

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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

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## Square revitalization takes a hit

The much anticipated revitalization of the town square took a major hit this month with the closing of three businesses – St. Philomena bookstore and the attached Holy Grounds Café on the northwest corner, Hazel's Thrift shop on the northeast corner, and Stavros Pizza on the South East corner. With these three businesses closing, only a few businesses remain operating on the square.

St. Philomena closed after a four-year stint. Hazel's Thrift shop closed after only two months; it succeed CJ Embroidery which closed its doors last year after four years on the square. Lastly, Stavros Pizza closed after the sudden death of its owner.

While the business environment on the square is a long way away from its heyday, when the Square hosted two banks, a hotel, three restaurants, a pharmacy, a clothing store, and insurance company, Mayor Don Briggs brings refuses to throw in the towel. In fact, he has made revitalization of the square the cornerstone of his administration.

In February 2013, the town presented a proposed square redesign, which includes improving pedestrian safety, traffic congestion, and the overall aesthetics of the town's central intersection. Mayor Briggs said the development of Downtown Frederick is an example he hopes to emulate in Emmitsburg, making Emmitsburg a "destination place to come to, not a place to drive through."

The design firm of Seth Harry and Associates (SHA) was contracted in 2013 to refine the plans for redesigning the square. The square revitalization, which is estimated to cost \$1.5 million dollars, includes several improvements including relocating crosswalks, planters, decorative brick piers, a new clock, and an optional fountain. Mayor Briggs noted that is state approved design did not include benches for residents to sit on. If the town opted to include them, it would be an additional \$55,000.

Briggs reports that the project is progressing nicely and over



The unexpected closure of three stores in the square was a setback for the town's efforts to draw businesses back to the heart of Emmitsburg.

\$300,000 of property grants associated with the planned improvements to the square are already underway. According to Briggs, the town meets with the design firm every six weeks to discuss developments of the project. The project was slowed down a bit while SHA Designs contracted a landscaping architect firm to assist in the project. Last month, the town and SHA Designs met with the potential landscaping firm to re-

view their initial proposals for the landscaping and beautification of the Square. Briggs plans to share what recommendations the landscapers have suggested at the October town council meeting.

The current schedule has the town advertising for bids for the construction work in the Fall of 2016, with actual construction on all approved upgrades to begin in the Spring of 2017.

## Fairfield to host candidates forum

Adams County Commissioners will square off on Wednesday, October 28 at 7pm during a candidate's forum at the Fairfield Fire Hall, located at 106 Steelman St. The Republican incumbents Commissioners Randy Phiel and Jim Martin will defend their seats along with Democratic incumbent Marty Qually and new to the ticket, Harry Stokes. The candidates' forum will take place just five days before the general election – which will give the public a chance to ask questions and educate themselves about the candidates. Topics on local economy, fiscal responsibility, growth, and preservation are expected to be front and center.

The forum, hosted by the Emmitsburg News-Journal (ENJ) will give the four candidates an opportunity to go head-to-head on a number of key issues - the Adams County Commissioner debate will be moderated by Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris and Fairfield Mayor Bob Stanley. The four candidates will be given three sets of pre-determined questions with three minutes to answer each one; should another candidate be mentioned in their answers, said candidate will be given one minute to respond. The candidates are looking forward to addressing the topics and to discussing issues with the voters.

Randy Phiel asks "what are the sig-

nificant factors that facilitate good government- when government seems so dysfunctional these days?" Phiel suggests things like experience, leadership, common sense, community resources, strong fiscal management, communication and civility. Phiel reports proudly that after almost four years the current Board of Adams County Commissioners takes those attributes, applies and manages the affairs of Adams County in a manner that the majority residents find effective and commendable. He said, "Many residents tell me they appreciate that method of governing and the results. I respectfully ask for your support in re-electing this Board to continue common sense county government."

Harry Stokes of Gettysburg is running again for Adams County Commissioner – he believes the present board has lost its way and needs an experienced leader. "I want to provide better economic development policy for Adams County. We need to support our farmers, growers and local businesses," Stokes said. "We must realize that our quality of life is our biggest draw for new business and we want these new businesses to be a good fit for Adams County." Stokes also emphasized: We must reduce the cost of county government and start paying down the county debt, which now exceeds \$90 million."

For Jim Martin, seeking re-election is not about securing a victory trophy, but to fulfill a responsibility to serve Adams County. That responsibility is to bring forward into a second-term proven experience, leadership, common sense, and vision. These four cornerstones combined with my full-time dedication to public office, has repeatedly been met with constant public approval to run for a second term. Martin says "The future of Adams County will be determined by voters on November 3. They can vote with confidence that I am more than just a resume, but a highly qualified candidate to keep Adams County moving forward."



Popular County Commissioner Marty Qually will be joined by fellow commissioners Randy Phiel and Jim Martin and candidate Harry Stokes at the Fairfield forum.

Marty Qually explains – "My wife and I raise our children to keep their word. Four years ago I promised to reduce expensive County rents, replace an outdated 911 radio sys-

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## NEWS

## Doughboy repair update

The Doughboy took one step closer to returning to his pedestal when he was finally moved to a storage building at the wastewater treatment plant where he will stay until the town picks one of the two candidates who submitted bids to conduct the repair.

Mayor Briggs said he hopes to be able to present the bids the board at

the first town meeting in October - almost four months after the Doughboy was knocked off its pedestal as a result of a freak auto accident.

The plaque bearing the names of all the area's WWI veterans was also removed and is awaiting repair. While the cost of the Doughboy statue will be covered by insurance, only a repair of the plaque,

which was the recommendation of the state approved conservator, will be covered by insurance, not an outright replacement of the plaque. A full replacement of the plaque, which some have demanded for political correctness proposes, and which could cost upwards to \$10,000, will have to be paid for by the taxpayers of Emmitsburg.

## Vigilant Hose to hold open house

The Vigilant Hose Company will hold their Annual Fire and Life Safety Open House on Thursday, October 8th, from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Fire Station located at 25 West Main Street. This will be the 60th year that Vigilant Hose Company personnel have sponsored this popular event.

This year's Fire Prevention Open House will include: a special interactive Fire Prevention 'Pit Box' from

the Office of the State Fire Marshal; information and demonstrations to help families and individuals prevent unwanted fire as well as preparedness information, should fire or other emergency/disaster strike; information on Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems and how they work; Fire Prevention/Life Safety demonstrations; and information for residents and business alike can be directly involved in supporting 'our VHC fam-

ily help other families'.

The always-popular Fire Truck Rides are back this year, as well as "Smokey the Bear" (Courtesy of the Catoctin Mountain National Park). Frederick County resident Deputy Sheriffs will be on hand offering crime prevention materials and insights.

Free refreshments provided by the Vigilant Hose Company Auxiliary for all attendees and there will be door prizes for persons of all ages.

## St. Philomena closes its doors

St. Philomena's Bookstore and Cafe, a fixture in Emmitsburg's main square, opened up shop for the last time this early this September. Business owners, Bruno and Pam Sielaff closed the doors to the café on September 5, and the bookstore will follow suit on September 31. Their son, Ben, explained that the family is simply too busy to continue operating their business, although the profits regularly paid for the expenses.

Pam and Bruno are the third owners of the café and bookstore. Dorothy Burkard was the first owner, opening the store in the early 1990's. Alison and Rich Mauro purchased it in 2007

and the Sielaffs took over in June 2009. They moved the store from 200 W. Main Street to 2 W. Main Street in June of 2011 to expand and add on to the café, aptly named, Holy Grounds Café. The coffee shop served "body friendly" products, a reflection of owner Pam's dedication to health and wellness.

The Sielaff's decision to relocate the bookstore and expand it with the addition of a coffee shop was greeted by many town residents who had grown disillusioned at the growing number of vacant storefronts on the square.

A popular destination for Mount students, St. Philomena's afforded residents of the town the opportunity to meet

and converse with young people, and in doing so, greatly contributed to the growing sense of community between the two communities.

Patrons of St. Philomena's were shocked to hear of its closing.

"It really is a shame," remarked one woman, "I have had a long tradition of coming here."

Other visitors to the bookstore had similar sentiments of amazement, disappointment, and even a touch of regret for not visiting more often.

While there is certainly sadness and feelings of loss surrounding the closing of the bookstore, fortunately the family will still have plenty to do. Bruno Sielaff

## Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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## Wastewater treatment plant goes on-line

After 8 years of work, the new wastewater treatment plant has finally started operations. The \$20 million treatment plant was mandated by the state in conjunction with efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. The plant was originally scheduled to go on-line in the spring but was delayed for an unspecified reason.

The town's old wastewater facilities, built in the late 80's were, at the time, considered a showpiece environmental engineering marvel through their use of

ground drip percolation technology to remove toxins and other contaminants, prior to the wastewater being discharged into Tom's Creek.

The old wastewater treatment facility, however, was unable to meet revised environmental mandates to reduce threatening pollutants in the Chesapeake Bay, forcing the town to build the new treatment plant. The existing maintenance structures and laboratory used to test water before it is released, were retained as well as one

or two existing wastewater lagoons.

The town received funding for the plant from several sources. \$14.5 million was given to the town through grants from the Department of the Environment and the federal Department of Agriculture (DOA). In addition to those grants, the town received \$5.5 million from the DOA, and the board of commissioners approved an increase in user fees that provided more funding for the project.

In 2012, the town approved an av-

erage 40% increase in sewer rates to pay for the balance of a new wastewater treatment plant that will not be covered by grant money, and for any accrued debt service.

Town Manager, Dave Haller has said that the new wastewater treatment process is more high-tech than the previous process, meaning the new treatment will be more effective in aerating the water and intensifying bacteria growth, which is necessary when treating raw wastewater. Due to the more "active treatment," the town will see an increase of \$100,000 a year in electrical costs. To help with that cost the town construct-

ed solar panels to help power the facility.

Mayor Donald N. Briggs described the improvements mandated by the state as a "real challenge for the town," at the beginning of the project, but now that the plant has opened, he describes the new facility as "a benefit for generations to come."

The new facility is equipped to process up to 750,000 gallons of wastewater per day, equivalent to the average output from 3,000 'connections' or 'taps,' which is 725 more than the town's current drinking water treatment plant is capable of supplying. The town currently has 250 unused water taps to support any immediate development needs. Beyond that however, a new drinking water treatment plant would be required.

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# Muddy Run Bridge replacement

Town officials received notice from Plenary Walsh Keystone Partners (PWKP) that the Muddy Run Bridge will be replaced in July through October 2016 as part of a state-wide bridge replacement program by Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Penn DOT). PWKP is the consortium hired by Penn DOT to facilitate the bridge replacements and upkeep statewide. The Muddy Run Bridge is about a mile outside of Fairfield on Route 116 near the Highland Township office – and while the replacement of the bridge is a direct benefit to county residents, local township officials are more than a little concerned about the short term effects that closing the entire bridge will have on police, fire, and emergency responders trying to serve the people they are sworn to protect.

Route 116 is the main artery into Hamiltonban, Fairfield, Carroll Valley, and other surrounding communities. It is the main road for emergency responders transporting people to Gettysburg Hospital.

According to officials from Highland Township, Fairfield, and Carroll Valley the 11-mile detour that has been proposed for the bridge closure is logistically a nightmare and will add 15-20 minutes conservatively to

police, fire, and emergency responders – especially those who drive for Adams Regional Emergency Medical Services (AREMS); AREMS provides both basic life support (BLS) and advanced life support (ALS) services to over 15 municipalities in Adams County. Fairfield Fire Chief Bill Jacobs explained that many times the AREMS responders are not from this area, and the proposed detour may pose a particular hazard should those responders rely solely on GPS in getting to their destination.

Carroll Valley Police Chief Richard Hileman went further to say “if my officer needs back up, depending on the location, they would be coming from either Cumberland or Washington Township – every minute counts and if officers are hindered by this detour, you’re talking about a significant risk to our law enforcement and EMS.”

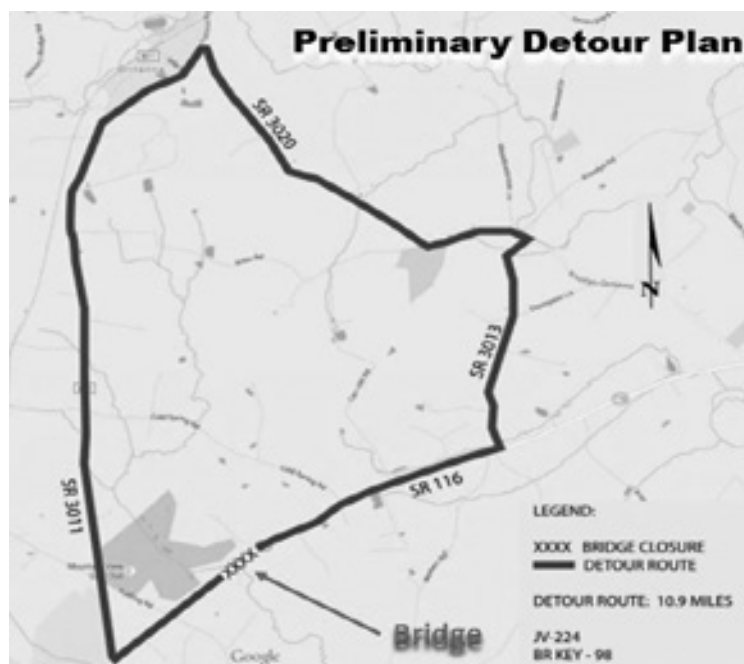
The detour suggested by PWKP is an absolute disaster according to township officials, not only for police and emergency services, but also for local residents, tourists, school buses and truck traffic. For instance, Valley Quarries runs 15-20 trucks a day to and from Gettysburg; with the proposed 11-mile detour, navigating those roads every day for several months will be arduous – further

compounding the problem will be school bus, delivery, local, and tourist traffic.

Jacobs also said that all of the firehouses in Adams County are staffed by volunteer firefighters and emergency responders. “You’ve got volunteers who live all over Adams County – they’re not concentrated in one specific area, many live on the opposite side of the bridge. All of those volunteers have to get to the firehouse quickly; closing this bridge completely will add at least 15-20 minutes getting there – not to mention the time getting to an accident or a fire. We’re talking about crucial minutes,” he explained.

Officials are also concerned about the local impact on surrounding businesses, campgrounds and festivals, as closing the bridge entirely will begin during prime tourist season. Millions of dollars in revenue could potentially be lost, hurting an already struggling Adams County.

Plenary Walsh Keystone Partners (PWKP) will replace 16 aging bridges in Adams County in just over a year, completing construction by the end of 2016. The bridges are primarily crossings on smaller state highways, many in rural areas, rather than interstate bridges or large river crossings. The PWKP consortium consists of both local and national companies experienced in delivering major public infrastructure works. Plenary Group USA Ltd. and Walsh Investors, LLC will provide financing and long-term management for the project, while the construction work will be led by a joint venture team of Walsh Construction Company and Granite Construction Company. Walsh Infrastructure



Management will provide bridge maintenance over the life of the 25-year contract.

Originally officials of PWKP said they would only be closing one lane at a time, but for reasons unknown, that statement was later retracted. The decision to switch from complete closure with an 11-mile-long detour to some other option - such as working on one lane at a time or installing a temporary bridge - would be up to Penn DOT. According to Public Information Manager Dan Galvin, “after speaking with township officials and reading through Mayor Harris’s report, we are looking at other approaches to the complete closure of the bridge. We are talking with Penn DOT, but no decision will be made for weeks.”

Highland Township Supervisor Craig Rockey, Hamiltonban Supervisor Bob Gordon, Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris, Carroll Valley Police Chief Richard Hileman, and Fairfield Fire Chief Bill Jacobs are leading the charge in an effort to convince Penn DOT to either

leave one lane open or to construct a temporary lane running adjacent to Muddy Run Bridge.

Supervisor Gordon stated, “Police and EMS are the most critical issue – we, as township officials are legally responsible for the safety and welfare of our residents.” Mayor Harris went further saying, “We are encouraging residents and local businesses to communicate their concerns with their elected officials, Penn DOT, and PWKP. This particular bridge detour is potentially disastrous for all who live in this area, we need to have a safe alternative.” Supervisor Craig Rockey ended with, “if we don’t act fast as a community, we will have lost the moment.”

Residents and local businesses are encouraged to contact their state officials, PWKP and Penn DOT – Senator Richard Alloway, at alloway@pasen.gov or (717) 334-4169; Representative Dan Moul at dmoul@pauhousegop.com or (717) 334-3010; Plenary Walsh Keystone Partners (PWKP) at parapidbridges.com; Penn DOT (717) 787-2838.

# Reids Bridge closure

Reids Bridge in Hamiltonban Township which has been closed since April is finally going to be replaced. However, the cost will be significantly higher than originally projected. Supervisor Robert Gordon was in receipt of six bids ranging from a low of \$226,270 to a high of \$328,525.08. At last month’s meeting township supervisors voted to accept the low bid, which unexpectedly came in at more than twice what they had anticipated spending to replace the bridge. The vote came following a 34-minute executive session to discuss legal issues involving the bids. “This is the best that we can do,” said Supervisor LuAnn Dille. “We’re doing the best we can with what we have.”

The bridge, over Tom’s Creek on Mount Hope Road at Gum Springs

Road was closed in April when officials discovered that many of the supporting beams had rusted away. The low bid, from Shiloh Paving and Excavating Inc., of York, will use money from the township’s capital reserve account and the \$200,000 loan from the state, Gordon explained. Further, supervisors excluded \$4,242 from Shiloh’s bid for a “superpave” blacktop, a \$3,430 detour sign that is presently in place, \$2,295 for site restoration, and \$808 for yellow center line marking.

“The anticipation is that we will still be on track to get the road open by Christmas,” Gordon said. “And if we get lucky, maybe Thanksgiving, but I’m saying Christmas.” For updated information on bridge closures and other road projects, go to [www.hamiltonban.com](http://www.hamiltonban.com).

### Continued from page 1

tem, and strengthen the County’s fiscal status. We now have lower rents, a modern 911 system, and a historically high Bond rating.” “The next four years I will focus on improving preservation and economic development efforts, strengthening our finances, and streamlining County government, said Qually. My consensus building style, open door policy, and hard work ethic have been the difference between success and failure. We are no longer

mired in division, but instead poised for success!”

As part of this paper’s desire to educate the voters on issues of importance, we have approached the Gettysburg Times to co-host the event in an effort to maximize coverage. ENJ Editor Michael Hillman explained - “Because of the dates of our publication, the Gettysburg Times will be cover and print the results of the October forum the weekend before the elections. We have a vested interest in educating the voters, and, we work well together.”

Further, Hillman said that its extremely important to have a good turn-out to these kinds of debates – they hold the candidates accountable to the voters, and it also shows the candidates that the voters have a vested interest in them. We hope to see a large turn-out for this public forum. If people don’t show up to ask the questions, or voice their concerns, why bother complaining? Remember folks, it’s your county, your community, and your future.”

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<p>2497 Swaterra Hampshire Rd. New Oxford, PA 17350 \$299,000 • MLS#21506752 Charming country home. Original 1800's log structure between Gettysburg &amp; New Oxford. Family room with stone fireplace. Large eat-in kitchen with oak built-in seating area, three (3) bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths all on .40 acre plus a detached one car garage.</p>	<p>169 Belmont Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325 \$149,900 • MLS#21506082 Beautiful tons of the century farm home. Wrap around porch, long tree lined driveway, on 5+ acres in Adams Co. Features all the modern conveniences, gourmet kitchen, great room addition, 5 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, 2 car garage, in-ground pool. Original barn &amp; Outbuilding.</p>	<p>832 Oxford Rd., New Oxford, PA 17350 \$299,000 • MLS#21510796 Restored log/brick farm house on 7.54 acres, includes traditional bank barn, summer kitchen, plus 40 x 60 - (5) bay machine/equipment building.</p>	<p>225 Old Mill Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325 \$349,900 • MLS#21510325 SINGLE STORY BRICK 3400 Sq. Ft. home bordering Gettysburg National Battlefield. Three (3) bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, finished rec room area: 900 Sq. Ft. plus glassed screened in porch, with slate flooring - 14 x 23 overlooking battlefield.</p>
<p>1876 Ridge Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325 \$489,900 • MLS#21506907 PEACEFUL AND SERENE custom home on 32+ acres, streams, woods and privacy. 3800+ Sq. Ft., 5 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, dual fuel HVAC system, central air conditioning, open floor plan with spacious dock &amp; wrap around covered porch.</p>	<p>316 Carr Hill Rd., Gettysburg, PA 17325 \$779,000 • MLS#21506042 Outstanding custom built home, 3365 Sq. Ft. on 23 ac., gourmet kitchen w/granite features &amp; custom cabinetry. 3 car garage w/overhead workshop for the car enthusiast. Separate room for billiards or residence, geothermal heat, 5 min. west of Gettysburg, PA.</p>	<p>880 Anthony Rd., East Berlin, PA 17316 \$439,900 • MLS#21510892 Enhanced Residence - 2500 Sq. Ft. Custom Salt Box style home with all the traditional features. Vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, redwood, brick and cedar exterior, in an absolutely serene 10 acre setting.</p>	<p>130 Confederate Dr., Gettysburg, PA 17325 \$354,900 • MLS#21510889 Elegance &amp; Serenity! 3500 Sq. Ft. custom brick Federal style home perfectly bordering the Gettysburg National Battlefield. Quality features include dining room designed after Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, view woods from 11'9"x17'8" family room w/ skylights &amp; vaulted ceilings.</p>

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NEWS

# 52nd annual Catoctin Colorfest

The biggest craft event in Maryland, Catoctin Colorfest returns to Thurmont this year for the 52nd year. Each year the event is hosted put together by the non-profit organization Catoctin Colorfest Inc. The event will be held on October 10th and 11th.

Thurmont will welcome over 250 artists and crafters to the community park where they will display and sell their products that they have created. In addition to the 250 vendors invited

by the organization residents and businesses in the Thurmont area rent out their properties to vendors. The difference between the invited vendors, and those just setting up shop on local properties, according to Carol Robinson, President of Catoctin Colorfest Inc. is that the 250 invited vendors are individually making their products. Between the art and craft vendors and the vendors who are renting spaces there are over 1,000 vendors that will be set up this year. "We are jammed packed

this year," Robinson comments.

This year there will be demonstrations by various crafters. This will include broom making, wood turnings, and wood carvings of flowers.

The event begins at 9am and will be open until 5pm both days. Each day vendors will offer breakfast starting at 7am.

As the date nears for the 52nd Colorfest the town is hard at work preparing the town for the incoming vendors. The preparations for the event

include gathering security, trash collection, obtaining and placing portable toilets, and bus service. The town's Public Staff will be preparing the community park for the vendors and the inflow of people. According to Robinson 100,000 or more people attend the event each year.

As has been the case in the past, funds raised by this year's event will be given back to the community. Beneficiaries from past Colorfests include the Thurmont Food Bank, local church-

es, and the Guardian Hose Company. In addition, Colorfest organizers have raised over \$160,000 to scholarships for help local high school students defray the cost of collage education.

For many Thurmont organizations Colorfest is their biggest and only fundraiser. "This event is so important for the town!" Robinson explained.

Robinson is looking forward to celebrating the 52nd year of Colorfest and is hoping that unlike the past few years the weather will be good.

For more information on the event visit [www.colorfest.org](http://www.colorfest.org).

# Thurmont goes pink

The "Think Pink" 2015 event in Thurmont will take place this month. The event was created to bring awareness to the public regarding issues associated with breast cancer.

Several events are taking place in the county to support the cause, the events are being sponsored by the Hurwitz Breast Cancer Fund, at the Freder-

ick Memorial Hospital. The fund was established in 1999 by Jeff and Patty Hurwitz after Patty was diagnosed with breast cancer.

On October 1st businesses and homes in the Thurmont area will light the town pink. Each night residents and business owners are asked to have their pink lights on at 8 pm. The lights are left on from

8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Pink light bulbs were available for residents to purchase in September at Ace Hardware and Hobbs Hardware in Thurmont. The light bulbs could be purchased for \$1.99. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the Patty Hurwitz Foundation at the Frederick Memorial Hospital.

The town's businesses and offices

will be illuminated in pink throughout the month of October. All residents are encouraged to participate in the event.

In addition to lighting the town pink each night in October the town will be hosting the first ever "Think Pink" 5k run/walk. The run will be held on October 24th and will be held on 15 Eyeler Road in Thurmont. Residents of Thurmont and surrounding towns are invited to come out and support the Patty Hurwitz Cancer Research Fund. Those

interested in participating in the event can register online at [www.thinkpink5k.com](http://www.thinkpink5k.com) or pick up registration forms at the town office or Anytime Fitness. For those who register by October 10th the fee is \$25. Participants who register by the 10th are guaranteed to receive a T-shirt. Registration will be available on the day of the event, the cost is \$35. Registration check-in will take place at 7am on the day of the race and the race will begin at 8am.

# Thurmont to study electrical system

Downes Associates, Thurmont's electrical engineering firm, has proposed an electrical system study for the town to help the town effectively maintain the electrical company at the highest level they can.

Thurmont is one of only five municipalities in the state of Maryland that has its own electric company. Most residents throughout the state receive their electric from large corporations. Thurmont Power customers pay the second cheapest rates in the state of Maryland. Due to the fact that Thurmont has its own electrical company, the town must make sure that it is maintained at the highest level possible to eliminate any lengthy power outages for customers.

According to Town Chief Administrative Officer, Jim Humerick the proposed study will take an in-depth analysis of the town's system. The analysis will provide the company and town with a list of recommended improvements to the system. The study will be able to indicate to the town what their best management practices can be,

which will ensure that the town is operating as efficiently, effectively and safely as possible.

The proposed study will include components such as, growth projections, overall analysis of the system and the age of the infrastructure; evaluate the existing circuit configurations, and provide a list of capital improvement projects.

At the presentation on September 15, representatives discussed the importance of the study and how valuable the analysis will be to efficient system management.

Downes Associates gave the town's Electric Department compliments and accolades at the meeting. The company complimented the town on their management of the electric company, as well as their timely responses to system interruptions.

Humerick says that a study like this has not been done on the town's system in quite some time. The reason the study is being proposed now is because the town is trying to plan for the future and ensure that their system is working

efficiently and is capable to support any population growth.

The town and Downes Associates are still working together determine

what exactly they want to accomplish with the study. Once that has been determined, they will be able to proceed. Humerick was hoping to be

able to give the company the notice to proceed within 60 days of the presentation. It is uncertain at this time how long the study will take.



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<p style="font-weight: bold;">Shock Top, Bud Light Lime, Bud Light Platinum, Beck's, Michelob Ultra Light, Land Shark</p> <p>4 PAK 16 OZ. CANS \$4<sup>49</sup></p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: large;">Paul's Pit Stop</p> <p>DISCOUNT BEER, WINE &amp; LIQUOR</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Website: <a href="http://m.paulspitstop.net">m.paulspitstop.net</a></p> <p>150 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, MD 21727</p> <p style="font-size: large; font-weight: bold;">301-447-6262</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Monday-Thursday 9 am-10 pm, Friday &amp; Saturday 9 am-11 pm, Sunday 11-8 pm</p>		<p style="font-weight: bold;">Captain Morgan Cannon Blast Whiskey</p> <p>750 ML \$14<sup>99</sup></p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">Platinum 7X Vodka</p> <p>1.75 Liter \$13<sup>99</sup></p>

# 100 years ago this month

## October 1

### Fire

The Vigilant Hose Company was called out Monday afternoon at about two o'clock to quench a small but stubborn fire that started in some logs supporting the oven of the Pan Dandy Bakery. No excitement was created as the fire bill was not sounded, and the firemen succeeded in extinguishing the blaze after a short time.

### Ellen Beatty Found Guilty

After maneuvering in vain on the witness stand in an effort to invade answers to questions put to her, Ellen Beatty, colored, was found guilty of stealing 150 pounds of wool from Patterson Brothers. Albert Beatty who was also indicted with Ellen for stealing the wool, but he was found not guilty. Ellen made some statements on the stand, which caused outburst of laughter, and the crowd in the courtroom had to be admonished. Just before she left the witness box, Ellen declared she stole chickens and pigs because there was money in it, but not wool.

### Little Gets One Year

Thomas Little, of near Mount St. Mary's, was tried in the circuit court Tuesday afternoon on a charge of assaulting Miss. Mary Barry, of Emmitsburg, and was found guilty and sentenced to one year and the house of corrections. Little, at the time of the attack, which took place on the state road, was in an intoxicated condition.

## October 8

### Farm Injury

Wednesday, William Glacken had his hip severely injured from being kicked by a horse. The animal was one of the most docile on the farm and had never before shown any evidence of a mean disposition. Mr. Glacken was passing near the animal and merely tapped it on the flank, receiving in return for the caress, the kick from which Mr. Glacken will not shortly recover.

### Motion Pictures Tonight

The motion pictures to be given St. Philomena's hall tonight at eight o'clock will be exceedingly interesting. A large crowd is expected to attend this performance. The movies include: Promenade In Rome, Monuments And Cascades Of Rome; Panama Cannel Zone; 10 Days With The Fleet Of US Battleships; How Mountains Grow; and, Petrified Forest Of Arizona.

### Barn Burned

Last Sunday afternoon, around 3:30, a fire, the origin of which is yet unknown, burned the barn owned by Mrs. James Troxel, near Maxwell's Mill, 3 miles from Emmitsburg, intended by Harry Stonesifer, together with \$1,000 span of driving horses, two calves, all of this

year's of harvested crops and farm machinery and implements. The loss is estimated at \$5,000.

Neighbors for miles around and many people from Emmitsburg who notice the reflection visited the scene of the fire and it was through their cooperation that an adjoining building was saved from burning. The building was practically consumed when the fire was detected. The animals were all dead when the first crowd arrived to offer assistance. None of the members of the family were on the property when the fire started. Mr. and Mrs. Stonesifer left their home about noon and have no idea as to the origin of the blaze.

## October 15

### Civil War Tablets Replace

Tablets describing the march of the Army of the Potomac through Emmitsburg, during the Civil War and which, were on several occasions damaged by accidents, were replaced this week by the Battlefield commission, Gettysburg. Some months ago the matter was taken up by the local Civic league and it was through their action that the new markers were procured.

### World Series

During the World Series the Chronicle, through the courtesy of the Frederick News, gave its patrons all the important features and the score by innings in each of the five games played. Much interest in the series was manifested by Emmitsburg fans. There was a crowd in front of the Chronicle office every day the battle was going on. As the numbers were hung upon the scoreboard shouts, groans, or excited comments were indulged in by the eager onlookers. Inquiries by telephone were being constantly received and auto parties passing through the town craned their necks in the effort to scan the tally. The service furnished by the News was very quick and always accurate, and as the results were immediately displayed by the Chronicle the people of Emmitsburg fared better than inhabitants of very much larger towns.

### Boozers Celebrate Defeat of Suffragettes

The Chronicle office was the scene of celebration Wednesday night as the results of the New Jersey vote on Suffrage was reported. The Former Boozers formed a line from the Chronicle's offices to the Hotel Slagel's bar to relay the results as they were posted in the Chronicle's window. Emmitsburg Suffragettes gathered in front of the Reformed Church to sing hymns in support of the moment.

As the vote had been expected to be close, the willingness of the men in New Jersey to stand up and do what was right – that being to protect women for the

weighty task of voting, a responsibility which all men know a woman's mind is incapable of grasping – was received with great support by the men in town.

As the scale of the defeat of the Suffrage vote became clear, Boozers exited the Slagel's bar to carry their celebrations to the street. The whooping and hollering of drunken Boozers could be heard throughout town, drowning out the whining voices of the losing suffragettes.

### 160 Gather For Pig Roast

More than 160 men, many of them candidates for various offices in the coming November election, gathered in the dining room at the Hotel Spangler on the square, last Saturday evening for one of the largest pig roast ever held in Emmitsburg.

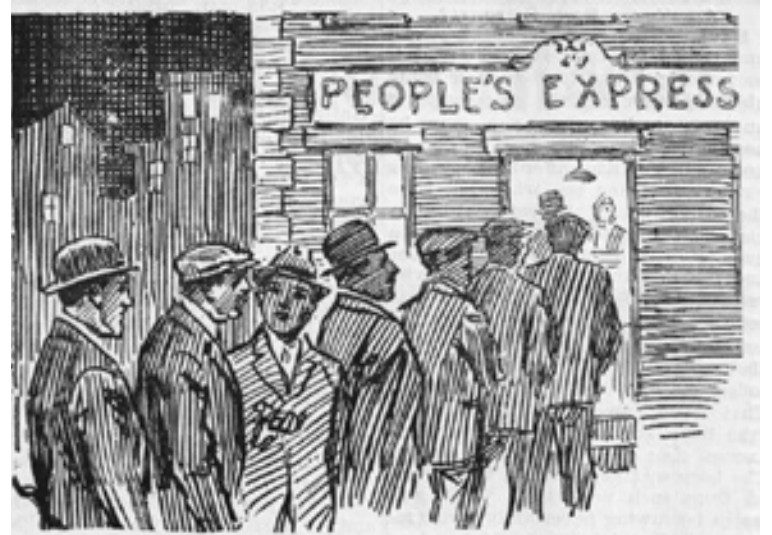
## October 22

### Midnight Thief

Mr. Florence, who lives on the Waynesboro pike, reports that last Wednesday night around 11 o'clock he caught a person in his barn making away with his grain. Mr. Florence has been missing wheat for several weeks, about 50 bushels in all having disappeared. Mr. Florence would not say whom the thief was, but only that the thief got his comeuppance at the end of a sturdy twitch.

### Automobile Skids Into Steps

Saturday morning around 10 o'clock a brand-new Studebaker going North on Gettysburg St., skidded on the slippery hobbles just beyond the fountain and ran into the steps at the side of the home of Misses Annan. The accident was seemingly unavoidable, and was caused by the car being turned out to pass the team and skidding as the driver attempted to write it. The fact that the car was equipped with a bumper probably saved it from serious damage. Although the substantial iron railing leading up the steps were twisted and broken, the only injury done to the machine was the scraping of



## That Saturday Night Line at the Express Office

THERE'S a strong story in that, Williams—a story of what prohibition is doing for your town. Those men are spending a lot of money because you've tried to deprive them of their honest right to drink beer openly. That money's going to dealers just twenty miles from your town—not a cent of it ever comes back. It's a sure thing, too, that the express companies don't spend those heavy shipping receipts in your city.

It's the old story of prohibition, Williams. Close the respectable, well-conducted beer saloon and seek by legislation to rob men of their liberty, and you have a problem that never works out in favor of a town. You don't keep men from drinking. Refuse to sell them beer, which heretofore they have drunk moderately because they know it's the drink of True Temperance and the stronger drink line bobs up. You send thousands of dollars out of the town that ought to be spent right there, and you encourage drunkenness and law-breaking.

Your town will wake up some day, Williams, like many another town that has been disillusioned.

—Advertisement



In 1915, with Prohibition advocates making ground in many states, beer and liquor producers began a campaign to keep Maryland from joining them.

the paint on the right front fender where it grazed along the brick wall of the house.

## October 29

### President Visits Emmitsburg

Emmitsburg was signally honored Saturday by having within its corporate limits the President of the United States, Mr. Wilson, his fiancée, Mrs. Norman Galt, and Mrs. Margaret Wilson, the President's daughter.

The party arrived in Emmitsburg at 12:15 and went to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Galt on West Main St., remaining for lunch. The Presidential party was met outside of Emmitsburg by Mr. Galt, who motored out the state road some distance to join it.

As the White House car, followed by the Secret Service machine, passed up West Main St., several persons caught a glimpse of the President and gradually the news spread, until when the party left Mr. Galt's house at 3:15, there was a large but very orderly crowd of man and woman who applauded the chief executive, who bowed in acknowledgment and Mrs. Galt smiled her appreciation.

The luncheon was strictly for the family, at which only the presidential party, the host and hostess and Miss Harriet Motter, the aunt of Mr. and Mrs. Galt and a warm friend of the president's fiancée, were present.

To read past editions of 100 Year Ago this Month visit the History section of Emmitsburg.net.



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# FROM THE DESK OF . . .

## County Councilman Kirby Delauter

I love watching Seinfeld reruns and the other night I was watching and they ran the one about the story of how the show came about. Seinfeld was originally cast as a show about "Nothing". Jerry and George go into NBC studios, meet with all the executives and explain how they will do their show, and when the NBC executives ask what the show will be about, Jerry and George proudly exclaim, "it will be a show about Nothing!" The look on the NBC executive's faces are what mine must look like sometimes during the Council meetings.

That brings me to the heart of the article and my experience so far being elected to the County Council. So far, it's been about "Nothing". I could hear Jerry and George sit-

ting around after a Council meeting, "so what happened today at the Council"? Well, we enacted a civility code". A civility code, wow, you guys are really gearing up for big things". "What else"? "Well, there's this developer that has a piece of land called Monrovia Town Center, he's passed all the APFO requirements, he's putting up millions in new road improvements, he's offering a school site, a fire station site, he'll pay millions in impact fees and taxes Jerry". "That's great George, new houses, more economic activity, schools sites, fires station sites, what's not to like"? "We denied it Jerry". "What, you denied it, why"? Well Jerry, you know how you feel about Newman.....of course, I hate Newman.....and that's how

we feel about developers Jerry". "See Jerry, this legislative stuff isn't that hard.....remember when I pretended I was an Architect Jerry, remember when I said I planned the addition to the Guggenheim"? "Yeah, I remember, it was a total lie George". "That's right Jerry, and politics in Frederick County is no different, the average person doesn't even pay attention, it's great".

"So, what else are you doing on the Council Georgy boy"? "Well, Jerry, we have brought about legislation on ethics reform". "Ethics reform. Why"? Is it because you denied the Monrovia developer his due process"? "No Jerry, developers don't deserve due process". "But George, isn't that unethical"? You see Jerry, we are in the majority on

the Council, we decide what is ethical and unethical, boy Jerry, you would make a lousy politician". "Who's helping you with this ethics reform"? Do you remember Kramer's friend, Thor Eckman"? "Eckman, he was doing time for shooting an unarmed man in a closet George". "He's out Jerry, he got out a few months ago". "You put guys like Eckman on the ethics task force George"? "Why not Jerry, who would you suggest, some slick talking guy with a checkered past like Jack Klompus, who railroaded your father out of his Presidency of the HOA at Del Boca Vista"? "Well, no George, it wouldn't be Klompus, nobody would be dumb enough to put Klompus in charge of anything". "Real-

ly Jerry"? "You know George, if this ethics thing passes, you, as a salesman at Vandelay Industires, will not be able to sell latex to the County any longer". "Jerry, Jerry, Jerry, you don't understand, we Democrats are in the majority on this Council, we can do whatever we want, we have four votes all the time, it's just those in the minority we screw Jerry, don't you get it"? "How do you get away with that George"? "We have the media on our side Jerry, the media.....we're like the bubble boy Jerry, everybody loves us because the media tells them to love us". "I can't believe you get away with it George". "Jerry, we just give the public the, it's not us, it's them routine". "It's not us it's them routine, how does that work George"? "Jerry, with the media my friend, all things are possible".

## County Councilman Billy Shreve

I'm sure everyone is wondering what will be accomplished during the next few years under the new County Council and County Executive Jan Gardner. So far this is the 3 Step Business Plan... Roll back everything the former Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) accomplished and give me exclusive authority to decide everything.

