., perc appr., close to Rte. 16 but feels far away from any activity. Perfect for commuters. \$45,000</p>	<p>Celebrate 2024! Happy New Year!</p>	<p>***PENDING***</p>  <p>28 Hillview Ct., Fairfield, PA 3 BR, 2.5 BA, only home available in popular Meadowbrook Commons. Sunroom & fireplace. \$255,000</p>
<p>**ACTIVE LOT**</p>  <p>4 Fernwood Tr., Carroll Valley, PA 0.86 ac., perc appr. lot for drip irrigation septic. Walking distance to Ski Resort and Golf Course. \$27,900</p>	<p>**ACTIVE**</p>  <p>580 Car Hill Rd., Gettysburg, PA \$659,900</p> <p>FAR FROM THE ORDINARY: Builder's own design and beloved custom home for many years, this enticing home is private yet easily accessible. Ten wooded acres to explore and abundant wildlife for enjoyment. A definite getaway for relaxing in nature or hiking in your own woods. Approx. 1,000 ft. of stone walls. 2 beautifully built fireplaces reaching 50 ft.. Personal sauna in 2nd bedroom, wood floors. Many items convey.</p>	
<p>**ACTIVE - CONTINGENT**</p>  <p>4 Tiger Tr., Carroll Valley, PA Perc Appr., 2.02 ac., wooded & sloped, great views. \$25,000</p>		



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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE BORDER

County Commissioner Randy Phiel

At the December 20 public meeting the Commissioners adopted a 2024 Final Budget of \$88M with No Tax Increase. This includes both the General Fund of \$69,955,111 and the Special Funds of \$14,591,346. It also includes the Bridge Fund of \$485,500 and Hotel Tax Fund of \$2,792,152. Adams County is in a strong fiscal position with an ample reserve and retains its Aa2 bond rating. The entire budget is on-line, and a hard copy is open for review at the Commissioner's Office counter. Effective fiscal management is earned by diligence and good management. Special recognition goes to the Adams County Fiscal Team consisting of the Adams County Treasurer, Controller, Budget Office, and Commissioners Office for their consistent analysis and guidance.

Speaking of the budget and taxes, each year by statute the Adams County must quantify the value of Adams County Real Estate. Pursuant to the PA Consolidated Assessment Law §8844, Subsection "f", the Board of Assessment Appeals on 11/15/23 certified the following assessed values: Real Property (\$10,006,677,400) Total Number of Properties (47,170).

The value of our Volunteer

Emergency Responders in Adams County is priceless! At the November 15th public meeting the Commissioners approved Ordinance #3 of 2023. This Ordinance provided tax relief for qualified volunteer emergency responders residing in Adams County. The State Legislature recently passed a bill that allowed Counties to provide tax relief for volunteer responders – without providing any funding. Thus, each County had to decide if they chose to fund this initiative. Given the value and commitment of volunteer first responders in Adams County, the Commissioners determined that implementation of this program was very appropriate. It is hopefully another recruiting and retention tool for fire and EMS. The money will come from the County's General Fund. Qualifying volunteer responders will receive a \$250 tax credit. Qualifying hours will be tracked by the President or Chief of the organization with an approved formula for that department. The Adams County Board of Commissioners recognizes the significance, value, and commitment of our volunteer first responders and hopes this small gesture provides our volunteer responders both fiscal and personal recognition!

If you are involved in any phase of agriculture in Adams County, you understand how important the Adams County Conservation District is toward supporting this economic and preservation engine. To provide effective service to the ag and preservation community, it takes a committed Conservation District staff and Board of Directors. Fortunately, we have both. At the November 15th public meeting, upon the recommendation of Conservation Director Adam McClain, the Commissioners re-appointed two directors. Charles Bennet was re-appointed as Public Director. Carl Keller was re-appointed as Farmer Director. Carl currently serves as Board Chairman. Jim Martin was re-appointed as Commissioner Representative. Thank you to each of these individuals for their time and willingness to serve on the Adams County Conservation District Board!

The Adams County Treasurer's office is getting a new software program to improve the collection process for both the County and lodging facilities. Collection of the tax is very important for marketing and promotion of this critical Adams County economic engine. iGovServices will be pro-

viding the software and support in the amount of \$14,400. At the meeting Adams County Treasurer Crissy Redding recognized Deputy Treasurer Kierstyn Green for her efforts in researching and evaluating this product to enhance the hotel tax collection process!

Preserving our farmland is essential to retain our agricultural heritage. At a recent public meeting the Board approved two Ag Easements presented by Adams County Rural Resources Manager Ellen Dayhoff. One was the Bruce Pohlman & Son Hog Farm. It is an agricultural conservation easement consisting of 43.23 acres in Germany and Union Townships. The total cost was \$129,690.00, with the County share being \$12,969.00. The other ag easement was for the Arentz Family L.P. in Union Township. The total cost was \$240,000.00, with the County share being \$12,020.00. Thank you to Adams County Ag Land Preservation for their efforts in preserving our heritage agricultural lands!

The Adams County Community Foundation Giving Spree, reported at The Great Reveal on December 15, that a staggering \$3.1M was raised for over 100 Adams County non-profits. That total came from 10,695 gifts. The event started in 2011 with 65 donors and has

grown to be one of the largest per capita community giving events in the USA. The top 5 recipients were Adams County Historical Society \$583,209, SCCAP \$154,288, Shining Stars Therapeutic Riding \$127,697, YWCA \$114,103, Land Conservancy of Adams County \$100,354. Thank you, Adams County for understanding how important our non-profits are to the quality of life in Adams County!

Congratulations to all the candidates that were recently elected or re-elected to serve our community! The traditional Swearing in Ceremony took place on Friday, December 29th in the Historic Courtroom for any newly or re-elected that chose to participate. That includes Borough, Township, and County positions. Service in public office is an essential component of our democracy. A loud shout out to these public officials and their willingness to serve their community!

From the Adams County Board of Commissioners, Best Wishes for a Joyous Holiday, Happiness, and Good Health in the New Year! Remember, no matter what you do, get out there and experience all the historical, agricultural, recreational, natural, and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!

State News Briefs...

Deadline Nears for Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

Older adults and Pennsylvanians with disabilities have until Dec. 31 to apply for the state's 2022 Property Tax/Rent Rebate program. Remember, assistance through my office is always free. You need not pay a private firm for assistance. The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded. For additional information and applications, contact my office for assistance.

Making it Easier for Students of Military Families to Enroll in School

Military personnel and their families make great sacrifices to serve our Commonwealth and our country. I was honored to support a new state law that will help students in military families enroll in school. Every

year, an estimated 185,000 military students move between schools, and this change will make the move less stressful and more orderly for children and their parents. Under the prior law, students of military families who were transferring on official military permanent change-of-station orders were not eligible to register in classes, enroll in specialized

academic programs, or submit their children's names in lotteries for charter or magnet schools until they are physically located within the district boundaries.

The delay caused students to miss deadlines, requiring them to shift their planned courses of study and ultimately forced them to take summer classes or even graduate later than

expected. Act 24 of 2023 now allows families to establish residency for purposes of enrollment in the school district in which they will be residing by providing the school district with a copy of their military transfer order. This change will enable them to access registration and enrollment at the same time it is open to the general population.



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COMMENTARY

Words from Winterbilt

The New Year's predictions for 2024 are not normal

Shannon Bohrer

Every New Year we experience predictions for the coming year. While we have the normal and expected predictions from experts on politics, the weather, and economics, this year feels different.

Often, one could read the predictions for the last several years and it would be difficult to say which year each was made. This year is unlike recent years. We have the global warming issue with 2023 being the hottest year on record, at least until the end of 2024. The expectation from science experts is that we are fast running out of time to address the problem and extreme weather incidents will continue to increase in severity. Then, we have several armed conflicts in areas of the world that remind the experts of conditions not seen since the end of World War II. The war in Ukraine is being ignored because it has been relegated to second place, behind the Israel-Hamas war. We have been warned by experts that the Israel-Hamas war could expand. And if excessive heat and war are not enough, our divisive politics have created a possibility of ending our democracy. The signs for all these predictions are present - and growing.

The predictions of global warming have become more noticeable and prominent in recent years. While water, an abundance of and/or lack

(floods and draughts), has been a topic for years, groundwater, or drinking water, is often not mentioned. Yet our groundwater is in trouble. We are pumping out groundwater faster than the underground aquifers are being replenished. This is not just a water issue. When groundwater is not replaced, the ground can sink, and it often does. Damage to homes, roads and other infrastructure has occurred and is expected to get worse. According to one investigation, "the United States is depleting its invaluable reserves of ground water at a dangerous rate." Our vast aquifers are being depleted much faster than previously believed.

A recent article related to global warming was titled "Something Was Messing with Earth's Axis. The Answer Has to Do with Us." According to the article, our planet's rotation, or centerline, took a slight turn sometime in the early 2000s. The discovery was puzzling. Scientists knew the planet's rotational axis could move, yet the sudden move was unexpected. Researchers and real scientists eventually concluded that the "accelerated melting of the polar ice sheets and mountain glaciers had changed the way mass was distributed around the planet..." The loss of weight from ice and water affected the earth's rotation. The researchers also identified a related factor: "colossal quantities of water pumped out of the ground for crops and households" was

a contributing factor to the movement of the earth's axis.

While global warming is a worldwide threat, many do not see the worldwide threats with the war in Ukraine. Yet it does exist. The war in Ukraine began when Russia invaded a sovereign nation. Russia first invaded on February 20, 2016, and took Crimea. Russia had troops in Ukraine for eight years, and on February 24, 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion, expecting to take the entire country. Russia has been rebuffed by Ukrainian forces for almost two years. During that time, Russia has acquired weapons from North Korea and Iran and has made overtures for an alliance with China.

With the support of armaments from democratic Western nations, Ukraine has held off the invaders for almost two years. The fighting is, in essence, a proxy war between autocracies and democracies. We know from history and what Putin told us that if he succeeds in Ukraine, he will go further. It is a fact that many experts believed that the Ukraine war was, and still is, capable of expanding. So, how will the Ukrainian war end? Will the democracies and the West withdraw their support? Or will North Korea and Iran withdraw their support?

On October 7 of this year Hamas attacked Israel and another proxy war began. Israel has a right to defend itself, so they have attacked Hamas inside Palestine. The United States started by supporting Israel with weapons, while Iran is supporting Hamas. Again, democracy is against a theoretical fas-

cist type of government. The collateral damage to innocent Palestinians is reported daily and is changing the world narrative about the conflict.

Supporting Israel and Palestine should not be a binary choice. Both should be supported with the anger directed at Hamas, but that is not the direction of this war. While the Israelis are in Palestine, Hezbollah is attacking Israel's northern border. Hezbollah is also supported by Iran. As the middle east takes sides, similarities can be made with the Russian-Ukraine war. Some experts believe this war could quickly expand. Several neighboring countries, not favorable to Israel, have already been involved indirectly in the conflict.

Going back over one hundred years, on June 28, 1914, the Archduke of the Austro-Hungarian empire, Franz Ferdinand, was assassinated in Sarajevo. That one event started World War I "and ushered in decades of war and political upheaval throughout Europe and across the globe." When smaller nations go to war, and their larger neighbors come to their defense, we have more significant and sometimes greater wars.

Russia, North Korea, and Iran, along with their more significant partner, China, could present a danger that was last seen in both previous World Wars. The danger has increased as China's economy has slowed and as they make allies with our enemies. The world stage is like previous times in history when Kings, dictators, and fascists joined forces against democracies. We like to think a World War is impossible

but when right conditions exist, history can repeat itself.

The last prediction is that our 2024 presidential election has the probability of being our last democratic election. The presumptive leader of one party, our former president, has explicitly stated that he will use the justice department to arrest and incarcerate his political enemies. He is currently charged with trying to change the results of the previous presidential election. And while he is open about his intentions, even to suspend parts of our constitution, he enjoys overwhelming support from his party.

The former president berates anyone who disagrees or challenges him while praising Russian President Vladimir Putin, North Korean President Kim Jung Un, and China's President Xi Jinping. He has also praised other autocrats while disparaging our allies from other democracies. When praising the autocrats, he talks about the absolute control they seem to have, obviously something he desires.

There is no absolute guarantee that any of these predictions will come to fruition, but the probability exists. Furthermore, the probability of a world war would increase if our former president were re-elected. The dictators and autocrats of the world would like to see our democracy fail. Democracy is their enemy, and without us as a leader of their opposition, they see a green light to do as they wish.

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

The Triad

Biden should cave on immigration

Jonathan Last

Joe Biden and Democrats want to pass a bill funding \$110 billion in aid to Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan.

Republicans are refusing to pass any bill to give aid to Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan.

Why? Republicans are holding this aid hostage and will not release it unless Democrats give them what they want on immigration.

It's a complicated situation, because House Republicans have one set of immigration demands while Republicans in the Senate refuse to say what their demands are. And also you are dealing with a bunch of nihilists who have sacrificed every foreign policy principle they claimed to uphold for the past half century to keep a racist game show host happy. We will explore these complications in a minute.

But let's start with the conclusion: Biden and the Democrats should cave. They should give Republicans (almost) whatever they want.

Trigger warning: You're not going to like this.

Start with two moral truths: It is obscene that Republicans are holding hostage military aid for an ally that is engaged in a shooting war. This is not normal and it is not the behavior of a healthy political party.

Also, even if you take Republicans on their own terms and assume that they are attempting to trade horses—they're playing dirty pool. Last week

Senate Democrats offered Republicans a zero-conditions amendment to the military aid bill. This means that Republicans were free to make any ask they wanted on immigration.

The Republicans refused the opportunity. As my colleague Joe Perticone noted, Schumer offered Republicans a zero-conditions amendment to the bill to allow for a vote on whatever immigration or border enforcement policy they wanted. "This is a golden opportunity for Republicans to present whatever border policy they want, and our side will not interfere with the construction of that amendment in any way," Schumer said during his floor remarks on Wednesday. Unfortunately, this grand gesture to the minority didn't change the outcome of the vote on the supplement. It only served as one more reminder of the current reality: that Republicans are not acting in good faith.

So we'll start our conversation with those two stipulations plus one other piece of received wisdom: You're not supposed to negotiate with hostage-takers.

That said, there are two compelling real-world reasons and four political reasons Biden and the Democrats should give in to Republicans here.

First, the real-world reasons:

1. Ukraine- Immigration. The war in Europe is more important than domestic immigration policy.

The war is a finite event, the results of which will influence global economics and security for years and decades to come. Depending on the outcome, NATO will either congeal or fracture. Peace and security in

Europe will either stabilize or destabilize. China will either be deterred or encouraged in its quest to subjugate Taiwan. And the economic and military consequences of these ripples will have large-scale effects on Americans.

Immigration, on the other hand, is a perennial challenge for America, as it is for all economically vibrant countries. Even if we "solved" immigration tomorrow, we'd have to re-solve it again next year and the year after.

Net-net, America is better off if Ukraine wins the war, even at the cost of suboptimal immigration policies.

2. Immigration does need reform. Huge sections of the system are broken, the humanitarian crisis at the border is real, and there are some areas where Democrats and Republicans have similar views of which reforms are needed. If those shared reforms can be put into practice, even at the cost of also putting in place some reforms Democrats do not favor, that's moving the ball forward.

The stuff Democrats don't like can always be undone later and the stuff that there's agreement on can stay in place.

And here are the political reasons:

1. Biden can paint Republicans as anti-Ukraine even after he cuts a deal. He can say that Republicans didn't want to fund Ukraine (which is popular) and so he had to take action to make sure they didn't hand Putin a victory.

2. A deal makes Republicans co-owners of the border. For Republicans, immigration is like *Roe v. Wade*:

It's not an issue they want to solve, it's a political club they want to wield.

Did you know that a few hours after his inauguration on January 20, 2021, Joe Biden submitted a comprehensive immigration plan to Congress? Republicans didn't even deign to respond because they need immigration to be a problem.

But now Republicans have engaged on the issue at the policy level. Biden should use this opportunity to pin them down to concrete asks and then meet them.

If he does that, then anything that happens with immigration between now and next November belongs to both Biden and the MAGAs.

3. A deal shores up Biden on immigration with swing voters. Immigration is a high-salience issue with voters and large majorities disapprove of Biden's immigration policies. So he should make a change and use the Ukraine hostage-taking as cover for butchering up.

4. Reinforce the larger 2024 narrative as a choice between governing, or chaos. Biden isn't going to win 2024 on the strength of his economy.² He's going to have to disqualify Trump and make 2024 a contest between a workhorse who gets bipartisan compromises done and a chaos agent who burns everything down.

Cutting a deal on immigration in order to get aid to Ukraine is two-fer. It lets Biden say (a) "I'm the guy who gets business done by doing bipartisan compromise," but also (b) "If you don't like this deal, Democratic voters, then we have to win back the House."

How to Cut a Deal

There are two options. The first is simply to adopt the House GOP's HR 2. But that's probably not possible. HR 2 has some truly objectionable planks. But the bigger problem is that it's a massive bill and this sheer size makes it too big to live.

The second option is to pull out pieces of HR 2 and offer them to Republicans as a grand border security plan. Here are some components of HR 2 which might fit such a bill:

- Asylum Reform (Section 101)
- Border Wall Construction (Section 102)
- Employment Eligibility Verification (Section 801)

That's a simple, easy-to-understand, Republican-friendly plan. Change asylum procedures, build more barriers, and enforce existing employment eligibility regulations. Biden gets to take credit for them with the majority of voters who will like them. He also gets to share the blame with Republicans for anyone who is still unhappy about immigration.

And it gives him Ukraine aid, which is still a majority-popular position.

Also: Since the Ukraine money is an installment and more will be needed later, some of the immigration concessions (e.g., remain in Mexico, expulsion authority) can be temporary so that Biden can repeat/extend the bargain later if necessary.

Just say yes.

To read other articles by Jonathan Last visit www.thebulwark.com.

The Liberal Patriot

What it will take to make America great

John Judis & Ruy Teixeira

In our column last month ‘Where Have All the Democrats Gone?’ we suggested how some progressives and moderates could find “common ground,” but we did not advocate including the views of today’s “cultural radicals” in that synthesis. There are good kinds of radicalism and bad kinds.

Here were some of the examples:

Immigration: Many left-wing Democrats have advocated radical policies that would increase illegal immigration or even erase the distinction between legal and illegal immigration. These include opening America’s borders, decriminalizing illegal immigration, abolishing the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, and opposing employer verification of hires’ legal status. But besides the emigres themselves, the main beneficiaries of these policies are employers who seek cheap, docile workers. In the last half century, the huge influx of legal and illegal unskilled and low-skilled immigrants has held down the wages and thwarted unionization among native workers. This influx has had a particularly harmful effect on first generation legal migrants and African Americans with only a high school education—precisely the people that the radical left claims to champion.

Crime: In the name of racial justice, radicals have proposed defunding the police, reducing or even eliminating penalties for crimes for which African Americans are disproportionately

arrested, and even abolishing prisons. The principal beneficiaries of these proposals are the criminals themselves. Those who suffer most from them are the residents of poorer neighborhoods who in the last three years have endured gang violence and a wave of homicides and carjackings, and who also suffer when drugstores and convenience stores close down because the police, hobbled by rules set by radical district attorneys and by a lack of personnel, cannot stem shoplifting. Again, those who suffer most are precisely the people the radicals claim to champion.

Gender and sex: Radicals have insisted that a man who identifies as a woman is a woman and is entitled to the same rights that the women’s movement won for women over the last half-century. These include being able to compete as a woman in highly competitive college sports, to which young women thronged after the passage of Title IX. They reject the right of the state and federal government to regulate the use of experimental drugs and surgery on minors, even while calling for state governments to ban any approach other than “gender-affirming” therapy. The beneficiaries of this new politics of gender are a tiny minority of activists who, like those in the anti-vaccine movement, want to subject biological science to a political ideology.

Race and reparations: Radicals have argued that “structural racism” pervades American institutions and needs to be addressed by taxpayer-funded reparations to black Americans. But reparations are generally justified in situations where the victimizers (or their immediate

descendants) reimburse the victims (or their immediate descendants) for the ills they have inflicted on them. The radical demand for reparations fails on both counts. About 70 percent of Americans cannot trace their ancestry back to the period when blacks were enslaved, and 22 percent of Americans today even can’t trace their ancestry back to the Jim Crow South, which was dealt a fatal blow by the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights and 1965 Voting Rights acts. First generation immigrants, barely able to support their families in low-wage service jobs, would have to fund payments to middle- and upper middle-class blacks. That would be unfair and very unpopular.

Climate change: Radicals advocate ending fossil fuel use in the United States by 2030 and soon afterwards internationally. They reject new investments in fossil fuels, including natural gas, and they exclude nuclear energy as an alternative to fossil fuels. They want Biden to “declare a climate emergency.” Their rhetoric is apocalyptic and invites its opposite—the denial of any danger from global warming. And their objectives cannot be realized without utterly transforming everyday life and shutting down vast swathes of industrial production. Contrary to the claims of the Green New Deal, many jobs would disappear, and Americans’ standard of living would sharply decline. In fact, the radicals’ projections are based on fantasy not fact.

In each of these cases, radicals are responding to real problems. There are as many as 12 million illegal immigrants in the United States who constitute an exploitable underclass. There have been egregious examples in the last decade of police brutality against blacks, highlighted by George Floyd’s

murder in 2020. Many black Americans remained mired in multi-generational poverty. There has been a rash of mental illness among young people, including teenage girls who have suddenly decided that they want to change their sex. And the danger posed by climate change is quite real. But radicals’ response to these problems either makes them worse or discredits any constructive attempt to address them. In each of these cases, the radical approach can’t be accommodated and should be rejected.

Crime: Instead of defunding the police, lavishly fund the police—to attract new hires to staff under-policed areas, and to train new hires to weed out the Derek Chauvins and to prevent the unjustifiable use of force.

Immigration: Provide a path to citizenship for those illegal immigrants who have come to America to find work, but at the same time take draconian measures to discourage new waves of illegal immigration. These include requiring employers to verify that new hires are in the country legally, strengthening border security, eliminating asylum application as a means of evading legal immigration, and working with Mexico and Central American countries to crack down on smugglers.

Race and reparations: Pay less attention to the growing black middle class and more attention to pockets of multi-generational poverty and hopelessness that endure in big cities and also in small towns. In the last three decades many working-class whites in middle America have suffered a similar fate when factories have moved out or mines have closed. Politically and substantively, the best approach is to fund jobs and social services in all the communities that have suffered from deindustrialization.

Sex and gender: Aggressively enforce the court’s Bostock decision that bans employers from discriminating against transgender individuals. Add a ban on housing discrimination. But don’t undermine rights that were specifically designed to help women or to protect people’s privacy. Encourage the use of therapy and regulate as an experimental treatment the use of medical intervention for minors who are uncomfortable with their biological sex.

Climate change: Take a long view of the transition away from fossil fuels. Use natural gas, with its lower carbon emissions, as a transition fuel. Shift the funding focus to nuclear technology, while deregulating its use, and fund research into new mini-reactors and into technologies that capture carbon.

We were not predicting the future of America nor offering a guidebook by which parties could win elections, but based on polling we think a majority of Americans who currently oppose radical measures would support these kinds of reforms.

As things stand, the two parties are on a political teeter-totter. Elections have frequently been decided based on which party’s radical extremes are more salient. In 2022, Democrats won seats when voters were focused on Republican denial of abortion rights and denial of the results of the 2020 presidential election; Republicans won when voters turned their attention to Democratic groups’ support for open borders or defund the police.

We are not proposing a middle-ground between these radical extremes, but a politics that leaves them entirely aside and focuses on what most Americans really care about.

To read other articles from *The Liberal Patriot* visit www.liberalpatriot.com.

Good Day, Neighbor

Healthcare

Dorothea Mordan

We’ve done it again. Open season on healthcare—choosing a plan, believing we have power over our health.

Our American history of health insurance has great impact on our current healthcare accessibility. Through the 1950s and 1960s, health insurance evolved into an institution unto itself with the advance of “Employee Benefits”. As the national corporate structure grew, paying employees with “benefits” became an indispensable part of business costs. Benefits are business expenses which are not taxable in the same way as a paycheck. Corporations save money on benefits, so they give generously.

Corporate employees are not everyone, in any country. America has lots of self employed people and lots of employees whose employers find ways to give them just enough paid hours to benefit the business. But not enough to require the business to offer benefits—in this way, health insurance is not available for everyone who works and participates in our society.

Health insurance companies, driven by cost calculations, decide how, where and when a policy holder can get med-

ical care. Such companies are making medical decisions based on economic evidence. Whatever the relationship between costs and statistics of the efficacy of various medical treatments, an insurance company is effectively practicing medicine without a license.

For years the Democrats in Congress have focused on healthcare. The goal is to pull the resources already in healthcare into a connected system that provides care to all Americans. They came up with, and delivered, the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Our country is too big to create or dismantle a national system for everyone everywhere. The ACA was developed and put in place to start filling those gaps in access to medical care.

The ACA works. A person I know, has medications that, in the mysterious retail ways of pharmaceutical companies, is billed at \$500,000.00 annually. A healthcare policy under the ACA insures that it is fully covered. The operative word—*insures*. The Affordable Care Act fulfills its mandate; it insures that medical care will not bankrupt a family.

The system is convoluted, and can be confusing even to the tech savvy shopper on any State healthcare and insurance portal. But it is a system in place, which can be simplified or expanded using the tools in place. The Biden Administration has lowered costs of

commonly used life saving medications such as insulin. Thanks to Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act the new price cap for insulin is \$35.00 a month. Controlling prices and mandating access to medical care have, at minimum, two benefits. Healthcare that won’t bankrupt us. Healthcare that we control for ourselves, with our doctor.

Republicans in Congress have repeatedly stated that the ACA is bad. It’s not clear why, but it is clear that they have provided no alternative plan.

Once having a bit of power, Republicans had a ready answer to the question “how will you govern?”

The GOP answer is to solemnly proceed to practice medicine without a license. Requiring doctors to follow legislative directions on how to practice medicine. Requiring doctors to stop any treatment to save a woman’s life unless they can prove the need to a bunch of people with an unknown understanding of human reproductive conditions. This is as illogical as it is deadly.

The US Constitution’s stated purpose is individual liberty. From our Declaration of Independence,

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Around our country the Republican party is supporting elected legislators who pass, or try to pass, laws concerning an individual person’s body. None of these can be constitutional. To be enforced, every one of them, by definition, has to go through an individual person’s body and their “unalienable rights”. To be enacted, every one of such laws were vetted based on a religious perspective rather than a scientific, medical one.

The First Amendment of the US Constitution states,

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof”.

Simply believing one has the right to make laws based on religious beliefs does not make it so. Blessed be the posse of bright young attorneys that takes these details to the Supreme Court.

The answer to solving health issues, dangers of pregnancy, gender questions, et. al. is healthcare. A woman with good medical care that will not bankrupt her or her family can make sound, even righteous, decisions with her doctor. A family with good medical care, that will not bankrupt them, can get medical and mental healthcare for family members with gender dysphoria. A responsible government provides the tools for individuals and families to live their lives independently.

Yet the GOP, as a group, practices medicine without a license, and brings no answer to healthcare. The last Republican administration reduced the annual sign up period for choosing a policy. They made it harder to get health insurance if you are self employed, or need a subsidy for the monthly premium. The GOP made it harder if you are a small independent business. They are now making it harder to be an independent person.

A government’s purpose is to protect the citizens. The military protects from enemies, medical care protects from loss of life at any stage, affordable housing and jobs that pay a living wage protect from poverty.

Do we have power over our health? Yes we do, in many ways, whether preventative by clean living, or repair work with sophisticated medical intervention. Policies put in place by Democrats, sometimes with bipartisan agreement, focus on our core belief in the self determination of the individual, with the economic support of government.

Democratic policies set the goal of protecting the whole United States Constitution, the protection of individual citizens and their property rights.

This is the year of the vote. Please make it count.

To read past editions of *Good Day Neighbor* visit the *Authors* section of Emmitsburg.net.

THE PASTOR'S DESK

The Feast of Epiphany

Fr. Timothy Barkley
St. James the Apostle
Orthodox Church

In the West, January 6 is celebrated as the Feast of Epiphany, commemorating the homage that the Persian sages (the “three wise men”) paid the Son of God. Guided by an angel, as the Church has always taught, these seekers of truth worshipped the Truth who was also the Way and the Life, and offered to him gifts worthy of a king. The Way, the Truth, and the Life revealed himself, through his angelic messenger, to those who diligently sought him out, whether from among his ancestral people, the Jews, or any of those who bore his image.

In the East, January 6 is celebrated as the Feast of Theophany, the baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan. Jesus lived quietly in his home in Galilee until he reached his thirtieth year. Then, impelled by his divine will submitted to the will of his Father, to initiate his mission to the world he had created, he walked to the Jordan and asked his cousin John for baptism.

John demurred: “I need to be baptized by you, and are you coming to me?” Jesus replied, “Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” And as Jesus was coming up out of the water, the Spirit in the form of a dove alighted on him, and the voice of the Father proclaimed from heaven, “This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.”

John, who had known Jesus from his mother Elizabeth’s womb, having recognized Jesus “in the Spirit” when he drew near in the womb of Mary, now iden-

tified him from the descent of the Holy Spirit at Jesus’s baptism: “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ... he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and testify that this is the Son of God.’”

Upon the descent of the Spirit in the form of a dove and the voice of the Father from heaven, the long-awaited revelation of the trinitarian nature of God was made manifest. The Jews had long pondered the number of persons who comprised the monotheistic godhead. Some said two (after all, Genesis 1:26 reads, “let us make man in our image” and Genesis 19:24 reads, “the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah from the Lord out of heaven”), some hinted at maybe even three (in Isaiah 6:3, the Seraphim chant “Holy, Holy, Holy”), but the revelation of New Covenant between God and the chosen people identified three: the Son who was baptized, the Father who spoke, and the Spirit who alighted.

In Jesus’s baptism, the earth was sanctified; by the descent into the water of the one who needed no purification, indeed, of the One who was the source of all purity and holiness, the waters were purified and thereby the very stuff of the earth was made a source of sanctification. Matter can be holy and a source of holiness because the Holy God entered into it, both by his incarnation and his baptism, and thus transformed it. Matter is no longer merely matter; it is the stuff of God’s self-revelation. This is the source of the

Christian understanding of “holy water” and other sanctified things: the matter of which they are made was sanctified by God in Jesus.

This is also the underpinning of Christian ecological and environmental action: God, who created and loves the earth and everything in and on it, made it holy. We must respect, even revere, the earth and all it contains, as sons of the God who sanctified it.

After Jesus sanctified the creation and was definitively revealed as the Son of God, a member of the trinitarian Godhead, he addressed the author of the dementedness of the creation, caused by sin. He was “led by the Spirit into the wilderness” to confront the devil. Having fasted forty days and forty nights, he was tempted first with what was apparently the simplest of things: “If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

Jesus, who had created the world ex nihilo and was soon to feed five thousand families with five loaves of ordinary bread, did not lack the power. But the devil wasn’t appealing to his hunger; he was trying use the hunger of the fasting-weakened human nature of Jesus to allure Jesus into exercising that power at his own whim, not in concord with the other members of the Trinity. Jesus refuted the devil and refused to do anything that he did not see his Father doing. By refusing to sate his legitimate, physical, human hunger outside the will of God, He subjected – and made is possible for us by grace to subject – even the most elemental parts of our human nature to the divine nature that we receive by grace at our baptism.

Jesus was likewise tempted with prestige and with power, and each



time refused to pander to the passions – those disordered elements of our being – and allow his human nature to act outside the divine will. We likewise, by grace, by receiving the divine life at our baptism when we are resurrected with Jesus, are able to subject our human nature to the divine nature given us by God, and can thereby live as “little Christs” (which is what “Christian” means).

Returning from the wilderness temptation, Jesus proclaimed, “Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand.” His declaration was in a recognized genre of his day: a herald would ride into a town, and declare that a new king had come, by treaty or conquest; and then would explicate the laws of the new kingdom and the blessings that would be realized by following those laws ... and the consequences of resistance or rebellion.

Jesus proclaimed that there was a new king – the True God – and his kingdom was imminent. The new laws were proclaimed: “blessed are the poor in spirit ... love one another ... forgive ... do not judge.” But this king isn’t

seeking earthly subjects; he offered to adopt those who accepted his call, to make them members of the family, inheritors with Jesus. And more: when we enter into the adoption of the New Covenant in a ceremony called “baptism,” we don’t just get a new name, we receive an infusion of new life. This new life isn’t just to make us better people. It’s to enable us to be perfect, as he is perfect, if we choose to be perfect.

The new life isn’t foisted on us; it’s for us to choose or refuse. But the choice has unending consequences. If we choose to allow the new life of our adopted family to grow in us by continually participating in God’s effulgence of life, the outpouring of the energies and life of the Trinity, we will continue to participate in the Trinitarian life beyond this life, ever growing in perfection, satiety and desire. If we refuse to allow the divine life to enter our own life, or if we stifle the life we have received at our baptism, if we turn from God to our own designs and desires, then beyond this life we will continually suffer the ever-growing deadness and despair of those who have despised the life, goodness and love offered by the God who is love, gnawing ourselves in futility and emptiness, unable to die but unable to live.

The choice is ours. God has come to us and continually comes to us and pours out his energy toward all. How we respond is entirely up to us. Choose you this day ...

St. James the Apostle Orthodox Church of Taneytown is a congregation of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. We are the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Christian Church whose roots trace directly back to first century Antioch, the city in which the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called “Christians” (Acts 11:26). The Orthodox Church is the oldest and second largest Christian group in the world. We are called by God our creator to worship and follow Him, and to proclaim to the world His message of love, peace, and salvation.

To learn more about St. James Orthodox Church in Taneytown, call them at 443-821-7246, visit them on-line at www.stjamesorthodoxchurch.org, or better yet, join them for Sunday service at 30 York St., Taneytown.

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THE BOOK OF DAYS

Unlucky Days



of the month of December. He who on these three days reduces blood, be it of man, be it of beast, this we have heard say, that speedily on the first or seventh day, his life he will end. Or if his life be longer, so that he come not to the seventh day, or if he drink some time in these three days, he will end his life; and he that tastes of goose-flesh, within forty days' space his life he will end.'

Astrologers say that six days of the year are perilous of death; and therefore they forbid men to let blood on them, or take any drink; that is to say, January 3rd, July 1st, October 2nd, the last of April, August 1st, the last day going out of December. These six days with great diligence ought to be kept, but namely [mainly?] the latter three, for all the veins are then full. For then, whether man or beast be knit in them within 7 days, or certainly within 14 days, he shall die. And if they take any drinks within 15 days, they shall die; and if they eat any goose in these 3 days, within 40 days they shall die; and if any child be born in these 3 latter days, they shall die a wicked death. Astrologers say that in the beginning of March, the seventh night, or the fourteenth day, let the blood of the right arm; and iii the beginning of April, the 11th day, of the left arm; and in the end of May, 3rd or 5th (lay, on whether arm thou wilt; and thus, of all the year, thou shalt orderly be kept from the fever, the falling gout, the sister gout, and loss of thy sight.'

In a comparatively modern manuscript of the time of Henry VI, one page is filled with the following, of which we modernise the spelling:

These underwritten be the perilous day's, for to take any sickness in, or to be hurt in, or to be wedded in, or to take any journey upon, or to begin any work on, that he would well speed. The number of these days be in the year 32; they be these:

- In January there be 7: 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 10th, and 15th.
- In February be 3: 6th, 7th, and 18th.

- In March be 3: 1st, 6th, and 8th.
- In April be 2: 6th and 11th.
- In May be 3: 5th, 6th, and 7th.
- In June be 2: 7th and 15th.
- In July be 2: 5th and 19th.
- In August be 2: 15th and 19th.
- In September be 2: 6th and 7th.
- In October is 1: 6th.
- In November be 2: 15th and 16th.
- In December be 3: 15th, 16th, and 17th

After the Reformation, the old evil days appear to have abated much of the ancient malevolent influences, and to have left behind them only a general superstition against fishermen setting out to fish, or seamen to take a voyage, or landsmen a journey, or domestic servants to enter on a new place—on a Friday. In many country districts, especially in the north of England, no weddings take place on Friday, from this cause.

January 22 Seventh Sons And Their Seventh Sons

There has been a strong favour for the number Seven, from a remote period in the world's history. It is, of course, easy to see in what way the Mosaic narrative gave sanctity to this number in connection with the days of the week, and led to usages which influence the social life of all the countries of Europe. But a sort of mystical goodness or power has attached itself to the number in many other ways.

Seven wise men, seven champions of Christendom, seven sleepers, seven-league boots, seven churches, seven ages of man, seven hills, seven senses, seven planets, seven metals, seven sisters, seven stars, seven wonders of the world, —all have had their day of favour; albeit that the number has been awkwardly interfered with by modern discoveries concerning metals, planets, stars, and wonders of the world. articles

Added to the above list is the group of Seven Sons, especially in relation to the youngest or seventh of the seven; and more especially still if this person happen to be the seventh son of a seventh

son. It is now, perhaps, impossible to discover in what country, or at what time, the notion originated; but a notion there certainly is, chiefly in provincial districts, that a seventh son has something peculiar about him.

For the most part, the imputed peculiarity is a healing power, a faculty of curing diseases by the touch, or by some other means.

The instances of this belief are numerous enough. There is a rare pamphlet called the Quack Doctor's Speech, published in the time of Charles II. The reckless Earl of Rochester delivered this speech on one occasion, when dressed in character, and mounted on a stage as a charlatan. The speech, amid much that suited that licentious age, but would be frowned down by modern society, contained an enumeration of the doctor's wonderful qualities, among which was that of being a 'seventh son of a seventh son,' and therefore clever as a curer of bodily ills. The matter is only mentioned as affording a sort of proof of the existence of a certain popular belief.

In Ireland, the seventh son of a seventh son is believed to possess prophetic as well as healing power. A few years ago, a Dublin shopkeeper, finding his errand-boy to be generally very dilatory in his duties, inquired into the cause, and found that, the boy being a seventh son of a seventh son, his services were often in requisition among the poorer neighbours, in a way that brought in a good many pieces of silver.

In Scotland, the spae wife, or fortune-teller, frequently announces herself as the seventh daughter of a seventh daughter, to enhance her claims to prophetic power. Even so late as 1851, an inscription was seen on a window in Plymouth, denoting that a certain doctress was 'the third seventh daughter,'—which the world was probably intended to interpret as the seventh daughter of the seventh daughter of a seventh daughter.

To read other selections from Robert Chamber's 1864 *The Book of Days* visit www.thebookofdays.com.

January 2
That peculiar phase of superstition, which has regard to lucky or unlucky, good or evil days, is to be found in all ages and climes, wherever the mystery-man of a tribe, or the sacerdotal caste of a nation, has acquired rule or authority over the minds of the people.

All over the East, among the populations of antiquity, are to be found traces of this almost universal worship of luck. It is one form of that culture of the beneficent and the maleficent principles, which marks the belief in good and evil, as an antagonistic duality of gods. From ancient Egypt the evil or unlucky days have received the name of 'Egyptian days.' Nor is it only in pagan, but in Christian times, that this superstition has held its potent sway. No season of year, no month, no week, is

free from those untoward days on which it is dangerous, if not fatal, to begin any enterprise, work, or travel.

They begin with New-Year's Day, and they only end with the last day of December. Passing over the heathen augurs, who predicted fortunate days for sacrifice or trade, wedding or war, let us see what our Anglo-Saxon forefathers believed in this matter of days.

A Saxon manuscript gives the following account of these days - "Three days there are in the year, which we call Egyptian days; that is, in our language, dangerous days, on any occasion whatever, to the blood of man or beast. In the month which we call April, the last Monday; and then is the second, at the coming in of the month we call August; then is the third, which is the first Monday of the going out





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ECOLOGY

Winter in the woods

Anne Gageby
Director of Environmental Education
Strawberry Hill Foundation

Childhood environmental education is framed by rules – bears hibernate, deciduous trees lose their leaves in the fall but conifer trees remain green year-round, and a winter forest is dull and lifeless. While often based in some degree of truth, as we grow up, we discover that there are exceptions to every rule.

I've written before about the rebellious beech tree, a marcescent deciduous tree that holds onto its leaves until the bitter end. Or at least until the wind and storms tear them off the branches. On the other hand, the tamarack is a conifer that drops its needles every fall, often making the tree appear shockingly dead mid-winter, a stark contrast to evergreen pines and Norway spruces.

As children are exposed to environmental education, these rules help the world make sense. After all, the forest can feel immense and wild. It's human nature to break difficult topics into bite-sized pieces that are easy to understand and remember. But as we dive deeper into the truth of how the world works, we find more and more exceptions to these "rules".

We also learn that rules aren't as simple as they seem. Let's take the common question: Do bears hibernate? What should be a simple "yes" or "no" answer is anything but. The question of whether bears

hibernate depends on who you ask and what their definition of hibernation is. If we frame hibernation only in terms of body temperature reduction, bears aren't considered true hibernators. By this definition, amphibians are considered true hibernators as their body temperatures drop to near freezing.

Framed another way, true hibernators are vertebrates that spend extended periods of time with near-freezing body temperatures. And yet chipmunks, who drop their body temperature to near freezing, wake up periodically to eliminate body wastes and eat. They accomplish this by raising their core temperature, going about their business, and then dropping their temperature again to freezing. It's a fascinating cycle they experience throughout the long winter months.

To add to this confusion, some people break down the concept of winter dormancy even further by whether or not an animal is warm-blooded or cold-blooded. Hibernation as a concept is usually applied to warm-blooded animals because their dormancy is generally agreed to be voluntary. Brumation, on the other hand, is a dormancy in which amphibians' and reptiles' metabolisms decrease but the drop is involuntary and caused by changes in outside temperatures. Torpor is yet another kind of dormancy in which animals' core temperatures only drop slightly as they experience the winter slow-down.



Many people mistakenly believe that winter forests are lifeless. A short hike along Strawberry Hill's trails shows how lively a forest can be even in the deepest parts of winter.

All of this back-and-forth over definitions brings us to the last "rule" mentioned above: that winter forests are lifeless. A short hike along Strawberry Hill's trails shows how lively a Pennsylvania forest can be even in the deepest parts of winter. Goldfinches, black-capped chickadees, blue jays, downy and red-bellied woodpeckers, northern cardinals, and white-breasted nuthatches are just some of the birds you'll likely spot during a winter stroll. The same goes for squirrels, the rambunctious tree-dwellers who make a lot of noise as they chase back and forth amongst the branches. It's hard to imagine a livelier group of creatures at any time of year. Larger animals such as deer, bobcat, coyote, foxes, weasels, and owls are around and leave evidence of their activity throughout the forest. Even bears, those loveable but hotly debated hibernators, can be active if the days are warm enough.

The trick to seeing the forest as alive is to know what to look for. Venturing outside in winter can feel daunting, especially if you're unsure of what to expect or where to go. Added to this is the inescapable fact that the forest can be incredibly silent, especially right after a snowstorm. Snow absorbs sound and many creatures are dormant or laying low in one capacity or another, even the larger animals. Without grazing deer, snakes sunning themselves, and insects flitting around, the woods can feel eerily still. Or, as some would argue, lifeless. And yet the reality is the forest is anything but lifeless.

It's one thing to say the forest is alive and active in winter but it's another to see it for yourself. Join us for a hike and let our Naturalists show you. We have several guided hikes going on in January that will show you a new side to the forest. On Wednesday, January

17th, join in the fun as we tackle the Foothills Trails. This trail covers about four and a half miles of wilderness not regularly explored. We'll cross Swamp Creek and even climb over some downed trees so be prepared to experience the forest in an entirely new way. This free hike starts at 10am and will likely last until 2pm.

If an evening hike is more your speed, join us on Saturday, January 20th from 7-8pm for our Owl Prowl as we venture into the night in search of native owls. We'll discover what makes an owl an excellent hunter and learn how to spot evidence of an owl's presence even in the dark of night. We discuss which species of owls live in and which visit our beautiful Pennsylvania woods. There will be free hot chocolate and a presentation before a short hike around campus. The Owl Prowl is \$10 per participant and sure to be a good time for friends of all ages.

And of course, what is a winter hike without folktales? On Thursday, January 25th, we will venture into our beloved Pennsylvania woods under the full Wolf Moon and hear brand new stories from the forest including the Legend of Wolf and Sycamore. Discover the history of real wolves which once inhabited our forests. Explore how human fear and misunderstanding shaped our beliefs and hunting practices and led to the elimination of wild wolves in our state. The Wolf Moon guided hike will start at 7pm, last about 90 minutes, and will cover about two miles. This hike \$10 per person.

Winter has settled in and made herself at home. But that doesn't mean the forest is entirely asleep. Join us for a hike and let's bust these myths and reset the rules about how the world works.

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Great (Horned) Owl or the Greatest?

Tim Iverson, Naturalist

Part of the mission of the Scales & Tales program from Maryland Park Service is to provide enriching programs that educate people on the tales of each and every animal in their care. People have the opportunity to visit any of the six aviaries in the state, but you can also pay to have the animals come to you! There are various interpretive programs to choose from or you can choose a “Wildlife on Display” format. Recently a Naturalist at Cunningham Falls was telling me a story about a 13 or 14 year old girl he met while doing a display at Hagerstown Community College this past spring. One of the birds on display at this event was the Great Horned Owl, and this youngster sure knew her stuff! Upon seeing the bird she exclaimed “Oh, I know why they’re called Great Horned Owls. Horned: because the feather tufts on their heads look like horns. Owls: because they are owls – duh! And great: because... well they do a lot of stuff really well.” And in a nutshell I don’t think I could explain it better in three sentences myself.

Great Horned Owls are the most common owl in the Americas. They are distributed all over the continent from coast to coast, and from the arctic down through Central America. They are also found in many parts of South America, as well. These habitat generalists can be found nearly anywhere potential food can be found – which is anywhere! Rarely do they make their own nests, and instead improvise. They are known to make home sweet home of abandoned nests of other birds. However, more frequently they will roost in tree cavities, stumps, and caves. For this reason they are found in less urban areas.

These birds are the second heaviest owl in North America, second to the Snowy Owl. The Great Horned Owl weighs in at an average of 2 – 4 lbs, or about as much as a phone book. They measure up to about 1.5 – 2 feet and have a wingspan of 3 – 5 feet. That may not seem like much, but they pack a serious punch. It’s said that pound for pound they are some of the fiercest predators around because they can kill prey much larger than itself. Usually, their

diet consists of rodents (mice, rats, voles, squirrels, etc.), rabbits and hares, smaller birds and owls, reptiles, amphibians, pets (yes, cats and dogs), and the list goes on! They are known to go after much larger prey too! Small fawns and alligators have been documented prey, but they must be eaten where killed because they’re too large to drag away. However, the most interesting, and one of their favorite meals, is the skunk. Yep, you read right – the skunk. Most birds, with the exception of the vulture, have no sense of smell so this defense does little on behalf of Pepé Le Pew. Between 6 and 12 hours after prey is consumed Great Horned Owls produce what is referred to as an “owl pellet”. These pellets, which are about 3 – 4 inches long and about an inch wide, are a pill shaped regurgitation of the leftovers they couldn’t digest. These pellets are made up of fur and bones.

These raptors are quite impressive hunters. Their talons are razor sharp and they are capable of squeezing their feet with up to 200 – 300 pounds per square inch. The Great Horned Owl hunts by perching high up and pouncing on prey. Gifted with incredibly acute vision owls can see well at night. Believe it or not their eyes are almost as large as a human’s, and take up a majority of space in the skull. Proportionally speaking if a human’s eyes were similarly sized we would have eyes the size of soft balls! With eyes that big it leaves little room for much else, including muscles to make them move. Because of this the Great Horned Owl must turn its head to see. The neck has 14 vertebrae, twice as many as a human, which allows them to rotate 270 degrees around. The only thing that rivals their sight is their hearing. The ears are slightly offset from one another, the right being positioned slightly higher on the head. This may seem strange, but provides for exceptionally finely tuned hearing. This allows for both depth perception and elevation perception. By turning their heads so both ears are evenly aligned at a sound the owl can pinpoint the exact location of a noise.

Imagine you’re a hungry Great Horned Owl and chasing down prey on a dark moonless night.

You’re going in for the catch when you snag your wing on something, a large wire from a power line! You plummet out of the sky and descend helplessly to the ground. This injury is life shattering, because as a bird a broken wing can end it all. Imagine another scenario, an all too common tale among raptors. You are perched aloft in a tree sitting by a road. You’re patiently waiting for dinner to present itself, and it does! First, you hear some rustling. You scan the ground to find a mouse rummaging around in a paper bag scattered on the edge of a road. You sense the moment is right and swoop down for easy pickings. Then just when you swoop across the asphalt a pair of headlights come careening at you. These stories are all too common among raptors, and the true tales of many of the birds housed at aviaries at parks across the state.

The aviary at Cunningham Falls is home to two Great Horned Owls, one male and the other a female. Both of these raptors, along with all the others housed there, are non-releasable due to permanent injury. The male can no longer fly because of a torn tendon in his wing caused by flying into a power line. The female was struck by a car and as a result had one wing amputated. These owls and the other raptors that call home to the aviary at Cunningham Falls State Park are all available to be adopted, and the proceeds from these adop-



The great horned owl, also known as the tiger owl, or the hoot owl, is a large owl native to the Americas. It is an extremely adaptable bird with a vast range and is the most widely distributed true owl in the Americas.

tions goes directly back into funding programs, health needs, any materials needed, and more! Once the Manor Area reopens fly on by the aviary to check out

these masters of the night sky, and the other raptors!

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

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SCIENCE MATTERS

Sex ratios and scientific research

Boyce Rensberger

Science makes progress not by proving that theories are true but by testing them rigorously and being unable to prove them false. That's a crucial distinction to keep in mind when evaluating the claims and counterclaims that are hurled about so often on almost any issue.

An honest scientist, as I've written before, will almost always say a new discovery is "probably" true. A phony will usually make claims as if there could be no doubt in the world.

There are very few things in cutting-edge science that can be stated honestly with absolute certainty. I'm making a distinction here between textbook science (the established findings we were taught in school) and cutting-edge science (the ongoing research that scientists are doing now).

The closest that researchers usually get is to express a high degree of confidence that something is true. But they can reach that level of confidence only after rigorously testing the hypothesis. Or if experiments are not possible, as in astronomy, confidence comes only after repeated observations that point to the same conclusion.

Let's study this issue with a deceptively simple example. Let's say that you, as the scientist, would like to know the chances that any given birth will produce a boy or a girl.

You could simply observe your own family. You might record that it has two girls and one boy. If you're comfortable with that size of sample, your observation might lead you to propose a hypothesis that nature has a mechanism that dictates that twice as many girls are born as boys. That's fine. It's a perfectly valid hypothesis, based on) real-world observation, though extremely limited.

Should you believe it? Not yet. If you want to reduce your chance of being fooled, you should first follow the standard scientific approach and test your hypothesis.

How? One simple method is to make many observations and examine them as a group.

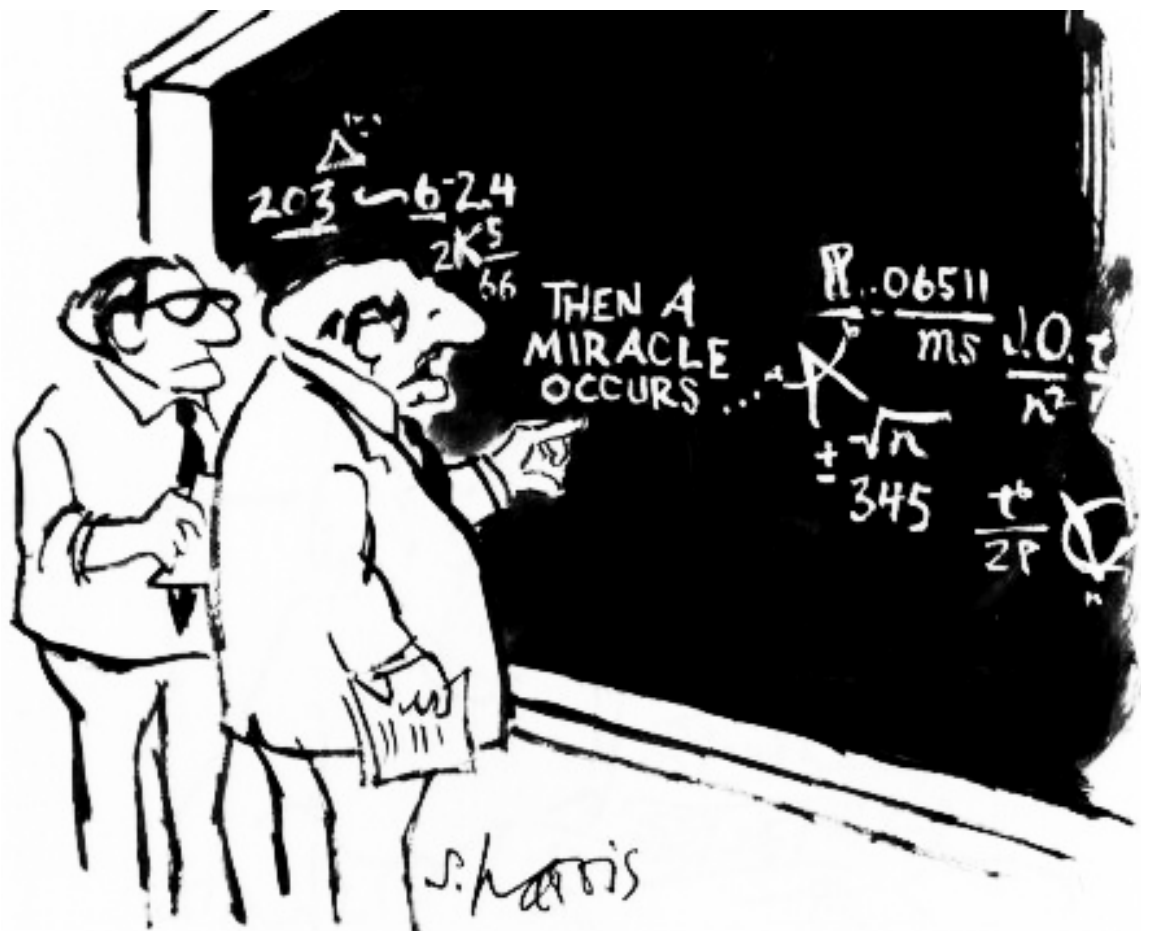
So, you look at another family and find that it has three boys. The third family has one boy and one girl. Gradually, as you widen your sample, you find the boy-girl ratio approaches 50-50. Then, a strange thing starts to happen—once your sample reaches a certain number of families, the ratio never again varies much. You may feel satisfied that you have looked far enough.

Now you have produced what seems to be a piece of scientific information—the chances of any birth producing a boy are about 50 percent, and the same goes for girls. If you are satisfied with your data, you are entitled to take the next step and ask why the sexes should be evenly matched.

The usual practice in science when faced with a "why" question is to think up a "because" statement. You can search your memory for something that you already know. Or you can make up something. It's okay; scientists make up explanations all the time. That's what a hypothesis is. Scientists just try not to believe them without testing them.

So, you might hypothesize that the sexes are equally matched because everybody needs somebody to love, and a 50-50 ratio makes this possible.

This is the kind of hypothesis that was popular among the ancient Greeks. Objects fell downward, Aristotle taught, because the ground was their rightful place. Since ancient times, science has developed a rather different approach -- testing and careful observation.



"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."

In the 1930s, the late philosopher Karl Popper recognized this tradition in science, analyzed its logic and named it "critical rationalism." Popper formalized the idea that a hypothesis can only be proven wrong, never proven right. Therefore, one of the rules of the scientific method is that the only good hypothesis is one that can, in fact, be tested. Our "somebody to love" hypothesis doesn't seem very testable.

Because textbook science tells us about sex chromosomes, a hypothesis for our birth-ratio research project might be as follows: "The sexes are equally matched because parents can bequeath only one of two combinations of sex-determining chromosomes—XX or XY. And the odds that an embryo gets one or the other must necessarily be 50-50." (I'm glossing over the fact that in very rare cases, malfunctions of the chromosome-sorting mechanism inside cells can produce individuals with XYY, XXY and other combinations.)

We might imagine testing this by looking at other species with the same chromosome situation

to see whether they produce half males and half females.

Let's say it is a year or so later and that we have had a wonderful time on our field trips checking up on the sex ratios of lions and larks, termites and tuna. And we have looked up the reports of other scientists who have studied sex ratios in other species. We would find that not all are 50-50. Some are, but others are not. Our hypothesis needs work. It isn't as simple as we thought. We can't count on the Nobel this year.

In the meantime, one of our graduate students has been examining official records of human births and deaths and has made a surprising finding. If you look at the number of each sex at each age of life--and this is genuine information--the ratios change over time. Among newborns, there are more boys than girls. But male babies are more likely to die than female babies.

As we move through older age groups, at each age more males die than females. The ratio is close to 50-50 during the reproductive years. And among the oldest

people, of course, there are many more women than men. This gives us one scientific conclusion: females really are the stronger sex.

This deeper analysis of the data has revealed a phenomenon far more profound than it seemed at the outset. We can now refine our hypothesis: "Nature has somehow arranged things so that the number of males who die before the age of parenthood is exactly offset by the larger number of males conceived and born in the first place."

So, the "somebody to love" hypothesis was not so far off. And rigorous testing of our hypotheses has led us to a far more complex problem. The arithmetic of sex-determining chromosomes would seem to dictate a 50-50 ratio. The fact that nature doesn't work that way shows that a more subtle phenomenon must be at work.

We need another grant.

Boyce Rensberger retired to New Midway after more than 40 years as a science writer and editor, mostly for The New York Times and The Washington Post. Write him at boycerensberger@gmail.com.

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THE VILLAGE IDIOT

2025 Emmitsburg

Jack Deatherage

It's been a few years since I sat in the newly finished basement cafeteria of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Whitehall, Columbus Ohio contemplating the year 2000 and the mystery meat we'd been served for lunch that day. My math skills at the beginning of the second grade weren't impressive and sixty-three years later they are even less so. However, after much debate among the second graders around me we eventually determined we'd all be in our forties come the year 2000. Forty was an unimaginable age. Our parents, as old and incomprehensible as they were were not yet forty!

While I'd been hauled across the country and back, lived in Florida and in or near Emmitsburg a couple of times, about one square mile of Whitehall was my world in autumn of 1960. What friends I had lived within two mud-ball throws of our house. School and church were slightly more than half a mile from our door. A public library was even closer and much more interesting than either the church or school. The supermarket was half mile in the opposite direction. Mason Run was a couple of blocks south of us. We played in that water (Flat Run looks like a river in comparison) as often as we could. Time passed, as did I, somehow.

I was two months into learning to hate the French- the Sisters at Holy Spirit Elementary School were evidently a French order. I was struggling to learn English when the abdominal French language was crammed down on me. President Kennedy was assassinated and Dad retired from the USAF. We celebrated Christmas at my Grandfather Cool's outside of Emmitsburg and moved across the state line to begin 1964 half way between Emmitsburg and Fairfield. Come 1968 we were back in Maryland, a mile east of town. Eleven years later I found myself alone, living in a town I barely understood.

What was in Emmitsburg of interest to twenty-five year old me?

Some of Dad and Mom's clans lived in town. Mom's church was in town. There was the little factory on the edge of town that employed me. A library I hadn't set foot in in a decade, a supermarket, a bar I frequented and several liquor stores I patronized.

Town was a place I visited- to see relatives, to buy food, to get drunk and stagger home to the grain fields

and woodlots, the lowing of cows. To Middle Creek, whose water I beat with line and lure. The soaring hawks hunting the same rabbits, doves, quail and pheasants I hunted. Depression waited for me in Emmitsburg- it wrapped me tightly for years. My role models were the town drunks and brain damaged drug users- most all of them some years in the cold, cold ground now. Some of them are probably missed by family, some are likely forgotten, except by me.

Reading a Washington Post article (1981) about Emmitsburg I realize I only recognize one family name among those people working for the town or holding elected office at that time. That's how out of touch with the community of Emmitsburg I was in those days. However, a cousin on Mom's side of the family is quoted-

"This is really a unique little town. Its character hasn't changed in my lifetime," said Phil Topper, vice president and branch manager of the Farmers and Mechanics National Bank and an Emmitsburg native. "The town just isn't ready for any major changes. For some reason, if anything destroys their peaceful way of life, they really resist it."

Since I moved into Emmitsburg the town has changed, drastically. Nearly all my drinking companions, those who had lived all their lives in Emmitsburg, have long since moved away. As their parents aged out, the old home places were sold, often to out-of-towners who in turn have been renting to other out-of-towners (often university students). The mom & pop shops that I used to patronize are gone. (I recently listed 51 businesses in, or close by Emmitsburg that ceased to exist since Dad moved us to this area in 1964.)

There are new neighborhoods I've not bothered to explore. Some residents in one of those neighborhoods told me they've never bothered to explore the rest of the town. I'd not be surprised if all the developments have similar residents- people who eat and sleep here, but don't see the town as their community.

I doubt a current high schooler could say, "To hell with this," and find a job after dropping out. That was not uncommon when I was in school. There used to be businesses in town, including nearby farms, that could accommodate those of us who weren't suited for education much beyond middle school.



Jack and 'Tattoo Don' have put a lot of thought into their New Year's Eve attire.

If there are any such places left I'm unaware of them.

Probably the most startling example of how things have changed in Emmitsburg is me- a one time candidate for the title of "Town Drunk" and the current "Village Idiot" of record. Prior to commissioner elect Buckman being sworn in as commissioner, I believe 2016, my rare encounters with select members of the town staff and/or the elect generally left me cursing the rudeness and incompetence I unexpectedly encountered. At Ms Buckman's request I attended her swearing in ceremony- the first of many town meetings I've attended.

Afterward, I began wandering into meetings- Citizens Advisory Committee, the Green Team, Parks

and Recreation Committee, the Planning Commission where the head of that commission asked me if I was lost, and possibly a Board of Appeals meeting. Evidently no one without business before these committees and commissions ever bothered to attend them. Staff and some of the commissioners began asking me to volunteer to sit on various committees and commissions. A prospect that horrified me. Ninety-nine percent of what they talk about at those meetings doesn't even connect to anything I understand.

No longer able to waste away in a bar, or walk to waters I can thrash with a fly line, I kept lumbering into town meetings until one of them struck a chord- the first 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update workshop.