Jan wants the world to know Frederick County is open for Business and we want good paying jobs. So far this is what she accomplished... The 3 step Business Plan:

Step 1 - Remove the road signs installed by the former BoCC at the entrances to Frederick County that stated "Open for Business".

Step 2 - Created a tax incentive

for any business only manufacturing businesses that invests \$5 Million in Frederick County and pays 150% of minimum wage. It's not a set tax credit any business can use, a business needs to go ask Jan if they can have a tax credit then she decides the amount. Some call it Corporate Welfare for Large Biotech. It was created for Medimmune/AstraZeneca. They are planning to expand their existing facility and add jobs.

The good news is there will be \$10 M in road improvements in that Ballenger Creek Pike/Rt 340/ Butterfly lane interchange area. I sure am glad the County Taxpayers could lend them that \$10 M for 15 years. Medimmune/AstraZeneca (MMAZ) only made \$16 Billion last year. The \$10M they are borrowing from you would have put them in the poor house if we didn't give them the loan.

Don't get me wrong, I'm glad those folks are expanding, adding jobs, and business is good for them. I just happen to believe what Mr. Trump said about the guys that negotiated the Iran Nuclear deal for the USA ... I wouldn't let those guys negotiate anything for me, they are \_\_\_!

Now the interesting thing about our County executive bending over backwards for MMAZ and being "Open for Business" is during her

term on the BoCC 5 years ago, she did everything she could to stop the building of the Jefferson Tech Park (JTP) just a few miles up RT 340/15 from MMAZ. Jan and her cronies did stop them from moving forward and did get Frederick County Taxpayers sued by that property owner to the tune of \$100 Million.

Thanks to the Young BoCC, JTP stopped the lawsuit against the taxpayers of Frederick County and built a brand new interchange. They are building houses, signing leases for the new shopping center and planning to build an entirely new office park. No New tax incentive was created for them and they built lots of road improvements, including the new interchange that cost JTP lots more than \$10M. Jan still has time to help them with future businesses in the JTP. What will she do to help? Don't hold your breath.

Step 3 - Nursing Home and Assisted Living Facility, Citizens & Montevue (CM). The Young BoCC sold them to Aurora because the County struggled for years to avoid being shut down by the state for insufficient care, and lost they Frederick County Taxpayers \$50 million.

Jan's open for business plan ... Stop payment on the \$3M to care for Frederick County's poor and indigent, and sue the buyers of CM, Aurora, and take back those facilities.

That is Jan's way of thanking Aurora for investing \$35 Million+ into

2 Frederick County Businesses? I remember when the Welcome Wagon gave a gift basket from Black's Orchard. The "New, Open for business Frederick County" under Jan Gardener welcomes you with \$750/hour Lawyers.

It's your tax dollars, what does Jan have to lose? She will claim ... this is a direct quote from the Legal Documents sent to Aurora ... "the County Executive intends to exercise the power of eminent domain and acquire all of Aurora's interests in the Citizens Nursing Home and Montevue Assisted Living Facilities ("Facilities)." The Council hearing is set for the end of September.

The County executive will need to unravel 3 legal binding documents to take CM from the Owners, Aurora, and put them back under County Control. She needs to undo the Lease for the Facility, The Sale of the Business which Aurora is currently operating, and the Contract for the Land the building is built on. Imagine if Jan walked into your home or business one day and tried that. What would you do?

Hang on to your wallet Frederick County Tax Payers ... while this administration is just 10 months out of the Barn, so far the projected lawsuits should only cost you \$250 Million. 3 years 3 months to go! Giddy up!

Things need to change. You can make a difference. Contact Jan Gardner at 301-600-3190, or jgardner@FrederickCountyMD.gov.



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# GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

## County Executive Jan Gardner

Charter Government is working! With 10 months into our new form of government, it is clear that charter government works for Frederick County. Voters predicted that the change in government would be good for Frederick when they overwhelmingly supported the change in 2012.

So how can I be so sure that charter is working? Consider three key areas. Frederick County has obtained more money for its priority project and gained a greater voice in Annapolis. Frederick County is more responsive and efficient with results that matter. And, most important, citizens are actively engaged in county government.

### More money

When MedImmune's parent company, AstraZeneca, announced a desire to expand its facility in Frederick, a key factor was whether area roads could be expanded to handle the growth. As County Executive, I made a personal call to Maryland Secretary of Transportation Pete Rahn and requested funds to help upgrade adjacent State roadways. Secretary Rahn accepted my invitation to tour the area. During our tour, he committed to providing Frederick with \$4 million to support needed road improvement and has since put that commitment in writing.

This funding commitment happened because State officials know that county executives speak for their counties. Under the county commission form of government, each commissioner had his or her own priorities and opinions. State officials couldn't be sure that one commissioner's priority project had the backing of the entire board. The county executive role carries

greater weight and priorities can be advanced much more quickly to the benefit of the county. With these funds, needed road improvements will happen sooner rather than later and will benefit every resident who travels through the area. This is good for everyone.

### Results matter

Education is a valued priority. For the first time in five years, I was able to fund our public schools above the bare minimum required by law to make progress to ensure all our children have access to a quality education. Ground had broken on the long awaited new Frederick High School which will provide a 21st century learning environment and educate the next generation of successful Frederick County citizens.

Creating jobs and a strong business environment translates into a vibrant economy. We worked with one employer that plans to double its space in the county and grow from two employees to 100! You've probably heard about our new commercial and industrial tax credit. Thanks to the County Council's passage of that credit, AstraZeneca and Flying Dog Brewery will bring hundreds of new jobs to Frederick County. The economic buzz is popping and a languishing economy is being revitalized. I am working on the creation of a new business incubator, rebranding our marketing efforts, and supporting our traditional business by adding a new agricultural business development specialist to help our farmers to grow their business.

We are moving forward. For the first time in years, Frederick County has some key infrastructure projects moving forward.

Soon residents will see construction begin on a new interchange at MD 85 and I-270 to resolve a longstanding bottleneck in this busy business corridor. Ground was recently broken on a new interchange on US 15 to help move traffic around the City of Frederick and into and out of Ft. Detrick. This interchange was possible because of County and City financial support and partnership with the state. Walkersville will be getting a new library to replace the tiny building they outgrew 20 years ago.

We are taking care of our own. I just announced the launch of Community Partnership Grants, which will allow non-profits to make a difference for the people in our community. A new Seniors First initiative is working to prepare Frederick County for a rapidly aging population. Most importantly, I am taking steps to restore Citizens and Montevue to the County to protect taxpayers from what was a bad deal and to take care of our indigent seniors.

I'm able to do all these projects much faster as County Executive than when five commissioners had to agree to any action the County took. Charter works better on the legislative side, too. Our County Council is passing legislation locally within a month or two. In past years, some of these bills would have had to wait until the next General Assembly session got under way in January, and then still needed to get the support of a majority of state legislators. Under charter government, we're able to address local issues locally.

### Engaged community

One of the most important changes that charter government has brought is a more engaged community. Citizens from across Frederick are working to shape the future of our county. In fact, we couldn't be making the progress we see today without public participation.

The county has a rich history of people volunteering on our 40+ boards and commissions. Under charter government, though, scores of additional opportunities have opened up.

Residents of all ages are playing a role. Early on, citizens lined up to serve on the leadership and transition teams, and the ethics task force, where they identified needs and recommended actions. Their recommendations are being implemented today. Now even more people are sharing their skills and expertise by serving on a new Cabinet level Business and Industry Council, a new Solid Waste "What's Next?" team, and the newly created Seniors First steering committee, to name a few.

A record number of people - 36 - applied for a seat on the Ethics Task Force. Twenty-eight citizens applied to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission.

There are plenty of opportunities to share your thoughts on a

casual basis too. I spend quite a bit of time traveling around the county so I can talk to people, hear their concerns, and find out what's happening. I host Talks of the Town quarterly and attend community events regularly. For instance, I enjoyed camaraderie at the recent successful Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show.

I can also be reached by e-mail at [jgardner@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:jgardner@frederickcountymd.gov) or you can provide comments on any topic at [PublicComments@FrederickCountyMD.gov](mailto:PublicComments@FrederickCountyMD.gov). For the social media crowd, you can find me on Twitter @JanGardnerExec and on Facebook as Frederick County Executive Jan H. Gardner.

I believe that nothing is more important than making sure people can participate and make a difference. Your input and involvement will keep our community vibrant and shape Frederick County's bright future. Our best days are ahead.



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 1046 Old Rt. 30, Cashtown, PA Gorgeous, 4 BR, 2 BA, wood floors, fenced yard, porch, deck, 289 ac. <b>\$169,500</b>	 135 Steelman St., Fairfield, PA Great income property 4 BR, 2 Full BA, 2 units. <b>\$155,000</b>	 901 Railroad Lane, Orrtanna, PA 3 BR, 2 BA, Cape Cod, Lovely Views. <b>\$249,900</b>	 6195 Fairfield Rd., Carroll Valley, PA 3 BR on 1.5 Ac. needs TLC <b>\$109,900</b>
 40 Moritz Rd., Orrtanna, PA 3 BR, 2 BA, 33.89 ac., apple orchard, new windows & wiring, shed, barn, carport. <b>\$369,500</b>	 6028 Fairfield Rd., Carroll Valley, PA Large income producing, 2 unit property adjacent to Carroll Valley golf course. 3BR/2BA, 6200/2 BA. Call to preview. <b>\$189,900</b>	 22 Kern Tr., Carroll Valley, PA 2400+ sq. ft., 2 car attached garage, cul-de-sac, in-law qtrs on lower level. <b>\$259,900</b>	 8 Woodward Tr., Carroll Valley, PA 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 1 Ac., move-in ready, vaulted ceilings, full kitchen w/ island & breakfast bar. <b>\$199,900</b>
 265 Martina Dr., Chambersburg, PA 3BR, 2BA, 2 car garage, central ac. <b>\$184,900</b>	 44 Edgwood Circle, Chambersburg, PA 3 BR, 3 BA, 77 Ac., fully equipped kitchen, 2 fireplaces, 2 car garage, move-in ready! <b>\$359,900</b>	 5 Oak Ridge Tr., Carroll Valley, PA - 50 acre, perc approved, well required, lot is on cul-de-sac, peaceful location, large trees, easy commute to MD, priced to sell! <b>\$14,900</b>	 23 & 25 Gladys Tr., Carroll Valley, PA - 1 acre, with beautiful views, perc approved, near ski resort & golf, very low perc rate <b>\$59,900</b>
 30 Pine Tr., Carroll Valley, PA - 45 ac., PRICE REDUCED! Beautiful level building lot with Mature trees. Minutes from ski slopes and golf courses. Priced for sandmound. <b>\$9,900</b>	 1 & 3 High Tr., Carroll Valley, PA - 1.12 ac., well required, perc approved, nice corner lot, has permits for surface & storm water. Plans for home can be included. <b>\$59,900</b>	 37 Bluebird Tr., Carroll Valley, PA - .52 ac., well required, perc approved, septic & storm water design complete. INCREDIBLE PRICE. GREAT OPPORTUNITY! <b>\$6,500</b>	 741 Jacks Mountain Rd., Fairfield, PA - 19.8 ac., well required, perc approved, 3 adjoining lots, 2 in Hamiltonban, 1 in Carroll Valley, 2 streams, 2 perc sites. <b>\$179,900</b>
 11 Deer Tr., Carroll Valley, PA - .46 Ac., well required, perc approved for sand mound, very close to ski resort and golf course, easy commute to Maryland. <b>\$9,000</b>	 69 Shirley Tr., Fairfield, PA - 2.02 acres, perc approved, great 2 acre building site, wooded, at the end of the street, Liberty Township. <b>\$52,900</b>	 122 & 124 Janet Tr., Carroll Valley, PA - .45 ac., well required, perc approved, 2 adjacent lots, wooded with great view of small valley. Seller is licensed realtor. <b>\$18,900</b>	 55 Robin Tr., Carroll Valley, PA - .92 ac., well required, perc approved, lower perc rate of 44 means smaller sand mound, close to skiing & golf, close to Gettysburg. <b>\$17,900</b>

## FROM THE DESK OF...

# Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris

It is October. The leaves will start to change into brilliant colors – a last “hoorah” before they fall. The farmers in the area will finish harvesting their crops. The birds will migrate south. National Fire Prevention week is observed from October 4th to October 10th. This week is observed to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire that started on the Sunday evening of October 8th.

The 2015 National Fire Protection Association’s (NFPA) theme for National Fire Prevention Week is “Hear the Beep Where You Sleep; Every Bedroom Needs An Alarm”. Half of home fire deaths result from fires reported between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep. One quarter of home fire deaths were caused by fires that started in the bedroom. Three out of five home fire deaths happen from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. One third of Americans have both developed and practiced a home fire escape plan. Almost three quarters of Americans do have an escape plan; however, more than half never practiced it.

These statistics collected by NFPA indicate a number of things for you to think about. First and foremost, make sure you have working smoke alarms. Check them. Be sure that you installed a smoke alarm in each bedroom as well as throughout the house. Finally do you have an escape plan? How to do get out from the second floor if need be. Please take care. For more information on what you should do during the week to protect your family go to [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) website.

On Sunday, October 11th the Fairfield Fire and EMS is holding an “Open House” from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Come down and visit your fire volunteers who protect you. We honor Columbus’ arrival in America on Oct 12, 1492 and celebrate this event on Monday, October 12th. And then, on October 31st children and adults will dress up in “strange looking” costumes to celebrate Halloween by going around the community proclaiming “Trick or Treat”.

Sarah Skoczen, Carroll Valley Council member, with the help of Dr. Lisa Wolkind, DVM and many volunteers implemented the Trap

Neuter Return (TNR) program in Carroll Valley Borough. This trapping, surgery, and release occurred over the period September 17th through September 20th. If you are not familiar with TNR, it is the strategy that is being used in Carroll Valley to humanely stabilize and reduce free-roaming domestic feline population. This approach prevents suffering among the cats, protects the public health, and reduces stress on the surrounding wildlife.

The non-profits involved were: Nobody’s Cats, SNAR, Forever Love Rescue and Adams County SPCA. The individuals who really stepped up and took an active role in implementing this program were: Pam Mikesell, Dani Mikesell, Lisa Mikesell, Melanie Briggs, Niki Ferguson, Tim Skoczen, Rachel Skoczen, Amber Skoczen, Dani Redding, Evelyn Redding, Alaina Redding, Tyler Pyles, Mercedes Lavendar, Jensen Hanks, Dorothy Dreschler, Tyler Karsteter, Joan Musselman, and Tyler Karsteter. Total cats trapped were 15 from the K section and 8 cats from IW/W Sections. Thank you all for your participation –

a “Job Well Done”. Pictures taken are displayed on [ronpictures.net](http://ronpictures.net).

The Rapid Bridge Replacement Project (RBRP) is project awarded by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to the Plenary Walsh Keystone Partners (PWKP) consortium with the task of replacing 558 aging Pennsylvania bridges in three years. All bridges are to be replaced by the end of 2017. One of the bridges to be replaced is the Muddy Run Bridge on Route 116 about a mile outside of Fairfield. Your local officials and first responders are trying their best to keep one lane of the bridge open during the replacement to minimize the impact on the emergency response times. According to the RBRP website, the construction timeframe is July to October 2016.

Adams County Commissioners’ Town Hall Meeting is being held on October 6th from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Brethren Home, Nicarry Meeting House, New Oxford. The topic is “Adams County Mental Health Program”. There will be two Adams County Commissioner Candidates Forums: one will be held on Octo-

ber 22nd from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Brethren Home, Nicarry Meeting House, New Oxford and the other will be held on October 28th from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Fairfield Fire & EMS banquet hall in Fairfield.

Please consider buying a ticket to the Cash Bash to be held on October 17th at the Fairfield Fire & EMS banquet hall in Fairfield. Dinner, DJ and Dancing until 11 p.m. is on the menu. Doors open at 5 p.m. Dinner served at 6 p.m. Drawing begins at 7 p.m. Every 10th ticket is a winner. \$4,500 in prizes and a top prize of \$1,000 will be waiting to be taken home. Ticket price is \$20. The fundraiser is for the July 4th fireworks.

Borough meetings to be held in October are: Planning Commission (Oct 5th), Finance Committee (Oct 12th), Borough Council (Oct 13th), Borough Council Finance Workshop (Oct 20st), Borough Council Finance Workshop (Oct 27th), and the Parks/Recreation (Oct 28th), if needed. Please reduce your speed to make sure you, your loved ones, your friends and your neighbors will be safe. If you have any questions call me at (301) 606-2021 or email at [MayorRonHarris@comcast.net](mailto:MayorRonHarris@comcast.net).

# Candidate for County Judge Christina Simpson (R)

On November 3rd, Adams Countians will elect two new judges to the bench to fill the positions of two retiring judges. I am running for one of those positions. I believe that the best judges are those who are qualified, compassionate and committed to justice. Common Pleas Court judges have jurisdiction over a wide variety of legal matters. I have had the privilege of serving the Adams County community as a trial attorney for over 18 years, representing individuals and businesses in a variety of legal matters in every section of the Court of Common Pleas – Civil, Criminal, Orphans, Family and Juvenile divisions. I served as a prosecutor for several years in the Adams County District Attorney’s Office, representing

hundreds of victims of crime. In my private practice, I mediate family disputes and represent children in high conflict custody cases and senior citizens in guardianship matters. I am entrusted by the Court to conduct hearings in divorce cases and serve as an arbitrator. This depth and breadth of experience has uniquely prepared me to serve effectively and efficiently on the bench.

Judges should be tough with a measure of compassion and common sense. Most people come to court for an unpleasant reason and judges often need to conduct “legal triage” in matters which are emotionally charged and stressful for the litigants. Some are going through divorce or child custody

matters, some are accused or the victim of a crime, some are suffering from addiction, some need a guardian appointed to handle financial affairs, and some are administering the estate of a lost loved one. Children often have to testify in custody and criminal cases. In my career, I’ve represented people in all of those situations and understand how it affects them. I’ve done pro bono work for Survivors, Inc. and the Adams County S.P.C.A. I currently serve on the Children’s Round Table and have served on the Domestic Violence Task Force. I received the Callie Award from the Adams County United Way for my dedication to public service. As a mother and someone who has advocated for children throughout my career,

I have an appropriate measure of common sense and compassion needed to be an effective judge and a proven commitment to serving our community.

A judge’s commitment to justice is essential. Judges must listen to all sides of an issue, while maintaining fairness and impartiality throughout the legal process. A judge must place her personal views aside and apply the law to the facts of a particular case in order to render a fair decision, even when that decision conflicts with her personal beliefs or is unpopular. I apply these skills on a regular basis when conducting hearings in divorce cases and arbitration hearings. Fairness and impartiality are important to me and the rea-

son I have limited contributions to my campaign, so that potential conflicts of interest will not arise if I am elected to serve on the bench.

Much attention is already focused on the 2016 presidential election, but choosing local leaders on November 3rd is vital to our community. Your vote is important. It would be my honor and privilege to serve our community, providing fair and impartial consideration for all in an atmosphere of dignity and respect. I ask for your vote on November 3rd.

Christina Simpson, a registered Republican, is nominated by both the Republican and Democratic parties in the upcoming election. Learn more at [SimpsonForJudge.com](http://SimpsonForJudge.com).

# Candidate for County Judge Matthew Teeter (D)

Since I last wrote in the May issue of the News-Journal, I have continued to meet new people and reconnect with old friends throughout Adams County. Regardless of the outcome of this election, this experience has reminded my wife and me how lucky we are to call Adams County our home.

As I have met with people, one of the recurring topics of discussion is the state of our criminal justice and prison systems. Whether it is a general desire to treat all people with greater compassion, the specific concern about the treatment of people struggling with mental illness and addiction, or simply the cost to taxpayers of maintaining an inefficient system and overcrowded prisons, people of all political stripes are not happy with the status quo.

I often remind people that Judge Bigham and Judge Kuhn, the two judges retiring at the end of 2015, do not handle criminal cases, and my

practice as an attorney is largely devoted to the types of cases they do handle, such as family law cases, juvenile matters and adoptions. Because of my experience and my knowledge of those areas of the law, it is unlikely that I will be assigned criminal cases as judge.

That said, our criminal justice system casts a long shadow, and the issue is important to me. Criminal cases almost always have consequences to families and children, which can lead to family law or juvenile court proceedings. The issue is also important to me as a taxpayer who wonders whether the current cost of our criminal justice and prison systems, representing over a third of all expenses from the General Fund (i.e. our tax dollars, mostly) are reasonable and necessary.

In Pennsylvania, a majority of counties have created “problem-solving courts” to address some of these concerns. Pennsylvania’s first such

court was created in Philadelphia in 1997. Since then, the number of problem-solving courts, also known as “treatment courts,” has grown to over 100. They include veterans courts, mental health courts, DUI courts, drug courts, or some combination of the above.

Problem-solving courts focus on treating the mental health issues and addictions that often cause, or substantially contribute to, certain criminal behaviors. Non-violent offenders are carefully screened, and eligible defendants are given the opportunity to complete intensive and personalized, community-based treatment programs as an alternative to incarceration.

Participants are carefully monitored, and held to high standards of conduct, but there is a recognition that those struggling with addiction or mental illness may suffer an occasional setback on the road to recovery.

Punitive sanctions for such setbacks (e.g. incarceration), which could lead to loss of employment, housing and insurance, not to mention negative consequences to families and children, are avoided whenever possible. Instead of sending defendants back to square one, the judges, prosecutors, probation officers and other professionals participating in problem-solving courts work with the defendants to get them back on the road to recovery.

The positive results are clear. Participants in problem-solving courts are less likely to commit additional crimes and more likely to maintain employment. Problem-solving courts preserve families and reduce the negative consequences to children of a parent’s mental illness or addiction. Problem-solving courts reduce prison overcrowding and save taxpayer dollars. In York County, problem-solving courts saved taxpayers over

a million dollars last year by keeping defendants out of prison. Indirect savings from reduced recidivism, increased employment, improved public health and preservation of family units, while more difficult to calculate, drive the savings even higher.

We have recently taken steps to increase the ability of inmates to access mental health services within the Adams County prison. This is a good first step, but it does not address the fact that it is often counter-productive to send people struggling with mental illness and addiction to prison in the first place. It is crucial that we take the next step and create problem-solving courts in Adams County.

Matthew Teeter is an attorney at the Gettysburg firm of Teeter, Teeter & Teeter, and candidate for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Adams County. For more information visit [TeeterForJudge.com](http://TeeterForJudge.com) or email [info@teeterforjudge.com](mailto:info@teeterforjudge.com).



## GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

### County Commissioner Jim Martin (R)

It is hard to imagine that it has been three years and nine months since I took office as an Adams County Commissioner and only three months remain in my first term. I never would have realized that a four-year term could pass so quickly. Since being elected to our first term in November 2011 and officially sworn into office January, 2012 the Adams County Board of Commissioners has kept a fast pace to move the County forward on many needed fronts.

The amount of territory that we have covered to date has been remarkable and was possible for several reasons. One reason was our commitment to our office and county on a full-time basis. The goals and objectives we set were quite robust and were of high priority and importance. We realized we could not accomplish what was needed if we engaged in another job.

The second reason we have accomplished what we have is due to acquiring skilled and accomplished directors and combining them with our established directors to form a highly effective and dedicated team. Under our leadership and direction this team followed our vision utilizing their valuable experience to make Adams County governance more efficient and effective. This same team also followed our resolve to

move languishing projects forward.

From the beginning the commissioners were in agreement that the County needed to escape the huge leases to which it was contractually obligated. This goal was well supported by many voters. However, it was definitely a robust endeavor with many difficult variables; it was a basic concept, but required a thorough vetting of options.

The County Court also recognized the financial benefit of relieving the County of the rent cycle to which it was held captive. As a result, the Courts stepped forward to join the County in this mission. Both the Courts and the County Commissioners agreed that if we were to be successful the best window of opportunity was at hand. The leases were approaching expiration (to renew required across-the-board rent increases) and needed financing rates were at near all-time lows. The underlying goal was that the construction and/or acquisitions must be cost neutral – financing the project must be equal to or less than the total building rents paid by the County.

This project and its objectives were placed under study by a county-wide citizens' task force, and their recommendations were solicited. The Commissioners are truly thankful for their valuable service and results. The project

became known as the Human Services Building Project-to house Children & Youth, Probation, and Domestic Relations. As this project was shared with our Mental Health Joinder with York County, a commitment from the Joinder to cover the cost to place mental health services within the project came to be. As the project received detailed analysis and study for two years, various options were rejected. That has led us to the most recent real estate opportunity under consideration. It should become clear in the near future whether or not this recent opportunity will meet established requirements and goals.

It is amazing how this project has moved forward step by step for two years with great support, cooperation, and resolve to find a solution that meets the established parameters. What also makes the situation amazing is that this project has run parallel with the construction of our county-wide emergency radio project, soon to be operational. (More details will soon become available). I feel that our resolve to carry these two projects simultaneously is a testimony of the Board of Commissioners' dedication of service to build a better Adams County.

Earlier I mentioned that our resolve not to allow projects to languish is a measure of why we have moved the

County into a better position. As you may recall our county computer network was in serious need of upgrades and replacement. It was operating well beyond its designed capacity and life expectancy as per multiple professional assessments. Also, due to the age of system components and the capacity of use, we faced the constant possibility of massive data loss. The cost of such data recovery was estimated at 100's of thousands of dollars. We acted quickly to avoid the huge expense of data recovery on top of the cost of a new system. Fortunately we dodged the bullet of costly data loss by prudent action and management. The new system has afforded us many benefits; increased employee productivity, reduced electrical usage, greater public options to the County website, and a considerably lower maintenance cost.

The nearly completed radio project and the replacement of the county's computer network serve as examples of our judgement and willingness to make major decision that are critical to County operations and the longevity of services. We are proud of the accomplishments under our leadership, but we genuinely feel we can do more to improve Adams County. Our reelection on November 3 will allow us to continue to deliver more positive ben-

efits to Adams County. I am anxious to continue our initiatives to facilitate and stimulate economic activity. The initiatives that we have put forward are beginning to show positive results, but unfortunately under our economic conditions it takes time for economic growth to occur.

I truly believe I have been granted a great opportunity to serve Adams County along with two other commissioner that genuinely care about the welfare of Adams County and recognize the value of cooperation. However, our adversaries contend that strife and contention must exist among commissioners to have good county governance. I disagree with our adversaries, and would rather follow the Biblical admonition found in the book of James. It states, "Where there is envying and strife there is confusion and every evil work." Although the context of this admonition is to Christian conduct, the application can be made to the likely results of envy and strife. I am most grateful that we as a board have chosen to be respectful and civil in our working relationship. Our accomplishments speak to the value of what cooperation will produce. It has been an honor to serve the citizens of Adams County and I am asking for your vote on November 3 to again have the privilege to serve you. Thank you, Commissioner Jim Martin.

### State Representative Dan Moul

Pennsylvania has been operating without a state budget for well over two months now, and it is a matter of time before the voices of the groups and individuals affected by the budget impasse begin to rise to a deafening roar – and who could blame them?

The impasse that never had to occur is having an immediate negative impact on college students who are being hit with less student aid and there is no money for textbooks for non-public school children. Most concerning to me, however, is the fact that funding for critical services for our most vulnerable citizens has been effectively cut off. That

means no funding for breast cancer and other cancer screenings for the less fortunate or uninsured. In fact, many schools and the social services agencies that provide services to the elderly and victims of domestic violence and rape are borrowing money to cover their costs in anticipation of a budget resolution that is nowhere in sight.

On June 1, the House voted unanimously to reject the Wolf plan to raise taxes by about \$12 billion over two years. Every Republican and Democrat in the House voted against it. Wolf proposes to increase the state sales tax and expand it to include hundreds of items not present-

ly taxed, such as day care and nursing home care; college meal plans, fees and textbooks; and much more. Wolf's plan would also increase the Personal Income Tax, placing an even greater burden on Pennsylvania families.

In August, House Republicans offered Wolf a budget compromise that would satisfy his priority to increase funding for K-12 education by \$400 million in exchange for agreement on a modified pension reform plan and liquor privatization. More than a month passed before the governor rejected that offer.

At my town hall meeting, I talked about a plan by Senate Republicans to present the governor

with a stop-gap spending plan to permit essential social service agencies to continue operating while negotiations continue on a final budget. At a news conference the very next day, Gov. Wolf said he would reject such a plan. This is incredulous! Responsibility for this budget impasse rests solely with Wolf, who is stubbornly holding our most vulnerable citizens hostage to his plan for massive tax increases on Pennsylvania citizens.

As members of the General Assembly, we worked hard to pass a balanced, no-tax increase budget for the citizens of Pennsylvania, a budget that would fund the core functions of state government and provide record levels of education funding. In fact, about two-thirds of the line items in the

budget we passed in June were funded at or above levels proposed in the governor's own plan. Unfortunately, Gov. Wolf decided unilaterally to force a budget standoff by vetoing the entire budget, withholding billions in state and federal funds for state government agencies and service providers. This was not the governor's only option. By failing to exercise the line-item veto power available to him, the governor effectively shut down funding for critical programs and services.

Yes, it is only a matter of time before we hear the voices of those caught in the middle of this state budget stalemate. Perhaps when those voices reach the governor's ears, he will understand that it is time to lead. Stubbornness and inaction serve no one.

### State Senator Richard Alloway

Several recent news features have focused on the growing fears of non-profit groups and service providers that are facing severe financial challenges due to the budget fight in Harrisburg. Withholding funding from our most vulnerable citizens is a completely unacceptable consequence of the current budget impasse.

Interrupting services for those in need will do nothing to bring lawmakers and the Administration closer to an agreement. This tactic only serves to punish innocent victims for the sake of scoring political points. Deep divisions still exist between the Administration and the Gener-

al Assembly, and this gap grew wider after the governor's most recent series of distortions and half-truths. However, no political argument is worth endangering the well-being of individuals and families who are already living in crisis.

What is most troubling is the fact that the governor recently acknowledged the fact that programs, services and agencies (and the people who they rely on) will suffer as a result of his veto. Services are threatened, vendors are left in limbo, and employees are facing the prospect of not receiving a paycheck. The idea of knowingly allowing

innocent people to struggle for the sake of political ideology is beyond reprehensible.

Cleaning up the mess created by the governor will require bipartisan cooperation. It is my hope that lawmakers from both sides of the aisle can agree to set aside our differences, at least temporarily, to ensure service providers and non-profit groups can continue their mission to help our most vulnerable citizens. I am confident that an effort to override the governor's veto could succeed if we are joined by pragmatic lawmakers from the other side of the aisle who are committed to avoid-

ing a prolonged and unnecessary state government shutdown. Their cooperation in ending this unfortunate chapter in the state's history would be welcome news for Pennsylvanians.

Ample avenues exist for a bipartisan solution. Approximately two-thirds of line items approved by lawmakers in June met or exceeded the governor's spending request. These items are not controversial; both sides acknowledge the importance of services for seniors, individuals with physical or mental disabilities, victims of abuse and other vulnerable populations. There is no reason why the organizations that provide these services should be held hostage. An agreement by lawmak-

ers on both sides of the aisle to fund these line items in the absence of a broader budget agreement will ensure these worthwhile programs and services are not shuttered for the sake of political gamesmanship.

While I continue to favor a more fiscally responsible approach than the governor's unaffordable proposal to add billions in new taxes and government spending, our disagreements should never undermine our critical responsibility to protect Pennsylvanians in need. Working with my colleagues in the General Assembly to minimize the impact of the governor's ill-advised budget veto will be my highest priority in the weeks to come.

## FROM THE DESK...

## County Commissioner Randy Phiel (R)

Adams County has reached a milestone! The Adams County Agricultural Land Preservation Program was adopted by the Adams County Commissioners on January 10, 1990 - over 25 years ago! The efforts over those 25 years have culminated in the permanent preservation of over 23,000 acres. More than 4,300 of those acres were preserved in conjunction with the Adams County Green Space Program; the Land Conservancy of Adams County, Union Township, Conewago Township, and Mt. Joy Township. It is through these strong partnerships that these milestones have been achieved.

You can join us in celebrating this achievement with our "25 Years of Preservation Celebration" which will be held on Thursday, October 8th on a farm owned by the Arentz Family, who operate Arentz Hay and Grain, and is located at 1376 Hanover Pike, Littlestown. This farm is adjacent to their 54-acre farm, which nudged us over the 20,000-acre mark in 2013. This is a family operation; run by the Arentz Family who farm over 3,500 acres in Adams County. 540 of those acres are on preserved farms owned by the family.

We are constantly amazed by how our preserved landowners are contributing to our economy - and this is a perfect opportunity to showcase the vast diversity of Adams County agriculture. As a result, we are planning to feature several of our preserved farms with displays of information and products that are offered/produced on these farms. If you would like more information about this top-

ic, please contact Ellen Dayhoff, Rural Resource Manager or Cindy Sanderson, Information Coordinator at 717-337-5859.

The Adams County Tax Incentive Finance Hearing for the Gettysburg Crossings Project has been withdrawn due to anchor store Wal-Mart removing itself from the project. Last month the largest taxing body, the Gettysburg Area School District, voted in favor of the project. The anticipated vote by Straban Township on the project was also withdrawn. We have been told that developer ATAPCO will pursue a strip mall project along Shealer Road; but will not be pursuing the larger Gettysburg Crossings project. We have heard that Wal-Mart re-evaluated their position and decided to stay with a smaller store for economic reasons.

It is obvious that a tremendous amount of work, effort, energy and dialogue by a lot of folks went into getting to this point. To have the project derailed at the 12th hour prior to the county hearing was disappointing to the Board. Losing over \$3.2 million in intersection improvements garnered by our legislators is also frustrating. According to PSP, this is the most accident prone stretch of roadway in Adams County. Besides the potential loss of tax income and jobs, I hear over and over from residents they are simply tired of running to Hanover, Chambersburg and Frederick to shop. Tax incentive financing whether it be LERTA or TIF can be a valuable tool in the economic development toolbox. It makes you question how quickly other developers without extremely

deep pockets will come to Adams County; and how much of a negative residual impact this unsuccessful process will have on future development projects?

Although the TIF dialogue was challenging and divisive at times, no matter what your personal feelings are regarding tax incentive financing, this has certainly proven to be an educational and informative experience that hopefully has some lasting value. I know I am much better informed on the topic. This Board supports appropriate economic development as well as preservation, and understands the sometimes difficult challenges of balancing the two. Finding and implementing that balance is essential for the future of Adams County. It is important we retain this information, keep the conversation alive and look toward attracting appropriate development to Adams County.

With all the recent focus on Tax Incentive Financing, the Adams County Office of Planning and Development and the Adams County Economic Development Corporation are combining forces for two upcoming workshops on financing tools and incentives for economic development. The first on October 1st focuses on Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA). The second workshop on October 21st covers several financing tools for business and development including state-funded low-interest loans, USDA Rural Development programs, Farm Service Agency programs and Ben Franklin Technology Partners programs for technology compa-

nies. Registration information for these workshops can be found on ACOPD's website: <http://www.adamscounty.us/Dept/Planning/Pages/Workshops.aspx>.

I am gratified to report that testing of the approximately 2200 radio grids across the county has been completed for the new digital emergency services radio system. Three testing teams in GPS equipped vehicles went to the center of each grid to test reception. There was a required reception score of 95% to pass the test. It was reported that all grids passed muster with a median grade of 98.5%.

The law enforcement portion of the new system is still scheduled to be turned on October 20. The old system will run parallel with it until the new system is deemed bug free. Fire/EMS will use the same protocol with all systems scheduled to be in operation by end of the year.

There is an exciting development in the southeast corner of the county. Alpha Fire Company has initiated a capital campaign to build a new fire station. They already have over \$1M in reserve as seed money for the estimated \$4M project. The project on the drawing board is a beautiful and functional structure that will effectively serve the fire service and will definitely be an anchor for the Littlestown community.

I was recently asked to testify at their Keystone Communities Grant Application for a matching \$500,000 grant from the state. This application is through the PA Department Community Economic Development. Alpha Fire Company is also applying for

various other funding.

Alpha's importance to their community and our county cannot be understated. Littlestown sits in a corner of Adams County that is not readily served by all emergency services due to geographics, demographics and state lines. The company serves five municipalities. Volunteerism across the county and state continues to decrease as costs of equipment, training and workman's comp continues to rise. There is no doubt that functionality, the ability to provide professional service and the attractiveness of participating in any organization is enhanced by adequate, efficient and adequate facilities. The proposed new building would simply be a tremendous enhancement to the life, safety and quality of the Littlestown community.

I believe very strongly that this Adams County Board of Commissioners has been extremely effective in providing civil leadership, vision and results. In summary, I believe we have provided good government. What are significant factors that facilitate good government when government at every level seems so fractured and dysfunctional these days? I would suggest things like experience, leadership, common sense, vision, community knowledge, community resources, strong fiscal management, communication and civility are a great start. I believe that those principals have been applied by this Board and have provided excellent results!

Do these qualities in government officials sound too good to be true? I hear over and over again from residents the one thing they do not want is for the Adams County Board of Commissioners to be like Washington D.C. and that they appreciate our professionalism in working toward a common goal and the results it provides. I am proud to report that after almost four years in office, the current Board of Adams County Commissioners takes those attributes seriously, applies them, and manages the affairs of Adams county in a manner that the majority of residents find effective and commendable in today's political atmosphere. This Board of Commissioners believes in an appropriate balance on most issues. We also believe that the position of Adams County Commissioner deserves and demands a full-time commitment to the job. I respectfully ask for your support on Tuesday, November 4 so that this Board of Commissioners may continue its proven leadership utilizing common sense, civil and respectful county government! It has truly been my honor to serve you and our community for the past four years.

This is a wonderful time of year in Adams County - so get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!



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## GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

### County Commissioner Marty Qually (D)

Our democracy is predicated on open government. There must be the opportunity for frank and open dialog between citizens and elected officials in order to keep our society from stagnating. On one extreme we can get elected officials who refuse to listen and become disconnected from the concerns of the public. On the other extreme we can have citizens who chose not to exercise their freedom of speech, thus leaving officials to make uninformed decisions. Both extremes create the worst possible results for our communities. Since taking office I have attempted to keep the dialog between residents and elected officials open. Through new evening public issues forum, our regularly advertised Wednesday public meetings, our county website, my personal Facebook page (Marty Qually for Adams County Commissioner) and by being personally available before or after traditional work hours. Each of these venues has a differing degree of dialog, but each is valuable in keeping the lines of communication open.

Prior to taking office, a central issue in my campaign platform was to create evening county forums open to the public. By the end of the debates four years

ago, all four candidates agreed and once the winners were determined by the voters it was easy enough to set up the forums. The idea was further fine-tuned to have them mostly take place in the further corners of the County, so that residents not near the county seat of Gettysburg could be easily attend. In the past four years we have hosted about fourteen such meetings on topics like Economic Development, Agritourism, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gettysburg, the new 911 radio project, water quality, prescription drug overdoses, high speed internet, county planning initiatives, and Clean and Green. We have held them in Fairfield, East Berlin, Littlestown, Buchanan Valley, Arendtsville, and Conewago Township. Each year one of these forum is dedicated to a "State of the County" where the Board of Commissioners presents County priorities for the coming year. We were not the first Board to initiate this process, but due to a lack of attendance they were discontinued. Our early forums were not well attended either, but over the years more and more people have been attending. An additional benefit is that with local print in attendance and Community Media filming each,

many more people in the County have access to the information. Our next event will be held at the Brethren Home in New Oxford on October 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 where regional experts and County staff will address Mental Health services in Adams County.