For the love of this town's children. For the sake of those who've bought homes here and plan to stay past retirement. For those thinking of moving or working here, I implore you- make time to attend the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update workshops. At the very least fill out the surveys on the town's official website and email, snail mail your thoughts, wants and desires for this place's future to the town office!

The last person this town needs making suggestions for the town's future is me!

I'm still trying to figure out what that mystery meat might have been.

To read past editions of *The Village Idiot*, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

THE MASTER GARDENER

Feeding the birds during the cold months to come

Mary Ann Ryan
Adams County Master Gardener

Understanding and educating folks on the benefits of planting properly and environmentally friendly maintenance practices can go a long way for our feathered friends.

Watching birds in the winter is enjoyable and fun to do. During the dreary days, we can lift our spirits by watching the little creatures flitting around the feeders and seed heads of perennials, and in and out of evergreen trees and shrubs. Our feeders are outside our family room windows, and I can watch the activity for quite a long time as the birds visit different feeders.

Many types of birds visit in any given period of time. Red-bellied and downy woodpeckers, chickadees, juncos, white-throated sparrows, house finches, cardinals and tufted titmice grace us with their presence. An assortment of feeders and feed will attract a larger variety of our flying friends.

Plant Life: When planning for winter visitors, plant things that have seed heads that can remain through the winter months. Common perennials such as black-eyed susans, coneflowers, and asters will provide seeds. Evergreen shrubs and trees, like inkberry holly, American holly and white pines will provide shelter for the birds. Deciduous shrubs like viburnums, winterberry holly and sumac provide berries. Allow old, dead trees to remain standing if safety to any buildings is not an issue. These will provide nesting holes in the summer, but also the woodpeckers and other birds like blue jays love to use the trees to break open seeds and nuts.

Take advantage of the winter months to plan for a bird habitat. Research the sizes of shrubs and trees; study the best locations to plant bird attracting shrubs, trees and perennials. Understand and see the beauty of a less than tidy garden, as the dead stems and thick brush are the reason bird activity will happen in any given area. Keep in mind the visibility of the feeders from inside your house so you can properly locate the plants for your view of the bird activity.

Supplemental Food: We can supplement this natural food

source by providing additional seed through bird feeders. Many styles of feeders are available, from tubes and platforms to nets and hoppers. The more variety of feeders you provide, the more variety of visitors you will have. Tube feeders typically attract finches, while the platform feeders will attract larger birds like cardinals and blue jays and the netting can be filled with suet for the woodpeckers.

Probably the most versatile feeder is the hopper. At our hopper, one located on our deck the other outside the kitchen window for easy view, we have finches, juncos, titmice and chickadees visiting daily. We keep it full of black oil sunflower seed. Another feeder that we use is a suet feeder. This feeder allows the birds to feed on the underside as the holes are below the suet cake. Mostly woodpeckers hang out at this feeder, literally. It's really enjoyable to watch them!

We also have a net that we fill with suet or a peanut butter mixture that includes sunflower seeds. This attracts the woodpeckers, but we get flickers and jays flitting around as well. A piece of a wooden post with holes that we spread the peanut butter/sunflower mixture provides cardinals and blue jays as well as finches and titmice a feast to partake. Gold finches love the tube feeders. The gold finches will feed upside down, making this an interesting watch.

Just as there is a variety of feeders, so goes the types of feed. Millet, sunflowers, corn and peanut butter can all be a food source for birds. The most versatile seed is the black oil sunflower seed. This seed can be mixed with peanut butter and put into the suet feeders, and it can be used in hoppers as well as platform feeders for the cardinals, chickadees and titmice.

The least useful type of feed is millet. Typically when buying a bird feed mix, the millet is what the birds will scratch to the ground and discard. It's mostly just a filler to add weight for the bag. Niger (thistle seed) is used in the tube feeders for the finches. These are tiny seeds and are typically on the pricier side, but the finches just love it!

A winter tradition in our family is to smear peanut butter onto



Watching birds in the winter is enjoyable and fun to do. During the dreary days, we can lift our spirits by watching the little creatures flitting around the feeders and seed heads of perennials, and in and out of evergreen trees and shrubs. I can watch the activity for quite a long time as the birds visit different feeders.

pinecones and hang them on the trees. We also use orange and apple slices, string them together and have an outdoor tree for the birds! Even at 26 and 22, our daughters still enjoy this winter tradition.

Feeder Location: When locating the feeders, whatever type you choose, remember one important element: shelter. The birds need to feel protected and have a quick get-away from any potential hunters, like hawks and cats. Be sure to locate the feeders near evergreen trees or near brush or plants that they can quickly fly to when danger is in their midst. Our feeder on our deck has evergreen trees to one side and a dense, deciduous tree to the other. This allows them cover from potential predators.

Water: For best bird activity and bird health, not only should you provide a food source (whether with plants or store-bought bird feed) and shelter, but you should also provide water. A heated bird-bath can provide that. There are many types of bird baths and heaters on the market. Small fish ponds, or just a clean dish of shallow water set out each morning can provide this source of water as well.

I remember, not long ago, thinking that bird watching was for the "older generation". In the early days of dating my husband, I can remember visiting him in San Francisco. At the time, he was working with the US Dept.

of Interior, researching waterfowl in the bay area. As an avid bird watcher in his mid-20s, the first place we went after he picked me up at the airport was some place in this marshy area looking for a black rail. All these birders, with their scopes, binoculars, and other gear that I didn't understand, were just waiting for this little bird to "flush" out of the grasses. I thought they were all crazy, including my then boyfriend. (I suppose that should have been my first clue...)

But now, in my early fifties, I, too, find this a hobby worth the time. Maybe I'm now a part of that "older generation" I not so long ago deemed worthy of bird-watching. Look into acquiring field guides to help you identify the birds visiting your feeders in the winter. Some guides you may want to look at are Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America and Sibley Guide to Birds. A website to check out is the Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds (www.allaboutbirds.org).

My guess is, when spring comes, you'll be more aware of the bird activity around you and utilizing a guide even more frequently than you have during the winter. Enjoy the quiet of the winter and the flurry of bird activity. When we get "snowed-in" again this winter season, remember to take the time to relax and watch the birds. Enjoy the relaxation now, because spring is just around the corner!

Using fireplace ashes in your garden

Since Roman times, wood ash has been recognized as a useful amendment to the soil. In fact, North America exported wood ash to Britain in the 18th century as a fertilizer, and today, 80 per-cent of the ash produced commercially in the Northeastern United States is applied to the land.

Wood stoves and fireplaces are great for warming gardeners' chilly hands and feet. So, what can we do with the ashes? Since wood ash is derived from plant material, it contains most of the 13 essential nutrients the soil must have for good plant growth and health.

When wood burns, nitrogen and sulfur are lost as gases, and calcium, potassium, magnesium and trace element compounds remain. The remaining carbonates and oxides are valuable liming agents, raising pH, thus neutralizing acid soils. Soils that are acid and low in potassium benefit from wood ash. However, acid-loving plants such as blueberries, cranberries, rhododendrons and azaleas would not do well at all with an application of wood ash.

Wood ash has a very fine particle size, so it reacts rapidly and completely in the soil. Although small amounts of nutrients are applied with wood ash, the main effect is that it is a liming agent. The average ash is equivalent to a 0-1-3 (N-P-K). The chemical makeup varies with the type of wood burned. Hardwoods produce three times as much ash per cord as do softwoods.

Calcium and potassium are both essential to plant growth. Calcium is needed for root development, strong cell walls and protein formation in the

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THE MASTER GARDENER

plant. Potassium is an important catalyst in photosynthesis and is essential for the movement of sugars, seed formation, protein synthesis and the use of nitrogen in plants.

Wood ash should never be applied to areas where potatoes will be planted as ash can promote potato scab. For most garden soil, 20 pounds (about a 5-gallon pail) per 1,000 square feet can be applied safely each year. That equals about 6 pounds of ground limestone applied to the same area.

The best time to apply wood ash is in the spring when the soil is dry and before tilling. In compost piles wood ash can be used to maintain a neutral condition, the best environment for microorganisms to break down organic materials. Sprinkle ash on each layer of compost. This is especially good if you have oak leaves or pine needles in your compost heap.

Wood ash can be used to repel insects, slugs and snails because it draws water out of these invertebrates. Sprinkle ash around the base of your plants to discourage surface-feeding insects. Once ash gets wet, it loses its deterring properties. Too much ash can increase pH or accumulate high levels of salts that can be harmful to some plants, so use ashes carefully.

Ash should be stored in a metal container with a secure lid. This helps prevent accidental fires from live coals and prevents water from flowing through the ash and leaching out the nutrients before the materials are applied to the soil.

Caution should be used when handling wood ash:

Protect yourself as you would if you were handling household bleach or any other strong alkaline material. Wear eye protection, gloves and a dust mask.

Do not use ash from burning trash, cardboard; coal or pressure-treated, painted or stained wood. These materials contain potentially harmful chemicals. The glue in cardboard contains boron, an element that can inhibit plant growth if applied in excess.

Do not scatter ashes during windy periods.

Do not mix ash with nitrogen fertilizer as ammonium sulfate or ammonium nitrates or urea. These fertilizers lose their nitrogen as ammonia gas when mixed with high pH materials such as wood ash. For a lawn, wait at least a month after wood ash is applied before putting down a nitrogen fertilizer to allow for the soil to reduce the alkalinity of the wood ash.

Never leave wood ash in lumps or piles. Concentrated piles of wood ash causes excessive salt build-up in the soil through leaching and can create a harmful environment for plants.

I hope this information will help you and others with wood ash this winter. Cozy up to the fireplace all you gardeners, keep warm, enjoy the time of rest from your labors and read those seed catalogs.

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

Small Town Gardener

No winter whining—five reasons why you need to garden anyway

Marianne Willburn

One of the things that makes a strong impression on me when I am visiting nurseries in South Florida in January, is the fact that they don't get a true winter rest from the breakneck business of growing things.

Our cold climate may nip at the heels a bit, and make all manner of merry hell with the plumbing, and heating, and sense of humor systems that keep us alive and sane over the months that would happily kill us; but it also gives gardeners an armor-clad, spouse-deflecting reason to call it quits and get to guilt-free terms with an armchair and a seed catalog. It's just too damned cold out there.

Yes, but no.

Here's five reasons why you might want to set the catalogs next to the bed instead of the armchair, wrap up warm, and add some outside tasks to your winter daytime routine – even if it looks like nighttime most of the time out there.

Health - Movement is critical to good health, and most of us don't get enough of it – or Vitamin D – during the warm season, much less the colder season. Letting your joints seize up and your muscles atrophy over what amounts to at least five months of hibernation, will not only contribute to other health conditions, but make it harder to get back into the swing of things when the daffodils start blooming and everything kicks off.

Self-Defense - If you're a gardener-gardener and not simply a consumer-gardener, you know that the garden is made up of more than hydrangeas

and easy solutions. It's also fueled by a relentless growing season that thinks up five tasks for every one you accomplish.

Taking care of many of these tasks in the colder months when the landscape can't fight back is crucial to staying on top of the workload in the growing season. Pruning, brush and vine clearing, and the beheading of annual cool-season weeds are three of the biggest bang-for-buck jobs you can do over the next few months.

Organization - Who on earth has time to sort pots, sort seeds, sort tools, etc... during planting and panting season, aside from the over-achievers we all secretly dislike? Now is the time to Marie Kondo your outside world.

Whether it's the little tool box and stack of pots you have sitting on your balcony, or the full-on nightmare that awaits you in the garage, putting your garden house in order helps you breathe when there is not a breath to be had in spring.

Skill Building - Learning how to be a winter gardener with a winter garden is something easily dismissible by those who don't do it. I know, I was one of them for a long time. It's far easier to say "I don't do a winter garden," than to look outside and see twenty pathetic Tête-à-tête daffodils poking their heads above an arctic tundra and making the entire scene more pitiable than it already is.

Yet, the winter garden is a completely different animal to the spring or summer garden, and should be designed to exemplify the moments of exquisite beauty present in the colder months, not to re-create something that cannot be re-created.

Creating a striking framework that supports those poor early bulbs with colorful bark, evergreen foliage and the frosted beauty of

the previous season, is an enormous skill and one that continually builds upon the successes of the previous year. It takes time, trial and error, and new ways of thinking about garden design to accomplish it, but it makes you a better gardener generally.

With thought and effort, those twenty doleful and disembodied Tête-à-têtes become two hundred little flames interspersed with the fresh blossoms of hellebores under a canopy of red winterberries. And one year, standing with flushed, rosy cheeks and a broad smile across your face, you have a rapturous moment where you realize you've broken the back of it.

And then it's game on.

Connection - Modern life is a life characterized by disconnection. We mark our seasons by Hallmark holidays and rarely come face to face with how our food was sowed, grown, stored, distributed, sold -- and increasingly -- cooked. A thermostat sorts out our heat, a tap provides water. We buy lilies in December, eat apples in June, and power plants keep the lights on and phones in hands until the wee small hours. Who needs valerian root when you've got Unisom?

And yet we are a species that has spent the great majority of our evolutionary process deeply immersed in, and affected by, the rhythm of the planet's heartbeat.

Though we might not recognize it, the loss of connection to, and responsibility for, our basic needs and the needs of our community makes us consumers chasing money for commodities, not producers creating those commodities. This has the subtle effect of making us feel less in control of our own destinies – less purposeful.

In this place, winter is a wasteland – something to be painfully endured on those cold mornings 'twixt car and front door. But when we use those months to tend, to move, to grow, to produce, and above all, to observe, we can endure it with purpose – gently reconnected in a small, but substantive way to the Earth and her seasons.

All that blather to say: Get out there. You'll be happier. You'll feel better. And before you are ready for it, spring will appear and greet you like an old friend, not a new one.

Marianne is the author of Big Dreams, Small Garden. You can read more at www.smalltowngardener.com.

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The Word did not become a philosophy, a theory, or a concept to be discussed, debated, or pondered. The Word became a person to be followed, enjoyed and loved!



The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory. John 1:14

Christmas Blessings to all and a Happy & Prosperous New Year!

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THE BEST NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION EVER ...

Love is a gift

Jennifer Vanderau
Cumberland Valley
Animal Shelter

He never realized how quickly life could change. Was it really only last night that he slept in bed beside Mom?

Now, he's just really confused. The humans are talking, using words like car accident and drunk driver and he doesn't get it. He remembers the people in the house from the times they came for the holidays, but he's not sure why they're here now and Mom's not.

There are arguments. About who will take him. About where he'll go. He figures when Mom comes back, she'll explain that he's not going anywhere without her. They're inseparable, you see, he and his mom.

They go for walks together, she takes him to the dog park, she kisses his nose every night and says "sleep tight, sweet boy." They wake up snuggled together and she says she doesn't know what she'd do without him.

It's not until he's in a kennel at the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter that he realizes he might have to figure out what he will do without her.

The nights are kind of scary. It's quiet, but easy to sense the fear in the shelter. He knows he's not the only one who doesn't want to be here. There's so much sadness here.

He misses his mama something awful – the smell of her perfume, the soft touches she always gave him, the kind words and tone she would use when she spoke to him.

It's not that the people at the shelter aren't nice – quite the contrary – it's just he really believed he'd found his soulmate with his mom and now she's gone and he just wants her back.

He would trade everything he knows just to get her back.

His days become pretty routine – wake up when staff arrives, eat his breakfast, take a walk with the staff members, say hello to some people in the public and go to bed when the lights go out.

It's a random Tuesday when he sees him. A gentleman alone, and there's something about him, a spark that says they understand each other, that they're both looking to fill an empty place. The man takes him for a walk and it's really nice, makes his heart flutter in a way it hasn't since his mama went away.

Something pangs when the gentleman leaves, a feeling that he really wants to go with him – that he should go with him, that they belong together. He's kind of amazed when he finds out he filled out papers to adopt him and takes him home a few days later.

His new home is nice – he gets lots of attention and a warm place

to sleep and after a while, when he settles in, he really thinks that he could be happy here.

He still loves his mama and misses her sometimes, but his new dad is so nice and he's grateful that he got a second chance.

Sometimes, when he's in his bed late at night, he'll think to himself, "goodnight, mama, wherever you are" and he's sure – really deep down in his bones certain – that he'll see her again and they'll be together.

His first mama will always have a special place in his heart, but until the time when he can be by her side again, he's going to kiss and play with and adore his new Dad and feel really lucky that he got to be loved, really loved and cared for, by so many people in this lifetime.

A few years ago we had a dog come into the shelter because his mom had been killed in a car accident. You could tell every day he spent in the shelter he was grieving. He just seemed sad, but he was quiet and dignified in his mourning.

The sweet boy eventually got adopted by a single gentleman who just fell in love with him. He waited through two other applicants to get him – the pup just didn't work out for the other two.

If ever there was a meant-to-be tale, this fits the bill.

It's a story that hopefully reminds us all to be grateful for what we have when we have it – because it could be taken away so easily. Love is a gift, always – and is never wasted or ever truly gone.

Those seem like fitting words to begin 2024.

Kiss your pets, tell your family you love them and look for the good.

Happy New Year.

Jennifer Vanderau is the Publications and Promotions Consultant for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter and can be reached at 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. CVAS also operates a thrift store in Chambersburg. Help support the animals at the shelter by donating to or shopping at the store.



Misfit came into the shelter as a stray and she seems to have had a rough life in her 1 year on the planet. She has some areas on her fur where it appears that someone may have singed her with something hot. While we do not know for sure what had happened to her, we know that despite what she has been through in life, Misfit is still a sweet girl who is very trusting of people. She loves attention and would love to find her loving forever home soon. Can you help her?



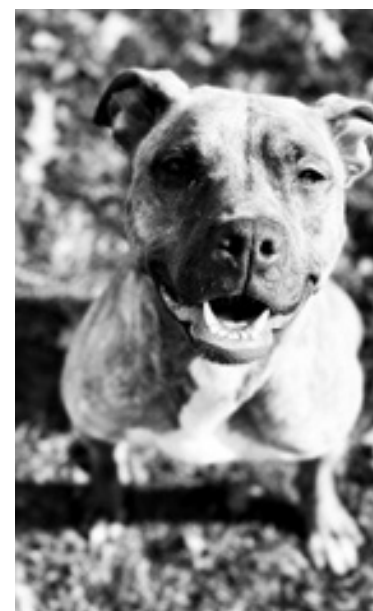
If you are looking for a feline hugger, Eddard is your guy! He is the biggest cuddle bug and he loves to hold his paws on either side of you and give you kisses! Eddard is 3 years old and has struggled with stress-related diarrhea here at the shelter. He is currently on a special diet and is doing well on it – he may no longer need a special diet when he finds a home. He loves people so much he just can't stand being in a cage. Could you help him out?



Brutus came into the shelter as a stray and we've found him to be quite active. We think he's around 2 years old and is a terrier mix. He loves to play and run in the yard at the shelter. Brutus knows sit and shake. He loves attention, but he can be hand shy at times. He also chases cats, so a home without a feline would be best for him. Due to no past history and his energy level, an age restriction for children in the home may apply, so please discuss this with shelter staff. Do you have the right spot for Brutus?



Koda was surrendered to the shelter when his owner could no longer care for him. He is a 1-year-old terrier mix who can be a little shy when he first meets new people. Once he's comfortable with you, Koda is such a sweetheart. He loves to go out to the play yard and run! He did live with other dogs, but he will have to meet any dogs that reside in his potential adoptive home to be sure they are compatible. Per his previous owner Koda does chase cats so a home without cats would be best. Do you have the right spot for Koda?



Meg arrived at the shelter very emaciated and had to be fed small amounts of food throughout the day. Meg did test positive for Lyme Disease and because she showed symptoms was started on a round of antibiotics which she has taken like a champ! During her vet exam it was found that her right hind leg at the knee is thickened possibly due to a very old and now healed, ACL injury which does cause a hop to her step every now and then, but it does not slow her down! Please discuss this with shelter staff. Could Meg be your new best four-legged friend?

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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


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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown



For more information about Misfit, Eddard, Brutus, Koda, or Meg call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 717-263-5791, or visit them online at www.cvaspets.org or better yet, visit them in person at the shelter.

...A HOME FOR A SHELTER PET

Evan

Shawn Snyder
Frederick County Animal Shelter

Two hundred and seventy-eight days and counting, that's how long Evan has been a resident of Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center. While it can be a bit sad to think that for the last eight months he's watched as many other dogs walked past him, out of the kennel and into new forever homes, there is one benefit to being a long-term resident. The longer an animal is at FCAC the more we know about them. Since March of 2023 FCAC staff and volunteers have seen Evan transform from a nervous guy who struggled with kennel life to a goofy and playful dog with an infectious smile. Each day we gain more knowledge that will help us place him with just the right family. Could that family be you?

At six-years-old Evan is considered a

senior at FCAC, but don't be fooled by his age and slightly greying muzzle. He's just as energetic as his much younger counterparts. He can hike for miles taking in all the smells and occasionally wading through local creeks. He loves zooming around in our various play areas both indoor and out. And when he gets ahold of a toy, particularly a stuffedie, his eyes light up. I hope you don't mind a bit of fluff in your house because we're pretty sure Evan holds the record for fastest destruction of a squeaky toy.

Toys are Evan's favorite thing and while he'll play with a variety of them, stuffed things that squeak are number one in his heart. When Evan first arrived at the shelter, we quickly noticed that he destroyed toys. Even though that's a perfectly normal dog behavior we stopped giving them to him in the kennel for safety reasons. Shortly after that we noticed the early signs of resource guarding when it came to those items. To help resolve

that issue, we began providing the toy-loving terrier mix with his favorites in a supervised setting. We also began behavior modification work which includes protocols such as "I Come in Peace" and "Trade." In the months since those things and more have been implemented, Evan is less protective of his toys and has even begun choosing food and affection over playtime.

Speaking of affection, this little goofball loves a belly rub. You'll often see him flop down on the floor and start wiggling when he sees his favorite people so he can get all the love. And although he is a highly active dog, he's capable of cuddling up next to you for quiet and relaxed petting sessions too.

When he comes to training, Evan is a great student. He's very treat-motivated and for the most part takes food gently. He really likes chicken, cheese and peanut butter, but will eat just about anything. He has already mastered "sit," "trade," and "find it." He

has great name recognition and pretty good recall when using his name. He walks fairly nicely on leash too. He seems to enjoy training and right now staff working with him on mastering "down" and "touch."

While Evan is loved by FCAC staff and volunteers, we understand that he's not the right dog for everyone. Here are some things to consider before making Evan part of your family. Since Evan is obsessed with stuffed toys, he's better suited for households with older children. Older kids tend to have less toys that Evan would confuse with his own and can better understand not to take things away from him.

Because Evan really doesn't love sharing his toys and has proven to be dog selective, he'd be best suited to be the only dog in the home. He might be able to have some doggie friends but those introductions should be done slowly and properly. Cats and other small critters are also a no go



for this guy. He's a tenacious terrier and while predatory behaviors are perfectly natural, it's not ok to treat other pets like stuffies.

If you think this fun-loving guy might be the dog for you and you want to show off his superior ability to catch treats in the air to all your family and friends this holiday season, call 301-600-1546 to learn more about adoptable Evan.

Previously Owned Brooke

Linda Shea
Frederick County Animal Shelter

Brooke was adopted from the Frederick County Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center when she was a kitten. Now, three years later, her family is moving and Brooke is back on our adoption floor. We understand that Brooke's return is not her fault. However, deciding what to do with Brooke provides an opportunity to explain how we decide what to do with the over eight hundred previously owned animals we have taken in since January 1.

Our shelter is open admis-

sion, meaning we take in any domestic animal that needs us from Frederick County. We only take in animals from within the county because we are 100% tax dollar funded. Whether an animal is brought in by a stranger, an owner, or an Animal Control Officer, we begin evaluating that animal immediately. Our evaluation is to determine the best pathway, or outcome, for each animal. Depending on the specifics of each animal intake, our pathway options include adoption, foster care (typically reserved for sick or underage pets), rescue of exot-

ics or animals with special needs, return-to-owner for stray pets, and euthanasia as a last resort.

We make decisions based on firsthand, objective observations. We evaluate the medical and behavioral history of the pet if available, and overall temperament and health. Realistically, it is difficult to place previously owned animals that have a history of housetraining or litterbox issues, animals that have high dollar medical conditions that require ongoing management through medication and vet bills, or those that don't do well with other ani-

mals or strangers. To a new shelter resident, even the most compassionate handler is a stranger. Some owners relinquishing pets offer up recommendations on rehoming their pet, such as mandating the pet go to a family with no other animals or where they will have a yard to play in. However, those types of stipulations and restrictions don't guarantee success and can even reduce an animal's adoptability. We strive to provide potential adopters animals that are safe, social, and stable.

We take our decision-making process seriously, understanding that the community relies on our years of experience and expertise



in all things animal. Brooke is just one of our pets that comes with years of experience herself, and deserving of a second chance with a new owner.

Unintended Consequences

Linda Shea
Frederick County Animal Shelter

Julio is a stray that was brought in by a citizen who found him on Harp Hill Rd. in Myersville. We scanned Julio for a microchip, but he did not have one. We checked reports of lost animals, but there was no match. Since we did not know his background, we provided preventative vaccines. The protocols we have in place ensure proper care for animals in our shelter.

In addition to our Animal Shelter side that provides care for stray and owner-relinquished pets, the Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center also provides Animal Control services for the entire county. Periodically, we engage with citizens who are unaware of the Codes and Ordinances related to pet ownership,

and the fees associated with providing services that keep our community safe. Here are just a few of the basics:

Rabies vaccination—The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.06.02 dictates the rules on Rabies. In the state of Maryland, all dogs, cats and ferrets must be vaccinated by the time that animal is 4 months old. Rabies vaccines must be boosted every 1-3 years, established by your veterinarian.

Pet Licensing—Frederick County Codes §1-5-33 and §1-5-34 reiterate the requirement of a current Rabies vaccine for pets, and state that all dogs and cats in Frederick County must be licensed. The specific licensing fees, \$15 per intact pet and \$7.50 for pets that are spayed or neutered, are defined here as well.

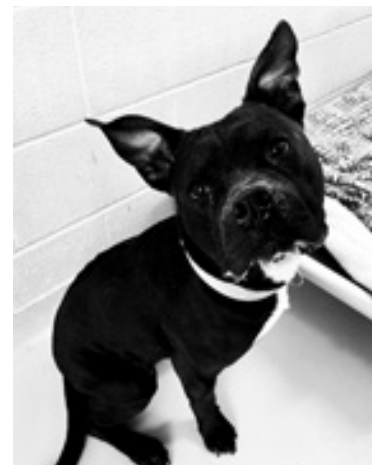
Running At Large—Regardless of whether the landscaper left the gate open, or your toddler opened the front door,

Fluffy and Fido are considered to be "at large" if they are off your property. While we are sympathetic to those situations, we are responsible for enforcing Frederick County Code §1-5-24 that states animals running at large to be a violation.

Microchipping—In 2006, Frederick County Government approved a policy that allows us to microchip all stray pets before they are returned to their owner. Microchips help reunite lost pets and

owners—ultimately saving lives. Jeremy will be microchipped prior to leaving here—whether he is adopted or reclaimed by his owner.

Responsible pet ownership includes being compliant with established laws and policies, avoiding the unintended consequences of fees and distress that accompany non-compliance. We thank those citizens who are compliant, and those who understand Animal Control's role in keeping pets—and our community—safe.





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COMMUNITY NOTES

Inside Thurmont's electric power distribution system

Jim Humerick, et. al.

This is the last in a series of four articles about Thurmont Municipal Systems. The last article discussed the process of wastewater treatment at Thurmont's wastewater plant. Today, we will be discussing a topic crucial to many aspects of the modern world: electricity. We will provide an overview of the electric distribution system in general; then focus on the Town of Thurmont specifically and anything unique to the Town.

Overview

It is easy to take for granted everything that goes into the flicking of a light switch and the light turning on. Most people pay little attention to the power grid around them unless it stops working. Electrical infrastructure is largely out in the open where anybody can see, but it is so ubiquitous that it is rarely noticed. In technical terms, a "power grid" is called a wide area interconnection, and there are only three of them in the contiguous United States: The Eastern and Western Interconnections and the Texas Interconnection. How do these power grids bring electricity from a power plant to its intended destination? It starts with generating electricity. This is done by converting one form of energy into electrical energy at a power plant.

The original energy can come from many things, but the most common are natural gas and coal, though nuclear energy and renewables are also used. This electrical energy then needs to be transported from the power plant (which is usually located in remote locations) to its destination, which is done by using high-voltage transmission lines. The plant uses transformers, which boost the voltage of the energy to help reduce losses as it travels to its destination. Once the electricity reaches a populated area, the voltage is stepped back down at a substation. Energy can be drawn directly from the transmission lines now, but many are transferred through feeder lines. These feeder lines carry electricity to another smaller transformer, which steps the voltage down one more time before being sent to its industrial, commercial, or residential destination.

Most of the power grid uses what is known as alternating current (AC). This differs from direct current (DC) in that the direction of voltage and current is constantly changing (60 times a second in North America). Stepping up or down voltage is easier to do with AC compared to DC, which is a critical part of the efficiency of the power grid. The amount of electricity used by homes and businesses is measured with an electric meter. An electric meter is a device owned by the

utility company that measures the amount of energy used in kilowatt hours. These can be analog meters or, more recently, digital smart meters. These processes will be elaborated on later in this article.

A large challenge faced by the power grid is the adjustment to production needed to meet the changing demands of the consumer. There are demand spikes for electricity both daily and seasonally. These demands usually follow a predictable pattern, but unplanned factors like extreme weather can put an unpredicted strain on the grid. Power is effectively created and consumed at the same time, so any unplanned spikes on a grid can lead to outages and other inconvenient and costly problems.

Substations

As mentioned before, a substation is a place where voltage is changed from high to low, or the other way around. The substations also change electricity from AC to DC, or the other way around, as well as perform other important tasks. From the initial electrical generation to the consumer, the power may pass through multiple substations at different voltage levels. A step-up transmission substation receives power from a nearby plant and uses a transformer to increase the voltage for transmission across long distances. A transmission bus is used to distribute electric power to the transmission lines. These lines can stretch vast distances and are notable for their high towers. Substations can have circuit breakers, which are used to switch generation or transmission circuits in and out of service when needed or during emergencies.

A step-down transmission substation is located at the switching point near industrial industries or populated residential areas. Step-down substations lower the voltage to sub-transmission or distribution levels. Sub-transmission lines supply power from this station either to an industrial facility or to distribution substations, which are the stations that lower the voltage once more and supply power to consumers. These substations are equipped with safety features such as circuit breakers, fuses, and monitoring systems to ensure safe and efficient transmission. The Town of Thurmont has two substations located on Moser Road near Big Hunting Creek. These substations support the power needs of 2,800 customers in the Town, including large commercial entities.

Transformers

When voltage needs to be stepped up or down, this is done through a transformer. Transformers take in electricity at one voltage and change the voltage before redistributing it. A transformer works by using a process known as electromagnetic induction. When an alternating current is run through



Electrical Substation where the Thurmont power grid is connected to Potomac Edison's distribution system. The Thurmont Town run power systems dates back to the early 1920s when there was no state or national power grid and every town was on its own.

a wire, a moving magnetic field is created around the conducting wire. When a second wire is placed in the changing magnetic field, the moving flux lines induce a current in the second wire. These two conducting wires are wrapped in coils, with one coil having more loops than the other. When these loops are electrified, a current is induced in the coils, and the current induced in the coil with fewer loops will have a lower voltage. This only works with alternating current, which is why it is the preferred means of delivering electricity since higher voltages reduce the energy lost in transmission.