Every Wednesday the County holds either a public workshop or regular work session in the Gettysburg courthouse. These meetings offer residents an opportunity to comment on issues which the Commissioners are about to vote. These are the only meetings where Commissioners may deliberate, debate, and hash out policy. It is significant because at any other meeting, where we receive information from the public, local experts, staff, or legal counsel we can make comments but cannot discuss how we intend on voting on an issue. If you come looking for a scene similar to the Statehouse or Washington DC, you will leave disappointed. Most of our decisions are mundane or more likely our staff have vetted down the options to a point where the best option is obvious. Regretfully, few people attend our meetings and historically (as in for decades), with the exception of during the last reassessment, a controversial budget season, or

the time just before an election few people attend. In fact, in the past when no members of the public attended meetings, Boards often neglected to enter into Executive Sessions, where more confidential legal and personnel items are discussed, they simply held the private sessions in an empty room.

A modern world now demands a few modern options to have yourself heard. At the County we are taking a proactive approach to designing a more user friendly website ([www.adamscounty.us](http://www.adamscounty.us)), so that residents can obtain information from the comfort of their own homes. Residents can find any application they need, staff phone number or email, even look at various County maps. Many tasks, which used to require driving to Gettysburg and fighting for a parking space, can now be done from home. Beyond my work phone number (337-9820) and my work e-mail ([mqually@adamscounty.us](mailto:mqually@adamscounty.us)), I always provide residents with the opportunity to contact me via my personal cell phone (339-6514) and my personal email ([mqually@gmail.com](mailto:mqually@gmail.com)). This way I am always available to the public. I was offered a County cell phone but found that the cost was too

great to taxpayers; I decided I would personally incur the cost if anybody needed to contact me after hours. I will need to place one disclaimer on my after-hours time, when my wife blocks off my calendar for family time, they are my first responsibility. Lastly, I also do my best to post current issues to my personal Facebook account (Marty Qually for Adams County Commissioner). We are still developing policies to create a Facebook account for the County, so until that time I will keep posting to my page.

Finally, if you cannot find me in the Courthouse or with my family, I am usually in a meeting. I have never claimed to know everything, and so, I am constantly meeting with residents, community groups, and local officials to hear their concerns; I always want to be educated about what's going on in our County. My parents instilled in me a strong desire to learn, and being one of seven children, they taught me to listen. Truth be told, I love this part of my job the most. I have learned more about our County in the past four years, than I have in all the years before that. I owe that education to residents, community groups, and business leaders, who were willing to take the time to share the knowledge with me.

### County Commissioner candidate Harry Stokes (D)

People have asked me: "Having served for 13 years, why would you want to run for commissioner again?" The subtext is: "Why would you ever want to put yourself back into the pressure cooker of public life?"

That is a good question! The short answer is that I am concerned with the way this board of commissioners has lost its direction. I think there needs to be change. Although I would be only one of three, with the two remaining drawn from the incumbents, I hope I will be able to let some sunshine into the decision-making process and provide reason, perspective and experience to the board. My goal will be to assure that real discussion and votes happen at the commissioners' table. This must, of course, be civil, respectful discussion and decision-making. But it need not be 3-0 votes.

I have worked many years with boards where people have agreed to disagree. This can be done civilly and with respect for one's fellow board members. However, it must be done out in the open, so that the citizens of the County can participate, or at least follow along.

This is not done now. Disagreement is discouraged, whether on the board, in the courthouse, or in the community. The commissioners do not like to be disagreed with. Interestingly, the publisher of the local Gettysburg paper seems to

be in league with the commissioners to squelch discussion and discourage it with acid criticism, often personal in nature. This is odd for a publisher to do, since community discussion sells papers and since newspapers have served as a time-honored way to encourage and host the open sharing of views in the public forum.

Discussion is not supposed to go on behind closed doors in the commissioners' office. It is supposed to be out in the open. This is the Sunshine Law.

We have many urgent things to address at the County. One of these is spending. The Commissioners' Office alone now costs much more to run than it did in my day. In a way, the boards I served on had a bigger job than the commissioners do today, because we also ran Green Acres Nursing Home and had many more employees.

We now have a county manager who costs taxpayers over \$133,000 per year in salary and benefits. And we have three commissioners each making over \$70,000 in pay before benefits. When the county manager was hired, the commissioners did not take a pay cut. Indeed, salaries have only increased. On their current course, the commissioners will each top out at \$74,590 by the end of the new term, or something around \$90,000 including benefits.

In my view, the manager position should be eliminated. If it

is not, the commissioners should accept a pay cut. We managed the county with our chief clerk and her assistant, and our strong, able, expert department heads who, under this county manager, have been significantly weakened. That was a cheaper and better way of governing, not top down, but collaborative, with the commissioners facilitating the teamwork and making the final decision. Now, decisions are dangerously concentrated with just a few.

Our county debt is now about \$90 million. More big spending is proposed. But, beware, a very few are making these decisions for us. The people of Adams County urgently need a seat at the table.

Let us take the "not to exceed" \$8.3 million human services building as a case in point. Who will make the decision on this? The commissioners and the president judge seem determined to build or buy a new building. Yet, the county taxpayers already bought the St. Francis School and associated building for \$1.375 million for county office needs. We are now told that these buildings are not suitable. Yet the commissioners have performed no studies to back this up. In fact, as yet, no independent, professional study has been performed to look at how to use these building. I examined these buildings when I was a commissioner, as did our professional staff,

and we found that they could be used. One has to ask, why are the commissioners so determined to expand beyond what they already have? Because discussion and debate are discouraged, we just don't know. If the new building project is approved, we will run the risk of seeing our debt exceed \$100 mil-

lion. This means only one thing—increased taxes.

The issue of spending is one of the reasons why I decided to return to public life. I will go into more detail next month, and discuss some of the other issues that compelled me to put my hat back into the ring.

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## COMMENTARY

## Words from Winterbilt

## A flag, the United States and what divides us?

Shannon Bohrer

Demonstrations and protest involving the actions of the police, race and the Confederate flag have been in the news for over a year. However, these events are not new, civil unrest (demonstrations and riots) related to the Confederate flag and race has existed since the civil war. It has been argued that the Civil War was fought over state's rights, slavery and economics. As one history professor told his class, the civil war was over all three. The south wanted the right, from their perspective to continue slavery, for cheap labor and for economics. I am sure that there are individuals that would dispute this premise, but they cannot deny the existence of all three.

While the protest and news coverage over the last year continues, the arguments and positions have expanded. The recent controversy over the "Dough Boy" statue and a position that the plaque should be changed is just one event. Would the controversy exist without the continuing news of last year? Another local controversy is the statue of Justice Roger Brook Taney in Frederick. Justice Taney was the Fifth Chief Justice on the Supreme Court, and in his position in the "Dread Scott Case" declared that slaves were property. While both of these lo-

cal controversies are related to the recent events, maybe individuals and groups had concerns with these issues before all of the news.

Historically, we know that the Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves during the civil war and that the 13th amendment to the constitution abolished slavery after the civil war. Historically we also know that while free, the racial injustice that existed - still continues in many forms. The police shooting in Ferguson Missouri was just one flash point for this debate. In the Attorney General's report on Ferguson, the police officer involved in the shooting was exonerated. The report cited facts and physical evidence, including the DNA of the suspect that was found in the police car. The Attorney General's report said that the "Hands Up" motion that so many protesters still use, did not happen. And, we also know that many people still believe it was not a justified shooting.

Of significance in the Attorney General's report; is that the city of Ferguson was treating the minority community as a revenue source for funding of the city government, including the police department. The individual cases made and cited in the report were horrific and disgraceful; outlining discrimination and practices that one would think no longer existed. I was

in Law Enforcement for 42 years, full time, and I was appalled with what I read. Before reading the report I would never have thought that the discrimination and practices employed and sanctioned by a government entity, existed in this country. I also have to believe that Ferguson did not and does not exist in a vacuum.

We as a country have a long way to go. Life is often not fair, especially when made unfair and sanctioned by a government. While these problems exist, I believe we should be grateful for a Justice Department that investigated the incident and put forth the Ferguson report. What is in the report should be our initial focus in looking for solutions for positive change. The difficulty going forward is somewhat complex in that there are multiple problems. As stated earlier, the confederate flag has become a symbol of the issues with many saying the flag should just go, and others saying its part of their heritage. Arguments for and against are continuing to be made, including additional arguments to replace or remove statues. Banning a flag and/or removing a monument, will not change how people think.

My personal observation is that the confederate flag is obnoxious. The flag represents a no-longer existing government that declared war on the United

States. In my travels I have heard individuals say that "The south will rise again" and when I heard this I always thought - is this how uninformed people think? And now with the current issues, I have to think that some people really believe it will rise again. It has been my personal observation that since the election of a half white President, there are more stars and bars being displayed. Hatred is not new, it was not eliminated with the 13th amendment and making laws against it does not change people's minds. That does not mean we should ignore it.

Since the civil war the confederate flag, or variations of, have been used by government entities, private groups and citizens. The display(s) have often been explained as philosophical and a cultural heritage, while ignoring any racial controversy. Since the most often cited reason is their cultural heritage, what is the heritage?

The heritage of the Confederate flag starts with the fact that it was the symbol for a group of states that declared their independence, while declaring war on the United States. It was - the flag of our enemy. The reason for the declaration of war was addressed in a speech by the Confederate Vice-President, Alexander Stephens; this was after the secession but before the war. The speech was labeled the "Cornerstone Speech" and it expounded the principles of racial superiority and justification of the slavery of blacks. Part of what Stephens said: "Our new government (the confederacy) is founded upon ... its foundations are laid, its

corner-stone rests, upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery - subordination to the superior race - is his natural and normal condition." Is that the Heritage that someone should be proud of?

What I also find unusual is when I see the Confederate flag and the United States Flag being flow side by side. While the Confederate flag represents racial inequality and white supremacy, the American flag represents the quote that: "All men are created equal" from our declaration of independence. I am sure that there will always be individuals that believe something different and they want the Confederate flag to mean something else. However, part of the problem is that to most people the Confederate flag has the same meaning as the Nazi flag: racial injustice and racial superiority. In Germany it is illegal to fly the Nazi flag, but the freedoms in this country allow you to fly the confederate flag.

As to the controversy over statues in Frederick County, I believe the statues should remain as they are. If we remove the statue of Chief Justice Taney, do we also re-write history? It was Thomas Jefferson that wrote "All men are created equal" and he owned slaves. Our first president owned slaves, how many statues of him exist? What about Mount Rushmore? The road is long, we have come a long way, but we have a long way to go.

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

## Common Cents

## Northern lights

Ralph F. Murphy

Canada is scheduled to hold a Parliamentary election on 19 October as the four-year rule of the Conservative Party of Prime Minister Stephen Harper draws to a close. At stake are 338 seats in The House of Commons. This is a system that is modeled on Britain's Westminster parliamentary system. It has been in effect since 1848. At electoral issue beyond war involvement abroad is the economy, which slumped into a recession this year amid a global downturn for commodities. Recent data, however, indicates a turnaround that may boost the incumbent's chances of retaining power that the party has held since 2006.

Canadian politics have been consistently liberal, since the reign of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, from 1968 to 1984. Trudeau, a native of Quebec, preached national unity during a time of separatist pressures from the French speaking region. He witnessed a referendum in 1980 that was unsuccessful, but he was replaced by Brian Mulroney's Progressive Conservative (PC) party in 1984. This party led the Parliament through 1993.

The right wing PC party splintered after the 1993 election, becoming the Reform Party of Canada/Canadian Alliance (CA) and the more centrist Progressive Conservative Par-

ty of Canada. They remained divided and out of power through 2003 when they found common ground through the Canadian Venture Exchange. Led by Joe Clark, the Reform Party political bonding held and became the Conservative Party of Canada. This group won the elections in 2006 and 2011 professing prudent fiscal management, decreased government spending- especially to social programs, and lower taxes.

In 2011 Stephen Harper's Conservatives won 159 of the (then) 308 seat Parliament. The New Democracy Party (NDP) of Thomas Mulcair retained 95 of the lower chamber seats for the center left, and the Liberal Party led by Justin Trudeau, Pierre's oldest son, gathered 36 seats- also center left. Two Quebec-based parties that were both independence minded took two seats each. That movement has not been a real factor in Canadian politics since 1995 when it lost a second referendum by a single percentage point.

The economy might be a voter concern, but that downturn highlighted was only .5% in the second quarter and .8% in the first. Again summer numbers were better as commodity sales especially to the Far East increased. Canada is the fifth largest producer of the world's oil and had been getting about \$100 a barrel last year before suppliers increased world output and dropped prices to less than half that level. Mining, gas, and quarry extrac-

tions were also down in sales which Andrew Thomson of the contesting NDP seized on to blast the Conservatives, bemoaning a "lost decade" to the economy. He didn't offer a platform statement as to how he could change the world price of the goods, and the drop or stall was really just this year's concern. The last recession was seven years ago.

Harper noted the decline - one third of all sectors were affected to a degree - mostly had commodity linkages. Canada doesn't look that bad economically though they are the only G-7 member country to fall into recession during this year's first two quarters. The G-7 once contained the most advanced world economies - Canada ranked 11th last year.

Debates are scheduled between the liberal and conservative parties. Issues include jobs, energy and environment, infrastructure, housing, and taxes. What has also faced electoral challenge in the past is the role of the British Monarch as Canada's ceremonial head of state. The real head of government is vested in the Canadian Prime Minister who controls Parliament and its functions.

The Monarch's duties in Canada and elsewhere in the Commonwealth are largely ceremonial, but are described as the "foundation of the executive, legislative, and judiciary branches of government". A Governor General represents England at the national level and that representative ascribes Lieutenant Governors to each of the provinc-

es in an effort to "guarantee continued and stable government". That appears to afford Canadians a measure of relief from security pressures, but it might be worth noting that Westminster doesn't enjoy those standards in London. The stability concerns may stem from the nature of the effectively, unicameral governing style. A lower house combines the executive and legislative functions into the party in power as controlling Parliament.

Britain does not have a Constitution in the American sense. Its governing style evolved from "collections of written documents, statutes, court judgements, works of authority, treaties, and conventions." It has the power to "turn out a government" but can do so on a whim without a standard as to reason.

The British Parliament has served as the model for almost every civilized democracy. The Prime Minister is executive, usually majority leader, and speaker. The Judiciary is usually more independent. The upper chamber or House of Lords is largely ceremonial.

America's system is occasionally derided as insuring "nothing gets done". A closer look at the "checks and balances" afforded the executive, bicameral legislature and judiciary reveal mechanisms to insure speedy passage of emergency measures such as war powers authority and reasoned debate on most of the rest. The House of Representatives appears to be more populist in nature. Almost all of the world's Parliaments that follow the Westminster model have the final say as to matters of law.

The American Senate can rewrite or approve a House offering and the President can then approve or veto it, but the government doesn't fall on a single legislative initiative. In the Westminster system even a single law such as a budget issue can lead to a "vote of no confidence" and a new election.

This generally doesn't happen if a single party is dominant, but where there are relatively evenly matched parties, a confrontation can lead to primordial, floor flights. England is far less structured and disciplined than the American, Jeffersonian democracy.

Globally, a unicameral legislature exists almost everywhere. Not just in Canada, but in Germany's Bundestag, Japan's Diet and Israel's Knesset. They're thinly disguised British political systems with a ceremonial President and stark confrontation in their legislatures with a variety of parties arrayed along personality lines.

At any rate, Canada has an election coming up in mid October and other factors appear stable so Harper's "Tories" should do well. There were terrorist concerns last year in Ottawa, but they have passed. The Prime Minister appears well liked and barring a continued drop in economic activity, the Liberal Party and NDP left seem to have split to non governance much as the Radical did in the late 1990's. If they unify- there could be a challenge Let's see what else they have on their minds to the north of us. A referendum on the Monarchy appears behind them.

*To read past editions of Common Cents visit the Authors section of Emmitsburg.net.*

# The American Mind

## Trump, you have our attention

William Hillman

Like the locusts that appear every four years, it is presidential primary season all over again. All of the “want-to-be-president” politicians are fighting to see who can bore the American public into a catatonic state. Do we really need nine months of this drudgery? Has anyone told them the average American attention span is barely longer than 30 seconds? I think mine is down to 5. The primary is like a bad high school documentary that your burned-out social studies teacher makes you watch over and over again.

But wait. There is something different this year. There seems to be a new main character who snuck on the stage when no one was looking, “The Donald”, a billionaire real estate mogul, turned reality TV host with a comb-over.

So grab some popcorn, this is getting interesting.

As of the mid September CNN/ABC poll, Donald Trump is holding onto the Republican primary with his 30% lead. A quick scan of other popular polls confirm, within a few percentage points, his massive lead. Personally, I find “The Donald” fascinating.

So why all the excitement over this personality with the funny hair? What is it about Donald Trump that makes him so appealing to so many? Who would ever vote for this over-privileged billionaire? Surely no

blue-collar, middle class, working American would ever vote for him, right? Not so fast. Those blue-collar, middle class Americans, mostly male, are Trump’s base.

But why?

That answer is simple: his personality and the issues his campaign focuses on attract these blue-collar, middle class American males.

To anyone who watched the Republican debates, it is very clear that Trump is comfortable with himself and exudes a great air of confidence. Most of the other candidates seem uncomfortable on the stage at times stumbling, often looking for the right words. Take Trump out of those debates and they could have been used as a cure for insomnia.

Trump has an incredible aura of confidence. When asked how he would turn the economy around and create more jobs, Trump looked into the camera and said, “I’ll just do it”. No other politician could get away with that, but Trump has.

I consider myself a jaded political observer and a real skeptic. I have a great distrust of all politicians, including Trump. But when he looks at the camera and says, “I’ll just do it”, I think to myself, “I believe he will.” Then I come out of my trance and remember these are all just political promises.

Trump is also a fighter. What beer-drinking American does not like a fighter? We like big hearted tough

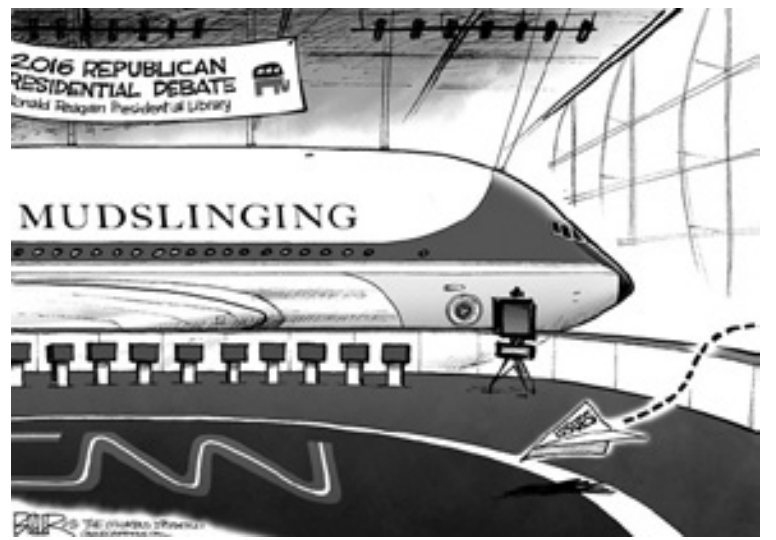
guys who stand up when someone is pushing a little guy around. Just last weekend I watched Rocky for what might be the 100th time. I still get emotional when I think of my old football coach standing up and yelling, “No one comes into our house and pushes us around.”

This country has had seven years of a president who had all the fight of a ball of lint. His knees must hurt from all the kneeling he does in front of other world leaders.

Just last week, a journalist from Univision tried to disrupt Donald Trump’s press conference. Trump put the rude reporter in his place. He then had the reporter removed from the room. By comparison, Presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders held a rally during which two protesters walked on stage and took over the microphone. Unlike Trump, Sanders’ response was to step aside and let it happen.

A word on Trump’s charisma. Trump’s charisma is what seems to be driving the debate and controlling the issues of this Republican primary. He is forcing the rest of the pack to focus on the topic that he is most attentive to.

Trump has picked the right issues for this demographic base. There are more Americans unemployed today than there were in the recession of the 70s. Wages for the working class have slowly dropped over the last 10 years. The promise of good jobs that come with college education is eroding. There is a



growing anger in the middle class. Trump never stops talking about jobs. He never stops talking about immigration.

Immigration and illegal immigration are topics that most politicians are afraid of. Anyone who suggests that we build a wall to keep illegals out is labeled a racist. Trump is forcing them to talk about illegals and they hate it. But if the Republicans have any shot of ever gaining control of the White House, they are going to have to talk about overhauling the immigration system and stopping illegal immigration.

Obama won the White House because white males without college degrees sat home during the last two presidential elections. The Republicans cannot win the White House without this group of people. This is the demographic group that is most affected by job loss due to illegal immigrants. Their income has steadily dropped between the years 2000 and 2013. When Trump talks about manufacturing jobs being sent overseas or down to Mexi-

co, he is speaking to this group and they are listening.

I don’t actually believe that Trump will win. Never, in recent memory, has a candidate who has led this early, survived the first few primaries. There is no reason for Trump to be any different. Also, his negative poll numbers are around 56%. By comparison, Hillary hovers around 40%. Those numbers are way too high for him to be a viable candidate. But I could be wrong.

As a political figure, I believe he will be around for a long time. I hope his issues will be a permanent part of this presidential race. We will see him on the podium at the Republican National Convention. And maybe he will run for another office. I’m sure he will end up with his own show on some cable News network.

So Mr. Trump, please keep the excitement up and best of luck to you.

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

# Down Under

## The dragon in the room

Submitted by Lindsay!  
Melbourne, Australia

*And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces. —(Isaiah 13:22)*

Much has been written about the depiction of violence on TV and in games, and its power to inure us to its presence in society. See someone murdered on screen enough times, they say, and we will accept it as normal when it happens in our street. This has been extended to other prevalent but unacceptable things so that society seems to have become a dangerous, awful place to grow up in.

Like most sweeping statements it’s basically untrue. A very small percentage may succumb to scenarios like this when they see them over and over, generally because they have been born with, or have developed, mental aberrations that make them insensitive to the suffering of others. Upbringing can foster this if both genetics and a violent home are at work, but most of us recognise how wrong and terrible such actions are, no matter how often we see them on a screen. The

few that do not present the rest of us with problems that seem insoluble, especially when powerful lobby groups are determined to gloss over those facts. The gun lobby is one such, much of the popular media another (because anxiety sells product).

Regretfully, while the percentage of people who abuse the use of guns is tiny, the numbers are large: 0.1% of the 320,000,000 population is 320,000, and if only 1% of these are sufficiently deranged to spray bullets into a group they dislike without regard to the consequences, the result is near to the current situation. That is, 3,200 individuals spread across most states (doesn’t seem to happen much in Hawaii or Alaska) produce at least one mass killing or injury every day.

The claim by the gun lobby that the only safety is for everyone to carry a gun is so stupid it is a wonder they are not pilloried in print, legislation and public opinion. Apart from the fact that even more crazies would be on the prowl, the idea of shooting someone who is possibly attacking or even abusing you, and who also carries a weapon, is an invitation to mayhem. Yes, public opinion, (that ‘best of all possi-

ble worlds’ in Voltaire’s *Candide*), is ramping up against the gun lobby which remains entrenched behind a wall of political disdain and sentimental appeal to an outdated part of the constitution – but so far has been no match for it.

Apart from the opprobrium emanating from the rest of the world, you have allowed yourselves to become both a laughing stock and purveyor of distress. The chances of a tourist being injured or killed is far higher than in any other country in the world; the possibility of this happening to a citizen is at least 100 times higher than that, so no wonder your anxiety levels are also the highest on earth. Six million new firearms were manufactured in the US in 2014, 95% sold domestically, and another one million were imported, mainly from Brazil. The firearms industry generates about 210,000 jobs, and pays about five million in taxes. Smith and Wesson’s profits have grown by 140% since Obama came to power, while over 50,000 people were killed by firearms between 2006 and 2010, with the number increasing annually. 0.05% of attempted purchases were blocked by the FBI on the grounds of mental instability, whereas 4% of all Americans suffer from serious mental conditions.

Well, you would have to be blind, deaf and dumb to not be aware of this, (though facebook is better reading), but such is the

power of spin that you may not care enough to become active in its reduction. As a matter of contrast, for every million residents eight Australians are killed by guns each year, (seven being gang related), whereas you have about 108 per million. Well, guns are legal and theoretically controlled by government regulation, but the crux is that to the gun industry human lives are valuable only when they buy a gun, and are indifferent to what they do with purchase even while wringing their hands at the nightly news. Their advertising is cynical, putting out a caring stance when in the public eye. They are a scourge on your country, and need to be reduced and eliminated so far as is possible.

You may say that things are worse in other places, and you’d be right – parts of South America and Eastern Europe are under the thrall of the mob and thus of porn and drugs – but in the much of the rest of the western world the opposite is true. There, they have never embraced guns as a way of life; their social structures are such that the overall welfare of their citizens is still their main goal; they limit the hype and spin by denying that the worst these are a part of normal free speech, and they are not afraid of taxing their citizens to accomplish this rather than expanding armaments.

They tend not to breed terrorists, as governments who are reluc-

tant to take reprisals against their citizens generate less hate among the disadvantaged and marginalized. They make it much harder to obtain weapons – no village gun shops, only illegal sources – and weapons are so little discussed that they do not rate among the young except in games.

But then you mostly don’t care about what is the norm in other countries. After all, America is tops, America does, America is the leader. And whatever wrong is done, it is done in the name of freedom and democracy. But it also means that Americans are essentially narcissistic, as shown by in the movies about your glorious wars. The natives don’t rate – see any of the Vietnam sagas – as the wars are about reputation and commerce, not lives. And the terrorists know it. It’s what motivates them. When you look at someone of colour, do you consider them equals? It’s all part of the same attitude. You may have a big house, but there are dragons in the rooms spitting fire from guns seeking reprisals. Not just home produced, but middle eastern ones too.

Jesus’ words in Matthew 26:52 are still true, especially for you: “Those that live by the sword will die by the sword.”

Lindsay, Melbourne, Australia

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# THE PASTOR'S DESK

## Politics and religion

**Pastor Gary Buchman**  
**Emmitsburg Community**  
**Bible Church**

Okay, you know that these are two things aren't supposed to mix, right? And though our constitution nowhere says that there should be a separation of Church and State, our Supreme Court believes there should be.

But, here is a question, "Who should be the next President of the United States?" Combining the parties we have 20 or more people who want the job. Over the next 9 months, or so, we will reduce these to 2-3 candidates. One will become our next President. What will be your criteria for voting? Will it be taxes, the economy, foreign policy, immigration, the candidate's faith, abortion position, health-care, gay rights and issues, race, gender, or some other issue?

Chances are your criteria will be based on how you might benefit if your candidate is elected. But what if your vote was based on what God is looking for in the person who will

be President. What if we would all ask God for what He wants, instead of what we want? Would that be a game-changer for you?

Now, I believe in the Sovereignty of God. I believe God has a plan and ultimately He places OR allows the leaders to be in office that He wants to accomplish His will. Daniel 4:17, 25 says, "the most High rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He will and sets over it the lowest of men." However, He does tell us what He is looking for in good leaders.

First, He is looking for a person whose politics are based on the Bible. Seriously? Absolutely! When Joshua was chosen to lead Israel, God had one rule. He had to be a man who constantly meditated in the Bible (Joshua 1:7-9). God told Moses that when they chose a King, he must be a man who had a Bible and would lead from it. "And it shall be with him (the king), and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these stat-

utes, that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left," (Deut. 17:19-20)

When David was preparing to die, He told Solomon, "I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. And keep the charge of the Lord your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn;" (1 Kings 2:2-3)

George Washington, John Adams, and Jr., Thomas Jefferson and others understood that that we can't keep what we have without our Christian religion.

Second, God wants, "A Man After His Own Heart." The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people," (1 Sam. 13:14)

- This is a man whose heart is in harmony with God's. If God says something is right or wrong, then that is what it is; no rationalizing.
- He sees all of life through God's eyes and not the world's or his own.
- He loves what God loves and hates what God hates.
- He is a man of integrity. He speaks the truth, keeps his promises, and practices what he preaches. (Ps. 78:70-72)

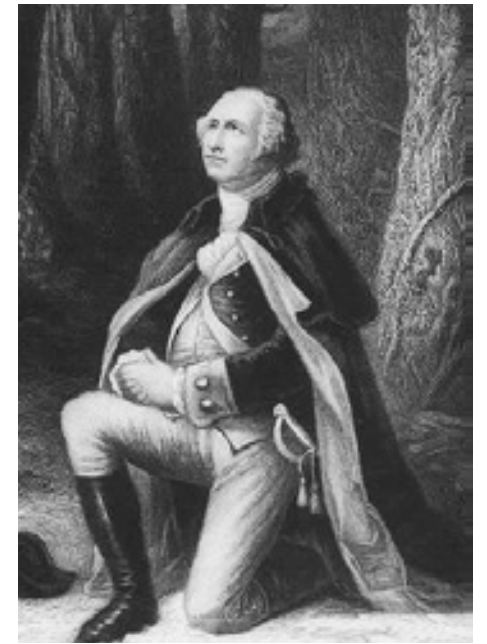
- When he messes up and knows he has messed up, he doesn't hide it, rationalize it, or justify it. He confesses it and seeks forgiveness. (1 Sam. 13, Psalms 32; 51)

David wasn't perfect; in fact, he had his own Monica Lewinski, yet His heart longed to be right with God. "(David's great grandson) walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him; his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David. ... because David did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite," (1 Kings 15:3-5).

Third, God wants a leader who is loyal to Him. "For the Eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (2 Chronicles 16:9).

- This is someone who trusts God no matter what! Even if he doesn't understand, he will trust and obey God. Men and women like Daniel and his 3 friends, or the folks in Hebrews 11. They were willing to die rather than be disloyal to God.
- His or her faith will guide their political decisions because God's way is the right way.

Fourth, God is looking for a leader who will pray for his country. "And I sought for a man among



them, that should make up the hedge (make a wall), and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found none." (Ezekiel 22:23-30). The current political leaders were corrupt and the country suffered for it.

God wants a leader who sees the corruption and its impending judgment. One that sees abortion, re-defining marriage, eliminating God from public life, embracing false gods, sexual promiscuity, homosexuality, and the redefining of the Bible by religious leaders as wrong. He not only wants to lead the people righteously but prays for our country, that God may be merciful and delay His judgment and bring righteousness back to our country.

Fifth, God wants a person who supports Israel. "I will bless those who bless you (Abraham and Israel), and I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Genesis 12:3) We must never put a man in the White House who does not support Israel. One of the reasons America has remained strong in spite of our sins is that from the beginning of Israel's modern history, America has blessed her (Psalm 122:6).

Let's get back to mixing politics with religion and select a person who will lead us righteously. Let's elect the candidate that God wants to be our President.

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# The two Big Bens



## October 26

No other bell ever underwent such a career of misfortune as that which was intended for use in the new Houses of Parliament. From the time when that immense structure was commenced, it was resolved that both the clock and the hour bell should be the largest ever seen in this country; but it was not till 1844 that the late Sir Charles Barry solicited tenders for their construction.

Through a course of wrangling, which it would be of little use here to elucidate, fifteen years elapsed before the clock was finished and actually at work in its place; this was in 1859. The clock is not only the largest but one of the most accurate we possess. The ponderous weights hang down a shaft 160 feet deep, and require winding up only once a week.

The pendulum, 15 feet long, weighs 680 pounds; and so delicate is its action, that a small weight of only one ounce, placed on a particular part of the apparatus, will alter the rate of the clock one second per week.

On the four sides of the clock tower are dial rooms, each a large apartment, traversed by mechanism which communicates motion from the clock to the hands. Each of the four clock dials is 221 feet diameter; and the mere cast iron framework of each dial weighs no less than 4 tons.

The hour figures are 2 feet high and 6 feet apart, and the minute marks are 14 inches apart. The outer point of the minute hand makes a sudden leap of 7 inches every half minute. The hands weigh more than two hundredweight the pair; the minute hand being 16 feet long, and the hour hand 9 feet. In order to render the dials visible at night, each dial face is glazed with enameled or opalised glass, with 60 gas jets behind it.

Such is the magnificent clock, for which suitable bells were sought to be made. The original scheme was for 'a clock that would strike the hours on a bell of eight to ten tons, and chime the quarters upon eight smaller bells.' It was afterwards decided that there should be only four bells for the chimes, in addition to the great hour bell.

In the four corners of the bell room these bells are placed; the first with a weight of 4 tons, and yielding the musical note B; the second,

weight 2 tons, and note E; the third, weight 1½ ton, and note F#; and the fourth, weight 1¼ ton, and note G#. By varying the order in which these are struck, they produce four chimes or partial melodies, at the four divisions of each hour; and at the full or completed hour, the whole sixteen sounds form a simple but beautiful melody in the key of E major.

These four bells were made and hung nearly in the manner first designed; but the fifth - the king of the belfry, that was to hang in the vacant space between them - has not been so fortunate.

It was to have been about 9 feet in diameter, 9 inches thick at the sound bow, and to weigh 14 tons nearly three times the weight of the great bell of St. Paul's Cathedral; it was to be struck by a hammer of a ton weight, and was then to yield the note E, one octave lower than the E of the chimes, and forming a musical chord with the whole of them.

The bell was designed by Mr. E. B. Denison, who, as an amateur, has displayed considerable skill in the theory of clock and bell work. After much disputing between commissioners, architects, and others, it was cast in August 1856. The mould was six weeks in preparation. The metal was melted in two furnaces, each containing ten tons. Eighteen out of the twenty tons of molten metal were poured into the mould, producing a bell about 8 feet high and 9½ in diameter at the mouth. When turned and trimmed and finished, it weighed about 15 tons a little more than had at first been intended. The ponderous mass was then carefully conveyed to London, and placed for a time at the foot of the clock tower, where it was visited by multitudes of persons. Every Saturday it was struck a certain number of blows, that the quality and loudness of the sound might be tested.

On one occasion, the E was found to be a dull and uncertain sound; and this leading to a close scrutiny, it was found that, owing to a flaw in the metal, the bell was practically useless, and would ultimately be broken by the blows of the hammer. It was deemed a fortunate circumstance that the discovery was made before the bell had been raised into the tower.

Officially, the bell was to have been named 'St. Stephen;' but

a random sobriquet used in the Times, 'Big Ben,' caught the taste of the public; and in October 1857, it was known all over the country that 'Big Ben was cracked.'

There then ensued another series of disputations, accusations, and counter accusations. Another bell was cast on the 10th of April, taken out of the mould on the 24th, sent to Westminster on the 31st of May, tried as to tone on the 18th of June, and finally raised to his destined place in October.

Transporting the bell from the foundry to the Houses of Parliament was a major event. Traffic stopped as the bell, mounted on a trolley drawn by sixteen brightly beribboned horses, made its way over London and Westminster Bridges. The streets had been decorated for the occasion and enthusiastic crowds cheered the bell along the route.

During November, Big Ben underwent a long series of blows with hammers weighing from 4 to 7 hundredweight each. The clock was put up in its place, and for some time the inhabitants of the metropolis heard the chime bells every quarter of an hour, and Big Ben every hour.

But another misfortune arose: Ben the second cracked like Ben the first. Then ensued an accusation, a bitter controversy, and a lawsuit; and then fragments of Big Ben were extracted to ascertain whether the bell might still be used, though cracked. The subject of Big Ben became almost ludicrous. Not only was the deep E of the bell not to be heard, but the other four were silenced also, and the clock was stopped.

We all know the circumstances under which we have been deprived of the doubtful advantage of hearing the tones of the great bell; but when a clock ceases to address itself to the sense of hearing, that is no reason it should decline to present itself to the

sense of sight. One of the hands has disappeared altogether, and the other stands at twelve; so that it has the merit of being right at least once in the twelve hours.

The two Big Bens cost the country nearly £4,000, all expenses included. One was broken up and remelted; the other was condemned on account of faults and fissures; and the lowest or deepest of the four chimes or quarter bells, was thenceforward used as the hour bell.

Editor's note: Big Ben was returned to service the year the Book of Days was published. A lighter hammer was fitted, a square piece of metal chipped out of the sound-bow, and the bell given an eighth of a turn to present an undamaged section to the hammer. This is the bell as we hear it today, the crack giving it its distinctive but less-than-perfect tone.

To read other selections for Robert Chambers' Book of Days visit [www.thebookofdays.com](http://www.thebookofdays.com).



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## THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

## Wandering and wondering with ants

Bill Meredith

*"Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise." —Proverbs 6:6-8.*

My wife regularly reminds me that the routine tasks of unassisted living are taking a lot longer than they used to. To some extent, I expected this; reading speed diminishes when you doze off in the middle of a paragraph, and balancing the checkbook takes longer when you can't remember where you left the folder the last time you used it. Luckily, things like that have built-in reminders; if you forget to do them, something will remind you before too long. But when you get to things that only need to be done occasionally, it's easy to forget to start on them, and first thing you know, the whole summer is over and they still aren't done. Things like pruning trees, trimming shrubbery, and weeding flower beds are important, but they aren't urgent; you can put them on your mental to-do list, but when the intended day arrives it will rain, or company will come, or a friend will call with a last-minute emergency request for a substitute in a golfing foursome, and next thing you know, summer has passed. So you decide to just let things wait until next year.

That happened last year on the west side of our house. That area started as a lawn, and the only trees

there were a few mature ones along the old fence that bounded our property... a wild cherry, a willow and a couple of maples. We put in some flowerbeds and planted a few of small ornamental trees... apple, redbud, flowering cherry, dogwood... and, near the house, a few shrub junipers and a Weigela bush. But then Mother Nature decided we needed help. She ordered passing birds to drop hackberry and wild grape seeds; winds were directed to bring seeds from locust, Tree of Heaven and box-elder; and squirrels were instructed not only to bring acorns and butternuts, but to plant them for us.

At the time, that all seemed very nice, and we appreciated the free service; but it turned out that nature was a much better dendrologist than I was. Of the trees I planted, only three survived, while the ones nature planted grew like weeds all over the place. We hardly noticed at first, but years slipped by and in a surprisingly short time the trees formed a canopy that completely blocked the sunlight. The grass of the former lawn and even most of the weeds in the flower beds died. Now, the only thing that will grow at ground level is pokeweed. So, by the time the 2015 growing season started, the forces of ecological succession had converted our patch of open lawn to a forest.

When all of this started, I had a regular schedule for pruning things. Early each spring I checked

for snow damage and removed all broken branches. After leaves were out and blooming was finished, I cut off water sprouts and shaped the growing plants; and that was repeated in the fall. It was a good system, and it worked well for a while; but there were two problems. As the trees got bigger, trimming required a ladder and took longer; and at the same time, I was getting slower and less stable, especially when more than six inches above the ground. So it became more common that I would not get around to some areas, and sometimes I forgot the whole lot of them, as I did last fall.

My wife never developed much interest in the part of our lawn that isn't visible from the road, though she did actually walk around to the back and side yards once or twice each year before she had her hip replacement. Now, she never goes back there, so I don't think she even noticed the encroaching forest until about a month ago. Then one morning she happened to look out of the bathroom window and discovered that her view was blocked by a 15-foot high combination of Weigela and pokeweeds. A pair of catbirds had nested in the Weigela, and that kept her interested until the young ones fledged; but then she began applying her unique version of subtle hints that things needed to change.

It took a lot of deep breaths to get started, and an hour or so to find my pruning tools, but finally I began. A few years ago it would have taken half a day. I finished it three days later... but, after all, there was no need to rush, and plenty of things to look at and think about during rest periods. The Weigela stalks were longer than the 15 feet that Wikipedia says they can reach, and the pokeweeds were so big and full of juicy purple berries that I considered sending them to the Guinness Book of World Records. My wife even got caught up in the excitement; the next morning she could actually see out the bathroom window, and there were a doe and twin



Plato admired the work ethic of ants. He even believed that men who were particularly industrious would be reincarnated as ants when they died.

fawns eating acorns under the biggest oak tree.

One of the lessons you learn from working at my age is that you have to plan for regular rest stops. It helps if you set a lawn chair in a shady place and bring along a cup of coffee; then, if you stay awake and think, you begin to understand just how important your task is in comparison to other creatures who share the world with us. There was an anthill near the Weigela bush, and when I sat down about 15 feet from it I saw an ant struggling with a piece of leaf. The leaf was too big to carry; the ant was dragging it, walking backwards as she went. The ground was cluttered with small pebbles, clods of dirt and sticks, and she had to climb over them. It looked like grueling work, much harder than what I had just been doing, and I expected to see her stop and rest; but she never did. It took 20 minutes for her to go 12 feet (I measured it later), and then she disappeared into the anthill. I lost sight of her then, but I knew what would happen. She would deposit the leaf in a fungus garden that was tended by her younger sisters, and go out foraging again. There would be no breaks for rest; the routine would be followed all day, every day, for the rest of the summer except when it was raining.

I am not the first person to sit and watch an ant at work. Aesop's fable of the ant and the grasshopper dates back to the sixth Century B. C. The Book of Proverbs is believed to be the first written reference to ants; the line quoted above has been drilled into the memory of schoolboys ever since (I have always wondered if the writer of Proverbs knew worker ants are females, or if that was just the result of translating the phrase from Hebrew to Greek to Latin to English). 2,300 years ago, Plato sat and watched ants (though he probably hadn't been pruning shrubbery); he admired them for their work ethic. He even believed that men who were particularly industrious had evolved from ants, and that they would be reincarnated as ants when they died. Ed Wilson, presently the world's authority on ants, believes if the weight of all living things could be measured, ants would make up as much as 20% of the earth's biomass. When I think of the sixth extinction of life that scientists predict will happen within the next century, I wonder if ants may be more likely to survive than humans.

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# Human impact on the environment

Michael Rosenthal

In a previous article, we discussed the issue of the contamination of the Hudson River by PCBs. The New York Times recently published an update on its editorial page. General Electric (GE) is claiming its job is almost done, and will soon have addressed 100% of its agreed-upon responsibility in PCB cleanup of the Hudson River. This appears to be true, and the EPA has no current legal right to demand more from GE. But, there are still 136 acres of the watershed, including a stretch of the Champlain Canal, outside the agreement, that are dangerously contaminated and need PCB removal.

The Times suggests that New York State Government put pressure on GE or even go to court to force GE to do more beyond the original agreement. The inaction thus far of New York State government, the Times argues, represents the process of keeping GE in the New York economy and persuading them to move their corporate headquarters back to New York from Connecticut where it moved. We will keep an eye on this ongoing process. Meanwhile the PCB impact on fishing, boating, and hunting remains negatively powerful; PCBs have been found 200 miles down the Hudson River from the initial entry site.

Another environmental impact issue that is getting more notice is the contamination of the oceans with waste plastic. Each year, eight million metric tons of plastics enter the world's oceans, and the amount grows yearly. This is a result of current garbage management practices. Use of plastics has regularly increased over the last 50 years, to the point that 288 million tons of plastics

were manufactured around the world. There are 20 countries largely responsible for this influx of plastic into the environment. China is the leader, and the United States ranks 20th, with 11 other Asian countries, plus Turkey, Brazil and five African countries leading the list of plastic polluters. Those of us who practice recycling make a nice local impact on the problem, but the global impact is the real issue.

Now for the big one – the issue of global climate change due to human behavior and whether it is reversible. This issue is extremely controversial, because of what is at stake: the potential for permanent negative impact on the quality of life on Planet Earth. There is, of course, a huge financial interest as well. So much industry and business, especially in energy production and related industries, is directly related to climate impact.

I started out on this issue by looking at the most recent environmental report that comes with my electric bill from Potomac Edison. I have not yet chosen an alternative energy supplier under the Maryland Electric Choice Program, so my report is that of the basic service. The major energy source for my electricity in Emmitsburg is coal – 43.49 %. Gas produces 17.50 % and nuclear sources produce 34.72 %. The total renewable energy is only 4.01%!

Accompanying air emissions from combustion include a huge amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), which, while not poisonous, is a greenhouse gas which is thought to make a major contribution to global climate change. The buildup of carbon dioxide prevents heat from escaping the atmosphere and leads to global warming. The combustion of fossil fuels – any fuel containing carbon atoms, including coal, natural

gas, oil, and wood, produces carbon dioxide upon combustion. The sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides released contribute to acid rain, which is severely damaging to the environment. In my opinion, we need more incentive and consumer education to convert our energy sources to those that have less negative environmental impact.

It is very hard for me to sort out what environmental disasters are caused by poor human choices and which are not. Many writers begin with strong biases, arguing that either we are in the process of destroying life on the planet or that natural changes occur over time that are not the result of human behavior. I believe that both factors are in play, and that we need to do everything we can to minimize the effects of environmental damage resulting from human behavior. We need to look at the studies done by respectable scientists and respected institutions that have an objective view and have no vested interest on these issues. That is not always so easy to do, and even objective, well-meaning scientists make mistakes.

Let's look at just a specific current issue, starting close to home with the California drought. Our son is a professor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, so I hear a lot about this issue. California is having serious water shortages and forest fires. Is this the fault of human behavior or merely a cyclic issue of low rainfall? A vigorous argument is taking place on both sides of this issue, but meanwhile California is having an environmental crisis.

So, there are things that we know damage the environment and there are those which may damage the environment. These issues have a strong connection to corporate profit, and



The buildup of carbon dioxide released from sources such as power plants prevents heat from escaping the atmosphere and ultimately leads to global warming.

we have strong emotional attitudes that may or may not be scientifically supported. So, for all its worth, here's my opinion. We should strongly support scientific study by reliable organizations, without vested interest, that look at these issues. We will find some clear answers (try to produce clean energy), some issues clearly not proven, and those that need more study. One of the hardest aspects is that no one has control over world-wide policies. Each government makes its own decisions, and there is no global policy or law to fall back upon.

Here are a few specific things that I personally feel strongly about. (1) Solar energy should be an attractive option to anyone building a new home. The cost would be negligible when dovetailed into the initial price of the dwelling. We live in a Ryan Home built in 2003-2004, and the solar option was not made available to us. A strong government program with tax incentives should be promoted to encourage people to initially install or convert to solar energy.

(2) Industry should be given financial encouragement, coupled with appropriate limiting legislation, to use earth-friendly production procedures. But, what can we do about foreign countries (like China) over whom we have no control? I'll write on some more specific aspects of this issue in subsequent articles.

Now let's close, with a bit of pseudoscience. There has been a great deal of promotion for the use of Omega-3 fatty acids and antioxidants to promote brain health, particularly to prevent cognitive decline in older people. A recent study by the National Institutes of Health, which included a study of 3500 subjects with an average age of 73, found no differences whatsoever among users of the supplements and the placebo group. So, my suggestion is to eat fish and enjoy both its taste and potential health benefits, but don't expect these commercial supplements will keep your brain young!

To read past editions of Real Science visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net.

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## IN THE COUNTRY

# Detritus, or the living dead

Tim Iverson, Naturalist

If you've been fortunate to see some of the changing fall colors on a drive, or better yet a walk in the woods, you may have wondered exactly what happens to all those leaves. If they all just piled up shouldn't we be up to our eyes in fallen leaves? An entire forest's worth might even go over our heads. Imagine how large the pile would be if we raked it all up! Nature has much bigger plans for all that leaf litter though. It may not seem all that important, but it plays an integral role in the broader ecosystem and the creation of new soils. This decomposition cycle fuels the life cycle, and what is the end stage for some are the birth stages of other cycles.

Deciduous trees in the temperate forests of North America drop an estimated 3 to 5 tons of leaves per hectare (roughly 2.5 acres) per year. In broad general terms trees are broken down into two main categories: coniferous and deciduous. Coniferous trees have needles and produce cones. Deciduous trees have broad leaves which die off in cooler temperatures in a process called abscission. Deciduous means "to die off", which is where the name comes from, and this usually coincides with winter and cooler temperatures. Abscission happens when leaves stop producing chlorophyll and green pigmentation. During the summer the broad leaves are essential for survival, but in the winter those leaves become a lethal liability. The leaves are a costly source of water loss and consumption, and during the win-

ter months water is hard to come by. To prepare for the change in seasons deciduous trees will shed their leaves. Conifer needles have less surface area and retain water better than leaves because of a waxy coating and smaller pores, which can allow for year round photosynthesis.

All the twigs, acorns, leaves, and other organic matter that accumulates on the ground is collectively called leaf litter or detritus. This is valuable for two primary reasons in the forest ecosystem - food and shelter. All this organic matter provides shelter from the elements and ample habitat to hunt or hide in for small organisms like insects and worms, but also reptiles like snakes and toads, and amphibians like frogs and salamanders. For decomposer organisms this is an impressive bounty to feast upon. Their job, while not glamorous, is vital. Common decomposers include fungi, slime molds, earthworms, springtails, flies, maggots, beetles, beetle larva, slugs, millipedes, snails, and bacteria. The list of decomposing critters could go on ad infinitum, but their job is simple. It's to breakdown any and all dead organic matter.

The decomposers consume all the accumulated leafy and woody material and excrete the nutrients out thus continuing the cycle. It starts with the hyphae of fungus spreading out across the forest floor. Hyphae is a white filament that looks similar to thread or string, and is collectively called mycelium. The hyphae spurs vegetative growth for fungi, and is the first principal agent in breaking down all those leaves and



Deciduous trees in the temperate forests of North America drop an estimated three to five tons of leaves per hectare (roughly 2.5 acres) per year.

other things in the detritus litter. Enzymes are secreted from these which breaks down the dead plant material, then nutrients are absorbed and carried throughout the body of the fungus. It's a lot like chewing and swallowing.

For tougher and more fibrous plants and logs the process is more involved and can take a lot longer. A basic deciduous leaf will usually decompose within a year. Conifer needles, woody material, and logs can take years to fully break down. The process is greatly affected by overall climatic conditions. Wetter warmer climates tend to have higher decomposition rates due to increased fungal, insect, and invertebrate activity. Woody material is usually beset by rot over extended periods of time, but the first decomposer on the scene is still fungi. As the fungi spreads throughout a fallen tree access is made easier for others and the next phase of decomposition begins.

It's at this point that termites, springtails, millipedes, and more begin to move in. They eat away at the fallen and decaying wood. Not to miss out on an opportunity for an easy meal, predators like wasps and parasites like robber flies, move in to feed on the insects and invertebrates feeding on the bounty provided by the detritus. As tunnels and pockets are created within the downed trees moisture continues to creep in accelerating the rot process. At the final stage of decomposition earthworms begin to appear on the scene. Once this happens the wood is beginning to be assimilated into the soil. As it breaks down into the soil other plants and trees will draw from these nutrients in order to flourish themselves before they too reach this stage of their life cycle.

This entire process of decomposition takes place in the open air, and is referred to as aerobic decomposition. Aerobic decomposition is generally odorless and similar to

composting. If you have a compost pile at home for gardening you utilize the same processes that occur naturally in the forest, but with some minor modifications. By concentrating a compost pile heat is generated and accelerates the decomposition process making for nutrient rich fertilizer.

Animal decomposition differs primarily in that doesn't rely heavily on fungus. Decomposition is facilitated primarily by scavengers and bacteria. These carrion eaters consume the dead tissue and use it as sustenance and energy. For carcasses that aren't immediately consumed by scavengers bacteria will move in to break down and putrefy the remains. This breakdown process occurs within the body of the deceased and causes the form to swell from the pressure of gas build up. This type of decomposition is called anaerobic because it occurs without the presence of oxygen, and is the type of decomposition associated with a particularly rotten smell. Eventually the body will rupture and be consumed by flies, maggots, beetles, and more. Still this is essential for the life cycle and the return of the nutrients to the environment and clearing of waste. After time only bones will remain, but even these serve a purpose. Mice and other rodents will chew on these and consume them for the calcium they provide.

While all of this may seem unpleasant it is important to consider that everything serves a purpose and continues to serve a purpose even after it ceases to exist. There's some comfort in knowing that the continuation of the cycle is served even after death. The living may utilize the energy from those that came before. Decomposition provides essential nutrients and is a key aspect in the cycle of life and ecological processes. When you see all those ephemeral fall colors fade and float toward the ground remember all the work tiny unseen organisms do.

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

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# Preserving a watershed landscape

**Chuck Reid**  
**Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve**

For the last 29 years, Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve's mission has been to protect the Swamp Creek Watershed, a high quality cold-water stream system. The Preserve has accomplished this by connecting our surrounding community with the natural world through teaching, inspiring, and promoting stewardship of the environment. The Preserve is a non-profit conservation organization and education center located on 609 acres in Hamiltonban Township, three miles north of Fairfield.

There are more than 86,000 miles of streams and rivers in Pennsylvania, more than in any state in the United States except Alaska. Only 22,563 miles, or about 27% of those streams, have been classified high quality. High quality surface waters are those, which have chemical levels and biotic characteristics necessary to support propagation of fish, shellfish, wildlife, and recreation in and on the water.

Adams County has over 1,300 miles of streams; virtually every stream that flows in Adams County originates within the County and flows south toward Maryland in either the Potomac or Susquehanna River Basins. Approximately 8% of Adams County's streams, or roughly 100 miles, are considered high quality.

In contrast, over 277 miles or 21% of the County's streams are designated impaired. Impaired, in the context of discussing water quality and stream health, refers to a less than desirable state of water chemistry and aquatic habitat conditions in a particular section or length of stream, or possibly an entire stream. Essentially an impaired stream is not ideal for promoting the health and well-being of the aquatic life, terrestrial animals, or humans who interact and depend on the water.

There are only about seventeen high quality streams in the County with this special designation, and all of these streams are located in the South Mountain Region of western Adams County. Swamp Creek and the upper portions of Middle Creek are two of those few high quality cold-water streams.

Swamp Creek feeds Middle Creek. Middle Creek is one of the primary sources of drinking water for Hamiltonban Township residents and those who receive their water from the Fairfield Borough Municipal Authority. These watersheds begin in the South Mountain foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and flow down the valley through Toms Creek in Maryland, then to the Potomac River, ultimately ending in the Chesapeake Bay.

To encourage stewardship of the watershed, Strawberry Hill welcomes more than 10,000 peo-



Of the 86,000 miles of streams and rivers in Pennsylvania, only 27% of those have been classified as high quality.

ple annually to the Swamp Creek watershed for a variety of cultural, educational, and recreational programs; and to hike the trails. The Preserve predominantly serves the communities within Adams County with over seventy-five percent of its members, visitors, and students being residents of the County.

The Preserve has also become a popular destination for the tourists visiting Michaux State Forest and the Gettysburg Battlefield. Strawberry Hill offers public access to the watershed by maintaining 10 miles of hiking trails. These trails are open daily to the public from dawn to dusk, free of charge, providing year-round recreation opportunities for all people including hikers, bird watchers, families, and more.

Strawberry Hill is the only non-profit environmental education center in Adams County and it does not receive any public funding for operations.

More than eighty percent of Strawberry Hill's visitors are school-age children, pre-school to grade eight, who attend one of the hands-on educational programs, either as individuals or as part of an organized group such as school classes or scouts. Experienced part-time teachers in a small group environment, with a limited class size, teach the programs year-round.

Today nearly 6,000 schoolchildren annually are participating in an educational program offered at the Preserve. Most of those children live in Adams County. However, participants come from as far as Harrisburg, York, Mercersburg, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Frederick, to take part in the programs.

Strawberry Hill fully relies on membership fees, contributions, grants, program receipts, investments, and special events to support the mission. No tax dollars are dedicated to support operations. Without community support, Strawberry Hill cannot continue. The preserve remains open

to the public and grants visitors the opportunity to explore this unique watershed because of the support received from the community.

For 29 years, Strawberry Hill has forged on against the pressure of residential development growth; two significant economic downturns; multiple school and state budget crises; and rising operational costs. The Preserve has managed to do so because many of those in the community have recognized the value of conserving high quality water resources, maintaining valuable wildlife habitat, and most importantly recognizing the value of providing educational opportunities for children.

The Preserve's supporters have grown to include over 350 individuals, families, and businesses from the surrounding community. Hundreds of people and individual businesses annually provide their valuable support though time, money, and resources to see the Preserve remain a community asset.

However, the desire alone of the local community to support the Preserve or any environmental initiative is not enough to keep the future of the Preserve from being in doubt. External economic, political, and population pressures can crush any non-profit, individual, or community efforts to preserve or protect a landscape.

To compensate for these pressures organizations such as Strawberry Hill need to build alliances with the community, similar organizations, and with larger broader public and private initiatives. Strawberry Hill is an active partner of the Watershed Alliance of Adams County, Gettysburg Visitor's Bureau, the Boy Scouts of America, the South Mountain Partnership, and the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators, Pennsylvania Park and Recreation Society, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and more.

One of Strawberry Hill's pivotal associations is with the South Mountain Partnership. The South Mountain Partnership is a region-



al, landscape-scale conservation project in south-central Pennsylvania. This Partnership has emerged to guide efforts within the South Mountain Conservation Landscape, one of seven Conservation Landscapes that the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has identified as a priority throughout the state.

The Partnership operates as a public-private partnership between DCNR and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and has grown into an alliance of citizens, businesses, non-profits, academic institutions, and local, state, and federal government agencies and officials collaborating to envision and secure a sustainable future for the South Mountain landscape. The Partnership strives to collaborate in sustaining all the com-

munity efforts in the region that support the quality of life that we enjoy, including our need for high quality water.

*On Friday, November 3, Strawberry Hill will be hosting an annual fundraiser to raise support to sustain operations, maintain the health of the watershed, protect the 609 acres of habitat for over 350 wildlife species, maintain the 10-miles of recreational trails, preserve eight unique cultural heritage sites, and provide educational opportunities for children.*

*The Party for the Preserve will be held at Hauser Winery from 6-9pm, on Friday, November 3. For more information regarding the event, how you can help protect your watershed, or support Strawberry Hill call 717-642-5940 or visit the Preserve's website: [www.StrawberryHill.org](http://www.StrawberryHill.org).*

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PETS

# The last kitten

Jennifer Vanderau  
Cumberland Valley  
Animal Shelter

We were tossed over a fence. My siblings and me.

It was so scary. One minute someone was holding us and the next we were in the air.

We didn't know what to do. We didn't know why the person didn't want us. We're young and we think we're pretty cute and now, we're just scared.

My big brother kind of took charge while the rest of us hid. We didn't know what else to do. The longer we were out there, the hungrier we got.

But, we trusted our brother. He could help us. We knew it.

He returned with a person. For a minute, I thought it was just someone else who wouldn't want us, but she had a real sweet voice and a super soft touch and a feeling kind of came over me that we were supposed to meet this person.

Turned out it was two people – a husband and a wife – and life with them was so very different from what we've known. They had this tack room in their barn and they gave us cardboard boxes that they turned into a cat condo for us.

It was amazing.

We had food, water, a place to sleep, and people that we knew from their voices and their kindness would help us.

Once we got settled, the man

and lady talked about adoption.

My big brother was the adventurous type. He obviously didn't worry about walking up to people – thankfully he had found the lady in her garden, that's how we got saved. So when someone came to look at us and maybe take one of us home, my big brother stepped right up.

It wasn't long before he went off to start his new life.

My siblings and I were a little nervous after that. Our big brother was always the one who took care of us and made sure we were okay. The man and lady were really awesome, but we were still kind of scared.

My sister was the only girl in our group, so I really wanted to watch out for her and my other brother was the littlest of us all. I had to make sure he got enough to eat and didn't get forgotten.

When someone else came to look at us, we could all tell she had a big, big heart. She loved runts and wanted a little girl.

It was tough to say goodbye to my siblings, but I knew from looking in that lady's eyes my little brother and sister would be loved forever.

That night, in the tack room, all by myself in the kitty condo, I couldn't help it. I cried. I was never really good in the dark and night time is always the scariest and my siblings used to keep me warm and now they had started their lives somewhere else and I

probably wouldn't see them again and it hurt.

The lady must have heard me crying. I felt a little bit bad for making her come out to the barn, but somehow, I knew she understood.

Then, the most amazing thing happened. She scooped me up, took me inside the house with her and we snuggled down on a soft, warm bed together.

It's funny. I know I might be too young to get the concept of meant to be – I mean, hey, I haven't had tons of time on this planet – but in that moment, I realized even though my siblings had been adopted, I actually wasn't alone.

Here was a human who actually cared. Not one who would dump me over a fence, walk away and never look back.

This nice lady and her husband would make sure I was okay, no matter what happened.

For the first time in my life, it felt like the tightness in my chest gave way to something warm and wonderful.

I know the man and woman would adopt me out to another family. I know that they would always be looking for a place for me, but I also know that I was supposed to meet them. They were supposed to help me on this journey – to where I don't know – but in that instant, on that pillow I realized how truly special these people are.

Special people who helped animals and didn't just discard them.

I started to purr. And the lady smiled. And I knew, even without my siblings, even without a place in the world, I had a spot in someone's heart in that moment.

And that was everything.

• • •

This is a tale told from the point of view of a kitten who was recently rescued by two amazing people. Great animal-lovers. Truly some



Yes, Sheldon is the real life kitten in this month's fictionalized pet story. He was named Sheldon because he has become quite a talker. Sheldon is now eight weeks old and more than ready for a forever home of his own. If you are looking for a very special kitten to call your own, please call 301-471-3306.

of the best I've ever had the fortune of meeting.

He's still looking for his place in the world, but because of them, he has a chance to find it.

Adoption is difficult. It's so incredibly easy to get attached to the souls for whom we fight.

As I type these words I have two older cats under my desk right now who I would love to take home, but I know I'm at my limit.

Sometimes we aren't meant to share our lives with four-legged friends. We're only meant to help them along on their journey.

It can be both amazing and bittersweet.

So as you have a free moment today, take time to think about the man and the woman who have

the strength to help many, many of our four-legged friends and that adorable little kitten still looking for his place in the world.

And know that your kind, positive thoughts will be become a part of this story and be a blessing to all involved.

Jennifer Vanderau is the Director of Communications for the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter and can be reached at [cvascomm@cvas-pets.org](mailto:cvascomm@cvas-pets.org).

The shelter accepts both monetary and pet supply donations. For more information, call the shelter at 263-5791 or visit the website [www.cvas-pets.org](http://www.cvas-pets.org).

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

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

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

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

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

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

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

-- Author Unknown

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# Corn cobs

Kimberly Brokaw DVM  
Walkersville Vet Clinic

Certain things such as bee stings and frostbite obviously have seasonal occurrences as far as when I see them at the clinic. One less obvious ailment that I see seasonally is dogs eating corn cobs. Most people are surprised to learn that unless the dog chews up the corn cob really well before eating it, they can cause intestinal obstructions that require surgery to remove.

This past week I saw and treated 3 dogs who ate corn cobs. While one required surgery, the

other two had chewed the corn cobs up into small enough pieces that it didn't get stuck in their intestines. None of the dogs had corn cobs given to them by their owner but rather had stolen them from various places. One got it out of the trash at the dog park, another jumped up and took it off the counter, and the third stole it out of the owner's kitchen trash can. Owners do the best they can to keep dogs away from poisonous substances, choking hazards, rotten food, and items like corn cobs that can obstruct the intestinal tract. Unfortunately, dogs can be clever when they want to do

something that can cause harm to themselves.

Charm is a 4 year old black lab cross that her owner adopted from a rescue. She is sweet, playful, very high energy and into everything. These characteristics can be endearing to labrador owners, but can also try their patience. Charm's owner takes her to the dog park both before and after work to allow her to run around so that hopefully she will be calm when in the house. She has taken Charm to multiple dog trainers, behaviorists, crystal therapists, and chakra re-aligners to try and help with Charm's exuberance. Charm's owner has found that taking Charm running at the dog park twice per day is the most effective technique for helping her behave like a good dog.

While at the dog park last week, the ever energetic Charm jumped into the trash can and ate a corn cob before her owner could take the corn cob away from her. Soon after, Charm started vomiting up bits of corn cob and she was taken the vet clinic by her concerned owner. Initially she was seen by one of the other vets at the practice. X-rays were taken and no obstructions were seen. However, Charms' owner was cautioned by my colleague, that corn cobs are difficult to see on x-ray and she should be monitored closely.

The next day Charm's owner was back at the clinic to see me. While Charm wasn't vomiting, and was just as energetic as ever, her owner believed the corn cob was obstructing Charm's intestines. She hadn't seen her poop and the owner said Charm was painful. As I started to examine Charm, her worried owner brought out a piece of crystal on a metal chain.

As I was pushing on Charm's abdomen, the owner asked Charm if that was where it hurt, while spinning the crystal. As I pushed on Charm, the owner interpreted the movement of the crystal and told me if that was the painful area. Charm was very active and wasn't displaying any of the obvious signs of pain that I was used to interpreting but the owner insisted that the crystal indicated that Charm was painful around her stomach and not the intestine.

Charm's owner even got into a conversation with Charm in



There are plenty of adorable photos online of dogs with corncobs in their mouths to celebrate fall. The dangerous reality is that the Internet is also full of x-rays of dogs' stomachs being blocked by corncobs.

which she asked if the dog was lying to her and explained to Charm that Charm had to tell the truth if she wanted the doctor to help her feel better. I suggested to the owner that we take x-rays to see if there was any corncob in the stomach even though I was more suspicious that it would be further back since the vomiting had stopped and the dog was acting constipated instead. The owner happily agreed to the x-rays.

As it turns out Charm wasn't being completely honest with the crystal spinning thing. On x-ray, her stomach was empty. There were no signs of a corncob being stuck in her intestine, but her colon was full of fecal matter. I told the owner to give Charm a lot of fluids and take her for a long walk.

I explained that I had a feeling that after she pooped, Charm would be happy and back to her usual self. About half an hour later the owner called back. She happily told me that Charm had pooped. She thanked me for my help and for being so patient with her.

At this point in my career, I have learned not to question some of the more unique practices of my clients as long as it doesn't interfere with my ability to help their pet. In this case, crystal therapy was fine. The owner was attentive to her dog, was willing to take the x-rays that I advised, and the dog received all the appropriate care.

To read past articles by Dr. Brokaw visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net.



REX AND ODDBALL

Rex came into the shelter as a stray with his littermate Oddball as a very small kitten. They grew up in a foster home until they were ready to be neutered. Rex and Oddball are your typical, playful 4-month-old kittens! If you are interested in adopting Rex or Oddball, or even the pair, please call the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter at 263-5791 or visit their website at [www.cvas-pets.org](http://www.cvas-pets.org).



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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Gardening in the fall

Mary Ann Ryan  
Adams County  
Master Gardener

Now that fall is upon us, it's time to think about planting again. Why plant in September and October? Warm soils in the fall will encourage root growth of plants and typical rainfall in our area reduces the amount of watering that gardeners need to apply - and - the weather is so much cooler to work in the garden. Because of better root development in the fall, when spring arrives, the plants have a much better start as compared to plants planted in the spring. Then when the hot dry weather of summer hit, the fall planted plant will be well established and therefore, can withstand the tough summer environment.

What can be planted in October? For starters: BULBS of course! When purchasing bulbs in garden centers and nurseries, be sure to look at the bulbs

carefully. Here are a few things to look for:

If you see anything in the box that looks like sawdust, re-think whether you want to purchase those bulbs. This sawdust-like substance can often be seen in tulips and is caused by an insect in the bulb. This is a sure sign that the quality of those bulbs is not what it should be.

Feel the bulbs for firmness. Often times when purchasing daffodils, they will be soft or have a feeling of being empty, especially if it is late in the season. If the bulbs are not firm, they will rot in the ground.

Look for a bulb that has little new growth. When planting the bulbs, it's a good thing if the bulb produces its roots first in the fall, and then pushes stem growth when it's supposed to, in the spring.

Be sure when planting the bulbs that you are planting them at the correct depth. This is important because the bulbs could freeze if not planted deep enough.

Most daffodils and tulips should be planted 6 inches in depth; and small bulbs, like crocus, should be 3 inches in depth.

What kind of bulbs should be planted?

When choosing, don't overlook some of the small bulbs. Often times the small bulbs will naturalize nicely and will give you an unexpected show.

If you're looking for bulbs to naturalize, consider daffodils and narcissus, as well as crocus, scilla, and snowdrops.

Remember to try to get the plantings in by the end of October. This allows some time for the bulbs to get their roots established before the winter freeze.

Chrysanthemums are a popular fall-blooming flower. Keep these tips in mind when purchasing "mums" for your garden:

Remember when choosing mums, pick the plants that are in bud, not fully open. You will be able to enjoy the flowers much longer if they bloom for you in your garden instead of at the nursery.

Keep in mind that if you want the chrysanthemum to be perennial, meaning that it will come back next year, you really need to get it in the ground before the end of October. The longer you wait to plant it, the less likely it will come back next year.

Enjoy your plant in a container until late October, and then get it in the ground. Remember to keep it watered in the container, because if it dies in the pot,



Plants which are planted in the fall have better root development when spring arrives. Fall plants have a better start compared to plants that are planted in the spring.

planting it in the ground will not bring it back to life.

Other popular fall flowers are winter pansies and flowering cabbage. Plant your winter pansies now. They like it cool, and if planted in the ground, they should over winter and be beautiful next spring. Don't expect your pansies to over winter in containers, though. Because of the freezing and thawing in our area, pansies will not make it through the winter in a container. The roots will rot.

Flowering cabbage is an annual plant, meaning it will last just one season. However, the flowering cabbage will flourish in the cool temperatures and often last through December. They make great fall and winter decorations. Plant them in containers or in the ground and enjoy the purple, white and pink colors they offer. Mix them with pansies, other cool season annuals, or even evergreen stems for pretty mixed containers.

Fall is also a great time to plant trees and shrubs. Try to get them in the ground by mid-November. This gives the plants time to get some of their roots established before the hard winter freeze.

Visit nurseries and garden centers and check out what is available. August is the perfect time to learn about plants with outstanding fall colors. Many trees, like sweetgum, sourwood, red maples and serviceberry offer wonderful color in the fall. Shrubs, like oakleaf hydrangea and fothergilla are also beautiful during the fall months. Many shrubs offer beautiful berries, like red chokeberry, inkberry holly and calli-carpa. Also look at perennials like Amber Waves heuchera and leadwort. This list is just a "tease" since there are so many good fall plants available.

When planting perennials in the fall, earlier is better. Don't wait till late October. Get them in the ground now. The plants will not have enough time to take root into the soil, and hence, they will heave out of the ground, because of our freezing and thawing periods that are typical during our winters. Shrubs and trees are not as likely to heave.

Container grown plants as well as balled and burlapped plants do well planted during the fall season. If planting a container

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# THE MASTER GARDENER

## Small Town Gardener

Call plant protective services

Maryann Willburn

Plants suffer at the hands of well-meaning gardeners every day, but no plant suffers greater than a plant which a gardener knows will accept harsh treatment and survive.

These are the plants determined to cling on to life long after most would have given up the fight and limped the long green mile to the compost pile. Show me a gardener who uses a tiny fork and sterile soil to transplant tiny poppy seedlings and I will show you one who leaves a five gallon pot of mixed houttuynia and liriopie in a creek bed for five weeks. That would be me.

Without realizing what we are doing, we gardeners learn the strengths and vulnerabilities of plants and let that information shape our prioritized to-do lists every day. Papaver somniferum has no desire to be transplanted – hence the kid gloves and a mouthed prayer. However, you'd have to pour hydrochloric acid on a stringy wad of liriopie to ensure total destruction. If a gardener is juggling chores – and sanity – which plant is she going to deal with first?

This summer a friend cleared out an ornamental bed and dropped off a large pot of Silver Dragon liriopie, variegated houttuynia, and Japanese fountain grass (*Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola').

I was busy, as most of us are, but had no desire to look a gift pot in the mouth, especially as I was already in the dog house for complaining about her dumping twelve pots of tradescantia at my doorstep in the spring. I took the pots, weighted them with rocks and threw them in the creek that runs the length of our property.

It wasn't intended to be an execution. Though I could certainly find room for all of the plants, I was mostly interested in the bright Silver Dragon and knew that a few days in an on-again-off-again wet environment wouldn't do any harm to any of the occupants.

My friend knew it too. The plants had been packed so tightly they looked like grass clippings, and she rolled her eyes at me when I ribbed her on her slap-dash approach. 'Can't kill 'em,' she said, "and now they're your problem."

But the summer threw many unexpected surprises our way, and before I knew it, weeks had elapsed. As I'd cross the bridge to feed the chickens in the morning, I'd look at the pot, see a bit of green making a run for it through the holes in the bottom and think "they're fine till next week."

Meanwhile my planting time was spent making sure a *Daphne x transatlantica* didn't have to feel the oppression of a plastic pot one minute after getting her home. I positively stroked a replacement *Gordonia lasianthus* as I planted it in soft, humusy soil and dug extra deep holes for the fern finds I had recently bought at a Charlotte farmers' market.

The refugee bucket wasn't the only thing getting the sharp end of the stick as I showed preferen-

tial treatment up and down the length of the garden. Not even a moment's attention was focused on the kerria, ivy, day-lily and numerous others I knew would be "just fine" sitting in their potted prisons near the garage, waiting for a flick of the hose every few days.

Eventually, shame trumped guilt. My friend came over, looked at the pot in the creek and smirked knowingly. The next day I struggled down to the water's edge, fished out the smelly, slippery pot and proceeded to separate fibrous roots from succulent ones. As I discarded bits of dead plants I felt no remorse. That is, right up to the point I came across shriveled peony rhizomes that my plant-geek friend had gifted me in a moment of clear-out madness – doubtless a good cultivar.

Never mind the lost vitality of its bedfellows – or the cruel roughness with which I eventually planted them – my Teflon conscience could only be pricked by the death of a fragile flower.

When I was an archaeology student at university, I used to be unreasonably annoyed at the way men constantly helped a fellow student in my year, carrying her equipment, taking over the hard digging and generally behaving like sycophants in the court of Elizabeth I; but it wasn't until years later I realized that, although my roots may have been as blonde as hers, I always made it clear I was capable, hardy, and able to shift dirt with the best of them.

Consequently she got the umbrella during the rainstorms, an offer to help her tidy up her trench afterward and the warm cup of delivered tea in the mess tent after a long day batting piston-driven eyelashes.

Forget familiarity. It's capability that breeds contempt. You only have to ask my liriopie.



Not all bulbs are created equal! When purchasing bulbs in garden centers and nurseries, be sure to look at them carefully.

grown plant, be sure you break up the root system before placing it in the hole. This will encourage the roots to grow into the existing soil. A balled and burlapped plant can be planted well into the late fall until the ground freezes. These plants move best when they are going dormant, because the roots are disturbed when digging. Just be sure to roll back the burlap from the top of the ball, and cut all string from the ball, especially around the trunk.

Whether planting a container or balled and burlapped plant, don't plant it too deep. The top of the soil ball should be level

with the existing grade. Water the plant well after planting.

This is an exciting time of year. There is so much color from leaves and berries that you can really appreciate living in this area, where there are four seasons, each treating us with beautiful color of different kinds. Enjoy your garden, whether old or new, and always continue to learn about nature's wonders!

Get outside, start digging again and enjoy gardening!

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

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## HEALTH NOTES

# Cancer care at FMH—Renee's story

**Kelsey Shupe**  
Frederick Memorial Hospital

According to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 232,670 new cases of invasive breast cancer were expected to be diagnosed in women in the United States, along with 62,570 new cases of non-invasive (in situ) breast cancer. Each individual that has been affected by breast cancer has a unique story to share—this is Renee's story.

At the beginning of 2014 Renee had a lot to look forward to. Newly married and beginning fertility treatments to grow her loving family, Renee didn't expect that her first year of marriage would be consumed by cancer.

In January of 2014, while putting on lotion, Renee felt a lump in her breast. Wasting no time, she immediately called her primary care doctor to make an appointment. "After seeing my primary care doctor on a Tues-

day, I was at the Crestwood Center for Breast Care the following day for additional screening."

Renee's screenings began with an Ultrasound and 3D Mammogram. A 3D mammogram is a revolutionary screening and diagnostic tool designed for early breast cancer detection. During a 3D mammogram the x-ray arm of the machine sweeps in a slight arch over the breast. This sweeping motion allows the machine to capture multiple images of the breast tissue in one-millimeter "slices," providing better visibility for radiologists to see the breast tissue like never before. This technology makes finer details more visible, as they are no longer hidden by the surrounding tissue. Both of Renee's screenings showed abnormalities. Two days later Renee underwent an ultrasound biopsy to further examine the lump that she initially felt. Once the biopsy results came back, Renee learned that she had breast cancer.

After receiving a cancer diagnosis, Renee met with her entire team of providers at the Crestwood Center for Breast Care to map out her treatment course. "I was very impressed with how they took care of everything and figured out the exact treatments needed."

To ensure that nothing was missed, Renee also underwent an MRI to examine her overall breast health; which is standard practice for anyone with a new breast cancer diagnosis. "My experience at Crestwood was great, I could tell that they were concerned and wanted to help."

Once the doctors had an overall picture of Renee's health and diagnosis, she underwent a Lumpectomy to remove the malignant tumor, and then began chemotherapy treatments. Following chemotherapy, Renee underwent 30 sessions of radiation treatment, over a span of six weeks, to remove any remaining cancerous cells. All of Renee's appoint-



**At The Center for Breast Care at FMH Crestwood, all the services for patients with breast cancer and benign breast disease are located in one convenient facility.**

ments were organized and scheduled by her nurse navigator at the Crestwood Center for Breast Care, "having a nurse navigator was phenomenal; she took a very overwhelming experience and made it easier."

Thankfully, Renee didn't have to travel this journey alone. She was able to make it through this experience with the support of her hus-

band, 8-year-old son, her extended family and friends, "I'm very fortunate to have a huge support system." She also found support in others who have been diagnosed with breast cancer, "My husband works at a fire department in DC, and a coworker's girlfriend was diagnosed with breast cancer at the same time. We even started our chemotherapy treatments together. It was nice to have someone to connect with, someone that can relate to and understand the treatment process."

Renee quickly learned that explaining a breast cancer diagnosis, as well as the treatment process, wasn't always easy, especially when it came to her 8-year-old son. "He didn't get what was going on. It was helpful to check books out of the Cancer Center Library. The books explain cancer, the different treatment options and what may happen, they even have books based on the child's age."

Renee received additional support from SOS (Survivors Offering Support) and The Red Devils. Since 2002, The Red Devils have invested in excess of \$1.8 million in services to help more than 4,000 breast cancer families cope with the economic and emotional strain of living with the disease. They have partnerships with 40 hospitals or other facilities throughout the State of Maryland. "They helped clean my house for four months, and for someone who is a little OCD, handling the cleaning really helped."