There are various types of transformers suited to different levels of electric power and voltages. A pad-mounted transformer is commonly found outside of commercial buildings and street easements. They are often painted green, mounted on a concrete slab, and typically filled with electrical oil, which acts as an insulator. They operate on medium-voltage distribution systems, up to 35 kilovolts, and can supply multiple households or commercial buildings. Another commonly seen transformer is a distribution or service transformer. These transformers, which can often be seen mounted on utility poles, provide the final voltage transformation before power is delivered to the consumer. They are typically small, gray, and cylindrical and are rated for less power than larger transformers.

Thurmont Municipal Light Company

The Town of Thurmont Municipal Light Company is the electric company serving the Thurmont area. They are one of the few electric companies in the state of Maryland owned and operated by a local municipality. The other municipalities include: Berlin, Easton, Hagerstown, and Williamsport. They serve approximately 2,800 customers, ranging from small residential homes to large commercial entities. They are a member of the American Public Power Association

(APPA), an advocate for not-for-profit, community-owned utilities. APPA has been representing over 49 million people that public power utilities serve since 1940. The Town of Thurmont Municipal Light Company is headed by Mr. Tyler Hubbard, the Electric Utility Director, two journeymen linemen, an apprentice lineman, and a meter technician. Combined, they have over 60 years of experience working in utilities. All the power lines seen overhead (or not seen in the case of underground lines) add up to over 50 miles of primary lines. Primary lines are the lines that run from the Town's substation to the smaller transformers seen throughout the area, typically the gray cylindrical transformers on utility poles or green pad mounted boxes on the ground.

Secondary lines are the lower-voltage lines that run from the transformer to the house or building they are supplying with power. These lines form large loops known as circuits. There are eight total circuits throughout the Thurmont area. The power used by the customers is measured using automated meter reading (AMR), which is a way to automatically collect the consumption data and transfer it to a central database for analysis, billing, and troubleshooting. The Town has managed to maintain an average blackout time of 1 1/2 hours, or 90 minutes. Meaning when an outage occurs it takes an average of 90 minutes for power to be restored. This is well under the national average of 476 minutes, or nearly 8 hours, given by the U.S. Energy Information Administration for 2021. This is due in no small part to the hard-working electric department in the Town. The Town is always looking for ways to improve the electric distribution system, some current projects underway are a GIS project to map out the town's circuits, and squirrel guards being attached on lines to humanely suppress damages caused by squirrels and other small animals.

Safety

Power lines carry large amounts of electricity at dangerous voltages. What safety protocols should you use around these lines? Firstly, power lines should be avoided as much as possible by anyone who is not a professional. Power lines should never be touched with any body part or object; always assume a line is energized and not safe to touch. A safe working distance of at least 10 feet from overhead lines should be practiced for most power lines and more than 10 feet for transmission lines or any line over 50,000 volts. If work must be performed closer than 10 feet, call the utility company to discuss de-energizing the line. Never cut down a tree that is in contact with a power line or may come into contact when it falls.

If you see a downed power line, assume it is energized and stay away from it and anything it is touching. The ground can be energized up to 35 feet away from the downed line. If you are already closer than 35 feet and need to walk away, you should do so by shuffling your feet in small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground. Never attempt to move the power line, even with a non-conductive object. If you have crashed your car into a power line, you should remain in the car if it is safe to do so and call 911. If it is not safe to stay in your car, you should jump out of the vehicle with both feet together, avoiding contact with the car and the ground at the same time, and shuffle away from the area. Lastly, if you see anyone who has been hurt near a downed line, do not try to help them yourself and instead call 911. In essence, power lines can be very dangerous if they are damaged or tampered with and should be treated with caution, it is always safer to alert the local utility company than to try fixing something yourself.

Questions?

The Thurmont Municipal Offices can be reached at 301-271-7313.

Frederick Health coordinates diaper donation

Joshua Foust
Frederick Health

Frederick Health, the largest healthcare provider in the county, has partnered with other local non-profit organizations to help support families and babies throughout the community by developing a new diaper donation program. This program, which recently began deliveries, will distribute more than two million diapers to families in Frederick County over the next few months.

Partnering with Frederick Health to make this program a reality are the Ausherman Family Foundation, Frederick Rescue Mission, and Family Connects Frederick County. The first donation of 90,000 diapers arrived in late November.

Diapers are a necessity for most families with infants and young children. However, the popular Family Connects Frederick County program identified the need for more reliable diaper assistance while conducting home visits with moms and new babies.

The arrival of a new baby is a crucial time for families. The Family Connects Frederick County program offers support by providing each family with a 90-minute in-person visit. During the visit, the nurse conducts a health and well-being assessment for both the baby and the parent. During these visits, the nurse will ensure the health of the birth parent and new baby and conduct a detailed assessment of the family's strengths, risks, and needs. While this program debuted in early 2023 and is available to babies born at Frederick Health Hospital, it will expand in 2024 to include all babies who live in in Frederick County, regardless of the hospital where they were born. Finally, the nurse will provide resources tailored to the family's specific needs, including lactation, nutrition, childcare, or other necessities – like diapers.

The need for diapers is not limited to newborns but also families with young children, something the Family Connects team noted during their recommendations. As more and more families made it apparent that access to diapers was becoming an issue, the Family Connects team began to look for a solution.

Working with local partners, Family Connects Frederick County sought to develop a resource in the community where families could have consistent access to a basic need that is often overlooked.

As the area has continued to grow, the number of young children up to age 4 in Frederick County has steadily increased over the last decade. In addition to the rising number of young children, the overall cost of diapers has increased with inflation and supply demand. The average individual diaper ranges from 18 to 20 cents, and the average retail price for diaper packages is between \$35 and \$50, depending on the size and the brand. To the team members looking to help combat this issue, it was clear that they needed some help.

“One of the biggest needs that our nurses identified was the need for diapers,” said Brandon Blake,

Director of Home Care with Frederick Health. Family Connects Frederick County is managed by Frederick Health Home Care.

“We were able to share that need, and luckily, our community partners stepped in to help,” Blake added.

Fortunately, a private family philanthropic organization based in Frederick County, the Ausherman Family Foundation, learned about the need for diapers from Family Connects and Frederick Health.

Leigh Adams, the foundation's Executive Director, said the staff brought the issue to Marvin and Renee Ausherman, who sits on the foundation's Board of Trustees. The foundation provided \$20,000 to purchase diapers to donate to residents. As a non-profit healthcare provider, Frederick Health was able to leverage its purchasing power to acquire as many diapers as possible.

“By connecting local families to a much-needed resource, we are con-

tinuing to find ways of supporting our growing community,” said Heather Kirby, Vice President and Chief Population Health Officer with Frederick Health.

The final piece of the puzzle is getting the diapers into the hands of local families.

To help manage the distribution, the Frederick Rescue Mission stepped in to assist. The Frederick Rescue Mission runs multiple residential and community recovery programs that benefit people across Frederick County. These efforts provide necessities, from food, clothing, and medical supplies to everyday essentials like toothpaste and deodorant to those in need. Given their experience working with the community and a deep understanding of where these diapers would have the most impact, the Rescue Mission will oversee the distribution of the diapers.

“Young families are struggling, and any time you can help alleviate the

expenses so their income goes further ... this will make a big difference in that regard,” said Arnold Farlow, the Executive Director of the Frederick Rescue Mission.

The first set of nearly 90,000 diapers was delivered in late November. Since then, additional deliveries have arrived and were sent to the Frederick Rescue Mission. The deliveries are sent to the Frederick Health Village loading docks, which are then collected by the Frederick Rescue Mission team and organized for community members.

Jasmine Sneed, the Rescue Mission's Development Director, emphasized that while the diaper donation will be a valuable resource for many families, it's only one part of a broader solution. The Rescue Mission continues to need assistance and is accepting the donation of many items.

“Diapers are essential, and it's one part of the spectrum of meeting peo-

ple's needs to free up their budget to pay for housing and healthcare and transportation and childcare,” Sneed stated.

“All those things that help lift people up,” she said.

Kirby added that these partnerships are the product of teamwork, communication, and a community focused on helping those in need.

“This effort demonstrates the power of collaboration. The Frederick community, including our numerous non-profit partners, are incredibly generous; we all benefit when we work together,” said Kirby.

For more information on Frederick Health or the Family Connects program, visit www.frederickhealth.org/newbornvisit. For those interested in learning more about the Frederick Rescue Mission, visit www.therescuemission.org. For more information about the Ausherman Family Foundation, visit www.aushermanfamilyfoundation.org.



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DAVID TRONE

This time of year, I'm reminded of what matters most to all of us - family, friends, and community. What also matters to me is my service to you in Congress.

Public Service, Not Politics

I've long said this job should be more focused on public service and not politics. Too often, politics divide us and place selfish interests above what is good and just. In the next year, I'll continue to be a public servant who listens and delivers results.

A Vision for the Future and a Commitment to Get Things Done

Too often, politicians are only worried about the next election. It's one of the many reasons not much gets done in Congress. I take a different approach. I do everything with an eye to a better future for all of us and for generations to come. I have a record of getting things done, and that is why I'm running for the U.S. Senate.

Helping People

Above all else, constituent service is my top priority. My team works countless hours helping to solve any problem you might have with a federal agency or program. While we can't solve every problem, I'll fight hard to help you, and I have a great staff that helps me.

DAVID TRONE

U.S. SENATE

Working to ensure everyone has a decent place to live

Gary Bennett & Hugh Gordon
Affordable Housing Council

Among the many boards, commissions and councils serving Frederick city and county, there is one that advises on the charged issue of affordable housing.

Charged? Well, yes. It is hard to find another issue that elicits such visceral comments both for and against. Most folks support the availability of housing for those economically shut out of the market until it affects them directly. Everyone is for more affordable housing until they think it might affect their own property value or when construction is planned nearby. It is understandable.

That is the tightrope on which the Affordable Housing Council (AHC) is perched.

The AHC serves as Frederick County's main forum to discuss affordable housing issues, is the main advocate for affordable, safe, and decent housing, supports affordable housing providers and their programs, and advises county and city governments on promising new and existing affordable housing laws and regulations. The council is comprised of appointed volunteers who care about affordable housing issues and have no personal stake in encouraging more affordable housing.

Position Statement of AHC

The Affordable Housing Council believes that:

- All Frederick County residents deserve to live in safe, decent, and affordable housing that does not require more than one-third of their total monthly income to own or rent.
- County, state, and municipal governments should look for every opportunity to incentivize affordable housing options in land use, zoning, and development laws and regulations.
- All stakeholders – government entities, developers, builders, real estate firms, civic and business groups, and consumers of affordable housing – need to recognize that a lack of affordable housing is a real problem for all of us and should work together to find real solutions.
- The lack of enough infrastructure to support increased housing is a real problem and should not be downplayed. Instead of punishing middle- and lower-class Americans, however, we must hold government accountable to proactively fund appropriate infrastructure, especially schools.

What is affordable housing?

The definition of affordable housing is not always accurately understood, especially in terms of today's charged political discussion. To those with moderate to low incomes, affordable housing is usually defined as housing that requires one-third or less of their

disposable income to afford. This includes rentals and owned homes. For these folks, there is not enough affordable housing to go around in Frederick County and in most parts of the U.S. In the affordable housing world, we are typically focused on the ALICE households, those who are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed. Basically, they are working citizens living paycheck to paycheck.

Policy Priorities of AHC

The Affordable Housing Council has been quite successful in developing housing priorities and encouraging elected officials to give them fair consideration. Indeed, both the city's Board of Aldermen and the Frederick County Council, depend on the AHC to be non-staff housing experts. We are constantly looking for creative ideas to help increase our affordable housing stock.

Earlier this year, we recommended and were pleased when the Board of Aldermen approved the updated Moderately Priced Development Units (MPDU) ordinance. The ordinance encourages increased development of affordable housing in the city by requiring developers to pay \$2 per square foot for every unit in the development if they opt out of building the required number of MPDUs. The fee had been flat but is now pegged to the size of the units in the development. The city is then charged with using the proceeds from the ordinance to fund affordable housing programs. The change in the city's ordinance brings it into synch with the county's MPDU ordinance.

Other AHC policy priorities we will advocate for in 2024 include:

Updating the 2016 Frederick County Affordable Housing Needs Assessment report to better reflect current housing and economic realities and to develop a strategic plan to address the findings. Such an assessment and plan would guide county and city programs and resources to better serve residents in need of affordable housing.

Increasing the portion of the county's recordation tax revenue that is earmarked for the housing initiative fund (HIF) in one-time increments and consider permanent changes to the formula that funds the initiative. The HIF is used to provide resources that make home ownership accessible to county residents.

Supporting the implementation of the City of Frederick's rental registration and inspection program. The program provides for protection of renters' rights and landlord and tenant education on renters' rights and best practices.

Advocating for the inclusion of several key policies in the City of Frederick's form-based code initiative: implementing an affordable housing overlay, waiving development fees for projects that meet certain income requirements, allowing for more density and building height in designated



areas and right-sizing parking requirements for new projects.

Streamlining Frederick County's and the City of Frederick's permitting processes to accelerate affordable housing projects. A particular need is to increase staff capacity and use a customer service-based approach to incentivize and encourage affordable housing projects.

Encouraging the implementation of area plans as part of the Livable Frederick Master Plan to include priorities such as implementing an affordable housing overlay, allowing more density in designated areas, aligning available public transportation with affordable housing developments, and encouraging municipalities in the county to allow construction of accessory dwelling units (ADUs).

Waiving or deferring impact fees in Frederick County and the City of Frederick charged to buyers that meet income requirements for affordable housing purchases from a developer. Further, City of Frederick should formalize the waiving of property taxes and impact fees for developers while they are building or renovating homes for sale or rent to residents meeting income requirements for affordable housing.

Hugh Gordon serves as the current chair of the Affordable Housing Council. He commented, "The need for affecting implementation and the potential for assisting seniors, school teachers, policemen, firefighters, restaurant workers, and the most vulnerable residents of Frederick County is critically important."

According to Malcolm Furgol, vice-chair of the AHC and policy committee chair, "These policy priorities build on past recommendations by the Affordable Housing Council and progress made by Frederick County and the City of Frederick towards realizing a positive environment for safe, stable and affordable housing for all residents."

Invitation to Participate

The issues are difficult but the stakes are high for all of us. The Frederick County Affordable Housing Council invites you to participate.

AHC meets the second Tuesday of each month at 2:30 pm at a location designated by the Council. Confirm meeting dates and location by checking <https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/6371/Affordable-Housing-Council> or by calling the Frederick County Department of Housing and Community Development at 301-600-6091.

Meetings are open to the public and public participation is highly encouraged. Agendas can be obtained at the website noted above. Public comment is welcome at all meetings.

If you are a Frederick County resident, a registered voter and wish to become a member of the AHC, send a letter of interest and resume to fcg-boards@FrederickCountyMD.gov. Call 301-600-1102 for more information. The County Executive makes all appointments subject to confirmation by the County Council.

The AHC may be comprised of as many as 13 voting members. We currently have seven members and two very good prospects. We are working hard to ensure affordable housing consumers such as teachers, police officers, and seniors are represented on the Council as well as members of industry, nonprofit organizations, and the public in general.

Gary Bennett is a retired association executive with no stake in the housing market except for being a concerned citizen. Hugh Gordon is the association executive for the Frederick Association of Realtors and has decades of experience as a mortgage banker. They are longtime Frederick residents and members of Frederick's Affordable Housing Council.



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HISTORY

Reminiscing with Bill Meredith

McKenna Snow
MSMU Class of 2023

Part 4 of 4

Editor's Note: Bill Meredith taught biology at the Mount from 1957 to 1998, and was the News-Journal's very own contributing Ecologist writer for many years. In this concluding part four of "Reminiscing with Bill Meredith," Bill shares more about his life in Emmitsburg, friendships made at the Mount, and a few cheerful anecdotes.

Bill explained that when he and his wife first moved to Emmitsburg, many people owned horses in the area, and Main Street was lined up and down with little stores. He recounted that there was "a little clothing store, a couple of apartment stores where you could get lunch or dinner if you liked, and a couple barber shops," as well as a factory, and a Ford Motor Company. Bill added that there were always at least two doctors who lived in town, who used to charge "three dollars a visit" when Bill needed medical help with his hay fever allergies. "So there's always been good medical care," he said.

"Gradually," he continued, "the old stores were replaced by more modern ones."

Bill said that he taught a genetics class at St. Joseph's College, the former women's college, in the late 60's and in the first two years of the 70's. "And [St. Joseph's] built a new science building that was better than the Mount's one, and then, of course, the girls left," he said,

laughing. "So their long-term planning didn't turn out to be as good. But I enjoyed teaching over there, you know. I could always find babysitters, because there could always be a girl that I knew over there that I could call and get to babysit [when my wife and I] wanted to go out on a weekend afternoon."

"And I stayed in touch with the students as long as I could after they graduated. Of course, a lot of them ended up marrying Mount students," he recalled joyfully. He noted that St. Joseph's College closed in 1972, the same year the Mount began accepting women into its programs.

Bill also recounted various memories he shared with other Mount faculty members. At the mention of now-retired theology professor Dr. William "Bill" Collinge, Bill said that he "was one of the smartest people we had in the college. He was smart in everything. When he first started, there was a faculty softball team, and we'd play softball in the summer. There was a faculty basketball team, too, and for a year or two, I played on that [team] before I was Department Chair, and after he came in I was still going to it. We got to be good friends."

As Dean, Bill also helped with the hiring processes for faculty at the Mount, and at one point it seemed as though he was "interviewing everybody who applied to every department."

One year in the late eighties, just before the start of a fall semester, Bill said that one of the Mount's language teachers announced that he had received a job offer from another school

and he would not be teaching at the Mount again. The news was quite abrupt, so the Mount began looking everywhere for a replacement.

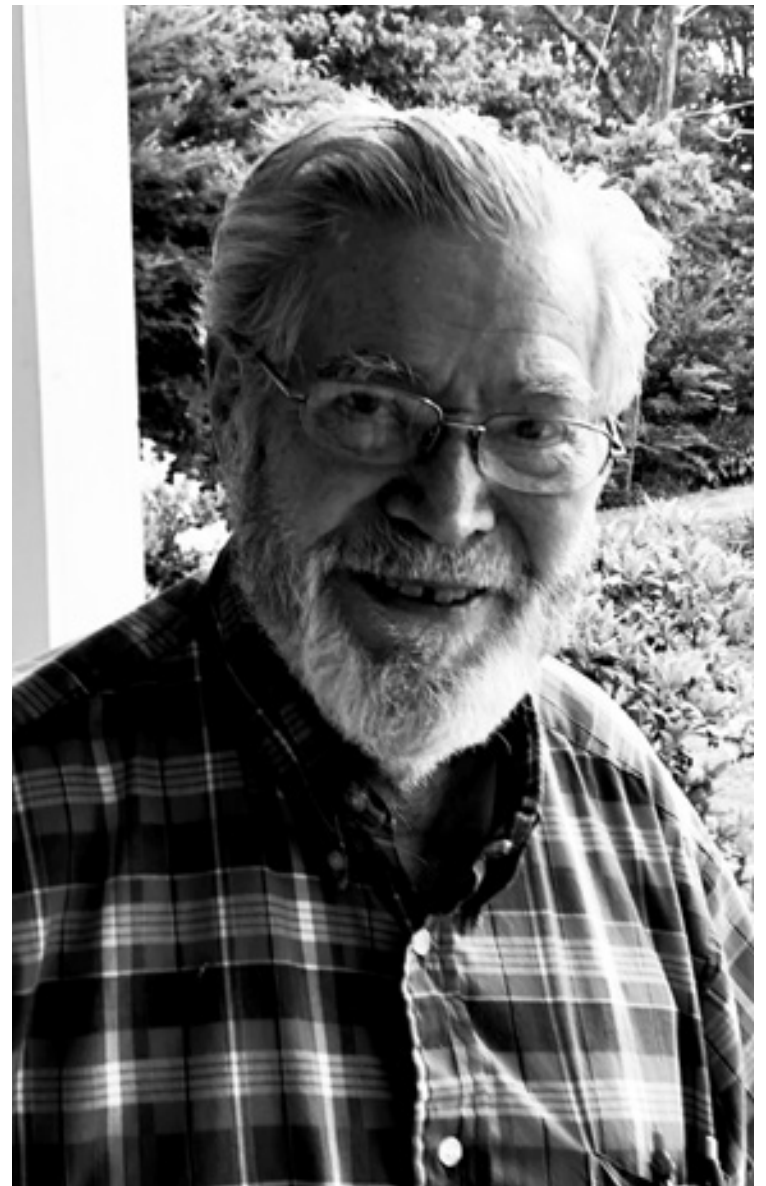
"We were struggling and looking around," Bill said, "and Bill Collinge came in to see me one day and said 'you know, my dad taught German.' And I said, 'he did?' His dad was retired."

Shortly after this exchange, Bill asked Bill Collinge's father to teach the German language course at the Mount. Mr. Collinge responded that he'd be happy to teach.

"I asked him, 'do you have any particular requirements you would need?' And he said, 'I only have one requirement: do I have to wear a necktie every day?'"

"Originally, a necktie was required at the Mount when I came there," Bill explained. But for Mr. Collinge, Bill said he didn't have to wear one. Mr. Collinge began teaching and the students liked him very much.

"I was walking down the hall one day, and the bell rang and I was on my way down to the genetics lab, which was right next door to where [Mr. Collinge] had his class," Bill said. "I heard [Mr. Collinge] ask the class, 'well, did you have any questions on the assignments?' And some kid in the back said, 'I had trouble with number sixteen.' Mr. Collinge opened up his book and he said, 'yes, now that's an interesting problem. There are two ways you can do that—there's an easy way that's quick and will give you the right answer, and there's another way that's really interesting because it ties in with



some other things we've been studying. I'll teach you both of them.' Just like that, and I stood out there in the hall and listened to him get started. And everybody was writing as fast as they could. But he was just like that; he liked the students and they loved him."

"That's just another thing about the Mount, it's family," Bill said.

Bill recalled another now-retired Mount English professor, Dr. Carol Hinds, who Bill actually helped to hire. Dr. Hinds was hired as Provost in 1995 and began teaching in 2005.

"She was just wonderful to work for," Bill said. "She would ask me if she didn't know something, and I would tell her if I didn't know, and we would figure it out... she's one of my best friends from the college."

Bill retired in 1998, and soon after began writing a monthly column for the Emmitsburg News-Journal called 'the Retired Ecologist,' which ran from 2000 to 2018. Bill and his wife Betty Jean celebrated 60 years of marriage in 2015.

Having shared many memories about the beautiful community of the Mount, as well as the unexpected but happy turns of his life as a professor, Bill concluded his reminiscing, for now: "It all started when my dad asked me if I wanted to go to college."

To read articles by Bill Meredith, visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.

To read other articles related to Emmitsburg's history, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.



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Presbyterian Church to restore bell tower

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

On a rainy December morning, the Second Sunday of Advent, I walked into the Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church and was greeted with periwinkle stained-glass windows, a sparkling Christmas tree, and warm, friendly faces. The church itself was beautiful—on the inside, wooden pews and evergreen wreaths. On the outside, brick walls, a window trapping sunlight, and a bell tower rising to the sky. In my three-and-a-half years of being a student at the Mount, I had never step foot off campus to explore the other churches in the area and attend service.

“This church is beautiful,” I told Lynda Lillard, Member of the Session of the church. Shaking my hand and smiling, she replied, “Thank you. You wouldn’t even think that the bell tower is leaking.”

The Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church, located on 415 W. Main St., is an aging church building with a small but powerful congregation, led by the minister, Rev. Dr. Peter Keith. In fact, the members of the church have grasped local attention about the repairs needed for the leaking bell tower, the roof, and the trim on the stained-glass windows. The Presbyterian church has been part of Emmitsburg history since it was established in 1760. Initially built as a log structure on the outskirts of town, it was moved to its current location on Main Street and was eventually burnt down in 1902 when a bolt of lightning struck the church. The current church, built after the fire, is home to the bell that was donated to the church in 1761.

It all started with the trim of the windows. Upon realizing they needed repairs and paint, members of the church soon discovered that the bell tower was filled with severe debris to the extent that it required masonry and roofing work. With rainy and snowy season approaching, it was urgent that the repairs be made before further deterioration potentially harmed the historic tower even more. After obtaining estimates, members learned the total cost of repair would cost \$30,000—more than the church’s means allow.

Before initial work and repairs, the roof’s flashing was pulling away and incorrectly attached with caulk, causing the tower’s ceiling to be exposed to weather. Additionally, keystones were missing mortar, which was needed to keep the flashing and rubber attached. In this condition, the roof allowed water to enter inside the tower.

Barry Reeher, the mason from Accent Quality Stone, is generously providing service to the church. As I followed him up the bell tower on that rainy Sunday morning proceeding the service, I could hear the pattering of rain against the walls, the creaking of wood as we moved around. The cold air seeping through brick. Names of church members scratched into the stone, dating back to the early 1900s.

The quiet sound of rainwater, slowly dripping into a bucket nearby. “This is as far up as I’ll go,” says Lynda. Meanwhile, Barry has been climbing two more levels to the roof of the bell tower, through a small opening in the floor and up a long, narrow ladder, carrying materials with him.

Barry has even added new mortar around keystones and below roof line and has collected buckets of debris from inside the tower. He has finished masonry repair work on the lower level and is still progressing on the bell level, applying mortar to where it is missing or deteriorating. This will prevent moisture from seeping into the tower.

“Barry is a gift from God,” says Becky Jones, another Member of the Session. After the service, Becky and Lynda offered me homemade cake and cookies as well as freshly brewed coffee in the back of the church, where I was joined by Barry, Rev. Dr. Peter Keith, and Session Member Sarah Jacobson, who helps provide the post-church treats.

“I’ve been here for eighteen years,” says Rev. Dr. Keith, who was first invited to attend the church and has since never left. During his sermon, he discussed the importance being good people in a world where there is so much hatred—a world in need of God’s goodness.

Currently, the church needs funds for further maintenance and repairs of the historic bell tower. Thanks to Accent Quality Stone in Orrtanna, Bulletproof Roofing in Thurmont, and Brushes with Flair in Walkersville, the church has made immense progress in its repairs, such as interior painting in the bell tower vestibule, but it still has a long way to go.

In a letter sent out to other churches and community members, the Session of Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church writes, “We are now extending the opportunity to support this project to those in the community who might share our interest in maintaining the health of our beloved church. We welcome all donations, large or small, and will provide recognition of donors. Names of donors



will be displayed on a plaque placed within the church building.”

The Members of Congregation are eternally thankful for the founders of Emmitsburg Presbyterian for the vision of the church, as well as the clergy who have served the congregation through reflection on God’s word. They are just as thankful for the kindness of the Emmitsburg community, as well as the simple beauty of the church, even on a rainy Sunday morning, when the bell tower brushes against the bleak, gray sky.

Upon meeting the minister of Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church, the Members of the Congregation, and the mason, I felt involved in the church’s matter and moved by the sermon. I wanted to help restore the bell tower and bring more people to the church, in any way I could.

To discuss the needs of the church further, or if you have any questions about repairs, please email at the church’s email address: emmitsburg.presbyterian@gmail.com.

Sarah Jacobson, one of the congregation members who usually helps get maintenance work done around the church, has helped much with this project. She has even set up a GoFundMe page: www.gofundme.com/f/help-save-our-historic-bell-tower

Another way to help is to simply attend service! Please fill the pews of this beautiful church. Sunday worship service is weekly at 10 a.m., and anyone is welcome! Watch how the light bends and glows through the pastel stained-glass windows, meet

friendly and wonderful people, and admire the intricate architecture of the bell tower and all the work that has been expertly completed so far.

If you are interested in contributing to repair of this historic church bell tower, you can give through a GoFundMe site at www.gofundme.com/f/help-save-our-historic-bell-tower. You can also send a check made out to "Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church" that can be mailed to: Rebecca Jones, 9715 Redamar Drive, Hagerstown, MD., 21740.

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Trouble Ahead For 1924

The year 1924 is likely to be a memorable one in American politics, both in Congress and on the open political field, until the November election. The whole performance will largely be a scramble between selfish interest to 'get something' from the government; in other words out of Uncle Sam's treasury, either that, or to satisfy personal ambition.

It is not a nice thing to say, but it is our belief that the real Simon-pure desire to legislate for the good of the whole country is a very scarce virtue. We do not believe so much in strength in Union, as in union strength; not so much in United We Stand as that we stand united for ourselves.

The tendency in American politics is away from two great parties, holding to clearly defined differences in policy. We no longer hold to party, but are engaged in trying to hang such amendments to party platforms as represent the most promising expedients for 'getting ours'.

Republicans and Democrats are alike in this. Insurgents on both sides have largely spoiled the negative so long in use for picturing party differences, and, the outlook is that this diversion will have a free ride this year. Sometimes we lament the fact that there are no more great leaders; none big enough to quell the rioting and lead the hosts to victory. But, it isn't the leaders that are lacking so much as it is that the mob element is increasing that does not want leaders.

No man can lead without followers. No man can advise those who do not want advice. When arrogance, ignorance, selfishness combine in sufficient forms, advice based on experience, and leadership based on intelligence, are important. When misguided men feel that they are the government, and that they need only to combine sufficient strength to rule, then are boasted self-government plan finds itself on the rocks.

The role of the people operates ideally only when, and as long as, the best people are in the majority, and can co-operate - can hold together and outnumber the irresponsible radicals. That is just the danger this country is facing this year, as it never has before,

and the hope of the future depends on how far the American people will permit their own selfishness to obscure their own good sense.

Rural Mail Carriers Carrying White Paint

By order of the Post Office Department in Washington, all rural mailboxes were ordered painted white. As the patrons of the routes were very busy, and help scarce, local carriers concluded to purchase paint and brush and paint the mailboxes themselves. They think asking each patron to contribute \$.10 to help pay for the paint would not be out of place, and no one so far has objected to giving the small amount. Quite a few have already paid; others are asked to place \$.10 in their mailbox, or give it to the carrier.

Mercury's Rise Prevent Snow

Children with new Christmas bobsleds and an urge to create snowman and battle with Winter's elements were cheated out of what promised to be an abundance of snow Wednesday night and Thursday morning when a slight rise in temperature change the first few flakes into rain. The precipitation of rain and melted snow and ice was .91 inches.

Survey Is Made Of Furnace Land

The Assistant State Forester completed a three-day survey of the Catocin Furnace mountain property. The survey was for the purpose of ascertaining the quality of burned wood and dead timber on the track.

It is understood that a conference will be held with the Governor when a report of the survey will be presented. Since the first conference with the owners of the property, Stanley Hauer and Lancelot Jacques, at which it was stated the price of \$40,000 for the land, or \$50,000 for the land and buildings, was given, the owners have agreed to take a flat sum of three dollars per acre for the entire property. It is understood that the track contains about 9,400 acres.

The prevailing feeling is that the owners and those interested in having the State take over the property might yet agreed on a price. In this event, recommendation will be made to the

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State authorities to take over the property for forest reserve.

Radio Important Farm Implement

The importance of radio in the production and marketing of agricultural products is brought out in a special survey of about 1,200 farmers just completed by the United States Department of Agriculture. 80% of these farmers said they were interested in receiving both weather and market reports.

More than 50% of the farmers replied that they owned tube sets employing three or more tubes. Approximately 50% of the farmers reported having homemade sets rang-

ing from crystal detectors to tube sets.

More than 75 different makes of sets were found among the manufactured sets purchased. Although the bulk of the sets were confined to about 15 of the leading makes that are more or less widely advertised in radio and general magazines.

The average cost of the manufactured set was \$172. Comparably few of the owners of homemade sets operated crystal receivers. The average cost of a crystal set was \$11. The average cost of a homemade tube set was \$50.

Plan Playground For New Midway

Efforts are being made by the patrons of the public school at New Midway to equip a playground for the children of that community. Nevin Smith, Principal of the school, is taking the initiative in a campaign to raise funds for the purpose.

A spelling bee and a box social will be held on Saturday evening. Patrons of the school and the people of the community have been asked to cooperate in making the affair a success. Pickney Richardson, and Samuel Fogle have been named judges of the spelling bee, and Mr. Smith himself will act as the pronouncer. This will be the first of a series of events held to raise money.

The playground will be located on the school premises and will be available for use by the young people of the village and vicinity the entire summer.

whom had been congratulating themselves that we would have a mild Winter found lots of things to do that should've been done earlier, and all outdoor tasks were done with full speed. Caucusing along the streets and lounging about corners, was considerably absent.

Last Saturday morning an oil stove used for heating purposes, due to the furnace being out of repair, caught fire at the home of the Sisters of Notre Dame, on Frederick Street. Sister Barbara, in removing the stove, was badly burned, particularly about the face and hands and was hurried to Saint Joseph's Hospital in Baltimore for treatment. The damage to the building was small, due to the prompt measures taken by the fire department.

Saturday night and Sunday morning produce many stories of frozen water pipes and heating experiences; but fortunately not many cases of serious damage or suffering. Those who had good heating plants, and plenty of fuel, had reason for thankfulness. The thermometer registered near zero, the cold being penetrating because of the strong wind all of Saturday night and early Sunday morning.

Emmitsburg Water Company Changes Hands

The Emmitsburg Water Company, for so many years under the control of the Annan and Horner families, has now passed into new hands.

Several prominent businessmen were trying to secure the controlling stock, which was held by Hagerstown people. At the time of the bank's trouble the shares were turned over to outside parties and it

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January 12

Winter Weather Finally Arrives

Saturday was a real hurry up day, caused by the cold and wind. Many

100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

VERMONT FOLSOMBY GOLD MEDAL		FLOUR 12 lb. BAG	49c
		24-lb Bag	97c
A&P FLOUR		12-lb bag	45c
		24-lb bag	89c
DEL MONTE PEACHES			
Sliced No. 1 can	15c	Halves, No. 2 1/2 can	25c
A&P MACARONI SPAGHETTI NOODLES		3 packages 25c	
Packers' Lable Shoepeg Corn can	12c	Encore Spaghetti can	10c
		A&P Oven Baked Beans can	9c
Bulk COCOA 3 pounds 25c			
Sunny Field Pancake Flour pkg	10c	Golden Crown Syrup 1 gal can	54c
		Sunny Field Buckwheat Flour pkg	10c
— THE PROOF —			
BY ITS FLAVOR—NOT BY ITS PRICE—IS THE CONVINCING WAY WE ASK YOU TO JUDGE OF THE SUPERIORITY OF			
RED CIRCLE COFFEE		None Better at the Price	lb 29c
A&P EVAP. MILK		tall can 10c	
TAK-HOM-A BISCUIT		pkg 5c	
137 N. MARKET ST.		15 S. MARKET ST.	

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festival is to be held in the Old Fellows Hall, Fairfield, and one of the features will be radio concerts on both nights. The women of Fairfield have agreed to serve the meals.

Mountain Communities Still Talk Witches

There are witches, but no ghost. This is the firm belief of many persons living in the rural parts of Catoctin Mountain.

The question arose when a teacher in one of the public schools asked her pupils if they believed in witches. A majority of the boys and girls said they did and that their parents did. An interrogation brought to light many queer stories told by the pupils in a general discussion of the subject of how members of their families have been bewitched and the methods used to remove the spell of the witches.

One little girl related that a broomstick placed under the carpet at the door would prevent a witch from exercising her power and that it has been used successfully at her home. A boy said that a spike driven in a fence over which the witch had to cross would cause her to drop dead, and to remove the spike would bring her back to life. Another boy said an old shoe placed over a door would prevent a witch from entering the house, or if she did get in, she would fall dead.

A popular method of curing spells was taking a strand of hair from the person bewitched and placing it in a hole bored in a tree into which a peg is driven. Another plan suggested by one of the pupils was to take a hair from the mane or tail of a horse and crushed them with a stone on a fence. This will break the hand or fingers of the witch, it was claimed.

Many women in the mountain will not purchase articles from women peddlers for fear of being bewitched. The superstitious women believe that if a witch can borrow or take something from a person, the one giving it can be bewitched.

The teacher admitted that she was amazed by the extent of the superstitious beliefs of the children and their parents in regard to witchcraft.

Charles Richardson, near Emmitsburg and demanded from his niece, Annie Richardson (colored), something to drink, which she refused to give him. Denied entry to the house he became angry and forced his way in and cut her throat with a razor. He then notified Dr. Jamison that there was an accident at Richardson's, but did not tell him that he had done it. The wound was dressed by Dr. Jamison, which required six stitches. Van Brinkle was arrested on Monday by Deputy Sheriff Adelsberger and taken to Frederick City Jail to await the February session of the Grand Jury.

Winter Returns Again

Old King Winter set a new record Sunday night and Monday morning when he shot the Mercury down to a point 5° above zero according to one instrument. It was a sudden drop, which was from a maximum of 43° on Sunday afternoon. Unofficial thermometers situated in other points about the County, showed wildly different temperatures however, one showed at 4° below zero as did one at the drugstore. At some places in the County temperatures ranging from 2° below to a few degrees above zero reported.

The frigid weather was driven through cracks and crannies during the night on the wings of a strong westerly wind, which continued to blow throughout the day, permitting little rise in the temperature under the force of a strong son.

By noon, the thermometer still stood below the 10° mark, and few residents ventured outside of their homes during the morning unless driven by the press a business. Coats were tightly buttoned and hands thrust deeply in pockets by those who were seen in the downtown section during the morning. A number of autos 'froze up' along the roads and many households had trouble with frozen pipes.

Fractured Skull Ends In Death

A fracture at the base of the skull from which he never recovered caused the death Thursday, of Henry Bollinger, of Greenmount. Mr. Bollinger had been ill since the accident in which his skull was fractured which occurred on November 11, 1922. Had he lived until Saturday he would have been 74 years old.

Mr. Bollinger was knocked down by an automobile said to have been driven by James Criegee, of Thurmont.

The accident occurred on the Emmitsburg Road not far from Mr. Bollinger's home, while the age man was in the act of crossing the road. It is said he failed to look behind him when in the act of crossing the road, and failed to heed the warning reported to have been sounded by Mr. Criegee.

The aged man fell heavily on the concrete roadway, fracturing his skull near the base, and for a long time lay in an unconscious and critical condition in the hospital where he was taken after the accident. Mr. Bollinger was born near Emmitsburg, but lived most of his life in the vicinity of Greenmount.

Emmitsburg Boy Arrested

John Wiles, 17 of Emmitsburg, was arrested near Biglerville on a charge of larceny, the specific act being the theft of chickens, according to the warrant. The chickens were stolen from the shed of Theodore Bollinger about three weeks ago. Poultry was also stolen from other persons in the vicinity of Emmitsburg at about the same time.

The day following the disappearance of the poultry, Wiles is alleged to have gone to the general merchandise store of C. A. Harney in Emmitsburg and is said to have sold some of the chickens.

The poultry, it is claimed, was later identified as being among the stolen chickens. Deputy Sheriff Adelsberger was notified and made an investigation. After the theft of the chickens Wiles is said to have left his home and gone to Biglerville, where he was employed as a farmhand.

Klan Ran The Wedding

Mrs. Harry Meiser of Creagerstown, who has filed charges of non-support and assertion against her husband is unable to tell who were the witnesses at her wedding. They were all members of the Ku Klux Klan, she says, and were hooded.

Harry Meiser, with whom she had been keeping steady company for 12 years, had refused to marry her, she said. The Klan took up the matter and one evening conducted the pair to the parsonage of a local church where the wedding ceremony was performed. Meiser promptly left, but recently was apprehended in charge with desertion and non-support.

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

was only just lately that an arrangement could be made whereby the control of this well-known plant should be placed in the hands of the local people.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors held last Monday the following officers were elected for the following year: President, Thomas Hayes; Vice President, Aubrey Patterson; Secretary, Harry Groves; and Treasurer, Edwin Ohler.

Meanwhile, the Baltimore Commercial Bank paid \$14,500 for those parts of three tracks of land ceased by the sheriff of Adams County under a writ of fieri facias as property of the Annan-Horner Bank of Emmitsburg. The sale took place Saturday afternoon in front of the courthouse with a sheriff acting as auctioneer. Most of the property is located in Liberty Township.

Injured When Auto Hits Phone Pole

Miss Mary Nagel of Thurmont, who suffered a fractured collarbone and a severe cut on her right hip last Monday afternoon, when the automobile that she was riding in left the road and struck a telephone pole, is said to be improving.

Four persons were in the automobile, two men and two women. They were returning to Thurmont around 12:30 when suddenly the machine, a Hudson coach, left the road and struck the telephone pole. With the exception of Miss Nagel, the occupants of the machine were not badly hurt. The car, which was considerably damaged, is said to belong to Harry Late of Thurmont.

January 19

Farmers' Wives Benefited

The human and social phase of farm electrification, as opposed to strict economic phase, was stressed at a recent meeting of the Frederick Farmers' Association.

"We firmly believe that electricity will add from 15 to 20 years to the life of farmer's wives. Water in the home, pump by electricity, the electric iron, the electric washing machine, vacuum cleaner, range, refrigerator, percolators, curling irons, are all unknown to most farmer's wives and daughters. Electricity will bring them. And, most important of all to the household, will be the advantage of electric lighting."

Ice In Short Supply

Ice from the streams promises to be a scarce article this Winter, especially due to the fullness of the water. There is time enough yet, but the old rule used to be to harvest a crop before Christmas. But with the mild daytime temperatures, what ice that does form at night is gone by noon.

Fairfield Fireman To Hold Festival

At a largely attended meeting at the Fairfield Fire Company on Tuesday evening, it was decided to hold a festival on Friday and Saturday evenings, January 25 and 26, for the benefit of the company. The proceeds of the festival, which will include an oyster supper on Friday evening and a chicken and waffle supper on Saturday evening, will be put towards reducing the debt of the property recently purchased by the company as a fire engine house. The

January 26

Slits Women's Throat

On Sunday evening, Clinton van Brinkle (colored) went to the home of



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FREDERICK COUNTY HISTORY

From John Ashbury's... And All Our Yesterdays: A Chronicle of Frederick County

January 5

Frederick Countians have done some remarkable things through the years. A German immigrant, John Amelung, made some of the finest glass known in colonial times. McClintock Young invented a brush making machine that allowed a local company to send its product around the world. But Outerbridge Horsey, who was born on February 28, 1819, made a name for himself and Frederick County in the distillery business.

In 1838 he built his plant on a 61-acre tract of land between Burkittsville and Knoxville. He was only 19 years old at the time, but his method of producing rye whiskey became the subject of conversation everywhere.

Horsey disliked the profession of his father, who was a Delaware senator for 12 years, and his grandfather, Maryland's second governor, Thomas Lee. So he opened his Needwood Distillery. It later became known as the Horsey Distillery.

For years he experimented with various methods of distilling. His work was interrupted by The Civil War. As a matter of fact, in 1862, Union troops reduced his buildings to rubble.

In the three years that followed the destruction of his plant, Horsey studied European distillation methods, experimenting with various elements of the process. In 1865 he rebuilt his distillery using the most modern of methods and the best equipment he could find.

The warehouse was tripled in size so that he could store up to 3,000 barrels. In short order his Very Fine Outerbridge Horsey's Rye Whiskey became a national item. Californians bought almost one-third of his production. But this rye whiskey wasn't cheap.

It was Horsey's method of aging that ran up the price. He would store the product in his

warehouse for from six month to two years. He would then ship it by rail from Knoxville-Brunswick to Washington where it was loaded on an ocean-going vessel. It would travel around the horn of South America and up the west coast to California. Some of it was even left on the ship and returned to Burkittsville. This sea voyage, Horsey concluded, was why the Scotch and Irish whiskeys available in America were so much smoother and mellower than those produced in the colonies.

A year before his death on January 5, 1902, he began to distill corn whiskey. But the plant was just a few short years from its demise. In 1919, the Volstead Act was passed and the distillery was closed forever. However, the story of Horsey's Distillery doesn't end here.

Old time residents of the Burkittsville area still tell the tale of the death of Dr. George Yourtee. It seems that after the government forced the closure of Horsey's plant, the warehouse and its contents were put under guard. Area residents frequently raided the warehouse and bribed the guards to get at the rye whiskey still in storage.

In the early morning hours of March 31, 1923, with a new guard on duty, a group of residents raided the warehouse. Not knowing of the prior arrangements with the guards, this new one fired into the crowd and Dr. Yourtee was hit. He died at about 8 P.M. that evening.

Although the story cannot be confirmed by newspaper accounts, the reports in the press concerning the raid on the distillery warehouse and the death of Dr. Yourtee, who was a prominent physician and surgeon in Burkittsville, probably led to the speculation that he was involved in the raid. The cause of death for Dr. Yourtee was not included in the newspaper articles, but because of his position and reputation in the community make it doubtful that he died of that ill-fated gunshot wound.

January 12

On February 2, 1851, a new addition to the Old Hill Methodist Episcopal Church on East All Saints St., believed to be the first church in Frederick to allow Negroes to attend, was dedicated.

Back on January 11, 1811, Richard Potts, a lawyer and prominent member of All Saints Episcopal Church, deeded a part of Lot #10 on East All Saints St. to a free Negro named William Hammond. Seven years later, on January 12, 1818, Hammond deeded part of that lot to a group of trustees for the expressed purpose of constructing a new Methodist Episcopal Church, which would allow Negroes to attend. That church became known as The Old Hill Church.

While many believe this church was built on the same property where All Saints Episcopal Church had stood, it was not. Old Hill Church was constructed on part of a lot adjacent to the three lots where All Saints had been.

From its inception in 1818 to 1864, both whites and Negroes attended services together. In 1850 the Old Hill parishioners constructed a large addition, it was dedicated on February 2, 1851.

In 1864 Negroes, who had been attending the Old Hill Church since 1818, took full possession, and in 1868 it was incorporated as Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church.

The present facility at the northwest corner of South Court and West All Saints Sts was built in 1921 and continues today as a house of worship for black city and county residents.

January 19

Marital difficulties are not a new thing in America. Today we have special facilities for battered spouses. We have a highly developed profession of marriage counselors. But at the turn of the century, they were few and far between.

In Brunswick, which was in the

midst of its boomtown era, townspeople were shocked in January 1900 to hear of a shooting involving two Baltimore and Ohio Railroad workers over one of their wives.

On Saturday the 18th, Jerome Swartley, a conductor for the B&O, left his home, telling his wife he was going on his "run." During the night he returned to Brunswick and early on Sunday morning he went home unexpectedly. He had suspected his wife of infidelity and had developed a plan to catch her in the act.

When he arrived home he found Charles Seeberger, an electrician for the railroad and a next-door neighbor, in a compromising position with his wife. A quarrel, and then a physical confrontation ensued.

Seeberger was hit in the thigh with the first shot from Swartley's gun, but he continued to struggle with the irate husband. Although he had his thumb over the barrel of the pistol, a second shot passed through it and lodged in Seeberger's abdomen.

The fight continued and finally Swartley pulled the gun away from Seeberger and fired a third shot. The bullet pierced his opponent's left side and passed through his lung.

Somehow Seeberger managed to take the gun away from Swartley and flee the house. He was taken by train to Baltimore City Hospitals where he underwent three hours of surgery.

On Tuesday January 16, Seeberger died of his wounds and Swartley was charged with murder. An autopsy showed that the bullet that hit Seeberger in the chest had pierced his heart as well as his lung.

On January 19, 1900, a hearing was held in the Frederick County Circuit Court before Judge John Motter. Motter, after hearing testimony from Mrs. Swartley that Seeberger had attacked her husband as soon as he entered the house, ruled that the shooting was not murder and released Swartley on \$750 bail.

According to the newspapers of the day, after being released, Swartley walked to the train depot

accompanied by his wife, "seemingly none the worse for the ordeal through which they had passed."

January 26

From late August 1881 until the Spring of 1886 an epidemic of diphtheria raged in Frederick. During those awful five years more than 300 city residents died of the disease, a bacterial infection characterized by weakness, high fever and the formation of membrane-like obstructions to breathing.

More than 3 percent of the city's children died. Dr. Franklin Smith, Frederick County Health Officer, blamed the local canning industry, hog pens, stables, privies and the city's gutters and sewers.

At the canning plants Smith said he observed acres of corn cobs, tomato skins and other vegetable products piled as much as three and four feet deep. He said manure was also mixed in with the garbage.

For most of the five years of the epidemic, city officials tried every conceivable solution. They ordered the canning plants to remove the vegetable waste on a more regular basis; lye was spread in all privies; the gutters were cleaned daily; and everyone did what was possible at the time to cleanse drinking and bathing water.

But the dread disease raged on, striking most city families.

None did it hit with greater devastation than the Reverend Dr. Osborne Ingle, the rector of All Saints Episcopal Church. He was visited by tragedy again and again during the epidemic.

On April 5, 1881, the Rev. Ingle's 10-year-old daughter Elizabeth Dulany died, as so many children did in those days.

However, her death was just a prelude to the suffering Ingle would endure over the next 21 months.

In August of that year the diphtheria began and it went on for 5 years. In January of 1882, just 10 months after Bessie's death, The Rev. Ingle and his wife, Mary Ingle, lost five more of their children to the disease. Gertrude, Osborne, Caroline, Susie and Antoinette Ingle all died in little more than two weeks' time. But for the Rev. Ingle the sorrow would continue.

A year later, on January 28, 1883, Mrs. Ingle died after giving birth to a son, who did not live to be christened. So it was that the Rev. Ingle lost eight members of his immediate family.

A friend wrote later "men stood awed and silenced before the noble courage with which Dr. Ingle went about his work. They wondered why a cup so bitter should be pressed to lips so pure."

This dedicated pastor went on to serve All Saints for another 26 years before his death on September 20, 1909.

To read past editions of Frederick County History, visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.



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TANEYTOWN HISTORY

A daring flight to freedom

David Buie

As we approach Black History Month in February, it prompts us to reflect on the experiences and struggles of African Americans throughout our nation's history. Delving into Taneytown's past, it becomes imperative to acknowledge and honor the contributions and challenges faced by the African American community.

During this significant month, one may inquire about the initiatives and activities undertaken by Taneytown to pay homage to the African Americans who have shaped its history. How does the community recognize and commemorate the stories of resilience and determination that characterize the African American experience in Taneytown's past?

The gripping narrative of Wesley Harris (a.k.a. Robert Jackson), vividly depicted in 1872 by William Still's book, "Underground Railroad," provides a poignant glimpse into the challenges faced by those seeking freedom during the tumultuous period of the Underground Railroad. Harris's arduous journey, the brief respite and subsequent betrayal in a Taneytown barn, and the daring escape that followed all contribute to a narrative that underscores the harsh realities of that era.

The Perilous Journey: The escaping group, determined to secure their freedom, embarked on a two-day, 60-mile journey. Along the way, a black man's warning about lurking slave catchers led them to seek refuge in the safety of the woods.

A Brief Respite and Betrayal: When encountering a seemingly friendly white farmer, their fortunes unexpectedly turned. Given sustenance and offered shelter in his barn, the exhausted group fell into a deep sleep. However, their temporary respite was shattered around

noon when men were heard talking around the barn. Wesley Harris, sensing betrayal, urgently woke his companions.

"About noon, men were heard talking around the barn. I woke my companions up and told them that that man had betrayed us. At first, they did not believe me."

The Confrontation: The barn door swung open, revealing eight armed men. The owner of the barn denied harboring runaway slaves, pretending ignorance. The confrontation escalated as the group faced interrogation about their destination, the absence of passes, and the threat of being tied up. A gunshot wounded the alleged betrayer, triggering a fierce conflict.

"In a moment afterward, the barn door was opened, and in came the men, eight in number. One of the men asked the owner of the barn if he had any long straw. 'Yes,' was the answer."

"So upon the mow came three of the men, when, to their great surprise, as they pretended, we were discovered. The question was then asked the owner of the barn by one of the men, if he harbored runaway negroes in his barn? He answered, 'No,' and pretended to be entirely ignorant of their being in his barn."

"One of the men replied that four negroes were on the mow, and he knew of it. The men then asked us where we were going. We told them to Gettysburg, that we had aunts and a mother there. Also we spoke of a Mr. Houghman, a gentleman we happened to have some knowledge of, having seen him in Virginia."

"We were next asked for our passes. We told them that we hadn't any, that we had not been required to carry them where we came from. They then said that we would have to go before a magistrate, and if he allowed us to go on, well and good."

"The men all being armed and furnished with ropes, we were ordered to be tied. I told them if they took

me they would have to take me dead or crippled. At that instant one of my friends cried out—'Where is the man that betrayed us?'

"Spying him at the same moment, he shot him (badly wounding him). Then the conflict fairly began. The constable seized me by the collar, or rather behind my shoulder. I at once shot him with my pistol, but in consequence of his throwing up his arm, which hit mine as I fired, the effect of the load of my pistol was much turned aside; his face, however, was badly burned, besides his shoulder being wounded."

"I again fired on the pursuers but do not know whether I hit anybody or not. I then drew a sword, I had brought with me, and was about cutting my way to the door, when I was shot by one of the men, receiving the entire contents of one load of a double barreled gun in my left arm, that being the arm with which I was defending myself."

"The load brought me to the ground, and I was unable to make further struggle for myself. I was badly beaten with guns &c. [?]."

"In the meantime, my friend Craven, who was defending himself, was shot badly in the face, and most violently beaten until he was conquered and tied. The two young brothers of Craven stood still, without making the least resistance."

Escape and Capture: In the ensuing struggle, Wesley Harris fought bravely but eventually succumbed to a gunshot, sustaining severe injuries. Captured and taken to Terrytown (Taneytown), Harris's wounds were treated, and he became a prisoner at a local tavern. Despite guarded surveillance, Harris orchestrated a daring escape, securing nails and rope and utilizing a window.

"After we were fairly captured, we were taken to Terrytown (Taney-



Wesley Harris fighting for his freedom, as illustrated in William Still's 'Underground Railroad.'

town), which was in sight of where we were betrayed. By this time I had lost so much blood from my wounds, that they concluded my situation was too dangerous to admit of being taken further, so I was made a prisoner at the tavern. There my wounds were dressed and 32 shot taken from my arm."

Harris nearly died, but gradually recovered. While he was guarded day and night, an African American cook procured a piece of rope and three nails.

Harris's Daring Escape: Weakened but determined, Harris fastened nails under the windowsill, tied a rope, and descended to the ground. Barely able to walk, he hobbled to a predetermined location, where a friend found and secured him. Harris escaped the immediate pursuit and was later escorted to Gettysburg via an alternative route.

"On Friday night, October 14th, I fastened my nails in under the window sill; tied my rope to the nails, threw my shoes out of the window, put the rope in my mouth, then took hold of it with my well hand, clambered into the window, very weak, but I managed to let myself down to the ground."

"I was so weak, that I could scarcely walk, but I managed to hobble off to a place three quarters of a mile from the tavern where a friend

had fixed upon for me to, if I succeeded in making my escape."

"There I was found by my friend, who kept me secure till Saturday eve, when a swift horse was furnished by James Rogers, and a colored man found to conduct me to Gettysburg. Instead of going direct to Gettysburg, we took a different road, in order to shun our pursuers, as the news of my escape had created general excitement."

Fate of Companions: Meanwhile, Harris's three companions faced imprisonment in Westminster jail before being sold in Baltimore for twelve hundred dollars each. The Vigilance Committee intervened, providing Harris with medical care and facilitating his relocation to Canada, where he eventually found employment as a brakeman on the Great Western Railroad.

The gripping account of Wesley Harris's confrontation and escape, which occurred in October 1853, offers a poignant glimpse into the challenges faced by those seeking freedom during this tumultuous period in American history. Harris and his comrades exemplify resilience and determination, highlighting the challenging circumstances of the Underground Railroad era.

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

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COOKING

Future you as a friend

Sonya Verlaque

I had a salad today just before I sat down to write, and it was so refreshing. Crunchy, lots of different delicious things in it. Here's an almond, some grilled chicken, shredded carrot. I feel like everything I have eaten from November through December has been dense. Like, heavy, sit in your stomach and induce a nap heavy. The salad almost felt like something brand new.

I feel like we are all always "on the go" and I have to constantly "grab something quick." But if you have 15, or even 30 minutes, you have time to actually eat something that is nutritious and tastes good. You deserve to eat good food and it will help your body function, sometimes I like to even think of future me as a friend. Dinner me will be hungry tonight, she's worked pretty hard and I like her most of the time, let me put something together now so when she's tired and hungry tonight she doesn't DoorDash a bad decision.

Crockpot Honey Garlic Chicken

This is an easy crock pot recipe for chicken thighs cooked in honey garlic sauce that is full of flavor. Only 5 ingredients that you probably already have plus a couple of standard seasonings. Super easy chicken recipe and also easy to increase in size for leftovers. My husband loves it when we make extra so he can eat it over rice for

lunch. To serve this I actually just make some rice and steam some broccoli in the microwave and it's similar to having Chinese take out without the delivery fee.

Ingredients:

6 boneless, skinless chicken thighs or breasts, mainly important they are skinless because chicken skin in a Crockpot is not pleasant
4 garlic cloves, minced (jar garlic is fine)
1/3 cup honey
1/2 cup low sodium ketchup
1/2 cup low sodium soy sauce
1/2 tsp dried oregano
2 tbs fresh parsley
1/2 tbs toasted sesame seeds

Preparation Instructions:

Arrange chicken thighs on the bottom of your slow cooker; set aside. (please look at the notes section) in a mixing bowl, combine garlic, honey, ketchup, soy sauce, oregano and parsley; whisk until thoroughly combined. Pour the sauce over the chicken thighs. Close with a lid and cook for 4 to 5 hours on LOW, or 3 to 4 hours on HIGH. Final internal cooking temp for chicken is 165. Remove lid and transfer chicken to a serving plate.

To thicken the sauce you can do it two ways. First make a cornstarch slurry. Use 1 tablespoon cornstarch mixed with 1 tablespoon cold water; mix it together until mixture forms a paste. The fastest way: 30 minutes

before the chicken is done cooking, whisk the cornstarch slurry into the sauce inside the slow cooker; cover and continue to cook for 30 minutes. The second way that requires two steps but is a bit nicer. When the chicken is done, take a small sauce pan and sieve, strain the Crockpot juices into the pot. This takes out the left over chicken bits. Then add the cornstarch slurry and bring the whole thing to a boil and then turn down to simmer for 2 to 3 minutes, then spoon over chicken. It will continue to thicken as it cools also. This will make a smoother sauce and the entire dish stores well for 3 days in the refrigerator.

Chilled Asparagus with Citrus Vinaigrette

This is delicious and a way to be kind to future you. So, if you planned on making asparagus for dinner, just boil extra and set it aside. Dress with this vinaigrette and you have a nice lunch side dish for tomorrow. This with an egg (poached, hard boiled, whatever) and some crusty toast with butter or cheese feels like "restaurant lunch" as my kids would say.

Ingredients:

1 pound asparagus, woody ends cut off
1 tsp orange zest
1/4 cup fresh orange juice
2 tbs fresh lemon juice
1 tbs dijon mustard
2 tsp white wine vinegar
1 tbs extra virgin olive oil



Crockpot Honey Garlic Chicken

2 tsp maple syrup or honey
Kosher salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste

Preparation Instructions:

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add in the asparagus and cook for 2 minutes. Immediately remove the asparagus from the boiling water and place it into an ice bath to stop the cooking process. Once the asparagus has cooled remove it from the water, blot it dry with a towel, and place it in a large bowl. In a glass measuring cup combine the remaining ingredients and whisk together to form the citrus vinaigrette. Pour the desired amount of vinaigrette over the asparagus and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve, salt and pepper.

Sheet-Pan Chicken Thighs with Brussels Sprouts & Gnocchi

When did Brussels sprouts get such a glow up? I swear 20 years ago no one ate Brussels sprouts, I wish I had bought Brussels sprout stock. This recipe originally appeared in eatingwell.com and is also easy to substitute other vegetables if you don't have sprouts on hand. Green pepper chunks for sprouts, or red peppers or carrots for tomatoes. You can also live with this up with some fresh basil at the end.

Ingredients:

4 tbs extra-virgin olive oil, divided
2 tbs chopped fresh oregano, divided
2 large cloves garlic, minced, divided
1/2 tsp ground pepper, divided
1/4 tsp salt, divided
1 pound Brussels sprouts, trimmed and quartered
1 (16 ounce) package shelf-stable gnocchi
1 cup sliced red onion
4 boneless, skinless chicken thighs, trimmed
1 cup halved cherry tomatoes
1 tbs red-wine vinegar

Preparation Instructions:

Preheat oven to 450 degrees F. Stir 2 tablespoon oil, 1 tablespoon oregano, half the garlic, 1/4 tsp pepper and 1/8 tsp salt together in a large bowl. Add Brussels sprouts, gnocchi and onion; toss to coat. Spread on a large rimmed baking sheet. Stir 1 tablespoon oil, the remaining 1 tablespoon oregano, the remaining garlic and the remaining 1/4 tsp pepper and 1/8 tsp salt in the large bowl. Add chicken and toss to coat. Nestle the chicken into the vegetable mixture. Roast for 10 minutes. Remove from the oven and add the tomatoes; stir to combine. Continue roasting until the Brussels sprouts are tender and the chicken is just cooked through, about 10 minutes more (internal temperature of 165F). Stir vinegar and the remaining 1 tablespoon oil into the vegetable mixture.

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MOMS' TIME OUT

Resolution unnecessary!

Mary Angel

As you all know every year, I make a New Year's resolution that lasts all of about a minute. I have good intentions and usually I pick something healthy, like eating better, working out, or losing weight. This year I have decided to skip the middleman and go straight to ending my resolution. However, I am already well on the way to the end result without even starting. Stick around and I will explain.

As most moms would agree, we would do anything for our kids. I am no different. Although, sometimes I do feel they learn way more from their mistakes than from anything I could teach them. In this particular case I decided to support my daughter by going alongside her. My youngest has struggled her whole life with her weight. She has been to more doctors and specialists than I can count. She has had her blood drawn so much it would make Dracula squeamish. No one can figure out why she kept gaining weight regardless of diet or exercise. So, when she decided she wanted to play a particular sport in high school it was crunch time (exercise pun intended).