This past August, Renee received her last radiation treatment. "I'm feeling good... almost back to myself."

When asked what words of wisdom she might have for someone recently diagnosed with cancer, Renee had some helpful words of advice, "Don't worry about the what-ifs, take it day by day and stay positive, don't stress about something you can't change." Renee also learned an unexpected lesson from this experience, "I'll never complain about my hair again! I'm embracing the baldness and short hair, I get compliments now!"

To celebrate the end of her cancer treatment, as well as her one year wedding anniversary, Renee and her family plan to travel to the Dominican Republic this November. The very same place where she and her husband were married in November of 2013, before they knew what awaited them in the year to come.

"With all the new treatments and technologies, it's not a death sentence. You will live to see another day."

## The Center for Breast Care Earns Top Marks

If you or someone you love has been diagnosed with breast cancer, you will have many options to consider and decisions to make. But there is one thing you won't have to worry about—where to find the best possible treatment.

The highest quality breast cancer care is available right here in Frederick at The Center for Breast Care at FMH Crestwood. The Center for Breast Care has earned a three-year accreditation from a prestigious independent review board, the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC). This outstanding achievement certifies that The Center for Breast Care complies with all established treatment standards and is committed to offering patients every advantage in their battle against breast cancer.

Choosing care at an NAPBC-accredited facility like The Center for Breast Care means you will have access to comprehensive care, including a full range of services and information about ongoing clinical trials and new treatment options. And most importantly, you will receive the highest quality of care close to home.

For more information on The Center for Breast Care, visit [monocacyhealthpartners.org/breastcare](http://monocacyhealthpartners.org/breastcare) or call 301-418-6611.

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## It's Apple Harvest Festival time!

Dawn Bodenber

Recreate (think recreation), rejuvenate, and have lots of fall fun for the whole family at this year's 51st Annual National Apple Harvest Festival. Recently this festival has been featured in Country Living's Best Fall Festivals to Celebrate the Season, Best Fall Festivals to Experience at Delish.com, and Food Festivals Worth Traveling for this Fall by Yahoo.com.

Appealing variety can be found at this gala held daily sun up to sun down--8 a.m. to 6 p.m., rain or shine, the first two full weekends of October--3-4 and 10-11. The celebration--in the heart of apple country--is more than Adams County's delicious apples. It is about food, live entertainment, and saying goodbye to boredom and hello to fun! Enjoy the spectacular fall foliage that surrounds the South Mountain Fairgrounds near Arendtsville, Pennsylvania, 10 miles northwest of historic Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

With the holidays--Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa--just three months away, it is time to get shopping. Browse to your heart's content throughout the festival grounds where over 300 artisans and crafters will be displaying their handmade goods and wares.

One of 47 committees that work year round to bring the festival to fruition, Concessions Chairman Nancy Gilbert says, "Work up an appetite wandering along Red Delicious Drive, Apple Butterway, Adams Apple Avenue, and Candy Apple Lane. Hungry?

The Lions Clubs, Jaycees, Scouts, 4-H Clubs, Democrats, and Republicans alike invite visitors to indulge in foods that will delight your every whim.

"Eat an Adams County apple, a must-have candied apple, sample apple butter, applesauce, apple jellies, apple syrups, apple cider, and apple desserts. Remember those scents that tickled your nose when you first stepped onto the festival grounds? Follow that festive air and savor the pancakes at the Apple Pancake Patio, the chicken bar-be-que, a pit beef or scrapple sandwich.

"New 'foodies' this year are Joe's Bakery featuring sticky and cinnamon buns, Smokin' Joes BBQ with smoked ribs and turkey legs, Mad Dash Concessions - Artisan Grill Cheese, and hand-cut pickles by Brother Floyds Pickles.

"Returning this year to the festival this year are the Big Hill Cider--selling their hard cider--and Reid's Winery and their variety of wines and hard cider."

Hear the music in the air? A must do is to stop and listen to the free entertainment that Entertainment Chairman Barb Althoff has found regionally to play on the six stages: Bluegrass, Hollow Stage, Cortland Circle, Rockin' Apple Stage, Cider Barrel Stage, and Apple Auditorium.

Saturday, October 3, performers include Bluestone at the Bluegrass Hollow Stage. Their name derives from the blue in bluegrass music and the stone in the former Keystone band name. The southern York County band is firmly

grounded in traditional bluegrass which incorporates gospel, country, blues, swing, and folk influences. The Knotwork Men will perform at Cortland Circle playing music from Scotland, Ireland, England, Brittany, and America. At Rockin' Apple, the Cruisers who hail from Hagerstown, MD, will rock it out to classic and Southern Rock, the Fifties, and Country. To plan your family's day or days at the National Apple Harvest Festival, check out the Entertainment Schedule at [www.appleharvest.com](http://www.appleharvest.com).

The entertainment and sights do not stop there. Find lots of fun at Kid Country. Get lost in Ye Ole Hay Stack, watch Harvest Magic by Tim Kottcamp who has been thrilling audiences for the last 20 years. He provides a magical journey with shows that are visually exciting, featuring: sleight-of-hand, small-animal production, and comedy. Then take time to try old-fashioned games and join in the hilarity at the pie-eating contest.

Take an orchard tour or learn about the Underground Railroad. At the Demonstration Area, stop and watch the potter turn his wheel and the Appalachian Art Chainsaw Carver work his magic while carving a bear, an eagle, or an apple. Watch Native American Dancers and listen to Van Wagner's humor and songs at his Tall Timber Lumber Heritage Program at the Exhibition Area.

Adding to the merriment for the whole family will be strollers Tom Jolin, the Past Time



No matter where you go in the US, you are hard pressed to find better apples than those grown here in Adams County. Find out why at this year's Apple Harvest Festival!

Harmonaires Barbershop Quartet, Topper the Clown, and Apple Harvest Characters including Johnny Appleseed, Mr. Apple, Miss Honeybee, and new last year, Miss Apple Worm.

When visiting the antique autos, vote for a favorite. At Gas Engine Boulevard, stop by the gas hit 'n miss engines and stroll by antique engines and farm equipment at Putt-Putt Alley.

If standing in line to buy tickets is not your thing, this year you can buy your tickets online at [www.appleharvest.com](http://www.appleharvest.com). General admission is \$10, \$9 for Senior Citizens 60 and older, and free for children

under 12. New this year, the Jaycees are honoring our Military and Veterans with a discounted ticket of \$9 with proper ID. Parking and shuttle services are included. Please keep Lassie at home as pets are not allowed on festival grounds.

For information, visit [www.appleharvest.com](http://www.appleharvest.com) or call 717-677-9413 or 717-334-6274. The Upper Adams Jaycees, Biglerville, sponsor this old-fashioned, fun-filled, family event. Festival proceeds support projects of the Jaycees including their 92-acre Oakside Community Park, located one mile east of Biglerville on Route 394.

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**L-R: Brian Sinnett for District Attorney, Karen Heflin for Register & Recorder, Shawn Wagner for Adams County Judge, Randy Phiel for Commissioner, Mike George for Judge of PA Supreme Court, Jim Martin for Commissioner, Christy Simpson for Adams County Judge, Beverly Boyd for Prothonotary, and Steve Renner for Controller. Not Pictured Pat Felix for Coroner.**

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# WWI NEWS REPORTS FROM THE FRONT

## October 1915 – Bulgaria enters the war

### October 1

A general Balkan war is expected to breakout hourly, as Bulgarians troops are already massed on the Serbian frontier. Greece is expected, to come to Serbia's rescue and Romania will fall in line with Greece and Serbia, if war is declared.

According to the Bulgarian government it has not the slightest aggressive intention, but is firmly resolved to be fully armed to defend her rights and independence. Bulgaria says, in view of the movements of troops affected by her neighbors and the dangers threatening her from the Austrian and German offensive against Serbia, to proclaim an armed neutrality, while continuing conversations with the representatives of the two belligerent governments, is only natural.

Public opinion in Greece is strongly against a literal interpretation of the Serbian Greek compact that obliges Greece to support Serbia in case of attack by another Balkan state. Members of the Greek government have insisted that Greece was released from this arrangement by the actions of Serbia that led to the start of the world war.

Great relief has been caused around Greece following the mobilization of the Army. The people apparently are glad to exchange the uncertainty of politics for the possibility of war. In unofficial circles in Athens it is believed that a struggle between Greece and Bulgaria cannot be avoided eventually.

Romania partially mobilized two months ago at the time the Austrian and German ultimatum was delivered demanding the transit of munitions to Turkey through the kingdom. There is good grounds for belief that Romania, through her allegiance with Italy, is bound to the common cause against Austria, and that only the proximity of the Balkan name has kept her out of the war. While no official news on the attitude of Romania is known, a decision will probably be announced at the first warlike move by Bulgaria towards Serbia.

Meanwhile on the Western Front,

the French are bearing the brunt of the fighting now in progress. It is believed here that besides the gain of ground and the improved position of the Allies generally, the recent successful operations must soon relieve the pressure on Russia and perhaps prevent the Austrian and German's from sending any large force against Serbia.

### October 8

The German invasion of Serbia is now in full swing. German and Austrian forces are seeking to push their way southward in an attempt to seize the railway stretching from Belgrade to Constantinople.

It now seems certain that Bulgaria will align herself with the Central Powers. The matter doubtlessly will be brought to a head by the landing of Allied troops in Greece. This landing is regarded here as placing Greece on the side of the Allied powers, as she is considered as having virtually acquiesced to this counter move against Bulgaria.

The only means for prevention of a Balkan war, in the opinion of high authorities in Bulgaria, seems to be the immediate cession by Serbia to Bulgaria of the Serbian province of Macedonia.

Bulgaria, it is generally believed, is only awaiting an opportune moment to throw the weight of her army against the Allies. Austrian and German officers have arrived in Bulgaria, just as they did before Turkey through in her lot with a Germans, is taken to mean that Bulgaria, too, has definitely decided to join them.

Such a move by Bulgaria would result in the Allies being called upon to keep their promise to support, with all the means in their power, those Balkan states which remain friendly to them.

The Greek government however has decided to issue a declaration of benevolent neutrality towards the all belligerent states at war.

According to Greek news reports, after agreeing to the mobilization of his army as precaution, the king asked his Prime Minister what was the objective

of the concentration of the Greek Army on the Macedonian frontier. The Premier answered that the object was two-fold - first to defend the country and second to go to the aid of Serbia in case she was attacked by Bulgaria. The King then remarked that while he agreed so far as defending the country was concerned, he did not see why Greece was called upon to help Serbia. The Prime Minister recalled the obligations imposed upon Greece by her treaty of alliance, but the King retorted that when Greece asked for Serbia's aid against Turkey in May 1914 it was refused.

To further arguments on the part of the Prime Minister the king replied that the Prime Minister was contradicting himself, for when the Allied Powers asked Greece to assist Serbia at the time of the Austrian attack in 1914, the Prime Minister made a promise of such assistance conditional upon the armed cooperation of Romania and the benevolent neutrality Bulgaria. These conditions however have not been met, the King pointed out.

Shortly after the meeting with the King, the Greek Prime Minister resigned. The resignation was precipitated by the landing for French troops on its soil, which the Prime Minister had allowed, but the Greek King called a breach of Greek neutrality, in spite of the fact that these troops are destined solely to aid Serbia.

There are no misgivings in England however that Greece will cooperate in any way with Bulgaria. The Greek cabinet crisis has not impeded the landing of Allied troops in Greece, and the fact that these forces are on Greek soil is considered the best guarantee that Greece ultimately must align herself with the Allied powers.

On the Western Front torrential rains and cold, and biting winds Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, were unfortunate for both sides, but especially for the attackers, because they prevented reconnaissance, made all aircraft attacks difficult, depressed the men and interfered with artillery observation work, while the spongy earth lessened the effects of the shellfire.

Another heavy casualty list made public here indicates the price that has been paid for by the recent British victory on the Western Front. The Germans say that French losses in killed, wounded and prisoners in the recent fighting were at least 130,000 in those of the British 60,000 while the German losses were not one fifth of that number.

On the Eastern Front, Russia has been relieved to some extent by the withdrawal of German troops to meet the offensive in the West and to supply a contingent for the attacks in Serbia.

### October 15

Bulgaria has declared war on Serbia. The Balkans, therefore, have taken their place with the Russians and the Western Front as a center on which the interest of the world shall rest for some time to come. The Austrian and Germans, after their capture of Belgrade, are advancing southward, while the Bulgarians sent forces to endeavor to interrupt



Russia applied pressure on Bulgaria not to abandon its "Slavic" brothers, but rather to join them in their battle against the Teutonic allies Germany and Austria.

communications North and South of Nish, the wartime capital of Serbia, and attack the Serbs on the flanks if they are driven back by the Germans.

The situation is admitted to be a very serious one, not only for Serbia, but for the whole Allied cause. It is asserted that the Serbs are inflicting very heavy losses on the Austrians and Bulgarians, but with her army of about 250,000 men they are believed of little chance of making any prolonged resistance against three or 400,000 German and Austrian and probably 200,000 Bulgarian troops. Serbia is arranging for the transfer of the capital to Monastir, in the extreme southwestern corner of the kingdom.

Belgrade, the old capital of Serbia is in possession of an enemy army for the second time since the outbreak of the war, while other Austrian and German troops have crossed the Danube River and are attempting to make a great drive into the heart of Serbian territory.

The capture of Belgrade had been expected, as it was not thought that the Serbs would make any serious attempt to save the city. It is situated on a point of Serbian soil at the junction of the Save and Danube Rivers, jetting towards Austria, and could consequently be attacked from three sides - operations which the Austrian and German saw little difficulty successfully carrying out.

The real test of strength will come when the invaders reach the main Serbian positions in the mountains, where the Austrians were so severely defeated in December last.

The Serbs plan depends considerably upon the amount of assistance they will receive from Allied troops, but it is not believed that they will make any attempt to make a decided stand north of the mountain which already have proved to be a line offering superb facilities for defense.

Nothing can be gained, according to the Times military correspondent, by trying to minimize the fact that the Austrian and Germans have achieved a signal initial success in the Balkan campaign. Unless from 300,000 to 400,000 Allied troops are sent to the aid of Serbia, and are sent in time, the chances of a successful Serbian resis-

tance are not great.

The possible transfer of Allied forces from the Gallipoli Peninsula to meet the Central Power advance into Serbia, is admitted by the Globe, which says that the government is divided on the subject. The Globe considers it vital that the German plan to link up the Central Powers with Turkey be frustrated, and that to this end all other considerations must momentarily be subordinated.

The coming of Allied troops to the Serbian front may prove the turning point of the war. England and France realized the paramount importance of Serbian territory for both belligerent parties. Solely through Serbia is Russia connected with the West and only through Serbia can Germany reach Turkey to make an unbroken front from Baghdad to Ostend. Only after crushing Serbia can Germany invade Egypt or India, and by accomplishing this task she can draw fresh troops from Turkey. Bulgarian and Serbian soil provides rich granaries which are necessary to Germany. Serbian copper mines can supply urgently needed metal.

Austrian and Germany are urging Albanians to fight against Serbia to free Macedonia which is inhabited equally by Albanians and Bulgarians. It is announced that Prince William, former ruler of Albania, who has been on the Serbian front with German troops, has returned to Albania.

The Greek Minister at Paris today reiterated that Greece's neutrality would continue to be one of benevolence towards the Allied powers, but it will not intervene in the war on behalf of Serbia at present.

The Romanian government has given the Italian government to understand they will cooperation on the side of the Allies, however, the Romanian government will choose his own time for taking the field against the Austrians and Germans.

Russians started a formidable offensive in Galicia coincident with the opening of the Central Powers campaign against Serbia. The attack may have been undertaken with a view to the political effects on the Balkan situation where the continued neutrality of several states is believed to

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# WWI NEWS REPORTS FROM THE FRONT

GREECE AND BULGARIA READY FOR WAR. AND THEIR LEADERS



Throughout October, the world waited with baited breath to see what side Bulgaria and Greece would join in the war. The final decision would come down to their Kings, Ferdinand for Bulgaria and Constantine for Greece.

be due largely to this severe reverses suffered by the Russians during the summer campaign.

## October 22

Reciprocal war declarations between Bulgaria and Great Britain and Serbia, have marked another phase in the Balkan situation. Russia regarded herself in a state of war with Bulgaria from the moment the latter country attacked Serbia, and Italy has declared war against Bulgaria.

Berlin insists that the Allies will arrive too late to be at of any value to the Serbs. In four weeks not more than 150,000 troops can be transported over the single line railroad from Saloniki in Greece to Nish. The 250-mile stretch between Saloniki and Nish is believed in Berlin to be too much for the entire expeditionary force to cover before the invaders

can arrive at Nish. As the distance between the Austrian and German's and the Bulgarians is only 150 miles, the military critics point out that it would be difficult to prevent a union of the invaders.

Serbia's military position is critical. Her armies are threatened with being crushed as no army has been crushed during the war. According to the Germans, the German and Austrian operations are proceeding successfully along the whole front. The Germans by an enveloping movement compelled the Serbians to evacuate Pobarebac almost without a struggle. After the evacuations the Serbians retire to the heights in the Southwest, which were strongly fortified. On the following days heavy fighting occurred there. The country offered great difficulties there being few roads.

The Serbians made a stout resistance on the whole line, but suffered great losses under the bombardment of Ger-

man heavy artillery. Especially on the mountain of Vranovo, but finally, after long resistance, the Serbians yielded their strong positions.

The spirit of the Serbians to resist their attackers was demonstrated by the fact that they did not abandon the plateau behind the mountain after the Germans had one important heights, but continued holding the ground, fighting under generally unfavorable tactical conditions, until they were slowly press back. News correspondents were unanimous in emphasizing the bravery and persistence of the Serbians who, they say, can often hold positions until hand-to-hand encounters become necessary to force their abandonment. In some places the civilian population, even women and children, are participating in the fighting.

It is reported that the central powers have decided to undertake still another campaign, this time against Montenegro. According to this report 20,000 Austrian and German infantryman, with artillery, have arrived in Sarajevo, in Bosnia, about 60 miles north of the Montenegrin border.

The Romanian cabinet, after again going over the war situation, made a pronouncement in favor of Romanian neutrality. All necessary precautions have been taken on Romania's frontiers. Russia meanwhile has asked for permission to march troops through Romania to Serbia's assistance.

Greece's decision not to join forces with Serbia, at present, although causing profound disappointment in England, and being regarded by many London commentators as violating its obligations to Serbia. To move Greece away from its stand on neutrality, Great Britain has made a formal offer of the island of Cyprus to Greece as soon as Greece undertakes to intervene in the war on the side of the Allies.

Thus far, Greece has not replied to the offer of Cyprus. It is believed the offer will create an excellent impression in Greece since it is an actual concession and not a mere promise, which Germany might suggest but would never be carried out. The offer differs from the German offers degrees, insomuch as it is not contingent upon the final triumph of the Allies, but would take effect as soon as Greece reformed her part in the suggestion agreement.

Great Britain's reported offer to cede the island of Cyprus to Greece to induce Greece to join the Allies is opposed by the London Post, which editorially characterizes the offer as bad diplomacy. Other British newspapers also have lifted their voices against such action, such offered the term nothing more than a bribe. According to the Post: "The only thing that distinguishes our bribe from German bribes is that Germany offers other people's territory and we offer our own."

## October 29

The first phase of the Austrian, German, and Bulgarian campaign in Serbia is complete. Not only have the invaders of Serbia realize the important objective of joining forces in the northeastern corner of the country, but they have enhanced this military advantage by pro-

curing free passage down the Danube.

A flotilla of steamers is said to be already waiting to transport war material and with it, Bulgaria's ammunition shortage should soon be relieved and its general sense of power greatly strengthened.

The status of political affairs in the Balkans is almost equal in interest to the military situation. The belief is growing here that neither Greece nor Romania is likely to enter the war, at least, until the Allies gain some decisive successes. Greece apparently regards this as more important than the offer of the island of Cyprus, and Athens believes that the Allied troops have come too late into the Balkan field.

Since the Bulgarian army is driving a wedge into the heart of Serbia and the Serbian railway system in the north and central districts, as well as the principal rail lines have been cut, it may be said without exaggeration that there is no longer any possibility of successful intervention on behalf of Serbia.

Now that Communication between the Austrian and German and Bulgarian army's has been accomplished, transfer of munitions to Constantinople is expected to begin within a few days. The military experts expect that the German Emperor will spend Christmas in Constantinople at the head of his victorious troops.

The Greek government has informed the Allied powers that it does not see its way clear at present to accept the proposals, including the cession of

Cyprus, offered in return for Greek military cooperation with Serbia.

In its statement, the Greek government said that the Austrian and German attack on Serbia, releases Greece from the obligation of armed intervention, and that independent of that, it is materially impossible for Serbia to give Greece support of 150,000 men stipulated in the treaty in case of war with Bulgaria, and that the Allied powers have not furnished an equivalent number of troops for the defense of Greece.

The note expresses the gratitude of Greece for the offers made and thanks England for the offer of the Cyprus. It recalls the Greek sympathies for the Allies and the benevolence of the neutrality maintain thus far.

Meanwhile on the Eastern Front, for almost the first time since the great Austrian and German offensive movement began last May, Russian military officers now describe the situation along the whole 670-mile front as satisfactory to them. The Russian authorities attribute their success to withdrawal of German troops for the Serbian campaign than to the vigor of the Russian attacks.

On the Western Front King George of England, while visiting his troops in the field, his horse, excited by the cheers of his troops, rear it up and fell. Thinking was Bruce severely it will be confined to bed for the present.

To read past editions of WWI News Reports From the Front visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net.

THE SERBIAN BATTLEFIELD.



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## HISTORY

# Rediscovering Colonial America

The Braddock Expedition – 1755,  
Part Two

John Miller  
Emmitsburg Historical Society

On June 28, Braddock's army was located at Stewart's Crossing on the Youghiogheny River. The British would actually cross this river a couple of times as they marched west and north to Fort Duquesne, where they would encamp for a day. During the day, rain fell across the region, adding to the misery in the wilderness. The next morning, on June 30, Braddock forded the river, which was about 200 yards wide. Crossing the river was not an easy task, and often the British were out in the open, in full view. The advance guard was ordered over first to secure the opposite side of the river. Once secured, the artillery and wagon trains were next to cross, followed by the rest of the army. Camp was established to give time for the road workers to open the new road.

By July 2, Braddock was well into hostile territory. As the men marched, they noticed that coal was in abundance, lying on top of the ground. The area was also a swamp, and because of that the army encamped at Jacob's Creek to allow bridges to be constructed for the army vehicles. The men also faced a new challenge. Rations were running low and had to be cut back until fresh supplies were brought up from the rear. Rations then consisted of bacon and flour. Colonel Thomas Dunbar was several days behind Braddock's flying column due to the conditions of the roads and trying to move the heavier

artillery and wagon loads of supplies.

On July 7, trying to avoid the Turtle Creek Narrows, Braddock's column turned north. This detour would cause him to lose a day. After encamping at Turtle Creek, Braddock marched all day and well into the evening, coming to a halt at Sugar Creek at 8:00 p.m. As the British marched throughout the day, the French and their Indian allies at Fort Duquesne were rallying to attack. French Captain Louis L. Beaujeu rallied alongside his Native allies. Hundreds of Natives encamped just outside of the fort and planned to move out the next day, searching out Braddock's army.

At 2:00 a.m. on July 9, Braddock's army began forming up for the final push to Fort Duquesne. Major General Braddock's plan was to hurry out and began laying siege on the French fort. Twenty-four rounds of fresh ammunition as well as two days rations were issued out to the 1,400 men in the flying column. The advance guard, under Captain Thomas Gage, was first to move out at 2:00 a.m. Following behind, two hours later, was the work detail under St. Clair. The main body under Braddock moved out at 5:00 a.m., with the rear guard moving out shortly thereafter.

The first of two Monongahela River crossings came into view. The advance guard and two 6-pound cannons forded the river, which was about knee deep and 200 yards wide. Once across the steep banks, the advance guard secured the river crossing. The work details soon came to the road, but for Braddock, the workers cutting in the road were

moving too slow.

By 8:00 a.m., Braddock had reached the first river crossing. There, he reformed his units and moved forward. About four hours later, Braddock's men had come to the second river crossing. Major General Braddock suspected that the enemy was watching his every move, as the river crossing was in a very exposed place. With the king's colors and music playing "The Grenadiers March," the men began to ford the Monongahela River in tight formation with bayonets gleaming. Never before had America witnessed such display of military might.

At 8:00 a.m., 254 French soldiers and Canadian militia and roughly 600-700 Indians under the command of Captain Jean-Daniel Beaujeu left Fort Duquesne. They moved out following the path that led to the Monongahela River crossing. Around 1:00 p.m., as the British were moving forward, the French, French Canadians, and their Indian allies were caught off guard seeing Braddock's men so close. Captain Beaujeu quickly organized a frontal attack and sent the Indians to ambush the British flanks.

Major General Braddock's army was about 1/8 of a mile wide with flankers and about one mile in length strung out. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Gage and his advance guard were ahead of Braddock's flying column, and received word from a guide that the French were approaching. With very little time, Gage began preparing for the pending battle. Gage quickly ordered bayonets to be fixed, and the British battle line moved forward.



General Braddock (on horse) was a British officer and commander-in-chief for the 13 colonies during the actions at the start of the French and Indian War (1754-1765).

The French Marines fired a volley at Gage's men, which was quickly answered by the British. After a short exchange, the French Marines and Canadian militia began to fall back as Gage's men tried taking a hill on their right flank. As Captain Beaujeu was rallying his men and reorganizing his command, the

British fired a third volley, killing Captain Beaujeu.

French command fell upon Captain Dumas, who rallied his men just as the Indians were beginning their attack, hitting the British flanks. The French battle formation was now taking on the shape of a half moon. Once the British flanks came under fire, the advance guard's battle line became compromised, and they fell back, causing a great deal of confusion. The Indians had taken positions behind fallen trees on the British right flank, and kept up a severe fire hitting their left flank.

Hearing the sounds of the battle ahead, St. Clair quickly ordered his two 6-pounders to be readied, and for the workers to form ranks. The artillery threw grape shot though the woods, tearing up the landscape in its front. The cannons provided aid to Gage's men during the second attack, but were exposed once the advance guard fell back onto St. Clair's line, causing more confusion. At the same time, a half mile away, Braddock also heard the sounds of what might be a battle unfolding and thought perhaps that this was another false alarm. During the confusion, St. Clair was struck in the right lung and began riding back to find Braddock, where he collapsed.

Standing next to his artillery with his aides, the Royal Naval Detachment, and Virginia horsemen, Braddock was quickly met by members of his staff including George Washington. With the battle going into its fifteen to twenty minute mark, Braddock rode forward, along with several mounted Virginian horsemen to see what was in his front. Arriving on scene, Braddock saw men

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## HISTORY / OBITUARIES



General Braddock is best remembered for his disastrous expedition against the French in western Pennsylvania in 1755, in which he lost his life.

falling all over the place. Many were in a panic stricken state of mind. Several British soldiers were wounded or killed by friendly fire.

Braddock ordered the wagons and artillery to be secured, and at the same time, he ordered the 500 men marching on both sides of the wagons to quickly move forward. This left Colonel Halkett with 250 men to guard the wagons. The Indians moved to the rear of Braddock's column, where the wagons were located, and began attacking them. At the same time they continued putting pressure on the flanks of the British. The half moon battle tactic never took on a full circle, which was most likely the only thing that saved the British from being completely destroyed. During this portion of the fight, Colonel Halkett was killed and his son, Lieutenant James Halkett fell wounded upon his father's chest.

While Braddock was commanding the field, many of the Colonial militia began taking positions

in the same manner as the Indians. At one point, Colonel George Washington suggested to Braddock that he order men to take cover behind the trees, but Braddock cursed the idea as being cowardly. As Braddock rode back and forth, the scene became worse. Many of the British troops, who were earlier issued twenty-four rounds of ammunition, were running low and began emptying the cartridge boxes of the dead and wounded.

Many men were still trying to take to higher ground on their right, but were not able to, as the firing came from their front, flanks, and rear. Eventually Lt. Col. Gage fell wounded upon the battlefield. This caused more troops to panic and fall back onto more oncoming British troops. During the confusion, Braddock had four horses shot out until a bullet hit his arm and entered into his lung.

Not long after Braddock was wounded, the British and Colonial troops broke. The trouble be-

gan with the wagoneers, and soon after the army was in flight. By 5:00 p.m., most the shattered remains of Braddock's flying column were hastily headed to the Monongahela River crossing. Lieutenant Robert Orme, along with Washington, and Captain Robert Stewart carried the wounded Braddock to safety. As the British retreated, the Indians and French followed suit. By the time that the British made it to the other side of the river, the Indians and French began looting what the British had left behind in the wagons.

Out of less than 1,500 British soldiers and Colonials at the battle, 456 were killed, 421 were wounded, and many more were captured. Other resources state that the British casualties were much higher. The French suffered far less with about 30 killed, and 57 wounded. The shattered British army retreated to Colonel Dunbar's camp, west of Great Meadows, arriving there on July 11. There, most of the supplies were destroyed to lessen the baggage so that the

army could fall back to Fort Cumberland for a faster retreat.

During the evening on July 13, near Great Meadows, Braddock had called upon Colonel George Washington and asked him to oversee his burial. Shortly afterward, Braddock died. The next morning, Braddock

was placed into a hasty coffin and buried in the middle of the road. The British continued their march, arriving at Fort Cumberland on July 17.

*To learn more about our rich local colonial history visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net.*

## Ken Gilland

Ken Gilland, 75, of Blue Ridge Summit, passed away Sunday May 17. Born January 20, 1940 in Waynesboro, he was the son of the late Henry and Alice (Shockey) Gilland.

Ken was owner and operator of Gilland Memorial Works in Blue Ridge Summit for over 45 years. He loved his job and always said "If we weren't friends when we met, we were before we were done".

He loved to collect watches, play golf, travel and spending time with his five great-granddaughters. Ken's love for children and animals were beyond approach. No child or animal ever went without, as long as he was around. He could never say no to a child selling anything.

Ken was a member of Masonic Lodge Acacia Lodge 586 Waynesboro, Elks Lodge 731 Waynesboro, Moose Lodge 1191 Waynesboro, F.O.E. Club 1758 Waynesboro, life member Wm Max McLaughlin 695 Waynesboro, Eagles Club Inc Waynesboro, Waynesboro Country Club, Masons Scottish Rite, South Penn Scottish Rite, Tall Ce-

dars of Lebanon Forrest 95, Cascade American Legion Post 239, Shriners of North America, Waynesboro American Legion Post 15, Franklin County Fire Police Association, PA Fire Police and Chief's Association, 29th Division Lantern Post 729, life member Fairfield AM-VETS Post 172, life member Blue Ridge Sportsman's Association, Franklin County Shrine Club, life member Blue Ridge Fire Department and Ambulance Club, Antietam Humane Society and Humane Society of United States.

Ken is survived by his wife of 58 years, Miriam L. (Plank) Gilland, whom he married January 20, 1957. Since their marriage, they have lived at their present address on Wyndham Ave. He is also survived by his son Roger Gilland, and daughter Lois Gilland Lynn. Ken was buried in Bethel Cemetery, Cascade. Memorial donations may be made in memory of Ken to Gift of Life Donor Program at 401 N. 3rd St. Philadelphia, PA, 19123 or Antietam Humane Society, 8513 Lyons Road, Waynesboro, Pa 17268.

## Susan Martin Allen

Susan Elaine Martin Allen, died Saturday, Sept. 5. Born Dec. 19, 1946 in Gettysburg. She was a daughter of the late George J. and Anna Margaret Saylor Martin of Emmitsburg.

She graduated from Emmitsburg High School in 1964 and from Western Maryland College in 1968. She pursued graduate studies in American history at the University of Maryland College Park and later worked at the National Archives in Washington D.C.

Upon returning to Frederick County after many years living across the United States and overseas in Asia, she began working as a substitute teacher with Frederick County Public Schools. She worked at schools in the northern part of Frederick County, teaching students in Emmitsburg, Thurmont, Sabillasville, Lewistown, Woodsboro, New Midway and Walkersville for over 15 years.

She loved to sing, and shared the gift of her voice in church choirs and communi-

ty choruses. She also performed in an a cappella quartet with her sister and brothers, singing hymns and patriotic songs at family and community events.

She was a member of Incarnation United Church of Christ where she sang in the choir and taught Sunday school for many years. She was a board member and active volunteer with the Emmitsburg Community Food Bank. She was a board member of the Friends of the Emmitsburg Library. She was a member of the Emmitsburg High School Alumni Association and the Emmitsburg Council of Churches where she served as secretary at the time of her passing. She led the music at the Council's Vacation Bible School every summer for many years.

She is survived by her husband of 43 years, Jay and two children, Rebecca and David.

She made friends everywhere she went and will be remembered by countless friends and loved ones in Frederick County and around the world.

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## MOM'S TIME OUT

## School days

Mary Angel

This month my article is a tribute. It is a tribute to all of the pregnant ladies I know (more at one time than ever before). I have asked friends and family to tell me the best "mom" advice they could think of to give to a new mom. I have gotten phone calls, texts, and even some responses in person. They have shared their own advice or advice that was given to them. Some even shared old wives tales, humorous advice, and downright crazy suggestions. For all the pregnant ladies out there hopefully this gives you some new ideas and at the bare minimum a good chuckle.

Let's start with some basic sound advice. A lot of the ladies said it is imperative to ask for help in the first month or so. Whether the help be

from a new grandparent, a friend, an older child, or the new dad who is in this with you, just ask! Hand in hand with this advice is to always accept the offer of help. There is always something someone can do to help a new mom. The list is truly endless i.e., laundry, dishes, cleaning, making meals, running errands, or even just watching the baby so you can get a nap. Along the same line as that last idea would also be that you should try to nap as much as possible when the baby naps. At the beginning you will be tired...SO REST! The chores of the house will still be there after you wake up. Although it was not one of the responses I received for this article it did give me quite a laugh, "My house will be clean when the kids grow up and move out." I am not saying should wait

to clean your house till the kids move out, but it is ok to let things slide when you are exhausted. This also goes for when they are older. Don't miss time with your kids at any age because the dishes are calling you. It is also ok to ask for help with this task if it is going to completely drive you mad. Lastly for this section was one of my favorites. Maybe it is because my parents were too poor to own a camera and there aren't many pictures of my family when I was young, but another shutterbug like me suggested taking lots of pictures. No matter how old my kids get I still love looking at pictures of them through the years. A little caveat to this is, don't stay behind the camera and miss being in the moment yourself.

The second category of advice I got was more about raising and caring for the baby. The number one suggestion in this section is to trust your instincts. If you feel something isn't right then call the pediatrician. What is the worst that can happen if you make that call, he says everything is fine? Your pediatrician is there to help you, never forget that. Several ladies also pointed out that many times your friends with kids have been through the same things you are going through now. Use your friends as a life line, as they used to say in an old television game show. Don't google (or research) every little thing. Let me just save you the time, no matter what you look up (even information about a hangnail) something horrible and life threatening will pop up. The internet and books are full of tons of extremely helpful information, however many times you have to wade through crazy-



Nothing says school has started like the arrival of the first school bus of the school year.

ness, scariness, and ridiculousness to find it. Many rules change over the years; make sure you are current on what is best for your baby. This is so true, it seemed like the rule about back sleeping and belly sleeping changed so often that my babies were on a rotisserie. The bottom line is that things change as knowledge grows. Try to keep up to date by talking to your pediatrician and even checking out the posters in their office. I know the car seat laws in my state changed while my kids were young and I could always count on there being a new poster with pertinent information in the waiting room of the pediatrician. This leads me to my final point in this section; find a pediatrician before you have the baby. Interview them, ask friends for suggestions, and ultimately make the decision by going with who you are comfortable with. The more comfortable you are with your pediatrician the more likely you are to ask questions!

Here is the humorous section I promised you, that old wives tales regarding child rearing. I remember the day when I asked my pediatrician if riding with the windows down in the car would give a baby

gas. When he was finished laughing he informed me no it would not. You don't want a lot of cold air blowing on the baby but the windows down were not what was causing my sons colic. As for the cat stealing a baby's breath is also completely unfounded (it actually came from the days of cats being associated with witchcraft). You do however want to supervise pets around your infant and never let them in the crib. If you cut your baby's hair before their first birthday they will have bad hair... really, NO! If you tickle a baby's feet he will develop a stutter. This too is not true! Although letting a puppy lick your baby's face after they eat will not prevent illness it will make for a hysterical picture.

There are so many tidbits of good and bad and funny advice for the new mom; So much in fact that it can be overwhelming. So I am going back to what I originally said, trust your own instincts, ask friends and family and use that resource known as your pediatrician. Above all, enjoy this wonderful time with your baby, it goes way too fast!

To read past editions of Mom's Time Out visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net.

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# Simple servings

Sharon Racines

Risotto is one of those truly Italian words that embodies its culture and rolls easily off the tongue, rounded and smooth like the plump grains of rice it describes. The name literally means “little rice,” and is one of the most commonly cooked meals in Italy. Thanks to Italy’s northern regions, particularly Lombardy, Piemonte and the Veneto, which boast an abundance of rice paddies, Italy is the largest producer of rice in Europe. Risotto is a versatile dish, and a great option for serving whatever is in season, including seafood, mushrooms (as you’ll see further on), and different types of meats. It is commonly served as a first course more often than pasta, which serves as a tribute to its significance in Italian culinary culture.

## The History

Considering the prosperity of the rice paddies in northern Italy, one might be surprised to learn that rice is not indigenous to Italy. The exact date of its introduction to Italy is not known, but many speculate that the exchange took place during the Middle Ages around the 14th century. The earliest recorded instance of rice cultivation dates back to 1475, but farmers could have established the crop many years prior.

Early traders, most likely from Venice or Genoa, brought rice back from the East, after which they introduced it to Italian farmers. Though the large amounts of water needed to flood the rice fields caused ideal conditions for malaria, the benefits clearly outweighed the consequences; rice crops thrived in northern Italy, particularly the Po Valley, where it soon became an important staple.

## The Breakdown

Here in the States, we’re used to the traditional long grain rice sold in bulky bags of pretty much any size imaginable. Risotto rice, however, is different than its long grain counterpart; it boasts a starchier composition with a round shape and a medium or short grain. These shorter-grain rices absorb liquids and release starches more readily, making them stickier than other types of long grain rices.

The most commonly used types of these short-grain rices are Carnaroli and Vialone Nano, in addition to Arborio, which is less commonly used. Carnaroli and Vialone Nano are thought to be the best types of rice, and are consequently more expensive. Each of these types of rice differ slightly; Carnaroli is less likely to get overcooked than Vialone Nano, but Vialone Nano cooks faster and is more absorbent.

A few other types of rice, including Roma, Baldo, Ribe and Originario, can also be used for risotto, but will not result in the same creaminess that is characteristic of traditional Italian risotto dishes.\*

## The Story

During my junior year abroad in college, I had the good fortune of traveling to Rome, where I was exposed to some of the most amazing history in the world and experienced truly incredible Italian cuisine. Once I arrived and checked into my hostel on Via Varese (located in the heart of Rome, just a short distance from the Coliseum), the agent at the reception desk handed me a pamphlet with a map and some coupons. In heavily accented Italian English, he insisted that I visit a local eatery, owned by a friend of his (hostel customers received a 20% discount!).