Recently she decided she wanted to try wrestling in high school. After I got over the fear, horror, and downright confusion I asked her why and when. It turns out she has several friends on the wrestling team, and they have been asking her since freshman year (she is a junior by the way) to try out for the team. So, this year, she did, and she is officially a wrestler. At the beginning of the season, she comes home and says she needs to lose weight because she is much heavier than the highest weight class they have for girls. This was a horrifying statement until she added, "But don't worry mom they won't let me lose weight too quickly, or I am disqualified and can't wrestle". I had visions of an afterschool special until she gave me that important tidbit of information.

So, we began the journey to help her make weight. I was not convinced it was possible in the short amount of time the season allowed, but I was sure regardless she would end up a much healthier, happier person. She began by going to practice 5 days a week minimum. These

involved sprints, drills, wrestling, and so much more. It literally pushed her to the point where she came home crying many evenings. Through the tears, she would explain that she was either overwhelmed or disappointed that she couldn't do a drill, but under no circumstance was she quitting. The running joke became me saying, "So I guess you're not going back tomorrow" and turned into us both laughing after I said it.

After the first week and a half she was able to participate in the drill that had brought her to tears at the beginning. Then one day when she was a little down on her abilities her coach stopped her in the hall to tell her how proud he was of her and the fact that she was an inspiration to the other girls. It turns out that even though she was the biggest girl on the team, and struggled to accomplish what the other girls could, they were inspired because she kept trying even though things were harder for her. This gave her even more of a push to keep going.

I told her that she inspired me as well. So, I was going to give up soda and start walking in the morning when she left for school. As a family, we would also make sure that every dinner was low carb and full of protein and veggies. Not only that, but I started making sure there were salad fixings in the house, and I always had a head of lettuce clean and chopped in the fridge. I took it a step farther and shopped celery, carrots, and peppers for crudité as well. My daughter loves veggies and hummus. The whole family was thrilled about the salad, because we are a salad family.

Fast forward a few weeks and I am loving my daughter's enthusiasm. Don't get me wrong, she still has days when she is completely exhausted or really doesn't want to go to practice, but she is still pushing along. I don't think the weight is falling off the way it should for how much she is working out and how healthy she is eating, but as any number of doctors told us, that can't be explained. She is making excellent choices and the whole family is doing the same right along side her. Her brothers are now going rucking every day. For those of you who are like me and had no clue what rucking was, they strap a

weighted vest on and go for a few miles walk. Not only are they getting healthier and stronger, but their relationship is also growing. My husband has even gotten in on the fun and returned to the gym. He loves working out every morning after he drops our sweet little wrestler off at school.

My struggle with the soda addiction has been an uphill battle, and getting up in the morning to walk before work is not my idea of a good time, but how can I not when my baby is pushing herself so hard. She really is an inspiration and basically my motivation to keep going. At this point (almost Christmas time) she has lost almost 10 pounds and I have lost almost 5 pounds. Although I am skeptical that she will be able to make weight in the time allotted I do believe she will keep going and hopefully be able to wrestle her senior year. If suddenly the weight starts coming off a bit quicker and she does make weight, let me tell you, I will be the cheeringest (totally making this a real word) mom at that first wrestling tournament.

Regardless, I could not be more proud of her perseverance, care for her teammates, and motivation of her family. To see this whole family rally behind her and more importantly take this journey along side her arm in arm has really warmed my heart. Whether it be encouraging her to choose veggies over less healthy options, asking her to go for a walk, or offering to take her to the gym with them, her family has demonstrated their love and support in so many ways. So no, I am not going to make a New Year's Resolution because this year I don't have to. I am wishing you all health, happiness, and a headlock (just trying out a wrestling pun)!

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FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

This month, we asked our writers to reflect on what resolutions they might have for the New Year.

Freshman

Goals for 2024

Gracie Smith
MSMU Class of 2027

As 2023 comes to an end, I can not believe that I have accomplished all that I have. I graduated from high school as the President of the National Honor Society. I started college at the Mount as a part of the University Honors Program. I began writing for the paper you're currently reading. I have made lasting friendships and connections at school. I have taken opportunities I would have never taken before. In 2023, I have grown so much as an individual, and cannot wait to see what I accomplish in 2024.

As the New Year approaches, I have considered several things I would like to improve on in 2024. One thing is my individuality. I want to be more open and honest with myself about what I like, rather than trying to please everyone else. I have noticed that in 2023, I started doing this, especially in college since I had no one

to please but myself. From this, I have made amazing friends and made so many memories. In 2024 I hope to continue this and to not deny myself the things that I like including my interests, hobbies, and style.

Another thing I would like to improve on is my relationships. I have made so many friends that are very important to me. In 2024, I hope to do more things with them and make more memories. A New Year means new opportunities, and I plan on taking advantage of all the opportunities I can to have fun with my friends and have a fulfilling college experience.

Continuing with maintaining good habits, I hope to do well in my next semester's classes. As of right now, I have over 20 textbooks I get to read next semester, and I would be lying if I said I wasn't nervous. However, as nervous as I may be, I am very excited to see what my professors are going to teach me, and what all 20 textbooks have to offer. As someone who loves to learn, I am very excited for the next semester, and I am very excited about the courses I am taking.

In late 2024, I will be tested to become a certified Gettysburg Bat-

tlefield Guide. I have been preparing for about 4 months now, and with another year under my belt, I am praying that I pass the certification exam. As a history major, I am very excited about this job opportunity and cannot wait to be a guide. Since I live so close to Gettysburg, I am there very often. It's even better that the Mount is roughly 15 minutes away as well, so I can be a guide and continue my education at the same time. With help from my middle school history teacher, I hope that I can juggle my schoolwork and my books in preparation for being a Battlefield Guide.

With that being said, I will be juggling three jobs by the end of 2024. I pray that I am able to build up my work ethic and time management skills throughout the New Year in order to prepare myself. I will continue my job at Giant as a pharmacy technician, write for the newspaper, and, hopefully, be a Gettysburg Battlefield Guide. I am looking forward to the future that lies ahead of me; I just hope that throughout the New Year, I can accomplish everything I need to so that I can juggle three jobs and prepare for my greater future.

Digressing from maintaining my good habits into the New Year, I hope to establish some new habits. To start, I hope to work on saving my money a bit better and creating a stricter budget. As a freshman in college, I learned very quickly that I cannot spend my money how I used to as a senior in high school. I have had to cut my hours at Giant so that I am not overloaded with work and schoolwork. With that, I also need to cut my spending. As prices continue to increase, my bank account is constantly decreasing.

Self-care is something I have always tried to do, however, in 2024 I plan to take it a little more seriously. I don't mean spending more money on myself, I cannot do that, I mean taking more time to do the things I enjoy and taking better care of my body. Looking over my next semester's agenda, I realized that I am going to be very busy. With that being said, I need to dedicate time to do the things I enjoy. Things such as going for walks, reading books, cleaning my dorm room, watching movies, playing video games, and of course, sleeping.

In addition to dedicating time

to myself, I need to take better care of my body. As much as I want to believe it, I can't live off ramen noodles, cosmic brownies, and sweet tea. In this last semester of college, I noticed that my eating habits had become very unhealthy. Not only was I eating hardly at all, but when I did it was very unhealthy food. Now that I am acclimated at school, I intend to start eating 3 meals a day and drinking water more frequently.

While my intentions for 2024 are not what everyone might expect, they are things that I am striving to achieve. I hope that with diligence, self-discipline, and support from my family and friends, I am able to reach these goals and further grow as a young woman. Having goals not only sets us up for success, but allows us to try new things for the betterment of ourselves. It is important to prioritize the things you are aiming to achieve so that you have a balance of success and happiness. As 2024 begins, I hope that everyone has a safe, happy, and blessed New Year.

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

Sophomore

My resolutions this year

Devin Owen
MSMU Class of 2026

At the beginning of each year, I make a list of goals, or resolutions, that I wish to accomplish in the new year...and every year I give up about two months in. Maybe it's because I set very unrealistic goals

for myself, or because I simply just cannot fit new things into my very busy schedule. Last year, the goal I left in the dust was to start going to the gym at least twice a week again, like I did when I was back home in Delaware. That ideal got left behind once I realized that I very much so did not enjoy the walk over to the ARCC in the cold—or in the nice weather—and most certainly didn't enjoy the part where I had to actually work out. This year however, I am looking to set some more realis-

tic ideals for myself in the new year.

My first goal for 2024 is to have a healthier diet. Over the course of 2023, I would find myself going out to eat more often than not, whether it be Chick-Fil-A, a nice sit-down restaurant, or even gas station food such as Wawa or Sheetz. While it all tasted great, it was not the best thing to put into my body. I'd be much better off eating actual meals daily; spinach salads with chicken or some form of protein, pork chops and vegetables, essentially any home-cooked meal would do. I have learned that I tend to feel better when I eat healthier: my energy is higher, my mood is better, and I do not feel sick most of the day as I do when I eat a lot of junk or fast food. So, with that in mind, I just think it would do me a lot of good to better my diet.

Another goal I have set for myself this year is to spend more time with my family. Even though I'm a college student, quality time with my family is just as important as time with my friends. In the last year I have learned that people don't stick around forever, and losing them is really, really hard. In April 2023, my Uncle Charlie passed away and that was by far one of the hardest experiences I have had to deal with; he was one of my favorite people. If I learned anything with his passing though, it is crucial to cherish every moment you have with the people you love. Sometimes we take things like presence for granted; we overlook the time that we have and how much we spend with people might not be enough. There are many people in my family that I know I need and want to spend more time with. A good example is my mom; given that I don't live with her, I also

do not get as much time with her as I once did. I remember growing up, we would stay up super late every weekend and watch one of the (numerous) shows we picked out together, while eating a bowl of ice cream and learning to crochet. After being on my own for a bit, I miss these moments more than anything. This goal also makes me think to my grandparents: while trying to decide on a Christmas gift for both sets of my grandparents, my stepmom reminded me that many people at that age just want time with their loved ones. Nothing matters more to people than time does.

Considering that I am a college student, it might be obvious that the next resolution on my list is to stay on top of my schoolwork/grades, and to manage my time better. I noticed in this past semester of school that I was beyond stressed most days. Maybe it's because I started working a waitressing job on top of classes and writing for this lovely paper, maybe it's because I had more readings to do; we may never know. I think that if I manage to stay on top of my work, and get it done earlier rather than later, then I will manage to reduce some of the stress that I have managed to wrap myself in most of the year. This also ties into the time management goal, because if I manage my time properly between work, school, and free time then hopefully my stress levels will be minimal (although, nonexistent would be ideal).

While on the topic of work, my next goal is to save money! I had no idea just how expensive college was, but oh boy! Usually, I am pretty good at setting aside money for certain things, but I do have my moments where I really enjoy

shopping. As my best friend like to say, "It's okay Dev, you're just a girl!" This typically leaves me in the mindset that it's okay because I can just make the money back later. Even though this may be true, it doesn't mean that spending it all on shopping is a good idea; it very well would be much better suited towards my needs instead of wants. I have a feeling though, that this might be one of my goals that gets (partially) left behind in the months of January and February.

My final, and probably most important goal of the year, is to have more experiences than material goods. My mama always reminds me and my siblings that when we die, we cannot take any of our earthly possessions with us to the afterlife. It's a mindset that I have applied to my life in recent months; I would much rather spend my life having these amazing experiences with people I care about. Going to concerts is a perfect example of this: there is something just so ethereal about being in the moment surrounded by people who feel the same way, as we all sing along and dance to the songs being sung on stage in front of us. Family vacations are perfect too; something about being surrounded by my loved ones in a place where our worries and stress cannot reach gives me a feeling of peace. I would much rather die knowing I lived a life full of memories than surrounded by items I'll never see again. My New Year's resolution this year: to live in the moment and make memories with the people I care about, to take with me when I die.

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

Happy New Year 2024!

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NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Junior

No time like the present

Dolores Hans
MSMU class of 2025

Upon reflection of this past year and my awareness of all the things to come in the next, I know now more than I ever have that I need to make a resolution to live in the present. All my life I have spent reflecting or dwelling on the past, with anxiety while looking forward to the future. The present never seemed adequate. There was either a better moment in the past, or a potentially better moment in the future. The truth is, however, that where I am right now, is exactly where I am meant to be. I am missing it because I'm too busy romanticizing what's to come, or feeling the pain from my past even if it is something I no longer have to feel. I used to pray for a man who would love me, not only because of all the fun adventures we could go on together and all the hugs and support, but because I felt so unloved for most of my life. Now, I have that man that I prayed for, and I have never felt so much

love in my life; yet, for some reason, it isn't enough. It isn't enough because now that I have him, I'm thinking about our future together. Constantly! I will actually become angry at the fact that we aren't married yet, and I must stop myself (or more accurately, he lovingly stops me) and recognize that where I am right now and what I have, is what I used to long for and pray for, and that this is where I am meant to be for now. I have to be grateful for the present.

I am so excited to have backyard barbecues and camping trips with my friends when we all have our own families, but I am too quick to miss out on opportunities to make memories with them now, while we are all together on campus.

I am dwelling on and actively feeling the hurts from my past, instead of allowing myself to create space between who I am in the life I live now, from that of my past. Instead of working to heal my wounds, I just reopen them and live through it again, causing me all kinds of hurt.

There are so many things that I look forward to this upcoming year, and I don't want to spend those moments in anything less

than pure bliss and joyful anticipation. In January I start my second semester of junior year, and as a Special Education/Elementary Education major, I will be beginning my internship in Frederick County. This is a very special opportunity, and I don't want to take it for granted. Being a teacher isn't my dream job, but it is something I feel is absolutely an essential part of who I am and how I love. I am not a very career minded person as most people are, but I've always been able to see the deeper beauty in teaching children. This experience will help me grow in so many ways, and I want to embrace that, not hide from it, because it will be a challenge.

In April I celebrate my two-year anniversary, which is insane because I feel like I have known and loved him for at least five years. With another big milestone in the books, it will be really easy for me to look forwards to the future and fall back into my patterns of jealousy (of engaged couples) and resentment (towards all the things that prevent it from being the right time). But I need to look at these two years and realize how time has gone by so quickly and be thankful

that I have him and that we have been able to make so many amazing memories since we met.

In May, my oldest brother is getting married, and he hired me as the photographer. I am so excited to get another wedding in my portfolio, but I also must remember that he is my family, and this is the "end of an era" as people say, because we are no longer children sharing our lives under the same roof and same family. I want to make sure that I am present at the wedding, not just as the photographer to take photos—because that is natural to me—but as his sister, coming out of my shell, enjoying myself, and treasuring this time that I have with him and all of our family. As an introvert and an observant person, I love photography because the purpose is not to be the center of attention. I can hide behind my camera and choose not to be social because my job is to capture the fun, heartfelt, momentous, and intimate moments throughout the event. But I need to remember that I shouldn't hide at my own brother's wedding. I need to be courageous and lively, as well as take beautiful photos.

In June, my other older brother

is getting married. I know, it's going to be hectic in my household (even more than it usually is as a family of ten). In his wedding, I am a bridesmaid. I have never been a bridesmaid before. I've been a flower girl a couple times, but this is different. I am an adult now. As I mentioned before, I am naturally an observer, so coming out of my shell and living in the moment full of joy is something I need to work on.

Next fall begins my senior year, and Lord knows I have a lot on my plate. It can be so easy to be overwhelmed by the unknown. But life is full of uncertainties, and that is something I have to accept. It is something I have to learn to see in a new perspective, so I can embrace it with hope and resilience instead of fear. I also need to remember the good times of my childhood, rather than everything that went wrong. My past is past. Every day is a new day to grow in character, learn truth and reason, and witness beauty. Knowing this, I can start changing my mindset to live in the present moment.

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

Senior

The grad year

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

In 2023, I worked a full-time job and wasn't paid a dime.

Every day, I clocked in before 7 a.m., and I left promptly at 2:45 p.m., commuting back to campus. I then attended evening classes, wrote college essays, edited the Mount's literary magazine, and of course, edited this lovely News-Journal. I managed to exercise most days, hang out with friends over the weekends, and end with a pretty great GPA.

During the day, I was Ms. Doll. I taught some wonderful middle and high schoolers, wrote language arts lesson plans, read novels like *The Great Gatsby* and *The Outsiders* to teach my students. It was exhausting to work so much and balance being a college student.

But I loved it. Of course, I didn't love working a full-time job while my college friends slept in and dressed in sweats and went out to lunch. Or driving home after the most difficult week ever and not getting a single penny for my work. Or the late nights, missed workouts, the tears, or the loneliness of such a busy life. I loved my students: classes of eccentric and positive middle schoolers. I loved my mentor: a wise, wonderful, impactful teacher who guided me through the highs and lows of education. I loved the staff at Thurmont Middle, and I loved this glimpse of the real world, and of what it's like to be a teacher.

In 2023, I got a part-time job as a barista. I learned to make my absolute favorite thing in the entire world: espresso drinks. I went to so many beaches, saw Taylor Swift (highlight of the year, I'd say), and I grew so many friendships. And of course, I completed two teaching internships in the spring and fall. It was a beautiful year, one where I found myself, but also struggled immensely. Did I really want to be a teacher, when everyone seems to have a negative opinion on education? Did it matter if I missed two workouts in a row? (In the moment, it mattered so much.) Would life after college be all that I had hoped?

I'll be honest: I'm scared for 2024. I graduate in May, and after that, I start working. I'm scared of being a teacher, a real teacher with a classroom and everything. Where will I teach? Where will I live? Will my students like me? Will I even make it?

Not only that, but I won't live with my best friends ever again. Not like this. Now, after every Tuesday evening class, I go to my friend Jordana's apartment to debrief the weekend. I learn to make pottery with my roommate Emma, and I have comforting talks with my other roommate, Kayla, at the end of her bed. I bake cookies with my boyfriend, Gavin. I have wine nights with my friends, and I enjoy trips to Gettysburg for a midday coffee. College is a beautiful thing, something I am so grateful for. I wouldn't change it for anything, and I have learned so much.

However, if 2024 will bring anything, it will be change.

Next semester is the first semester

since freshman year that I will have less than 16 credits of classes—meaning I have a super light course load. I have off Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. I'm taking the general courses I need for graduation, but also classes such as personal finance and ceramics. I want to better prepare myself for my financial future, and I also want to dedicate time to leisure and new hobbies. I'll still edit *Lighted Corners* and the *News-Journal*, and I'll work on my honors project, and I'll of course be interviewing for teaching positions. But I want to use the space in my schedule to slow down.

I'll never get this time again. The time to be with friends, pursue creative arts, and to do homework at a coffeeshop on a Tuesday at noon. To sleep in and watch the sunrise from my bedroom window, rather than the window at school, or from my car's dashboard. To travel on long weekends and spend hours writing, making pottery, or editing a literary journal. Or being intentional and mindful during my workouts.

My goals for 2024 are abundant. I don't think that one should have a singular resolution, but rather many that complement different aspects of his or her life. For example, one of my resolutions for 2024 is to be more mindful with my time. Rather than cramming assignments, workouts, and shifts into one morning, I will instead give myself space to wake up early, work out, make breakfast, and start my day slowly. With intention. I will limit social media time, maybe even delete some of the apps. I will slow my mind

down, journal more, and focus on mental habits that will sustain me while teaching.

Teaching. I have the goal to give myself immense grace when it comes to being a first-year teacher in 2024. I do not expect myself to be the best, or to do everything right. I want to instead build healthy mental practices—like developing a steady and flexible routine—that will reduce stress in the long run. I will not have college classes, homework, studying, or extracurriculars. I will focus on my own time, on my own hobbies, on teaching and the people around me.

My 2024 resolutions look different than previous years. Instead of aiming for a certain GPA, reading a certain number

of books, or getting my creative writing published, I am striving for simplicity. Space. Self-forgiveness. Friendship. I have never been this way before—if you know me, I'm an anxious, indecisive perfectionist—but I truly do think that this year of student teaching has changed me. I have grown past college, and I strive for a life where I can lead my own classroom. I find value in my students and my experiences rather than my coursework, and I have found a passion in teaching.

As for my concrete plans beyond college? Stay tuned for that!

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

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LIBRARY NEWS

Blue Ridge Summit Free Library
 Mondays – Children’s Story Time 4-5 p.m., Children and parents can join us for a weekly story, craft or coloring sheet, or play time. We will be running two identical 30 - minute sessions in an attempt to accommodate busy schedules.

Wednesdays – Coffee Club from 3 - 4 p.m. Mingle with the gang for coffee, tea, puzzles, board games, coloring books, &c.

Thursdays – Teen’s Night. The community room is reserved for teen use from 4:30 - 6 p.m.. just hang out or play WII, play board games, do puzzles, eat snacks, watch movies, make movies, etc.!

Saturdays - Join us at 10:30 a.m., for an hour of Story Time and all of its festivities! What could be better than a great book and a fun craft?

Scherenschnitte Night at the Library – January 6 at 6:30 p.m.. Learn the German art of paper cutting design.

The Summit Stitches Quilt Club meets at 5:30 p.m. on January 16. New members and new projects are always welcome! Any skill level may attend. If you have always wanted to learn how to quilt, now is the perfect time to start! The group is currently working on this year’s gorgeous raffle quilt.

The BRS Book Club will meet January 22 at 5 p.m.

For more information on the Blue Ridge Summit Free Library visit www.fclspa.org or call 717-792-2240.

January events at Frederick County Libraries

Happy New Year! As we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day this month, we take a moment to reflect on his timeless advice: ‘The time is always right to do what is right.’ With hearts full of hope and

promise we welcome 2024.

Emmitsburg Branch Library celebrates the new year with two special story times for the little ones this month. On Wednesday, January 3, join us for a “Winter Wonderland Celebration” story time, games, and activities and a fun “Winnie the Pooh Party” on Wednesday, January 17 at 11 a.m.

Tweens and teens have a slew of programs to choose from this month, including special programs “Edible Stained Glass” on Saturday, January 6 at 1 p.m. and “Lego Masters Challenge” on January 23 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Thurmont Regional Library has a full calendar of events in January including the “Baby Gear Swap” on January 7 at 2 p.m. The community can bring up to 5 previously loved baby items (ages 0-24 months) to swap. All items are given and taken freely and are not for sale. Please review our monthly calendar to see what items are accepted.

Teens interested in an Agricultural Career are invited to “Teen AGSperience” on January 18, from 4 to 6 p.m. Explore over 200 possible career opportunities working in the Agricultural field.

Join us at our first Teen Library Council on January 31 from 3 to 4 p.m. Become part of the team to redesign the Thurmont Library Teen Space and receive 1 hour of volunteer time for attending each meeting.

Discover the importance of “Wills, Advance Directives and Power of Attorney Forms” with MD Legal Aid on January 3, at 6 p.m.

For people interested in History and our current world situation we have two great programs this month. Join local author Bob O’Connor for “Mrs. the Missing Lincoln Conspirator” on January

20 at 2 p.m. as he shares the story of Mrs. Slater, a friend of John Surratt, Jr., and acquaintance of John Wilkes Booth”.

On January 31, at 7 p.m. meet Thurmont area resident and retired U.S. Ambassador Shaun Donnelly for his program “The Troubled World: A Retired U.S. Ambassador’s Perspective” discussing the current and emerging challenges around the world and how they can affect us here in Frederick County.

Genealogy fans, Learn the “In’s and Out’s” of NewspaperARCHIVE” on Saturday, January 27, 1-2 p.m.

Visit the library website at Month Calendar | Frederick County Public Libraries (library-calendar.com) to discover so much more. Any questions, call Emmitsburg Library at 301 600-6329 or Thurmont Regional Library at 301 600-7212.

Emmitsburg Branch Library Events:

Jan. 3: Winter Wonderland Celebration (Birth to 5), 11-11:45 a.m.

Jan. 17: Winnie the Pooh Party (Birth to 5), 11-11:45 a.m.

Jan. 11, 18, 25: STEAM Discovery (Elementary), 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Jan. 11: Read to a Therapy Dog with Wags for Hope (Birth to 5, Elementary), 6-7 p.m.

Jan. 4, 18: Tween Fiber Arts Workshop (Grades 4-7), 5:30-6 p.m.

Jan. 2, 9, 16, 30: RPG Game Night (Teens), 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Jan. 6: Edible Stained Glass (Teens), 1:30-3 p.m.

Jan. 23: Lego Masters Challenge (Teens), 5-7 p.m.

Thurmont Regional Library Events

Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Baby Storytime (Birth to 5), 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Jan. 7: Baby Gear Swap (Birth to 5, Adult), 2-3 p.m.

Jan. 8, 22, 29: Preschool Storytime (Ages 3-5), 10:30-11 a.m.

Jan. 8, 22, 29: Preschool Play (Ages 3-5), 11:15-11:45 a.m.

Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24: Toddler Storytime (18 months-3), 10:30-11 a.m.

Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25: Musical Storytime (Birth-5), 10:30-11 a.m.

Jan. 11, 25: Get Ready for Kindergarten (Birth-5), 11:15-11:45 a.m.

Jan. 3, 17, 31: Movement and Action Play, (Ages 2-5) 11:15-11:45 a.m.

Jan. 2, 10, 18, 22, 30: STEAM On! (Elementary), 6-7 p.m.

Jan. 16: Bluey Party (Elementary), 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 3, 17: Teens Create! (Teens), 3-4:30 p.m.

Jan. 10: Teen Hangout (Teens), 3-4 p.m.

Jan. 18: Teen AGSperience (Teens), 4-6 p.m.

Jan. 24: Teen Movie Afternoon (Teens), 3-5 p.m.

Jan. 31: Teen Library Council (Teens), 3-4 p.m.

Jan. 3: Wills, Advance Directives, Power of Attorney Forms (Adults), 6-7 p.m.

Jan. 17: How Do I Buy a Home in the Market? (Adults), 6-7 p.m.

Jan. 17: Senior Center Library Day (Adults), 10-12:30 p.m.

Jan. 18: Digital Learning (Adults), 10-Noon.

Saturday, Jan. 20: Mrs. Slater, the Missing Lincoln Conspirator (Adults), 2-4 p.m.

Saturday, January 27: “In’s and Out’s” of NewspaperARCHIVE” (Adults, All Ages), 1-2 p.m.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Jan. 26-28: Memory Lab by Appointment (Adults), All Day.

Wednesday, Jan. 31: The Troubled World: A Retired U.S. Ambassador’s Perspective (Adults, Teens), 7-8 p.m.



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SCHOOL NEWS

Fairfield Area School District

Ferguson-Miller to lead Fairfield Area School Board

Candace Ferguson-Miller is the new president of the Fairfield Area School Board. She replaces Jennifer Holz, who remains on the board. The board chose Jack Liller to retain his position as vice president.

At their biennial reorganization meeting on Dec. 4, the board welcomed new members Erica Bollinger, James Fisher, and Melissa Kearchner. The trio replaces Kelly Christiano, Lauren Clark, and Lashay Kalathas. The three former board members unsuccessfully sought re-election.

The board will meet 7 p.m. on the following Mondays: Jan. 8 and 22, Feb. 12 and 26, March 11 and 25, April 8 and 22, May 13 and 20, June 10 and 24, Aug. 5 and 19, Sept. 9 and 23, Oct. 14 and 28, Nov. 11, Dec. 2.

During months in which the board meets twice, the first meeting is a study session at which the board examines and discusses items on the upcoming regular meeting agenda.

Tax increase cap

During their regular board meeting, members unanimously voted not to raise taxes in 2024 above the state-allowed index of 6.4 percent. The resolution states the district would not be eligible for exemptions allowed under Act 1 of 2006.

The resolution does not necessarily mean the board will increase taxes. It is required by law to evaluate the index in December and seek exemptions if members and administration can prove a financial hardship.

ACTI Representative

Jennifer Holz will remain the district's representative to the Adams County Technical Institute (ACTI). She successfully asked the board to name Matthew A. DeGennaro as her alternate. DeGennaro replaces Kalathas.

Holz also asked all board members to become involved with ACTI as it seeks to grow. In October, ACTI Administrative Director Sean Eck-enrode told the board the school

is seeking a new location in central Adams County. ACTI serves all Adams County school districts except for Upper Adams.

During December's meeting, a member suggested ACTI move to Fairfield near the Sunoco station. Superintendent Thomas J. Haupt said the property in the southwestern corner of Adams County would not meet ACTI's goal of being in a central part of the county.

Pavilion update

In response to a comment made by a member of the public, Haupt said the district plans to move forward with a request from students asking the district to build a gazebo or pavilion. The students cited several benefits of such a structure, including outdoor study space and an opportunity for students to work on a greenhouse. The students said the project could incorporate hands-on learning opportunities for students.

Before she left the board, Kalathas donated \$2,000 to the project.

Legislation Introduce Requiring Cursive to be Taught in Pennsylvania's Schools

Rep. Joe Adams (R-Wayne/Pike) announced today he will soon be introducing legislation that would require cursive to be taught in Pennsylvania's schools.

"Being able to write and read cursive is a fundamental and necessary skill for everyone to learn. Our founding documents like the Constitution and Declaration of Independence are written in cursive. People sign their names in cursive, and official documents often require writing in cursive to memorialize business," Adams said.

"When students are no longer taught how to read and write in cursive, they find themselves unprepared to learn from our history or be engaged in conducting business across the Commonwealth."

According to the proposal, the legislation will require instruction in cursive handwriting or joined

italics to be taught in the appropriate grade levels. Should the legislation become law, it would make Pennsylvania the 19th state in the nation to legislate a requirement for basic instruction in cursive handwriting.

"Recent studies indicate that learning cursive has many developmental benefits including increased hand-eye coordination, critical thinking and increased self-confidence in students learning how to write in cursive," Adams noted. "The added benefit of learning to write in cursive is the creation of a written self-identity that can separate human work from that of Artificial Intelligence and stymie plagiarism. It is clearly critical that the basics of this important skill be required in the classroom."

You can read the co-sponsorship memo outlining the proposal here: www.legis.state.pa.us.

Frederick County Public Schools

Gary Randall

Board of Education of Frederick County elects officers

The Board of Education of Frederick County elected Karen Yoho as President and Rae Gallagher as Vice President.

Yoho was elected to the Board of Education in November 2018 for a four-year term and re-elected in November 2022 for a four-year term. She served as the Board's Vice President from December 2020-21.

Yoho served for 25 years as an FCPS educator from 1993-2018. During her 25 years with the school system, she taught every elementary grade except kindergarten.

Her term as Board President goes through December 2024.

Gallagher was elected to the Board of Education in 2022. She was previously appointed to the Board by then County Executive Jan Gardner in 2020 to fill a vacancy and completed her tenure that same year.

Gallagher is the proud parent of two FCPS students and active with many community organizations.

Her term as Board Vice President goes through December 2024.

After the election, the Board thanked past President Sue Johnson and past Vice President Dean Rose for their year of service as Board leaders. They will continue as Board members.

FCPS posts additional Board member biographical information via www.fcps.org/boe. Headshots of Yoho and Gallagher are attached.

Local Schools Perform Well on State Report Cards

Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) recently received 2022-2023 Maryland School Report Cards for each of its schools. Just as in past years, the report cards use a five-star rating. Several measures are used to determine the star rating for each school. Maryland returned to the original, more rigorous methodology

in calculating the report cards after modifying standards during the pandemic.

The report card evaluates academic performance in reading, math and science, academic growth, English language proficiency, chronic absenteeism, school climate, and well-rounded curriculum. Social studies was added as a middle school measure for this reporting year. For high schools, the state also measures students "on-track" in ninth grade and graduation rate.

Over two-thirds of FCPS schools were identified as either four or five stars. Across Maryland, only 37% of schools earned four stars or higher.