The name of the eatery escapes me now, but I distinctly remember walking into the small dining area and being at once overwhelmed and charmed by the plastic aquarium fish tablecloths, Winnie the Pooh dishware, and mismatched array of colorful trinkets. An ancient television flickered in the back left corner of the room, and a dingy curtain separated the cooking area from the eating area.

As soon as I looked at the menu, I knew that I had to try the risotto. It would be my first experience with authentic Italian risotto, and if the hostel receptionist knew what he was talking about, this was the place to try it. I gave the Maitre’d my order, confident that her sweet pea and mushroom risotto would not disappoint. And it didn’t; it was the creamiest, most delicious risotto that I had ever tasted.

Now, over a year and a half later, I still remember that small, overly accessorized establishment and crave the meal that I characterize as the world’s best risotto. I haven’t been able to top it yet, but this shiitake and sweet pea risotto recipe from the March 2010 issue of Cooking Light comes pretty darn close.

## The Recipe

Prep Time: 40 minutes  
Yield: 4 servings

## Ingredients

4 cups fat-free, less-sodium chicken broth  
1 tablespoon butter  
1/2 cup finely chopped onion  
1 1/2 teaspoons minced garlic, divided  
1 cup uncooked Arborio rice  
1/2 cup dry white wine  
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil  
4 cups thinly sliced shiitake mushroom caps



Scallops with lemon risotto.

2 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme, divided  
3/4 cup frozen green peas  
6 tablespoons grated fresh Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, divided  
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

## Preparation

1. Bring broth to a simmer in a medium saucepan; keep warm over low heat.

2. Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onion; cook 2 minutes. Add 1 teaspoon garlic; cook 30 seconds, stirring constantly. Add rice; cook 1 minute, stirring constantly. Add wine; cook 2 minutes or until liquid is absorbed, stirring frequently. Stir in 1/2 cup broth;

cook 2 minutes or until liquid is absorbed, stirring constantly. Add remaining broth, 1/2 cup at a time, stirring constantly until each portion of broth is absorbed before adding the next (about 20 minutes).

3. Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms to pan; sauté 5 minutes or until tender. Add remaining 1/2 teaspoon garlic and 1 teaspoon thyme; sauté 1 minute. Set aside.

4. Stir mushrooms, remaining 1 teaspoon thyme, peas, 1/4 cup cheese, and pepper into risotto; cook 3 minutes. Spoon about 1 1/4 cups risotto into each of 4 bowls; sprinkle each with 1 1/2 teaspoons cheese.

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## THE VILLAGE IDIOT

## The Harvest

Jack Deatherage, Jr.

For 18 years, DW and I trekked out to the “main farm”, as we called it, to visit Marty. While Marty and I had shared occasional drinking companions in our younger days and were able to get along with each other during gatherings of drunks, we didn’t become close friends until after Jack,<sup>3</sup> asked to be taught the ways of firearms. During the time we spent visiting Marty and his family’s farm; we gardened, raised chickens, told stories of our childhoods and argued everything under the sun. Marty gave us tours of the nearly 500 acres his family was farming then. He’d call us from town to help gut and skin out deer he’d killed. We watched as Jack,<sup>3</sup> learned to milk cows, handle firearms (.22-caliber rifle to a .357-magnum revolver) and eat the farm’s “silo pigeons” he killed with a 20-gauge shotgun. We helped vaccinate puppies, tend to sick cows, attempted to herd escaped pigs and dodged towering farm tractors and the huge implements they pulled around the farmyard. We learned of Marty’s hopes for his future and he learned of ours.

When Marty started talking about his little bit of land and the house he’d bought (but never lived in) he wondered if DW and I might be interested in moving out of town and helping him set

up a homestead when such a time came as he could afford to finally sleep in the house he’d owned for two decades. When DW didn’t oppose the idea, I got fired up about it. My enthusiasm then fired Marty’s and we discussed, debated and heatedly argued about everything.

Marty’s baseline of knowledge was firsthand while mine was mostly gleaned from books. I argued from a homesteader’s “small” subsistence mindset while he promoted a 500-acre “commercial” mentality. (He’d eventually have 15 acres to work with. Too small for his plans, bigger than I knew what to do with.) Marty would talk to his lifelong farming friends about my crazy ideas and I’d gripe to my network of internet homesteading friends about his being unable to grasp the concepts I was learning through them, acquired books and years of “playing” at gardening. We were both wondering if we’d be able to tolerate each other for a day (once we shared the house and land) let alone the 10 or 20 years we were planning to spend together! Through endless discussions and arguments DW dozed, (she had a factory to worry with) and let us bullheaded males work it out.

Marty and I came to an agreement about the farm/homestead by way of outsiders’ advice. Diane, the former Texas Homesteader, sent me an email pretty much telling me to shut the hell up when



The hardest part of being a friend is often saying goodbye for the final time and wondering if you could have done more.

Marty was teaching me what he knew about farming. “Listen to the man! His family has only been at it for what, a couple of hundred years? When was your family last living at farming?”

Marty’s “family” of farmers tempered his disgust with my new fangled ideas by pointing to articles in the farm newspapers and magazines about many of the ideas I spoke of being successfully worked on nearby PA farms. Once he understood “real farmers” were writing the books I was getting my ideas from he started considering them. Tensions between us eased considerably when I told him Diane had told me to shut the hell up when he spoke of farming. He thought Diane was brilliant. Which made it easier for me to tell him her advice about my homesteading ideas.

“Marty doesn’t understand the small scale/subsistence homestead. You don’t either, though you’ve been working toward it for a decade. Don’t argue with him. Just do what you know how to do and show him. Oh, and stop overwhelming him with all the things you think you can do when you move out there! I know for a fact you and DW cannot garden an acre of ground without Marty’s help. I know you can’t raise 200

egg and meat chickens while tending the garden. I know you can’t raise ducks, turkeys, sheep, goats, pigs and cows while running a factory and a farm. I know, because I tried it, and I grew up on a farm and should have known better! Get your head out of the clouds and your hands into the soil.” (None of quotes are verbatim.)

Having reached a shaky truce, (Marty unsure I could keep my mouth shut and do the things I planned, and me suddenly aware I couldn’t do anything without Marty’s permission and help) we began the 2015 garden.

I’d introduced Marty to the farm scale rotary tiller. He wanted a 10 footer to churn the acre into an instant garden. I advocated for a 3 footer DW and I could follow behind and work with hand tools. We explained our wants and he ended up buying a 4.5 footer that wasn’t what either of us wanted, but each could live with. (I have pictures and videos of Marty commanding an International “utility” tractor pulling the tiller behind. He was so excited to be on a tractor again, doing the fieldwork he obviously loved. At one point, he yells at me over the engine roar and the whirring blades, “I like this tiller! I wish Dad had bought one back when we were

farming 700 acres! What else do you want me to do?”)

The tilling Marty did was rough. The tractor was the wrong type for the tiller and Marty’s brother-in-law, Wayne, brought his tractor-tiller rig to fine till the garden rows for us. I got busy raking rows together and quickly learned Diane wasn’t kidding about my trying to do too much all at once. One hundred feet of pulling soil to the middle of a raised row with a garden rake about did me in. DW and I drove T-posts and hung a plastic fence as a trellis for tomatoes. We planted cabbages, taters, peppers, flowers and beans. I mowed the grass walkways between the rows while DW weeded between the plantings. Marty watched and questioned everything we did. Nothing looked familiar to him, but he didn’t object to any of it.

Then we moved in with Marty. We knew about his clinical depression. We knew about his physical pain and his withdrawal from 18 years of prescribed morphine use. It took us two days of living with Marty to realize little of what we had planned for 3 years was ever going to happen. I remarked to DW one morning as we traveled from the farm to the factory, “You know we are going to be his caretakers?”

“I know.” She said, with more calm than I expected.

“Are you okay with that? It’s not like anything we talked about is going to happen now.”

“I know. But we promised we’d stick by him.”

Twelve days later, I found Marty dead in his bed.

The 2015 harvest has been bitter. Rest in peace Marty. And if you get the chance, kick the gods for me. I don’t much appreciate their sense of humor.

To read past articles by Jack Deatherage visit the Authors’ section of Emmitsburg.net.

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# Gettysburg Wine & Fruit Trail

## Seasonal changes

Kathy Reid

October is the month of seasonal change in the South Mountain region. It is in October that the knowledge that summer has passed and fall has arrived becomes a physical reality. The days become shorter and shorter with cooler and cooler nights. The leaves on the acres of trees visible on the South Mountain range from Route 81 and Route 15 have lost their summer shade of green for fall's brilliant colors of orange, red and yellow. Fields that have been lush with growth all summer long are now rows of stubble or freshly plowed and planted with winter wheat. Orchards that looked burdened with the weight of this year's apple crop have yielded their fruit to the picker's hands. The grapes that hung in clusters all summer and into September are now juice fermenting away in thousands of barrels and tanks throughout this region.

But there is still plenty of work to do for our Trail's small family businesses. Summer crops may have faded away on our family farms but fall crops are ready for harvest. September's grape crush is over for our wineries but the work of creating and crafting fine local wines continues for our local family wineries with the focus shifting from the fruit to fermentation. For our family restaurants, menus change to reflect the newly harvested vegetables and fruits fresh from local farms; and our family owned B&Bs have begun to replace peach recipes for their favorite apple recipes to share with guests at breakfast each morning.

Indeed, summer has faded but seasonal splendors are still easy to discover on the Gettysburg Wine & Fruit Trail. Pumpkin patches, pick your own apples, harvest festivals and corn mazes take the spotlight on our Trail during October. Stoner's Dairy Farm & Corn Maze in Mercersburg is one of two Trail members whose family business specializes in creating fun fall afternoons and evenings for families and groups of friends. October offers a number of special events on this Franklin County farm in addition to their regular fall offerings of corn mazes, pumpkins, mums and seasonal décor. From their 12th Annual Harvest Farm Festival Saturday, October 3 through their last Haunted Maze Night on October 30, fun is the theme of this working farm. This hard working farm family knows the pleasure of taking time to have a good time with other family members, and so have crafted a wonderful season full of family fun for kids of all ages.

A trip to this working dairy farm for their Annual Harvest Farm Festival will give kids an even greater opportunity to experience a fall day on the farm with live music, pig race show, magic show, pony rides, hayrides, inflatable attraction, a petting

zoo, pumpkin judging and farm tours. Flashlight Nights and Trick-or-Treating in the 5 acre corn maze help to make weekend evenings fun for the entire family. For older children (10 and older) and for those adults who still love a good time at Halloween, Stoner's offers Haunted Maze Nights on two nights: October 23 and 30th. The Haunted Maze is a great family event for families of teens. Bring a flashlight, dress up if you wish, and be prepared to experience an exhilarating evening of fun and frivolity. [www.stonersdairyfarm.com](http://www.stonersdairyfarm.com).

Not far from Stoner's is Long Acres Alpaca Farm. This working alpaca farm has a guest farmhouse that is perfect for a family weekend get-away. Spend Saturday at Stoner's and sleep that night in their two-story 1900 brick farmhouse. The guest house has a fully equipped kitchen stocked with breakfast foods from local sources and complementary wine and beer from a local vineyard and brewery. You can spend the evening watching the stars around the firepit while watching the alpacas graze in the fields surrounding the guest house. Owners Mike and Sarah Donahoe include a private tour of the farm with the Guest House rental that includes meeting the alpacas and visiting the apiary. [www.longacresalpaca.com](http://www.longacresalpaca.com).

Like the Stoner family of Stoner's Hijo's Dairy Farm & Corn Maze, Fields of Adventures in Adams County is a working family farm. Chris and Debbie Smith along with their children Delani, Courtney, Connor, and Drew have called Smithfield Farms in Aspers their home since purchasing the farm in 2005. While they labor during the summer with field crops and raising steers for their freezer beef business, the fall focus shifts to their seven acre corn maze business and the many activities that have become a part of their fall routine. Their first Corn Maze season was in 2010. Since then, the Smith's have added a variety of fun family-focused attractions on their farm such as the Mini Corn Maze for the younger children in the family, Pumpkin Bowling, Rainbow Caterpillar Tires and the Straw Bale Maze & Pyramid. For the more adventurous family members, the Zipline was added.



Next to pumpkins, squash and mums, the appearance of corn mazes is a sure sign that fall has finally arrived.

This 600' zipline takes you from the 70' tower over the pond to the end at the other side of the pond.

Each year the Smiths pick a different theme for their Corn Maze. The 2015 Corn Maze theme is "Wild West Adventure." This is a seven acre journey through the taming of the American West. Explore outlaws, cowboys, Indians, the gold rush, and the great railroad. As you find your way through the maze, which is divided into unique sections, you'll have the opportunity to play educational games where you can learn about the Wild West. Among the things that you will do as you work through the maze is complete the questions and answers, find all the picture rubbings, and decode the secret word. A trip to Fields of Adventure is more than just a 'walk in the stalks'. There so much to do, you may forget you're lost! [www.fieldsofadventures.com](http://www.fieldsofadventures.com).

After leaving Fields of Adventures, head into Biglerville to Hollabaugh Brothers Fruit Farm & Market. Hollabaugh Brothers has been family owned and operated for over fifty years. This farm member has an in-house bakery and creates apple pies, dumplings and apple bread from their own farm fresh apples. Fresh sweet apple cider is available including Honeycrisp Cider. A unique experience at Hollabaugh's that is fun

for the whole family is their "Bin Porch". Choose from a small (half peck), medium (peck), or large (3/4 bushel) bag, pay a flat price and then have a ball filling up your bag, mixing and matching varieties to your heart's content. The bin porch opens during peach season and stays open through apple season. During prime apple season, you can select from more than 20 varieties at once on this porch. [www.hollabaughbros.com](http://www.hollabaughbros.com).

American Craft Week will be celebrated on the GWFT during October as well. From October 2-11, various Trail members will showcase the talents of artists who live

and work in this South Mountain region. Participating Trail member businesses includes Village Artisans Gallery in Boiling Springs, 42 West Arts Co-Op in Waynesboro, McKesson Pottery in Fairfield and The Greatest Gift in Carlisle. P.J. Heyman, owner of the Village Artisans Gallery, is one of the creators of American Craft Week. Village Artisans Gallery kicks off American Craft Week on October 2 with a visiting engraver, Debbie Cornman, who will engrave your wine glasses or bottle. For a full listing of events for ACW, visit each member's website. [www.gettysburgwineandfruit-trail.com](http://www.gettysburgwineandfruit-trail.com).

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## COMMUNITY NOTES

# Annual Fall Festival at Camp Eder

Alan Patterson

Bundle up and bring the kids! The 37th Annual Fall Festival at Camp Eder is happening October 17th from 9am – 4pm. This event features all the trimmings of a good family-friendly festival: live music, craft & small business vendors, a renowned pit-roasted pork & turkey meal, children's activities, heritage demonstrations, and a live auction at 9:00am. The children's area is expanding more and more each year – and 2015 is no exception - featuring a dozen games, a giant inflatable slide, a bounce house, hands on activities, and a show-stage just for the young ones.

This year's children's shows will include Puppet & Story Works (puppet/ventriloquist show), The Animals of Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve, the Fairfield High School Show Choir, and a presentation from the PA Apple Queen and princesses. This year's main stage will headline international touring band Drymill Road who's music includes high energy and heartfelt original material, along with a good mix of traditional music and "not so" traditional takes on Led Zepelin, Hank Williams, Bob Dylan,

and The Beatles...to name a few.

Camp Eder is located on Mount Hope Road just outside of Fairfield and serves the local community along with maintaining deep roots in the Church of the Brethren – the denomination which founded the Camp in 1958 and helped to establish it as a corporation of its own in 1989. It is named for the Eder River in Schwarzenau, Germany, site of the first baptisms of the Church of the Brethren denomination. Though rooted in Christian outdoor ministry, Camp Eder provides space and lodging for any individual, family, or group seeking a serene environment for camping, retreat, weddings, reunions, small and large group gatherings, daytime events and nature experiences.

A variety of lodging options are offered, in addition to meal and program services. The historic Miller Meetinghouse is a small Chapel that sits atop the orchard hill and is a beautiful setting for worship gatherings and formal events. There is also a picnic pavilion, warm-weather swimming pool, and meeting rooms that can accommodate groups of many sizes.

The Camp was established in 1958 and occupies more than 400

acres of woods, vineyards, and orchards. It hosts a variety of events year-round that are open to the public. Camp Eder Senior Days feature programs and activities in the camp atmosphere geared toward mature adults and include snacks and a substantial meal. Many gather regularly for scrapbooking retreats. Camp Eder partners with their neighbors at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve for an Outdoor School program for students from Waynesboro, Fairfield, and a private school from Pittsburg – at which time over 500 fifth and sixth graders take learning outside the classroom. Camp Eder also serves as the home of the annual Pennsylvania Tourette Syndrome Alliance Conference, and the Adams County 4-H Camp Program.

Summer Camp runs from June to August and offers age-related and specialty camps to children and teens; Horse Camp, Farm Camp, Swim Camp, and other special interest camps are featured, as well as general camping experiences for Kids, Juniors, and Youth, as well as a week especially programmed to accommodate able teens and adults with developmental delays or other special needs. During the summer camp



This year's festival features all the trimmings of a good family-friendly festival: live music, crafts, great food, children's activities and heritage demonstrations.

season, campers participate in Christian worship, Bible study, swimming, rock wall climbing, hiking, nature, crafts, games, campfires and forging lifelong friendships.

In the winter, look forward to Cookie Camp, followed by an annual Christmas Tree Festival, where vendors are encouraged to create themed trees in a decorating contest (and all those Cookie Camp cookies can be enjoyed!). The Christmas Tree Festival was established in 2011. Celebrate the birth of Jesus with your neighbors, and enjoy a spectacular Christmas tree lights display, vote for your favorite Christmas tree, listen to your favorite Christmas songs, pe-

ruse over 100 nativity sets, and enjoy a candlelight service around a campfire accessible to everyone.

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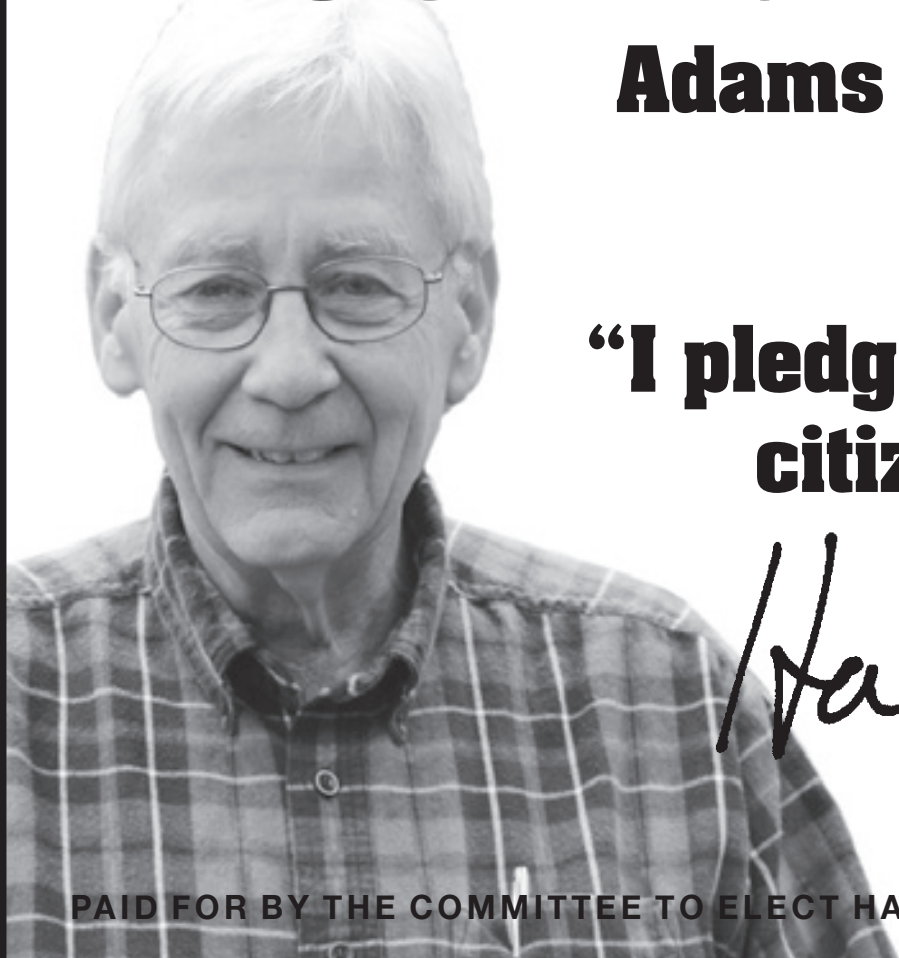
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## SCHOOL AND LIBRARY NEWS

# Library news

Linda Frydl

The Emmitsburg Library staff and Friends of the Library members would like to express heartfelt sympathy to the family of Susan Allen, who passed away in September. Susan embodied a true community spirit and was active in a number of organizations. She was always a strong supporter of library services in Emmitsburg and faithfully served as a board member for the Friends and continued to help with events and was a big help sorting and selling at the book sale in July during Community Heritage Days. Susan will be deeply missed.

### Wireless Printing

FCPL is pleased to introduce a new wireless printing service at the Thurmont Regional Library, as well as the C. Burr Artz and Urbana branches. Patrons can

print wirelessly from their laptop or mobile devices from anywhere, not just in the branches. Cost is twenty cents per page (black and white printing only). Print virtually any document or web page from your internet connected PC to one of our library printers by visiting the Printer website, sending an email to one of two email addresses, or via the Printer mobile app. More information can be found at FCPL.org, or visit the branch and we'll be glad to help you out.

### Local History Series: The History of Fort Ritchie

The original lecture was cancelled so please join The Thurmont Historical Society and the Thurmont Regional Library who are hosting guest lecturer Art Callahan sharing the Fort Ritchie Story. Mr. Callahan worked on base for 21 years. Learn how 800

acres in Maryland and a mountain top in Pennsylvania evolved through ice production, the Maryland National Guard, an intelligence training center, and a tuberculosis hospital, to a critical communications link in the nation's defense, becoming the operational support facility for a "super secret" underground facility that could have housed the president of the United States. This lecture is free and open to the public at the Thurmont Regional Library. Monday, October 26, 6pm – 8pm.

### Holds Alert – A Sample of New Fall Books

The Heart Goes Last by Margaret Atwood, author of The Handmaid's Tale, is a dystopic metaphor-novel in which a down-and-out couple enrolls in a society that allows them to live in a pristine house half of the year, but must commit to a prison the other half. The Secret Chord by Geraldine Brooks, a Pulitzer Prize winning author, is a rich and ut-

terly absorbing novel about the life of King David. City of Fire by Garth Risk Hallberg, is his debut that revolves around the famous New York City blackout of 1977, and how it sets the lives of its cast of characters spinning into new paths. A Strangeness in My Mind by Orhan Pamuk, Nobel Prize winner, tells an unforgettable tale of an Istanbul street vendor and the love of his life. Lafayette in the Somewhat United States by Sarah Vowell gives a humorous and insightful account of the Revolutionary War hero Marquis de Lafayette and a portrait of a nation's idealism and its reality.

### Children And Teen Programs

**Teen Program:** Candy Sushi Not your everyday Halloween candy! Make sushi using candy instead of traditional sushi ingredients. Tuesday, October 13, 4-5pm. Register online at fcpl.org, or call 301-600-6331.

Drop in for a Play Date! Every Monday drop in for a special

playgroup. We'll start off with a fun story. Afterwards, you can meet new friends, read books, and play with toys. For ages 0-5. Mondays, 10:30am – 11 am.

**LEGO and Mega Blok Party:** Join us for an afternoon of LEGO and Mega Blok fun! Build tall buildings, create mysterious scenes and have an endless amount of STEM fun with LEGO bricks at the library! Best for ages 2 and up with an adult. Tuesday, October 6, 3:30-6pm.

**Star Wars Reads Day:** Travel with us to a galaxy far, far away where reading and adventure come together through stories, crafts and other activities. Saturday, October 10, 11am – 12pm. Register online at fcpl.org, or call 301-600-6331.

**Full "Steam" Ahead:** Play, Learn, and Explore at our pop-up "STEAM" lab. A variety of activities will be available. Try one or all. Tuesday, October 20, 4-6pm.

# Frederick County School Board

Katie Groth

As a member of the Board of Education of Frederick County, it was my privilege to visit several of our county schools on opening day, August 24, 2015. I joined our superintendent, Dr. Alban, and our Board President Brad Young visiting the schools in the Walkersville feeder area.

We started out early, before 8 AM at Walkersville High School. We were met by Principal Ms. Tracey Franklin. We visited several classes, and even at that early hour on the first day of school, there was solid instruction going on in classrooms full of busy students who seemed happy to be back to school.

We were pleased to visit the classroom at WHS set aside for

students who are working in a dual enrollment program with Frederick Community College. These students are earning college credits from FCC even as they complete their last one or two years of high school. They have designed a room for the classes that they have named The Nicodemus Commons. It looks just like a commons you would find in a college or university. There is comfortable seating, tables for small group collaborative study, and other chairs and tables located near computers and other reference materials. These young folks are having part of their high school day devoted to a college experience. When the time comes, they will be well-prepared for college, having had opportunities to take math and English for col-

lege credit right in their own high school.

After the high school, we walked just next door to Walkersville Elementary School where we were just in time for the first flag raising ceremony of the new school year. Everyone seemed very happy to be back at school, and I noticed some colorful new sneakers on many feet. Principal Ms. Tess Blumenthal welcomed us and as she led us around the building, we observed excellent student behavior even though it was only the first day, and students were orderly and quiet as they moved to their classrooms. One science teacher even had a science challenge all set up for her students to work on.

Then it was on to Walkersville Middle School where students were getting settled for their first

day, with new lockers, new home rooms and new schedules. According to Principal Ms. Stacey Hiltner, everything went according to plan, and just like all middle-schoolers, they were a lively bunch. They were engaged in learning and the teachers had their attention from the first. We watched some 7th grade social studies students log onto their chrome books for the first time, and they pulled it off smoothly! Kudos to the teachers who have prepared students for these first day experiences.

Next stop was Glade Elementary School where the principal, Mr. OhEithir, showed us around the building, extremely proud of the orderly way the first day of the new school year had gone. We peeked into several class-

rooms and saw amazing learning going on. It was obvious here as well as at the other schools that the word was, "meaningful instruction" from the first bell of the first day of school.

We jumped in the car and headed to Woodsboro, just a few miles up the road. Woodsboro and New Midway Elementary Schools are "paired schools." This means they share a feeder area, with Pre-k through 2nd grade at Woodsboro and 3rd through 5th grades at New Midway. Mr. DiMonte is principal of both schools and he calls the distance between his two buildings a "12 mile hallway." We saw great group activities in the primary classrooms with several activities designed to teach students about school from their first day. It was a contrast to what we saw among the older children when we next went to New Midway Elementary. NMES is an older building, but the inside is bright with big windows and large classrooms. We interacted with students in a math class and tried to solve a logic problem. The students solved it way before I did. No surprise there!

By now, it was the end of our first day. Outside of NMES, the freshly washed yellow buses awaited students for the trip home. Dr. Alban and I were tired but extremely pleased to have seen so much in such a short time. Although the day was planned ahead of time, I am sure that the excitement of learning that we saw in classrooms at all levels on that first day will provide a strong start to a new school year for the thousands of Frederick County students who have begun the 2015-16 school year. We wish everyone a productive year of exciting challenges and new learning.

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# SCHOOL AND LIBRARY NEWS

## Mother Seton School

Lynn Taylor

Our first day of school was a perfect day to begin the new year. It was a perfect week, actually. There was hardly a cloud in the sky as we welcomed back our students to Mother Seton School. And while it did get plenty hot outside, you couldn't tell when you were in the building, thanks to our new, eco-friendly HVAC system. In fact, it was downright chilly in some areas, a welcome change from previous years.

The chill from the air conditioning, however, didn't affect the warmth of spirit that flowed through the halls and continues to abound. That's one of the things that makes Mother Seton School so special. You can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit from the moment you enter our doors. Even with the modern enhancements and improvements we continue to make to the school physically, it never affects the spirit within. Our students' spiritual growth and happiness is just

as important as their academic prowess.

We are blessed to be able to provide the children with Chromebooks and iPods, and other technology, like our new interactive projectors, that adds to their learning experience. With many of the advances today, we can assist students who need a little extra help, as well as provide for those who need more of a challenge. I think Mother Seton would be proud and impressed with how we use technology and modern conveniences to create the best learning environment we can, just as she did two hundred years ago.

But what is the worth of all this technology if we don't also provide a strong foundation of spirituality and values for our students? We strive to prepare our students to meet the challenges and demands of modern education and, eventually, the workforce. We provide a spiritual base for the children from which they learn to live with a love for Christ and for their neighbors, and with an under-

standing of what it means to look outside yourself to serve others, especially those in most need. The solid foundation built in prayer, and knowledge of how special a role they play in the world, serves our students from the time they begin at MSS through the time they leave and well beyond. One of the reasons I chose MSS for my own children is because of the emphasis that is placed on the "whole child". My values are reaffirmed at school, my children's talents are celebrated along with their classmates', and all students walk through these doors into a building that feels like home—thanks to the welcoming spirit and peace felt throughout.

We hope you'll stop by for one of our upcoming events, like the Blessing of the Animals on October 9, at 1:30 p.m., and see for yourself the upgrades we've been blessed to be able to make. But most of all, to feel the spirit residing within. We have plenty to share!

Have a happy and colorful autumn!



Mother Seton School students at the 40th anniversary celebration of the canonization of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

## Ruth's harvest

Tracy Sebold

Fairfield is an outreach effort that focuses on hunger and its effects on education in our community. The Fairfield Area School District, in partnership with Fairfield area churches, businesses, civic organizations and individuals, is preparing to initiate this program for the 2015-2016 school year. For some children, the only nutritious food they receive is the free/reduced lunch at school. When they are not in school on the weekends, they are at risk of not having any consistent meals.

This free ministry will provide healthy weekend meals and snacks for eligible elementary children. Each Friday, students who participate receive a backpack of food at school to take home for the weekend. On Monday, the child returns the empty backpack to the school to be restocked with food for distribution the following Friday.

Serving Fairfield Elementary is a huge undertaking for our community. Financial donations, as well as donations of food, are welcomed and essential to reach all the children in need. At the end of the 2014-15 school year, 29%, or 101 of Fairfield's elementary students were eligible for free or reduced lunches.

Food donations may be dropped off at participating churches (Iron Springs Brethren in Christ, Fairfield Mennonite, Orrtanna UMC, St. John Lutheran Chapel, Wesley Chapel UMC). Ruth's Harvest - Fairfield also needs donations of food in individual serving sizes that need NO refrigeration such as: Chef Boyardee cups; kid-friendly soups; Ramen noodles; macaroni and cheese; corn, green beans, peas, peas/carrots, ap-

plesauce, pears, peaches, mandarin oranges, mixed fruit; pudding; Jell-O; microwave popcorn; milk (non-refrigerated in boxes); Teddy Grahams/animal crackers; gummy snacks/fruit roll-ups; raisins; granola bars/cookies; and chips/pretzels.

Financial donations can be mailed to St. John Lutheran Church, 13 East Main Street, Fairfield, PA

17320. On the memo line, please write Ruth's Harvest-Fairfield.

Volunteers are also needed to assist with the tasks of sorting, stocking, packing and delivering the foods.

For more information about Ruth's Harvest-Fairfield, contact one of their program coordinators Linn Wichowski, St. John Lutheran Church, 717-398-2088. To volunteer your time and talent, contact Missy Miller at 717-321-0169. You may also visit Ruth's Harvest - Fairfield's Facebook page.

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## FOUR YEARS AT THE MOUNT

*Second chances: We all know how hard it can be to give one, and how lucky we feel when we get one, so for the month of October we challenged our writers to address this topic and think about a time they gave or received a second chance, and how they feel about them in general.*

### Freshman Year

#### A warm welcome

Elizabeth Veronis  
MSM Class of 2019

Two hours after my parents dropped me off at the Mount for the start of my freshman year, public safety had to rescue me. I had locked myself out of my room in nothing but my towel... but I am getting ahead of myself. Perhaps I should start with a comment my teacher made on my fourth grade report card: "Elizabeth doesn't always transition well."

While I would love to argue the point, I am afraid that there is more than a kernel of truth in Mrs. McLean's observation. I have always struggled with change. Not just the big stuff, but the little stuff, too. I was, for example, practically inconsolable when Zayne Malik exited One Direction. And do not get me started on Shonda Rhimes' decision to kill off McDreamy. Will Grey's Anatomy ever be the same? Given my history, I was more than a little nervous

about how I would handle the transition from high school to college.

I do have some experience in this arena, having watched my two older siblings venture off to their respective universities. I knew some of the pitfalls that awaited me. There were the 2 a.m. donut runs that had temporarily softened my sister's lean lines. There was the newfound freedom to hit the snooze button instead of hitting the books. My brother and sister had generally resisted this impulse and were, in fact, excellent students. I, on the other hand, had a less impressive track record in the classroom, where I was content with doing just enough to keep my parents off my back and me on the honor roll.

My main claim to fame during high school was the record-setting number of tardy slips I accumulated senior year. Once, when I had run out of all other explanations, I actually told the attendance office that I was late because I was not much of

a morning person. They failed to appreciate my honesty.

My aversion to school was not due to a lack of intellectual curiosity. I just got squirrely sitting in a chair for six hours a day. Right from the start, my real passion was recess, for it was on the playground where I truly excelled. I was energetic, quick, and happy to make a sport out of almost anything. I tend to blame my father for my competitive spirit, but he could not help himself either. His mother, my dear 82-year-old grandmother, is a former roller derby queen from Jersey. She hides it well, but the steely determination still burns inside.

It burns inside me, too, and I am proud that I will get to compete at the Mount as a member of the varsity tennis team. Tennis is our family sport. My father played at West Virginia University and my brother played for Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia. There are few things that have brought us as much joy—and as much pain—as tennis. Like most athletes, I tend to remember the losses more vividly than the wins. But when it all comes together at just the right moment, everything else pales in comparison.

For the sake of full disclosure, I

should note that I come from a lively Greek family. We love fiercely, laugh loudly and believe ourselves endlessly entertaining. We can infuriate quickly, but we also forgive easily. I am intensely proud of my Hellenic heritage. This past summer, I was fortunate to spend three weeks in Greece, visiting cultural landmarks and learning more about my Orthodox faith. I also ate a lot of souvlaki and consumed my weight in olive oil, but mostly, I left with a determination to see more of the world and a commitment to study abroad.

Like many people my age, I have virtually no idea what I want to do professionally in the future. When I was applying to college, I told one school I was interested in forestry, another that I was drawn to social justice, and yet another that I really enjoyed history. The last time I watched Scandal, I pictured myself as a political operative. Perhaps I will gain some direction over the next few years.

Truthfully, I am both terrorized and energized by the endless possibilities afforded to me. At the same time, I worry about student loan debt, a scary job market, and the growing gap between the haves and

the have-nots. I wish I was better informed on a host of other issues, but I know more about the Kardashians than I do about global warming, ISIS, or the refugee crisis. My indifference may be due, in part, to my disgust with governmental dysfunction. Now that I am finally old enough to vote, I wish there was an emerging leader who gave me hope.

Sometimes, I fear that my generation might be more cynical than optimistic, more anxious than adventurous, and more self-absorbed than empathetic. And yet, many people my own age who seek to make the world a better place often inspire me. I, too, want to do my part and intend to become a contributing member of not just the Mount St. Mary's community, but of the town of Emmitsburg, as well.

Ultimately, I hope to find my voice as I contribute a monthly column to this publication. That is why I am encouraged by another one of Mrs. McLean's observations: "Elizabeth seems to be making progress." But, just in case, I am going to keep public safety on speed dial.

*We welcome Elizabeth to our team of writers!*

### Sophomore Year

#### Okay. Let's start over.

Sarah Muir  
MSM Class of 2018

Second chances are a big deal. Some believe that forgiveness is important, that it is best to forgive and forget. Others believe that people are given one chance and if they fall flat, another one is not deserved. My personal belief is that everyone deserves a second opportunity, so long as they attempt to change. If they do not feel obligated to fix past mistakes then what good are the hundreds of chances are given? Second opportunities are special cases in which to take advantage of every chance they get. Even if the person stumbles and falls, so long as they put in the effort to get up and dust themselves off and try again they should be afforded another chance.

I was born and raised a Roman Catholic, so it would be remiss of me not to mention my faith when discussing second chances. The Catholic sacrament of Reconciliation or confession is based on two core principles: penance and resolution. The first, penance, means that the individual must feel remorse for his or her actions and resolution refers to the individual's will to change. Without these, the sacrament is meaningless. The same reasoning applies to second chances. If one does not see the error of their ways or does not bother to change them, the second chance is wasted.

We, at times, must prove to others (and ourselves) that we are at the very least, attempting improvement. I think many of you reading this have been lucky enough to get another chance in some way or another. Others have probably given them and you know just how tentative one can be when it comes to expecting another person to change.

Now getting a second chance is a gift, but giving them is extremely difficult. The whole concept of "forgive and forget" is hard to reconcile in my mind. I feel as though even if you manage to forgive, you can seldom forget when a person has wronged you. Not only that, but when a person gives another a second chance, they place their faith in that person to change. This, at times is terrifying because there can be those "what ifs" floating in the back of your head—"what if it happens again?" or "what if they take it for granted?" or "What if they do not change?"

However, while these "what ifs" traipse about your mind, there is another thought floating about—the thought that caused you to forgive in the first place. A small, quiet voice that says, "What if this is what they need to rescue themselves?"

Many months ago, way back in January, I wrote a piece about fresh starts and resolutions. In the article, I mentioned that a person is not limited to one new start every

year, but rather life is full of endless possibilities for new beginnings, with which second chances go hand in hand. There is never just one chance to start again, but every day is an opportunity to bring about a change in yourself. Also, every day is a chance to bring about change in others whether it is giving them the benefit of the doubt or extending an olive branch to some estranged person in your life.

Personally, I am lucky enough to have not yet needed a monumental second chance in my life. However, that does not mean that I have not needed to change over time. To be honest, I have made mistakes, but who has not? Some I have given me the will to change, while others I continue to make, though I keep trying to fix what I can. Also, I try to not hold grudges against people who I feel have wronged me. I am not always successful, because in the case of forgiveness, it is easier said than done.

Even though I have said that second chances are a matter of choice that does not mean they should be taken lightly. Second chances are an important part of life and taking them for granted is counterproductive. They are not to be wasted like they are extra lives in video games, or something dispensable. They should be treated as what they are...something precious and valued.

There is a quote by Harrison Ford: "We all have big changes in our lives that are more or less a second chance." I cannot help but agree with him. Every day we have a shot at another chance, even if those around us have stopped giv-

ing them. Even in the face of tragedy or ruin, we can find the chance, the hope, to rebuild a better life. No matter what life throws your way, whether it be ecstasies or miseries, you take what you learn,

leave what you can no longer carry, and start over.

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

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## SECOND CHANCES

# Junior Year

## A spotlight on generosity

Leeanne Leary  
MSM Class of 2017

The other night I was on the phone with one of my closest friends when he jokingly made a comment about my faulty logic. In response, I hung up and quickly called back asking for an apology. This was all in good fun, and neither of us were serious at any point in the exchange, but it hit me when brainstorming for this article. When I called back and offered a second chance, I expected him to accept and try again, and more than that, I wanted him to accept.

Looking into this small-scale example of a second chance, I found that second chances are not only desperately sought after by a person at fault, but there is just as much investment and hope coming from the person doing the offering. This got me seriously thinking about the times I have given or benefitted

from second chances in my life and I realized we are constantly giving and searching for these chances in everyday life.

The first time I ever fouled out of a basketball game was in fifth grade and I cried. Looking back now, I realize it probably was not worth my tears, but when I walked off the court to sit on the bench, I waited to look to my coach expecting to be scolded. I was, briefly, but then I was put back into the next game later that day as if I had not done anything wrong. It was almost as if I got another chance the moment a new game started. It didn't take much discussion and I still fouled out of many games in my career from that moment on, but I understood that on that day, I was given a second chance without any question. This new chance probably came from the good things I had done during the first game and the hard work I had put in at practice, but regardless of where it came, from

it was rooted in something.

I noticed that second chances come only when there is a mutual trust between the two parties involved. As freely as this second chance was given to me, it was not given without an unspoken expectation that I would try to not make the same mistakes again.

The unspoken expectations present in second chances seem to dictate the possibility of third and fourth chances. I see this on a larger scale in the current presidential election, world relations, and more. We, as a country, are much less likely to give a second chance to a president who has an affair or a candidate who makes a rash comment than we are to give them to our own friends, families, and even celebrities. It has to do with the expectations present in the leaders of our country and our inability to see these leaders as completely human. Second chances here are not given as freely as they were to me in my short-lived basketball career, but maybe this is the way it should be.

Second chances are given constantly; they are given to children when they forget to take

out the trash on time, to little brothers who cut the hair off of your dolls, to friends for not showing up on time, to roommates for being too loud, to significant others for mistakes, to spouses for life-altering mistakes or for putting away wet dishes. We are literally surrounded by them and maybe that is why I have always taken them for granted.

Until very recently, I never thought I could do something so wrong or upset a person so much that I could not have a chance to make it right. I probably thought this because I always have been given second chances, and third, and fourth, and so on. I didn't always deserve them, but I've never been refused one.

Just the other week I found myself in a situation where I was genuinely afraid that I couldn't make up for a mistake I made with one of my closest friends. It wasn't until I was in this spot and feeling this incredible sadness that I truly appreciated all the times I have been give "one more try." This started a circle of thinking that I almost couldn't stop – as you can most likely tell by the way I am current-

ly writing. I cannot imagine a world without second chances, and I often take them for granted, but they require understanding, they exist on both small and large scales of different magnitudes, and sometimes you just can't give or get one.

I know that second chances are rewarding to give and even more rewarding to receive, but the one thing that I have learned for certain about them is that they should not be taken for granted. They allow our world and our relationships to thrive and continue existing, even when mistakes are made, and mistakes are inevitable. They make us realize the forgiving nature of humanity and how beautiful that tendency is. They give us hope when we do seriously mess up, and they put a spotlight on the generosity of those offering the chance. They prove that both parties are searching for another chance, and most importantly, they allow me to hang up on my friends and then call right back.

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

# Senior Year

## Do you believe in miracles?

Katie Powell  
MSM Class of 2016

Second chances are miracles. I sincerely believe that to be true. Perhaps you are asking yourself, what in the world I could possibly be talking about, viewing second chances as miracles. It is probably because we are looking at second chances from different angles.

Well, allow me to explain.

I am approaching this topic in a much more philosophical way on purpose. Generally, we think of second chances as something that we grant or receive from other people, and that is fine and completely correct. However, I am thinking about this more from a supernatural point of view, more of a second chance at something major, even a second chance at life.

Whether you believe in God, ghosts, the cosmos, guardian angels or whatever, I can almost guarantee you, that you have had moments of some kind of supernatural intervention. These are moments where you think, "I don't know how I survived that," "I don't know how I did that," or even, "that was a miracle." I think someone is looking over you and decides, not yet, or, not like this.

I guess there is the possibility that I have lost you and we are no longer on the same page, and I get that. I will tell you a little story to get the point across:

I was the most typical 17-year-old over-achieving (more like

over-reaching) student ever. Five AP classes, swimming 21 hours a week, up until midnight, doing homework and up at 4:30 for practice. No, I would sneer at others, I am not in too deep, and I don't need your help. Thanks, though. I was determined to succeed, and I might have actually been successful if I had simply asked for help.

January 2012 brought me the wakeup call that I, for one, did not want, and two, did not think I needed. That morning, I woke up at 4:30 for a 5 AM swim, stumbled into my car and sped down the road. It was dark, rainy, and I was late. I was mad at myself for over sleeping, knowing there would be repercussions from my coach, the embodiment of Not-a-morning-person.

So, I flew around corners, hydroplaned, and wrapped my car around a tree. Oops. I wacked my head on the window and spent the next month recovering from a concussion and a fear of rain.

You are probably thinking that I had it coming, that I learned my lesson, and that the story ends here. Well, if you knew 17-year-old Katie, you know that is not how it went down. The insurance company representative told my mom I should have died while inspecting my car. All that told me was that I was lucky. What it really meant was that someone was looking out for me, and it would take a few months to set in what this second chance really meant.

April 2012 brought a similar tale with a much different ending. I recovered from my accident having learned nothing and harvesting anger at those in my life that this car accident ever happened, naturally blaming everyone except myself. Enter Nikki, a beautiful, talented, friendly girl in my senior class. She had everything going for her. We were not friends, we had a class together, but I did not know it until it was too late. Nikki was in a car accident involving reckless driving. Nikki was crushed in the back seat and did not survive.

The connection was unclear to me until the day after her accident, as my best friend sobbed over Nikki and dug her nails into my arm, leaving deep red marks, repeating over and over, it could have been you.

Nikki had been in my seventh period math class. I had no idea. This beautiful, intelligent, sweet young girl lost her life. I sat there in class feeling ignorant to the point of nausea as it finally did occur to me that it easily could have been me that my seventh period math class mourned over, four months earlier. Would I have deserved it? Looking around the room, I recognized very few tear-streaked faces as people I had liked, and even fewer that I had been nice to. Would they cry for me? Would they know who I was?

Something out there had decided that January 2012 was not my time. Something out there had decided that April 2012 was Nikki's time. And it made me sick to my stomach to realize that I had been given a second chance and it took me four months and the death of a classmate to figure that out. How messed up is that?

How consumed with my situation and myself had I been, harvesting anger over a car accident that I had survived? This was my second chance. And so far I had spent it being resentful.

Not a week goes by now that I do not think of Nikki. In my high school, we have long associated the dead with butterflies. I see one, and her name flits through my head as the butterfly's beautiful wings carry it higher into the sky, and I remember how truly precious second chances are.

I recognize my story is a dramatic example, however, I think as a culture we often feel entitled to second chances. How dare my

professor not let me retake that test, we think, or Come on, I lied one time! What we all need to do is look inside ourselves and determine if we really do deserve a second chance. Almost always we think we do. Almost always we are wrong. We blame our mistakes on those around us. Second chances are an opportunity to do better, to be better, and as a culture we need to recognize that those we are given are miracles, and that even those we are not given are lessons.

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

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## FASHION

## Back-to-school cool

Valerie McPhail  
MSM class of 2015

Time is flying and school is officially in session. I was only reminded of this season when my youngest sister went back to college at Michigan State around the same time all the New York University students started to pop around Union Square. It is a strange thought, considering the impact school had on my lifestyle only four months ago. Back then, I was writing reflections on Vatican II and reading Kate Chopin while dreaming of life in New York City.

Things have since changed. I am finding myself deeply devoted in the creative industry and tossed around by the events surrounding New York Fashion Week. Nonetheless, I am enjoying myself and invested in my work, just as I was when I was studying at the Mount.

I think my soul craves the “back to school” feeling. Moving into the city felt like going back to school and at times, living in a tiny apartment feels like sleeping in a dorm room. Perhaps my keen interests in sweaters, tennis shoes and my backpacks channel the excitement I have always had for back-to-school shopping, an event that prepares one for a new year of academics.

Knitted sweaters that layer over Brooks Brother's best non-iron button downs, blazers, and skirts paired with boots are styles that I feel most comfortable in at the moment. Fall

shopping is synonymous with back-to-school shopping. In the midst of this shopping season, here is a list of the five fashion trends for academic life. These are a few of my favorite things; these are five pieces that will complement a mission to find style in the midst of scholastics.

#### Graphic tee shirts

Graphic tees are a nice addition to a wardrobe because they start a conversation. Throughout my elementary school days, my closet was filled with tees of my favorite Disney princesses, cartoons and colorful floral prints. In the last fashion seasons, these tees have made a comeback from the childhood years.

My favorite graphic t-shirt is my Comme Des Garcon shirt. I treated myself to this gift for my 21st birthday while celebrating in Paris for a weekend. This piece is my number one pick because it was an investment in a brand that I admire. When I wear this top around town, I am sharing my favorite fashion.

Alexander Wang's latest collection of t-shirts and sweatshirts also comes close to capturing my heart. With his collaboration with DoSomething.org, it would be crazy to not want to support his brand. The material is a soft cotton and the graphics, “Do Something,” make for a clear call to action. Additionally, 50 percent of the proceeds of each sale are donated to an organization that gives back, and what is more stylish than that?

#### Fjallraven backpack

This accessory is my ultimate favorite! My black and brown backpack was given to me as a gift from my twin sister. I love traveling around the city with it by my side. As a Swedish brand that found a niche for travelers and adventurers in the countryside and the mountains of Northern Sweden, Fjallraven has quickly reached the city life in New York.

Backpacks are an essential item for school, however, this accessory may be a top competitor to the trendiest tote bag and handbag for the same matter. Fjallraven brand is style savvy in their color varieties and attractive due to their dual purposes of backpack and reversible tote. This is a ticket item fit for universal interest. From the journeyman, student, to the fashion aficionado, this look is a good fit for everyone.

#### Superga tennis shoes

Otherwise known as people who collect sneakers, sneakerheads are keeping the love for sporty shoes strong. Among the Nikes, Converse and Adidas Stan Smith styles is an Italian brand called Superga.

Known for its simplicity and cool collaborations, Superga is a favorite footwear brand of mine. I find that the brand's classic styles are not only easy to pair throughout day-to-day life, but their items are extremely affordable as well. It is a fashionista's dream come true! Affordable fashion is never going out of season, and Superga is a brand that delivers this wish.

The brand also has a history of interesting collaborations. With partnerships between Mary Kate and Ashley's luxury brand, The Row, with blogger, Man Repeller and now this season's collaboration with California brand, Rodarte, it is difficult to step away from this brand.

Sneakers are a shoe that allows for comfort without compromising style. They are the shoes to use when transitioning between flip-flops to



Alexander Wang's niece Alai Wang wearing an Alexander Wang “Parental Advisory” t-shirt.

boots. Pair them in the event to take on any task.

#### Lunch bag

This item is a necessity. It is the bag which will not allow last night's Chinese take-out to spill all over your brand new dress. It carries all your granola bars, and fits right in your tote bag and your backpack. This is your new lunch bag, and it is becoming a fashionable item to have. The Boden lunch bag is a good example of a fashionable alternative to the brown paper bag. Offered in a variety of colors and fun prints, Boden is an ideal lifestyle item. It is water-resistant with removable straps so that you have the luxury to carry the box bag by its top handle or by its cross body strap. In either case, the prints make for an exciting experience, like a child in a candy store, or maybe it's just the fact that they bring back childhood memories of Lion King and Barbie lunch boxes.

#### The Letterman's Varsity jacket

This classic piece is never going out of style. Perhaps it is because this jacket is an emblem of American sportswear, the fashion of the United States. Parisian Brand, Kitsune has made this item schoolgirl-cool once again. With classic colors like deep navy and red with white, this jacket models a football player's prized possession.

What I like most about this trend is that the youthful spirit of this coat has become a prize in the fashion industry. As it was in high school, the letterman's varsity jacket represents an accessory that shows confidence. For the rebels, rock stars and athletes there remains a fresh look when these coats hit the block. Rock one of these coats and look suave like Danny Zuko or posh as a musician.

Kids are fashionable in New York. They stroll around Soho in suspenders and accessorize their outfits with bucket hats and canvas tote bags. Children's fashion has a culture in the city. It was celebrated by fashion shows such as the Haddad Brand's Kids Rock and the Paul Frank Circus Jumbo.

Fashion designers bring their children to fashion shows and Alexander Wang's niece, Alai Wang, has quickly become the youngest fashion icon. The fashion industry is being taken over by interest in street style and youthful looks found on the internet, which are then obsessively re-posted about on Tumblr, a blogging website. New York has fully embraced this craze in a new way; the city and its people teach us that fashion and style may be communicated by every walk of life. Infants and the elderly can enjoy fashion — it is simply embracing a form of communication. Therefore, from East to West Coast, the nation's solution to shopping is dressing in smart style. I am hoping that my back-to-school shopping list adds to this excitement!

To read past articles by Valerie McPhail visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net.

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# Brave in the attempt

Lydia Olsen  
MSMU 2016

*This is a fictional short story about the challenges and triumphs of an individual with developmental disabilities and her involvement with Special Olympics Maryland. Special Olympics Maryland, in partnership with the Office of Social Justice at Mount St. Mary's University, will host the 27th annual Fall Sports Fest on the eastern campus of the Mount on October 24. This event brings together hundreds of athletes throughout Maryland and Mount student-volunteers for a day of inclusion, competition, and fun.*

People always say that it is hard to keep up with me. I have a busy schedule and am always doing something. I go from event to event and am always training in-between while also trying to keep up with my multiple jobs and spending time with my friends and family. I guess what people say is true—I am hard to keep up with! But that is because I just have so many goals and things I am working to accomplish. How can I waste any time when I have big dreams that I need to work towards?

Around 20 years ago, I was born into a beautiful family. I was blessed because they loved me unconditionally from the very beginning. Mom said that her and my dad knew before I was born, because the doctor had told them, that it was likely that my chromosome 21 had been copied one too many times and that I would have the most common genetic condition in the world, Down Syndrome. My parents were nervous, of course, because they did not know how this would affect their lives. It was going to be a big change for them but they believed in themselves, God, and most importantly, they believed in me.

Dad says that after I was done crying when I was born, I never stopped smiling. I am sure this is an exaggeration, but he always insists that I was the happiest then and I am the happiest now. Dad used to claim it was some sort of superpower I had, that I could always smile and make a situation seem less troubling. I honestly think that it is a sort of superpower. Sometimes things are really difficult and if you are not smiling, then it only

makes it more difficult.

A lot of times, people see me and think that Down Syndrome is the most difficult challenge I am going through. Many people see it as an obstacle I have to overcome or as some inherent setback. But I never see it that way, nor does anyone I know with Down Syndrome. Down Syndrome is simply just another characteristic of who I am. It is something that I was born with, just like you were born with incredible math skills, or an awesome, secret talent. It is not a defining factor of who I am and it is not a limiting factor on what I can do or who I can become. It is simply another trait that makes me, me. And I think I am pretty cool.

Growing up, my parents showered me with love. I attended school and had a good group of friends. However, my friends did not always understand where I was coming from or how my characteristics made me act and learn a little bit differently. Sometimes people would push me away, not because they were mean or trying to hurt my feelings, but because they simply did not understand. Others would embrace me and my capabilities. It is to them that I owe all that I have accomplished.

Mom and dad started enrolling me in events through Special Olympics Maryland when I entered middle school. At the time, I was a teenage girl, so long story short, I was moody and up to no good. Special Olympics gave me a chance to not only compete and be with other individuals who have developmental disabilities, but also to truly express myself and put my strengths and talents to work.

I started off just playing tennis. I played doubles with another girl from my same middle school. This was a great system because it gave her and me both a chance to work together and to spend time with one another. We became good friends. I then decided to get involved in long distance running as well. I enjoyed the feeling of having to challenge myself to push physical limits.

By the time I was in high school I was competing in multiple Special Olympics sports. I was still keeping up with tennis and long distance running, while also trying my luck at swimming and power lifting. It was



Mount St. Mary's University will host its 27th annual Fall Sports Fest on October 24. This event brings together hundreds of athletes throughout Maryland and Mount student volunteers for a day of inclusion, competition, and fun.

always a busy season. I would spend hours each week practicing with other athletes, training with various coaches, and working on my form and skills on my own time. When I was not busy training, I would be out helping with the training of other athletes and would cheer them on as they competed. When I met all of the amazing athletes and shared in their journeys and victories, it only encouraged me to do more and to become better.

One of my favorite events has always been competing at the Fall Sports Fest at Mount St. Mary's University, which takes place every year in October. This event brings together so many athletes from the various counties of Maryland and it is something we all train very hard for. We travel with our teams, already in our uniforms and ready to compete. Some of us carry snacks and change of clothes, or other uniforms for different events. All of us carry positive energy and a desire to achieve.

We arrive on campus and file into the same arena where the Mount St. Mary's basketball team hosts their home games. Representatives holding our banners process into the arena to begin the opening ceremonies. The crowd listens as the President of the university, and then a Special Olympics Maryland manager, and an athlete say a few opening words. Then,

all of the events begin!

This year, the events will all take place on October 24. There will be power lifting, long-distance running, tennis, cycling, and flag football. In previous years I have competed in long-distance running and in tennis. I plan on competing in both, again, this year. I really enjoy playing tennis because it is something that I have done for a long time, but long-distance running is where I think I shine my brightest.

There are multiple events through long-distance running. I will be running in the 5k, which is the second farthest distance offered. I really enjoy this because the course takes the runners through a trail and around the beautiful areas of the eastern campus. It is always so pretty because it is at a time when the leaves are changing colors and everything is a perfect shade of yellow or orange. Along the course there are various student volunteers who help to keep track of our times and to cheer us along. This always encourages me to keep going when I get tired or begin to lose my breath.

After I finish running I will have to eat a quick lunch before heading over to compete in tennis. It is a busy day for me and for most of the athletes. If and when I have extra time, I enjoy watching my friends and fellow athletes compete in their events. I am always impressed by their skills and dedication.

Once all the events are over, the athletes and our families head over the watch the award ceremony. We are all lined up depending on the events we competed in and our time slots. Then we gather on the stage and are awarded with a shiny gold, silver, or bronze medal or ribbon. Everyone always claps for us and it is a time when I always feel a lot of pride about both my team's and my own personal accomplishments.

Special Olympics has been critical in shaping my life and my development. Because of this organization, I have been able to achieve more than I ever knew I was capable of. I have been able to set goals that I will continue to try achieve. Special Olympics has taught me a lot about myself and one of the things I have learned is that I can be unstoppable, in sports and in life.

I may not always be successful the first time or always accomplish everything I set out to, but I always try and aim for gold and that is what makes the difference. Special Olympics has taught me to live my life through its own motto, "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt," a motto we can each take into account in our own lives, regardless of our characteristics or abilities.

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

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## ARTS

## Totem Pole Playhouse teams with Majestic Theater

Stephanie Allee  
Totem Pole Playhouse

Totem Pole Playhouse's legendary adaptation of Dickens' holiday classic "A Christmas Carol" will be presented each December at Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater as the centerpiece of Destination Gettysburg's marketing campaign "Holidays in Gettysburg" featuring theater, dining, and shopping.

Totem Pole Playhouse has signed a long-term agreement with Gettysburg College's Majestic Theater to present an all-new version of the playhouse's critically acclaimed adaptation of Dickens' A Christmas Carol each December through 2019.

A Christmas Carol will take the stage Dec. 9-20 with both matinee and evening performances sched-

uled. Special student matinees will be offered as well.

"We are thrilled to bring this beloved holiday family-friendly production to Gettysburg," said Rowan Joseph, Producing Artistic Director for Totem Pole Playhouse. "The Majestic Theater, as well as the entire town of Gettysburg is a perfect backdrop for this classic story of the Christmas spirit. We look forward to entertaining area residents, as well as the thousands of holiday visitors to show this year and for many years to come."

A Christmas Carol will be part of a larger "Holidays in Gettysburg" season throughout the community with events planned from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. The Totem Pole, Majestic Theater and other community partners are working closely with Destination Gettysburg,

Adams County's official destination marketing organization, to promote not only the performances themselves, but a holiday season packed with events, activities and packages for both visitors and local residents.

"The holidays provide Adams County with a great potential to grow tourism during the month of December," said Norris Flowers, President of Destination Gettysburg. "A Christmas Carol," we believe, could be attractive to not only leisure travelers, but travel groups who often visit other destinations during the holiday season."

Joseph said the idea originated with a conversation he had with Majestic Theater's Founding Executive Director, Jeffrey Gabel, about developing a production the two theaters could work on together.

The project also includes community partners such as Gettysburg Group Reservations, which will be selling the performance to travel groups – sometimes as part of a package; the Adams County Arts Council, which will be working with local school districts; and Gettysburg Community Theatre, who's Executive Director – Chad Alan-Carr – will be the production's choreographer; and the Gettysburg Adams Chamber of Commerce.

"I really enjoyed working with Rowan as the choreographer of the show last year in Chambersburg and so I jumped at the offer for Gettysburg Community Theatre to serve as Associate Producer when he made it, said Carr. "I am thrilled at the opportunity it offers our membership, especially the children, to be able to work

with professional actors and designers on such a high-quality production."

The performance will be held evenings on Dec. 11, 12, 18 and 19 at 8 p.m.; with matinee performances scheduled for Dec. 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 19 at 2 p.m. Student performances – costing just \$6 per local student, courtesy of a grant from the Adams County Community Foundation – will be held at 10 a.m. on Dec. 10, 11, 15, 16, 17 and 18 at 10 a.m.

Admission for the show will range from \$36 to \$30 for adults and \$20 for students.

Tickets are on sale now online at [www.gettysburgmajestic.org](http://www.gettysburgmajestic.org), through the Majestic Theater box office by calling 717-337-8200 or in person at 25 Carlisle St. in Gettysburg.

## Rhythmic Circus

Jean Grubesky  
Majestic Theater

Rhythmic Circus is a troupe of 11 internationally renowned artists and the creators of Feet Don't Fail Me Now! Home grown hoofers from Minneapolis hit the road with a trunk full of tap shoes, funky costumes and a big brass band, ready to burst onto the stage. Since their early beginnings four years, they have grown into an international sensation and will appear at the Majestic Theater, Gettysburg, PA on Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 8 p.m.

"This is a high energy, high fun show that will have the whole family dancing in their seats," enthused Jeffrey Gabel, the Majestic Theater's Executive Director. "I'm particularly pleased that

Rhythmic's Majestic appearance will be their Central PA's debut."

The brilliance of Rhythmic Circus has been marked by their production's rave reviews, sold-out engagements and numerous awards, which include: 2 Sage Awards for Outstanding Ensemble and Performance, the "Spirit of the Fringe" Award (Edinburgh Fringe Festival's top theatrical award), 2 Upper Midwest Emmys, as well as being named "Best Dance Performance" by the City Pages. Together, they integrate an inventive style of rapid-fire tap with a variety of musical genres to create a show that presents a wildly creative view into the indomitable power of the human spirit. "Heatbox" the human beatbox, joins the swingin' seven-piece funk band to accompany each tap, shuffle, and stomp with a clang,



riff and refrain. It's easy to see why this troupe won of all of their awards. In this joyous parade of genre-hopping music, hard-hitting percussive dance, costume changes and musical segues; you'll be jumping out of your seat and dancing to the beat!

To purchase tickets, \$45, \$38, \$32 (students/children \$5 discount) call 717-337-8200, or stop by the Box Office, 25 Carlisle Street, Gettysburg. The Box Office is open Monday through Saturday from Noon until 7:30 p.m. and on

Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

The Majestic Theater at the Jennifer and David LeVan Performing Arts Center is owned and operated by Gettysburg College as a cultural treasure for its campus and the community.

## Ninth annual Salsa On The Square

The ninth annual Salsa on the Square will take place from 5:30 to 11 p.m. on Friday, October 2, in Gettysburg. Sponsored by Project Gettysburg-León

(PGL), the event will celebrate more than 30 years of Gettysburg's Sister City relationship with León, Nicaragua. Salsa on the Square is a Fiesta meant to cel-

brate the contribution of Latino people to the economy and culture of Adams County.

According to Karl Mattson, co-president of PGL, the event is a local centerpiece of Hispanic Awareness Month, which honors not only Latino contributions to America, but the independence of the five Central American countries: Honduras, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

The Dance will take place on the first block of Carlisle Street, which will be closed from Lincoln Square to the railroad tracks. For the sixth consecutive year, the celebration will feature the Latino music of Hector Rosado and his Orquesta A-CHE. DJ Solalinda will be on hand to play dance music between the sets.

Local food vendors will include Casa de la Cultura, El Costeno, the Ragged Edge, Gettysburg College Servo Express, and the Ugly Mug. Gettysburg College students will organize children's games and activities. The Gigantona, a large Nicaraguan folk doll, will again make her appearance.



A night full of dancing, food and games is set to take place in Gettysburg for the ninth annual Salsa on the Square. Bring your kids and make it a family event!

Gettysburg Mayor William Troxell will read a proclamation declaring October 2 as Hispanic Awareness Day in Gettysburg.

The event is partially funded through grants from the Adams County Community Foundation, the Adams County Fruit Growers Association, Rice Fruit Company, the Nancy Cushing-Dan-

iels Fund, and the Young Growers Alliance of Adams County. The Center for Public Service at Gettysburg College is a major contributor. The Salsa Dance is produced in association with the Gettysburg Area Retail Merchants Association working together with PGL for the greater good of Gettysburg.

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# Inside the Thurmont Thespians

Jack Williams  
MSM Class of 2017

Despite our better wishes, the summer season has come and gone. I have often heard people say that summer is the fastest season, and it has certainly felt that way this year. The time for outdoor grilling and roofless cars rides down Route 15 is quickly coming to an end, but the fall season presents us with new options for entertainment.

Football is back on the air, apples are right for the picking, and corn mazes are opening up all around us. One option I have not often heard locally, though, is the increasing number of art events in our community. For instance, the Thurmont Thespians are currently preparing for their upcoming fall production, *God's Favorite*. Let me offer some more background on this group, in the event that any of you are unfamiliar with, or would like to know more about them.

The Thurmont Thespians are a wonderful, charmingly quaint local community theatre group whose mission is to bring theatre to the town of Thurmont, as well as teach theatre to young people during the summertime. This month I spoke with Beth Watson, co-founder of the Thespians, to better acquaint myself with this local organization.

Beth explained that the name, Thespians, is a reference to the citizens of the Ancient Greek polis of Thespie. Briefly put, Thespie was a site of great artistic activity in the ancient world. If any of you are familiar with the Muses (the nine Greek goddesses of the inspiration of literature, science, and the arts), their sanctuary could be found in Thespie.

The intention of creating a theatre group to inspire local townsmen was especially evident when Beth spoke to me. She told me that her personal inspiration for founding the Thespians was the teaching of theatre to children: "I wanted to teach basic theatre skills to every kid who wants to learn, without cost. And so we founded the Thurmont Thespians to achieve this goal."

Beth and her husband Spencer, the other co-founder, have a lengthy background in theatrical art. Spencer performed while at Allegheny College, and Beth took part in theatrical production while attending Dickinson College. Beth is a native of Thurmont who had been away since high school, but moved back to Thurmont with her husband in the early 1990s, continually showcasing their love of locally-found theatre by remaining active with the Fredericktowne Players and the Blue Ridge Theatre Guild.

The Thespians are a community theatre organized as an outreach of St. John's Lutheran Church. St. John's has always been a key supporter of the Thespians. Earlier in its history, the Thespians performed their plays at the Church itself, but have since branched out and conducted their shows at The American Legion, also located in Thurmont. As it stands today, St. John's kindly offers the Thespians the rehearsal space necessary for their main productions, which are held in The American Legion building.

An impressive diversity of plays have been taken on by the Thespians over

the span of 17 years. Since 1998, the local group has performed some very well known plays, some of which include *Godspell*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and *The Rose Tattoo*. Other lesser known plays have also been exhibited with great success, such as Paul Zindel's *The Secret Affairs of Mildred Wild*. The theatre also performs original works, like Kurt Johnson's *Teenages* in 2006 and Spence Watson's *Bessie Darling* in 2012. Typically, the fall production encompasses any particular type of play, while the spring production is oftentimes a musical. During the summertime, the performers of the play switch each year between teens and the younger crowd, that being, between the ages of 4 and 14.

Even with the overwhelming support of the community, which comprises local businesses, actors, producers, and lay citizens, the Thespians have needed to cope with some major dilemmas in their history. Beth informed me that Spencer passed away very suddenly in December of 2013, which left a major gap in leadership, "It takes five men and three women to handle the things that he did automatically."

The response to this loss, however, was an incredible illustration of how members of a close community can overcome even the greatest of adversities.

"At this point in our development, I am overseeing the group but we have all sorts of people stepping up to the plate to help. I am no longer directing and we have found that many youngsters who have come up through the program are willing to step up and help by directing," stated Beth.

Local residents have also come to aid the Thespians, and Beth could not be more thankful, "Everyone comes and helps, all ages and all levels of expertise. It is a community endeavor and we pull from the surrounding communities as well."

In addition to Spencer's unexpected passing in 2013, money has always been a factor for the Thespians. As you might imagine, offering to teach any curious child the skills involved with theatre work for free does incur some financial cost for the group. Nevertheless, local citizens have always helped keep the Thespians afloat; "We have instituted semi-annual book sales, as well as *Granny's Attic* at Color Fest." In our back-and-forth, Beth especially emphasized how grateful she, as well as everyone involved with Thespians, is for every person who has aided them financially throughout their history through these fundraisers.

Today, the number of individu-

als currently involved in the management of the group hovers between 35 and 40, and everyone is working passionately on their upcoming show, *God's Favorite*.

For this article, I also spoke with the director of *God's Favorite*, Matthew Bannister, and he echoed everything that Beth had told me. He said that, "The Thurmont Thespians really embrace the community part of community theatre. As well as the nine actors involved in the production, there will be a much larger group away from the limelight."

The community aspect of this play is particularly noticeable in the number of people who will help sell tickets, the ushers, and those who are helping audience members by serving complimentary refreshments.

Based on the conversations that I have had with Beth and Matthew, I am confident that the Thurmont Thespians will put on an impressive and memorable performance of *God's Favorite*. Matthew has a unique vision for the play that he, as well as everyone involved, believes will connect with attendees "through laughter, heartfelt emotion, and faith, and when performed well, should be quite thought provoking too."

*God's Favorite* is a modern, comedic reimagining of the story of the biblical Job's tribulations. Beth regaled some basic plot details by sharing that the play "is centered on Joe Benjamin, a man who lives in a Long Island mansion with his wife and family when he is visited by an unlikely messenger from God who uses all kinds of temptations and trials to get him to denounce God." This play was the creation of the famously funny playwright Neil Simon, the mind behind *The Odd Couple* and *Barefoot in the Park*.

If you are interested in attending *God's Favorite*, the show will be performed during the first two weekends in November at The American Legion building located at 8 Park Place in Thurmont, MD. At the Friday and Saturday night showings on the 6th, 7th, 13th, and 14th, curtains rise at 7:30 PM. At the Sunday showings on the 8th and 14th, the curtains rise at 2 PM. A dinner theatre is also available on Saturday, November 14th at 6 PM. To schedule a reservation, as well as to ask any questions you may have about show times, feel free to contact the Thespians at (301) 271-7613.

Other local art events have been occurring at Mount St. Mary's University



Robert Hughes (Ben Benjamin), Rob Hughes (Joe Benjamin) & Erin Schwartz (Sarah Benjamin) are awoken at midnight by the burglar alarm in the upcoming Thurmont Thespian's production of "God's Favorite."

ty that are worth your attention. There is an upcoming classical music concert at the Mount, open to all. The subject of this classical concert is music from France during the heart of the Romantic Period. The Romantic Period, for those of us who may not be adept at identifying composers by musical era, includes artists from the likes of Ludwig van Beethoven and Richard Wagner.

The Romantic era composers whose work will be performed at the Mount are Claude Debussy, Camille Saint-Saëns, and Henri Vieuxtemps. The performers, James Tung and John Wickelgren, are very fond of the pieces they will play at this upcoming event, and are very eager to share some beautifully crafted music to anyone who wishes to participate in it. This concert will be held on October 3rd at 7:30 PM, in the Lynne & Joseph Horning Theater found in the Delaplaine Fine Arts Center at Mount St. Mary's University, and admission is free.

Thank you for reading through the arts section this month! I would like

to use the rest of my page space to tell you all that I have created a website specifically for this section of the paper, which I called The Emmitsburg Art Scene. On this website, you can find all of my previously written articles, which include extra photos and videos not found in the paper version. You will find weekly posts where I discuss one work of art that I believe is very interesting or particularly relevant during that week, as well as reports from local art events. If you happened to miss the classical music concert, for example, pictures, videos and commentary will already be uploaded to The Emmitsburg Art Scene webpage. There is a comment system up as well, where you can feel free to share your thoughts with myself or anyone else. If you are interested, feel free to visit at [emmitsburgartscene.wordpress.com](http://emmitsburgartscene.wordpress.com)!

To read other articles by Jack Williams visit the Authors section of [emmitsburg.net](http://emmitsburg.net), or [emmitsburgartscene.wordpress.com](http://emmitsburgartscene.wordpress.com).

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# SPORTS

## Catoctin soccer is back

Michael Donahue

Over the last month, the soccer season has begun for Catoctin. Both the men and women's teams began the season against Francis Scott Key on September 8, with two different results. While the Lady Cougars traveled to Taneytown, the men hosted the Eagles at Catoctin. By September 20, the men were three games into their schedule, while the women were only two.

The first match for the women was a tale of two halves. During the first half, the team played sluggishly. However, the game started to click tactically for the Lady Cougars in the second half.

"I was impressed by their intensity and communication after the first half...everything seemed to start to come together tactically," stated Coach Olson.

The goals in the match came one after another with Catoctin scoring first, then FSK, and finally Catoctin again. The three captains for the Cougars all helped with the goal scoring. Carrie Reaver and Kristen Fox were the two who netted the goals and Taylor Crum assisted on Fox's game winner.

For the remainder of the season, the Lady Cougars will strive to grow in tactics and skill. The team has a motivation and the will to learn from losses, like their 4-1 loss to Thomas Johnson. They hope to grow through disappointments. They have the chemistry to support each other, even through mistakes and they have the will to learn schemes and the desire to develop talent. By the end of the season, the Lady Cougars aspire to have at least a .500 record and make a run in the playoffs past the first round.

The men have started the season a bit slower. They have lost their first three games to FSK, Clear Spring, and Thomas Johnson. However, the team is young and ready to gain some experience. They are playing six sophomores and one freshman for notable minutes. This youth may help them in later years, if the team stays together and grows as one unit. The Cougars are willing to learn. No matter their opponent and no matter the score, they will fight. They have a healthy stubbornness and a tenacity to play every minute and every second. Every single time they step on the pitch, their goal is to learn.

The Cougars will be led this

year by Noah Olson and Robert Hawkins, the two captains. One of the biggest strengths for the Cougars, besides their work ethic and will, is their readiness to accept a role. Each player understands what their job is within the team and they are willing to play within the role. The Cougars are looking forward to measuring themselves against

the tougher competition inside of the CMC (Central Maryland Conference). They take it as a challenge and a chance to grow.

There is one final goal both teams share. Not surprisingly, the program for both the men and women want the players to enjoy the sport. For many of the players, this could be the last chance they have to play

competitive soccer. Both Coach Olson and Coach Viti want the teams to have fun on the pitch and grow an admiration and respect for the sport and their teammates.

Make sure to support both the men's and the women's teams. The games are a fun affair and great way to support the high school and the soccer programs. The Lady Cougars play Frederick on October 13 at Catoctin and the men host Tuscarora on the 8th.



2015 Catoctin boys varsity soccer team



2015 Catoctin girls varsity soccer team

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## MOUNT SPORTS

# Women's swimming starts fresh

Brian Vogelgesang  
MSM Class of 2016

Who are we? This is the question that Mount St. Mary's University's women's swimming must ask themselves this year. The ladies of the pool are a young team with the freshmen class bringing in a lot of depth. Though, this depth can be tricky to probe.

Head coach Neil Yost said, "We need to figure out who we actually are. This is going to be a learning year."

Coach Yost specifically mentioned that the team wanted to continue to hold their standing as an academic all-American team. Last spring, the swimming team received the College Swimming Coaches Association of America's recognition for stellar academic performance.

Yost spoke of the importance that sports play in an athlete's life saying, "hard work in the pool, and sports in general, carries over to the classroom."

Hard work brings success and success brings confidence which can be applied to anything in life. The team will certainly go into this season with confidence that they can find their balance again after having a big change in team dynamics.

MSMU's swimming team enters into this 2015-2016 season with quite a difference in team dynamics. According to Yost, the women's swimming team has brought in a freshman class that brings forth the ability to compete in many different events. This type of diversity in ability can allow for the potential for success to bloom, but it also brings forth the problem of learning how to harness this potential.

When looking at sports in general, one can see that there comes much uncertainty in the process of becoming a champion. This process consists of different means that lead to the same end, that end being the win. One may often hear in the sports world "practice makes perfect" or "failure is not an option." This is not entirely true. Practice does not make perfect but rather it creates progress. It creates a sort of progress that reveals weakness or the need to grow. Further, practice gives light not to perfection but rather imperfection. This most certainly will also bring light to one's failures, which must occur for one to become successful. It is through these successes that one realizes that he or she grows.

It seems, when viewing sports in a historical perspective, that the champions are willing to grow and willing to change. That is exactly what the Mount's women's swimming is doing; they are open to possibility to change and the potential for growth in their new team dynamic.

Coach Yost commented on one missing aspect this year, that being Erin Regan. In the interview, Coach Yost was honestly unsure "How to replace Erin Regan." Regan is the most decorated swimmer in Mount history. She graduated with the class of 2015, holding multiple medals, one of which is a gold medal from the NEC championship. According to the Mount's Athletic website (Feb. 21, 2014), "Mount St. Mary's junior swimmer Erin Regan won her second career individual Northeast Conference title, and the second in program history, as the Mount broke school records in three events at the NEC Champion-

ships at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on Friday." This loss will obviously take time to adjust to. But as any great team the swimmers are looking to adapt and see some outstanding victories.

Two swimmers to look out for, according to Coach Yost, are Haley Fournier and Amanda Moore. Fournier received All-NEC recognition last year. She commented, "This year, because it's my senior year, I'm going to just put everything I have into every practice and every race. It's my last year of competitive swimming and I want to just train my heart out, so that when I stop at the touch pad at the end of my final race at conferences, I have no regrets. I want to make my coaches, my teammates, and my family proud because they have all been such a huge part of my swimming journey!"

Amanda Moore, along with Fournier and Lenna Castro Marquez also had success last season in the 400 meter relay at the NEC conference championship. Though Fournier and Moore were mentioned as standouts, as a whole all the swimmers are training hard to compete at their best level this season.

In order to present their best in contest, like all teams, the Mount swim team cherishes each other and truly acts as unit. This is done through authentic sportsmanship and friendship. The team carries out traditions each year that provide them the means to make the bonds that form quality teammates and friends. One of these traditions is a yearly bowling trip during their fall break.

Senior Lenna Castro Marquez commented on this annual tradition,



For swimming enthusiast there is no better place to be than poolside, cheering on the Mounts women's swim team.