"Our students continue to demonstrate progress on the key indicators

of school success – academic achievement, progress, and school quality," FCPS superintendent Dr. Cheryl L. Dyson said. "Our staff will continue to use this information, paired with additional local measures to build on our strengths and address areas of need. Our new FCPS Learning Journey will provide the roadmap that ensures we examine students throughout their academic experience and that every child is prepared to thrive in college, careers and the community."

FCPS Chief of Schools and Accountability, Dr. Jamie Aliveto shared, "Results from the report cards are used by FCPS schools in continuous school improvement efforts.

School staff regularly monitor student performance; some of these data are not new to leaders, they are simply synthesized in the state's accountability model. The state report cards offer one additional way in which we can evaluate school performance."

Two measures, student growth and chronic absenteeism, are a strong focus for FCPS school and system leaders. Student growth in reading and math is being monitored closely throughout this school

year in every FCPS school. FCPS families can help with the chronic absenteeism indicator by ensuring strong attendance at school each day. Research has shown there is a high correlation between attendance and achievement.

Maryland designed the report cards to meet federal requirements that help set standards for school accountability. Today, federal accountability standards for schools are legislated in the Every Student Succeeds Act.

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ARTS

Way Off Broadway kicks off 30th anniversary season

Justin Kiska

The Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre will begin its 30th Anniversary Season with a classic murder mystery from the Queen of Mysteries, Agatha Christie. The 2024 Season will kick off with *A Murder is Announced* on Friday evening, January 19th. The whodunnit will then run through March 2nd.

In the play, an announcement in the local paper states the time and place when a murder is to occur in Miss Blacklock's home in the English village of Chipping Cleghorn. What follows is a classic Christie puzzle of mixed motives, concealed identities, a second

death, and a determined inspector grimly following the case's twists and turns. Fortunately, Miss Marple is on hand to provide the solution – at some risk to herself – in a dramatic final confrontation.

A Murder is Announced was first published in 1950 and was the fourth novel featuring the amateur sleuth Jane Marple. At the time, one reviewer said, "The plot is as ingenious as ever..." while another referred to it as a "brilliantly conducted parlour game."

In 1956, NBC's Goodyear Playhouse presented a television adaptation starring Gracie Fields as Miss Marple, Roger Moore as Patrick Simmons, and Jessica Tandy as Letitia Blacklock. Another tele-

vision adaptation came in 1984 as part of the popular BBC series *Miss Marple*, starring Joan Hickson as Marple.

The stage version of *A Murder is Announced* first premiered at the Theatre Royal, Brighton in 1977 before transferring to the Vaudeville Theatre in London later that year.

Way Off Broadway's production of *A Murder is Announced* brings together a cast who, in large part, appeared together in the theatre's record-breaking production of another Christie mystery in 2022, *Murder on the Orient Express*. The cast includes Jessica Billones as Letitia Blacklock, Betsey Whitmore Brannen as Bunny, Amy

Cajigas as Mitzi, Brian D. Kaider as Inspector Craddock, Bill Kiska as Sergeant Mellors, Pam Neely as Mrs. Swettenham, Laura Hepp Saunders as Phillipa, Wil Spaeth as Edmund, Randy Stull as Patrick, and Megan Elizabeth West as Julia. Taking on the role of the iconic amateur detective is Hannah Pecoraro as Miss Marple.

A Murder is Announced is based on Agatha Christie's novel of the same name and was adapted for the stage by Leslie Darbon. Justin M. Kiska, one of the theatre's owners and a mystery writer himself, directs the production.

A Murder is Announced runs January 19th through March 2nd, with performances are every Fri-

day and Saturday evening, and matinees on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of each month.

Tickets on Friday evenings are \$56; Saturday evenings are \$60; and Sunday afternoons are \$59 per person. Tickets may be purchased by calling the theatre's Box Office at 301-662-6600. A specific Performance Calendar can be found on the theatre's website at www.wayoffbroadway.com.

To learn more about A Murder is Announced, or any of the shows in Way Off Broadway's upcoming 30th Anniversary Season including Diana – The Musical, Tootsie, Anastasia, or Christmas Chronicles, visit www.wayoffbroadway.com.

"An Evening with the Painting"

The Gettysburg Foundation invites visitors to Gettysburg and area residents to an "after-hours" program on the historic Battle of Gettysburg Cyclorama at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum & Visitor Center Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, at 4 p.m. Guests can enjoy an exclusive, close-up look at the restored painting with a presentation combining history, art and preservation.

This special behind-the-scenes program is presented by Licensed Battlefield Guide, author and historian Chris Brenneman.

Painted in the 1880s by French artist Paul Philippoteaux and a team of artists, the Battle of Gettysburg Cyclorama is an immense work of art measuring 42 feet high and 377 feet long. The Gettysburg Cyclorama is one of the largest, free-standing paintings in North America. A

rendition of "Pickett's Charge" on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg, the painting is suspended in-the-round from the ceiling. This massive piece of history creates a spectacular 360-degree, three-dimensional appearance when viewed from the platform.

"An Evening with the Painting" explores the history of the genre of cycloramas and the iconic Battle of Gettysburg Cyclorama.

Brenneman covers the fascinating creation of this historic piece of art, the rich symbolism found in the painting and the extensive conservation effort to restore the canvas visitors experience today. Program ticket holders enjoy extended time on the viewing platform to observe in full light the remarkable, close-up details and distant battle scenes depicted in the painting. Guests can journey under the diorama to view just how the three-dimensional

"illusion" comes alive. Time is provided for Q&A.

Limited to 40 attendees, the special presentation offers ticket holders approximately two hours of programming. The program begins in the Ford Motor Company Fund Education Center and continues on the Cyclorama platform. The Foundation is pleased to also offer the special program on these Saturdays in the spring: Feb 14, 4 to 6 p.m., March 16 & April 13, 5 to 7 pm.

This month at New Spire Arts & the Weinberg

Heather Aubrey Lloyd Brings Janis-Meets-Joni Vocals to New Spire Arts

Singer-songwriter Heather Aubrey Lloyd is set to captivate audiences at New Spire Arts in Frederick Maryland on Saturday, January 6. Trading one beat for another, this former Baltimore journalist, and co-front-woman of the band, ilyAIMY, has emerged as a dynamic solo

artist, enchanting listeners with her unique vocals.

For over two decades, Lloyd has crisscrossed the nation, playing a diverse array of venues—from bait shops to clothing-optional resorts—as part of the critically acclaimed ilyAIMY. However, her latest venture into solo work has garnered widespread praise, culminating in her debut studio album, "A Message in the Mess."

Lloyd's passionate, "sing-me-the-phonebook" alto, accompanied by folk-inspired finger-picked guitar and infused with the influence of Baltimore's slam poetry scene, has created a sound that defies easy categorization.

Described by The Montgomery Caller as "Janis Joplin... and Joni Mitchell blended together," Lloyd's musical prowess has not gone unnoticed. "A Message in the Mess" received the Director's Award for Album of the Year from the Mid-Atlantic Song Contest, marking the beginning of a slew of accolades, including being a 2018 No Depression Magazine Songwriting Award Finalist, 2018 Falcon Ridge Folk Festival MOST WANTED Artist, 2018 National Women's Music Festival Emerging Artist, and a 2017 Telluride Troubadour Top 4.

In 2019, she secured the Grand Prize for the prestigious Bernard Ebb Songwriting Award. Lloyd's

multifaceted talents have earned her recognition beyond her solo career, with previous accolades including being a Lilith Fair Talent Search Finalist and ilyAIMY's repeat wins as Best Contemporary Folk Group/Duo in the Washington Area Music Awards.

1964 The Tribute Brings the Era of Beatlemania Back to the Weinberg Center Stage

1964 The Tribute returns to the Weinberg Center for the Arts on Saturday, January 13, bringing the world's most authentic Beatles tribute back to Frederick Maryland.

Since the early eighties, 1964 The Tribute has been thrilling audiences around the globe by taking them on a journey through a quintessential moment in music history that will live forever. Over forty years of researching and performing have made 1964 masters of their craft.

They are hailed by critics and fans alike as THE most authentic Beatles tribute, which has earned them the distinction from Rolling Stone magazine as the "Best Beatles Tribute on Earth!" 1964 The Tribute recreates an early 1960's live Beatle concert with period instruments, clothing, hairstyles, and onstage banter with an accuracy that is unmatched. 1964 is Mark Benson as John Lennon, Mac Ruffing as Paul McCartney, Tom Work as George Harrison, and Bobby Potter as Ringo.

Tickets for these performances may be purchased online at WeinbergCenter.org, by calling the box office at 301-600-2828, or in person at 20 West Patrick Street.

A complete listing of artists and performers scheduled for the 2023-24 season can be found at WeinbergCenter.org.

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The Beatles: Now and Then

Gracie Smith
MSMU Class of 2027

My love for the Beatles is something that has been with me for as long as I can remember. My grandfather was the one who first introduced me to the Fab Four. He would take out his guitar and play “Honey Don’t” for me countless times, as I was amazed at the beginning riff of the song. From this, I took it upon myself to learn how to play guitar. “Honey Don’t” was the first song I ever learned to play on the guitar, including the amazing riff I was infatuated with. It was then that my passion for the Beatles bloomed.

Since then, two more guitars have come to my possession: an acoustic Dean and an electric Fender Stratocaster. My grandfather has helped me to become the guitar player I am today and has greatly influenced my admiration of the Fab Four. Since learning my first song, “Honey Don’t,” I have learned “Day Tripper,” “Here Comes the Sun,” “Blackbird,” and my personal favorite, “Let it Be,” on my brother’s keyboard. Not only did I become obsessed with the Beatles, but the entire era of 60s/70s classic rock. This includes (but is not limited to) the Doors, the Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, Fleetwood Mac, America, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Tom Petty, Simon and Garfunkel, Santana, the Eagles, and yes... Elvis Presley.

I had the pleasure of speaking with another Beatles fanatic, Audrey Hillman. Her absolute admiration, love,

and knowledge of everything Beatles amazed me. Seeing how enthused the Beatles can STILL make a person is simply incredible, especially given the band broke up nearly 50 years ago. However, what sparks my fascination is how the Beatles continue to bring joy to not only their generation but to my generation. As I like to refer to it as... the Beatles: Now and Then.

When speaking with Audrey, she mentioned her first introduction to the Beatles, which was when the Beatles were on the Ed Sullivan Show. I compared this to my introduction where my grandfather was playing “Honey Don’t” on his guitar, and I just so happened to like it. In approximately 50 years’ time, the Beatles still manage to captivate an audience. From both of our introductions to the Beatles, admiration, love, and passion sprouted.

A few years back, my grandfather gifted me all his original Beatles albums, some of which still have the dainty plastic seal around them. I learned how to use a record player just so I could listen to the records how my grandfather used to and get the “full experience.” I thought about what a thrill it must have been to get your hands on one of these records when they were first released. The idea of rushing home to play it on the record player and listening to the songs. I wish I had that experience. The closest thing I ever got to something like that was buying CDs at Walmart or receiving them at Christmas and playing them on my CD player at home.

Audrey, unlike me, was able to live

this experience. Furthermore, she was able to attend the Drive-Ins when the Beatles movies came out. She spoke excitedly about how for her birthday she and her friends all went to the Drive-In to watch the Beatles movies. It’s disappointing that little things like that hardly exist anymore. This is a difference between the original Beatles fans and my generation of Beatles fans. Audrey was able to experience the Beatles while the Beatles were still the Beatles. Meanwhile, my experience is second-hand admiration. In other words, my experience is through the songs my grandfather plays, the music he shares, and the stories he tells. One generation got to live the Beatles, while the other got to live in the memory of the Beatles.

Another difference I’ve come to terms with is how out of place I am with my generation. I often get comments such as “You’re so old fashioned” or “You aren’t from this time.” I am very much aware—hence why I write for the newspaper and not social media. Audrey and my grandfather share the fact that they were a part of their generation. By this I mean, they were able to share and relish what was popular at the time. They were “up to date” with the music and “in the know.” In opposition, I have nothing in common with my generation, whatsoever. For instance, I would rather clean all the bathrooms in my house than listen to a single Taylor Swift album. Unfortunately, by me having this opinion, it is very hard to interact with people my age considering my likes and dislikes, especially



Though they’re separated by close to 50 years in age, Audrey and Gracie talked for hours about their love of the Beatles. Audrey reminiscing about watching them live on the Ed Sullivan Show and Grace listening to grandfather playing their songs.

given how much music is a part of my generation. It’s very rare that I find someone who likes the Beatles, much less knows who they actually are.

Straying from the idea of generational differences in Beatles fanatics, Audrey and I have something in common. Aside from being Beatles fanatics, we can freely share our opinions of songs, albums, and tours. This is something that every Beatles fan has the capability of doing—if you know, you know. Audrey and I spoke in depth about our favorite albums and our favorite songs, hers of which being Rubber Soul, mine of which being the White Album. If I were to approach this subject with someone who is not a Beatles fan, the conversation would die immediately. This is something that connects all Beatles fans, no mat-

ter the generation. We can engage in conversations about the Beatles while geeking out all at the same time.

From my conversations with Audrey, I have learned how the Beatles continue to inspire us today. They inspired me to learn to play guitar so I could play the music for myself. They inspired Audrey to seek knowledge on all the Beatles, and further listen to radio shows and podcasts about the Beatles. The Fab Four contribute to friendly conversations, give us a touch of nostalgia, and put a smile on our faces. Through all of this, they help connect us with other Beatles fans... Beatles fans now and then.

To read past Mount Arts articles, visit the Author’s section of Emmitsburg.net.

The Mount’s Makers House

Ashley Walczyk
MSMU class of 2024

The Mount offers many new ways to find and explore within the visual arts. Professor Nick Hutchings, author of the poem above, likes to think of new opportunities as a call, an echo to a prayer. This poem, left untitled, serves as the prayer to the space that was given to him to open the Makers House.

Professor Nick Hutchings is an Associate Professor, and Chair of the Department of Visual and Performing arts. His focuses of study include sculpture, installation, ceramics, and drawing. He started at the Mount in 2013, teaching a variety of courses, including Modernity in Art, and later became the advisor for the Makers House.

What is The Makers House?

The Makers House is a collaborative community with a focus on the craft of making. Some of the workshops include ceramics, sewing, and knitting, as well as 3D printing, woodworking, and gardening. The workshops are run by student leaders of the Makers House, who are responsible for maintaining and managing the space and its community feel. A practicum course is offered for students interested in getting involved with the space. There are four main studios in the Makers House: the fab lab (a digital fabrication lab), crafts,

ceramics, and the shop, which is also the main classroom.

When did The Makers House start?

The Makers House started last fall of 2022, at the beginning of last school year. The ceramics and shop areas moved into the space where they are located today, which used to be the plumber shop on campus for several years. The Brewing Club also meets at same space, which is cool in the eyes of Hutchings, who believes all things making, creating, and building are in this quarter of campus. Hutchings’ ideology for the Makers House is that, “this house is His, this house is ours, this house is shared.” He uses a “messy family” analogy to capture the essence of the Makers Studio, which is that everyone moves in, makes, and creates.

Nick Hutchings, who prefers to be called by his first name by students, staff, and faculty, got the idea to create the Makers Studio from the lockdown. He saw, firsthand, how many of the students were stuck in their dorm rooms, stuck in a virtual world with the devices in front of their eyes. Where was there room for creativity? For making? Hutchings wanted to make a space for students to get out of their rooms, to create a community, and to make. Making was the central focus for Hutchings, and several students also felt this burning passion he has for the arts. If you ever

visit the space, take note of the writings and drawings on the walls, or the pieces being worked on as artists share this space collaboratively. The act of making, as Hutchings says, is a powerful thing.

What makes it a community?

The Makers House is provided to the Mount community by the Mount students, making it its own small community. Everyone at the Mount are welcomed to join. This is due to the desire to expand more into the Mount community and actively engage with the students. The Makers House has collaborated with several clubs on campus, such as The Black Student Union, Student Organization of Latinos, Asian Culture Club, and African Student Association, to name a few. However, it has previously worked with the Seton Shrine and Daughters of Charity in Emmitsburg. As of right now, the main focus of the studio is to “put the house together.”

There are many ways to get involved and build the team. Of course, attending workshops and being an active member in the practicum are just a few ways to engage with the Makers House. Last year, the house produced nearly sixty-five workshops. This year, they went less on the number and focused more on the events themselves, with about thirty to forty workshops hosted over the course of the semester. You could attend a hand-

ful a semester, or you could jump right in with attending all of the workshops. There are also open studio hours where you can come in and work on a project within a studio full of people who share similar interests; some of these individual projects could include tufting—the making of a rug—fine woodworking, throwing on the potter’s wheel, and more.

As well as this, the Makers House has also worked closely with the Kindness Community with flower arrangements and notes of kindness. If you do wish to join the student practicum, with artists known by themselves as “the homies,” we highly recommend it, as it is a fun avenue to take. Some of the leaders to get into contact with are Graduate Assistants Trevor Kern and Dominique Jeffery, as well as Seniors Emma Edwards and Robert Prender. These four students are regarded as the “arms” of the space, and would be best to ask more questions if interested.

Some other on campus events that the Makers House participated in are several AMP events, as well as the creation of their own garden. There are several hopeful prospects on the horizon for the Makers House, including participating in a student gallery, which are all directed by Professor Elizabeth Holtry, and a maker music lab, which is set to take place in the fall of next year. The hopes are for the construction to start in the spring, building a recording studio in Knott Auditorium for musicians all around.

For right now, you can attend several

student-favorite events. The S’mores and Mores event is a time where students can sit around a firepit, have s’mores, paint, and collaborate. Flower arrangement is also another popular event, with usually a large turnout. Please check your campus email for monthly events sent by the Makers House.

Why do we make?

A tough question to answer completely, but full of exciting angles to look at the art of making. There is a certain fundamental aspect with making that tethers us to the Divine. Hutchings quotes, “What’s being made in me in the act of making is important.” There is a close connection to God’s gift to us, which is human creation. We are able to make and create from the roots deep within our souls. However, there is a paradox to this beauty, and it is the realization that everything you make can also be destroyed. But, what is inside of you, planted within you from the seeds of the earth—that is what matters. Hutchings believes God has given the students this space, in hopes to see something grow and blossom, both in spiritual and physical senses.

Although the space is currently limited to the Mount community, do stay tuned for events hosted off campus. There is no telling exactly when the Makers House will open for everyone in the community, but it is on the horizon. We need to focus on the core and the building of the community, before opening the house to grow more connections.

CATOCTIN SPORTS

Girls' basketball stuns the courts

Gina Lin CHS Class of 2024
 Richelle Zheng Class of 2025

As the winter season is in full swing, Catoclin's basketball, indoor track and field, swimming and diving, wrestling, and unified bocce teams have all been training hard to prepare for a great season.

The Lady Cougar basketball team took home their first win of the season on December 5, at a home game against Liberty. The team won 49-27 against Liberty, with their strong defense and early lead. They were able to sustain their lead on Liberty throughout the game, resulting in their victory. During the game, sophomore Brooke Williams led the game with a double-double, scoring 13 points and 10 rebounds! Brooke Williams also allotted four assists. Additionally, Taylor Smith scored 11 points and had eight rebounds. Kelsey Troxell and Sami Orndorff also assisted in the win, with Troxell making 8 rebounds and Orndorff contributing 4 assists. Meanwhile, the JV Lady Cougar basketball team had a close match with Liberty. Their team lost the hard fought game 31-30.

Later, the Lady Cougars had an away game against Oakdale on December 7, with 49-35. The girls struggled during the first half of the match, with Oakdale leading 26-23. However, the girls fought hard and came back during the second half as a result of their solid defense and rebounds, taking the lead after three quarters. With the Lady Cougars in the lead, the 4th quarter was a breeze as Oakdale failed to score any points. Brooke Williams contributed hugely during this game, scoring 19 points; and making nine rebounds, four steals, and four assists. Smith took on a double-double with 15 points, 11 rebounds, and five assists. Grace Williams followed through with seven rebounds. The JV Cougars lost against Oakdale.

The varsity Lady Cougars played their next match against North Hagerstown on December 12. The team smothered North Hagerstown with 66-31 with their powerful defense. This resulted in numerous fast break points, putting the Cougars in the lead 26-6 at the end of the first quarter. The second quar-

ter was no different than the first, with the Lady Cougars leading with a 45-17 by the end of the half. Leading the team was Grace Williams with 11 points and 9 rebounds. Harley Fitzpatrick scored 10 points and Smith made 5 assists.

The JV Cougars manifested their first win of the season on December 12, against Frederick High School. The Cougars persevered through the harsh game with Frederick and took the win 35-29! The team had a great start to the game in the first quarter with 17 steals. Glotfelty ensured a Cougar victory in the fourth quarter. Teamwork amongst the team was strong, with six players adding points. Burgee led the team with nine points, followed by Glotfelty and Myers, each contributing five. Myers guided the team in rebounds with 13 and Kreitz also contributed 7 rebounds.

The Lady Cougars are on a roll, making another win on December 15 against the Smithsburg Leopards 45-8! The Cougar's defense continues to stand strong as they come out with a 22-0 lead at the end of the first quarter. The team continued taking the lead in the second quarter, 36-4. Brooke Williams dominated the game with 11 points and 6 rebounds. Kylie Perhach and Troxell both secured 8 rebounds. Smith dished out 5 steals and 4 assists. The JV Cougars continued their winning streak, taking the victory against Smithsburg 47-18. Catoclin had an early lead during the game due to their belligerent defense, of which they maintained throughout all four quarters. The team made 18 steals total and left Smithsburg to only two points during the third quarter. Myers led the team with 15 points, along with Glotfelty, contributing 10 points. The varsity girl's basketball team is off to a great start this season with a 4-0 win streak!

Indoor track and field made their debut on December 8, at the Terry Baker Varsity Invitational, hosted at Hagerstown Community College. In the men's varsity 500-meters run, Michael Metz ran a personal best (PR) of 1:28.66. Then, in the men's varsity 800-meters category, Daniel Hoyle placed 20th with a time of 2:20.29, which also earned him a new PR. Timothy McCarthy ran a personal record of 2:28.44, in the



Catoclin Lady Cougars have made a strong debut on the courts, remaining undefeated thus far.

800-meter dash. In addition, Hoyle placed 11th in the 1600-meters category with a time of 5:07.90. McCarthy also competed in this category and achieved a new seasonal record of 5:57.19. In the men's 3200-meters, Santiago Cañadas Fraga placed eighth out of 28 runners, with a time of 10:59.74, beating his old personal record. Overall, the boys' track team placed ninth at Terry Baker with a score of 20. Later, on December 9, the boys ran at Liberty University for the Liberty Flames High School Invitational. In the 55-meter event, Shaymus Stull set a new personal record of 6.87. Furious Trammel placed tenth in the 300-meters event, with a time of 35.72, also obtaining a new PR. In addition, Trammel ran in the 500-meters category and placed second with a time of 1:05.64! The team competed at the Dickinson College Holiday High School Invite, hosted at Dickinson College on December 16th. Dennis Lease finished the 800-meters run with a time of 2:06.66, placing 12th. In the 3200-meters event Gabriel Riling finished sixth with a time of 10:15.99.

In the men's long jump event Trammel ranked first with an unbelievable range of 22 feet and 5 inches, marking his new personal best!

The girls indoor track and field team are having a successful start to their season as well. Rebekah Zentz ran in the 300-meter dash and dropped a 2 second personal record, finishing with a time of 44.87 at the Terry Baker Varsity Invitational. This places her second in the 1A West Regional and third in 1A State! Olivia Baker continues to excel in the 500-meter dash as she runs a 1A West Regional and 1A State time of 1 minute and 26 seconds. Additionally, Hadley McQuay performed great in the 500-meter dash, finishing with a time of 1 minute and 35 seconds. This puts her in third in the 1A West and fifth at states. In the 3200-meter event, Keira Taylor ran a new personal best of 13 minutes and 14 seconds, which is a 30 second improvement from her last personal best. Her time places her first in the 1A West and second in the 1A State. Catoclin placed in the top three for all three relays: the 4 by 200, 4 by 400, and 4 by 800! In

the high jump, Lily Grable sprung a height of 4 feet 4 inches. In the shot put category, Ella Burrier begins her season with a personal record of 25 feet and 10.5 inches, placing her seventh in the 1A West Region.

The girls continue to show their outstanding talents on December 16 at the Dickinson College High School Invite. Baker earned a new seasonal record in the 800-meter dash with a time of 2:38.44. Furthermore, Taylor made a new personal record of 2:39.79. In the 1600-meter run Baker finished 19th with Taylor following behind in 20th. They both made new personal records with Baker completing the race with a time of 5:52.54 and Taylor in 5:52.87. On the field, Grable competed in the long jump category and jumped an incredible distance of 14 feet and 11.5 inches, marking her new personal best. The girls have had a great start to the season so far and Catoclin hopes to see more.

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8 - \$500	24 - \$500	40 - \$1000	56 - \$500
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MOUNT SPORTS

Women's basketball looking to shock the preseason polls

Steve Morano
MSMU Class of 2024

On December 5th, the Mount St. Mary's women's basketball team defeated local rival, Bucknell University, by a score of 55-46. In an impressive show of defensive play and clutch timing in situations when the games were close, Head Coach Antoine White and his players set the tone for what the season could look like in Emmitsburg. With a combination of upper-class leadership and a good recruiting class with the inclusion of seasoned graduate student players, White and the rest of his staff look to shock the conference as they were selected to finish 8th in the standings.

The first key to the success of the team this season is their veteran players—two of the captains of this year's team in senior, Isabella Hunt and Jessica Tomasetti. Both players can be widely regarded as some of the best players on the team, as they have both started in every single game for the team this season. Of the two, Tomasetti is the points getter, as she is averaging 10.7 points per game this far into the season as well as field goal percentage of .333. Tomasetti is also a lock from the line, as she has made 23-29 free throws from fouls so far this season.

With the excellent guard play of Tomasetti, Hunt is the best example of a textbook power forward. In the game against Bucknell alone, she brought down twelve total rebounds. This added to her fifteen rebounds against Navy on November 15th and ten against Siena on December 18th. While only averaging 7.0 points per game, Hunt is also automatic from the line as she is 21-27 from the free throw line. She is also carrying a stat line of .421 from the field as her play as a guard requires her to be clutch in the paint.

But by far the best all-round offensive player on Coach White's team is junior, Jo Rafflo. While averaging 12.2 points per game, Rafflo carries an offensive slash line of .320/.369/.783 in the categories of field goal percentage, 3-pointer percentage, and free-throw percentage. These impressive percentages are mirrored by impressive performances by Rafflo, specifically the game on November 18th against Cornell, where she went 9-13 from the field as well as a nearly perfect performance from beyond the arc, as she made 8-10 three pointers. It is no wonder that along with Tomasetti and Hunt, Rafflo has started every game for the Mountaineers.

Along with already existing veteran players, Coach White and his staff are counting on their first ever MAAC draft class to help the team succeed. This includes first-year students, Tessa Engelman of Calgary, Canada and Gabrielle Kennerly of Ellicott City, Maryland. With Engelman seeing only 146 minutes on the court, this

season in more of a sixth man role of the bench and Kennerly not seeing the court at all, it is more likely than not that both of these players are long term projects for the coaching staff and will fill out roster spots when upper-class students move on from the team.

White along with the rest of the team staff have also utilized the transfer portal in bringing in players from other schools this season, specifically in the case of graduate students Maddie Novak, formerly of Stetson University, KC Clark, formerly of Cornell University, Aniya Walker from Duquesne University, and the former Radford University center, Jackie Christ. With both Novak and Christ seeing more than 260 minutes on the court, mainly in bench level roles, they are the most utilized of the team's graduate student corps. KC Clark, on the other hand, may be a sleeper pick off the bench when the team is in need points, as she carries a field goal percentage of .414 and a 3-pointer percentage of .300.

Apart from the rest of the team, there is a surprising number of red-shirted players on the team. Three players from past teams were given options to retake a grade level to keep their eligibility. Redshirt Freshman Gianna Hodinott was part of Coach White's plans last year, but her progress was stunted by a seasoning ending injury against Navy on November 19th, 2022. Another Redshirt qualifying student who has pro-



Even though picked to finish 8th this year in a MAAC coaches poll, the Women's Basketball team has all the qualities to succeed this season.

vided good rotation in game is sophomore, Jaedyn Jamison, who carries a field goal percentage of .333 on the season. But the stand-out amongst the Redshirt qualifying players is junior, Jada Lee. The Pittsburgh native has started in seven of nine games for the team this year and has cemented her starting role in the team while averaging 7.3 points per game with a field goal percentage of .377 and a free-throw percentage of .842. This has made her an integral part of the team in the starting lineup that will most likely continue into the team next year.

As their record currently stands, the Mount are 3-7 overall and 0-1 in conference play, with a 61-55

loss to Siena giving the fans a preview of what conference play could be like this year. But before the conference starts back up again with an away game at Canisius on January 4th, the team will play two out of conference games: one on December 22nd against No. 25 Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, and another in Emmitsburg in an exhibition game against Bryn Athyn on December 30th. These are the final out of conference games of the season before conference play resumes in January until the MAAC Conference Tournament, which begins on March 12th.

Even though the team was picked so low in pre-season poll-

ing, they clearly have the potential to make a wave in the conference. With a starting line-up of Hunt, Tomasetti, Rafflo, Lee including any number of other redshirt qualifiers or graduate students, the Mountaineers surely have depth within their team. They can use this to their advantage as the take on teams who may not have as deep a roster in games that come fast once conference play starts again and the ever-present objective of the National Tournament becomes a reality to the competing teams in the conference.

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COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

Best New Year's resolution ever

Jefferson Breland

Bear with me as I attempt to merge four millennia of New Year's resolutions into one word.

A quick survey of the top New Year's Resolutions for the year 2023 revealed nothing new (and by a quick survey, I mean, I googled it).

New Year's resolutions have essentially been the same old, same old for hundreds of years, if not thousands of years.

According to a number of websites, the first written record of some version of a resolution for a new year was recorded in Babylonia about 4,000 years ago. Their new year's day was in March to correspond to the beginning of planting season.

These older "resolutions" tended to focus on getting in the good graces of the reigning or future king or a god. Generally speaking, these were pledges to be a better citizen and if you didn't live up to them there were severe consequences with the kings or gods.

This sort of pledge to contribute to society in a more consistent and meaningful way continued for thousands of years right into the 20th century.

Gradually there has been a shift from the pleasing king, God and be a better citizen type of resolution to the more personal, secular self-help variety. It is notable that as early as the end of the 18th century, the practice of making resolutions was being mocked or satirized by various publications. One without too much

effort could guess that breaking resolutions is as old as, well, resolutions.

According to the Farmer's Almanac website, a 1947 Gallup poll listed the following resolutions:

1. Improve my disposition, be more understanding, control my temper
 2. Improve my character, live a better life
 3. Stop smoking, smoke less
 4. Save more money
 5. Stop drinking, drink less
 6. Be more religious, go to church more often
 7. Be more efficient and do a better job
 8. Take better care of my health
 9. Take a greater part in home life
 10. Lose (or gain) weight
- Forbes magazine cited a Onepoll poll, listing the following popular resolutions for 2023:

- Improve mental health
- Improve fitness
- Lose weight
- Improve diet
- Improve finances
- Make more time for loved ones
- Stop smoking
- Learn a new skill
- Make more time for hobbies
- Improve work-life balance
- Travel more
- Meditate regularly

It is interesting to see that for the last 77 years many of the same desired changes are still present. I

guess the "human condition" is still the "human condition"

It is also interesting to see how the resolutions have changed either in fundamental concept or how they are "languaged."