"we go bowling every year during fall break and it's a fun time because fall break training is usually very draining. It's nice to have an afternoon to just hang out and have fun with the team. We go out to dinner afterwards which is awesome because we all love to eat."

Dedication is something that all Mount sports embrace. It propels athletes to their very best and competes at the highest level with integrity. Mount athletes put their hearts and souls in what they do and the swimmers are no exception to this standard. They train rigorously throughout the summer and hit the water hard once the season begins. Their typical day in-season consists of two practices. One of which begins at the wee hours of the morning. The swimmers can be seen always supporting each other throughout the day weather that is encouraging one another to do well in the classroom or in the pool.

Mount St. Mary's swimming exemplifies remarkable dedication to teammates, which helps propel them to success. Junior Morgan Runk said, "Swimming is a sport where you not only have to work for yourself to achieve personal goals but you must also work with your teammates to

make team success. That's what makes swimming such a different sport. You want to beat your teammates and every other girl to get personal goals but at the time it is okay if your teammates win because then your team still gains points."

The idea that you cannot achieve your dreams is something that has most likely gone through many of our minds, but especially through the minds of an athlete. In swimming, one can witness an individual athlete competing and suffering for something bigger than them. Swimming is brutal yet eloquent at the same time. It requires the athlete to use almost every muscle in his or her body while paying close attention to technique that allows them to glide through the water. It requires perseverance.

The Mount swim team perseveres. This is obvious through their past successes. Multiple swimmers have placed top 5 at NEC conference championships and one has even achieved gold. This group of ladies is a group that you will not want to miss. The swimming is top notch and so is the team's character. Come out and support your Mounties as they compete for the gold!

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## COMPLEMENTARY CORNER

# Culture of fear

Renee Lehman

“This is preeminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today. This great Nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.” No, this is not a recent speech, although, it may seem true for today’s society given that we are under a siege of fear. It was President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s first inaugural speech in 1933.

Watch any form of media and what are you bombarded with? There is apprehension about “dramatic weather” coming your way, contagious rare diseases, serious crimes, and turmoil in the world (I didn’t want to list too many things – didn’t want to make you more fearful). Our 24/7 news programs will spend hours, days, and weeks discussing the latest traumatic events – playing them over and over again, making it seem like the events are continuing to happen. All of these media messages continue to perpetuate the message: Watch out! Be fearful! Don’t trust! There is much to be afraid of!

First, it is important to note that fear is an appropriate and necessary emotion. It does occur naturally, and can help you survive a threat. For example, if while walking in the woods, you saw a bear, fear would cause you to seek safety. The Chinese character for fear is drawn as a hand carrying a tool poised above the heart. This character conveys the image of something repeatedly beating on one’s heart. It

shows that fear could cause one to feel heart palpitations, therefore, be frozen and unable to move forward.

From a Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) perspective, the emotion of fear is associated with the natural element of Water. Think about the darkness and the depths of the ocean. Don’t you experience a level of uncertainty and fear about “what is out there” in the dark or “what could be lurking” at the deepest depths of the ocean? Since the Water element deals with your innate resources and how wisely you use them, your potential, and your ability for self – assurance, can you see how having a healthy level of fear can facilitate your thinking and preparing for the future and your ability to be resilient no matter what happens?

### Abnormal State of Fear

However, when fear becomes the emotional state from which you function, it can have negative consequences. Our endocrine system releases adrenaline and other hormones, which help protect us in the short term, but they are detrimental if the stressors (whether real or imagined) persist. From a western perspective, psychoneuroimmunological (psycho-neuro-immuno-logical) testing in laboratory animals and a range of human epidemiological findings associate exposure to prolonged stress with a weakened immune system, increased cardiovascular damage. Also, associated with this are gastrointestinal problems such as ulcers and irritable bowel syndrome, decreased fertility, impaired formation of long-term memories. Other symptoms include fatigue, an increased likelihood of osteoporosis and type 2 diabetes, and aggravated clinical depression, accel-

erated ageing and even premature death (found in the article: The Consequences of Fear by David Ropeik, 2004).

From a TCM perspective, chronic fear and nervousness has the ability to “freeze” or “paralyze” someone. It may even become difficult for them to take a “step forward” (both figuratively and literally). A person’s mind may even become “stuck and fixed,” and result in them feeling overwhelmed or being unable to contain their thoughts. A person experiencing fear may also act in an opposite way, babbling uncontrollably. Here again you can see the analogies to water, whether it is “frozen” or “flowing out of control”.

The organs that correspond with the Water element and the emotion of Fear are the Kidneys and Bladder. In TCM, the Kidneys and Bladder have many functions on a body, mind, and spirit level.

The Kidneys are the source of our potential (they are considered to be our “battery pack”). The energy from our “battery pack” activates our metabolism and motivates us to live (think about surviving through the winter). On an emotional and mental level, the Kidneys are responsible for mental strength (adaptable thinking), long term memory, concentration, cleverness, and the ability to be “still.” On a spirit level, the Kidneys are responsible for our inherent constitution, resiliency (which includes inner power and courage in times of difficulty), the ability to fulfill our potential and manifest ourselves in the world, and having the faith for a “future harvest.”

The Bladder has the vital function of storing and regulating the water and flow of energy for the entire body.

On a physical level it is responsible for storing excess water and excreting the urine (waste water) that has been filtered by the kidneys. On an emotional and mental level, the Bladder is responsible for the ability of our thoughts to flow easily, to offer support and reassurance to ourselves and others, and to be able to listen well to others. On a spirit level, the Bladder gives us a sense of ambition and confidence, and a sense of comfort and ease at a deep level within our core.

### Support Your Kidneys and Bladder

So, do you find yourself like most Americans, “frozen” with fear because you think the world is more dangerous than ever before? There is plenty of evidence that refutes this misperception. I recommend that you read the book *The Culture of Fear: Why Americans Are Afraid of the Wrong Things* by Barry Glassner. In this book, you will find the much-needed antidote to the prevalent disease that the media plagues us with on a daily basis. And, while you are reading this book, support your Kidneys and Bladder by doing some of the following:

Balance the amount of activity and rest (work, rest, & play). This is a great example of using your resources wisely.

Exercise wisely (do energy building exercises like yoga, qi gong, and tai chi), versus performing exercises that use up a lot of your energy and run your “batteries” down.

Take time to meditate or have time for quiet contemplation. Plus, stop watching the news 24/7! This will help keep you from depleting your resources.

March in place by slowly stomping each foot with a flat foot, for about 5 minutes a day. This stimulates your Kidney’s energy as the feet are associated with the Kidney and Bladder me-



ridians, which run through the heel and to the sole of the foot.

Rub your ears for several minutes a day. This simple massage strengthens Kidney function, as the ears are connected energetically to the Kidney organ and meridian.

Stop energy drains! Conserve your energy by falling asleep before midnight, resting when you’re tired, and giving yourself permission to take a break and de-stress.

Think about abundance instead of scarcity.

Eat foods that come from saltwater (fish, seaweeds); seeds; salty-flavored foods (if you don’t have blood pressure problems); and dark colored foods (red/black beans). These types of foods support your Kidneys (think about how kidney beans look like a Kidney) and Bladder.

Avoid too many stimulants or dehydrating drinks. These can affect your mood in a negative way.

Finally, here are some quotes about fear:

“There is no illusion greater than fear.” - Lao Tzu

“Men are not afraid of things, but of how they view them.” - Epictetus

“Even death is not to be feared by one who has lived wisely.” - Buddha

*Renee Lehman is a licensed acupuncturist and physical therapist with over 25 years of health care experience. Her office is located at 249B York Street in Gettysburg, PA. She can be reached at 717-752-5728.*

## Get Your Pink On!

Think Pink the month of October and visit the following locations while helping the cause for Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the cure!

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You may register at [thinkpink5k.com](http://thinkpink5k.com) or register at the Thurmont Town Office or Anytime Fitness.

All Think Pink Promotional Proceeds will be donated to the Patty Hurwitz Foundation at FMH.



# FITNESS AND HEALTH

## Keep moving

School's up and running, you should be too!

**Linda Stultz**  
Certified Fitness Trainer/Fitness Therapist

The start of school, sports practice, band practice and the many other demands that come with the fall and winter can put a strain on your time but please be sure to find some time for yourself. Finding something that the kids will enjoy along with you will give them a chance to burn their extra energy and will help you find some extra energy from your workout.

Getting back into doing homework and having everyone ready for bed by a certain time puts a strain on time in the evening but finding at least 30 minutes for exercise will be so beneficial. You can even do 10 minute seg-

ments of dancing with the kids or whatever gets you moving. Taking a family walk in the evenings or on the weekend will give you a chance to connect with your children on what's happening with in their lives.

Having a break between school and doing homework may help reset your child's mind and may just be the key to getting their work done a little easier. They sit in school all day and really need to move around and get ready for the evening. Exercise can bring a family closer together. You can do anything from playing ball, taking a walk, bike or horseback riding, using the Wii in the house or any activity that gets you moving and gets your heart rate up for a period of time.

Maybe if each person gets a

turn to pick their favorite exercise on a day of the week the kids may be more interested in participating. You don't have to have a planned exercise for each day just enjoy the moment and sometimes you even need to take a night off and relax. The winter months are sometimes hard to get motivated but the benefits of doing something will pay off big time. School's started and you should start doing something to improve your health and have fun with your family and friends.

Take advantage of the snow and make a game of shoveling then reward yourself with sledding and all that work will become fun. A new routine for the winter will hopefully include some time for you and for the family to get some physical activity for a sound mind and body. Fall and winter are coming so we may as well find a way to enjoy them. If you have any questions, give me a call at 717-334-6009 and I will help get you started. Remember, KEEP MOVING, You'll be glad you did!

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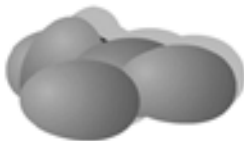
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## ASTRONOMY

# The night sky of October

Professor Wayne Wooten

For October 2015, the moon is last quarter on October 4th, and waning in the morning sky for the first two weeks of the month. The waning crescent passes just one degree south of Venus on the morning of October 8th, then passes Mars and Jupiter on the following dawn. The New Moon is October 13th, and the crescent moon the following evening marks the Muslim New Year, 1437 AH. The waxing crescent passes 3 degrees north of Saturn on October 16th.

The first quarter moon on October 20th will be setting at midnight, and thus not interfere with the peak of the Orionid Meteor Shower the following morning. This is debris from Comet Halley, and about a meteor every 3-4 minutes seem to come out of Orion's head. The full moon, the Hunter's Moon, is on the evening of October 27th, so the moon will be waning gibbous, and not rising until about 11 PM on Halloween, a little late for viewing by the family out walking for treats, alas.

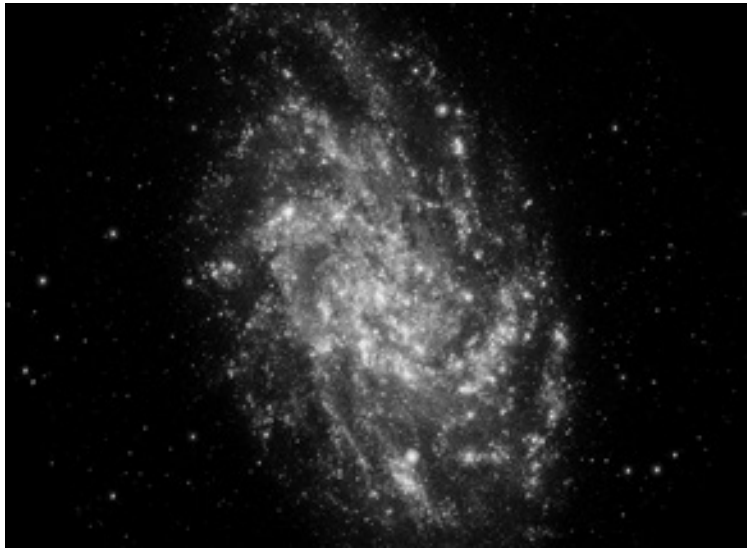
Saturn is low in the SW evening sky in October, just west of the claws of Scorpius. Saturn will be lost in the Sun's glare by month's end. Jupiter and Venus dominate the dawn sky, and have a close conjunction on the morning of October 25th, with brighter Venus passing just a degree north of Jupiter. The red plan-

et Mars is much fainter than these two, but is also in the dawn, and passes only a moon diameter north of Jupiter on the morning of October 17th, so some good photo ops for early rising planet watchers this month.

The Big Dipper falls lower each evening. By the end of October, it will be only the three stars in the handle of Dipper still visible in the northwestern twilight. By contrast, the Little Dipper, while much fainter, is always above our northern horizon here along the Gulf Coast.

To the southwest, Antares and Scorpius also set soon after twilight, and will be gone by month's end. East of the Scorpion's tail is the teapot shape of Sagittarius, which marks the heart of our Milky Way galaxy. Looking like a cloud of steam coming out of the teapot's spout is the fine Lagoon Nebula, M-8, easily visible with the naked eye. This stellar nursery is ablaze with new stars and steamers of gas and dust blown about in their energetic births. In the same binocular field just north of the Lagoon is M-20, the Trifid Nebula. Many other clusters visible in binoculars as you sweep northward along the Milky Way, and are plotted on the sky map for the month.

The brightest star of the northern hemisphere, Vega dominates the sky overhead. To the northeast of Vega is Deneb, the brightest star of Cyg-



The Pinwheel galaxy, M-33, just south of Andromeda in Triangulum.

nus the Swan. To the south is Altair, the brightest star of Aquila the Eagle, the third member of the three bright stars that make the Summer Triangle so obvious in the NE these clear autumn evenings. To the east of Altair lies tiny Delphinus, a rare case of a constellation that does look like its namesake.

To the east, the square of Pegasus is a beacon of fall. South of it lies the only bright star of Fall, Fomalhaut. If the southern skies of Fall look sparse, it is because we are looking away from our Galaxy into the depths of intergalactic space. The constellation Cassiopeia makes a striking W, rising in the NE as the Big Dipper sets in the NW. Polaris lies about midway between them. She contains

many nice star clusters for binocular users in her outer arm of our Milky Way, extending to the NE now. Her daughter, Andromeda, starts with the NE corner star of Pegasus' Square, and goes NE with two more bright stars in a row. It is from the middle star, beta Andromeda, that we proceed about a quarter the way to the top star in the W of Cassiopeia, and look for a faint blur with the naked eye. M-31, the Andromeda Galaxy, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye, lying about 2.5 million light years distant. It is a bigger version of our own Galaxy, which it may collide with about three billion years from now. It is a good season to meet another neighbor, the Pinwheel galaxy, M-33, just

south of Andromeda in Triangulum. Faintly visible with the naked eye under really dark skies, it is easy in binocular and is beautifully revealed in our featured astrophoto of the month, and another spiral like our own Milky Way.

Below Andromeda is her hero, Perseus. In his hand is a star most appropriate for Halloween, Algol. This star "winks" at us for six out of every 70 hours, which Arabic astronomers centuries ago found spooky, hence naming it "the ghoul". We know today it is an eclipsing binary system, with the larger, cooler orange star covering 80% of its smaller, hotter neighbor during the "wink". At the foot of Perseus, the hero of "Clash of the Titans" is the fine Pleiades star cluster, the "seven sisters" that reveal hundreds of cluster members in large binoculars. This might be the best object in the sky for binocular users.

Winter will be coming soon, and in the NE we see yellow Capella rising. It is the brightest star of Auriga the Charioteer, and pair of giant stars the same temperature as our sun, but at least 100X more luminous and about 10X larger than our sun. It lies about 43 light-years distant. A little farther south, below the Pleiades, orange Aldebaran rises. It is the eye of Taurus the bull, with the V shaped Hyades star cluster around it making the head of the bull. This colorful giant star is only 2/3 as hot as our yellow sun, but 44X times larger and at 65 light years distant, one of the closest of these monster stars.

### Meteor Showers in October

**October 9** - Draconids: Radian--near Hercules. Spectacular when comet Giacobinni-Zinner passes near Earth. 200 per hour when comet is close is not uncommon, 1000 per hour sometimes.

**October 20** - Orionids: Radiant--near Taurus. 30 per hour, fast (67 kps) often in colors with long trails.

## Farmers' Almanac

*"There is no season when such pleasant and sunny spots may be lighted on, and produce so pleasant an effect the feelings, as now in October"*  
—Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864)

**Mid-Atlantic Weather Watch:** Fair with warming trend (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11); Showers 12, 13) turning fair and rather warm (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19). Showers and Storms (20, 21, 22, 13 turning fair and cooler (24, 25, 26). More showers, cool (27, 28) Fair and cool (29, 30, 31).

**Full Moon:** October's Full Moon, often called HUNTERS MOON because of the extra light that its early rising gave to Native Americans so they could continue their hunt for food, will occur on Tuesday, October 27th. It has also been called Yellow Moon and Moon of Falling Leaves by the Cree Tribe because so many trees have turned yellow by now and many trees will lose the last of their leaves in October. It has also been known the BIG FEAST MOON because of the bountiful

harvests and Fall celebrations going on at this time.

**Special Notes:** October is National Fire Prevention Month. Now is a perfect time to check all of your smoke alarms to be sure they are all operating properly and that batteries are fresh. Take the time to create an effective evacuation plan for the family that can be quickly followed in event of a fire. Remember to get your flu shots early this year!

**Holidays:** In 2015, Columbus Day falls on Monday, October 12th and United Nations Day is celebrated on Saturday, the 24th. Children's favorite holiday (second only to Christmas!) is Halloween, which falls this year on Saturday, October 31st. Plan to have activities and "T&T" end early before dusk and be sure to have older children wear reflective clothing (or costumes!) if they venture out after dark. On the home front, consider giving sensible treats like sugar-less candies and gums or nonfood alternatives like stickers, whistles, toy animals, etc. Be sure to check all treats when the children return from their fun!

**The Garden:** One last effort at weeding will help to improve the appearance of your garden throughout the winter. Any weed that you can eliminate from the garden this fall will possibly prevent thousands of weed seeds from sprouting in the garden next spring! There is still time left to plant perennial seeds and bulbs! With a little effort at Fall planting time, you will speed the timing of that first new growth by as much as a month. During the fall months, after soil temperature drops below 60°F, the bulbs of spring flowering Tulips, Daffodils, Hyacinths, Siberian Squill, Dwarf Irises, Anemone, and Crocus should be planted. Add a little bone meal or bulb fertilizer into the planting hole, as you prepare the soil.

The longer your house plants were allowed to remain outside in the fall, the more shock they will go through when they are finally moved indoors. If you haven't brought them in yet, do it now!

### J. Gruber's Thought for today's living

*"Meeting another person more than halfway will often repay you many times in the future"*

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# COMPUTER Q&A

## Living in “the Cloud”

### To upgrade or not to upgrade?

Aysë Stenabaugh  
Jester's Computer Services

Many people are wondering if they should upgrade to Windows 10 and there really is no simple yes or no answer to this question. Instead read on to find out what you can do to determine if Windows 10 is right for you!

If the Windows 10 upgrade free for me? If you're running Windows 7 or Windows 8 you are eligible for a free Upgrade to Windows 10 through the end of July 2016. In order to complete this upgrade your computer must have all Windows updates and Windows 8 users must have installed Windows 8.1 (this can be done from the Microsoft store).

The Windows 10 upgrade is free however if you don't feel comfortable installing it yourself we typically charge a flat rate of \$65\* to upgrade your Windows 7 or Windows 8 compatible device to Windows 10. During the month of October we are offering the same service with a \$15 discount so you will only pay \$50!

If I'm not eligible for the free upgrade should I consider Windows 10 anyway? Before purchasing Windows 10 for your older machine, we would strongly suggest that you consider a few things. Firstly, if you are running Windows Vista support ends April 17th 2017. It may be more cost effective to make that computer last until that time and then put money into a new machine unless you have already upgraded the machine in the past 2-3 years. If you are still running Windows XP support ended April 2014 and using your computer online with this system leaves you vulnerable to any security holes that are left unpatched.

If you still want to consider upgrading to Windows 10 with your current XP or Vista machine you will want to ensure that your computer will have drivers available and will be compatible. To do this you will need to visit your computers manufacturers' website, locate the model of your computer, and confirm from their support page that Windows 10 is in fact supported. If you have changed any computer parts such as your motherboard you will need to check the parts manufacturer website to confirm that drivers are available for Windows 10. If you do decide to install Windows 10 on your XP or Vista machine you will NOT be able to upgrade you will need to perform a FRESH windows installation (which means your data will need transferred and your programs re-installed)

What else should I consider before choosing to upgrade to Windows 10? Before upgrading, you will want to ask yourself if there is any software or hardware that you absolutely can't live without. Once you determine any software you need or hardware such as printers or scanners that you must have working then you should

check to ensure they are compatible with Windows 10. Most software that ran on Windows 7 and up will run without issue on Windows 10 however, that can't be said for all video games or hardware. Check with the software manufacturer if you are not sure or do a Google search online to find out if others had issues with Windows 10 and your program. If you have a printer, scanner etc. that you will need to use then visit the manufacturers support page, search for your product, locate downloads and drivers for your device and confirm that Windows 10 is listed as a supported operating system.

What if I don't like Windows 10 after I upgrade? If you upgrade to Windows 10 from 7 or 8 you will have 30 days to roll back your installation to the previous version of

Windows. You must perform this action within 30 days or Windows will automatically delete your old Windows installation and you will be required to perform a fresh windows installation to get your old operating system back.

Windows 10 will be the LAST version of Windows so if you really don't like it you will eventually need to learn to live with it. We offer one-on-one technology classes starting at just \$25 for a one hour session and we can even provide an introductory course on Windows 10 on one of our computers if you want to take a test drive before you consider it for your personal PC!

*For fast computer services from people you can trust contact Jester's Computer Services located at 5135 Fairfield Road Fairfield. Call us at 717-642-6611 or visit us on the web on Facebook or at [www.jesterscomputers.com](http://www.jesterscomputers.com).*

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Wednesdays

Overeaters Anonymous Meetings in Emmitsburg meeting at the Elias Evangelical Lutheran Church, Emmitsburg. It may be time to try something different. OA is not a diet and calories club, but a fellowship of people recovering from compulsive over-or-undereating. No due, fees or weigh-ins. For more information visit [www.northernblueridgega.org](http://www.northernblueridgega.org) or call 301-694-3554.

## October 2

The 8th Annual "Angels Above" Alumni Golf Tournament at the Mountain View Golf Club in Fairfield, PA. Proceeds from the tournament, which has become a much-anticipated tradition, benefit the Jack and Shirley Little Scholarship Fund at Mother Seton School.

Festivities will kick-off with a noon lunch, followed by a tee time at 1 p.m. Range balls are available starting at 11:30 a.m. for those wishing to practice their swing beforehand. The tournament ends with a dinner buffet and awards ceremony. The cost to attend

is \$85 per person or \$340 for a four-some. This includes all of the above, as well as the greens fees and cart fee. Visit [www.mothersetonschool.org/angels-above](http://www.mothersetonschool.org/angels-above) to register.

## October 3 and 4

Frederick Oktoberfest - Bratwurst, Oktoberfest beer, German wines, dancing, music, children's events and much more! And it all benefits Frederick County charities. Spearheaded by the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek, and the Rotary Club of Southern Frederick County this annual event not only promotes cultural xchange, but it also supports both clubs' efforts in the community to raise thousands of dollars for area non-profits. For more information visit [www.FrederickOktoberfest.com](http://www.FrederickOktoberfest.com).

32nd Annual Brunswick Railroad Days - Come explore Brunswick's Heritage and History and enjoy train rides, kids activities, a petting zoo, pony rides, live music, model train exhibits, local food vendors, arts & crafts vendors, and so much more! For more

information visit [www.brunswickmd.gov/railroaddays](http://www.brunswickmd.gov/railroaddays).

## October 3, 4, 10, 11

51st Annual National Apple Harvest Festival The National Apple Harvest Festival, which is held during the first two full weekends in October, has been celebrating beautiful crafts, great music and wonderful food for fifty years. South Mountain Fairground. The festival has something for everyone with hundreds of arts and crafts dealers, demonstrations, contests, food stands, and entertainment. The National Apple Harvest Festival was selected as a 2015 American Bus Association Top 100 Event. Special attractions include The Apple Auditorium and Antique Cars, Steam Engine Displays, Orchard Tours, Petting Zoo, Craftsman Demonstrations, and Appearances by PA Apple Queen and much more! The National Apple Harvest Festival is located in Arendtsville, located just 10 miles northwest of Gettysburg. Use 615 Narrows Rd., Biglerville, PA 17307 with your GPS. Narrows road is also known as PA Route 234. For more information call 717-677-4961 or visit [www.appleharvest.com](http://www.appleharvest.com).

## October 5

The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's annual Pilgrimage for the Sea Services. Members of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Mer-

chant Marine, and The United States Public Health Service along with family members and friends at the Basilica. This event is held each year to honor Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton as Patroness of the Sea Services and ask for her intercession for all the men and women serving in our nation's Sea Services, and is the only event of its kind in the United States. Each year, the Sea Services Pilgrimage draws hundreds of visitors to the Shrine for a Mass and dinner reception. For more information visit [www.setonshrine.org](http://www.setonshrine.org).

## October 8

Vigilant Hose Company's Open House. The men and women of this

community's fire and rescue department proudly announce their Annual Fire and Life Safety Open House from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Fire Station located at 25 West Main Street. This will be the 60th year that Vigilant Hose Company personnel have sponsored this popular event. Fire and injury prevention in Emmitsburg is a year-round effort but during Fire Prevention Month our personnel work even harder to underscore the importance of prevention and preparedness. For more information visit [www.vigilanthose.org](http://www.vigilanthose.org).

## October 9

Fallfest at Catocin Furnace - En-

**Construction - Entry level to experienced Engineering Technicians for testing of soils, concrete and masonry on construction projects. Training provided, advancement opportunities. Please mail your resume: [dschestag@ecslimited.com](mailto:dschestag@ecslimited.com)**

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All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or other protected category.

## ESP Performing Company 5th Annual 5K Run/Walk Fundraiser

It is a beautiful time of year to get outside and get some exercise! You will feel especially good about getting fit in the great outdoors this fall when you know you are also helping support two wonderful causes. ESP Performing Company is proud to announce their 5th Annual 5K Fundraiser. The run/walk will take place Saturday November 7th at Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg and will once again be held in memory of our dear friend Pamela Gray Hobbs. ESP will be donating a portion of the proceeds this year to Maggie Kudirka, aka "The Bald Ballerina". Maggie is a Maryland native who was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer at the age 23 while she was dancing with the Joffrey Ballet Company in New York. Maggie has been a strong advocate for breast cancer awareness. A portion of the funds raised will go toward Maggie's increasingly large medical bills.

ESP is currently accepting sponsorship and participants for the run/walk. Various sponsorship levels are available. Runners and walkers of all levels are encouraged to participate. The course is beautiful, especially in the fall with the changing leaves. It has rolling hills to keep it interesting but also has stretches of nice flat trails perfect for all levels of fitness. As a runner, the

course is a scenic and enjoyable run, not just for me but for my whole family. It is a great way to spend a fall morning.

Registration is \$25 for adults and \$15 for students and includes a custom Gnarly Artly t-shirt. You can register through any ESP Performing Company dancer, in person at ESP Dance 15 Water St in Thurmont, on active.com or <https://sites.google.com/site/espautumnrun/>.

Besides planning for the 5th Annual ESP Performing Company 5K Fundraiser, the dancers are hard at work with choreography and training for the new dance season. The dancers are eagerly looking forward to their next performance at Col-orfest both Saturday and Sunday at noon in The Thurmont Town Park. They are also looking forward to their annual performance of Thriller at Halloween in The Park Oct 24. Another highlight for the dancers is performing for the residents of St Catherine's and Homewood nursing homes during the holiday season.

ESP specializes in all types of dance including tap, jazz, ballet, hip hop, acro, lyrical and pointe. Classes are currently enrolling for the fall season. For more information contact the studio at 301-271-7458 or register on-line at [esp-dance.com](http://esp-dance.com).

**SPORTSMAN'S CALENDAR  
GUN RAFFLE 2015  
THE 12 DAYS OF  
CHRISTMAS  
IS A \$1000 A DAY  
PRIZE**



**Annual Joint Fundraising Event  
to Support these Fire & Rescue Companies**

Calendars are available at:  
The Palms Restaurant, The Ott House Pub, Zurgable Brothers Hardware & Hobbs Hardware

For more information contact The Vigilant Hose Company at:  
**301-447-2728**  
or visit [www.VHC6.com](http://www.VHC6.com)



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

joy the ambiance of a harvest celebration in the village as it was more than 200 years ago when the Catocin Furnace was in blast. Traditional crafts and demonstrations, heirloom plants, baked goods, gifts, and children's activities. For more information visit [www.catocinfurnace.org](http://www.catocinfurnace.org).

**October 10**

Fallfest at Catocin Furnace - Enjoy the ambiance of a harvest celebration in the village as it was more than 200 years ago when the Catocin Furnace was in blast. Traditional crafts and demonstrations, heirloom plants, baked goods, gifts, and children's activities. For more information visit [www.catocinfurnace.org](http://www.catocinfurnace.org).

St. John's Lutheran Church Creagerstown FallFest Dinner at the Parish Hall - Family Style. Menu: Fried Chicken & Country Ham, Chicken Pot Pie, Vegetables and Dessert, Homemade Apple Butter, Bake and Fancy Table. Adults: \$14 - Children (7-10) \$7 - Carry Outs \$15. For more information call: 301-271-7851. 8619 Black's Mill Rd, Creagerstown.

Glade United Church of Christ's Back to the 1940s - Enjoy and interactive afternoon and evening of music, food, slideshows, radio! Cobbler cook-off, vintage car show. 21 Fulton Ave., Walkersville. For more call 301-845-6775.

**October 10 & 11**

52nd Annual Catocin Colorfest - for more information visit [www.colorfest.org](http://www.colorfest.org).

Mt. Tabor Church of Rocky Ridge's Ridgefest at Mt. Tabor Park. There will be an Apple Butter Boiling dem-

onstration, Food Stands featuring good home-cooked food both days, and Flea Markets. Apple butter will be available for sale. Of course, the Rocky Ridge Fire Company will be making their famous Fried Ham Sandwiches for sale. Directions to Mt. Tabor Park: follow Route 77 East to Rocky Ridge, turn onto Motters Station Road, the park is just ahead on the left.

**October 17**

The Emmitsburg High School 91st annual Alumni Banquet. All graduates of Emmitsburg High School and all who attended the school at some time are invited. They are asked to seek out classmates and encourage them to attend. Graduation is not a requirement. Teachers of the Emmitsburg School are also invited. The event will be held at the Emmitsburg Ambulance Center, 17701 Creamery Road in Emmitsburg. Social Hour will begin at 5 PM, followed by dinner at 6 PM. The cost for the dinner is \$25. Honored class photos will be taken after the meeting. Anyone that has not received an invitation and would like to attend may call Sam

Valentine at 301-447-2507 or e-mail [csam46@gmail.com](mailto:csam46@gmail.com).

**October 23**

Grace United Church of Christ Taneytown's Basket, Pottery, Vera Bradley Bingo. Proceeds benefit Grace UCC & local community projects. Cost: \$12 advance; \$15 at door. Doors open at 5:30pm. Bring a canned good and receive a free Jr. Jackpot Card - Items will be donated to Taneytown Food Bank. For more information call 410-756-2898 or 410756-2043.

Mother Seton School's Fall Fest. Come for fun, crafts, bouncy house, "trunk-or-treat", glow-in-the-dark-soccer, cupcake & cookie walk, costume walk, and so much more! For more information visit [www.mothersetonschool.org](http://www.mothersetonschool.org).

**October 24**

Catocin Furnace Historical Society's Spirits of the Furnace: A Journey into the Past. "Spirits of the Furnace" is a guided night tour through the historic Catocin Iron Furnace and Village, with stops in historic structures and along the landscape. Refreshments

will be available at the ca. 1810 Collier's Log House. Kids can also make a craft. Bring a flashlight and wear shoes appropriate for walking on uneven terrain. Meet at the Museum of the Iron Worker. All proceeds will benefit the preservation and interpretation of the historic village. For more information visit [www.catocinfurnace.org](http://www.catocinfurnace.org) or call 443-463-6437.

Thurmont 5K fun run/walk for breast cancer month - The Town of Thurmont will be sponsoring the Think Pink/Gateway to the Cure Campaign again this year. The event will begin and end at Eyer Road Park in Thurmont. All proceeds will once again be donated to the Patty Hurwitz Fund at FMH. The event will provide awards for overall male and female top 5 finishers. Each participant will also receive a Think Pink t-shirt and other goodies. Thanks to help from CHS Cross Country coach Terri Gibbons and

CYA Cross Country coach John Steiner, the course will be one that runners and walkers of all ages can enjoy. For details on the event and registration, contact CAO Jim Humerick at 301-271-7313.

**October 31**

New Oxford 8th Annual Harvest Day & Parade. This event is located "On the Square" in New Oxford, PA with events that include: craft & food vendors, free Kid's activities and an exciting parade that steps off from the New Oxford High School at 3pm. Kid's activities will include face painting, pumpkin painting, a bounce house and more! The big parade will include floats, marching bands, antique vehicles and Santa Claus! To find out more about the 2015 Harvest Day & Parade, including vendor agreement and Parade entry form visit our website or contact the Chamber office at 717-624-2800 or visit [www.newoxford.org](http://www.newoxford.org).



**FALL FEST DINNER**  
**October 10, 2015**  
**12:00 to 5:00 PM**  
 (Family Style - In The Parish Hall)  
 Fried chicken & country ham, chicken slippery pot pie, green beans, harvard beets, pepper slaw, applesauce and cake. Bake and Fancy Table.  
 Homemade Apple Butter - \$5 qt. \$3 pt. - Chicken Pot Pie \$5 qt.  
**Adults: \$14 • Children (7-10) \$7 • Carry Out \$15**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church** Call: **301-271-7851**  
 8619 Black's Mill Rd., Creagerstown, MD Or Visit Us At: [www.emmitsburg.net/efc](http://www.emmitsburg.net/efc)  
(Take 15 N. or S., get off at Thurmont exit and follow Rt. 550 to Creagerstown.)  
 (Take 194 N. or S., turn onto Rt. 550 at Woodboro to Creagerstown.)

**Annual Lions Club Chicken Barbecue & Yard Sale Fundraiser!**



**Saturday, October 3rd**  
 Corner Of South Seton Avenue & Route 15 (Across From Getty)

**Chicken BBQ - 11:00 am 'til sold out**  
**Yard Sale starts at 6:00 am**

*Plenty of Yard Sale spaces available! Just show up!*  
**\$5.00 Donation Appreciated!**

*All proceeds benefit our Scholarship Fund and our local Community Day Celebration!*

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# MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY



## MOUNT ST. MARY'S ANNOUNCES NEW TECHNOLOGY FACILITATION CERTIFICATE

Mount St. Mary's University is offering a new graduate-level certificate in Technology Facilitation. This 15-credit program consists of five courses designed to provide educators, as well as professionals working across all business sectors, with the skills to adapt to rapidly evolving technology.

*"The program curriculum will prepare students to think creatively, reason logically, and communicate effectively about technology practices. Students will examine best practices to enhance the use of technology in the workplace."* — Barbara Martin Palmer, Ph.D., dean of the School of Education

In the classroom, educators with a background in technology facilitation are instrumental in leading the 21st century classroom experience. In the complex and evolving world of business, technology facilitators are necessary to leverage the benefits of technology in an ethical and sound way within a corporation, as well as facilitate meetings on both a local and global scale.

Applications for the Certificate in Technology Facilitation are accepted year-round. The first course will begin in January 2016 and will be offered online. Students can complete the program in 18 months. Certified teachers can apply certificate credits toward earning a 36-credit Master of Education with a concentration in Technology Facilitation.



### BASKETBALL SEASON IS COMING SOON!

Grab your blue and white—the 2015-16 basketball season begins in early November! The men's schedule opens with a pair of home exhibition games—Nov. 3 against Hood and Nov. 7 against Randolph-Macon. The regular season begins Nov. 13, when the Mountaineers take on the University of Maryland. The men's regular season home opener is Dec. 1 against American University. The women's team begins their season on Nov. 13 at home against William & Mary. **Contact the Mount's ticket office at 301-447-5700 for information about season tickets. General admission tickets for individual games go on sale Nov. 1. For the full schedules, visit [mountathletics.com](http://mountathletics.com).**

### JUNIOR MOUNTAINEER CLUB WANTS YOU!

The Mount invites all kids 13 and under to join the Junior Mountaineer Club! The Junior Mountaineer Club is a fun and interactive all-sports fan club for young Mountaineer fans. The club offers Mountaineer enthusiasts the opportunity to experience the excitement of Mount St. Mary's University sporting events. The Junior Mountaineer Club is your ticket to Mount athletics, so don't miss out! **Find all of the details and the application at [www.mountathletics.com](http://www.mountathletics.com)**



## NATIONAL SHRINE GROTTTO OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Hours: 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (Gates close at 5.)

### First Saturday Devotions

- Saturday, Oct. 3, Noon  
Our Lady of Lourdes Rosary Crusade
- Saturday, Oct. 10, 10:30 a.m.  
Mass of Healing and Anointing of the Sick

### Saturday, Oct. 10, Noon

#### St. Mary's Chapel

Bring your loved ones to this special Mass for spiritual healing and support during their time of need.

### Marian Retreat – Mary: A Model of Faith

Saturday, Oct. 17, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

#### St. Mary's Chapel

Join us for talks by Fr. Robert Malagesi and Fr. Michael Messaro, M.S.S.C.C. **Registration is required—visit [msmgrotto.org](http://msmgrotto.org) for more information.**

### All Hallows Eve: A Catholic Celebration of the Church Triumphant

Saturday, Oct. 31, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Please bring your children dressed in Catholic-themed costumes for a Rosary procession and Litany of the "Little Saints." This event will be outdoors, please dress for the weather. **Visit [msmgrotto.org](http://msmgrotto.org) for more information and to register.**

## UNIVERSITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Art Exhibition by Megan Van Wagoner

Oct. 1–8

Williams Art Gallery, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center



Megan Van Wagoner's work examines the changing value placed on agricultural land and its products. She grew up in Ohio spending weekends on dairy farms and fields of corn. Watching the landscape change in response to agricultural practices caused her to examine our culture's expectations for food production and land use. Her sculptures reflect those changes through a likeness of natural and artificial objects. Free and open to the public.

### A French Romance—Violin and Piano Concert

Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m.

Horning Theater, Delaplaine Fine Arts Center

MSMU faculty artists James Tung and John Wickelgren perform music from France during the heart of the Romantic Period. The evening features works from Debussy, Saint-Saens and Vieuxtemps. **Free and open to the public. Reception following the concert.**



### Lecture—Evolution from a Catholic Perspective

Oct. 6, 5 p.m.

Knott Auditorium



Stephen Barr, Ph.D., is a professor of theoretical physics at the Bartol Research Institute of the University of Delaware. His lecture will examine the concept of evolution from a Catholic viewpoint. In addition to his work in physics, Dr. Barr has written and lectured widely on the connection between science and religion, and his work has been published in journals such as *First Things* and *Commonweal*. **Free and open to the public**

### Fall Break

Oct. 10–18

Classes will not be held on the main campus in Emmitsburg—classes will be held at the Frederick campus.