For example, "be more religious and go to church" has shifted into "meditate regularly." While prayer can be considered meditation, I don't know that a significant percentage of the American population was practicing any Eastern religions in 1947.

I am struck by the idea that "improving my character" is equated to living a better life.

The 2023 list combines the 1947 entries of "to be more efficient and do a better job" and "take a greater part in home life" to create "improve work-life balance."

In 1947, was anyone even allowed to entertain such an idea? Work was the means of taking care of your family. Home "life" was what happened when you weren't working.

As we know, the role of men was to bring home the "bacon" and married women were "homemakers" who cooked the "bacon" and provided child care.

With the shifting of roles of men and women in the workforce and in home-life, it seems inevitable that a new idea of a balance between work-life and life-life needed to be created. Combine this shift with that of employment patterns where workers can no longer count on lifetime or long-term employment with the same company or pension

systems and we may have created a need to reestablish an essential stability in the home.

I am curious about the personal actions of improving my "disposition" (a person's inherent qualities of mind and character), being more understanding (compassionate), and controlling my temper (being more peaceful) as related to our contemporary ideas of mental health and how we improve it.

It was not socially acceptable to openly talk about one's mental health in the 1940's. It makes sense to me that the language of the 1940s was rooted in a kind of "pulling oneself up by the bootstraps," "can do" attitude of American rugged individualism.

Smoking still made the list, even though the percentage of smokers in our culture has dropped approximately 50% since the 1940s down to 25 percent of the population.

At the top of this article, I declared a pretty ambitious goal: to merge all resolutions into one word.

The purpose of my goal is to simplify the myriad possible resolutions and find the word that is the gateway to all resolutions and better health.

Too often resolutions require multiple steps which makes it easier to fall off the resolution path or to even start it.

If you look at the 2023 list you can get an idea of how complicated some of these are.

Take "improving fitness," for example. You can walk more. Do you need new shoes? Where are you going to walk? Do you have to drive? You will have to drive if you go to a gym. Do you need new clothes?

Does the resolution involve denying oneself something you find pleasurable?

Want to lose weight? Our culture has made food the enemy at the same time it gives us easy access to foods that are not the best for us (I am thinking fast food here). If you want to improve your diet, that could involve research which sounds a lot like homework, not to mention the shopping, and the lines at check-out.

What if I told you there is one word that can help you feel more

positive about yourself and the world around you.

What if I told you there is one word that will help your body feel better and improve your health.

What if I told you there is one word that would improve all your relationships.

I am guessing you would want to know what that word is.

The word is gratitude. Yes, it is this simple.

Some psychologists define gratitude as a trait, a mood, or a feeling. I prefer to think of it simply as a practice, an action. The action of saying, "Thank you."

According to a New York Times article discussing the work of psychologist Dr. Robert A. Emmons, scientific studies have shown a wide range of measurable health benefits. These benefits include the easing symptoms of depression and anxiety, lower blood pressure, healthier heart-beat rhythms, improved self-esteem, and better sleep.

The practice of gratitude by acknowledging co-workers, family, friends, strangers, romantic partners, store clerks (basically anyone in the world) will improve all relationships and lead to an improved outlook on life.

When one focuses on gratitude, one becomes focused on what is good in life. When one focuses on the good, the burdens of life become lighter and more bearable.

As the Christian theologian Meister Eckhart wrote, 'If the only prayer you said was 'thank you,' that would be enough.'

Expressing gratitude simply helps to create a better world. Now that is a New Year's resolution worth making!

If you would like to learn more about bringing transformative practices in your life, give me a call. Thank you for your time. Be well.

Jefferson Breland is a board-certified acupuncturist licensed in Pennsylvania and Maryland with offices in Gettysburg. If you would like to know more about how Jefferson helps people please call him at 410-336-5876, email him at jeffersonacupuncture@gmail.com, or visit his website www.jeffersonbrelandacupuncture.org.



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FITNESS & HEALTH

Have a happy, healthy new year!

Linda Stultz
Certified Fitness Trainer

One year has just ended and another is just beginning. Sometimes years seem to keep blending into each other without making any changes. This is not a bad thing if we are doing everything we need to keep ourselves healthy and in the best shape possible. However, sometimes the new year starts out on the right, enthusiastic path and by the time the end of the year comes we have put all the things we started on the back burner.

What I mean is we start out by watching what we eat, exercising three times a week and really thinking of ways to improve our health. All that is wonderful but if we try to do too much all at once sometimes we find it hard to keep up the routine. If you are one of the people that has to go full force all at once you will probably be able to commit to this kind of routine and stick with it. If you are someone who needs to start slowly and work up to eating healthy, then adding exercise a couple of days a

week and eventually putting all the components of a full health routine together you will get there and hopefully keep it going.

Everybody knows which kind of person they are and how they need to incorporate the full routine into their daily lives. Whoever person you are the important thing is to get started. We all like to think about what and how we can eat better, exercise more and maybe lose a little weight and improve our blood pressure and cholesterol numbers. The thing is thinking about it doesn't get the job done. Take a little time for yourself and figure out what is going to work for you. Find something you enjoy and know you will be more likely to stick with.

Now that you know what you would like to do and how you are going to incorporate it into your busy schedule, get started! Either slowly or full force, it's time! You may want to start by adding some fruits and vegetables to your daily meals or snacks. Maybe limiting some of your favorite foods that are not exactly the healthiest for you is also a place to start. I'm not saying give

them up completely, just have them as a treat once or twice a week. I bet if you add some snacks that are good for you maybe you will see that you really like them. I also think if you cut back on things like chips or soda you will not miss them as much as you thought you would. Just commit to giving it a fair try. Change can be a good thing if we just try it.

Exercise is also something we tend to put off as long as possible. Don't wait till you have an injury or find yourself not being able to do some things as well as you use to before you start to exercise. As we age we are not as flexible as we use to be. Sometimes we lose muscle mass and can't lift or work as much as we would like. Maintaining and keeping what we have is much easier than rehabbing an injury or building back the strength we've lost and need to live our daily lives.

Please look for my Open House advertisement in this month's issue. I look forward to holding the open house each year and meeting new people that are looking for a way to improve their health as well as meet others that



are working on a happy, healthy lifestyle. The open house is Saturday, January 13, from 10 to 1. If you are unable to attend please give me a call at 717-334-6009 to set up an appointment to check

out what may be the beginning of a happy, healthy lifestyle change for your new year.

Remember to keep moving, even in the cold winter months. You'll be glad you did.

Frederick Health announces international certification

Josh Faust

Frederick Health is pleased to announce that Family Connects Frederick County has achieved certification as a Family Connects International (FCI) Community Partner. This marks the shortest time from launch to certification in the history of this program.

Family Connects Frederick County offers support by providing each family with a 90-minute in-person visit. During the visit, nurses conduct a health and well-being assessment for the baby and the parents as well as provide resources tailored to the family's needs. Since it launched in early 2023, nearly 1,100 families have benefited from this service.

This program met numerous rigorous standards to obtain certification as a community health initiative. As this program continues to grow, we hope to accomplish the following positive outcomes in our community:

- Mothers complete their 6-week postpartum visits at higher rates
- Mothers 30% less likely to experience postpartum depression or anxiety
- A reduction in the impact of race disparities for African American families
- A 44% lower Child Protective Services investigation through age 2
- A 50% reduction in infant emergency room visits over the first two years of life.

"We are making it easier for families with newborns to get support when and where they need it," said Pilar Olivio, Executive Project Manager of Family Con-

nects Frederick County. "Through thoughtful implementation and successful teamwork, we look forward to offering this important program to more families."

Starting early 2024, Family Connects Frederick County will be expanding operations to serve all birthing families that reside in Frederick County, regardless of where they deliver.

"By expanding and improving our services, we continue to support our mission to positively impact the well-being of every individual in our community," said Heather Kirby, Vice President of Integrated Care and Chief Population Health Officer with Frederick Health. "More

families are benefiting from these services, leading to a healthier community and more positive outcomes."

About Frederick Health

Frederick Health provides comprehensive healthcare services to the residents of Frederick County. The system includes Frederick Health Hospital, Frederick Health Medical Group, Frederick Health Employer Solutions, Frederick Health Home Care, and Frederick Health Hospice. Frederick Health Medical Group is a multi-specialty practice with more than 100 providers, 22 specialties and 25 locations across the county. The system has several ambulatory care loca-

tions, the freestanding James M Stockman Cancer Institute, four urgent care locations, and the Frederick Health Village. With 4,000 team members, Frederick Health provides a full spectrum of health-care and wellness services to support

its mission to positively impact the well-being of every individual in our community.

For more information on Frederick Health, visit www.frederickhealth.org/newbornvisit

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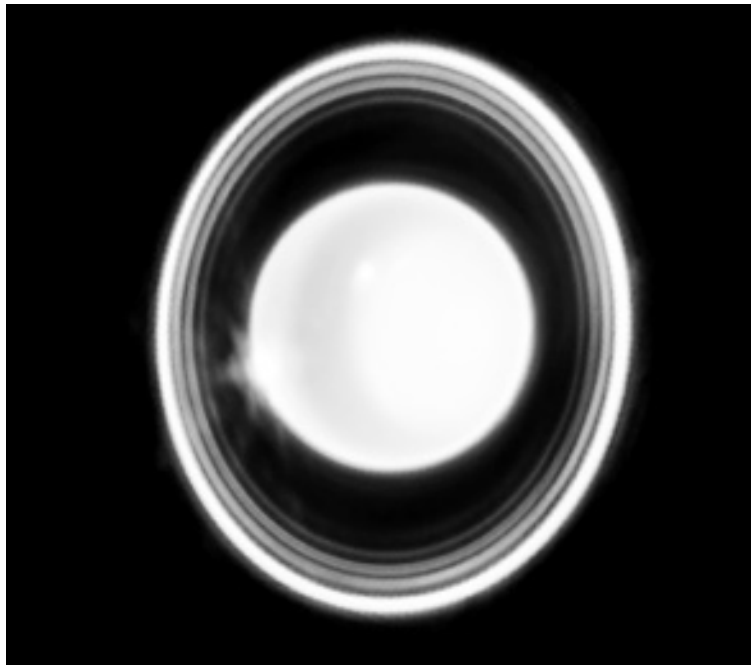
The night sky of January

Professor Wayne Wooten

The earth is closest to the Sun on January 2, 2024 at 8 p.m.; as our orbit is almost circular, the slight change from perihelion (.983 AU, about 91 million miles) to aphelion in July (about 94 million miles) is so small that our 23.5 degree axial tilt plays a much larger role in our modern seasons. At times, precession will shift the coldest days of winter to aphelion (for instance, the last ice ages, 11,000 years ago).

The moon is last quarter on December 3rd. The crescent moon will occult the bright red giant Antares in Scorpius for observing in the western US before sunrise on January 8. The brilliant planet Venus will be just NE of the pair. The next morning, it will lie south of fainter Mercury in the twilight. Look closely with binocs and you may also spot Mars coming out from behind the Sun into the dawn. New Moon is January 11th; three more new moons to the April 8th total solar eclipse. More on that later, of course. The slender crescent lies below Saturn on January 13th, and above it on the 14th. The first quarter moon is on January 17th, and it passes below Jupiter the following evening. The full moon, The Snow moon, is on January 25th.

Mercury is in the dawn most of January, to the lower left of Venus. It is at greatest western elongation, 24 degrees in front of the rising Sun, on January 12th, and heads back to the far side of the Sun. It merges with Mars in the dawn on January 27th, only .3 degrees above the Red Planet. Use binoculars about 40 minutes before sunrise. By month's end, Mercury is lost in Sun's glare, and Venus too is getting lower



This zoomed-in image of Uranus, captured by Webb's Near-Infrared Camera, reveals stunning views of the planet's rings.

and lower in the dawn; it will pass behind the Sun by Spring. Mars will slowly climb high in the dawn for the next several months.

Jupiter is well up in the southern sky at sunset, well placed for telescopic observations of its four Galilean moons and famed Great Red Spot. Saturn is low in the Southwest in Aquarius by month's end, and will be lost in the Sun's glare by the end of February.

The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W in the NW. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus' Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant

object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million light years distant. It is accompanied in small telescopes by companion galaxies M-32 and M-110; we also know of about a dozen smaller satellites gravitationally bound to M-31.

Overhead is Andromeda's hero, Perseus. Between him and Cassiopeia is the fine Double Cluster, faintly visible with the naked eye and two fine binocular objects in the same field. Perseus contains the famed eclipsing binary star Algol, where the Arabs imagined the eye of the gorgon Medusa would lie. It fades to a third its normal brightness for six out of every 70 hours, as a larger but cooler orange giant covers about 80% of the smaller but hotter and thus brighter companion as seen from Earth.

Look at Perseus' feet for the famed Pleiades cluster; they lie about 400 light-years distant, and over 250 stars are members of this fine group. East of the seven sisters is the V of stars marking the face of Taurus the Bull, with

bright orange Aldebaran as his eye. The V of stars is the Hyades cluster, older than the blue Pleiades, but about half their distance.

Yellow Capella, a giant star the same temperature and color as our much smaller Sun, dominates the overhead sky. It is part of the pentagon on stars making up Auriga, the Charioteer (think Ben Hur). Several nice binocular Messier open clusters are found in the winter milky way here. East of Auriga, the twins, Castor and Pollux highlight the Gemini. You can associate the pair with Jason and the Golden Fleece legend, for they were the first two Argonauts to sign up on his crew.

South of Gemini, Orion is the most familiar winter constellation, dominating the eastern sky at dusk. The reddish supergiant Betelgeuse marks his eastern shoulder, while blue-white supergiant Rigel stands opposite on his west knee. As noted last month, on December 11th, the asteroid Leona passed in front of the huge red giant, and as predicted, the 300 mile wide rock did not quite cover the whole surface of the largest star in the sky (except for the Sun, of course) as seen from earth.

While the occultation was not seen in the United States, on the other side of the Atlantic, dozens of observers made detailed recordings to the fading of the star from first to third magnitude (about 1/3 its original brightness) for ten seconds or less! Just south of the belt, hanging like a sword downward, is M-42, the Great Nebula of Orion, an outstanding binocular and telescopic stellar nursery. It is part of a huge spiral arm gas cloud, with active star birth all over the place. You should be able to glimpse this stellar birthplace as a faint blur with just your naked eyes, and the larger your binoculars or telescope, the better the view becomes.

While M-42 is an emission nebulae,

shining reddish from the ionization of its hydrogen gas by hot young stars forming inside it, the famed Horsehead south of the belt of Orion is a dark nebula, a dust cloud lying in front of the red glowing background hydrogen. Just north of it is the much easier Flame Nebula, in the same field of view as Mintaka, the eastern member of the belt. It is also an emission nebula. But the blue color around Mintaka is a reflection nebula, scattering the shorter wavelengths off the interstellar dust, just as small particles in our atmosphere scatter shorter blue waves best, making our sky blue. This is called Rayleigh scattering.

Enjoy such star spectacles while you can. This whole Orion molecular cloud is rich in much dust as well as hydrogen to churn out new, very luminous blue stars like the ones that dominate the naked eye constellation. The horsehead's dust is collapsing into protostars, and their heat and light will soon destroy the famed profile. Even the flame is not everlasting, but its shape and brightness will vary as new stars are born in the dark "wick" to expand the flames still brighter. M-42 also is constantly changing!

Last but certainly not least, in the east rise the hunter's two faithful companions, Canis major and minor. Procyon is the bright star in the little dog, and rises minutes before Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Sirius dominates the SE sky by 7 PM, and as it rises, the turbulent winter air causes it to sparkle with shafts of spectral fire. Beautiful as the twinkling appears to the naked eye, for astronomers this means the image is blurry; only in space can we truly see "clearly now". At 8 light years distance, Sirius is the closest star we can easily see with the naked eye. Below Sirius in binoculars is another fine open cluster, M-41, a fitting dessert for New Year's sky feast.



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Farmers' Almanac

*"Be at war with your vices,
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and let every new year find
you a better man."*
—Benjamin Franklin
(1705—1790)

Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch: Dry and mild, then rain showers (snow showers west) and seasonably colder (1, 2, 3, 4, 5); rain, turning to wet snow, brisk and colder (6, 7, 8, 9, 10); 11-15: turning warm with rain (11, 12, 13, 14, 15); warm and dry at first, then turning colder with a rain/snow mix (16, 17, 18, 19, 20); turning mild with rain showers, then dry and becoming seasonably cold (21, 22, 23, 24, 25); light wintry mix, heaviest north and west followed by blustery snow showers west then turning milder (26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31).

Severe Weather Watch: The Town and Country Almanack warns of heavy snow, wind (4, 5, 6, 7); wintry mix, then heavy snow, wind (26, 27).

Full Moon: The first Full Moon of 2024 will occur on Thursday, January 25th. It has been often been referred to as Wolf Moon because of the increased presence of wolf packs that boldly wander close to tribal villages and encampments searching for food. And because of this extreme difficulty finding food at this time, it has also been called Hunger Moon

Holidays: New Year's Day falls on Monday, January 1st and Epiphany follows on Saturday, January 6th. Martin Luther King, Jr., famed civil rights activist leader, was born on January 15, 1929. His birthday is celebrated on the third Monday of the month. In 2024, that is Monday, January 16th, his actual date of birth! MLK will be forever remembered for paying the ultimate sacrifice pursuing unity and racial harmony which still eludes us today.

The Garden: Mulch landscape beds for winter if you haven't already (and if the weather

allows). Mulching prevents erosion, protects against soil freezes and thaws, and helps retain moisture - all particularly beneficial over a dry winter. Our feathered friends need a reliable supply of water and food during winter but be prepared to continue providing ample amounts of both until natural water and food becomes available later in the Spring.

The Farm: Best for planting root crops (3, 4, 5); weeding and stirring the soil (1, 2, 21, 22); planting above-ground crops (14, 15); harvesting all crops (8, 9); the best days for setting hens and incubators (1, 2, 3, 4, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); the slaughtering and butchering of meat (11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16); transplanting (11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16)); the weaning of all small animals and livestock (8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15); harvesting and storing grains (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10).

J. Gruber's Thought For Today's Living:
"Resolutions are only as good as the intent to keep them"

COMPUTER Q&A

Facebook—how to keep your privacy and still be social!

Ayse Stenabaugh
Jester's Computer

It can be difficult to use social media without putting all your business out there but it doesn't have to be! Facebook has lots of ways to limit the audience so only who you want to see your posts can see it. If you have a Facebook friend that you don't want to remove but don't want to see their posts, there's a way to do that also. Read below to find out more so you can get control of your social media audience.

Who appears in your feed

First, let's cover how you change what friends appear inside your Facebook news feed. You can tell Facebook to show certain friends' posts first in your newsfeed or not to show them at all. To make the change visit your friends Facebook page by using the search at the top of the Facebook page to enter their name. Once you select the friend you will be taken to their Facebook page. At the top of their page you will see "Friends" to indicate that you are friends with that user. To the right of the Friends option you will see "Following". Drop this box down to choose either "see posts first" to see their Facebook posts at the top of your newsfeed or to choose "unfollow". Don't worry if you change your mind you can follow the same steps and choose default to go back to the standard settings.

Excluding specific users

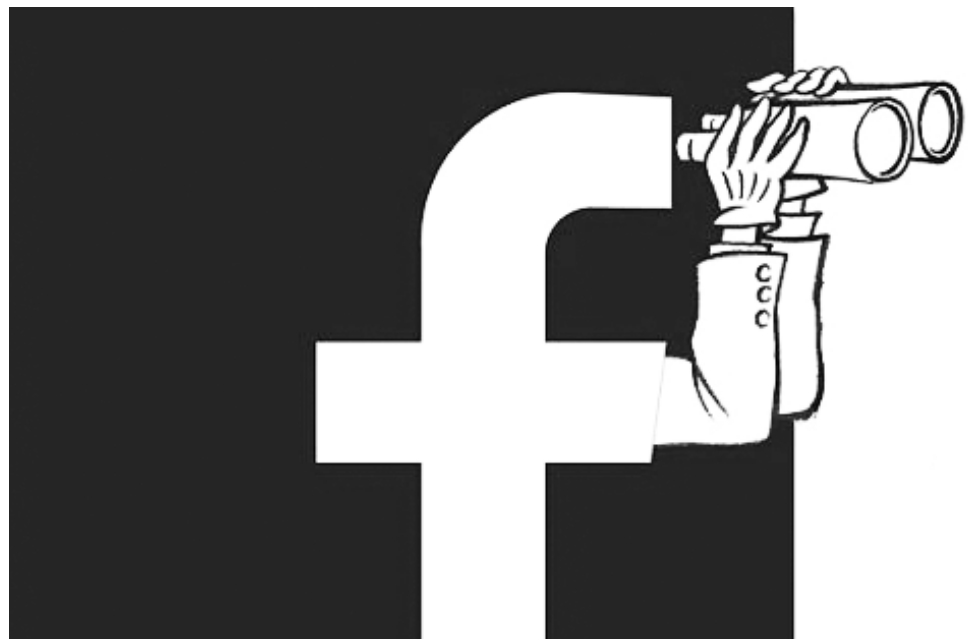
Next let's learn more about how Friend Lists can help you better manage your Facebook page. Friend Lists are NOT public therefore you can combine any group of friends and it will be private for you to see only. If you have a group of people that you never want to see your Facebook posts but you still want to remain friends, then you can use the Friends Lists function to create a group of people. Once you create that List you can post to all friends except that group of users. You will need to be on a computer and not a mobile device to create the lists however, once your lists are created you can select to exclude or post to any of those lists whether you are on a PC or mobile device.

To find "Friend lists" visit Facebook while logged in and look on the left side of your newsfeed. Look for the headline "Explorer", Friend Lists will be listed in that section. If you don't see it click on "See More..." to fully expand the list. Once you visit this page you will see that Facebook has already created some lists for you based on your profile information such as places you worked or where you went to school. At the top, you will click on "+ Create List" and then give your list a name. For example, I have one I labeled "privacy" where I keep all the people who I would rather not share my private posts with. It's important to note that anything you label as public on Facebook will

be visible to these friends and anyone who you are not friends with on Facebook. After you give your list a name you will be able to begin entering names in the members box. Facebook will search through your friends as your adding names so you will want to list your Friends as their names appear on Facebook. Once you have listed all the people you want in your list click "Create".

Changing your page's privacy

If you want to change who can see Facebook posts that you add you will want to change the privacy settings for the individual post. To do that when you go to post anything on Facebook beside the post button you want to drop down the box to the left of Post which usually says "Friends". There you can change your privacy to make your post Public, Friends only or for you only. If you click on the more options button at the bottom you will have the option to choose from the lists you created. If you want to individually select who can see your post or if you want to EXCLUDE certain people from you post you can choose to share with or exclude individual people or lists from this screen. For instance using the example above If I wanted to exclude my "privacy" list I would click more



options, then in the box labeled "Don't share with" I would enter privacy and my list would appear. Now when you go to make your post the button beside post will say "Custom". Facebook will retain these settings on your device and the next time you go to post you will see "Custom" in the box again. If you want to change your privacy settings just click on it once again to select a different option.

Limit past posts visibility

If you've been posting publicly and suddenly decide that you want

to limit your previous posts to be "friends only" you can do that as well. On a PC, visit Facebook and click the drop down arrow towards the top right of your Facebook page and choose settings. On the left-hand side of your screen click on "Privacy". On a mobile device click the 3-vertical lined menu and scroll all the way to the bottom of the page until you see account settings. Choose account settings and

then choose privacy. From this screen you can choose to "limit the audience for posts you've shared with friends of friends or public" and then click on limit old posts to confirm.

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COMMUNITY NOTES

Community Spotlight: Emmitsburg Lions Club

Claire Doll
MSMU Class of 2024

What does it mean to be a community? And what makes a community truly resilient—that is, able to withstand hardship and rise above? For Lions Club President Dianne Walbrecker and members of the Emmitsburg Lions Club, community resilience is about teamwork and togetherness.

Social capital—the value derived from positive connections between people—aims to achieve a common purpose in bringing the community closer. It is what makes community, what drives resilience, and ultimately what creates solutions for worldly problems. “Lion” Dianne believes that social capital enables community resilience and is worth working for.

The Emmitsburg Lions Club does exactly this. With a focus on five service areas, the organization supports efforts for vision, diabetes, hunger, childhood cancer, and the environment to provide humanitarian services and improve overall quality of life. In the town of Emmitsburg, the club strives to meet these global challenges with humility, creativity, and teamwork.

The Emmitsburg Lions Club focuses on vision needs of the community. In 1925, Helen Keller attended the Lions Club Interna-

tional Convention and challenged Lions to become “knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness.” Since then, the Lions have accepted this challenge, and the Emmitsburg organization lives this mission by promoting sight programs aimed at vision impairment and preventable blindness.

For example, those who need assistance with glasses go to the Seton Center, which refers those in need to the Emmitsburg Lions Club. The Lions then pay for people who need help getting an eye exam and/or glasses. The Lions Club also offers free vision screenings for children and can refer children to an eye doctor if they need a follow-up appointment. Lion Dianne says it’s important for all the members to be able to see the results of the club’s services—not just know it’s happening. “I know some of the people who have gotten glasses and it makes you realize how vital our services are to those who need it,” she says.

Hunger is not only a local problem in Emmitsburg, but a world-wide issue as well. The Emmitsburg Lion Club works through Jubilee Market to collect food bags and then delivers them to the Food Bank for distribution to those who need the help. The generous citizens of Emmitsburg have really come through in purchasing the bags to donate. “We

couldn’t do it without help from the whole community,” said Lion Donna Haines who chairs the food drive committee.

For the Christmas Food Drive last year, the club packed a total of 75 boxes of food and delivered them to residents at Lincoln on the Park and Seton Village as well as homes in town. The Food Drive committee called residents to see whether they preferred a box of food or a gift card. Surprisingly, most people preferred a box of food rather than a gift card or money. “It brings our members joy to know that someone at a certain apartment wants real potatoes instead of a box of mashed potatoes and that we can meet that need. That gives us a sense of joy and purpose,” says Lion Wendy Hagan, chair of the Christmas Food Drive.

The Emmitsburg Lions Club also helps with the environment. Some of our members volunteer with Stream-Link Education to participate in tree planting events and to connect community members with environmental education. Several members also partnered with the Green Team in the town to hold a community cleanup. We had five teams that picked up trash throughout the town.

Being a Type 1 Diabetic, Lion Dianne finds that the Lions Club’s focus on diabetes is significant and

personal. The Emmitsburg Lions Club works to achieve this service mission by donating to diabetes research and setting out a table at Jubilee to promote diabetes information. The club also donates funds to send children diagnosed with diabetes to attend a one-week diabetic camp to learn about their condition. The main goal of this effort for diabetes is to promote awareness of the issue and how it can be addressed.

Although childhood cancer remains a difficult and seemingly unsolvable problem, Lions continue to work on it. “Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) has partnered with Global HOPE, a program of Texas Children’s Hospital, to address the discrepancies in outcomes from childhood cancer in developing countries compared to developed countries,” according to LCIF.

Through direct focus on the needs of vision, diabetes, hunger, the environment, and childhood cancer, the Emmitsburg Lions Club—and the 48,000+ Lions Clubs around the world—take action to serve others. With more than 1.4 million members, the clubs bring together individuals from all walks of life, promoting acts of service for those who most need them.

“It’s all about partnership for the better of the community,” says Lion

Dianne. “It’s the entire club—every member involved—that does the work. But another vital part of what we do is to enjoy our work and each other. It’s fun to serve!”

The Emmitsburg Lions Club is always looking for new members to join and help as we serve the community. If interested in being part of this community organization, check out the Emmitsburg Lions Club Facebook Page, contact any Lion member or call President Dianne Walbrecker directly at 301-676-1561. You can also go to Emmitsburgevents.com to learn about upcoming community events or visit the Lions Club International Foundation website to explore the Lions Clubs’ impacts across the world.

It takes all kinds of community organizations as well as individuals to build a community and Emmitsburg has plenty that we hope to explore in the next editions of the paper. Please get in touch with us if you have a community organization or individual that you’d like to see featured in the News-Journal! Our community spotlight strives to highlight our wonderful community groups and members, and we need your help to continue with this column. Please reach out to our Editor, Mike Hillman, for more information!

We wish you all a very

Prosperous and

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FIND NEW ROADS™

COMMUNITY NOTES

Rides For Good to launch in Frederick County

According to United Way of Frederick County, more than one-third of Frederick County residents (over 31,000 households) cannot afford basic needs such as housing, childcare, food, health care and technology. Transportation is especially hard to access for those households who are living on a limited income. The cost to own or lease a vehicle continues to escalate, let alone the expenses required owning, operating, and insuring an automobile.

Despite overall improvements, the economic recovery in Frederick County, like that in the rest of Maryland, had not reached all families before the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Deb Bisenieks, Executive Director of Seton Center, a social services organization based in Emmitsburg that serves northern Frederick County residents, says "Many people that we serve have few, if any, transportation options for accessing the most essential of services, especially for rides to medical and dental appointments, the grocery store and pharmacy, faith activities, educational classes, even jobs.

North County is truly a transportation desert, and if you don't have dependable access to a car, then life can be very challenging."

For these reasons, Frederick-based Safe Ride Foundation, a nonprofit organization that has operated the SOS Safe Ride program since 2015, has created Rides for Good, connecting trained volunteer drivers using their own vehicles to transport registered passengers to a broad range of services in the community. The service will begin operations this upcoming February.

Wayne Dorsey, Safe Ride Foundation Founder and Executive Director, says, "We've built Rides for Good to replicate NeighborRides, a volunteer-centered program operating since 2002 in metro Baltimore. In 2018, NeighborRide provided over 18,000 rides to over 300 passengers. It's a proven model, and with Frederick County residents stepping up to help their neighbors in need, Rides for Good will be a success here as well."

In a recent interview, Elizabeth Paul, a Frederick County resident and Rides for Good passenger,

commented, "Due to my visual impairment, I'm unable to drive. While I can sometimes rely upon family and friends to drive me to my appointments, there are times

when I need Rides for Good and their volunteer drivers to help me to pick up my prescriptions and go to the market. If it wasn't for them, I would be in dire straits."

For information on Rides for Good, and how to become a volunteer driver, visit www.ridesforgood.org/volunteer or call 240-657-3090.



Rides for GOOD

Heroes Needed.
Spend a Little Time Make a Huge Difference.

In this season of giving, give the gift of yourself

For many here in Frederick County, the lack for transportation is often cited as the leading barrier for those needing to access essential community services.

Many residents, including Seniors and Veterans, need a way to a doctor's appointment, to the supermarket and pharmacy, to attend a class, participate in social outings and faith activities, even for a job interview.

Rides For Good creates good in the community through a team of volunteers who lend their time to provide safe, reliable rides in their own vehicles to meet the specific needs of our Frederick County neighbors in need.

As a volunteer driver, you will have rewarding opportunities to serve your community, meet new people, share conversations, and significantly contribute to your neighbors' ability to stay healthy, active, and vital.

This season, expand GOODNESS throughout Frederick County!

Be a hero, Frederick County Volunteer!
To learn more and apply to be a volunteer driver,

visit Ridesforgood.org/volunteering ,or call ☎ 240-657-3090

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